



THE OSI NEWSLETTER

The OSI Newsletter is published quarterly by Oil Spill India, an industry led forum supported by its advisory board. One of the central goals of OSI is bringing together the global spill response industry & its stakeholders in the region for enhanced cooperation in planning, prevention and response of any spill or disaster in marine ecosystem, concurrently building an informative schedule of the raising Global Standards. It is intended to function as a thought - starter, change - agent and signpost through the intellectual capital that accrues through the rich assortment of diverse, pertinent and eminently interesting subjects of concern to the spill, salvage, wreck removal & marine disaster industries besides showcasing the technological depth and knowledge repertoire of the industry.

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India hands over off-shore patrol vessel to Sri Lanka

India have presented Sri Lanka an Offshore Patrol Vessel for surveillance in Sri Lanka waters, humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations, prevention of maritime pollution as well as training purposes.



The ship was decommissioned with traditional honours on August 23 to facilitate the handing over at Kochi. India has earlier handed over two OPVs of the Indian Coast Guard, Varaha in April 2006 and Vighraha in August 2008.

The OPV, which is 74.10m in length and 11.4m in breadth, has a displacement of 1180 tons. The ship can sail at 22 nautical miles per hour and has a crew of 10 officers and 98 sailors. The vessel, with a helipad onboard to accommodate latest light helicopters, can cover 8500 nautical miles at a speed of 16 nautical miles per hour.

The ship has been allocated pennant number SLCG-60 by Sri Lanka Coast Guard and will be commanded by Captain Neville Amara Ubayasiri.

Prior to the ship's departure to Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Coast Guard crew will be imparted familiarisation and on job training by Indian Coast Guard workup team on ship handling, bridge navigation, engine room controls and machineries. Rear Admiral SS Ranasinghe, Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Navy was also present during the ceremony.

Handing over ships, patrol vessels, interceptor boats to littoral states in the Indian Ocean like the Seychelles, Maldives, Mauritius and helping them in capacity-building has been a vital element of the Indian diplomacy.



UNDP, group seal plan to clean up impacted communities

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in conjunction with the Foundation for Youth Development (FYD) has carried out an evaluation of soil sampling and analysis test results in two oil-spill impacted communities in Ohaji – Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State.

The programme was conducted under an on-going community based intervention project, which seeks to clean-up and remediate hydrocarbon impacted farmlands in the communities through sustainable bio-remedial and agro-forestry programs.

A statement by the coordinator of the UNDP/FYD bio-remediation programme, Ugo Amadioha in Abuja said that the soil sampling and analysis was conducted at Ogada and Etekwuru in Egbema LGA of Imo State, as part of FYD's community empowerment project.

He said that the project is in line with a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) which is co-sponsored by the Global Environmental Facility – Small Grant Program (GEF-SGP).

National News

Government approves Rs 32,000 crore plan for Coast Guard



The Centre has approved a nearly Rs 32,000 crore plan for the Coast Guard that will give more teeth to the maritime security agency in maintaining vigil on coastal waters, defence sources said.

The action plan to give a boost to the Coast Guard in terms of infrastructure and equipment like offshore patrol vessels, interceptor boats, helicopters, aircraft and critical operational infrastructure was cleared at a meeting chaired by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra earlier this month.

The Coast Guard, a critical arm of the defence forces and whose role has become more crucial after the 26/11 attacks, protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its Exclusive Economic one (EEZ).

The plan is to make this aquatic-force a 175-ship and 110-aircraft force by 2022.

It currently has nearly 130 vessels, 52 interceptor boats and 60 plus flying assets to safeguard coastal security, island territories, offshore assets and marine environment as well as undertake anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, oil-spill and pollution-control operations.

India, Ukraine discuss partnership potential in ship-building



India and Ukraine discussed potential for developing sustainable partnership between them in the area of ship-building, a statement said on Tuesday.

The discussions took place on Monday during the visit of a Ukrainian delegation led by its Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade Nataliya Mykolska.

Giving an overview of ship building industry in their country, the Ukrainian delegation invited senior officials of the Shipping Ministry to visit Odessa and Kiev to study the logistic chain and shipbuilding yards in particular.

Indian Shipping Secretary Ravikant invited Ukraine to send a group-cum-business delegation to visit Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), which is one of the major civilian shipyards in India and has been amongst the biggest in the country.

He also suggested that interested vendors from Ukraine may participate in the open tendering process of the CSL for empanelment for procurement.

