



**Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority**  
Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
Government of India



## **IEPFA organizes State level Conference on Investor Education and Awareness at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**



**Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur addressing the participants of the State level Conference on Investor Education and Awareness at Dharamshala, HP**

**T**he IEPFA, in association with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretary of India (ICSI), CSC e Gov (MeiTY), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), organized a day-long State level Conference on

Investor Education and Awareness at Dharamshala , Himachal Pradesh on 20<sup>th</sup> December,2019. The conference was inaugurated by **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs. The Conference involved participation from various financial institutions, Professional Institutes, Panchayat members and various organizations working in the field of investor education. A vast number of participants from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, CSC e Governance VLEs( Village Level Entrepreneurs), students from local institutions added to the success of the conference by interacting with expert speakers during the sessions.

In his inaugural address Hon'ble Minister Shri Thakur urged people to make their investment safe by investing in secured financial instruments. He said, "Sometimes even educated people fall prey to the Ponzi schemes resulting in loss of their hard-earned money. Through the awareness programme, people will know about investment options apart from banks and post office. People should invest in schemes run by public enterprises to keep their money safe."

Appreciating IEPFA for taking steps to safeguard investors and account holders' interest, the Minister said that the programme was an important event to aware the investor and the youth about genuine and fraudulent investment schemes. The Minister emphasized that safeguarding investors' and youth interest is the key to making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-2025 and the young population would play a catalytic role in achieving this goal.

He said, "Youth is driving our economy and 'Startup India' started by our Prime Minister provided a platform to youth. Young entrepreneurs are now transforming India with their successful business models."

In his opening remarks, Manoj Pandey, Joint Secretary, MCA and CEO, IEPFA informed that since 2016 the Authority has been effectively administering the fund for Investor Education and Protection. The Authority is utilising the fund to make refunds of unclaimed dividends, matured deposits matured debentures and shares transferred to it etc. and to promote Investor Education, Awareness and Protection.

He also highlighted the volume of online refund made so far and said till November 2019, more than 5000 claims have been approved by the



Authority and shares/dividend amounting to the tune of Rs. 230 crore (market value) has been released to the claimants. The CEO informed that opening of a Call Centre Helpline 1800-114-667, with the support of CSC e-Gov SPV (Meity), is one major step taken by the government to address the concerns of various claimants.

The IEPFA has conducted **nearly 50,000** Investors Awareness Programs in the country covering both urban, peri-urban and rural populations. The focus is on specific target audiences, including youths, working adults, the elderly, low-income families and those who struggle with low income and less community integration.



**Joint Secretary MCA and CEO, IEPF Authority Shri Manoj Pandey presenting a memento to Shri Anurag Singh Thakur , Hon'ble MoS , Finance and Corporate Affairs. President ICSI Shri Ranjeet Pandey, Vice President ICSI Shri Ashish Garg and Shri Atul Kumar Gupta Vice President ICAI can also be seen in the picture.**

“During the current and next financial year 15,000 IAPs will be conducted in 117 Aspirational Districts through CSCs, said Shri Pandey.

