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Vizag Container Traffic up 10%

Aditya Sabharwal

Despite skyrocketing container freight rates coupled with the advent of the second wave container traffic at Vizag's container terminal, VCTPL witnessed an upward swing.

The terminal in fact saw some impressive num-

bers in Q1FY22 by record-



ing the highest EXIM 'Laden' volumes of over

34500 TEUs (average) per month for Q1.

Similarly VCT also witnessed the highest ever number of rail volumes and number of rakes handled in the month of June '21 i.e. 71 Rakes with volumes of over 10500 TEUs.

Contd. on Page ..3

RINL welcomes PLI for Speciality Steel

VIS News Service

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, **Mr Narendra Modi**, recently approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for speciality steel.

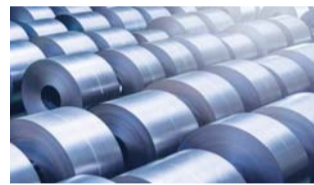
The industry overall welcomed

the scheme and said that this would enhance the production quality of speciality steel while also help in employment generation.

Commenting on the scheme **Mr D K Mohanty**, D(C) & CMD and D(P) Addl charge, RINL said "The PLI

scheme is a welcome step toward making India a truly 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' as it will have multiple cascading positive effect. It will not only promote production of quality specialty steel for import substitution for the

of Rs. 6322 crores, the scheme is expected to bring in investment of approximately Rs. 40,000 crores and capacity addition of 25 MT for speciality steel. The scheme will



Incentives worth Rs.6,322 crores over 5 years

end users but also provide opportunity for the producers to export finished products for long term sustainability".

As per the government, the duration of the scheme will be five years i.e. from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

With a budgetary outlay

give employment to about 5,25,000 people of which 68,000 will be direct employment.

Speciality steel has been chosen as the target segment because out of the production of 102 mil-

Contd. on Page ..2

New Retail parks policy to spur growth: Valaven

Vinita Chaudhary

Aimed to catalyse growth, provide thrust to the development of the Retail Sector in the State and generate employment opportunities by way of facilitating investments in the retail parks,



the Andhra Pradesh Government recently released the Retail Park Policy 2021-26.

The policy eyes new investments worth Rs. 5,000 crore and create 50,000 additional direct employment

Contd. on Page ..5

Vizag's New Collector



VIS News Service

Dr. Annam Mallikarjuna Yadav recently took charge as collector of Vizag. A 2012 batch Indian Administrative Service officer he hails from Chintakomminne mandal, Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Mallikarjuna did his graduation in MBBS from Kurnool Medical College and has had the experience of working as a doctor at a PHC, before joining the IAS. He was previously posted as the Additional Commissioner, CRDA before moving to the East Godavari district.

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IN BRIEF

Greenland plantation at RINL

In a recent Greenland plantation program at RINL around 24,000 miscellaneous saplings were planted in 24 Hectors area near KBR reservoir 1 & 2. The project is a part of Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER)/ Natural Resource Augmentation Plan (NRAP) of MOEF&CC. The Greenland plantation was inaugurated by the Chief Guest **Mr Krishnaiah MSV**, CGM (Safety & EnV.)-Works. Speaking on this occasion, **Mr Krishnaiah** applauded the efforts of Agro Forestry collective for organizing the massive plantation drive.



CIL to produce sand from Overburden

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has taken an out of box initiative to produce sand from overburden at a much cheaper price. This will not only help in minimising environmental pollution due to sand siltation from overburden, but will be also an option for getting cheaper sand for construction purpose stated a release from the ministry of coal. Production of sand has already started and a roadmap of next five years has been drawn to maximise the output of sand from different coal producing companies under CIL and to become one of the major suppliers of sand in near future said the release. In this effort, CIL aims to reach a production level of around 8 million tonnes of sand within the next five years by commissioning 15 major Sand Plants in its different coal producing subsidiaries.

India&Russia MoU for coking coal

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Mr Narendra Modi** recently approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Steel of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation on cooperation regarding coking Coal. As per a release from the government the MoU shall benefit the entire steel sector by reducing their input cost. The activities involved in the cooperation are aimed at diversifying source of coking coal said the release.



Tata Steel commissions 2 MnTPA Coal Plant

VIS News Service

Tata Steel's Jharia Division recently commissioned a state-of-the-art 2 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MnTPA) Coal Preparation Plant and 400 kilovolt-ampere (kVA) Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) for Main Mechanical Ventilator at Jamadoba Colliery.

Built using cutting-edge technology, the 2 MnTPA Coal Preparation Plant has been transformed from the oldest running washery in



Asia (in operation since 1952) to one of the most modern washeries across the globe said a release from the company.

It further added that this is also the first washery in the country with 100% dewatering facility built within its plant, thereby completely eliminating the need for tailing pond, auto sprinklers and dry fog systems.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr D B Sundara Ramam** Vice President (Raw Materials) said "State-of-the-art beneficiation plant not only addresses issues like productivity, safety and environment but at the same time ensures production of coal at a competitive price."

VSP's 1st consignment for AP Housing project

VIS News Service

RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant recently supplied

The government of Andhra Pradesh through AP Housing Corporation Limited had placed an initial order for the supply of

great moment to cherish and it is just the beginning of RINL's Share in this prestigious project of AP Govt, which will build more than 30 Lakhs houses in next few years in two phases of 15 lakhs each requiring more than 7 lakhs tonnes of steel in each phase. RINL is aiming for major share in this project

The truck carrying the first consignment of Vizag Steel products was flagged off from RINL stockyard at Vijayawada. RINL officials handed over the consignment of steel to the AP State Govt officials at Denduluru.



RINL is aiming for major share in this project.

Mr DK Mohanty
CMD Additional Charge, RINL

around 2000 MT of Vizag Steel for Govt. of AP's prestigious project of Housing named "Navaratnalupedalendiriki Illu".

steel.

Speaking on the supply of order, **Mr DK Mohanty**, CMD Additional Charge said, "It's a

Steel Production & Exports

Year	Total Finished Steel (million tonnes)			
	Production	Consumption	Export	Import
2019-20	102.62	100.17	8.36	6.77
2020-21	96.20	94.89	10.78	4.75
April-June, 2021*	26.35	24.85	3.56	1.16

Source : Joint Plant Committee (JPC); *provisional

the Public Sector and 219 in Private Sector.

The details of produc-

The total steel production capacity of the country at present is 143.91 million tonnes. As per Indian Mineral Year-

book, 2019 published by Indian Bureau of Mines, there were 254 reporting mines in 2018-19, out of which 35 mines were in

tion, consumption, export and import of finished steel for the last two years and current year are given in the table above.

RINL welcomes PLI scheme for Speciality Steel

Contd. from Page 1

lion tonnes steel in India in 2020-21, only 18 million tonnes value added steel/speciality steel was produced in the country. Apart from this out of 6.7 million tonnes of imports in the same year, approx. 4 million tonnes import was of specialty steel alone resulting in FOREX outgo of Approx. Rs. 30,000 crores. By becoming Aatmanirbhar in producing specialty steel, India will move up the steel value chain and come at par with advanced steel making

steel players) said a release from the ministry of steel.

ited quantity or not manufactured at all.