The issue of a pending MoU in the field of maritime transport was also discussed during the meeting and the Ukrainian Minister assured of getting the said MoU signed at the earliest, the statement said.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approves Rs 3,000 cr project for appraisal of oil, gas reserves



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today gave its approval for a significant project to acquire 48,243 Line Kilometer (LKM) 2D seismic data for appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins where limited data is available.

The project will help in increasing the investments in domestic production of oil and gas. The project will be implemented by NOCs, i.e. Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). OIL will conduct survey in North - Eastern States while remaining area will be covered by ONGC. Survey work will be carried out in 24 States.

Total estimated cost of the entire project is Rs. 2932.99 crore spread over five years.

Initially National Oil Companies (NOCs) are meeting the fund requirement from their own sources, which will be reimbursed by the Government.

Entire project is likely to be completed by 2019-20. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons is monitoring the project and reviewing the progress on monthly basis.

Project involves engagement of large number of workers at local level where work is to be executed. This is likely to generate direct as well as indirect employment for about 11,000 people in the form of skilled and unskilled workers and suppliers for support services. After the appraisal of these basins, and based on the prospectivity of the area, blocks will be offered for further exploration & production activities which will further generate employment.

International News

Greece suffers oil spill near Athens



Emergency crews were scrambling yesterday to contain an oil spill near Athens after an old tanker sank close to Salamis island over the weekend. The coastguard said an entire bay on the southeast of the island had been affected after the Agia Zoni II, carrying 2,500 metric tonnes of fuel, sank.

The spill extends over 1.5km and the full clean-up will likely require four months, greater Athens fisheries councillor Voula Toutountzi told the capital's municipal radio. Yesterday divers managed to seal off further leakage from the 45-year-old vessel, the coastguard said.

"The hull is now secure, and the company has submitted a plan to begin draining the remaining fuel," a coastguard spokeswoman told AFP. Authorities could not clarify how much fuel remains on board, or when the operation would begin.

It was not immediately clear what caused the sinking late on Sunday. Weather conditions in the area were mild at the time and the vessel was anchored.

"We need more forces to tackle the great extent of this damage," Salamis mayor Isidora Nannou-Papathanassiou told state news agency ANA. "If the wind direction changes, the problem could spread to the rest of the Saronic gulf." The tanker's captain and chief engineer were charged with negligence and released pending trial.

The coastguard said barriers had been erected to contain the spill and tanker trucks were being used to collect the oil. But much of the fuel ended up on Salamina's beaches regardless. Local officials said fishermen had been told to avoid the area.

Coastal businesses in the area have also shut down, the mayor said. Salamis lies just off the port of Piraeus and the Eleusis shipyards and oil refineries, one of the most polluted areas in Greece. The sewage treatment plant of Psyttalia is also near the location where the tanker sank.

Enbridge Energy conducting oil spill containment training



Enbridge Energy conducted a training exercise today in Delta County - on containing a Great Lakes oil spill. The training was at Basic Marine in Escanaba, with crews working on new skimmers and booms which could be used to clean and contain any possible oil spill.

Exercises like this are performed on an annual basis 'just in case' of any issues with oil and gas pipelines running under the Straits of Mackinac.

"Everything we do is all about public safety and the environment," said Greg Carter, Supervisor of Emergency Preparedness with Enbridge. "We want to make sure that by owning this equipment we can deploy it properly. We don't want our staff to get hurt or anyone who is working with us or oil spill recovery staff or anyone that's partnered with emergency response, we want to make sure we're doing the right thing."

The line that runs under the Straits of Mackinac help transport more than 50% of propane in the U.P. and 30% of the refining capacity in the Lower Peninsula.

There have been calls by environmentalists to remove the lines, although they have not leaked in some sixty-plus years of operations.

Giant Oil Spill in Texas After Harvey Flooding



A petroleum company says Hurricane Harvey's floodwaters triggered a spill of almost a half-million gallons of gasoline from two storage tanks along the Houston Ship Channel, AP reports. The spill measured 10,988 barrels, which is more than 461,000 gallons. That marks the largest reported spill linked to Harvey's floodwaters. The gasoline spilled from a Magellan Midstream Partners fuel terminal in Galena Park.

Some of it flowed into a waterway adjacent to the ship channel, a heavily industrialized area that's lined with dozens of petrochemical facilities.

Magellan spokesman Bruce Heine said Monday that the spill was contained and cleanup was ongoing. The Associated Press has identified more than two dozen spills from fuel and chemical tanks that failed during Harvey. Government regulations do not require tank owners to take specific steps against flooding.

Pipeline Corrosion Caused Small Phillips 66 Oil Spill Prompting Big Concern



A minor oil spill in San Pablo Bay at the Phillips 66 oil refinery this week was most likely caused by a corroded pipeline, a revelation prompting a new set of concerns as the energy company pushes to expand the number of oil tankers that unload crude at the Rodeo facility's marine terminal.

