Over 400 B2B meetings to be held at CII Summit

Several global business honchos to participate | Key tourist destinations in Vizag spruced up | Araku Valley Organic Coffee and Etikoppaka toys to be presented as mementos to the invitees

Santosh Patnaik
Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM, fondly called the City of Destiny has been spruced up with colourful motifs, banners, colourful painting on the street walls and structures with a major makeover, upgraded lighting arrangements and greenery enhancements by the urban civic body ahead of 31st edition of of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit.

The two-day summit slated to begin on November 12 at the sprawling Andhra University Engineering College Grounds at a make-shift venue is poised to receive over 1250 delegates including business tycoons and foreign country delegations from 58/59 nations. Over 400 Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings will be organised as part of the summit. Business-to-Government (B2G) meetings will also be held to facilitate consultations between industries and governments.

Several global business leaders have confirmed their participation. Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and the district admission has completely spruced up the city and its landmarks popular among the tourists as the summit assumes utmost importance in positioning Visakhapatnam as a global tourism destination.



Visakhapatnam District Collector M Abhishikh Kishore inspecting the arrangements at the venue of CII Partnership Summit at AU Engineering College in Visakhapatnam

As key industrial sessions with soul-searching discussions are expected, the authorities have also tightened security arrangements. CCTV footage has been beefed up with the deployment of forces at key installations. All big hotels and government/private guest houses were blocked since long ago to accommodate the guests and officials. Only those having valid identity cards will be allowed to attend the summit. Multicuisine dishes with focus on authentic South Indian delicacies and mementos with Araku Valley Organic Coffee and Etikoppaka toys are arranged for presentation as mementos to the invitees.

Government representatives from Singapore, Nepal, Cambodia, Myanmar, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, the Slovak Republic, Mauritius, Mozambique, Egypt, Algeria, Tanzania, Guatemala and several other countries will attend.

CM Naidu seeks WIPO's collaboration

VISAKHAPATNAM : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday met World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Daren Tang to explore ways to secure international recognition for innovation, research and creativity in the State and enhance awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among start-ups and entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister arrived in Visakhapatnam ahead of the two-day CII Partnership Summit, scheduled to begin on Thursday and held series of meetings.

As part of these engagements, he met the WIPO Director General Daren Tang and discussed opportunities for institutional collaboration.The discussions focused on establishing a WIPO–Andhra Pradesh Academy and conducting joint programmes to provide training on Intellectual Property Rights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs and technology protection to students, researchers, startup founders and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Naidu sought WIPO's support in securing Geographical Indication (GI) tags for the State's handloom products, handicrafts and other local products. He also requested assistance in expanding markets for existing GI-tagged products and taking their quality standards and branding to the international level.

He said the State Government is encouraging young entrepreneurs and supporting startup companies through the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub. He invited WIPO to work closely with the State Government to further strengthen the startup ecosystem and provide greater impetus to innovation.

KIMS Arete recognised as CoE for advanced endoscopic spine surgery

First such recognition in India acknowledges over 13 years of pioneering clinical work under the leadership of Dr Sukumar Sura

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Hyderabad

KIMS Arete Hospital, Hyderabad, has achieved a significant milestone in advanced spine care, with its Spine Institute being recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Full Endoscopic Advanced Spine Surgery by RIWOspine, Germany.

The recognition, the first of its kind in India, acknowledges over 13 years of clinical experience and pioneering work in endoscopic spine surgery under the leadership of Dr Sukumar Sura.

The Centre of Excellence was formally inaugurated in the presence of representatives from RIWOspine, Germany, which has over three decades of experience in endoscopic spine surgery technology, training and education.

Full-endoscopic techniques enable surgeons to treat selected spinal conditions through small incisions, potentially reducing muscle disruption, blood loss and recovery time. Depending on the procedure and the patient's condition, some patients may be able to mobilise within hours and return home within 24 hours.



