

WEBINAR ON “A TALK ON MANAGEMENT OF PERSONAL FINANCE”

A national level investor awareness webinar on the topic “*A Talk on Management of Personal Finance*” was held on 1st October, 2021 jointly by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and IQAC of Public College of Commerce, Dimapur. The webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Nipul Sutradhar, Asst. Professor, and Coordinator of IQAC.

The keynote speaker in the webinar was Shri. Surya Kant Sharma, Senior Consultant of AMFI and Ex-DGM, SEBI, who, while emphasizing the financial security of individuals, stated that an investor should first think of and ensure adequate life insurance, reasonable medical insurance cover, and an emergency fund before embarking upon the journey of wealth creation through sustained investments which is most essential for prosperity. He then made a vehement plea for regular savings and increase thereon every year by 10%. He then dealt in detail on the need for wealth creation for prosperity and emphasized that investors should not be money accumulator but wealth creator which only would make them comfortable with regard to their money needs for their milestones in life.

Mr. Sharma then advised participants that they should look at real return and not on notional return as inflation and tax liability substantially takes away major portion of notional return. He cautioned participants that most of the investments except in governmental schemes have risk but risk can be managed by simple formula – **Think, Understand** and **Invest**. He also emphasized the need to have financial planning by families for focused investment and also the need for practicing rule of compounding in investments for higher return in long run. He then shared basic information on various investment avenues available in the market viz. Government/RBI bonds, corporate bonds, Government schemes (Post office schemes, PPF, NPS, Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, securities market, real estate, gold and securities market, etc.). All these avenues are different and have distinct features and investors should invest their hard earned money according to his/her risk aptitude and time horizon of investment.

He also cautioned the general investors that unless they have sound knowledge of securities market, economy, international economy etc. they should desist from entering the market directly as there are inherent risks in the market. He opined that mutual funds are the best option available for general investor wherein he/she can invest a minimum amount of Rs.500/- through Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) and built a good corpus over a period of time. He mentioned that there is a wide spectrum of mutual funds schemes ranging from equity funds to debt funds to exchange traded funds which can be chosen by an investor as per his risk aptitude and investment horizon.

At the end, he emphatically cautioned participants not to invest their hard earned money on the advice of others including agents and never in unregulated fund mobilization schemes (Ponzi scheme, chit funds and committees etc.) which give assurance for higher and quick return at the beginning but ultimately vanish with the hard earned money of investors. Not so affluent class of investors is more susceptible to such allurements. We all have a social responsibility to make them aware about the menace of such schemes and impress upon them not to invest in such schemes. He also informed that as per a survey, investors have lost more than ten lakh crores of rupees in such unregulated fund mobilization schemes. The speaker also shared various features of National Pension Scheme (NPS).

The session was followed by another session of question answer and discussion by the participants wherein lot of questions were asked on personal finance which was satisfactorily answered by the experts. Dr. Pradip Chakraborty, Asst. Professor also participated in the discussion. Dr. A.K. Talukder, Principal of the College while summarizing the discussion, appreciated the keynote speaker for a thorough and systematic explanation of the various aspects of personal finance which, according to him, has enhanced the knowledge of all the participants. The webinar was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Ranjit Paul, Assistant Professor.