

HC seeks clarity on pollution threat of MSC Elsa 3 cargo

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Expressing its concern over the threat to the marine environment posed by the presence of hazardous cargo such as plastic nurdles, calcium carbide, and other hazardous cargo within the containers of *MSC Elsa 3*, which sank off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday orally asked why the concerned government agencies had done little over the past year to implement pollution containment measures.

There is lack of clarity regarding the environmental and safety risks posed by the vessel's wreck lying on the seabed, the court said, observing that reports submitted before the court do not match the claims made by the shipping company.

A Division Bench of Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and Justice K.V. Jayakumar sought an action plan from the Centre to tackle the threat to the marine environment arising from the cargo contained in the over 600 containers the ship was carrying.

The HC had on June 16 directed the learned Additional Solicitor General to obtain specific instructions from the Centre and the concerned agencies to place before the court a detailed status report stating the measures already undertaken, the steps pro-

posed to be taken, the timelines envisaged for such action, and the status of compliance with the concerns highlighted by the court.

Action plan

Subsequently, it was submitted before the court on Tuesday that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has been impleaded in the case. The respondents, including the MoEFCC, the Director General of Shipping, and other Central government agencies concerned, propose to convene a meeting to deliberate upon the issues pertaining to marine pollution.

The Centre submitted that a comprehensive and positive action plan would be submitted within a period of two weeks, after which the court posted the matter for next hearing on July 14.

Stating that protecting the coastal environment is the Union government's responsibility, the court also expressed concern at a container carrying calcium carbide lying outside the wreck and was secured only by cargo straps. It directed that the Indian Coast Guard, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), the ship's owner firm - MSC, and other concerned agencies to assess the status of the containers and to report whether they were secure.

Firm on State autonomy and cooperative federalism: Vijay

T.N. CM says his party remains ideologically opposed to the ruling party at the Centre, but it will not oppose the government blindly; no compromise on State's rights, TVK's political principles

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Tuesday told the Assembly that his government stands firm in its policy of cooperative federalism and State autonomy.

He also reaffirmed his party remains ideologically opposed to the ruling party at the Centre, while making it clear that it would not oppose the Centre blindly. Mr. Vijay said his government was clear about the distinction between politics and maintaining an administrative relationship with the Centre.

"There will be no compromise on the State's rights or the TVK's political principles. We remain steadfast in this position, and there will be no deviation from it. Those who attempt to divert attention will fail," he said while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address. "People, particularly minorities and our alliance partners, need not have any doubts about us. We are not anyone's team. We are solely the people's team. We are a secular and social justice-oriented movement," he said.

He said there was no second thought in the government that law and order should be maintained

and crimes against women should not be tolerated. "We are taking measures to prevent crimes against women and have launched the Singappen Special Force. Similarly, steps are being taken to curb the menace of narcotic drugs. These issues did not begin on May 10, 2026 [when he assumed office as Chief Minister]. They have existed for a long time and were neglected," he said.

He also alleged that when Opposition parties raised law and order issues in Tamil Nadu, it appeared they did so not out of genuine concern but merely to spread slander. He questioned why there was no permanent Director-Gen-

eral of Police (Law and Order) for nearly 10 months during the previous government.

"The drug menace has become widespread now. It should have been curbed at the initial stage itself. Who was responsible for it? When so many questions are being raised against the government now, I would like to ask who should have taken steps to curb the drug menace then. Who was in charge of the Police Department?" he asked.

Mr. Vijay also said his government functions in a democratic manner and anyone can question law and order issues in the State.

BJP probes cross-voting in Karnataka

Nistula Hebbur
NEW DELHI

Strong concerns were raised over lack of discipline in the rank and file of the Karnataka BJP, at a high-level meeting convened by party national president Nitin Nabin with party leaders from the State over cross-voting by its MLAs in the recent State Legislative Council polls.

Disciplinary action will be taken after a commit-

tee, headed by MLC C.T. Ravi with State vice-president N. Mahesh and MLA Mahesh Tenginakayi as members, submits its report. The panel has to submit its report by July 25.

