

20th NATIONAL OIL SPILL DISASTER **CONTINGENCY PLAN AND PREPAREDNESS MEETING**

1. The twentieth National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) and Preparedness meeting was held at The International Centre Goa, Dr. E Borges Road, Dona Paula, Goa on 09 April 2015. Vice Admiral HCS Bisht, AVSM, Director General, Indian Coast Guard, chaired the meeting. The meeting witnessed an active participation from various government departments, ports and oil companies. 88 representatives from 46 organizations attended the meeting.



2. In his inaugural address, the Chairman welcomed the delegates from various Ministries, Departments of the Central and State Government, Regional Commanders of Indian Coast Guard, member from major ports and oil handling agencies. The Chairman recalled the spillage from tanker Southern Star 7, consequent to its collision with an empty tanker in the Sela River, Bangladesh in December 2014 and said that it was a reminder of the fragility of Sunderbans and similar eco-sensitive areas in our waters, following any oil spill. The Chairman dwelled over the initiatives by the Coast Guard since the last meeting in May 2014 towards enhancing the national oil spill response preparedness such as exemption from the application of SEZ rules for vessels responding to oil spill emergencies or participating in oil spill response exercises.



3. The inaugural address was followed by a release ceremony in which the Chairman released the comprehensively revised NOS-DCP 2015 edition in presence of Director, INCOIS, Hyderabad and Director, NCSCM, Chennai and the Director, INCOIS released the operational version of Online Oil Spill Advisory (OOSA) system. Dr. TM Balakrishnan Nair, Scientist 'F' & Head-ISG briefed the participants on OOSA and the associated activities of INCOIS.



4. Comdt (JG) Deepak Yadav, Dy. Director (FE) presented an overview of NOSDCP activities since the last meeting in May 2014. Dr. R Ramesh, Director, NCSCM made a presentation on "Coastal Zone Mapping". The presentation highlighted the various projects of NCSCM. DIG AA Hebbar, TM, Director (FE), CGHQ made a presentation on "Fisheries dimension of oil spill". The presentation highlighted the socio-economic impact of oil spills on fisheries and the imperatives for preparedness.



5. The important issues discussed and deliberated upon during the NOSDCP meeting are tier-I facilities at MbPT, preparation of local contingency plan, surveillance system by ports against illegal discharge, tier-1 response time in offshore fields, subsea well intervention system and subsea OSD system, shoreline response trailer in coastal states as a part of actionable agenda of previous meetings followed by need for tier-1 facilities at ports and oil agencies when commencing operations, integrated legal systems for oil pollution response, sharing of oil spill response experience, environment sensitivity mapping in contingency plan, oil spill crisis management group in coastal States, spill tracker buoys, approval procedure for application of oil spill dispersant and utilization of oil pollution cess under new agenda.



6. In his concluding address, the Chairman appreciated the ongoing efforts by all agencies and requested the members to take further necessary action on points deliberated during the meeting, in a timely manner. He also emphasized that agencies and stakeholders can meet periodically for sharing concerns on pollution preparedness. In conclusion, the Chairman reiterated that cooperation and coordination amongst all stakeholders is vital to make the seas pollution free.