

Profile of Mamta Binani

Dr. (h.c.) CS Adv Mamta Binani is the National Past President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for the year 2016 and she relinquished the office of President on 19th January, 2017. She is the second lady President of ICSI in the illustrious history of the Institute of 52 years.

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is constituted under an Act of Parliament i.e. the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (Act No. 56 of 1980) and is a statutory body. ICSI is the only recognized professional body in India to develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretaries in India. ICSI has its headquarters at New Delhi and 4 regional offices at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai and has 72 chapters spread across the length and breadth of the Country. The ICSI has more than 50,000 members and approximately 3,50,000 students.

She was practising as a Company Secretary for over 21 years and was a senior partner of Mamta Binani & Associates, having her offices at Pune, Kolkata and Chennai. **She is now practising as an Advocate and is also a consultant on restructuring, corporate and legal matters.**

She is a registered Insolvency Professional. She is the **first insolvency professional in the country**, to be registered with the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India. She also serves as an Independent Director on few of the prestigious Boards and has served as the promoter director of the ICSI Insolvency Professionals Agency (now known as ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals).

She has been the 1st Resolution Professional, whose Resolution Plan, has seen the light of the day, in Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench. Post that she has done successful Resolutions of 6 more companies, and not even one of her cases has gone into liquidation. She has handled large and medium sized cases. She has been endowed with few cases, directly by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunals.

One complicated liquidation case that is of Sterling Biotech Limited, was given to her by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench, and this has been successfully resolved and sold as a going-concern basis, and is one of the largest such case in the country. She wears passion up her sleeves, and believes in resolution and restitution and puts her best foot forward, in bringing rehabilitation.

Some of her notable milestones are:

1996: She has been an All-India Topper in the Intermediate Examinations of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, amongst all the Lady Candidates in India and had ranked 14th on an All-India basis.

1996 and 1997: She received various medals, certificates and awards including the D.L. Mazumdar's Silver Medal and Mauji Ram Memorial Award.

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1997: She received the highest marks on an All-India basis in Company Law Paper in the Final Examinations of ICSI

2010: She has been the Chairperson of the Eastern India Regional Council of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India. She has been the first lady to have held the position, amongst all the 3 professional Institutes, namely The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India and The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, in the Eastern Region.

2010: She has been conferred with the 'Bharat Nirman Awards' for 'Excellence in Professional Services' and is the first Company Secretary to have received this prestigious award.

2010: She received the 'Tejaswini Award', for bringing change in the social sector and empowerment of women.

2010: She has been conferred with the 'Hello Kolkata' award for exemplary work in social sector.

2011: She has been conferred with the 'KKMERS' award for 'Excellence in Profession'.

2012: She has been conferred with the Best President Award, Lions Clubs International District 322B2.

2020: She has been conferred with the 'The Sculptors Bhavishya Ke Shilpakar Awards-2020' in recognition of her contribution to the society.

2020: She has been chosen as 'The Most Admired Global Indian 2020' and her story has been featured in the anniversary edition of 'Passion Vista', a business magazine.

2020: She has been conferred with the Insolvency Law Award Winner (India) for 2020 by the International Advisory Experts.

2020: She has been a nominee of the very prestigious Aparajita Awards 2020-Celebrating Womenhood by the leading regional daily 'Sanmarg'.

2021: She has been conferred with the Asian African Leadership Awards in Legal & Professional Services.

2021: She is the **first Indian** to have been endowed with the prestigious award of '**IWIRC Women of the Year in Restructuring (Asia) Award, 2021**'. IWIRC (International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation) is an organisation which is spread in 49 countries and is the first international professional association dedicated to women in all disciplines of insolvency & restructuring. It has over 1700 members globally, men, women and corporates, representing every discipline of restructuring: law, crisis management, financial advisory, banking, private equity, claims management, communications and much more.

