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AP's EV Opportunity

Vinita Chaudhary

Electric vehicles are fast becoming a reality one cannot ignore. Albeit still in its initial phases of growth EVs have caught the fancy of many. And with fuel prices as they are,

The Indian Government too is pitching in with measures supporting the use of EVs. They have done this by reducing GST on EVs and chargers / charging stations from 12% and 18% respectively to 5% each. Battery-operated vehicles



AP seeks to position itself as the 'lighthouse state' & attract investments to the tune of USD 4Bn in the EV segment over the next few years.

Mr Gudivada Amarnath,
Minister for Industries,
Commerce, Investments & IT

it's no surprise that many buyers are quickly adopting this new reality.

EV sales nationally have gone up over three times from 1,34,460 in FY 2020-21 to 4,28,224 in FY 2021-22 as per information available on VAHAN-4 centralised database of Registration Certificate.

According to the Ministry of Heavy Industries, there are an approx. 14 lakh [13,92,265 to be precise] electric vehicles plying on Indian roads as of the first week of August 2022.

are also exempted from permit requirements.

Private investment too is ushering in this sector. According to the 'Electrifying Indian Mobility' July 2022 report, **Mr.Rajat Tandon,** President, IVCA stated, 'Investment in EV industry in 2021 by the PE / VC investors was USD 1.7Bn which has already reached USD 666Mn in 2022 so far. With these numbers in mind Andhra Pradesh is leaving no stone unturned

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Dwindling demand abroad soften Container Freight rates

Aditya Sabharwal

One of the major plights faced by the Exim trade amid the pandemic were the sky rocketing container freight rates.

As per industry sources rates to certain routes had shot up to as much as 1500% in some cases. These included far east destinations like China, Japan, Korea etc.

'The Middle East sector comprising destinations like Jebel Ali etc. witnessed an increase of 200% - 300% on an average between the mid COVID period and early post COVID period when compared to pre COVID period' said **Mr V Jeevan Vikas,** President of the Visakhapatnam Container Lines Association (VCLA) speaking to *Vizag Industrial Scan*.

Similarly, he informed that rates to destinations in South East Asia saw an increase of 400%-500% on an average between mid-COVID period and early



Declining Container Freight Rates*

	From	To
South America:	USD 12000	↓ USD 7000
USA:	USD 14000	↓ USD 8000
Europe:	USD 8000	↓ USD 4000
Shanghai:	USD 1000	↓ USD 550
Dubai:	USD 1350	↓ USD 1250
Sharjah:	USD 2500	↓ USD 2250

*Indicative rates from Vizag (in TEUs) as informed by certain Liners/ NVOCCs. Rate comparison between Jan 2022 and Aug. 2022.

post COVID period when compared to the pre COVID period.

The zooming container freight rates were attributed to varied reasons such as the initial lockdown in China, non-availability of container boxes, the brief

Mr Engineer new Customs Commissioner



VIS News Service

Mr K. Engineer IRS, recently took over as the new Customs Commissioner at the Visakhapatnam Custom House. A Bachelor of Engineering from Annamalai University, Mr Engineer is a 1994 batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) officer. He was earlier Additional Director General, Directorate General of GST Intelligence and has worked across Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam Chennai, Tirupati, Trichy.

He has worked a lot on Enforcement including in GST Intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and had also worked earlier as JC 2004 & 2007 in Visakhapatnam.

blockade in Suez Canal, the overall consolidation among shipping lines etc. Rates now however seem to be showing some signs of easing albeit still far away from their pre-covid rates. 'Weakening demand has led to a fall in container freight rates' said PIL's **Mr Sameer Kumar.** Citing increase in iron ore prices and other commodities coupled with increasing GST on some products he said has negatively impacted exports.

Concurred **Mr Bobby Lawrence,** Manager,

Aissa Maritime Pvt Ltd. and said 'Recession fears have gripped US and Europe and thus has weakened demand there. This in turn has seen exports dip from India'. Mr Lawrence also noted a steep fall in the export of ferro products from Vizag. 'This has further affected steel usage' stated Mr Lawrence.

He further informed that due to weakening demand many liners have reduced their call frequency to ports. 'There is literally minimal cargo going to

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Waltair Division's overall revenue up

12 trains converted to modern LHB coaches

VIS News Service

Waltair Division of the east coast railway saw its overall revenue increase by Rs 120 crores for the April to July period.

We are taking all possible steps to enhance passenger comfort while also improving sanitation by carrying out intensive cleanliness drives.

Mr Anup K Satpathy,
DRM, Waltair Division



The Division earned a total revenue of Rs 2749.20 (freight + passenger) crores in the April-July 2022 period compared to Rs 2519.95 crores over the same period last fiscal. An increase in passenger revenue led to the overall growth in revenue for the division. Due to the low

base effect passenger traffic grew more than 331% from 1.92 million passengers in 2021-22 to 8.28 million passengers in 2022-23. 'Passenger

all possible steps to enhance passenger comfort by converting ICF coaches to LHB Coaches, improving sanitation, intensive cleanliness drives, banning single use plastic, creating awareness among the public on dangers of trespassing, chain pulling without proper reason etc. He also mentioned that the public was made aware of penalties to be imposed for littering and violation of safety norms by conducting counselling, awareness drives. 12 trains originating from Waltair Division have been converted to modern LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches. In addition **Mr Satpathy** informed that the Division has earned a

revenue has grown from Rs 75.14 crores in 2021-22 to Rs 226.71 crores in 2022-23 which is a staggering 201.72 % growth said the division's **DRM, Mr Anup Kumar Satpathy.** The DRM informed that Waltair Division and East Coast Railway have taken

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AP ranks 2nd in Kisan Rail services

VIS News Service

Rajya Sabha MP and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce,

with highest Kisan Rail services was Maharashtra with 1838 as on June 30th 2022. Kisan rail is aimed at increasing farmers' income

Train Originating State	No of Kisan Rail Service (As of 30th June 2022)
Assam	1
Gujarat	62
Karnataka	46
Andhra Pradesh	116
Madhya Pradesh	74
Punjab	15
Rajasthan	5
Telangana	66
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	76
West Bengal	59
Maharashtra	1838
Total	2359

Mr Vijayasai Reddy V recently informed that Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of **Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy** ranked second in the country for successfully availing Kisan Rail services. The state sent 116 Kisan Rails as on 30th June 2022. The state

by efficiently connecting production to market. The initiative allows the movement of perishables such as fruits, vegetables, poultry, meat, dairy and fishery products from production/surplus regions to consumption/deficient regions.

IN BRIEF

Coal receipt at Power Plants up 19%

During 2022-23 (April-June), the receipt of domestic coal at the power plants has increased to 189 MT from 158.9 MT during the same period last year, registering a growth of about 19%. Further, against the consumption of about 204.3 MT during 2022-23 (Apr-June), the total coal receipt during the period was 205.5 MT. The coal stock available at the power plants monitored on daily basis by CEA increased from 25.6 MT as on 31.03.2022 to 29.5 MT as on 26.07.2022. During the first quarter of the current financial year, Coal India Limited, the single largest supplier of coal in the country, has dispatched a record quantity of 152.49 MT coal to Power Sector against the same period of last year dispatch of 127.94 M.T, registering a growth of 19.2%.

Illegal mining of beach sand minerals

The Ministry of Mines has invited comments/suggestions of the stakeholders viz, Central Government Ministries/Departments, State Governments and Union Territories and entities



concerned on the proposal to remove certain atomic minerals including beach sand

minerals in Part B of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) [MMDR] Act, 1957. As per section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 the State Governments are empowered to frame rules to prevent illegal mining and the State Governments may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make such rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Data regarding incidence of illegal mining of such minerals is not maintained Centrally.