It is expected that after

There are 3 slabs of

What is Specialty steel?

It is value added steel wherein normal finished steel is worked upon by way of coating, plating, heat treatment, etc to convert it into high value added steel. This can be used in various strategic applications like Defence, Space, Power, apart from automobile sector, specialized capital goods etc.

completion of the Scheme India will start manufactur-

PLI incentives, the lowest being 4 % and highest being 12% which has been provided for electrical steel (CRGO). The PLI Scheme for specialty Scheme will ensure that the basic steel used is 'melted and poured' within the

5 categories in the PLI Scheme:

- Coated/Plated Steel Products
- High Strength/Wear resistant Steel
- Alloy Steel Products and Steel wires
- Specialty Rails
- Electrical Steel

countries like Korea and Japan.

The benefit of this scheme will accrue to both big players i.e. integrated steel plants and to the smaller players (secondary

ing products like API grade pipes, Head Hardened Rails, electrical steel (needed in transformers and electrical appliances) which are currently manufactured in very lim-

country which means that raw material (finished steel) used for making specialty steel will be made in India only, thereby ensuring that Scheme promotes end to end manufacturing within the country.

Mineral Production during May 2021

VIS News Service

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector (Provisional) for the month of May, 2021 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 108.0, was 23.3% higher as compared to the level in the month of May, 2020. The cumulative growth for the

Petroleum (crude) 24 lakh tonnes, Bauxite 1643 thousand tonnes, Chromite 436 thousand tonnes, Copper conc. 10 thousand tonnes,

The production of important minerals showing positive growth during May, 2021 over May, 2020 included: Copper conc. (120.4%), Natural Gas (utilized) (20.1%), Magnesite (19.6%), Manganese Ore (16.9%), Coal (6.6%), and Iron ore (1.3%). The production of

Production (May, 2021) :

- Coal 532 lakh tonnes
- Lignite 31 lakh tonnes
- Bauxite 1643 thousand tonnes
- Chromite 436 thousand

period April- May, 2020-21 over the corresponding period of previous year has increased 29.4 percent.

As per the ministry of mines the production level of important minerals in May, 2021 were: Coal 532 lakh tonnes, Lignite 31 lakh tonnes, Natural gas (utilized) 2660 million cu. m.,

Gold 31 kg, Iron ore 234 lakh tonnes, Lead conc. 26 thousand tonnes, Manganese ore 223 thousand tonnes, Zinc conc. 112 thousand tonnes, Limestone 322 lakh tonnes, Phosphorite 117 thousand tonnes, Magnesite 7 thousand tonnes and Diamond 0 carat.

other important minerals showing negative growth is: Zinc conc. (-0.5%), Bauxite (-1.5%), Phosphorite (-2.1%), Petroleum (crude) (-6.3%), Lignite (-6.3%), Limestone (-8.6%), Lead conc. (-13.7%), Chromite (-19.7%), and Gold (-78.3%).

JNPT issues LoI to 9 bidders

VIS News Service

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) reached yet another milestone in SEZ development by issuing a Letter of Intent to 9 successful bidders in JNPT SEZ.

As per a release from JNPT the allotment of land for the industry is done through the e-tender cum e-

auction process per policy guidelines for Port Guidelines for Land Management. Commenting on the Development, **Mr. Sanjay Sethi, IAS**, Chairman, JNPT, said, "This is a great occasion for JNPT-SEZ, and we are confident of attracting more leading global companies for making India a manufacturing hub in JNPT SEZ."

ONE imports 7 containers (O2) free of freight



Global container shipping company OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS recently transported 7 containers of empty oxygen cylinders for an importer in Vizag free of freight. These cylinders were brought in to help the government of AP for their COVID-19 relief activities for the

community. These cylinders came in from Qingdao, China to Visakhapatnam, India.

The shipment is a social contribution activity under the ambit of ONE's CSR initiatives with the objective of supporting the critical need for oxygen transportation during the COVID crisis.

APMB's New Chairman

VIS News Service

The Government of Andhra Pradesh recently appointed **Mr Kayala Venkata Reddy**, as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB). This is an important appointment as APMB has drawn up fresh plans for port-led development with 3 new Greenfield ports to ensure comprehensive realization of coastal hinterland potential. AP has a coastline of 974 kilometres, the sec-



ond largest in India. As per a GO Mr. Venkata has been appointed for a period of two years from the date of assumption of Charge.

Kakinada Port-VSKP Special Train

The Railways has decided to run MEMU express special trains between Kakinada Port and Visakhapatnam.

The train No. 07265 Kakinada Port-Visakhapatnam MEMU special train will leave Kakinada port at 04.25hrs which will reach Visakhapatnam at 09.40hrs. In return direction, the train No. 07266 Visakhapatnam-Kakinada

Port MEMU special will leave Visakhapatnam at 17.05hrs which will reach Kakinada Port at 22.10hrs.

Stoppages: Kakinada Town, Samalkot, Pithapuram, Gollaprolu, Annavaram, Tuni, Gullipadu, Narsipatnam Road, Regupalem, Elamanchili, Narasingapalli, Anakapalle and Marrisipalem between Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Port.

IN BRIEF

DCI's new boardroom

Dredging Corporation of India limited recently inaugurated its new Board Room at its Head Office, Visakhapatnam. Inaugurated by **Mr D.Subha Rao, CFO**, DCI the Board Room is developed under the concept of waste to wealth with minimum expenditure. The entire concept of this



board room is based on to reuse of existing waste furniture items. All the recycled items have been put in use to develop this new Board Room stated a release from DCI. A E-Office was also launched in DCI by **Dr. G.V.R Murthy, GM** (Technical & Material) marking a step forward towards moving to a paperless office concept and adopting environmental friendly measures.

National Logistics Excellence Awards

The Government recently announced the launch of National Logistics Excellence Awards. The framework of the awards has been finalised in consultation with the logistics associations and forum user industry partners. As per a release from the government the awards are in two categories, the first group includes logistics infrastructure/service providers and second one is for various user industries. Organisations will be invited to submit entries via the ministry of commerce and industry website. Shortlisted entrants will present their case to a National Jury panel, which will decide the winners. The winners will be announced on 31 October 2021. All case studies by finalists in the National Jury round will be showcased in the Logistics Excellence Gallery.

Vizag Q1 Container Traffic up 10%

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The total number of

Top Exports:
Ferro alloys, Aluminium, Agri products, Seafoods

rakes handled in FY 22-Q1 were 181 rakes with 26710 TEUs as against 155 rakes with 22858 TEUs in FY 21.

'Albeit the congestion at Colombo, Tanjung, Pelepas, Singapore etc., had initially slowed down the import movement of containers by

being held for long periods, container traffic slowly started to bounce back in May and June '21' said **Mr Anil Narayanan, COO**,

VCTPL speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan.

VCT overall handled

Top Imports:
Chemicals, Scrap, Metals & Ores, Refractory

about 126366 TEUs in Q1FY22.

