

PRESS RELEASE

Channelise CSR funds scientifically through NGOs: Suresh Prabhu

NEW DELHI, 29 May 2018: Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, suggested here today that corporates could meaningfully channelise CSR funds through scientific interventions and collaborate with NGOs for reaching out to the needy sections of society.

Inaugurating the conference on **‘Promoting Scientific Interventions for Transforming India through CSR’ organised by FICCI in association with Vijnana Bharathi (Vibha)**, Mr. Prabhu said that science was the driving force for socio-economic development in a resource-scarce country like India. It was therefore imperative to usher in scientific innovations for the good of the people.

Underlining the importance of science for society, Mr. Prabhu said CSR should be construed as ‘Corporate Scientific Relationship’ as such an approach was the way forward to solving the multifarious problems of the country.

NITI Aayag Member, Dr. V. K. Saraswat, pointed out that “If we have to really make an economic impact through S&T and improve our position in Global Innovation Index of 60 out of 143, we have to alter our S&T Innovation eco-system.” This, he said, would require global leadership in science, engineering, technology, manufacturing, and innovation.

He emphasized the need for excellence directed basic research, applied research including pre-competitive applied research, particularly in critical technologies and in R&D-led technology development and innovation.

Dr. Saraswat said that there is a need to focus on many sectors of exceptional national importance where the market is unlikely to produce the desirable outcome on its own. These include alternative clean energy sources, design & Make in India, defence and aerospace and IT-enabled healthcare services.

Secretary General of FICCI, Mr. Dilip Chenoy, said FICCI has been working very closely with economists, business leaders, social scientists and innovators for designing and developing solutions for public good. FICCI’s Millennium Alliance is one such inclusive platform which leverages Indian creativity, expertise, and resources to identify and scale innovative solutions being developed and tested in India to address development challenges to benefit base of the pyramid populations across India and the world.

Mr. A. Jayakumar, Secretary General, Vibha, stated that his organization had identified 1000 associates in 18 states which work with the community through science and technological interventions. The effort is to connect science with these organisations to impart efficiency and effectiveness in their operations.

Mr. N P Rajive, Executive Director, Vibha Vani, gave a presentation on the methodology of implementation of the focal themes of the government and how corporates could participate for successful implementation of their CSR projects.