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AP drops 6 Positions in Imp. Logistics ranking

VIS News Service

The government of India recently released the 2021 LEADS report wherein it ranked the state

had garnered in the last LEADS ranking done in 2019. Due to COVID-19 LEADS report wasn't done in 2020.

LEADS an acronym for

ecosystem.

As per the report the State scored low in the indicators of Quality of Infrastructure and interactions with stakeholders which



LEADS 2021 AP Report scored Low due to:

- Shortage of Warehousing Facilities
- Need for Quality Infrastructure
- Unwarranted stoppage of commercial vehicles by RTO/Police
- Lack of Ease in Obtaining Approvals
- High Toll Costs

of Andhra Pradesh at number 9. This is a big drop

Logistics Ease Across Different states (LEADS) helps states and UTs gauge their logistics

Report also cites congestion at VPT

Details Page 3

also brought to fore infrastructure related challenges in the State.

For instance, condition of the road stretch from Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam via

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HPCL VR expansion in FY22



VIS News Service

HPCL's Visakh refinery (VR) modernisation project is well expected to be completed in this fiscal. Speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan, HPCL's C&MD Mr. Mukesh Kumar Surana informed 'The Visakh Refinery Expansion project is in advanced

Contd. on Page ..5

'YSR Steel Corp. to soon achieve financial closure'

Aditya Sabharwal

The much anticipated steel plant in the CMs home district of Kadapa is said to be going as per plan.

The AP High Grade Steels Limited which was later rechristened as YSR Steel Corporation Limited is said to be awaiting financial closure.

'We are currently in talks with our bankers doing the necessary due diligence, clarifying their questions etc. and are awaiting to hear from

them. We shall soon achieve financial closure' said Mr. Sagili Shah Mohan, IAS managing director of YSR Steel Corporation limited speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan.



He informed that a loan of Rs 9000 crores is being worked upon from their lead bank SBI and others in the consortium.

Contd. on Page ..4

AAROGYAM (NON METRO*)
LOANS TO THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR
#InThisTogether

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Logistics

Hospitals & Nursing Homes

Equipment

Pathology Labs

Diagnostic Centres

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T&C apply

Non Coking Coal import falls

VIS News Service

In line with GoI's mission of 'AtmaNirbhar, the imports of various grades of Non Coking Coal have reduced substantially during the current financial year. The latter includes high GCV thermal coal used for industrial purpose



and low GCV that goes for power generation.

As per the ministry of coal in the first five months of the Financial Year 2021-22 i.e. up to August 2021 (Firm import data is available up to August, 21), the import of all varieties of Non Coking Coal has

lated restrictions where the decline observed is 21%.

The reduction of imports of low calorific value (low GCV) of Non Coking Coal which is mainly used in power sector is even more significant. During FY 2021-22 upto Aug 21, the imports of such grades of coal have decreased by about 47% to 15.24 MT from 28.69 MT during the same period of FY 2019-20.

Due to substantial reduction of import of Non Coking Coal in the current year, the total import of coal has also reduced to 94.15 MT in the period from April to August 2021 compared to 107.01 MT during the corresponding period of FY 2019-20, a decrease of about 12%. This has resulted in considerable finan-

Coal Import during April – August, 2021 Reduced to 94.15 Million Ton against 107.01 MT in 2019-20

reduced to 70.85 MT from 84.44 MT during the corresponding months of the financial year 2019-20 representing a decline of about 16.09%. The financial year 2020-21 is not being taken for comparison purpose due to industrial production getting severely affected during this year because of Covid-19 re-

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JSW to set up Rs 150-cr steel unit in J&K

VIS News Service

JSW Group said it would invest Rs 150 crore to set up a 1.2-lakh-metric-tonne colour coated steel manufacturing facility in



J&K.

The plant will be set up by Group Company JSW Steel, JSW Group said in a statement. "The JSW has committed to setting up a state-of-the-art colour coated steel manufacturing facility of capacity 1,20,000 metric tonnes per annum along with special lines," it said. Steel sandwich panels and steel doors will be manufactured at the unit for the local market.

MOIL should increase manganese prod: Gadkari

VIS News Service

Manganese Ore India Limited- MOIL should increase manganese production and export it in order to make India AatmaNirbhar, opined Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Mr. Nitin Gadkari** said recently.

He also appealed to the trade unions and MOIL Company to work in unison for achieving this milestone. Mr. Gadkari was addressing a ceremony in Nagpur for Dedication of second vertical shaft at Chikla Mine of MOIL, inauguration of hospitals at five mines at Chikla, Gumgaon, Dongribuzurg, Tirodi and Kandri. On this occasion, Mr. Nitin Gadkari administered the oath of national unity to the audience in connection with the birth anniver-

sary of Sardar Patel.

He also said that human resource departments of companies should be sensitive towards their

that MOIL will complete the production of 14 lakh metric tonnes of steel this year. Union Steel Minister **Ramchandra Prasad**



MOIL should also increase its exports.

Mr. Nitin Gadkari
Union Transport Minister

employees. He said that performance audit was more important than financial audit and appealed to the workers to work together. All sectors like automobile industry, ethanol need green hydrogen.

On the occasion, MOIL's Chief Managing Director **Mukund P. Chaudhary** hoped

Singh, State Livestock Development Minister **Mr. Sunil Kedar**, Rajya Sabha MP **Dr. Vikas Mahatme**, Chief Managing Director of MOIL.

The event was also attended by MOIL employees, trade union representatives, Moil officials as well as local people's representatives.

NALCO's Q2 Net Profit jumps 600%

VIS News Service

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) registered an astounding rise in net profit for Q2 FY 21-22 at Rs 748 crore, posting a jump of 600% over Rs 107 crore achieved during corresponding period of last year.

As per an official release from the company this is one of the strongest performance in a decade, with Net Profit soaring to Rs.1095 crore at half-yearly stage. The net profit has soared by 783% to Rs.1095 crore, as against



Rs.124 crore for the corresponding period of previous year said the release.

During the quarter, the total income from operations stood at Rs.3592 crore, registering 51%

growth over Q2 of FY 20-21, which was Rs.2375 crore. On the production front, the Company registered higher production in 2nd quarter of FY 21-22 on all fronts, i.e. bauxite production, alumina hydrate production and aluminium cast metal production.

During the Q2 FY 21-22, the Company achieved bauxite production of 18.88 lakh tonnes, alumina hydrate production of 5.30 lakh tonnes and metal production of 1.14 lakh tonnes, compared to 17.04 lakh tonnes, 4.87 lakh tonnes

and 1.06 lakh tonnes respectively achieved in Q2 FY 20-21. Commenting on the impressive performance of the Company, **Mr Sridhar Patra**, CMD, NALCO said, "I compliment the employees of NALCO for coming back strongly in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, to deliver strong growth in profits and production. Dedicated efforts of employees in maximizing production has helped NALCO to take advantage of the favourable market conditions."

