

Kerala HC Directs Defence Ministry on MSC Elsa 3 Shipwreck Cargo

The Kerala High Court ordered the Ministry of Defence to file a report on hazardous cargo from the MSC Elsa 3 shipwreck.

MSC Elsa 3 was a Liberia-flagged container vessel that sank off the coast of Alappuzha, Kerala, last year, raising environmental concerns due to hazardous cargo.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Kerala High Court** directed the **Ministry of Defence** to file a **report**.
- The report concerns the condition of containers with **hazardous cargo** from the **MSC Elsa 3 shipwreck**.
- The vessel, **MSC Elsa 3**, was a **Liberia-flagged container vessel**.
- It sank off the coast of **Alappuzha, Kerala, last year**.
- Approximately **84 containers** were partially embedded in the **seabed**.
- Several **containers** from the shipwreck had **structural damage**.
- **Plastic nurdles** polluted the coast of **Kerala**, specifically **Grove beach** in **Kovalam**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Marine pollution from **shipwrecks** can severely impact **coastal ecosystems** and biodiversity.

Hazardous cargo refers to substances that pose **risks** to health, safety, or the **environment** during transport.

The **Ministry of Defence** is responsible for coordinating **national security** and defence operations, including **maritime security**.

High Courts in India have the power to issue **writs** and directives for the enforcement of fundamental rights and **environmental protection**.

Alappuzha and **Kovalam** are prominent **coastal regions** in the state of **Kerala**, known for their tourism and marine activities.

Plastic nurdles are pre-production plastic pellets, a major source of **microplastic pollution** in **oceans**.

The **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**, governs various aspects of merchant shipping in India, including **safety** and **pollution prevention**.

The **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, is a comprehensive legislation for the **protection** and **improvement** of the environment in India.

REVISION FLASHCARD

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Syllabus Relevance: High

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