

DIRECTORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF ICAI ACCOUNTING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Directors have pleasure in presenting the Twenty Second Annual Report of the ICAI Accounting Research Foundation (ICAI ARF), together with the Audited Balance-Sheet, Statement of Profit and Loss Account and Cash Flow Statement for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2021.

ICAI ARF was established in January, 1999 by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, as a Section 25 company (now section 8 Company) and a core research body to promote research in the areas of accounting, auditing, capital markets, fiscal policies, monetary policies and other related disciplines. ICAI ARF believes that proper research inputs are necessary condition for raising the level of corporate governance, management, accounting and financial reporting. High quality research projects based on practical experience with theoretical extrapolations would also provide valuable inputs in formulation of policies and implementation thereof at macro and micro levels.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS:

ICAI ARF has completed another successful year, 2020-21, in establishing it as a core research body in the areas of Accounting, Auditing, Fiscal Laws and Policy, Corporate and Economic Laws and Policies, Economics, Financial Management, Financial Services, Capital and Money Markets and other related disciplines.

Recognizing the impetus required for promoting quality research in the country, the Board has adopted and pursued a multi-pronged action plan to support research projects of contemporary national and international significance in the areas related to accountancy profession. ICAI ARF has extended an open invitation to undertake research to various institutions, research bodies, research scholars and the practitioners.

New value added projects will continue to be the fundamental part of subsistence of ICAI ARF. Accordingly, ICAI ARF reaffirms its commitment to continue undertaking the research projects that would add value and help in spreading, promoting and advancement of various disciplines in the fields of accountancy, auditing, fiscal laws and policy, corporate and economic laws and policies, economics, financial management, financial services, capital and money markets, management information and control systems and other allied fields.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

The main objective of the establishment of ICAI ARF is to undertake, conduct, foster, promote and provide aid and facilities for prosecuting core, fundamental, empirical, applied and other kinds of research work, projects and studies. The research work undertaken by ICAI ARF has been divided amongst two branches of research, viz., (1) Basic Research, and (2) Applied Research.

A status update of major research projects presently under implementation is outlined hereunder along with particulars of proposals that are under consideration:

1. BASIC RESEARCH:

Basic research is designed to add to an organized body of scientific knowledge and does not necessarily produce results of immediate practical value. It is concerned with formulation of a theory or a contribution to theory. The ICAI ARF involves in carrying out basic research projects

pertaining to subjects requiring enquiring into problems and issues significant to accounting and auditing and allied disciplines such as economics, finance and business laws through outsourcing research projects by inviting applications from research bodies/scholars and providing them financial assistance.

2. APPLIED RESEARCH:

Applied Research is directed towards the solution of immediate specific and practical problems. It is performed in relation to actual problems and under the conditions in which they are found in practice. The applied research requires systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding necessary to determine the means by which a recognized and specific need may be met.

In view of the above, ICAI ARF has, in past, undertaken research projects related to conversion of accounts from cash basis to accrual system of Accounting of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and Department of Posts (DoP), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Kerala State Insurance Department (KSID), Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Indian Railways (IR), etc. involving conceptualizing a new accounting system including the incorporation of methodologies and procedures not common in India. In continuation to above, the following projects have been undertaken by ICAI ARF:

2.1 ONGOING PROJECTS DURING THE YEAR

- 2.1.1 Indian Railways** - Work of Rolling Out Accrual Accounting in all the Zonal Railways and Production Units across the country
- 2.1.2** Compilation of data and preparation of Financial Statements for FY 2017-18 & 2018-19 and Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2018 & 31.03.2019 for Indian Railways and Conducting studies on data/system shortcomings observed at the Roll Out Stage during compilation of Financial Statements for FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 and its improvements.
- 2.1.3 Pilot Project of the Accounts Assistant Scheme** – Objective of the Scheme is to develop a skill set of Accounting, Tax Compliances and related subjects among youth for making them readily employable.

2.2 NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

- 2.2.1 Development of Course Material of Business and other laws, Corporate Laws and UAE Taxation and review material of 11 subjects to be revised by EIBFS based on ICAI Course Material for Institute of Chartered Accountants of Emirates** – The agreement with Emirates Institute for Banking and Financial Studies (EIBFS), UAE for the development and review of study material has been signed on 2nd September, 2021. EIBFS is working on behalf of the Ministry of Education, UAE to set up the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Emirates (ICAE) in UAE.
- 2.2.2 Preparation of Study Material on Financial Reporting and Financial Risk Management for CPA PNG:** ICAI ARF is in advanced talk with CPA, Papua New Guinea to develop study material on Financial Reporting and Financial Risk Management for them. Draft agreement has already been shared with them.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

