

## Chhattisgarh seeks investments in sector

OUR BUREAU, NEW DELHI

THE Government of Chhattisgarh has called upon potential investors to opt for parking their surpluses in the state, stating that it provides for the best of investment environment in which the rate of returns on investments (RoI) are handsomely rewarded with virtually no political and bureaucratic hurdles. It emphasised that the state had geared up to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for realising investment potential of Rs 25,000 crore in next week or so in the area of infrastructure such as power, railways, and roads.

### Land on demand

The plea was made by Amar Agrawal, state minister for commerce and industries and public enterprises, commercial taxes, urban administration and development, while addressing—An Evening for Business Linkage with Chhattisgarh—Investment Opportunities in the Food Processing Industry—held recently under aegis

of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said, "The state has offered land on demand for industry in each of state's 27 districts as it has already created a landbank of close to 7,200 hectare and that land acquisition is not at all an issue for project execution in the state."

### GST preparations

Agrawal stated that the state had already begun to prepare for Goods and Services Tax (GST) as it felt that this consumption-led tax would benefit the whole country and compensate adequately states like Chhattisgarh which would be likely to lose at in its earlier stages of implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, Subodh Kumar Singh, secretary to chief minister, commerce and industries and mining, Government of Chhattisgarh, said that the state had already signed host of MoUs in the past, cornering several thousands of crores' projects in the field of coal mines, aluminium and minerals.

## Nutraceuticals market to cross US\$262.9 billion by 2020: Study

OUR BUREAU, MUMBAI

GLOBAL nutraceuticals market is expected to cross US\$262.9 billion by 2020 from the current level of US\$182.6 billion growing at compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 8%, according to a joint study brought out by ASSOCHAM and RNCOS.

Due to rising awareness about health and fitness and changing lifestyle, India's nutraceuticals market is likely to cross US\$6.1 billion by 2020 from the current level of US\$2.8 billion growing at CAGR of about 17%, according to a study on 'Indian Nutraceuticals, Herbs, and

Functional Foods Industry: Emerging on Global Map,' jointly conducted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and RNCOS.

The United States (US) has the largest market for nutraceuticals, followed by Asia-Pacific and the European Union. Functional food is the fastest-growing segment in the US nutraceuticals market. Germany, France, the UK and Italy are the major markets in the European Union for nutraceuticals.

### 1.5% of global market

Japan (14%) is the major consumer of nutraceuticals in

Asia-Pacific, followed by China (10%). The Indian nutraceuticals market is at a nascent stage but fast emerging. India accounts for around 1.5% of the global market, which is anticipated to increase owing to the country's large population base, increasing urban belt and awareness, noted the study.

Releasing the joint study, D S Rawat, secretary-general, ASSOCHAM, said, "Nutraceuticals, herbals and functional foods in India are covered under the definition of food as per Section 22 of Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006. These food products have been categorised as non-standardised/special food products."

## Natural Fertilizer from microbial extracts

OUR BUREAU, BENGALURU

CAMSON Bio Technologies Limited, an integrated IPR-driven agricultural biotechnology company, has filed patents for its discovery of Natural Fertilizer, a product which is derived from microbial extracts.

The company said that it is a breakthrough wherein Natural Fertilizer has the capacity to replace synthetic fertiliser throughout the world. Being a clean technology, it also addresses the concerns about the toxicity, safety and the environmental issues facing the world.

It has three filed patents for the manufacture of NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potash): via 2826/CHE/2015 titled 'Phosphorus Fertilizer composition and method of producing by microbial fermentation technology.' The second patent was filed via 2827/CHE/2015 for 'Nitrogen Fertilizer composition and method of producing it by microbial fermentation technology.' The third patent via e 2828/CHE/2015 is titled 'Potassium Fertilizer composition and method of producing

the same with microbial fermentation technology.'

### As good as synthetic

The efficacy of this Natural Fertilizer is at par with any synthetic chemical used by the farmers currently. Camson has the capabilities to manufacture this in large commercial quantities for meeting the increasing global demand without polluting the environment (or ecosystem). This fertiliser is made from microbes available within the environment (e.g. soil, water, air) and the derivation is absolutely natural, hence, when applied it leaves zero residue in soil.

Natural Fertilizer is water-soluble and can easily be supplied through drip irrigation. Furthermore, it does not harm the soil topography and is completely safe for perpetual use by the farmers. This product will encourage healthy farming practice on a global level. Eventually, on a macro level, this product/technology can help the Indian government save a significant amount spent on subsidy for import and sale of chemical fertilisers.



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