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IN BRIEF

AU students to take part in global contest

Students of Architecture from Andhra University have been invited to participate in the global contest representing India conducted in Poland. The event takes



place in Poland where 35+ countries will compete with about 50+ entries at the international level. The students **Mr. Nikhil Reddy, Ms. Poornima Emandi, Ms. Roopa Sri**

have stood up as first runner-ups all over India in a contest conducted by Saint Gobain Glass 'Transparence 16.0' Grand finale, Architecture Category, supported by Ethos India. Top 2 entries from 4 regions of India were shortlisted for the national grand finale.

Strengthening Women

Entrepreneurship @ AIC-SKU

AIC-SKU recently organized Mahila Abhyudaya, an orientation programme on women entrepreneurship at S.V.Degree and PG college, Anantapur. AICSKU invited interested women in the region to attend the programme on entrepreneurship in order to understand Business Opportunities available in the region, funding opportunities, hand-holding support by AIC-SKU to women entrepreneurs and key facilities & services from AIC-SKU. Over 60 women from the region attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion **Dr. Shivakiran** explained the importance of innovations in businesses that tend to be women centric such as food processing, baking, coffee & dairy.

Waltair div. holds Safety awareness Campaign

Waltair Division, as part of continuing its efforts to create awareness among the public on trespassing, alarm chain pulling, foot board travelling the Safety Department recently organised an awareness campaign. The campaigns are being conducted under the guidance of the Divisional Railway Manager **Mr. Anup Satpathy**. Senior Divisional Safety Officer **Mr. Praveen Bhati** monitored the campaign at various locations. The focus was on to prevent unwanted chain pulling, crossing the track in the mid-section & at level crossings, foot board travelling, defecation on tracks and attempting suicide on tracks.



APEDA inks MOU with NRDC

Aiming to give a boost to the export value chain, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC). The MoU has been inked for utilizing both the organizations' expertise to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders. The MoU has been signed for the implementation of the Agri Export Policy and to strengthen the export value chain.

Research Papers by Centurion University Students

Students of Centurion University recently participated in an international conference organized by the School of Management, UEM, Jaipur, in association with the National Taipei University of Business, Taiwan. **Dr. Madhusmita Choudhury**,



Assistant Professor, School of Management of Centurion University, Vizianagaram, formed a team of 5

students including **Mr T. Akshay Raju, Mr V.vinay Varma, K. Govardhani Gupta, Mr. V. Abhilash Patnaik, Y. Guna Shekar** who presented their research paper in the conference. As per the university this was the 1st of a kind experience for these students as they learned the art of writing research papers and presenting their work.

State Govt very keen on Vizag metro: UJM Rao

New DPR entails cost of over Rs 14000 crs, to cover 76.9 kms with 54 stops

VIS News Service

AP Metro Rail Corporation Limited Managing Director **Mr. UJM Rao** has said that that the state government is very keen on implementing the Vizag Metro project as early as possible.

Mr Rao informed that as per the new DPR prepared to execute the project the proposed Vizag N Metro Rail Project estimated Rs. 14,309 crores to cover 76.9 kilometres length with 54 stops including two depots.

Elaborating further he said that under the vizag metro rail project three corridors- Steel Plant to Bhogapuram Airport, Gurudwara to Old Post Office and Thatichetlapalem to RK



Beach (chinna Waltair) will be covered.

He however pointed out that there is a chance to include few more changes before getting final approvals from central government.

He mentioned that metro rail is eco-friendly, less travel time, low cost and zero accident. He said that most of the cities GDP was

improved after starting metro rail.

Mr Rao was speaking at a special talk on Vizag Metro Rail -Smart Public Transport organized by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) Visakhapatnam Chapter.

PRSI Visakhapatnam Chapter Chairman **Dr.PLKMurthy**, Vice Chairman **RP Sharma**, Secretary **MKVL Narasimham**, PRSI South India Vice-President **U S Sarma**, Treasurer **N V Narasimham** participated in the meeting. As part of the program PRSI felicitated UJM Rao and presented a momento.

Celebrating National PR Day

VIS News Service

The Visakhapatnam Chapter of Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) recently celebrated National Public Relations Day.

As part of National PR Day the Visakhapatnam chapter arranged a special talk on this year's theme i.e. "Building Trust: Shaping -up the new world with Public Relations".

As part of the celebrations the organizers presented best PRO award to GITAM Deemed to be University PRO **Mr. NV Narasimham** for his services while noted social worker **MV Rajasekhar** and **KA Ramachandra Raghuvver** were also awarded.

'Take dist on path of dev'

State Revenue, Minister **Mr. Dharmana Prasada Rao** has called on the SKLM district authorities to involve everyone in taking the district on the path of development. The minister recently reviewed the progress of the SKLM district with the authorities. He assured that the govt would take up the issue of administrative clearances and funding required by the government.

ECGC Holds Bankers Meet

VIS News Service

As part of its mandate to apprise its Exporter and Banker clients on the current global scenario and the risks associated with it and ways to mitigate such risks, ECGC recently conducted a Bankers Meet.

Senior officials from different Public Sector Banks namely State bank of India, Union bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank

of India etc were invited for a discussion on the current global scenario.

ECGC Vizag updated the senior Officials about the recent steps taken to



mitigate their risks. Bankers were updated on current global and economic

situations and risks prevailing in exports and how they can mitigate those risks. It was also clarified to them that ECGC is covering exports to Russia even though Russia has been moved to Restricted Cover Country.

Similarly bankers were updated on extant guidelines of ECGC and they can safeguard their export finances.

Employee recoveries and dilemma under GST

Sweta Giridar

It is a common corporate practice to provide facilities such as canteen, transportation, and other facilities to employees either as a statutory obligation or as a welfare measure and these expenses provided to the employees is a part of the cost to the company otherwise called as CTC. In such cases, the company recovers a nominal portion of the cost from the employees.

With the introduction of GST, given that every form of supply has come under the ambit of GST tax net, the question that arises is whether such recoveries made from employees would become taxable in the hands of the employer as supply of canteen or transportation services.



Many taxpayers have approached advance ruling authorities for getting clarity on the said aspect, and there have been varying views on this issue by the advance ruling authorities. Initially in 2018, the Appellate Advance Ruling Authority (AAAR) in the case of M/s. Caltech Polymers Private Limited [2018-TIOL-20-AAAAR - GST (Kerala)] considered whether recovery of canteen cost from employees would constitute a supply. The AAAR

concluded that despite the lack of any profit, the activity of supplying food and charging price for the same employees would come within the definition of "supply" and the amount recovered from the employees would qualify as a consideration liable to tax.

On the contrary, recently the Maharashtra Advance Ruling Authority in the case of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited [GST-ARA-119/2019-20/B-03 dated 4 January 2022] has held that the provision of canteen facility to the employees is not taxable on the account of the fact that the same is not in the course or furtherance of business of the company. However, it is pertinent to mention that the ruling in the case of

Caltech Polymers has not been considered in Emcure Pharma and many such rulings have been passed on the same lines as Emcure Pharma.

In the light of these contrary rulings, it is now important for taxpayers to evaluate the applicability of these rulings to their factual situation and evaluate a litigation free course of action. However, it is important to note that advance rulings are binding only on the party for whom such ruling has been pronounced. To prevent a flurry of litigation on this issue, the GST authorities can consider clarifying the position considering that this is an industry wide issue.

(The Writer is Manager, BDO India LLP)



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Birla gives CM a Thumbs Up

Inaugurates state's 1st Chlor Alkaline Mfg plant



said the chairman of the Aditya Birla group.

This is an important milestone for our chemicals business and this further strengthens the Aditya Birla group's bond with the entrepreneurial state of Andhra Pradesh, added Mr Birla.

