

VISAKHAPATNAM PORT SETS AMBITIOUS CARGO TARGET

- Some of the cargo is getting shifted to Mulapeta Port to decongest Visakhapatnam Port
- VPA achieves 74.6 MMT cargo till date for the financial year against 90 MMT target
- With improved efficiency and increased volumes, it is set to reach the target soon



A view of Visakhapatnam Port



Deputy Chairperson of VPA Roshni Aparanji Korati

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

FROM the current target of 90-MMT, Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has set an ambitious target of 100-MMT for the 2026-27 financial year which is pretty much close to the port's capacity of 130-MMT. Even as infrastructure enhancement, AI-driven surveillance plus green port initiatives are focused on to boost the capacity and narrow-down turnaround time to accelerate cargo handling, the port is well-placed to surpass the annual cargo handling targets for 2025-26 financial year.

As the berth operators vie to bring in business

volumes, cargo evacuation and berth-handling draws larger attention as well.

"With plans in place to shift parts of cargo business strategically to Mulapeta Port soon, the focus is also on raising the targets and enhancing the efficiency," shared Roshni Aparanji Korati, Deputy Chairperson of VPA.

When asked whether parts of cargo getting shifted to Mulapeta Port mean revenue getting sliced, the Deputy Chairperson assured that some of the cargo from Mulapeta Port too will be handled by the VPA.

"We will also be operating some of the cargo volume here, especially operations and maintenance part

and hence the question of loss of revenue will not arise," informed the Deputy Chairperson. With an initial target of 2 MMT-3 MMT cargo set for Mulapeta Port initially, the cargo volume is set to increase in later years.

Setting ambitious targets, enhancing sustainable operations and reducing carbon emissions, Visakhapatnam Port is marching towards becoming a landlord port by 2030. With the port achieving 74.6 MMT cargo throughput so far for the financial year, the officials exude confidence that another 15.4 MMT is certain to be achieved in a little over 50 days to reach the 90 MMT target.



Rail robocop 'ASC Arjun' aids in nabbing two habitual offenders in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

'Offenders cannot escape 'ASC Arjun' surveillance'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE rail robocop 'ASC Arjun' garners appreciation from various quarters while it's on duty.

Deployed for surveillance and patrolling, ASC Arjun not only detected two suspects at Visakhapatnam railway station, matching their facial recognition with the preloaded data base of criminals, but also alerted the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Soon after Arjun detected two suspects, he alerted the RPF CCTV control room in Visakhapatnam with immediate effect.

Upon receiving the alert, the CCTV staff head constable BS Narayana analysed the live feed and promptly informed the Sub Inspector V.Keerthi Reddy along with the Crime Prevention Detention Squad (CPDS) team of Waltair Division.

The team conducted a co-ordinated check and apprehended a habitual offender, Hadapa Shiva (39) and his associate G Bhanganaru. Both

- ASC Arjun deployed for surveillance and patrolling in railway station
- The robocop aided in nabbing two habitual offenders roaming in station
- A joint interrogation was launched by RPF, GRP and their teams

failed to produce any valid journey tickets and were brought to the RPF for further action.

Further interrogation and verification indicated that both of them are offenders with criminal history registered at Rayagada police station, involving multiple serious offences such as theft, robbery, dacoity, assault, and arms-related cases for over several years.

The apprehension was later informed to GRP Visakhapatnam, and further joint interrogation was conducted by RPF, GRP and

their teams. After detailed enquiry, it was concluded that the suspects had entered the station area without valid authority and were detected at the entry stage itself by the AI-enabled Facial Recognition System of Rail Robocop.

As both offenders were found travelling without tickets, they were dealt with under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1989 (Amended 2003).

The matter was also intimated to Rayagada police for further action. Appreciating the good work of ASC Arjun, Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra mentioned that the incident indicates the outcome of real-time surveillance, especially in a crowded area such as Visakhapatnam railway station that aided in apprehending habitual offenders.

According to police, both Shiva and Bhanganaru came to Vizag to get treated at King George Hospital. During investigation, they mentioned that they gave up crime and are now into fruit business.



District collector MN Harendhira Prasad examining the records during inspection at the Super Bazaar Sub-Registrar's office on Tuesday

Collector stresses on rendering service without any delay

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

DISTRICT collector MN Harendhira Prasad conducted a surprise inspection at the Super Bazaar Sub-Registrar's office here on Tuesday. After thoroughly examining the registration processes, document verification and stamp duty collection procedures, the collector enquired about the services being provided to the public.

Also, the district collec-

tor checked the procedures, methods and regulations followed in the registration process of government and private lands. He instructed the officials to ensure that services are provided in a transparent manner and without any delay.

