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Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das bets big on large scale employment generation

KOLKATA: Jharkhand's 20-month old chief minister Raghubar Das is betting big on large scale employment generation to drive his government's development agenda. The state is presently working on fresh investment proposals worth Rs 21,300 crores including two big ticket steel projects. In a major investment drive, Jharkhand wooing investors across the country and is also planning to reach out to countries like China, the US, new Zealand and Australia. The CM is also keen to reach out to the steel tycoon L N Mittal requesting him to revive his Rs 30,000 crore steel plant proposal. To encourage the start-ups, the government has built a start-up park. It has a fund worth Rs 1,000 crore ready to support new ideas.

"We want our state's rich natural resources to be utilised nationally. In the last twenty months since Jharkhand has been changing for the better," Raghubar Das told ET in an exclusive interaction on the sidelines of the 'Momentum Jharkhand' roadshow on Friday. The biggest downers poor law and order and corruption are being replaced with transparency and accountability. "However we continue to be plagued by migration of our youth to other states in search of jobs. We now want to tackle this issue by insisting on value addition. This will generate employment," the CM added.

Spelling out the list of the industries the BJP run Jharkhand government is working on, Rajbala Verma, chief secretary of Jharkhand said that they have 49 units of food processing, nine units of food and feed sector, 21 units under various other sectors worth Rs 1090 crore, two new units by ACCBSE -1.86 % and Ultra Tech cement, a second unit by Lafarge as fresh investments in the state. From Bengal, the neighbouring state has received at least five investment proposals and the list of companies includes ITCBSE 0.18 %, Century Ply, Bandhan and Carnival. From Bengal, the neighbouring state has received at least five investment proposals and the list of companies includes ITC, Century Ply, Bandhan and Carnival.

The CM's strategy is ushering the state towards introducing pioneering initiatives. This includes raising the state's first security force on the lines of CISF. Jharkhand CISF will undergo a three year diploma course to be helmed by retired defence personnel and an additional DG of police. The

first batch of such trained personnel will set rolling in September 2016. The state is also introducing a one year training course that will provide an opportunity even for drop outs to join the police forces. For this, it is setting up Jharkhand Raksha Shakti Viswavidyalaya, the country's third such facility will train youth in handling various crimes like terrorism, financial fraud, cyber crime etc., for jobs in state police, central forces, armed forces and security agencies.

The state government has decided to put equal focus on agriculture and agro based industries as well small and medium industries in addition to large industrial projects. It aims to become the top state in fish production and hopes to be self-sufficient in milk production. While two new steel projects are poised to come up in the state at Chhatra and Saraikela, including one spearheaded by the country's leading mining company, NMDCBSE -1.86 % as a special purpose vehicle, the focus is equally on food processing, higher education and religious tourism in sites like Parasnath and Deoghar.

The CM's emphasis on building the state's tremendous mineral resources and sharing it nationally is also a step forward over its earlier insistence on value addition within the state. For instance in mining, with auctions, rather than allotment of mines emerging as the norm, Das, is keen on developing and honing skills sets of youth and make them ready for jobs with top organisations like, Coal India, for instance.