MDP held at RINL

VIS News Service

Two-day training program on "Leadership, Team Building & Decision Making" was recently conducted by RINL VSP. **Mr. A.K. Saxena**, Director (Operations), RINL inaugurated the programme.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Saxena shared his views on the importance of the concepts of Leadership, Team Building & Decision Making. He advised the participants to put the learning from this program into practice for the betterment of the organization. Around 32 senior executives of RINL attended. The program was organized by HRD Department-RINL with the help of faculty members from the ISTD-Visakhapatnam Chapter.

RINL bags Energy Award

VIS News Service

Excellent Energy Efficient Unit Award was bestowed on RINL-VSP, Navratna Public Sector Steel Company by CII at GBC National Award competition for Excellence in Energy

Management held online from August 24 to August 27 '21 in recognition of efforts towards Energy Conservation at RINL.

RINL CMD **Mr. Atul Bhatt** commended the VSP collective for this unique

achievement and said that the award truly reflects the commitment of the entire workforce to conserving energy. He exhorted them to achieve international



benchmarking in energy consumption, one of the key parameters in the steel making process

RINL was also awarded National Energy Leader Award 3rd time for winning the Excellent Energy Effi-

cient Unit Award consecutively for four years (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021).

RINL has also been awarded the Most Innovative Project award for Interconnection of LD Gas Holder 1&2.

RINL implemented various measures such as Interconnection of LD gas holder-1&2, Improvement in PCI injection in Blast Furnace-1, Installation of Roof Top Solar System, Improvement in GETs Power generation and Improvement in total fuel rate in BF-3 which helped in conserving the energy.

NMDC registers 37% growth in Oct.

VIS News Service

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., (NMDC) under Ministry of Steel continues to outperform itself with iron ore production of 3.33MT and sales of 3.58 MT in the month of October. The mining major registered a growth of 37% in production, the highest ever in any October month since inception and a rise of 42% in iron ore sales over the CPLY on the back of strong domestic demand.

Cumulative production and sale figures for the first seven months of the FY22, up to October 2021, stood at

21.04 MT and 22.08 MT respectively recording the best ever performance for any October month. The company achieved a 43% increase in production, which includes the 0.5 MT produced from Donimalai this October, and 43% in sales over the same period last year.

Congratulating the NMDC team for yet another impressive performance, CMD NMDC

Mr. Sumit Deb said, As India's largest iron ore producer, NMDC's performance is an indication of the prevailing positive market sentiment of the mining and manufacturing sector.

APM Pipavav gets 1st Reefer rake

VIS News Service

APM Terminals Pipavav recently received the first full reefer rake from ICD Virangam. Operated by Gateway Rail Freight Ltd., the reefer train was flagged off from ICD Virangam. The train aptly titled as "The Maersk Processed Food Express" carried agro-based commodities from Gujarat to be exported to South East Asia.



The service is going to

be a boon for agro based exporters from Gujarat as it will help in safe and quick passage of frozen food from Ahmedabad and nearby areas to the global market. The flagging off ceremony was graced by Mr. Ashok Pandey & Mr. Bhumik Bhatt from Gateway Rail. Senior executives from Maersk & APM Terminals Pipavav were also present.

Vigilance week concludes at HSL

VIS News Service

Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam (HSL) observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 from October 26 to Nov. 1. The observance of the week commenced with employees taking the integrity pledge which was administered by HSL CMD Cmde Hemant Khatri.

HSL invited Mr. Vimaladitya, IPS, SP, CBI on the concluding day to address the officials on the occasion. HSL CMD stressed on the importance of integrity and performance to achieve India @ 75: self-reliance with Integrity. Mr. T. Venkateswarlu, CVO HSL also addressed the officers on this event.

SCR & Krishnapatnam Rail Co sign O&M agreement

VIS News Service

South Central Railway has entered into an agreement with Krishnapatnam Railway Company Limited (KRCL) for operations & maintenance of a new Railway line between Krishnapatnam – Obulavaripalle with a distance of 119 Kms.



Accordingly, an agreement was signed in the presence of Mr Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, SCR between Mr G. John Prasad Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCR and Mr K. Siva Prasad, Managing director, KRCL.

& to Krishnapatnam Port towards West Coast areas of the Country like Mumbai etc., were earlier operated via Gudur, Renigunta.

Due to heavy movement of freight trains, the section was fully congested leading to detention of the trains. To

Venkatachalam – Obulavaripalle new railway line project provides vital rail connectivity between two major rail routes and reduces distance by 72 kms for the trains coming from Guntakal Division to Krishnapatnam and reduces traffic density in Obulavaripalle – Renigunta – Gudur section.

The new Railway line helps to decongest the section and provides seamless move-

ment of freight trains towards Rayalaseema, districts of Andhra Pradesh, North Karnataka and West Coast region. The new line also helps in socio-economic growth of the hinterland areas.

To help improve Freight traffic between Krishnapatnam & Obulavaripalle

As per SCR the Grand Trunk line between Vijayawada – Gudur is a busy and over-saturated Railway line with continuous movement of passenger & freight traffic.

The freight trains from

mitigate this problem and to enhance the loading from Krishnapatnam Port, a new Railway line project was sanctioned between Krishnapatnam Port – Obulavaripalle.

Krishnapatnam Port –

Bottle-necks @ VPT

The LEADS 2021 report cited frequent congestion on the road between Port of Visakhapatnam to the warehouses/Container Freight Stations along NH-65 due to heavy movement of container trailers.

It further highlighted limited parking spaces for trucks at the Port of Vizag and Kakinada which in turn caused congestion on roads leading to Port. In addition to this, there is a need for facilities for truck drivers along key freight routes said the report.

The report also noted that the Port Community System (PCS) implemented at the Port of Vizag lags regularly resulting in delays for the stakeholders.

New Radars at Cochin Port Trust

VIS News Service

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways & Ayush Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal recently inaugurated the new Radars and Vessel Traffic Management System of Cochin Port Trust.



The Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) commissioned in Cochin Port in 2009 has been upgraded with a state-of-the-art sys-

tem consisting of 2 new radars, 1 AIS Base station, 3 VHF Radios and associated software and hardware installed at a cost of Rs. 5.8-Cr. The

Vessel Traffic Management System is an essential tool for enhancing safety of navigation in the port

by monitoring and regulating the shipping movements. Apart from navigational safety, the system also enhances security of the port waters by detecting and tracking all crafts moving in the port.

Customs disposes 1700 hazardous goods

VIS News Service

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman recently reviewed the progress made by the Indian Customs in the safe disposal of imports, that are hazardous in nature and which remain uncleared or have been seized or confiscated.

By March 2021, all the ports were freed of remaining metallic scrap material segments regarded as remnants of shells/war materials by way of a Special Operation named "Visphotak Mukh Bandargah" undertaken in

close co-ordination with other Ministries.

Additionally, the regular



disposal, by Customs field formations, is also being monitored closely by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). As a result, over 1700 consignments of uncleared or seized hazard-

ous goods have been safely disposed from Customs areas between January 2021 and October 2021 stated an official release from the ministry of finance.

The disposal of all types of uncleared or unclaimed or seized hazardous cargo consignments, including chemicals, electronic wastes, etc, is a continuing exercise undertaken across Customs locations.

Customs field formations also engage with relevant Departments, including of the State Governments, and ensure that all pending hazardous material is disposed of within a period of ninety days.



