

Vizag Airport set to emerge as major aviation hub even after new airport becomes operational

- Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat has been instrumental in restoring international flight operations to Abu Dhabi
- Airport Advisory Committee member O Naresh Kumar expressed gratitude to the MPs who had contributed significantly to the airport's growth chapter
- The state government owns 366 acres of prime land at the existing Visakhapatnam Airport premises

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM is poised to enter a new era in the aviation sector, with the existing city airport set to be transformed into a regional aviation, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), cargo and business aviation hub.

This would become a reality soon after commercial operations commence at the upcoming Alluri Sitarama Raju Greenfield International Airport in Bhogapuram. As commercial flight services are expected to gradually shift to Bhogapuram, the state government is preparing an ambitious roadmap to ensure the Visakhapatnam Airport continues to play a strategic role in the region's economic growth.

The state government owns 366 acres of prime land at the existing Vi-

sakhapatnam Airport premises. Officials said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has a comprehensive plan for its future utilisation. The land is expected to be developed into a specialised aviation ecosystem that will strengthen Visakhapatnam's position as a key aviation and logistics destination on the east coast.

Sharing his views at the Airport Advisory Committee meeting, Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat mentioned that the government would focus on the long-term development of the existing airport once the Bhogapuram International Airport becomes operational and passenger traffic increases. He emphasised that the city airport would continue to serve the region through specialised aviation services, cargo handling and maintenance operations.



A view of Visakhapatnam Airport

Airport Advisory Committee member O Naresh Kumar expressed gratitude to the Members of Parliament who had contributed significantly to the existing airport, transforming it into one of the most important aviation centres along the east coast.

Recalling the airport's growth journey, Naresh Kumar said former Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament Daggubati Purandeswari played a pivotal role in securing international status for the airport. She was instrumental in establishing international connectivity to Singapore, making the airport operational round the clock by taking up the recruitment ban issue with

the Union Finance Minister, and obtaining full Airports Authority of India and CISF sanctions for the airport. During the tenure of former Visakhapatnam MP K Haribabu, domestic flight operations increased significantly from around 50-60 flights a day to nearly 80-90 flights.

Former Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M V V Satyanarayana contributed to expanding the airport's international footprint by facilitating new flight services to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, besides improving domestic connectivity to major destinations such as Delhi and Hyderabad through additional flight frequencies.

Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat has been instrumental in restoring international flight operations to Abu Dhabi and launching domestic cargo services from Visakhapatnam. He also led the rehabilitation efforts for airport employees affected by the transition to Bhogapuram Airport. For employees who could not relocate, Sriharat coordinated with hotel associations, farmers' associations and the IT industry to help secure alternative employment opportunities within Visakhapatnam.

Outlining the region's future prospects, Naresh Kumar said the commissioning of Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport, coupled with the proposed CII Partnership Summit scheduled for November-December 2026, is expected to unlock enormous employment and investment opportunities across North Andhra. He said sectors such as data centres, artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, steel, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors are likely to witness significant growth in the coming years.

EV charging station inaugurated at SBI AO



State Bank of India officials inaugurating the EV station at the bank's administrative office in Visakhapatnam.

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VISAKHAPATNAM

AS part of its commitment to promoting sustainable development and encouraging the adoption of green energy, the State Bank of India (SBI) inaugurated an electric vehicle (EV) charging station at its administrative office in Visakhapatnam. The EV charging station was inaugurated jointly by Prafulla

Kumar Jena, general manager (Network-I), SBI and Rahul Sankritya, deputy general manager. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries emphasised SBI's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and the promotion of clean energy initiatives. They stated that installing the EV charging station highlights the bank's dedication to reducing carbon emissions, supporting

eco-friendly transportation and contributing to a greener future. The newly established charging facility is expected to benefit SBI employees, customers and visitors using electric vehicles, highlighting the bank's commitment to sustainable infrastructure and responsible banking practices. Senior officials and staff members of the SBI administrative office were present on the occasion.

Venkaiah Naidu invited for 'World Telugu Literary' conference



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VISAKHAPATNAM

FORMER Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu was invited to attend the 10th World Telugu Literary conference as chief guest.

Founder of Lok Nayak Foundation Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad extended an invitation to the former Vice President during his visit to Visakhapatnam. The invitation was extended to the former Vice President in the presence of Shanghai Telugu

Association president K. Madhava Reddy. The conference is scheduled to be organised in Shanghai on October 24 and 25 in collaboration with Vanguri Foundation of America, Shanghai Telugu Association and Lok Nayak Foundation. The conference organisers shared details of the international Telugu literary festival with Venkaiah Naidu. Responding positively, the former Vice President appreciated the organisers for their efforts in promoting Teluguliterature on a global platform.

Conference on 'emerging areas of chemical research' poster launched

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VISAKHAPATNAM

DR Lankapalli Bullayya College is set to host a national conference on emerging areas of chemical research. Secretary and Correspondent of Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College G. Madhu Kumar launched the brochure for the national conference on 'emerging areas of chemical research' at the campus on Friday.

Organised in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry - India Deccan Local Section (RSC-IDLS) on December 11th and 12th at the college campus, the two-day conference will feature keynote lectures and technical sessions by eminent academicians and researchers from reputed institutions across India. The major themes of the conference include



Secretary and Correspondent of Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College G. Madhu Kumar, among others, at the poster launch event organised at the campus on Friday

green and sustainable chemistry, materials chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and energy and environmental chemistry. Speaking on the occasion, G Madhu Kumar stated that the conference aims to highlight emerging areas

of chemical research that address the evolving needs of society, technological advancements and sustainable development. The conference brochure was unveiled in the presence of Principals of UG and PG Colleges, the Principal

of Engineering, the dean of campus coordination, Vice-Principals, heads of departments, and faculty members. Registration details and the conference brochure can be accessed by logging on to the college website: <https://lbc.ebu.in/pghome>.

