EVENT REPORT

Meghalaya Integrated Development Centre of Excellence (MIDCE), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Shillong - Organized Capacity Building Programme on CSR Governance in Shillong



a still photo of the event along with dignitaries and participants

Programme focuses on strengthening CSR governance and aligning corporate social responsibility initiatives with development priorities of Meghalaya

Shillong, 16 October 2026: The Meghalaya Integrated Development Centre of Excellence (MIDCE), established by the Government of Meghalaya under IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, successfully organized a one-day Capacity Building Programme on Governance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on 16 October 2026 at Shillong, Meghalaya. **The programme was facilitated by the Department of Commerce & Industries and the Department of Planning, Investment Promotion & Sustainable Development, Government of Meghalaya** and conducted by the School of Business Environment of IICA.

The programme was organised **with the objective of strengthening CSR governance and promoting a strategic approach to CSR planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in alignment with the development priorities of Meghalaya and the wider North-Eastern region**.

The initiative reflects the importance of collaboration between the State Government and specialised national institutions in strengthening institutional capacities and promoting development-oriented CSR initiatives. The establishment of MIDCE by the Government of Meghalaya under IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, provides an institutional platform for engagement among government departments, local youth/students, professionals, enterprises & businesses, and other development stakeholders.

Sh. Debarun Kalita, Officer on Special Duty (OSD), IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, delivered the Welcome Address and set the context for the initiative. Sh. Kalita **highlighted the significance of IICA's regional presence through IICA Shillong.** He emphasized the role of IICA Shillong in bridging the gap between national-level expertise and regional development priorities by facilitating engagement among government institutions, the corporate sector, and other stakeholders. The regional presence of IICA provides an opportunity to strengthen coordination, promote knowledge-sharing and encourage collaborative approaches to addressing the development needs of the North-East. Sh. Kalita termed CSR to have grown beyond a responsibility and into a collective social ethos and shared development spirit – and urged the corporates, particularly from Meghalaya to base and align their CSR activities in that essence for collective good of all stakeholders in Meghalaya. Sh. Kalita also placed his profound gratitude to the **Director General, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Sh. Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh**, for his visionary leadership and stewardship accorded to MIDCE in its conceptualization and establishment and in the organization of this CSR workshop, for the Corporates and the state of Meghalaya.

Sh. Sanjay Kumar Gupta, ICLS, Regional Director, Northeast Region (NER), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, delivered Special address and emphasised the importance of effective governance of CSR in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Northeastern Region. Highlighting the region's rich cultural diversity, ecological significance and development potential, Sh. Gupta underscored the need for CSR initiatives to address local priorities. Sh. Gupta also called upon corporates to enhance their engagement with remote and underserved communities across the Northeastern States, ensuring that CSR interventions are aligned with local needs and contribute to equitable regional development.

Delivering the keynote address, Sh. M. L. Wanshnong, Director, Directorate of Commerce & Industries, Government of Meghalaya**, highlighted the potential of CSR as a strategic partnership for the State's development.** He emphasised that industrial growth and social development are interconnected objectives and that corporate resources, expertise, technology and innovation can contribute meaningfully to the aspirations of the people of Meghalaya.

Shri Wanshnong observed that Meghalaya's rich natural resources, entrepreneurial communities, cultural heritage and young population provide significant opportunities for inclusive economic growth. He underscored that the success of industrial development should be assessed not only in terms of investments attracted, but also through the livelihoods created, capabilities strengthened and communities empowered.

Highlighting key areas for corporate collaboration, he identified skill development and youth employability, entrepreneurship and local enterprise development, women's empowerment and community livelihoods, and environmental sustainability as important areas where eligible CSR initiatives can complement the State's development priorities. He noted that corporate participation in industry-oriented training, vocational education, entrepreneurship, local enterprise development and environmental sustainability initiatives can help strengthen livelihood opportunities and support inclusive growth, subject to the applicable CSR framework.

Emphasising the importance of collaboration among corporate, government institutions, implementing agencies and civil society organisations, he stated that effective CSR governance can play a significant role in strengthening community participation and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. He urged all stakeholders to view the Northeastern Region as an area of immense potential and opportunity, where responsible corporate engagement can contribute meaningfully to inclusive growth and the broader vision of national development.

