

## SITREP – 10, 1800 hrs on 01/06/2025

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

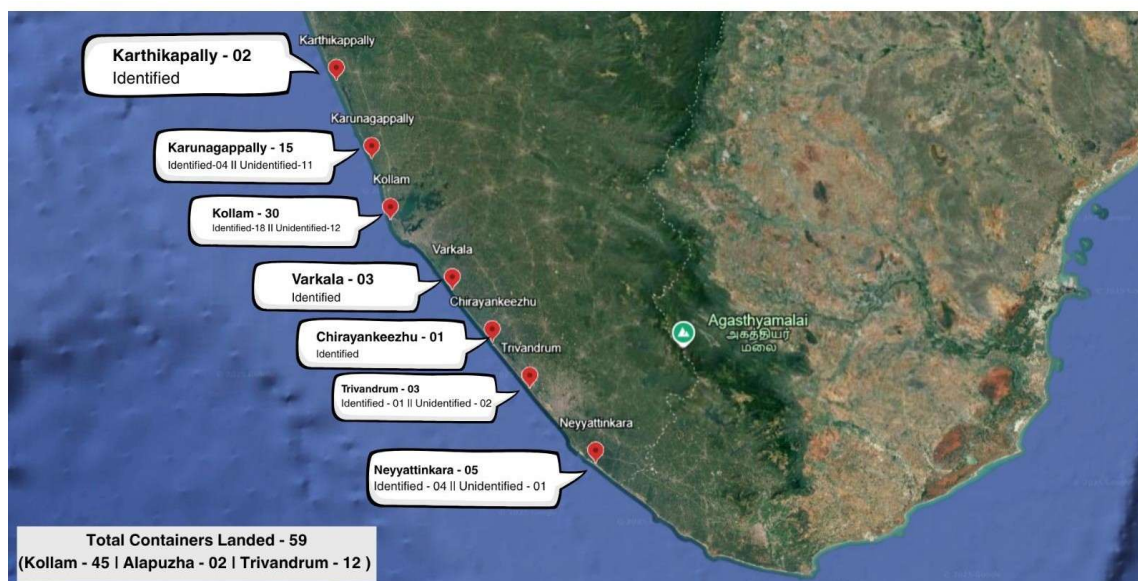
#### 1. Incident Overview:

Refer to SITREP – 8

#### 2. Response Actions Initiated:

Refer to SITREP – 6

#### 3. Present Status:



*Figure 1: Containers recovered on the Coastline and adrift*

A total of 59 beached containers have been identified by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority along a 120 km coastal stretch, with personnel being mobilized accordingly. Plan of Action of for the salvor's team on 31/05/2025 for Kollam:

The container tracking effort has been streamlined into two master sheets jointly maintained by MERC and DMA, reflecting real-time status—green for containers landed at port, and blue for those located but yet to be recovered. Seventeen intact containers are under recovery, with 18 already dispatched to port, while some unidentified debris likely belongs to damaged units.



ETV Water Lily is currently in Kochi for gear loading and is being fitted with a multibeam survey system to begin seabed mapping for container debris. SEAMAC III remains in mobilization phase, arranging for salvage consultants and divers, including saturation divers from South Africa, whose documentation is being processed. MSC is facilitating customs and immigration clearances for personnel and equipment in coordination with MERC and T&T.

Onsite, oil response operations continue. Nand Saarthi reported scattered sheen south of the wreck and is equipped with absorbent booms. Ocean Warrior is sweeping an area 10 NM south and 3 NM east of the site and is encountering light oil, managed using booms and propeller wash.

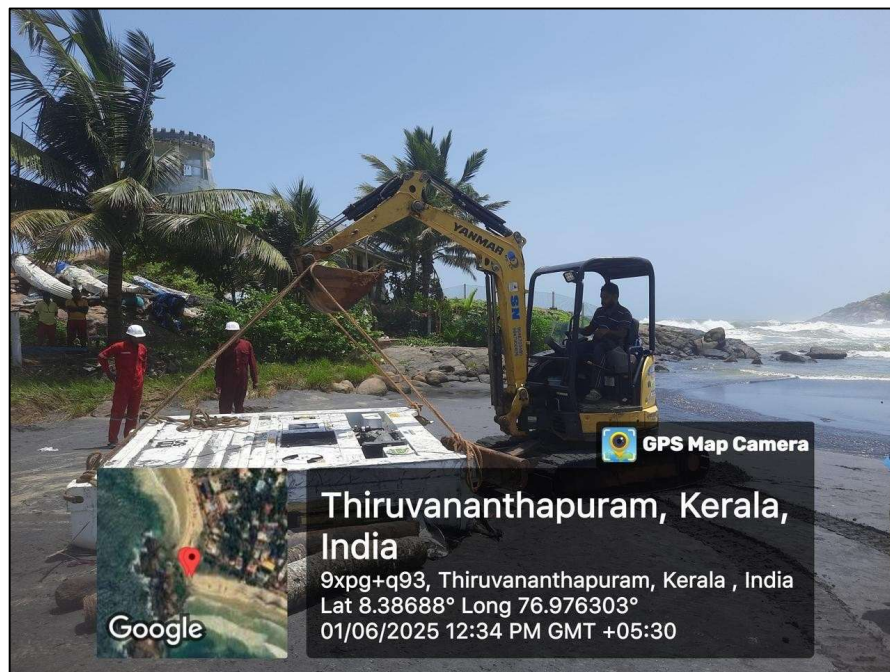
In Alleppey, containment efforts are challenged by recurring opening of floodgates, which has caused boom failure. The District Collector is engaged, with OSG and booms kept ready at the seafront for emergency deployment. Current direction is to keep the boom on standby to ensure rapid response if needed.

