

VIZAG INDUSTRIAL SCAN

Silver Jubilee Year

25th Year in Publication

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'Need to clear barriers, & Strengthen our MSMEs'



VIS News Service

Reiterating the fact that MSMEs are among the most important pillars of the Indian economy the Minister of State for MSME, Govt of India, **Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma**, has said that the government is working to make MSME sector stronger and more developed,

going forward. "We will also work to ensure that interrelationship between the MSME sector and other important pillars of the Indian economy are further strengthened as India grows," he added.

Addressing the 'Annual MSME Summit 2022 and MSME Eco-system Awards', organized by FICCI-CMSME, Mr Verma urged the industry and other stakeholders to work with the government to make India a \$5 trillion economy along with becoming self-reliant.

The government, Mr Verma said is also working to ensure that by taking

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GoAP clears close to USD 3 Billion Inv.

VIS News Service

In a significant development the state investment promotion board headed by the CM, **Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy** has given its approval to JSW

JSW Steel for Kadapa

steel's proposal of setting up an integrated steel plant in the Kadapa district. This will be JSW Steel's first manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh as it already has units in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

The group has proposed an investment of Rs 8000

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Vizag Customs registers 50% growth in Revenue collections

Implements slew of customer grievance redressal mechanisms

Aditya Sabharwal

Visakhapatnam Custom House has seen a substantial surge in its revenue collections for the first 8

With the jurisdiction of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam Seaport, Visakhapatnam Interna-



Along with enforcement there is a clear focus on trade facilitation. We therefore work very closely with the trade & seek their inputs.

Mr K Engineer, IRS, Commissioner, Custom House Visakhapatnam

month of this fiscal compared to the same period last year thereby signalling a much-anticipated rebound in cross border trade and shipments.

tional Airport, Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone, Visakha Container Terminal Ltd., Container Freight Stations [CFS] and Gangavaram



Grievance redressal mechanisms Available to Trade:

- ✓ TSK
- ✓ AEM
- ✓ E-Helpline
- ✓ CPGRAMS

Details Pg. 11

Seaport Visakhapatnam Custom House saw its revenue collections increase

Contd. on Page ..11

Internet Exchange soon in Vizag

VIS News Service

NIXI, setup by the Government, has a mandate of setting up new Internet Exchanges in select locations depending on need assessment.

The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, **Mr Rajeev Chandrasekhar** in a written reply to a ques-



tion in Rajya Sabha has said that in line with this, NIXI takes up setting up of new exchanges from time to time including Sify Data Centre, Visakhapatnam with 1 GBPS connectivity between Chennai and Visakhapatnam.

It was informed that Forty-two (42) Internet Exchanges of National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) have been installed and operational as on date. **What are Internet Exchanges?**

Internet Exchanges primarily provides peering services to Internet Service Providers, Content providers and other Networks.

Contd. on Page ..11

As India grows so will Navy's expansion: CNS



VIS News Service

Identifying the vast potential of the oceans – be it the Blue Economy, trade and energy lines, or scope for enhanced maritime connectivity the chief of Naval Staff, **Admiral R Hari Kumar** said that there is a greater emphasis and acknowledgement of the criticality of maritime secu-

urity. Addressing the media as part of the annual Navy Day celebrations he said that the Indian Navy has a much significant role to play going forward.

'Clearly, as India grows, our maritime interests and investments will also expand proportionately which, in turn, will mandate expansion in the Indian Navy's responsibilities and operational footprint to protect these interests' said the CNS.

At the same time he noted that as a responsible mari-

time power, with significant capabilities at its disposal, India also endeavours to be the Preferred Security Partner as well as First Responder in the region – guided by the overarching vision of SAGAR – Security And Growth for All in the Region. In furthering and strengthening these vital goals, the Indian Navy will remain diligent in pursuit of building bonds of friendship and operational cohesion with like-minded nations across the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Navy to actively pursue Niche & Disruptive Tech

Contd. on Page ..6

ENC working closely with MSMEs

On an avg. Rs 120 crores worth of orders given to MSMEs annually

VIS News Service

Stating that MSMEs play a significant role in working with the Indian navy **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta** Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command said that the Eastern Naval Command regularly in-

Industry&MSMEs.

The Vice admiral underscored the need for more sensitization and awareness programs in order for MSMEs to understand the staunch requirements of the Indian Navy.



'FSS order to HSL under active consideration'

teracts with Industry and holds awareness sessions for private

'We are trying to get MSMEs & private industry to sit with our technical and operational people to first understand what our requirements and capabilities

Contd. on Page ..6

RINL witnessing a dismal FY23

Steel Minister cites high Operational & raw material costs among others

VIS News Service

Responding to a series of questions put up by Rajya Sabha MP, **Mr GVL Narasimha Rao** on the operational performance of Visakhapatnam steel plant in FY 23, the Minister of State for State for steel **Mr Faggan Singh Kulaste** identified a slew of reasons for RINL's losses in the ongoing fiscal. Asked about the reasons

for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) incurring losses this year while it made good profits last year, Minister of State for State **Mr. Faggan Singh Kulaste** mentioned high operational cost,



lower net sales realization, high raw material cost, increased cost of debt ser-

vice, working capital deficit and adverse domestic and international market conditions as the major reasons for RINL's poor financials in FY23.

Similarly when inquired by **Mr Rao** on whether the Central Government would help RINL to obtain captive iron ore mines to

reduce its raw material cost, the Minister of State stated that RINL had requested State Governments viz. Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh for recommending reservation of iron ore deposits under 17(2A) of MMDR Act, 2015 to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. He added that the Ministry of Steel

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RINL's CVO



Dr Sirra Karuna Raju, IAS recently assumed charge as the Chief Vigilance Officer of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited at Visakhapatnam.

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Essar goes big in Odisha

Announces Major investments in Pelletizing & Crude-Petrochem Complex

VIS News Service

The Essar group has said that it has big plans of setting up several projects in the state of Odisha.

These include setting up a 14 MTPA export oriented Pelletizing Complex at an investment of Rs.12,000 Crore, which comprises an iron ore fines Beneficiation Plant at Keonjhar, a Pellet Plant at Paradip port and 250 KM slurry pipeline.

Making this announcement at the Odisha Conclave 22, **Mr. Prashant Ruia**, Director, Essar Capital said that apart from these, Essar in partnership with an international player, also proposes to develop 7.5 MMTPA Crude to Petrochemical Complex (CTC) involving an investment of approx Rs 40,000 crore.

"Essar has had a long association with Odisha spanning over two decades. Under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister, **Mr Naveen Patnaik**, Odisha



mining and energy, with the state being one of the most attractive destinations said Mr. Ruia.

Over the years, Essar has developed over 2 lakh crore of green field projects across India. Given its vast experience, Essar has now chosen Odisha as its preferred location for

these prestigious projects. Essar recently concluded its asset monetisation programme and completed the debt repayment of \$25 billion (Rs. 2,00,000 crore) effectively making the group debt-free from Indian banks and financial institutions. The company is now looking at reinvesting in building new assets and strengthening their existing operations both in India and overseas, with more efficient, latest and carbon neutral new-age technologies.

is witnessing double digit growth and impressive industrial and social development. He further noted that Essar's pioneering investment in setting up a 12 MTPA iron ore pellet plant and a 260 km slurry pipeline to Paradip in 2009, was instrumental in Odisha realising its potential and becoming the national leader in the minerals and mining sector.

Essar is once again poised for making significant fresh investments in Odisha in the sectors of metals and

Open Innovation at Tata Steel

VIS News Service

Tata Steel, recently, launched the fourth edition of Material NEXT, the Company's flagship open innovation event in the emerging materials domain. The focal theme for this edition is 'Materials to Wonder' with an objective to crowdsource ideas around emerging materials and their unique applications. Four major materials/technology subject areas have been introduced with the launch of MaterialNEXT 4.0 - Applied Nanomaterials, Novel

Composites, Emerging Construction Materials, and Energy Materials. Within each of these four theme areas, there are numerous application-related issues that have been defined, making it easier for participating teams to start registering ideas. As per Tata Steel the programme will entail two parallel tracks - the 'Research Track' will concentrate on concepts from major academic institutions and research facilities across India; and the 'Start-up' track will concentrate on start-ups that have emerged from incubator cells at the institute level.

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MOIL's sales jump in Nov.2022

VIS News Service

Schedule-A, Miniratna Category-I CPSE MOIL registered a production of 1.2 lakh tonnes of Manganese Ore in November, 2022, thereby marking a significant growth of 60% during the month over October, 2022.

