

PRESS RELEASE

INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP VARAD RESCUED DISABLED TUG ORION DHANASHREE ALONG WITH 11 CREW TRAPPED IN CYCLONIC STORM



CHENNAI 19 MAY 16. INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP VARAD RESCUED TUG ORION DHANASHREE WITH BARGE UNDER TOW ALONG WITH 11 CREW IN DISTRESS AT SEA 25 NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF CHENNAI.

AT ABOUT 0400 H ON 18 MAY 16, AN INDIAN FLAG TUG ORION DHANASHREE ON PASSAGE FROM VIZAG TO MUMBAI TOWING A BARGE, REPORTED FLOODING IN APPROX POSITION 25 NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF CHENNAI. THE VESSEL REPORTEDLY DEVELOPED CRACK /HOLE IN STEERING GEAR COMPARTMENT DUE TO PREVAILING CYCLONIC WEATHER IN BAY OF BENGAL RESULTING IN LOSS OF STEERAGE AND POSING A THREAT OF SINKING.

WITHIN NO TIME THE COAST GUARD MARITIME RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE, CHENNAI QUICKLY ACTIVATED ISN (INTERNATIONAL SAFETY NET) ALERTING ALL SHIPS OPERATING IN A RADIUS OF 50 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE DISTRESSED VESSEL FOR HELP. MV MEARSK BROOKLYN OPERATING 06 MILES FROM THE DISTRESSED VESSEL WAS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TILL ARRIVAL OF INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP. INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP VARAD SAILED WITH DISPATCH FROM CHENNAI AT 0700 H ON 18 MAY 16. ICGS VARAD BRAVING THE STORMY SEAS AND ROUGH WEATHER CONDITIONS ARRIVED AT DATUM OF DISABLED VESSEL AT 1020 H ON THE SAME DAY. THE CAPTAIN AND THE CREW OF THE DISTRESSED TUG WERE RELIEVED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF INDIAN COAST GUARD VESSEL. VARAD TOOK THE DISABLED TUG UNDER TOW AND BROUGHT THE DISTRESS TUG SAFELY AT CHENNAI ANCHORAGE AT 2330 HRS. ALL THE CREW OF TUG DHANASHREE WERE REPORTED HEALTHY. COAST GUARD HAVE KEPT ALL THEIR ASSETS READY FOR MEETING ANY MARITIME INCIDENT DUE TO PREVAILING CYCLONE. FURTHER, COAST GUARD HAS ALSO ISSUED REGULAR WEATHER ADVISORY TO ALL FISHERMEN IN TAMIL NADU AND ANDHRA PRADESH COAST FOR TAKING NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.