NCB and EAGLE teams destroy seized ganja



NCB and EAGLE officials with the seized ganja in Anakapalli district on Friday

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ANAKAPALLI

WITH an aim to make Andhra Pradesh drug-free, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and EAGLE wing have jointly undertaken a massive ganja destruction programme here on Friday.

NCB officials seized about 767.5 kg of ganja and 4.036 litres of hashish oil in six separate cases from different parts of the state. The seized drugs and hashish oil were destroyed by a machine without open

burning, following pollution control standards, at the state-of-the-art incineration plant of Ramki Pharma in Tanam village of Parawada mandal. The process was completed under the supervision of EAGLE Superintendent of Police G. Swaroopa Rani and NCB Zonal Director Pankaj Kumar Dwivedi. NCB superintendent Rajan Kumar, Intelligence Officer K. Kiran Babu, EAGLE Division Inspectors G Demullu, Kalyani and members of the Anakapalli EAGLE cell were present.

'India rising to international standards in medical education'

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VISAKHAPATNAM

CHAIRMAN of the Academic Committee, Medical Council of India Vedprakash Mishra stated that medical education in India is expanding rapidly in alignment with international standards.

Addressing a conference at the GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSAR) here on Friday, Vedprakash Mishra noted that the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) granted recognition to India's National Medical Commission (NMC) on September 20, 2023. He proudly announced that, as a result, 719 medical colleges in India gained global recognition, and India now boasts



Chairman of the Academic Committee, Medical Council of India Vedprakash Mishra, institution president M. Sriharat among others, during the programme

more medical colleges than developed English-speaking nations.

He underlined the critical need to enhance the quality of medical education, not just its quantity.

He said that providing specialised training to around 80,000 medical teachers since 2009

was a record-breaking achievement.

The event was attended by GITAM president and Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sriharat, Vice-Chancellor Errol D'Souza, Pro-Vice-Chancellor B. Geetanjali, professors, and representatives from various medical colleges.

Narsapur-B'luru Express flagged off

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BHIMAVARAM

UNION Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma flagged off the regular weekly Narsapur-Bengaluru (SMVB) Express service at Palakollu Railway Station on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the train will depart from Narsapur every Friday at 3.50 pm and reach Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru, at 9.45 am on Saturday. On the return journey, it will leave Bengaluru every Saturday at 11 am and arrive in Narsapur at 5.50 am on Sunday. Varma said the train would halt at Palakollu, Veeravaram, Bhimavaram, Akividu, Kaikaluru, Guduvada, Vijayawada, Tenali, Bapatla, Chirala, Ongole, Kavali, Nellore, Gudur and Renigunta, improving rail connectivity for West Godavari district and other regions along the route. He said conversion into a regular express service would reduce ticket fares by nearly 30 per cent while ensuring better punctuality and operational efficiency. He also said railway goods sheds were under construction at Palakollu, Bhimavaram and Akividu stations at a cost of Rs 20 crore. An escalator would also be installed at Palakollu Railway Station, he added.

Gold loan fraud in Bank of Baroda unearthed

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ELURU

THE Eluru district police successfully detected a major gold loan fraud involving large-scale financial irregularities and criminal breach of trust at the Bank of Baroda, Jangareddygudem Branch on Friday. Approximately Rs 10 crore was misappropriated. Chalapakka Raju (40) of Velampeta in Jangareddygudem, gold appraiser at Jangareddygudem Branch, was the main accused.

The police arrested him and recovered 4.120 kgs of gold worth Rs 5,71,65,000 and Rs 10,00,000 in cash. Under the supervision of the Eluru district Superintendent of Police K Pratap Shiva Kishore, Assistant Superintendent of Police & SDPO, Jangareddygudem, R Sushmitha arrested the accused. Based on a complaint lodged by the Senior Branch Manager of the Bank of Baroda, Jangareddygudem Branch, a case was registered at Jangareddygudem Police Station and investigation was taken up. During the course of the investigation, it was found that serious irregularities had been committed in 176 gold loan accounts. The investigation revealed that the accused, while working as the gold appraiser, dishonestly misappropriated the gold or-

- Senior Branch Manager of the Bank of Baroda, Jangareddygudem Branch registered a case
- Gold appraiser Chalapakka Raju misappropriated gold ornaments worth Rs 10 crore pledged by customers
- It is established that approximately 6.4495 grams of gold had been misappropriated



SP K Pratap Shiva Kishore along with other police officials displaying the recovered gold ornaments

SIX HELD, GANJA SEIZED

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

TADEPALLI police arrested six accused in connection with ganja selling and seized 70 grams of ganja from their possession on Friday. Circle Inspector Nar-

endra informed that they have already booked the case against the accused and took permission from the higher officials to take further action. He warned that they will take stern action against those who transport and sell ganja.

special operations, the police recovered a total of 4.120 kgs of gold along with cash of Rs 10,00,000 from the possession of the accused as well as from various jewellery establishments where the stolen gold had been sold or pledged. The total value of the recovered gold is estimated at Rs 5, 71, 65, 000. Efforts are underway to recover the remaining gold. The accused will be taken into police custody for further interroga-

tion. If the involvement of any other individuals is established during the investigation, stringent legal action will be initiated against them in accordance with law, the police said. The SP appreciated the exemplary work of Sushmitha, ASP & SDPO, Jangareddygudem, the investigating officers, Jangareddygudem Circle police personnel in successfully detecting this major financial fraud.