The spill, which is the subject of three investigations, released an estimated 25 to 50 gallons of gas oil from a "pinhole leak" on an inactive pipe along the refinery's causeway, according to an email the company sent Contra Costa County health officials and obtained by KQED.

"The cause of the leak is still under investigation, but is believed to have been due to localized corrosion," wrote Morgan Walker, the refinery's health and safety manager.

That disclosure reignited outrage from environmental groups opposed to Phillips proposal to raise the daily average of oil unloaded at the marine terminal from about 51,000 barrels to 130,000.

"This latest accident shows how little concern oil companies have for safety," said Hollin Kretzmann at the Center for Biological Diversity. "We've got to be concerned about a repeat of this and the next accident could be bigger and much more damaging to our bay and nearby communities."

"The refinery cannot keep contaminating the Bay and our communities with oil," Choksi-Chugh said. "And if they do, they cannot expect their proposal to more than double the amount of oil that they bring into the Bay Area to go unchallenged by the public and the responsible agencies."

Phillips 66 has said the extra tanker deliveries would replace crude oil currently delivered by pipeline.

A spokesman for the company has not responded to several requests for comment about the recent spill. The refinery's letter to county health officials stresses that the spill was stopped and contained quickly and that there were no odor complaints or impacts to boating.

Concerns over changes to Canada's offshore drilling policy



Several environmental agencies have expressed concerns over relatively quiet changes being proposed for offshore drilling.

They say notice for public consultation has been barely advertised, that affected first nations tribes have not been consulted at all, and that most input into regulation for the petroleum industry over the past year has come from the industry itself.

Susanna Fuller (PhD marine biology) is senior marine coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre based in Nova Scotia.

The proposed changes are known as the Frontier and Offshore Regulatory Renewal Initiative or FORRI. Environmental and other affected groups, including the World Wildlife Fund-Canada say the proposed changes could have "profound implications for safety and environmental protection"

In many cases the changes place more responsibility for safety and clean-up of spills in the hands of the oil and gas industry. In many cases they are also vague, saying for example such things as reducing risk to "as low as reasonably practicable", and response to accidents should be "as soon as the circumstances permit".

The Ecology Action Centre and others are asking that FORRI be halted, and that offshore oil and gas drilling be controlled by other more stringent existing government agencies and laws.

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How hurricanes and other devastating disasters spur scientific research



Every day, it seems like there's a new natural disaster in the headlines. Hurricane Harvey inundates Texas. Hurricane Irma plows through the Caribbean and the U.S. south, and Jose is hot on its heels. A deadly 8.1-magnitude earthquake rocks Mexico. Wildfires blanket the western United States in choking smoke.

While gripping tales of loss and heroism rightly fill the news, another story quietly unfolds. Hurricanes, droughts, oil spills, wildfires and other disasters are natural labs. Data quickly gathered in the midst of such chaos, as well as for years afterward, can lead to discoveries that ultimately make rescue, recovery and resilience to future crises possible.

So when disaster strikes, science surges, says human ecologist Gary Machlis of Clemson University in South Carolina. He has studied and written about the science done during crises and was part of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Strategic Sciences Group, which helps government officials respond to disasters.

The science done during Hurricane Harvey is an example. Not long after the heavy rains stopped, crews of researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey fanned across Texas, dropping sensors into streams. The instruments measure how swiftly the water is flowing and determine the severity of the flooding in different regions affected by the

hurricane. Knowing where the flooding is the worst can help the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other government groups direct funds to areas with the most extreme damage.

In the days leading up to Irma's U.S. landfall, scientists from the same agency also went to the Florida, Georgia and South Carolina coasts to fasten storm-tide sensors to pier pylons and other structures. The sensors measure the depth and duration of the surge in seawater generated by the change in pressure and winds from the storm. This data will help determine damage from the surge and improve models of flooding in the future, which could help provide a better picture of where future storm waters will go and who needs to be evacuated ahead of hurricanes.

As winds blew and rain pelted, the team raised minitowers decked with instruments designed to measure ground-level gusts and turbulence. With this data, the researchers will compare winds in coastal areas, near buildings and around other structures, data that can help government agencies assess storm-related damage to buildings and other structures. "Scientists want to use their expertise to help society in whatever way they can during a disaster," says biologist Teresa Stoepler, who was a member of the Strategic Sciences Group when she worked at USGS.

How mapping coastal areas could prepare for an oil spill

A team of researchers is mapping part of Nova Scotia's South Shore coastline in an effort to understand how to protect vulnerable ecosystems if an oil spill ever happened in the province's waters.

