

Bolisetty launches nationwide movement 'Dharma' to save nature, temple lands

- The movement transcends political parties and individual interests, aiming to unite millions across the country to protect nature, human rights, temple properties, livelihoods, and constitutional values

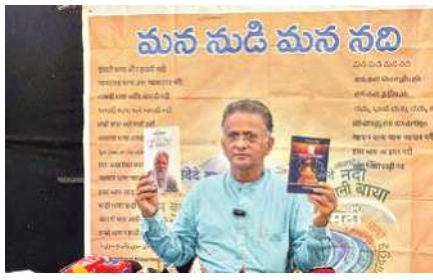
HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

ENVIRONMENT Conservationist and national convener of Jal Biradari Bolisetty Satyanarayana said that communities no longer tolerate the injustice of destroying natural and traditional foundations in the name of development.

Asserting that solutions to these modern challenges lie deeply rooted in the concept of Dharma at a media conference held in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, Satyanarayana stated that at a time when lawlessness, environmental destruction, and the exploitation of natural resources have reached alarming levels, there is a historic need for the public to raise their voices and question this destruction.

Marking the official launch of a nationwide movement, Satyanarayana said that the movement transcends political parties and individual interests, aiming to unite millions across the country to protect nature, human rights, temple properties, livelihoods, and constitutional values.

During the interaction, Satyanarayana and civil society leaders including Waterman Ra-



Environment Conservationist and national convener of Jal Biradari Bolisetty Satyanarayana speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

jendra Singh, MVR Sastry, Justice Gopala Gowda, P V Rajagopal, and Basavaraj Patil outlined severe ecological and social threats facing the region and the nation.

As a concrete immediate course of action, the movement has strongly opposed the alleged diversion and commercial exploitation of Simhachalam Devasthanam lands. Satyanarayana announced that this campaign serves as a stepping stone toward safeguarding Hindu temple properties across Andhra Pradesh and India. He urged village communities to take active leadership roles as guardians of local temples and their assets.

In view of the forthcoming local-body elections, Satyanarayana urged the citizens to evaluate candidates not based on party symbols or financial inducements, but on their proven track record of public service, environmental commitment, and dedication to safeguarding community assets.

- Ketan Garg emphasises quality standards in road development, greenery, junction modernisation,

- The Commissioner directs officials to prepare attractive and modern designs for bus bay construction

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VISAKHAPATNAM

GREATER Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Commissioner Ketan Garg directed engineering officials to commence city development and beautification works, expedite their execution and ensure their completion within the stipulated deadline.

On Tuesday, the Commissioner, along with GVMC chief engineer PVV Satyanarayana Raju, inspected the central median development works undertaken



GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg during field visit in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

from Dutt Island junction to Polamamba temple in the Siripuram area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner stated that the state government had recently allocated Rs 400 crore under a special package for the holistic development of the city. This funding will be utilised to develop major

roads, central medians, dividers, greenery, modernise junctions, install modern lighting and other development and beautification works across the city.

The Commissioner directed officials to accord top priority to development and beautification works, as only one month remained be-

fore the partnership summit scheduled for the city. Accordingly, he instructed the chief engineer to prepare and implement an action plan in coordination with engineering officials and representatives of the contracting agency to commence the works.

Ketan Garg emphasised maintaining quality stand-

ards in road development, greenery, junction modernisation, central medians and lighting, among others, as part of the city's beautification programme.

The Commissioner directed officials to prepare attractive and modern designs for the construction of bus bays. He instructed them to develop special designs for electric poles to be installed on central medians, ensuring that they complement the city's beautification.

He further directed officials to install modern central lighting at suitable locations to enhance the city's visual appeal.