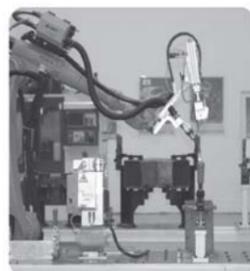
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AP BJP leader gets coveted seat on SAIL



VIS News Service

Senior BJP leader in Andhra Pradesh, **Mr Sagi Kasi Viswanatha Raju** has been recently appointed as an INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR in the coveted Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

A leader known for his hard work and loyalty for many decades, Mr Kasi Raju

has been with the party since 30 years. He worked as President of BJYM, being a force for bringing in youth into the party, then as State Executive Member for 2 consecutive terms and also served as the Vice Chairman of the State Finance Committee as well as State Secretary from 2018 to 2020. He has also

campaigns for BJP strongly during the elections and has been encouraging many young talents to join the party to develop the party at grassroot levels. Conveying his heartfelt thanks to both the central party and BJPAP, Mr Kasi Raju said that he felt encouraged and shall continue to serve the party with more vigor and work to develop the party in Andhra Pradesh.

For the 1st time Caustic Soda Loaded from Andhra Pradesh

VIS News Service

In a recent development the Veldurti station of Hyderabad Division in the state of Andhra Pradesh was able to load Sodium Hydroxide (new commodity) commonly known as "Caustic Soda Lye".

As per a release from SCR this is the first time that 80 Tank containers consisting of around 2,200 Tonnes of Caustic Soda was loaded in 40 BLL Flat wagons from Veldurti, which was destined for Nalco Siding at Damanjodi of Orissa state.

Accordingly, the first Caustic Soda rake of SCR was loaded on 23rd October, 2021. The focus of South Central Railway to increase freight traffic by

adding new commodities to its freight basket has been consistently gaining traction, stated the release.

Caustic Soda Lye is a major product being pro-



duced at Tandrapadu village near Kurnool, which is 50 Kms from Veldurti station.

It is used to manufacture soaps, rayon, paper, explosives, dyestuffs and petroleum products. It is also used in processing cotton fabric, laundering and bleaching, metal cleaning

and processing, oxide coating, electroplating and electrolytic extracting. This consignment was normally moved by Roadways.

The Business Development Unit of Hyderabad Division have been able to convince the freight customers about the benefits of loading through Railways viz., safe, secure, economical and without any pilferages. This is more beneficial when transported to farther places. Consequently, the freight customers have come forward to load the Caustic Soda commodity in tank containers from Veldurti station, which enabled them to move the first rake of caustic soda tank container of the Zone, said the release.

Training prog. on mastering self-motivation

VIS News Service

The AICTE sponsored short-term training programs on "Mastering Self-Motivation and Attitude-Art of Living" will be organised by Department of Electrical Engineering Andhra University, according to **Prof K Rama Sudha**, Coordinator and Director of Computer Centre of Andhra University.

The Training programs will be conducted in three phases in November, December and January.

Prof Rama Sudha said that eminent personalities will deliver lectures and conduct technical sessions.

Prof PVGD Prasada Reddy is the Chief Patron.

The first phase will be conducted from November 22 to 26, Second phase from December 27 to 31 and third phase from January 17 to 21.

Prof Rama Sudha said that participants can register for phase 1 or phase 2 or phase 3. Right now registration open for phase 1.

The faculty members, research scholars, PG students and employees from Government and industry can participate in the training programs.

'YSR Steel Corp. to soon achieve financial closure'

Contd. from Page 1

YSR steel was incorporated on November 21, 2019 as a wholly owned company of Government of AP with a mandate to establish a steel plant at YSR Kadapa District.

In May this year the AP government on the recommendation of SBI capital

markets, the Transaction Adviser for the AP government had selected M/s Essar steel Limited as their joint venture partner.

With a land allotment of 3500 acres the plant is estimated to have an initial capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum producing high grade steel products, leveraging its

connectivity by road, rail, sea & air, proximity to raw material sources and access to major auto and industrial hubs.

The plant is expected to drive growth in the region by providing direct employment to over 3000 people while indirect employment opportunity for over 20,000 people.

AU inks MoU with Logistics Skill Council

VIS News Service

Andhra University has signed an MoU with Logistics Skill Council to offer BBA Logistics and Maritime Logistics at the University. The MoU was inked by AU Regis-

trar **Mr. V. Krishna Mohan** and Education Initiatives Head **Acharya S. Ganeshan**. These courses will help for students become job ready said AU VC **Prof. PVGD Prasada Reddy**.



SEZ Units eligible to claim refund of GST

Anil Bezawada

In terms of Section 16 of IIGST Act, 2017 the supply of the Goods or Services to a Unit in Special Economic Zone is a 'Zero rated Supply' & Supplier is entitled for Refund of accumulated ITC as there is no output Tax on his supply to SEZ Unit. However, whatever the reasons many suppliers charged the GST on their invoices to the Units in SEZ. SEZ Units also paid the GST to their vendors due to commercial expediency.

As there is no output tax for the SEZ Units on their Exports they left with the GST ITC accumulation in their books of accounts. If this GST is not refunded, this GST would become cost to SEZ Units and it is huge financial burden to SEZ



Units.

Whether the SEZ Unit is eligible for refund being a exporter?

Now the question is whether the SEZ Unit is eligible for refund of GST paid to his vendors as he is also exporter of goods.

A few SEZ Units applied for refund of the GST as they are also an exporter. However, the GST authorities rejected the GST refund claims to many SEZ Units on the ground that GST Law

envisages only the Supplier to SEZ unit only should come for the Refund of GST not the SEZ Units as such. Many SEZ units filed the petitions before the High Courts including Andhra Pradesh High Court challenging the decisions of GST authorities.

Decision of Madras High Court

The main contention of the SEZ Units they are also like any other exporter, they cannot be put in disadvantageous position than any other exporter. The Madras High Court in the case of M/s. Platinum Holdings (P.) Ltd Vs UOI 2021 (10) TMI 630 held that **SEZ Unit in terms of Section 54 and Rule 89 of the GST Rule is entitled for the refund of GST as their procure-**

ments are Zero rated and they are also an exporter. Instead of Supplier, SEZ Unit also can come for refund of GST.

Conclusion:

The above decision of Madras high court would help many SEZ units in Vizag and in Andhra Pradesh to get the pending GST refunds from the GST Authorities. GST authorities following judicial discipline should sanction refunds to SEZ Units. If any SEZ Unit yet to apply for GST refunds, based on this judgment they can immediately apply for the GST refunds.

(The writer is a Chartered Accountant, partner in Hiregange & Associates. He is also CMA, LL.B specialized and domain expert in Customs, Goods & Service Tax Law, Foreign Trade Policy, EOU's and SEZ's.)

Getting Robots to attend meetings on your behalf

VIS News Service

The Vizagapatam Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI) recently conducted a seminar on Telepresence Robots, in association with Ohmni Labs, San Francisco, USA.

As per an official release from VCCI OhmniLabs is the world leading telepresence robotics company.