The Balabhadrapuram plant has the potential to be the largest single-location Chlor-Alkali site in the country, said Mr Birla and added that the Group has committed an investment of Rs.1000 crores and plan to take this investment to ~ Rs 2700 crores in phases.

We've Invested around USD 2 billion in AP - Page 7

It was further mentioned that the plant will lead to significant employment creation- from the current levels of about 1000 to over

Contd. on Page ...7

AP offers an attractive business environment with high quality workforce and a supportive administration.

Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla
Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

VIS News Service

A global conglomerate, the Aditya Birla Group recently inaugurated its first chlor alkaline manufacturing plant in Balabhadrapuram in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

This is of much significance as Grasim Industries Limited (Chemicals) is the largest chemicals (Chlor-Alkali)

player in India and among the top 15 globally.

At the unveiling of the new plant chairman of the Aditya Birla group, **Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla** lauded Jagan's leadership and for offering full support. 'The Chief minister and his office gave us unwavering support in getting this plant ready'

Essar Ports Vizag does a 1st

Handles largest dry bulk vessel

VIS News Service

Essar Ports Vizag Terminal Ltd (EVTL), the largest iron ore handling complex in India recently handled the largest dry bulk vessel, and recorded the largest parcel at Vizag Port.

On 20th April 2022, the M.V. Star Eleni, a bulk carrier built in 2018, sailing under the flag of Liberia was successfully berthed at EVTL. This was the largest bulk carrier handled by EVTL to date loaded with DWT- 2,07,555 MT, LOA- 299.88 Meters and BEAM- 50 Meters. The terminal created another milestone by successfully loading a record 1,65,000 Metric Tons (MT) of iron ore fines on M.V. Star Eleni vessel. Commenting on this achievement, **Mr. Rajiv**

Agarwal, Operating Partner (Infrastructure), Essar and Managing Director, Essar Ports, said "I congratulate the team at Vizag. The demand of our terminals is strong and we believe our terminals are well placed to offer sustainable advantage to our customers and trade." Similarly **Mr. Ch Satyanand**, CEO, EVTL, said: "This milestone is a matter of pride for us at



EVTL. We strive to deliver the best in class service to our customers"

Essar Ports Vizag terminal is strategically located in the Bay of Bengal in close proximity to iron-ore mines located in Chhattisgarh, southern Odisha and Jharkhand.

VPA handles highest cargo in Single Day



VIS News Service

Visakhapatnam Port Authority recently created a record by handling the highest volume of cargo in a single day. The port witnessed 3,73,544 MT of cargo handled across 24 vessels combinedly at Inner Harbour, Outer Harbour including SPM that worked in the Port.

This is said to be the highest tonnage handled in VPA since its inception, duly surpassing the previous best of 3,70,029 MT handled across 21 vessels in December 2021.

Chairman **Mr. K. Rama Mohana Rao** lauded the Traffic Manager for this.

Why RINL's Privatisation augurs well for Adani backed GPL

VIS News Service

Having successfully taken a stake (41.9%) in the strategically located Gangavaram Port, Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. (APSEZ) recently organized a road show wherein it stated that analysts are positive of GPL's growth.

Analysts bullish on RINL's huge unutilized land bank

As per an official release from GPL it stated that analysts believe that GPL will see a massive augmentation in its capacity mainly due to large land availability near the port, and the strategic location of the port and its hinterland reach.

'From a medium-term perspective, privatization of RINL is a key growth catalyst. RINL is an anchor client of GPL, and the port gets 7 MMT of cargo from the steel plant, contributing more than 20 percent of its business. The fact that the central

government is planning to privatize RINL works in favour of the GPL, as privatization will pivot

RINL expansion (currently, only 6,000 acres of the 23,000 acres land is utilized), which will eventually provide a material boost to the cargo

volumes at the GPL' said the release from GPL.

It further stated that with GPL's closest competitor Vizag Port being city locked and with GPL having the deepest draft is all set to grow with the increasing industrial activity in the region. It is

Contd. on Page ...7



*RINL is GPL's anchor client
More than 20% of GPL's Business comes from RINL about 7 MMT of cargo*

India sets new landmark in Rice Exports

Exports 17 million tons of Non-Basmati rice in FY22

U.Bharath

India's non-basmati rice exports set a new landmark by exporting 17 million tons in FY 22 for a total export value of USD

"The overall volume of rice exports has almost "doubled" in the past few years, which is a good augury for the rice exporting sector" said Mr



Adding that India continues to be the second largest rice producer in the world after China he noted Andhra Pradesh to play a leading role in terms of rice exports.

'30-35% of India's total non-basmati rice exports

Contd. on Page ...6

AP exported about 6 million tons of which Kakinada alone exported 4.5 million tons

6115 million. This is said to be a 109% increase from the USD 2925 million done in FY 2013-14.

B.V. Krishna Rao, President of the Rice Exporters Association of India (TREAI) speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan.

Affordable Housing prime need of the country

VIS News Service

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India, (CREDAI), recently held its 4th Edition of the New India Summit (NIS) in the city of destiny, Vizag. The summit intended to foster development and strengthen the growth roadmap of real estate in non-metro cities.

Addressing the gathering the Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban



Development, **Mr. Audimulapu Suresh** noted affordable housing as the prime need of the nation.

He hailed the real estate industry as it supports 250+ allied industries that are dependent on the Housing & Construction sector.

NIS held under its Micro Small and Medium Developers (MSME) wing addressed

some of the challenges faced by the realty developers in non-metros and discussed the solutions to enable fast-paced growth for the sector.

The event encompassed insightful discussions &

Contd. on Page ...6

IN BRIEF

Tata Steel receives global recognition for 5th year

Tata Steel Limited and Tata Steel Europe have been recognised as 2022 Steel Sustainability Champions by the World Steel Association. Recognised for the fifth consecutive year this year, Tata Steel India and Tata Steel Europe have been Champions every year since the programme's launch in 2018. This coveted recognition acknowledges Tata Steel's efforts to maintain its leadership as a world-class steel producer who is fully committed to the principles of sustainability. The World Steel Association has recognised ten companies as Steel Sustainability Champions for their work in 2021. **T.V. Narendran**, CEO & MD, Tata Steel, said: "We are honoured to be recognised as Sustainability Champion by worldsteel for the fifth year in a row."

NMDC wins two awards at SKOCH Summit 2022

NMDC, India's largest producer of iron ore awarded one gold and one silver award in the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards recently conducted by SKOCH, New Delhi. The theme for the SKOCH Summit was 'State of BFSI & PSUs'. NMDC won the Gold Award in the category social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansis' and the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation. The awards were received by **Mr. Amitava Mukherjee**, Director (Finance) via video conferencing on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director, **Mr. Sumit Deb**.

NMDC team visits Perth, Australia



VIS News Service

A high-level delegation of NMDC Ltd, led by its CMD **Mr. Sumit Deb**, recently met with state government officials and other mining companies in Australia.

Comprising of **Mr. Amitava Mukherjee**, Director – Finance and other senior officials of NMDC the delegation, which reached Perth,

India, is diversifying into steel with the greenfield Nagarnar Steel Plant in the state of Chhattisgarh, India due to start production soon, said Mr Deb. He also expressed optimism on the future of the recently executed agreement between Legacy Iron Ore and Hancock Prospecting Ltd, which is now a key partner. Mr Deb said Hancock's expertise and

The CMD & Director, Finance meet heads of mining companies in Western Australia.

Australia had deliberations with the team of Legacy Iron Ore Ltd its Australian subsidiary. Mr. Deb shared NMDC's future plans with officials of the state government.

Stating that FY 2022's record production was just a beginning for NMDC, he outlined the company's vision to become a 100 MT iron ore producer by the year 2030.

