



'VCT has natural Depth of 16m alongside - The deepest amongst India Container Terminals'

## American Hub @ Vizag



India as a developing country needs innovative startups specifically in manufacturing industries while Andhra Pradesh the rice bowl of India needs more such industries to foster a strong ecosystem and to provide a platform where the various stakeholders can meet the startups, give them the support needed and help them succeed.

Visakhapatnam is proving itself as an ideal location for setting up of new ventures and industrial hubs. As a recent development, The American government's Consul General Mr. Joel Reifman met the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to understand the best possibilities in setting up the incubation center in the state. During the interaction they have visited the port city, Visakhapatnam and found that the facilities available here are up to their expectations. The US government therefore has shown interest to set up the American Hub in Visakhapatnam which would be the first of its kind in South India while it will only be the second in the country. Visakhapatnam would be the ideal location for such a new set up with the presence of major port, railway zone, well-established airway, and roadways connectivity too. Moreover, Andhra Pradesh has a long coastline which is the second largest in the country enabling increased EXIM traffic through the major port Visakhapatnam.

(Cont. on Page No.3)

## VPT All Set To Retain 3<sup>rd</sup> Position



Challenging times across the globe caused by the pandemic COVID-19 disturbed the human life and in turn affected the international trade. The impact on volumes has affected the throughput of the ports as well. Normal life came to a standstill, pattern of living changed, EXIM movement has seen a great fall, prices varied, consumption pattern has seen a drop thus the overall volumes have come down too. Despite the tough times, Visakhapatnam Port Trust did not lose its mettle and continued to perform ensuring to meet the customers' requirement.

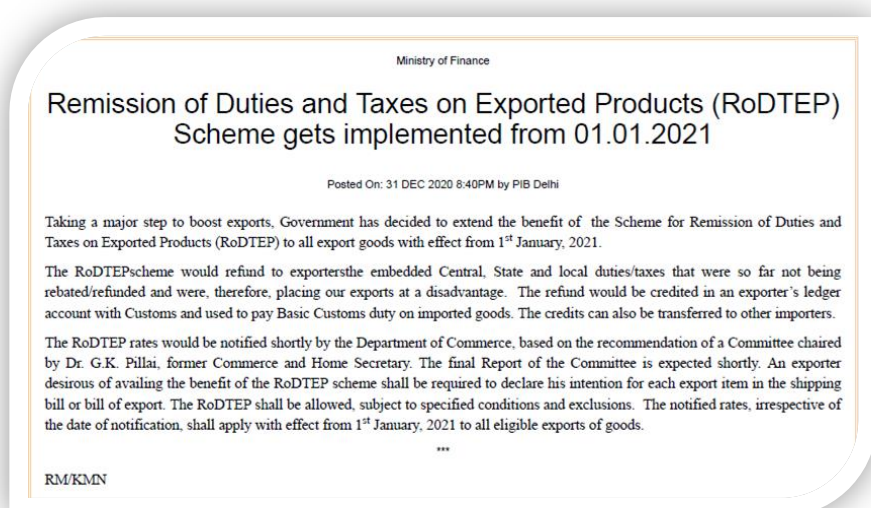
During these testing time, VPT ensured to be in the top 5 position and is all set to retain its 3<sup>rd</sup> position in handling cargo following Kandla and Paradip in this Financial Year 2021. In FY 19-20 VPT had set up a new record by handling 72.72 million tonnes overtaking Jawaharlal Port Trust (JNPT) and registered 3<sup>rd</sup> position.

In this financial year VPT has already crossed a throughput of 51.95 million tonnes as on December 31, 2020 as against 53.54 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year. There is a shortfall of 1.59 million tonnes attributed to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. The major cargo handled this year includes iron ore and pellets 13.53 MT, POL 12.18 MT, coal 8.06 MT, fertilizer, and raw material 2.56 MT, container 6.18 MT and other cargo 9.44 MT.

