

## Colombo ship fire appears under control, no oil spill: Indian Coast Guard

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New Delhi: With firefighting operations on Container ship MV X-Press Pearl, off Colombo, operating into the fourth day, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has stated that fire appears to have diminished within the entrance and mid area of the ship, whereas the blaze continues within the rear (Aft).

Based on an aerial survey carried out by the ICG's Dornier plane on Thursday, it's stated that there's no oil spill.

Amid antagonistic climate and tough seas, ICG vessels Vaibhav and Vajra have been combating the blaze with Sri Lankan vessels by spraying sea water and Aqueous Film Forming foam (Fire suppressant), in sustained day-night efforts.

The blaze has led to the massive container ship trying mangled on most sides, tilting in direction of its proper and the burnt containers face the danger of falling overboard.

Under these situations, the ICG vessels have been maneuvering as shut as 40-50 meters of the casualty ship for efficient firefighting.

To bolster the firefighting operations, ICG vessel Vajra handed over 4500 liters of AFFF compound and 450kg Dry Chemical Powder to Sri Lankan authorities on Wednesday, twenty sixth May.

The ablaze ship was carrying 1486 containers and about 25 tons of hazardous nitric acid and different chemical substances. Earlier, the 25 crew on board the ship, together with 5 Indians have been evacuated.

It was on twentieth May, Thursday {that a} fire first broke out on the stated ship, following which it was introduced under management by Sri Lankan Port authorities by the following day.

However, on Tuesday morning(twenty fifth May), owing to tough climate practically 10 containers are stated to have fallen overboard after the explosion and resultant fire.

The 325 metric tons of fuels held within the massive container vessels tanks are feared to pose a menace of oil spill within the area.

Besides the 2 ICG vessels headed for the positioning of fire, their formations at Kochi, Chennai and Tuticorin are standby for quick help in direction of 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 final two weeks, the Indian Coast guard and 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 results of this cyclone had been felt in Lakshadweep islands, Kerala, South Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, and in Gujarat the place it made landfall.

This week, the ICG belongings had been additionally deployed for search and rescue, for the impression of Cyclone Yaas on India's East Coast between Odisha and West Bengal.

In September 2020, a serious fire had damaged onboard MT New Diamond, that was carrying about 2.7 lakh metric ton oil and positioned off the jap coast of Sri lankan.

Mammoth efforts by the Indian Coast guard in coordination with different businesses, ensured that the blaze was introduced under management, with none cases of oil spill.

The ICG has stated that, as an lively member of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), it stays dedicated to its obligations of safeguarding the ocean surroundings within the area.

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