

Motorists with loud silencers need to exercise caution from now

- The city police launches a major crackdown on those violating traffic and vehicle safety regulations
- Women, senior citizens and those suffering from cardiac issues expressed concern over the noise pollution caused by modified vehicles
- During the drive, officials seized 142 modified silencers that were found to be causing noise pollution



Police crushing seized noisy silencers in Visakhapatnam

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

FOR some motorists, drawing attention through noise is considered a trend. However, their reckless attitude not only causes inconvenience to others but also poses a risk to fellow commuters.

Following a surge of complaints from residents over noise pollution and reckless road behaviour by a section of motorists, the city police launched a major crackdown on those violating traffic and vehicle safety regulations.

The special enforcement drive, carried out under the directions of City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi, targets unauthorised vehicle modifications that have become increasingly common among youngsters in the city. According to police officials, several youths have been removing the company-facilitated silencers from their expensive motorcycles and replacing them with modified products that produce excessive noise and emit smoke, causing inconvenience to the public and adding to environmental pollution. Women, senior citizens and those suffering

from cardiac issues have expressed concern over the noise pollution caused by such modified vehicles and have urged the police to take strict action against it.

Responding to the complaints, traffic police teams have intensified inspections across the city. During the drive, officials seized 142 modified silencers that were found to be causing noise pollution. The altered silencers are being destroyed periodically to prevent their reuse. Police also removed 89 unauthorised high-beam lights fitted on cars and auto-rickshaws. Officials said these lights create visibility problems for oncoming mo-

torists at night, increasing the risk of road accidents.

Also, the enforcement drive has focused on the growing use of mobile phone stands on two-wheelers. Traffic authorities observed that many riders tend to divert their attention to their mobile phones while riding, resulting in risky situation not only for themselves but also to the other road users. Keeping this in view, 270 mobile stands have been removed from vehicles during recent inspections.

In another significant action, police seized 73 two-wheelers involved in illegal bike racing on Beach Road

and other parts of the city. Cases have been registered against the riders, and the Deputy Transport Commissioner (DTC), Visakhapatnam, has been requested to initiate the process for suspension of their driving licenses.

Speaking on the issue, City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi said that unauthorised vehicle modifications and traffic violations pose a serious threat to public safety. He noted that children, women, elderly citizens and people suffering from heart-related ailments are particularly affected by loud vehicle noise. The Commissioner also cautioned that the use of unauthorised high-beam lights and mobile phone stands while driving could result in accidents, causing risk to both riders and road users.

The Visakhapatnam City Police appealed to motorists to comply with road safety regulations, avoid unauthorised vehicle modifications and drive responsibly in the interest of public safety and environmental protection. Further, he stressed that keeping the Visakhapatnam roads safe and secure is a shared responsibility between the people as well as the department officials

Powder, politics and 'makeup'...



As part of the protest, TDP supporters throwing eggs at the image of former IT Minister Gudivada Amarnath in Visakhapatnam

- Political controversy over makeup intensifies in Andhra Pradesh
- Makeup has become a new standard defining women political leaders' demeanour
- Comments against Home Minister draw criticism from various quarters

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

AT a time when 'makeup' is no longer considered a 'decoration' but a daily regimen as every other person wants to look good, dress up well and make heads turn, the debate is now centred on whether it is 'politically' correct or incorrect? Even HR professionals in major companies are keen on recruiting presentable and good-looking candidates for a number of posts they need to fill.

At workplaces, every employee wants to look presentable. From a maid who visits homes to clean up the mess and tasked with household chores to a BPO executive who sets aside a portion of her monthly-income to buy a new set of clothes she has been eyeing for quite a while, a teacher who experiments with a new neckline for a blouse she is planning to pair

up with an old sari to a marketing executive who looks forward to visiting a saloon to groom himself well before hitting the market floor and a corporate employee who invests in branded clothes, professionals across domains are determined to turn up well at workplaces.

But is there any exception to look presentable in the political arena? Makeup, especially for women in public life, has never been a luxury. However, what astounds people now is how even a simple regimen could turn into a debatable topic among political circles. Even in the previous YSRCP government, an army of ministers presented themselves well whenever there was an occasion to celebrate, inaugurate or participate. Draping handloom saris, former minister Vidadala Rajini carries herself well during public appearances and official events.