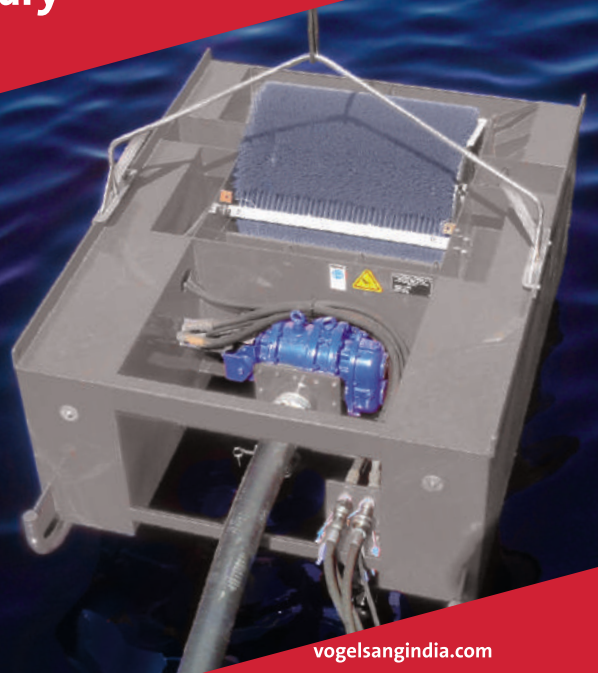
It's all about how the water moves and carries the oil, explained Tim Webster, a research scientist who heads the team at the Applied Geomatics Research Group (AGRG) in Middleton, a division of the Nova Scotia Community College

"The oil spill recovery people have good models to tell them how quick the oil will come from the deep water. But once it gets near the shore, they don't really have good models to tell them current speeds and current directions," Webster said.

That might mean cleanup teams wouldn't be able to move fast enough to block oil from moving into fishing grounds, animal habitat, or coastal communities.

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Subsea oil dispersants a success at Deepwater disaster



More than seven years have passed since the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded off the coast of Louisiana, spilling millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Now, new findings are helping to answer unresolved questions about whether officials responding to the emergency made the right call when they injected more than 3 million litres of chemical dispersant at the rig's wellhead. The research, funded by the US National Science Foundation and the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative – an independent programme sponsored by BP – suggests subsea dispersants lowered human health risks during the disaster intervention efforts. Previous research has indicated that the combination of dispersants and oil is more toxic than either one alone. The new analysis by US and Swiss scientists paints a rosier picture.

The scientists built and ran a mathematical model to determine what would have happened in the wake of the Deepwater disaster without the use of dispersants. It turns out that the subsea injection of dispersants decreased the overall concentration of all volatile organic chemicals in the atmosphere by 30%, and it also significantly reduced levels of aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene and toluene.

Without the dispersant injection, the model revealed, benzene concentrations in the air above the sea surface would have been 13 times higher than the levels considered safe for humans. In contrast, the researchers determined that the dispersant injection resulted in atmospheric benzene concentrations that were 500 times lower than acceptable levels.

The scientists hypothesise that injecting the subsea dispersant led the turbulent jet of petroleum fluids to produce oil droplets that were about 30 times smaller than they would have been without dispersants. As a result, many volatile petroleum chemicals dissolved more quickly, and deep currents carried away most of the highly toxic benzene and toluene, which likely biodegraded within weeks.

Over 400 meter oil spill in Hurghada

Director of Red Sea Protected Areas Directorate, Ahmed Ghallab said Saturday that an oil spill occurred in the Abu Galawa area north of Hurghada. The spill was reported by diving trips organizers in the popular diving spot.

Ghallab said that the spill stretched over 400 meters, and researches have been dispatched to contain it before it reaches the shores of tourist resorts. The director added that a sample was taken from the oil spill for examination in the central laboratories in the Suez region, in order to find the source of pollution.

Coordination with the oil companies to carry out a helicopter flights operating in the area is underway, to ensure that there is no oil pollution elsewhere.

Korean oil spill threatens marine farms



A scenic west coast region hit by South Korea's worst ever oil spill will be eligible for millions of dollars in disaster aid, a minister said on Monday. Park Myung-Jae, the minister of government administration and home affairs vowed immediate aid of KRW 5.9 billion and said more state funds would be forthcoming soon. "Precious time was lost in preparing seaside communities for the impending ecological disaster," a Korea Herald editorial said.

"Equipment to contain the oil spill was not distributed promptly, leaving villagers helpless as they watched the oil move ashore," it added.

