

VIZAG PORT STEPS IN AS SAVIOR AMID GANGAVARAM DELAYS



In the face of disruptions at Gangavaram Port due to ongoing worker strikes, the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has emerged as a crucial lifeline for stranded vessels, facilitating the berthing of 15 ships carrying 9 lakh tonnes of cargo. The strike, initiated on April 12, has prompted several ships to divert to neighboring ports, causing a ripple effect on industries reliant on uninterrupted supply chains. Notably, the RINL Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, facing the specter of closure due to a halt in imported coking coal supplies, has found reprieve through VPA's assistance. Despite efforts to resolve the labor dispute, talks initiated by the management have failed to reach a consensus on pay parity and wage hikes, prolonging the standoff. With importers and exporters grappling with the impasse, VPA has stepped up, offering berthing solutions and ensuring the continuity of operations for affected industries. RINL, in particular, which heavily depended on Gangavaram Port, has benefited from VPA's support, with four vessels already handled and more expected.

Chairman Dr. M Angamuthu, IAS emphasized VPA's commitment to alleviating crisis situations. Amidst the turmoil, VPA has successfully berthed 15 vessels and is poised to handle more, totaling over 11 lakh tonnes, thus offsetting the cargo handling disruptions at Gangavaram Port.

VPA's proactive role in aiding affected industries has garnered praise from stakeholders, underscoring its capacity to adapt and support critical supply chains during challenging times. With a record cargo handling throughput in FY24, VPA aims to further enhance its capabilities, targeting 90 million tonnes in FY25 through technological advancements and automation.