

INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP RUSHES TO FIGHT MAJOR FIRE ONBOARD VERY LARGE CONTAINER VESSEL AT HIGH SEAS

In a swift operation, Indian Coast Guard deploys ship to fight a major fire onboard a 353 mtrs large container vessel at high seas.

On receipt of information of distress message at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Mumbai regarding fire onboard Singapore flag Merchant Vessel (MV) Maersk Honman at about 2150 Hrs on 06 Mar 17, MRCC Mumbai immediately alerted merchant vessels in area through International Safety Net messaging system and requested the nearest ones to proceed for assistance. Indian Coast Guard Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Shoor, on patrol mission, was directed to proceed with maximum speed for assistance. Due to prompt coordination of MRCC Mumbai, 23 crew of the vessel were safely rescued by another merchant vessel amidst dangerous fire onboard.

On arriving scene of action at about 650 n mile from Kochi, Indian Coast Guard Ship Shoor commenced fire fighting operations through its advanced high tech external fire fighting system. The fire has spread to more than 100 X 60 mtrs area and portion of ship ahead of wheel house is fully engulfed with fire. The Coast Guard ship making all out efforts to douse the fire onboard vessel having 7860 containers including dangerous cargo. It has also been known that M/s Maersk Line have dispatched two fire fighting and salvage tugs which are likely to augment the valiant fire fighting efforts by Coast Guard ship. No oil spill has been observed in the area and the situation is being very closely monitored by Indian Coast Guard.

Indian Coast Guard, being the nodal agency for Maritime Search and Rescue in Indian Search and Rescue Region of 4.6 million Square Kilometer, has again swiftly sprung to action to provide timely succor to mariners be it any time or place in sync with its motto 'We Protect'.

