

state but also outside the state to show that Nagaland is developing in every field. The Governor also said that it is time to open a new era where people from other country will feel free and safe to invest in Nagaland for which single minded devotion is required. Describing Nagaland as a very special state, he further said that it is time we look for an optimistic approach to promote Nagaland as a developing state in the country and requested the expert advice and for a bigger and positive role from ASSOCHAM, which is the Apex body of all India Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Expressing gratitude to ASSOCHAM for taking the initiative to organize such workshop in the state, Kumar hoped that the workshop will bring positive results in helping the budding entrepreneurs.

The workshop was organized by ASSOCHAM in collaboration with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Govt. of

Nagaland Governor Nikhil Kumar today stressed on the need to create an environment of peace and stability in order to achieve development and progress in Nagaland. "If you don't have peace, the first thing that suffers is development and progress," he said. Speaking at the workshop on "Linking Budding Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes & Markets" here today, Kumar stated that lack of awareness is one of the prominent reasons for poor development in the region especially in Nagaland.

He said that Nagaland has for the past 6 decades, witnessed bloodshed and violence, however he added the state has had remarkable era of peace and expressed sincere hope for Nagaland to be one of the rapidly development state in the country. In this regard, he stressed on the need to project the State Governments' achievements not only in the



Nagaland Governor Nikhil Kumar addressing during the workshop on "Linking Budding Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes & Markets" at Kohima on October 14. (DIPR Photo)

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Governor calls to create environment of peace

India, Government of Nagaland and National Research Centre on Mithun, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Medziphema, Nagaland. The aim is to encourage budding entrepreneurs to nurture their inherent potential of establishing enterprises with the assistance available from various Governmental schemes and initiative of the state government.

Also speaking on the occasion, H.K. Khulu, APC, Principal Secretary, Agriculture said that the climatic conditions and the land is conducive for agriculture and agro-based industries in the state, however, the hilly terrain and the lack of adequate infrastructure coupled with the phobia of law and order problems seriously hampers investments from the private sectors.

Another reason he said, is the limit of financial services or credit support due to poor spread of bank networks in the state. Khulu also said that the State have a few marketing boards like NSAMB, MARCOFED, KOMUL etc which also needs to be revitalized. "One of the major problems faced by our farmers is the marketing of their produce", he said. The failure to find market in the state in the recent past years have made the farmers apprehensive for undertaking mass production in perishable commodity. Such a situation, he said may be avoided by revitalizing the present marketing boards.

Khulu also informed that a vision document is being brought out with a vision for a sustainable and economically viable agriculture with focus on food security for all by 2025.

Earlier, ASSOCHAM director Dr. O.S. Tyagi, said that there are possibilities of increasing employment through value, addition in farm products by creating convergence among the schemes of various ministries and departments. He said there are immense possibilities and potential for development of agro based industries. There is need to identify products and areas for developing product based clusters. He said that ASSOCHAM is in the process of adopting and developing these clusters. ASSOCHAM will help in developing markets around the farmers. He further informed that ASSOCHAM is organizing similar kind of workshop across North East India in collaboration with different stakeholders for overall development of the North Eastern region.