

GVMC gears for ensuing municipal polls

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 - The town planning department had earlier released a draft proposal to increase the number of GVMC wards from the existing 98 to 120
 - Zonal Commissioners told to prepare polling station-wise electoral rolls and accurately record the number of voters attached to each polling station
- VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is gearing up for the ensuing municipal elections, with officials directed to keep all arrangements ready well in advance so that the poll exercise can be conducted smoothly soon after the notification is issued. However, uncertainty con-



A view of Visakhapatnam city

tinues over whether the elections will be held with the proposed 120 wards or the existing 98 wards, as the proposed delimitation is currently before the court. The state government decided to complete local body elections across Andhra Pradesh at the earliest, with the urban local body elections expected to be conducted first, followed by mandal and zilla parishad elections and subsequently gram panchayat polls. The government is reportedly aiming to complete the entire process by the end of October, with the elections also paving the way for receiving funds from the Central government. The government has further

decided that mayors and municipal chairpersons will be elected directly by the people. In line with the government's decision, GVMC authorities have intensified preparations for the municipal polls. The town planning department had earlier released a draft proposal to increase the number of GVMC wards from the existing 98 to 120 and invited objections and suggestions from the public. The process of receiving objections has already been completed and officials are compiling them to prepare a comprehensive report for submission to the municipal administration and urban development department.

The proposed delimitation, however, ran into legal hurdles after a Public Interest Litigation was filed in the High Court, resulting in a stay on the process. This has temporarily brought the ward reorganisation exercise to a halt. If the court clears the proposed delimitation, GVMC is likely to proceed with elections comprising 120 wards. If the existing arrangement continues, preparations will be made to conduct polls with the earlier 98 wards. To ensure there is no delay under either scenario, officials have been instructed to collect and update all essential electoral data for both the configurations. GVMC Commissioner

Ketan Garg directed officials to make advance preparations by determining the population, number of voters and polling stations for each of the proposed 120 wards, while simultaneously keeping similar details ready for the existing 98-ward arrangement. He stressed that the election machinery should be prepared to adapt to whichever ward structure is finally approved. The Commissioner instructed officials to carefully study all orders and guidelines issued by the state government and the State Election Commission and formulate a comprehensive plan for conducting the GVMC elections in accordance with the prescribed procedures. He directed the Chief City Planner and Zonal Commissioners to thoroughly examine the objections and grievances received in connection with the proposed expansion and delimitation of wards and consider appropriate action according to the rules. The Zonal Commissioners have also been instructed to prepare polling station-wise electoral rolls and accurately record the number of voters attached to each polling station. With the state government keen on completing the local body elections in the stipulated time frame, GVMC officials are now working on poll preparedness.

NSTL celebrates '57th Lab Raising Day' with gusto



Marking over five decades of dedicated service to the nation, Naval Science and Technological Laboratory celebrated its 57th Lab Raising Day in Visakhapatnam

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- Its sustained efforts in indigenous technology development have contributed significantly towards enhancing the operational capabilities and self-reliance of the Indian Navy

Engaged in the development of underwater weapons, stealth technologies and advanced hydrodynamic technologies, NSTL has been addressing critical requirements of the Indian Navy. Its sustained efforts in indigenous technology development have contributed significantly towards enhancing the operational capabilities and self-reliance of the Indian Navy. With a strong focus on innovation, indigenisation and technological excellence, NSTL remains committed to developing and delivering cutting-edge and futuristic technologies, contributing to the vision of a self-reliant and technologically advanced Indian defence sector. Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, who attended as chief guest, appreciated the NSTL team for its significant contribution towards strengthening indigenous capabilities in naval stealth and expressed confidence that the Indian Navy would continue to look towards NSTL for the development of more indigenous technologies and products. In his address, Director

General of Naval Systems and Materials (NS&M) R. Balamuralikrishnan emphasised NSTL's responsibility to meet the requirements of the Indian Navy with high-quality indigenous technologies. He encouraged NSTL to mentor Indian industries in developing world-class products in line with global standards and highlighted the need for continuous technological upgradation. Director of NSTL Abraham Varughese highlighted the laboratory's continued efforts in research and development, focusing on addressing the present and future requirements of the Indian Navy. He further emphasised NSTL's commitment to strengthening Aatmanirbhar Bharat by developing indigenous technologies and contributing towards self-reliance in naval warfare capabilities. Marking the 57th Lab Raising Day celebrated on August 20th, personnel who completed 25 years of service were felicitated. Commendation awards were presented to employees, while special awards were conferred on personnel for their significant contributions during sea trials.

MARKING over five decades of dedicated service to the nation in defence research and technology development, the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) celebrated its 57th Lab Raising Day.

