

ICG DEPUTES POLLUTION RESPONSE TEAM TO FIGHT MARINE POLLUTION AT MAURITIUS

1. Consequent to high level decision by Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence, Indian Coast Guard has deputed a 10-member specialist pollution response team along with Pollution Response equipment to Mauritius for supplementing ongoing efforts to contain an oil spill from bulk carrier MV Wakashio on its South Eastern coastline.

2. The assistance is in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India vision "SAGAR" – Security and growth for all in the Region and also to the commitment for shared responsibility and cooperation in the Indian Ocean between India and Mauritius during his visit in March 2016. The decision comes after holding discussions with Mauritius in aiding for response and containment of oil spread in sensitive marine environment consisting of coral reef, mangroves and endangered marine species.

3. The specialist Indian Coast Guard team is qualified in pollution response operations at sea and are capable of undertaking pollution response and cleanup operations. The various pollution response equipment such as Ocean and River Booms, skimmers, salvage barge were dispatched to combat oil spill.

4. The Indian Coast Guard pollution response team in coordination with Mauritius, experts and teams from various other countries and specialised International experts from organisations like IMO and ITOPF will work in tandem to safeguard the pristine ecological sensitive environment and mitigate the effects of spilled oil at sea and ashore.

5. True to its motto "**Vayam Rakshamah**" meaning "**We Protect**" Indian Coast Guard collaborates with maritime countries in the Indian Ocean Region and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme plays a key role in mitigating threats to sensitive ecosystems during the oil spill incidents. Indian Coast Guard remains committed to ensure '**Safe, Secure and Clean Seas**' not only around the Indian subcontinent but also in the Indian Ocean Region.

