



VIZAG INDUSTRIAL SCAN

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WALTAIR GROUP

CELEBRATES

INDIA-AUSTRALIA 'ECTA'



We at Waltair group believe there are enormous opportunities for us to unfold between the two countries.

We sincerely congratulate our **Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi** and the **Australian Prime Minister Mr Scott Morrison** on the signing of the historic economic cooperation and trade agreement between India & Australia.

With the signing of ECTA, we at Waltair group led by our dynamic **Managing Director Mr. Budari Rajesh Rao** look forward to engaging more with Australia in our overall trade and business.

Waltair Coal Private Limited is a bulk supplier of a wide range of coal and other mineral commodities.

The group already has tie-ups with various mine owners/ International Traders in Indonesia and South Africa for supply of the most competitive coal and best quality.

Armed with a dedicated team of around 50 experienced professionals we serve various industrial clients in the sectors of Power, Steel, Ferro Alloys and Pharma throughout the southern and central part of India.

We are also into logistic services having our own fleet and equipment.



Indonesian Coal



South African Coal



Manganese Ore

IN BRIEF

Sumit Sunil new DCP (L&O)

Mr. Garud Sumit Sunil, a 2015 batch IPS Officer recently assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order). Earlier, he was working as commandant, 3rd battalion, Kakinada. IPS Officer **S. Gautami** who was working as DCP L&O was transferred and posted as SP of the newly-formed Anakapalli district.



ICSI lauds Govt. for Amendment bill 2021

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India has appreciated the efforts of the Government of India in bringing the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Bill which was passed in both the houses of Parliament is aimed at strengthening the disciplinary mechanism of the three Institutes by including more external representation on Discipline Board and Committee and ensuring time bound disposal of cases. The ICSI already provides a unique identification number for the Firms registered with the Institute. Reassuring ICSI's faith in the system, CS. Devendra V. Deshpande, President, ICSI said that "The Institute believes that the amendment would bring better coordination among the professional bodies."



BW Plus's New GM

Mr. Raavi Venkata Rao recently joined as the General Manager of Best Western Plus Tejvivaan. A 22 year hospitality veteran Mr Venkata is said to have a strong passion towards the hospitality industry and is well known in the city. He has worked predominantly in Visakhapatnam across various brands.



Session on Family Business

VIS News Service

In order to get a successful understanding of running a family business and to maintain harmony while carrying on the business a symposium was recently held in the city.

The symposium brought awareness on some of the challenges faced in family run businesses and how to address those challenges.

Mr R. Rama Krishnan of GMR group spoke on

Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation, in association with Parampara Family Business Institute (PFBI) and Mr. K. Kumar Raja Projects (P) Ltd. and was attended by members of prominent family run businesses in Vizag.

MD of K Kumar Raja Projects- Dr K Kumar RAja, President of AP Chambers- Pydah Krishna Prasad, Vice-president of



'Essentials and challenges in Family Business'. Addressing the members virtually he emphasized the importance of a family constitution and communication within the family for sustainable family business.

Hosted by Best Western Plus Tejvivaan the session was organized by Andhra

Visakhapatnam Zone-Sudhir Mulagada, Chairman of Visakhapatnam Zone-KRB Prakash and Bhuvana Chakravarthy from Parampara spoke on the occasion.

The symposium also included a session on 'Women as Entrepreneurs and their role in Family Business'.

AP's Plywood Industry seeks Govt patronage

Proposes setting up of International Furniture Park in the state

U.Bharath

Exhorting the Andhra Pradesh Government to extend all measures of support to the plywood industry in the state, industry players have vociferously appealed for definitive measures of help from the state government.

While urging the government to set up an international furniture park like the one in the port city of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and the augmentation of agro- forestry measures, they say that the "sunrise sector" is poised for phenomenal growth in the years to come, if the government comes forward to address some of its outstanding issues.

"The plywood industry is reeling under the effects of power rationing as per which we are supplied only 2.5 days of power in a week, which, in turn, leads to high running costs as we resort to buying diesel" said **Mr. Ravi Singhal**, Proprietor of Royal Plywood Industries speaking to *Vizag Industrial Scan*.

Automation next chapter

Citing that India has vast "untapped potential" in the sector Mr. Singhal said "While China the world leader in plywood has

scaled new heights, India still has a long way to go. Our per capita consumption of plywood is abysmally low hovering around 10% of what China is consuming"

He further added that technological advancement is waiting to happen in the

he said will also benefit the paper and plywood sectors.

Set up Intl. Furniture Park in AP too

While urging the government to set up special economic zones for the growth of the sector would be a welcoming measure as in the case of our neighbouring state Tamil Nadu he said "If the government comes forward to set up an international furniture park it would augment



Plywood Industry Calls for: Supply of Continuous Power Increasing acreage under social forestry Softening of Timber Prices

plywood sector and would be the next logical chapter in the industry. This he said will also help the sector to come into the "organized fold" as it is still largely an unorganized sector.

"With the advent of automation branding would also get a boost with big players entering the market, thus leading the industry to the next level of growth" he opined.

Citing the high costs of timber, which is afflicting the sector, he advocated for substantial agro forestry measures to be augmented by the government which

the furniture production which is tipped to be Rs 3 lakh Crore industry pan India as of now. This would further help the plywood industry to grow from the current Rs. 30,000 Crore"

"As of now, we primarily supply to modular factories and carpentry contractors, and state patronage if extended would enhance the scope and reach of our products" he said.

"Work from Home (WFH) culture, which is in vogue now, has increased the demand for renovation and other interior decoration works of living spaces in

Andhra Pradesh, which is a welcome trend for the industry" the industry player noted.

Mr. Sandeep Bharadia, Proprietor of Andhra wood, echoed similar sentiments and called for state patronage and the expansion of acreage under social forestry would stand to benefit a lot for the sector.

"The government would stand to earn as well, and the measure would increase the availability and bring down the prices of timber" he said and added "However, India, primarily being agricultural country, this prospect is facing lot of hardship. At least semi-irrigated areas should be earmarked for plantation crops, and if it is done in coordination with International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) it would be highly beneficial for the paper and plywood industries" Mr Bharadia said.

"As of now the plywood industry players are paying through their nose, for the same raw materials when compared with the paper industry" the industry veteran bemoaned.

Labour shortage leading to innovation

Mr. Rajiv Agarwal, Proprietor of Truewoodz said that the plywood industry is fast adopting automation technology as a sure-fire solution to tide over the labour shortage problem, which is afflicting the industry.

"As the migrant labour force, is less available from Bihar and UP, we in the industry are forced to innovate and have taken to technology like fish to water. The industry is embracing automation in a big way and in a faster scale than expected to combat the non-availability of labour force" Rajiv Agarwal said.

Hailing the GST regime to have helped the industry take baby steps towards the goal of becoming an organized sector Mr Rajiv said that once the industry comes into the organized fold it would easily surpass the 10% year on year growth number and touch even newer heights of growth.