NMDC, being the single largest iron ore producer in

experience, particularly in iron ore in Western Australia, would help unlock the huge potential of the Mt. Bevan project. Also present at the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer of Atlas Iron Ore, **Mr. Sanjeev Manchandani**, the appointed manager of the new joint venture, elaborated on the activities planned towards completing pre-feasibility studies of Mt Bevan.

Steel Minister emphasises CAPEX

Sets over Rs 13000 crs CAPEX target for Steel CPSEs

VIS News Service

The Union Steel Minister, **Mr Ram Chandra Prasad Singh** recently chaired a meeting to review the capital expenditure (CAPEX) incurred by Steel CPSE during the FY 2021-22 and to assess the plans of the CPSEs for achieving the CAPEX targets for the current year 2022-23.

The Steel Minister emphasized the importance of timely capital expenditure for enhancing

Such expenditure also provides a fillip to the Indian economy said the minister. It was informed that in FY 2021-22 the CAPEX spending by Steel CPSEs was Rs. 10,038 crores, which is an increase of 38% over the CAPEX of Rs. 7266.70 crores for FY 2020-21.

The CAPEX target for FY 2022-23 in respect of Steel CPSEs was set at Rs. 13,156.46 crores. The Union Minister of Steel advised

the CPSEs to adhere to their monthly CAPEX Plans and closely monitor



projects for ensuring time bound implementation and achievement of annual target successfully on time. The CMDs of Steel CPSEs assured that CAPEX targets for FY 2022-23 would be achieved.

During the review, deliberations were also

held on the CPSEs' plans under the National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017, as this envisions in creating a globally competitive steel industry in India. The NSP 2017 envisages 300 million tonnes (MT) steel-making capacity and a per capita consumption of 158 kgs. The Indian steel sector has added capacity of 16.29 MTPA in the last five years to reach the capacity of 154.27 MTPA. Based on the present assessment Government is confident to reach the capacity of 300 MTPA by 2030-31. Most of the capacity expansion comes through brown field and some greenfield expansion which may come from 2025-30.

The Minister gave directions to Steel CPSEs to plan their capital projects prudently in line with the NSP – 2017.

CAPEX to Assist in realizing 300 MTPA steel capacity by 2030-31

steel production capacity, modernizing old plant equipment, and taking up environmentally efficient technologies for the future.

Over 72 Million Ton Coal Available

VIS News Service

Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Mr. Pralhad Joshi** has said that at present 72.50 Million Ton (MT) of coal is available at different sources of Coal India Ltd (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL), coal washeries etc.

In a tweet, the Minister said that 22.01 Million Ton coal is available with



Thermal Power Plants(TPP).

Stating that there is sufficient coal availability in the country, Mr Joshi said that the same will last for a month and availability is getting replenished on a daily basis with record production.

It may be recalled that as per the provisional data of the Ministry of Coal, the total coal production during the financial year 2021-22 has touched 777.23 Million Ton (MT) compared to 716 MT during 2020-21, recording a growth of 8.55 per cent. Coal India Ltd (CIL) production has gone up by 4.43 per cent from 596.24 MT in 2020-21 to 622.64 MT during the financial year 2021-22.

IR carries over 650 MT of coal in FY22

Augments coal transportation by 111 Million Tonnes

VIS News Service

Indian Railways has been a prime supplier of Coal to all Power Houses and has taken substantive measures in year 2021-22 and the current month of April to augment the coal supply to Power houses.

During the year 2021-22 Indian Railways has augmented the transportation of Coal through Railways by a record 111 Million tonnes and loaded a record 653 Million Tonnes of coal as compared to 542 Million tonnes in the previous year i.e. a growth of 20.4 %.

Further during the period Sept-21 to Mar-22 loading of coal to power sector

was augmented by 32% in just 2 quarters said an official release from the railways.

In April 2022, IR has taken many steps to prioritize the loading of coal to power sector which has led to increase in supply of coal of more than 10 % within one week time.

This improvement has been possible due to various measures undertaken by Indian Railways some of which have been:

- Prioritization and monitoring the Transit time

of coal trains to long distance Power has been reduced significantly by 12-36% for critical power plants



• Indian railways has prioritized the movement of coal to long distance Power houses as well which is reflected in the fact that the average lead of coal trains has increased.

Tata Steel signs agreement with Australian Company

VIS News Service

Tata Steel has signed a business cooperation agreement with Thiess to deliver mine technical services in areas such as exploration, resource evaluation and mine planning. Thiess will also collaborate with Tata Steel to deliver competitive integrated business solutions to the global mining industry. Thiess is one of the largest mining services providers based out of Australia.

On the alliance, **Mr. D.B. Sundara Raman**, Vice President, Raw Materials,



such services in India in particular and internationally in general for more scientific and sustainable mine development." **Mr. Michael Wright**, Executive Chairman & CEO, Thiess, said: "This agreement is the foundation for a strong partnership.

Tata Steel said: "This agreement will complement our capabilities & capacities to raise the standards of

Vessel Construction at Paradip Port

VIS News Service

The Chairman, Paradip Port, **Mr. P.L Haranadh**, IRTS recently inaugurated Vessel construction activities at Paradip Port Slipway with the Keel Laying Ceremony of a Pilot Boat. The Boat is being constructed by Sadhav Offshore Engineering Pvt Ltd. (SOEPL), which has taken the slip way on lease through an e-auction process by the Port in November 2021.

Since the Slipway was built around 30 years ago only small boat repairs have been carried out from time to time, stated a release.



Sadhav plans to enhance and use the infrastructure for Vessel Construction besides boat repairs. The company is engaging professionals and experts in the field to design and build high quality sea going vessels that will be recognized the world over.

"Odisha has a very rich Maritime tradition, and so we felt it is important for us to

revive the business of Ship Construction and Repair in the state, as it would not only provide high employment opportunity but will also revive the Odia pride in their rich cultural traditions", said **Devahuti Choudhury**, Director, Sadhav Offshore Engineering.

JNPA rated as India's best Performing Port

VIS News Service

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), has been rated as the best performing port in India as per the latest report logistics performance index.

As per an official release from the port JNPA's index value came out to be the highest at 84.61, and is at the top of the list among the major ports of India. The top 5 computed based on the index value are – JNPA (84.61), Mundra (84.16), Pipavav (81.52), Delhi Airport (81.27) and Kakinada (77.22).

The performance ranking is conducted based on

the 11 parameters common for all the major ports in the country. Some of these parameters include: Logistics time in hours, Demurrage cost as a per cent of logistics costs, Ease of Customs and documentation measured on a scale of 1-10, Cost of Customs clearings as a share of total logistics cost, the overall perception of bribes as a hindrance to business is measured on a scale of 1-10, with one being the least hindrance, Time taken from unloading of cargo to Customs check at the storage yard, time taken from completion of CBIC

officials' inspection to cargo loaded on the vessel.

Acclaiming the port's performance **Mr Sanjay Sethi**, IAS, Chairman,



JNPA, said, "JNPA has been consistently working towards improving logistics costs, building world-class infrastructure and reducing time for the EXIM community." JNPA successfully handled total container traffic of 5.63 million TEUs in the Calendar Year 2021.

India's 1st pure green hydrogen plant comes up in Jorhat



VIS News Service

Oil India Limited (OIL) has taken the first significant step towards Green Hydrogen Economy in India with the commissioning of India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant.

Commissioned in a record time of 3 months the plant has an installed capacity of 10 kg per day at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam.

Mr Sushil Chandra Mishra, Chairman & Managing Director, inaugurated the plant which produces Green

Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500KW Solar plant using a 100 KW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array. The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mishra said that the company has taken an important step towards fulfilling the vision of our Prime Minister for an atmanirbhar India. This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future. The company has initiated a detailed study in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on blending of Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas and its effect on the existing infrastructure of OIL.