Enhancement of Royalty on minerals

The rates of royalty for the minerals iron ore, chromite ore, and non-metallurgical grade bauxite are fixed on ad valorem basis as a percentage of the Average Sale Price. The rate of royalty for metallurgical grade bauxite is fixed as a percentage of London Metal Exchange (LME) Aluminium metal price chargeable on the contained aluminium metal in ore produced for those dispatched for use in alumina and aluminium metal extraction. Hence the increasing value of minerals as per the market / LME is automatically captured in the ad valorem rates as royalty is fixed as a percentage of the value of minerals. Royalty rates were last revised on 01.09.2014. The rates of royalty on minerals are revised from time to time under Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Tata Steel receives JRDQV award

Tata Steel has received the coveted JRDQV award at an enterprise level and was also recognised as the 'Benchmark Leader' under the Tata Business Excellence Model (TBEM) Assessment for the Assessment Year 2021. The JRDQV Award 2022 function was held in Mumbai on July 29, 2022 - the 118th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi (JRD) Tata. **Mr.N. Chandrasekaran**, Chairman, Tata Group, presented the award to **Mr.T. V. Narendran**, CEO & MD, Tata Steel. On the occasion, T.V. Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel, congratulated the entire Tata Steel family including Senior Leadership team, Union Members, and employees who exhibited a relentless pursuit of excellence over the years and remarked how the organisation wide efforts have helped the Company reach the level of 'Benchmark Leader' making this yet another milestone.



Coal Prod up 26% April-July 22

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As per the ministry of Coal, Coal based power generation witnessed an increase of 16.13% during Apr-July 2022, as compared to same period of FY 22.

The total coal production and dispatch in the country have increased to 265.65 Million Tonnes (MT) and 291.32

MT respectively during Apr-July 2022 registering an impressive growth of 26.44% and 13.05% respectively on year-on-year basis. The total coal dispatches to power plants (including non CIL coal producing



April - July 2022:

► Coal production increased to 265.65 Million Tonnes (MT)- 26.44%

► Coal Despatch increased to 291.32 MT - 13.05%

► 13.93% increase in power demand

units) have been to the tune of 250.51MT during Apr-July 2022, registering a growth of 21.31% as compared same period of FY 22. Coal India Limited

despatches of coal from CIL (including non-power sector) have gone up to 232.07 MT during Apr-July 2022 from 210.86MT during

(CIL) has played an important role in augmenting production of coal and recorded coal production of 207.09 MT during Apr-July 2022 from 166.56 MT during same period of FY 22, which shows a growth of 24.33%. The total

same period of FY 22, representing an increase of 10.06%. Consequently, the coal stock available at Power Plants, monitored on daily basis by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), has increased to 29.85 MT on 31st July 2022.

SAIL's Capacity Expansion

VIS News Service

Minister of State for Steel, Mr Faggan Singh Kulaste recently informed Rajya Sabha that the current crude steel production capacity of Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL) is 20.63 Million Tonne per annum.

In line with the envisaged enhancement of crude steel production to 300 Million Tonne by 2030, SAIL has planned to raise

SAIL not in race for RINL

their crude steel production capacity to 35 Million Tonne per annum by 2030-31. The proposed scale of indicative investment by SAIL to reach the capacity of around 35 Million Tonnes per annum of crude steel will be around Rs 1,10,000 crore.

It was further informed that the projects for expansion of capacity for SAIL are financed through a combination of debt and equity which is normally in the ratio of 1:1.

He also informed that as the intent of New Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy is to minimize the presence of Government in the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) it is not possible for SAIL to participate in the bid to acquire RINL. The project planning has to go through the preparatory stage before arriving at the stage of execution, where the expenditure is incurred.

NMDC reports a slow Q1

VIS News Service

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) reported its Q1 numbers recently. The company produced 8.92 MnT and sold 7.80 MnT iron ore in the first quarter of FY23 compared to 8.91 MnT production and 9.45 MnT sales

turnover of the company was Rs.6,512 crore while PBT and PAT figures stood at Rs.4,263 crore and Rs.3,193 crore respectively.

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NMDC

during the same period last year. NMDC registered steady financials for Q1 of FY23 with a turnover of Rs.4,767 crore, PBT of Rs.1,946 crore, and PAT of Rs.1,469 crore. During the first quarter of FY22, the

Commenting on these results, **Mr Sumit Deb**, CMD, NMDC said, "Early monsoon and a shortfall in demand accounted for a slow Q1. On a positive note, our constant technological, digital, and financial growth provide comfort that NMDC will mitigate the current challenges and achieve the annual targets."

'Steps to boost coal production'

The union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Mr Pralhad Joshi** in a written reply in Rajya Sabha recently informed that the following steps have been taken to boost domestic coal production. These steps include the Enactment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021: The Act provides that captive mines owners (other than atomic minerals) may sell up to 50% of their annual mineral (including coal) production in the open market.

SAIL's Q1 sees 16% Growth

VIS News Service

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) posted its financial performance for the first quarter of the current financial year 2022-23 (Q1 FY 23). The company saw a growth of 16.4% in its revenue from operations in Q1 FY23 over the corresponding period last year. SAIL also recorded the best ever Q1 production.

The first quarter of FY'23 saw twin challenges of higher input costs and subdued market demand, both global and domestic, impacting the performance of the company. High cost

Suggestions sought on illegal mining

VIS News Service

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Mr. Pralhad Joshi** informed the Rajya Sabha that Ministry of Mines has invited comments/suggestions of the stakeholders viz, Central Government Ministries/Departments, States Governments and Union Territories, mining industry



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COAL

stake-holders, industry associations, general public, and other persons and entities concerned on the proposal to remove certain atomic minerals including beach sand minerals in Part B of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) [MMDR] Act, 1957.

Some of these minerals are technology and energy critical (elements) having uses in the space industry, electronics, information technology and communications, energy sector, electric batteries and the nuclear industry and are critical in net zero emission commitment of India. Country is dependent on imports for most of these important commodities. These minerals have high economic importance and considerable supply risk due to geo-political uncertainties.

of production due to increase in imported coking coal prices had an impact on the bottom-line of the company. The decline in global demand and prices for steel had a direct bearing on the domestic market and price realisation. Since peaking in April'22, the prices for steel have continuously remained under pressure during the quarter.

The company is confident of improved performances in the second half of the current financial year with significant reduction in prices of imported coal and uptick in demand.

Railways records best ever July Freight loading

VIS News Service

Indian Railways (IR) recorded its best ever July Monthly freight loading of 122.14 MT. The



incremental loading in the month of July has been 9.3 MT i.e. a growth of 8.25 % over the previous best July figures achieved in 2021. With this, Indian Railways has had 23 straight months of best ever monthly freight loading.

IR has achieved an incremental loading of 11.54 MT in Coal, followed by 1.22 MT in Balance other goods, 0.56 MT each in Cement & Clinker and Containers and 0.47 MT in POL. As per an official

release increase in automobile loading has been another highlight of Freight Business in FY 2022- 23 and 1698 rakes have been loaded in FY

- Coal ↑ 23.45%
- Cement and Clinker ↑ 5.10%
- POL ↑ 12.90%
- Containers ↑ 9.30%
- Balance other Goods ↑ 13.25%

2022-23 till July as compared to 994 rakes during the same period of last year i.e. a growth of 71%.

The cumulative freight loading from 1st April 2022 to 31st July 2022 stood at 501.53 MT as against 452.13 MT achieved in 2021-22 i.e. an incremental loading of 49.40 MT, with a growth of 10.92 % over same period last year.

The freight NTKMs (Net tonne kilometers) have

increased from 63.3 Billion in July '21 to 75 Billion in July '22 registering a growth of 18.38 %. The cumulative NTKMs in the first four months have also grown by 19.46 %.

The loading of Coal (both domestic and imported) to Power Houses has increased by 13.2 MT in July with 47.98 MT Coal being moved to Power houses as against 34.74 MT last year, i.e. a growth of 38%.

Cumulatively, in the first four months of the year, IR has loaded more than 47.95 MT extra coal to Power Houses as compared to same period of last year, with a growth of more than 32%. The commodity wise growth numbers show that IR has achieved impressive growth in almost all commodity segments with the following growth rates:

Shypmax partners with FIEO

VIS News Service

To facilitate exports through cross-border logistics Shypmax, a leading provider of comprehensive logistics and transportation solutions including international and domestic express delivery, freight forwarding, and customs clearance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) to support Micro,



Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) exporters in India showcasing their products on Indian Business Portal towards exports.