The speaker of the Session **Mr. Anirudh Ravi** an Ohmni Specialist and Sales Growth Strategist demonstrated on how one can operate and control things at work place with the help of the Robot and can simply log in using any device and so that you're instantly and virtually present in your remote location. He further displayed how one can operate the Robot in USA while being in India. Mr Ravi said that unlike a regular video call, with a telepresence robot, you can

be present in the room with your clients as if you were there.

He also shared that Telepresence robots replace the need for you or your colleagues to fly out to a client



location. Sitting right there next to the client, operating a telepresence robot, you are present as any in-person meeting. Mr. Anirudh opined that the Telepresence Robots makes life easier for a business person as there are no flight delays, no baggage fees, and no need for time-consuming travel and it truly is the most effective way to run a business from anywhere.

Registrations for Jagananna Housing scheme from Nov. 20



VIS News Service

The Chief Minister Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy recently informed that the registration for beneficiaries un-

level officials and beneficiaries on the implementation of the scheme.

The registrations under the scheme will be done in Village and Ward Secretariats, he said and added that the authorities have taken steps to complete the registration within 10 minutes.

The review meeting was attended by Minister for Municipal and Urban Development Mr. Botsa Satyanarayana, CS Dr. Sameer Sharma, Chief Commissioner of Land Administration Mr. Neerab Kumar Prasad, Municipal and Urban Development Special CS Ms. Y Srilaxmi, Revenue Department Special CS Mr. Rajat Bhargava, Panchayati Secretary, Home Department Revenue Chief Secretary Ms. V Usharani, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited Chairman Mr. Davuluri Dorababu and other senior officials were present.

done in a transparent manner.

The officials said so far, 52 lakh people have registered under the scheme.

The officials who are reviewing the applications from time to time will give complete approvals in another 10 days, the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister asked the officials to take up awareness programmes for lower

Officials to give complete approvals in 10 days: CM

der the Jagananna Housing Scheme will begin on November 20 and will end on December 15.

At a review meeting the Chief Minister instructed the officials that registrations should be

'Modernize anchorage port of Kakinada'

VIS News Service

Highlighting some of the major infrastructure challenges in terms of the logistics space in the state the LEADS 2021 report called for the modernization of the anchorage port of Kakinada.



'There is a need for modernization of the anchorage Port at Kakinada. The wharf at railway siding in the Port of Kakinada leads to cargo contamination due to gravel mixing' said the report.

There is a draft restriction at Hope Island, Kakinada. This makes it difficult to load the vessel over 25MT capacity.

It further added that presently there is no deployment of immigration officers at Kakinada anchorage, leading to delays in crew sign-on/off.

'CM has done commendable job'

VIS News Service

Senior YSRCP leader, MP Rajya Sabha and chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on commerce, Mr Vijayasai Reddy lauded the leadership of the Chief Minister Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy in these tough times and said that he has done a commend-

handholding them and also creating more employment opportunities' said the MP, Rajya Sabha.

He said that it was important for the holistic development of the state and called for the chambers to attract investments both domestic and international investors into the state.

Citing the potential for



able job.

'Even amid the pandemic the state of Andhra Pradesh grew 1.5% compared to a negative national average of 3.8%. This I think is commendable' said Mr Vijayasai Reddy speaking at the taking over function of Mr Pydah Krishna Prasad as the president of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation.

'Identifying this is an exciting time for AP' Mr Reddy said that MSMEs are the fulcrum of growth and urged the chambers to cater to the growth of MSMEs. 'We need to focus more on MSMEs by

Tourism he said that with AP being bestowed with scenic beauty the tourism sector can do wonders here.

Mr Reddy further highlighted the RODTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products) scheme of the government of India and said that this was a great boon for exporters and asked the chambers to carry out awareness programs on this.

The scheme will ensure that the exporters receive the refunds on the embedded taxes and duties previously non-recoverable. The scheme was brought about with the intention to boost exports which were relatively poor in volume previously.

HPCL's Visakh refinery operating at full capacity

Contd. from Page 1

stage and we expect to complete the same in this financial year. Residue Upgradation facilities will get completed in next financial year. The C&MD further said that this project will add capacity and result into better distillate yield and energy efficiency to the Visakh refinery complex. In fact the CDU III unit of Visakh refinery which had a fire incident in May 2021 is now said to be operating at its full capacity. The CD III unit was restarted after completing necessary inspection and repair activities stated a recent release from HPCL announcing its Q2FY22 results. HPCL in Q2FY22 recorded Profit after Tax (PAT) of Rs 1,924 crore for the quarter ended 30th September 2021 vis a vis a PAT of Rs 1,795 crore for the previous quarter

recording 7.2% growth.

Gross sales for the quarter stood at Rs 87,311 crore as compared to Rs 61,340 crore during the corresponding previous year period.

For the period April to

MMT as compared to 8.10 MMT of previous year for same period representing a growth of more than 8%.

The domestic sales of HPCL for the period April-September 2021

ber'2021 compared to same period in the previous year.

HPCL refineries processed 5.04 million metric tonnes of crude during April-September, 2021. The Pipeline thruput for the period April- September 2021 was 9.09 MMT.

The combined GRM for the period July-September 2021 is US\$ 2.44 per barrel as compared to US\$ 5.11 per barrel in the corresponding previous period. The combined GRM for the half-year April- September 2021 works out to US\$ 2.87 per barrel compared to US\$ 2.58 per barrel in the corresponding previous period.

HPCL reported consolidated PAT of Rs. 3,923 crore for period April-September 2021 as against Rs. 5,228 crore during the corresponding period of previous year.

The expansion will add capacity and result into better distillate yield and energy efficiency to the Visakh Refinery complex.

Mr. Mukesh K Surana
CMD, HPCL

September'21, HPCL recorded gross sales of Rs

1,64,619 crore as compared to Rs 1,07,225 crore of corresponding period of the previous year.

During Q2, HPCL achieved the domestic sales volume of 8.79

was 17.24 MMT as compared to corresponding sales of 15.34 MMT in the previous year, showing a growth of 12%.

The major petroleum products recording growth were ATF up by 63%, MS by 23%, HSD by 15% and LPG by 4% during the period April-Septem-

GoI targeting 6000 water testing labs by 2022

VIS News Service

Mr Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, recently said that the government has put up water-quality testing infrastructure available to every village to improve service in terms of quantity, quality, and regularity, by instituting 2000 water testing laboratories and targeting 6000 laboratories in the coming year.

Addressing the 5th ISFICCI Sanitation Awards and India Sanitation Conclave 2021 Mr Shekhawat he said that even though India is declared open defecation-free (ODF) in 2019, the nation aspires to be a global leader in achieving a sustainable ap-

proach towards sanitation. "While India aims to provide dignity to women through water and sanitation, the process must be sustainable in terms of solid, liquid, plastic, and cattle waste management in a clustered way, especially in rural India," he said. He further mentioned that the centre is training five women from each village to test the quality of water as part of the ambitious Jal Jeevan mission, which aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water. "The report generated by the women will help to monitor and measure the quality of water," he said.

He also stated that the drinking water supply work continued to reach more than 8.5 crore households despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown.