SCR moves Bulk Cement in Tank Containers

The first rake loaded from AP to Tamil Nadu

VIS News Service

In a first-of-its kind initiative South Central Railways loaded Bulk Cement in Specialised Tank containers and Containers with Liner Bags.

Slated to be a game changer in the transportation of Bulk cement, the first rake was loaded from M/s Bharathi Cements siding in Yerraguntla of Andhra

30 specialized tank containers (each capacity of Aprpx 26 tonnes)
50 Containers with Liner Bags (each capacity of Aprpx 27 tonnes)

Pradesh to Irugur and Tondiarpet in Tamil Nadu. The container rake is being moved as a single rake consisting of

30 specialized tank containers (each having a capacity of approximately 26 tonnes) and 50 Containers with Liner Bags (each having a capacity of approximately 27 tonnes).

As per an official release from SCR Bulk Cement dispatch roughly

constitutes around 25% of the total cement production of nearly 350 million tonnes. This traffic is predominantly transported currently through non-rail modes of transport. With the

introduction of these specialised containers, there is huge potential for railways to tap this significant traffic to its freight basket said the release.



Previously, bulk cement by rail was being done through privately owned wagons (BCCW & BCFC type), which required huge investment in terms of unloading terminals and silos. However, transportation through these specialized containers obviates such necessity and has several additional advantages. They can be easily moved

from Rail to Lorry flats and vice-versa. The specialized tank containers can be moved to any of the customer premises, giving flexibility to the customer while also avoiding the need for dedicated Railway siding. They can be unloaded by mechanized Reach stackers at any of the Goods sheds without creating any additional unloading infrastructure and Silos.

On this Occasion, **Mr Arun Kumar Jain**, General Manager (In-Charge), South Central Railways said that loading of bulk cement in Specialized Containers is a win-win situation to both the Cement Producers and Railways. While it provides a cost-effective, flexible and fast transportation option for the Cement producers, it opens up a new stream of traffic for Railways.

Adani acquires marine services company

VIS News Service

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd ("APSEZ") through its subsidiary, The Adani Harbour Services Ltd ("TAHSL"), has entered into a definitive agreement for acquisition of 100% stake in Ocean Sparkle Ltd ("OSL"), India's leading third-party marine services provider.

As per an official release the Company has significant experience in global maritime servicing through its

operations in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Yemen and Africa.

Key activities carried by the company include towage, pilotage, and dredging. With an



OSL Key Activities: Towage, Pilotage & Dredging
OSL Fleet: Asset base of 94 owned vessels & 13 third-party owned vessels

asset base of 94 owned vessels and 13 third-party owned vessels, OSL is a market leader. The company was established in 1995 by a group of marine technocrats with **Mr. P Jairaj Kumar** as the Chairman and MD, who will

continue as the Chairman of the OSL board.

Speaking on the acquisition **Mr. Karan Adani**, CEO and Whole-time Director, APSEZ.

"This acquisition not only provides APSEZ a significant share of India's marine services market but also provides us a platform for building presence in other countries, thereby facilitating APSEZ's journey towards becoming the largest port operator globally by 2030,"

PPT for 500 MTPA capacity

VIS News Service

Marking his first official visit to Paradip port, **Mr Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister of Ports, gave directions to the Port to work towards augmenting its capacity to 500 MTPA by 2030.

During his visit the Minister laid foundation stones for a slew of projects some of which include: Inauguration of Container Scanner at a cost of Rs 29.68 crores: The Container Scanner can scan up to 25 Trucks per hour in scan mode. It shall boost movement of container traffic in the Port. He laid the Foundation Stone for 2nd exit-cum-



road flyover (Gati-Shakti Project) being developed at a cost of Rs 93 crores. This 2nd exit-cum-road flyover as part of additional Port connectivity from National Highway at Paradip Port and will serve as alternative Entry/Exit option to/from the Port, facilitating in safe and congestion free movement of vehicles. It will help segregation of Cargo traffic from

passenger movement to/from Port Township.

He also Inaugurated the Sewerage Treatment Plant built at a cost of Rs 10.65 crores. This will help on Treatment of household sewage and utilize the treated water for sprinkling inside Harbour area, gardening etc. The treated water also supplements the water requirement for dust suppression in the Mechanised Coal Handling area.

The minister proposed Plantation of Aayush Garden to create awareness among the society towards medicinal plants.

In the adjacent orchard, Mr. Sonowal planted fruit bearing plants like mango, guava, litchi, water apple etc.

VP urges Exporters to scout for New Markets



'Make in India', 'Local goes Global' and 'Ease of Doing Business', he said the country's exports have grown manifold in recent years due to the hard work of the exporters.

VIS News Service

The Vice President, **Mr M Venkaiah Naidu** recently called upon exporters to explore newer markets in order to give fillip to exports and maintain the economic momentum.

Presenting Export Excellence Awards for the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units & Export Oriented Units in Chennai the Vice President said that SEZs along with Export Oriented Units (EOUs) contribute about one-third of the country's exports.

Termining SEZs as an ideal platform for promoting

The Special Economic Zones contribute about 28% of India's export basket. SEZs along with Export Oriented Units (EOUs) contribute about one-third of the country's exports.

I am told that 268 SEZs are functional across the country with 5604 Units operating in different sectors. Indeed, they form an ideal platform for promoting 'Make in India', 'Local goes Global' and 'Ease of Doing Business'. I am happy to note that SEZs have been in the forefront in achieving the export target of \$ 400 billion for the last financial year 2021-22' said Mr Naidu.

Need for Affordable Housing

Contd. on Page 3

fireside chats highlighting the issues connected with Tier 2, 3 & 4 cities, to come to conclusions and prepare a plan of action to address the challenges.

Speaking at the summit **Mr M V V Satyanarayana**, MP, Lok Sabha YSRCP, who also happens to be a real estate developer, stated "The current government with its focus on business revival and growth for the segment is undertaking reforms critical for reviving growth in the real estate sector".

CREDAI National President **Mr. Harsh Vardhan Patodia**, said, "We at CREDAI believe that the country's non-metro cities will lead this new revolution. The new scenario requires innovative ideas to tackle this emerging situation".

Mr. G. Ram Reddy, Vice President, CREDAI National, said, "Tier II, Tier III cities have immense

potential as land prices are affordable and land is easily available."

Andhra Pradesh, President, **Mr. B. Raja Srinivas** President, stated that "Growth of the real estate industry in MSME segment will lead to a positive upscale in not only strengthening the segment but contributing a large share in providing dream homes to homebuyers, employment opportunities to masses, much needed support to developers leading to a transformed New India".

Mr. Dharmendra Varada, New India Summit, Convenor, said, "Events like NIS will only propel cities across India to spruce up in terms of infrastructure and invite FDI into real estate. It will help satellite towns emerge around metros, create opportunities and wean away some of the burden faced by metros"

Seminar calls for leveraging Tech in Pharma Sector

VIS News Service

To help the Pharma Sector leverage the technology changes towards building profitability and sustainability and become next gen Industries of the future, a Seminar on Building Sustainability, efficiency resilience in the Pharma Industry through Digitization was

recently organised jointly by CII Andhra Pradesh & CII Centre for Digital Transformation.

Giving the welcome address **Mr Neeraj Sarda**, Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh & Deputy Managing Director, Sarda Metals & Alloys Ltd emphasized that "For decisions to be well informed and inclusive, all stakeholders need to understand the benefits and risks of digital technologies. The opportunities for

human progress in the digital age ultimately outweigh the challenges – if we join together in a spirit of cooperation and inclusiveness".



Mr Anant Barbadikar, Jawahar Lal Nehru Pharma Manufacturers Association (JNPMA) & MD & COO – India Operations PharmaZell (India) Pvt Ltd in his address shared the challenges being faced by the Pharma Sector. He said that we could look at peripheral areas like warehousing, supply chain etc. as candidates for digital transformation as sometimes starting with core can be a daunting task.

