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Ennore Oil Spill

Why in news?

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Two vessels collided off Ennore port and resulted in the oil spill that spread southward beyond Marina beach, about 25km from the accident spot.

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What happened?

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- A LPG tanker and an oil and chemical tanker collided within the port limits in Ennore on 28th Jan 2017.

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- The incident happened about two nautical miles outside the harbour.

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- The port authorities initially claimed that there was no oil spill.
- However in two days a thick layer of floating oil was found on the shoreline of the Marina beach, which is more than 20km from Ennore port.
- Later it was confirmed that One tonne oil was leaked, which resulted in floating oil slicks.
- He said steps were being taken to procure oil dispersants which will have to come from the Centre.

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What is the impact?

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- Ecologists assert that there will be long term negative impact of this **oil spill on Chennai's marine ecology**.
- But the large disaster is being underplayed and it cannot be manually managed.
- **Advanced technology, mechanized methods and rapid measures to control the spread of the oil is required.**
- The INCOIS report has mentioned that the spillage has polluted 24.06km of the city's shoreline.
- The biggest source of toxins is through inhalation and **crude oil has benzene, which is a carcinogen.**
- Chennai which has two ports and yet **the preparedness to handle is appalling**, according to environmentalists.
- Despite knowing that a disaster is rolling out, there is **still no mechanism in place** which is a bigger disaster compared to the accident.

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