LVP to set up Eye Care in Kadapa



VIS News Service

LV Prasad Eye Institute Founder Chairman **Dr. Gullapalli N Rao**, Founder Member **G. Pratibha Rao** recently called on CM **Mr.YS Jagan** at CM's Camp Office.

The LV Prasad Eye Institute Management Team thanked the CM for his decision to allot the land required for the establishment of the Territorial Care Eye Institute in Kadapa.

The Eye Institute is planned to be equipped with the state-of-the-art ophthalmology at an international level so that no one from Andhra Pradesh go to neighbouring states for treatment of eye problems.

The Chief Minister directed the hospital management to prepare appropriate plans to provide cutting-edge treatment at all levels from screening to surgery for the prevention of blindness.

VPT's Iron ore and POL cargo declines 18%

Aditya Sabharwal

Counted among the 12 major port trusts in the country, Visakhapatnam Port Trust has seen a relative slowdown in its overall cargo handled. With fall in volumes of certain commodities coupled with stiff competition from neighbouring ports VPT has seen restricted growth in its cargo throughput.

Albeit VPT registered an overall growth for the period April to October 2021 compared to the same period last year the growth was a mere 1.14%. This is the lowest growth when compared to other major ports in the country have witnessed.

VPT handled a total throughput of 39.25 MT compared to 38.81 MT

during the same period last year thereby marking a growth of just over 1.1%.

Commodities such as Iron ore and POL wit-

'NMDC hasn't shipped any iron ore since April this year from our port' said VPT's Deputy Chairman **Mr Durgesh K Dubey**,

decline of 18%. 'We would need HPCL's liquid cargo to cross the 72 million tonne target for this fiscal' said Mr Dubey.

In addition with an aggressive private player in the vicinity VPT is facing stiff competition.

'We are witnessing tough competition from neighbouring ports' acknowledged Mr Dubey.

He however mentioned that the port looks to cross the 72 million tonne cargo in this fiscal.

'We have already crossed 40 MT as of now (as of 2nd week Nov'21)' said Mr Dubey. Commodities that have seen an increase in volumes during the April-October 2021 period include thermal and steam coal.



nessed a decline of about 18% each.

VPT had handled 10.29 million tonnes of iron ore during the April-Oct 2020 period wherein for the same period this year the numbers fell down to 8.66 million tonnes thus marking a fall of 18%.

IRTS speaking to *Vizag Industrial Scan*.

Similarly VPT saw its POL, crude and LPG volumes decline from 9.20 million tonnes during April-October 2020 to 7.77 million tonnes in April-October 2021 this too registering a

AP falls to 9th in Imp. Logistics ranking

Contd. from Page 1

Rajahmundry and the stretch from Visakhapatnam port to the ware-

pointed out that high toll costs and additional levy on diesel are two elements that have resulted in high cost of logistics in the State cited

with infrastructure augmentation can help the State enable the logistics sector to maximize its potential. In addition, available infrastructure needs to be upgraded in respect of road and rail connectivity.

Centre took Industry's Feedback:

As per the report Industry Stakeholders were consulted and they scoffed at a slew of bottlenecks. Some of them included Quality of Infrastructure, Road Connectivity, Unwarranted

The State needs to proactively plan to tackle the challenges highlighted by the logistics industry stakeholders. – LEADS 2021 Report

houses/ CFSs along NH-5 needs attention stated the report. The shortage of warehousing facilities, specifically in Vijayawada, Kakinada and in parts of Nellore and the general lack of regulation for setting up a warehousing facility in the State are some other negative factors highlighted in industry interactions.

Similar sentiment is also reflected in the below average scores of the State in the Extent of Facilitation and Ease of obtaining approvals.

Low scores in the Efficiency of Regulatory Services indicator reflects in issues of frequent stoppage on roads by RTO/Police. Stakeholders have

the report.

Stakeholder perception score has hence been low on the related indicators of Reasonableness of Road Freight Rates and Prices of Terminal Services.

LEADS 2021 Report Suggests:

- A State Logistics Policy
- Establishment of a State Logistics Cell for the integrated development of logistics ecosystem
- To set up driver training institutes in the State to compensate drivers' shortage
- Implementation of digital initiatives to decrease the number of physical checks of commercial vehicles by enforcement officers
- Regular interactions between the industry and transport unions to jointly address issues, thereby enabling logistics ease and set up a grievance cell to address industry grievances

The report urged the State to proactively plan to tackle the challenges highlighted by the logistics industry stakeholders. Robust institutional mechanism and policy framework along

stoppage of commercial vehicles by RTO/Police, Shortage of Warehousing Facilities, Lack of Ease in Obtaining Approvals, High Toll Costs.

Ports Sector – Miles to travel before achieving tax certainty

Rony Antony

Ports are a vital lifeline for the growth of the Indian economy, contributing to around 95% of India's trading by volume and 70% by value. India has 13 major and 200 non major ports. India is the sixteenth-largest maritime country in the world with a coastline of about 7,517 kms.

While much has been written about the issues that plague the port sector, this article will try to highlight some challenges on taxation that the Government needs to actively look at to make this sector viable and competitive.

Tax and regulatory matters

- The Indian Government supports the growth of this sector by allowing FDI up to 100% under the automatic route for port and harbour construction and maintenance projects. This has allowed large players to actively look at Indian ports as a viable business opportunity.

- The Indian Income-tax Act, 1961 (Act) provides for tax holiday to enterprises that develop, operate, and maintain a port, airport, inland waterway, inland port or navigational



the customers and suppliers are outside India, it should ideally be outside the purview of GST. However, the person in India who actually receives the order from a customer outside India and passes it on to a supplier outside India is playing the role of a forwarding/lead generation service. This may constitute 'export of service' under GST law. Clarity is required to allow the evolution of new forms of business.

Conclusion

Clarity of tax issues in the sector can greatly increase the outlook from a FDI standpoint as well as ease of doing business. This could give a significant fillip to the sector thereby poising India as a major trade hub. Increasing investment is intricately linked to economic trade activity. The demand for ports and trade infrastructure will continue to mount as trade diversifies and grows, making a compelling case for the rapid and efficient expansion of India's port sector.

(The writer is Partner Tax&Regulatory Services, BDO India LLP. Mr Ashwin Vittal also contributed to the article.)

- In the case of income from operation of ships, clarity is required whether a vessel can be regarded as a Permanent Establishment of a foreign company in cases where the vessel is engaged in carriage in the Indian waters only.

- Shipping sector has been impacted under the GST law. A 5% GST was levied on Indian shipping companies that ferry cargo from or to India with no CENVAT credit allowed. The 5% levy is a pure cost as no credit can be taken against that.

- Dropshipping is an evolving business in India. In these cases since

How Srikakulam is re-inventing the famous Ponduru Khadi

Mamta Sharma

For the past two months, District Collector of Srikakulam, **Mr. Srikesh**

However, it has not been able to get weavers sufficient remuneration due to various reasons.

forward to fund something up to Rs 1 crore. We are asking weavers to come forward with a plan/their

Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd (APCO) to benefit from their technical and marketing expertise.

platform, which helps the weavers reach “a bigger customer base”.

