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Two AP districts in India's Top 30 Export Districts

VIS News Service

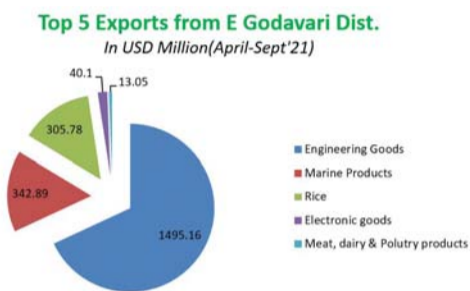
Exports play a paramount role in earning much needed foreign exchange for the country while also significantly contributing to the Make in India program.

The government of India Under its 'Districts as Export Hubs Initiative' has identified products and services with export potential for all districts in the coun-

ranked the top 30 districts of exports along with their top 5 exported commodities for the period April-September 2021-22.

Topping the charts is Jamnagar (Gujarat) with total exports of USD 22110.60 million followed by Surat (Gujarat) at USD 9693.91 million, Mumbai at USD 7823.18 million

The district of



Visakhapatnam was the only district from the state to feature in the top 15 coming in at number 14 with total exports of USD 2755.02 million for the period April to September 2021-22. The top 5 export commodities from the district included Engineering goods at USD 845.96 mil-

Contd. on Page ..6

Products with Export Potential identified from Vizag & East Godavari Details page.4

try.

In a first the central government recently

HSL counts on mega Rs 22K Cr Order

VIS News Service

Counted among one of the pillars of economic growth in this region, Hindustan Shipyard Limited is expecting a huge order from the Indian Navy which could very well alter the course of not only this iconic shipyard but the region's economy.

'HSL is in the process of finalizing the contract



for construction of 5 Fleet Support Ships (FSS) worth about Rs 22,000 Cr by the end of FY 2021-22' said its



This order will be a huge boost for us & will give a major fillip to the MSMEs in this region.

Cmde Hemant Khatri, IN (Retd.)
CMD, HSL

Chairman and Managing director, **Cmde Hemant Khatri, IN (Retd.)**

Talking to media persons on the significance of this order the CMD said 'This order will not only be a huge boost for us but will also give a major fillip to the

various MSMEs in this region'.

To cater to this order HSL will look at spending Rs 1000 crore for modernising its infrastructure over the next two to three years.

And depending on likely future orders the yard is

Contd. on Page ..2

"Shipbuilding projects key to MSME Participation"

VIS News Service

Stating that there is a huge area of opportunity for MSMEs in the Indian Navy the newly taken

in charge, Eastern Naval Command, **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM** reiterated the Indian Navy's strong focus on indigenisation and said that

there is a fair Degree of Private Participation at ENC.

Highlighting shipbuilding and ship repairs as significant areas of opportunities for industry he said 'Our own repair yards do a lot of repairs across our commands. Earlier we used to do much of the repairs on our own but now many of those repair contracts have been outsourced to smaller companies that are competent' said the Vice Admiral.

On the shipbuilding front he however acknowledged that mostly large industries end up participating and said there was a need to bring in smaller scale units too.



An order given to shipyard creates a huge opportunity for MSMEs & vendors.

'We are trying very hard to create an ecosystem for MSMEs' said VADM Dasgupta.

The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command (ENC) also laid the onus on the respective shipyards across the country for creating a robust eco-system for MSMEs.

'One of the major avenues of participation for Indian Industry can majorly happen through shipbuilding projects. An order given to a shipyard creates a huge opportunity for many MSMEs and vendors' said VADM Dasgupta.

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Goyal urges Industry to take risks

VIS News Service

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, **Mr Piyush Goyal** has called upon the captains of Indian Industry to set ambitious targets as he said the economy is poised for a sustained spell of rapid growth.

Addressing the 5th Meeting of the CII National Council in New Delhi recently, he said the Industry has a huge role to play in the uplift of the poor and underprivileged.

Mr Goyal encouraged the Industry to have a greater appetite for taking risks, to invest in Industries that may be less profitable at the start, but are labour oriented and create lakhs of jobs. He also urged the Industry to promote tribal handicraft products as part of their CSR activities.

IN BRIEF

ISTD Brochure released

RINL CMD **Mr. Atul Bhatt** recently released the brochure of the National Conference of the Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD), Visakhapatnam Chapter. The ISTD in association with RINL, VSP, is organizing a **Two Day** National Conference on 7th – 8th January, 2022 on the theme “Beyond the Pandemic - The Way forward for HR – The Road to Digital Transformation of HR” at RINL, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Mr. Bhatt said that the meet will provide an excellent opportunity to PSEs, Government organizations, NGOs, MNCs, Industries, MSMEs and academic Institutions from India and abroad to showcase their best practices in HR and exchange knowledge with others on the future of HR in Industrial Revolution (IR) 4.0 scenario.



Coal's Single Window Clearance

The Union government has already launched Single Window Clearance portal on 11 Nov. 2021 for the coal sector to speed up the operationalisation of coal mines. It is an unified platform that facilitates grant of clearances and approvals required for starting a coal mine in India. Now, the complete process shall be facilitated through Single Window Clearance Portal, which will map not only the relevant application formats, but also process flow for grant of approval or clearances.

US Consul General Melinda Pavek visits CIL Hq

Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General of the United States of America, Kolkata visited Coal India Hq and met **Mr. Pramod Agrawal**, Chairman, CIL. **Mr. Binay Dayal**, Director-Technical, CIL, and **Mr. S. N. Tiwary**, Director – Marketing, CIL, were present on the occasion. In August 2021 she assumed the charge of Consul General of the United States of America for the Kolkata Consular District. Ms. Pavek took responsibility for advancing U.S.-India relations in the consular jurisdiction covering West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, and the seven northeastern states.



VSP wins Chess Tourney

Team RINL-VSP won the **All India Inter-Steel Chess Championship 2021-22** held under the aegis of Steel Plants Sports Board (SPSB) at Ukkunagaram, Visakhapatnam. Amidst the tough competition between 8 teams from different steel Plants, RINL-VSP won the Winner's trophy by winning 12 match points and 19 board points. The runner's trophy was won by the Rourkela Steel Plant team. R I N L CMD **Mr. Atul Bhatt**, who was the chief guest handed over the trophies to the winners and runners. In his address, CMD congratulated the players and said that the game of chess improves special abilities like thinking ahead of others and planning in advance which is quite useful to our day to day life also.



AP has 25 Steel plants

VIS News Service

As per an official release from the ministry of steel there are a total of 878 steel plants in the country out of which 869 are in the private sector.

In the state of Andhra Pradesh there is one steel plant in the public sector while 24 in the private sector.

Punjab has the highest no of steel plants in the private sector with



114 steel plants followed by 90 in Tamil Nadu, 80 in Chhattisgarh, 71 in Gujarat and 54 in Maharashtra.

The total crude steel production in the country stood at 103.54 million tonnes wherein the private sector contributed 84.03 million tonnes and the public sector contributed 19.51 million tonnes.

The production saw a decline in the last fiscal compared to 109.14 MT in 2019-20 and 110.92 MT in 2018-19.

Provide relief to MSMEs: Goyal to Steel Makers

VIS News Service

The Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, **Mr Piyush Goyal** has appealed to Steel Makers to explore the possibilities of offering relief to small industries and exporters.

A meeting was held recently involving participants from Steel Industry and Actual Industry users. The meeting was convened to address the issues raised by small industries and exporters about steel input prices.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Goyal said that special care of MSMEs needs to be taken for easier and cost effective supply of Steel. He asked the Steel Industry stakeholders to assess the

manufacturing costs and explore the possibilities of offering relief to small industries and exporters.



tries using steel as input for manufacturing of components and other engineering products.

As per a release from GoI Steel Industry stakeholders showed intent to support Small and Medium

enterprises and exporters. They assured the Small Enterprises and Exporters about finding affordable solutions to address their challenges especially in the wake of the pandemic.

