

PRESS RELEASE

DRONE ATTACK ON MV CHEM PLUTO- INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP AND AIRCRAFT RESPONDED WHILE PATROLLING IN EEZ.

New Delhi, 23 Dec 23: On 23 Dec 23, Indian Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai received information regarding fire onboard MV Chem Pluto. The Merchant ship with 20 Indian and 01 Vietnamese Crew was reportedly attacked by a suspected drone strike or aerial platform.

The Indian Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) established real time communication with the vessel's agent and ascertained nil loss of life and assured all assistance. It was also learnt that the vessel fire has been doused by the crew. For augmenting vessel's safety MRCC Mumbai has activated ISN and immediately diverted other merchant vessels in vicinity of Chem Pluto for rendering assistance.

The Indian Coast Guard also pressed Offshore patrol vessel Vikram and Coast Guard Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft into action for rendering assistance to Chem Pluto. The Coast Guard Dornier aircraft has sanitized area and established communication with Chem Pluto. The vessel has started making way towards Mumbai post undertaking damage assessment and repairs on its power generation systems. The vessel is likely to enter Mumbai and sought escort assistance due to steering issues. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vikram will be escorting the ship during its passage. The Indian Coast Guard Operations Centre is monitoring situation closely.

The merchant vessel has reportedly commenced its Voyage from Saudi Arabia on 19 Dec 23 and was bound for New Mangalore port with arrival on 25 Dec 23.

Commandant Niranjan Pratap Singh
PRO, Indian Coast Guard
Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi