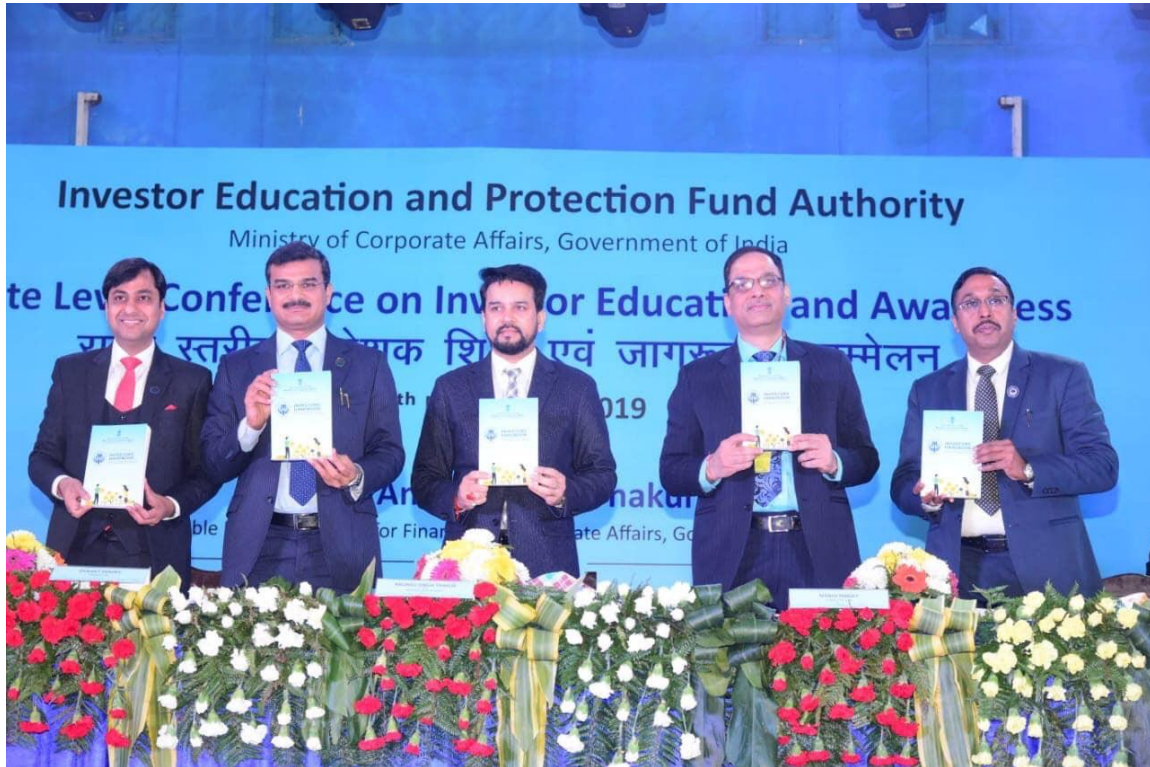
Commenting on partnerships, the CEO said that the MoU with the NYK Sangathan envisages customized Investor Awareness Program which shall be conducted for officials of NYKS and Youth Volunteers. The Youth Volunteers now spread the message of Investor Awareness to the last mile with the help of Youth clubs and grass-root workers of NYKS. “In partnership with IEPFA, NYKS is going to embark upon a journey of conducting mega Awareness programmes in 50 districts on pilot basis which will cover 8 states, 50 Districts, 250 Blocks and 2500 Villages,” he said.

CEO IEPFA informed the participants that the IEPF Authority has been established under the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 to inter-alia promote investors’ education, awareness and protection. The Authority is entrusted with the responsibility of administration of the Investor Education Protection Fund (IEPF), make refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures etc. to investors. As a part of its mandate, the Authority organizes investor awareness programmes in the urban areas through the Professional Institutes and in rural areas through the Common Service Centres located in village Panchayats apart from utilising the print and electronic media for creating awareness.

The Authority has tied up with Bank of Baroda for spreading Investor Awareness & Education by Co-branding on various collaterals. The convergence exercise is aimed at forming more of a strategic partnership for a noble social cause, which is, to help people to refrain from falling prey to fraudulent schemes.

Going forward, more such collaborations are in offing. Many more banking organisations viz., the ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra, State Bank of India have expressed their interest to collaborate with IEPFA in spreading Investor Education and Awareness.

One of the objectives of the state-level conference was to emphasize the importance of self-employment opportunities by choosing an apt career in financial literacy and Investor Education. During the Conference, a special session on career awareness programme was also conducted by ICSI.



**Hon'ble MoS Shri Anurag Singh Thakur releases the Investors' Handbook , published by ICSI for IEPFA.**

During the inaugural session , the Minister released two important publications viz., “ Investors’ Handbook”, prepared by Institute of Company Secretary of India and “ Hindi Handbook for Rural Investors “ –Bachatnama, by CSC e Governance.

The conference also witnessed intense discussion on procedures, grievance redressal mechanism of IEPFA by Navneet Chouhan, General Manager, IEPFA, A technical session on global best practices, financial literacy and education by Dr Naveen J Sirohi, Head School of Finance added value to the conference. Later in the next technical session Ashish Garg (ICSI), Aman Chugh from ICAI and Rajiv Bhambri from ICSI shared their views.

A session on career awareness was also organized where various career opportunities was discussed for the benefit of the youth.