In her special address, Prof. Garima Dadhich, Head, School of Business Environment, IICA, highlighted the role of SBE in supporting corporates in the areas of ESG, CSR and responsible business conduct. She emphasised the importance of enabling corporates to strengthen their understanding of responsible business practices and supporting them in translating regulatory requirements and sustainability priorities into effective strategies and implementation approaches. Prof. Dadhich also highlighted the development potential of Meghalaya and the wider North-Eastern region, underscoring the importance of approaches that respond to local contexts and community needs. She emphasised the role of institutional capacity building, knowledge support and stakeholder collaboration in strengthening responsible business practices and enhancing the development impact of corporate initiatives.

Ms. Sangeeta Boruah, Academic Lead & Principal Researcher, Entrepreneurship & MSME Ecosystems at IICA Shillong facilitated in overall concept, planning, coordination and conduct of the workshop.

The technical sessions covered the fundamentals of CSR in India, the legal framework and compliance requirements, leveraging CSR for North-East development priorities, CSR planning and execution, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and the role of stakeholders in building effective CSR partnerships. The sessions were led by Prof. Garima Dadhich, Head, School of Business Environment (SBE), IICA; Ms. Shubhangi Singh, Senior Research Associate, SBE, IICA; and Ms. Annu Yadav, Senior Research Associate, SBE, IICA. The sessions focused on strengthening participants' understanding of CSR governance and promoting practical approaches to project planning, implementation, monitoring and stakeholder engagement. The deliberations highlighted the importance of aligning CSR initiatives with local development needs, strengthening project design and implementation, and establishing appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess outcomes. The programme also emphasised the role of government departments, companies, implementing agencies and communities in developing effective partnerships and promoting accountability in CSR initiatives.

The relevance of CSR for Meghalaya and the wider North-Eastern region was a key focus of the programme. The region's distinct geographical and socio-economic context underscores the importance of locally responsive development interventions and coordinated stakeholder engagement. Effective CSR planning can support eligible initiatives in areas such as education, healthcare, skill development, livelihood promotion and environmental sustainability, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, and the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014.

Through the MIDCE – established as a Centre of Excellence for Meghalaya's all-round development, IICA Shillong, Ministry of Corporate Affairs seeks to strengthen institutional collaboration and capacity building in the state and promote a more coordinated, strategic and outcome-oriented approach to CSR. The programme reinforces IICA Shillong's commitment, under the leadership of Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, to advancing responsible business conduct and supporting inclusive and sustainable development through institutional engagement and knowledge-based interventions.

About the School of Business Environment (SBE), IICA

The School of Business Environment, IICA, works in the areas of Corporate Social Responsibility, ESG, sustainability and responsible business conduct. Through research, training, capacity building and stakeholder engagement, the school supports the development and implementation of responsible business practices.

About the Meghalaya Integrated Development Centre of Excellence (MIDCE)

The Meghalaya Integrated Development Centre of Excellence (MIDCE) is a strategic initiative established by the Government of Meghalaya under the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) Shillong to empower the state's youth, professionals, and enterprises. Serving as a specialized platform for training, research, policy advisory, and institutional capacity building, the Centre aligns IICA's expertise with Meghalaya's developmental priorities across key thematic areas, including finance, technology, social welfare, and governance. By focusing on critical domains like entrepreneurship, MSME and startup development, corporate governance, CSR, and ESG sustainability, MIDCE provides evidence-based research and professional development opportunities to a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, local businesses, students, and NGOs, to drive transformative growth throughout the region.

About the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Shillong (IICA Sh.):

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Shillong has been established as a project under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for Northeast Region (PM-DevINE) Scheme. The objective of establishment of IICA Shillong is to foster socio-economic development in the Northeastern Region (NER) by stimulating corporate culture creation, enhancing professional competency and skillset of local youth. IICA Shillong plays an anchoring and steering role in stimulating corporate culture, strengthening corporate governance standards, and enhancing employability through professional competency enhancement in the Northeast. IICA Shillong works at the intersection of corporate affairs, law, governance, regulation, research, and professional education. Its activities include capacity-building, policy advisory, training and engagement with government, industry, and other stakeholders.