

Observations of the coastal area consequent to collision of two ships near the Gateway of India, Mumbai

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A visit was undertaken in and around Alibag which was reportedly affected as a result of spillage of oil in the sea due to collision of two ships near JNPT Port. It was noticed that there were huge quantities of tea/coffee powder bags, biscuit packets and empty plastic bags soiled with oil, spread all over the beach area of Navgaon, Thal, Mandwa, Saswane and Rewas Bodni. At Saswane, two containers full of tea, coffee and biscuit packets were washed ashore. At Mandwa, two huge containers were found floating around the beach area. At Rewas Bodni and Navkhar, approximately 45 bottles found containing phosphine

tablets with label printed on the bottle as: "Manufacturer: United Phosphorous Limited, 167, Dr. A. B. Road, Worli, Mumbai-18, Factory: 3-11 GIDCO, Gujarat, India", were seized by the Mandwa Coastal Police on 10th and 11th August, 2010.

Many local villagers were found collecting the tea/coffee powder packets from the sea and drying them on the beaches. The local people were made aware of the hazardous nature of the contaminated material floating in the sea due to spillage of oil/chemical from the collided ships.