“We supply raw materials to the weavers, give them a production programme with certain specifications and then, purchase the woven stock from them. This is sold at our outlets throughout India. We also conduct meetings with the weavers in Srikakulam and train them to develop new designs as per the demand of the customers and to compete in the larger market,” he says.

Mr Lathakar says that a meeting was held with Ponduru weavers recently.

“To create a niche brand for Ponduru Khadi and Srikakulam handicrafts, there is a need for marketing which is lacking at the moment. Khadi has its own brand image so similarly we have to create a brand for Srikakulam Khadi even if it is costly, there will be sufficient demand and the benefits will flow down to the weavers,” he contends.

Besides marketing training, a few machines



We are trying to create a niche brand for Ponduru Khadi and Srikakulam handicrafts.

Mr. Srikesh Lathakar, IAS
Srikakulam Dist. Collector

Lathakar, IAS along with most of his officers, ensured that they wear Srikakulam Khadi every first Monday of the month. It seems a “small step” but he feels that it will go a long way in creating awareness and demand for Srikakulam handloom and textile products.

“Awareness needs to start from our own people. We also conducted an exhibition recently where only Srikakulam products were exhibited. It was a big success. We plan to continue such initiatives in future as well,” said **Mr Lathakar** speaking to *Vizag Industrial Scan*.

The fine quality Khadi produced in Ponduru village of Srikakulam district is popular throughout India, and in fact Mahatma Gandhi always preferred it.

Mr Lathakar says they have proposed mini Khadi clusters to empower weavers.

“Mega clusters require certain pre-conditions like minimum number of weavers, among others. Since the number of weavers are very less here, we have finalised the proposal for three mini Khadi clusters in the district, including two in Ponduru, which will require infrastructure, training and marketing expertise. We will try to increase the number depending on the progress,” he said.

It is not the investment but manpower that is a major challenge, he said.

“Investment can be arranged from the Central or the state government. Even NABARD is coming

demands but they only present very minimal needs. Most weavers are old now and the younger generation is not taking it up as they don't see a huge scope. Hence there is a shortage of manpower,” he says.

“Also, these products are very labour-intensive and hence, expensive and are in competition with powerloom products which are cheaper and of better quality.”

Mr Lathakar says they have roped in the Andhra Pradesh State

Branding Srikakulam Khadi

- To set up 3 Mini Khadi Clusters
- APCO to help in Technical and Marketing
- NABARD, State/Central Govt to provide Funding
- Training to weavers

are required to improve quality and productivity so that the overall cost goes down and the quality improves, he says.

APCO DMO **Mr. Someswara Rao** says that they are seeing a rise in the sale of Srikakulam products through their e-commerce

“We asked them to come forward with their requirements. We want youth from the weavers' community to come forward and share ideas to reinvent the Ponduru Khadi magic. We will fund it and provide all possible support to create our very own ‘Brand Srikakulam,’” he adds.

Plans for Mfg Zone at Mannavaram

VIS News Service

State Industries Minister **Mr Mekapati Goutham Reddy** has urged the Union Minister for commerce and Industry **Mr. Piyush Goyal** for setting up of an energy manufacturing zone at Mannavaram (Chittoor district) for heavy electrical appliances.

As per an official release it was mentioned



that the union minister responded positively to the AP proposal and said that he would look into the possibility of converting the 750 acres of land previously allotted to NTPC-BHEL into energy manufacturing.

The Union Minister then directed to hold a meeting with NTPC-BHEL representatives on the Mannavaram electrical equipment zone soon.

AP's Industries minister also discussed the

Gol mulls 750 Acres of land previously allotted to NTPC-BHEL for manufacturing Zone

proposal for a dedicated freight corridor while appealed to him for reducing the state's stake in the Visakhapatnam-Chennai corridor from 20 to 10 per cent. Mr. Mekapati invited the Union Minister to inaugurate the Medaxil office at MedTech Zone in Visakhapatnam.

The meeting in New Delhi was attended by Andhra Pradesh Residence Bhavan Commissioner **Ms Bhavana Saxena**, APIIC VC and MD Mr Subrahmanyam, MedTech Zone CEO **Mr. Jitendra Sharma** and Industries Advisor **Mr. Lanka Sridhar**.

FAPCCI president meets GVMC Comm.



VIS News Service

Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI) President, **Mr. C V Atchut Rao**, called on GVMC Commissioner **Mr. G Lakshmisha, IAS**, and appraised him about the FAPCCI activities & initiatives. He requested

GVMC support for conducive environment towards development of Trade & Industry in Visakhapatnam. The Commissioner positively responded and said that he will support FAPCCI & do the needful for the development of Trade & Industry in Visakhapatnam.

Mayor assures support to CREDAI

VIS News Service

G.V.M.C., Mayor, **Ms. Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari** has asserted that Visakhapatnam, the “City of Destiny” would be developed as role model, keeping in mind all international standards and that CREDAI Visakhapatnam has a key role to play in this aspect.

She assured CREDAI Visakhapatnam members that the GVMC would extend all help to ensure speedy completion of buildings and apartments.

CREDAI-AP President **Mr. B. Raja Srinivas**, recalled the cooperation from the GVMC to construction sector in the past and said that the endeavour of all members of CREDAI is to

see that the City of Destiny developed as a model for which the cooperation of GVMC was essential. Chairman of CREDAI Visakhapatnam **Sri Bayana**

K.S.R.K. Raju (Sai) recalled the contributions of CREDAI Visakhapatnam under its CSR activities and asserted that it is committed to provide houses to all at



Srinivasa Rao, asserted that CREDAI Visakhapatnam members have their own code of conduct and strictly follow all government rules and never deviate from any.

The President **Mr.**

affordable prices. MP **Mr. M.V.V. Satyanarayana**, who was the Chief Guest, at the function stressed the need to create a friendly atmosphere and urged GVMC to ensure timely action to the problems represented by CREDAI.

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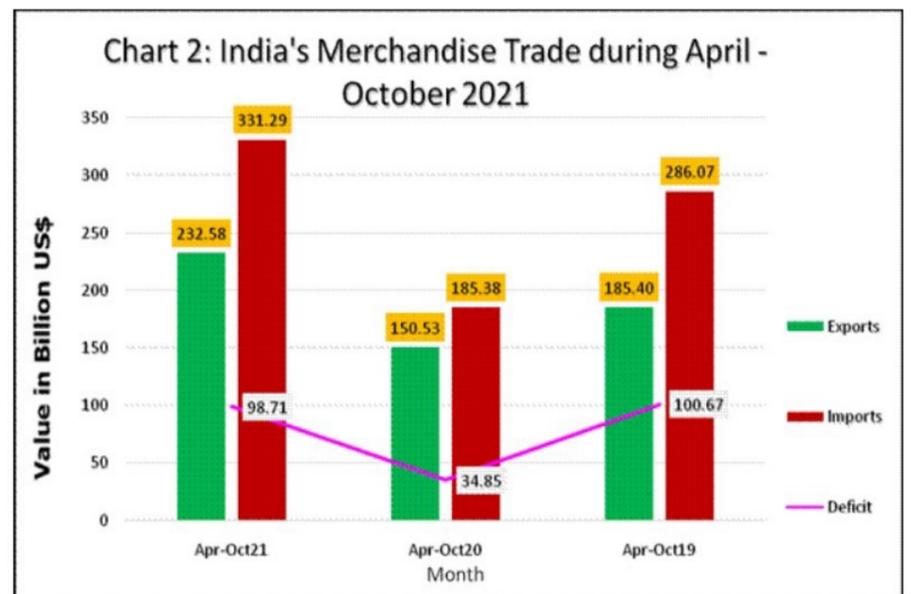
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Exports of Top 10 Major Commodity Groups