Waltair Div records highest ever loading

Achieves 66.8 Million tons in Freight traffic

VIS News Service

The Waltair division of the east coast railways under the leadership of its dynamic DRM, **Mr. Anup Kumar Satpathy** achieved a landmark figure in freight loading. The division recorded its best and highest ever loading of 66.88 million tons in 2021-22 financial year.

This marked a growth of 9.33% compared to 61.17 million tons it had recorded last financial year thereby fetching the division Rs 7902.10 crores in 2021-22 as against Rs 7272.86 crores in FY 21. While on the passenger front the



Division ferried 12.41 million

passengers in FY 22 that fetched Rs 415.27

crores which is a staggering 198% more than the previous financial year earnings that pegged Rs 139.30 crores.

Apart from the loading and passenger movement, the Division set many firsts in its innovative concepts focusing improvement of passenger amenities with world class concepts and to generate revenue through non fare revenue system. The non-fare revenue contributed an amount of Rs 3.25 crores against the target of Rs 2.86 crores.

- Freight Loading Up 9.33%
- Freight Revenue Up Rs 8.66%
- Passenger Revenue Up 198%

Its DRM stated that they have concentrated on ticket checking activities to check ticketless travellers.



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Amarnath takes Charge



VIS News Service

Counted among the earliest members of the YSRCP party **Mr. Gudivada Amarnath** was recently given the coveted minister ship of IT, Industries, Infrastructure and Investments.

A first time MLA from Ankapalle the young and dynamic Mr. Amarnath has his task cut out of getting much needed investments into the state and driving an agenda of a business friendly Andhra Pradesh.

Vizag Steel Plant smashes Records

Registers Inception Highest ever figures

VIS News Service

RINL the corporate entity of the Vizag Steel plant ended FY 22 on a high note by registering a record production of 5.773 million tons of Hot Metal, 5.272 million tons of Crude steel and 5.138 million tons of saleable steel. These are said to be RINL's best ever production figures since



best ever sales performance since inception with record sales turnover of Rs.28,082 Crores which is 56% higher than corresponding period last year (CPLY) and 35% higher than the previous best. The steel plant also registered a profit before tax of Rs 835 crores.

"This remarkable performance by the RINL

Sales turnover ↑ 56% @ Rs.28,082 Crores

inception achieved amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the acute global shortage of Coking Coal.

RINL also registered its

collective has enabled us to achieve a turnaround in 2021-22 which led to a Profit Before Tax of Rs. 835

Contd. on Page ...4

Australia & India have complimentary economies

Aditya Sabharwal

India and Australia came together earlier this month to sign a historic and much awaited trade agreement named ECTA.

In the making for over a decade now it gathered steam only last year wherein heads of both the countries decided to get this accomplished at the earliest. The Signing of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between India and Australia is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade.

The signing of the ECTA has brought in a slew of trade



Going from the 3 Cs to the 4 Ds Australia India relations have bolstered over the past few years.

benefits both for India and Australia. It is stated that over 95% of Indian goods will attract zero duty once the agreement comes into force and 85% of Australian exports into India will be duty free. Indian exporters specifically in the sectors of textiles, leather & footwear, gems and jewellery are said

to gain significantly from the duty free access to the Australian market.

'Going from the 3 Cs i.e. cricket, curry and commonwealth to the 4 Ds i.e. Democracy, Defence, Dosti and Diaspora Australia India relations have bolstered over the past few years' said Australian High Commissioner to India, **Mr. Barry O Farrell** speaking to *Vizag Industrial Scan*.

In an exclusive interview to *Vizag Industrial Scan*, the High Commissioner said that both Australia and India have complimentary economies and spoke on the proximity and shared values that both the countries possess

Full Interview - Page 11

Vizag Port implementing over Rs 3700 crs projects

VIS News Service

Briefing mediapersons as part of the 7th year of Sagarmala programme VPA's chairman stated that the Sagarmala project is aimed at port-led development along the 7,500 km coastline of India and plans to mobilise investments to the tune of one trillion INR in the port sector thereby increasing



port's capacity to 3000 MTPA from 1400 MTPA in 2015.

'Under the Sagarmala Programme, there are 802 projects worth investment of Rs 5.54 lakh crores for implementation during 2015 to 2035. 181 projects worth Rs 94,712 crores have been

Rs 96 crs. cruise terminal to be ready in 1 year

completed and 223 projects worth Rs 2.11 lakh crores are under implementation.

Across 23 projects under Sagarmala

398 projects worth Rs 2.48 lakh Crores are under various stages of development' said Mr Rama Mohana Rao.

In regard to Vizag Port Authority he informed that 23 projects worth a staggering Rs 3769.42 crores have been taken up

among which some are completed while others are under process.

Elaborating on some of the major completed ones he spoke of the extension of the existing container terminal at a cost of Rs 633 crores, upgradation of the existing facility for iron ore handling at a cost of Rs 580 crores.

And in regard to projects under process some of the major ones include development of flyover bridge from Sea Horse Jn. to dock area at a cost of Rs 250 crores, construction of the cruise terminal at a cost of Rs 96 crores.



CELEBRATES



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'Vizagites peace loving people'



VIS News Service

A 2002 batch IPS Officer **Mr. Ch. Srikanth** recently assumed charge as the city's new Police Commissioner of Visakhapatnam from the outgoing CP **Mr. Manish Kumar Sinha**.

Speaking to presspersons, the new CP said that he was well aware of the city as he was a former student of Andhra University and had also worked here as DIG Visakha Range from 2016 to 2019. Identifying Vizagites to be peace loving people, Mr. Srikanth said that he will continue to ensure peace while also deal with traffic issues, women's safety and controlling cybercrimes which has seen a surge in cases over the last few years and has become a growing menace for the department.

IN BRIEF

NALCO sets new benchmarks in FY 2022-23

NALCO CMD **Mr. Sridhar Patra** has informed that during Financial Year 2021-22, NALCO set new benchmarks and broke several records, registering the highest-ever Production of Bauxite and Aluminium Metal production in NALCO history. Mr. Sridhar Patra also congratulated the employees & contractual workmen Unions, Associations and all stakeholders of NALCO for their teamwork, dedication and discipline. He also urged all stakeholders to continue supporting the Company in the years ahead. Mr. Patra was speaking at the recently celebrated Utkal Diwas in a befitting manner. A series of activities were organised as part of the event.



NMDC launches Management Dashboard

NMDC, the first CPSE in India to implement ERP on the SAP S4/HANA platform, went live with its Management Dashboard for Production, Despatch, and CSR. NMDC CMD **Mr. Sumit Deb** launched the Dashboard in the presence of company's Functional Directors - Director (Finance) **Mr. Amitava Mukherjee**, Director (Technical) **Mr. Somnath Nandi**, Director (Production) **Mr. Dilip Kumar Mohanty**; ERP Project Leader; Partners in the digital transformation journey; and Head of Departments at the Head Office in Hyderabad. The launch was ensued by a presentation on the character and competence of the Dashboard by the ERP team.