Nabin disappointed

BJP Karnataka president B.Y. Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly R. Ashok, and BJP general secretary in charge of Karnataka Radha Mohan Das Agarwal were

present at the meeting.

According to sources present at the meeting, Mr. Nabin took an extremely dim view of the cross-voting even as party leaders explained that they had cautioned NDA ally Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy against fielding a seventh candidate in the polls. "Nitinji said that even if the extra candidate strategy of the JD(S) was faulty, how does that explain the cross-vot-

ing in the BJP's ranks?" said a source. The lone candidate fielded by the JD(S) lost the election. It is said that MLAs from both the BJP and the JD(S) cross-voted, leading to the win of the Congress candidate.

Some in the Karnataka BJP feel that Mr. Kumaraswamy made that move at the behest of an anti-Vijayendra faction in the State unit to expose the flaws in the latter's leadership of the State unit.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and Karnataka. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Warm night conditions likely at isolated places over Jharkhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	
Agartala		34.9.....	26.2	Kurnool	.....	35.3.....	26.4	
Ahmedabad		40.4.....	29.2	Lucknow	.....	40.9.....	28.7	
Aizawl		33.0.....	23.7	Madurai	.....	37.0.....	25.6	
Bengaluru		28.8.....	21.5	Mangaluru	.....	37.....	22.5	
Bhopal		20.....	32.2.....	24.6	Mumbai		12.....	29.4.....
Bhubaneswar		02.....	32.6.....	25.6	Mysuru		31.2.....	20.8
Chandigarh		39.0.....	22.2	New Delhi	.....	40.....	26.8	
Chennai		38.4.....	27.8	Patna	.....	1.....	39.6.....	
Coimbatore		32.3.....	22.4	Port Blair	.....	30.9.....	26.6	
Dehradun		36.5.....	22.8	Prayagraj	.....	42.8.....	30.0	
Gangtok		12.4.....	22.5.....	17.9	Puducherry		38.3.....	27.6
Goa		40.....	30.5.....	24.2	Pune		32.....	24.6
Guwahati		31.8.....	25.6	Raipur	.....	8.....	37.2.....	
Hubballi		28.0.....	23.0	Ranchi	.....	1.....	34.7.....	
Hyderabad		11.....	32.6.....	22.2	Shillong		1.....	27.2.....
Imphal		30.6.....	22.4	Shimla	.....	29.1.....	18.6	
Jaipur		1.....	38.9.....	26.9	Srinagar		2.....	29.5.....
Kochi		11.....	30.0.....	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram		1.....	30.6.....
Kohima		24.0.....	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	.....	37.7.....	26.4	
Kolkata		3.....	35.4.....	27.0	Vijayawada		5.....	35.0.....
Kozhikode		8.....	33.6.....	24.7	Visakhapatnam		32.6.....	28.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad		48	.....	7	.....	108	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat,
Bengaluru		4	.....	4	.....	56	.....
Chennai		2	.....	5	.....	76	Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 269
Delhi		6	.....	42	.....	25	.....
Hyderabad		2	.....	4	.....	1	indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 13
Kolkata		10	.....	9	.....	4	.....
Lucknow		4	.....	15	.....	10	.....
Mumbai		12	.....	3	.....	27	.....
Pune		1	.....	7	.....	1	.....
Visakhapatnam		6	.....	21	.....	5	.....

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heart-beat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kozhikode Weather	max	min
Vadakara	34	26
Tamarassery	34	26
Kozhikode	34	26

Kozhikode Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Kozhikode Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be warm. Spells of light rain and thundershowers may occur.

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THE HINDU

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കേരള ഗ്രാമീണ ബാങ്ക്

STHREE SAKTHI SS-525 DRAW RESULT 23.06.26

സംഗ്രഹിക്കുക

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STHREE SAKTHI

SS-525

SS 871122 SP 871122

SR 871122 SU 871122

SV 871122 SX 871122

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SS 649010 (CHERTHALA)

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