On the sales front, MOIL has recorded a growth of 82% during the period over the previous month, in spite of challenging market conditions. **Ms. Usha Singh**, Director (Human Resource) & CMD (Addl. Charge), attributed

the improved performance of the company to the great team effort exhibited by all concerned and reiterated that MOIL is geared



up for much better performance in the remaining period of the financial year. Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, MOIL is the largest producer of manganese ore in

the country and operates eleven mines in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

MOIL holds about 34% of the manganese ore reserves of the country and is contributing approximately 45% of the domestic production.

The company has an ambitious vision of almost doubling its production to 3.00 million tonnes by 2030. MOIL is also exploring business opportunities in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Odisha besides other areas in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

NMDC-RailTel ink MoU



In a move to boost its digital initiatives, NMDC signed MoU with Railtel Corporation of India Limited. This MoU will enable the implementation of IT Infrastructure for ERP and other future digital initiatives. NMDC is India's largest producer of iron ore. Since inception, the corporation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, has been involved in the exploration of a wide range of minerals including copper, rock phosphate, limestone, magnesite, diamond, tungsten and beach sands amongst others.

India sets record Coal Production April - Nov. 2022

VIS News Service

India's coal production increased impressively to 524.20 million Tons (MT) during April -November 2022. This is a 17.13% increase when compared to 447.54 MT production seen during the same period last year.

As per the ministry of coal, Coal India Ltd (CIL) production reported 412.63

► Coal Production Up 17.13% @ 524.20 MT

► 141 new coal blocks put for commercial auction



MT up to November of FY 23 as compared to 353.41 MT during the same period of the previous year representing an increase of 16.76%.

With an objective to enhance coal production capacity, the Ministry of coal has put 141 new coal blocks for commercial auction and has been engaging regularly with various coal companies in the country and monitoring

their production.

The all-round efforts made to increase domestic production and dispatch have shown extremely good results. India is the world's third largest energy consuming country and the demand for electricity grows by about 4.7% annually.

amendment has paved the way for releasing of additional coal in the market by greater utilization of mining capacities of captive coal blocks which has led to increase in production of coal by Captive and Other companies by 33.41% to 71.07 MT during Apr-Nov'22 as compared to 53.27 MT pro-

The Ministry has also amended the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1960 under MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2021 to allow lessee of captive mines to sell coal or lignite up to 50% of the total excess production after meeting the requirements of the end-use plant.

The release stated that the

duction during corresponding period of FY 22.

And with the efforts of the Coal Ministry to augment rail connectivity infrastructure for all major mines total coal despatch has been to the tune of 557.95 MT during Apr-Nov'22 as compared to 519.26 MT in the same period last year indicating a growth of 7.45 %.

RINL's Blast Furnace-2 sets a milestone

VIS News Service

The Blast Furnace 2(Krishna) of RINL created yet another record by consistently producing over 8000 Tons of Hot Metal every day for the last 3 consecutive days for the

1st time since inception. As per an official release from RINL the Blast Furnace -2 (Krishna) of RINL, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant alone produced 8030 tons, 8100 tons & 8500 tons on 6th, 7th & 8th December, 2022 respectively. With perseverance, the BF collective cornered glory yet again by surpassing the best daily



production for Blast Furnace 1&2 on a single day by achieving a Hot Metal production of 16,200 Tons on 8th December, 2022 from Blast Furnace 1 and 2 together which is also the best daily production from

both Blast Furnaces combined, since inception said the release (More than 100% capacity utilisation).

The previous best daily Hot Metal production achieved from Blast Furnace 1&2 combined was 15,700 Tons on 7.12.2022

Mr Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL, congratulated RINL collective for achieving the record production.

Automation at Meramandali plant

VIS News Service

In order to eliminate man-machine interface during the unloading of wagons at Tata Steel Meramandali, located in Dhenkanal district of Odisha, the plant has introduced a model wagon tippler with the use of state-of-the-art robots at its Raw Material Handling Systems (RMHS) operations.

With this new system, the entire unloading and tipping operations will now be automated. This has eliminated the human-machine interface hence ensuring safety and contributing to enhanced productivity said a release from the company.

The rake tipping operations

at RMHS of the steel plant involve critical activities that include decoupling, rotation, alignment and coupling of the wagons at both the inhaul and outhaul side.

This is followed by wagon cleaning in the end. The newly installed



systems include automatic drop gates with laser curtains, robotic decoupling and coupling operation, smart access control inside tippler complex, wagon cleaning system and automatic side arm charger operation resulting in significant reduction of high risk activities. This system is

also supplemented by a uniquely designed smart fencing system with automated gate locking facility for restricting unauthorised entry during equipment operation.

Mr. Peeyush Gupta, Vice President, Supply Chain and Group Strategic Procurement (Designate), Tata Steel, said: "RMHS is an area which has many risks, and the team is continuously working to eliminate the identified risks through various safety initiatives. This Model Wagon Tippler will significantly reduce the rake unloading cycle time in a safe manner."

IN BRIEF

Jawahar calls on CM

The new Chief Secretary of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, **Mr. KS Jawahar Reddy** who succeeded **Dr Sameer Sharma** recently met Chief Minister **Mr. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** at his camp office. It was a courtesy call paid by Jawahar Reddy paid after he formally took charge as the CS of Andhra Pradesh. Former Chief Secretary **Dr Sameer Sharma**, who retired on November 30 and took over as the Chairman of the Pollution Control Board. Another senior IAS officer **Ms. Poonam Malakondaiah**, who took over as the Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, also called on the CM.



Sameer Sharma assumes charge as APPCB Chairman

Dr Sameer Sharma who retired as Chief Secretary recently assumed charge as Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board Chairman. On the occasion, he said that the collective effort will try to prevent Air, Water, and Sound pollution for better living standards. Pollution Control Board member secretary **Mr. Praveen Kumar**, chief environmental engineer **B Sivaprasad**, joint chief environmental engineers **K Venkateswara Rao**, **M Siva Reddy**, **K Sriram Murthy**, and others were present.



HSL holds Safety Program

With an aim to improve safety at the yard, HSL C&MD recently conducted a one-day safety training programme for all the Officers, Staff, Workmen, Contract Workmen, Apprentices and Interns working in the shipyard. Post completion of training, personnel will be issued with safety 'Q' cards, which will act as a daily reminder of 'safety pledge' taken. The programme was inaugurated by C&MD. Director Ship Building, Factory Occupier, Factory Manager, Principal Medical officer, and others were also present.



Australian trade investment Comm visits AU

Australian Trade and Investment Commissioner Trade Investment Director (South Asia) **Mr. K. Santosh** recently visited Andhra University and held a meeting with Vice Chancellor **Prof. PVGD Prasada Reddy**. The V-C discussed about various opportunities to work with Australia. Later the V-C felicitated Mr. Santosh. Other officials who participated in the meeting included AU Rector **Prof. Samata**, Registrar **Prof. Krishna Mohan IPR Chair Director Dr. Hanumanthu Purushottam**, Ambedkar Chair **Dr. M. James Stephen**, and AU Incubation Centre CEO **Mr. Ravi Eswarapu**.



New office-bearers of PRSI

The new committee of the Public Relations Society of India, Visakhapatnam Chapter was elected recently. **Dr. P. L. K. Murthy**, Chairman **Mr. R.P.Sharma**, Vice-Chairman **Mr. A. Govinda Rao**, Secretary, **MKVL Narasimham**, Jt. Secretary and **Mr. N. V. Narasimham** as Treasurer. **Mr. M V Rajasekhar**, **B V Vijayaprasad**, **Y. Srinivasa Kumar**, **Y. Prabhakar**, **D. Subba Rao**, **B R Vikram Kumar** as Executive members of the society. The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) is the national association of public relations practitioners and communications specialists in India.

RINL's New CVO

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He met **Mr Atul Bhatt CMD**, RINL in his office and exchanged pleasantries and also had a brief discussion with Senior officials of the company. **Dr. Raju** is a Veterinarian by qualification and belongs to the 1998 batch Punjab cadre IAS officer. Earlier he worked as Punjab Chief Electoral Officer for the last 5 years. RINL is the first shore-based integrated Steel Plant in the country and is known for its quality products. It is a market leader in long products and it caters to the needs of diverse Industrial Sectors.

New Regional Vigilance & Enforcement Officer



VIS News Service

Mr. A. Suresh Babu, MSP, has recently assumed charge as Regional Vigilance and Enforcement Officer, Srikakulam. Working as Additional SP in Guntur Anti-Corruption Department, he was transferred as Regional Vigilance and Enforcement Officer on promotion. On the occasion Vigilance **DSP Kiran Kumar**, DE **Satyanarayana**, **AG Suresh Kumar** and Inspector **Appalanaidu**, **Simhachalam** welcomed the officer.

