

Chief secy promises State Innovation Council soon

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State chief secretary Jayant Kumar Banthia on Monday said that Maharashtra would soon be setting up a State Innovation Council. He said that R&D requires financial support, and hence it was necessary to institutionalise the same to trigger the innovation mechanism.

Speaking at the Inclusive Innovation Summit 2013, on the theme “Innovating Practices in Turbulent Times”, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Singapore Management University, in Mumbai, Mr Banthia said that the industry must institutionalise its research and development process. “Today, innovation is a small-scale individual inquiry. We do get innovations, but they are far too slow,” he said, adding that innovation wasn’t just about creating new products for the markets, but also about improving processes to achieve inclusivity and save costs.

Citing an example of when he was census commissioner and had to collate data of India’s over one billion people, Mr Banthia said. “If we had done it manually I would have needed 60,000 people and it would have cost `1,000 crore over two years. But, through innovative practices we did it in `40 crore.

On inclusiveness, he said, “We require affirmative action to provide a platform for people at the margins, to give them a milieu that they are deprived of, through primary school and secondary and higher education.”