13 Coal Washeries to be set up by Coal India

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Mr. Pralhad Joshi** informed the Rajya Sabha that Coal India Limited (CIL) has plan to set up 12 new coking coal washeries and one non-coking coal new washery to reduce the quantity of ash and useless component from coal. All these washeries are expected to be operational by FY:2026. Further, in SCCL, one washery with 1.0 MTPA operational capacity is working on BOO (Build Own Operate) basis at Manuguru area, Bhadradi Kothagudem District of Telangana.



DMFT to benefit areas affected by mining

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Mr. Pralhad Joshi** has informed the Rajya Sabha that Section 9 B of the MMDR Act, 1957 empowers the State Government to establish District Mineral Foundation Trust in all the Districts affected by mining for the benefit of the people and areas affected by mining activities. Funds under DMF are accrued at the concerned districts and are utilised by the DMF as per the guidelines for implementation of projects under PMKKKY.

5 Coal Mines auctioned under 4th Tranche

The Ministry of Coal had launched the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the auction of coal mines for commercial mining under the 14th Tranche of CM(SP) Act, 2015, and 4th Tranche of MMDR Act, 1957 on December 16, 2021. During the e-auction conducted on the MSTC platform on March 31st and April 01st, 2022, cumulatively five CMSP coal mines were put up for auction. All five coal mines based in four states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha are fully explored coal mines. The total geological reserves for these five coal mines are 665.08 Million Ton(MT), stated a release.

NMDC Dir. (Fin.) bags FE CFO Award



VIS News Service

The Director (Finance) of NMDC, **Mr. Amitava Mukherjee**, was awarded the 'FE CFO of the Year Award' by Financial Express for the year 2022 in the Large Industry - Manufacturing Category, at the recently held FE CFO Awards 2022. NMDC was the only Public Sector Enterprise awarded this year with this prestigious honour.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, **Mr. Piyush Goyal** was the Chief Guest for the event. He congratulated the brightest Chief Financial Officers of India for their exceptional contribution in building the financial strength of their companies and the national economy. On this occasion, Mr. Amitava Mukherjee said, "Continued focus on enhancing efficiency, productivity, and safety has built an iron-strong financial management system for NMDC over the years.

FY 22 Coal Production Touches 777.23MT

VIS News Service

As per the provisional data of the Ministry of Coal, the total coal production during 2021-22 has touched 777.23 Million Ton (MT) compared to 716 MT during 2020-21, a growth of 8.55 per cent. Coal India Ltd (CIL) production has gone up by 4.43 per cent from 596.24MT in 2020-21 to 622.64 MT during the financial year 2021-22 said an official release from the ministry of coal.

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) with an increase of 28.55 per cent growth produced 2021 - 22 compared to 50.58 MT the previous year. At the same time, coal production of captive mines has gone up to 89.57 MT with an increase of 29.47 per cent. During 2020-21 it was only 69.18 MT. Total coal dispatch during 2021-

22 touched the figure of 818.04 MT against the



figure of 690.71 MT the previous year, an increase of 18.43 per cent. During the period, Coal India Ltd dispatched 661.85 MT coal against the previous year figure of 573.80 MT.

Sarda Metals gets coveted 3 Star Certificate

VIS News Service

Sarda Metals and Alloys Limited was recently accorded the status of Three Star Export House by the government of India. This certificate is given in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-2020 and is valid for a period of 5 years. The Objective of the Export House Certificate or Status Holder Certificate is to boost export performance and is given when one has attained a leadership position in their business niche and have an excellent track record of international commerce. A

company is given the status holder recognition in any of the five categories i.e. from One Star Export House to Five Star Export House wherein your export performance FOB/FOR value for them should be \$3 million, \$25 million, \$100 million, \$500 million, and \$2000 million, respectively.



Department of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India

The three star and above export house are said to be entitled to get benefit of accredited clients programme as per the guidelines of CBEC.

The company was recently also awarded the "Silver Trophy" in CII SR EHS Award.

Tata Steel achieves 19MT crude steel prod.

Tata Steel India has achieved highest ever annual crude steel production of ~19 million tons, with a growth of 13% YoY despite the COVID 2nd wave related disruption early in the financial year.

During 4Q FY22, crude steel production increased by 2% QoQ and stood at 4.90 mn tons. Tata Steel India deliveries increased by 6% YoY in FY22, surpassing the previous best recorded in FY21. Domestic deliveries grew by 14% YoY driven by improved demand and the company's robust marketing network. In 4QFY22, Deliveries grew by 16% QoQ to 5.12 million tons, the highest ever quarterly deliveries.

RINL's PBT at Rs. 835 Crores

Contd. from Page 3

Cr, achieved after a gap of 6 years. The estimated Gross Margin of Rs.3,575 Cr is also the best for any year, since inception" stated RINL's CMD, **Mr. Atul Bhatt**.



This remarkable performance by the RINL collective has enabled us to achieve a turnaround in 2021-22 which led to a Profit Before Tax of Rs. 835 Cr, achieved after a gap of 6 years.

Mr. Atul Bhatt,
RINL's CMD

Congratulating the entire RINL fraternity for their commitment and outstanding performance RINL's CMD expressed confidence that the steel plant will scale greater heights with rejuvenated team work in future too.

The RINL collective had taken a pledge in November, 2021 to achieve greater heights with renewed commitment.

RINL also performed well on achieving significant techno-economic factors and it has for the first time achieved Annual average PCI (Pulverised coal injection) injections of 100 kg/tHM. Specific Energy Consumption has

reduced to 6.02 Gcal/tCS during the period.

During the financial year, 22 new high-end niche products were developed in the six rolling mills of RINL.

Export Figures

Efforts of the RINL team also resulted in best ever export sales figure of Rs.5607 Crores registering a growth of 37% over CPLY.

March'22

For the month of March'22 the steel plant achieved a sales turnover of Rs. 3501

RINL FY22 Production Nos

5.773 MT Hot Metal
5.272 MT Crude steel
5.138 MT Saleable steel

Crores registering a growth of 6% over CPLY.

In FY 2022, RINL's commitment and endeavours in efficient energy management has

been well recognised at the National level with RINL being awarded "National Energy Leader" award by CII Godrej Green Business Center, Hyderabad and

22 New high-end niche products developed in RINL's 6 rolling mills

was also presented prestigious award for its Best Innovative project for "Interconnection of LD Gas Holder-1&2".

During the year, the Ministry of Power, BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency) had issued 1,29,907 Energy Saving Certificates (Escerts) to RINL, for effective compliance to PAT-2nd cycle targets. PAT (Perform, Achieve and Trade) is the flagship program under the National Mission to Enhance Energy Efficiency.