'There was an overall throughput growth in Apr '21 - Jun '21 of 10% over

Apr '20 - Jun '20 while EXIM Laden volumes registered growth of 16%

for same period comparison' said **Mr Narayanan.**

Parcel size (no. of containers handled per vessel) also improved from 1400 TEUs to over 1800 TEUs thereby marking an increase of 30%.

Kakinada handles 1st container wagon

Kakinada Container Terminal received and handled the first-ever container wagon - domestic (80x20') at Kakinada Deepwater Port, which arrived from Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

As per the port the cargo was "Rice" bound for West Africa, which would then be shipped out by a breakbulk carrier. Previously the same was transported by road to Kakinada.



Kakinada Chamber of Commerce calls for doubling Rlwy Sidings

Aditya Sabharwal

The Kakinada chamber of commerce has called for the doubling of the railway sidings keeping in mind the burgeoning rice exports from the Kakinada anchorage port.

Kakinada chamber of commerce popularly known as Cocanada has said that currently there are 5 railway sidings and they want this to be increased to 10.

'We have requested

the South central railways for this and they are currently carrying out feasibility studies for the same'



informed **Mr Raghavulu**, President of the Kakinada Chamber of Commerce speaking to Vizag Industrial Scan.

The Kakinada anchorage port is the main port

for rice exports from this region. In the last fiscal close to 2 million tons of rice was exported from here while in the current fiscal the association is forecasting an export volume of 4 million tons.

'With the approval of labour we have also started rice loading from Kakinada seaports limited' said Mr Raghavulu.

Most of the rice comes from the state of Chhattisgarh wherein sizeable volumes are exported to West Africa.

BLR airport exports over 4.5 lakh kgs of Mango

VIS News Service

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport) has processed 483,460 kgs of mangoes in four months from March to June, 2021.

As per a press release the month of June witnessed highest movement of mangoes with 169,882 kgs. A total of 158,936 kgs were processed in May, 110,886 kgs in April and 43,776 in

March.

This year, Doha emerged as the leading



Backed by two reputed cargo terminal operators - Air India SATS and Menzies Aviation Bobba Bangalore- BLR Airport has the infrastructure required to ensure the fruits reach their destinations maintaining their quality as well as freshness.

destination for mangoes from Bengaluru, with 140,000 kgs, followed by London (68,000 kgs) and Singapore (55,000 kgs) stated the release.

To ensure quality and freshness, mangoes are stored and moved to the aircraft within the required temperature range, reducing waiting time at terminals.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

KK Raju as Chairman NREDCAP

The Government recently appointed **Mr Kammila Kannapa Raju** (Mr K.K.Raju) as Chairman, New & Renewable Energy Department Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited, Tadepalli, Guntur District for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge.

AP Industrial Dev.Corp. Chairman

The Government has hereby appointed **Ms. Bandi Sivasakthi Nagendra Punyasheela** as Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (APIDC). The term of the Chairperson shall be for a period of (2) years from the date of appointment.

New Chariman at AP MSME

The Government has appointed **Mr. Venka Ravindranath** as Chairman for the Andhra Pradesh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation. His appointment will be for a period of two years.

APIIC Board Chairperson

The Government recently appointed **Mr Mettu Govinda Reddy S/o Thimmappa** as Chairperson on the Board of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited for a period of 2 years.

AP Handicraft Corp New Chairperson

Ms. Badiginchala Vijaya Lakshmi has been appointed as Chairperson of Andhra Pradesh Handicraft Development Corporation Limited. The term of the Chairperson shall be for a period of (2) years from the date of appointment.

AP KVIB new Chairperson

Government has appointed **Ms. Perlappagari Gbhagamma** as Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board. The term of the Chairperson shall be for a period of (2) years from the date of appointment.

New Appointment in IT&EC Dept.

Ms Deeksha Choudhary has been posted in IT&EC Department against the post of Assistant Director (Promotion). She is W/o. Sri Ketan Garg, IAS (2018) Informatics Assistant (I.A) in Department of Information Technology & Communication (DoIT&C) and her posting has been done on spouse grounds under InterState deputations for a period of 3 years. She will oversee and coordinate the development activities of YSR EMC, Kopparthi with head quarters at YSR Kadapa Dist.

Term Extension of APSPDCL, CMD

The Government has extend the tenure of **Mr H.Harinatha Rao**, Chairman & Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited, Tirupati for a further period of one more year beyond the date of expiry of his earlier term of appointment.

SBI's new DGM



VIS News Service

Mr Manmaya Pandab recently took charge as the Deputy General Manager of State Bank of India, Visakhapatnam Module. The Visakhapatnam module consists of 270 branches in the three north coastal districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam.

A release from SBI stated that Mr Manmaya had joined SBI as a Probationary Officer in the

year 2000 and worked in several capacities at different places in West Bengal. He worked as a Regional Manager at Howrah and got elevated as Deputy General Manager.

After taking charge he addressed the entire staff of Administrative Office and reiterated that Customer Service should be their motto and to strive to work sincerely for the satisfaction of the Customers. He also told the staff to work with utmost honesty, sincerity and integrity.

BIS Vizag's new Head



VIS News Service

Mr MAJ Vinod recently took charge as scientist-E and Head

of BIS, Visakhapatnam. Mr Vinod had joined BIS in 1996 and has earlier worked in cities of New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Lucknow.

He has been involved in various segments such as product certification, laboratory, registration of electronic goods, hallmarking, and quality management system certification.

Afghanistan invites AP Businessmen

VIS News Service

The Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI) recently held a virtual meeting with **Mr Muhammad Suleman Kakar**, Consul General, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Hyderabad.

In his address Consul General Kakar informed that Afghanistan has opened up investment opportunities for the Indian private sector and increased the possibility of economic engagement between Afghanistan and Andhra Pradesh State.

He invited businessmen from Andhra Pradesh to explore business opportunities in the field of agriculture, manufacturing and in the area of imports and exports.

Mr. Kakar also proposed to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Afghanistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce in Investment to carry out more serious activities between Afghanistan and Andhra Pradesh.

Pradesh.

Explaining about the role of the Consulate in Hyderabad Mr. Kakar said that the Consulate's aim is to enhance trade and other economic opportunities between Afghanistan and South India.

'The opening of the new Afghan Mission in Hyderabad is an important step towards the enhance-

ment of

trade be-

tween

the two

countries'

said Mr.

Kakar

and

called for

increas-

ing trade delegations and

having more meetings with

the entrepreneurs of Af-

ghanistan and Andhra

Pradesh.

The consulate which

oversees the States of

Telangana, Andhra

Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil

Nadu and Kerala also pro-

vides necessary consulate

services for the Indian and

Afghan nationals residing

in this region.

FAPCCI's president,

Mr. C.V. Atchut Rao, ap-

prised Mr Kakar on the

various investment and

trade opportunities present

in the State of Andhra

Pradesh.

