

Seminar on Board Room Diversity held



Member of Parliament, Meenakshi Lekhi along with others releasing a souvenir.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Directors (IOD) organised a seminar on Driving a Sustainable Organization through Board Diversity.

Insightful and information packed, the speakers agreed upon the benefits of gender diversity in the boardroom. The vitality of the gender diverse boards and their impact on corporate performance caught attention of the delegates, even as the top women leaders from business, government and

civil society put emphasis on how boards can be more inclusive and future ready.

Member of Parliament, Meenakshi Lekhi was the Guest of Honour, who inaugurated the seminar also.

Lekhi, while addressing the gathering reiterated the importance of Board Diversity and said, "I believe one's gender shouldn't decide the position but competence should. Boardrooms should be gender neutral. Biases exists both in the boardrooms and politics. Women should be judged in terms of their intellect and strategy build-

ing skills. Firm decision making in the board rooms must be complemented with listening capacity. Individuals at leadership roles arrive there by facing challenges, overcoming obstacles and competition irrespective of gender."

Speaking at the seminar, CS Mamta Binani, President, ICSI stressed on the role and vitality of gender diverse boards and their impact on corporate performance.

Addressing the seminar, Lt. Gen. J S Ahluwalia, PVSM (Retd), President, Institute of Directors, said that women have great empathy, better communication and consensus building skills which they bring to the Board room. Nearly 1,000 women are required in the boardrooms across India. Indian boards still suffer from trust deficit against women. Such bias and roadblocks should be cleared and women should be treated as capable, skilled, talented and qualified individuals."