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Mekapati Pitches AP in Dubai

VIS News Service

Showcasing the state of Andhra Pradesh to prospective investors in the Dubai expo 2020, AP's minister for Industries, IT, skill development, **Mr. Mekapati Goutham Reddy** made a passionate appeal to investors to come and explore the state of Andhra Pradesh for investments.



state in India blessed with second largest coastline of

AP industrially the minister said there was ample opportunity.

'Currently Industry contributes just 14% and we want to double this in the next 5-7 years' said the Industries minister.

Highlighting agriculture and food processing as key areas for investments the minister informed investors that the state is the largest producers of shrimp, 1st in egg production, 1st in mango, lemon, chili, papaya and tomato and second in paddy, groundnut and maize per year.



AP's Agri & Food Processing Sector

- ✓ Largest producer of shrimp among coastal states
- ✓ 1st in Egg production
- ✓ 1st in Mango, Papaya, Lemon, Tomato, Chillies
- ✓ 2nd in Paddy, Groundnut and Maize Production

974 kms' said the AP's minister.

Emphasising on developing

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VSR rebukes Budget for betraying AP & States

Calls it a Budget with No Substance

VIS News Service

Senior YSRCP leader and Chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on Commerce Mr Vijayasai Reddy tore into the contents of the budget for having no substance and for steadily betraying states of their due share.

'It is a stylish budget with no substance' said Mr Vijayasai Reddy while speaking in Rajya Sabha. He said many of the centres steps are disregarding the Aatmanirbharta of the states by reducing their share in the



The centre is using manipulative practices to reduce states share of taxes from the central pool of taxes.

central pool of taxes. They are deliberately increasing cess and surcharges in gross tax revenues while not sharing it with the states' pointed out Mr Vijayasai Reddy.

He informed that the central government had collected Rs 3.35

central pool of taxes.

'The centre according to me is using manipulative practices to reduce states share of taxes from the

lakh crores by way of cess on petrol and shared only a miniscule 5.8% of it with the states.

Contd. on Page ..5

Commercial Taxes Revenue grow 36%

Aditya Sabharwal

AP's Commercial taxes revenues have seen a welcome growth in its revenue collections for the first 10 months of the current fiscal i.e. April'21 to Jan'22. GST revenue collected (with Ad hoc & compensation received) saw the biggest surge among the other taxes registering a growth of

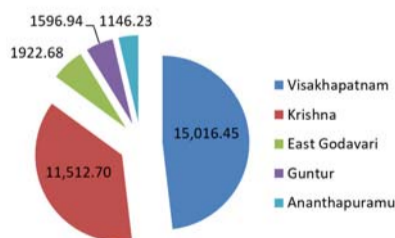
8735.54 crores to Rs 12,278.5 crores marking a growth of 40.56%.

Professional Tax revenue too grew from Rs 177.96 crores to Rs 207.59 crores increasing by 16.65%. Similarly liquor collections rose from Rs 4735.30 crores to Rs 5546.85 crores in the period April'21 to Jan'22 thus growing by 17.14%.

Overall commercial tax collections grew by 36.1% with total revenues being Rs 44,393.23 crores compared to Rs 32,617 crores recorded in the last fiscal between April' 20- Jan' 21 (See Table). This included IGST Ad hoc settlement of Rs 1021.7 crores compared to Rs 1261 crores during CPLY (corresponding period last year), while GST compensation received was Rs 2501.39 crores compared to Rs

Top 5 Districts Collections wise

Rs In Crs(FY22 April-Jan)



38.97% compared to the same period last year.

The state's GST revenue collections stood at Rs 26,360.28 crores for the period April-Jan'FY22 while during the same period last year it had recorded revenues of Rs 18,968 crores. Similarly revenue on petroleum products increased from Rs

Contd. on Page ..5

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NALCO has a stellar Q3FY22

VIS News Service

One of India's largest integrated manufacturers and exporter of alumina and aluminium, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), registered a nearly 3.5-fold increase in Net profit to clock Rs. 831 crore in Q3 of FY22. This is a jump of 246% compared to Rs. 240 crore in Q3 of FY21. The Company also broke the highest profit figure clocked since inception for the first nine month period, with Net profit of Rs. 1,926 crore for the period ending Dec 2021, a 5-fold increase and a substantial jump of 429% over 364 Cr posted in corresponding period of previous fiscal.

The total revenue from operations in Q3 of FY22 witnessed substantial growth, clocking Rs. 3,773 crores compared to Rs.2,379 crores in Q3 of FY21.

The results of the Navratna CPSE, under the Ministry of Mines, Govt.

Contd. on Page ..2

IN BRIEF

NTPC Conferred CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2021

NTPC has been conferred "Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility" in the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2021, the consecutive 2nd time in a row. This is the highest award conferred by CII-ITC. **Mr. Dillip Kumar Patel**, Director (HR) recently received this coveted Award in an online ceremony for NTPC. The Chief Guest of the occasion was **Mr. Rao Inderjeet Singh**, Union Minister for State, (Independent Charges) Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation, Ministry of Planning & Union Minister of State, and Ministry of Corporate Affairs. NTPC Sipat, NTPC Tanda, NTPC Talcher, NTPC Kudgi, NTPC Rihand and NTPC Aravali were also awarded by CII-ITC for their significant efforts towards sustainable development on the occasion.



NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. acquires 5% stake in PXIL

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd. has acquired 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL). NVVN has purchased these shares from NSE Investment Limited, a co-promoter shareholder of PXIL. NVVN is one of the top power traders in India and the acquisition of an equity stake in PXIL is a strategic opportunity for NVVN to achieve and maintain a leadership position in the rapidly changing Power trading market.

A. Prakash gets Addl. Charge of Dir In-charge, SAIL

Mr. Amarendu Prakash, Director In-charge, SAIL, Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has assumed the additional charge of Director In-charge (Burnpur & Durgapur Steel Plant), SAIL on 1st February 2022. It is noteworthy that Mr. Amarendu Prakash has been the Director In-charge of BSL since 28th September 2020. He has also been given the additional charge of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) from August 1, 2021. Mr. Prakash, a B. Tech in Metallurgy from BIT Sindri, (Ranchi University), is an accomplished technocrat and possesses over 28 years of experience, comprising 24 years in Plant Operations at BSL and 4 years at Chairman's office in SAIL. He began his career at SAIL in the year 1991 with posting in Rolling Mills. In the year 1999, he was conferred upon by SAIL the prestigious "JAWAHAR AWARD" for best young manager for his leadership qualities.



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Steel Industry Reduces its Energy Consumption

VIS News Service

Union Minister for Steel **Mr. Ram Chandra Prasad Singh** informed the Lok Sabha that over the years the Indian steel industry has reduced its energy consumption and carbon emissions substantially with the widespread adoption of Best Available Technologies in the modernisation & expansion projects. The average CO2 emission intensity of the Indian steel industry has reduced from around 3.1 Tonne/tonne of crude steel (T/tcs) in 2005 to around 2.6 T/tcs by 2020.

To mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change India has introduced various measures under the umbrella of National Action

Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC). National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) is one of the eight missions under NAPCC.



The Perform Achieve & Trade (PAT) is a flagship scheme under NMEEE. It is a market based mechanism for enhancing energy efficiency, under which specific targets of energy savings are set. Those achieving the set targets are awarded Energy Saving Certificates (ESCCerts), each equal to 1

Metric Tonne of Oil Equivalent. Those unable to meet their assigned targets are required to purchase ESCerts from the overachievers through a centralised online trading mechanism. The Indian steel industry is an important stakeholder under the PAT Scheme. The Steel sector has been able to achieve the total targeted energy savings from PAT Cycles PAT-I, PAT-II & PAT-III for the period from 2012-20 to the tune of 5.5 MTOE (Million Tonne of Oil Equivalent) and corresponding CO2 reduction of 20 Million tonne.

The steel sector has adopted the Best Available Technologies available globally, in the modernisation & expansions projects.

NALCO's New Dir. (F)



VIS News Service

Mr. Ramesh Chandra Joshi has recently taken charge as the new Director (Finance) of NALCO, a Navaratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. Mr. Joshi is an experienced finance professional. He is also a nominee director on the Board of M/s Angul Aluminium Park Pvt Ltd, a JV of NALCO and IDCOL. Before assuming charge he was working as Group General Manager Finance.

PS Mishra SECL's CMD



VIS News Service

Mr. Prem Sagar Mishra took over SECL's command after the reception with the guard of honour, the meeting of the Heads of Departments, and Regional General Managers.

He is Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of South Eastern Coalfields Limited w.e.f. 28th January 2022.

He joined SECL in the year 1987 and worked in different managerial capacities in several mines of SECL for more than sixteen years.

SAIL's Q3 net profit up 12%

VIS News Service

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) recently declared its financial results giving the company's performance during Q3 and 9M of the Financial Year 2021-22 (FY'22).

SAIL's PAT in Q3FY22

While for the first 9 months the company recorded a PAT of Rs 9597 crores compared to Rs 406 crores in the first 9 months of FY'21.

The company has delivered one of its best physical performances during the quarter as well as nine

beyond the control of the company which primarily include unprecedented increase in the prices of imported and indigenous coking coal.

With the overall positive outlook in the economy and the announcements in the Union Budget for

	Q3 FY'22	Q3 FY'21
Financial Performance, In Rs Crore		
EBITDA	3659	5294
PBT	1931	3645
PAT	1443	1283

stood at Rs 1443 crores compared to Rs 1283 crores in same period in Q3FY21 thereby rising 12%.

The company also saw an increase in its hot metal, crude steel and saleable steel production.

months ending 31st Dec, 2021 stated an official release from the company.

The release further said that the same is not reflected in the financial performance of Q3 FY'22 due to various factors

increasing the infrastructure spending, the performance is likely to improve in the coming quarters. The company's focus remains to lower its borrowings and this is reflected in the reduction of about 15% over Q2.

NMDC records 18.14% growth in prod.

VIS News Service

The largest iron ore producer of India, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), under Ministry of Steel produced 4.56 MT and sold 4.24 MT of iron ore in the month of January, 2022. The mining major registered a growth of 18.14% in production and 13.4% in sales over CPLY and delivered the highest



ever iron ore production and sales in any January month since inception. The sales achieved during the month of January 2022 is the highest ever in any month since inception of mines.

Cumulative production and sales figures for the first 10 months of FY22, up to January 2022, stood at 32.88 MT and 32.60 MT respectively. These figures registered the best ever 10 months

physical performance of NMDC. The company achieved a growth of 28.14% in production and 25.34% in sales over the same period last year.

Congratulating the NMDC team for yet another impressive performance, NMDC CMD, **Mr. Sumit Deb** said, "It has been a good beginning to a year that looks to be a very promising one given the Government's continued focus and enhanced expenditure on infrastructure in the Union Budget 2022.

NALCO has a stellar Q3FY22

Contd. from Page 1

of India, were driven by sustained supply of raw material, optimized production, strategic sourcing of power, particularly during the period of coal crisis, better realization and effective capacity utilization of its operational units said a release from NALCO.

During the nine months of current fiscal, the Company achieved production of 55.03 lakh tonne Bauxite compared to 53.48 lakh tonne during corresponding period of



The results are a testimony to the hard work and commitment of our employees.

Mr. Sridhar Patra,
CMD, NALCO

FY21, and Alumina Hydrate of 15.41 lakh tonnes, against 15.07 lakh tonnes of previous fiscal. Aluminium production also registered healthy growth with full capacity utilization of the Smelter plant at 3.43 lakh tonnes produced in the

first nine month ending Dec 2021, against 3.06 lakh tonnes of FY21.

Mr. Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO, attributed the success to the exemplary contributions of the employees.

APM Terminals Pipavav creates record in Limestone discharge

Discharges 31,263 MT per day

VIS News Service

One of the leading gateway ports in Western India, APM Terminals Pipavav, recently achieved a productivity



milestone in limestone discharge in bulk operation. The Port discharged the limestone vessel "MV El Matador" within 46 hours, at the discharge rate of 31,263 MT per day. The vessel was berthed on arrival without any pre-berthing

delay with singular focus on faster vessel turnaround considering strong vessel line-up in waiting said a release from APM.

Limestone and other mineral cargoes are mostly handled with conventional mode at all Indian ports; wherein above operational feat is certainly one of the highest minerals discharge record against industry standards. The breakthrough productivity was achieved with the

usage of Port's state-of-the-art Gottwald Shore cranes & vessel cranes and seamless co-ordination at the Port ensuring safe and efficient operations.

Commenting on Company's initiatives, **Mr. Jakob Friis Sørensen, MD, APM Terminals Pipavav** said, "We are proud of another productivity achievement at our port. Discharging the minerals at the rate of 31263 MT per day is an outstanding feat and shows our infrastructure capabilities, flawless planning, and co-ordination among our teams at the Port. We are committed to extend the best services to our customers by moving their cargoes safely and in the least possible time at our port through continuous infrastructure development."

Largest vessel @ Mundra Port

VIS News Service

History was recently made at Mundra Port as it welcomed the largest container vessel that has ever berthed on an Indian port.

This is an exciting milestone in the Indian Maritime

industry and we are determined to make way for bigger ships, said

Mr. Karan Adani, CEO, Adani Ports and special



economic zone in a linkedIn post.

Shipping Minister holds meeting on PM Gati Shakti

VIS News Service

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal** recently took a comprehensive review of initiatives taken by the various ports for facilitating Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Operational Efficiency through Technology (OETT) to boost growth under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said, "Integrated efforts which are being taken by Ports and others will add speed to development works around the country. PM Gati Shakti will help the people, farmers, fishing community and strengthen India's economy.

Mr Sonowal further urged the officials to put emphasis on promotion of Atma Nirbhar Bharat mission and skill development so that the youth of the country can be benefited.

Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan,

Secretary, MoPS&W in his remarks stressed upon multi modal connectivity, highlighting the seven pillars of growth under PM Gati Shakti, Smart, Mega and

National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and



Green Ports, EoDB and Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030.

The Prime Minister had launched PM Gati Shakti -

Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

SCR records 100 Million Tonnes in Freight

VIS News Service

Overcoming the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic South Central Railway has crossed a major milestone in this financial year.

Loading for Steel Plants (3.76 MTs), Containers Loading (1.85MTs), etc have helped in reaching the mark. Food grains (7.16MTs), Fertilizers (5.47MTs) and others (5.47

123 % growth in loading of Food grains

The Zone has crossed originating loading of 100 Million Tonnes (MTs) in the freight segment and carried 100 Million passengers in the passenger segment as on 11th February, 2022.

SCR's conscious efforts to balance both freight and Passenger segment has led

MTs) loading is on par with previous year, but much higher when compared with pre covid times.

Regular monitoring of supply of wagons by the Railway officials to support the movement of food grains by Food Corporation of India and other



growth rebound in both the segments in the current financial year stated a release from SCR.

The crossing of 100 MTs of freight loading in the current financial year has mainly

Government institutions has helped in transportation of food grains on a large scale.

Mr. Sanjeev Kishore, General Manager, SCR

56 % growth in loading of Container traffic

been contributed by 48 MTs of loading from various customers like M/s. Singareni Collieries Ltd, Western Coal Fields, etc. Besides, Cement Loading (28.32MTs), Raw material

expressed his appreciation to team SCR for simultaneously crossing the 100 Million mark in both passenger and freight segment.

Cargo Vessel sets sail from Patna to Guwahati via Bangladesh

Takes 200 MT food grain through a 2,350 kms waterways

VIS News Service

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, **Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal** recently flagged off an inland waterway vessel MV Lal Bahadur Shastri from Patna to Guwahati. This historic feat is said to usher in a new era of growth for all the states of Northeast India.

