



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 31, 1800 hrs on 25/06/2025

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 container salvage operation near Alappuzha continues, with both offshore and shoreline teams mobilized. Despite persistent monitoring throughout the previous night and into the morning, the container itself has not been sighted. However, at approximately 1315 hrs today, the offshore fishing vessel Ann Mary reported floating pellet bags drifting towards the coastline. MERC teams were immediately deployed along the affected shoreline to initiate recovery. As of this report, a total of 64 intact pellet bags have been recovered and safely loaded onto a transport truck by the MERC salvage team. The recovery operation remains active as additional pellet bags continue to wash ashore across multiple locations in the area.

Offshore, Nand Saarthi remains on site near the MSC ELSA 3 wreck, maintaining surveillance under challenging weather conditions. The vessel has reported no significant oil sheen today, though previous light rainbow sheen observed yesterday has naturally dissipated. Canara Megh, chartered by MERC to assume duties from Nand Saarthi, is in transit to Kochi for deployment.

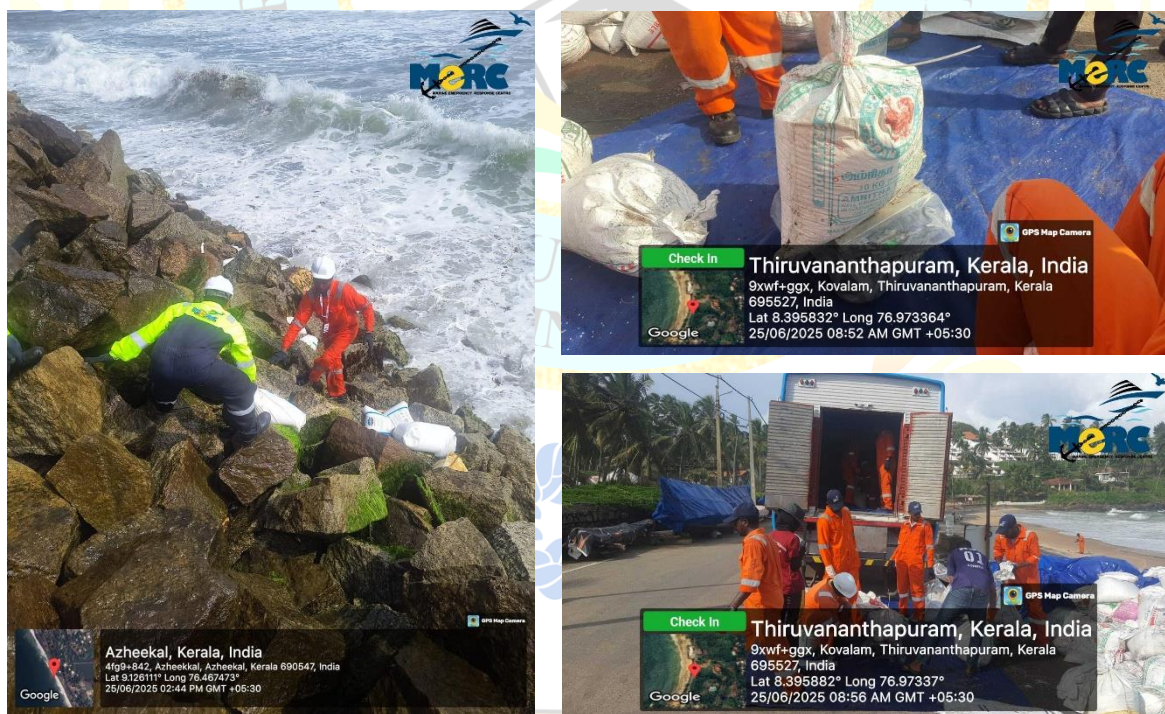
The nurdle transportation operation from Trivandrum to Kollam Port continues in coordination with Customs and Port authorities. The first batch of 18.5 metric tonnes has been successfully transported and secured at the designated MERC warehouse

within Kollam Port. Further transfers are underway as part of the broader environmental mitigation strategy.

MSC is expected to finalise the contract with the newly appointed salvor by the end of the day today. However, the Name of the salvor and the proposed operational timelines are yet to be communicated to the Indian authorities. It was requested that information be shared at the earliest to enable effective coordination.

4. Situation Assessment:

The floating pellet bags recovered today confirm partial loss of cargo from the container last sighted offshore, which is now presumed submerged or disintegrated due to adverse sea conditions. The situation underscores the potential for continued wash-up of nurdles and packaging materials along the coastline in the coming days. Shoreline teams remain actively engaged to mitigate the impact, with systematic monitoring and recovery operations in place.



