

INBRIEF



Protest held in A.P. against seafarer deaths in war zones

The Merchant Navy Officers Welfare Association, Visakhapatnam, conducted a silent protest from the Kali Mata temple to the Beach Road in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, condemning the killing of seafarers in war zones. Around 40 merchant navy seafarers took part in the protest and expressed solidarity with seafarers who lost their lives. The association sought compensation and adequate support for the kin of deceased seafarers from shipowners and agencies.

₹300-crore revamp of Vizag railway station approved

In a major push to modernise rail infrastructure in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Indian Railways has approved a comprehensive ₹300-crore yard remodelling project for the Visakhapatnam railway station. Executed by the newly formed South Coastal Railway (SCoR) zone, the project features six new platforms and six additional railway lines to handle expanding passenger traffic. The station expansion will increase the terminal's total platform to 14.

Allu Arjun inaugurates AAA Cinemas in Vizag

Actor Allu Arjun expressed hope that Visakhapatnam would emerge as an international destination on the lines of Dubai. The actor was in the city to inaugurate 'AAA Cinemas' at Inorbit Mall on Sunday. Addressing his fans at the event, he congratulated the people of the city on the recent inauguration of the Alluri Sitharama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram. "I love Vizag. I would love to see Vizag emerging as an international destination like Dubai," he said.

Kerala govt. may withdraw directive on Vande Mataram

Following Opposition allegations of 'toeing RSS line', Health Minister says only the first two stanzas would be sung at State govt. programmes; CMO is yet to officially clarify or withdraw instruction

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Following Opposition allegations of toeing the Sangh Parivar's line on the recital of *Vande Mataram* in its entirety, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala appeared to backtrack on the Chief Secretary's directive to government departments to ensure the song was recited in its entirety during the Independence Day celebrations.

Although the Chief Minister's Office is yet to make an official clarification or withdraw the directive, Health Minister K. Muralaeeharan told the media on Sunday that only the



The Health Minister says that the Chief Secretary sometimes issues circulars based on Union government directives. FILE PHOTOS

first two stanzas will be sung in the State government's programmes. He said that the Chief Secretary sometimes issues circulars based on Union government directives. Though Mr. Muralaeeharan and Education Minister

N. Samsudheen of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) said that the Chief Secretary had acted as per Lok Bhavan's directives, Lok Bhavan has reportedly denied issuing any directions.

Even as the Opposition

Left Democratic Front (LDF) lashed out at the UDF government for "sur-rendering completely" to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) agenda, the Ministers of the ruling front had found it hard to defend the directive.

Opposition's criticism

Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan said that singing the first two stanzas of *Vande Mataram* was not wrong, but the song in its entirety goes against the country's secular spirit.

CP(M) leader T.M. Thomas Isaac said that even though in a federal system States might be forced to follow Central directives, the State should at least make a mark of protest.

Police to seek custody of two accused in medico death case in Rajahmundry

The Hindu Bureau
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

East Godavari Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore said on Sunday that the police would seek custody of Suravarapu Deshwanth and Andrew Joseph Edwards for further investigation into the death of medico K. Priyanka.

The two accused were remanded in judicial custo-

dy till August 21 on August 7 for allegedly hitting Dr. Priyanka with a car in an inebriated condition in Rajamahendravaram on August 3. They allegedly hit her twice before running over her while she was riding pillion on a two-wheeler. She was declared brain dead the same day and died at a private hospital in Secunderabad on August 7.

"As per the preliminary

probe, Dr. Priyanka and the accused were not known to each other," Mr. Narasimha Kishore said. The case was registered under culpable homicide not amounting to murder and the charges could be altered after further investigation.

₹20 lakh assistance

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed offi-

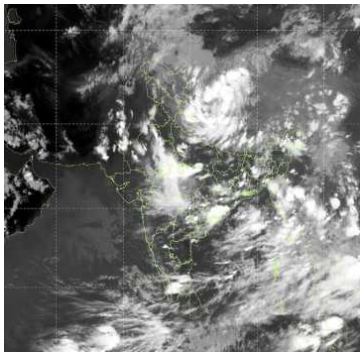
cials to provide ₹20 lakh assistance to the family and ensure stringent legal action.

