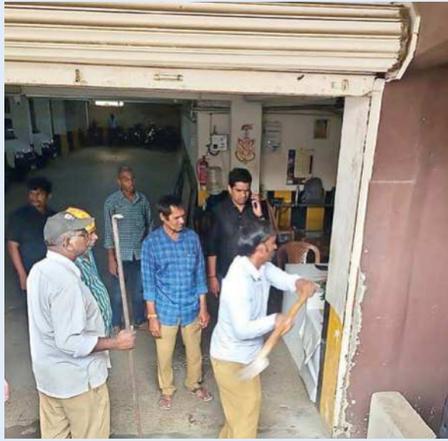


## Operation Lungs 3.0

# Campaign targets clearing cellar parking, ease parking flow

- The civic body officials have decided to shed the spotlight on illegal cellar encroachments in commercial units and buildings
- The civic authorities largely focused on clearing footpath encroachments and regulating small traders operating along busy roads
- GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg orders a special enforcement drive under the banner of 'Operation Lungs 3.0'



GVMC officials clearing an encroached cellar as part of Operation LUNGS 3.0 in Visakhapatnam



VASU POTNURU  
VISAKHAPATNAM

AS traffic congestion continues to swell across the city, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) decided to step up its encroachment-free drive through 'Operation LUNGS 3.0'. After clearing footpaths and roadside vendors encroaching most part of the roads, the civic body officials have decided to shed the spotlight on illegal cellar encroachments in commercial units and buildings.

Until now, the civic authorities largely focused on clearing footpath encroachments and regulating small traders operating along the busy roads.

However, recognising that the misuse of cellars

has emerged as a major contributor to parking chaos, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg has ordered a special enforcement drive under the banner of 'Operation Lungs 3.0'.

Acting swiftly on public complaints that cellar encroachments were worsening traffic bottlenecks, town planning officials launched the drive. As part of it, unauthorised structures from cellars, meant exclusively for vehicle parking, are being removed.

The civic chief made it clear that cellars are officially designated zones meant for parking purposes and using them commercially would not be tolerated.

"As people continue to

face severe parking challenges for a long time, commercial building owners should volunteer to clear the encroachments in the cellars by themselves," opined the GVMC Commissioner.

As part of the operation, shutters and walls were dismantled from cellar portions of commercial buildings in key locations, including Dabagardens, MVP Colony Sector-1, Butchirajapalem Main Road, and shopping complexes along Gajuwaka Main Road.

The operation was carried out under the leadership of City Central Police (CCP) A Prabhakar Rao, who confirmed that the drive to reclaim cellar parking spaces

will continue in the coming days. Even as officials acknowledge that similar attempts were made in the past by previous municipal and police commissioners, sustained political pressure often forced such initiatives to be discontinued midway.

With over 90 per cent of commercial buildings in Visakhapatnam lacking adequate parking facilities, cellar spaces have increasingly been converted into shops and rented out for hefty profits which directly impacts road safety and restricts traffic movement.

Even now, sources in the administration wing admit that resistance is expected, particularly from influential business owners and politi-

cal intermediaries.

However, GVMC officials emphasise that a fair and uniform approach is essential to deal with the challenge. Meanwhile, selective enforcement targeting smaller establishments while sparing large commercial units is likely to attract strong public criticism. To ensure a lasting solution to the city's parking woes, GVMC and the city police have resolved to continue 'Operation Lungs 3.0' as a joint, sustained effort.

Officials stress that restoring order on the city's roads and improving the overall urban environment.

## Incentive-linked regulatory facilitation is set to accelerate GreenCo adoption



Chairman of Swachh Andhra Corporation Pattabhi Ram addressing the gathering at the APPCB-Andhra Pradesh conference organised in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

- In addition to 11 categories suggested by the Centre, the processing of animal waste has been added as the 12th category for AP

- The APPCB introduced a structured incentive framework to encourage industry participation in the GreenCo Rating System

- Under the APPCB-IGBC facilitation framework, building projects in AP pursuing or achieving IGBC certification were made eligible for a range of incentives

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

ABOUT 1300-1400 tonnes of poultry waste are generated in the state every day and there is an opportunity to create valuable by-products by scientifically managing it, said Swachh Andhra Corporation chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram.

Emphasising the importance of industrial participation in resource circularity at the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB)-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Andhra Pradesh conference that focused on 'circular economy and green industry: strategies for sustainable growth and resource efficiency' held in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the chairman of Swachh Andhra Corporation said, "In addition to 11 categories suggested by the Centre, the processing of animal waste has been added as the 12th category for AP. It was announced that animal waste processing plants with a capacity of 100 tonnes per day will be set up in Visakhapatnam and Guntur. Pattabhiram informed that a special real-time dash-

board is being created in the next few months to ensure that there is no shortage of raw materials for recycling industries."

Further, he stated that the circular economy cannot be achieved without active industry participation and recognition-linked facilitation sends a strong signal that sustainability leadership will be institutionally supported.

As part of the conference, the APPCB introduced a structured incentive framework to encourage industry participation in the GreenCo Rating System. Under this, units holding valid GreenCo ratings become eligible for a one-year extension of consent to operate (CTO), subject to the absence of reported non-compliance during the consent period.

In addition, rated companies were provided enhanced visibility through exclusive mentions on the official websites of APPCB and CII GreenCo, highlighting their sustainability achievements and environmental performance.