Facilitating Freight Growth of Indian railways

Priya Arora

An efficient supply chain management requires a coordinated and integrated logistics system. The increased adoption of railways as a mode for cargo movement is crucial for improving India's logistics services. Currently, the modal mix in terms of freight movement is considerably skewed towards road transport with 60 to 65 percent of transport happening via road compared to 25 to 30 percent in developed countries. Indian Railways faces several infrastructural, operational, and connectivity challenges leading to a shift of freight traffic to roads. Research studies suggest that it takes approximately 2-3 days longer for transportation via rail than the road along the major routes leading to higher costs.



Recently there has been an increased focus on the development of railways. The Indian Railways has been taking many initiatives to improve the modal share by investing in infrastructural developments and introducing schemes and policies to improve the overall efficiency of transporting goods. Some of which include - development of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), multi-modal

logistic parks, provision of parcel trains to supply small quantities, roll-on and roll-off rakes, and sector-specific policies to enhance the volume of traffic. Hence along with these initiatives, it is an opportune time to introduce other reforms to improve the modal share by reducing gaps hampering freight movement by rail.

Role of Pvt. Sector

To increase the domestic rail share and improve efficiency, the private sector can play an important role in enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening the rail infrastructure. Operational efficiency for loading/unloading, warehousing management, station services, automation, and digitization of various processes could be outsourced to the private

sector. Similarly, for first and last-mile connectivity, a separate entity can be created by the railways in partnership with the private sector as a single point of contact for customers to handle multiple legs of movement and ensure smooth transportation of goods. Increased investment on upgrading basic terminal infrastructure and rolling stock such as movable ramps, trailers, uniform flooring, service facilities for the safety of goods, etc. These reforms will address some of the major challenges faced by the Indian Railways to ensure seamless rail freight operations, increase the share of rail freight in the modal mix, and subsequently, increased revenues for railways.

(The writer is Senior Research Associate at Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), New Delhi)

Atchut Rao re-elected as FAPCCI President

VIS News Service

The Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce recently held its 2nd AGM wherein it unanimously re-elected **Mr C.V. Atchut Rao**, Chairman, Virya Ventures Pvt Ltd, Vishakhapatnam as President of FAPCCI.

Mr Atchut is one of the Founder Members of FAPCCI and has been its president since it was established in Andhra Pradesh in 2019.

He in fact was the president (2005-06) of the



erstwhile The Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Hyderabad, during the combined state of Andhra Pradesh.

The federation in Telangana is now rechristened

Federation of Telangana chambers of commerce and industry the apex industry organization in Telangana.

Mr. Atchut has served on various other esteemed committees' including the Central Excise Regional Advisory Committee, Telecom Advisory Committee of Andhra Pradesh etc.

He is also the Secretary and Correspondent of Smt. Chelika Devi Vijayakumari College, Bobbili, started by Vijaya Memorial Foundation, which is a public charitable trust.

Next PF near you Aug 10th

The next "NIDHI AAPKE NIKAT" OR "PFNEARYOU" will be held on 10th August 2021 at Regional Office, Marripalem Vudalay-out, NAD Post, Visakhapatnam.

Accordingly, all Employees' Provident fund subscribers of Visakhapatnam District having any grievances/issues are hereby requested to refer the same before the Regional P.F. Commissioner, Visakhapatnam on or before August 6th 2021. They may register their grievances either through post / Courier / Fax No.089L-2558734 / E-mail address ro.vizas@epfindia.sov.in.

Coastal Security Meet

The 5th Apex Committee Review Meeting (ACRM) to review

Vice Adm Ajendra Bahadur Singh, AVSM, VSM, Flag Officer Com-

Coastal Security of Andhra Pradesh was recently conducted by Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam.



The Review Meeting was co-chaired by **Mr Aditya Nath Das IAS**, Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and

manding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. As per a release key issues on Coastal Security, developments and progress made since the last Review in 2019 were discussed and suitably addressed.

New retail parks policy to spur growth: Valaven

Contd. from Page 1

opportunities in the retail industry by 2026.

'The main objectives of the five-year policy are to encourage skill development; create more employment opportunities; and strengthen the existing unorganized retail sector. The policy envisages an organised retail trade being more stable and reliable employment, thereby increasing Gross State Domestic product,' said **Mr R Karikal Valaven**, IAS Special Chief Secretary [Industries, Infrastructure & Investments] speaking to *Vizag Industrial*

Scan.

Some of the key

multiple departments inspecting each estab-

lishment, thereby leading to a less intimidating and time consuming process. All inspections are proposed to be managed and monitored through a Central In-

spection System,' said Mr Valaven. establishing a consolidated single product / sector Retail Park.

ment targets highlighted in the policy.

New Retail Policy gets 1st Investment

With the new retail policy announced **M/s Capital Business Park LLP** has proposed to set up a Mega Retail park (Textiles), with a built up area of 7 lakh sq.ft to accommodate over 900 textile and apparel outlets at Tadepalli, Guntur District.

This will be done at an investment of Rs.194.16 Crore and with a potential to create direct employment to 5,000 people and requested for providing certain incentives.

SIPB has decided to extend special package of incentives to M/s Capital Business Park LLP under AP Retail Parks Policy 2021-26 said a GO issued by Mr Karikal Valaven, IAS special chief secretary to government & CIP.

highlights of the Policy include Single Desk Portal For Time-Bound Clearance, Rationalisation of Inspections and Local Sourcing.

'Joint inspections will be carried out by

multiple departments inspecting each establishment, thereby leading to a less intimidating and time consuming process. All inspections are proposed to be managed and monitored through a Central In-

The policy offers various benefits for projects given mega retail park status i.e. projects involving a fixed capital investment of at least 100 crore or more than 5,000 direct employment for es-

He further added, 'the one-time external infrastructure support of 50% depending on employment and stamp duty exemption will prove to be big benefits for the retail trade'.

The policy also aims to simplify labour laws and support human capital development. All the incentives will be disbursed only after meeting the mandated investment or employ-

The Retailers Association of India [RAI] also hailed the policy wherein its CEO **Mr Kumar Rajagopalan** said "The Retail Park Policy 2021-26 is a welcome initiative by the Andhra Pradesh Government. The reforms in the policy such as the single desk online clearance for licenses, setting up of retail hubs and simplified labour laws that include night-shifts for women workers among others are progressive steps that will help take retail in the State to the next level. We hope other states too will follow suit."

Waltair Club opens Golf Arena



VIS News Service

The city's coveted club Waltair Club recently opened a Golf Arena in its premises. The golf arena was inaugurated by **Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh**, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command and **Vice Admiral Biswajit Das Gupta**, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command in the presence of President of

Waltair Club **Mr. P. Phaneendra Babu**.

Other members present included **Vice President M.A. Murale**, Honorary Secretary **V. Seetaramiah** along with Committee members.

This Golf Arena is equipped with a Practice Range, Putting Green and Lounge. Members can also avail coaching facility here stated a release.

Kakani gets coveted appointment

VIS News Service

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has nominated **Mr Tarun Kakani**, CEO of Amaravati Boating Club as a member of "Talent Identification Zonal Committee" for South Zone of the Khelo India Identification Program.

An initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports the states covered in the South Zone include Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

With this appointment Mr Kakani would need to identify grass-root talent by using appropriate methods and

non-competitions, ensure updation of data base on NSRS and create ranking of athletes and also identify and coach young talent in Rowing along with SAI coaches.

Mr Tarun Kakani, thanked the Ministry of Sports, Govt of India and Rowing Federation of India for the recognition and said that he would put in his best efforts in promoting water sports like rowing, sailing, canoeing and kayaking in Andhra Pradesh, TS and Tamil Nadu. Mr Kakani has also been appointed as the National Executive member for the CSR and Marketing Committee of Rowing Federation of India (RFI).



BoB marks 114th foundation Day



VIS News Service

The regional office of Bank of Baroda Visakhapatnam recently celebrated the bank's 114th foundation day. Founded by Shri Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III on 20th July 1908 Bank of Baroda is one of the premier public sector banks in the country. The bank has been surpassing several milestones and contributing significantly the overall growth and develop-

ment of the country.

The Visakhapatnam regional office led by its regional manager **Mr YVS Koteswara Rao** along with deputy regional Manager **Mr Babuji Rao** and other staff members conducted a contactless social distancing human chain on beach road from 6:30am to 7:30am. Blood donation camps were also organized by the banks various branches in the cities as part of the foundation day.

EPDCL's new CMD



VIS News Service

Mr. K. Santhosh Rao recently assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of APEPDCL.

Mr. Santosh Rao, was earlier Director (Technical) of Vijayawada APCPDCL and has now been appointed as the APEPDCL CMD for a period of two years as per orders issued by Energy Secretary **Mr. N. Srikant**.

Mr. Rao thanked the

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for appointing him as CMD and reposing confidence in him. He said that his priority is to provide reliable and uninterrupted power supply with quality of power to Domestic, Commercial, and Industrial consumers in APEPDCL jurisdiction. He further said that his top priority will be to provide 9 hours of free uninterrupted power supply to Agriculture pump sets in the daytime.

APSPDCL CMD term extended

The Government has hereby extend the tenure of **Mr. H. Harinatha Rao**, Chairman & Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited, Tirupati for a further period of one more year beyond the date of expiry of his earlier term of appointment.

Jio adds over 1.28 lakh subscribers in T & AP

Leads the market with 3.21 Cr customers

VIS News Service

As per the latest telecom subscriber data released by TRAI, Reliance Jio has added over 1.28 lakh new subscribers in the month of April 2021.

In a press release from Jio it said that it is the only Telecom operator in this Circle to add new subscribers. With this Jio has extended its market leadership in the Telangana & AP with over 3.21 crore mobile subscribers.

Reliance Jio added highest 1,28,098 mobile subscribers in April 2021.

While Airtel lost 2,236 mobile subscribers in the month, Vodafone Idea lost 1,64,955 subscribers and BSNL lost 78,087 subscribers in the same



month, as per the data published by TRAI.

Nationally too, Reliance Jio topped the subscription chart for April as it added over 47.56

lakh users during the month. With this addition, Jio's subscriber base has increased to over 42.76 crore users said the release from Jio.

Bharti Airtel added over 5.17 lakh users during the month under review, taking its subscriber base to over 35.29 crore. Vodafone Idea, on the other hand, eroded its subscriber base by over 18.10 lakh users to more than 28.19 crore. State-run BSNL also witnessed a decline its user base by nearly 13.05 lakh to 11.72 crore.

IoB's New RM



Mr. V.D. Pani recently took over as Indian Overseas Bank's new Senior Regional Manager in Visakhapatnam.

He has over 31 years of experience and is an expert in corporate credit. He has earlier worked in Delhi & Chennai and has come from head office in Chennai (Corporate Department)

Ora Motors unveils new Aprilla

VIS News Service

Piaggio India recently launched the all new Aprilla SXR 125. Unveiled in Vizag by Ora Motors, the all new Aprilla SXR 125 incorporates Aprilla's latest global design language and is fitted with a single-cylinder, 4-stroke, air-cooled, 3 valve fuel injection clean emission engine technology, that produces peak power of 9.52 PS at 7600 RPM.

As per the dealership Aprilla SXR 125 will be available at a price of INR

1,16,099/- ex showroom Visakhapatnam and can be booked for an initial amount

website <https://AprillaIndia.com/>.

With a total of 25



of INR 5000/- across all dealerships in India and through e-commerce

branches in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam,

Vijayanagaram districts and Kakinada Ora Motors said that Aprilla SXR 125 will be available in very attractive Glossy Red, Matt Blue, Glossy White and Matt Black colours.

Speaking at the launch the dealership's Managing Director **Mr. Krishnakant** said that "We are delighted to be affiliated with Piaggio. We ORA MOTORS are the NO 1 Dealer since last 5 years, We are the highest selling vespa in India" said Mr. Krishnakant.

Gov clears Rs 887 crs investments in Kadapa

Two Units to come up at YSR Jagananna Mega Industrial Hub

VIS News Service

In a significant announcement that could spur industrial development in the YSR Kadapa district one of the most economically backward districts in the state, the government recently cleared two investment proposals of companies wanting to set up their units in the YSR

petitive environment in the YSR Jagananna Mega Industrial Hub, Koppurthy, YSR Kadapa district, that the GoAP had announced the YSR Jagananna Mega Industrial Hub Policy with special package of incentives.

The two companies whose proposals have

been cleared for investment and incentives are M/s Pitti Rail and Engineering Components Limited and M/s Nilkamal

poses to setup a green field project to manufacture

units to both the companies as was mentioned

cost of Rs. 25 lakh per for being early birds / Anchor

Pitti Rail&Engineering	Nilkamal Ltd
➤ APIIC to allocate 117.85 acres	➤ APIIC to allocate 105 acres
➤ Proposed Investment Rs.401 Crores	➤ Proposed investment of Rs.486 Crores
➤ Direct employment to 2,000 people	➤ Direct employment to 2,030 people

Early Bird Advantage

- ✓ Land @ concessional rate of **Rs.10 Lakh per acre** against the cost of **Rs. 25 lakh per acre**
- ✓ **100 % Reimbursement of Stamp Duty**
- ✓ **Reimbursement of Power cost @Rs. 1.00 per unit for 5 years**

Jagananna Mega Industrial Hub, Koppurthy.

It was to create a com-

been cleared for investment and incentives are M/s Pitti Rail and Engi-

Limited.

M/s Pitti Rail and Engineering Components Limited has proposed to establish a customized Engineering Products manufacturing facility with a proposed an investment of Rs.401 Crore and a potential to create direct employment to 2,000 people.

The second company cleared by the government is M/s Nilkamal Limited. Nilkamal pro-

duces Furniture, Mattresses and Material Handling Products unit at "YSR Jagananna Mega Industrial Hub" with an investment of Rs.486 Crores and with a potential to create direct employment to 2,030 people and requested for providing special package of incentives.

The board cleared both the proposals and has decided to extend the special package incen-

by the government to be given to the first 5 early bird Anchor units coming up in the park during FY 2021-2022.

