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

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@Editor



With firefighting operations on Container ship MV X-Press Pearl, off Colombo, operating into the fourth day, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has mentioned that fireplace seems to have lowered within the entrance and mid-region of the ship, whereas the blaze continues within the rear (Aft). Primarily based on an aerial survey carried out by the ICG's Dornier plane on Thursday, it's mentioned that there is no such thing as a oil spill.

Amid antagonistic climate and tough seas, ICG vessels Vaibhav and Vajra have been combating the blaze with Sri Lankan vessels by spraying seawater and Aqueous Foam Forming foam (AFFF), in sustained day-night efforts. The blaze has led to the big container ship being mangled on most sides, tilting in the direction of its proper and the burnt containers face the danger of falling overboard. Underneath these circumstances, the ICG vessels have been maneuvering as close as 40-50 meters of the casualty ship for efficient firefighting.

To bolster the firefighting operations, ICG vessel Vajra handed over 4500 litres of AFFF compound and 450kg Dry Chemical Powder to Sri Lankan authorities on Wednesday, 26th Could.

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

Nevertheless, on Tuesday morning (25th Could), 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 massive container vessels tanks are feared to pose a risk of oil spill within the area.

Apart from the 2 ICG vessels headed for the location of fireside, their formations at Kochi, Chennai, and Tuticorin are on standby for instant help in the direction of Air pollution Response. ICG is in steady coordination and communication with Sri Lankan authorities for the operation. ICG planes are additionally being dropped at Tuticorin from Chennai and Kochi for aerial surveillance and air pollution response.

During the last two weeks, the Indian Coast guard and Indian Navy have been engaged in monitoring, search and rescue operations throughout India's West Coast, which 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 property had been additionally deployed for search and rescue, for the affect of Cyclone Yaas on India's East Coast between Odisha and West Bengal.

In Sep 2020, a serious fire had damaged onboard MT New Diamond, that was carrying about 2.7 lakh metric ton oil and positioned off the west coast of Sri Lanka. Mammoth efforts by the Indian Coast guard in coordination with different businesses ensured that the blaze was introduced underneath management, with none situations of the oil spill. The ICG has mentioned that, as an lively member of the South Asia Co-operative Surroundings Programme (SACEP), it stays dedicated to its tasks of safeguarding the ocean surroundings within the area.

## Source