DCI bags Rs. 60 cr. contract from NRL

VIS News Service

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Odisha awarded the Reclamation Dredging Contact



for **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) Crude Oil Import Terminal (COIT) Plot to Dredging Corporation of India Limited** for transportation & pumping of Dredge Material from **Paradip Port Authority Sand Trap to NRL (COIT) Plot** for the year 2022-23 with a project cost of about Rs. 60 CR.

The contract awarded by NRL is feather on the cap of **Dredging Corporation of India Limited**,

Visakhapatnam which is aiming at a record highest ever turnover of Rs.1000 Cr for this financial year 2022-23.

Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCI), Visakhapatnam is a listed dredging company in India under the consortium of four (4) major ports Authorities viz, **Visakhapatnam Port, Paradip Port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Deendayal Port** holding majority shares of 73.47%. DCI is the premier dredging organization of India catering to the dredging and allied services to Major Ports, Minor Ports, Indian Navy, Fishing Harbours and other maritime organizations by deepening and maintaining the safe navigational channel for EXIM activities.

Press Academy Chairman calls on Amarnath



VIS News Service

State Press Academy Chairman Mr. Kommineni Srinivasa Rao was on a two-day visit to Visakhapatnam district. He was received by **Mr. V. Maniram**, Regional Joint Director of Information Civil Relations Department, staff of Information Department and various press representatives. Later, he met State Industries and IT Minister **Mr. Gudivada Amarnath**. Attending the programmes organized locally, they left for Srikakulam.

Rs. 300 cr for Tirupati Station Upgradation

VIS News Service

A major upgradation of **Tirupati Railway Station** is being undertaken at a cost of Rs. 300 crs (approx) which will integrate the Station complex from both sides of the temple town, to provide a seamless experience to the passengers.

As per an official release from SCR the Station will undergo a complete makeover with a new entrance building coming

is being done keeping in mind the needs of the rail passengers for the next 40



years. South Central Railway's General

awarded to M/s. Varindera Constructions Limited, New Delhi on May

30th, 2022 under EPC mode, targeted for completion within the next 33 months i.e., by February 2025. Since then, to complete the

project within the stipulated time frame work has been taken up at a swift pace.

Speaking to the media, the General Manager, SCR stated that the development work of the station is being accorded highest priority so that the best of infrastructural facilities are provided for the rail passengers to this important station.

Contract Awarded to Varindera Constructions Limited, New Delhi under EPC Mode

up on the South side, while the existing entrance at North side will be upgraded to provide unified experience to rail passengers. The Upgradation of the station

Manager, **Mr. Arun Kumar Jain**, recently reviewed the progress of the work at Tirupati Railway station. The development works for the station have been

Is I IPE leaving Andhra Pradesh?

Aditya Sabharwal

The construction of the **Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy** campus at **Sabbavaram** in Vizag continues to be delayed.

An autonomous institute under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India, the I IPE is backed by public sector giants viz. **HPCL, IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, and OIL**. I IPE's greenfield campus is proposed to be built across 200 acres for which the central government had allocated a significant Rs

1050 crores for this new facility however due to certain land compensation issues construction of the new campus has yet not begun.

As per sources it's been over 6 years that I IPE Vizag has been waiting to deploy these funds for the new campus but has not seen any traction.

As per the agreement the state government of Andhra Pradesh is to provide land free of cost to I IPE but due to some litigation, work on the con-

struction hasn't begun yet. Albeit sources say that just 10% of the total land is in litigation one assumes that I IPE hasn't started construction until it gets a clear title.

The institute since 2016 has been temporarily operating from Andhra University's engineering campus wherein it has already seen over 300 students graduate over 3 batches. The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (I IPE) aims to meet the quantitative and qualitative gaps

while supplying skilled manpower for the Petroleum Sector. In addition it also aims to boost the research activities needed for the growth of the sector.

I IPE had earlier signed a MoU with AU for 5 years and has renewed it for another 5 years.

Some privy to the developments say that if the delay persists I IPE might flight from AP as other states have been wooing the institute with ready to avail land coupled with many other lucrative incentives.

IN BRIEF

Orientation Prog. for officials held at JNPA

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), recently organized an 'Orientation Programme for the Major Port Officers. **Dr. Malini Shankar**, Ex D.G. Shipping, Vice-Chancellor, Indian Maritime University inaugurated the Orientation Programme, along with JNPA Chairman **Mr. Sanjay Sethi**, IAS. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Malini Shankar, Ex D.G. Shipping, Vice-Chancellor, Indian Maritime University, stated, the various subjects like revenue model, ownership model, PPP in the port sector, logistics and supply chain, etc. will enable them to meet the demands and expectations of the industry."

Seven Seas Explorer – 2nd cruise ship docks at NMPA

Second cruise ship of the current season "Seven Seas Explorer" recently arrived at New Mangalore Port, carrying 686 passengers & 552 crew. The ship has overall length of 223.74 meters & carrying capacity of 55, 254 Gross Tonnage with draft of 7 meters. The vessel en-route to Male (Maldives) came from Port of Qatar to India and berthed at Mormugao Port previously. The passengers visited various tourist points in and around Mangalore. The ship sailed at 1800HRS towards its next journey to Male.



JM Baxi bags shipping agent of the year award

JM Baxi & Co recently recently bagged Shipping Agent of the year award at EXIM Star 2022 awards. The team received the award for handling maximum numbers of liquid cargo vessels in the Gujarat region across the ports of Hazira, Jamnagar, Dahej, Pipavav, Mundra and Kandla.

100 GCTs to be developed by 2025

Under the Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) Policy, it has been targeted to develop 100 GCTs in three years i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25. Twenty two GCTs have already been commissioned and 125 applications for development of Cargo Terminals under the GCT Policy have been received and 79 In-Principle Approvals have been granted. This information was given by the Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronic & Information Technology, **Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw** in Lok Sabha recently.

CONCOR's Addl Discount Scheme for movement of Empties

VIS News Service

CONCOR recently announced its revised Additional Discount scheme on empty containers moved from various Gateway Ports/Portside CFSs to hinterland terminals including empty containers moved from One terminal to another Terminal for export purpose based on the incremental import volumes offered by the shipping lines.

The major highlights of the modified scheme include not collecting rail freight for empty containers from Port to hinterland Terminals at the time of booking, 50% discount will be applicable on empty containers booked between two termi-

nals subject to the terms & conditions of the scheme said a release from CONCOR.

Some of the highlights of scheme include:

For the incremental volume of imports booked by the shipping lines, the empty container rail freight for

equivalent number of empty containers on weighted average basis will be considered for offering discount and for the balance empty containers, the rail freight accrued on weighted average basis will be collected from the re-

JM Baxi's Paradip terminal sets record for steel billets

VIS News Service

Paradip Multipurpose Clean Cargo Terminal successfully handled 30,912.7 MT of steel billets for export on the vessel



M.V. Lucky Glory for the customer Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. The terminal achieved a record-breaking loading rate of 17,175.7 MT in 24 hours on November 17, 2022. With this, the terminal surpassed its own daily loading rate for steel billets. The previous best was 14,089.6MT in 24 hours on March 22, 2021 for loading of steel billets on the vessel M.V. Pearl Ivy.

IR crosses 1000 MT in freight loading FY23

VIS News Service

Indian Railways (IR) has achieved a major milestone in freight transportation by crossing the 1000 Million Tons (MT) mark in the current Financial Year (FY).

As per the ministry of railways till date, IR has loaded 1002 Million Tons of freight in the current year.

During this financial year, IR has registered an incremental loading of 76.3 MT with growth rate of 8.25%. In revenue terms, the Railways freight revenues stood close to Rs.

1,08,593 Cr. in the current year vis-a-vis Rs. 93,532 Cr during last year till 06th December, thus showing an improvement of 16.10%. Coal, the biggest commodity (48%) railway transports, contributed 485 Million Tons in this 1000 MT mark as against 425 Million



Tons during last FY, thus showing 14.25% improvement. Coal is also the biggest contributor to incremental volumes with 60

which has shown 10% improvement (83 MT in current FY as vis-à-vis 75 MT in last FY) in loading resulting in 19% increase in revenue.

Coal biggest contributor (48%)

Third biggest contributor to this

MT of incremental traffic in the period. The second biggest contributor to incremental volumes this year has been, Balance other goods segment (a basket of commodities like stone, ash, bauxite, metals, automobiles, Gypsum salt, salt etc)

growth has been Cement and clinker group, showing 8% improvement in volume (94.7 MT in current FY vis-a-vis 87.7 MT in last FY) followed by Fertilizers which registered a growth of 13.9% with incremental volumes of 4.7 MT.

