Leadership is an integral part of management and plays a vital role in managerial operations. Organisational success depends upon the dynamic and effective leadership. Leadership is the study of influencing the behaviour of the subordinates to do the work in a desired direction. It is essential for every organisation whether success or failure, the success or failure of an organisation to the great extent on the quality of leadership particularly on the part of top management. It is true that manager can manage without having leadership qualities, if he has qualities of leadership he manages effectively. By using leadership qualities the manager develops vision about organisation and directs the activities of members in a desired direction. Thus leadership is essential for the organisation.

Visakhapatnam Port Trust was constructed at a cost of Rs.3.78 crores by the Railway in 1933. The port of Visakhapatnam lies on the east-coast of India in Andhra Pradesh at 17° 41’N latitude and 18° E longitude almost midway of Madras (780 km) and Calcutta (880 km). With the protection afforded by a high promontory into the sea, picturesquely known as Dolphin’s Nose, and a low tidal range of 1.83 meters, the port has an ideal location. But the natural harbour could hold ships only up to 36,000 dwt. Therefore an outer harbour has been constructed which can safely accommodate vessels of about 100,000 dwt initially, and 200,000 dwt ultimately. The total strength of the employees of Visakhapatnam Port Trust is 9,819. The total managers employed in Visakhapatnam Port Trust is 408 as on 31st March 2000.

Leadership styles are the patterns of behaviour used by the leader in influencing the behaviour of his subordinates in the organizational context.
The styles practiced by leader may be positive or negative. These pattern are different from one leader to another leader. The patterns are also different from manager to manager. Managers are followed various styles in influencing the followers to do the work basing on the situation and attitudes, belief, values of people in the organization. The pattern is also depending upon the leader's role and his objectives. The patterns which are followed by leaders also depends up on the nature of leader and organization structure. Various researchers have proposed different leadership styles based on the different theories and these can be classified as given below.

**Styles Based on the behavioural Theories:** Power orientation, Leadership as a continuum, Employee production orientation, Likert's management system, Managerial grid, Tri-dimensional grid

**Styles Based on situational Theories:** Fiedler's contingency model, Hursey and Blanchard's structural model, Path goal model.

**Styles based modern theories:** Envisioning, Energizing, Enabling styles

The present study is aiming at the exploration of the leadership patterns that are followed by the managers of Visakhapatnam Port Trust. Keeping in view their situational needs and work ethos, the study focuses the leader as a change-agent towards his followers by setting his standards through his acts. The study also analyses the socio-economic background of managers of Visakhapatnam Port Trust and attempts to compare their socio-economic status with their achieved goals assuming that leaders behaviour in an organisation depends on the system of values generated by the culture setting. Moreover, the study tries to find out the appropriate leadership style relevant to the Indian situation.
Presentation of the Study:

The study has been divided into six chapters.

Chapter – I Introduction: In this chapter, the researcher will discuss about the concept and significance of leadership, qualities or characteristics of leader and review of literature, objectives and methodology.

Chapter – II An Overview of Visakhapatnam Port Trust: In this chapter, the researcher will be analysing about the major port trusts and performance of Visakhapatnam Port Trust, including organisational set up.

Chapter – III Leadership Styles of Indian Managers : In this chapter, the researcher will be presented the Theories of Leadership, Classification leadership styles and effectiveness of leadership styles.

Chapter – IV Profile of the Managers: In this chapter, the researcher will be presented the profile of selected managers of Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

Chapter – V Leadership Styles of Managers in VPT – An analysis: This chapter will be presenting the sample study by critically analysing the information collected through administration of structural-questionnaire and direct interview with the selected managers in Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

Chapter – VI Summary and Suggestions: Summary and Suggestions will be given based on the critical analysis of the primary and secondary data.