

AP is 'a safe destination for biz': Governor ¹²/₃

'Need to focus more on biotechnology'

Our Bureau

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The Andhra Pradesh Government will provide a stable and secure environment for businesses and investments, its Governor, Mr E.S.L. Narasimhan, said.

In his valedictory address at BioAsia 2010 here on Saturday, Mr Narasimhan asked the global community to invest in the State.

In a reference to the concerns of the industry in the wake of agitations for a separate Telangana State, he said: "I want to set at rest any apprehensions/perceptions of some developments in the recent past. Andhra Pradesh is extremely safe destination for businesses."

Describing the State as 'hub of biotechnology', the Governor said the Government had identified the biotech industry as a vital sector.

"The biotechnology is the technology for the coming days. There is a need to increase focus on plant biotechnology, recombinant DNA techniques and a second Green Revolution," he said.

DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

Dr V M Katoch, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research and Secretary, Department of Health Research, said there was a need to develop quick diagnostic platforms for syndromical disorders such as fevers.

Mr Ashok Kumar, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, said the Department is willing to engage in parallel funding for R&D in the bio-

tech/pharma sector along with the State Government.

Biotechnology could also play a vital role in cancer-research, he said, adding that there should be greater synergy between pharma and biotech sectors.

Mr William D. Dar, Director-General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, said nano-medicine, biopharma and agri-biotechnology were assuming significance.

Prof Syed E Hasnain, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad and Chairman of the Organising Committee of BioAsia 2010, said the number of delegates in the conference had gone up by 40 per cent at 4,350 compared to last year. The meet was a 'runaway' success, he claimed.

The Governor also gave away the YSR Innovation (Young Scientist) award to Lanka Sai Tejaswi, a student of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai.

MEDITECH VALLEY

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) plans to develop a world-class cluster for manufacturing of medical devices and equipment at Jawahar Nagar near the Genome Valley.

The logo of the proposed cluster was formally launched by the Governor.

The cluster would come up on 1,200 acres (first phase in 200 acres) in public-private participation mode. The Union Government would also assist in developing the necessary infrastructure, according to Mr B.P. Acharya, Commissioner, HMDA.

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