



The Minister of State (MoS) for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, says Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is getting mainstreamed through the Companies Act 2013

This landmark legislation has brought the issue of CSR from back rooms of corporates to their Board rooms

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The Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal said that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is getting mainstreamed through the Companies Act 2013. While highlighting that CSR has been a traditional part of the Indian culture, he said that historical struggle of Mewar was greatly supported by contributions of Bhama Shah. He underscored that paying back has now been given a formal shape through the Companies Act. Shri Meghwal was speaking on the occasion of Valedictory Ceremony of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) Certified Professional in CSR course organised at the campus of IICA, Manesar, Gurugram here today. He was addressing a gathering of CSR experts, corporate leaders and development practitioners and academicians.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal said that with corruption free governance, endorsement and over-whelming support of all the citizens and corporates, and demographic dividend, India will be leading the comity of nations in the coming century. He also inaugurated a portal for effective communication amongst participants of the course and other stakeholders.

Referring to the process of responsible corporate governance through CSR as enshrined in the Companies Act 2013, Shri Meghwal underlined the Government's desire to formally involve the corporate sector in the social development agenda of the country.

He also said that the provisions of this landmark legislation are most significant in the realm of business conduct, with CSR now being held as an integral measure of good and responsible corporate governance. It has also, for the first time, brought the issue of Corporate Social Responsibility from back rooms of corporates to their Board rooms.

During his speech, the Minister of State also complimented the 130 IICA certified professionals of Batch II on their course completion and exhorted the young students to contribute actively in their dedicated work of nation building through the skills and expertise developed through this course. Shri Meghwal gave away certificates to the students who successfully completed this prestigious course.

Addressing the gathering Shri Pritam Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs highlighted that corporate governance is fast evolving in India. The core idea behind setting up IICA to provide training and policy support to corporate and Government is now coming to fruition.

In his address, DG & CEO, IICA, Shri Sunil Arora underscored that a new paradigm brought by Companies Act 2013 is now taking shape of a movement. He further added that "IICA by providing high quality training and research support in the multi-disciplinary area of corporate affairs is seeking to widen, broaden and deepen its engagement with CSR". "This is a leap of faith and not a step in dark as far as IICA's current efforts are concerned", he further added.

Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam, Chief Programme Executive and Convener, National Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (NFCSR) welcomed the guests at today's event and Shri Mukesh Kumar, Chief Programme Executive, NFCSR proposed a vote of thanks in the programme.

The day's programme included an interactive panel discussion, chaired by Dr. Madhukar Gupta, Additional Secretary, Department of Public Enterprise, on the role of CSR professionals in delivering impactful CSR with participation drawn from ONGC, Bharat Electronics Limited, Charities Aid Foundation, SRF Foundation, IBM, Dalmia Bharat Foundation and HDFC Life.

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