Pitti rail and engineering component ltd will be allocated 117.85 acres of land by APIIC while Nilkamal will be allocated 105 acres by APIIC.

Both of these companies will be offered land at a concessional rate of Rs.10 Lakh per acre, against the APIIC land

units of the five eligible early bird/anchor units coming up in the park during FY 2021-2022.

Some of the other incentives include 100 % Reimbursement of Stamp Duty, 100% net SGST reimbursement for 8 years limited to FCI whichever is earlier, Reimbursement of Power cost @Rs. 1.00 per unit for 5 years, Logistic Subsidy of 25% of cost incurred on domestic transports limited to Rs.50 Lakhs per annum for 5 years.

Over 36K Cos incorporated in Q1

The number of new companies incorporated in the Country under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 from April 2021 to June, 2021 stood at 36,191. This is about double the number of companies

that were incorporated during the same period last year. 18,968 new companies were incorporated last fiscal in the same period thus marking an increase of 17,223 new Companies in Q1 of this fiscal.

This information was recently stated by Minister of State for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs **Mr Rao Inderjit Singh** in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.



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'AP a priority market for us'

Aditya Sabharwal

Leading international wholesale company Metro cash and carry recently opened its first store in the city of Vizag and it's second in the state. With presence in over 34 countries, employing close to 1 lakh people the company is bullish on the state of Andhra Pradesh.

'Seeing the population of Vizag we can open 2-3 more stores here itself' said **Mr. Arvind Mediratta**, MD and CEO at the opening of the Vizag store. The company is slated to open its 3rd store in Guntur soon.

"Andhra Pradesh is a priority market for us; as we increase our footprint in the state, we will positively contribute towards the state's development by creating newer employment opportunities, upskilling local talent, strengthening local sourcing" said the MD&CEO.

Digitizing Kiranas

Identifying the company as being the Champion for Independent Business he said that Metro has always been vocal about empowering independent businesses, small traders and kiranas in India.

'The share of Kiranas has actually gone up amid the pandemic' informed the MD and CEO.

The company through its Smart Kirana program, has helped over 2000 traditional kiranas across the country transform with modernization and digitalization solutions to compete in the modern retail land-

buying habits and also provide them with insights on market research' said **Mr Mediratta**.

He further informed that two kirana stores in the city have already been remodelled from a traditional shop into a modern open format store.

Local Sourcing

The company has a strong focus on sourcing locally. '99% of products METRO sells are all locally sourced from MSMEs & local suppliers' said Mr Mediratta.

METRO Cash & Carry claims to have over 3 million customer base in India while the Vizag store has already ramped up a customer base of 50,000.

'We will initially cater to over 50,000 registered business customer which includes kiranas and traders; Hotels, Restaurants & Caterers (HoReCa); Services, Companies and Offices (SCOs) and self-employed professionals' said the MD & CEO.

The company currently operates 29 wholesale distribution centres, catering to over 5000 suppliers, and states to have created over 14500 direct and indirect jobs across the country.



scope. Apart from modernizing the layout of the stores, the store has been upgraded with digital solutions and the owners have been educated about planogram, inventory management and quality management to help them garner more footfall and profitability for their business.

'By digitizing and with the help of our software we help Kirana's better analyse their customers

AP's 1st Model City gets underway at Pulivendula, CMs home constituency

Aditya Sabharwal

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy** recently laid the foundation stone for various works in

develop Pulivendula town as a Model Town not only in the state but in the country.

The town is being mooted to be developed in an integrated manner by providing

ery and developing good urban design projects which shall complement the town's development.

'In my knowledge, we can say that this is the first

level. There are 'Area Based Development (ABD) Projects' for select areas within cities/towns under GoI Smart Cities Schemes, but Pulivendula could be the first where the development is being planned and executed at town level' said **Mr Ambala Narayana Reddy**, CEO APUIAML that has been engaged for providing end-to-end services.

The development projects of the town are divided into 4 categories (Pillars, See Box) with an estimated project cost of development (for 25 projects) at Rs. 633.18 Cr.

APUIAML (Andhra Pradesh Urban Infrastructure Asset Management Limited) is a joint venture of the government of Andhra Pradesh with IL&FS Investment managers Ltd. (IIML),

Development Pillars

- ✓ Social Infrastructure
- ✓ Economy & Employment
- ✓ Ecology & Environment
- ✓ Basic Infrastructure

a 100% subsidiary of IL&FS group wherein GoAP holds a 49% stake.

It is informed that APUIAML has worked with PADA & GoAP on the proposals which includes preparation of Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan, Detailed Project Reports, Tender documents, providing Project Management Services (PMC) during project execution.

The projects have been designed as per the needs of people of Pulivendula and to

bring a paradigm shift of Pulivendula revamping the same into Model Town said the **Mr Ambala Narayana Reddy**.

The projects are scheduled to be executed in 12-18 months of time depending on external contingencies. We are also gearing up for ICT based PMC services during execution stages said the CEO of Andhra Pradesh Urban Infrastructure Asset Management Limited.



In my knowledge, we can say that this is the first town/city in the country where comprehensive development is being carried out at a town/city level – pan city level.

Mr Ambala Narayana Reddy
CEO APUIAML

the town of Pulivendula. Located in the CM's home district of Kadapa the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) desires to

best of international/national level benchmark for provision of civic facilities and basic infrastructure, green-

town/city in the country where comprehensive development is being carried out at a town/city level – pan city

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1	Tea	65.14	135.01	53.06	150.78	-18.54	11.68
2	Coffee	75.82	188.62	85.54	229.75	12.82	21.81
3	Rice	681.30	1914.45	741.33	2398.83	8.81	25.30
4	Other cereals	25.16	44.88	84.52	231.51	235.93	415.84
5	Tobacco	87.08	182.51	95.05	248.64	9.15	36.23
6	Spices	359.37	880.97	318.72	1036.07	-11.31	17.61
7	Cashew	32.47	74.46	24.53	113.25	-24.45	52.10
8	Oil Meals	85.94	180.20	110.14	297.75	28.16	65.23
9	Oil seeds	116.43	231.09	78.30	247.92	-32.75	7.28
10	Fruits & Vegetables	189.75	584.50	205.42	638.21	8.26	9.19
11	Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items	143.22	311.10	198.56	528.24	38.64	69.80
12	Marine Products	482.76	1177.16	645.66	1769.91	33.74	50.35
13	Meat, dairy & poultry products	203.70	483.54	329.61	1022.55	61.81	111.47
14	Iron Ore	354.36	1044.64	509.65	1718.96	43.82	64.55
15	Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals including processed minerals	305.77	638.73	379.66	1154.24	24.17	80.71
16	Leather & leather products	244.89	373.41	325.01	885.65	32.72	137.18
17	Ceramic products & glassware	213.30	425.54	292.15	867.08	36.97	103.76
18	Gems & Jewellery	1564.55	2664.00	2824.48	9171.94	80.53	244.29
19	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	2018.21	5526.45	2018.65	5779.65	0.02	4.58
20	Organic & Inorganic Chemicals	1958.50	4972.05	2669.51	6868.44	36.30	38.14
21	Engineering Goods	6072.25	14078.25	9284.36	25895.40	52.90	83.94
22	Electronic Goods	722.13	1427.21	1048.53	2977.25	45.20	108.61
23	Cotton Yarn/Fabs./made-ups, Handloom Products etc.	761.38	1374.37	1194.43	3364.35	56.88	144.79
24	Man-made Yarn/Fabs./made-ups etc.	247.02	475.62	448.88	1284.18	81.72	170.00
25	RMG of all Textiles	803.37	1446.31	1001.56	3405.56	24.67	135.47
26	Jute Mfg. including Floor Covering	23.59	35.60	34.19	106.69	44.93	199.69
27	Carpet	102.54	178.33	143.03	411.85	39.49	130.95
28	Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet	104.85	166.26	162.62	467.31	55.10	181.07
29	Petroleum Products	1867.65	4739.16	4022.40	12975.64	115.37	173.80
30	Plastic & Linoleum	636.86	1832.17	979.46	2569.74	53.80	40.26
	Sub-Total	20549.36	47786.59	30309.01	88817.34	47.49	85.86
	GRAND TOTAL	21907.55	51318.15	32497.69	95391.59	48.34	85.88

