

23rd NATIONAL OIL SPILL DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLAN AND PREPAREDNESS MEETING

23rd National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) and preparedness meeting was held at Narayani Heights, Gandhinagar on 02 Aug 18. The meeting was chaired by the Director General Rajendra Singh, PTM, TM, Director General Indian Coast Guard, Chairman NOS-DCP. The meeting was attended by 86 representatives from various Ministries, Central Govt. Organisations, Coastal States & Union Territories, Major & non Major Ports, Oil Handling Agencies and Oil Installations onshore.



2. During the inaugural address, Chairman NOS-DCP highlighted importance of ocean and its contributions to the mankind. He emphasized that preservation and protection of the marine environment is an in-alienable duty on us by our international treaty obligations, our constitution as well as our respective charters. The NOS-DCP meeting facilitates an opportunity to revisit our readiness in meeting contingencies, sharing of experience and decision making for future endeavors.



3. The Chairman highlighted incidents w.r.t. oil spill from MV Jifro Neftis off Mumbai, fire onboard MT Genessa in Gulf of Kutch and grounding of MV SSL Kolkata South of Dalhousie Island, Kolkata bringing out the effective coordination amongst the stakeholders for preservation of marine environment. He also brought out grounding of MV Panamax-04 off Dhamra port and sinking of OSV SCI Ratna.

4. The Chairman appreciated the efforts and contribution of statutory authorities, major ports and Oil Handling Agencies (OHAs) for their support in conducting joint inspection 2017 for readiness in meeting Tier-I response by major ports and OHAs.



5. Emphasis was also laid on Government policies towards marine environment and developments in the marine sector. He highlighted that enhanced vigil and higher degree of readiness of all the stakeholders is the need of the hour for promoting national growth.

6. It was brought out that training and exercises for implementation and updating of contingency plan is an ongoing process. In addition to national level exercise, Coast Guard has scheduled more comprehensive regional level exercises, one each in Andaman & Nicobar, Western and Eastern Seaboard. The regional level exercise is conducted by developing realistic spill scenario using bio-degradable material in lieu of oil.

7. The Chairman also apprised the stakeholders, regarding recent Cabinet decision making Coast Guard as the competent authority to deal with Oil and Chemical Spill under the South Asian Seas Environment Programme MoU,



which covers the waters of India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

8. In the end, the Chairman appreciated the efforts of all maritime stakeholders and their contribution towards 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. He also drew attention towards India hosting the World Environment Day on 05 Jun 18

with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution', which is the testimony of the growing concern and the need for urgently in addressing the issue.

9. The inaugural address was followed by an overview of NOS-DCP activities since the last meeting held in 10 Aug 2017 by Commandant Bhim Singh Kothari, Director (Environment).



Three presentations namely "Preparedness of Reliance Industries Limited in combating oil and chemical spills" by Capt Rakesh Rawat, Reliance Industries Limited, Sikka Jamnagar, "Preparedness of VOC Port in combating oil and chemical spills" by



Capt. Milton.Y.N, Harbour Master, VOC Port Trust, Tuticorin and "Preparedness for coastline cleanup during an oil and chemical spill incident" by Dr. YB



Sontakke, Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai were delivered as part of mutual sharing of expertise among the stakeholders .

10. During the meeting, Chairman NOS-DCP awarded National Marine Environment Protection Certificates to Capt. T Srinivas, Deputy Conservator, Deendayal Port Trust and Capt. Sansarchandra Chaube, Associate Vice President, APSEZ, Mundra Port for their contribution in successfully extinguishing fire onboard MV Genessa, thereby preventing oil spill and preserving the marine environment. He also awarded 'Samudri Paryaavaran Sanrakshan Trophy' to New Mangalore Port for their outstanding contribution in preserving environment and adopting environment friendly measures.