Engineering officials were told to review the progress of works daily in coordination with NCC representatives. GVMC executive engineer Gangadhar, deputy executive engineers Venkateswara Rao and Appala Naidu, in-charge assistant engineer Chaitanya Devi, NCC representatives and other engineering officials accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Roundtable demands removal of CEC

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RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A roundtable by all political parties and people's organisations under the aegis of the CPM in Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday demanded the immediate removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the independence of constitutional institutions was being undermined. The meeting, chaired by CPM district secretary T Arun, discussed changes in the appointment of Election Commissioners, deletion of large numbers of names during revision of electoral rolls, centralisation of powers through ECI-Net and concerns over EVMs and VVPATs. Speakers stressed the need for greater transparency and accountability to restore public confidence in the Election Commission. Arun called upon political parties, people's organisations and the public to unite to protect democratic institutions. He said an all-party Satyagraha would be organised at the Dandi March statues near Kambala Cheruvu in Rajamahendravaram on October 2. He alleged that the Centre had attempted to block around 1.75 lakh social media posts, including posts criticising government policies, and said such action would affect freedom of expression. He also criticised the changes introduced through the 2023 law governing the appointment of Election Commissioners, alleging that they had increased the Centre's influence. Former MP and YSRCP spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram said the appointment procedure for Election Commissioners should

be reviewed. Referring to reports that two Election Commissioners had recorded written objections to decisions of the Chief Election Commissioner on 14 occasions, he sought clarity from the Election Commission. He demanded that voter registration and deletion procedures remain within the jurisdiction of BLOs, ELOs and EROs and sought an explanation from the Election Commission on changes to Form 6. He also called for the reasons for every deletion from electoral rolls to be made public through a dedicated dashboard and sought an appeal mechanism for those whose names were removed.

YSRCP central committee member Jakkampudi Vijayalakshmi said government institutions should not be used for the benefit of any ruling party. She said questions had been raised among sections of the public over the functioning of the Election Commission during the 2019 and 2024 elections.

GV Sundar, correspondent of Rajiv Gandhi College, sought separate disclosure of details concerning deceased persons, duplicate entries, migrated voters and eligible voters whose names were removed during the SIR. He called for simplifying Form 6 for young voters and an audit of election software by independent institutions such as the IITs.

Congress district president TK Visweswara Reddy said every vote should have equal value and election institutions should function free from political interference.

Congress city leader Balepalli Murali sought an independent and comprehensive inquiry into allegations of irregularities in the electoral process.

Visitors can explore bean to cup journey at Araku Coffee Centre

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VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) is taking steps to strengthen marketing facilities for products produced by tribal farmers and promote Araku Valley Coffee among tourists and the public, emphasised GCC chairman Kidari Sravan Kumar.

Inspecting the ongoing construction of the Araku Valley Coffee Cafe, established by GCC on Beach Road at an estimated cost of Rs 1.06 crore here on Tuesday, he directed officials to maintain quality standards and complete the project following strict timelines.

The cafe is designed to offer visitors a taste of authentic Araku coffee while providing a platform to showcase and market various



Girijan Cooperative Corporation GCC chairman Kidari Sravan Kumar inspecting the work being carried out at the Araku Valley Coffee Café in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

tribal products sold by GCC. A cafe will be established on the ground floor, where visitors can enjoy Araku coffee and purchase tribal products, he added. The Araku Coffee Experience Centre is being developed on the first floor. Visitors can explore the bean-to-cup journey of the world-famous indigenous

coffee. Sravan Kumar mentioned that the experience centre would provide tourists and the public a first-hand understanding of the coffee production process, while also highlighting the efforts and challenges faced by tribal farmers and the marketing opportunities available for their products.

Man gets 20-yr jail in POCSO case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A special POCSO court in Kakinada has sentenced a 25-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl. The accused was identified as Gummadi Rajasekhar of Kovvur town in East Godavari district. According to police, the accused allegedly lured the minor girl from Singavaram village in Seethanagaram mandal by offering her biscuits and chocolates and took her along with him before sexually assaulting her. Based on a complaint, Seethanagaram police registered a case in Crime No 179/2020.

North Zone DSP P Satyanarayana Rao conducted the investigation and collected scientific evidence, medical examination reports and statements of the victim, including the statement recorded under Section 164 CrPc.