(Cont. on Page No.3)

## Another Initiative By Indian Government - Tax Refund Scheme To Exporters

The impact of the pandemic COVID 19 has shown on the EXIM movement in India, thus the volumes across the country have declined. In order to bring back the EXIM activities to normalcy the Government of India is trying to extend its helping hand to the Trade in all possible ways. The exporters in the country are already eligible for Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS), Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation, Export Promotion of Capital Goods etc. The Govt. has now decided to extend the benefit of tax refund scheme Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) to all goods, with effect from January 1, 2021.



In March, the Government approved the scheme RoDTEP for reimbursement of taxes and duties to exporters, with a view to give a boost to the country's declining exports. The refund would be credited in an exporter's ledger account with customs and used to pay basic customs duty on imported goods. Exporters who are willing to avail this benefit need to declare their intention for each export item in the shipping bill or bill of export.

In the existing schemes, certain taxes, such as state taxes on power, oil, water and education cess are not included.

Under RoDTEP such taxes are also proposed to be included in the indicative list making the scheme exhaustive. RoDTEP covers reimbursement of duties and taxes (such as mandi tax, VAT and central excise on fuel, etc.) which are levied at central, state and local level and are not refunded under any other mechanism. Further, items which were currently under MEIS and Rebate of State and Central Taxes - RoSCTL schemes, will be shifted towards the RoDTEP scheme.

These scrips can be used for the payment of import duties as would be notified by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The owner of the scrip (either the original exporter beneficiary or any other IEC to whom the scrip was transferred on ICEGATE portal) will be able to use in the Bills of Entry the same way as any other duty credit scrips issued by DGFT, by giving the details in the license table of the Bill of Entry. This initiative of the government is set to boost the exports overall in the coming months.

## Export of Medicines & Vaccines from India Will Continue

India has a huge pharma production industry where Visakhapatnam itself is a hub of both exports and imports especially with the major producers of APIs presence in the port city. Moreover, the country is one of the world's biggest vaccine producers. Its pharmaceutical industry is growing its arms in all the corners across the Globe to support the needy. India had supplied medicines to the needy as and when required in the past, present and is ready to do it in future too. Foreseeing the need of the hour pharma companies in India have ramped up their production.



---

Pharmaceutical industries in India are pushing ahead with investments to help support a global vaccination campaign. The vaccination programme in India for COVID-19 is already rolled out aiming to cover 300 million people by mid of 2021 and is one of the world's largest booster drives against the coronavirus.

Few months before India was importing protective equipment kits, masks, ventilators and testing kits from other nations but now most of these are produced here only and some companies have started exporting to other nations too.

Visakhapatnam is blessed with major pharma companies in its vicinity of 40 -70 km i.e. Parwada, Pydi-Bhimavaram and Duvvada regions with around 100 pharma and chemical industries having their presence. Visakha Container Terminal is the ideal gateway for their EXIM movement the Chemical / Pharma products making Visakhapatnam the Pharma hub. The reefer container movement from the port city is quite high and at VCT there is adequate infrastructure complemented with sufficient reefer plug points to support the reefer movement. With the production of Vaccines and other injectables being ramped up exports are more likely to increase thus import will complement the volumes with raw material supply making VCT their preferred gateway for the cargo movement in containers.

---

(Cont. from Page No.1)

### American Hub @ Vizag

Nexus, a collaboration between the American Embassy in New Delhi and Alliance for Commercialization and Innovation Research (ACIR) takes the initiative to showcase the best of American and Indian Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology Commercialization to the world. Nexus that has presence in Delhi will be the one who would also initiate the hub centre in Visakhapatnam. ACIR is a global non-profit organisation that brings together innovators, entrepreneurs, research institutions and government organizations to promote best practices in innovation, technology commercialization and economic development.

New manufacturing units are now blooming up in the vicinity of Visakhapatnam. The city is well connected in terms of multi-modal logistics through various modes which makes it an ideal place for setting up new industries, manufacturing units with new innovations. The presence of container terminal - VCT which connect Visakhapatnam globally also meet the desired requirement of the EXIM activities. With this upcoming collaboration an innovative startup, incubation centre will become a new roadmap for the incremental EXIM traffic thus enabling many investors eye on the city of destiny to invest. VCT has been always ready to extend its services to its customers 24x7 and be part of the development in the city as "Smart City". The concentration in the development of infrastructure by the state government, electronic goods and many other such manufacturing industries will be the key for the envisaged growth in EXIM traffic and VCT will be the ideal gateway to route the container traffic via Visakhapatnam.