The meeting was also attended by the Union Minister of Steel, **Mr Ram Chandra Prasad Singh**, Minister of MSME, **Mr Narayan Tatu Rane**, Chairperson, SAIL, **Ms. Soma Mondal**, CMD, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., **Mr Atul Bhatt**, CMD, JSW Steel Ltd., **Mr Sajjan Jindal**, CEO and MD, Tata Steel, **Mr T.V Narendran**, DG & CEO, Federation of Indian Exporters Organization and senior officials of the concerned Ministries.

NMDC Records Best Ever Nov.

VIS News Service

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), a public enterprise under the Ministry of Steel with iron ore production of 3.34 MT in November 2021 has achieved the highest ever for any November month since inception and sales is 2.88 MT in November 2021. Cumulative production and sale figures for the first eight months of the FY22 up to November 2021 stood at 24.37 MT and 24.96 MT respectively - the best ever performance up to November for any year. The company

achieved a growth of 36% in production and 33% in sales over CPLY.

Congratulating the NMDC team for yet another impressive performance, CMD NMDC **Mr. Sumit Deb** said, “The latest GDP growth figures suggest a firm recovery of the economy and that is very reassuring although NMDC is already moving forward on its path to doubling production in the next five years. The need of the hour for all of us is to ensure the lessons we’ve learnt through these last two years and better protect ourselves and our operations.”

New Tech @ Ministry of Coal

VIS News Service

Ministry of Coal has adopted new technology of 2D/ 3D coupled with drilling for exploration coal to cover larger area in short span of time. 1.9 Lakh meter in detailed drilling, 1.5 Lakh meter in promotional drilling and 300 Line



Coal India Ltd

Km of 2D/3D seismic survey has been targeted in the year 2021-22 by Coal Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDIL) said a release.

It was informed that Coal India Limited (CIL) has provided more coal during the current fiscal (up to November '21) in comparison to last year same period. During April-November '21, CIL has dispatched coal to the tune of 421.11 Million tonnes in comparison to last year same period figures of 357.13 achieving a growth of about 18%.

Two sub schemes viz. Detailed exploration and Promotional (regional) exploration is continuing through Central sector scheme by Ministry of Coal for exploration of coal and lignite.

HSL counts on mega Rs 22K Cr Order

Contd. from Page 1

looking to outsource/material procurement to the tune of 4500 to 5000 Cr in the next 3 to 4 financial years.

These would therefore open up the doors to the local industry, vendors, MSMEs etc.

HSL currently has a registered vendor base of 364 MSMEs and has taken initiatives to conduct regular vendor development meets to enable free flow of information regarding the business opportunities especially for indigenisation.

As per the CMD HSL has held 7 vendor meets

this year itself addressing each category of MSMEs Viz. Women, SC/ST etc. ‘HSL has procured goods worth 38 % of its total procurement from MSMEs over the last 4 years on an

the CMD.

HSL recorded a turnover of Rs 500 crores in FY'21 and looks to end FY'22 with Rs 900 crores.

Stating that the shipyard primarily works on 3 verticals i.e. ship repair, ship building and submarine refits the CMD said that ship building contributes the highest turnover of 60-70% however the most profitable business for the yard is the ship repair and submarine refits.

He also highlighted that HSL will soon be delivering its 200th vessel to its customer which is currently out on trials.

364 MSMEs registered at HSL

average and this figure has been achieved already in this financial year’ said the CMD.

He also informed that HSL looks to ramp up its manpower at the shipyard and aims to double its workforce.

There are currently 2600 people working at the yard and we want to scale this up to 4000 informed

IN BRIEF

MIV 2030 released for dev. of ports

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal** has informed the Lok Sabha that in order to ensure sustainable development of Ports, Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 was released which envisages development of Ports with safeguard for environment protection by adopting sustainable methodologies. The dredging guidelines for Major Ports has been released by the Ministry to ensure implementation of dredging projects with optimum utilization of the resources and re-use of dredged material for sustainable development of ports in the country.

Engineering goods exports up 37% YoY

Engineering goods shipments have continued the growth momentum and driven the overall exports in the month of November. Given the order pipeline from key markets, we expect to close the current financial year with record exports, said EEPC India Chairman Mr Mahesh Desai. Engineering goods exports grew 37% year-on-year in November to USD 8 billion and had 27% share in the total exports from the country. "There are downside risks in the wake of a new variant of concern but given the experience of handling the virus for almost two years now, countries would unlikely resort to stringent border movement restrictions," Mr Desai said. "In that case we don't see the ongoing export flow getting disrupted," he added.



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'Exports from J&K to reach Rs 5,000 crore in 2 years'

VIS News Service

Identifying Jammu and Kashmir as a huge potential for growth in industrial activities

Mr Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of J&K said that the state is looking at increas-

tion ecosystem where MSMEs, producers, service providers and users are on the same wavelength and will immensely contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of making India 'AtmaNirbhar'. "J&K government's aim is to take industries to the next level by making investments today to maximise economic benefits in the future," he said.



ing exports from the Union Territory to Rs 5,000 crore in the next two years from Rs 1,500 crore now.

"We are setting up a dry port with a customs clearance facility to increase trade with other states and outside countries too," he said while addressing the 50th Edition of Northern Region Export Awards organized by EEPC India.

Mr Sinha noted that Jammu and Kashmir is providing a flourishing innova-

tion ecosystem where MSMEs, producers, service providers and users are on the same wavelength and will immensely contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of making India 'AtmaNirbhar'. "J&K government's aim is to take industries to the next level by making investments today to maximise economic benefits in the future," he said.

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IMO Award to IN, ICG

VIS News Service

In order to internationally recognise extraordinary seamanship skills and outstanding courage displayed by individuals at sea, International Maritime Organization (IMO) award for exceptional bravery at sea is conferred annually to



Indian Coast Guard

individuals or groups who, at the risk to their own lives, perform acts of exceptional bravery in attempting to save life at sea or in attempting to prevent or mitigate damage to the marine environment.

This year, IMO council awarded Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss for exceptional and courageous efforts towards rescue operation of M/T New Diamond, which caught fire and was drifting towards the coast, laden with inflammable cargo.

The rescue team members of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and the master and crew of tugboat Ocean Bliss, carried out sustained and effective fire-fighting operations and skilfully towed the vessel away from the coast, thereby preventing loss of life at sea and averted a serious marine pollution incident.

Agri & Processed Food exports up 13%

VIS News Service

India's exports of Agricultural and Processed Food products rose by more than 13 per cent in terms of USD in the first eight months of the current fiscal (April-November, 2021-22) compared to the same period of the previous year.

The export of products under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA) ambit increased from USD 11,671 million in April-November

GRSE-KPDD explore opportunities in Ship repair and refit

VIS News Service

Mr Vinit Kumar, Chairman, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP) and **Rear Admiral VK Saxena, IN (Retd.)**, Chairman & Managing Director, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) jointly inaugurated the GRSE-KPDD (Khidderpore Dry Dock) Unit in Kolkata recently.

Under the agreement, both GRSE & SMP, Kolkata shall look forward towards developing a dynamic partnership in exploring new business opportunities in Ship repair & refit of Defence & commercial segments, leading to revenue generation and contributing to skill development, infrastructure upgrade and employment generation in Kolkata.

On the occasion Rear Admiral VK Saxena, Chairman and Managing Director, GRSE, said, as part of the investment promotional activity of maritime India, this agreement



aims to play a significant role towards growth plans for both the organisations and effective utilisation of the three existing docks at SMP, Kolkata.

He said, the close proximity of GRSE with SMPK is an enhancer to the successful take off of this project as approximately 400 vessels operate in the Hooghly river and on the Indo-Bangladesh shipping route.

Also, authorities handling smaller vessels may prefer to have dry docks in close proximity of their operational area. He added that GRSE's proven expertise in carrying out construction, conversion and repair of over 4000

Naval & Merchant vessels during Second World War and building 788 platforms including 107 warships till date are the testimonies to the success

of this new collaboration.

