

ASSISTANCE TO OIL TANKER MT NEW DIAMOND TOWARDS FIRE INCIDENT ONBOARD–OFF SRILANKAN COAST

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) deployed its Ships and Aircraft for a Search & Rescue (SAR) and fire fighting mission, approximately 37 NM East of Tirrukkovil (South East Srilankan Coast) for saving 23 merchant crew onboard MT New Diamond. ICG received intimation of fire and explosion onboard MT New Diamond and Srilanka Navy sought ICG assistance particularly in the light of the likely Oil Spill. The vessel is reportedly carrying around 03 lakh tonnes of crude oil (Kuwait export). The vessel was on passage from Kuwait to Paradip. In a joint effort the 22 crew of the ill fated ship have been evacuated.

ICG has diverted its ships Shaurya and Sarang on patrol for fire fighting and other assistance for the distressed vessel. ICGS Sujay with helo and divers embarked has also been dispatched from Chennai. Further, ICG Pollution Response Vessel Samudra Paheradar has been sailed out from Visakhapatnam for oil spill response. CG Dornier has been deployed from Chennai for aerial recce. ICG formations have been alerted for immediate assistance towards Pollution Response. ICG is in constant communication and maintaining coordination with Srilankan authorities for the operation.