The waterways will cut through the landlocked access which has been crippling development in the region for long. The waterways will not only remove this geographical hindrance on the road of progress in the region but also provides an economical, swift and convenient transportation for the businesses and people of the region stated an official release from the ministry.

The vessel which started its journey from Patna carried 200 Metric Tonnes of foodgrains headed for Pandu in Guwahati & will



This is a historic moment for all of Northeast as we embark to reap the benefit of the most seamless cargo transportation through Brahmaputra.

Mr Sarbananda Sonowal

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways & AYUSH

travel via Bangladesh to reach the destination by early March, 2022.

The vessel starts its sail on National Waterway-1 (river Ganga) through Bhagalpur, Manihari, Sahibganj, Farakka, Tribeni, Kolkata, Haldia, Hemnagar; Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route through

Khulna, Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Chilmari and National Waterway-2 through Dhubri, and Jogighopa covering a distance of 2,350 km. The vessel will take about 25 days to cover the entire voyage and is expected to reach Pandu in Guwahati by early March.

In line with the "Act East"

policy of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has taken up several infrastructure projects on National Waterway-1, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route, and NW2, through the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

Speaking on this landmark moment, Mr Sonowal, said, "This is a historic moment for all of Northeast as we embark to reap the benefit of the most seamless cargo transportation through Brahmaputra. This is not just a journey from Patna to Pandu but it is a journey of unfulfilled desires & aspirations to reach out to a wider world via waterways. The opportunity for the people of Assam & Northeast is tremendous.

IWAI aims at running regular scheduled services on these routes. The minister also laid the foundation stone for construction of Kalughat intermodal terminal at Saran in Bihar on National Waterway - 1 (river Ganga).

Railway Budget Allocates over Rs. 7000 crs to Andhra Pradesh

21% Higher than last year

VIS News Service

The Total Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects & safety works, falling fully / partly in State of Andhra Pradesh, in 2022-23 is Rs 7,032 Crores as against Rs 5,812 crore in 2021-22, which is 21 % more. Informing this in a recent press briefing **Mr Sanjeev Kishore**, General Manager, South Central Railway said that the Budget allocations to Andhra Pradesh have also been witnessing sustained increase with current year's allocation being almost 2.5 times the average allocation done during 2014-20.



- An amount of Rs. 325 Crs has been sanctioned for Station Development Works over South Central Railway
- Rs. 58 Crore allotted for Midlife Rehabilitation factory at Kurnool
- Rs. 3 Crore allotted for Development of South Side Entry at Tirupati Railway Station

SCR has been sanctioned a staggering amount of Rs. 9,125 Crores for the year 2022-23 (for New Lines, Double Lines, Third Lines and Electrification works) compared to Rs. 7,049 Crore for the year 2021-22, nearly 30% increase

over last year:

- For Doubling, Third Line and Bypass line works, the total budgetary grant (including all sources) is Rs 5,517 Crore., when compared to Rs 4,238 Crore in the last year.
- For New lines, the total budgetary grant including Capital, Deposit, Extra Budgetary Resources etc is Rs 2,817 Crore, when compared to Rs 2,195 Crore

in the last year.

For electrification works, the total budgetary grant is Rs. 791 Crore, when compared to Rs 617 Crore in the last year.

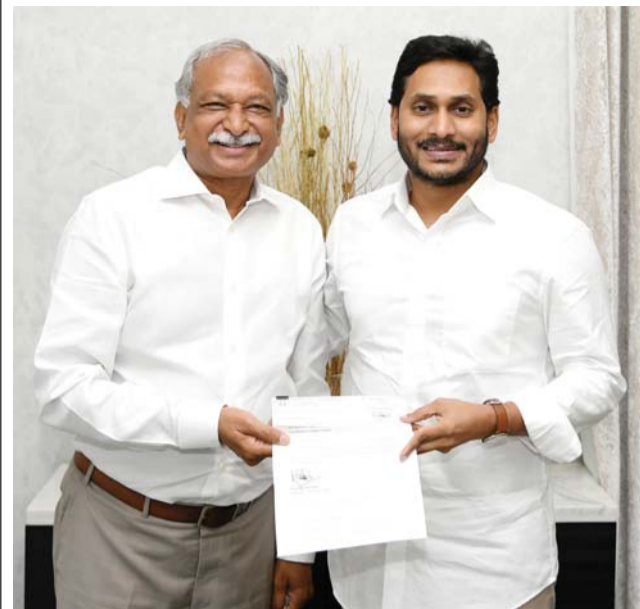
The Budgetary Allocations for some of the important ongoing New Line Projects over SCR & their current status are Rs. 1,501 Crore allotted for Nadikudi-Srikalahasti new line project, Rs. 358 Crore allotted for

Kotipalli-Narsapur new line project, Rs. 289 Crore allotted for Kadapa - Bengaluru new line project (Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka) among others.

The allocations for some of the important Doubling / Third Line as well Bypass line projects and their status among others include Rs. 1,681 Crore allotted for Vijayawada - Gudivada / Machilipatnam - Bhimavaram / Narsapur-Nidadavolu doubling and electrification, Rs. 1,000 Crore allotted for Vijayawada - Gudur 3rd line project, Rs. 803 Crore allotted for Guntur - Guntakal doubling project, Rs. 592.5 Crore allotted for Kazipet - Vijayawada 3rd line project.

Under Mission Electrification, in the current financial year 222.63 Route Km of electrification has been completed.

At the Secretariat



As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Pokarna Group, donated Rs. 1 crore for the state-of-the-art infrastructure being set up in government schools. The cheque was handed over to Chief Minister **Mr.Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** by Pokarna Group CMD **Mr. Gautam Chand Jain**. Connect to Andhra CEO **Ms. V. Koteswaramma** was also present.

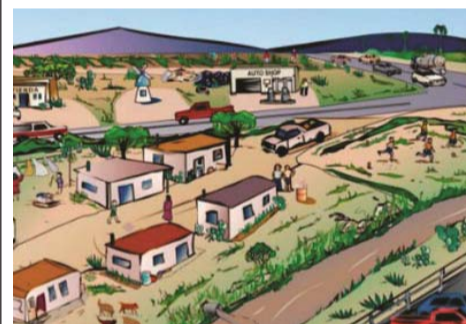
CM holds review meet on rural dev.

VIS News Service

The Chief Minister **Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy** recently conducted a review on the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments.

on funds released from the Centre.

As for the Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam and Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) schemes for door-to-door collection of



domestic waste, the officials said the programme started in rural areas in November has achieved a 22 per cent target in the

He asked the officials to take up works under the central job guarantee scheme on a priority basis in addition to works related to village secretariats, Rythu Bharosa Kendras, health clinics, digital libraries etc.

The Chief Minister asked the officials to come up with an action plan to speedily complete works under the MGNREG Scheme based

three months. The collection could be cent per cent by October, they said.

On supply of safe drinking water in the upcoming Jagananna Colonies, the CM asked officials to initiate steps in a speedy manner and ensure basic amenities by the time the construction of the houses is over.

IN BRIEF

First sea sortie of fifth scorpene submarine 'vagir'

The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 01 Feb 22. The submarine was launched in Nov 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The submarine would be named Vagir, after commissioning. Despite the COVID pandemic, MDL has 'Delivered' two submarines of the Project - 75 in the year 2021 and the commencement of sea trials of the fifth submarine is a significant milestone. The submarine will now undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, including propulsion systems, weapons and sensors. The submarine is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in the year 2022 after completion of these trials.



Ramaraju Chairman of Jana Shikshan Sansthan

Mr. CA Ramaraju has been appointed as the Chairman of the Central Government Public Training Institute, Jana Sikshana Sansthan. The Central Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (SD & V Division) has issued directives (F.No. 33/04/2020-DJSS-MSDE). For 23 years, Rama Raju has been involved in voluntary service programs, especially in the areas of skills development organizations related to education and employment. On this occasion, he said that the Janashikshan Sansthan will provide free training to the illiterate, school dropouts and low-income groups so that self-employment can be created.



