

# Gratitude



As many of you are aware, the Handbook on Directors & Officers (D&O) Liability Insurance authored by me was released by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India, during their 34th Annual Directors Conclave in New Delhi on 9th August 2024. I am thrilled to report that the handbook was well received and has been gaining traction with encouraging feedback.

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/iodglobal\\_leaders-financialrisks-insurance-activity-7229459513626533889-w1\\_J/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/iodglobal_leaders-financialrisks-insurance-activity-7229459513626533889-w1_J/)

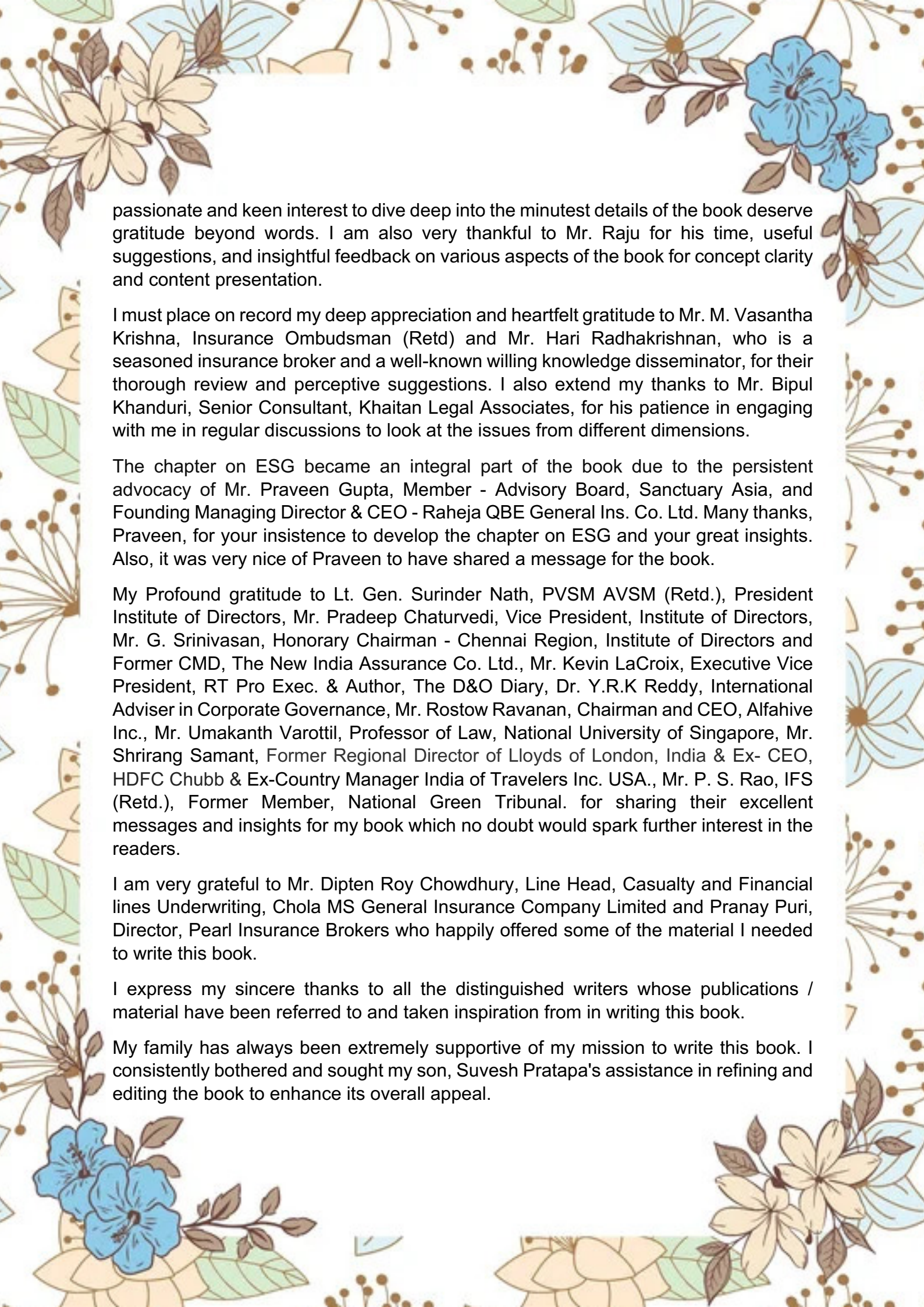
[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/umesh-pratapa\\_iodindia-corporategovernance-boardroomrisks-activity-7229578380101181440-Zprn](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/umesh-pratapa_iodindia-corporategovernance-boardroomrisks-activity-7229578380101181440-Zprn)

It is only fitting that I express my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this project, from conceptualization to completion.