As part of the MoU, Shypmax (Crossborder Logistech Private Limited) will offer flat 15% discount on routing service tariffs for express cross-border shipments to FIEO members and SMEs registered on the Indian Business Portal (IBP), which will encourage them to start e-commerce exports in a cost-competitive way. Members can visit www.fieo.org/Shypmax to avail of discounted tariff rates.

High-Level Iranian delegation visits JNPA

VIS News Service

A high-level delegation from Iran visited Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), to take Iran-India trade relations to new heights. The delegates from Iran highlighted the contribution of India in developing Chabahar Port and elevating the logistics value chain, along with the execution of the joint master plan on the blue economy.

During the interaction with the Iranian delegates, **Mr Sanjay Sethi, IAS**, Chairman, JNPA, said, "JNPA is delighted to host the delegates from Iran. We are both vested in the global port sector with multimodal connectivity between the two nations. JNPA provides high-end facilities and several projects that take JN Port operations to the finest

level and provides the best experience to our customers and stakeholders." He further added, "India and Iran have the potential to change the way global EXIM is



carried out through development and exploring new modes of progressive advancement in the maritime domain."

During their visit to JNPA, the delegates were briefed on the various projects at JNPA. Later, during the port visit, the delegation was apprised of the overall functioning of the port and the latest development work in the port.

Waltair Division's Freight Volumes & Rev. Decline

Contd. from Page 1

unique distinction by implementing One Station One Product concept stalls at several stations to encourage local artisans and handicrafts. This received thumping response and appreciation from all corners. Visakhapatnam station is

the first station in the South Region and also in Telugu speaking states to get Eat Right Station certification for serving its customers with quality and nutritious food.

The division's Freight traffic and revenue however witnessed a marginal decline from 21.64 Million Tons (April-July 2021) in 2021-22 to 21.37 (April-July 2022) Million Tons. Similarly freight revenue declined from Rs 2533.57 crores in April-July 2021 to Rs 2481.49 crores in the same period this fiscal.

Other coaching revenue in 2021-22 is 15.18 crores and in this FY 2022-23 is 20.24 which is 33.33 % more than the previous year. This includes Parcel, Parking etc

Bagging Awards Speaking on the momentous 14 efficiency shields bagged by the division, Mr Satpathy attributed it to the relentless efforts of the officers and staff of Waltair Division in creating history by bagging 14 of the 24 efficiency shields at the 67th Railway Week Award Function held at Bhubaneswar. This proves that Waltair is one of the most efficient Railway Divisions today said the DRM.

111 IWTs declared as NWs

VIS News Service

The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal** informed the Rajya Sabha that to promote inland water transport (IWT) in the country, 111 inland waterways spread over 24 states have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) under National Waterway Act, 2016. Based on the outcome of techno-economic feasibility and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of these NWs, action plan has been formulated by IWAI for 26 NWs found viable for cargo/passenger movement.

Development activities have been initiated in the first 13 NWs out of the 26 viable NWs. Moreover, there is a scheme namely Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for development of inland waterways in North Eastern States including Sikkim in which 100% financial assistance is provided to North Eastern States. Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of NW-1 (Haldia to Varanasi - 1390 kms) has also been undertaken by IWAI.

300 product ODOP catalogue launched

VIS News Service

Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textile **Mr Piyush Goyal** recently launched the ODOP catalogue of over 300 products.

He appealed to the people to use the ODOP portal and buy products from there. This will directly help Indian artisans and families and also help revive dying arts of India. He mentioned that PM has repeatedly asked the nations to use these ODOP products as festival gifts and corporate gifts, and PM himself uses these products for gifting purposes.

Mr Goyal was attending a review meeting of the Export scenario with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and representatives of Industry associations at New Delhi.

The minister emphasized on a 'Whole of Govt' approach to boost exports. The Minister said this would require exporters, EPCs, Govt Agencies & Indian Missions abroad to work together. Recognizing the crucial role played by EPCs and Industry, Mr Goyal remarked that EPCs & Industry Associations are key to realise "Local goes Global: India makes

for the World". He said that the Government is doing its best through various measures to support Indian exporters to compete globally. He highlighted that with Gati Shakti, the government is improving connectivity.

APSEZ announces Q1 results

Handles 90.89 MMT of cargo (including 9.09 MMT at GPL)

VIS News Service

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd ("APSEZ"), recently announced its results for the first quarter of FY2023.



Commenting on the results **Mr Karan Adani**, CEO and Whole Time Director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone said "Q1 FY23 has been the strongest quarter in APSEZ's history, with a record cargo volume and highest ever quarterly EBITDA.

This is a 11% jump on a

robust performance in the corresponding quarter last year that witnessed the post-Covid demand surge." The company continued this strong performance in July and recorded

The logistics business too experienced a robust growth, with EBITDA increasing 56% Y-o-Y. The EBITDA margin of the logistics business expanded 370s bps due to econo-

- Dry cargo UP 11.2%
- Containers UP 3.2%
- Liquids including crude UP 5.6%
- Non-Mundra ports contributed 53% to the cargo basket

100 MMT of cargo through-put in the initial 99 days of FY23, a feat never achieved before.

As per APSEZ this performance was delivered by both the businesses – ports and logistics.

The ports business, on the back of 8% Y-o-Y growth in volumes, delivered a 18% jump in EBITDA.

mies of scale and increased share of the GPWIS revenue stream.

"We are confident of achieving our full year guidance of 350-360 MMT cargo volumes and EBITDA of Rs 12,200-12,600 Cr. Consolidated revenue (excluding Gangavaram) was almost flat Y-o-Y at Rs 4,638 Cr.

IN BRIEF

Rs. 15.96 cr released under Jagananna Thodu

The Chief Minister **Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** recently released interest of Rs. 15.96 crore under Jagananna Thodu Scheme to those petty vendors who have paid their loans on time for the last six months. So far, 15,03,558 lakh people have received interest-free loans of Rs.2,011 crore under this scheme. The interest paid by the government to 12.50 lakh beneficiaries who have repaid their loans is Rs. 48.48 crores.

AIC-SKU holds Validation Workshop

AIC-SKU has recently organized a One Week Idea Generation & Validation Workshop. Twenty three teams (each team comprising of 3-5 students) were asked to generate and validate their ideas by gathering evidence around ideas through experimentation to make fast, informed and de-risked decisions to a marketable product with a robust idea validation template. AIC-SKU has supported and mentored the student teams throughout this workshop in realizing the market and customer needs. **Mr. Naveen Lakkur**, Chief Innovation Coach, Institute of Inspiring Innovation, Bengaluru and **Dr. C. Chandra Mouli**, Incubation Manager, AIC-SKU has facilitated the workshop in all the locations.



Two more trains get LHB rakes

In order to provide a more comfortable journey to passengers, modern Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) rake will be introduced to Visakhapatnam-Kollam-Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam- Tata Nagar-Visakhapatnam express trains by East Coast Railway, Waltair Division. Speaking on the occasion, DRM **Mr. Anup Satpathy** said that Waltair Division has introduced modern LHB coaches in 11 pairs of trains already. People should use the public facility with care and keep their premises clean.

Indian and French Navies exercise in the Atlantic

INS Tarkash, on her long range overseas deployment, recently conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Naval Ships in the North Atlantic Ocean. Replenishment at sea was exercised between Tarkash and the French Fleet Tanker FNS Somme. This was followed by joint air operations with the maritime surveillance aircraft Falcon 50 participating in multiple simulated missile engagements and air Defence drills. Successful conduct of these surface and aerial exercises symbolise the high degree of professionalism and interoperability that exists between the two navies.



Gangavaram Port supports School renovation

Gangavaram Port, as a part of their corporate social responsibility program supported the renovation and enhancement of infrastructure at MMP School at RH Colony, Dibbapalem. The port team also provided supplies for students, furniture & kitchen utensils for the school. This initiative was done to promote education in the neighbouring villages and create a healthy environment for the students in the school. The Port management also inaugurated a Kalyan Mandap at Dibbapalem village to provide support in building community infrastructure in the neighbouring areas.



