

The Telegraph



Investors and entrepreneurs from India and abroad take part in Odisha Symposium in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. Picture by Sanjib Mukherjee

Stage set for investment

PRIYA ABRAHAM

Bhubaneswar, Dec. 19: The poor performance of private technical colleges during the last two years notwithstanding, investors who turned up for the higher education session at the Invest Bhubaneswar symposium here today appeared quite keen in setting up new colleges, institutes and universities in public-private-partnership (PPP) mode.

The three-day symposium that kickstarted yesterday hosts at least 60 potential investors from Silicon Valley in USA, Taiwan, Japan, Israel, UK and Spain, along with a number of non-resident Indians and Oriyas.

In a view to facilitate entrepreneurship and showcase Orissa's business potential internationally, the state government has tied up with Invest Bhubaneswar, a business forum of the state which connects with investors from various parts of the world.

The programme is being held to explore more possibilities of tapping global investment in six major sectors such as infrastructure, tourism, power and green energy, agriculture and food processing, higher education and information technology.

The investors discussed on opportunities in setting up of

fashion technology, design, event management, film and television studies, tourism management, BPO training, retail management, and health care management institutes.

There were also proposals for upgrading autonomous colleges to deemed universities, establishing new research centres and professional skill-based universities, setting up polytechnic colleges, Industrial Training Institutes, skill development centres in block and panchayat-level.

Showcasing the business potential and present opportunities of the state to the investors, minister Debi Misra spoke of the recent task force recommendations.

The task force constituted by the state government has recommended the establishment of skill-based and vocational education institutes, centres for higher learning, creation of agriculture and veterinary colleges, research centres, and introduction of job oriented courses in colleges and universities.

"It has also recommended improving skills of teachers, priority on soft skill and communicative English, education development bank with low interest rates for poor students, food processing, dairy technology and research centres," he said.

Publication: The Telegraph

Headline: Stage set for investment

Date: 20.12.10

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