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### **After IT and BT, Pharma catches Naidu's eye**

The CEO of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, has a new bee in his bonnet. After Information technology (IT) and Biotechnology(BT), he is plugging for the pharmaceutical sector.

Three pharma-related projects that the Andhra Pradesh CM is endorsing, in terms of giving physical and financial assistance include: the proposed 'Pharma City' at Vizag, 'Pharmexil' the export promotion council for the pharma industry and the Indian Institute of Life Sciences.

Andhra Pradesh alone is estimated to contribute about 34 percent of the Rs. 26,000 crore turnover of the domestic pharma industry, according to industry officials. Mr. Venkat Jasti, MD, Suven Pharmaceuticals Ltd, speaking in his capacity as member of Andhra Pradesh's task force committee on pharma (Andhra Pradesh) told newsmen that the proposed \$ 150- million Pharma City, located in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh, would provide pharma companies facilities to research towards new drug discoveries.

Mr.Jasti said that about 70 percent of this project would be in the special economic zone(SEZ) and benefits include the centralised environment clearance and effluent treatment facilities. The companies would pay according to the load of effluent they produce, he said. (The Hindu, Business Line)

### **Forget IT, pharma is the new mantra**

IT-savvy Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu may soon switch to espousing the cause of the pharmaceutical industry. "He should," , believes Venkat Jasti, president of BDMA, and behind the project to set up a pharma city in Vizag.

The Pharmaceutical industry will grow by 500 percent in the next few years, he says. "This is with or without government help. The right policies can only help. India has the knowledge, we lack the infrastructure."

The first of its kind project aims to attract global companies to outsource some 400-odd drugs from India by 2004 in the post-Gatt regime. "The project was conceived in 2 months and should be complete by 2004" says Jasti, a member of the state government's task force on pharmaceuticals.The pharma city will provide infrastructure for drug discovery, R&D, clinical trials, manufacturing and marketing. (The Pioneer)

### **Pharmaexcil**

Pharmaexcil, the proposed exclusive export promotion council for the pharma sector, is likely to start its work from April 1 next year. "We are hopeful that all official formalities would be completed by January and enrollment of members would start from the next financial year (April 1, 2002)," Venkat Jasti, president of BDMA,said. Setting up of such a body has been a long pending demand of the pharma industry which is currently represented by basic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council(Chemexcil). (Business Standard)

### **Separate export Promotion council for pharma sector on anvil**

A separate export promotion council for the pharmaceutical sector could be in place by the next year. " The commerce ministry has given in principle approval for the setting up of Pharmexil," said Venkat Jasti, president of the BDMA here today.

Andhra Pradesh will shortly invite global bids for the "Pharma City" to be set up near Vizag,Jasti said. A single private promoter or a consortium of investors are to be shortlisted for the project. KPMG, IL & FS and Ernst & Young are among the global consultants in the fray for conducting a feasibility study and preparing terms of reference for the project. (Business Standard, Mumbai)

### **Pharmaexcil likely to be operational**

PHARMEXIL, the proposed exclusive export promotion council for the pharma sector, is likely to start its work from April 1, next year, reports PTI. " We are hopeful that all official formalities would be completed by January and enrollment of members would start from the next financial year(April 1, 2002)," Venkat Jasti, president ,Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association, told reporters here." ( The Free Press Journal)