'Expedite mapping of schools'

VIS News Service

Tourism Minister **Mr. Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao** directed the authorities to expedite modernization and mapping in schools under the scheme in the district. The matter was reviewed with the education authorities at a review meeting held at the Collector's Office. The minister said it was important to note that the schools were not closing but just changing form. The existing Anganwadi Primary and Secondary Schools will be converted into

Foundation, Foundation Plus, Pre-High School, High School and High School Plus. The headmaster, along with at least nine subject teachers for classes three to ten, said the teachers would be assigned teachers for improvement in English and mathematics.

Mr. A Subbareddy, Additional Director, Department of Education, explained the current situation of schools in the district and the changes being brought about for the new education policy.

NSTL contests for students

Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam is organizing various competitions for students of schools and colleges to commemorate Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, and invention of 'Rama Effect' by Sir C.V. Raman. NSTL is organizing competitions in essay writing, painting, Models/exhibits.

Schools are required to submit the essay writing scripts (two entries) and paintings (two entries) to NSTL (preferably scanned copies through e-mail). Winners will be awarded on National Science Day.

Oman delegation visits SNC

VIS News Service

Dr Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali Al-Zaabi, Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Sultanate of Oman along with a seven member delegation was on a two day visit to Kochi from February 02 - 04, 22. The delegation interacted with **Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi**, AVSM, NM, Flag Officer Commanding - in - Chief, Southern Naval Command, at Headquarters Southern Naval Command and held



discussions on various defence cooperation issues with the Indian team. The delegation also visited Cochin Shipyard Ltd, the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier- Vikrant, professional training

schools viz Navigational & Direction School and Diving School. In addition, the delegation also interacted with the Staff Officers of Southern Naval Command on various professional subjects

Investors Meet for Tourism to be soon held

VIS News Service

The State Tourism Culture and Youth Affairs Minister **Mr. Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao** has said that as part of the large-scale measures to develop the tourism sector the government has set a revenue target of Rs 200 crore. In this regard an investors' meet is being planned to be held in the last week of February or the first week of March.

Speaking to presspersons in Amaravati recently he said that the tourism revenue was slowly picking up from the pandemic blow with government hotels generating Rs 87.02 crore so far. "Forty-eight existing properties of the tourism department were leased out to private agencies, but some lagged in paying the lease amount, thus owing Rs 31.08 crore to the government.

The Minister said that leases with such agencies will be terminated if they don't pay up." Similarly, tenders were called for handing over the operation and maintenance of 34 newly-built restaurants and

50 bids were received for 18 restaurants.

He said the 18 restaurants would be looked into soon and handed over to private agencies under Operation and Maintenance, which would bring in Rs 1.76



crore to the government. He hoped that tenders would be called again for the remaining 16 restaurants and soon handed over to private agencies under Operation and Maintenance, which would also bring in huge revenue to the government.

He said that the Chief Minister **Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy** has directed to build seven-star hotels in 13 areas of the state in public-private

partnership. However, the Oberoi Group has already started construction of hotels in Gandikota, Tirupati, Horsley Hills, Pitchukalka, Visakhapatnam and the Hyatt Group in

Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati, the minister said. He said that orders have been issued to allocate places as per the tourism policy so that these can be implemented soon. The Minister discussed the progress of various investment projects

of AP Tourism. He encouraged promoting of boating activities at potential tourism locations in the State by focusing Public Private Partnership (PPP), Organizing recreational activities at APTDC Restaurants and at Harita Hotels located across the State.

He further advised to focus on the possibilities of introducing new tour package at places airport is located.

RO in AU

VIS News Service

A safe drinking water (RO) system with 500 liters tank capacity was recently inaugurated by Prof. **K.Samatha**, Rector, AU, and Prof. **V.Krishna Mohan**, Registrar, AU, in the Department of Physics, College of Science and Technology, AU.

The drinking water system was sponsored by ICICI Bank, Visakhapatnam. **Mr. Harshavardhan Sagala**, Regional Head Sales and **Mr. Kaldhari Sarma**, Elite Relationship Manager, attended the function.

Bon Jour!



The French Consul General (Bangalore) **Mr. Thierry Berthelot** recently met Chief Minister **Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy**. During the meeting the Chief Minister informed the consul General about the various developments initiatives of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The CM asked the Consul General to promote investments from French Companies in the State.

VSR rebukes Budget for betraying AP & States

Contd. from Page 1

Mr Vijayasai Reddy also noted that through the implementation of the newly coined term 'special additional excise duty' the centre had pooled Rs 2.87 lakh crores wherein the states dint's even get a single rupee of it.

The chairman parliamentary standing committee on commerce also highlighted that the share of tax component of excise duty (shared with states) has decreased by 40% in case of petrol and

59% in case of diesel.

He further pointed out that Andhra Pradesh's share in Centre's pool of taxes has been gradually decreasing and went from 4.3% to 4.04% between 2015-2022.

Speaking on Income Tax Mr Vijayasai Reddy urged the Union Finance Minister to take into account inflation while setting the basic tax exemption limit.

'With inflation reaching all time high I request the FM to link the minimum tax exemption limit with inflation' said the senior

YSRCP leader.

Simplify ITR Returns

Speaking on behalf of the common taxpayer he urged the FM to make the procedure for filing IT returns more friendly.

'Currently there are 5 tedious documents that one has to collect before filing an ITR. I urge you to consolidate multiple compliances across various forms into a single ITR form will make ITR filing more tax-friendly' said the senior YSRCP leader Mr Vijayasai Reddy.

Commercial Taxes Rev. up 36%

Contd. from Page 1

2784.90 crores during CPLY. In addition a loan from GoI was received for Rs 3272.19 crores during April-Jan'22.

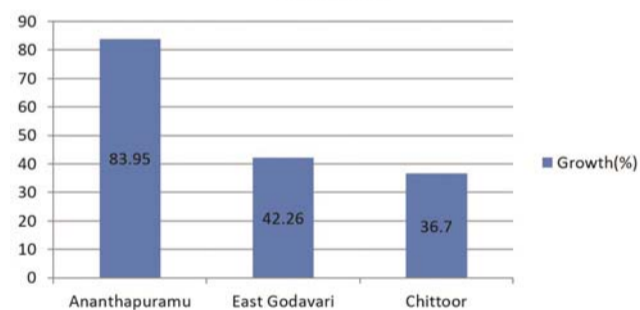
'The buoyancy in revenue collections has been due to our continued focus on return filing management' said **Mr. Ravi Shankar Narayan**, IRS, Chief Commissioner State Tax speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan.

He informed that the department has been in constant touch with tax payers by sending regular SMS.

'Defaulters are definitely being pursued' said the chief commissioner.

And in cases of any mismatch alerts are being immediately sent to the respective parties.

Top 3 Biggest Gainers Growth(%)



The department is noted Mr Ravi Shankar. leveraging technology too in a big way in order to maximise returns and keep



With the help of data analytics we are able to identify and track both sector and commodity wise analysis.

Mr Ravi Shankar Narayan, Chief Commissioner, ST

track. 'With the help of data analytics we are able to identify and track both sector and commodity wise analysis. A lot of due diligence is being carried out by our department'

highest collections of Rs 15,016.45 crores followed by Krishna district at Rs 11,512.70 crores, East Godavari at Rs

1922crores (See Pie graph). The biggest percentage growth was seen by district Ananthapuramu surging by 83.95% followed by East Godavari at 42.26% and Chittoor at 36.70% (See Bar Chart).

Budget focuses on Macro, more needed for MSMEs: FAPCCI

VIS News Service

Welcoming the recent union budget announcement the President, Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI), **Mr. V. Atchut Rao** said that the budget gives strong emphasis to macro growth along with enhancing the digital economy and tech enabled development.

He further appreciated the Creation of a unified logistics platform and developments of 100 new cargo terminals in the next three years and said that these are significant steps in improving the supply chain eco system in the country.