'JNPA committed to Green Infrastructure'

VIS News Service

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), recently organized a workshop on 'Green Port Initiative' wherein **Mr Unmesh Sharad Wagh**, IRS, Dy. Chairman, JNPA, stated that the Port has been taking adequate measures to maintain ecological balance for a green, sustainable and better tomorrow.

Under the Maritime India Vision 2030, JNPA intends to use 60% of renewable energy.

"JNPA has taken several green initiatives with a view to reducing carbon footprints which includes the use of solar power supply, e vehicles, Shore Power Supply, etc. It is es-



essential that investments are made in green infrastructure, including zero-carbon energy zones linked to the

time India Vision 2030, JNPA intends to use 60% of renewable energy. JNPA is developing an integrated Common Rail Yard Facility inside the Port for facilitating Dedicated Freight Corridor

(DFC) rake handling, including construction/modification of ROB for the terminals.

We have taken up a lakes rejuvenation project. There are 4-5 lakes in the JNPA area which we will be revitalizing using biological techniques said the release.

'Focus on supply of quality frozen fish to domestic market'

VIS News Service

In order to broaden the consumer base for frozen fish and fish products **Mr. Jatindra Nath Swain**, Secretary, DoF (GOI) urged stakeholders to make frozen fish and

ments hence the same quality frozen fish and fish products should be extended to the domestic market with the necessary labelling and certifications. Additionally, he emphasized exploring the utilization of

fish products more accessible. Mr. Swain was speaking at a recent webinar



on "Promotion of frozen fish and fish products" organised by Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India as a part of the ongoing celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

In the keynote address, **Mr. Jatindra Nath Swain**, Secretary, DoF (GOI) called to work on building trust amongst consumers for selling frozen fish and fish products. In order to build on consumer trust, he advised that as current exporters follow stringent quality require-

the existing supply chain of other products for increasing accessibility to consumers in urban, semi-urban, and interior areas.

Mr. Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries) highlighted that enhancing domestic fish consumption should be India's risk mitigation plan for assured sectoral growth in case of uncertainties in the global fish markets.

The event was attended by entrepreneurs, fisheries associations, officials of the Department of Fisheries, GoI, and fisheries officials of different States/UTs, faculties from state agriculture, veterinary and fisheries universities, fisheries research institutes etc.

spective PDA/CPDA/CCA of the shipping lines subject to extant discount schemes.

In case the incremen-

tal volume of imports offered by the shipping line is more than the number of empty containers moved by the shipping line from various gateway ports/Portside CFSs to hinterland terminals/Private Sidings/CRTs on the same month,

then for the balance number of containers, the volume of empty containers moved by the shipping lines during the same month from one CONCOR terminal to another CONCOR terminal including Private sidings/CRTs (Only Import destuffed empties) will also be considered.

50% of the weighted average freight for such Terminal-to-Terminal empty container movement of the shipping line will be considered as discounted freight for the balance of incremental imports offered by the shipping line during the month and will be refunded to the shipping line after reconciliation of the monthly volumes.



Mediation & Arbitration for Speedy Justice

VIS News Service

In order to counter the delays witnessed in the justice delivery systems, learned legal luminaries underscored the need to utilize Mediation and arbitration as a much beneficial method. Mediation and Arbitration in today's judicial system helps in delivery of speedy and qualitative justice and also helps in finding an amicable solution to long lasting problem in several arenas, said by **Justice Lavu**

Nageswara Rao, Retired judge of Supreme Court of India in Visakhapatnam recently. He was delivering the keynote address as chief guest at the two-day international virtual conference on "Mediation as Mode of Settlement of Disputes in the New Millennium: A Way Forward" organised by GITAM Deemed to be University



School of Law. Justice Nageswara Rao discussed in detail the history and development of the alternate dispute resolutions in India and analysed a plethora of statutes that contains in them the prospects of mediation and arbitration and laid emphasis on the importance of a multi-door court system in today's society. Justice Rao advised that students, research scholars must get trained in the areas of mediation and arbitration as part of their academic curriculum.

GITAM VC Prof. Dayananda Siddavattam highlighted the rapid dev. of mediation and arbitration in today's judicial process. **GITAM President M Sri Bharat**, spoke about his experiences with the processes of mediation and arbitration over years. Many of these alternative justice delivery mechanisms called for swift resolution of several shortcomings of the process.

Vizag Airport gets X Band Radar



VIS News Service

A Precision Approach Radar (PAR) was recently inaugurated at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam by **Vice Adm Sanjay Vatsayan**, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command. As per an official release the new Radar facility would substantially enhance the capabilities of the Visakhapatnam Airport to recover civil and military aircraft in distress and emergency for a safe landing, particularly in

inclement weather conditions. The Precision Approach Radar is a medium power X - band radar used to guide aircraft from 25 Km to touchdown in adverse weather conditions. The radar provides a ground interpreted approach through positional information of the aircraft to the GCA. It has azimuth and elevation antenna for lateral and vertical guidance respectively.

SkIm DM talks tough on Aqua Reg.

VIS News Service

Chairing a recently review meeting the District Level Committee Srikakulam District Collector **Mr. Srikesh Lathkar** said those not registered with Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai should be eliminated. He informed that the National Green Tribunal Special Bench, Chennai has identified 464 farmers who are cultivating 1401 acres of shrimp without permission in the district. The District Collector therefore has ordered the divisional level aquaculture committees to examine the possi-



bilities of regularization of the farmers as per the Coastal Aquaculture Authority and Chennai Rules. He said that 2953 acres of aquaculture is done in the district out of which, 1552 acres have registration while on 1401 acres aquaculture is being carried out without registration. He has asked concerned Mandal Tehsildars to submit reports regarding the unregistered 1401 acres. Joint Director of Fisheries Department **Mr. Srinivasa Rao**, said concessions are applicable only to those who are registered in the district and therefore they must have the registration.

CP yet again cautions public on growing menace of Cyber Crimes

Urges SMEs & Realtors to be more vigilant

VIS News Service

Visakhapatnam's Commissioner of Police **Mr. Ch. Srikanth** recently addressed a seminar on cyber security essentials and said that cyber-crime has become all pervasive and the only way to face the ever-increasing cyber threats was to understand it and take preventive measures. Cyber Crimes are committed without any knowledge of the victims and once the money is lost to cyber criminals, it is almost impossible to get back the money, he explained citing a number of examples of cyber-crimes which came to his notice. Nobody is an exception to this crime, said the commissioner of police. He cautioned SMEs and said that they have become more vulnerable and realtors should be very cautious about these crimes.



Greed rather than need is the main reason for falling easy prey to cyber criminals. President of C R E D A I - Visakhapatnam, **Mr. KSRK Raju (Sai)** who presided over, said that in the backdrop of increasing digital transactions, it is important to have some knowledge of cyber-crime. The Chairman of C R E D A I - Visakhapatnam **Mr. Bayana Srinivasa Rao** said that now online transactions have been on the rise and we need to have knowledge about the

possible cyber crimes and use tools to prevent these crimes. C R E D A I - AP President **Mr. B. Raja Srinivas** brought to the notice of the Commissioner, instances of land grabbing by anti-social elements and requested him for suitable action. Responding to this, the Commissioner asked members to bring to his notice specific instances, promising strict and suitable action on the merits of the issue. Later a technical session was organized with reputed IT Companies such as

Inspiredge IT Solutions, Inn Data Analytics, Pi Data Centers Pvt. Ltd. And Labyrinths Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and subject experts explained various aspects connected with cyber-crime. The Seminar on Cyber Crimes was jointly conducted by the C R E D A I - Visakhapatnam Chapter and AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation. AP Chambers State President, **Mr. Pyda Krishna Prasad**, AP Chambers, Visakhapatnam Zone, Chairman, **Mr. KRB Prakash** and **Mr. G. Krishna Mohan**, Member, IT Subcommittee, AP Chambers, Visakhapatnam Zone participated. Secretary **Mr. E. Ashok Kumar** and C R E D A I - Visakhapatnam and Vice President, **Mr. V. Dharmender** were also present.

IN BRIEF

Ireland Senator visits AU

A delegation led by Ireland Senator **Mr. Malcolm Baren** recently visited Andhra University. During the meeting **Mr. Biren** and AU Vice Chancellor **Mr. PVGD Prasada Reddy** discussed about the tie-up with Andhra University. The V-C said that already American Corner and Japanese Centre have been set up at AU and urged him to set up Ireland Centre at AU. He explained that the government led by **Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** is providing all support to bring in investments. AU is encouraging Startup Incubation. Prof. Reddy said that AU is already working with US, UK and Australian universities and is ready to work with Ireland in future.