JM Baxi Acquires Allcargo's project forwarding & logistics business

Combined entity to have the largest fleet of specialty equipment for heavy cargo logistics

VIS News Service

JM Baxi Heavy Private Limited recently signed a definitive agreement to acquire Allcargo Logistics Limited's Project Forwarding & Logistics Business.

As per an official release from the company it has also provided a binding offer to Lift and Shift India Private Limited (Lift and Shift), to acquire its heavy and over-dimension cargo logistics business.

Lift and Shift is said to have accepted the binding offer, which is subject to the

Strong demand for end-to-end solutions and with the largest specialised equipment fleet.

execution of a definitive agreement for the business transfer between the parties.

Speaking on the development **Mr. Dhruv Kotak**, Managing Director, JM Baxi Group said, "The acquisition of the

two business divisions of Allcargo and Lift & Shift will add immense value, weave in synergies with the current line of business at JM Baxi Heavy. Through this, we will be able to cater to our customers across the infrastructure space in the Indian and African sub-continent."

Lift & Shift brings with it, a specialization in engineered logistics services for the niche and growing category of super-heavy lifting, shifting and multimodal transportation. It caters to sectors such as

petrochemicals, hydrocarbon, fertilisers, renewable energy, power generation, civil construction, large scale manufacturing and prominently offshore oil & gas industry.

Allcargo's Project Forwarding and Logistics business will add to JM Baxi Heavy's existing network with enhanced geographical



Through this acquisition we will be able to cater to our customers across the infrastructure space in the Indian and African sub-continent.
Mr. Dhruv Kotak, Managing Director, JM Baxi Group.

presence in the Indian sub-continent and Africa, as well as diverse clientele in the Project Forwarding and Logistics sector.

Mr. Adarsh Hegde, Joint Managing Director, Allcargo Logistics, said, "Allcargo and JM Baxi are happy to partner with each other in making this transaction successful. This will be good for industry, customers and employees as businesses and capabilities come together. I have no doubt that the new entity under JM Baxi Group

leadership will play a key role in the project logistics support for infrastructure development, not just in India but also other developing countries."

Mr. Romil Parikh, Director, Lift & Shift, added: "There is a strong demand for end-to-end solutions and with the largest specialised equipment fleet on the subcontinent coupled with JM Baxi's terminal infrastructure we are confident that we will be able to add tremendous value to our clients."

Vizag's new direct service to China, Vietnam, S'pore

VIS News Service

Pacific International Lines (PIL) recently introduced a new weekly direct service connecting key ports in China, Vietnam, Singapore and India's East Coast.

The new service, known as China Vietnam India Service (CVI), shall commence on 22 April 2022 from Ningbo, China.

The ports of call for the CVI service are said to be: Ningbo - Shanghai - Ho Chi Minh - Singapore - Chennai - Visakhapatnam - Port Kelang - Ho Chi Minh - Ningbo

This new service is part of PIL's efforts to enhance its presence in India, and to offer a more comprehensive coverage for its customers by providing the additional connection between China, Vietnam, South East Asia and the East Coast of India.

It will be served by a consortium of vessels with

an average capacity of 2200 TEUs, jointly deployed by PIL, Regional Container Lines (RCL) and Interasia Lines (IAL).

Commenting on the new service **Mr. Tonnie Lim**, Chief Trade Officer, PIL, said, "As a Singapore home



grown shipping line, PIL's strength lies in our connectivity within Asia, as well as between Asia and other key regions in the world. This new service to India's East Coast reflects our confidence in the growth potential of India, and our commitment to continue to seek new opportunities to expand our network into India."

PPT achieves record Cargo Throughput

Paradip Port achieved highest record of cargo handling of 116.13 million metric tonnes during the financial year 2021-22, surpassing the previous best achieved during the year 2020-21 by around 114.55 million metric tonnes.

During this financial year the Iron Ore traffic dropped by around 30% due to international market conditions and poor demand for iron ore export. Despite that Paradip Port could register cargo handling by improving its performance in other commodities.

GPL, Vedanta & Synergy Shipping create record in loading Aluminium Ingots

VIS News Service

Gangavaram Port loaded its highest ever quantity in a single day of 6,559 MTs of Aluminium Ingots for vessel MV SEACON MANILA at Berth No 1.

As per an official release from the company this has created a National Record by any port in India.

"We are incredibly proud of our team's accomplishments. Our cargo management efficiency is demonstrated by the record handling of Aluminium Ingots and other

commodities. We at Gangavaram Port always strive to provide the best service to our customers.



GPL provides significant cost savings to Indian importers through reduced ocean freight, highly efficient Operations,

advanced material handling and evacuation systems, vast storage areas for all types of

cargo, extensive ancillary facilities, and faster turnaround time and delivery".- Spokesperson Gangavaram Port

M/s Vedanta Ltd (Shipper of Al. Ingot Cargo) also expressed their gratitude of this National record and appreciated the port management, staff, workers and contractor M/s Synergy Shipping who helped in achieving this marvellous feat. Gangavaram Port, with its deep draft berths and efficient operations has become the gateway port for a hinterland, spread over Eastern, Western, Southern and Central India. The port has the ability to handle larger vessels efficiently & has resulted in substantial savings to the Port users and the trade.

VOC Port handles 34.12 MT Cargo

During the financial year 2021-2022, VOC Port handled Cargo traffic of 34.12 Million Tonnes, against the previous year's achievement of 31.79 MT, registering a growth of 7.33%. Imports have accounted for 24.19 MT (+7.42 %) and Exports accounted for 9.45 MT (+2.83 %) and Transshipment accounted for 0.48 MT. It is also a matter of pride that the Port surpassed the 34 MT target set by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for the financial year.

JNPA handles 5.68 Million TEUs in FY22

VIS News Service

In a landmark achievement, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), handled 5.68 Million TEUs during FY 2021-22 against 4.68 Million TEUs in 2020-21, a 21.55% increase. This performance is the highest ever at Jawaharlal Nehru Port for any financial year compared to 5.13TEUs in 2018-19.

The total traffic handled at JNPA during the April-2021 to March-2022 of the FY

2021-22 stood at 76 million tonnes, which is 17.26% higher as against 64.81

Traffic at JNPA's 5 Container Terminals:
BMCT: 1,244,694 TEUs,
NSIGT: 1,186,181 TEUs
APMT: 1,865,587 TEUs
NSICT: 947,887 TEUs
JNPCT: 440,210 TEUs

million tonnes for the same period of last year.

On JNPA's outstanding performance and new

benchmark, **Mr. Sanjay Sethi**, IAS, Chairman, JNPA, said, "JNPA's exceptional performance of handling 5.68 Million TEUs during FY 2021-22 is a token of port's consistent efforts and commitment to providing best services to our clients and stakeholders. I would like to congratulate all the employees and stakeholders for their constant support in achieving these remarkable achievements.

