

# The Hitavada



THURSDAY . AUGUST 19 . 2010

## Arshiya to invest Rs 1,047 crore in free-trade, warehousing zone in city

MUMBAI, Aug 18 (PTI)

ARSHIYA International, which on Wednesday launched the country's first free-trade and warehousing zone (FTWZ) at Panvel near here, said it will invest nearly Rs 5,000 crore, including Rs 1,047 crore on Nagpur FTWZ, over the next two years to develop four more such zones, distriparks and rail infrastructure.

Commercially launching the Mumbai FTWZ at Panvel, off 24 km from the country's largest port the Jawaharlal Nehru Port near here, the city-based supply chain and logistics solutions provider said it has already invested Rs 533 crore into this special type of special economic zone in the first phase at Panvel.

A free-trade warehousing zone is a special category of special economic zone with a focus on trading and warehousing. The FTWZ scheme of the Commerce Ministry envisages creation of world-class infrastructure for warehousing of various products, transportation and han-

dling facilities, one-stop clearance of import and export formality. FTWZs are governed under the SEZ Act of 2005 and was announced in the 2005-09 Foreign Trade Policy.

Out of the Rs 7,468-crore planned investment, the company has already

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spent Rs 2,628 crore in the first phase, while the rest Rs 4,840 crore will take place over the next two years, Arshiya International CMD Ajay S Mittal said here.

The 165-acre Panvel facility will employ over 25,000 people at full capacity and is expected to cost about Rs 1,500 crore, said Arshiya, which is listed on both the BSE and NSE.

Giving a break-up of the Rs 7,468-

crore investment plan, Mittal said, Arshiya will be investing around Rs 2,000 crore on rail infrastructure, Rs 1,331 crore on the Delhi FTWZ and Rs 1,220 crore on the Delhi Domestic Distripark apart from the investment in Nagpur FTWZ, while plans for the Chennai and Kolkata zones are yet to finalised.

"With the launch of the country's first FTWZ, Arshiya will not only increase profitability and induce cost savings for our customers, but will also serve as a game-changer in the domestic logistics landscape," he told newsmen. The Mumbai FTWZ is the first out of the five such zones planned by the company, with the rest four coming up at Khurja in Noida near Delhi, Nagpur, Chennai and Kolkata, Mittal said, adding, Delhi will also have a Distripark at Khurja. While the Mumbai FTWZ is completely debt-free, the company will have to raise debt or go in for equity offerings in another 12-18 months to fund further expansion, he said.