St. Joseph's Student bags Award

NSS (National Service Scheme) volunteer of Andhra University **Ms B. Angeline** of St. Joseph's College for Women has won APSICHE Excellence awards-2022 under the category Community service awards. She received the award from Chief Minister **Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy** at Madanapalle recently. Her service to Society was also appreciated by **Prof P.V.G.D Prasad Reddy** Vice chancellor.

SKLM Collector opens organic store

Srikakulam District Collector **Mr. Srikesh Lathkar** recently inaugurated an organic store at rythu bazar. Speaking on the occasion he said that the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the district should be gradually reduced and farmers should be encouraged towards organic farming. Chairman of Agriculture Market Committee **Mukalla Tatha Babu**, Assistant Director of Marketing Department **Kailasa Rao** and other officials participated in this program.



"60th Home Guards Raising Day at RINL"

The 60th Home Guards Raising Day was celebrated at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant recently. Chief Guest, **Mr. G Gandhi**, Chief General manager (HR)-Corporate Services, RINL and **Mr. A. Mohammad Haneef**, Commandant, CISF, Visakhapatnam steel plant jointly hoisted the home guards raising day flag. Addressing the home guards of Visakhapatnam steel plant, **Mr. Gandhi** lauded the efforts of Home Guards for protecting the assets of RINL, Ukkunagaram Township and for ensuring security of residents.



Waltair div. holds camp on stress mgmt.

To overcome the stress and anxiety, a camp on stress management was organized at Ashirwad Kalyan Mandap, Visakhapatnam by Waltair Division of East Coast Railway. The camp was conducted in the presence of **Jain Guru Acharya Arvind Muniji**. While addressing the students, Jain Guru said that anxiety is a part of human nature, but it is important to know how to overcome it. He said "Most people find it difficult to face the changes, challenges and to cope up with such variations. Hence, this leads to stress, anxiety and tension." Jain Guru emphasized about stress relaxation, remedies related to stress management and practicing meditation. Speaking on the occasion **DRM Mr. Anup Satpathy** appealed to all the employees to inculcate the stress management techniques.

DG Coast Guard commissions ALH Mk-III squadron in Chennai

To help enhance security in waters of TN & Andhra



VIS News Service

In order to further strengthen the Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was

commissioned by DG **Mr. VS Pathania** at ICG Air Station, Chennai recently.

The commissioning of 840 Sqn (CG) is indicative of the leap towards self-reliance in the field of helicopter manufacturing, in line with the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of Indian Coast Guard in the security sensitive waters off Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.

The ALH Mk-III helicopters, indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), features state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity search light, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue

CNS visits Nagaland

VIS News Service

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) recently visited Nagaland. This visit coincided with the activities being undertaken by the Indian Navy as part of the outreach in the North East. During the visit the CNS called on **Mr Neiphiu Rio**, Chief Minister of Nagaland and attended the Hornbill Festival at the Naga Heritage Village Kisama (121 km from Kohima), as the Chief Guest. He also interacted with the Naval veterans and Flagged-in the 3500km Indian Navy Motorcycle Expedition at the Hornbill Festival. During his visit to Nagaland CNS met **Maj Gen Vikas Lakhera** IG AR North and interacted with personnel in HQ IGAR North.

homer. This feature enables the helicopter to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out search and rescue at extended ranges while operating from ships, both by day and night. The aircraft has the ability to

Dockyard cheers Industry response to Workshop

VIS News Service

Following an update carried in *Vizag Industrial Scan* that the Eastern Naval Command had sought participation (for a workshop it was organizing) from industry experts for repairs & indigenisation of electronic modules and PCBs, industry is said to have participated in good numbers.

In addition, an Expression of Interest (EOI) was also uploaded on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, to seek wider participation of industry in the indigenisation workshop organised at Visakhapatnam on Nov 22. As per highly placed sources in the Indian Navy the above two communi-

switch roles from an offensive platform with heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit to facilitate transfer of critically ill patients.

A total of 16 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted in the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai. Since induction, the squadron has flown over 430 hours and conducted numerous operational missions.

tions helped the Navy get an overwhelming response with participation of 30 firms from different parts of the country.

The workshop provided a platform for the industry to interact with all naval units



undertaking indigenisation, understand their requirements in detail and also showcase their own capabilities. This initiative by the Eastern Naval Command is said to pave the way for a sustained partnership with Indian industry, with a focus on indigenisation of electronic modules and PCBs.

ENC working closely with MSMEs

Contd. from Page 1

are' noted the Vice Admiral.

Adding that it isn't really beneficial to operate in pockets he said that there are small projects which the Navy works upon and when they find a relevant and suitable capability it is then taken to other commands who too can benefit from.

He however appreciated the growing capabilities of many MSMEs/startups and said there is a need to further nurture and hand hold them. 'I must say that whenever we have taken assistance from the private sector, we have found that there is a lot of capability that is resident which we can harness' said the VADM.

He also spoke on the need of funding and research to

better serve the requirements of the Indian Navy.

When asked a question as to how much does the ENC source from MSMEs the VADM Dasgupta informed that the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on an average, gives about Rs 120 crores worth of orders to MSMEs annually.

Similarly for the overall command this figure is said to be in the range of Rs 280 to Rs 300 crores. It was further informed that the dockyard actively works with about 180 MSMEs spread across the country.

Focus on Indigenization Echoing similar views **Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu**, Admiral Superin-

Navy fully Aatmanirbhar by 2047

Contd. from Page 1

Underscoring the role of futuristic technologies in the Indian Navy Chief of the Naval staff, Admiral Hari Kumar said that with the rapid pace of advancements in technology spanning a wide array of sectors there is an inescapable need to not only catch-up with the developments, but to go above and beyond them. "We will passionately pursue and adopt niche and disruptive technologies. Towards this end, we will follow the SPRINT or 'Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIO and TDAC' approach. The aim is to seamlessly meld the elements of 'innovation' 'indigenisation' and 'self-reliance' said the CNS.

Speaking on self-reliance and Atmanirbharta he said The Indian Navy, on its part, has made an unequivocal commitment to be fully Aatmanirbhar by 2047.

RADM Gurcharan takes over Command of Eastern Fleet

VIS News Service

Rear Admiral RGurcharan Singh, NM recently took over command of the Eastern Fleet, the Sword Arm of the Eastern Naval Command, from **Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla**.

War College, Goa and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

During his illustrious career spanning 32 years, the Flag officer has tenanted specialist appointments onboard frontline warships



Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 01, 1990 and is a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Warfare.

The Flag Officer is an alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; Naval

Ranjit, Prahar and Brahmputra.

The Flag Officer is a recipient of the prestigious **Admiral RD Katari Trophy** for standing First in the Overall Order of Merit in his course, during ab-initio training.

He is also a recipient of the Nao Sena Medal for devotion to duty.

Indian Navy participates in Bangladesh's maiden IFR

VIS News Service

The Indian Navy delegation led by **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta**, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and three warships of the Indian Navy participated in the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) hosted by Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar on 07 Dec 22.

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh reviewed the International Fleet comprising ships from Bangladesh Navy and eight ships from six foreign countries.

With three ships, the Indian Navy contingent was the largest amongst the participating foreign navies in this IFR. The other five participating ships were from

China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and the USA. On the sidelines of the IFR, **VADM B Dasgupta** called on **Admiral M Shaheen Iqbal**, the Chief of Naval Staff of Bangladesh Navy.

This was the first International Fleet Review to be hosted by Bangladesh.

'FSS order to HSL under active consideration'

VIS News Service

Visakhapatnam headquartered Hindustan Shipyard Ltd has been eagerly awaiting the mammoth FSS order from the Indian Navy.

The 5 fleet support vessels (FSS) is being touted to be a huge order for HSL which can dramatically enhance both the order book and profitability of HSL.

Speaking to the media as part of the navy day celebrations, **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta** Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command said that the order for 5 FSS is being actively looked at and is under consideration to be given to HSL.

'The talks on FSS are in advanced phase of discussions wherein the project is expected to be received by HSL' said the CinC'.



Regular interaction with MSMEs crucial for building capabilities for Navy.

tendent of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, said that there is a clear focus on Indigenization and that ENC has been working closely with plethora of MSMEs across the country in strengthening the Atma Nirbharta vision.

Identifying indigenization as an ongoing process, RADM Sadhu said that the Indian Navy has given a lot of components of combat/control systems for indigenization. 'We continuously associate with industry/OEMs in terms of indigenization and have already indigenized many critical systems in the Navy.