India's Rice Exports surge

Contd. on Page 3

came from the state of Andhra Pradesh' said Mr Krishna Rao.

As per the second Advance Estimates for 2021-22, the total production of Rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 127.93 million tonnes, which is higher by 11.49 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 116.44 million tonnes.

While India exported rice to the tune of 5.5 million tons in FY 2017-18, it reached 8 million tons in 2019-20 and it further touched to 13 million tons in the year 2020-21 as per data.

And with good monsoon predicted for the current crop year Industry pundits project that, the export volume of rice may further go up reaching a whopping 22 million tons.

30-35% of India's total non-basmati rice exports came from the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr B.V. Krishna Rao
President, TREAI

Exported to 150 countries

While rice export is being carried out through a network of over 50 sea ports spread across the country, Andhra Pradesh ports i.e. Krishnapatnam, Kakinada, and Vizag hold an important place in it. 'Kakinada alone exported about 4.5 MTPA of rice in FY 22 out of the total export of 17 million tons' highlighted Mr Krishna Rao

Appeal to waive the 2% market cess

The rice export sector has however appealed to the Andhra Pradesh government to do away and waive the 2% market cess being levied on rice exports, the industry players cited the case of Madhya Pradesh, which has done away with market cess levied on wheat exports, thus benefiting the export sector.

"If a similar move is made both in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the rice export sector would stand to benefit a lot and touch a new growth graph" say Industry players

Labour shortage, a major problem

Mr Raghuvulu, Chairman, Coconada Chamber of Commerce speaking to Vizag

Industrial Scan flagged the labour shortage problem afflicting the sector as a major logistical bottleneck in ports such as Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

"We are faced with an acute labour shortage and we have to transport and accommodate an additional 4,000 labour force to the vicinity of the port to carry out a minimum of 7 rakes per day. As we do so, we are faced with the problem of accommodating the migrant labour, and the move has also faced stiff opposition from the locals due to various reasons" said Mr Raghuvulu.

He thus has urged the port authorities to lease out some land in order to accommodate the labour force for temporary accommodation could be erected to house them. "This will end the labour shortage problem for us" said Mr Raghavulu.

"The Kakinada port authorities have promised to take a sympathetic view and look into the matter, which would address the labour shortage problem we are facing now and lead to the impressive growth of the sector" he said.

SCR rakes in over Rs 14K crs in FY22

VIS News Service

The south central railway Zone registered gross earnings of Rs. 14,265 crore in the financial year 2021-22. This marked a whopping 44% growth as compared to the previous year.

'The calibrated approach of the zone towards resumption of train services has given rich dividends with the number of passengers again crossing 100 million and passenger earnings growing by 205% to Rs. 2,975 crores' said **Mr Arun**

and freight revenue of Rs. 12,317 crores. It is also worth mentioning that the zone has achieved its best-ever parcel revenue of Rs. 206 crores. The General



Manager added that the indigenously developed Automatic train protection system namely KAVACH has been deployed for 859 Kms stretch.

SCR in FY 22

100 million passengers

Freight loading of 117.8 Million Tonnes (MTs)

344 Kms track added to the SCR Rail network

Kumar Jain, General Manager (In-charge) addressing a gathering of Railway officers and staff at the 67 th Railway Week Celebrations.

The zone registered one of its highest freight loading of 117.8 Million Tonnes (MTs)

Further, a record 344 Kms track has been added to the SCR Rail network. Mission electrification got a major boost in the year 2021-22 with SCR achieving its best-ever performance by completing 770 Rkms of electrification work.

Rice top forex earner among all Agri-commodities

Some of the Major Export Destinations:

West African country Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Togo, Senegal, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, UAE

'AP needs to move quickly in Defence Mfg'

Aditya Sabharwal

The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), Delhi, a division of CII recently elected **Mr. Jampana Srinivasa Raju**, Managing Director of Geo Marine Dynamics (India) Pvt. Ltd as the first chair of the SIDM AP State Chapter.

A geo engineer, Mr. J. Srinivasa Raju has over 25 years of experience in execution of various inter-disciplinary projects for Indian government, Navy & DRDO.

Having gained the trust and been recognized by Defence Industry as a potential person for realization of certain customized/special programmes Mr Raju has been honoured with National and International awards, which includes an award from the Planning Commission of India.

In an exclusive interview to Vizag Industrial Scan

Mr Raju spoke on the opportunities the defence sector has for the state of Andhra Pradesh and how it should leverage it.

How is SIDM working towards making India Atma-nirbhar in Defence?

The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) is a not-for-profit association formed to be the apex body of the Indian defence industry. The main objective of SIDM is to play a proactive role as an advocate, catalyst, and facilitator for the growth and capability building of the defence industry in India and in turn contribute to India's path to becoming self-reliant or Atma-nirbhar.

How big are the opportunities in the Defence Sector?

Indian Defence has always been a prominent and full of potential sector. However recent government initiatives have propelled its growth and have created



extensive opportunities for this sector.

The Indian government has set the defence production target at US\$ 25.00 billion by 2025. For the self-reliance initiative, 68% of the capital procurement has been proposed to be reserved for domestic industry, up from 58% in 2021-22. Also, 25 per cent of the research and development budget of the defence ministry has been set aside for India's private industry, start-ups and academia. This will provide ample opportunities for all the stakeholders of the

defence sector to succeed.

Is the Indian Industry ready to supply to the Defence Sector?

With the recent government initiatives, India is getting support to succeed and even stand a chance to compete against long-time players such as established MNCs. These initiatives include the 'Make in India' campaign which pushed for self-reliance, aiming for indigenous production of 70% of India's Defence needs. Other aspects of this campaign included the 'Positive Indigenization list' of more than 300 items that

were to mandatorily be purchased only from domestic manufacturers, which included many MNCs. Another such initiative is the 'Strategic Partnership (SP)' Model which envisages the establishment of long-term strategic partnerships, wherein the global OEMs would tie-up with Indian MSMEs to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains. All of the above will propagate the capabilities of the Indian industry to supply to the defence sector.

Where do you think Andhra Pradesh can play a role in the Defence Sector?

With Visakhapatnam being the headquarters of the Eastern Naval command, Andhra Pradesh can play a significant role in the defence sector. In my mind the state should move fast to grab the opportunity in making it a hub for defence manufacturing. Please keep in mind there are other states contemplating on

creating similar hubs hence we need to act swiftly.

What kind of ecosystem does AP need to create to become a Defence Manufacturing Hub?

The possibility of an MSME park, a Defence Industrial Complex with plug and play facility, would create a manufacturing cluster generating employment on almost all fronts of the industry. Presence of common facility centers (such as Defence Laboratories, Accredited testing centres, Ports, etc.) and manufacturing units within AP will help reduce the manufacturing charges. The presence of Technology centres and renowned Universities provides easy access to technology as well as skilled resources and thus provides gain in capital to the MSME units. The MSME park would accommodate various industries providing a plethora of opportunities for job seekers.

Analysts bet big on Adani backed GPL

Contd. on Page 3

a multipurpose port located on the east coast making it unique in both natural and economic aspects.

From an economic perspective, the USP is the large concession period of 50 years, a revenue sharing arrangement better than the entire portfolio of APSEZ ports; in addition to its proximity to Steel, Ferroalloy, Aluminium, Thermal Power & Cement industries in the hinterlands

to ~400,000 TEU (~6 MMT) of containers by FY25.