The government will bear her medical expenses since August 3, Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh said.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan and Home Minister V. Anitha also assured the family of support and justice.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with Lightning very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat Region, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and Uttarakhand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.5	26.5	Kurnool	—	35.5	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	33.7	27.0	Lucknow	—	33.5	27.8
Aizawl	—	27.3	22.4	Madurai	—	40.2	26.1
Bangalore	4.4	29.4	20.8	Mangaluru	—	29.1	24.4
Bhopal	—	33.4	22.8	Mumbai	—	—	—
Bhubaneswar	6.2	34.2	26.8	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	36.0	25.0	New Delhi	4.8	35.3	26.5
Chennai	17.8	36.1	25.4	Patna	—	34.9	25.0
Coimbatore	—	33.4	22.8	Port Blair	17.8	29.4	24.2
Dehradun	2.5	32.2	24.1	Prayagraj	12.9	33.5	25.0
Gangtok	43	22.3	18.1	Puducherry	—	25.0	—
Goa	—	18	31.4	Pune	—	39.2	22.9
Guwahati	25.9	32.9	25.4	Raipur	—	66	30.0
Hubballi	—	—	—	Ranchi	—	7	29.9
Hyderabad	12.4	—	24.6	Shillong	—	0.2	23.3
Imphal	3.8	27.7	22.7	Shirna	—	—	24.1
Jaipur	2	00.0	26.7	Srinagar	—	0.7	30.4
Kochi	—	3	29.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	17.3	31.0
Kohima	—	—	—	Tiruchirappalli	—	—	39.5
Kolkata	—	32.0	27.2	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kozhikode	—	6.6	31.9	Visakhapatnam	—	5.2	34.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO	MO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	..11	..23	..27	..40	..114	—	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hingoli, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 336
Bangalore	..8	..—	..52	..31	..87	—	indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14.
Chennai	..5	..12	..—	..34	..89	—	
Delhi	..20	..31	..81	..173	..166	—	
Hyderabad	..4	..18	..14	..27	..57	—	
Kolkata	..9	..15	..35	..19	..30	—	
Lucknow	..36	..12	..24	..69	..84	—	
Mumbai	..4	..10	..30	..80	..—	—	
Pune	..—	..27	..2	..39	..82	—	
Visakhapatnam	..6	..71	..20	..49	..89	—	

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.
MO: 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 and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Compensation for victims should be independent of fine on offenders: Kerala HC

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court recently observed that the compensation awarded under the Victim Compensation Scheme should be independent of, and in addition to the compensation levied from the offender.

The court directed the Kasaragod District Legal Services Authority to conduct an inquiry and determine the amount of compensation payable to the survivors, and ensure that the payment is disbursed without undue delay.

The Single Bench of Justice Jobin Sebastian was considering a petition by the survivors of an acid attack, where the offender was sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment and ₹40,000 to be paid to the victims. The petitioners con-

tended that the Sessions Court failed to make a recommendation under the Victim Compensation Scheme and that the compensation awarded was 'grossly inadequate' considering the nature of the injuries. The court held that in an acid attack case, the criminal court was under a statutory obligation to consider the question of awarding adequate compensation to the survivors. Victim compensation is intended to ensure the adequate rehabilitation of survivors who have suffered loss or injury, where regular compensation is inadequate, or the offender is unable to pay, the court observed.

The court said that the obligation assumed greater significance in cases involving acid attacks, where the survivors often require prolonged medical treatment, psychological counselling, rehabilitation and financial assistance.

'Mastermind' in illegal explosives case arrested

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly arrested T.A. Harris, the alleged mastermind in a case involving the seizure of a huge cache of explosives from Chemmad, near Tirurangadi, in the Malappuram district of Kerala. He was reportedly arrested from Manjeri in the district.

According to the NIA, Mr. Harris played a key role in illegally procuring, stockpiling and distributing the explosives.

The seizure

The case relates to the seizure of 89,600 gelatin sticks and 10,500 non-electric detonators from a hollow bricks factory compound at Chemmad on February 7, 2026.

They were stored in boxes and found hidden among onion sacks. The case was handed over to the NIA after the explosives were found to have been brought without a licence. The NIA took over the investigation citing its national security implications.

19 locations searched

The NIA conducted searches at around 19 locations across Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, recovering digital devices and documents. Three people were arrested in Karnataka earlier, while the total number of arrests in the case has now reached 10.

The agency had also searched quarry-related locations in Kozhikode, Kasaragod and Kannur districts before arresting the suspects.

