Bheemunipatnam beach now a sorry shadow of its former self

Mounds of plastic waste, broken liquor bottles and garbage greet visitors

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

Bheemunipatnam beach, once counted among the few picturesque beaches along the eastern coast with its pristine golden sands and blue waters, has now turned into an eyesore for visitors.

The centuries-old Dutch village of Bheemunipatnam, which is also home to a quiet old church and a clock tower, was a must on any tourist's itinerary. However, the condition of the beach has left tourists appalled, who express dismay over the lack of maintenance and poor sanitation.

The moment a visitor steps on to the beach, they are greeted with the sight of plastic waste, discarded clothes, thermocol sheets, and broken liquor bottles. A thick green algae covers the sand, forcing the visitors to beat a hasty retreat.

"The beach was clean till some time ago, but it is very dirty now," said a tourist. Apart from the trash on the shore, there are many stray dogs on the beach. We cannot even think of sitting on the sand for a while," says N. Shalini, who came from Vizianagaram.

While tourists are also to blame for the condition of the beach, many argue that the lack of dustbins forces them to discard their waste on the beach. Several tourist routes routinely click pictures of the garbage during the beach and upload them on social media, but to no avail.

According to the local fisherman, the civic body pumps drainage water directly into the sea at several places, due to which heaps of garbage are washed back to the shore during high tide. The sanitation staff also do not clean the beach regularly and only clean the footpaths and roads, the fisherman says.

**Better facilities needed**

Several tourists urged the officials to improve the facilities at the beach. The tourists opined that installing seating facilities, food stalls and planting trees along the length of what was done at RK Beach will help bring in more tourists.

"We have come to Bheemunipatnam because RK Beach and Srichandri were packed with crowds. But the facilities here are not up to the mark. Sanitation should be given top priority. Having authentic food stalls and backpack beach chairs would go a long way towards improving the experience for tourists," said Madhusudhan from Hyderabad who visited the beach along with his family.

Lack of roads forces tribals to carry pregnant woman in 'doli'

They urge Collector to get a pucca road laid to their hamlet

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

Pangi Srinu, a pregnant woman of Srilanka village of Chirala mandal in East Godavari district, had to be carried in a doli all the way to Arla village of Raghunath mandal as there is no road to Srilanka, on Tuesday evening.

She was shifted from the hospital at Arla to the Visakhapatnam Area Hospital in Visakhapatnam district at around 11.30 p.m. Doctors referred her to the King George Hospital (KGH) in the city. They reached KGH at around 1 a.m. and by 5 a.m., on Wednesday, the woman delivered a baby girl.

The tribal people of Srilanka hamlet had then taken the 13 km jhulla from their village to the nearest road point in December 2009. They were visited by the government officials after they failed to heed their repeated pleas.

The jhulla road also provided connectivity to Pallimala and Pedda Garuvu villages. "We have been seeking construction of a pucca road ever since the jhulla road was laid. Due to the failure of the government to take up black-topping of the road, the hunch road has been washed away several times during rains," said G. R. Sai, district secretary member.

A pregnant woman being carried in 'doli' from Srilanka to Arla in Raghunath mandal.

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

Thunderstorm, gales throw traffic out of gear

Power supply to several areas hit

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

Seer slams tussle over Hanuman birthplace

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

AP Siddhu Parshad, president of SRI Gayatri Mandir, said that the month of June is being observed as 'Malaria Prevention Month' through awareness drives to control the disease.

Community service for inebriated drivers

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

Thirty-two youth who were caught drinking in an inebriated condition have been ordered by court to take part in an awareness drive on the hazards of drunken driving at major junctions in the city on Wednesday.

The 33 persons were arrested from various places across the city in random checks being conducted by the traffic police to crack down on drunken driving. They were produced in court, which ordered them to perform community service.