US CG visits Cochin Port

Offers to help in port dev. & Tourism thru private partners in US

VIS News Service

The Consul General of the United States of America, US Consulate General Chennai, **Ms. Judith Ravin**, recently visited Cochin Port wherein she met with **Dr. M. Beena**, IAS, Chairperson.

Welcoming the Consul General, Dr. M. Beena, IAS, explained the strategic importance of Cochin Port as a maritime gateway to

peninsular India and the prominent role of Cochin Port in contributing to the



economy of the State of Kerala. Ms. Judith Ravin appreciated the strategic

development initiatives and the business model of Cochin Port and assured to share the information with relevant stakeholders. She also conveyed the willingness of the Consulate in associating with the port development project through private partners from the United States. She has also agreed to promote the cruise tourism potential of Cochin/Kerala among the

Andhra Pradesh should focus on a cluster-based approach for MSMEs

BP Acharaya, IAS (Retd.)

During my 37 years career as an IAS officer, I was fortunate to be posted in the industrial sector in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh for nearly a decade i.e. from March 2001-Dec 2009.

This was indeed a satisfying and challenging period in my career with tenures as Secretary, Industries & Commerce (2001-2004) and CMD APIIC (2005-2009). This helped me to facilitate at least 20 class industrial clusters (list enclosed) which have created as many as 40 lakhs jobs, directly and indirectly over a period of time.

Encouraged by proactive leadership in the State, I was able to contribute in

Cluster based MSME models have proven to be highly successful in promoting the MSME sector

not only allotting land for these projects, but also helped in facilitating basic infrastructure such as water supply, uninterrupted power supply, road connectivity and was



involved in these projects right since conception, or from thought to finish to borrow the tag line of E&Y in the past.

Of these clusters many are now in and around Hyderabad such as Genome valley, L & T infocity,

Raheja Mindspace, Gachibowli Financial Dist and Hyderabad Knowledge City which have changed the profile of Hyderabad as a global city apart from providing

employment to lakhs of people.

Some of the notable clusters in Andhra Pradesh are Sri city (near Nellore) and Brandix apparel city in Visakhapatnam which have turned out to be models worthy of emulation.

While Sri City today is one of the best multi product SEZs in the country, which has attracted over 90 MNCs to provide direct employment to over 50,000 persons, Brandix with 25000 workers is the best modern apparel cluster in the country.

For Sri City we worked with the promoter **Mr. Ravi Sanareddy**, an NRI and a son of the soil, who was keen to create a manufacturing hub, right from the planning stage. With his help we could acquire over 6,000 acres near Chennai (90 kms) at a

vantage point abutting the National highway.

We visited Shenzhen and Shanghai together to emulate the Chinese models to make it a “factory of the world”. That dream is fulfilled today, to a large extent and it’s a shining example of “make in India” (even before the slogan was coined!)

We could achieve similar success in other important clusters such Aerospace cluster in Adibhatla, a global hub for aerospace manufacturing, with the presence of all top players such as Boeing, Airbus, Sikorsky, Lockheed Martin etc.

Similar clusters like Pharma SEZ in Jadcherla and Ramky Pharma city in Visakhapatnam have also generated significant employment.

All in all, my experience in creating these world class clusters, was truly a labour of love to look back upon with a sense of pride, though I had to face many trying times due to my involvement in these clusters.

World Class Industrial Clusters Facilitated by B.P.Acharya, IAS

Sl. No	Name of the Cluster & location	Direct Employment (Approx)	Indirect Employment (Approx)
1.	Genome Valley, Turkapally, RR Dist.	30,000	1.5 lakhs
2.	L&T Infotech (Hitec City), Madhapur	1 lakh	5 lakhs
3.	Raheja Mindspace, Madhapur, Hyderabad	1.2 lakhs	6 lakhs
4.	Financial District & IT Cluster, Gachibowli	1 lakh	5 lakhs
5.	Hyderabad Knowledge City, Raidurg	50,000	2.5 lakhs
6.	Aerospace Cluster, Adibatla, RR Dist	20,000	1 lakh
7.	Hardware Park, RR Dist.	20,000	1 lakh
8.	Pharma Formulation SEZ, Jadcherla	25,000	1.25 lakhs
9.	Brandix India Apparel Park, Visakhapatnam	25,000	1.25 lakhs
10.	AP Multi Product SEZ, Visakhapatnam	20,000	1 lakh
11.	JN Pharma City, Visakhapatnam	25,000	1.25 lakhs
12.	IT Park, Madhurawada, Visakhapatnam	10,000	50,000
13.	Sri City SEZ, Nellore Dist.	30,000	1.5 lakhs
14.	Apache Foot Wear SEZ, Nellore Dist.	25,000	1.25 lakhs
15.	Mambattu Industrial Park, Nellore Dist.	20,000	1 lakh
16.	Naidupeta SEZ, Nellore Dist.	20,000	1 lakh
17.	Granite SEZ, Ongole Dist	10,000	50,000
18.	Hindupur Industrial Park, Anantapur Dist	10,000	50,000
19.	Bobbili Industrial Park, Vizianagaram Dist.	10,000	50,000
20.	L&T IT Park, Vijayawada	10,000	50,000
TOTAL		6,80,000	34,00,000

Andhra Pradesh with its vast and rich natural resources has a plethora of opportunities in developing industries/MSME clusters across the state. Each district has its own unique potential for a range of clusters.

To highlight a few Nellore can become a cluster for ancillaries, aerospace, leather, textile and food processing while Prakasam could house clusters of granite, building material etc.

In addition YSR Kadapa could be a cluster for steel,

animal biotech while Guntur could be for skill development, dairy and dairy products. Srikakulam could be for cashew, beach sand & coir .

Similarly other districts could follow their respective cluster-based model thereby accentuating the overall growth of MSMEs in the state.

(The writer is the former special chief secretary of Telangana. He had also served as Secretary, Industries and CMD, APIIC in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh.)

SCR fetches Rs. 315 crs in Scrap sale Revenue

VIS News Service

In a significant stride towards ‘Mission Zero Scrap’, South Central Railway has recorded a whopping Rs. 315.05 crore revenue through scrap sales in the financial year 2021-22.

The zone has also exceeded the scrap sale of the previous financial year



i.e., 2020-21 (which was Rs. 308 crore). SCR has been making all efforts to optimally utilise the resources by mobilising scrap materials and undertaking sales through e-auction. The Secunderabad Division,

SCR recorded the highest ever single day auction sale of Rs. 5.71 crore in March, 2022.

