

X. ALL ABILITIES PARK – VISAKHAPATNAM

CONTEXT

Visakhapatnam is the largest city and financial capital of Andhra Pradesh. It is the most populous city in the state and one of the million-plus cities in India with a population of over 2 million. The core city and its surrounding settlements together constitute Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region, one of the most populous urban regions in the country with a population of over 5.3 million. The economy of the city is the tenth largest in the country. Visakhapatnam is famous as a port city due to the presence of two big ports namely Visakhapatnam Port and Gangavaram Port. Recently the city has seen the growth of IT and Pharmaceutical industry as well.

Being a large city, having a keen focus on the convenience of citizens, Visakhapatnam intends to provide suitable infrastructure and services accessible to all citizens and every section of the society.

THE INTERVENTION

Project description

Visakhapatnam has taken up a project to develop a new park, 'All Abilities Park'. This project is aimed at showcasing the city's strong emphasis on enhancing the social infrastructure of the city (in this case for improving health and wellness of all its citizens) which includes differently abled. The park is scheduled to be developed by March 2018.



Proposed concept for 'All Abilities Park' at Beach Road in Visakhapatnam

The 'All Abilities Park' seeks to balance the needs of the differently abled without segregating them from the balance of the community.' The salient features of the park include:

- Opportunity for all park users to engage in structured and unstructured play in a scenic location facing the Bay of Bengal.
- Dedicated space with multiple levels of play, which will allow people with different level of abilities to participate in a safe and managed environment.
- Active encouragement to visitors to engage in activities, including: climbing, crawling, swinging and water play.
- Focus on expanding the skillsets of the participants and encourage physical activity with participants of mixed levels of abilities.
- Provide citizens with good quality open space for encouraging them to spend more time outdoors, thereby aiding physical activity and healthy living.