Former Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharitha is known for her graceful sari styling. Likewise, YSRCP leader RK Roja is a well-dressed actor-politician. And so is Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi, fielded as the YSRCP MP candidate for the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 polls. The list seems to be endless. Makeup has become an integral part of women's public life. How-

ever, in Andhra Pradesh, makeup has become a new standard defining women political leaders' demeanour.

Referring to Home Minister Vangapaludi Anitha, former IT Minister Gudivada Amarnath made remarks on her makeup. "There is a 'makeup' minister for us. If she roams under the sun, a kilo of makeup melts away," he was seen commenting. Apparently, his snide remarks drew controversy and criticism from various quarters. Condemning his comments, representatives from women associations staged various forms of protests. Terming Amarnath's derogatory remarks as highly 'objectionable', TDP women's wing staged a dharna at the party office, throwing eggs at the image of the former IT Minister and performed a mock funeral for his effigy.

TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao demanded Amarnath to withdraw his comments and tender an unconditional apology to the Home Minister. There are umpteen serious issues to address. However, instead of focusing on them and working to resolve public concerns, 'makeup' row followed by resulting protests, makes one wonder how even a lipstick, powder and foundation could become politically disrespectful and murkier.

APEPDCL CMD carries out surprise inspection at call centre

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AS part of providing quality services to electricity consumers, Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (APEPDCL) Chairman and Managing Director Prudhvi Tej Immedi carried out a surprise inspection at the company's call centre. The performance of the call centre, complaints received, and the steps being taken to resolve them were reviewed on the occasion. The manner AEs dealt with complaints at the field level was examined. For some complaints pending resolution, the concerned officials were called from the call centre and asked for an explanation. The APEPDCL CMD warned that strict action would be taken against those negligent in resolving consumer problems.

Speaking on this occasion, the CMD ordered that call centre executives must be available 24x7 and respond to every call received at the call centre number 1912. He made it clear that action would be taken



APEPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Prudhvi Tej Immedi examining call records at the company's call centre in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

against those responsible if they showed negligence in responding to calls or failed to treat consumers politely.

The CMD underlined that AEs should resolve field-level complaints in a timely manner and delay or negligence will not be tolerated. He advised that every complaint should be treated with utmost priority and resolved as quickly as possible.

Later, the CMD, accompanied by operations director TV Surya Prakash, CGM P Solman Raju, among others, observed how call centre executives

spoke to customers.

After listening to the call records of several customers, he advised them to speak more politely and patiently. He instructed them to be empathetic towards customer problems and provide accurate information. Given the current possibility of further power supply disruptions due to rains and strong winds, the CMD instructed officers and staff to be more vigilant.

He advised them to respond immediately to any complaint and expedite power supply restoration.

Summer kits distributed to traffic personnel



Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi handing over summer kit to traffic police in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

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VISAKHAPATNAM

IN an initiative aimed at safeguarding traffic personnel from the scorching weather, Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi distributed summer protection kits to traffic police personnel in the city on Tuesday. With temperatures remaining high across the region, the Andhra Pradesh police department has taken proactive measures to ensure traffic personnel can perform their duties efficiently and safely under extreme heat conditions. The initiative was undertaken with funds sanctioned by the Director General of Police (DGP) for the welfare of traffic police personnel.

A total of 450 summer kits were distributed to traffic police staff, ranging from home guards to Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs). The kits in-

clude UV-protected goggles, a steel water bottle, sun caps, ORS packets and a face mask, all intended to help traffic personnel cope with prolonged sun exposure while on duty.

Addressing the gathering, Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi stated that each summer kit costs approximately Rs.1,500 and that a total budget of Rs.6.75 lakh had been allocated for Visakhapatnam city. He expressed confidence that the kits would not only protect personnel from heat-related health issues but also enhance their ability to provide uninterrupted and effective traffic management services to the public.

The initiative reflects the department's commitment to the welfare of its frontline personnel, who continue to discharge their duty diligently despite challenging weather conditions, the CP mentioned.

Yoga asanas demonstrated for holistic wellness

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AS part of the state government's ongoing celebrations leading up to International Yoga Day on June 21, a large-scale yoga programme was organised at the East Point Golf Club in Mudassarlovu on Tuesday. The event drew enthusiastic participation from people across various sections of society. The district administration has been conducting a series of yoga events at prominent tourist destinations in Visakhapatnam, including Rushikonda Beach and the Naval Dockyard, with the dual objective of promoting the significance of yoga and showcasing the city's tourism potential. The event held at East Point Golf Club received an overwhelming response, with participants performing various yoga asanas in a serene and scenic environment.