Note 1: Exports include Re-Exports. Note 2: The figures for JUN'21 are provisional. Note 3: Grand total is inclusive of component 'Other'

Selected Major Import Commodities For June 2021*



SL. No.	Commodities	Values in Million USD				% Change	
		JUN'20	APR'20-JUN'20	JUN'21	APR'21-JUN'21	JUN'21	APR'21-JUN'21
1	Cotton Raw & Waste	33.23	103.99	68.75	155.42	106.89	49.46
2	Vegetable Oil	706.62	1929.67	1433.90	4148.23	102.92	114.97
3	Pulses	65.20	225.13	138.14	230.34	111.87	2.31
4	Fruits & vegetables	110.05	368.66	202.10	610.32	83.64	65.55
5	Pulp and Waste paper	43.19	195.42	118.54	335.84	174.46	71.86
6	Textile yarn Fabric, made-up articles	55.62	217.81	146.07	442.20	162.62	103.02
7	Fertilisers, Crude & manufactured	628.39	1551.90	1039.46	2077.37	65.42	33.86
8	Sulphur & Unroasted Iron Pyrites	9.20	18.31	27.22	74.88	195.87	308.96
9	Metaliferrous ores & other minerals	327.52	891.25	553.96	1839.29	69.14	106.37
10	Coal, Coke & Briquettes, etc.	949.97	3457.07	1875.68	5848.02	97.45	69.16
11	Petroleum, Crude & products	4931.11	13079.27	10676.21	31000.92	116.51	137.02
12	Wood & Wood products	256.15	990.63	564.65	1606.07	120.44	62.13
13	Leather & leather products	38.34	118.81	71.52	182.17	86.54	53.33
14	Organic & Inorganic Chemicals	1278.06	4024.66	2451.90	7001.30	91.85	73.96
15	Dyeing/tanning/colouring materials	142.57	503.36	288.87	850.93	102.62	69.05
16	Artificial resins, plastic materials, etc.	625.83	2345.59	1468.23	4898.85	134.61	108.85
17	Chemical material & products	571.85	1650.50	1023.47	2977.01	78.98	80.37
18	Newsprint	33.70	124.42	35.86	83.62	6.41	-32.79
19	Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones	634.64	1019.36	2571.76	7287.52	305.23	614.91
20	Iron & Steel	630.81	2531.25	1447.01	3810.66	129.39	50.54
21	Non-ferrous metals	542.32	2027.23	1457.64	4038.02	168.78	99.19
22	Machine tools	190.84	579.89	373.65	1051.37	95.79	81.31
23	Machinery, electrical & nonelectrical	1725.30	5387.55	3092.55	9130.23	79.25	69.47
24	Transport equipment	586.30	1937.97	1215.52	3851.42	107.32	98.73
25	Project goods	86.41	284.27	75.62	342.52	-12.49	20.49
26	Professional instrument, Optical goods, etc.	346.15	825.46	709.59	2088.36	104.99	152.99
27	Electronic goods	3170.81	7663.33	4602.54	13907.75	45.15	81.48
28	Medicinal & Pharmaceutical products	536.29	1561.05	1237.95	2715.61	130.84	73.96
29	Gold	608.69	687.83	969.87	7887.97	59.34	1046.79
30	Silver	137.22	575.11	11.83	39.39	-91.38	-93.15
	Sub-Total	20002.38	56876.75	39950.06	120513.60	99.73	111.89
	GRAND TOTAL	21114.38	60437.13	41871.89	126145.23	98.31	108.72

Note 1: Imports include Re-Imports. Note 2: The figures for JUN'21 are provisional. Note 3: Grand total is inclusive of component 'Other'.

*Data for June 2021 (National)

VIS Startup Focus 'Swap' Now for Healthy Food



Sylviee Soy

Have you been looking for food that is not only healthy, rich in protein yet tasty and doesn't comprise on your strict diet plan?

Then look no more as this Vizag based start-up might just be the place you have been looking for.

Swapnow is a food startup that is working towards making healthy food affordable and accessible.

'Give us your diet plan and Concentrate on Your Workouts More Efficiently' said **Mr Praveen** founder of Swapnow.

Being a fitness enthusiast himself he noticed that an effective exercise regime calls for a good customized food plan which is typically not found in restaurant menus. It is here that the idea struck him to start out on this venture.

Swapnow offers its customers a range of healthy/diet oriented menus one can choose from. There are about 80 standardized items on the menu ranging from brown rice meals boxes to different kinds of salads.

'These are nutritionally balanced meals wherein the average price of a meal is Rs 150 and is good for one person' informed **Mr Praveen**.

And if customers want a customized diet plan they can then opt for a monthly subscription plan.

Their monthly subscription plans vary from Rs 7000 to Rs 15000 depending on the number of meals.

As of now the startup claims to have got 1500 subscriptions through their website and states to deliver 500 to 600 meals per day.

One can either order through food apps such as Swiggy and Zomato or Swapnow can deliver to you directly too.

With 3 outlets, 2 in Vizag and 1 in Hyderabad Swapnow is planning on coming out with 2 more outlets in Hyderabad very soon.

The start-up is also working on getting out an app which they say will be ready in about 6 months to a year time.

Below is a brief snapshot of the company and founder:

Founder Name: Mr. Praveen Kota

Co-Founder : Mr.Gnanesh Meesala, Mr.Anurag Prudhvi Kandivalasa

Team: 8

Incubated/Started (Year and City): Vizag, 2019

Industry / Space : Food and Beverages

Funding Received : Bootstrapped

Looking for: Funding

Market of Operation: Vizag, Hyderabad

Revenues: Rs 1.2 Crores

Claim to Fame: Recognized Start-up India and DPIIT Recognised.

Company's culture:

Aggressive Easy Going Methodical

PTIM (Person that inspires me): **Mr. Steve Jobs.** I have been most inspired by his penchant towards product perfection, his marketing skills and the way he has overall impacted industries with the use of technology. I too would want to create a similar impact in the health and fitness space.

