

**SITREP – 19, 2000 hrs on 10/06/2025**

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

**1. Incident Overview:**

Refer to SITREP – 6

**2. Response Actions Initiated:**

Refer to SITREP – 6

**3. Present Status:**

Air Diving operations from SEAMAC III have entered a stabilised phase. The initial dives focused on clearing underwater obstructions, during which floating mooring lines were located and removed. A leak from the sounding pipe of Fuel Oil Tank 22 was successfully sealed using layered capping comprising plastic and polyester cloth. Separately, a loose cap on another sounding pipe was tightened by divers, and further secured with plastic and polyester bagging, effectively stopping a minor leak. A new case of seepage has been detected from either Main Engine Lube Oil Tank 25 or 26; preparations are underway to carry out sealing procedures.

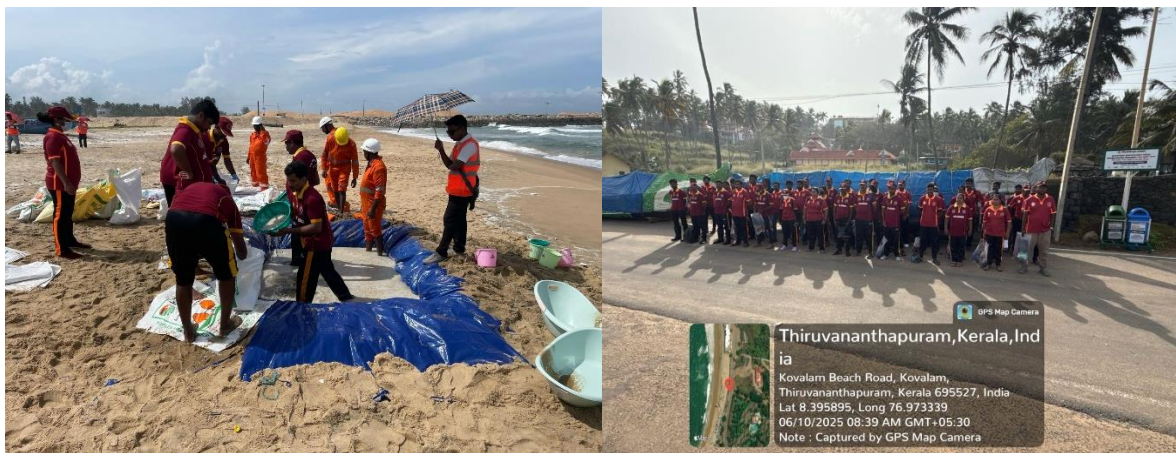


Two DDCs are operational with one live dive station, and diving continues in coordination with the salvage consultant. Twelve divers are currently deployed, with an additional twelve planned to enhance dive rotation and maximise operational efficiency during the available weather window. Accessory logistics and gas supplies are being arranged accordingly.

Offshore support continues with Nand Saarthi operating in proximity to the DSV; Water Lily and Offshore Warrior have been released from site.

Onshore, container salvage continues with 56 containers delivered to port and four more under active recovery. One additional unit remains. A survey is scheduled to verify the status of two containers previously visible near the Kollam stretch.

Meanwhile, MERC and volunteers continue beach cleanup across Trivandrum and Kanyakumari. As of 1500 hrs, volunteer activity at Veli, Perumathura, and Kovalam beaches was completed for the day. MERC team and volunteers came up with the idea of makeshift water bath which is working well.



#### **4. Situation Assessment:**

With the commencement of underwater recovery and capping operations, response efforts have transitioned into a technically intensive phase. Sealing of the sounding pipe from Tank 22 and tightening of another leaking cap mark critical first steps in mitigating oil discharge risks. However, the detection of minor seepage from one of the main lube oil tanks underlines the importance of sustained dive operations. As dive

time per diver is limited to approximately 30 minutes, the proposed scale-up of diving personnel is necessary to meet the operational timeline amidst an increasingly narrow weather window.

Onshore, coordination efforts for nurdle cleanup and storage continue to evolve. The site identified in collaboration with ITOPF for temporary nurdle storage is under formalisation, with movement of accumulated material from the high tide line planned following agreement. Segregation and screening activities are ongoing in Kanyakumari, while a vacuum cleaning unit, identified for beach use, is under evaluation. Deployment will depend on the outcome of the trial coordinated by KSDMA and ITOPF.

The risk of containers from other maritime incidents reaching shore remains active, and MERC has been advised to stay on alert. Additionally, air cargo containing saturation diving gear is expected within the next 48 hours, which will be critical for transitioning into the next phase of underwater recovery. Inter-agency coordination remains strong, with all stakeholders reinforcing their commitment to maintaining operational tempo under prevailing constraints. The Oil removal from ELSA 3 can essentially begin only when the saturation diving with required equipment and gear commences.

## **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