Highlighting the importance of newly formed GRSE-KPDD Unit, Mr Vinit Kumar, Chairman, SMPK said, the collaboration between GRSE and SMPK aims to provide prospects for ship repair business in the eastern region considering large number of inland vessels operating in this shipping route.

This alliance also shapes new dimension towards revenue generation, development and perennial relationship with SMPK and GRSE's expertise in shipbuilding and design arena gives it an edge over other players in the industry.

Safeguarding Exporters

Year	Claims Settled (Rs. in Crs.)
2016-17	655.50
2017-18	1131.47
2018-19	813.39
2019-20	261.64
2020-21	761.87
2021-22 (Apr-Sept)	79.52

The total amount settled by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) on various default payments to banks under Export Credit Insurance Cover for Banks (ECIB) from 2016-17 to 2020-21 and April-September 2021-22. Government has approved proposal for capital infusion of Rs. 4,400 crore to ECGC Ltd. for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to support additional exports of Rs. 5.28 lakh crore over a five year period.

GRSE launches first survey vessel

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited recently launched 'Sandhayak', the first of the four Survey Vessels (Large) project being built for the Indian Navy in Kolkata. These survey ships are capable of full scale



coastal & deep-water hydrographic survey of Ports & Harbour approaches and determination of navigational channels & routes.

Speaking on the occasion Rakshya Rajya Mantri **Mr. Ajay Bhatt** lauded the Indian Navy and GRSE for working together on number of projects of national importance such as Project 17A frigates and Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts. The contract for building four survey ships was signed between MoD and GRSE on 30 Oct 18 at a total cost of Rs 2435 Crs. Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta** and others were present.



2020-21 to USD 13,261 million in April-November 2021-22 stated an official release from the ministry of commerce and industry. The target for exports under APEEDA basket products has been fixed at USD 23,713 million in 2021-22. The export of rice was the top forex earner at USD 5,937 million during April-November 2021-22, grow-

ing 11 per cent over the corresponding period in 2020-21 when it touched USD 5,341 million. "We continue to focus on creating infrastructure for boosting exports by focusing on clusters in collaboration with state governments while taking into consideration objective of Agriculture Export Policy, 2018," **Dr M Angamuthu**, Chairman, APEEDA, said.

'Industry to benefit from NASSCOM's CoE in Vizag'

Aditya Sabharwal

NASSCOM recently inaugurated its state of the art Centre of Excellence in the port city of Vizag. This is NASSCOM's 4th CoE in the country with the others being in Ahmedabad, Gurgaon and its hub in Bengaluru.

NASSCOM CoE is said to be the largest deep tech innovation ecosystem in India comprising of startups, innovators, enterprises and the government. The CoE in Vizag looks to work with local industry here and find solutions to some of their most pertinent challenges. In an exclusive interview to Vizag Industrial Scan, CEO of NASSCOM's CoE for IoT and AI, Mr Sanjeev Malhotra elaborates on the centre's role and how it aims to spur innovation and growth in the regional eco-system.

Edited excerpts of the interview below.

Could you briefly elaborate on the overall mandate of NASSCOM CoE?

Nasscom CoE is focussed on enabling India as the Innovation hub for the emerging technology



tions in the region.

How does the NASSCOM CoE look to benefit the startup eco-system in this region?

The CoEs, over the past few years, have developed

like IoT & AI through democratization of Innovation, enabling prototype development and digitization of analogue sectors such as Manufacturing, Healthcare, Energy, and agriculture.

Typically, what problems are the startups at NASSCOM CoE solving?

The problem statements revolve around the following use cases:

- Use of computer vision in AI based Quality assaying applications.
- Use of low-cost open-source hardware and telemedicine software for telemedicine consultations
- Improving Overall Equipment Effectiveness of API/Formulations units through Pharma 4.0 interven-

vertical focus in the digitization of Healthcare & Manufacturing sectors and are seen as a Go-To institution for competencies around emerging technology adoption in these sectors. We will build a collaborative network that will help startups and Industries alike and it is benefitting the key industry segments.

How many Startups has the NASSCOM CoE signed up in Vizag?

CoE is already working with fifteen start-ups in Vizag and is additionally connected to other start-ups across the country as part of the virtual program.

What are some of the core areas of focus of the NASSCOM CoE Vizag?

The core areas revolve around

1. Digital Health initiatives such as

Telemedicine, Remote monitoring of health assets and Interoperability pilots under National Digital Health Mission.

2. Increasing Overall Equipment Effectiveness using AI/ML in the energy intensive industries.

Could you list some examples of how startups have benefitted from NASSCOM's CoE in other locations?

Many startups have benefitted from our co-creation program. Some of them have projects overseas and some of them have deployed solutions in manufacturing industries across the country in the areas of predictive maintenance, employee safety..

How do you intend to benefit the local industry from NASSCOM's CoE in Vizag ?

Vizag is home to several large Energy intensive industries & Med-Tech/Pharma Units that are keen on digitization of their operations.

The new CoE at Vizag would focus on accelerating growth and adoption of Digital Health solutions in the last mile (JanCare), accelerating Pharma 4.0 journeys & Smart Energy adoption in key sectors in the region.

Industry needs to fund R&D: VADM Nair

Aditya Sabharwal

In order to have a robust innovation ecosystem research and development plays a paramount role in exploring new age technologies.

As a country we are often found importing most of the sophisticated technologies from abroad as we don't possess the necessary technical expertise plus don't have an ecosystem that augurs well for research and de-

velopment. He further added that in the Indian Navy for industry to cater to he said the opportunity is huge in Fundamental research in sensors, repairs and modules for the industry to work upon.

'Even a microphone sensor represents a great opportunity for industry as we currently import this. Solving practical problems like these is the need of the hour' said the DGNP, Visakhapatnam.

'PSUs must spend at least 5-6% on R&D. Industry today hardly spends 2% on R&D'

velopment.

Calling for Industry and Academia to work together on creating a viable and efficient R&D eco-system **Vice Admiral Sreekumar Nair**, DGNP, Visakhapatnam told *Vizag Industrial Scan* that the onus lies with the industry to fund R&D in the country.

'PSUs must spend at least 5-6% on R&D. Industry today hardly spends 2% on R&D' informed VADM Nair. Stating that there are plethora of opportunities

it is crucial that companies come forward and give substantial funding to universities who in turn can leverage their student base for R&D.

'While stipends to students should increase significantly PhDs should be given for an end product not just a thesis' opined VADM Nair.

He in addition urged industry to keep giving problem statements to academic institutions which can be worked upon by their student base to find solutions.

Export Potential products identified

VIS News Service

The 'Districts as Export Hub' (DEH) an initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a

constituted in all the 36 States/UTs to provide support for export promotion and address the bottlenecks for export growth in the districts.

For the district of Visakhapatnam some of

basis of inputs received from States/UTs.

Districts Export Action Plans focus on identification of products and services for overseas markets, which include specific actions required to support local ex-

Some of the commodities identified
Cashew, Black pepper, Turmeric, Coir & Coir products, Rice, Sugar etc.

major stakeholder has identified products and services with export potential in all districts of the country.

Under Districts as Export Hubs initiative, Institutional mechanisms in the form of State Export Promotion Committees (SEPCs) and District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) have been

the products with export potential that have been identified include coconut based products, alloy wheels, cashew, black pepper, turmeric etc.

Similarly for the district of East Godavari products identified for export potential include coir & coir products, rice, sugar etc.

The list of identified products and services is regularly updated on the

porters/manufacturers in producing/manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers outside India, identifying and addressing challenges for exports of the such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports.

'Alumni can mould students'

VIS News Service

Alumni can make a huge difference by inspiring and moulding the personality of students, said Minister of State for IT and Electronics **Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar**.



He was the chief guest at

University annual alumni meet-2021 which was recently conducted in virtual mode. We are partnering with various educational institutions as part of skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives. We would make AU a part of them in future, he said.

IIM - V hosts the 1st MDC

VIS News Service

The Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam (IIMV) recently concluded its first Annual Management Doc-

search techniques, and receive feedback from eminent academicians.