During the year, the receipt from research activities has been Rs. 39.28 lakh as against Rs. 229.29 lakh in the previous year. The deficit for the year under review amounted to Rs. 44.63 lakh as compared to a surplus of Rs. 35.59 lakh in the previous year. Financial results for the year 2020-21 compared with those of previous year are summarized below:

Particulars	2020-21	2019-20
Revenue from Research Activities	39,27,657	2,29,29,474
Subscription from Members	1,60,000	1,65,000
Interest from Bank	10,90,715	13,15,292
Interest from Income Tax Refund	2,05,695	1,53,073
Miscellaneous Income	-	95,339
Total Income (A)	53,84,067	2,46,58,178
Total Expenditure (B)	98,46,615	2,10,99,513
Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Taxation (C) - (A-B)	(44,62,548)	35,58,665
Less (D) : Current Tax Deferred Tax Provision for Taxation Prior Period Item	(5,33,625)	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) After Taxation (C-D)	(49,96,173)	35,58,665

The Directors propose to appropriate this amount as under:

Amount transferred to General Reserve	(49,96,173)	35,58,665
---------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------

Summarized Cash Flow Statement:	2020-21	2020-21
Inflow/(Outflow) from operations	(66,10,284)	(1,29,79,059)
(Inflow)/outflow from investing activities	(15,09,078)	(12,47,557)
(Inflow)/outflow from financing activities	42,000	1,26,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & bank balance	(80,77,362)	(1,41,00,615)

THE WAY FORWARD:

Recognising the fact that considerable efforts are required not only to promote research in the field of accounting in India but also to show and prove its applicability and benefits in the real world, ICAI ARF propose to take a number of proactive measures for undertaking applied research and carrying out research studies. ICAI ARF further plans to intensify promotional campaign for establishing direct contact with the authorities/ organisations/ bodies working as extensions of the Government of India and operating on Cash Basis of Accounting to on the one hand and reaching out to the potential researchers throughout the country, on the other.

The list of proposed research projects of contemporary national and international significance would be further expanded. In select areas, ICAI ARF may directly undertake research. Possibilities for networking with research organisation of repute, within and outside India, would be explored. Series of technical documents are proposed to be published and focussed training programmes organised for dissemination of technical knowledge and skills to various stakeholders.

Initiative for applied research in newer areas including already undertaken with the office of EPFO and IR on the lines of those taken up for MCD, KMC, CGA, AIIMS and DoP would also be considered on the basis of their significance and usefulness as well as serving the ICAI ARF objectives.

MATERIAL CHANGES AND COMMITMENT IF ANY AFFECTING THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY OCCURRED BETWEEN THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO WHICH THIS FINANCIAL STATEMENT RELATE AND THE DATE OF THE REPORT

No material changes and commitments affecting the financial position of the Company occurred between the ends of the financial year to which this financial statement relate on the date of this report.

DEPOSITS

The Company has not invited/accepted any deposits from the public during the year ended March 31, 2021. There were no unclaimed or unpaid deposits as on March 31, 2021.

DIVIDEND

The Company is restricted by its Memorandum of Association for distribution of dividend among its members.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Company is not required to constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee as it does not fall within purview of section 135(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and hence it is not required to formulate policy on corporate social responsibility.

CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY ABSORPTION, FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE:

Conservation of energy: The Foundation deals in Basic and Applied research and does not require large quantities of energy. However, wherever possible energy saving efforts are made.

Technology absorption: Being a research organization, all the functions and resources are devoted towards research purposes. The IR, EPFO, PFC, MCD, KMC, CGA and DoP projects have been instrumental in building expertise in conversion of accounts to accrual basis.

Foreign Exchange earnings & Outgo: Foreign Exchange earnings : Nil
Foreign Exchange Outgo : Nil

EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS ON QUALIFICATIONS, RESERVATIONS OR ADVERSE REMARKS OR DISCLAIMERS MADE BY THE AUDITORS AND THE PRACTICING COMPANY SECRETARY IN THEIR REPORTS

There were no qualifications, reservations or adverse remarks made by the auditors in their report. The provisions relating to submission of Secretarial Audit Report are not applicable to the Company.

COMPANY'S POLICY RELATING TO DIRECTORS APPOINTMENT, PAYMENT OF REMUNERATION AND DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES

The provisions of Section 178(1) relating to constitution of Nomination and Remuneration Committee are not applicable to the Company and hence the Company has not devised any policy relating to appointment of Directors, payment of Managerial remuneration, Directors qualifications, positive attributes, independence of Directors and other related matters as provided under Section 178(3) of the Companies Act, 2013.