At sea, while oil spill risk remains contained, isolated instances of non-recoverable, light sheen persist around the wreck site, likely due to residual contaminants in machinery spaces or structural voids. Continuous observation and aerial monitoring by the Indian Coast Guard are ongoing to detect any escalation.

Onshore, the steady but limited volunteer turnout at Trivandrum restricts the pace of shoreline cleanup. Enhanced support from district authorities has been requested to augment manpower and sustain response momentum.

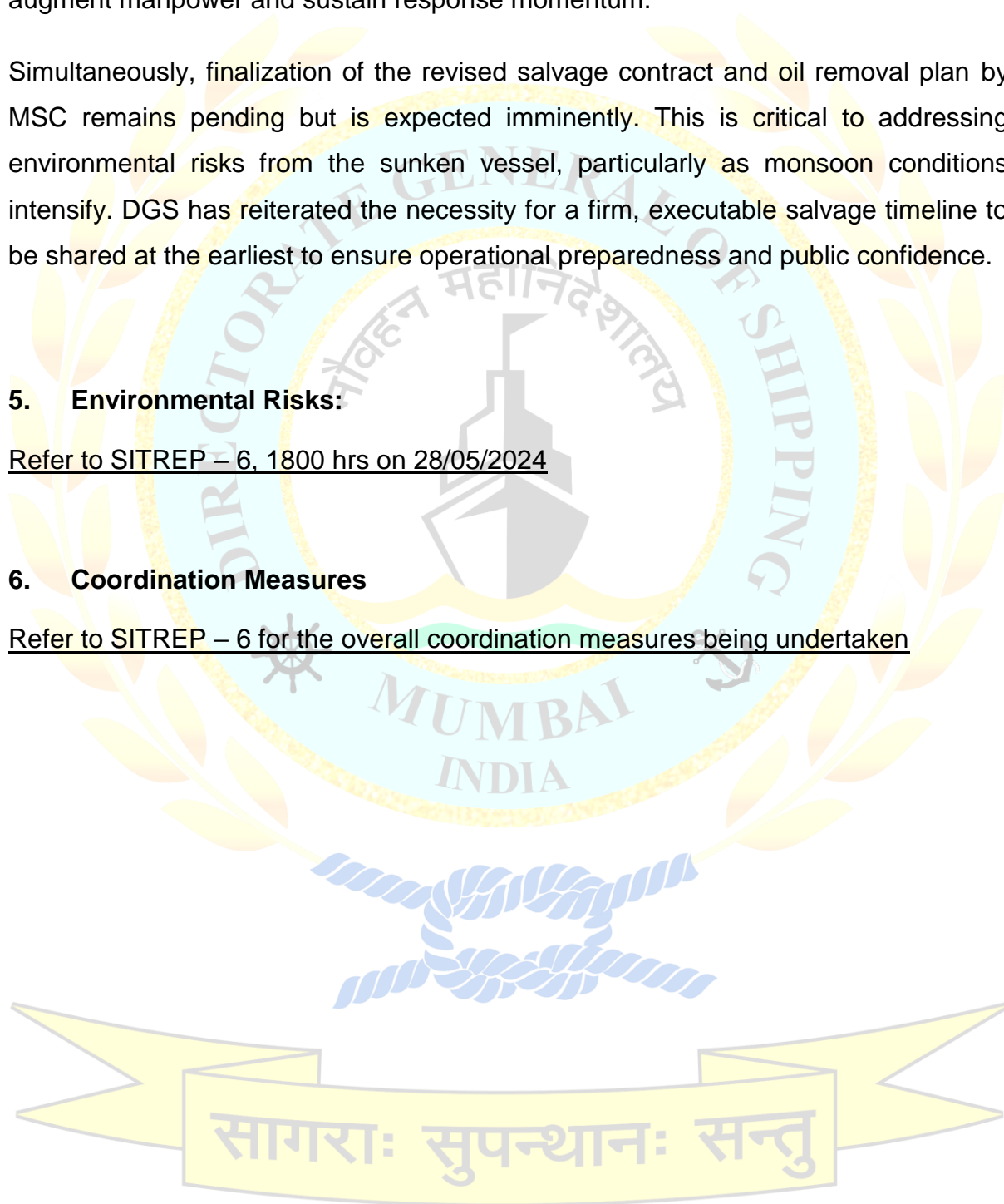
Simultaneously, finalization of the revised salvage contract and oil removal plan by MSC remains pending but is expected imminently. This is critical to addressing environmental risks from the sunken vessel, particularly as monsoon conditions intensify. DGS has reiterated the necessity for a firm, executable salvage timeline to be shared at the earliest to ensure operational preparedness and public confidence.

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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