

## Press Release

Mumbai, 14 February 2025

### IEPFA - NCAER

## Investor Education and Protection Workshop In collaboration with NSE Hyderabad February 12, 2025, Tuesday

### "Investor Education, not a One-Stop Effort: Synergy and Digitalisation is the Need of the Hour"

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE), successfully hosted a high-impact workshop on "Investor Education, not a One-Stop Effort: Synergy and Digitalization is the Need of the Hour" at Hyderabad, on February 12, 2025. This event brought together leading financial experts, policymakers, and academia to discuss specifically the issue of synergetic efforts for investor education and promoting financial literacy in India, as also multidimensional benefits of digitalization of financial education in India.

An esteemed panel of experts who shared insights on financial inclusion, regulatory frameworks, and the role of digitalization in promoting investor education. Prof. B. J. Rao, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad offered the inaugural address. The session was moderated by Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, IEPF Chair Professor, NCAER, (Speaker & Moderator). Lt Col Aditya Sinha, GM, IEPFA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Mr. Krishnan Iyer, Senior Vice President, NSE India Ltd.; Dr. Tirthankar Patnaik, Chief Economist, NSE India Ltd.; Dr. Mamta Suri, Former Executive Director, IRDAI & IBBI; Prof. Debashis Acharya, Professor, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad; and Dr. Satish Kumar, Professor, Finance & Accounting, IBS Hyderabad (ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education) attended the workshop as experts. They shared their insights on financial literacy, regulatory policies, digital transformation in investor education, and strategies for enhancing investor protection in India's capital markets.

After the traditional lamp lighting ceremony, Mr. Krishnan Iyer welcomed the participants. Prof. B. J. Rao, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, in his inaugural address and discussed the role of digital innovation in financial education and how academia can contribute to bridging financial literacy gaps among students and young investors. Ms. Anita Shah Akella, CEO of IEPFA and Joint Secretary in the Ministry Corporate Affairs, in her message, conveyed that investor education and protection is on the national agenda and highlighted IEPFA's efforts in creating a

more informed, protected, and empowered community of investors. Through her message, read out by Lt. Col, Aditya Sinha, GM, IEPFA, she encouraged all to actively participate, engage with IEPFA initiatives and take this opportunity to enhance their understanding and promote advocacy of investor rights and education.

Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, IEPF Chair Professor at NCAER, who served as the moderator for the session, in his opening remarks, Dr. Mohapatra explained investor education is a continuous process that requires synergy among stakeholders and the effective use of digitalization to remain relevant in an evolving financial landscape. Dr. Mohapatra emphasized that financial literacy efforts must be sustained, collaborative, and technology-driven to empower investors with informed decision-making skills. Targeted programs, such as women and rural investors, are crucial for inclusive financial empowerment. Ultimately, a dynamic and technology-integrated approach is essential to making investor education a priority, he stressed.

In the panel discussion, panelists focused on how digitalization can bridge financial literacy gaps, enhance investor protection, and create a sustainable investment ecosystem. Experts deliberated on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in India's capital markets and proposed strategies for inclusive financial growth.

Dr. Tirthankar Patnaik highlighted the influence of data-driven financial education and the role of digitalization in strengthening market confidence. Dr. Mamta Suri discussed regulatory measures in the insurance and financial sectors, leveraging her expertise in risk management and corporate governance. She spoke about the importance of policy interventions in safeguarding investors and enhancing financial resilience. Prof. Debashish Acharya in his address highlighted cases of fraud and cybersecurity threats in payments and banking, particularly affecting vulnerable groups. He underscored the urgent need to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and enhance regulatory interventions to build consumer trust and confidence in today's payment and settlement systems. Additionally, he stressed the importance of frequent, customized financial literacy and awareness programs tailored for rural, semi-urban, and urban users of financial services. Lastly, Dr. Satish Kumar emphasized on the special effort required for senior citizens and stated that Digitalization is transforming financial access for Indian pensioners, making investments more transparent and efficient. Coupled with robust investor education, it empowers them to make informed decisions, ensuring financial security in retirement. In his concluding remarks, Dr. C.S. Mohapatra highlighted the importance of synergetic and structured financial education and how applied research can support investor protection strategies. The workshop culminated with an interactive Q&A session, allowing participants to engage with experts on key investor-related concerns.

This initiative underscored the continuous efforts of IEPFA, NCAER, and NSE in promoting investor awareness and fostering financial inclusion across all demographics. By leveraging the synergy between regulatory bodies, academia, and industry experts, the workshop aimed to equip investors with the necessary knowledge and tools to navigate India's dynamic financial landscape.

## **About IEPFA**

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) was set up on September 7, 2016, under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, for administering the Investor Education and Protection Fund for making refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, and matured deposits/debentures, among other things, to investors.

## **About NCAER**

NCAER is India's oldest and largest independent economic think tank, set up in 1956 to inform policy choices for both the public and private sectors. It is one of a few independent think tanks world-wide that combines rigorous economic analysis and policy outreach with deep data collection capabilities, particularly for large-scale household surveys. NCAER is led by its Director General, Dr Poonam Gupta, the institution's first woman head, who assumed office on 1 July 2021, and it is governed by an independent Governing Body currently chaired by Mr. Nandan M. Nilekani.

## **IEPF Chair Unit at NCAER**

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India established an IEPF Chair on Regulation and a Programme of Economic & Regulatory Research at NCAER on Indian Investor Education, Awareness & Protection, in March 2020 with the objective of pursuing research that will help improve investor education and protection in India, and ultimately the investment climate.

The objective of IEPF Chair is to work in the broad areas of economics and regulation considering the broad objective of the IEPFA. The activities of the IEPF Chair unit include measures to assess and improve the efforts and outcomes of investor education and protection in India. In this process, we aim to develop a larger community of academicians, researchers and practitioners to create a knowledge repository both quantitative and qualitative which can form foundation for evidence-based policy actions. As the Chair Unit embarked on its fifth year of the work programme, the Unit hopes to contribute in a larger measure in 2024-25 and in future years. Dr C.S. Mohapatra is the current IEPF Chair Professor at NCAER since July 2023.

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## **About National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE):**

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) was the first exchange in India to implement electronic or screen-based trading. It began operations in 1994 and is ranked as the largest stock

exchange in India in terms of total and average daily turnover for equity shares every year since 1995, based on SEBI data. NSE has a fully integrated business model comprising exchange listings, trading services, clearing and settlement services, indices, market data feeds, technology solutions and financial education offerings. NSE also oversees compliance by trading, clearing members and listed companies with the rules and regulations of SEBI and the exchange. NSE is a pioneer in technology and ensures the reliability and performance of its systems through a culture of innovation and investment in technology. NSE is the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume (contracts) as per the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA) for calendar year 2023. NSE is ranked 3rd in the world in equity segment by number of trades (electronic order book) in 2023, as per the statistics maintained by World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

For more information, please visit: [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)