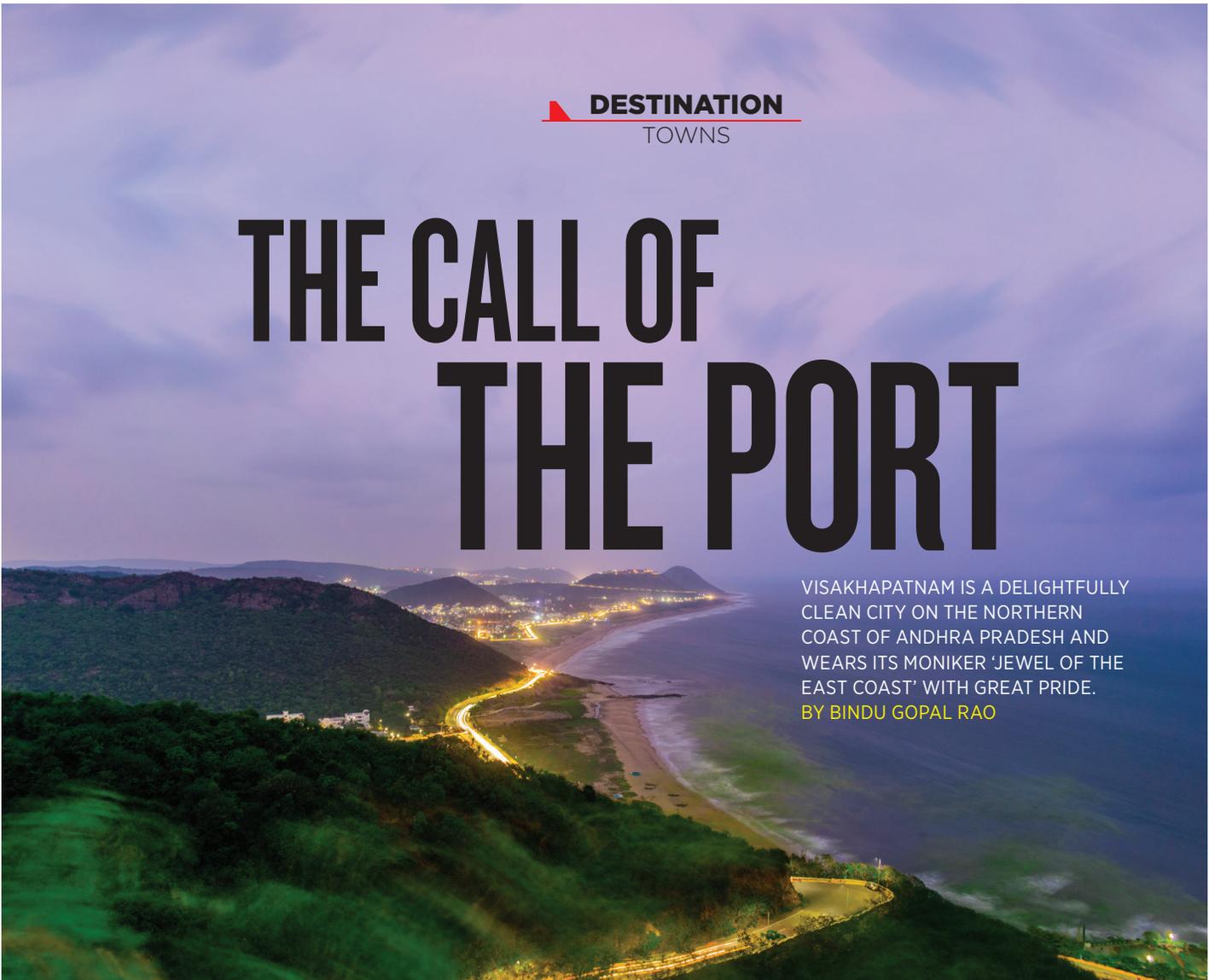


THE CALL OF THE PORT

VISAKHAPATNAM IS A DELIGHTFULLY CLEAN CITY ON THE NORTHERN COAST OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND WEARS ITS MONIKER 'JEWEL OF THE EAST COAST' WITH GREAT PRIDE.
BY BINDU GOPAL RAO



The fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam

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As my car whizzes past on a broad road of Visakhapatnam (popularly known as Vizag), I am a little confused. Well, there is so much street art on the walls flanking either side of the road that I am unsure where to look and what to admire. And this becomes the perfect precursor to explore the many sights and sounds of this shore town. Rajesh Gopalakrishnan, General Manager, Hotel Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach, says, "Vizag is known as the Goa of the East. Many tourists visit the city here for the pristine clean beaches and lovely sights. The market currently is a decent mix of both business and leisure travelers."

With a coastline that stretches over miles, I start my exploration at the Ramkrishna Beach, a favourite with the early morning walkers and joggers. This long beach on the coast of Bay of Bengal is often referred to as a twin beach of the Lawson's Bay Beach 3 km away. The sunsets here are specifically noteworthy so you can time your visit to enjoy the same. Also pay a visit to the Rushikonda Beach roughly 20 km away from the city. It is quieter and smaller. The soft sands of this beach and its location makes for an ideal way to start your day and the spectacular sunrise is a must-see.

Visakhapatnam is well known for hills that surround its many beaches as well as the Dolphin's Nose. This is a large natural rock formation that

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