Kakinada sends 1st Goods Train to Medak Rly. Stn.

VIS News Service

The first Goods train from Kakinada recently chugged into Medak Railway Station (Telangana). As per a release from the South Central Railway (SCR) this is also the first freight train to be operated in the recently commissioned Akkanapet - Medak Section. To facilitate handling of freight traffic at the Station, Medak Goods Shed was notified to handle goods traffic recently in July 2022.



The Medak Goods shed terminal has been permitted for both loading and unloading of bagged consignments. Accordingly, the first freight train containing 15 BCN wagons of fertilisers arrived from Kakinada at the Station, marking the commencement of the freight operations in the station. The initial rake was loaded with fertilisers of 948 tonnes from M/s. Coromandel International Limited Siding (PGFC), Kakinada. The South Central Railway is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways. It has three divisions under its administration, which include Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded.

EMC CEO visits Sri City

VIS News Service

The CEO, Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC), Tirupati **Ms. M. Gauthami**, IAS along with **Ms. S.S. Sony**, Zonal Manager, APIIC, Tirupati recently visited Sri City. **Mr. Satish Kamat**, President (Operations), briefed her on Sri City, and its Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a Domestic Tariff Zone (DTZ), Free Trade Ware housing Zone (FTWZ) and an Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC). Impressed with the world-class industrial infrastructure of Sri City, **Ms. Gauthami** appreciated the efforts of Sri City management for developing the EMC in 100 acres of land as an exclusive zone for companies involved in electronic R&D, design,



manufacturing and assembly operations. **Ms. Gauthami** evinced keen interest and quizzed on different aspects of Sri City in general, and the EMC in particular. Following the briefing session, she went around the industrial park. Stating that **Ms. Gauthami's** visit is very important for Sri City, **Mr. Ravindra Sannareddy** Founder Managing Director, Sri City said, "We

consider it as an honour as our project implementation model is being referred and studied by senior administrators in government, and feel happy to share our experience." Andhra Pradesh government is establishing two Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC I and II) in Tirupati on priority basis and **Ms. Gauthami** is the CEO for those EMCs.

MPEDA's New member



Mr. Vijaysai Reddy is seen congratulating **Ms. Vanga Geetha Vishwanath**, MP(Kakinada) on getting elected as a member of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). He said that her presence in MPEDA will boost India's and AP's marine exports and the over 150km of coastline in Kakinada will gain.

Har Ghar Tiranga rally

VIS News Service

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Har Ghar Tiranga programme, the City Mayor Golagani **Ms. Hari Venkata Kumari**, GVMC Commissioner **Mr. Lakshmisha** participated in a rally held at Rama Krishna Beach recently on the occasion of National flag designer Pingali Venkaiah and Bellary Raghava Jayanti celebrations on August 2, Police Commissioner **CH Srikanth**, district officials, city citizens and students participated.

Over Rs 54 crs utilized under Vijayawada & Galagali

VIS News Service

The stretch of river Krishna between Vijayawada and Galagali is part of declared National Waterway-4.

In this stretch, following development work has been taken up by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) between



Vijayawada to Muktayala on Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh: 1. Deployment of four Floating jetties. 2. Dredging in the stretch for navigational purpose. 3. Land acquisition process for construction of three Ro-Ro terminals at Muktayala,

Harichandrapuram and Ibrahimpatnam has been initiated with the State Govt. However, no development work on this stretch has been undertaken under Sagarmala scheme.

Against sanctioned project cost of Rs. 96.0 crore, Rs. 54.08 crore has been utilized till 30.6.2022. This information was given by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal** in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Workshop on Countering Disinformation

VIS News Service

The Department of Mass Communication, Osmania University and the Department of Journalism Andhra University in association with the US Consulate General Hyderabad recently organised a workshop for Journalists. The workshop Countering Disinformation for Telugu TV reporters was a 90-hour training session to train 40 TV journalists as verification experts. Both offline and online training was conducted over 6 months. The objective of the training was to train journalists on how to prevent fake news and how to prevent Disinformation and Misinformation creeping into the



mainstream media while they report news. Journalists were trained in Various types of Misinformation and Misinformation, Verification methods such as Factcheck tools and techniques, Finding open data., Legal aspects of Misinformation, Disinformation, How to verify or fact-check news or videos or text or images Rules of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Press Council of India guidelines. 50% of the trainees were women journalists and five were students from the Dept. of Journalism. The intended outcome of the training was to mould journalists to undertake fact-checking in their daily journalistic routine.

Govt. targets Rs. 100 crore thru APCO

'Over Rs. 576 cr spent on handloom weavers in three years'

VIS News Service

The Minister of Industries, Investments, Commerce, IT and Handloom and Textiles **Mr. Gudivada Amarnath**

Handloom Day is being celebrated across the State in 26 districts, the Minister said that after the agriculture sector, the handloom sector provides employ-

ment to the largest number of people in India. The Minister said that about 1,50,000 people in the state are directly dependent on handlooms and another 50,000 indirectly are dependent on handlooms for their livelihood. He said

that in the last three years, Rs. 576.07 crores have been spent for the development of handloom weavers through the YSR Netanna Nestham scheme. Similarly, pension is being given to handloom weavers who have completed 50 years of age. **MLC Varudu Kalyani** and Director of Handloom and Textile Department, **Ms. Nagarani**, also spoke. Handloom weavers **Ms. P. Devi** and **Mr. Maccha Ramesh** were felicitated on the occasion. The Min-



said that Mega APCO showrooms will be set up in Visakhapatnam as there is huge demand for handlooms and silks. Speaking at the 8th National Handloom Day State-level celebrations in Visakhapatnam recently, he said that the government has set a target of generating Rs. 100 crores business through APCO. Mr. Amarnath said that at present, 12 new clusters are coming up at a cost of Rs.17.86 crores. Mentioning that National

ment to the largest number of people in India. The Min-

> APCO Mega Showrooms will be launched in Vizag
> 12 new clusters to come up at a cost of Rs.17.86 crores

ister said that about 1,50,000 people in the state are directly dependent on handlooms and another 50,000 indirectly are dependent on handlooms for their livelihood. He said

ister visited various handloom cloth stalls set up on the occasion. AP Padmashali Association Director **Mr. Tammina Rama Laxman**, and others participated.



Innovative Technologies Available for Commercialisation to MSMEs, Start-ups & Industries

NRDC, a Premier Technology Transfer Organisation under Govt. of India with over more than 2000 innovative technologies available for transfer and commercialisation to industries. NRDC executed about 5000 technology transfer agreements with Entrepreneurs / Start-ups / MSME's / Industries NRDC also supports end to end IP facilitation and commercialisation.

Few Innovative Technologies Ready for Commercialisation

- Screw Elements of Twin Screw Mixer / Extruders
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- Bronze on Steel Bimetallic parts
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- Diamond like Carbon (Coating)

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Indian Navy inks MOU with ISRO

VIS News Service

The Indian Navy recently signed a MoU with the Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad on data sharing and cooperation on Satellite based Naval Applications



in Oceanology and Meteorology. With this initiative, both the organisations will have a common platform of mutual cooperation, wherein the scientific advancements by SAC would be synergised into the Indian Naval efforts to keep the nation's defence in step with rapid development in the field of Satellite Data retrieval and applications.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by SAC and Indian Navy to further meaningful interactions and professional exchanges in future.

Need for tailor-made Technical courses in Colleges

Industry-Academia partnership emphasised

VIS News Service

Mr. Pola Bhaskar, IAS, Commissioner of Collegiate & Technical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh recently presided over an interactive meeting on 'Restructuring of Diploma Courses in Govt. Polytechnic of AP' held at Sri City.

Senior managers of Sri City industrial units said that there is an immediate need to restructure courses in technical education. Industry representatives urged the Commissioner of Technical Education to revamp the course curriculum at Diploma level across the state in tune with the industry requirements.

