



July 23, 2025

# NEWS

## WAN HAI 503

### *UPDATE : Container vessel catches fire off Kerala coast*

Dear Madam, Sir,

This is an update regarding the fire on board the Wan Hai 503 off Southwestern coast of India, by our average agent in Mumbai, Nilesch Jatia:

“Subsequent to our circular issued on 14th June 2025 in connection to the above mentioned vessel casualty, we provide a further update as follows:

Over a month has passed since the explosion and fire broke out aboard the container ship - Wan Hai 503 off the coast of Kerala, but the vessel remains stranded at sea with no confirmed port of refuge.

Even now, smouldering continues inside the ship. According to Indian authorities, cargo Bays 33 to 37 are still releasing small amounts of grey smoke. Although the fire is under control, it has not been fully extinguished, even after 39 days. Temperature readings inside the cargo holds show that cooling is happening, but the situation is still being monitored closely.

The salvage company T&T Salvage has been working continuously to stabilise the vessel. Over the past few weeks, the team has made progress in dewatering the ship. Holds 2 and 3 have been dried, and flooding in the engine room has been reduced to less than a meter of water in the bilge.

The ship's trim, list, and draft have also been brought closer to normal. However, containers filled with firefighting water are now adding more weight than a normal cargo load, affecting the balance.

No port has agreed to accept the vessel so far. Sri Lanka is the preferred option, with the China Merchants-run Hambantota Port reportedly agreeing to allow the ship to berth. However, Sri Lankan authorities are worried the vessel may sink in their waters, recalling the 2021 X-Press Pearl incident. If Sri Lanka refuses port entry, other options in the region are limited.

The salvage team is also working to resolve remaining safety issues before a port entry can happen. One concern is the presence of hydrogen sulfide gas in Hold 7. The gas levels are high enough to prevent workers from entering that section without proper ventilation.



July 23, 2025

# NEWS

## WAN HAI 503

### *UPDATE : Container vessel catches fire off Kerala coast*

So far, there have been no signs of oil leakage from the vessel, which is a key concern for any port. Officials believe that about 2,400 tonnes of fuel oil is still on board, although a full check of the bunker tanks is not yet completed.

Before the ship can enter any port, a full check of its structural strength and stability must be carried out, including its post-fire condition. Once these checks are done and the ship is declared safe, final preparations for port entry will be made.”

For further information please contact Nilesh Jatia :



GLADSTONE AGENCIES LIMITED

### **Mathilde DOCQUIERT**

*Manager (Network, Major Casualties, War Risks, Training)*

**Tél. : +33 1 58 56 96 14**

**Mob. : +33 6 82 69 31 13**

**E-mail : [mdocquiert@cesam.org](mailto:mdocquiert@cesam.org)**

### **Nilesh JATIA**

*Average Agent in Mumbai*

**Mob : +91 9331112345**

**E-mail : [n.jatia@gladstone.co.in](mailto:n.jatia@gladstone.co.in)**

Vous êtes destinataire de cet email car vous avez accepté de recevoir des informations de la part du CESAM ou que avez participé à une édition précédente du Rendez-vous ParisMAT. Vous pouvez à tout moment vous désinscrire [en cliquant ici](#).

You are receiving this email because you have agreed to receive information from CESAM or because you have taken part in a previous edition of the Rendez-vous ParisMAT. You can unsubscribe at any time by [clicking here](#).