South Central Railway has been undertaking the sale of scrap via e-auctions conducted online on the Indian Railways E-procurement System (IREPS) portal. This has improved transparency,

competitive bidding and ease of doing business. Keeping up with the Digital India initiative, e-auctions have

ensured paperless transactions. Further, the e-auction system has eliminated the erstwhile middlemen who existed during manual transactions, improved participation of bidders across India and reduced the grievances of purchasers.

CREDAI AP mounts pressure on Govt.

Asks for urgent relief in costs of building materials

VIS News Service

CREDAI AP along with other associations held a one day strike to protest against the skyrocketing costs of various materials used in the construction industry.

The “Work Holiday” and one day strike was observed in the entire state of Andhra Pradesh and was carried out by realtors, representing

different associations like, CREDAI- AP, CREDAI-Visakhapatnam Chapter, Builders Association of India (BAI), National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO),

Cost of construction gone up from Rs.1000/- to Rs.2500/- per sqft

Architects Association (AA), Licensed Technical Persons (LTP) and SABCA (State of Andhra Pradesh Building Contractors Association).

Addressing a media conference they said that if there was no response from the concerned authorities, the realtors’ would be forced to intensify their agitation.



CREDAI-Visakhapatnam President **Mr. K.S.R.K Raju** gave details of enhanced prices of all materials and asserted that this would damage not only the construction industry

but would have a negative impact on the revenue

of the governments and job opportunities of labourers. If one rupee is spent on construction activity, 43 paise of this would go to the state government in the

form of various taxes, he said.

Stating that the construction sector is second in providing jobs, CREDAI-AP, President **Mr. B. Raja Srinivas** said

that the prices of steel had gone up from Rs.40,000/- to Rs.90,000/- a ton and cement from Rs.250/- to Rs.400/- a bag. There seems to be no end to this hike. This is no short of

slab and the state government could ensure availability of cement to builders at a reduced/subsidized price. The GST rate the world over is just 5 per cent, he pointed out.

If the state government is getting cement at the rate of Rs.250/- a bag why can't we (builders) too. -- CREDAI AP

looting Mr Raja Srinivas opined.

He further pointed out that the state government is getting cement at the rate of Rs.250/-a bag from the

manufacturers and expected the same for builders too.

Mr. A. Ramesh Babu (NAREDCO) and **Mr. C. Rama Kotaiah** (BAI) reiterated the hike in prices and wanted government control over them.

Talking on relief measures Mr Srinivas said that the centre could help the industry by reducing the present rate of GST from 28 per cent to either 5 or 12 per cent

Because of hike in prices of materials, the cost of construction had gone from Rs.1000/- to Rs.2500/- per sqft.

Mahindru, Dy. Chief Of Naval Staff



VIS News Service

Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, AVSM, NM assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 31 Mar 22.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru is an alumni of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 85 and is a Submarine and Navigation Specialist.

In his career spanning over 37 years, he has held a variety of Command and Staff appointments both ashore and afloat.

The Flag Officer was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2018 and Nau Sena Medal (Gallantry) in 2002, by the President of India. He has succeeded Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh who retired after more than 38 years of illustrious service.

Daikin's Rs 1000 cr Sri City plant gets underway

Becomes 27th Japanese Co in Sri City

VIS News Service

Sri City continues to rule the heart of Japanese companies and investors in India, as it recently saw Daikin Air-conditioning India Pvt. Ltd., a 100% subsidiary of Japanese multinational air-conditioning (AC) manufacturing company, Daikin Industries Limited, hold its foundation laying ceremony in Sri City marking the start of construction of its third unit in the country at Sri City.

Daikin India's MD&CEO, Mr. Kanwaljeet Jawa, performed pooja and laid the foundation stone in the presence of Mr. Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder Managing Director, Sri City, and a host of other invitees.

Daikin is said to invest Rs 1,000 crore over 2-3 years to set up the plant which will be spread over 75.5 acres in the Domestic Tariff Zone (DTZ) in Sri City.

Expected to be commissioned by July 2023

the plant will have a potential to create over 3000 jobs and will have the capacity to manufacture



1.5 million AC units per year as well as compressors, controller boards and other spare parts.

It would be the biggest among the three plants of Daikin in the country. This factory will serve the growing domestic & international demand with its cutting-edge products. In line with Daikin's aspiration to achieve Net Zero CO2 emissions by 2050, the company will develop climate friendly ACs to serve export markets such as West Africa, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Middle East, South America and East

Africa stated an official release from Sri city.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Satoshi Suzuki said, "I would like to express my sincere appreciation to

essential part of the long-term growth strategy of - 'Fusion 2025' - aiming to expand and balance our global manufacturing footprint to best serve customers worldwide. This makes Sri City factory strategically very important for us. It's going to be a manufacturing marvel having all Industry 4.0 digitisation standards" said Mr. Jawa.

Mr Jawa appreciated Mr. Ravindra Sannareddy for creating world class infrastructure and also lauded the excellent cooperation extended by Sri City team.

Congratulating the Daikin team, Ravindra Sannareddy said, "We are very pleased to welcome Daikin Group, the world's leading Japanese air-conditioning and

Daikin is the first Japanese AC company to invest under the PLI scheme in India

Japanese investors, and said that 2022 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India.

Commenting on the occasion Mr. Jawa said, "This investment is an

Refrigeration Company, into Sri City's Japanese Enclave. Daikin is the 27th Japanese company in Sri City Japanese Industrial Township".

Vadm Ajay Kochhar Commandant of NDA



VIS News Service

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, AVSM, NM assumed the appointment of Commandant, National Defence Academy on April 01, 2022 from Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor, AVSM, VM.

As an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01 July 1988. He is a graduate of the Defence Service Staff College, Wellington, Naval War College, Mumbai and Royal College of Defence Studies at United Kingdom. In a career spanning 34 years, the Flag Officer has held various important and challenging command and staff appointments.

IN BRIEF

Best Marching Contingent Trophy at RDP 22

Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff recently presented the Best Marching Contingent Trophy for Republic Day Parade- 2022 to personnel



of the Naval Contingent. Whilst a joint winner with the IAF 2013, this is the first time that the Indian Navy contingent has been adjudged as the

winner by a panel of judges comprising of senior retired officers from each of the three Services.

16 Navies participate in IMEX 22

The maiden edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was recently conducted at Goa in the Arabian Sea. The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies. The exercise witnessed participation of 16 out of the 25 member nations of IONS.

WNC Chief Visits ENC

Vice Adm Ajendra Bahadur Singh FOC-in-C Western Naval Command recently visited Visakhapatnam to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Eastern Fleet held from April 06 to 08, 2022.



AK Jain new GM (IC), SCR



VIS News Service

Mr. Arun Kumar Jain assumed charge as General Manager (In-Charge), South Central Railway, following Railway Board's order delegating the administrative and financial powers. He belongs to the Indian Railways Service of Signal Engineers (IR SSE), 1986 batch of Indian Engineering Services.

On South Central Railway, he has worked as Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer, Divisional Railway Manager of Hyderabad Division.

