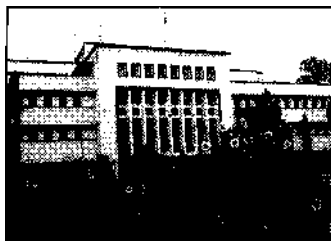


NCL to strengthen ties with industry

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) here is willing to strengthen its bond with private companies by undertaking new research projects, said S. Sivaram, director, NCL. Industry was facing acute shortage of researchers in core sciences, which are holding back growth, he added.



Sivaram was speaking at the inaugural function of the three-day workshop on nanotechnology, organised jointly by the British Council, Institute of Physics, UK, and Venture Centre at NCL.

Currently, the NCL is collaborating with around 120 companies on various projects.

Sivaram said the shortage of institutes providing higher education is limiting the growth and India cannot afford it. "There are around 1,20,000 scientists working in public R&D centres and around 37,000 in the private sector. But, the country needs more people to participate in core science research."

Commenting on industry requirements, Amit Biswas (senior vice-president, polymer research and technology centre, Reliance Industries Limited) said companies are facing shortage of researchers and skilled manpower is very much in demand.

On the recent announcement of setting up an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Pune, Sivaram said, it was the need of the time. The institute was coming up on the 100-acre land of NCL with an initial investment of Rs 500 crore. With 200 faculties from different streams, the institute would cater to 3,500 students at a time. It would have courses for graduation, post-graduation and Ph.D programmes. The USER could become a research university, he added.