Applauding the positive response from Sri City and the industrial units, the commissioner agreed that there is an urgent need for updating and reforming the syllabus. He spoke on the need to establish synergy between industry and institutes through active interaction and nurturing the needs and ideas among



While in college students are not aware about workplace expectations hence awareness is to be created by exposing them with real-time workplace. - **Mr. Pola Bhaskar, IAS, Commissioner of Collegiate & Technical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh**

all the stakeholders, viz., students, faculty and industry experts. "Such collaboration helps in updating the knowledge of students and bridges the gap between the Academia and Industry," he added. Stressing on the importance of updating and reforming the syllabus, he felt that curriculum should lay more emphasis on practical knowledge than theoretical, engaging students more with laboratory

assignments rather than on theory. Requesting the industry representatives to offer inputs for introducing tailor-made technical courses with appropriate emerging areas at diploma level, he said, "While in colleges, students are not aware about workplace expectations, and hence awareness is to be created by exposing them with real-time workplace. Internships work very well

to bridge the gap between academia and industry, and this needs to be made mandatory as a part of the diploma curriculum. For this industry should come forward to offer Internships," Mr. Bhaskar said. Thanking the commissioner for taking the initiative of taking feedback from industries on modernising technical courses, **Mr. Ravindra Sannareddy** said, "There is an urgent need to revise the outdated syllabus and impart more practical knowledge to students." Assuring support he said that Sri City will act as a catalyst to make this experiment of Academia-Industry-Government partnership yield fruitful results in orienting the students to the industry needs.

Several industry representatives, including those from Hunter Douglas, Venture, Alstom, NS Instruments, Toray, Isuzu and Tata Foodz participated and gave their feedback. They also offered to provide students with a year of hands-on training at their CoEs.

Dwindling Freight rates

Contd. from Page 1

China so cargo for that route has come down considerably,' said Mr Lawrence.

In addition, rice exports to China are said to have taken a steep fall too. 'China used to take a lot of rice and trade was



exporting about 2000 containers a month and this has now fallen to below 600 containers a month' said PIL's Mr Sameer.

Agreeing that freight rates have fallen **Mr Subrata Kumar Behera**, Senior Manager-Ports and Containers Research at Drewry stated that the rates further need to correct compared to pre-covid levels. 'Rates have dropped but are still very high compared to what they used to be. In addition container availability is still a major issue at least on the West Coast of India' said Mr Behera.

NRDC inks extension MoU with USPTO

VIS News Service

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) recently signed an extension Memorandum of

States Intellectual Property Counsellor for South Asia in the presence of senior officials of USPTO, US Embassy in India and NRDC Officials. The

technology transfer / commercialisation; exchange of information in the area of acquisition of IP rights, technology transfer policy and practice; organizing conferences, symposia, seminars, IP workshops, IP public awareness campaigns for promoting the innovation/economic growth of our nation. The NRDC in the past carried out many such activities and initiatives in collaboration with USPTO. NRDC is a national Technology Transfer Organisation, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt of India and is playing a pivotal role in IP management, technology transfer and commercialisation in the country and is bridging the gap between academia & industries in the development of technologies from lab scale to commercial level.



Understanding with United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) at New Delhi. The MOU was exchanged between **Commodore Amit Rastogi** (Retd), CMD, NRDC and **Mr John Cabeca**, United

objective of bilateral cooperation agreement between the NRDC and the USPTO under this MoU is intended to carry out joint programmes in organizing training and capacity building programs in the field of IPRs,

GITAM Award to Kailash Satyarthi

VIS News Service

GITAM recently conferred the 42nd GITAM Foundation Award-2022 on Indian social reformer and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi. The award was presented to Kailash Satyarthi during GITAM 42nd Foundation Day Celebrations with a plaque and a cheque for Rs. 1 million in recognition of his services to humanity particularly who is working against child labour. He is the founder of multiple social activist organizations, including Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Global March Against Child Labour & Global Campaign for Education etc.,

'Encourage weavers by purchasing handloom products'

VIS News Service

The 8th National Handloom Day was celebrated in Srikakulam recently. Handloom and Textiles Department and Sikkolu Weavers and producers Company jointly organised the event. Speaking on the occasion the Collector **Mr. Sriresh Lathkar** urged the people to encourage weavers associated with handloom industry and urged the people to encourage weavers by purchasing handloom products. The Collector said that like Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri, Ponduru is famous for khadi products.

He assured that the government is examining the proposal to sanction loans to the weavers on term basis. He appealed to all government officials and staff to wear handloom clothes on the first Monday of every month. The Collector said that in the coming days, handloom clusters are being set up in Akkulpet, Ponduru and Laveru and training camps will be conducted so that weavers can hone their skills. On the occasion the Collector also visited an exhibition organized by NABARD.

HPCL holds Vruksha Bandhan

VIS News Service

HPCL celebrated Raksha Bandhan in a very unique and memorable way. The spouses of HPCL employees - HP Shakti - celebrated Vruksha Bandhan as a part of their flagship green initiative - HP HARITHA. HP women symbolically selected 150 years old tree as sibling and tied a giant rakhi to the tree. This rakhi is made of various seeds which shall grow as trees in future.

Kakanis' felicitated

VIS News Service

The CEO of Amaravati Boating Club and Khelo India Member-South Zone (AP,TS,TN) **Dr**



Tarun Kakani and **Mr Kakani Vijay Kumar** were felicitated by AP Governor **Mr. B i s w a b h u s h a n Harichandan**. They were felicitated as they belong to

freedom fighter, and Gandhian **Kakani Venkataratnam's** family. **Kakani Venkataratnam** was an Ex minister of Dairy and Agriculture, founder of **Jai Andhra Movement**, and was known as **Ukku Kakani** for his struggle to retain Vizag Steel Plant in AP. AP State Housing Minister **Mr. Jogi Ramesh**, MLA **Mr. M. Vishnu** and **Mr. Velampalli Srinivas**, Mayor **Ms. R Bhagyalaxmi** and Collector of NTR **Dt Dhilli Rao** were also present.

RINL official bags Dr. CVN - PRSI award



VIS News Service

The GM (Corporate Communications)-In-charge & Head of Corporate Communications department **Mr. RP Sharma**, was presented with Dr. CVN - PRSI Best PR Manager of the Year - 2022 National Award at the 15 Public Relations Education Day celebrations organised at Hyderabad by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Hyderabad Chapter and CVN Public Relations Foundation, Hyderabad. **Prof. R. Limbadri**, Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education presented the National award to **Mr. RP Sharma**. This Award is administered by PRSI in memory of PR Legend, **Dr. C.V. Narasimha Reddi**, Former Director, I & PR Department, Govt of AP - the Founder Editor of 'PR Voice'. **Mr. RP Sharma** was selected for Best Public Relations Manager of the Year 2022 in recognition of his effective, dynamic, pro-active approach as the Head of corporate communication the vital link between the Organization and its stakeholder.

IN BRIEF

Min.hails ACF services

The Minister for Industries **Mr. Gudivada Amarnath** has assured all possible support from the government for the services provided by Age Care Foundation which is extending free health care to the elderly and also persons with serious illnesses. Participating in the Bhoomi puja of Age Care Foundation Geriatric and Palliative Care hospital on the IIM-Vizag Road in Gambheeram recently, he lauded the services of ACF in serving the needy and advised the chairman of ACF **Mr. G. Sambasiva Rao** to give a representation seeking the support of the government for continuing the good work.



Human chain for awareness against plastic use

The Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has been organising various mass campaigns on the ban of single use plastic. Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager **Mr. Anup Satpathy**, the Bharat Scouts & Guides cadets of Waltair District led by **Mr. Rajeev Kumar**, District Commissioner & Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) in association with School Children from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Government High School, Vidyodaya School formed a long human chain for 4 kms at Railway Station Road, Visakhapatnam to raise awareness on the ban of single use plastic. More than 1000 school students formed a human chain to spread awareness against single-use plastic.

Mini Marathon by ENC as part of AKAM

A Mini Marathon was recently organised for service personnel and families of Eastern Naval Command at INS Dega to celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of Independence. The event was conducted in 10 km and 5 km categories to promote the spirit of a healthy lifestyle and physical fitness. The Run was flagged off by **Rear Admiral Sandeep Pradhan**, Chief Staff Officer (P&A), Eastern Naval Command (ENC). More than 280 enthusiasts including women and children above 15 years, participated in the Run.



