



Ansari opens 67th session of CHEMCON



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Vice President Hamid Ansari at 67th annual session of CHEMCON-2014 Indian Chemical Engineering Congress at Panjab University in Chandigarh, on Saturday. Upendrs Sen Gupta

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Referring to India's aspiration to emerge as a high technology manufacturing hub for the world, Vice President of India M Hamid Ansari called upon chemical engineers to play an important role in bringing the Indian chemical industry to the desired level of size, technology and products. He was speaking while inaugurating the 67th annual session of the Chemical Engineering Congress (CHEMCON) on the PU campus here on Saturday.

"Despite its large size and significant GDP contribution, the Indian chemicals industry represents only around 3 per cent of global chemicals. This suggests that much more needs to be done to bring our chemical industry to the desired level in terms of size, technology and products, given our aspiration to emerge as a high technology manufacturing hub for the world," he added.

Addressing the annual Congress of Chemical Engineers, Hamid Ansari lauded the role of chemical engineering and chemicals. He quoted a Planning Commission paper and said that the Indian chemical industry in 2010 had the size of \$108 billion and accounted for approximately 7 per cent of Indian GDP.

The chemicals sector accounted for about 14 per cent in the overall index of industrial production. The share of the industry in national exports was around 11 per cent. In terms of volume, India is the third-largest producer of chemicals in Asia, after China and Japan, he added.

The four-day prestigious international conference is being organised by the Chandigarh Regional Centre,

Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICChE), in collaboration with Dr SS Bhatnagar University Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (UICET), PU.

The conference is being held on the theme, "Chemical Engineering -- Emerging Dimensions and Challenges Ahead". Vice Chancellor of PU Prof Arun Grover said that scientific meetings like CHEMCON and ICONSAT are important for the university as they provide avenues to sustain and improve its competitiveness among its national and international peer institutions.

Punjab Governor Shivraj V Patil, Haryana Governor Prof Kaptan Singh Solanki, Punjab Minister of Industries and Commerce Madan Mohan Mittal, Chairman of the National Organizing Committee Prof G D Yadav, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Prof S K Sharma, president, Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers C V Murthy, organizing secretary of CHEMCON-2014 Prof V K Rattan also spoke on the occasion.

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