

## DEPWD & EDII partner with Corporates to empower 3000 PwDs

Ahmedabad, The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, organised a Roundtable Meet for Corporates to 'Support, Activate and Build Assured Livelihoods (SABAL) for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under CSR Actions'.

Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS Secretary – DEPWD, Dr Sunil Shukla, Director General, EDII, Dr Raman Gujral, Director, Department of Projects (Corporate) at EDII, as well as senior officials from DEPWD and CSR leaders from leading corporate entities attended this groundbreaking meet. The 'Meet' took up the agenda of sensitizing society at large and instituting interventions and measures that ensure the establish-

ment of 3,000 new enterprises PwDs, including 1,500 technology-driven and 1,500 general enterprises.

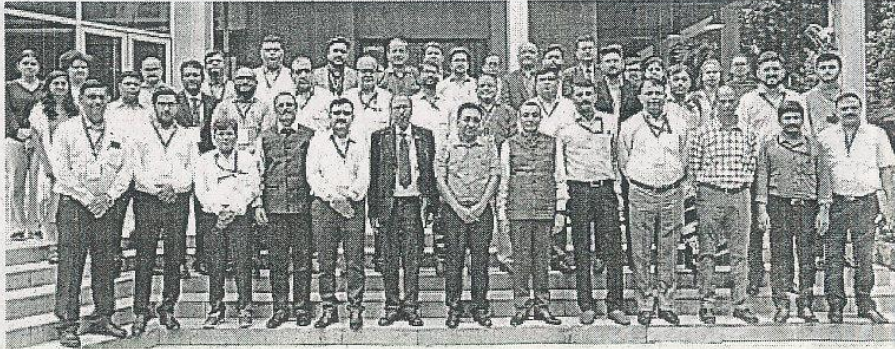
Secretary, DEPWD Shri Rajesh Aggarwal started his speech with the message that India has

various initiatives including donations through CSRs in providing aids and assistive devices, upskilling, providing loans and mentorship to PwDs, mapping of jobs following the 'coolability factor', providing reasonable accommoda-

tion Director General DEPWD spoke about various initiatives and schemes of the Department including National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs, assistive devices, scholarship to Divyangjan and rehabilitation services.

menting PwDs must be high on our priority. On a regular basis, we need to curate sustainable business opportunities, and viable entrepreneurial prospects and ensure that the PwDs get suitably trained and handed. It is also important to establish best practices at workplaces and at various levels of the social framework to foster equality and inclusivity at all levels."

Dr Raman Gujral, discussing the various projects undertaken by corporates to empower PwDs, said that EDII has so far trained 8,533 PwDs through 266 skill training programmes, leading to the establishment of 1,247 enterprises. EDII houses the Centre for Empowerment of the Differently Abled (CEDA), supported by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Directorate of Social Defence, Gujarat State Handicapped (Divyang) Finance & Development Corporation, Government of Gujarat, on its campus.



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reached the moon but there are many challenges that persons with disabilities are facing today. In India, our attitudes are inclusive but infrastructures are yet to be inclusive. He opened up the conversation for sensitizing Divyangjan through

tion, providing leaves for health issues and spreading the message across distribution networks of the companies and hiring PwDs. He also stressed upon the attitudinal change of the society at large towards Divyangjan. Shri Kishor B. Surwade, Dep-

A video was screened explaining the features of newly launched DEPWD PM Daksh portal for skilling and employment of Divyangjan. Dr Sunil Shukla, expressed, "It is high time that we, as a society, think about inclusive development wherein em-