Views sought on Fire-fighting reforms

VIS News Service

An interactive session was recently held in Sri City wherein **Mr. Venkata Ramana**, District Chief Fire Officer, Tirupati requested the Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) officers and HR managers of Sri City industries to review the draft notification regarding guidance for obtaining NOC and provide their views and feedback for finalising the content. He urged all participants to come up with better and more realistic alternatives and solutions. As per a release from Sri City following a lengthy discussion on the proposed notification all the participants agreed that it is a very cost-effective

solution for fire safety, because expensive equipment like wet risers and sprinkler systems are not necessary. **Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy**, the founder and managing director of Sri City, thanked **Mr. Madireddy Prathap**, IPS, Director General, AP Fire Services for introducing reforms relating to fire-fighting norms and approvals. He added, "Sri City industrial fraternity has been actively interacting with the Fire Department officials during the past year, and I convey my appreciation to all the safety experts for noting the areas where

simplification of procedure can be considered without compromising on fire safety." The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department is recommending changes to



the existing fire approval procedures in order to increase the 'ease of doing business in the state'. In this regard, the DG, requested input from all stakeholders by disseminating the proposed notification.

AP's Electrical Vehicle Opportunity

Contd. from Page 1

in capitalizing on this

few years" said Minister Gudivada Amarnath.



We have seen an upward trend in the last quarter with around 40% increase in EV sales.

Mr Shyam Prasad, MD, Sree Prasad Motors

opportunity and wants to be seen as one of the early adopters in promoting e-mobility in India.

The government's intention on EVs was made abundantly clear when the state's minister for Industries, Investments, IT and Commerce, **Mr Gudivada Amarnath** recently spoke at a World economic forum event on 'Shaping the Future of Mobility'. "AP seeks to position itself as the 'lighthouse state' and attract investments to the tune of USD 4Bn in the EV segment over the next

He further added "Our aim is to make AP the prime destination for development and manufacture of batteries, generation & storage hydrogen, manufacture EV components, battery EVs & fuel-cell EVs, besides charging equipment. This should also pave the way for sustainable transportation in the state".

The state also plans to augment the EV landscape at an intense pace while escalating EV acceptance and transition towards clean mobility.

What do AP's EV sales

indicate?

EV sales in Andhra Pradesh have been fast catching up with many customers having to wait months for their deliveries. It's tricky to come to an exact number of total EVs sold in AP as it is not a part of the Vahan database as of now. But Industry experts put an approx. ball park figure of 21,565 (of



We have seen growth in the last two quarters with approx. 2000 EVs sold between March-June.

Mr A Venkata Ramana, Avera's founder and CEO

EVs sold in 2021). Though the numbers might seem miniscule at this point in time sales are catching up. 'We have seen an upward trend in the last quarter with around 40% increase in EV sales in Andhra. We

do foresee a stable growth for EVs in Andhra for the next two quarters' said **Mr Shyam Prasad** dealer of Hero Motors.

Concurred **Mr Srinadh Chitturi** who runs multiple dealerships of Revolt in Andhra Pradesh, touted to be India's first EV motorcycle and said, 'The Future of EV is good in AP but it is a time-taking

process and we are at a very nascent stage at this point of time'.

Stating that it's still a long way to go before EV acceptances comes across the broad spectrum of society, he informed they

sell approx. 60-70 two-wheelers a month across

raised by dealers is the supply of vehicles which

The Future of EV is good in AP but it is a time-taking process and we are at a very nascent stage at this point of time.



Mr Srinadh Chitturi, Director, Sri Gopal Automotive Ltd

three locations of Revolt in AP. Revolt has a single model which is youth oriented, hence challenging for us to increase the numbers. We are looking forward to new models specifically for family.

Another two-wheeler EV player in the state, Avera claims to be the only two-wheeler manufacturer here. 'We have seen growth in the last two quarters with approx. 2000 EVs sold between March-June' said Avera's founder and CEO **Mr A Venkata Ramana**. A pertinent issue

they often say slows down their delivery time to customers.

'Waiting period has come down from 45-20 days and we hope to see an improvement in delivery times for the coming months but it depends on the production capacities of the companies. If companies give us enough production, we should do good' noted Mr Srinadh.

Dealers seemed optimistic for the year ahead and forecasted a further increase in numbers as the festive season approaches.

5 AP Police officials bag HM's Excellence Medal

VIS News Service

Five Police Officials from Andhra Pradesh have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2022. The medal was awarded to 151 Police personnel of which five officers are from AP. This medal was constituted in 2018, with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation.

The officers who bagged the award in-



गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS

clude **Mr. B. Seetharamaiah**, DY. SP, **Mr. Kannuraju Vasu**, Inspector, **Mr. Khadar Basha Sheikh**, Sub Inspector, **Mr. Srinivasa Rao Kolli**, Asst Commr of Police and **Mr. Satyanarayana Mutyala**, Inspector

Among the personnel receiving these awards, 15 are from CBI, 11 are from Maharashtra Police, 10 each are from Madhya Pradesh police and Uttar Pradesh Police, 8 each are from Kerala Police, Rajasthan Police and West Bengal Police and the remaining from the other States/UTs/Organizations. These include twenty eight (28) women police officers. MHA discharges multifarious responsibilities, the important among them being - internal security, border management, Centre-State relations, administration of Union Territories, management of Central Armed Police Forces, disaster management, etc.

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Jasti takes over as FAPCCI President

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FAPCCI recently held its third annual general meeting wherein it elected **Mr. Karunendra S. Jasti**, Managing Director of Stypack Group, as the president of the Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI).



During his tenure as Managing Committee member of FAPCCI, Mr. Jasti had initiated several programmes such as the seminar on Business Opportunities with Multilateral Banks that included World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and New Development Bank (NDB) along with the state government through Industries Department. Taking over Mr Jasti said that he is keen on promoting AP's Export Import trade and shall also undertake a series of skill

programs on EXIM management, Logistics and supply chain and others. It was further informed that in September this year, FAPCCI will be part of the AP Trade delegation to Thailand and will be signing an agreement of cooperation with Thai Chamber of Commerce for promotion of trade. The delegation is led by the Commercial Section of Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai, Thai Trade Center. In the AGM, FAPCCI also elected **Mr. K. Mallikarjuna Rao**, Chairman, Kankatala Textiles Private Ltd as its Vice President.

AU's Innovation council holds regional Meet

VIS News Service

Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) along with AICTE and Ministry of Education, Govt. of India recently organized the Institution's Innovation council's regional meet.

With the objective to share the knowledge and experience of IIC of the Higher Education Institutions the regional meet aimed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship culture among the students.

The President of IIC of Andhra University, **Prof. H Purushotham** and the vice president, **Mr Ravi Eswarapu** informed that about 250 participants from 150 institutes from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha participated in the regional meet.

The participating IIC institutions displayed over 25 posters highlighting the IIC Institution's achievements and impacts. Along with that, over 40 startup stalls showcased their innovative startup ideas and prototypes in the



event. The chief coordinating Officer of AICTE, **Dr. Buddha Chandrashekhar**, was the chief guest wherein he appreciated Andhra University's continuous efforts to educate the faculty and the students about the IPR rights and also fostering the creation of the techno systems, startup systems, and research systems.

The guest of honor was **Mr. Dipan Shahu**, assistant innovation director, MOE'S Innovation Cell & AICTE, Govt. of India stressed on how important it is for the startup ecosystem framework to start at the institution level.

Diversity and inclusiveness of IIC at different institutions is a must to develop the ecosystem.

He explained about the startup policies and actions, their implementations and their integration at the institution level to create the smart India.

The guest of honor, **Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy**, the Vice chancellor of Andhra University, focused on the reasons behind establishment of IIC and explained how the incubation, innovation, divergent thinking, and entrepreneurship push the students towards development.

The guest of honor, **Prof. V Krishna Mohan**, Registrar, Andhra University, addressed the importance and growth of IIC since its inception in Andhra University last year. The event ended with him awarding the certificates of appreciation to the best five posters.