The growth is tipped to various catalysts, including commencement of NMDC plant at Nagarnar in FY23, rising Steel EXIM from names such as SAIL, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), JSW Steel and JSPL with operations in the GPL hinterland, and significant momentum being observed for export of agricultural products

GPL Traffic Nos

30 MMT in FY 22

40 MMT in FY 23 (Projected)

New container facility of 0.8 MTEUs under commissioning to be complete by July'22

of Central & Northern AP, Telangana, MP, Chhattisgarh, and Southern Odisha. The port handled ~30 MMT cargo in FY22 and is expected to handle more than double the current cargo at 66 MMT by FY 25. The target for FY23 is to manage cargo volumes over 40 MMT. Currently, a new container facility of 0.8 MTEUs is under commissioning and is expected to complete by July '22. Already, contracts for 150,000 TEUs (~2 MMT) of container cargo handling have been tied up, which is expected to go up

such as wheat from North India, and rice, tobacco, and chillies from the Guntur belt in Andhra Pradesh. While presently the key cargo basket of the port constitutes dry cargo such as coal, steel, and other minerals, but with APSEZ stepping in and expanding the total port capacity with addition of 800,000 TEUs container terminal, container cargo is set to take-off. APSEZ currently holds 41.9% stake in GPL and is expected to complete 100% stake acquisition during the current quarter.

Skoda expands pre-owned business

VIS News Service

With a slew of new product launches, continuous sales growth and rapid network expansion, ŠKODA AUTO India has further enhanced its used car business, certified pre-owned, at over 100 dealerships. With this expansion, ŠKODA now offers a wider reach of 360-degree, under-one-roof, car buying, selling and exchange conveniences to its customers.



ŠKODA

Commenting on this **Mr. Zac Hollis**, Brand Director, ŠKODAAUTO India, said, "With certified pre-owned, it is our attempt to ensure all kinds of ŠKODA cars are easily accessible to customers. It is a showcase of our 20+ years in India and our long-standing quality and durability. Any customer or fan of ŠKODA can walk in to a certified pre-owned facility or log in to the site. And they will be assured of quality and surety. Be it buying a used ŠKODA, selling their ŠKODA, or exchanging for a brand new ŠKODA."

As on date, more than 2,500 used cars have been delivered through ŠKODA AUTO India's certified pre-owned network.

We've Invested around USD 2 billion in AP

VIS News Service

Speaking at the inauguration of its Chlor-Alkali plant in Andhra Pradesh, **Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla** hailed the chief minister **Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy** for his leadership and identified the state of Andhra Pradesh to be an important state for the group's overall business.

"We have diverse business interests in the state and across businesses we have invested around USD 2 billion in the state" said the Chairperson of Aditya Birla Group.



Elaborating on the groups business interests in the state he informed that six of their group businesses have significant presence in the state. The company's cement business has 2 manufacturing units with a

capacity of 10 MTPA while its fashion business (ABFRL) has 105 stores with a manufacturing plant which was recently inaugurated in Kadapa district. "This plant will produce 1.8 million garments annually" said Mr Birla. He also cited the company's financial services business to have substantial presence in the state with 50 large branches. "We have a workforce of 10,000 people in the state" said Mr Birla.

New Chlor-Alkali Plant in E Godavari

Contd. on Page 3

2400 in the final phase. This will be a combination of both direct & indirect employment said Mr Birla.

The cutting-edge facility's current capacity will be approx 150,000 tons per annum for caustic and chlorine derivatives. This unit will cater to customers in the region and globally. The co-products from the manufacturing of caustic soda in this facility have the potential to catalyze growth in many downstream sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agro chemicals, food-processing, aquaculture etc.

The plant will manufacture high quality products such as caustic soda, hydrochloric acid, chlorine, sodium hypochlorite, stable bleaching powder, chlorinated paraffin

Membrane cell chlor-alkali technology.

The plant is the 8th manufacturing site for the chlor-alkali business of the Aditya Birla Group in India

Chlor-Alkali Plant

Rs. 1000 crores Investment

Employment for over 1000

Capacity of approx 150,000 tons per annum

(CPW), mono Chloroacetic acid (MCA) and several more will be added as we expand. At this plant, the Aditya Birla Group will use the latest environmentally friendly

and strengthens the journey to create an east-west corridor for chlor-alkali across the country.

The plant is said to lead to significant skill upliftment of the local community.

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Sd/
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PF near You on May 10

VIS News Service

The Next Nidhi Aapke Nikat or PF Near You will be held on May 10 at Regional Office, Marripalem lay-out, NAD Post, Visakhapatnam.

Accordingly, all Employees' Provident Fund subscribers as well as employers (both exempted and un-exempted establishments) and other stakeholders of Visakhapatnam district having any givevances/issues are hereby requested to refer the same before the Regional PF Commissioner, Visakhapatnam on or before May 5. You may register your grievances through Fax No:0891-2558734 or email ro.vizag@epfindia.gov.in

At the Secretariat



VIS News Service

Nalco CMD Mr. Sridhar Patra, along with, Midhani CMD Mr. Sanjay Kumar, recently met Chief Minister Mr. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the CM Camp office.

They discussed about Nalco Midhani United Utkarsha Aluminum Ore Corporation (UDANL), a High End Aluminum Alloy Manufacturing Industry to be set up at Kodavalur in Nellore District at a cost of Rs. 5,500 crore.

The unit will have a production capacity of

60,000 metric tonnes per annum, and the project will be completed in two to two and a half years. It will provide direct and indirect employment opportunities for about 750 - 1000 people.

They requested the CM to solve the problems encountered with the setting up of the project.

The Chief Minister also requested them to set up an MSME Park in addition to the project to cater to the needs of equipment manufacturers in the defence and allied sectors.

Govt aims for a Self Reliant Def. sector: Cmde Mohan Raju

VIS News Service

Delivering an Address at a conclave in Visakhapatnam, Cmde MM Mohan Raju NM, Material Superintendent, Material Organisation highlighted that the Government of India aims to make India self-reliant in defence sector and encourages ease of doing business for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

He stated that domestic demand of Indian Defence Sector should be fulfilled by Indian manufacturing industries. He urged the Indian industries to focus on production of quality products, on time delivery, and right price and resilient supply chain and to actively participate in adopting innovation and technologies.

Mr. J Srinivasa Raju, Convenor, Defence & Aerospace Panel, CII Andhra Pradesh & Chairman, Society of Indian

Role of Materiel Organization Visakhapatnam and their procurement process. He briefed on how one can



Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), Andhra Pradesh Chapter said that the Government has opened up the Defence industry for private sector participation to provide impetus to indigenous manufacturing.

Cdr Rohit Pratap Singh, Materiel Organisation (Visakhapatnam) made a detailed presentation on

become a vendor of Materiel Organization Visakhapatnam.

The conclave was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry- Andhra Pradesh, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers in Partnership with Materiel Organisation Visakhapatnam (Eastern Naval Command).

'AU taking great strides in IP Awareness'

Aditya Sabharwal

Celebrating this year's world IP day Andhra University in collaboration

India keeping in mind its demographic dividend.

'The theme for this year's IP day is not only apt for India but also for AU as

Addressing the webinar the VC cited youth to be creators and inventors of tomorrow and said that youth can dare to dream and if armed with the right policies and framework their energies can be channelled for better prospects.

Mr. Reddy lauded the role of the DPIIT IPR chair at AU led by Prof H Purushotham and said that this has certainly led to strengthening of the IP ecosystem in the state.

'The IPR chair is a very prestigious chair to have and we are very happy to have this at AU' said Prof Reddy.

Citing IPR to be the backbone of knowledge based economy he elaborated on the initiatives taken by the university in creating IP awareness. 'IP course has been mandated for all our post graduate programs and has now also been made mandatory for all our B-Tech and B-Pharmacy students' said the VC.

Stating that India has filed more than 58000 IPs with over 28000 granted in 2019-20 he called for enhancing these numbers dramatically going forward.

