



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 21, 1800 Hrs on 28/06/2025

Explosion on WAN HAI 503 (IMO no – 9294862, Flag Singapore) West of Kerala

The contents of this SITREP are based on both written and verbal inputs received from the stakeholders

1. Incident Overview:

Refer to SITREP – 2, 2200 hrs on 09/06/2025

2. Response Actions Initiated:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

3. Present Status:

The vessel WAN HAI 503 continues its towage operation towards exiting the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As of 1200 hrs on 28 June 2025, the vessel was located at position 08° 34.86'N, 074° 22.43'E, approximately 129 nautical miles from the Indian coastline, proceeding on a southerly course at a speed of 2.9 knots.

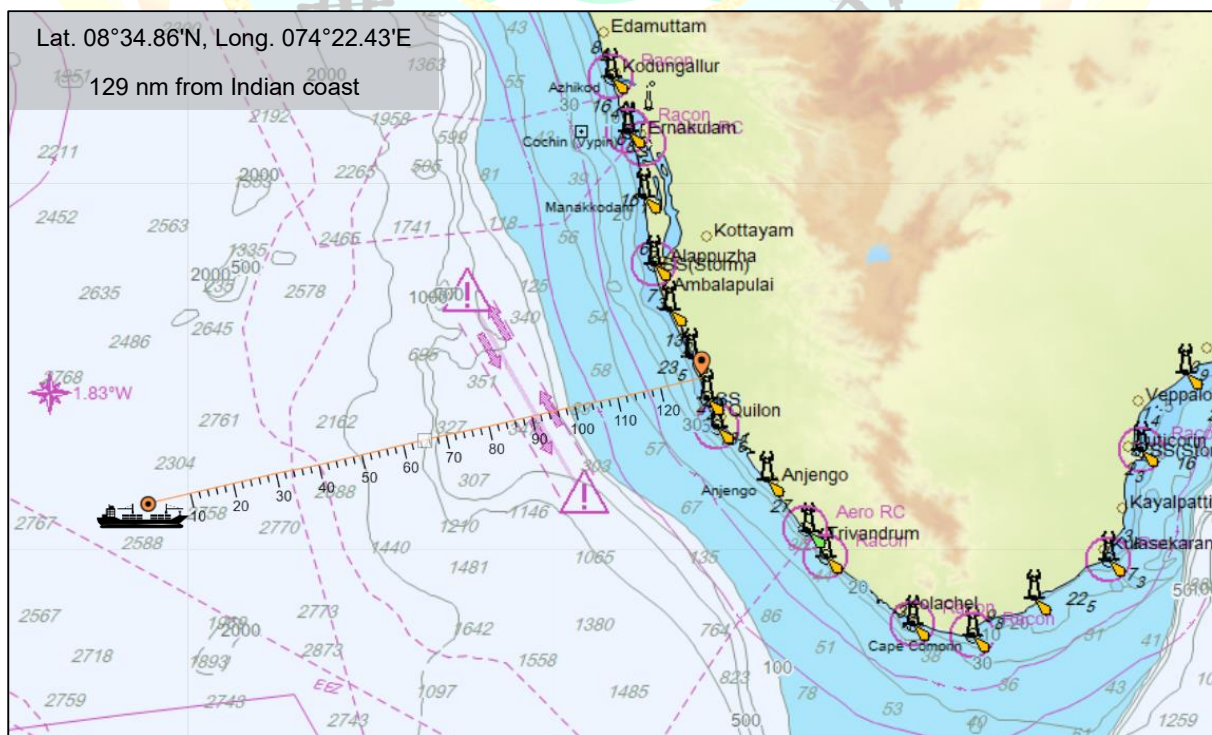


Figure 1: Position of WAN HAI 503 as on 28.06.2025 1200 hrs

Offshore Warrior remains engaged in towing the vessel with approximately 54 nautical miles remaining to exit the Indian EEZ. The vessel continues to experience moderate to rough sea conditions with winds ranging from 25 to 28 knots, gusting up to 42 knots during squalls.

On-board conditions remain challenging. Cargo Hold No. 4 continues to emit mixed smoke, with intermittent flare-ups observed. Thermal imaging conducted by Saksham indicates persistent elevated temperatures within Hold No. 4, particularly in areas affected by collapsed containers and compromised deck hatches. As of now, direct access to the casualty by salvage personnel remains limited due to heavy rolling, pitching, and prevailing swells. A salvage team transfer attempt by Saksham was aborted earlier today due to unsafe conditions.

Firefighting operations are ongoing with Saroja Blessings maintaining boundary cooling and fire watch. The salvage team has confirmed that approximately 500 to 800 cubic metres of water have been pumped out of the flooded engine room using portable equipment. Further dewatering is subject to improved weather and safe boarding conditions.

4. Additional Support

Tug Offshore Warrior continues to maintain towing operations despite experiencing significant rolling and pitching due to the long swells. Two soft towlines remain in place for the casualty, with replacement by wire towlines pending a suitable weather window. The vessel's draft remains largely unchanged, with portions of the port midship markings obscured, likely due to paint peeling in the fire-affected areas.

The salvage team on site remains equipped with FiFi systems, portable pumps, and firefighting resources. Atlantis Virgo, carrying Pyrocool fire suppressant, is expected to arrive on site by 30 June 2025 to support targeted firefighting efforts. Water Lily has been tasked with logistical runs for fresh water, bunkers, and is also transporting the ship's VDR to port for handover to the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) Kochi.

The Indian Coast Guard has been actively supporting the operation with aerial surveillance from Kochi and has mobilised ICGS Sujit to assist with medical

evacuation for salvage divers suffering from seasickness and exhaustion. The salvage logistics base is being shifted to Trivandrum to facilitate easier support as the vessel progresses southward.

5. Situation Assessment:

The vessel remains in a structurally compromised but stable condition, with primary risks stemming from the persistent smouldering fire in Cargo Hold No. 4, the residual flooding within the engine room, and unpredictable weather patterns. High winds and swells have severely limited boarding operations, complicating firefighting and dewatering efforts. The exposed opening on the forward section of Cargo Hold No. 4 continues to channel airflow into the hold, exacerbating flare-ups and making containment difficult.



Figure 2: Condition of the vessel on 28 June 2025

The ongoing boundary cooling remains the primary fire mitigation strategy, with additional efforts to initiate dewatering of the engine room using available portable equipment. CO₂ has been released in Hold No. 5 using 126 cylinders from the CO₂ Bank.

Efforts are underway to secure a Port of Refuge, pending formal clearance. The vessel is expected to exit the Indian EEZ within the next 24 hours, after which only routine updates to MPA Singapore will continue unless further Indian support is requested.

The situation remains dynamic, with priority actions focusing on continued towage beyond the EEZ, enhanced fire suppression upon Virgo's arrival, safe dewatering of the engine room, and securing approval for port shelter. All agencies remain on high alert to ensure the situation does not escalate further.

6. Navigational Hazards:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

7. Coordination Measures:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

8. Cargo Assessment:

Refer to SITREP – 3, 2200 hrs on 10/06/2025

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