

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 270 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF

News Item titled "Containers from sunken ship likely to drift towards Alappuzha, Kollam Coasts in 48 hours: INCOIS" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.05.2025

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Respondent No.-6

Through



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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
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ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 270 OF 2025

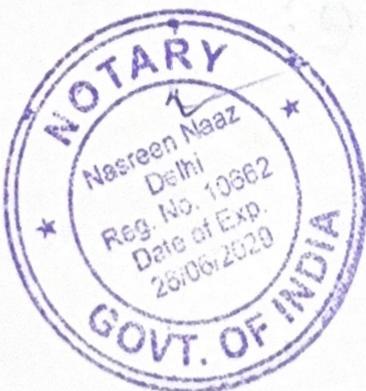
IN THE MATTER OF

News Item titled "Containers from sunken ship likely to drift towards Alappuzha, Kollam Coasts in 48 hours: INCOIS" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.05.2025

REPLY BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 6
i.e. DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN COAST GUARDS

I, DIG Ravindra Kumar, son of Shri Tejpal Singh, aged about 49 years, presently working as Principal Directorate (FE) at Coast Guard Headquarters, National Stadium Complex, New Delhi, the deponent herein, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:-

1. That deponent is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and duly authorized to swear and affirm this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No. 6 i.e. Director General, Indian Coast Guards (hereinafter also referred as ICG).
2. That Instant Original Application no. 270 of 2025 registered *sue moto* on the basis of news item titled News Item titled "Containers from sunken ship likely to drift towards Alappuzha, Kollam Coasts in 48 hours: INCOIS" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.05.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal passed the order dated 27.05.2025 with the following observation: -




 रविन्द्र कुमार / Ravindra Kumar
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“2. The news item relates to the Liberian – flagged container ship, MSC ELSA 3 which sank off the Kochi Coast on Sunday morning drifting towards the entire coastal stretch of Alappuzha district and parts of Kollam. The Ship was carrying 640 containers including 13 with hazardous cargo and 12 containing calcium carbide. 3. As per the news item Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is monitoring the impacts. As per the initial study Alappad, Purakkad and Chappakkadavu in Alappuzha apart from Vellanathuruthu, Kovilthottam and Maruthadi along the Kollam coast have a 25 % chance of being affected. The ship was also carrying 84.44 MT of diesel and 367.1 MT of furnace oil, as per a communication issued by the Ministry of Defence. 4. Further the ship owner firm MSC is expected to clarify on the contents of the hazardous cargo in the 13 containers. Since the sunken ship is carrying hazardous materials like calcium carbide, oil and other undisclosed items there are chances of serious impact to the marine and coastal environment affecting the bio diversity and water quality of the area. On account of wave, wind and current actions of the waters these pollutants can travel to other coastal parts of the Country including Lakshadweep islands affecting them. The impact on the Lakshadweep Island will be severe as the Inland coastal water has high bio-diversity with corals.”



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3. That this Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated 27.05.2025 impleaded the answering respondent as Respondent No. 6, and issued notice.
4. That this Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated 30.07.2025 directed answering respondent to place on record the details of remedial measures taken in the meanwhile.
5. That it is most respectfully submitted that at 1325 Hr on 24.05.25 information was received regarding Liberian flagged container vessel named MV MSC Elsa 3 (IMO No. 9123221) listed by 26 Deg to Starboard in position 09 Deg 30 N, 075 Deg 46 E (225 Kochi Lt 38). The vessel departed Vizhinjam, India on 23.05.25 at 1930 Hr with ETA Kochi, India 24.05.25. The vessel was carrying 640 containers, including 13 IMDG-classified hazardous cargo (Calcium Carbide) containers. The vessel was owned and operated by MSC Ship Management Ltd.

Remedial Action taken by ICG

6. Search and Rescue,

That the vessel requested urgent evacuation for 21 crew onboard on 24.05.25 and subsequently 03 crew on 25.05.25. On receipt of distress, CGD HQ-4 was directed to divert ICGS Arnavesh on patrol off Kochi towards the distressed vessel to render assistance. The ship arrived datum at 1615 Hr on 24.05.25. Subsequently, CGDO was launched to carryout assessment and life raft drop for rescue of crew. The entire crew were rescued by ICG/IN/MV.




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7. Pollution on Response

That ICGS Saksham in PR configuration was deployed at 1640 Hr on 24.05.25 to augment PR efforts and render assistance to the vessel. In addition, following actions were taken:-

7.1.ISN was activated for ships transiting through area by MRCC (Mbi) on 24.05.25.

7.2.NAVAREA warning for the sunk vessel and afloat containers was issued by NAVAREA-VIII coordinator.

7.3.Frequent aircraft sorties were undertaken to locate the adrift containers and marking the position for navigational safety and assessment of likely drift to raise warning to concerned District Administration.

7.4.CG 755 fitted with PSS (MSS 6000) was launched for aerial assessment and mapping of oil spilled area.