Mr Atchut welcomed the Government's announcement of Infrastructure status to Data Centers will provide a huge boost to the fast evolving digital environment of the country.

It is noteworthy that completely paperless, e-bill system will be launched by ministries for procurement which will avoid in delays of payments.



More Needed for MSMEs & Startups

He however stated that the Budget has not given enough encouraging steps for the revival and growth of the MSME sector which has been suffering from the post CORONA pandemic waves. He said that Finance Minister could have done more for the needs of MSME sector.

With regard to start ups, Mr Atchut said very few measures were announced

such as continuing tax benefits and creating a fund with blended capital raised under co-investment model facilitated through NABARD to finance startups in agriculture & rural enterprises. This, however, he said, does not address the core needs of Startups to be given a longer tax holiday of 5 years.

He welcomed the Introduction of the battery swapping policy and recognizing battery and energy as a service will help to develop charging infrastructure and increase the use of EVs in public transportation. It would motivate businesses engaged in delivery and car aggregation businesses to incorporate EVs into their fleet. It will create new avenues for companies to venture into the business of battery swapping.

Sector	Revenue Achieved(Upto Jan-22)	Revenue Achieved(Upto Jan-21)	Growth(%)
GST Revenue	26,360.28	18,968.20	38.97
(With Ad-hoc & Compensation)			
Petroleum Products	12,278.50	8735.54	40.56
Profession Tax	207.59	177.96	16.65
Liquor	5546.85	4735.3	17.14
Total	44393.23	32617.01	36.1

CREDAI AP continues to seek Government Help

Says Builders finding it difficult to carry on Business

VIS News Service

Identifying the real estate sector as a major employer supporting thousands of families CREDAI AP has asked the government to come to its rescue.

'Builders are finding it very difficult to carry on their activities' said CREDAI

etc., had also gone up.

In all the cost escalation per sq. ft. is nearly Rs.500. This would have an adverse impact on buyers and the realty sector as a whole, Mr Raju said. The realty sector needs government help to overcome all the problems, he added.

He further said that hike

implementation, builders, especially small and middle scale builders, had been facing problems. Introduction of online method is okay, but there is delay in its implementation, he said. Timely and speedy clearances from departments would help builders to deliver



AP addressing media persons in the port city recently.

It stated that the realty sector has been bogged by a series of issues.

CREDAI-Visakhapatnam, President, **Mr. K.S.R.K Raju (Sai)**, informed that the price of cement per bag had almost doubled from Rs.225/- to Rs.430/- and that of steel prices have gone up by more than 60 per cent.

Labour too he said was not available due to the pandemic and had migrated, leading to its shortage and wage hike.

Prices of other materials like pipes, tiles, electrical goods

in market price of lands would also result in increase of registration charges and dampen the enthusiasm of buyers.

Hike in price of construction materials, delay in extending clearances and hike in land value leading to increase in registration charges are the three main issues for which our association requests for government help, the President said.

Mr Peela Koteswara Rao, Convener, CREDAI-AP's Sub-Committee on RERA, said that CREDAI members had welcomed RERA enactment and its provisions, but during its

completed units in time and there would be more demand.

Regarding high registration charges, **Mr. Koteswara Rao** pointed out that 90 per cent of buyers go for middle cost houses and a hike in these charges would adversely impact sales. If the charges are reduced, there would be increased demand and sales and realty sector would get a boost.

Secretary **Mr. Ashok Kumar**, pointed out to the enhanced cost of cement recently and requested the government to save realty sector from this cement cartel.

IPRs key for economic development: APSCHE Chairman

5- Day Training Program on IPR held

VIS News Service

Centre for Intellectual Property Rights Andhra University in

University Leadership for promoting innovation in the university campus and in Andhra Pradesh. He said

that the current FDP is very timely to prepare the faculty, researchers and students to understand

credit course at undergraduate and post graduate levels in the University and brought out a comprehensive University IPR Policy.

Prof H Purushotham DPIIT-IPR Chair and Coordinator of the Training Program stated that about 200 faculty members and researchers from 23 States & UTs from 162 institutes/universities attended the program. Fifteen very senior and experienced Resource persons from industry, government and academia such as Indian Patent Office, IIT-Kharagpur, IISC, National Law Universities, NRDC, CSIR, ICAR, Clarivate, Questal India Ericson, Philips India and Novel Patents spoke.

Earlier, the program poster and brochure were released by Vice-Chancellor **Prof PVGD Prasada Reddy**.

the importance of emerging area of IPRs to achieve academic excellence and socio-economic development of the nation.

Andhra University Registrar **Prof V Krishna Mohan** said the university has introduced teaching of IPRs as a mandatory



collaboration with AICTE recently organized a 5-day FDP Program from February 7-11, 2022.

In his inaugural address, Chief Guest **Prof K Hemachandra Reddy** Chairman AP State Council for Higher Education, lauded the innovative initiatives of Andhra

Budget will accelerate Growth: CII AP

VIS News Service

Addressing a Virtual Media interaction on Union Budget 2022-23, **Mr D Tirupathi Raju**, Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh & Executive Chairman, Vijayanagar Biotech Pvt Ltd said that Union Budget proposals would accelerate growth and development. He stated that the Budget has provided greater impetus to growth. The Budget proposals would benefit youth, women, and farmers. The inclusive approach adopted by Finance Minister would be a boon to the economy, he said. The investment on modern infrastructure with long term approach is welcomed by industry said Mr. Raju.

He further opined that PM Gati Shakti which is a transformative approach development adopted by



Government laid focus on seven engines, namely, Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways, and Logistics Infrastructure.

Mr Neeraj Sarma, Vice Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh & Deputy Managing Director, Sarma Metals & Alloys Ltd in his address welcomed the Special Economic Zones Act which will be replaced with a new legislation that will enable the states to become partners in 'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs'. He felt that proposed new legislation

would help to attract more investments.

He also mentioned that emphasis on urban planning with courses would give required impetus to urban development. In this regard constitution of high-level committee of reputed urban planners, urban economists and institutions to be formed to make recommendations on urban sector policies, capacity building, planning, implementation and governance would create opportunities for industry, said Mr. Sarma.

DRM inspects VSKP-Jagdalpur section

VIS News Service

DRM Waltair **Mr. Anup Satpathy** inspected Visakhapatnam-Koraput-Jagdalpur section. He conducted window trailing inspection from Visakhapatnam to Jagdalpur recently and took stock of various amenities and facilities provided at the stations and ongoing developmental activities in that section.

DRM conducted a massive inspection at Jagdalpur. Catering units, waiting halls, railway offices and other amenities were inspected at station. He also inspected Health unit, Sports facilities and Railway colony at Jagdalpur station.

During his inspection, he inaugurated Retiring room and Dormitory at Jagdalpur station.

Sr PR consultant joins Dr Vattipalli

VIS News Service

Renowned PR consultant from Vizag, **Mr Alope Dutta** has taken up a new assignment and has joined the office of **Dr. Ravichandra Vattipalli**, DNB (Ortho) as PR Manager for Odisha and Coastal Andhra.

As part of the role he has been entrusted for looking after the Dr's PR activities for SG Ortho Care.

Mr Dutta has vast experience in the field of Public Relations and Advertising. **Dr. Ravichandra Vattipalli**, DNB(Ortho) is Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon from Visakhapatnam and is specialised in the field of Total Knee and Hip Arthroplasty, Deformity Correction and Limb Lengthening.

Presently Dr. Ravichandra is associated with Apollo



hospital, Health City, Visakhapatnam and has been performing various surgeries including rare surgery and Consultant for SG. Ortho Care, Visakhapatnam.

Dr. Ravichandra has been the recipient of many awards one of them being Prof. M. Natarajan Gold Medal for best paper in TNOA, Coimbatore 2009 on Topic : "Functional Outcome of Open Grade III A and III B Fractures of the Distal Femur".

