

Gujarat packages policy with sustainable livelihood security

State plans 100,000 MSME units in 2-3 years, says Minister Saurabh Patel

OUR BUREAU

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Setting an example for other States, Gujarat has put in place a policy for sustainable livelihood security.

It has set itself a target of establishing 100,000 new units under the micro, small and medium categories over the



next couple of years, Gujarat cabinet minister Saurabh Patel said here on Thursday.

Speaking at the inauguration of *The Hindu BusinessLine-YES Bank Livelihood Security* series, Patel said: "For small farmers and individuals, the challenge is how to improve income and make it sustainable. In the coming years, the younger population has to have employment or they



(From left) Mukund Padmanabhan, Editor, The Hindu Business Line; Rana Kapoor, MD & CEO, YES Bank; Saurabh Patel, Cabinet Minister, Government of Gujarat; T Nanda Kumar, Chairman NDDB; and G Chandrashekhar, The Hindu Business Line.

have to generate income by self employment. Our government is taking policy steps in this direction to ensure sustainable livelihood security."

Skill development

The minister highlighted the role of Industrial Technical Institutes (ITIs) for skill development, encouragement to the farm sector and agri-business through financial assist-

ance and pushing investment to improve the supply chain.

T Nanda Kumar, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), appreciated the State's encouragement of women's cooperatives that can provide sustainable incomes for the rural population. The event was attended by a large number of entrepreneurs, stakeholders from the agriculture sector and academicians.

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel extended her support to the event during a meeting with YES Bank MD & CEO, Rana Kapoor, who apprised her about the launch of *The Hindu BusinessLine-YES Bank Livelihood Security Series*.

Economic growth

She felt the event was important in taking India forward on the path of economic and social development.

In her statement, she commended YES Bank on its knowledge-based approach and suggested that YES Bank should prepare a white paper on "Community Forestation".

She highlighted that many parts of Gujarat has made progress on this front.

Kapoor said that given the focus on tourism and job creation, the Chief Minister advised the bank to prepare reports to capitalise on medical tourism in Gujarat.

The Editor of *Hindu Business Line*, Mukund Padmanabhan, and Commodities Editor G Chandrasekhar set the tone of the discussion with their opening remarks.