This not only helps us in our mission of achieving self-reliance but also brings in huge savings by cutting down on expensive imports' said RADM Sadhu. It is estimated that over 6000 contract workers are deployed at naval dockyard, Visakhapatnam with a daily average of 3500 workers coming in.

AP-Invest India Meet



VIS News Service

Minister for Industries, Infrastructure, I&C, IT, Mr Gudivada Amarnath along with **Mr Karanam Dharmasri**, Govt Whip & MLA Chodavaram; **Dr.Srijana Gummalla**, IAS, CEO-APEDB, VC & MD-APIIC, Commissioner-DoI met **Mr Deepak Bagla**, CEO Invest India recently in New Delhi. As per EDB the meeting revolved around exploring more avenues of collaboration with Invest India, in light of the upcoming AP Global Investors Summit to be held on 3rd & 4th March 2023 at Visakhapatnam.

RINL witnessing a dismal FY23

Contd. from Page 1

had also requested Government of Odisha for reservation of an iron ore block in favour of RINL. On the question of steps taken to help RINL tide over working capital problems, the Minister stated that the issues of working capital crunch and high interest burden have been taken up by RINL with the concerned banks.

Mr GVL Narasimha Rao stated that he too had been speaking with concerned Ministers of Steel, Coal and Finance to help RINL tide over the working capital problems and his efforts have already helped RINL to obtain additional finance from public sector banks. He assured that he would continue to make efforts to help improve the functioning of the RINL.

GVL rakes up VPA pollution in Rajya Sabha

Calls for construction of Additional covered storage space

VIS News Service

In order to arrest the alarming level of pollution emitted through the handling of bulk cargo at Visakhapatnam Port Authority, **Mr GVL Narasimha Rao**, MP Rajya Sabha has urged the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways for the construction of additional covered sheds. 'The Pollution caused by emission of fugitive dust from all Coking Coal, Steam Coal and other operations at the Visakhapatnam Port poses a health hazard. This port handles over 70 million tonnes of cargo and handles bulk cargo consisting of Coal, Iron Ore, Pet Coke, Coke, Pellets etc.' stated Mr GVL while speaking in Rajya Sabha. Stating that Infrastructure needs to be created to handle bulk cargo within covered sheds to minimize



In the interest of public health and sustainability of port operations, I request the Central Government to urgently look into this issue.

Mr GVL Narasimha Rao
MP, Rajya Sabha

emission of the fugitive dust the Rajya Sabha MP said that the construction of Sheds is an expensive proposition and cannot be taken up by private Berth operators as the proposed investment is high and the recovery period is longer. He therefore proposed that the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways make

thority (VPA) has already commenced construction of two Sheds and plans have been made for two more. However, there is an urgent need to construct huge, large capacity, state-of-the-art, well-equipped sheds with stacker reclaimers or wagon loading systems. 'In the interest of public

this investment under Sagar Mala project and recoup investment by collecting user charges from the users to recover the capital investments made. 'A time-bound action plan needs to be initiated to bring all Coking Coal and Steam Coal operations under covered Sheds to arrest the emission of fugitive dust' opined Mr GVL. Visakhapatnam Port Au-

health and sustainability of port operations, I request the Central Government to urgently look into this issue and sanction provision of large, well equipped cover sheds in the immediate future. A positive intervention will go a long way in improving the functioning of the Visakhapatnam port and improve the quality of life of citizens in Visakhapatnam' stated Mr GVL.

IIAM holds cultural meet

VIS News Service

Integral Institute of Advanced Management (IIAM) recently hosted Pinnacle - a National Management & Cultural Fest 2022 in Visakhapatnam. Pinnacle 2022 was inaugurated by VPA Chairman **Mr. K. Ram Mohan Rao** Chairman. Speaking on the occasion he said that the students should identify their goals and work in a focused manner to achieve their goals. He also that students have inner strength which should be utilized properly. **Dr. Sunkari Ravindra**, Dean & Secretary, IIAM recalled how pinnacle was launched in 1992 in competition to institutes like IIM's, IIT's and XLRI and said that Pinnacle is a platform to think big and achieve big. **Mr. Surya Teja Mutyam**, Executive Director of IIAM college, **Dr. G. Savitri Jayant**, **Mr. K.V. Rao**- IAS and Ex collector of Visakhapatnam, **M.R. Rao**- Chairman-Founder of ISB (Indian School of Business) also spoke.

SCR - India Post meet with Parcel customers

Highlights Pan India door-door pickup & delivery



VIS News Service

South Central Railway along with Postal Officials recently held an interactive session with Parcel & Freight Customers. The meeting was held to explain about the Joint Parcel Product initiative of the Indian Railways and India Post to the parcel customers

During the meeting it was informed that the integration of both Railways and Postal services will help in ensuring doorstep pickup and delivery of the parcel commodities which the public wish to transport to their respective destinations. This will help in booking consignments to every nook and corner of the country by the common

people conveniently by sitting at their home. Speaking on the occasion, General Manager, SCR stated that the Indian Railways has a vast network of nearly 7,000 stations and the Postal department with approx 1.5 lakh post offices can reach all parts of the country.

He also said that the transportation through this Joint Parcel Product will not only be cost effective but is also an environment friendly option. He stated that the parcel space available in the Luggage rooms of express train services can be effectively utilized for providing seamless end-to-end solutions to parcel customers, with the help of booking and delivery services by

the Postal department.

The Chief Postmaster General, Telangana Circle **Mr K. Prakash** appealed to customers to come out with their requirements, suggestions and doubts which shall be explained in detail on face to face basis. The Executive Director, Railway Board, **Mr G.V.L. Satya Kumar**, stated that by effectively addressing all the issues and bottlenecks, the parcel service from Surat to Varanasi, has become a huge success. He also explained how customised solutions were evolved for handling the parcels through containers / pallets / etc to ensure easy and safe transport (including loading and unloading) of the parcels. Almost 80 customers representing various streams of parcel business participated in the meeting.

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Skim DI officer highlights TD Fund

VIS News Service

Srikakulam District Industries Officer **Mr. J. Uma Maheswara Rao** recently highlighted the Central Government schemes for promoting defence technology.

He said that the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) has initiated and partnered with the private sector to develop defence and dual-use technologies, including for the needs of the police force.

The main objective is to build an ecosystem to develop state-of-the-art technology capability for de-

fence manufacturing and to meet the needs of Tri Services, Defence Production and DRDO, said the officer.

Tech. Dev. Fund

Mr. Umamaheswar Rao



explained about the Technology Development Fund and said that it was established to promote self-reliance in Defence technology as part of the 'Make in India' programme.

He Encouraged participa-

tion of public/private industries, especially MSMEs and startups.

Elaborating on the eligibility criteria he said that for TDF scheme Startups must be recognized by DPIIT

and not incorporated for more than 3 years from the date of submission of application, The startup should not have received grants/grants-in-aid through any government scheme for similar technology. The DIO called on youth to come forward and establish industries.

Electric empty container handler @VCT

VIS News Service

J.M.Baxi's Visakha Container freight station has commissioned an electric empty container handler and a hybrid reach stacker, which uses electricity as the main source of energy.

The introduction of these yard equipment will save fuel consumption by 115 KL per annum and reduce carbon emission by 219 tonnes per annum. With this initiative, J.M. Baxi is moving closer towards its ESG commitments.

HSL yet again completes refit ahead of Schedule

INS Astradharini handed over to Navy 21 days ahead of schedule

VIS News Service

In yet another example of committed and disciplined execution Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) achieved a milestone of completing Normal Refit of INS Astradharini twenty-

official release from the shipyard.

It was further informed that HSL has completed refits of 17 Ships during last year out of which 15 were on or ahead of schedule.



one days ahead of schedule. Post the refit the vessel was handed over to the Indian Navy on Dec. 01, 2022. This project was awarded to HSL on a competitive basis amongst

In successful completion of refit of INS Astradharini, M/s Patel Engineering Works (PEW), an MSME played a crucial role and PEW continues to work with

HSL also gives kudos to a MSME for its timely execution in the project

stringent competition from Public and Private Yards. Incidentally, HSL completed refit on the same vessel ahead of schedule in 2019 also.

This a testimony that HSL has consistently been completing refits on or ahead of schedule for the last two years stated an

HSL in many other projects.

Appreciating the Indian Navy's support HSL's C&MD, Hemant Khatri said that this was made possible due to support of Indian Navy, ecosystem at ENC & experienced MSMEs available in Visakhapatnam.