ANNUAL RETURN

Pursuant to the amendments to Section 134(3)(a) and Section 92(3) of the Act read with Rule 12 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Annual Return (Form MGT-7) for the financial year ended March 31, 2021, is available on the Company's website and can be accessed at www.icaiarf.org.in.

NUMBER OF BOARD MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

Four Meetings of the Board of Directors were held during the year.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As required by section 134(5) of the Companies Act, 2013 the Board hereby submit its Responsibility Statement:-

1. In the preparation of annual accounts, applicable accounting standards have been followed with no material departure;
2. The selected accounting policies have been applied consistently and made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Foundation as at 31st March 2021 and of the excess of income over expenditure of the Foundation for that period;
3. We have taken proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 for safeguarding the assets of the company and for detecting and prevention of fraud and other irregularities; and
4. We have prepared the annual accounts on a 'going concern' basis.
5. The directors had devised proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such systems were adequate and operating effectively.

STATEMENT CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY OF THE COMPANY

The Foundation does not have written Risk Management Policy; however closely monitors the threat to the Foundation's existence and considers them to be minimal.

CHANGE IN NATURE OF BUSINESS

There is no change in the nature of the business of the company.

DETAILS OF DIRECTOR OR KEY MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL

As on the date of this report, the composition of Board of Directors of the Foundation is as follows:

1. CA. Nihar N Jambusaria (President, ICAI)

2. CA. (Dr.) Debashis Mitra (Vice-President, ICAI)
3. CA Satish Kumar Gupta
4. CA. Dondeti Prasanna Kumar
5. CA. Aniket S. Talati
6. CA. Shrinivas Y. Joshi
7. CA. Pramod Jain*
8. CA. Prakash Sharma*
9. CA. (Dr.) Jai Kumar Batra (Acting Secretary, ICAI)
10. CA. K. Rahman Khan
11. CA. Amarjit Chopra
12. CA. Bhavna Gautam Doshi
13. CA. Deepak Kumar Gupta
14. CA. (Dr.) Sunil Kumar Gulati
15. CA. Prafulla P. Chhjed**
16. CA. Atul Kumar Gupta **

* Appointed as director on 24th March 2021

** Office vacated in terms of decision taken at 383rd meeting of the Council

PARTICULARS OF LOANS, GUARANTEES OR INVESTMENT UNDER SECTION 186

During the year under review, the Company has not advanced any loans/given guarantees/ made investments.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

The Provision of Section 149 pertaining to the appointment of Independent Directors does not apply to the Company.

STATUTORY AUDITORS

The Board at its 86th Meeting held on 13th September, 2021 has noted/appointed M/s. Gupta Nayar & Co., Chartered Accountants as Statutory Auditors of the Company for the Financial Years 2021-22 onwards for another block of five years under the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and they have confirmed their eligibility in accordance with the provision of the Companies Act, 2013.

DISCLOSURE OF COMPOSITION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

As on the date of this report, the composition of Audit Committee is as under:

1. CA. Amarjit Chopra, Chairman
2. CA. (Dr.) Debashis Mitra, Member
3. CA. (Dr.) Sunil Gulati, Member
4. CA. Bhavna Gautam Doshi, Member
5. CA. Shrinivas Y. Joshi, Member

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

ICAI ARF has always maintained cordial and harmonious relations at all levels. Efforts were made to inculcate team spirit and motivate the employees to fully develop their potential.

ADEQUACY OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

The internal financial controls are adequate with reference to the financial statements.

PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

The activities of the company are being pursued through a team of staff from ICAI. Since the company does not have employees, the provision of Rule 5(2) of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 are not applicable and hence details have not been given.

DISCLOSURES AS PER THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013

The Company has zero tolerance for sexual harassment at workplace and has adopted a Policy on prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment at workplace in line with the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the Rules thereunder for prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment at workplace. The Company has not received any complaint on sexual harassment during the current financial year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board takes this opportunity to place on record its appreciation for the continued assistance, support and co-operation received from Indian Railways (IR), M/s. Infosys Technologies Ltd, Bank of India and other authorities, experts, research scholars and individuals during the course of execution of the research projects and in other disciplines.

The Board of Directors sincerely appreciate and commend the valuable contribution made by the employees of the foundation at all levels in the pursuit of achieving objectives of the foundation for another year in succession.

For & On behalf of the Board
For ICAI Accounting Research Foundation

(CA. NIHAR N JAMBUSARIA)
CHAIRMAN

Place: New Delhi

Date : 13th September, 2021