

## **GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**P.R.No. 299**

**Date : 05.10.2025**

### **Greater Chennai Corporation in coordination with Coast Guard and other entities will conduct shoreline response operations in Marina beach for the first time Coast Guard to Lead Major Oil-Spill Response Mock Drill off Chennai Coast on 6 October, 2025**

Chennai: In observance of National Pollution Response Day, the Indian Coast Guard, in close coordination with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), State Disaster Management Department, Chennai Port authorities, oil industry stakeholders, and international observers, will execute a comprehensive oil-spill response mock drill on 6 October, 2025 along the Chennai coastline. The Director General of the Coast Guard will oversee the exercise.

This event follows the model of national-level oil-spill response exercises (NATPOLREX) conducted by the Coast Guard under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) framework, which have tested multi-agency coordination and response efficacy.

#### **Objectives & Regulatory Context**

The drill will be conducted in compliance with international conventions and UN guidelines on marine pollution - including MARPOL (the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships), the OPRC Convention (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation), and relevant IMO (International Maritime Organization) protocols.

The exercise aims to:

1. Validate coordination among all stakeholders.
2. Test operational readiness of assets (ships, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, containment gear).
3. Demonstrate scalable response actions across the phases of an oil-spill event.

#### 4. Enhance public awareness and institutional mutual understanding.

### Schedule & Scenario Outline

#### Morning Session (Offshore / At Sea)

A simulated collision between two ships will be staged off Chennai causing an oil spill to develop.

The Indian Coast Guard will lead containment and recovery operations using surface vessels, pollution-response craft, helicopters, and air force (fixed-wing) assets to deploy containment booms, skimmers, dispersants (if applicable), and other pollution-control tools.

The scenario will test rapid assessment, containment, oil recovery, and coordination with port / industry responders and stakeholders

Coast Guard units will manage and lead the maritime phase, as per their mandate under the NOSDCP.

#### Evening Session (Near shore / Shoreline Impact Mode)

At around 16:00 hrs, a scenario will be enacted in which the simulated oil slick reaches the coastline, partly stranded on the shore or shallow water.

Greater Chennai Corporation, in partnership with state agencies and stakeholders, in coordination with Coast Guard will conduct shoreline response operations in Marina beach for the first time

The drill will cover the three critical stages of response:

1. Staging & decision (i.e., deciding containment via trenches, pits, booms, barriers depending on oil quantity and shoreline profile)
2. Removal / recovery (excavation, skimming, dredging, use of absorbents, collection of oily sludge)
3. Restoration / remediation (removal of residual contamination, return to pre-spill baseline, disposal of waste in environment-approved manner)

This will provide practical training to municipal, port, and coastal agencies in shoreline cleanup operations and coordination with marine response.

#### Key Participants & Roles

- Chair / Overall Authority: Director General, Indian Coast Guard
- Marine / Offshore Response Lead: Indian Coast Guard
- Shoreline / Coastal Response Lead: Greater Chennai Corporation, with State Disaster Management and coastal authorities in coordination with Coast Guard

Stakeholders / Supporting Entities:

- Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
- Chennai Port Trust and associated port / handling agencies
- Ship / oil-handling companies (owners of vessels, terminals)
- navy/ airforce
- International delegates and observers (to witness, evaluate, share best practices)
- Observers / Evaluators: International and national oil-spill experts, IMO / partner agencies (consistent with precedent in NATPOLREX)

We believe this mock drill will strengthen Chennai's resilience to marine pollution emergencies and foster best practices in environmental security.

**Issued : Joint Director / Public Relations Officer,  
Greater Chennai Corporation**