

## As fire continues to rage on container ship off Sri Lankan coast, Indian Coast Guard rushes to help

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By Shrabana Manna

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**Rebellion  Voice**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) dispatched its ships on Wednesday to assist in the extinguishment of a fire that broke out on a container ship of

For the past six days, a fire has been burning on a cargo ship carrying chemicals and fuels.

When the fire broke out six days ago, the ship, the MV X-Press Pearl, was anchored some 9.5 nautical miles (18 kilometers) northwest of Colombo, ready to approach its port.

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All 25 crew members have been evacuated, including five Indians.

The 'Vaibhav' and 'Vajra' ships of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) have been dispatched to help.

The offshore patrol vessels Vaibhav and Vajra, which have external foam firefighting and pollution response capabilities, were dispatched after

In addition, Indian Coast Guard ships stationed in Kochi, Chennai, and Tuticorin are ready to respond immediately.

Aerial surveillance and pollution response aircraft are being brought to Tuticorin from Chennai and Kochi.

For the operation, the ICG is in close contact with the Sri Lankan government.

Meanwhile, according to news agency ANI, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said, "In light of the events surrounding the fire on the M

The MV X-

Press Pearl is loaded with 1,486 containers carrying roughly 25 tonnes of dangerous nitric acid and other chemicals and is en route from Hazir

According to the Indian Ministry of Defence, the vessel's tanks hold roughly 325 metric tons of fuel.

Since last week, a cargo ship 9 nautical miles from Colombo, Sri Lanka, has been on fire.

A fire broke out onboard the MV X-

Press Pearl off the coast of Colombo on May 20, 2021, but it was reported to be brought under control the next day with the help of port autho

The fire re-ignited on May 25, 2021, after an explosion purportedly caused by the collapse of a few of the containers due to bad weather.

Following the explosion and fire, eight to ten containers are said to have gone overboard.

As a member of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the ICG is committed to its obligations of protecting the region's ocean environment.

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