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[See Proviso to Rule 9(1)] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
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E-Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 9(1) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditors. Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" on 08-09-2026 for recovery of (I) M/s. Sri Lakshmi Traders, Rs.58,88,118.56 Rupees Five Crore Fifty-eight Lakhs Eighty-Eight Thousand One Hundred and eighty-five paise only) as on 19.05.2024, plus unpaid interest from 20-05-2024 and other charges, if any, and realization of costs incurred to be incurred; (II) M/s. Sri Venkateswara Enterprises: Rs.4,59,23,371.94 (Rupees Four Crore Fifty Nine Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy One and Ninety Four Paise only) as on 05-05-2024, plus unpaid interest from 06-05-2024 and other charges, if any, and realization of costs incurred to be incurred, due to Bank of Baroda secured creditor, from (I) 1. M/s. Sri Lakshmi Traders, Proprietor: Smt. Sakkurthi Vasumathi, # D.No: 4-4-92, 2nd Line, Chandra Mouli Nagar, Mahalakshmi Nilayam, Guntur-522007, A.P. Also at 2. Regd Office Address: Godown address: Clo Sri Giri Cotton Traders, No: 1136, Sri Ram Cotton Ginning Mill, Suryadevara Peta, Eluru, Guntur-522017, A.P. 3. Smt.Sakkurthi Vasumathi (PROPRIETOR), #D.No:4-4-92, 2nd Line, Chandra Mouli Nagar, Mahalakshmi Nilayam, Guntur-522007, A.P. Guarantors: 4. Sri, Sakkurthi Vara Prasad, # D.No: 4-4-92, 2nd Line, Chandra Mouli Nagar, Mahalakshmi Nilayam, Guntur-522007, A.P. 5. M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders (Mortgagor), Rep by its Partners: Sri, Sakkurthi Vara Prasad, Smt. Sakkurthi Vasumathi, Registered Office: # D.No: 4-4-92, 2nd Line, Chandra Mouli Nagar, Mahalakshmi Nilayam, Guntur-522007, A.P. 6. Mr.Sakkurthi Vasumathi, Managing Partner of M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders, Registered Office: # D.No:4/141, Nallapadu, Guntur-522005, A.P. 7. Smt. Sakkurthi Vasumathi, Partner of M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders, Registered Office: # D.No: 4/141, Nallapadu, Guntur-522005, A.P. 8. Mr.Sakkurthi Vasumathi, Partner of M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders, Registered Office: # D.No: 4/141, Nallapadu, Guntur-522005, A.P. 9. M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders (Mortgagor) Rep by its Partners, 1). Mr.Sakkurthi Vara Prasad, 2). Mrs. Sakkurthi Vasumathi, Registered Office: # D.No:4/141, Nallapadu, Guntur-522005, A.P. 6. Mr.Sakkurthi Vara Prasad, Managing Partner of M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders, Registered Office: # D.No: 4/141, Nallapadu, Guntur-522005, A.P. 7. Mrs. Sakkurthi Vasumathi, Partner of M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders, Registered Office: # D.No:4/141, Nallapadu, Guntur-522005, A.P.

Description of Immovable properties. Reserve Price, EMD to be deposited. Bid increment amount and Auction Date & Timings are mentioned here below:
All that piece and parcel of the land and Building (A.C.C. Godown) in Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub Division, Nallapadu Gram Panchayat area, Door No 4-141, assessment No: 824, D.No:606, an extent of Acres 3-49 cents or 16891.6 Sq.Yds (S.C.No. H.T/G.N.12/73). Current connections) with all easement rights in the Name of M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivas Cotton Traders Rep. by its partners Mr. Sakkurthi Vara Prasad and Mrs. Sakkurthi Vasumathi. Bounded by: EAST: Property Belongs to Bheskar Cotton Mills is 605'-00". SOUTH: Property belongs to Duggumudi Venkata Reddy and others is 253'-00". WEST: Property belongs to Chaltanya Palwanzing mills is 596'-00". NORTH: Some Property Belongs to Srinivasa Colony is 102', 30' width road is 30' and again Srinivasa Colony is 124' in total is 256'-00" (The property BOTH Land AND Buildings belonging to the mortgagor M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Cotton Traders is mortgaged in favour of Bank of Baroda for both the borrowers (1) M/s Sri Lakshmi Traders AND (2) M/s Sri Venkateswara Enterprises.)

Reserve Price: Rs.8,10,00,000/- (for Both Land and Buildings); EMD: Rs. 81,00,000/- Bid Increment: Rs. 5,00,000/- Auction date: 08-09-2026 Auction Time: 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM

Date & Time of inspection of the property: 21-08-2026 11.00AM to 03.00PM The Sale is subject to outcome of pending SA No. 505/2025 at DRT, Visakhapatnam
The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. For any Clarifications or further details contact 6374163844/ 8328548382 and Also may contact the Bank's approved service provider **MSB Alliance**, at their web portal <https://baanet.com>. The interested bidders shall ensure that they get themselves registered on the e-auction website and deposit earnest money in the virtual wallet created by service provider as per guidelines provided on <https://baanet.com>, prior to the date of e-auction. For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/ visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm>

PLEASE NOTE: Below the above Borrowers (1) M/s. Sri Lakshmi Traders and (2) M/s. Sri Venkateswara Enterprises have availed the Credit Facilities from Bank of Baroda, Guntur Branch and since both the Borrowers are NPA, our Guntur Branch has invoked the provisions of SARFAESI Act 2002. As per Bank of Baroda Policy, the Account(s) is/are now transferred to Bank of Baroda, ZO-SARB, Hyderabad for the purpose of Recovery. As such, Borrower/Guarantor(s) and the General public shall note that from now onwards, the proceedings under SARFAESI Act 2002 shall be taken forward by Bank of Baroda, ZO-SARB, Hyderabad.
Date: 07-08-2026, Place: Hyderabad

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

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