(L-R) Dr Sukumar Sura, Dr B Bhaskar Rao B, Dirk Goethel, Lena Goethel, and Dr Nikhil Mathur at the inauguration of the Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Dr B Bhaskar Rao, Chairman & Managing Director, KIMS Group of Hospitals said, "Healthcare is moving towards increasingly specialised, procedure-specific care, where outcomes depend on the depth of expertise as much as the technology available. Our focus is on creating an environment where advanced surgical techniques can be adopted responsibly, supported by clinical experience, appropriate training and a strong commitment to patient outcomes."

"Endoscopic spine surgery has evolved significantly, and the focus today is not simply on making an incision smaller, but on selecting the right patient, the right indication and the right technique. The recognition by RIWOspine is an important milestone for the institute and reflects our commitment to advancing the practice of full endoscopic spine surgery," added Dr Sukumar Sura, Senior Consultant – Neurosurgeon, Clinical Director & HOD – Spine Surgery and National Lead – Endoscopic Spine Surgery, KIMS Arete Hospital.

Adding further, Dr Nikhil Mathur, Group Medical Director, KIMS Hospitals, "At KIMS Hospitals, our focus has always been on clinical excellence through evidence-based medicine, continuous advancement in clinical practice, and the adoption of technologies that enhance patient outcomes.

Only 15% of firms have dedicated AI testing frameworks, says QualiZeal

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Hyderabad

QUALIZEAL, an AI-powered Quality Engineering and digital transformation company, and HFS Research, a global research and advisory firm, have launched "HFS Take 5 x QualiZeal" report in Hyderabad. The joint research study examines whether enterprises are equipped to validate AI systems in production and how Quality Engineering (QE) must evolve for the AI era.

Only 15 per cent of enterprises have purpose-built frameworks to test artificial intelligence (AI) systems, despite 57 per cent already deploying generative AI in production, according to the study.

The study, based on a survey of 101 enterprise quality and technology leaders in the US, found that 36 per cent of organisations have deployed agentic AI systems, while 52 per cent continue to test probabilistic AI systems using frameworks originally designed for conventional software. It also highlighted gaps in accountability, with 37 per cent of enterprises running AI in production without a designated function responsible for its quality. While 88 per cent of organisations measure AI model accuracy, only 47 per cent assess bias and fairness, 37 per cent measure explainability and 35 per cent can provide evidence of regulatory compliance, indicating gaps in broader AI assurance practices.



Kapil Roop Rai (Senior Director, Tribute), Roopa Shanmugam (Deputy Director, PepsiCo), Madhu Murty (Co-Founder & Head of India Operations), Srini Vaddepalli (Analyst & Praftice Leader, HFS Research), and Suresh Kolisetty (Senior VP, Swiss Re) at the launch of "HFS Take 5 x QualiZeal" report in Hyderabad

The findings point to a mismatch between AI adoption and the resources allocated to quality engineering (QE). Although 82 per cent of enterprises expect the role of QE to expand significantly, only 24 per cent report allocating resources proportionate to the expanded responsibilities. The study said enterprises need to move beyond conventional software testing towards trust engineering as AI systems become increasingly autonomous and integral to business operations.

Kalyan Konda, Co-Founder, Executive Director and CEO of QualiZeal, said accountability for AI quality had become a board-level concern, with enterprises deploying AI faster than they were developing the mechanisms to govern it.

Quality engineers would play a greater role in assuring AI systems, adding that AI and automation were more likely to elevate their responsibilities than replace them,saidMadhu Murty, Co-Founder and Head of India Operations at QualiZeal.

IMOP expands footprint in Sri City

Cumulative investment reaches ₹408 crore; expansion creates 200 jobs

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Hyderabad

INDIA Metal One Steel Plate Processing Private Limited (IMOP), a leading Japanese steel plate processing company, inaugurated its second manufacturing facility in Sri City, further strengthening its 15-year partnership with the integrated business city.

