



From the President

હે નાથ જોડી હાથ પાયે પ્રેમથી સૌ માંગીએ
શરણ મળે સાચું તમારું એ હૃદયથી માંગીએ
જે જીવ આવ્યો આપ પાસે યરણમાં અપનાવજો
પરમાત્મા એ આત્માને શાંતિ સાચી આપજો.

Dear Chamber Family,

As I communicate to all of you through our journal this month, I am profoundly grieved and deeply anguished with the sad demise of our beloved past president, father figure of the Chamber and undoubtedly one of the purest, most loving and most respected souls that I have met in my journey of life till date. **Shri Vijay H. Patil – our dearest Patil Saheb** left this earthly world and chose to reside in heavens forever on Friday, 20th August, 2021.

Patil Saheb's unique quality was that he was able to touch our innermost core so deeply in his humble and simple manner. I am sure that he has left an indelible and impeccable imprint on the lives of most of us in some form or other. It is probably impossible to describe the stellar personality of Saheb in words. Whatever attempt I put up to describe Shri Patil, is bound to fall short for sure. I really wonder as to which facet of the personality appeals to me the most? Is it Shri Patil as an eminent tax advocate and a titan of the profession with so many landmark judgments to his credit? Or is it Shri Patil as a Guru to countless professionals who would have certainly learnt some interpretation skills from him? Can anyone ever forget the rich content at the famous VHP Study Circle of yesteryears that has eventually blessed the country with many eminent tax professionals? Is it the philanthropy which was in the DNA of Shri Patil who has taught us that the pleasure of sharing the fruits of our labour with those who are not so blessed is much more than enjoying it for the self? Is it Shri Patil who was a crusader against the menace of corruption and has been instrumental in strengthening ethical practices in tax profession?

It was in fact a perfect combination of all these and many other virtues which this noble soul possessed. He was an enormous source of inspiration to so many not only in the field of taxation but also on the front of humanity, a true Karma Yogi who has lived the lessons of *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita* throughout his life in true spirit.

As far as the Chamber is concerned, he was father figure to all of the Chamber's presidents, office bearers and core group members in true sense. The Chamber has been blessed to have Saheb as president during the years 1976 to 1978 and again in 2000-01. Saheb has also immensely contributed as Editor of the Chamber's Journal for 12 years in a staggered manner from 1978 to 1983, 1990 to 1992 and again from 2007 to 2012. The editorials written by Shri Patil are timeless treasures. His editorials demonstrated the human touch and at the same time, he never minced words when the situation so demanded. He used to come down heavily on any unpleasant and unacceptable action by

anyone, be it the government authorities, tax administration or for that matter even a professional. He had this unique ability to call a spade a spade in a firm voice which was far from being politically guarded.

We all Chamberites were his children. He used to address all of us as *Beta* with so much of affection and genuine love that even the person who would meet him for the first time would certainly feel the warmth that he always shared with all. He would personally call each and every core group member on their special days without fail to wish them, and be probably the first person in the morning to do so, sometimes even before you begin your day. The light *thapki* on the cheeks and the occasional affectionate *Jhappi* by Saheb was something which we all used to crave for.

Saheb was to attend all the RRCs till the time his health permitted. At RRCs, one could witness a completely different Patil Saheb who was charged up with tremendous enthusiasm during technical as well as non-technical sessions. The warmth, bonding and fellowship - the signature feature of the Chamber's RRC even today, has its roots in the lessons from Shri Patil. I am told by seniors that Saheb had the habit of visiting rooms of all the delegates for at least few minutes during the course of three or four days at the RRC. He would make friends with all the participants at the RRC. The junior most delegate of the RRC, mostly the first timer, would also get the occasion to communicate with Saheb personally. What a humility displayed by the man who was an undoubted expert in his own rights.

