

22nd NATIONAL OIL SPILL DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLAN AND PREPAREDNESS MEETING

22nd National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS DCP) and preparedness meeting was held at India International Centre, New Delhi on 10 Aug 17. The meeting was chaired by the Director General Indian Coast Guard Director General Rajendra Singh, PTM, TM, Chairman and was attended by 102 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 expressed his concern over the pollution existing in the marine areas and emphasized the need to protect and preserve marine environment and prevent and control marine pollution. He appreciated efforts of all the agencies in combating oil spill off Kamarajar Port, Ennore in Jan 17. He highlighted that timely submission of claims by concerned parties facilitated recovery of expenses for cleanup from the polluter to the tune of about Nine Crore rupees. However, expressing his

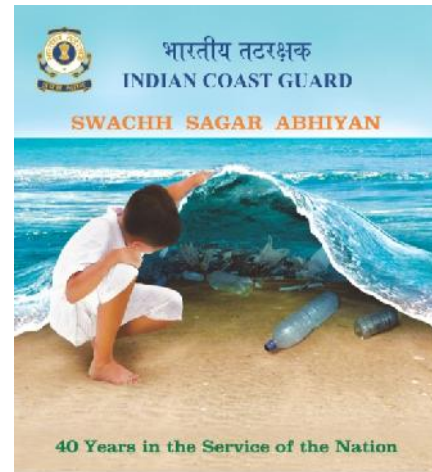
concerns on limited usage of safety gear by personnel engaged in the shoreline cleanup operations, he emphasised that appropriate action needs to be ensured in future.



3. Chairman requested for introspection by concerned agencies for the incident of MV Qing grounded in Mormugao port on 29 June 2016, with approximately 350 tons of bunker fuel which continues to pose an imminent threat of oil spill and damage to the marine environment, as the fuel is yet to be removed from the wreck despite a delay of more than one year since her grounding.

4. Need for early preparation of Contingency plan by coastal states, major ports, non-major ports, oil handling agencies and oil installations onshore and provisioning of pollution response equipment as per National Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS DCP) were also highlighted. Lastly, he expressed his gratitude for the support for 'Swachh Sagar Abhiyan' lunched by ICG in Apr 2016

with an objective to extend Govt. of India initiative of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' to maritime zones of India. The goal of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is to be achieved by 2nd Oct 2019 as set by Govt. of India. All stakeholders seconded the goal of 'Swachh Sagar Abhiyan' as 15 Aug 2022, the day when the country will be celebrating 75th year of Independence.



5. The inaugural address was followed by an overview of NOS DCP activities since the last meeting held in Aug 2016 by Commandant Bhim Singh Kothari, Director (Environment). The presentation highlighted the need for early submission of Contingency Plans and provisioning of Pollution Response equipment at each facility to meet the obligation of NOS DCP. Activation of online submission for Annual returns, reports on Joint Inspections and uploading of facility contingency plans with stakeholders login through ICG Webpage, training and cleanup operation undertaken were also highlighted in the presentation.



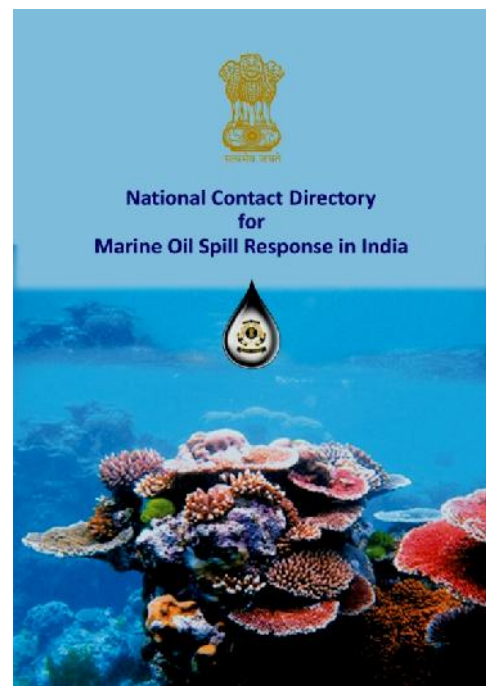


6. A Presentation on 'Combating Oil Spill in Port Limits' was delivered by Capt. AK Gupta, General Manager (MS), Kamarajar Port Ltd, Chennai. A Presentation on 'Shoreline Cleanup – Way forward' was also delivered by Mr Thiru R. Kannan, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai.

7. Chairman released the "National Contact Directory for Marine Oil Spill Response" and highlighted the salient features of the directory.

8. In the concluding remarks, the Chairman appreciated active participation by sharing of professional knowledge from all stakeholders during the proceedings. He also emphasised on lessons learnt and recommendations made by

the presenters, which need to be incorporated for future operations. He



emphasised that cohesiveness amongst stakeholders, frequent interaction and exercises at various levels for sharing of professional knowledge will enhance the robustness of the national system, for meeting the future challenges of pollution response.



9. Lastly, the Chairman called upon reiterated all stakeholders for pledging to work together to make our marine environment pollution free by the 75th anniversary of our independence on 15th August 2022.