As per IIMV there were 207 research papers submitted to the MDC from different areas such as fi-



toral Colloquium (MDC) - "SHODH SAMAGAM".

Addressing the 2-day virtual event **Dr. Amit Shankar**, Chair, Management Doctoral Colloquium, emphasized the value of the colloquium as a platform for research scholars to seek knowledge, learn new re-

nance, marketing, human resource management, strategic management, operations, and supply chain management. Only 50 papers were selected for the presentation in MDC through blind peer review done by various area faculty members of IIM V.

SCR's New Financial Advisor



Mr. A. Venkata Reddy, has recently taken charge as Principal Financial Advisor of the South Central Railway. He belongs to the 1987 batch of IRAS (Indian Railways Accounts Service).

Mr. A Venkata Reddy joined the Indian Railways in 1989 on the then South Eastern Railway at Visakhapatnam and worked in different capacities on South Central Railway. He has also worked as Director Finance, Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APSPDCL) in Department of Energy, GoAP.

AP's 3 Airports under NMP

VIS News Service

As per the government of India's National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), 25 AAI airports have been earmarked for asset monetization over the years 2022 to 2025. These airports include **Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar,**



Trichy, Indore, Raipur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Surat, Ranchi Jodhpur, Chennai, Vijayawada, Vadodara, Bhopal, Tirupati, Hubli, Imphal, Agartala, Udaipur, Dehradun and Rajahmundry.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has identified Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) International Airport in Tamil Nadu among 13 airports for operations, management and development of the airports through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in public interest and for better management of the airports.

Even after bringing these airports under PPP mode of operations, AAI will remain the owner of the airports and all these airports will revert to AAI once the Concession Period is over stated the release from the government.

Jagan seeks NITI Aayog help for Govt. projects

VIS News Service

The Chief Minister **Mr.YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has asked NITI Aayog Vice Chairman **Mr. Rajiv Kumar** to extend all possible support for the progress and development of the State. In a recent visit of the Niti Aayog vice chairman and his team to Andhra Pradesh they were apprised of the outstanding dues from the centre.

It was informed that to them that Rs 6,284 crore in arrears were owed by the Centre for the state's power utilities as well as a resource gap amount of Rs 18,969 crore.

In their two-day visit, the Niti Aayog team visited the village Secretariat and Rythu Bharosa Kendra (RBK) at Veerapanenigudem in Krishna district.

As per an official release AP officials informed



employment generation programmes like Cheyuta, Aasara that are being implemented for sustainable economic progress.

them of the works being carried out on eight fishing harbours, four fish landing centres, aqua hubs, processing units, and integrated labs were started at an estimated cost of Rs 3,176.61 crore.

The Officials also explained the reforms brought in the education and health sectors.

Mr. Rajiv Kumar sought details of the Amma Vodi scheme, categorisation of schools and functioning of Anganwadis.

The Chief Minister explained the objectives of the

Mr. Rajiv Kumar congratulated the Chief Minister on the remarkable schemes that have been implemented in Andhra Pradesh and lauded the State government for bringing Disha App said the release.

The officials asked to set up the Kadapa steel plant and develop other infrastructure facilities as promised in the bifurcation act. In addition they asked to sanction four iron ore mines in Anantapur for Kadapa steel plant and other incentives including GST reimbursement.

Odisha Tourism woos AP's Travellers

Aditya Sabharwal

Highlighting the state of Odisha as a coveted destination for tourists the state government's Additional Secretary, Tourism **Mr. Durga Prasad Mahapatra** invited

fiscal' said Mr Mahapatra.

Odisha as per the Additional secretary would see about 8-10 lakhs visitors every month pre covid. 'These numbers are coming back and are set to grow even further' said Mr Mahapatra.



Andhra Pradesh's residents to come and explore the sights and sounds of Odisha's picturesque destinations.

'The tourism sector is a priority sector for us' said Mr Mahapatra speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan.

Stating that the government of Odisha is in the process of coming out with a new Tourism policy in the next fiscal he informed that the state has already garnered significant investments in the tourism sector in this fiscal. 'Odisha has received over Rs 500-600 crores investments in the tourism sector alone in this

Citing eco-tourism and cruise tourism as being the key areas of focus he said that the state has 480 kms of coastline and also informed on the many heritage sites.

'Bhubaneswar alone has 32 heritage zones' said Mr Mahapatra.

He also highlighted the fact that 2 million devotees visit during the Rath Yatra in Puri.

Deliberating on the excellent road network Odisha has that connects with neighbouring States, he said that Odisha Tourism is promoting various road trip itineraries under Odisha

by Road Campaign. Visitor from Vizag can easily travel by road to Odisha via Araku Valley and visit key destinations like the Deomali hills and Duduma waterfall in Koraput, the picturesque valleys of Daringbadi, sandy beaches of Gopalpur-on-sea and Chilika - Asia's largest brackish water lake that turns into a winter paradise for migratory birds, among others.

Talking on the bond that Andhra Pradesh and Odisha share Mr Mahapatra said "Andhra Pradesh and

looking forward to a getaway after reeling under the pandemic".

Providing a glimpse of the upcoming Eco Retreat Odisha a 3 month glamping festival which began on 15 December 2021 Divisional Manager Odisha Tourism Development Corporation **Mr P.K Chand** said, "Eco Retreat Odisha in its 3rd edition will be held across 7 exotic locations in the State including three beach destinations of Konark, Pati-Sonapur in Ganjam and Pentha in Bhitarkanika National Park, hill stations of

Enticing Odisha

- 480 kms of coastline
- 32 Heritage sites Bhubaneswar
- 2 Million Devotees visit Ratha Yatra in Puri
- Huge forest cover
- Focus on Eco & Cruise Tourism

Odisha not only share a border but also similar cultures with deep-rooted commonalities. Despite this, we have our own unique offerings to exhibit to explorers. With the international travel on the backfoot again, together, our states can make this region the most sought-after winter destination for Indians who are

Daringbadi and Putsil in Koraput, and near the banks of Mahanadi in Satkosia and Hirakud.

Odisha Tourism in association with FICCI had held a roadshow in Vizag which witnessed 100 travel operators from Andhra Pradesh and 30 host counterparts from Odisha engage in a series of interactions.

Entrepreneur conferred Doctorate

VIS News Service

The CEO of Amaravati Boating Club, Khelo India Member for South Zone, and ATM mentor **Mr Tarun Kakani**, has been awarded Honorary Doctorate in business administration.

The doctorate from Brampton International University of Canada was conferred on him by International Commission of Culture and Diplomatic Relations (ICCDR) in Hyderabad on the occasion of United Nations Human Rights Day.

As per Mr. Kakani he was awarded PhD for his contribution to tourism and Information

Technology along with social service on the lines of United Nations Millennium Sustainable development goals.

Some of his other achievements include best



smart village partner award from government of AP for adopting his native village of Marribandam in Krishna District and making it first open defecation free village by construction of toilets, digitisation of panchayat, organised several medical camps and Charity work through Kakani Rammohan Rao Charitable Trust.

ECoR Adalat on Dec 30

In order to clear pending compassionate appointment cases Waltair Division of East Coast Railway will be holding Adalat on December 30 at the office of Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, 1st Floor, DRM Office Annex, Visakhapatnam, according to a press release. The bereaved families of Railway employees of Waltair Division having grievances about their pending compassionate appointment cases may submit their application to Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, 1st Floor, DRM Office Annex, Visakhapatnam with all relevant documents.

Vizag's GST office busts Fake GST Invoice Network

VIS News Service

Officers of the Anti-evasion wing of Vizag Central GST (Govt. of India) have detected a fake invoice racket involving a network of companies.

As per the GST office enquiries made and searches conducted on M/s Krishna Sai Builders Pvt. Limited and M/s Dew Drops Granite Private Limited have revealed that fake GST

tual supply of goods or services.