Further, Harendhira Prasad directed the officials to work adhering to rules without the involvement of mediators and ensure that every applicant receives equal service.

He ordered that any deficiencies in record keeping should be rectified immediately and instructed the officials to pay special attention to the attendance and performance of the staff.

During the visit, the collector interacted with the persons waiting at the office and sought their opinions on the services rendered. District Registrar Upendra, Sub-Registrar Kanakaratnam and other officials were present during the inspection.

TIGER MOVEMENT TRIGGERS ANXIETY IN EG VILLAGES

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

FEAR continues to prevail among residents of several villages in Seethanagaram, Rajanagaram and Rajamahendravaram Rural mandals following the confirmed movement of a tiger in the region. Though forest officials have verified the animal's presence through pugmarks, its exact location remains unknown, leaving both villagers and officials on edge.

The tiger was initially believed to have taken shelter in a banana plantation at Thorredu, which was declared the first shelter zone. However, officials were unable to determine when and how the animal moved out of the area. Despite deploying trap cameras and drone surveillance, forest staff are yet to ascertain the tiger's direction of movement or current hiding place.

Explaining the animal's behaviour, Forest Range Officer N David Raju said tigers are generally solitary and establish their own habitats, largely confining themselves to a defined territory. The tiger currently moving through



Forest staff inspecting tiger's pugmarks in Seethanagaram mandal

the region is estimated to be travelling more than 15 km a day. He said that the predominance of horticulture plantations rather than dense forests in the area may be causing some disorientation for the animal.

According to officials, the tiger's movement is suspected to be towards Venkatanagaram, with the possibility of it crossing the Godavari river to the other side. Tigers, after reaching the age of two or three years, usually separate from their mothers and

venture out to establish their own territory through marking, which can range between 2,000 and 5,000 hectares. They typically rest during the day and prefer to move during the night.

Forest officials said there was a strong possibility that the tiger may return on its own if left undisturbed. They advised people to remain alert in areas where the animal has been sighted but cautioned against creating panic or disturbances.

The tiger is believed to

have moved from Chhattisgarh into the Koyyalagudem area of Eluru district on January 20 and crossed the Godavari River near the Pattiseema project on January 30 to enter East Godavari district. Forest officials installed trap cameras and cages near Chinakondepudi in Seethanagaram mandal to track it. From there, the animal reportedly travelled nearly 15 kms to reach Thorredu, with pugmarks later found up to Venkatanagaram. Beyond a canal

in that area, its trail went cold.

Officials said that despite installing six trap cameras and deploying drones on Monday, no fresh clues were obtained. Around 30 forest personnel and 10 police personnel are currently engaged in search operations. Reports that the tiger had returned to Kolamuru and Gadala areas on Tuesday were dismissed by officials as rumours.

Forest authorities have advised residents of Thorredu and Venkatanagaram and surrounding villages not to venture into fields during early morning and evening hours. They have also urged people to install bright lights around cattle sheds at night and avoid moving alone.

Meanwhile, District Forest Officer V Prabhakar Rao said on Tuesday that the tiger's movement was confirmed in the agricultural fields of Kondepudi village in Seethanagaram mandal. He said continuous patrolling was underway and that pugmarks had been verified. Officials believe the tiger may eventually move towards the Rampachodavaram forest region.

'YSRCP resorting to diversion politics'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

SLAMMING YSRCP for indulging in diversion tactics, Andhra Pradesh BJP president PVN Madhav pointed out that it is highly unacceptable on the part of the Opposition for using 'unparliamentary' language.

After giving a digital presentation under the banner 'Andhra Pradesh rising' on how various sectors derive benefits from the 'Union Budget 2026' and how it is focused on driving growth, Madhav highlighted that the budget is very much in alignment with Andhra Pradesh's progress



Andhra Pradesh BJP president PVN Madhav speaking about the budget in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

path. "People are viewing politics as cheap and lenient and they look down upon YSRCP because of their abusive language and attitude," Madhav stated.

The Andhra Pradesh BJP

president said that the YSRCP leaders are behaving in an unruly manner because they could not stand the progress of the NDA government. "Even as the YSRCP provokes, the party

leaders have to maintain the decorum," he underlined.

Talking about the Union Budget, Madhav termed it as a 'powerhouse for AP'. "After the formation of the NDA government in the

state, industrial growth has become faster. Allocations are made for major projects such as Polavaram with Rs 3,320 crore and Amaravati development with Rs 1,128 crore," he said.

The meeting was attended by BJP state official spokesperson Suhasini Anand, Visakhapatnam parliamentary district president MMN Parasurama Raju, among others.

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