

Indonesia urged to change norms on import of Indian goods

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MAHATMA Devi and Alice, senior officials from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia visited AP Chambers Office here and interacted with the Chambers' office-bearers and members. The officials discussed the bilateral trade opportunities between Indonesia and Andhra Pradesh.

AP Chambers discussed several key issues with the officials and requested the resolution of the issues. During the discussion, AP Chambers mentioned that Corn starch of Indian origin is subject to a 10 percent import duty in Indonesia, while corn starch originating from China enjoys preferential duty treatment.

This is despite Indonesia being a significant importer of corn starch from both countries. Unfortunately, Indian-origin corn starch (HS Code: 11081200) is excluded from the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) preferential tariff list, placing Indian export-



Mahatma Devi from the Embassy of Indonesia with the members of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation in Vijayawada on Thursday

- **Senior Indonesian Embassy officials Mahatma Devi and Alice visit AP Chambers Office in Vijayawada to explore bilateral trade opportunities and engage in dialogue with chamber members**
- **AP Chambers raises concerns about the 10% import duty on Indian-origin corn starch in Indonesia, which lacks the tariff benefits enjoyed by Chinese exports, and seeks its inclusion under AIFTA's preferential list**

ers at a disadvantage. The Chambers requested the Indonesia Embassy to consider this issue and support the inclusion of corn starch under the preferential tariff schedule for Indian-origin

goods.

AP Chambers also pointed out that while India has moved to an online digital Certificate of Origin system (a certificate required for exports), Indonesian

trade authorities are still insisting on the submission of physical copies with ink signature, which is causing delays in delivering the required documents.

The Chambers requested the Indonesian Embassy to take up this issue with the relevant authorities. The Chambers brought to the notice of the officials that Indonesia introduced quota system for import of chillies from India a few years ago, whereas the country does not have any such restriction for import of chillies from China. AP Chambers suggested abolition of the quota system to ensure level playing field for Indian chilli exporters.

Tug of war with collector in PTM

KOPPARA GANDHI
VIZIANAGARAM

DURING a joyful Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) on Thursday, Collector Dr BR Ambedkar interacted with students at Kumaram KGBV School in Jami Mandal and encouraged them to set clear

goals. He emphasised the importance of parents being informed about their children's academic performance and overall development.

He said that this Mega Parent-Teacher Meet, now including private schools and junior colleges, was the second of its kind since

the coalition government was formed. He advocated for a supportive learning environment through quality education, mid-day meals, and essential resources.

He urged students to "Eat well, play well, and study well," and encouraged those with B grades to aim for A

grades in the upcoming exams. The event included fun competitions for parents, such as rangoli, lemon-and-spoon races, and tug-of-war, in which the Collector himself participated. He concluded the event by awarding prizes and sharing a mid-day meal with students and their families.



Collector pulling the rope during tug of war at KGBV of Jami Mandal

PTM held at 3,600 schools across Nellore

M SRINIVASA RAO

A Parents-Teachers Meeting (PTM) was organised in 3,600 public and private schools across Nellore district to promote quality education.

Minister Ponguru Narayana and Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakara Reddy participated in the event, which saw enthusiastic participation from local representatives, officials, parents, and children.

Narayana credited human resources development minister Nara Lokesh with the PTM concept, aimed at addressing students' practical difficulties and personal problems. He noted that the dropout percentage in government schools had



Municipal administration and urban development minister P Narayana along with Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakara Reddy take part in PTM at RSR Municipal School in Nellore city on Thursday

drastically decreased since the introduction of PTM. The minister appealed to philanthropists to adopt government schools under the P-4 concept to transform

Nellore into an educational hub. Two schools, RSR Municipal High School and Mulapet Municipal School, were adopted by the Nellore MP and DSR Constructions,

respectively, with promises of renovation by next year.

Nellore municipal commissioner Y O Nandan, DEO Balaji Rao and others attended.

Rail passengers can now avail hotel in Vizag

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

WITH an aim to provide a convenient and compact resting space for relaxation for passengers, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has set up a sleeping pod facility, also known as capsule hotel. The facility provided under non-fare revenue generation at Visakhapatnam railway station intends to cater to travellers who are in transit and need a decent space to rest before the next leg of journey.

Speaking to the media

here on Thursday, Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra mentioned that there is a consistent demand for resting spaces and accommodation facilities in Visakhapatnam station. "The sleeping pods cater to a diverse range of passengers like those visiting for medical treatment, tourism, education, and employment purposes," he mentioned.

In order to address this growing demand and ensure a comfortable stay and travel experience for the travellers in Visakhapatnam, Waltair Division has initiated this project



A sleeping pod facility at Visakhapatnam railway station

on a pilot basis, following the model implemented in other metropolitan cities, the DRM said.

This facility is first of its kind in the ECoR zone provided, offering modern and budget-friendly accom-

modation facility for the passengers, he informed. Sri Mahalakshmi Agency secured the project in e-auction under PPP mode for five years. This facility is available to the passengers at platform No. 1, Gate No. 3, first floor of Visakhapatnam railway station. Currently, a total of 73 single beds and 15 double beds are available at the railway station. Of them, 18 beds for ladies are available in a dedicated hall with separate bathrooms and a dressing room. To avail the facility, passengers need to pay on an hourly basis.