The new plant involves an investment of Rs108 crore, taking IMOP's total investment in Sri City to Rs408 crore. Spread across 12,000 sq m, the facility increases annual production capacity by 25 per cent, from 48,000 MT to 60,000 MT, and is expected to create 200 additional jobs, taking the workforce strength to 850 employees.

Speaking on the occasion, Taizo Iwami, Managing Director, IMOP, thanked customers, partners and employees for their continued support and said the new facility would enhance the company's ability to deliver high-quality products while maintaining the highest standards of safety and timely service. Congratulating the IMOP team, Dr Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director, Sri City, said: "IMOP's continued expansion is a strong testament to the confidence global investors place in Sri City. This investment not only generates employment opportunities but also contributes significantly to the growth of the region's industrial ecosystem." He also appreciated the company's contributions under CSR to nearby government schools through infrastructure development initiatives.



Taizo Iwami, Managing Director of IMOP, Dr Ravindra Sannareddy, Sri City MD and Masashi Mizuno addressing the gathering in Sri City on Wednesday

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Masashi Mizuno, Executive Officer & COO, Metal One Corporation; Yukita Sato, Chairman & Managing Director, Metal One India; representatives of Sojitz Corporation India; and senior executives from customer and supplier companies.

As part of the celebrations, Iwami presented appreciation awards to long-standing business partners. Key customers recognised included Sri City-based Caterpillar and Kobelco, along with Tata-Hitachi, Doosan Bobcat, and others, while major supplier partners Tata Steel, Jindal Steel, and JSW Steel were honoured for their support and contribution to IMOP's growth.

AP Chambers hails Naidu for releasing ₹1,400 crore sops for MSMEs

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry popularly known as AP Cambners has lauded Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for releasing Rs1,400-crore incentive to strengthen MSMEs.

AP Chambers wholeheartedly welcomed the Andhra Government's decision to release the amount towards industrial incentives, which includes Rs22 crore for food processing units.

This is a highly commendable and timely initiative that will immensely benefit micro and small industries in particular, providing much-needed financial relief, improving working capital availability and strengthening their operations, the chambers stated.

AP Chambers in a communique thanked Chief Minister Naidu for his proactive leadership and strong commitment to industrial development.

The Andhra Pradesh Government has demonstrated a truly industry-friendly approach, creating an excellent industrial ecosystem. With its emphasis on Ease of Doing Business and Speed of Doing Business, the State is attracting substantial investments and rapidly emerging as a preferred investment destination., AP Chambers president Potluri Bhaskar Rao, said.

MPEDA new catch certification to enable seafood sector to comply with EU standards

Bizz Buzz Bureau
Vijayawada

MARINE Product Exports Development Authority has launched new catch certification keeping in view the European Union has implemented a catch certificate system being enforced for consignments exported from India.

The EU has introduced Regulation 1005/2008, which requires validation of catch certificates for the export of wild-caught marine products to the EU. MPEDA has been authorised by the Government of India to validate these certificates from 1 January 2010. MPEDA introduced the online validation of the catch certificate and fully transitioned to digital signature-based validation of catch certificates with effect from April 1, 2019.

India currently follows the simplified catch certification system under EU regulations under the provision of "vessel without superstructure". EU Regulation 2025/1522 & 2023/2842 have been amended for better certification. After Brexit, the UK also follows similar regulatory norms; hence, wild-caught marine product shipments to the UK also require catch certificates.

During FY 2025–26, India exported 2,97,518 MT of marine products worth $1592.09 million (Rs13,935 crore) to the EU, including the United Kingdom.

This forms 15 per cent of the total export quantity and 18.83 per cent of the value of India's total seafood exports

Given the significant contribution of wild-caught seafood to India's exports to the EU and UK, effective adoption of the new catch certification and traceability requirements by all stakeholders is critical to sustaining and enhancing India's market share.