Three persons including the alleged mastermind, **Mr Madan Mohan Reddy** were arrested and produced before the Economic Offences Court at Visakhapatnam. The magistrate

ordered for judicial custody for 14 days and sent for remand. They

investigations in the case are on and the officers are looking at the possibility of several AP & Telangana based fake firms in the network and the quantum of



fraudulent tax amount is likely to go up.

Officers explained that paper companies are being floated without any real business or supplies and creating fake GST invoices. Through these, fraudulent tax credit is passed on and utilized by other entities leading to evasion and huge revenue loss to the Government. They added that the department is using data analysis to detect these fake networks and as per law, the persons involved can be arrested if the amount exceeds a stipulated limit.

were sent to Central Prison, Visakhapatnam said an official release from the office.

It added that Further

- **Fake GST credit worth more than Rs.18 Cr. transacted**
- **Officials expect quantum of fraudulent Tax to go up as investigation deepens**
- **Dept. using AI to detect fake Invoices**

credit worth more than Rs.18 Cr. has been transacted by creating fictitious invoices without ac-

CM calls on Banks to support Welfare schemes

Also urges them to support MSMEs ONE time restructuring

VIS News Service

The Chief Minister **Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has yet again urged bankers to focus on disbursing agriculture term loans and providing kisan credit cards to the farmers who have not received them yet.

Tenant farmers should get loans and banking services need to be started in 4,240 Rythu Bharosa Kendras, he said and asked the bankers to complete the process at the earliest.

Speaking at the 217 State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meeting the Chief Minister said the State registered a growth of 13% during the first half of the current fiscal. But, the State economy was slowing down due to propaganda on third wave.

At this point, the banks should step in and set plans to help the state's economy and development in accordance with the needs of the state said the CM.

He further informed that 1.78 lakh out of 8.3 lakh MSME accounts were restructured and asked the banks to support them with one-time restructuring of their loan accounts.



Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said, the state government was burdened with a Rs

30,000 crore bill as a result of the Covid pandemic, and that the state government was able to alleviate the situation with the help of the banking sector, and thanked the bankers for their support.

He said the annual credit plan of banks was Rs 2,83,380 crore, of which 60.53 per cent which is Rs 1,71,520 crore was disbursed in the first six months alone.

Similarly, the annual loan target for priority sectors was Rs 2,13,560 crore, of which 47.29 per cent which is Rs 1,00,990 crore, was disbursed by banks in the first six

months of this year as priority sector loans and congratulated the banks for their support. The Chief Minister said Rs 12,243 crore is required for setting up 16 medical and 16 nursing colleges across the state, and urged the banks to support the state government with loans.

He requested the bankers to set up ATMs at Village Secretariats and RBKs. The bankers said they would set up ATMs at some locations as a pilot project and extend later.

Union Bank MD and CEO and SLBC president **Mr. Raj Kiran Rai** lauded the welfare initiatives of the government and assured support from bankers.

'Utilise SWPCs'

VIS News Service

Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Mines and Village Secretariats **Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy** instructed the officials of the Swatchandra Corporation to utilise the solid waste processing centres (SWPCs) 100% keeping in view the Jagananna Swatcha Sankalpam scheme.

The Minister was informed that out of 9,800 SWPCs in the State only 1,600 centres are being utilised. There is not even road facility to 478 centres, the officials pointed out.

He assured them that he would take up the issue with the officials of the Panchayat Raj Department to construct the roads to the centres. The Minister told the officials that free dustbins should be distributed to households to collect wet and dry waste separately.

SAIL employees celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

The employees of SAIL at Visakhapatnam recently celebrated the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

On the occasion, a friendly cricket match was held between Branch

representing BTSO and **Mr. K S Vasu Babu** representing BSO. Senior officials of SAIL **Mr. N.P.Rao**, GM-F&A and **Mr. Ashish Thawait**, WHM-Vizag have also participated in this event. The BSO team



Transport Shipping office (BTSO) and Branch Sales Office (BSO) in the premises of Waltair Railway Cricket stadium grounds by displaying the banners depicting the theme for the event.

Around 30 employees of both the SAIL units wearing the T-Shirts and Caps displaying the theme took part in the event. The duo teams were led by respective Branch Managers **Mr. M Bharat Kumar** rep-

led by **Mr. K S Vasu Babu** won the match.

The event concluded with distribution of mementos to both the team members.

Ms K Gowthami, Manager-P&A congratulated the SAIL collective and the coordinating team consisting of **Mr. B S Chaitanya** (DM), **Mr. Silam Panidra Kumar** (GS-ASE/Vizag) and **Mr. D Naga Satyanarayana** (President -ASE/Vizag).

Vizag ranks 14 in India's Top 30 Export Districts

Contd. from Page 1

lion followed by Organic and Inorganic chemicals at USD 777.27 million, Drugs & pharmaceuticals at USD 469.45 million, marine products at USD 239.71 million and petroleum products at USD 137.76 million.

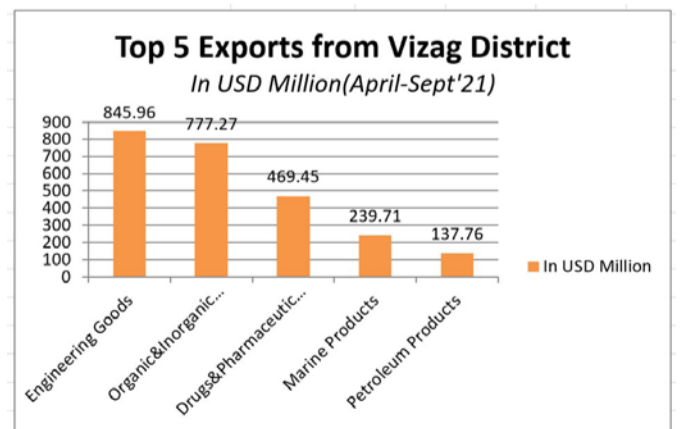
The East Godavari district was the only other district from Andhra Pradesh which featured in the top 30 coming in at number 18 for the period April-September 2021-22. Here too Engineering goods led the exports with USD 1495.16 million followed by Marine products at USD 342.89 million, rice at USD 305.78 million, electronic goods at USD 40.1 million and meat, dairy and poultry products at USD 13.05 million. The total exports from this district stood at USD 2427.22 million.

Under 'Districts as Ex-

port Hubs Initiative', district export action plans have been prepared for such identified products and services for overseas markets, which include specific actions required to support lo-

such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports.

AP currently contributes about 5.8% of the total na-



cal exporters / manufacturers in producing/manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers outside India.

These plans also include identifying and addressing challenges for exports of

tional exports and the government of Andhra Pradesh has an ambitious plan of doubling its current exports (estimated to be USD 16 billion) by year 2030.

As per GoI the regular compilation of district-wise export data was started in April 2021.

AP gets 2 new HC judges



VIS News Service

Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court Prashant Kumar Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice K. Manmadha Rao and Justice B. Bhanumathi.

Advocate General Subramanya Sriram,

High Court Registrar General A. Ravindra Babu AP Bar Council president G. Rama Rao AP High Court Bar Association president Janakirami Reddy, Addi-



tional Solicitor General N. Harinadh Public prosecutor Srinivas Reddy and others were present.

Med. Company in Sri City bags award

VIS News Service

Vermeiren India Rehab Pvt. Ltd., which has a manufacturing unit at Sri City was bestowed with 'Company of the year' award under Medical Equipment category, instituted by SAP India.



The award was conferred for its committed entrepreneurial journey during turbulent times of Covid by adopting innovative methods and digital transformation. Syed Riaz

Qadri, Managing Director, Vermeiren was honoured in recognition of his success as business leader who withstood the pandemic-induced crisis and successfully steered the company.

Congratulating the Healthium and Vermeiren teams

Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder Managing Director Sri City said Vermeiren distinction serves as a testimony to their operational excellence and high quality products."

Sri City unit gets FDA registration

Sri City Medtech's manufacturing facility, Healthium has recently received US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registration.

