

ORISSA BECKONS INVESTORS: CM

If everything goes as planned, get set to sail in cruise liner off Orissa coast

Express News Service
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CHIEF Minister Naveen Patnaik today highlighted IT, high-technology, services sector, hospitality and downstream industries of steel and aluminium sectors as the next major boosters of economic growth in the State.

Soliciting investment in the areas, the Chief Minister said these areas were relatively remain untapped and offered immense potential. There was also an urgent need to strengthen the MSME sector and establish production units in the State, he said.

Inaugurating the 'Invest Bhubaneswar Symposium 2010', organised jointly by Team Orissa, The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), US India Business Council and NROFC, Naveen said the State rich in mineral resources and talented pool of manpower offered immense scope for all-round inclusive growth.

The three-day symposium has been organised to showcase the business potential of the State to foreign investors, particularly in the sectors of infrastructure, IT, tourism and hospitality, higher education and alternative energy. The event would open channels with tech building

Invest Bhubaneswar

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nations like the US, Japan, Israel and Taiwan. Industrialists and manufacturers from these countries and several others like Spain are attending the symposium.

Representative of the international delegation and Silicon Valley entrepreneur Chandra Reddy said the groundwork for collaborations with Orissa had already begun. Proposal has been mooted for building a model township in Bhubaneswar, promoting manufacture and use

of alternative energy sources to generate 500 MW, establishing IT hubs and partnering in tourism development. A cruise liner has been proposed for the Orissa coast along with establishment of a world class University. These would be submitted to the Government soon, he said.

Senior vice-president of petroleum and gas wing of Reliance Industries Ltd, Ravi Bastia, emphasised the need for connecting rural and urban Orissa to script the progress story. Rural infrastructure needs maximum attention while urban infrastructure is to be rebuilt. More investment and better governance can ensure this.

Dwelling on the potential of the State, he said oil and gas would drive the energy demand in the country in the ensuing years. The man, who discovered gas off Mahanadi basin, said Orissa was endowed with rich gas reserves which are yet to be explored and tapped.

Among others, Tourism Minister Debi Mishra, Revenue Minister Surya Narayan Patro, Chief Secretary Bijay Patnaik, Industries Secretary T Ramachandru, former ambassador of Israel to Japan Eli Cohen and Silicon Valley entrepreneur Prakash Bhalerao spoke.

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