

Coastal protection project to mitigate erosion woes

- The coastal erosion mitigation project includes scientific and inclusive approach
- The escalating threat of coastal erosion and flooding plaguing the metropolitan region since 2007
- After the committee's review, the final approval is awaited for the project

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a concrete step to mitigate escalating threat of coastal erosion and flooding that plagues the metropolitan region since 2007, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) has come up with a comprehensive project.

Identifying 30 vulnerable sites along the coast, the coastal erosion mitigation project aims to provide a long-term solution to enhance climate resilience and coastal sustainability at an estimated cost of Rs.203-crore.

Covering the vital coastal stretch from Coastal Battery Junction to Bheemunipatnam, the 30 erosion-prone locations have been identified.



A file photo of a portion of the collapsed wall RK Beach due to beach erosion in Visakhapatnam

Among them, RK Beach area has been classified as high-risk, while Peda Jalaripeta, Mangamaripeta and Bheemunipatnam fall under moderate-risk zones. The rest of the stretches have been categorised as low-risk.

The classifications of zones intend to enable a prioritised and cost-effective intervention strategy.

Around 28.81-km of coastline in Visakhapatnam is prone to high erosion, while moderate or low erosion impacts 46.2-km long coastline.

The VMRDA officials

have presented the coastal erosion mitigation project before the subcommittee of the national executive committee.

Prepared in close collaboration with the National Centre for Coastal Research, the detailed project report (DPR) stands out for integrating cutting-edge scientific analysis, involving extensive stakeholder consultations.

Inputs from fishing communities and premier institutions such as the National Institute of Ocean Technology have ensured that the

project is technically robust, socially responsive and adheres to scientific and inclusive approach.

Highlighting the project, VMRDA Commissioner N Tej Bharath emphasised that the project directly addresses the escalating threats of coastal erosion and flooding that have impacted the region since 2007. "This initiative is designed to safeguard lives, livelihoods and invaluable public assets while ensuring long-term coastal stability," he mentioned.

The project is taken forward with a strong centre-

state synergy. The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority will contribute 10 percent of the cost, while the remaining 90 percent is proposed to be funded through the National Disaster Mitigation Fund under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Beyond preventing land loss, the project promises significant economic and social dividends. It will protect major tourism landmarks, including the iconic submarine museum, TU-142 Aircraft Museum, various parks, premium hotels and the arterial beach road (marine drive) that connects Visakhapatnam to Bheemunipatnam and ensure the sustained productivity of local fishing communities whose livelihoods depend on a stable coastline.

Designed by VMRDA with the support of the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), the project serves as a key milestone in providing a safe coastline for future generations. Upon the final approval of the project, implementation includes a well-coordinated framework, involving the State Disaster Management Authority, local panchayats and a dedicated technical advisory committee to ensure continuous monitoring and quality control of the project.

Collector goes tough on town planning officials



District Collector MN Harendhira Prasa

- Asks the officials to go on leave if they don't like to work
- Says any negligence in resolving public problems will not be tolerated
- 10 Officials have been failing to provide proper solutions to the complaints lodged in the PGRS platform for the past few weeks

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

DISTRICT Collector MN Harendhira Prasad issued a warning to GVMC Town Planning officials to either go on leave or resolve the complaints raised by the public without fail.

"If you don't like to work, go on leave. I will not tolerate if you are negligent in resolving

public problems," Harendhira Prasad warned GVMC town planning officials here on Monday.

10 Officials have been failing to provide proper solutions to the complaints lodged in the PGRS platform for the past few weeks.

The Collector asked why their performance has not changed despite being given memos twice.

He enquired with the officials about the reasons for the delay in resolving the problems of the people.

Harendhira Prasad made it clear that there should be not be any such repetition.

The requests and complaints received from the people should be given a comprehensive solution, he stressed.

Meanwhile, a number of complaints have been received against the GVMC Town Planning department.

Although illegal constructions are continuing all over the city and action taken against them are very minimal.

The GVMC is organising grievances on the problems in the Town Planning department on every Friday at the main office of the corporation.

Around 15 to 20 complaints have been received every week during the town planning open forum.

The authorities have not yet disclosed how many of these complaints have been resolved.

Despite complaints over corruption in the name of the BPS scheme, no action is taken and they

The Collector was disappointed over the lack of appropriate response from the officials to the complaints received regarding the town planning.

Arilova police crack murder and robbery case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

CITY police have cracked a robbery and murder case of a woman registered under the Arilova police station limits.

The accused involved was arrested and a huge quantity of gold ornaments, cash and other items were recovered from his possession.

Briefing the case details here on Monday, DCP (Crime) Latha Madhuri mentioned that on February 11, Kapu Venkata Ramana, a resident of Durganagar, Arilova, found his wife Kapu Lakshmi (54) dead lying in a pool of blood at home.

He complained that some unknown persons had murdered her and looted gold ornaments she was wearing and fled with cash in the



DCP (Crime) K Latha Madhuri briefing the media about the case in Visakhapatnam on Monday

house.

Based on the complaint, the Arilova police have registered a case.

The accused was identified as Vanjarapu Siva Gangaraju alias Tata Siva (34), a resident of Koneru Gattu village, Bobbili mandal of Vizianagaram district.

Based on the directions of City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi, special teams, led by DCP (Crime) K Latha Madhuri, ACP Dwarka Sub-Division and Arilova Circle Inspector B Bhadra Rao, launched the investigation.

Siva Gangaraju was

nabbed with the support of technology such as CCTV footage and call detail record analysis.

The police, who found that the accused had fled to places like Dhanbad, Kashi, Delhi after committing the crime, arrested him at Visakhapatnam railway station on the night of February 22.

