

# Health insurance scheme for home guards launched in Vizag, first in AP

- Home Minister V Anitha distributes insurance documents to 975 Home Guards under Visakhapatnam city police, with Rs 33 lakh coverage
- A special helpline number, 7995093606, has been set up for related assistance and support

VASU POTNURU  
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a first-of-its-kind endeavour in the country, Visakhapatnam city police introduced a holistic health insurance scheme for the welfare of Home Guards and their families.

Striking a balance between effective policing and staff welfare, City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi introduced the ambitious scheme to provide financial and medical security to Home Guards serving in the Commissionerate's purview.

Ever since assuming office in Visakhapatnam, the City Police Commissioner has been launching and implementing several welfare-oriented



Home Minister V Anitha distributing insurance scheme documents for Home Guards in the presence of City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi in Visakhapatnam

programmes aimed at improving the well-being of police personnel and supporting them.

Empathising with Home Guards, who face immense pressure, stress and risks while discharging their duties, Shankhabrata Bagchi observed that many personnel and their families suffer severe financial hardships during medical emergencies, often forcing them to borrow large amounts for treatment. Deeply moved by such real-life incidents, the CP

initiated a comprehensive insurance programme to ensure that no Home Guard family is left helpless during times of crisis.

Under the newly introduced scheme, every Home Guard family will receive top-up coverage of Rs 30 lakh and an additional complimentary coverage of Rs 3 lakh, totaling Rs 33 lakh in health insurance coverage. The scheme covers Home Guards working in Visakhapatnam City Police Commissionerate along with their spouse and

two children.

"The annual premium for each family amounts to Rs 10,264 and the premium for the first year has been completely borne by the Police Welfare Fund. This is the first-of-its-kind initiative taken by the police department in the country," Shankhabrata Bagchi told The Hans India.

A total of 975 Home Guards and their families have enrolled under the scheme, benefiting nearly 3,144 family members. An amount of Rs 87,97,809 has

been spent from the Welfare Fund toward implementing the programme. Besides providing financial protection, the initiative is expected to significantly reduce mental stress among Home Guards, boosting their morale and dedication to serving the public.

To ensure smooth implementation and easy access to healthcare services, several special facilities have been arranged under the scheme, including a 24-hour helpline, cashless treatment services, health-card database management and a dedicated coordination with insurance companies and hospitals. A special helpline number, 7995093606, has been set up for related assistance and support.

Appreciating the one-of-its-kind endeavour, Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha handed over the health insurance policy certificates to Home Guards and their family members.

She appreciated the Visakhapatnam City Police leadership for introducing pioneering welfare initiatives, being empathetic towards the personnel and setting an example for others.

## Vizag MP urges people to stay away from 'divisive politics'

- MP Sribharat highlights the alliance government's goals that focus on AP's development and people's welfare

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VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM Member of Parliament M Sribharat stated that the coalition government's primary agenda is the development of the State and the welfare of the people.

Inaugurating Kapu Community Hall at Padmanabha Nagar in Visakhapatnam on Friday in the presence of MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao and MLA PGVR Naidu (Ganababu), among others, he urged the public to remain vigilant against attempts to create divisions for political gain and emphasised the need to safeguard the alliance's unity.

The MP said that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, and the BJP leadership are working in tandem for the progress of Andhra Pradesh and any attempts to weaken the alliance will not be entertained.

The community hall was built with GVMC funds at a cost of Rs 1.9 crore. Following the inauguration, floral



Visakhapatnam MP M Sribharat, MLA PGVR Naidu and others at the inauguration of Kapu Community Hall in Visakhapatnam on Friday

tributes were paid to the statues of Sri Krishnadevaraya and Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga installed at the premises.

Emphasising that development and public welfare are his core principles, Sribharat said that in politics, delivering meaningful work for the people is more important than seeking personal credit. He reiterated that he respects all sections of society equally and steers away from caste-based politics.

Appreciating MLA Ganababu for his commitment towards development and resolve to sort out several long-pending public issues in the constituency, the MP expressed delight that the people of the Visakhapatnam West constituency under-

stand the value of development and encourage good leadership.

Also, Sribharat highlighted MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao's efforts in playing a key role in providing political awareness and training the party cadre.

Sribharat appealed to community elders and financially well-settled members to extend support for the further development of the community hall. He suggested that the facility should serve not only a section of society, but also be made available to poor and needy families based on their requirements.