The facility manufactures sutures, meshes with an annual production capacity of 1.20 million. Based on the focus placed on creating high-quality precision-based medical devices,



Healthium's manufacturing plants are subjected to rigorous quality control checks and periodic inspections from various regulatory agencies across the world. Sri City facility is Healthium's 4th facility to receive US FDA registration.

Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder Managing Director Sri City said, congratulated the Healthium and said "It is a matter of immense pride for us.

BDL showcases its Might

BDL recently organized a Product Exhibition to commemorate 75 years of India's independence as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Through this exhibition,

BDL showcased its current and futuristic products such as models of Anti-



Tank Guided Missiles, Surface-to-Air Missiles, Air-to-Air Missiles, Missile Launchers, Underwater weapons, Counter measures etc. Commodore Siddharth

Mishra (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, BDL stated that "this is the first time, BDL is exhibiting a wide range of products at its premises which is open for the general public."

KK's Nellore unit bags INR 20 Crore order

VIS News Service

Kisan Kraft, a Bengaluru based agri-equipment company for small farmers, recently received an order worth Rs. 20 Crores from Nepal for manufacturing 5,000 intercultiators.

These intercultiators will be manufactured at Kisan Krafts newly commissioned 46-acre Nellore campus.

The 15-year old company is planning aggressive export revenues for 2022 targeting SAARC, Asia, and Africa countries.

The intercultiator is a multi-utility equipment for the small farmer used for weeding, soil turning, soil mulching, and can also be used for soil loosening and smoothing before and after planting the crops. Kisan Kraft currently has a manufacturing capacity of

75,000 units of inter-cultiators per annum at its Nellore plant

Commenting on the order KisanKraft Ltd. CEO, Mr Ankit Chitalia, CEO, said, "Since we started production 2 weeks ago at our new factory in Nellore A.P., we have been receiving high interest for our machines from many SAARC countries and Africa. Export order from Nepal for 5,000 intercultiators is worth about INR 20 crores, and we expect to get more export orders soon. Our machines have been proven in tough agricultural condi-



tions in India, and there is a huge similarity with the countries we are targeting in terms of plot sizes, paying capacity, target usages. We make products suited for the small farmers who need equipment that are simple, rugged, multi-use, affordable, and easy to service."

Mr. Ravindra Agrawal, Chairman KisanKraft further stated, "Our commitment to provide high quality machinery to small farmers at an affordable price has been recognized and rewarded by customers. India is in a strong position to reduce dependence on imports of farm machinery and, also emerge as a

manufacturing hub for exports. Our state-of-the-art factory equipped with latest CNC machines, presses and an ROHS compliant powder coating line with Zero Liquid Discharge and testing facilities are designed to cater to the huge demand for these products in India and abroad".

KisanKraft caters to mechanization of the entire agricultural cycle, from land preparation to post-harvest operations. We are already manufacturing BIS-ISI certified engines and water pumps along with intercultiators at its Nellore plant. "We are investing heavily in manufacturing and another factory is coming up in the same campus to manufacture Brushcutters, Sprayers and Reapers, which will become operational in 2022", added Ravindra Agrawal.



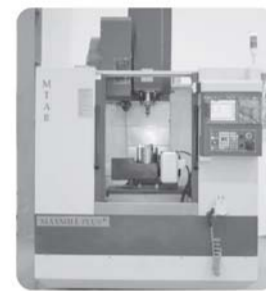
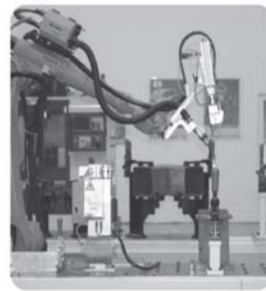
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Anti-Hijack Mock Exercise at VTZ Airport

An Anti-Hijack Mock Exercise along with a Mass Casualty Evacuation drill was conducted at Visakhapatnam airport by INS Dega recently.

The exercise was aimed to test the efficacy of contingency plans and procedures to deal with a hijack threat and validate the Mass Evacuation capability of all stakeholders including Marine Commandos (MARCOS), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Airport Authority of India (AAI) and the State Government agencies.

The exercise was conducted based on a mock hijack scenario enacted utilising an Indian Naval Dornier.

The Aerodrome Committee under the aegis of

Commanding Officer, INS Dega handled the developing scenario as per Stand Operating Procedures (SOPs). Response mechanism of Dega ATC, Quick Reaction Team (QRT), Marine Comman-

dos (MARCOS), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Airport Authority of India (AAI) and State Government agencies were exercised.

An exhaustive debrief was conducted in presence of members of Aerodrome Committee and observer from National Security Guard (NSG) and SOPs were revalidated to deal with future contingencies.



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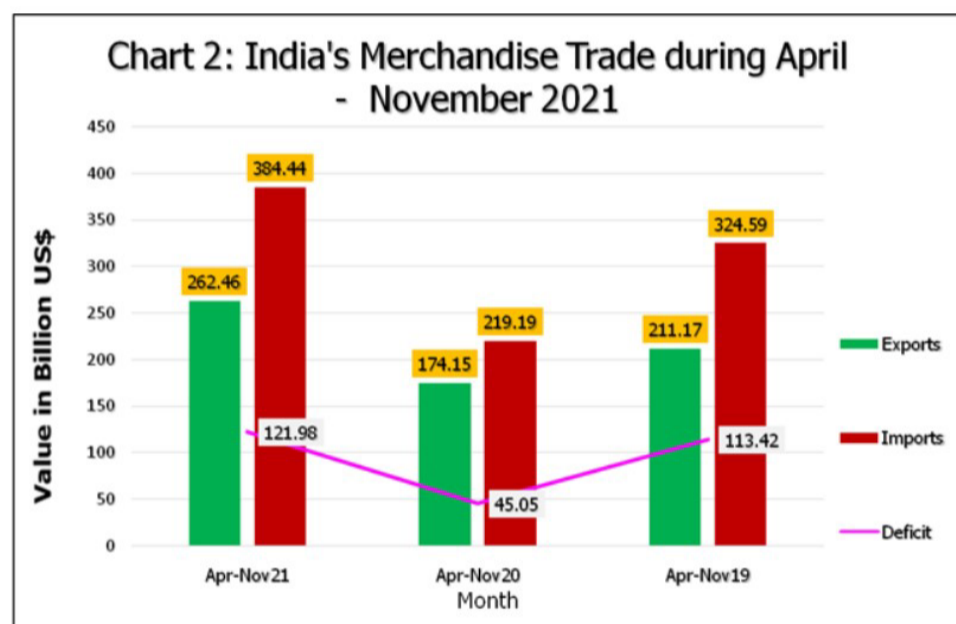
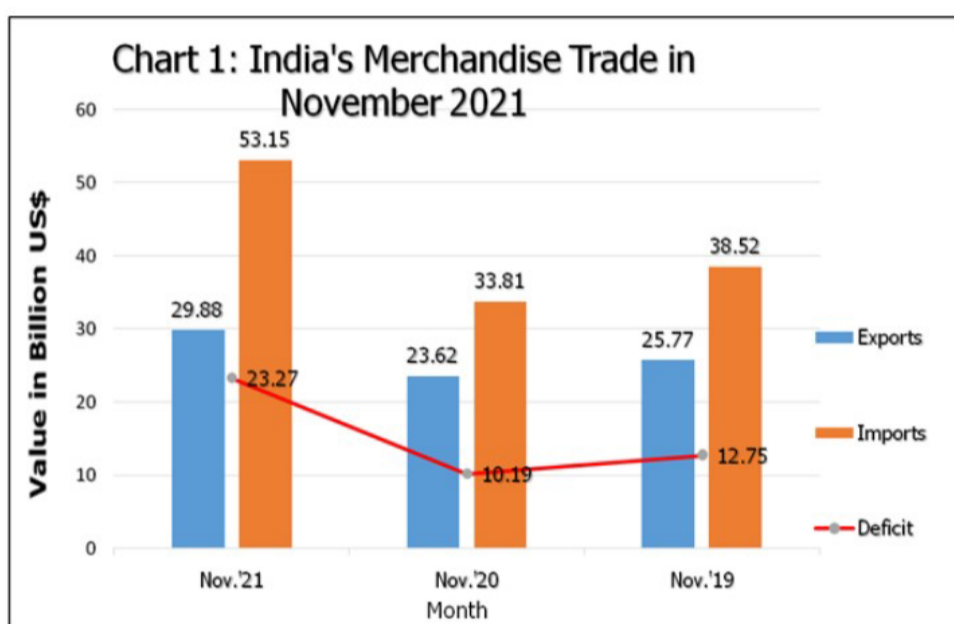
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Exports of Top 10 Major Commodity Groups (National)