At the administrative level, MSC continues to coordinate expeditious documentation and clearance of recovered cargo and equipment. Hazardous materials are being

redirected to an authorized waste facility with PCB handling collection and transport. While oil samples have been taken by PCB, analysis results are still awaited.

#### 4. Additional Support:

Recovery of nurdles continues on multiple coastal fronts. On the Trivandrum side, the state government is in discussions to deploy volunteers for clean-up operations, with a formal plan expected by tomorrow. In Kollam, the MERC team, supported by local NGOs coordinated by the District Collector, is leading the nurdle recovery. However, these volunteer teams can be used effectively for only 2–3 days unless a fee-based structure is put in place, which is currently under consideration.



On the Kanyakumari coastline, recovery efforts are being supported by ITOPF. Only one container has been identified in the region, which has been loaded and transported to customs. Further surveillance and cleanup of nurdles and debris along this coastline is ongoing. The region continues to be monitored for any signs of residual cargo wash-up or contamination.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) remains the designated on-scene commander and continues to oversee the operational status of the vessels Nand Saarthi and Ocean Warrior. Aerial reconnaissance missions are being flown daily to monitor the spread of oil sheens and identify high-priority areas for intervention. Oil dispersant (OSD) has

been applied—200 litres were spread and agitated during the most recent operation. These activities are in response to the largest oil sheen reported since the initial incident, extending approximately 8 NM in length and 2.5 NM in width.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' research vessel Sagar Sampada, which had previously conducted a hydrographic survey in the area, is expected to arrive at the site tomorrow. The vessel will conduct on-site oil sampling, providing critical scientific data to assess environmental impacts and compare with historic data sets. The ICG will coordinate with the Ministry to facilitate sampling and ensure the data is shared appropriately for follow-up actions.

## **5. Situation Assessment:**

The situation at the wreck site remains fluid, with recurring oil sheens observed near the vessel's last known position—the largest spanning 8 NM by 2.5 NM west of the datum. The upcoming multibeam survey by the ETV is expected to shed light on submerged debris contributing to the pollution.

Environmental challenges, particularly near Alleppey, continue to disrupt containment. Booms have repeatedly failed due to tidal movements and floodgate operations. As mechanical measures remain unstable, containment gear is being held in readiness for rapid deployment.

Shoreline cleanup efforts are awaiting clearer direction from state and district authorities, with volunteer deployment plans likely to be finalized within 24 hours. Given sustainability concerns, a structured approach with compensation may be necessary to maintain manpower.

Container recovery is underway, with 17 intact units being retrieved and 18 landed, though some debris remains unverified—highlighting the need for stronger tagging and tracking systems.

Favourable weather currently allows for continued survey and recovery operations, but this window may close rapidly. Priority tasks must be accelerated over the next 48–72 hours.

Strategic coordination remains key. Hazard zone marking around the wreck must be finalized with DGLL to ensure maritime safety until full wreck removal. Clarity on PCB's oil sample analysis and reporting is also essential to guide informed decisions.

## 6. Environmental Risks:

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

## 7. Coordination Measures

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

### Annexure 1

Containers List 31-05-2025 , 6.00 pm				
Sl No	District	Taluk	Container Details	No.of containers
1	Kollam	Kollam	Unidentified	12
2	Kollam	Karunagappally	Unidentified	11
3	Kollam	Kollam	Identified	18
4	Kollam	Karunagappally	Identified	4
5	Alappuzha	Karthikappally	Identified	2
6	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	Identified	1
7	Trivandrum	Varkkala	Identified	3
8	Trivandrum	Neyyattinkara	Identified	4
9	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	Unidentified	2
10	Trivandrum	Chirayankeezhu	Identified	1
12	Trivandrum	Neyyattinkara	Unidentified	1
Total Containers landed				59
Kerala State Disaster Management Authority				