

PRESS BRIEF

SAR OPERATION FOR MISSING PAKISTANI PERSONNEL

1. At about 2030 hrs on 09 Apr 17, request was received by Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Mumbai from the Headquarters Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) seeking assistance regarding one speed boat of PMSA along with six crew which went missing while on routine patrol off IMBL. The reported position was 59 n miles West of Jakhau (23deg 12 min N, 067deg 39min E) and 04 n miles inside Pakistan waters.
2. Immediately, ICG ships on patrol were informed to enhance vigil and keep a sharp lookout for the survivors expected to drift into Indian waters. ICGS Ankit, which was patrolling in area, was diverted for SAR. Further, ICGS Samrat and ICGS Arinjay joined the SAR operation AM 10 Apr 17 to augment the efforts. Additionally, one ICG Dornier along with an Advanced Light Helicopter was also tasked to undertake sea air coordinated search.
3. The details of the missing boat are as follows :-
 - (a) Type – 6.5 m Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB)
 - (b) Crew – 06 PMSA personnel
 - (c) Identification – White color with orange stripes
4. In addition, Pakistan deployed two Naval ships, one PMSA ship, one fixed wing aircraft and one ship borne helo for undertaking SAR operation within Pakistani waters.
5. At about 1020 hrs on 10 Apr 17, Indian Fishing Boat (IFB) 'Dhanshree Chamunda' informed Indian Coast Guard Ship Samrat over VHF that they have recovered two survivors from water suspected to be Pakistani nationals. On receipt of information, the ICG ship took over the survivors from the fishing boat for handing over to the PMSA. The condition of one of the survivors had deteriorated due prolonged exposure to sea and he was provided immediate medical attention.
6. The survivors were part of the Pakistani law enforcement team who had drifted into Indian waters when their boat with six crew members sank due to ingress of sea water on the 09 Apr 17 morning. Subsequent search operation yielded recovery of bodies of other four crew members of which three were recovered by the ICG ship Arinjay and Ankit. Both the PMSA personnel and the four dead bodies have been handed over today to the Pakistan Naval Ship which was operating across the IMBL.