7.5.DRT team ex-ICGS Vizhinjam was deputed to Kollam and Poovar. No visible oil deposits/ spread sighted on probable coastal belt. The team inspected 02 containers at Pozhikkara and Paravur beaches Kollam and found containing non dangerous cargo.

7.6.ICG ships and aircraft were extensively deployed for application of Oil Spray Dispersant (OSD) to mitigate oil slick which was drifting towards shore. Details of the Ships and Aircraft deployment is placed at enclosure. On completion of initial measures, ICG ships undertook surface churning to facilitate natural remediation. Units coordinated with T&T Salvage team for onscene OSR activities.

7.7.Local and State Coordination:




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7.7.1. Meetings were held with all stakeholders and were advised to establish immediate coordination with ICG (Kochi) and KSDMA. The local district collectors were impressed upon to support onshore logistics. Salvors and vessel owners were directed to work closely with Govt. agencies and ensure a visible, unified response efforts.

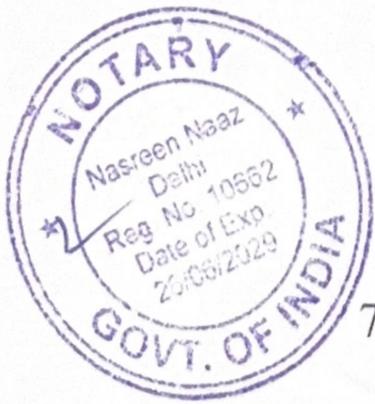
7.7.2. Meeting between ICG (Kochi) and Salvage master was held at 1500 Hr on 25.05.25 with immediate concern of hazardous containers reaching the coast. Teams were split into two groups for onshore and offshore response. Clear communication channels were established.

7.7.3. Advisory were issued to local State Administration to issue local public advisories and mobilise pollution mitigation equipment. Local authorities were impressed upon to keep all available resources standby to be activated without any delay.

7.7.4. ICG helped the salvor teams by providing them positions of the floating containers.

7.7.5. A special National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) meeting, to review pollution response action plan due to sinking of MSC Elsa 3 off Kochi, chaired by Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG), being the Central Coordinating Authority for marine oil spill in Indian EEZ, was conducted on 30.05.25. During the review meeting the following agenda points were discussed with the stakeholders from Central and State Government: -

7.7.5.1. Update on oil spill monitoring and mitigating measures including surveillance.



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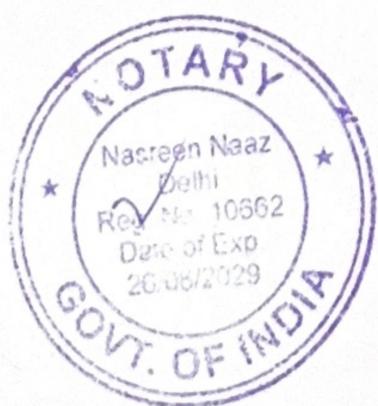
- 7.7.5.2. The action plan for removal of residual oil, wreck, containers and salvage operation.
- 7.7.5.3. Environment Impact Assessment including that on marine resources and restoration measures.
- 7.7.5.4. Advisory on oil spill trajectory and weather update.
- 7.7.5.5. Update on action plan for shoreline clean up activity and safety of local populace.
- 7.7.6. ICG PR Strike Team conducted a training session on shoreline cleanup at Sree Narayana Cultural complex at Kollam from 1100-1300 hr on 30.05.25. District Collector, ADM, ACP and 110 other officials from Revenue, Fisheries, Civil Defence, Marine Enforcement, Public Health Dept., Taluk, Primary Health Inspectorate, Port, Pollution Control Board, Police, Fire Force, SDRF participated. The attendees were briefed on all aspects of shoreline cleanup.
- 7.7.7. ICG PR strike teams ex-Kochi, Beypore and Vizhinjam were deputed to coordinate State Administration on shoreline cleanup measures.




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Table 2 Deployment of ICG Aircraft-Dornier