'We need to significantly ramp up our patent filings. Today's youth are most

innovative, creative and entrepreneurial thus a greater need to protect and safeguard our innovations' said the VC.

He appealed to youngsters to explore how IP can add value to their work/innovation. 'We can learn a lot from big tech companies as a lot of their value comes from IP. IP is their biggest asset and gives them exclusive rights and major business advantage' said the VC.

Advocating for increasing the spend on research and development in the country, Prof H Purushotham, DPIIT IPR Chair, AU said India spends only 0.7% of its GDP on R&D compared to 3-4% by US, China and other countries.

IP in relation to Economy

Identifying on how a strong IP ecosystem has a direct correlation to the economy, Mr John Cabeca, United States Intellectual property counsellor for South Asia said that an efficient IP culture is crucial for innovation, growth and industry.

'Our IP intensive industry in the US accounted for 41% of the domestic economic activity in 2019 which amounted to USD 7.8 trillion. This underscores the role of IP

in our economy' said Mr Cabeca.

protection increases FDI by nearly 7%.



Our IP intensive industry in the US accounted for 41% of the domestic economic activity in 2019 which amounted to USD 7.8 trillion.

Mr. John Cabeca, US IP counsellor, South Asia

He further cited a study done by the organization for economic cooperation and development several years ago which stated that a 1%

Prof Ajith De Alwis, Chief Innovation Officer at National Innovation Agency, Sri Lanka



Though Patent filings are increasing in the country over the past 5 years we are yet to realize our full potential.

Prof H Purushotham, DPIIT IPR Chair, AU

increase in trademark protection increases foreign direct investment by 3.8%, a 1% improvement in patent protection increases FDI by 2.8% and a 1% improvement in copyright

highlighted the role of NIA in strengthening Sri Lanka's IP ecosystem and working towards social innovation, defence innovation, science and technology innovation, service innovation.



IP course has been made mandatory for all our post graduate programs and now also for all our B-Tech and B-Pharmacy students.

Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy VC, Andhra University

with USPTO, WIPO, DPIIT, NIA Sri Lanka and Vizag Industrial Scan organized a webinar on this year's theme 'IP and

Andhra University also celebrates its 97th foundation on the same day highlighted Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy Vice



If Innovation is one part, protection of that very innovation is equally important.

Prof Krishna Mohan, Registrar, Andhra University

Youth: Innovating for a better future'. The theme for this year's IP Day couldn't more relevant for

Chancellor of Andhra University and chief guest of the webinar.

VIS Startup Focus

Redefining Sweetness



Chavi Kaul

Have a sweet tooth but looking for a healthy and sustainable alternative to the rigorously processed sweet sugar? One such startup called PureMe Organics has taken upon them to redefine sweetness in a way that is organic, natural and healthy to consume and accessible to everyone at an affordable price.

This Maharashtra based startup incubated at SKU in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh is not just working towards creating alternative agricultural sources which are natural organic and sustainable for the production of jaggery but also empowering rural farmers by developing an ecosystem for training farmers to engage in organic, natural & sustainable methods of cultivation for better crop yield and protection of land minerals to build a sustainable future for farmers.

The startup makes its revenue by procuring raw materials from farmers, which is then processed to make products for PureMe Organics. While their products are right now directly shared with the distributors, they will be entering the b2c market next month with their products available on e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart.

The company makes around five products that are co-created with the farmers and range from Jaggery products to nutritional foods with probiotic content. The Startup is also planning to expand their product ranges to coffee blends and tea blends and other additional functional foods and beverages. They claim to have already acquired around 100 customers in a months' time. "I am working on agriculture because it is the backbone of our country. I believe when you progress you should uplift others with you and my company is based on exactly those values" says **Dr Sharmilee Mane**, founder PureMe Organics

Since the company is working on empowering the rural farmers through technical and financial assistance their business model is focused on development and welfare of farmers. They have received grants and fundings from Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare credit and have made a revenue of over 2 lacs so far in a short time. Moving forward the sustainable startup is looking to expand its presence Pan India as well as in UAE, Australia and Europe.

Below is a brief snapshot:

- Founder's Name :** Dr. Sharmilee Mane
- Incubated/Started (Year):** 2021
- Industry / Space:** Agriculture & Food and Processing
- Number of Team Members :** 5
- Funding Received :** 5 lac grants from Ministry of Agriculture and 10 lac Farmers Welfare Credit Link
- Claim to Fame :** Any certifications / awards: NITI AAYOG Progressive Women Entrepreneur award.
- Market of Operation:** PUNE, MUMBAI, NASHIK and SOUTH INDIA
- Revenues:** Over 2 lacs revenue Profit sharing model
- Company's culture :**

Aggressive Easy Going **Methodical & Progressive**
PTIM (Person that inspires me): My inspiration is my Mother as this is a Mother Daughter venture in which I have full support from my mother who is also the Co-Founder of this venture. I would say even my Grandfather, my Father and my Husband have been great support and inspiration for me.

'Startups should adopt 1 district'

VIS News Service

Secretary, DPIIT, **Mr Anurag Jain** has urged the National Startup Awardees to adopt one district individually and contribute to its holistic development.

Delivering the keynote address during the launch of Handholding Support of National Startup Award 2021, Mr Jain urged all stakeholders, winners, and finalists of the Awards to stay connected to the roots and contribute back to the society and the Nation.

Stating that a Holistic Ecosystem support is the key for Startups success in India, he asked the pioneers to handhold Next Gen Startups in their growth journey.

'Have reached 80 Startups a day'

VIS News Service

Highlighting India as a fast growing startup nation, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Mr Anurag Jain** said that since the Startup initiative was launched in 2016, the country has grown to be the third largest Startup ecosystem. Last year, in the number of Unicorns created, we overtook China and we were the second highest he said.

"We have reached a level of 80 Startups getting registered every day in our country, which is the highest in the world," said Mr Jain.

The secretary DPIIT was speaking at the Inaugural Session of the day-long conference on "Leveraging

India's Demographic Dividend through IP.

Talking on the number of patents granted has grown five times in a matter of



seven years since the Government adopted the Intellectual Property policy in 2016 while the number of Trademarks registered has also increased four-fold during the period.

Mr Jain said the government has taken a series of measures,

including reducing the number of forms for trademarks and patents, to further strengthen the country's IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) regime. He said that in trade marks, there used to be 74 forms but now they have been reduced to just eight and similarly for patents, all the forms were scrapped and now there is only one form.

He emphasized on the need to inculcate seeds of IP in the minds of young people. "We have set up about 18 IPR chairs, and about 135 IPR cells have been created in various colleges and universities," added the secretary DPIIT.

NRDC at IP Conclave



VIS News Service

The 4th edition of IP Conclave and Intellectual Property Talent Search Examination (IPTSE) Awards was recently held in Delhi.

Organized and administered by IPTSE Academy with FICCI as the Award Partner Justice **Ms. Prathiba Maninder Singh** presented the IP Recognition Award to NRDC, Vishakhapatnam with a memento for Impeccable Contribution in the field of IP facilitation, management and commercialization.

Lauding IPTSE Academy's efforts to further the vision of putting India on the national IP map, **Commodore Amit Rastogi** (Retd), CMD NRDC said, "Awareness of IP is necessary at the primary education and there must be a culture of IP in all sectors of economy. The CMD further emphasized the need to expedite IP examination and grant of IP that thrives on technology and innovation.

AIC-SKU Inks MoU with GIST

Atal Incubation Centre Sri Krishna Deva Raya University (AIC - SKU) recently signed an agreement with Geethanjali



Institute of Science & Technology (GIST), Nellore.

