

Two iconic parks to be developed in Vizag city

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Vizag will soon be home to two iconic parks. The AP urban greenery & beautification corporation plans to give the Mudasarlova Reservoir a facelift and redevelop it. It also plans to set up a botanical garden in Yarada.

Spread over 20 acre, the Mudasarlova Park is characterised by forest groves, heritage structures, avenues of trees, and a variety of birds. Originally constructed in 1902, it is one of the oldest parks in coastal Andhra. It will be soon developed and maintained as a picnic spot and a cultural hub.

The Mudasarlova Reservoir is the oldest reservoir in the city fed by springs originating in the Kambalakonda and Kailasa hill ranges, it is a major source of drinking water for the people of Visakhapatnam. It supplies about 1 million gallons per day to cater to the needs of about 6,000 households.

Themed restaurants, a waterside promenade, a plant dome, a water museum, a forest boardwalk, a water sports park, a heritage café and a children's play area will all be developed at the park, at a cost of ₹32 crore.

Officials of the corporation recently placed a proposal before Chief Minister Naidu for the creation of a botanical garden along the lines of the world's best botanical gardens, in Yarada. The garden will have farmers' markets, native paintings, art festivals, classrooms, and bird watching spots for the organisation of community engagement exercises. It will be a place where science, community and culture will unite.

The garden will be established on an area of 550 acre. Soft and hard landscaping, the development of supporting structures such as a greenhouse and commercial spaces, plantation, and the setup of amenities will be completed in the next two years. Officials have also proposed the inclusion of an 18-hole golf course.

The Chief Minister believes that the garden will be an ideal spot for recreation, scientific research, and the cultivation of specific species having medicinal, aromatic, or commercial value. He says that the plants will contribute to the fertility of soil and prevent climate change.



Youngsters enjoy playing in the water at Mudasarlova reservoir to beat the heat in Vizag on Saturday. —DC

■ The Mudasarlova Reservoir is the oldest reservoir in the city fed by springs originating in the Kambalakonda and Kailasa hill ranges.

■ VUDA has initiated the Mudasarlova Project with an estimated budget of ₹30 crore.

Mudasarlova Park facelift at ₹30 crore

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The government of Andhra Pradesh has approved the conceptual design plan prepared by New Delhi-based Design Accord for the redevelopment of Mudasarlova Park. The project is set to begin soon.

The Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority (VUDA) has initiated the Mudasarlova Project with an estimated budget of ₹30 crore. It has approved the final design prepared by Madhup Mazumder, the principal landscape architect of Design Accord.

The architect will submit other major elements and components of the plan to the VUDA and the AP Urban Greening and Beautification Corporation by the end of the month. The park is likely to be refurbished within two-and-a-half years, according to P. Basanth Kumar, the Vice-Chairman of the VUDA.

The urban body recently proposed the development of 800 acre of land at Yarada Hill. It wants to set up a botanical garden, a golf course, a clubhouse and resorts through public-private partnerships. However, a detailed project report is yet

to be prepared.

“Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has asked us to incorporate some changes in the proposed tourism project at Yarada Hill. He has asked us to attract a chain of star hotels to set up a resort near the golf course that is planned,” said Mr Basanth Kumar.

The VUDA also plans to undertake mixed-use development of a 20-acre piece of land in Madhurawada area. An IT tower with star hotels and other amenities will be developed within a commercial space of 5 lakh sq ft.

When asked about legal disputes pertaining to the Harita Housing Project, Mr Basanth Kumar said that the VUDA would move the Supreme Court against the lower court's decision. He said that the VUDA would choose a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for most upcoming projects, as that entails less liability.

Several deadlines were missed in the construction of the Harita Housing Project. Some persons have filed complaints against the VUDA for the delay. The project was launched in 2009, with 710 houses in Madhurawada, and finally completed in 2015 at an escalated cost. The cost increase was borne by owners.