The Chamber feels orphaned at the loss of Patil Saheb. His loss has caused a void that will be very acutely and noticeably felt in our lives. Let all of us try to come out of this grief by taking recourse to *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita* which never fails to show us the correct way of life in any given situation. Verse 27 of Chapter 2 of the epic reads thus:

जातस्य हि ध्रुवो मृत्युर्ध्रुवं जन्म मृतस्य च ।
तस्मादपरिहार्येऽर्थे न त्वं शोचितुमर्हसि ॥

*Death is certain for the born and re-birth is certain for the dead;
therefore, you should not feel grief for what is inevitable.*

As the verse explains, one should not grieve for what is inevitable. We must also draw solace from the fact that Saheb Himself was a strong believer and a dedicated follower of the principles of *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita* and therefore probably His noble soul would also not be at peace if we continue to remain in grief.

Let us therefore accept what is not in our domain and attempt to move ahead with our Karmas on the path that this noble soul had been showing us by way of his action. Let us try, if at all we can, imitate him in our work towards the society in general and the Chamber in particular. For that is the only way we can pay the deserving Tribute to our Guru. As Terry Pratchett truly said: **“No one is actually dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away”**. At Chamber, we promise ourselves that we will never ever permit these ripples to stop. He was, He is and He will always remain in our hearts and we will continue to walk the path laid down by him for years ahead.

Before I proceed on any other subject let me once again pay my respect and tribute to Shri Patil Saheb through the pages of His beloved journal. We, the extended family of Shri Patil Saheb, share the sorrow of respected *Vahini* and all members of the Patil family. On behalf of all the members of the Chamber, the staff of the chamber and on my personal behalf, I pray to Almighty God to bless the noble soul with eternal peace. I also pray for forbearance for *Vahini* and family members and that the Chamber remains guided by His work and ethos for ever. **Om Shanti**

Indian athletes continue to bring proud moments for all of us at the Tokyo Paralympics. With a total of 19 medals – five golds, eight silvers and six bronze, India stood at 24th rank at the event. Just to recall, we have stood 48th at the Olympics but when it came to Paralympics we significantly bettered our tally to stand at 24th position. With this can there be any doubt that physical challenges are only a state of mind and these challenges can never be an impediment unless the human mind permits them to turn so? The power of human mind is capable of doing many miracles and all the athletes at the Paralympics are the living testimony of this.

We are celebrating the Ganeshotsav at present which is undoubtedly the biggest festival in Maharashtra. Though the glory of yesteryears is not possible, with the pandemic playing the spoilsport for the second consecutive year, the *bhakti* for the Supreme keeps on multiplying every year and our young generation is to be saluted for continuing with this devotion with enhanced zeal. Let us all bow down to the Lord Ganesha with a prayer to bless the mankind with healthy and peaceful life ahead. Let us pray that the *Vighnaharta destroys* all the Vighnas in our life including the pandemic with all His power. The *Paryushan Mahaparv* has been just completed where again we can see the complete devotion to the Lord Mahavir. The principles of ahimsa and samta remain relevant forever. At Chamber also we seek forgiveness for any unintended hardships caused to any of our members or readers due to any action or inaction by the team chamber in any manner. *Michhami Dukkadam* to all the readers.

The activities of the Chamber carry on steadfastly and continuously. The details of the programs are being conveyed to you through the newsletter and the e mails that you get from the office. I would like to express my thanks to all the committee chairpersons for seamlessly carrying on these activities to date. I hope that the coming months only bring us more varied and more interesting programs.

The present issue of the Chamber's Journal focuses on the amendment brought in by the Finance Act 2021 as regards the reconstitution or dissolution of partnership firms which has far reaching consequences. The settled position which had been accepted by various Courts including the Apex Court has been unsettled and there is a complete paradigm shift in the provisions. What is more disturbing is that the amendments apply retrospectively, something which the present government was against at one point of time, while being in the opposition, and was being referred to as tax terrorism. Considering the significance of the subject, this month's special story covers these set of amendments. Eminent authors have shared their insightful thoughts and I am sure that the articles will be giving an exhaustive view of the matters for our readers. I express my sincere thanks to all the authors for their valuable contribution. I also thank the Journal Committee for coming up with this issue.

I am sure the members are getting geared up for a very busy professional season with many deadlines around for the next quarter. I wish each and every member all the very best for this work season. Let us continue to demonstrate our commitment to the profession and let us not worry too much about various negative factors, including the new Income-tax portal that continues to be imperfect as of today, since these are beyond our control.

Stay Safe and Take Care

Yours sincerely,

KETAN VAJANI
President