2021: She has been the awardee of the '**AsiaOne Women Empowerment Principles Leadership Awards 2020-21**' and was felicitated at the 15th Edition of Asian Business &

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Social Forum 2021, Awards & Business E-Summit, **on 26th October 2021 at Emirates Ball Room, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Dubai.**

'Wah Zindagi' has featured a telefilm on her journey which is widely viewed in YouTube.

She has been covered by the BBC world for a documentary on the usage of 'Ghee'

She has been featured by FEMINA magazine in one of its coveted anniversary issue in acknowledgement of women power.

Ms. Binani is a regular and acclaimed speaker in the professional forums on subjects of contemporary and academic professional interest including inter-personal & communication skills. She takes keen interest in delving into corporate and professional issues and is consulted on various corporate matters by the Industry. She had been an empanelled trainer with ICICI Bank Limited on an All India Basis, on soft skills. She is associated with the financial sector, education sector and is an experienced mentor and counsellor to young professionals & students. She speaks regularly on mental health and believes in giving back to the society.

She writes for leading journals, magazines and newspapers and contributes articles and papers in various journals of professional institutes, on topics of varied interests.

She has served as a jury member of the coveted:

1. ICSI National Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance and CSR, 2016.
2. Golden Peacock Award of The Institute of Directors for the year 2016.
3. ASSOCHAM Award for Commendable CSR Activity for the year 2016.

She has wide exposure to the global practices and she takes keen interest in corporate laws, insolvency laws, governance management, sustainability and CSR issues and leadership training. To mention a few:

- a. She played an active role in the 'Make in India' week held in Mumbai in 2016 for the pavilion of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, managed by professional Institutes.
- b. She represented ICSI as a speaker at the high level event on the theme "Improving Women's Access to leadership. What works?" held at the OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Headquarters, in Paris.
- c. She was a speaker at the Inter-Governmental meet at the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) forum held in Amsterdam and Madrid, Spain on issues of sustainability and reporting frameworks in different countries and how the Government is driving in its respective countries.
- d. She is a regular speaker on Board Diversity, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Corporate Governance and Risk Management issues in varied forums, both in India and abroad and has addressed several webinars and seminars.
- e. She was a part of the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) Annual Conference 2016 held in San Francisco on the subject 'Integrating ESG in strategic investment decision making' and has been trained in 'ESG' i.e. Environment, Social and Governance issues in a 2 day dedicated training program hosted by Blackrock in San Francisco, which had coveted trainers from Harvard Law School, among others.
- f. She has spoken on the Indian Government's initiatives in promoting Governance in different walks of life including corporates, at the Institute of Certified Public

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- Secretaries of Kenya, held in Kenya.
- g. She spoke on the changing role of professionals at the international conference of Company Secretaries organized by the Malaysian Association of Company Secretaries held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 - h. She has delved into the subject of governance relating the same with Vedas at the Global Convention of the Institute of Directors held in London and in Dubai.
 - i. She was one of the observatory member of the ICSI in the CSIA (Corporate Secretaries International Association) executive council and was a part of the meetings of ICSI, held in London and Bangkok.
 - j. She was also in the India Responsible Business Forum Advisory Panel.
 - k. She has represented ICSI in Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) meetings of the Government of India in the year 2016 for the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, Real Estate Act, Companies Amendment Bill.
 - l. She is a trainer with the Kolkata Police Academy on subjects like corporate frauds and white-collar crimes.
 - m. She is a trainer with the Mumbai Police, Economic Offences Wing and Cyber Crime Branch on 'Understanding of Ponzi Scheme'.
 - n. She communicated through 'Precious You' every month, for 12 long months consistently, with her students, through the mode of webcast, which is very widely seen in the YouTube. This has a very wide viewership ranging from 4000 to 10,000 students at any given point in time and was aimed and dedicated to bring motivation to the Company Secretary students who appear and prepare for this arduous exams.
 - o. She has been a speaker in the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation Asia Conference 2021 on Debt Restructuring- What does it take! She represented India in the said Conference.
 - p. She was invited by the esteemed American Institute of Bankruptcy and she was the only Indian who represented and showcased the Indian Insolvency Law in the Real Estate perspective at a session titled as 'A Worldwide View on Commercial Real Estate Post Covid' at the International Insolvency & Restructuring Symposium & Cross Border Insolvency Program held from 17 to 19 November, 2021 where were speakers from across the Globe. The program details are accessible at <https://www.abi.org/virtual/conference/iifv21/page>.
 - q. She is a regular invitee by the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India for training programs for Income Tax Department, GST Department and for professionals.
 - r. She is a mentor to many young professionals and regularly guides them. She has delivered more than 4500 lectures on a pro bono basis for the development of skill sets of the Gennext, for sharing knowledge and for dissemination of Government Initiatives across sectors.