Under the APPCB-IGBC facilitation framework, building projects in AP pursuing or achieving IGBC certification were made eligible for a range of incentives, including streamlined and fast-tracked processing of consent to establish (CTE) and consent to operate (CTO), prioritised regulatory clearances to minimise procedural delays, and a one-year extension of CTO for eligible IGBC-certified hotels, hospitals (red category), and large township/area development projects.

Addressing the gathering, P Krishnaiah, chairman of APPCB, outlined the board's intent to differentiate and incentivise environmen-

tally responsible industries. "Industries that achieve GreenCo ratings and demonstrate measurable excellence in energy efficiency, water stewardship, waste reduction and circular practices will receive recognition-based incentives and regulatory facilitation from the board."

Highlighting the technical robustness of the framework, N Muthusezhiyan, Deputy Executive Director, CII Green Business Centre, noted that the GreenCo rating system provided a comprehensive metrics-based pathway for industries to improve across critical sustainability parameters.

"GreenCo enables industries to benchmark and enhance performance across energy productivity, renewable energy adoption, water efficiency, waste management, material conservation and green supply chains. APPCB's incentive-linked approach creates a powerful multiplier effect by aligning regulatory facilitation with measurable sustainability outcomes," he stressed.

The incentive framework announced by the APPCB included regulatory facilitation for higher-rated GreenCo industries, enhanced visibility and formal recognition and structured engagement mechanisms to promote best practice replication across industrial clusters.

The measures were designed to reduce procedural uncertainties, reward transparent environmental performance, and foster healthy competition among industries.

The initiative marked a strategic shift toward performance-driven environmental governance, aimed at rewarding industries that demonstrate measurable improvements in resource efficiency and sustainability.

## Civil Aviation Minister inaugurates new SBI branch

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM:

UNION Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu opined that the SBI Nimmada branch will come in handy for farmers and industries in the region.

Inaugurating a new SBI branch in Nimmada, he expressed hope that the schemes will benefit the farmers as the bank officials will create awareness about them.

"SBI will play a key role in farmers' financial transactions. The banks will play a crucial role in achieving the goals of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman," the Union Minister said. The Union Minister presented the relevant acknowledgement documents to the locals who made transactions during the inaugural.

The Union Minister opined that he must also have a bank account in his hometown and hence filled up a new account form and handed it over to the bank officials.

SBI Amaravati Circle chief general manager Rajesh Kumar Patil, circle general manager Hemant Kumar, deputy general manager Rahul Sakaria, regional manager Uday Kumar, and branch manager Nagaraju were present.



Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu along with SBI officials inaugurating the new SBI branch at Nimmada

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Office No. 11021/27/2026/L8 (c-3150194), Dt: 23-02-2026  
Application of M/s R.V. Infra And Estates Rep. by its Managing Partner Sri Sagi Raghu Varma has requested for approval of layout in Sy.Nos. 54/p, 55/p, 57/p & 58/p of Bhogapuram (V) and (M), Vizianagaram District to an extent of Acs.4.5503 Cts vide Online No. 1167/0014/LP/VMRDA/2026 is under process in VMRDA.  
Hence, the general public is hereby informed to submit any objections/suggestions in this regard 7 days from the date of publication to VMRDA pertaining to the above approval of layout application failing which it will be construed that there are no objections/suggestions etc., and the above approval of layout application will be processed as per rules.  
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## Arrangements in place for smooth conduct of 'Chandanotsavam'

- Special plans for the annual 'Chandanotsavam' festival, scheduled on April 20, firm up

- Separate darshan queues for Rs.300, Rs.1,000 and Rs.1,500 tickets will be facilitated

- Like every year, this time too, more than 1.20 lakh devotees are expected for 'Chandanotsavam'



District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad during the inspection at Simhachalam Devasthanam in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM:

DISTRICT Collector MN Harendhira Prasad directed the temple authorities to complete all civil and construction works that are pending, including barricading, on a war-footing by March 31.

In view of the ensuing 'Chandanotsavam' festival celebrated on April 20 this year, the Collector inspected a slew of ongoing development works, construction of queue lines at Simhachalam Devasthanam on Tuesday.

After the inspection, the Collector, along with the Devasthanam Executive Officer J Venkata Rao, stressed the need to accord top priority to ensuring smooth and hassle-free darshan for the common devotees.

Given the difficulties faced in previous editions due to strong winds and rain, the Collector suggested installation of permanent shelters along the queue lines wherever feasible and directed the officials to conduct mandatory electrical and fire safety inspections.

Soon, a detailed plan to facilitate darshan for common devotees from 3 am to 11 pm during Chandanotsavam will be prepared. Special time slots for VIP and VVIP darshans will be scheduled between 3 am and 5 am.

A tentative decision has been made to allow darshan at sanctum sanctorum till 5 am. Further, the Collector instructed officials to facilitate separate darshan queues for Rs.300, Rs.1,000 and Rs.1,500 tickets from different locations and con-



A view of Simhachalam Devasthanam in Visakhapatnam

sider stringent measures to regulate crowd movement. With over 1.20 lakh devotees expected this year, Harendhira Prasad made it clear that necessary arrangements should be made accordingly. After holding

discussions with the public representatives, the Collector informed that the final darshan schedule would be announced.

Temple Deputy Executive Officer S Radha, Assistant Executive Officer

K Tirumaleswara Rao, executive engineers CHV Ramana, B Rambabu and deputy executive engineer DVS Ramaraju officials from the tourism department were present during the inspection.