The inspiration to write this book sprouted from a profound desire to give back to the industry. I had joined the general insurance industry in the year 1979 and was privileged to work with remarkable people across diverse functions and locations. The industry experience has shaped me personally and professionally, affording me an opportunity to come across and learn from some exceptional people who made significant contributions to the industry. It was a rewarding experience to interact with such talented individuals who brought unique perspectives and expertise to the table.

My journey into liability insurance started at Howden Insurance Brokers India Pvt. Ltd. Even though I did not have an opportunity to work with Mr. Manohar Chainani, who was a pioneer of the subject in India, and founder of Howden India, his legacy and reputation served as a guiding light for me to embark on a challenging but exciting journey on a road less travelled. The stories shared by customers about his unwavering commitment to customer service were truly inspiring, setting a standard that every insurance professional should aspire to.

My friends Mr. Datla KMS Raju (ex-Oriental Insurance, Visista Insurance Brokers, Flagstone Re, and Haverford group) and the late Mr. Kandala Narasimha Chary, Retd. AGM SBI, constantly coaxed me to write this book. My deepest gratitude to them for their persistent encouragement to embark on this writing endeavour. Mr. Raju's



passionate and keen interest to dive deep into the minutest details of the book deserve gratitude beyond words. I am also very thankful to Mr. Raju for his time, useful suggestions, and insightful feedback on various aspects of the book for concept clarity and content presentation.

I must place on record my deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Mr. M. Vasantha Krishna, Insurance Ombudsman (Retd) and Mr. Hari Radhakrishnan, who is a seasoned insurance broker and a well-known willing knowledge disseminator, for their thorough review and perceptive suggestions. I also extend my thanks to Mr. Bipul Khanduri, Senior Consultant, Khaitan Legal Associates, for his patience in engaging with me in regular discussions to look at the issues from different dimensions.

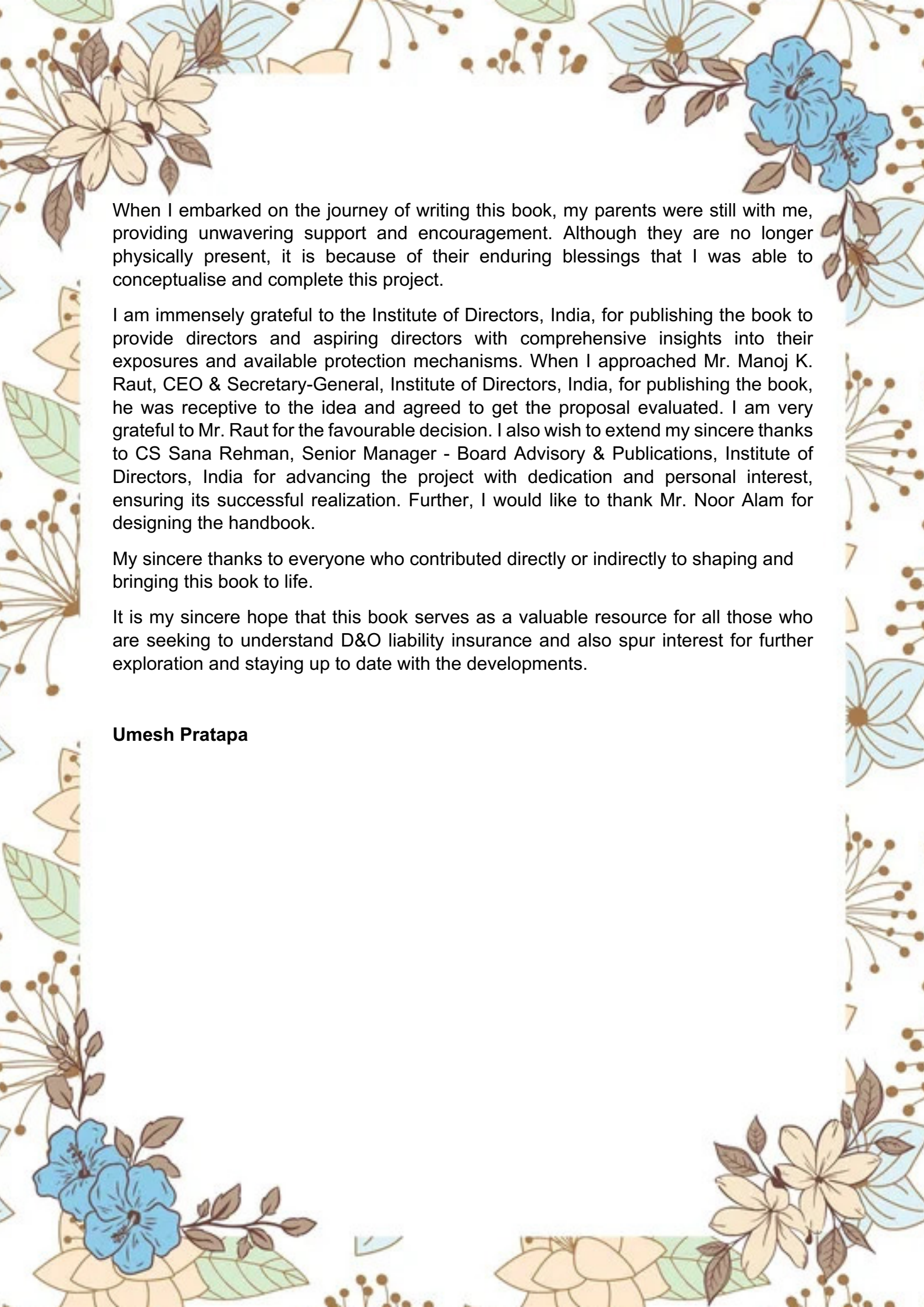
The chapter on ESG became an integral part of the book due to the persistent advocacy of Mr. Praveen Gupta, Member - Advisory Board, Sanctuary Asia, and Founding Managing Director & CEO - Raheja QBE General Ins. Co. Ltd. Many thanks, Praveen, for your insistence to develop the chapter on ESG and your great insights. Also, it was very nice of Praveen to have shared a message for the book.