Udyam Portal achieves 1 crore registrations

VIS News Service

The Ministry of MSME recently celebrated the landmark of 1 crore registrations on its Udyam Portal. Following the adoption of the revised definition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on 26th June, 2020, which is based on investment in plant & machinery or equipment; and turnover, the Udyam Registration Portal was launched on 1st July, 2020. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for MSME **Mr Narayan Rane** and MoS **Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma** underscored its utility as an identity for MSMEs to avail benefits of schemes for Ministry of MSME and for Priority Sector Lending of banks.

In a span of 25 months, as many as 1 crore MSMEs have registered on the Udyam portal on a voluntary basis and declared that they employ 7.6 crore people, of which 1.7 crore are women.

The Ministry of MSME signed MoUs with Ministry of Tourism and NSIC for sharing of Udyam data. On the occasion, the Digi Locker facility for Udyam Registration was also launched.

Centurion University organizes Hackathon

Distributes Rs 1 lakh in cash prizes

VIS News Service

Centurion University, CAP recently organised a National level Hackathon in collaboration with Novel Patent Services Private Limited. The hackathon was organized on 6 different



themes like Health Care & Biomedical; E-Waste Management, Carbon Emission Reduction; AI & ML; IOTs; & AR & VR saw all branches of Engineering, Management Students & Phds participate.

Out of the total 595 institutions contacted across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, & Telangana the hackathon received 45 Team registrations from various institutions. As per

the university on the 1st day of IDEATHON 1.0 23 teams from various registered institutions developed their Ideas into a Product/ Prototype. Some of the different products/ prototypes included AI

based Nanotechnology Capturing Human Emotions, Detection of Toxic Element, 3d Asset Develop & Creation, Smart

Healthcare using AI, Do Care, Non-Invasive Glucometer, Smart Herbal Water Bottle, Carbon Emission Reduction, Green Electricity Production using waste water, to produce high watt electricity by new mechanism. **Dr Hima Bindu**, Managing Director of Novel Patent Services & **Mr Kalyan Mangalapally**, Head- Of emerging Technologies

from NASSCOM were the judges who evaluated these product prototypes.

The non-invasive glucometer prototype of NIST, Berhampur Team was judged as the 1st prize winner and was awarded a prize money of Rs 50,000/-. 3D Asset Develop & Creation project of Management Students from Centurion University – AP bagged 2nd prize with a prize money of Rs 30,000/- while IoT based smart fire detection sensor project of Engineering Students from Centurion University- AP received 3rd Prize & prize money of Rs 20,000/-. Gram Tarang Technologies, an incubation centre of Centurion University sponsored the prize money for all the winners of IDEATHON 1.0. The session was formally inaugurated by Col. Prof. **Dr. G.S.N.Raju**, Vice-Chancellor in the presence of **Dr P.S.V. Ramna Rao**, Registrar, **Dr KVG Krishnamurthy**, DEAN, and **Dr Satish Varma**, Deputy Registrar. The Programme was organised by **Dr Madhusmita Choudhury**.

MoU signed for Industry 4.0 new-age courses

VIS News Service

Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS), a skill development initiative by Indian Register of Shipping and Sagarmala - Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Medhavi Skills University (MSU), a UGC, DGT and NSDC recognized Skills University.

CEMS & MSU will jointly develop and promote Industry 4.0 new-age courses in latest Software & Hardware tools and technology with university credits equivalence leading to recognized higher & technical qualifications in line with the New National Education Policy, NEP 2020. The collaboration will jointly co-create short-term and long-term courses aligned to National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and offer them under hire & train model to industries as well as credit-



based courses modules to Colleges and Universities. MSU's partnership with CEMS will integrate the standalone skills courses of CEMS into the University curriculum of ITI / B.Voc / Diploma / Certificate courses. Under the MoU, the University enrolled students will spend 1-4 months in CEMS campuses to get exposure to practical training with high end technical laboratories and Industry faculties before they are onboarded into partner Industry as trainees under various apprenticeship schemes. Additionally, the University will leverage its

industry relations to offer Industry 4.0 courses of CEMS to industries in Engineering / Manufacturing / Automotive sectors to up-skill their existing manpower. The said courses will be jointly assessed and certified by the University and CEMS. Also, under the collaboration, the University and CEMS will undertake capacity building and skill enhancement programmes for Skill Trainers required to augment the trainer capacity and to create a ready pool of trained and certified trainers for Skill India ecosystem.

Mahesh Bank surpasses Business mix of Rs 3795 crs

Registers Net Profit of Rs 44 crs

VIS News Service

Founded in 1978, A.P. Mahesh Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd. recently celebrated its 45th Founda-

States – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan with 19 ATMs. Emphasizing on technology Mr Bung said that Cash-

learners throughout their life, move beyond their comfort zones to the areas of uncertainty and to convert the challenges into opportunities.

Mr Raghurama Shetty, MD & CEO, Mahesh Bank spoke about the latest trends of banking and said that new technologies have emerged and play a pivotal role in the future banking. He advised the staff to have full knowledge of products to educate the customers for using the same which are at par with other Banks/NBFC/Fin-tech companies.

Mr Mahesh Chandra Laddha, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Southern Sector and Mr Pramod Vijayvargia, General Manager, SIDBI, Hyderabad Regional participated as Chief Guests.

Mr Mahesh Chandra Laddha, IPS complimented the Board of Directors for the growth of Mahesh Bank and lauded the bank's leadership qualities. **Mr Purshotamdas Mandhana, Sr. Vice-Chairman, Mr Laxminarayan Rathi, Vice-Chairman** along with the directors on the board participated in the function.



tion Day. Giving the inaugural address **Mr Ramesh Kumar Bung, Chairman** of the Bank, said that the bank has surpassed the business mix of Rs.3795 crores while the owned funds of the bank crossed Rs.390 crores for the Financial Year ending 31.3.2022.

He further informed that the bank has registered a profit of Rs. 44 crores and said that the bank is functioning with a network of 45 branches covering 4

less economy has given a major boost to the sector's growth.

The Bank has ambitious plans to introduce e-KYC facility Aadhar Pay, Bharat QR Code, Prepaid Payment Instruments, Artificial Intelligence Enabled BOT solution, Tab Banking & Loan origination System etc.

'Technology has become an integral and strategic part of the country's banking sector' said Mr Bung. He also urged staff to remain quick learners and re-

Sri City allocates site for Hi-Tech Police Station

VIS News Service

The Sri City management allocated and transferred one acre of land for facilitating the construction of Hi-Tech Police Station in Sri City. **Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder Managing Director, Sri City** handed over the

Thanking the Superintendent of Police, Tirupati **Mr. P. Parameswara Reddy, IPS, Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy** said, "AP government always gives priority for building up a good ecosystem for business development in the state. Accordingly, to ensure safety



site registration document to **Mr. Jagadish Nayak, Deputy Superintendent of Police**, in the presence of **Mr. Pola Bhaskar, IAS, Commissioner of Collegiate & Technical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh** and **Mr. Ramanaiah, District Fire Officer, Tirupati**, who were on a visit to Sri city, and the senior managers of industrial units in Sri City.

& security for the expats, women employees and students of Krea University and IIT, government sanctioned a full-fledged state-of-the-art police station, and to facilitate building construction, we have formally handed over the site documents to the Dy. SP."

The Hi-Tech police station in its new premises will be equipped with all state-of-the-art facilities, and function with a staff strength of 172.

Gangavaram Container Terminal Next Month

VIS News Service

Announcing the results for Q1FY23 APSEZ said that it is set to commission two new terminals in the coming months. The container terminal at Gangavaram Port will become operational next month, while the 5 MMT LNG terminal at Dhamra will be ready by December end. This LNG terminal has a take-or-pay contract with couple of O&G majors.

Note on Consolidation of Revenue and EBIDTA on account of GPL acquisition: Gangavaram port, reported revenue of Rs 414 Cr and EBIDTA of Rs 280 Cr in Q1 FY23. These numbers are currently not consolidated in APSEZ results.

