

SITREP – 7, 1900 hrs on 29/05/2025

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:



Figure 1: Containers recovered on the Coastline and adrift

A total of 56 beached containers have been identified by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority along a 120 km coastal stretch, with personnel being mobilized accordingly. The salvors have identified multiple containers on the shore. Around 45 containers have been identified in Kollam alone, with the possibility of more in the Trivandrum area. Of these, 23 have been recovered, while the rest remain pending due to challenging access points. The salvage team anticipates 5–7 more days to

complete recovery, subject to weather and terrain constraints. Some containers have broken in to multiple parts. Surveys are being conducted to verify data, with expected completion in 2–3 days.

In Trivandrum, 9 containers have been removed. Due to safety issues, reefer containers cannot be gas cut (due to foam lagging inside the container) necessitating the use of cold cutting techniques. A detailed DPR and location-wise removal plan are under preparation, and one responsible officer has been designated per container to monitor the process.

Salvors have completed boom deployment at Kottapalli as a precautionary measure. Though no oil slick is present, the sensitive nature of the area necessitated preventive steps. Meanwhile, a multibeam survey of the wreck site has been initiated using Tug 'Ocean Pioneer' at 1800 hours and is expected to produce critical insights within a few hours.

The shifting of fabric rolls from container was initiated at Alappadu Village. The operation is being conducted in the presence of customs authorities, and the rolls will be transported to Kollam Port under customs surveillance.



Figure 2: Shifting of fabric rolls from container was initiated at Alappadu Village



Figure 3: Shifting of fabric rolls from container was initiated at Alappadu Village

Activation of divers is being pressed upon by the stakeholders for plugging the source of oil from the vessel, however, action is awaited due to the pendency of multibeam survey. ROV deployment for the survey of the vessel is also being pushed by the DGS to salvors. Exploration for platform-based ROV use is ongoing and salvors are also exploring the possibility of engaging a DSV post multi beam survey.

4. Additional Support:

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) continues to maintain an active presence as the primary first responder. Despite the delay in full deployment of the salvor's assets, ICG vessels are providing critical support and remain operational. The ICG has also been engaged in discussions on diving operations and has suggested waiting for the multibeam survey results before proceeding further. They estimate a minimum water column depth of 25 meters and stress the need for precise survey data to proceed with plugging operations.

The local government and district administrations have engaged volunteer for cleanup activities in Trivandrum. In Kanyakumari, preparations for nurdle cleanup have been

initiated in consultation with the TNDMA and the district collector. Teams are en route to commence field activities.

The customs department is also fully engaged. All recovered cargo is to be routed through Kollam and Vizhinjam Port under their supervision. Discussions are ongoing regarding the separation and processing of nurdles from sand and subsequent handover to customs.

Environmental safety measures are under assessment with expert input from ITOPF. Initial findings suggest high dispersion rates and low toxicity of leaked material; however, a written report confirming these observations is awaited for submission to the state government.

5. Situation Assessment:

The delay in receiving the multibeam survey results has affected downstream actions, such as deployment of ROVs and DSVs. However, preparations are underway, and assets stand ready to be mobilized upon receipt of the survey data.

The plugging of oil remains a major concern due to the potential environmental hazards. The possibility of using NIOC's ROV was conveyed by ICG to the salvors. However, the urgency of mobilizing salvage assets to relieve ICG resources has been emphasized to the salvors.

Each agency engaged on ground has been asked to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) capturing their respective areas of responsibility by end of each day. Clarity is expected once the multibeam survey results are available, enabling a more decisive course of action, particularly for oil containment and submerged container salvage.

Light oil continues to ooze out from the wreck site producing an oil sheen which is being tackled by the ICG surface assets by using oil dispersants and surface action for dispersion.

6. Environmental Risks:

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

7. Coordination Measures

A series of coordination meetings since the 24th of May 2025, chaired by DG Shipping with participation from ICG, IFC-IOR, MSC, T&T Salvage, P&I Club, ITOPF, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), port authorities, and state agencies, [and, on 28.05.2025 a meeting was convened in hybrid mode under the chairmanship of the Director General of Shipping, with the presence of state authorities in Kochi, focused on streamlining the response to the MSC Elsa 3 incident. Key directives are focused on mobilisation of salvors for salvage of containers that are ashore as well as adrift, and the plan for pollution mitigation, and regular six-hourly updates from the shipowner.](#)