PRSI felicitates Padmashri Awardee

VIS News Service

Public Relations Society of India, Visakhapatnam Chapter felicitated well known orthopaedic surgeon **Dr. Sunkara Venkata Adinarayana Rao** who was conferred with India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri, by the Government of India. He was awarded for his endless services to lakhs of polio victims. The 82-year-



old Visakhapatnam based orthopaedic surgeon Adinarayana Rao is noted for his work for poor people. He has won many

awards in his six decades of service as a doctor. PRSI Visakhapatnam Chapter Chairman, **Mr. P L K Murthy**, PRSI Vice President (South) **Mr. US Sarma**, PRSI Senior members **Mr. B V Vijaya Prasad**, NTPC former manager PR, DISC IAS Study Circle Founder **Mr. Tanuku Diwakar** and others conveyed their wishes on behalf of PRSI.

Madhavan takes charge at CEMS

VIS News Service

Mr K Sethu Madhavan has taken over as the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS).

A high-end skill development centre set up at Visakhapatnam and Mumbai by Govt. of India/ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways under its prestigious Sagarmala Project, CEMS aims to bridge the skill gap between Academic Institutions and Industry with focus on Industry 4.0 Skills.

Mr Sethu has more than 31 years' experience of handling Government business and policy framework for Telecom & IT Industry with demonstrated success in business development, solution sales, customer support, project

management, and service delivery across government and corporate sectors. He is said to be an



expert in launching business entities from scratch and assuming profit and loss responsibility.

In his last responsibility, Mr K.Sethu Madhavan was heading the Government & Defence vertical in Hughes Communication, a satellite telecom service provider for 9.5 years and earlier was associated with HCL Infosystems Limited, a leading IT company for 23 years and had handled various domains across various states.

'Complete 3 fishing harbours in four months'

At a review meet on fishing harbours the officials informed the Chief Minister Mr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy that in the first phase **Juvvaladinne, Nizampatnam, Machilipatnam** fishing harbours work is in progress.

The officials were asked to make efforts to complete the tasks within four months

Those carrying out works in **Pudimadaka, Biyyaputhippa, Port, Kottapatnam** in the second phase, the authorities are taking steps to complete it by the end of December this year.

The review meeting was attended by AP Agriculture Mission Vice Chairman **Mr. MVS Nagireddy, CS Dr Sameer Sharma, Agriculture Special CS Ms. Poonam Malakondayya, Industry Special CS Mr. Karikal Valavan** and other senior officials.

HPCL Q3 sales cross 1 Lakh cr mark

Net profit plummets 63%

VIS News Service

With recovery gaining traction, the Oct-Dec 2021 quarter saw petroleum product consumption in India echoing the pre-COVID levels.

The already volatile crude oil market witnessed sharp price fluctuations with the crude prices continuing to trade at 7-year high levels at end of January 2022 due to concerns over supply and ongoing geopolitical tensions.

The market sales for the period October - December 2021 (including exports) were 10.54 MMT as compared to 10.40 MMT for the same period of previous financial year.

For the first time ever, HPCL exceeded Rs. One Lakh Crore mark in the quarterly sales figure. During the period October - December 2021 the Gross Sales were Rs. 103,080 crore as compared to Rs. 77,113 crore for the same period of previous

financial year.

However the OMC's PAT for the period October - December 2021 declined by 63%. HPCL recorded a Profit after Tax (PAT) of Rs. 869 crore compared to Rs 2,355 crore for the same period last year.



As per a release from HPCL the profit was affected primarily due to the price fluctuations in Q3 2021 leading to inventory losses compared to inventory gains in corresponding period last year.

The stabilization phase of some of the units at Mumbai Refinery after the revamp shutdown also constrained, to some extent, the full value realization of the improving GRMs.

During the period October

- December 2021, HPCL refineries processed 4.24 million metric tonnes of crude as compared to 4.0 million metric tonnes during the corresponding period of previous financial year. Gross Refinery Margin stood at \$ 6.39 / bbl for the period October - December 2021 as against \$ 1.87 / bbl for the same period in the previous year.

The Visakh refinery upgradation and expansion project is in an advanced stage.

Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF), which will enable substantial improvement in refinery complexity and the GRMs of Visakh Refinery, is under construction. An important milestone for Residue Upgradation Facility was fabrication, transportation and erection of world's heaviest DAO LC Max Reactor along with 2 other LC Max reactors which was completed during the Quarter.

'Chikki tenders finalized in transparent manner'



VIS News Service

The State Education Minister **Mr. Adimulapu Suresh** has said that the finalization of peanut tenders meant for students three days a week under the ambitious Jagananna Gorumuddalu scheme in the state has been conducted in a very transparent manner without any room for corruption.

Speaking to reporters the minister condemned the negative news in various media during the finalization process of chickpea and egg tenders. The Minister clarified that the tenders were not selected due to non-availability of Central Treasury and National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) in accordance with the terms and conditions.

Waltair Div gets Rs 2100 crs for doubling of lines

VIS News Service

With a focus to enhance the safety works and to improve infrastructure facilities, the budget allotment has been significant for projects to be completed in 2022-23. This is to ensure that no progress is hindered for lack of funds said Waltair division's DRM **Mr. Anup K Sathpathy**.

Addressing media personnel on the budget allocation he said There has been a significant increase in outlay for Doubling, Road Safety

works, Road under Bridge and Over Bridges, and New line constructions.

Ongoing Doubling and New line works have been given priority with allocation of Rs 2208 Crores. Projects like Jeypore - Malkangiri (130 km); Jeypore - Navarangpur (38 km); Naupada-Gunupur - New broad gauge line up to Theruvali (79.15 km), Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa - 3rd line (34.7 km); Jeypore - Malkangiri (130 km); Jeypore - Navarangpur (38 km);

Naupada-Gunupur - New broad gauge line upto Theruvali (79.15 km) and Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa - 3rd line (34.7 km) in this funding.

Towards Traffic facility works an amount of Rs 11 crores allocated which includes Gopalapatnam-Vizianagaram - Provision of auto signalling including Simhachalam bypass line, Conversion of Line 4 into longer loop with common loop status for python trains at Chipurupalli.

For Road safety works that includes Road over/ under



There has been a significant increase in outlay for Doubling, Road Safety works, Road under Bridge and Over Bridges, and New line constructions.

Mr. Anup K Sathpathy, DRM Waltair Division

bridges, level crossing No.ML/438, Naupada-Kotabommali - Road over bridge, Urlam-Srikakulam - Road over bridge, manning of unmanned level crossings etc.

Track renewal works which enhance rider comfortability, safety and sectional speed are also got priority for which an amount of Rs 193.34 crores has been allotted. The renewal works include through sleeper renewal, track repairs, ballast works etc over the Waltair Division.

Maintenance of Bridges,

tunnels and approaches are important which got Rs 20.3 crores. The Signalling and Telecom works got Rs 23.685 crores that will be utilized for replacing the old signalling system, modernization and repairs.

Further, Wagon POH workshop of 200 Nos capacity at Vadlapudi, Visakhapatnam -which is almost completed got Rs 6.5 crores, Augmentation of Diesel Loco Shed, Visakhapatnam for homing 100HHP locomotives got Rs 2crores, Augmentation of Electric Loco Shed for homing of 200 locos got Rs 0.5 crores fund allocation in this budget.