'Need to clear barriers, & Strengthen our MSMEs'

Contd. from Page 1

advantage of the full potential of the MSMEs, there contribution to the Indian economy should double. "For this, we will ensure to remove the external barriers and provide strength to MSMEs in order to make India self-reliant.

The Minister further stated that MSME ministry is setting up various technology centers across the country to support and strengthen the existing and new MSMEs.

Apart from this, the government is also working with other organizations to help the MSMEs under the

'ZED' certification scheme (providing technology upgradation and quality certification), ASPIRE scheme to promote quality and innovation, Design Clinic, etc. "The government has also launched Champion portal which will

Indian MSMEs

- 6.3 crore MSMEs in the country
- Providing 11 crore jobs
- Contribute around 30% to our GDP
- 50 % share of the income generated from total exports

provide all solutions at one place, and we will further promote the portal to make MSMEs more competitive. Through these schemes, we hope MSMEs will be-

come more sustainable," he added. Mr BB Swain, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt of India said that sustainable development of MSMEs in the current scenario needs to entail enhanced access to fi-

nance and technology. He added that under the 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP), the government is working with the state

governments to formulate a coordinated response to the issues faced by the MSMEs. While enumerating the steps taken by the government to support the MSMEs, Mr Swain stated that the government has extended non-tax benefits for 3 years in case of an upgradation in the classification of MSME. "Another scheme which has a lot of potential is the 'Self Reliant India Fund' which encourages the growth of the sector which was announced in 2020 and has provided growth capital of Rs 2,335 cr to 125 MSMEs till date," he added.

How GCC has been empowering AP's Tribal Population

Aditya Sabharwal

A lot is often talked about the empowerment of tribals so that they can gain meaningful employment & also to assist them in retaining their intrinsic skill/art that many of them possess.

One such corporation that has been ardently bolstering the economic livelihood of tribal farmers is the The Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC Ltd.).

Established in the year 1956

middlemen so that tribal farmers can get more return for their produce GCC has for decades been helping tribals in realising true value for their indigenous products.

There are said to be about 26 lakh tribals in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

'The livelihood of Tribals is protected by GCC giving remunerative prices and by its large presence through 8 Divisional Offices, 26 Primary Cooperative Mar-



from Forest & Agriculture produce gathered by tribals viz., Coffee, Honey, Tamarind, Turmeric Powder, Rajmah, Shikakai, Soapnut, Amla, Bilva, Nannari sharbats, Triphala etc. These

the best price for their product. Just to give you an example, in the international market today coffee is being sourced at Rs

255/kg while GCC is giving tribal farmers Rs 270/kg' said the VC and MD. GCC sourced about

Some of the Products Sourced by GCC

Coffee, Honey, Tamarind, Turmeric Powder, Rajmah, Shikakai, Soapnut, Amla, Bilva, Nannari sharbats, Triphala etc.



mode of sale by tribal farmers is 80% of the yield in the form of Cherry coffee and 20% as Parchment coffee.

Similarly to meet the demand for Girijan Honey, GCC is intensifying collection of Rock Bee Honey by imparting training on scientific tapping / collection to tribal honey hunters.

Another key area where GCC has been a boon for tribal farmers is the sourcing of Minor forest produce (MFP).

'To curtail exploitation and provide remunerative prices to the Tribal Farm-

nopoly of 30 MFPS' informed the VC and MD.

GCC has procured 6564.60 Qtls. of Minor Forest Produce & Agricultural produce worth Rs. 245.11 Lakhs at the door step of the Tribal Farmers and provided livelihood to more than One Lakh Tribal families. And to accommodate the growing product line of tribal farmers the cooperative is looking to further enhance its sourcing basket and is aiming to harness Millets viz., Ragi, Samalu, Sajjalu, Korralu, Oodalu.

GCC Credit

Some of the other vital benefits that GCC offers to tribals is credit facility wherein it has given credit to the tune of Rs. 200.12 Lakhs to 436 Tribal farmers

GCC Is:

- A PSU undertaking of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- Established in 1956 supports Tribals by giving remunerative prices for their produce
- GCC implements MSP for 5 items of Minor Forest Produce

this public Sector undertaking of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh works with an objective to improve Socio Economic upliftment of Tribal Communities in the State.

Armed with the objective to annul the involvement of

keting Societies and (962) DR Depots' said **Mr G Suresh Kumar**, IIS, Vice Chairman and MD of GCC speaking exclusively to Vizag Industrial Scan.

GCC is actively involved in the business promotion of various products sourced

'We give our tribal farmers 130MT of arabica coffee last fiscal FY 22 while for this fiscal its targeting a whopping 1500 MT. Arabica coffee is the main variety grown in the tribal areas of Paderu Agency. It is informed that in Paderu Agency the preferred

ers, GCC is implementing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 5 items of Minor Forest Produce approved by Government of India and supported by GOAP and has paid Rs. 46.23 Lakhs to the MFP Gatherers. We have a mo-

towards Seasonal Agricultural Operations. It also provides Credit loans to Tribal farmers for Coffee operations. GCC posted revenues of Rs 460 crores in the last fiscal and is hoping to cross over Rs 500 crores in this fiscal.

Conference on waste management



VIS News Service

AP Minister for Energy and Forest **Dr. Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy** recently inaugurated the 12th International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management held at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. In his speech **Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy**, Founder Managing Director, illustrated how Sri City's inclusive approach aims to protect the environ-

ment along with business functionality. "In line with its goal of being India's first carbon-neutral manufacturing zone, Sri City has adopted innovative green initiatives. Now, it has grown to become a thriving sustainable industrial ecosystem, where over 200 companies from 28 different countries 'make for the world', offering employment to over 50,000 people", said the founder MD.

Internet Exchange soon in Vizag

Contd. from Page 1

Establishing Internet Exchanges reduces the path of the internet traffic coming from one Internet Service Provider (ISP) to other ISPs & participating networks like content delivery networks (CDNs), Data Centres etc. Internet Exchanges reduces latency, improves response time and potentially reduces cost to deliver Internet services & contents.

Similarly, Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) cre-

ate shorter routes for Internet traffic. They offer better resilience, stability, efficiency and quality improvements, all at a lower cost.

Internet Exchanges establish an eco-system for faster delivery of contents at reduced cost.

This is expected to benefit the IT sector, Service Sector and Society at large including concerned sectors at Visakhapatnam.

Establishing more Internet Exchange Points IXPs not only helps in managing traf-

fic but encourages more local content development, creates incentives for local hosting of Internet services due to the larger pool of local users, who will be able to access online content faster and cheaper. This will enable Visakhapatnam to emerge as an IT hub.

As of now there is only 1 Internet Exchange of National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) that is installed & operational in Andhra Pradesh i.e. in Tirupati.

Redevelopment Works of Nellore Railway Station Commences Swiftly

Contract worth Rs 102 crs awarded in August 2022

VIS News Service

The Ministry of Railways has undertaken the project of 'Redevelopment of Railway Stations' to provide world class amenities with elegant features.

As part of this, major upgradation of Nellore station has been initiated by South Central Railway.

Accordingly, the Contract for undertaking this crucial de-

Nellore station and the progress of this important project is being monitored at every stage.

The General Manager stated that the Upgradation



Target completion by May 2024

velopmental work has been awarded in August 2022 to M/s. SCL Infratech Ltd., Hyderabad and it is targeted to complete within 21 months period i.e., by May, 2024.

Mr Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR stated that the Upgradation works have commenced at

works have been awarded under EPC mode so that it will be completed within the scheduled targeted time. He also instructed the Officials to extend full cooperation to ensure that all the requisite modern passenger facilities are operational at the earliest time frame.

Nellore Railway station is located along the important grand trunk route and is one of the important District headquarters in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It has got a special importance with a large number of rail passengers travelling for educational, pilgrim and commercial purposes among others. Currently, the station handles a foot-

fall of around 30,000 passengers and is likely to go up further. Keeping in view all these factors, the Station Upgradation has been planned under EPC mode to handle both current as well as future passenger traffic. To complete the station Upgradation within the targeted time, work has already commenced.

Need for cost effective Mass Transit System: APMRC MD

VIS News Service

Emphasising the urgent need for mass transit in a populous country like India, **Mr U.J.M. Rao**, IRAS, Managing Director, AP Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, recently highlighted the advantages of Mass Transit. Addressing the gathering as Guest Speaker in the 10th Edition Urban Rail In India at New Delhi. Mr Rao spoke on the Topic "Financial Viability of Metro Rail System for Indian Tier 2 Cities – Case Study by Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation – Visakhapatnam & Vijayawada Light Metro Rail Projects".