Update on Gangavaram Port (GPL) ❖ APSEZ till now has acquired 31.5% of GPL from Warbug Pincus on 16 April 2021 and 10.4% from the GoAP on 22 Sept. 2021.

❖ With 41.9% stake in GPL, APSEZ currently consolidates it as an associate company. APSEZ has signed an agreement for acquiring the balance 58.1% stake held by DVS Raju and Family and has sought NCLT approval to conclude the transaction.

CGST organises programme as part of AKAM



VIS News Service

As a part of 'Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' the Central GST Commissionerate, Visakhapatnam recently conducted a programme in 'Kendriya Vidyalaya' Waltair.

In the programme an essay writing competition and a 'playlet' on the 'Quit India Movement' was enacted by the students. Participating as Chief Guest, **Mr. E Ravi Kiran, Additional Commissioner, CGST Vizag Commissionerate** interacted with the students eliciting their understanding of the Indian Freedom Struggle.

He impressed upon the students that the need of

the hour is to practice some of the great qualities of the leaders of the Freedom Movement to lead a meaningful life.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of **Ms. Swetha Suresh, Assistant Commissioner, Central CGST Division, Visakhapatnam** and the Principal of the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Akkayyapalem **Mr. Srinivas Raja.**

Prizes were distributed to the winners of the Essay Writing Competition and the participants in the playlet on Quit India Movement. Ms. Swetha Suresh, Assistant Commissioner proposed the Vote of Thanks.

US officer urges media for True Reporting

VIS News Service

Public Affairs Officer at the US Consulate General Hyderabad, **Mr David Moyer** during his recent trip to Visakhapatnam called upon journalists to report 'uncontaminated information'.

Disinformation he said threatens democracy and thus called upon journalists to strive to disseminate uncontaminated information because the responsible citizenry forms opinions based on the information supplied by the media.

Mr Moyer was delivering the keynote address at a National Conference on Countering Disinformation at American Corner, Andhra University jointly organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Osmania University and the Department of Journalism, Andhra University in association with the US Consulate General Hyderabad.



Misinformation poses the greatest threat to democracies.

Mr David Moyer, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate General Hyderabad

"Misinformation poses the greatest threat to democracies. Journalists help responsible citizens to form an opinion on contemporary issues. Unfortunately, sometimes the disinformation comes from legitimate media outlets. Not out of malice, but because we are swimming in a sea of information – some of which is true and some of which is false," observed the public affairs officer. He said that It's

not always easy to tell the difference between a lie and a fact. "But it's important that we all work hard to see that difference and articulate it. This is particularly true for journalists, as the public relies on you to understand what's going on in the world," Mr Moyer observed.

He appreciated Osmania University and Andhra University for coming forward to help Telugu television journalists of

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh acquire skills to counter Disinformation.

Senior Journalist and fact-check trainer **Mr. Sudhakar Reddy Udumula** opined as we live in a world of hashtags, algorithms, social mobs, troll farms and media manipulation, the debunking of disinformation has turned crucial. He said organised disinformation is affecting the elections, health communication, communal harmony and disaster management mostly.

Prof. Stevenson Kohir, Head, Department of Journalism, Osmania University, underlined the need to counter disinformation and misinformation for the common good.

Prof. DVR Murthy, Head, Department of Journalism, Andhra University, urged participants to apply critical thinking techniques to sift facts from the flood of information.

At the Capital



VIS News Service

Mr Vijayasai Reddy V Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce and Rajya Sabha MP recently met the Prime Minister **Mr Narendra Modi** in his parliament office. Mr Reddy stated that they discussed the successful completion of the NITI aayog meeting and also some of the pressing issues of Andhra Pradesh. He reiterated to the Prime Minister that the state needed the support of the central government for the advancement of the AP and its people.

SCR employee bags gold medal

VIS News Service

The Deputy Chief Engineer, South Central Railway **Mr. S.K Sharma**, recently bagged Gold medal in the VIIIth Telangana State Shooting Competition. He won this award in Small Bore & Short Gun Events - 2022 in Level 10m Air Pistol Shooting Championship. This Year two new categories were introduced **Mr. S.K Sharma** won the Gold medal by scoring 355 out of 400 points. He has now become eligible to participate in the upcoming 65th National Shooting Competition.



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RINL hails women's role in powering VSP

VIS News Service

The Silver Jubilee of the Forum for Women in



Public Sector (WIPS) Formation Day was recently celebrated in VSP. WIPS of RINL, was established in 1997 and has completed 25 long and successful years.

Addressing the women employees of RINL, CMD **Mr. Atul Bhatt**, lauded the exceptional contribution by the women fraternity of RINL in turning around the company after six years of making losses.

"I am very happy to note that Women in Public Sector (WIPS) of RINL, is celebrating silver Jubilee this year", Mr. Atul Bhatt said and also appreciated their active role in improving the awareness on the role of women in the society. The CMD complimented **Ms. Sheela Priyadarsini**, Chief General Manager & Head of the Department - Materials Management, RINL for efficiently handling the extremely complex supply chain management of steel plant. "It is heartening to note that more women are joining RINL and it is a matter of pride to note that women are increasingly and gradually seen marching into domains which were once reserved only for men like the armed forces" he

said. Addressing the gathering **Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSR) highlighted the need for women to develop the culture of courage to encounter the difficulties being faced in the society for success in

their life. She said that India is known for the youngest population and next gen women would play a dominant role in variety of fields. The CMD also congratulated **Ms. PV Sindhu**, RINL's brand ambassador for bagging the prestigious gold at the Commonwealth Games in Badminton women' singles competition.

Karnataka woos AP tourists

VIS News Service

Following the setback laid by the COVID-19 pandemic Karnataka tourism is going all out to rebound its tourism sector and attract tourists into its state.

Armed with the tagline 'One state. Many worlds', officials of the Karnataka



Tourism have been going around the country showcasing the state as an attractive destination for tourists. With roadshows done in Haryana, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Lucknow and other cities KSTDC officials were recently in the port city of Vizag wooing tourists. Identifying Karnataka as an around the year tourist destination **Mr SM Shivakumar**, KAS,

General Manager, Admin of the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation said the state has many unique offerings for tourists. 'We are home to 3 of India's UNESCO world heritage sites' said the general manager.

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as important markets for Karnataka Tourism he said that many of the tourists they receive come from the two Telugu speaking states. 'Both Vizag and Hyderabad contribute significantly to our domestic tourism footfalls' said the official from KSTDC. Elaborating on some of the scenic and popular spots for Tourism the officer said that the

state is home to 747 unique protected monuments, blessed with a 320km coastline along with 20 well known beaches. In addition he highlighted the Kabini wildlife destination as a popular spot for tourists along with the Mysuru Palace. It was informed that the Mysuru palace is the second highest visited monument in India after the Taj Mahal. The state is also making sure that tourists maintain an eco-friendly environment when visiting some of these picturesque locales. 'We have a strong focus on sustainable and responsible tourism. We have banned the use of plastics, offer wooden cups and plates to tourists and also provide EV vehicles to them for going around' said Mr Shivakumar. Some of the other aspects the government is emphasizing on are wellness tourism, adventure & wildlife tourism. **Mr Shivakumar** said that there are few seaplane projects which are being planned in the state.

World War II Bunker Museum at HSL



VIS News Service

On the occasion of the nation celebrating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)' to commemorate 75 years of India's independence, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) has undertaken various activities to celebrate. One among them is conversion of the Bunker inside the Shipyard into a historical museum which was constructed during World War II. **Cmde Hemant Khatri**, C&MD, HSL recently inaugurated the Bunker Museum and dedicated it to the Nation on the occasion of the nation celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Museum highlights the

history of HSL since its inception as Scindia Shipyard. Ancient photographs of the Shipyard and eminent personalities who were a part of HSL's glorious journey of eight plus decades are showcased in the Bunker Museum. A plantation drive was also conducted wherein 200 saplings were planted inside the shipyard with each sapling representing a 200th Ship built by HSL during the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL), was set up in the year 1941, strategically located on the East Coast of the Indian peninsula, at Visakhapatnam.