Ser no.	From a.	To b.	Total duration (hh:mm) c.	Total duration in min d.
Dornier				
1	1450 Hr/ 24 May	1850 Hr/ 24 May	04:00	240
2	0845 Hr/ 25 May	1220 Hr/ 25 May	03:35	215
3	1315 Hr/ 25 May	1545 Hr/ 25 May	02:30	150
4	1430 Hr/25 May	1700 Hr/ 25 May	02:30	150
5	1640 Hr/ 25 May	1840 Hr/ 25 May	02:00	120
6	0800 Hr/ 26 May	1100 Hr/ 26 May	03:00	180
7	1145 Hr/26 May	1430 Hr/ 26 May	02:45	165
8	0950 Hr/ 27 May	1205 Hr/ 27 May	02:15	135
9	1625 Hr/ 27 May	1855 Hr/ 27 May	02:30	150
10	1630 Hr/ 27 May	1840 Hr/ 27 May	02:10	130
11	1130 Hr/ 28 May	1430 Hr/ 28 May	03:00	180
12	1230 Hr/ 31 May	1545 Hr/ 31 May	03:15	195
13	0930 Hr/ 01 Jun	1345 Hr/ 01 Jun	04:15	255
14	1515 Hr/ 04 Jun	1615 Hr/ 04 Jun	01:00	60
15	1715 Hr/ 04 Jun	1925 Hr/ 04 Jun	02:10	130
16	0845 Hr/ 08 Jun	1230 Hr/ 08 Jun	03:45	225
17	1120 Hr/ 15 Jun	1240 Hr/ 15 Jun	01:20	80
18	0915 Hr/ 16 Jun	1010 Hr/ 16 Jun	00:55	55
19	1015 Hr/ 17 Jun	1100 Hr/ 17 Jun	00:45	45
20	1320 Hr/ 18 Jun	1520 Hr/ 18 Jun	02:00	120
21	1715 Hr/ 19 Jun	1815 Hr/ 19 Jun	01:00	60
22	1245 Hr/ 20 Jun	1320 Hr/ 20 Jun	00:35	35
23	0930 Hr/ 21 Jun	1100 Hr/21 Jun	01:30	90
24	0910 Hr/ 22 Jun	1210 Hr/22 Jun	03:00	180
25	0950 Hr/ 23 Jun	1245 Hr/ 23 Jun	02:55	175
26	0850 Hr/ 24 Jun	0950 Hr/24 Jun	01:00	60
27	1100 Hr/ 25 Jun.	1200 Hr/ 25 Jun	01:00	60
			Total	57:40
				3460

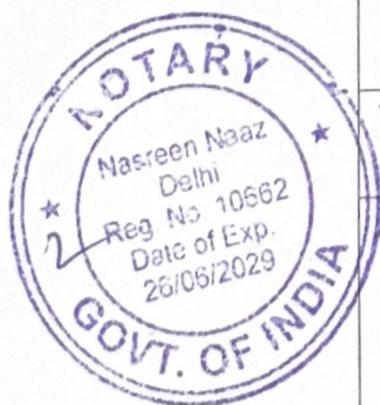


(Signature)

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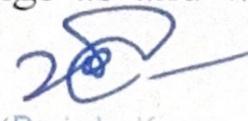
Table 1 Deployment of ICG Ships

Ser No.	Name of ICG Ship	From	To	Total Duration (in Hr)	Total Duration (in days)
	a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
1	ICGS Samarth (OPV)	1100 Hr/25 May 1130 Hr/01 Jun	1700 Hr/ 29 May 1230Hr/06 Jun	102 121	5 6
2	ICGS Saksham (OPV)	1700 Hr/24 May	1400 Hr/29 May	117	5 ½
3	ICGS Samudra Prahari (PCV)	1830 Hr/26 May 1330 Hr/04 Jun	1540 Hr/01 Jun 2015 Hr/08 Jun	142 103	6 ½ 4 ½
4	ICGS Vikram (OPV)	1955 Hr/ 25 May	340 Hr/ 31 May	148	6 ½
5	ICGS Arnvesh (FPV)	1330 Hr/ 24 May 1000 Hr/ 02 Jun 2000 Hr/ 08 Jun 1030 Hr/ 22 Jun 1030 Hr/26 Jun 1030 Hr/ 30 Jun	1330 Hr/ 25 May 1230 Hr/04 Jun 1200 Hr/10 Jun 1230 Hr/ 24 Jun 1215 Hr/ 28 Jun 2539 Hr/30 Jun	24 51 40 50 49 12	1 ½ 3 2 3 3 1
6	ICGS Aryaman (FPV)	1330 Hr/25 May 0930 Hr/ 12 Jun 0930 Hr/ 18 Jun 1030 Hr/28 Jun	2200 Hr/ 25 May 1230 Hr/ 14 Jun 1230 Hr/ 20 Jun 1230 Hr/ 30 Jun	09 51 51 50	1 3 3 3
7	ICGS Abhinav (FPV)	0930 Hr/ 06 Jun 0900 Hr/ 16 Jun	1230 Hr/ 08 Jun 1215 Hr/ 18 Jun	51 52	3 3
8	ICGS Anagh (FPV)	1030 Hr/ 01 Jun 1030 Hr/ 10 Jun 1000 Hr/ 14 Jun 1000 Hr/20 Jun 1000 Hr/24 Jun	1245 Hr/03 Jun 1300 Hr/ 12 Jun 1300 Hr/ 16 Jun 1230 Hr/22 Jun 1300 Hr/ 26 Jun	51 51 51 51 51	3 3 3 3 3



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10. That the Answering Respondent seeks leave to make additional submissions, if required, during the course of the proceedings as and when directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.



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DEPONENT

Verification

29 OCT 2025

Verified at New Delhi on 29 October 2025 that the contents of the above reply affidavit are derived from the official records and personal knowledge and are correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

I Identify the deponent who has signed in my presence



श्री. Shri. DIG Ravindra Kumar
Identified by Adv. G.C. George
Date 29 OCT 2025
Nasreen



रविन्द्र कुमार/Ravindra Kumar
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