Approximately Rs.5.5 lakh cash, a gold chain (about 16.10 grams), golden Lakshmi Devi idols, black-beaded chain, golden bangles and rings along with the cell phone and a motorcycle were recovered from the accused. The senior officers congratulated CI MVP police station Chakradhar Rao and the crime staff of Dwarka and Arilova police stations for cracking the complex case in a short span of time.

E VITARA VEHICLE LAUNCHED AT VARUN NEXA



Union Bank DGM J Simhachallam, Maruthi area manager D Sarkar, Nexa sales head Abbas Khan, AGM-Varun Motors A Naidu, sales manager of Varun B Venkata Rao during the launch of E Vitara vehicle at Varun Nexa in Visakhapatnam on Monday

Importance of safeguarding maritime interests highlighted

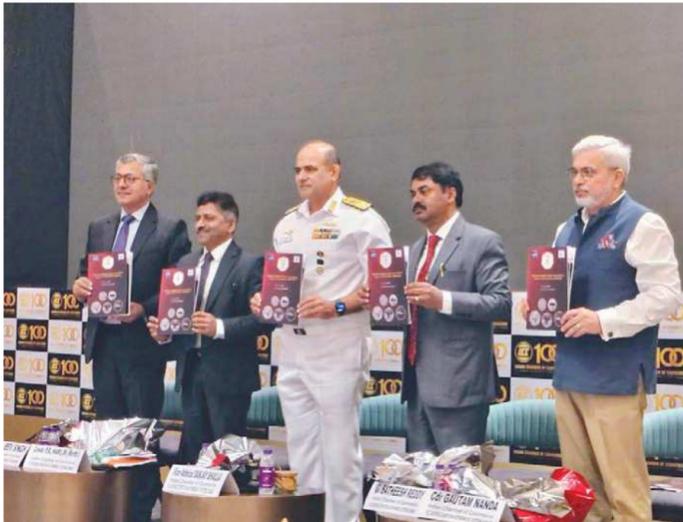
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VISAKHAPATNAM

FLAG Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla highlighted the importance of safeguarding maritime interests, projecting power in the Indo-Pacific and ensuring economic security.

Speaking at the ICC Defence Start Up and Autonomous Systems Summit, Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla stated that modernisation through domestic defence manufacturing helps in achieving strategic autonomy.

In his address, G Sathesh Reddy, president of Aeronautical Society of India, Advisor to Government of Andhra Pradesh, Member National Security Advisory Board, spoke about the ability of the Andhra Pradesh government to enhance the defence manufacturing capability of the country.

Cmdr PR Hari, IN (Retd), Chairman of ICC National Expert Committee on Defence, Aerospace and Space, CMD of Garden



Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice-Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, among others, releasing the report at the ICC Defence Start Up and Autonomous Systems Summit organised in Visakhapatnam on Monday

Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) stressed on leveraging the innovative capabilities of MSMEs and startups to boost the modernisation of the defence manufacturing sector.

In his welcome address, Dr Rajeev Singh, Director

General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, appreciated the government's efforts of indigenisation of the defence manufacturing sectors through Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Cdr Gautam Nanda, co-chair of ICC National Committee of Defence,

Aerospace and Space also spoke. The summit witnessed the release of a report titled 'Defence Production Powering Industrial Growth'.

It also included a support desk to cater to the needs of the MSMEs and start-ups.

Youth participation key for development: Madhav



BJP State president Madhav interacting with students at CMH School on Monday

- State BJP president PVN Madhav visits City Municipal Corporation High School
- Inspects classrooms and enquires students about academic activities, aspirations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

THE participation of youth is vital for national development, State BJP president PVN Madhav said. He said that today's youth represent the future of the country. He was speaking after visiting the City Municipal Corporation High School at Vankayalavari Street here on Monday. The programme was organised under the aegis of Sphurthi Foundation, where he interacted with students along with local BJP leaders.

During his visit, Madhav

inspected classrooms and interacted with students, enquiring about their academic activities and aspirations. Addressing the gathering, he said Prime Minister Madhav posed questions to students on the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme and distributed prizes to those who answered correctly. He said such initiatives help students develop awareness of current affairs while nurturing leadership qualities and a sense of responsibility towards society and the nation.

Later, the BJP leader felicitated school headmaster P Durga Prasad for his efforts in maintaining academic standards and effective school administration. BJP leaders Nagendra, Kamalesh, Kuraganti Satish, Harika and Eswar were present at the programme.

INTER STUDENT ENDS LIFE

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VIJAYAWADA

A 19-year-old Intermediate second-year student reportedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train at the Vijayawada railway station late on Sunday night. He was scheduled to appear for the Intermediate second-year examinations beginning on February 24.

The deceased, Mudavath Ganesh Naik, was a student of Sri Gosalites Medical Academy at Poranki in Penamaluru. According to police, he reportedly left the college hostel after being reprimanded by the Principal following a clash between senior and junior students on the campus. Sources said the student allegedly jumped over the college compound wall on Sunday night

and reached the railway station, where he came under the Godavari Express on Platform No 7. Ganesh Naik hailed from Burujupalli Thanda of Mullapadu village in Giddalur mandal of Markapuram district. His father Balaji Naik and mother Adilakshmi were informed by Government Railway Police (GRP) officials after his identity was established through the mobile phone found in his pocket. Police sources stated that he had been under stress due to poor marks in the first year and academic pressure. His family had reportedly paid Rs 2.25 lakh for the first year and Rs 2.85 lakh for the second year of study. A case has been registered by the GRP, and the body was sent for postmortem before being handed over to the family.

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