SL. No.	Major Commodity Group	Value of Export (Million USD)		Share %	Growth %
		Nov '21	Nov '20	Nov '21	Nov '21 over Nov '20
1.	Engineering Goods	8077.32	5896.67	27.04	36.98
2.	Petroleum Products	3820.03	1557.36	12.79	145.29
3.	Gems and Jewellery	2392.20	2690.83	8.01	-11.10
4.	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	2246.50	1694.92	7.52	32.54
5.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	1825.36	1963.40	6.11	-7.03
6.	Electronic Goods	1455.58	1121.17	4.87	29.83
7.	Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/Made-ups, Handloom Products Etc.	1227.83	872.55	4.11	40.72
8.	RMG Of All Textiles	1072.17	1043.75	3.59	2.72
9.	Marine Products	753.99	586.64	2.52	28.53
10.	Plastic and Linoleum	724.35	507.25	2.42	42.80
	Total of 10 Major Commodity Groups	23595.35	17934.54	78.98	31.56
	Rest	6280.75	5685.40	21.02	10.47
	Total Exports	29876.11	23619.95	100.00	26.49



Imports of Top 10 Major Commodity Groups (National)

SL. No.	Major Commodity Group	Value of Import (Million USD)		Share %	Growth %
		Nov.'21	Nov.'20	Nov.'21	Nov.'21 over Nov.'20
1.	Petroleum, Crude & products	14677.89	6314.81	27.62	132.44
2.	Electronic goods	5743.17	4695.06	10.81	22.32
3.	Gold	4221.66	3022.59	7.94	39.67
4.	Coal, Coke & Briquettes, etc.	3577.42	1517.08	6.73	135.81
5.	Machinery, electrical & non-electrical	3322.01	2568.89	6.25	29.32
6.	Organic & Inorganic Chemicals	2521.60	1515.51	4.74	66.39
7.	Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones	1978.67	1839.14	3.72	7.59
8.	Artificial resins, plastic materials, etc.	1860.22	1156.63	3.50	60.83
9.	Vegetable Oil	1754.90	981.38	3.30	78.82
10.	Non-ferrous metals	1522.68	1154.69	2.87	31.87
	Total of 10 Major Commodity Groups	41180.22	24765.78	77.49	66.28
	Rest	11965.41	9046.51	22.51	32.27
	Total Imports	53145.63	33812.29	100.00	57.18

“Waltair Div. one of India’s biggest Freight Div’s”

Aditya Sabharwal

Indian Railways plays a paramount role in transporting goods across the country. Counted as the 4th largest rail freight carrier in the world the Indian Railways as per reports transported over 1 Billion Tonnes of freight in FY 2020-21.

And contributing significantly to this gargantuan freight is the Waltair division of the east coast railways.

‘Waltair division’s main stay is freight. We are one of the biggest freight loading divisions in the country’ said it’s DRM **Mr Anup Kumar Satpathy**, IRTS speaking to *Vizag Industrial Scan*.

It is informed that out of the 59 divisions the Waltair division has consistently ranked at 5th-6th position for the past 10 years.

‘And if you take South India we are easily no. 1’ said Mr Satpathy.

April-Nov’21

For the first 8 month of this fiscal the division has loaded 42.14 million tonnes of freight which is an increase of 19.72% com-



pared to the same period last year.

Similarly its freight revenue has increased 19.87% having garnered Rs 4947.34 crores in the April-November 2021 period compared to Rs 4127.20 crores in the corresponding period last year.

There are 3 main verticals of freight loading for the waltair division i.e. freight from the Bailadila iron ore mines of NMDC which contributes a whopping 60% of waltair divisions total freight traffic.

The other 40% is con-

tributed by freight of VPT and Gangavaram ports such as imported coal, aluminium powder, cement etc. and freight of RINL and Vedant, which is sent both across the country and also exported.

‘My biggest task is the expansion i.e. doubling of the KK line which my team

has been working diligently on. This is India’s most difficult terrain to operate in’ informed Mr Satpathy.

As of now there are about 12-13 rakes that ply on the KK line per day once the doubling of the line is complete this shall shoot up to 23-24 rakes per day.

‘The most critical is the Kirandul- Dantewada stretch which doubling work will be completed in 7-8 months’ said the DRM.

‘NMDC and Waltair Division are working closely in enhancing freight and removing any bottlenecks. I have personally met the

development unit works closely with its freight customers and exploring more business opportunities from them.

Parcel Traffic

The division’s parcel traffic too skyrocketed due

to the low base effect. Up

Kisan Rails

In regards to Kisan rail the waltair division transported 10379 tonnes upto Nov 2021 an increase of 139% compared to corresponding period last year.

Kisan rails were introduced

by the railways for transporting farmers produce and to help them realise better earnings for their produce.

Talking on Kisan Rails

➤ **Waltair Division’s Freight loading ↑ 19.72%**

till November 2021 the division transported 26,880 tonnes compared to 11,342 tonnes marking a growth of 137%.

Waltair Division’s 3 main Freight Lines

- **KK line (Kirandul-Kothavalasa):** Stretch of 400 kms and significant line for Waltair Div contributing about 60% of Traffic
- **KR Line (Koraput-Raigarh):** Stretch of 200 kms work being undertaken for doubling too
- **RV Line (Raigarh-Vizianagram):** Stretch of 170 kms doubling mostly complete

CMD of NALCO twice and’ said Mr Satpathy.

He further informed that the newly initiated Business

Similarly its revenues to surged from Rs 400.28 crores in 2020 to Rs 988.32 crores a growth of 146.91%

the DRM said that though the division has mostly sent mangoes they look to add Bananas and coconut to their basket of fruits.

DRM president of BSG

The Divisional Railway Manager of Waltair Division **Mr. Anup Satpathy**, recently took over as President of Bharat Scouts and Guides of Waltair District at an Investiture ceremony conducted at Rail Club, Visakhapatnam.

On the occasion DRM **Mr. Anup Satpathy** appreciated Bharat Scouts & Guides for their active participation in various activities of Government initiative and said that there shall be focus on the spirit of scouting and more personnel should be inducted into scouting. He admired that Scouts and Guides would come forward and assist Railway Administration in carrying out various awareness programmes.

In the ceremony **Ms. Parijata Satpathy**, President East Coast Railway Women’s Welfare Organisation Waltair Division; **Ms. Kavita Gupta** were installed as Vice Presidents and **Mr. Sudhir Kumar Gupta**, ADRM was installed as District Chief Commissioner. **Ms Amisha**, Divisional Operations Manager installed as ADC of Guides.

AP bags 18 medals at India Skills 2021

VIS News Service

An intense competition of 2 days saw 124 participants declared as winners of the Southern chapter of India Skills 2021.

Of the total winners, 62 were awarded gold medals with a cash prize of INR 21,000 and 62 received silver medals along with INR 11,000.

The competition witnessed participation of over 400 young participants, aged between 19 and 24 years, from five states— Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala—come together and show their potential in 51 skills such as brick laying, autobody repair, welding, beauty therapy, hotel reception, mobile robotics, health and social care, landscape gardening, carpentry, painting and decorating, web technologies and more.

Kerala bagged the highest number of medals (32), followed by Karnataka (29), Tamil Nadu (21), Andhra Pradesh (18) and Telangana (2). The skill

competitions were held at 11 Partner Institutes (PIs) located across Visakhapatnam.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the IndiaSkills 2021 South Regional Competition were conducted at Andhra University Convention Centre. The winners of all four



Regional Competitions (East, West, North and South) will get an opportunity to exhibit their skills at IndiaSkills Nationals to be held in January 2022.

