

## **OIL SPILL OFF GOPALPUR BY MV MALAVIKA**



Merchant Vessel MV Malavika, a Cyprus registered bulk carrier carrying 50,000 tons of coking coal from Indonesia was anchored off Gopalpur, a minor port administered by the State Government of Orissa. At 1600 hrs, on 12 Apr 10 the barge SNEH IV while manoeuvring to come alongside the ship, banged the ships starboard side leading to a rupture of starboard fuel tank at an height of 4.5 metres above the waterline. As a result of 0.5 metre crack to the fuel tank, the heavy fuel oil escaped. The Ship operator, Ms Essar Shipping Pvt, Ltd Mumbai informed to Coast Guard Headquarter on same day. Coast Guard Ship Sangram was diverted to area to ascertain extent of spill and continuous monitoring of the slick by Coast Guard Aircraft/Helo was initiated. Communication with Coastal State Authority for shoreline protection measures also made. The Coast Guard Regional Headquarter (East) has rendered all necessary assistance to the port and the State Government and provides expert advice for shoreline cleanup measures.