Spreading mats and following instructions, participants doing yoga asanas at East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat, district collector M Abhisikhth Kishore, Joint collector Gobilla Vidyadhari, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ketan Garg, Andhra Pradesh Oil and Seed Growers Corporation Chairman Gandhi Babji, senior district officials, representatives of the Hotels Association, members of East Point Golf Club, tourism officials and students participated in the programme. Addressing the

gathering, district collector M Abhisikhth Kishore stated that East Point Golf Course is recognised as one of the premier golf courses in the country and noted that the Yoga Andhra programme organised at the venue aims to further promote its prominence. He said it was a matter of pride for Andhra Pradesh that lakhs of people participated in last year's International Yoga Day celebrations held under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, resulting in securing a place in the Guinness World Record. He expressed confidence that this year's yoga celebrations would also be a grand success.

The collector further announced that a massive yoga demonstration involving thousands of participants would be organised at the Beach Road on June 21 as part of International Yoga Day celebrations.

People told not to get carried away by misinformation on data centres

- Visakhapatnam MP M Sriharat clears the air on excessive water consumption for the proposed data centres
- Under the guise of environmental activism, false campaign is being carried out

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VISAKHAPATNAM Member of Parliament M Sriharat exhorted people not to get carried away by the false campaign being circulated on various social media platforms against the establishment of the proposed data centres in Visakhapatnam.

In an interaction with the media organised at

GVMC here on Tuesday along with GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, the MP urged people not to believe the misinformation campaign against data centres.

Emphasising that data centres are critical to future growth in emerging cities like Visakhapatnam, the MP stated that the false campaign circulated on social media is baseless and intended to create fear among the public.

The MP said that allegations claiming data centres would further intensify water shortage and environmental degradation in the city are nothing but irresponsible and misleading. Considering the existing water resources, Sriharat explained that with the additional water expected through the



Visakhapatnam MP M Sriharat speaking at a media conference in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

Polavaram project and the proposed desalination plants, Visakhapatnam will have abundant water stretching beyond its future requirements.

Visakhapatnam region currently receives approximately 410 MLD (million litres per day) of water supply. Even after accounting for future population

growth, industrial expansion, data centres and other infrastructure requirements, the maximum projected demand is estimated at around 1,500 MLD, the MP reasoned, adding that the existing infrastructure already provides a capacity of 1,243 MLD, while the Polavaram project is expected to contribute an

additional 2,110 MLD, ensuring a comfortable surplus.

Responding to concerns regarding power consumption, Sriharat stated that such criticisms are not based on facts. "Data centres represent high-technology investments that will generate substantial employment opportunities, attract significant capital investment and strengthen the state's digital economy. With Andhra Pradesh expected to add large-scale renewable energy capacity in the coming years, there is no reason for concern regarding future power availability," he assured.

Denying claims that data centre projects are proceeding without environmental clearances, the MP clarified that all necessary statutory approvals have

been granted following comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and added that stringent environmental safeguards will be implemented wherever required.

Addressing misconceptions surrounding the involvement of Google, Adani, and Airtel in the projects, the MP explained that Google's advanced technologies, computing capabilities and artificial intelligence services form a key part of the data centre ecosystem, while infrastructure development and operational responsibilities are being undertaken by partner organisations as part of the overall project framework.

He expressed concern that certain groups, under the guise of environmental activism, are spreading

false propaganda misleading people and attempting to obstruct investments, industrial growth and employment generation in the state.

Sriharat further said both the Central and state governments are committed to transforming Visakhapatnam into one of India's leading digital and technology hubs and projects such

as data centres will serve as significant milestones in realising that vision. He called for the public's support for the city's growth and development and urged people to rely on facts rather than misinformation and contribute to transforming Visakhapatnam as a major technology and innovation destination.

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CHANGE OF NAME
(Old Name) Robbi Vijayalakshmi
W/o Robbi Surya Prakasa Rao,
Resident of D.No.17-81-1-9/13,
Brindavan Garden Colony, Welfare
delights Building, pendurthi,
pendurthi Mandal, Visakhapatnam
District, Andhra Pradesh,
pin:531173. have changed my
name and shall henceforth be
known as Mavuru Vijayalakshmi
(New Name) for all purposes.
(Th_KVM)

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