As per the university the purpose of the agreement is to develop an Enterprise

and Start-up ecosystem at GIST, Training and development program for Students and faculty on entrepreneurship in SKUCPS. GIST and AIC-SKU have agreed to work closely, exploring their available resources on mutually agreed terms, to arrange and organize the activities covering the topics related to

Innovation, entrepreneurship, and venture development.

Dr. Shivakiran, CEO, AIC-SKU, along with other dignitaries participated in the MOU exchange.

Apprenticeship Mela

VIS News Service

Giving a boost to Prime Minister's Skill India Mission, **Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan** Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, digitally inaugurated the launch of the National Apprenticeship Mela across 700+ locations in the country.

Over 4000 organisations from more than 30 industries, including power, retail, telecommunications, IT/ITeS, electronics, automotive, and others, participated in the event. Individuals having a 5th-12th grade pass certificate, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma, or a graduate

degree were eligible to participate in the PM Apprenticeship Mela.

The main objective of this programme was to encourage the hiring of approximately One lakh apprentices and to assist employers in identifying and developing their potential through training and practical skillsets.

In addition, the young and aspiring workforce was given a choice of 500+ trades, including welder, electrician, housekeeper, beautician, mechanic, and others. They were given on-the-spot apprenticeship offers with monthly stipends as per the government standards.

AU Startup gets coveted Selection

VIS News Service

The Software Technology Parks of India recently conducted Chunauti 2.0 Competition

process. Edumoon, an AU incubated startup became the first Student start up in Andhra Pradesh to get selected in the



for all the Start ups across India. Around 3000 start ups participated in this competition wherein only 70 start ups were selected after 3 rounds of selection

competition. A release from AU further stated that the startup got valued at about Rs 3 Crores with an investment from UK based company Pontaq.

Vaccine Talk



VIS News Service

Attending a coveted gathering hosted by the Colombian Ambassador to India, **Ms. Mariana Pacheco Montes**, the Advisor to Andhra Pradesh's CM, **Mr Peter T Hassan** was seen along with the legendary **Dr. Krishna Ella**, Chairman & Managing Director of

Bharat Biotech International Limited along with his wife **Dr Suchitra Ella** and ICMR Chief **Dr Bhargava**.

At the gathering issues of common interest pertaining to vaccines were discussed in detail while exploring how the state of Andhra Pradesh can be associated with the same.

We made Edu our priority

VIS News Service

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, **Mr Manish Sisodia**, was recently at the GITAM (Deemed to be University)



Vizag campus to address students, academicians and civil society members as part of the university's Change makers series.

much more. "We've made education a political priority. Education has never been a priority for politicians because the results of investing on education are not immediate. While building roads, or working on other infrastructure - right before elections guarantee support during elections, the same can't be said about education. But we've changed the narrative through our work in Delhi. Now politicians do talk about education before elections" said the deputy CM

Mr. Sisodia spoke at length about the Delhi Government's education initiatives, the mission and vision behind these initiatives, his growing up years and the transition from activism to politics, adopting participative democratic methods and

St Joseph's College student for US

Marking a proud moment for the St Joseph's College as one of its students has been selected for a coveted exchange program.

Ms. Steffy Maria Paul, a Second Year BA English Litt. Psychology and Journalism student has

been selected for SUSI US Exchange program funded by US Govt's Dept of State. Steffy is the 4th student selected from the College and shall attend a 5



College and shall attend a 5

Weeks Exchange Program on 'Student Leaders on Religious Pluralism'. As per the college the Program has a multi-regional cohort of participants from India, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq and Lebanon at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in June-July 2022.

British Deputy HC inaugurates Sri City-UK Cos Assn.

VIS News Service

On his second visit to the state-of-the-art integrated business city, Sri City, British Deputy High Commissioner (BDHC) for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, **Dr. Andrew Fleming**, inaugurated the 'Sri City-UK Companies Association' (SUCA).



Addressing the gathering the deputy HC congratulated UK companies for doing wonderful work at Sri City and said 'It is fantastic to see how British innovation is being translated into 'Make in India' products with all the benefits that hold for both parties. I feel confident that Sri City's offer will be attractive to others, and the 2000+ jobs created by UK cos"

As of now Sri City has eight companies from UK, viz., Bergen Pipes, CII/IMI, RN Photo Coatings, Healthium Medtech, MSR Garments, Rotolok Valves, MMD and Power Gas, providing jobs to over 2000 people. While at Sri City Dr Fleming also visited Rotolok India and Bergen Pipe Supports India companies and formally launched their new products.

Launched in the presence of **Mr. Sujith Thomas**, Head of Engineering Manufacturing, Dept. for International Trade, British Deputy High Commission, Chennai and **Mr. Ravindra Sannareddy**, Managing Director, Sri City, BDHC had an interactive meeting with the CEOs of the UK Companies in Sri City.

Roja vows to spur up Andhra Pradesh Tourism

VIS News Service

Andhra Pradesh's newly inducted Minister for Tourism, Culture, Sports and Youth Services **Ms. R K Roja** has said that she will act as a special ambassador to promote tourism in the state and abroad.



Addressing a review meeting she urged the Tourism Department officials to formulate action plans accordingly and co-operate fully in their implementation.

Ms. Roja called for the quick implementation of pending works in the tourism sector and said that

plans should also be drawn up to undertake more projects in the future by raising the necessary funds and working for their implementation.

She further asked authorities to focus on providing better amenities and facilities for the large influx of tourists both within the country and from

abroad. The review meeting was attended by State Tourism Development Corporation Chairman **Aremanda Varaprasad Reddy**, and Culture Department Special CS. **Dr. Rajat Bhargava, Vani Mohan**, General Secretary, Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Prabhakara Reddy, MD, CEO.

Vizag gets 4-star rating

VIS News Service

The City of Visakhapatnam recently got a 4-Star rating in smart city assessment framework 2.0 during the three-day Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization conference in Surat.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd. GVMC Commissioner **Mr. G. Lakshmisha** received the 4-star rating award in the environment protection category.

AU IPR Chair gets Award

VIS News Service

Prof Hanumanth Purushotham DPIIT-IPR Chair Prof of AU has received the IP Recognition Award of Intellectual Property Talent Search Examination (IPTSE) Academy from FICCI during the 4th Edition of IP Conclave & IPTSE Awards. **Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy** VC and **Prof V Krishna Mohan** Registrar congratulated Prof Purushotham.



The Award was given in recognition of several initiatives taken by Prof H Purushotham and for the

impeccable contribution in the field of Intellectual Property. AU is the IPR Nodal Agency in Andhra Pradesh.

PSU panel visits HSL



VIS News Service

Mr. Santosh Kumar MGangwar, Chairperson along with the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings recently visited Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

As part of their yard tour the Committee visited various facilities including Steel Shops, Dry Docks, Ship Repair facilities and Outfit Jetty.

As per a release from HSL the visiting committee not only appreciated the work in progress on all ships but also appreciated the excellent grading awarded by DPE during the last 5 years.

It was further informed that the committee

complimented HSL on the turnaround of the Shipyard from Loss making to profit making.

Addressing the delegation **Hemant Khatri**, C&MD, HSL highlighted that HSL has vast potential to secure high value construction and refit orders and meet the future requirements of Indian Navy, Coast Guard and SCI, thus propelling the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of the Government of India. The C&MD also informed on the huge potential to develop HSL as ship repair Hub and strategic construction yard.

During their visit the Chairperson and members of the committee planted saplings at the Dolphin jetty in HSL.

TSCCL bags 5 national awards

VIS News Service

The Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited (TSCCL) has bagged five national awards at the India Smart City Awards Competitions 2020. Municipal Administration Minister **Mr. Adimulapu Suresh** along with TSCCL MD **Anupama Anjali** received the awards from Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** at a function organised in Surat.

Among the 100 smart cities in the country, Tirupati secured first rank in sanitation and social aspects categories and the second rank in the economy and round-wise city categories.