A charge sheet was subsequently filed

before the Special POCSO Court in Kakinada.

During the trial, Special Public Prosecutor P Sridevi presented the prosecution evidence before the court and advanced arguments to establish the charges against the accused.

After completion of the trial, Special POCSO Court Judge K Sridevi found the accused guilty and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000. In default of payment of the fine, he would undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

The court directed that the Rs 5,000 fine be paid to the victim as compensation after expiry of the appeal period. District SP D Narasimha Kishore appreciated Special Public Prosecutor Sridevi, former North Zone DSP P Satyanarayana, CI SVVS Murthy, SI L Srinunayak, and other staff for their role in the investigation, prosecution and monitoring of the trial.

DRUCC member pitches for Telugu-speaking railway employees



Railway board took major decisions regarding transfers, postings, seniority and promotions of employees associated with the Visakhapatnam division

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN the wake of operational changes concerning the Rayagada division of South Coast Railway (SCoR), the railway board recently took major decisions regarding transfers, postings, seniority and promotions of employees associated with the Visakhapatnam division.

The board directed that a roadmap be prepared for the phased transfer to Visakhapatnam of loco running staff, presently working in the Rayagada division, who expressed their willingness to return to the Visakhapatnam division. At the same time, to ensure Rayagada division does not face any staff shortage, it was decided that newly-recruited assistant loco pilots (ALPs) be posted in Rayagada.

With these decisions coming into effect, employees in the loco running category, who were transferred from the Visakhapatnam division to Rayagada are expected

to have a clearer pathway for returning to Visakhapatnam, said Chalasani Gandhi, senior railway national labour leader and member of the Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC).

The board further decided that pending inter-divisional request transfer (IDRT) applications should be considered until cadre closure. For gazetted officers, promotions and postings are to be undertaken without affecting their lien and seniority. It also directed that comprehensive details of the posts and staff working in the construction departments under the jurisdictions of SCoR and ECoR be submitted.

However, Gandhi said, the issue should not be limited only to the running staff. He demanded that there is also a need to address the concerns of employees belonging to other departments who are presently working in the Odisha and Chhattisgarh regions, formerly part of the Waltair division.

A large number of Telugu-speaking employees belonging to departments such as engineering, operating, signal and telecommunication and other categories working in Chhattisgarh and Odisha have been awaiting permanent transfer to the Visakhapatnam division. Gandhi raised the concern that they too request consideration for transfer to the Visakhapatnam division, taking their seniority and service conditions into account.

According to labour organisations, approximately 1,000 Telugu-speaking employees belonging to various departments are presently working in the newly formed Rayagada division.

A comprehensive plan needs to be drafted to ensure that their seniority, promotions and other service benefits are protected while making every possible effort to accommodate employees belonging to the Andhra region in the Visakhapatnam division.

'World Heart Day' meet focuses on prevention mechanism

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VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) director V Manmadha Rao underlined the importance of regular exercise, a balanced diet and periodic health check-up in preventing heart diseases.

Speaking at an awareness programme organised at VIMS Hospital on the occasion of the 'World Heart

Day', Dr Manmadha Rao said that maintaining good heart health should be a priority for each individual. He urged people to consult doctors without delay if they experience symptoms associated with heart disease and seek timely medical intervention.

He said the primary objective of World Heart Day is to create greater awareness about cardiovascular health and encourage people to



World Heart Day observed at VIMS in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

adopt preventive measures. Regular health check-ups can help detect potential heart-related problems at an early stage, while a healthy lifestyle can significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, he informed.

Dr Manmadha Rao said VIMS is equipped with modern medical facilities and provides quality healthcare services to patients suffering from heart-related ailments.

Doctors from the department of cardiology explained various aspects of heart disease prevention, precautionary measures, emergency response and ways to maintain cardiovascular health. Deputy director of VIMS Srinivas Kumar, Nursing Superintendent Sugeeta Swarnalatha, hospital administrator Manoj Kumar, cardiology department doctors and nursing staff participated in the programme.

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