---

(Cont. from Page No.1)

### VPT All Set To Retain 3<sup>rd</sup> Position

Visakha Container Terminal being a PPP operator at Visakhapatnam Port Trust is an ideal gateway on the east coast of India to carry EXIM activities and had its volumes contribution positive with a year-on-year growth at a CAGR of 22%. To support the future estimated incremental volumes VCT will be all-ready with its expansion plan of Terminal along with extended Quay length of around 400 meters. Post extension VCT would have the longest berth in a linear form with 850 meters. First 100 m to be ready by end February 2021 which will enhance the quay length to 550 meters and by June 2021 the quay will become 650 after completion of additional 200 m. The expanded terminal will also have the upgraded equipment in the form of 3 new super post panama cranes with twin lift capacity along with 9 eRTGCs.

---

---

## An Amazon Initiative to Boost Exports

In the September 2020 Vaartha edition we had highlighted about Amazon setting up one of its sorting centers in Visakhapatnam. In a recent development, the online giant launched Amazon Global Selling Propel (AGSP) its accelerator programme and this will help the earlystage consumers' startups to have their presence globally. For this initiation, Amazon has partnered with Indian Government's Startup India, Invest India Initiative which will engage with emerging brands and provide resources for their growth.



initiative

The accelerator programme will have a six-week mentorship event for startups, during which they will also receive aid from Amazon to launch their products on its global selling platforms giving them access to marketplaces which includes the US, Germany, and Japan. Experts from Amazon say it has seen a significant surge in interest from Indian MSMEs to export products triggered by Covid-19 pandemic. As per Amazon, there are almost 70000 sellers who have opted for global selling opportunities as sales in domestic markets have declined.

Toys, home & furnishing products, personal care products, natural healthcare products, and arts & crafts are among the bestselling categories from Indian sellers on Amazon's overseas marketplaces. With many more companies coming up in the vicinity of Visakhapatnam there is huge potential for the city of destiny to become the distribution hub where the EXIM traffic can be routed through VCT.

---

## VISITORS AT VISAKHA CONTAINER TERMINAL



LITO MARINE EXPORTS: (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) Mr. G. Seetaraju, MD along with his son (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) Mr. G. Sahas, (extreme left) Mr. J. Harish - Documentation.

SEASHELL LOGISTICS: (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) Ms. K. Sowjanya, (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) Ms. G. Shalini from Business Development, (from right) Mr. V. Srinu - Operations.



## National Road Safety Week @ VCT

VCT and VCT-CFS organizes The National Road Safety Week every year. On the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Road Safety Week - 2021 the theme provided by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was **“Safe Yourself to Save Your Family”**. Like every year, VCT planned the week in advance and held various events to spread the awareness on the road safety.



The awareness programmes were held in both the terminal and the CFS which started with “Road Safety Pledge”, followed by the inauguration of the week’s planned events. The awareness was also spread during toolbox talks, small gathering following the social distance norms and via mails as well. Events like trainings, road safety signage puzzle games were also conducted to sensitize both VCT & contract employees. Major concentration was done and explained in detail to the helpers and truck drivers followed by stakeholders’ as they are more prone to risk. The VCT team went to the CFSs and also reached general public and conveyed the importance of safe driving and following road safety. Both VCT & VCT CFS staff along with contract staff have contributed towards the success of the programme throughout the week and also actively participated in the campaigns conducted at various areas in the terminal and city.

VCT strongly believes that it completely depends upon an individual to contribute personally to the success of the country’s vision on road safety by following the traffic rules, avoid distraction while on the road, avoid drink & drive and avoid unsafe driving. This would keep the personnel, their families, and other families also safe and happy.

As the famous quotes says: “Alert Today – Alive Tomorrow”, “Normal Speed meets every need” and so on will keep everyone safe.

***“Be Safe, Work Safe and Go Home Safe.”***