SL. No.	Major Commodity Group	Value of Export (Million USD)		Share %	Growth %
		Oct '21	Oct '20	Oct '21	Oct '21 over Oct '20
1.	Engineering Goods	9388.28	6229.91	28.19	50.70
2.	Petroleum Products	5197.59	1567.31	14.69	231.63
3.	Gems And Jewellery	4221.73	2926.82	9.67	44.24
4.	Organic And Inorganic Chemicals	2569.28	1810.71	7.11	41.89
5.	Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	2060.09	2078.92	6.14	-0.91
6.	Electronic Goods	1347.93	966.29	3.91	39.50
7.	Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/Made-ups Handloom Products Etc.	1332.75	912.34	3.89	46.08
8.	RMG Of All Textiles	1252.90	1177.56	3.50	6.40
9.	Marine Products	807.80	684.06	2.28	18.09
10.	Plastic And Linoleum	781.49	599.55	2.25	30.35
	Total of 10 Major Commodity Groups	28959.84	18953.48	81.62	52.79
	Rest	6510.45	5966.93	18.38	9.11
	Total Exports	35470.29	24920.41	100.00	42.33



Imports of Top 10 Major Commodity Groups

SL. No.	Major Commodity Group	Value of Import (Million USD)		Share %	Growth %
		Oct.'21	Oct.'20	Oct.'21	Oct.'21 over Oct.'20
1.	Petroleum, Crude & products	14430.76	6000.27	26.06	140.50
2.	Electronic goods	6811.03	5533.73	12.30	23.08
3.	Gold	5106.14	2499.97	9.22	104.25
4.	Machinery, electrical & non-electrical	3540.77	2497.29	6.39	41.78
5.	Coal, Coke & Briquettes, etc.	3311.93	1512.88	5.98	118.92
6.	Organic & Inorganic Chemicals	2620.62	1563.23	4.73	67.64
7.	Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones	2483.01	2291.40	4.48	8.36
8.	Artificial resins, plastic materials, etc.	1727.27	1121.06	3.12	54.07
9.	Vegetable Oil	1624.79	1018.08	2.93	59.59
10.	Iron & Steel	1444.81	985.71	2.61	46.58
	Total of 10 Major Commodity Groups	43101.12	25023.62	77.84	72.24
	Rest	12266.92	9050.21	22.16	35.54
	Total Imports	55368.04	34073.84	100.00	62.49

MDL delivers 1st missile destroyer Project 15 B

VIS News Service

Y 12704 (Visakha patnam), the lead ship of Project 15B stealth guided-missile destroyers being built at Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Indian Navy recently.

ess of the country in the Indian Ocean Region stated an official release from the Indian Navy.

The contract for four ships of Project 15B, as the Visakhapatnam class ships are known, was signed on 28 January 2011.

laid in October 2013 and the ship was launched in April 2015. The design has largely maintained the hull form, propulsion machinery, many platform equipment and major weapons & sensors as the Kolkata class to benefit from series production.

The 163 metres long warship has a full load displacement of 7400 tonnes and a maximum speed of 30 knots.

The overall indigenous content of the project is approx. 75%. Apart from myriad indigenous equipment in the 'Float' and 'Move' categories, the destroyer is also installed with major indigenous weapons which include: Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (BEL, Bangalore); BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles (BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi); Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai); Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai); 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar).



The delivery of Visakhapatnam is an affirmation of the impetus being given by the Government of India and the Indian Navy towards 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' as part of 75 years of Indian Independence.

The induction of the destroyer, despite the COVID challenges, is a tribute to the collaborative efforts of a large number of stakeholders and would enhance the maritime prowess

This project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade. Designed by Directorate of Naval Design, Indian Navy's in-house design organisation; and built by M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai; the four ships are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country viz. Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat. The keel of Visakhapatnam was

Justice Ahsanuddin nominated to APSLSA



VIS News Service

The Governor of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the Chief Justice of High Court of Andhra Pradesh, nominated Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh as Executive Chairman of Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority. The State Government recently issued notification vide GO. Rt. No. 1055, Law (L, LA & J – Home. Courts-A) Department.

APSLSA seeks to extend legal aid to persons who are living below the poverty line, to women, children, members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other persons enumerated in the Section 12 of the Act.

VAdm Hari Kumar as next CNS

VIS News Service

The Government has appointed Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC presently Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command

as the next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from November 30, 2021. The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, retires from service on November 30.

Born on 12th April, 1962 Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, ADC was commissioned on 1st January, 1983 in to the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy.

During his long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years, he has served in a variety of Command, Staff and

Instructional appointments. He also commanded Indian Navy's Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat. He served as Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet. Before taking over as FOC-in-C Western Naval

Command, he was Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee.



Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar has undergone courses at the Naval War College, US, Army War College, Mhow and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK.

Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar has been decorated with the Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM), the Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vishist Seva Medal (VSM).

ECoR's New CPRO



VIS News Service

Mr. Biswajit Sahu, an officer of 2013 batch of the Indian Railways Stores Service (IRSS), has taken over as the New Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of East Coast Railway. He has taken charge from **Kaushalendra Kishore Khadanga**, IRSME; who is going abroad on deputation to Mauritius Railway.

Prior to his taking over as the Chief Public Relations Officer, he was working as Dy. Chief Material Manager (Dy.CMM) at ECoR Headquarters at Bhubaneswar.

IN BRIEF

BIOCHIMICA 2K21 poster unveiled

The Department of Biochemistry, Andhra University which was established in the year 1971 is conducting Golden Jubilee celebrations during the month of November, 2021. On the occasion the department is organizing "BIOCHIMICA 2K21", Science Fest for the post graduate students of life sciences. Different competitions will be conducted both by virtual and offline mode. In connection to this, the poster for BIOCHIMICA 2K21 was unveiled by **Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy**, Vice Chancellor, Andhra University. Teaching staff, Research scholars and students participated in this program.



Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at Waltair Division

Waltair Division of East Coast Railway recently observed "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas". Ekta Diwas Pledge was administered by DRM **Mr. Anup Satpathy**. ADRM **Mr. Sudhir Kumar Gupta** was also present on the occasion. To mark the occasion Walkathon was organised by the Senior Divisional Personnel Officer **Mr. RNA Parida** from DRM office to Visakhapatnam railway station. Sports personnel, Civil Defence personnel, Bharat Scouts & Guides, Staff and Officers participated in the walkathon.

CREDAI seeks Govt help to curb rising input costs

VIS News Service

CREDAI National Vice President, **Mr. G. Ram Reddy**, stated that the soaring prices of raw materials had taken a significant toll on the real estate sector, and that this issue needed to be solved in order to help the construction sector, which employs tens of thousands of people.