My Profound gratitude to Lt. Gen. Surinder Nath, PVSM AVSM (Retd.), President Institute of Directors, Mr. Pradeep Chaturvedi, Vice President, Institute of Directors, Mr. G. Srinivasan, Honorary Chairman - Chennai Region, Institute of Directors and Former CMD, The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Mr. Kevin LaCroix, Executive Vice President, RT Pro Exec. & Author, The D&O Diary, Dr. Y.R.K Reddy, International Adviser in Corporate Governance, Mr. Rostow Ramanan, Chairman and CEO, Alfahive Inc., Mr. Umakanth Varottil, Professor of Law, National University of Singapore, Mr. Shrirang Samant, Former Regional Director of Lloyds of London, India & Ex- CEO, HDFC Chubb & Ex-Country Manager India of Travelers Inc. USA., Mr. P. S. Rao, IFS (Retd.), Former Member, National Green Tribunal. for sharing their excellent messages and insights for my book which no doubt would spark further interest in the readers.

I am very grateful to Mr. Dipten Roy Chowdhury, Line Head, Casualty and Financial lines Underwriting, Chola MS General Insurance Company Limited and Pranay Puri, Director, Pearl Insurance Brokers who happily offered some of the material I needed to write this book.

I express my sincere thanks to all the distinguished writers whose publications / material have been referred to and taken inspiration from in writing this book.

My family has always been extremely supportive of my mission to write this book. I consistently bothered and sought my son, Suvesh Pratapa's assistance in refining and editing the book to enhance its overall appeal.



When I embarked on the journey of writing this book, my parents were still with me, providing unwavering support and encouragement. Although they are no longer physically present, it is because of their enduring blessings that I was able to conceptualise and complete this project.

I am immensely grateful to the Institute of Directors, India, for publishing the book to provide directors and aspiring directors with comprehensive insights into their exposures and available protection mechanisms. When I approached Mr. Manoj K. Raut, CEO & Secretary-General, Institute of Directors, India, for publishing the book, he was receptive to the idea and agreed to get the proposal evaluated. I am very grateful to Mr. Raut for the favourable decision. I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to CS Sana Rehman, Senior Manager - Board Advisory & Publications, Institute of Directors, India for advancing the project with dedication and personal interest, ensuring its successful realization. Further, I would like to thank Mr. Noor Alam for designing the handbook.

My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed directly or indirectly to shaping and bringing this book to life.

It is my sincere hope that this book serves as a valuable resource for all those who are seeking to understand D&O liability insurance and also spur interest for further exploration and staying up to date with the developments.

**Umesh Pratapa**