

PRESS RELEASE

SHORELINE CLEAN UP OPERATIONS BY INDIAN COAST GUARD

CHENNAI 31 JAN 17. Indian Coast Guard continued deployment of its ships and aircraft to coordinate the oil spill response from sea and at shoreline areas. The Coast Guard coordinated with all stake holders and resource agencies viz. State Pollution Control Board, District Administration and other NGOs to expedite the oil slick clean-up due to collision between MT Dawn Kanchipuram and MT BW Maple. It is estimated that more than 20 tonnes of oil has been spilled from MT Dawn Kanchipuram as against the initial report of 2-3 tonnes by the ship.

Post thorough assessment of the spill impact, the entire stretch between Ennore Beach to Elliot Beach has been divided into 04 zones with dedicated teams for shoreline clean up. Coast Guard personnel are carrying out co-ordination and clean-up efforts with assistance of personnel from Pollution Control Board and other NGOs.

The most impacted shoreline was identified near Rama Krishna Nagar Kuppam Beach where maximum amount of oil slick has accumulated. High pressure super sucker pumps have been pressed into operation to extract the sludge. The collected sludge is being transferred into bowzers. In addition, the inaccessible areas are being cleared using manual efforts.

Coast Guard helicopters are carrying out regular sorties for continuous monitoring of the drift pattern of oil slick at sea near coastal areas. Oil spill is observed to be disintegrating gradually due to wave action and weathering. The seaward combating of oil slick is in progress by ICGS Varad. The ship has been deployed with spill spray arms and Oil Spill dispersant. The Coast Guard helicopter through the aerial surveillance identified the sites where oil slick was still persisting. The ship has dispersed about 02 tonnes of OSD to neutralize the slick at sea. It may be noted that Coast Guard ship Abheek was immediately pressed into Pollution Response operation with 02 tonnes of OSD initially on 28 Jan 17. The Ship remained at the incident site to provide necessary support to both the merchant vessels in case of any emergency. Coast Guard Pollution Response Team continued its sustained efforts at the most impact area with their experts near Rama Krishna Nagar Kuppam village. With the assistance of District Administration, the nominated teams have collected approximately 15 tonnes of oil and sludge since 30 Jan 17. Towards the shoreline clean-up operation, various resource agencies from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, State Fire Service, Kamrajar and Chennai Port, CSG including more than 200 volunteers from various NGOs are participating including Tree Foundation, HIMT and students from GKM Marine.

The Coast Guard Regional Commander Inspector General Rajan Bargotra, TM carried out aerial recce to assess the gravity of oil slick and impact on shoreline. Approximately 95 percent of oil slick is towards the northern side of Chennai Harbour near to RK Kuppam Beach. It is observed that north of Chennai Harbour, 800 mtrs of

shoreline at approximate 11 locations has been impacted with thick oil sludge which has washed ashore. The cleaning of Marina Beach area which is very minimally affected has commenced this morning of 31 Jan 17 and is likely to be completed by AM 01 Feb 17. The third location which has been affected is a stretch of 2-3 Kms of shoreline around Thiruvalluvar. This stretch is also lightly affected and will be cleaned up after addressing the polluted shoreline north of Chennai.

The owners of MT Dawn Kanchipuram, M/s Dharya shipping have been directed to hire private agencies for containment and recovery of remaining oil slick.

The Coast Guard Regional Headquarters has approached the Principal Secretary & Chairman of State Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu to nominate Nodal Officers for combating/ recovery of oil spill in line with State Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan. The State Pollution Control Board has also been requested to activate the State Oil Spill Crisis Management Group. Indian Coast Guard continues to maintain close liaisoning with all stake holders and resource agencies for time-bound clean-up of oil slick.