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

Annexure 1

List of Containers received as on 05.30 PM 29-05-2025						
Sl No	As on date	CntrNo	Location	District	Taluk	Village
1	26-05-2025	MSDU 989325	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
2	26-05-2025	MSDU 979456	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
3	26-05-2025	GESU 9440828	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
4	26-05-2025	MSDU 979360	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
5	26-05-2025	OTPU 656931	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
6	26-05-2025	MSMU 878568	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
7	26-05-2025	STNU 812782	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
8	26-05-2025	MSDU 979216	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
9	26-05-2025	Unidentified	KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
10	26-05-2025	TUSU 927326	PANDARATHURUTHU	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
11	26-05-2025	FFAU250567	NORTH SIDE OF KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
12	26-05-2025	Unidentified	NORTH SIDE OF KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
13	26-05-2025	Unidentified	NORTH SIDE OF KAKKATHOPE CHURCH	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
14	26-05-2025	MEDU 961472	SAKTHIKULANGARA HARBOUR	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
15	26-05-2025	MEDU 979785	SAKTHIKULANGARA HARBOUR	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
16	26-05-2025	Unidentified	SAKTHIKULANGARA HARBOUR	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
17	26-05-2025	MSDU 979225	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
18	26-05-2025	MEDU 966059	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
19	26-05-2025	MSDU 979383	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
20	26-05-2025	MSDU 979807	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
21	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
22	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
23	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
24	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
25	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
26	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PARIMANAM	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
27	26-05-2025	Unidentified	PUTHENTHURA	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
28	26-05-2025	Unidentified	CHERIYAZHEEKAL	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Alappad
29	26-05-2025	Unidentified	CHERIYAZHEEKAL	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Alappad
30	27-05-2025	MEDU 351226	KOLLAM BEACH	Kollam	Kollam	Mundakkal
31	27-05-2025	TGBU 6376120	Mukkom Beach	Kollam	Kollam	Mayyanad
32	27-05-2025	Unidentified	MUNDAKKAL PAPANASAM BEACH	Kollam	Kollam	Mundakkal
33	27-05-2025	FTAU 151811	Thekkumbhagom Beach	Kollam	Kollam	Kottappuram
34	27-05-2025	TRHU 685079	KOLLAM PORT	Kollam	Kollam	Mundakkal
35	27-05-2025	MSMU4989838	OZHUKUTHODE	Kollam	Kollam	Kollam West
36	27-05-2025	Unidentified	OZHUKUTHODE	Kollam	Kollam	Kollam West
37	27-05-2025	Unidentified	OZHUKUTHODE	Kollam	Kollam	Kollam West
38	27-05-2025	Unidentified	MATSYAFED HACHERY	Kollam	Kollam	Sakthikulangara
39	27-05-2025	Unidentified	Tirumullavaram St Sebastian Church	Kollam	Kollam	Kollam West
40	27-05-2025	Unidentified	Tirumullavaram Temple	Kollam	Kollam	Kollam West
41	27-05-2025	SEGU9180638	Tirumullavaram Temple	Kollam	Kollam	Kollam West
42	27-05-2025	MSDU9799752	ANCHUTHENGU	THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	CHIRAYENKEEZHU	Anjuthengu
43	27-05-2025	MSDU6902759	At VSSC, South thumba	Thiruvananthapuram	Thiruvananthapuram	attipra
44	27-05-2025	MSDU6902609	Back of Manthara Temple, Ward No 14	Thiruvananthapuram	Varkala	Edava
45	27-05-2025	MSCU3627900	vettor - cherruniyoor	Thiruvananthapuram	Varkala	
46	27-05-2025	UETU6084398	Hindustan Bijli Road, Varkala Papanasham, Ward No 28	Thiruvananthapuram	Varkala	Varkala
47	26-05-2025	TGBU7867133	Alappuzha Tharayil kadavu Taluk :Karthikapally Panchyt : Arattupuzha Village : Arattupuzha Ward no 7	Alappuzha	Karthikapally	Arattupuzha
48	26-05-2025	FSCU9885968	Alappuzha Tharayil kadavu Taluk :Karthikapally Panchyt : Arattupuzha Village : Arattupuzha Ward no 7	Alappuzha	Karthikapally	Arattupuzha
49	28-05-2025	Unidentified	KARITHURA	Kollam	Karunagappaly	Neendakara
50	28-05-2025	Unidentified	Garfil Nagar & West of Kottoor Church	Kollam	Kollam	Eravipuram
51	28-05-2025	MSDU6901460	Poovar, opposite to poovar coastal police	Thiruvananthapuram	neyattinkara	poovar
52	28-05-2025	MSNU2417647	Kallumukku, Ward No 7	Thiruvananthapuram	Neyattinkara	Karumkulam
53	27-05-2025	unidentified	At VSSC, South thumba	Thiruvananthapuram	Thiruvananthapuram	attipra
54	28-05-2025	MSMU5243355	Poovar, opposite to poovar coastal police station, ward no 8	Thiruvananthapuram	neyattinkara	poovar
55	29-05-2025	unidentified	Backside of seaport, vizhinjam	Neyattinkara	Thiruvananthapuram corporation	Vizhinjam
56	29-05-2025	unidentified	St andrews church kazhakottam	Thiruvananthapuram	Kadinamkulam	Menamkulam