He was interacting with office-bearers of CREDAI-AP, including its Chairman, **Mr. S. Venkata Ramaiah**, and others President **Mr. B. Raja Srinivas**, General secretary **Mr. K. Subhash Chandra Bose**, and CREDAI-Visakhapatnam, office-bearers, **Mr. Bayana Srinivas Rao**, Chairman, **Mr. KSRK Raju**, President and **Mr. V. Dharmender**, Vice President (and Zonal secretary South Zone) at the local CREDAI-Visakhapatnam office.

He gave details of price rise of materials like steel,

cement, tiles, electrical cables etc, and pointed out that after enactment of RERA, the builders could not rise price of unit after an agreement is signed with the buyer. This would have

questioned him to take up three important issues viz. price rise, problems connected with RERA and GST. Former Chairman, CREDAI-Visakhapatnam, **Mr. K. Ramakrishna**



an adverse impact on the builder, he said. He said that CREDAI proposes to highlight these issues through media. He sought the intervention of government to address the issue.

General Secretary of CREDAI-AP and the President of CREDAI-Visakhapatnam, requested Mr. Ram Reddy to take up pressing issues of the realty sector at the national level.

Mr. V. Dharmender, re-

Rao, pointed out to the difficulties in uploading data even for registration of a project and wanted use of proper software to avoid manual intervention, to overcome the difficulties.

Assuring all to take up the issues at the national level, Mr. Ram Reddy said that the next SOUTHCON is proposed to be hosted in Visakhapatnam and sought the cooperation of all for the success of the event.

Need to promote Agro Based Industries: VP

VIS News Service

The Vice President of India **Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu** has emphasised the need to promote agro-based industries in rural areas so as to create employment opportunities for the rural youth.

Mr Naidu was addressing the second Annual Convocation of Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa in Bihar recently wherein he said that the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can immensely help small and marginal farmers with forward (processing, marketing and export) and backward (input and extension services) linkages in the Food Supply Chains.

Therefore, he emphasised the need to promote FPOs through handholding and capacity



building, and appreciated the University for initiating training programmes in this regard. Reiterating that there is a lot of scope for food processing in India, he urged the Universities to encourage farmers in their respective region to form collectives.

Observing that Indian agriculture is characterized by marginal and small

farmers with fewer resources, Mr Naidu highlighted the need for increasing the farmers' income through various sources, including improved resource use efficiency.

Calling for greater use of technology in food management to ensure food security for all, he said

“The developed world is already reaping benefits from the use of Artificial Intelligence in agriculture and India too must harness its potential to help improve farm income.”

GoI Launches EV Portal

VIS News Service

India recently launched ‘E-Amrit’, a web portal on electric vehicles (EVs), at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.

E-Amrit is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles— busting myths around the adoption of EVs, their purchase, investment opportunities, policies, subsidies, etc.

The website is www.e-amrit.niti.gov.in

The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government.

Working Together



VIS News Service

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh **Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** recently met his Odisha counterpart **Mr. Naveen Patnaik** wherein they discussed a slew of issues and have agreed in principle to work together and resolve their inter-state disputes.

The two chief Ministers discussed several issues including construction of Neeradi Barrage on Vamsadhara and completion of Janjhavathi project.

The CMs also discussed to tackle Left Wing Extremism and menace of Ganja cultivation.

According to reports, the two states resolved to continue the legacy of mutual cooperation between the two states. Both the states not only share borders, but also a long and glorious history and heritage. At times of need both the states have extended full cooperation a fact borne out during natural disasters in the past, the reports added.

Davos Calling



VIS News Service

A P’s Industry & IT Minister, **Mr Mekapati Goutham Reddy** was recently in the capital on a two day visit wherein he met a slew of union ministers and other business officials. While in New Delhi he interacted with Union Minister **Mr Piyush Goyal** and took issues pertaining to the state. Mr Mekapati also met with Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister **Mr Sarbananda Sonowal**

wherein he requested the minister to consider providing grant to the upcoming non major ports in the state while also to speed up environmental clearances to projects. Above the minister is seen meeting world economic forum president **Mr Borge Brende** wherein he briefed him on the economic landscape of the state. As per the release the president of WEF invited Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** to the WEF Summit to be held in Davos from January 17-21, 2022.

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World Quality day @NSTL

VIS News Service

As part of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, NSTL, the premiere naval research laboratory of DRDO, in Visakhapatnam celebrated World Quality Day-2021 with the theme “Sustainability: Improving our Products, People & Planet”.



Dr. Y Sreenivas Rao, Outstanding Scientist & Director NSTL said that long-term sustainability can be achieved with continuous

efforts and by habituating Quality culture in the organisation. Quality is the thread that binds humanity with the planet he said.

Dr. Samir V Kamat, DS & DG(NS&M), the Chief Guest of the event said that Quality should meet or exceed User’s expectations. Quality should be looked at holistically he said and added that Total Quality Management (TQM) should be focused after Quality Control & Quality Assurance.

City’s 1st mobile ATM

State Bank of India, Amaravati Circle has come up with an innovative thought by introducing a Mobile ATM in Visakhapatnam recently.

Mr. Sanjay Sahay, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India unveiled the ATM van. Speaking on the occasion, the CGM said that this type of mobile ATM is introduced for the first time in the City of Destiny. It delivers cash even without using a card a feature known as YONO Cash. Mini Statement is also possible. The CGM requested the customers to make use of this unique facility.



IIM-V Students Act of kindness

VIS News Service

Students of the first batch of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship program (MGNF) of Indian Institute of Management

Manasu Girls Home (Simhachalam) and **HOPE Blind Home** (Vepagunta) IIM-V students distributed earthen lamps, sweets, groceries, and blankets among 70 children.



Visakhapatnam (IIMV) recently brought Joy to the children of three orphanages. In the Mivaan Society’s ‘Winter Warmth Drive’ which was conducted at *Care and Love* (Madhavadhara);

Speaking on the importance of this initiative, **Dr. Mohammad Shameem Jawed**, MGNF Chair said, The first batch of MGNF students are quite visionary, empathetic and determined towards bringing a change and developing the ecosystem of the society. **Mr. Avugadda Phanendra Naidu**, MGNF student also spoke.

Khadi Sales break all Records

People’s massive turnout to purchase local products this festival, in response to Prime Minister’s appeal, has done wonders for Khadi.

On 30th October, the single-day sale of Khadi at its flagship outlet at Connaught Place, New

Delhi, stood at a whopping Rs 1,29,05,000 (Rs 1.29 crore), surpassing all previous records.

Earlier, the highest ever single-day sale of Khadi was recorded at Rs 1,28,33,000 (Rs 1.28



crore) on 2nd October 2019 stated an official release from the ministry of MSME.

This is the 13th occasion since 2016, when Khadi’s single-day sale at one store has

exceeded the Rs 1 crore mark. This is also for the 2nd time in October this year that Khadi’s sale has exceeded Rs 1 crore; the previous occasion being the Gandhi Jayanti; i.e. 2nd October 2021, with the overall sale value of Rs 1.02 crore.