

From the EDITOR'S DESK

As India celebrates its Independence Day, we are delighted to present this issue of our journal, dedicated to the spirit of freedom, progress, and nation-building. The theme of this edition, "From Independence to Viksit Bharat 2047 - Strategic Management Accounting for a Self-Reliant India," reflects our collective aspiration to build a prosperous, inclusive, innovative, and self-reliant India by the centenary of our Independence. As we commemorate the sacrifices of our freedom fighters, we are reminded of the timeless vision articulated by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in *Where the Mind is Without Fear*—a vision of a nation driven by knowledge, courage, and unity.

The journey from Independence to *Viksit Bharat 2047* calls for strategic thinking, sound governance, and effective resource management. Strategic Management Accounting has emerged as a critical enabler of this transformation by supporting informed decision-making, enhancing organisational resilience, and promoting sustainable growth. By integrating strategic management practices with sound costing and accounting systems, enterprises can strengthen their competitiveness while contributing to India's vision of becoming a developed economy by 2047.

This issue presents a rich collection of articles that examine these themes from diverse perspectives.

Rethinking Indian Trade Remedies Through the Lens of Costing Data proposes a robust framework for evidence-based trade protection using product-wise cost analysis and performance-linked measures.

The Multiplier Effect of Roads in India: Paving the Path to a \$5 Trillion Economy and Beyond highlights how infrastructure development is strengthening national integration, stimulating rural economies, and laying the foundation for sustained economic growth.

The issue also explores emerging dimensions of strategic management accounting. *Efficiency in Data Retention and Deletion* advocates measurable approaches to data governance through innovative cost metrics.

The Carbon Border Tax Countdown: Costing CBAM and Turning Internal Carbon Pricing into Competitive Advantage examines how internal carbon pricing and cost audit assurance can strengthen India's global competitiveness in the era of carbon regulation.

Hydrogen Trains: Driving the Future of Sustainable Transportation in India explores the transformative potential of hydrogen-powered mobility to support sustainable development.

Further, *GST analytics as a Strategic Management Accounting Tool: Driving Fiscal Self-Reliance under Viksit Bharat 2047* demonstrates how advanced analytics can strengthen fiscal self-reliance and organizational

performance.

Digital India and Strategic Management Accounting: Driving Financial Self-Reliance towards Viksit Bharat 2047 examines the role of digital analytics in enhancing financial decision-making and advancing the objectives of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

The article "Integrating ESG for Responsible Nation Building: A Pathway To Sustainable Growth" reinforces the importance of environmental, social, and governance principles in achieving sustainable and inclusive national growth.

This edition also features a thoughtful review of the book *Quiet Excellence: 52 Reflections on Work, Faith and What Truly Matters* written by CMA Rajneesh Jain, President & CFO, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., offering valuable reflections on leadership, professional ethics and purposeful living.

In addition, readers will find several articles addressing contemporary issues of professional significance. We are privileged to present an exclusive interview with CMA Manish Kumar, Member (Finance), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Kolkata, who shares his perspectives on governance, leadership and the evolving role of Cost and Management Accountants in nation-building.

We express our sincere appreciation to all our authors, reviewers, and contributors for enriching this edition with their research, expertise, and thought leadership. Their valuable contributions continue to strengthen professional discourse and inspire innovation within the profession.

As we celebrate the spirit of Independence, let us reaffirm our commitment to excellence, integrity, innovation, and responsible leadership. The vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* is a shared national mission that calls for collective effort from policymakers, professionals, industry, and academia alike. We hope this issue stimulates meaningful dialogue, inspires fresh perspectives, and encourages every reader to contribute towards building a resilient, sustainable and self-reliant India.

We wish all our readers a Happy Independence Day and invite them to join us in shaping the future of a truly developed nation.