'Over 1000 startups engaged in Defence'

VIS News Service

Speaking at a recently held virtual session titled 'India-Israel Defence Industry Cooperation-Collaboration Opportunities for MSMEs & Start-ups', **Mr Sanjay Jaju**, Additional Secretary (DP), Ministry of Defence, Govt of India said that over the last 3 years, we have been able to engage over 1000 Start-ups in the defence and aerospace sector.

He also invited the Israeli companies to invest in development of the two defence corridors setup by the government in UP and Tamil Nadu. "In the defence sector, the government plays a pro-active role in facilitating the B2B opportunities



and create enabling conditions for the businesses to prosper," he added.

Mr SP Shukla, Chairman, FICCI Defence Committee said that The 'Innovations for Defence Excellence- iDEX' initiative is aimed to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development by actively engaging MSMEs, Start-ups and individual innovators.

Number of DPIIT recognized startups

VIS News Service

There has been an increase in the number of DPIIT recognized

to help them scale faster, better, and stronger. The portal acts as one stop platform for the stakeholders

Calendar Year	Recognized Startups
2016	504
2017	5420
2018	8946
2019	11683
2020	14778
2021*	11272

(*data till 15th July, 2021)

startups in the recent years. The increasing trend can be seen in the table above.

Startup India provides free resources to startups

of startup ecosystem with aspiring entrepreneurs, startups, corporates, accelerators, incubators, government departments having profile on the platform.

Defence Min launches AI App

VIS News Service

Raksha Mantri **Mr Rajnath Singh** recently launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of IIT-Kanpur.

This is the first AI based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government stated a release from the ministry of defence.

The AI tool developed as part of the initiative has capability to understand the content of the complaint based on the contents

therein.

As a result, it can identify repeat complaints or spam automatically. Based on the meaning of the complaint, it can categorise complaints of different categories even when key words normally used for such search are not

analysis of complaints in a category including analysis of whether the complaint

plaints received on CPGRAMS portal of



was adequately addressed or

DARPG, this application will have great use in understanding the nature of complaints, geographies from where they emanate and policy changes which can be introduced to create systemic improvements to address these grievances said the release.

AI-powered app to automatically handle and analyse complaints of people, reduce human intervention, save time and bring more transparency in their disposal

present in the complaint.

It enables geographical

not by the concerned office. As there are lakhs of com-

IIC to soon open in Andhra University

VIS News Service

In significant development that could boost the innovation and startup ecosystem in the state, Andhra University has been granted to establish Institute's Innovation Council (IIC) by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, Innovation Cell.

Purushotham, the president of IIC – Andhra University in the presence of Vice-Chancellor **Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy**.

Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy, the Vice-Chancellor thanked AICTE – MoE for granting the IIC to Andhra University and hoped it would boost the existing innovation ecosystem in the University.

Prof Krishna Mohan



As per a release from AU, the MoE's Innovation Cell (MIC) has the mandate to work closely with the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to encourage the creative energy of student population to work on new ideas and innovation and promote them to create start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures by establishing Institution's Innovation Council (IIC).

Prof. V. Krishna Mohan, Registrar handed over the sanction certificate received from AICTE – MoE to **Prof. H.**

'NABARD strengthening Rural Infra in AP'



Speaking at NABARD's 40th Foundation Day, **Mr Sudhir Kumar Jannawar**, Chief General Manager of NABARD's AP Regional Office, said that NABARD has been contributing to the creation of rural infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh. He informed that NABARD has provided financial support of Rs. 2,684 crore, credit facility of 17,472 crore for procurement operations and extended refinance support to the tune of Rs. 22,065 crore to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks. He further added that to meet the liquidity needs of the RRBs and Cooperative Banks in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, Rs. 2500 crore was released under the Special Liquidity

Facility. **Dr. Poonam Malakondaiah**, Special Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Sericulture Horticulture, congratulated NABARD for its proactive role in fostering rural prosperity. **Mr V Brahmananda Reddy**, SLBC, Field General Manager & Convenor, hailed NABARD for playing a key role in policy making for SHG, JLG formations, Watersheds, FPOs, TDF.

At the Secretariat



Sri Lankan Deputy high commissioner Dr.D.Venkateswaran recently called upon Chief Minister **Mr. Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy** at his camp office. The Deputy high commissioner also paid a visit to Brandix India Apparel Park in Visakhapatnam.

New team at Rotary club Waltair

Rtn. K.S.R.K. Raju (Sai) and **Rtn. PP D. Sathyasree** were recently elected as President and Secretary respectively for the year 2021-22.

Rtn. PGD D. Varada Reddy installed the new members at a glittering function where **Rtn. PDG D.V. Raju** was the Chief Guest.

Fleet awards at WNC

VIS News Service

The western naval command recently held its Fleet Award Ceremony after a gap of a year due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

This year, the ceremony was hosted by **Rear Admiral A j a y Kochhar**, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet. The ceremony marked the operational achievements of the Fleet from April 2020 to March

2021. The event was attended by Flag Officers of Western Naval Command with **Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command as the Chief Guest.



A total of 20 trophies were given away covering a myriad spectrum of naval operations, safety practices and morale. **INS Kolkata** was awarded the 'Best Ship' among the capital ships.

Felicitation



Tourism Minister Mr. M.Srinivasa Rao felicitating the outgoing district collector **Mr. V.Vinay Chand**. The Minister lauded his efforts in providing better services to the people of the city. He said that Mr. Chand was very effective in performing his duties during his two years and two months stint as collector. The minister also appreciated the collectors untiring efforts to the public during the Covid-19 pandemic. The tourism minister also felicitated the Visakhapatnam metropolitan region development authority commissioner **Mr. P.Koteswara Rao** who has now been transferred as collector and district magistrate of Kurnool district.

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Navy gets MH-60R Helicopters

VIS News Service

Indian Navy recently accepted the first two of its MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from the US Navy in a ceremony held at NAS North Island, San Diego.

The ceremony marked the formal transfer of these helicopters from US Navy to Indian Navy, which were accepted by

Mr Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Indian Ambassador to USA.

MH-60R helicopters manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, USA is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics/ sensors. Indian



Navy is procuring 24 of

these helicopters under Foreign Military Sales from the US Government said a release from the Indian Navy.

The ceremony also witnessed exchange of helicopter documents between **Vice Adm Kenneth Whitesell**, Commander Naval Air Forces, USN and **Vice Adm Ravneet Singh**, DCNS, IN.

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IIMV students' ESR

VIS News Service

The PGPEX (Post Graduate Program for Experienced Professionals) 19-21 batch of 27 students recently donated essential items worth more than Rs. 100,000/- to Ananda Marga Children's Home under the ESR initiative.

The "Executive Social Responsibility (ESR)" is the first initiative undertaken by the "Class of

'21" and is an effort to bring about a positive change by the PGPEX Students.

Ananda Marga Children's home is a regis-



tered orphanage working tirelessly to cater to the needs and welfare of approximately 40 children between the ages of 8 to 18 years.