Budget highlights of Waltair Division 2022-23

Plan Head	Allocation Head	In crores
11	New Lines	117.8
15	Doubling	2162.5
29	ROAD SAFETY WORKS-LEVEL CROSSINGS	0.68
30	ROAD SAFETY WORKS-ROAD OVER/UNDER BRIDGES	17.06
31	TRACK RENEWALS	193.34
32	BRIDGE WORKS, TUNNEL WORKS AND APPROACHES	20.3
33	SIGNALLING AND TELECOMMUNICATION	23.685
36	OTHER ELECTRICAL WORKS/ TRACTION DISTRIBUTION WORKS	2.487
42	WORKSHOPS INCLUDING PRODUCTION UNITS	11.9
51	STAFF WELFARE	0.95
64	OTHER SPECIFIED WORKS	1.71
	Creation of new South Coast Railway zone and new Rayagada Division in East Coast Railway	0.40
		2552.812

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Exports of Top 10 Major Commodity Groups (National)

SL. No.	Major Commodity Group (Preliminary Data January 2022)	Value of Export (Million USD)		Share %	Growth %
		Jan-22	Jan-22	Jan-22	Jan-22 over Jan-21
1.	Engineering Goods	9201.76	7413.15	27.01	24.13
2.	Petroleum Products	3732.26	2136.00	10.96	74.73
3.	Gems and Jewellery	3236.98	2843.62	9.50	13.83
4.	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	2447.89	1942.16	7.19	26.04
5.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	2054.24	2075.22	6.03	-1.01
6.	Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/Made-ups, Handloom Products Etc.	1389.46	974.54	4.08	42.58
7.	RMG Of All Textiles	1549.00	1295.91	4.55	19.53
8.	Electronic goods	1364.63	1180.09	4.01	15.64
9.	Plastic and Linoleum	844.47	638.37	2.48	32.29
10.	Rice	813.75	769.89	2.39	5.70
	Total of 10 Major Commodity Groups	26634.46	21268.95	78.19	25.23
	Rest	7428.41	6269.33	21.81	18.49
	Total Exports	34062.87	27538.28	100.00	23.69

*Top 10 major commodity groups covering 78% of total exports in January 2022, Source: Gol



Imports of Top 10 Major Commodity Groups (National)

SL. No.	Major Commodity Group (Preliminary Data January 2022)	Value of Import (Million USD)		Share %	Growth %
		Jan-22	Jan-22	Jan-22	Jan-22 over Jan-21
1.	Petroleum, Crude & products	11431.59	9424.30	21.98	21.30
2.	Electronic goods	8216.74	5256.61	15.80	56.31
3.	Gold	2404.19	4035.23	4.62	-40.42
4.	Machinery, electrical & non-electrical	4038.80	3367.71	7.77	19.93
5.	Organic & Inorganic Chemicals	2673.76	1983.66	5.14	34.79
6.	Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones	2332.04	2196.40	4.48	6.18
7.	Coal, Coke & Briquettes, etc.	2606.53	1865.66	5.01	39.71
8.	Artificial resins, plastic materials, etc.	1762.08	1530.64	3.39	15.12
9.	Vegetable Oil	1858.58	1135.45	3.57	63.69
10.	Non-ferrous metals	1831.41	1349.99	3.52	35.66
	Total of 10 Major Commodity Groups	39155.69	32145.65	75.29	21.81
	Rest	12850.22	9884.42	24.71	30.00
	Total Imports	52005.91	42030.07	100.00	23.74

*Top 10 major commodity groups covering 75% of total imports in January 2022, Source: Gol

Why AP's Startup ecosystem needs to Startup

Nikhitha Challapilli

Emphasizing the importance of startups, Prime Minister **Mr. Narendra Modi** recently declared Jan 16th as National Startup Day.

And leading up to this startup day DPIIT had organized an innovation week from Jan 10th-16th with an aim to drive in new energies in the Indian startup ecosystem as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Alongside the innovation week, the second edition of the National Startup Awards 2021 was also announced to recognize and reward the outstanding performance of startups in diverse domains.

A total of 2177 startups from 49 sectors along with 53 incubators and 6 accelerators participated wherein 46 startups, 1 incubator, and 1 accelerator stood out as winners.

Looking into the details of the winners' list, it was realized that not even one startup was from AP while a staggering 14 startups were declared as winners from the state of

Karnataka alone.

And out of the 2177 startups, only 15 applied from AP. In fact, as per



There needs to be a committed & passionate push for making AP a startup destination. Currently this is lacking both in spirit and letter.

Mr Alok Maheshwari
Co-founder, Vizag Startups

Startup India, there are a total of 63,514 DPIIT registered startups in the country out of which only a mere 992 are from the state of Andhra Pradesh.

This leads to the question of why are startups from AP not making the mark nationally or importantly what needs to be done to boost the startup ecosystem here.

'There needs to be a committed & passionate push for making AP a startup destination. Currently, this is lacking both in spirit and letter' said **Mr. Alok Maheshwari** Co-Founder of one of the largest startup communities in AP.

As per Mr. Alok the onus

to make AP a thriving startup hub lies in three important stakeholders i.e. Startups, Incubators/Accelerators, and the

Government.

Currently, all three of them seem to be missing in action, said the Co-Founder of Vizag startups.

Talking about Startups he



Startups need a minimum tenure of 2-4 years to survive irrespective of their products and services in the market.

Mr Rajaneesh
Founder, Antar IOT

says that few active players are needed who are not only running their startups but also who can dedicate some time to help the ecosystem. 'We need folks who are contributing more to the pot

than taking things out of it' said Mr. Alok.

Speaking on incubators he opines that the role of an incubator/accelerator is much more than just providing a place to work from and providing industry connections or mentorship.

They can become that melting pot where ideas and people meet and that magic of serendipity happens' stated Mr. Alok.

Describing the role of the government to be equally important he minces no words in saying 'The neighboring states' govt machinery seems to be playing on the front foot whereas our Govt seems to

be lagging far behind in this sector.

One of the startups from this region, Antar IOT's Founder **Mr. Rajaneesh Vasanta** calls for policies that can support startups

until they become self-reliant.

'Startups need a minimum tenure of 2-4 years to

framing and implementing consistent policies. He calls for APIS (Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society) to take

AU Incubation HUB is all set to kickstart the local startup ecosystem.



Mr Ravi Eswarapu
CEO of AU Incubation Centre

survive irrespective of their products and services in the market' said Mr. Rajaneesh.

Mr. Ravi Eswarapu CEO of AU Incubation Centre cited inadequate financial resources, high dependency on the government to run and manage incubation centres, not finding the right talent, inaccessibility to the local market and government procurement, lack of angel funding as some of the factors preventing the region to evolve as an effective startup hub.

Role of APIS

To overcome these challenges Mr. Ravi calls for effective strategies like

the lead and bring all stakeholders on one platform and draw financial support from the government to establish a sustainable startup ecosystem through APIS.

Mr. Alok advocates for the implementation of the popular marketing AIDA (Awareness, Interest, Desire, Action) model which he says could be an appropriate solution that could address many challenges.

'We need to create awareness about many facets of starting up which can be done through meetups, workshops, hackathons, etc.' said Mr. Alok.

Mekapati Pitches AP in Dubai

Contd. from Page 1

The minister stated that GoAP is developing 9 new fishing harbours with an investment of USD 430 Mn in all coastal districts and these harbours will be equipped with seafood

Machilipatnam & Bhavanapadu' said the minister.

Speaking on skill development the minister identified the 30 high end skill colleges that the state has embarked on

collaborate with the best technical schools across Middle east, Europe and the USA' said Mr Goutham Reddy.

The minister also informed the gathering that Andhra Pradesh is also the only state with 3 industrial corridors i.e. Vizag Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC), Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), Hyderabad Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (HBIC).

Touching on logistics the minister informed that four Logistics Parks at Visakhapatnam Anantapur, Kakinada and Krishnapatnam are being worked upon to reduce the time and cost of moving cargo to hinterlands.

The minister also said that the state is home to India's largest Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) of 640 Sq. km. The PCPIR region provides access to major consumption centres in South India as well as large international hubs in east and south east Asia.

developing.

'We are planning to establish 30 skill development colleges across the state along with a Skills university. The skill colleges envision to train almost 2,000 students per year and the colleges will

AP's Pavilion showcased 12 themes

- Advantage Andhra Pradesh
- Chemicals & Petrochemicals
- Agri and food processing
- Renewable Energy & Electric Mobility
- IT & Electronics
- Tourism & Culture
- Transforming Governance
- Investing in future
- Economic Growth
- Environment & Social Governance
- Industrial Parks & Health Hubs

processing centres to create livelihood opportunities for local fishermen.

