

## **CVC Organizes first ever Interactive Seminar for Independent External Monitors.**

The Central Vigilance Commission organized a day long Interactive seminar for Independent External Monitors(IEMs) on April 19, 2011 at GAIL Training Institute, Noida. Shri Pratyush Sinha, former Central Vigilance Commissioner inaugurated the seminar. Mr.Anil Sinha, Additional Secretary, CVC, Shri L.N.Gupta, Joint Secretary & CVO, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Independent External Monitors, CVOs and senior management executives of various PSUs participated in the seminar.

2. The seminar was organised to provide a platform for sharing and updating technical knowledge on procurement matters considering the vital role of IEMs in the integrity Pact adopted by various Public Sector Organisations. Independent External Monitors have been appointed by over 50 PSUs/Organisations which are implementing the Integrity Pact mechanism. An Interactive session with the senior officers of the Commission was also organised to review the impact of Integrity Pact and strengthen it as more effective transparency tool.

3. The Central Vigilance Commission had recommended the concept of Integrity Pact and its adoption for all major procurements in Government Organizations as a tool for bringing about greater transparency in procurements and contracts in December, 2007. The Integrity Pact envisages Independent External Monitors(IEMs) to objectively and independently monitor compliance of the obligations between the vendors and bidders and the buyers. As a period of over three years have lapsed since the concept was suggested by the Commission, a need was felt to assess the effectiveness of Integrity Pact in its implementation across various Organizations and to focus on measures to strengthen the same as an effective tool.

**4. The seminar evoked enthusiastic response from IEMs, who are distinguished persons having wide experience in corporate governance and procurement matters. More than 50 IEMs from all parts of the country participated in the seminar. Deliberations at the seminar revealed that a very effective role is being played by IEMs in increasing transparency and instilling confidence in procurement activities. While the consensus was that a positive and constructive interaction has been witnessed in most CPSEs, some participants felt that there is a need to further clarify the role of IEMs.**

**\*\*\*\***