She has been a Member at various Committees /Forums:

1. Trustee: Board of Directors of National Foundation of Corporate Governance (NFCG), Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2. 'Social Responsibility Sectional Committee, MSD10' of Bureau of Indian Standard, one of the National Standards Body of India engaged in Management and Systems Division Council.

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3. National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) – Ministry of Corporate Affairs
4. Indo UK Accountancy Task Force, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
5. Member: Task Force with regard to the Plan Budget of the MCA for the 12th Five Year Plan
6. Working Group constituted in the area of Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility as per provisions of LOI signed between India-Netherlands
7. Advisory Group to the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Focal Point India
8. Independent Evaluation Committee set up by different Banks for restructuring purposes.
9. Quality Review Board of ICSI.
10. ASSOCHAM Women Foundation.
11. One of the working group of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
12. One of the working group constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
13. She is the Academic Committee Member of the Graduate Insolvency Program floated by the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India in collaboration with The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
14. She is on the Advisory Board of Asian African Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
15. She is a regular invitee on discussion panels on various subjects ranging from women empowerment to technical subjects.
16. She has successfully completed the **Certificate Programme in Responsible Business Conduct** from the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, formed under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2021.
17. She is on the Advisory Board of the Sanmarg Aparajita 2021 ‘Saluting Womenhood’.

She has been a trainer with ICICI Bank on leadership skills and was also a trainer on financial products with the Unit Trust of India. She was a regular invitee to the NGO with the name of ‘People for Change’ where she talks about the saving instruments available for non-privileged sector of the society.

She is the Vice President of the **Kolkata National Company Law Tribunal Bar Association** and is the Chairperson of the **Merchant Chamber of Commerce-Legal Affairs Council** which also oversees Corporate Law and Governance and is the Co-Chairperson of the Stressed Resolution Committee of the **Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**. She is the

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President of the **MSME Development Forum - West Bengal Chapter.**

She is the Immediate Past President of Calcutta Citizen's Initiative, an NGO, working very closely on issues concerning the citizenry on environment, nature and mankind issues and is the President of Concern for Calcutta (Year 2021-2022). She is a responsible citizen and believes in interdependence and moving together. She is working a lot of environmental and health issues and the lead campaign is minimal use of plastic.

She is an executive committee member of INSOL India. She is a **Board Member of International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)** and is presently the **Co-Chair of the India Network.**

She has served as an Independent Director in some of the coveted Boards of the Country viz. Century Plyboards (India) Limited, Nu Vista Limited (Formerly known as Emami Cement Limited), La Opala R G Limited and others. She has also served as the promoter director of the ICSI Insolvency Professionals Agency (now known as ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals).

Presently, she is serving as an Independent Director on few of the prestigious Boards viz. Balrampur Chini Mills Limited, Emami Limited, Skipper Limited and others.

She keeps herself abreast with the latest developments in the arena of laws and firmly believes that Government is the engine and as a part of the said machinery, it is her duty to accentuate the efforts of the Government by taking it to the masses and classes. She is very active in the Insolvency space and is a regular and prolific writer, speaker and thought leader.

Manita Biri