Ahead of BRICS meeting, GVMC pays special attention to city beautification

- GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg inspects the beautification works from RK Beach to surrounding areas
- All departments asked to work in coordination to ensure a pleasant and memorable experience for delegates arriving from India and abroad

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IN view of the international BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting-2026 to be held in Visakhapatnam, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg directed officials to further beautify the city and ensure that its cleanliness and aesthetic appeal are accentuated.

On Friday, along with additional commissioner P Nallanayya, chief engineer PVV Satyanarayana Raju, Chief Medical Officer of Health ENV Naresh Kumar, chief city planner A Prabhakar Rao and officials of various departments, the Commissioner inspected the beautification works from RK Beach to surrounding areas. As the BRICS delegates are scheduled to visit



GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg directs officials to further beautify in Visakhapatnam on Friday

various locations in the city and participate in a cycle rally, the Commissioner directed officials to complete road patchworks along major routes on priority and provide modern street lighting and attractive wall paintings wherever required. He instructed chief engineer PVV Satyanarayana Raju and officials concerned to enhance greenery along central medians,

beautify 14 junctions from Maddilapalem to Bheemili cross roads, arrange attractive plants along the SP camp office Road, and undertake tree trimming from Andhra University to Siripuram Junction. The Commissioner further directed officials to ensure continuous sanitation along Beach Road, at major junctions, Thotlakonda, Visakha Museum and other

areas to be visited by the delegates. He instructed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure a pleasant and memorable experience for delegates arriving from India and abroad. As Visakhapatnam is hosting the prestigious international BRICS event, the GVMC is according special priority to cleanliness, greenery, lighting, roads and junction beautification.

Overseas buyers commend AP govt's initiative to provide global market access to MSMEs

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THE three-day International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) that concluded in Visakhapatnam generated strong commercial interest, resulting in the signing of 88 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). Organised jointly by the Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (AP MSMEDC) and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, the event brought over 40 overseas buyers from 25 countries and over 250 MSMEs from across

Andhra Pradesh for structured one-to-one business meetings. Several business discussions are at various stages of negotiation and are expected to translate into export orders following product evaluation, sample approval and further commercial follow-up. The valedictory session was addressed by T Siva Sankara Rao, chairman, AP MSME Development Corporation, and K. Unnikrishnan, joint director general, FIEO. The valedictory session witnessed the exchange of MoUs between overseas buyers and participating MSMEs. The AP MSME DC chairman also interacted with buyers

and sellers to understand their experiences and explore future business prospects. Addressing the session, the dignitaries highlighted the importance of sustained market-access initiatives in enabling MSMEs to understand international market requirements, improve product and packaging standards, establish direct connections with overseas buyers and integrate into global value chains. Overseas buyers appreciated the diversity and quality of products presented by Andhra Pradesh enterprises. They expressed interest in continuing discussions with shortlisted suppliers and exploring long-term sourcing

partnerships. Joint Director General, FIEO K. Unnikrishnan emphasised that the signing of MoUs marked the beginning of the business engagement process. He urged buyers and sellers to maintain regular communication, promptly exchange product specifications and samples and work towards converting commercially viable discussions into firm export orders. The participating MSMEs represented a diverse range of sectors, including agricultural and processed food products, spices, rice, marine products, food ingredients, textiles, chemicals, engineering products and other value-added goods.



Dignitaries and delegates at the concluding ceremony of the International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet in Visakhapatnam on Friday

POLICE ARREST A WOMAN IN FRAUD CASE

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POLICE arrested Musunuri Sowjanya, managing director of Flying Borders Consultancy, in connection with the case registered at Dwaraka Police Station.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the accused allegedly induced unemployed persons by promising overseas employment in countries such as the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Finland. The consultancy collected substantial amounts from people as de-

posits for employment but failed to provide the promised services or repay the collected amounts. Dwaraka police informed that they recorded statements from several victims and collected relevant receipts, agreements and financial transaction details to crack the case.

During a search conducted at the accused's residential premises in Penamaluru, Krishna district, police seized several documents, bank records, electronic devices, cash, gold, silver articles and other material objects relevant to the investigation. The investigation is continuing

to identify additional victims, verify the complete financial transactions and money trail, ascertain the total amount involved and establish the role of other persons connected with the consultancy. The arrested accused was produced before the court and sent to judicial remand.

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CHANGE OF SURNAME
I, CHEEKATLA KEDARESWARI (New Name) resident of F.No.9043, BLK-9, MVV CITY, VASUNDRA NAGAR, POTHANAMALLAVAPALEM, VISAKHAPATNAM -530041, A.P. Hence I have changed my name from PENDYALA KEDARESWARI (Old Name) to CHEEKATLA KEDARESWARI (new name) W/o: PENDYALA LAKSHMI PATHI. Hereafter My Surname is Known As CHEEKATLA KEDARESWARI (New Name) W/o: PENDYALA LAKSHMI PATHI
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