The JoongAng Ilbo said it suspects "authorities tackled the accident in a loafing and idle manner."

As almost 9,000 people struggled to clean up the huge slick, officials said the spill could deal a heavy blow to tourism and oyster and abalone farms in the area.

Cho Kyu-Sung, a Taean county official, told AFP that the slick had hit 160 marine farms so far and was still spreading, with a total of 445 farms in the coastal area under threat.

"At this stage, it's difficult to estimate the direct and indirect damage. The damage will be enormous if you include long-term environmental expenses," he added. Park Myung-Jae said the area would be declared a disaster zone during a visit to the fouled beaches, where soldiers, police, volunteers and residents worked with shovels and buckets to try to clear the oil.

The designation makes four townships in Taean county eligible for subsidies and compensation.

About 10,500 tons of crude oil leaked into the Yellow Sea when a drifting barge smashed into an oil tanker on Friday.

Some 140 ships and five planes were helping, but the Coast Guard said the slick has already hit 50 kilometres of coastline. More was expected to come ashore.

Finnish company comes to Murmansk, sets up Arctic oil spill response unit with Rosneft



The cooperation between the companies will include the manufacturing of equipment for oil spill preparedness, response and recovery. It will unfold in the premises of Shipyard No 82, an object over which Rosneft secured control in 2013. The deal between Lamor and Rosneft was announced during the recent Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. It comes on the basis of a cooperation agreement concluded between the companies in April this year.

According to Rosneft, the deal will enable it to increase the level of Russian domestically produced equipment of the kind to at least 70 percent by year 2025.

In a statement from Lamor, company President and CEO Fred Larsen, underlines that «joint production with Rosneft takes our presence in the Russian market to another level». Lamor has for a number of years been represented in Russia, first of all in St.Petersburg and the country's far east.

The Finnish-headquartered company is a world-leading producer of oil spill response and recovery equipment and has in its 35 years history delivered equipment to 120 countries and more than 1,800 vessel mounted systems, the company informs.

The deal comes as Rosneft continues the mapping of its huge Arctic energy reserves. The company has 28 offshore Arctic licenses and major exploration and development commitments.

Regional authorities in Murmansk subsequently relieved Roslyakovo of its status as closed military town and opened up for regular traffic to the area. Before that, Roslyakovo had been part of Severomorsk, the Northern Fleet headquarter city, and entry was restricted for anyone without a special permit.

OPEC Tactics Raise Production Costs Around The World

Efforts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have raised the costs of producing oil and gas by roughly \$160 billion, transforming the industry, according to a new business study from Duke University, KU Leuven and the University of California in Los Angeles. Thirty-four years of data tracking 13,248 oilfields show how the cartel has raised the financial bar to enter the oil and gas game.

"The question people usually ask about OPEC and other cartels is, 'Does it raise prices for consumers?'" said Duke economist Allan Collard-Wexler, one of the authors. "We found the cartel has also had other, broader effects on the economy."

OPEC's key strategy since its founding in 1960 has been to control output so that barrel prices stay high. They did this through quotas and other agreements, but the group's goals have been consistent. The unintended effect of this strategy was to drive producers to seek new and expensive methods of extracting oil from the earth, the study claims.

"We're essentially erecting skyscrapers in the ocean," Allan Collard-Wexler said. "It's like building a 10-story building in the middle of the Arctic. Many of these technologies - fracking, for instance—would not exist if not for the activities of the OPEC cartel."

Metrics on Norway's economy pulled higher because of oil



Some of the metrics gauging the health of the Norwegian economy were pulled higher by higher prices for crude oil and related products, the government said.

Norway is one of the top oil and gas producing nations in the world. It designates nearly all of its offshore oil and gas production for exports to the European market, putting it behind Russia as a top regional supplier.

Statistics Norway, the country's record-keeping agency, said the producer price index from July to August improved by 0.4 percent, reversing a trend for the previous five months.

"Higher prices on crude oil, petroleum products and extraction services were the main contributors for the rise," the agency said in a statement.

The PPI for July was pulled down by lower natural gas prices and the agency said that trend was still weighing on the index for August. The index for services related to the extraction, part of the upstream sector, increased by 3.3 percent, the second month in a row for a gain. The consecutive PPI gain in the upstream sector was the first time for Norway since 2015.

PPI can serve as an indicator of inflation, which could be good for consumer spending and corporate profits if it's low and a signal an overheated economy if it's too high.

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, the nation's energy regulator, said preliminary figures for July show total average daily production of oil, natural gas liquids and condensate, an ultra-light form of oil, was 2 million barrels, an increase of 93,000 bpd from the previous month.



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