

Address by Hon'ble Governor on State Level Conference on 'Investor Education and Awareness' under the aegis of 'Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority' (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) by Committee on Financial Markets and Investors' Protection (CFMIP), ICAI on 29th March 2022 at Pragjyoti ITA Cultural Complex, Guwahati

Namaskar,

- 1. Sh. Manoj Pandey**, Joint Secretary, MCA, and CEO, Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
- 2. Lt. Col. Tushar Anand** and **Lt. Col. Sumit Rane**, General Managers, Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority
- 3. CA. (Dr.) Debashis Mitra**, President, ICAI
- 4. CA. Anuj Goyal**, Chairman, Committee on Financial Markets and Investors' Protection.
- 5. CA. Umesh Sharma**, Vice Chairman, Committee on Financial Markets and Investors' Protection
- 6. CA. Gaurab Garodia**, Chairman, Guwahati Branch of EIRC of ICAI.

I would like to extend my warm greetings to all the dignitaries present here on the occasion of State Level Conference on 'Investor Education and Awareness' under the

aegis of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An Investment in education and knowledge always pays the highest returns."

It is encouraging to note that investing in various financial markets and other asset classes has captured enormous attention and interest among the Indian populace in recent years. As a result the number of people accessing the world of financial markets has expanded at an exponential rate. Financial markets have gone a long way since trading beneath the Banyan tree to trading on the internet.

Financial market is the heart of any economy through which the savings are channelized into effective long-term investments. Indian financial market is well organized, fairly integrated, mature, modernized and demographically well diversified. The Indian equity market is one of the best in the world in terms of technology.

The role of financial markets is vital for inclusive growth in terms of wealth distribution and making capital safer for investors. It can create greater financial inclusion by introducing new products and services tailored to suit investors' preference.

However, it is pertinent to note that investment in financial market and other asset classes involves certain element of risk which should not be overlooked. As a result, it is strongly

advised to make any investment decision only after thoroughly educating oneself on numerous relevant elements.

Many investors, especially the small investors, do not often possess adequate expertise or knowledge to take informed investment decisions. Many of them are not aware of the risk-return profiles of various investment products. Many of the new age (young) investors are also not familiar with the market mechanisms and practices as well as with their rights and obligations. These are substantially fuelled by the huge rewards that some investments have the potential to offer. Such wrong investment decisions can lead to huge losses also.

I firmly believe that Investing can be summed up in a simple formula – Have the right information, plan, and make right choices.

There are numerous information related to financial market. For example, fixed deposits, pension products, insurance policies, and Government Investment Schemes etc. are ways to protect themselves from fraudulent financial products.

I am glad to note that Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority has been making consistent efforts for providing right kind of education to the prospective investors and spreading awareness about inclusive financial literacy throughout the country.

The body has been educating and empowering the Indian masses since its inception to ensure a financially cognizant society. Adhering to its mandate & objective, the authority has refunded 1.53 Crore besides shares and dividends amounting crores of rupees.

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority has accomplished a record number of customised Investor Awareness Programmes across the country. It has been engaging with professional institutions like Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in the area of Financial Literacy and education through Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs), Workshops and Training program on financial market for the Investors.

I am sure that today's State Level Conference on 'Investor Education and Awareness' organised with an amalgamation of 'Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority' (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will enlighten existing as well as potential investors on understanding various aspects of investing and related areas.

I would like to conclude my address with a quote "Knowledge is power only when it is put into practice". I hope that investors learn and execute the learnings obtained through today's State Level Conference on 'Investor Education and Awareness' while making sound investment decisions and IEPFA

will undertake more initiatives for educating the people of north eastern states about financial literacy.

Thank you,

Jai Hind