'Apart from our existing 6 ports such as in Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam, we are developing three new seaports (Ramayapatnam,

Waltair Div. creates record

VIS News Service

Waltair Division achieved yet another accomplishment with highest ever earnings in ticket checking, surpassing all the previous records. This is the best ever performance of the Division in its history. This is also the best ever performance of a Division in the month of January in the entire history of East Coast Railway. The division has earned Rs.2.28 crores in ticket checking drives in the month of January-2022. The ticket checking drives were intensified over Waltair Division to check the ticketless travel, irregular travel & un-booked luggage, during which more than 38,646 cases were detected with earnings to the tune of Rs.2.28 crores.

Commending the performance DRM **Mr. Anup Kumar Satpathy** said that this feat could be achieved by the Division by dint of hard work and synchronized team efforts of commercial department.

CM holds review meet on Infra.

VIS News Service

The Chief Minister **Mr. N.T. Rama Rao** recently conducted a review on Agri Infra at his camp office in Thadepalli. The CM reviewed the progress of revolutionary measures to significantly improve

significant progress should be seen in infrastructure design projects in the agricultural sector this year and make them available to farmers and allied sectors as soon as possible.

The CM told the officials that a custom hire centre on organic farming must



infrastructure in the agricultural sector. Dry storage-drying platforms, warehouses, infrastructure in horticulture, primary processing centres, assigning equipment, procurement centres, e-marketing, mega custom hiring hubs, custom hiring centers at RBI level, The CM reviewed the steps taken so far on setting up of Infrastructure in Fishing Harbours-Fish Landing Centers, Food Processing Centers and Animal Husbandry.

The Chief Minister said

be set up at every RBK. The farmers should get better rates for organic and organic farming and asked the officials to come up with a policy to provide incentives to farmers who produce such products.

Amul

The officials informed the CM that Amul milk collection will start in Visakhapatnam district next month. Amul will open dairy units in Chittoor, Krishna and Visakhapatnam.

At the Capital



VIS News Service

Rajya Sabha MP and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce, **Mr. Vijayasai Reddy** recently called upon the Minister for Road Transport & Highways,

GoI **Mr. Nitin Gadkari** to help AP realise the 6 lane Visakhapatnam-Bhogapuram road and develop the eastern bypass to Vijayawada city amongst other road projects. The Senior YSRCP leader tweeted that he had a productive meeting with the Minister.

IIMV's 8th Foundation Day fete

VIS News Service

The eighth Foundation Day of the Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam was recently celebrated with fervour and gaiety in virtual mode.

Prof. D V L N Somayajulu, Director, IIITDM Kurnool was the chief guest, and he delivered the Foundation Day lecture in which he emphasized on inculcating the necessary skills to overcome challenges and obstacles that arise in the workplace.

He also shared his valuable thoughts about the possible workplace challenges and to

develop the ability to face risk and evolve with every step.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director of IIM-V, **Prof. M Chandrashekhar**



congratulated the PGP students for striving hard and setting an exemplary record for setting a good academic record and securing 100% placement.

Prof. PRS Sarma gave the concluding remarks and spoke about the importance of self-belief and hard work to survive in an exacting corporate world. The event was attended by faculty, staff, and students.

AU inks MoU with IOCL

VIS News Service

Andhra University and Indian Oil Corporation Limited have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding. AU will set up three chair professors in the name of IOCL. AU



Vice-Chancellor **Prof P.V.G.D. Prasada Reddy** and IOCL Executive Director **Mr. R.S.S. Rao** along with AU Registrar **Prof Krishna Mohan** and IOCL GM - CSR **Mr. G. Swaminadhan** signed the MoA.

Open for Investments



VIS News Service

The state of Andhra Pradesh led a business delegation to UAE for the Dubai expo 2020 showcasing the state as an ideal destination for investments. AP's minister of Industries, IT and skill development **Mr Mekapati Goutham Reddy** highlighted a wide range of sectors from ports & shipping to food processing to skill development to electronics and urged investors to explore the state for business.

Seen above are officials at the AP pavilion

with APIIC VC & MD, **Mr JVN Subramanyam, IAS**; Advisor to Chief Minister of Government of AP and Special Representative to Middle East and Far east (Cabinet Minister Rank), **Mr. Zulfi Ravdjee**, Chairman for APIIC, **Mr M. Govinda Reddy** and MLA for Kurnool, **Mr. Abdul Hafeez Khan** showcased the AP pavilion to **Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade and **Dr. Ahmed Abdul Rahman Albanna**, UAE Ambassador to India.

Book search Kiosk at Public library

VIS News Service

A Kiosk (Book search) has been installed in the Visakhapatnam public



library, which shall be useful to search the books available in the library for the convenience of the readers. Within no time the readers can search,

identify and get the book of his choice said a library spokesperson. M/s Toyotsue Rare Earths India Pvt Ltd, APSEZ donated the Kiosk under CSR.

Mr. Koichi Sato, Managing Director of M/s Toyotsue Rare Earths India Pvt Ltd inaugurated the Kiosk. **Dr. B. Muralidar Rao**, Sr. General Manager - HR, **Mr. D.S.Varma** Secretary Visakhapatnam Public Library Society and others were present on the occasion.

Minister pats powerlifter Sheikh Sadia Almas

VIS News Service

State Tourism, Culture and Youth Minister **Mr. Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao** has congratulated powerlifter **Ms. Sheikh S a a d i a Almas** on winning three golds and one silver medal in the Asian Powerlifting Championship-2021. Powerlifter **Sheikh Sadia Almas**,



participated in the Asian Powerlifting Championship-2021 from state and won three gold and one silver medal in the last week of December in Istanbul, Turkey. She met state Tourism, Culture and Youth Minister **Mr. Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao** in Amaravati.

The Minister was briefed on her achievements at the national and international levels in powerlifting competitions since 2017. The

Minister directed the Sports Ministry officials to take immediate steps to ensure that the government would encourage her in all possible ways and to award her a cash prize of Rs 5.00 lakh as part of the YSR Sports Awards.

Naval investiture ceremony 2021 at New Delhi

VIS News Service

Naval Investiture Ceremony was conducted in New Delhi recently to felicitate naval personnel who have

Awards announced on Independence Day - 21 and Republic Day - 21 to the recipients.

A total of 14 medals which included two Nao Sena

The event is traditionally conducted as a ceremonial parade centrally for all awardees of the Indian Navy. However, in view of the prevailing



demonstrated gallant acts, leadership, professional achievements and distinguished service of high order. **Admiral R Hari Kumar**, Chief of the Naval Staff, on behalf of the President of India, conferred the Gallantry and Distinguished Service

Medal (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), Five Vishisht Seva Medal (Long Meritorious Service), One Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and One Jeevan Raksha Padak (for acts of courage and self-sacrifice) were awarded.

pandemic, the Naval Investiture Ceremony was conducted locally by each Command of the Navy. The award ceremony was witnessed by a limited number of senior dignitaries of the Indian Navy, spouses and families of the awardees.

1.7 lakh Weavers on GeM

VIS News Service

Minister of State for Textiles **Ms. Darshana Jardosh** informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 1,77,825 artisans and weavers are registered on Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) to sell their products directly to various Government departments and organizations.

Total sales figure as recorded on GeM portal since July 2020 till date comes to Rs 118.30 crore by the registered artisans and weavers. 1,116 artisans & weavers have registered themselves on GeM portal. Total sales figure as recorded on GeM portal since July 2020 till date comes to Rs 19.43 crore.

MoU signed with AMTZ



VIS News Service

A MoU was recently signed with AMTZ to establish "India-Australia MedTech Friendship Zone". AMTZ is one of the world's biggest integrated medical technology manufacturing zones.

'I look forward to

supporting Australian medtech sector engagement with India' said **Mr. Pankaj Savara** an International Trade and Investment specialist with Australian Trade and Investment Commissioner in Middle East Africa region in a linkedin post.