



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 32, 1800 hrs on 26/06/2025

Sinking of MSC ELSA 3 (IMO no. 9123221, Flag Liberia) South West of Kochi

The contents of this SITREP are based on both written and verbal inputs received from the stakeholders

1. Incident Overview:

Refer to SITREP – 6

2. Response Actions Initiated:

Refer to SITREP – 6

3. Present Status:

The offshore response for MSC Elsa 3 is progressing with the replacement guard vessel, Canara Megh, having departed Mumbai and currently en route to Kochi Port. The vessel is expected to arrive on 27th June 2025, after which essential oil spill response equipment will be loaded in coordination with MERC. Following this, Canara Megh will proceed to the wreck site to relieve Nand Saarthi, which continues to maintain guard duties and monitoring operations at the site. Nand Saarthi remains on standby to respond to any new developments until the vessel handover is complete.

SMIT Salvage has been formally appointed as the new contractor for the extraction of oil and wreck removal. The mobilisation of the Diving Support Vessel from Singapore is underway, with its arrival expected around 1st August 2025, subject to favourable weather conditions. Preparations for saturation diving and fuel extraction are ongoing, with operational planning in advanced stages.

Onshore, recovery efforts continue under the MERC framework. A container floating near Alappuzha triggered a coordinated response with both sea and shore teams deployed. So far, 105 intact pellet bags have been recovered from the coastline in that area, with operations continuing as additional debris is expected to wash ashore.

The transport of cleaned plastic pellets (nurdles) from Trivandrum to Kollam Port remains on schedule. As of today, six truckloads have been completed, amounting to

45.567 metric tons transferred to the designated MERC warehouse at Kollam Port. Further transportation operations are planned to continue daily.



4. Situation Assessment:

The salvage and pollution response operations remain in a critical preparatory phase, with offshore oil extraction yet to commence. The arrival of Canara Megh on 28th June 2025 will restore full guard vessel capability at the wreck site, ensuring continuous monitoring and readiness to respond to any contingencies. Until the new Diving Support Vessel arrives and saturation diving begins, interim monitoring and containment measures will remain in place.

Weather conditions remain a key factor, with July expected to present limited workable windows for offshore diving operations. August has been identified as the most suitable period to commence the complex fuel extraction process, with approximately 70% operational workdays projected based on historical weather data. The fishing ban currently in place will be lifted during this period, necessitating coordination with state authorities to establish exclusion zones around the wreck to avoid interference with the salvage operation.

Recovery for debris and nurdle contamination along the Kerala coastline continues; efforts have been effective, with significant volumes of nurdles already transported to

secure storage in Kollam Port. Discussions with Customs, Pollution Control Board, and other agencies are ongoing to finalise long-term disposal, segregation, and recycling mechanisms.

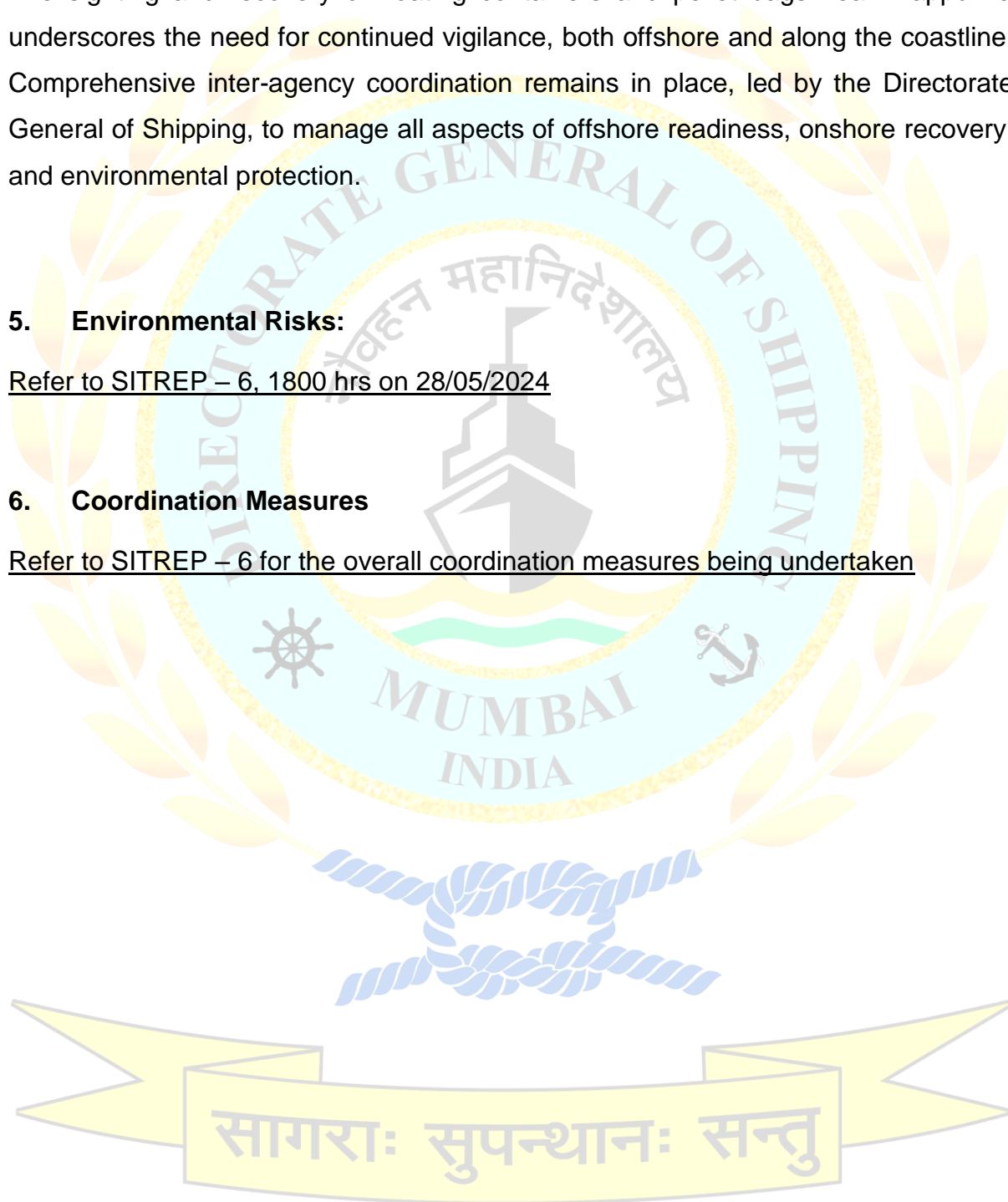
The sighting and recovery of floating containers and pellet bags near Alappuzha underscores the need for continued vigilance, both offshore and along the coastline. Comprehensive inter-agency coordination remains in place, led by the Directorate General of Shipping, to manage all aspects of offshore readiness, onshore recovery, and environmental protection.

5. Environmental Risks:

Refer to SITREP – 6, 1800 hrs on 28/05/2024

6. Coordination Measures

Refer to SITREP – 6 for the overall coordination measures being undertaken



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