



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 40, 1800 hrs on 1/07/2025

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:

As of 16 July 2025, with active coordination of the Directorate General of Shipping and MERC the activities continue to progress. A significant development pertains to the mobilisation of the Diving Support Vessel (DSV), a DP2-class vessel equipped with a full saturation diving system. The vessel is scheduled to depart Singapore on 24 July 2025 and proceed directly to the MSC ELSA 3 wreck site, approximately 14 nautical miles off the Kerala coast, without making a port call in India. Onboard operations, including hot tapping and oil recovery from the sunken vessel, are expected to commence immediately upon arrival at the site.

An official communication has been received from the salvage team confirming the mobilisation plan and requesting assistance in informing the concerned state authorities. DG Shipping has taken note and is facilitating coordination to ensure the SMIT/MERC/BMC team receives the necessary support from local agencies to enable seamless operations during this critical next phase.

Onshore, the nurdle recovery and transportation effort continues to yield significant results. The cumulative weight of nurdles recovered across Thiruvananthapuram, Kanyakumari, Rameshwaram, and Kollam districts now stands at approximately 540.248 metric tons. Of this, 250.129 metric tons have been segregated and moved to designated warehouses. This effort has been made possible through the combined

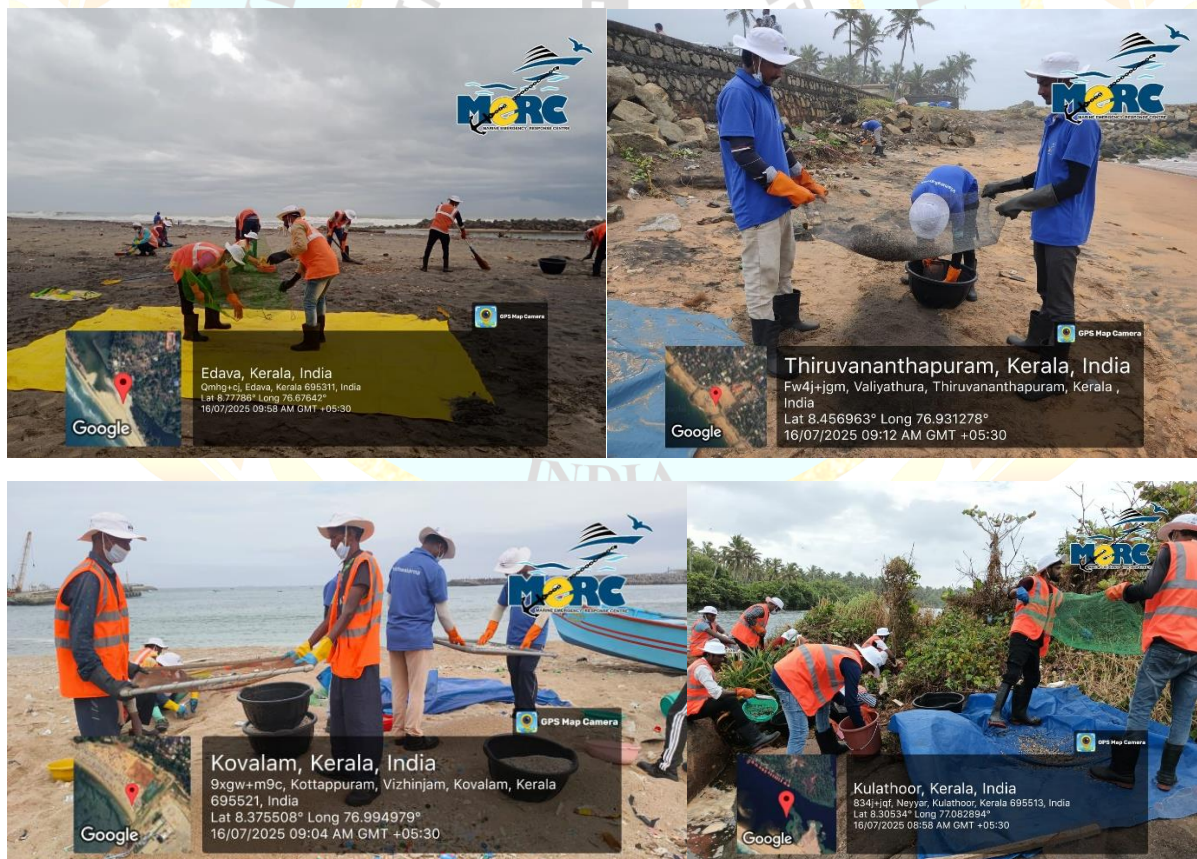
manpower of 475 volunteers and 578 MERC personnel, with major contributions from the Trivandrum site, where volunteer mobilisation remains active.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NURDLE WEIGHT RECOVERY FOR DG SHIPPING



Sl. No.	Date	Location	Segregated (Kg)	Non-Segregated (Kg)	Segregated and Transported to Warehouse (Kg)	Total (Kg)	No. of Volunteers	No. of MERC personnel
1		Thiruvananthapuram	26,295	1,88,040	1,78,119		475	328
2		Kanyakumari	570	1,940	31,425		0	77
3		Rameshwaram	0	73,274	6,875		0	113
4		Kollam	0	0	33,710		0	60
			26,865	2,63,254	2,50,129	5,40,248	475	578

Figure 1: Detailed volunteer deployment and nurdles recovery as on 16.07.2025



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Figure 2: Cleanup Operations in Kerala

4. Situation Assessment:

The mobilisation of DSV marks a transition into the offshore oil recovery phase of the MSC ELSA 3 incident response. As the wreck lies beyond the territorial waters of Kerala, no port entry is planned, and the vessel is expected to operate entirely

offshore. Relevant state and port authorities are being informed to ensure that the salvage team can proceed without procedural delays or hindrances. Close coordination with customs and immigration authorities has been initiated in anticipation of any remote clearance requirements for equipment or personnel.

Onshore operations remain stable but resource-intensive. Nurdle recovery has now crossed the approximate 540-ton mark. The MERC-led logistics chain for sorting, bagging, and transporting pellets to the Kollam warehouse is functioning efficiently. However, volunteer mobilisation in districts such as Kanyakumari and Rameshwaram remains low, highlighting the need for continued support from local administrations. Trivandrum continues to be the focal point of activity, both in terms of recovery volume and personnel engagement.

With the arrival of DSV and commencement of saturation diving operations imminent, inter-agency readiness and operational synchronisation remain critical. The overall response system remains on high alert, with DG Shipping overseeing the transition into full-scale offshore salvage and oil removal.

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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