

## The Quintessential Chartered Accountant

The inspiration to this edition's Quintessential Chartered Accountant is an inspiration that should have never been in the first place – Shri L Venkatesan's most unexpected demise. With his loss, we have perhaps lost the most spirited and passionate learner amongst us.

A gold medallist in the CA Final examinations, Shri LV worked with organisations such as Shaw Wallace, Sanmar and Sundaram Clayton after which he pursued his passion for Accounting and Audit research as a free-lancer assisting many large Audit firms in their Internal Review processes.

LV was one of us yet different from most of us and this little missive is a recollection of some fond memories that we have of him, precisely six characteristics that make stand out from the crowd that we are

**One** - Shri LV was prolific in his knowledge of accounting and audit. He was a very keen learner and his appetite for knowledge was untiring and unrelenting. With him it was never too late to learn or too early to know. From the historic Sec 145A amendment of the Income tax Act with which he shot to prominence, to the more recent IFRS, his knowledge was expansive

**Two** – He approached all subject matters with a child-like enthusiasm and energy levels that belied his age. It was not uncommon to receive a call early in the morning immediately on publication of Infosys' results and his asking for your views on deterministic approach to valuation of future cash flows. His inspiration was contagious and he inspired you to search, research and seek knowledge.

**Three** – None of his learning was commercially motivated and his was

knowledge for its own proverbial sake. The absence of any pecuniary linkages to his learning enabled him to share freely, unconditionally and regardless of the recipient

**Four** – He had his fair share of disagreements and strong views on matters of the profession. Yet he was universally respected whether with it was with the large accounting and audit firms or the small players. A very close friend mentioned that he was often referred to as ASLV – Accounting Standard L Venkatesan for his rocket speed ability to retrieve Accounting Standards (and interpretations) on demand, at will, call and short notice

**Five** – He defined his own orbit. It was not uncommon to take up initiatives of the ICAI as a single man regardless of whether all members of the constituted team participated or otherwise. To him, the only thing that mattered was that he was learning in every research endeavour that he undertook

**Six** – He was unassuming and down to earth. His demeanour belied his experience, expertise and the vast knowledge that he possessed. He was not just A Quintessential Chartered Accountant, he was the Quintessential learner, teacher and a phenomenal human being – all rolled into one!

If the Gita recommended three paths to salvation, Shri LV sure chose the Jnana Yoga and we offer our most humble obeisance to the master who opened many eyes which were blinded by ignorance with the light of knowledge

*om ajnana-timirandasya jnananjnana  
salakaya  
caksur unmilitam yena tasmai sri gurave  
namah*