



Press Release

## CimplyFive releases the first ever Study undertaken on Secretarial Audit Report of S&P BSE 500 Companies

*Study highlights different, distinct & diverse practices across companies; Top 10 Secretarial Auditors conducted the audit of 100 Companies*

**April 6, 2016; Bangalore:** CimplyFive Corporate Secretarial Services Pvt Ltd (CimplyFive), pioneer in offering research and technology based solutions for compliance with the Companies Act 2013, today announced the release of its report '**SECRETARIAL AUDIT REPORTS: Trends & Practices in 2015**'. Secretarial Audit on compliance by companies is a unique concept introduced by the Companies Act, 2013 in India for the first time in the world. This study is the first ever analysis of the trends and practices in Secretarial Audit Reports of the S&P BSE 500 companies for the year 2015.

On the occasion of this release, **Suresh Senapaty, Chairman of CimplyFive**, said "Secretarial Audit is a unique concept, in its nascent stage. This study of practices across 500 companies is rich in identifying the different, distinct and diverse practices adopted. I am sure this study will have a positive influence on how Secretarial Audit evolves in India."

**Shankar Jaganathan, Founder & Chief Executive of CimplyFive** added that "The objective of our study was to collate the varied practices across these 500 companies at one place for contemplation, reflection and learning. We believe this study will compress the time in which Secretarial Audits can mature and realize their full potential to benefit all stakeholders."

**SECRETARIAL AUDIT REPORTS: Trends & Practices in 2015** is an in-depth analysis of the Secretarial Audit Reports of the S&P BSE 500 companies. Our findings are captured under the four heads: the Auditee, the Auditor, the Report and the Mandates.

Some of the more significant findings in our study include:

- 128 (28%) of the companies had qualified Secretarial Audit Reports. Of the S&P BSE 500 companies only 463 published Secretarial Audit Report in their 2015 Annual Report. The remaining 37 companies were not required to publish it, as 19 were banks not incorporated under the Companies Act and the remaining 18 had calendar year 2014 as their financial year.
- Company Secretaries of the S&P BSE 500 companies were paid an average annual compensation of Rs.50 lakhs, with 31% of the companies paying annual compensation of below Rs.25 lakhs to their Company Secretary.
- 272 Secretarial Auditors audited 463 companies. The top 10 auditors audited 100 companies (22%), top 5 auditors audited 64 companies (14%) and the top auditor audited 17 companies (4%).

- Reporting on compliance with financial laws like direct and indirect taxes saw different treatment. In 71% of the companies no distinction was made between financial laws and non-financial laws. In contrast 18% removed financial laws from their audit scope and the balance 11% relied on the work of other professionals, mainly statutory auditors.
- 460 mandates consisting of Acts, Rules, Regulations, Circulars, Codes, Conventions, Directions, Guidelines, Orders, Policy, Schemes and Standards were listed out in the Secretarial Audit reports of 463 companies.

The full report can be accessed and downloaded at [Secretarial Audit Reports](#)

### **About CimplifyFive**

CimplifyFive Corporate Secretarial Services Private Limited is a pioneer in offering research and technology based solutions for compliance with the Companies Act, 2013. Board Leaders Integrated Software Solution (BLISS) the company's first product eliminates procedural non-compliance risk for entities incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 2013. More details about the company and its product BLISS can be obtained at [www.cimplifyfive.com](http://www.cimplifyfive.com).

CimplifyFive also provides a free to use website [www.ca2013.com](http://www.ca2013.com) that provides company law at your fingertips. This site uses hypertext to integrate rules, notifications, orders and circulars with the Act and provides real time, online access to the Companies Act as it stands on that day.

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