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4



Bengaluru is now India's 'nano city'

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Dec. 13: Vice-President Hamid Ansari spoke of the need to evolve a code of conduct for nano science and nano technologies research, addressing the second Bengaluru Nano 2008 conference here on Saturday.

The conference also heard an announcement by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, that work on the Rs 100 crore institute for nano science and technology in the city would begin in a couple of months.

While one institute of nano science and technology is being set up in Bengaluru, two more are being established in Kolkata and Mohali. Officials said the institute would focus on research and training in nano technology on its 14-acre campus here.

"After strides in IT and BT, Karnataka has warmly hugged nano science and technology," home minister V.S. Acharya, who standing in at the conference for Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa, said.

He declared that Bengaluru would soon be known as the Nano city of India. The government would do everything possible to encourage research and development in nano science and nano technology,

create opportunities for the commercialisation of nano science and facilitate development of small, medium and large scale industry committed to nano technology, he added.

Mr Ansari presented Prof D. Chakravorty, Emeritus Professor, Indian National Science Academy and Honorary Scientist, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, the Bengaluru Nano national award for his contribution to the field of nano science.

The Vice-President called for focusing on what nano science and technology could do for the masses of India.

"Globally, the majority of existing nano technology related products are tailored to consumer needs in developed countries. The challenge is to focus on what nano science and technology can do for the masses of India," he said.

"With a significant portion of our population dependent on agriculture, we must ask if nano technological applications can improve the efficiencies and output in that sector. Can the new technologies help developing countries in providing basic amenities such as clean energy, clean drinking water, affordable healthcare, and low cost housing?," Mr Ansari asked. "We need technology development that is bottom-up driven rather than top-down driven," he added.