Navy's annual refit conference held

VIS News Service

Indian Navy's Annual Refit Conference and Annual Infrastructure & Indigenisation Conference for the year 2022 was inaugurated recently by Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, AVSM, NM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command at Kochi.

The conference, chaired by Vice Admiral Sandeep

Dedicated Session held on Indigenisation

Naithani, AVSM, VSM, Chief of Materiel, was

attended by representatives of Naval Headquarters in addition to representatives from all Commands, Dockyards/Repair Yards and Material Organisations.

In consonance with the Government initiative of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, this year's conferences had a

session dedicated to indigenisation. The Chief of Materiel in his address to the forum emphasised the need to bolster public private

relationship in the defence sector.

Deliberations on refit processes, discussions on



transforming maintenance policies to keep ships ready for any challenges and review of infrastructure augmentation for meeting growing requirements of the Navy, were the main agenda of the conference.

New office-bearers at CREDAI Vizag

VIS News Service

The following members have been unanimously elected to the new executive body of CREDAI Visakhapatnam for the year 2022-23. Mr. B. Srinivasa Rao as Chairman, Mr. K.S.R.K. Raju (Sai) - as President



Mr. Ch. Govinda Raju and Mr. V. Sreenu, Vice Presidents Mr. E. Ashok Kumar Hon. Secretary Mr. N. Vamsi Mohan Joint Secretary and Mr. A. Shivanand Treasurer .

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Need to have trusted partners you can rely upon

Aditya Sabharwal

Two cricket passionate loving nations India and Australia came together to sign a historic and much awaited trade agreement named ECTA earlier this month.

In the making for over a decade now it gathered steam only last year wherein heads of both the countries decided to get this accomplished at the earliest.

The Signing of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between India and Australia is the first trade agreement of India after more than a decade.

One in 35 Australians is of Indian origin

Keeping the significance of this trade agreement in mind and the camaraderie that has developed between the two countries Vizag Industrial Scan in an exclusive interview spoke to Australian High Commissioner to India, Mr. Barry O Farrell on the proximity and shared values that both the countries hold and also on enhancing trade between the two nations.

'Going from the 3 Cs i.e. cricket, curry and commonwealth to the 4 Ds i.e. Democracy, Defence, Dosti and Diaspora Australia India relations have bolstered over the past few years' stated the Australian High Commissioner.

Edited excerpts of the interview below.

There has been great bonhomie that has developed between the two nations (government to government) over the past few years. What according to you has driven this relationship to this level of proximity?

Strategically we have seen significant changes over the past few years that have brought us together. Australia and India have complimentary economies. We have inputs that India can use to grow its industry and Australia has opportunities to purchase from India. So I would say we are not competitive but complimentary economies.

Also Indians are aspirational people. They are very good at equipping themselves with the skills needed to be successful and are therefore hard working people. As other countries Australia is as a good place for them to do the same here.

In addition the increasing size of Indian diaspora has to my mind certainly brought both the countries closer to each other over the past 20 years. As per the latest census figures slated to come out this year there are more than 800,000 people of Indian origin in Australia i.e. one in 35 Australians is of Indian origin. Either they were born in India or their parent/grandparent was born in India.

India and Australia recently signed the ECTA. How do you



foresee this impacting bilateral trade between the two countries?

I think the opportunities this presents in both countries are limitless. As per certain studies our bilateral trade could well touch USD 100 billion by 2035 from the current 27 USD billion. We thus are bullish about further enhancing our trade with India across various sectors going forward.

What are some of the key sectors Australia is looking to actively engage with India in?

Some of the key sectors to my mind are for sure Education, Renewable energy, Mining, Infrastructure investments and Technology.

Is supply of Defence equipment a key area?

As we are not a big defence manufacturer/supplier I don't think it will be a key area of supply from the Australian side. However Defence will

remain extremely important as we will keep having joint exercises with India.

Also as complimentary economies, if we are better able to provide goods to each other this will only help the economic development of both the countries. This will also help both the countries to cooperate together on what Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has called as the sacred mission i.e. to live in a safe, secure and open Indo-Pacific region post Covid.

Also trusted partners are now a thing again. Once upon a time we thought its just about the price now its

Business literacy holds key when entering a new market

about trust. It's your trusted partners who in difficult times will continue to supply you.

What are some of the most common issues Australian Businessmen /

companies would like India to act upon?

Well some of the key pain areas in India are more or less the same that we have in Australia. For instance both countries have central and state governments this often translates into double regulations. This then adds more time to execute from a company's stand point.

One of the key things whenever entering a new market is to spend time thinking and learning about that new market before you start spending a dollar/rupee there.

AP CM keen on getting Australian Investments into Andhra Pradesh

Therefore business literacy holds key.

It is for this reason that our Prime Minister Mr. Scott Morrison in discussion with Prime Minister Mr. Modi announced a new centre of Australia India relations which amongst other things will seek to educate businesses in Australia on how best to do business in India.

How important is the state of Andhra Pradesh to Australia?

In my meeting last year with the CM of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy he was very interested in getting inbound investments from Australia to Andhra

Pradesh. We have a number of companies who invest in infrastructure in India and they are opportunities that could be explored in this space in AP too.

What would you highlight as some of the opportunities that Indian Businessmen/Investors can look upon in Australia?

There is a plethora of opportunities for Indian Businesses to look upon in Australia. As we recently announced first and foremost there is going to be Indian investments in critical minerals and rare earth mines in Australia. These minerals are essential for the

manufacturing of everything from computers, telephones to electrical vehicles or batteries used in them. Indian businesses can therefore invest in the raw material space there.

Secondly there are huge agriculture opportunities for large agricultural producers in India/Andhra Pradesh. You can invest in land in Australia. And if you are producing wheat or mangoes during the season here you can do the same there too as we have counter cyclical seasons. This way you will have supply round the year and not just in a specific season.

Vizag Port slips to 4th position among Major ports

POL crude, Iron ore & Coking coal pull down VPA

VIS News Service

The Port of Visakhapatnam registered a marginal decline in its cargo handled for fiscal FY 22 thereby ranking the port 4th among the major ports in the country. VPA handled 69.03 million tonnes for the FY 2021-22 as against 69.84 million tonnes during the corresponding period of previous year thus registering a negative growth of 1.16%. VPA had ranked 3rd among the major ports last fiscal.

No effect of Competition

Clarifying on the decline in cargo handled VPA's chairman Mr. Rama

Mohana Rao attributed the negative growth to a decline in cargoes of POL crude, iron ore and coking coal.

'POL and Crude declined due to break down of one of the crude oil storage facility at M/s HPCL while Iron ore and Pellets declined due to decline in price in international market in lieu of lack of demand from China. In regards to Coking Coal it declined due to "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Policy of GoI to encourage domestic coal. Therefore Competition has nothing to do with the decline' said the chairman while addressing media persons in the city.

