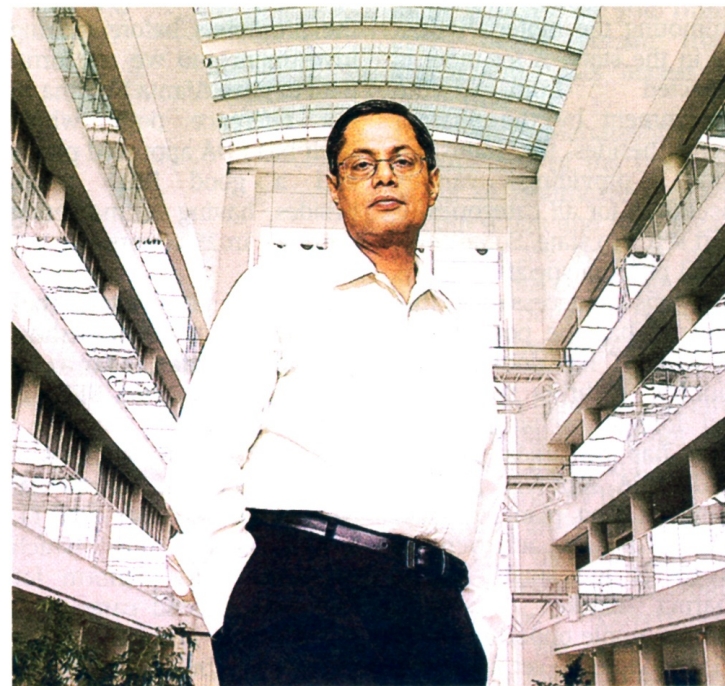


## We would be interested in setting up a university in Maharashtra

**K V Subramaniam, President and CEO, Reliance Life Sciences, lists the key strengths of Maharashtra that have helped the pharmaceutical industry to prosper, in discussion with Sachin Jagdale**



**In the golden jubilee year of Maharashtra formation do you think the state has managed to retain its glory as far as pharmaceutical industry is concerned?**

Mumbai, the commercial capital of the country is also the

hub for the pharma industry. Most domestic and multinational pharma companies operating in India have their corporate offices based at Mumbai. Pharma is a growing industry in the country and many big pharma companies

are also strengthening their presence in India to participate in Indian and global markets. Several new organisations have set up their R&D and manufacturing facilities in Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Pune.

**What are the reasons behind selecting Maharashtra to set up your operations/ offices?**

Life sciences being an emerging field, the demand for skilled manpower is quite high. Mumbai is strategically located to meet this requirement. Also there is ease of logistics as Mumbai is in close proximity to a seaport and airport. Further, our life sciences initiative envisaged setting up an integrated campus covering R&D, clinical and manufacturing facility, which required large land area. Such area was readily available within Reliance Group at Navi Mumbai, so it seemed to be a preferred option.

**How will you describe the contribution of Maharashtra in the successful journey of your company?**

Maharashtra has provided a conducive business environment for our business operations. The fiscal incentives provided by the State Government as outlined in the Biotech policy had further provided the impetus to grow the initiative within the State of Maharashtra.

**With many other states trying hard to attract an investment in the pharma and biotech sectors, do you think the Maharashtra government is doing enough to stand up to this competition?**

The Government of Maharashtra can design more lucrative incentive packages for attracting new investment in this area as well as retaining the existing ones within the State. The State Government also needs to focus on the talent develop-

ment aspect as life sciences industry faces the challenge of dearth of skilled manpower considering the growth prospects in the near future.

**In what way does your company wish to strengthen your bond with Maharashtra in the coming future?**

Reliance Institute of Life Sciences (RILS) established and nurtured by Reliance Life Sciences (RLS) is an institution dedicated to providing graduate, postgraduate, doctoral, research and continuing education programs in various domains of life sciences and related technologies. RILS would be interested in setting up a University in the state of Maharashtra, which will have multiple centres of excellence, life sciences being the first one to begin with. Further, RLS can consider expanding its research and manufacturing facilities within the State of Maharashtra in future. ■

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