

Media Coverage - Ground-breaking Ceremony

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THE HINDU

YSR's call to industry captains

Invites them to invest in State; lays stone for Sri City SEZ in Chittoor district

Staff Reporter

TIRUPATI: Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy has renewed his appeal to the captains of the industry to come forward with investments to make the most of the infrastructure and promising opportunities available in the State.

Painting a rosy picture on the industrial front, he noted that the State's growth rate had touched 10.56 per cent, a figure much higher than the nation's rate of 8.7 per cent and called it a result of the State's industry-friendly policies.

Dr. Reddy was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Sri City Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Thondur village in Chittoor district on Friday. The SEZ spread over 5,400 acres across Chittoor and Nellore districts on the Tamil Nadu border was close to Chennai international airport and seaport.

He exuded confidence that the SEZ at Thondur would provide employment to 2 lakh people in Chittoor, Nellore and Kadapa districts in the coming years.

91 SEZs

Minister for Major Industries J. Geeta Reddy felt that the State had started moving



NEW FACILITY: Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy looking at a model of Sri City SEZ in Chittoor district on Friday. - PHOTO: K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

at a brisk pace on the industrial front by bagging as many as 91 of the 222 SEZs notified in the country.

Sri City Managing Director Ravindra Sannareddy offered to provide employment to the local population by improving their skill sets. He expected investments to the tune of Rs. 17,500 crore.

Sam Bob, Principal Secretary and Commissioner for Industrial Promotion, C.S.

Rao, Chief Executive Officer of APIIC and L.B. Singhal, Director-General, Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZ units spoke on the positive atmosphere being created for the industry.

Seetoh Kum Chum of Singapore-based Jurong Consultants spoke on 'SEZs in Asia' and expressed joy at her plan getting translated into action at Sri City. Ramesh Nair, MD of Jones Lang La-

Salle Meghraj gave a presentation on 'Industrialisation trends and way forward', while Bhaskar Subramanian, Associate Director of Price Waterhouse Coopers spoke on 'Advantage SEZs'.

Union Minister of State for Health Panabaka Lakshmi, MP Chinta Mohan, Minister for Technical Education R. Chenga Reddy and local MLA K.Narayanaswamy were present.