POL crude cargo declined to 14.24 MT from 16.01MT (inFY21) while

MT respectively. Steam coal increased 38% while thermal coal saw a growth



iron ore inclusive pellets declined to 14.55MT from 18.86MT (inFY21). Similarly coking coal declined to 4.85MT from 5.89MT (inFY21).

However both steam and thermal coal cargo increased to 7MT and 2.5

of over 100% said the chairman.

Infra Upgrade

Speaking on some of the infrastructure upgrade projects the chairman said that the Construction of Covered Storage in Port

area of size 400X40X17m including necessary drains, road and water supply was being taken up at an estimated cost of 36.38 Crores. "Project taken up with SDCL as SPV. Estimates is under preparation".

Similarly Repair and Rehabilitation of ORS jetty in entrance channel of VPT has been taken up at an estimated cost of 21.47 Crores "Work commenced on 24.12.2021"

On the much-lionized cruise terminal VPA chairman said 'Proposed construction of Cruise-cum-Coastal cargo terminal along with other infrastructure and amenities at Channel Berth

area in Outer Harbour of VPT is being undertaken at an estimated cost of 96.05 Crores which has been awarded in February, 2022. The Cruise terminal would be ready in one year's time said the VPA chairman.

He also informed that electrification of VPT Railway lines 45.143 TKM for VPT was being done at an estimated cost of 22.04 Crores. "VPT acceptance conveyed to award the work by M/s. IPRCL on 29.12.2021"

Mechanisation of WQ-7&8 Berth through PPP mode on DBFOT basis (capacity addition 6.14 MTPA) at an estimated cost of 288.47 Crores "Likely date of Award May,2022"

Mobile Eye Screening Unit at AMTZ

VIS News Service

It was a momentous occasion for Sankar Foundation when Ms Louise Agersnap, Head, World Health Organisation (WHO) Innovation Hub, WHO, Geneva recently inaugurated the Mobile Eye Screening Unit (V 2 Home) in association with Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ). The unit was handed over to Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital on the occasion of World Health Day at a function held at AMTZ.

Speaking on the occasion Ms. KBN Manimala, Managing Trustee & CEO, Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital appreciated AMTZ for associating with Sankar Foundation. The V 2 Home will provide eye screening test at the patient's door step @ Rs 99 through mobile unit.

Change of Guard



VIS News Service

In a recent change of guard at the Eastern Naval Command, Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, NM, took over as the Admiral Superintendent Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam from Rear Admiral IB Uthaiyah, AVSM, VSM in a formal ceremony.

Commissioned into the Indian Navy in Nov 1987, RADM Sadhu holds a B (Tech) degree in Marine Engineering, a Masters in Mechanical Engineering and has also been awarded

an M.PHIL in Defence and Strategic Studies.

During his distinguished career spanning 34 years, the Admiral has held several prestigious Operational, Dockyard, Design and Staff appointments.

The Admiral is an alumnus of Naval War College and has been awarded the prestigious Nao Sena Medal by the President of India in 2016.

Rear Admiral IB Uthaiyah, AVSM, VSM, has now taken over as Chief Staff Officer (Technical) at Eastern Naval Command.

Yoga utsav at VSEZ

VIS News Service

Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone recently celebrated Yoga Utsav and countdown to International Yoga Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Vasanta Kiran Babu, IFS, JD Commissioner, VSEZ informed that as part of countdown for International Yoga Day, the Yoga Programme was organised at VSEZ for all the Officers/Staff and VSEZ Units and at all the SEZ premises in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana in a big way. Mr. Kiran Babu, talked upon the benefits of Yoga and thanked Mr. Prabhakar Murthy and Mr. Satyanarayana, Yoga gurus and others for their participation.

At the Capital



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy was in the capital recently wherein he met the Prime Minister and submitted a slew of requests. From seeking Funds for Polavaram project to amending the credit limit to Andhra Pradesh to the pending dues from Telangana Discoms Jagan sought PM's help. During his visit he also met other ministers in the capital. Above Mr. Jagan is seen greeting India's Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah.

Ind-Aus Navies hold 14th Talks

VIS News Service

The 14th IN - RAN Navy to Navy Staff Talks were held from 11-13 Apr 22 at New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by RADM Christopher Smith, Deputy Chief of Navy, RAN and RADM J Singh, ACNS (FCI), IN.

As per an official release Cmde Stewart Dunne,

Hydrographer to Govt of Australia also attended the meeting. The event



witnessed active participation from Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy. Some of the Major issues discussed included maritime operations,

information exchange and training. Both sides also acknowledged the growing cooperation between the two Navies amid the emerging challenges on the maritime front, and agreed to enhance collaboration and interoperability towards ensuring maritime security in IOR. On completion of 14th IN - RAN Staff Talks, RADM Christopher Smith interacted with VADM Sanjay Mahindru, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy, at South Block, New Delhi.

Eye Care Dos and Donts for Students

Keeping in mind that the board exams are around the corner and that students often become indolent, tired, and restless because of exam anxiety Dr. Snehal Ganatra an ophthalmologist at LV Prasad Eye hospital advocated a few safety measures to give students

a healthier and serene study experience.

To avoid eye strain and increase efficiency during these demanding hours, Dr Ganatra advised some of the following Getting a



comprehensive eye examination done, Following the 20-20-20 rule, Frequent Blinking, Maintaining a correct posture, Limiting the use of digital gadgets etc.

OSOP launched across SCR's 6 Divisions

VIS News Service

Aimed at making Railway stations a sales and promotional hub for local products The novel initiative of "One



station One Product" — has been launched across 6 major stations over SCR.

As per SCR it was due to the terrific response to the Pilot project at Tirupati Station, that it has now been launched for the first time at Secunderabad, Kacheguda, Vijayawada, Guntur and Aurangabad Stations.

Being a first-time initiative, it is being implemented for a duration of 30 days (in two spells of 15 days each) starting i.e., from 09th April – 07th May 2022 at the 5 new stations, while the project which is already under implementation at Tirupati has now extended for another 30 days as well.

Accordingly, all the six Divisions of South Central Railway have identified one each major station over their jurisdiction to implement this unique initiative.

Fully-functional stalls are being allotted in prime passenger interface areas for promoting the identified products at these stations.

Oakridge student bags seat in Stanford

VIS News Service

Ms. Prakeerthi, a student of grade 12 IBDP has made it to Stanford University. She has consistently maintained top scores in all the tests and assignments conducted both online and offline, as well as a record score of 1560/1600 in SAT. Her achievements span across all the academic and extracurricular opportunities offered by the school and beyond.

She cited the famous book 'Indomitable Spirit' written by the late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam as a source of inspiration. She compassionately teaches English to Non-English speakers from underprivileged societies. Her plans include a major in Computer Science and Management for her Undergraduate Studies at Stanford.

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