



GLADSTONE AGENCIES LIMITED

International Surveyors & Loss Adjusters - ISO 9001:2015 Certified

(India, Nepal, Bhutan & Maldives)

“MSC ELSA 3”

(16,799 GT, Built 1997, IMO - 9123221)

Container ship sinks off Western Indian Coast



The Liberian flagged ship - MSC ELSA 3, en route to Kochi (Cochin) Port from Vizhinjam Port was a 184-metre-long container ship, and had departed from Vizhinjam on 23 May 2025 and was scheduled to arrive in Kochi the following day. Around 1.25 PM on 24 May 2025, MSC Ship Management notified Indian maritime authorities of the incident. The ship developed a dangerous 26-degree tilt approximately 38 nautical miles southwest of Kochi and quickly lost stability.

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(Initial photo as on 24th May 2025 - Source : Indian Coast Guard)

Three crew members - including the Captain, Chief engineer and Second engineer, who had remained onboard to assist with salvage operations, were rescued by INS Sujata. The remaining 21 crew had been safely evacuated earlier by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

The situation worsened since the day of the incident. Subsequently, the Indian Government on Sunday, 25 May 2025 late morning officially confirmed the sinking of Liberian container ship 'MSC ELSA 3' due to flooding.



(Situation as on 25th May 2025 morning - Source : Indian Coast Guard)

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Vessel was said to be carrying 640 containers, including 13 boxes containing hazardous cargo and 12 with calcium carbide. Additionally, ship had 84.44 MT of diesel and 367.10 MT of furnace oil in its tanks.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has activated full pollution response preparedness after the ship MSC ELSA 3 sank.

- Containers are drifting from the site.
- Warnings have been issued to locals nearby.
- An oil spill is now a real risk.

The Director General of Shipping has issued a NavArea warning to all the passing ships on the danger of floating containers from the ill-fated ship in the sea. Industry sources said that there could be a possibility of an oil spill from the wrecked ship once the hull corrodes. Salvors will be reportedly engaged by the shipping company to extract the oil from the fuel tank.

Coastal districts including Kochi, Thrissur and Alappuzha remain on high alert, with cleanup teams and emergency responders on standby. Coastal surveillance has been ramped up to monitor the direction and impact of the drifting containers.

Cargo interests are almost certainly likely to face total loss claims.

For more information, please feel free to contact us.

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