Leaders of Kapu community, alliance party representatives and local residents participated in the programme.

## 'One month-one constituency-four visits programme will offer a quick resolution'

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VISAKHAPATNAM

THE State government has launched 'one month - one constituency - four visits' programme to provide a permanent solution to revenue problems at rural level, underlined Bheemuniapatnam MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao.

Commencing the programme from Anandapuram mandal in his constituency here on Friday, the MLA said, "Villages are the prime contributors to development. The main objective of this programme is to ensure that revenue problems are sorted out effectively at village-level so that people need not keep revisiting the offices," he explained, adding that the government is more focused on developing problem-free and conflict-free hamlets.

Even as the PGRS (Public Grievance Redressal Sys-



People submitting their grievances to MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao during 'one month - one constituency - four visits' programme in Bheemuniapatnam on Friday

tem) continues, the special programme will bring people much closer to the public representatives, Srinivasa Rao opined, appealing to people to avail the platform facilitated.

Stressing that the newly launched programme will be quite useful for the people of Bheemuniapatnam constituency, the MLA said, "The government's goal is to provide a permanent solution to

revenue, land disputes and other administrative problems." The one month - one constituency - four visits' programme was held in the presence of district Collector Abhishikh Kishore.

## GVMC plans e-RT system to clear BRTS road

RANI DEVALLA  
VISAKHAPATNAM

A complete revamping exercise of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) is planned in Visakhapatnam with an agenda to convert it into an Electric Rapid Transit (e-RT) system.

With Switzerland-based Hess Green Mobility Limited evincing interest in the project, the proposed Electric Rapid Transit system aims to ease urban bottlenecks substantially and strengthen public transportation system along the city's BRTS corridors.

Representatives of Switzerland-based HESS Green Mobility India Private Limited inspected the BRTS stretches.

Accompanied by GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, chief engineer PV Satyanarayana Raju, chief city planner A Prabhakar Rao, traffic Additional Commissioner of Police K Praveen Kumar, Pendurthi mandal revenue officer Venkataramana, HESS project



Pendurthi BRTS corridor in Visakhapatnam

(Photo: Vasu Potnuru)

representatives Praveen Kumar and Pranesh N Nayak highlighted the exclusive features of e-RT system. They informed that the high-capacity electric buses can ferry more than 240 passengers per trip and are capable of operating for nearly 23 hours a day. They further informed that HESS possesses over 140 years of engineering expertise and that the e-RT system already operates successfully in several European countries and Australia.

Minimising traffic woes and introducing modern public transportation facilities in the city, the concerned officials elaborated

on the measures to be implemented as part of the e-RT system.

For commuters travelling between Pendurthi and Convent Junctions, passing through them is a horrendous task as traffic congestion swells during peak hours. Commuters find it extremely tough to wade through the ever-increasing vehicle volume and traffic bottlenecks in these junctions. Given the traffic congestion, especially between Pendurthi and Convent Junctions, measures are being considered to reduce traffic issues and commuter inconvenience by introducing modern public transport-

tation facilities.

Civic chief Ketan Garg informed that the objective of the ensuing project is to provide citizens with an advanced public transportation system equal to metro-like facilities. He mentioned that the e-RT system would enable electric buses to operate in dedicated corridors in a fast, safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

The proposed e-RT system would play a key role in reducing traffic congestion, decreasing the usage of private vehicles, controlling pollution, and providing faster public transportation services.

Establishment of bus stations, development of dedicated corridors and provision of infrastructure required for the electric buses operation were examined by the officials.

To advance the project, officials from APSRTC, APEP-DCL, traffic police, GVMC, the revenue department and other departments concerned to meet next.

## Renovated IOB Rampuram branch inaugurated



IBO Senior Regional Manager Ravi Kumar Gupta and staff paying tributes to Bank's founder chairman M Ct M Chidambaram Chettyar at Rampuram Branch on Thursday

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RAMPURAM  
(VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT)

THE Rampuram branch of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in Pendurthi mandal of Visakhapatnam district has been renovated and upgraded with a fully air-conditioned facility, marking a significant milestone in the branch's long-standing service to rural communities.

The renovated branch was formally inaugurated on Thursday by Ravi Kumar Gupta, IOB Senior Regional Manager (SRM), Visakhapatnam Region, in the presence of Branch Manager Allu Santhiswaroop, Regional Office Chief Manager Dogiparthi Srinivasa Rao, AIOBEU AGS D Umamaheswara Rao, staff members, customers, and retired IOB employee B Mutya-

lu. Speaking on the occasion, SRM Ravi Kumar said that the Rampuram branch was originally opened on March 29, 1982, and has remained committed to supporting rural communities, particularly farmers and women associated with Self Help Groups (SHGs).

He also informed that IOB Visakhapatnam Region currently operates 78 branches. He further announced that new IOB branches at Narsipatnam in Anakapalli District and Ranasthalam in Srikakulam District will be opened shortly.

Branch Manager Allu Santhiswaroop expressed heartfelt gratitude to customers for their continued patronage over the past 44 years and sought their sustained support for the future growth of the branch.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Rozgar Mela to be held at Gambheeram

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PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 51,000 appointment letters to the newly-appointed youth in various government departments and organisations at the 19th Rozgar Mela scheduled on Saturday (May 23) at 11 am via video conferencing.

In keeping with the Prime Minister's commitment to prioritising employment generation, the Rozgar Mela is a major initiative aimed at translating this vision into reality. Since its inception, around 12 lakh recruitment letters have been issued through 18 Rozgar Melas organised across the country.

The 19th Rozgar Mela will be held at 47 locations across the country. The newly recruited candidates, selected from all parts of India, will join various ministries and departments of the Government of India, including the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services and Department of Higher Education, among others.

In Visakhapatnam, the Rozgar Mela will be held at the Auditorium, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Gambheeram from 1 am.



Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu playing cricket at Kargil Park in Srikakulam on Friday

## Civil Aviation Minister exhorts people to stay fit

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VISAKHAPATNAM

DRAWING inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Fit India', Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu exhorted people of the district to gear up for 'Fit Srikakulam'.

The MP Cup 2026, Box Cricket Tournament was inaugurated at Kargil Park in Srikakulam on Friday as part of the 'Yerranna Kreedha Utsavam'. The MP said the platform is meant for encouraging sportsmanship and instill healthy lifestyle in youth.

The tournament logo was unveiled and players were called to participate in large numbers.

Union Minister Rammo-

han Naidu, Srikakulam in-charge Collector Farman Ahmed Khan and SP Maheshwar Reddy played a friendly cricket match on the occasion of the tournament's inauguration.

The MP Cup Box Cricket Tournament will be held till 30th of this month. "In today's digital era, the programme was initiated with an aim of getting the youth to give up their screen time and focus on physical fitness, mental strength and social bonding," the Civil Aviation Minister underlined.

Further, he suggested that the youth should get into the habit of playing some kind of sport. He encouraged people to inculcate healthy practices and work on their fitness level by playing sports of their choice.

## From today, 'Swarnapushparchana seva' will be performed on weekends

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VISAKHAPATNAM

THE most popular 'Swarnapushparchana seva' at the sacred Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple is set to be performed every Saturday and Sunday, starting May 23.

Announcing this on Friday, Devasthanam Executive Officer Jallepalli Venkata Rao said the decision was taken due to the increasing number of devotees seeking participation in the highly revered ritual.

To ensure convenience for pilgrims, temple authorities have arranged the seva in three batches on Saturdays and Sundays. The first batch will commence at 7.30 am, followed by the second at 9 am and the third at 10.30 am. Earlier, the seva was conducted only on Thursdays.

The 'Swarnapushparchana seva', which used to be held in Bhoga Mandapam opposite the sanctum sanctorum, was shifted to Kalyana Mandapam following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, devotees participating in the seva will now receive the



Golden flowers for 'Swarnapushparchana seva' at Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Visakhapatnam

rare privilege of darshan inside the sanctum sanctorum. This gains larger significance as regular sanctum darshan for devotees on weekends remained suspended for a while. Temple officials stated that the seva offers devotees a unique spiritual experience, allowing them to personally perform pujas by touching the golden flowers offered to the presiding deity.

Conducted with traditional grandeur in the sanctum sanctorum and Bhoga Mandapam, the

ritual will accommodate only 30 to 50 couples in each batch to effectively manage the rush.

In a move aimed at enhancing convenience and transparency, the temple administration has also introduced modern technological facilities for ticket booking.

Devotees can obtain tickets seamlessly by scanning the QR codes installed across the temple premises and availing 'Mana Mitra' WhatsApp service through the official AP Temples platform.