

## Ship fire off Colombo: Indian Coast Guard rushes assets, more on standby

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Based mostly on Sri Lanka's request, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has tasked offshore patrol vessels ICGS Vaibhav and Vajra in direction of Colombo in Sri Lanka, to bolster firefighting, air pollution response efforts on MV X-Press Pearl, a container ship that's ablaze. A serious fire broke out on the ship on Tuesday morning, following an explosion, that's reportedly brought on by the collapse of containers attributable to tough climate. The container ship that was on its way from Hazira to Colombo, was anchored about 9 nautical miles (about 16kms) off Sri Lanka's main port metropolis.

The ship was carrying 1486 containers and about 25 tons of hazardous nitric acid and different chemical compounds. To this point, the 25 crew onboard the ship, together with 5 Indians have been evacuated. It was on 20th Night, Thursday that fire first broke out on the mentioned ship, following which it was introduced below management by Sri Lankan Port authorities by the following day.

Nevertheless, on Tuesday morning, owing to tough climate practically 10 containers are mentioned to have fallen overboard after the explosion and resultant fire. The 325 metric tons of fuels held within the giant container vessels tanks are feared to pose a menace of oil spill within the area.

In addition to the 2 ICG vessels headed for the location of the hearth, their formations at Kochi, Chennai and Tuticorin are on standby for fast help in direction of Air pollution Response. ICG is in steady coordination and communication with Srilankan authorities for the operation. ICG plane are additionally being delivered to Tuticorin from Chennai and Koch for aerial surveillance and air pollution response.

Over the past ten days week, the Indian Coast guard and the Indian Navy have been engaged in monitoring, search and rescue operations throughout India's West Coast, that was struck by a really extreme cyclone 'Tauktae'. The consequences of this cyclone had been felt in Lakshadweep islands, Kerala, South Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, and in Gujarat the place it made landfall. At the moment, the ICG property are additionally deployed for search and rescue, any eventuality that will come up from the affect of Cyclone Yaas that's predicted to make landfall on India's East Coast between Odisha and West Bengal.

In Sep 2020, a significant fire had damaged onboard MT New Diamond, which was carrying about 2.7 lakh metric ton oil and positioned off the Japanese coast of Sri Lanka. Mammoth efforts by the Indian Coast guard in coordination with different companies ensured that the blaze was introduced below management, with none cases of the oil spill. The ICG has mentioned that, as an energetic member of the South Asia Co-operative Setting Programme (SACEP), it stays dedicated to its obligations of safeguarding the ocean setting within the area.

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