In his presentation he explained the need for establishing a cost effective modern public transportation system in Cities having more than 20 lakh population for achieving overall



In AP we are executing Light Metro Rail System which will downsize the cost of Capex by 25% and O&M expenditure by 20%. – Mr. UJM Rao, IRAS

GDSP growth leading to higher per capita income of the people.

He stated that due to fast urbanization in the Country satellite townships have mushroomed in the city outskirts thereby creating an imminent need for a robust means of public transport which accelerates the productivity and the economic growth in the city and the region. Metro Rail Systems are therefore considered to be the right mode of Mass Rapid Transport System

which is fast (a time saver), comfortable, convenient, accident free, zero pollution and affordable to the travelling public said Mr Rao.

He however added that Metro Rail Systems are Capital Intensive Infrastructural

Projects that require huge Capital making it operational. Highlighting the AP Metro Rail Corporation with the technical assistance of M/s. SYSTRA, France Mr Rao said that the state is implementing "Light Metro Rail System" for Indian Tier 2 & 3 Cities suitable for next 40 & above years' traffic needs, while downsizing the cost of Capex by 25% and the O&M expenditure by 20% than the present Metro Rail Systems in India.

GoAP clears close to USD 3 Billion Inv.

Contd. from Page 1

cores to be done in 2 phases with an initial investment of about Rs 3000 crores. It is being stated that to begin with the plant will have a capacity of about 1 million tonnes.

Including the JSW Steel proposed investment of Rs 8000 crores Andhra Pradesh State Investment and promotion board cleared total investments of over Rs 23,000 crores.

Apart from JSW steel the other two investments include 2 hydro storage projects one by Adani Green energy at Rs 6300 crores providing employment to over 4000 people. It is stated that the company will set up a 1000 MW plant at Pedakota and 600 MW plant at Raiwada. Similarly Shirdi Sai Electricals will set up 2 hydro storage projects at Rs 8885 crores wherein one will be in Yerravaram of 1200 MW and Somasila of 900MW.

Vizag Customs working on collaborative approach

Contd. from Page 1

from Rs 7330 crores in April-Nov 2021 to Rs 10,996 crores in the first 8 months of this fiscal i.e. FY23.

'There has been a 50% surge in our revenue collections for the April-Nov 2022 period compared to the same period last year' said **Mr K Engineer**, IRS Commissioner, Custom house Visakhapatnam speaking exclusively to

we have a keen focus on trade facilitation. We therefore work very closely with the trade here and seek candid feedback which could further help us improve our services' said Mr Engineer.

The Custom Commissioner slots an open hour every day wherein customers with a pertinent issue or hurdle can just walk into his office anytime between 2pm-3pm.

spect of import/export consignments. This facilitates customs clearances thereby reducing dwell time' cited Mr Engineer.

Another mechanism for the benefit of trade is the anonymised escalation mechanism (AEM) wherein the identity of the customer is protected. Under AEM grievances can be submitted anonymously and it also enables users to track the status of griev-

Vizag Industrial Scan.

Mr Engineer attributed the

increase in revenue collections to a significant growth in coal and fertilizer shipments during this period. Some of the top companies that contribute to the department's overall revenue collections include HPCL, SAIL, RINL, India Potash and Coromandel International.

Keen Focus on Grievance Redressal Mechanisms

Highlighting some of the new initiatives at the department the custom commissioner emphasised on the importance of driving a collaborative approach with all stakeholders.

'We are very clear that logistics costs need to be significantly brought down and

For delays in decision making on part of any officer, the aggrieved person can approach senior officers.

'Trade should have confidence in us. Along with enforcement Trade facilitation too is paramount for us' noted Mr Engineer.

As part of this drive and ease of doing business the Custom House has been implementing several grievance redressal mechanisms.

Take for instance the department's Turant Seva Kendra (TSK) mechanism which has been well appreciated by trade. TSK takes up the issues of delay in clearance of bills pending at both FAG and PAG levels as well as with RMS facilitated bills.

'Any importer/exporter can approach the TSK officer for any issue faced in re-

ances thereby enabling quicker clearance of goods.

Similarly, the E-Helpline mechanism is for trade to get their grievances redressed in respect of any assessment/procedural delay/system issues related to customs.

CPPGRAMS is another online platform to lodge grievances which is a single portal connected to all the ministries/departments. With these trade facilitation mechanisms in place coupled with growth in shipments the department is looking to close this fiscal with revenues of Rs 17328 crores (as compared to Rs 12246 crores in FY22) which Mr Engineer opined is well on its track in achieving it.

India as global capital of millets

VIS News Service

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, **Mr Piyush Goyal** has said that India must strive to become the

global capital of millets. Addressing the gathering at the 'Millets-Smart Nutritive Food' Conclave in New Delhi recently the Minister said that the Millets-Smart Nutritive Food Conclave and the first in-

ternational buyer-seller meet on millets being held on the side-lines of the C o n - c l a v e w o u l d help prepare the country



for the 'International Year of Millets 2023'. He added that the UN has accepted 2023 to be the international year of millets at India's request which was endorsed by over 70 countries.

Terming millets as 'nature's gift to mankind' because of its tremendous nutritive value he Quoted PM Modi "millets or coarse grains have been a part of India's agriculture, culture and civilization since ancient times" and added that millets are both climate friendly and capable of combating lifestyle diseases. He spoke of the value of millets as a fodder and said that millets had truly multidimensional benefits.



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Technotex 2023 in Feb

VIS News Service

India's premier show on Technical Textiles - 'Technotex 2023' will be held in Mumbai from 22nd to 24th February 2023. The largest technical textile industry in India is focused on providing its attendees access and networking opportunities to meet top CEOs, manufacturers, industry peers, purchase managers and suppliers from India and around the globe. The event is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce Industry, under National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).

AU gets new Hostel courtesy SALPG



VIS News Service

Industries and IT Minister **Mr. Gudivada Amarnath** recently inaugurated a new hostel building in the premises of Andhra University College of Engineering for Women. The funds for the New hostel building was provided by South Asia LPG Company (SALPG) wherein it contributed Rs. 2.5 crore towards construction of the building. SALPG's CEO **Mr. Sanjoy Guha** said that they are happy to be part of the developmental activities of the University. South Asia LPG Company Pvt. Ltd., (SALPG pronounced 'essayLPG') is 50:50 Joint Venture between HPCL & Total Holding India (THI).

Now just Scan your face to board a Flight

Soon at Vijayawada Airport

VIS News Service

Marking the launch of a significant initiative Union Minister for Civil Aviation **Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia** recently launched Digi Yatra from the Indra Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi for three airports in the country. Digi Yatra is conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passen-

gers at airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). Currently launched at 3 airports namely New Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru

checkpoints at the airports through a paperless and contactless processing using facial features to establish her identity which could be linked to the boarding pass. The uploaded data will utilise blockchain technology and all the data will be purged from the servers within 24 hours of use said MoCA.

Travellers can now pass through various checkpoints at the airport through a paperless & contactless processing, using facial features.



the Digi Yatra project conceived by Digi Yatra Foundation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the project envisages a traveller today pass through various

Digi Yatra will soon be launched in 4 more airports namely Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada by March 2023.

Roja calls for safeguarding Art forms

VIS News Service

Tourism, Minister **Ms. R. K. Roja** recently participated in the Jagananna Swarnotsav Sambaralu programme wherein she called for preserving our cultural heritage and art forms. She also said that there was an urgent need for the youth to embrace our traditional art forms. Participating in the programming she witnessed tiger dance, tappetagullu, dhimisa dance, folk dance etc.,

Presidential Welcome



VIS News Service

Chief Minister **Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** and his wife **Bharati** are seen presenting a memento to President **Draupadi Murmu** during her recent visit to Vijayawada. The President was on a two-day visit to the State to participate in the Navy Day celebrations along with other programmes.

Unveiling AP to the World



VIS News Service

The CM recently unveiled the logo of the Global Investors Summit - 2023 to be held at Visakhapatnam. The launch was attended by Minister for Industries, Infra, I&C, IT, **Mr Gudivada Amarnath**, **Mr R. Karikal Valaven, IAS, Spl.CS to GoAP, I&C** and other senior officials of the government. CII Andhra Pradesh Chairman **Mr Neeraj Sarada** was also present on the occasion.

EV Charging at Rly. station

VIS News Service

Divisional Railway Manager **Mr. Anup Satpathy** recently inaugurated the E-mobility, facility at Waltair Division. The East Coast Railway has awarded a contract for setting up E-Vehicle charging station at Visakhapatnam railway station. Accordingly, as a first-time initiative, Waltair Division has taken up the provision of an electric vehicle charging facility at Visakhapatnam railway station.



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