IndiaSkills Nationals gold and silver medalists in each skill will represent the country at the WorldSkills Competition to be held in Shanghai, China (October

2022).

Mr Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Minister of Tourism, Culture & Youth Advancement, Government of Andhra Pradesh said, “It has been encouraging to witness the grit and passion displayed by all the participants in their respective skills at

India said, “On behalf of NSDC, I would like to extend my gratitude towards the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, APSSDC, all state Governments, Industry Partners, Sector Skill Councils and our partners for their collaboration and inspiring the youth to develop a passion for skills.”

The closing ceremony was also graced by the presence of **Mr K.K. Raju**, Chairman, New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP), **Mr Challa Madhusudhan**

Reddy, Advisor to Government (Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation - Skill Development & Training), **Mr Konduru Ajay Reddy**, Chairman, APSSDC, **Mr N. Bangara Raju**, Managing Director, APSSDC; and **Col. Arun Chandel**, Senior Head, WorldSkills India.

IndiaSkills Regional Competition, South. I would like to congratulate all contestants for an extraordinary showcase of their talent and for highlighting the importance of skills in one’s personal growth, and in country’s economic development “.

Col. Arun Chandel, Senior Head, WorldSkills

Flashgard appoints Konnections as PR Partner

Flashgard, a technology-enabled screen protection solution by Flash Solutions Private Limited recently appointed Konnections IMAG for handling their Public Relations & communication mandate.

Flashgard was created with a primary objective to provide mobile phone consumers with best-in-class screen protection films that safeguard their screens from the risk of Scratches and breakages.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Venkat Rao, Founder & Managing Director of Flash Solutions Pvt Ltd.** said, “We’re happy to have Konnections IMAG on board to oversee Flashgard’s public relations and communications strategy.” **Ms. Mukta Kumar, Director Communications, Konnections IMAG**, said, “We will be collaborating closely with the FlashGard team to help establish a strong reputation and create brand awareness.”

Standing Tall



Senior YSRCP leader and Chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on commerce, **Mr Vijayasai Reddy** recently met the Prime minister **Mr. Narendra Modi** and apprised him on some of the key demands of Andhra Pradesh.

Displaying HSL

VIS News Service

As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' to commemorate seventy five years of India's independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements HSL organized an Exhibition from 13-19 Dec 2021 at GV Nilayam Auditorium, HSL Colony.

This is part of an initiative by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) which organized Exhibitions open to

Public in the week from 13-19 Dec 2021 at 75 locations by Defence PSUs, commemorating 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.



The exhibition was inaugurated virtually by Raksha Mantri **Mr Rajnath Singh**, from New Delhi through a virtual platform. Open to the public the exhibition showcased the Ship models, tools & equipment and maritime history of the shipyard since its inception.

New Tourism officers in 20 embassies

Union Minister for Tourism **Mr. G. Kishan Reddy** recently informed that "Tourist officers have been appointed in 20 embassies last month. This he said is done to promote India as a tourist destination as well as facilitate tourists from those countries that have highest foot fall in India. Decision has been taken to open tourism sub division offices in embassies of all countries from where tourists visit India said the minister. It was further informed that tourism Ministry is working in synergy with the Rail Ministry, Civil Aviation and Shipping Ministry to encourage cruise tourism under Sagar Mala. Cruise tourism will be developed on a mission mode he said and also informed that there are plans to connect Chennai, Vizag and Andaman with Goa through cruise tourism.

Working on Sustainable Agri



Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) led by **Mr. Tomio Shichiri**, Country Director (India FAO) United Nations and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently met Chief Minister **Mr. Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** at his Camp Office. A Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) Agreement was adopted between FAO-AP on Adopting Sustainable Agro-Food Systems and Enhancing Farmers' Capacity in the State. As per the agreement, FAO will provide technical and financial assistance to RBKs in the state and to assist in strengthening Farmer Assurance Centres. The FAO will also provide training to farmers on best cultivation management practices. Agriculture Minister **Mr. Kanna Babu** and Agricultural Department Special CS **Ms. Poonam Malakondaiah**, ICAR Deputy Director General **Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh**, and others are also seen.

MILAN' 22 Website Launched

VIS News Service

The official website of the forthcoming Multi-national Naval Exercise -

MILAN 2022 was formally launched by **Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu**, NM, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), Eastern Naval Command

22 is 'Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration' and includes an Interna-



on December 13, 2021. The website is available at www.in-milan.in and offers information on various MILAN events.

MILAN 22 is scheduled at Visakhapatnam from Feb 25 to Mar 04, 2022 and over 45 countries have been extended invitations for participation.

The theme of MILAN

tional Maritime Seminar, Subject Matter Expertise Exchange (SMEE), Demonstration of Submarine Rescue capability, Maritime Expo showcasing 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', City Parade on the Beach Road, sports activities, social, cultural and professional interactions, as also, exercises at sea.

Ayurveda clinic @Sri City

VIS News Service

Tulsi Ayurveda Hospital, Sullurupeta recently opened a branch in Sri City. Former Deputy Director, SHAR **Dr. Adiseshareddy Reddy** formally declared the clinic inaugurated in the presence of **C. Ramesh Kumar**, Vice President (Customer Relations).

Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Sivaprasad**, in-charge of the clinic said that chronic diseases, such as stress, arthritis, skin diseases, infertility, BP, diabetes and many more will be treated using Kottakkal Ayurvedic medicines and Kerala Panchakarma therapy.

AU Alumnus to head US Varsity

VIS News Service

In a significant achievement and matter of pride both for the state of Andhra Pradesh and Andhra University, **Prof Neeli Bendapudi**, an alumnus of AU was recently selected as first woman President of prestigious Pennsylvania State University in USA.

Prof Neeli studied in Andhra University department of Commerce and Management Studies.

She is the eldest daughter of **Prof T Ramesh Dutta** and **Prof Padma Dutta**, Professors of English, Andhra University. Prof Ramesh Dutta was the founder head of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Prof Neeli is presently President of University of Louisville, USA. Earlier, She was Provost and Vice-



Chancellor of University of Kansas.

AU VC **Prof PVGD Prasada Reddy**, congratulated Prof Neeli on becoming the President of Penn State University and described Prof Neeli as one of the most distinguished alumnus of Andhra University. It was further mentioned that Prof Neeli Bendapudi visited Visakhapatnam in 2019 with her husband Prof Venkat Bendapudi and AU Soft Skills Trainer **Dr Challa Krishnaveer Abhishek**

Khadi nets of Rs. 2.88 cr at IITF

VIS News Service

The recently concluded India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021, saw a massive sale of Khadi products with a gross turnover of Rs 2.88 crore, thanks to the big government push for the local products. In the first Trade Fair organized in the post-Covid scenario, the total sale of Khadi products stood at Rs 2,88,14,553/- which is a quantum jump of 122% from the sale of Rs 1.30 crore in the year 2019.

KVIC, this year, set up 48 stalls from 20 states as compared to 30

stalls from 12 states in 2019. KVIC accorded high priority to women artisans giving 18 (36%) of the total stalls to women, which was confined to just 20% women's participation in 2019. Also, huge public turnout at the Khadi India Pavilion pushed the highest single day sale up to Rs 33.03 lakh as which was just Rs 21.31 lakh in 2019.

Chairman, KVIC, **Mr. Vinai Kumar Saxena** attributed this growth to the Khadi's ever-increasing popularity among the masses and people's support to the "Vocal for Local" initiative.



SCR bags 4 Awards

VIS News Service

The South Central Railway has received four National Energy Conservation Awards from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India for taking energy conservation measures during the year 2021.

SCR GM **Mr. Gajanan Mallya**, General Manager, complimented Principal Chief Electrical Engineer. Mr. Mallya also appreciated the , SCR, DRMs of Vijayawada, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and officers & staff of Electrical department who were instrumental in achieving this distinction.