DCIL income from operations up by 23 % in Q2, achieves turnover of ₹199 crore

Company recorded EBITDA of ₹41.69 crore, an increase of 58.58 per cent over ₹26.29 crore previous year

Santosh Patnaik
Visakhapatnam

DREDGING Corporation of India Limited (DCIL), a mini ratna company headquartered here, has reported a significant improvement in financial performance for the quarter ending on September 30 during FY 2026–27, marking a turnaround in profitability compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

The company's performance reflected its unwavering commitment to operational excellence, efficient fleet deployment, prudent financial management and sustainable value creation, resulting in a significant turnaround in profitability while reinforcing its leadership in India's dredging sector.

During Q2 FY 2026–27, income from operations undertaken by DCIL's own dredgers increased by 23.08 per cent to Rs198.66 crore, compared with Rs161.41 crore in Q2 FY 2025–26. Total revenue, including subcontract revenue and other income, stood at Rs211.83 crore, compared with Rs213.37 crore in the corresponding quarter.

The Company recorded EBITDA of Rs41.69 crore, an increase of 58.58 per cent over Rs26.29 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Profit Before Tax (PBT) improved to Rs7.51 crore from a loss of Rs33.06 crore, while Profit After Tax (PAT) stood at Rs7.31 crore against a loss of Rs34.17 crore, representing a year-on-year improvement of Rs41.48 crore.



For the half-year ended September 30, total revenue rose to Rs568.29 crore from Rs456.43 crore in the corresponding period of FY 2025–26. EBITDA increased to Rs104.60 crore from Rs74.26 crore, while PAT improved to Rs18.54 crore from a loss of Rs57.51 crore in the previous-year period.The quarter's results reflect a reduction in depreciation to Rs25.53 crore from Rs36.53 crore and finance costs to Rs8.65 crore from Rs22.82 crore.

The revised estimated useful lives and residual values of eligible dredgers, approved by the board with effect from 4 August 2026, were applied prospectively. At the same time, power, fuel and lubricants expenditure increased to Rs101.02 crore from Rs70.61 crore, primarily due to higher fuel procurement prices.DCIL remains focused on efficient fleet deployment, timely project execution, prudent financial management and recovery of outstanding receivables, while continuing to support the dredging requirements of Indian ports and maritime infrastructure.

Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) Chairman Jasmeet Singh Bindra, who is the Chairman (Non-Executive) of DCIL, stated that "the impressive financial turnaround achieved during the second quarter of FY 2026–27 marks a significant milestone in DCIL's journey towards sustained profitability and long-term value creation.

TTD unveils brochure for Gita competitions

HYDERABAD: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and the Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishad have unveiled a brochure for Bhagavad Gita shloka memorisation and oratory competitions to mark Geeta Jayanti on December 20. The event will be held at TTD Balaji Bhavan in Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad.

TTD Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishad Programme Coordinator Dr Harinath Guduru, Deputy Executive Engineer Ramakrishna, Junior Assistant Satish Kumar, Temple Inspector Somasekhar Reddy and Bharat Vikas Parishad Telangana State President Narendra Krishna participated in the brochure launch. Speaking on the occasion, Harinath said the competitions would be conducted in three categories.

Students of Classes 6 to 9 will recite verses from Chapter 6, while students from Class 10 to Intermediate will memorise Chapter 18. Participants aged 18 to 45 years will take part in a Bhagavad Gita oratory competition on its relevance to everyday life.

First, second and third prizes will be awarded in each category. He appealed to eligible students and interested participants to take part in the competitions.

The preliminary competitions will be conducted at the following venues: December 5: Shloka International School, Vikarabad. December 10: Shloka International School, Manneguda, Abdullapurmet (Rangareddy district). December 12: BV Bhavan, Shantinagar, Kukatpally (Medchal-Malkajgiri district).

December 15: TTD Kalyanamandapam, Balaji Bhavan, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad.