

SL attack: MEA gives word, Karaikal fishers drop protest

ANTONY FERNANDO @ Karaikal

KARAIKAL fisherfolk on Friday suspended their indefinite strike over the January 27 episode of Sri Lankan navy firing following assurances by the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Puducherry government that the injured fisherman, a Karaikal native, is receiving proper treatment.

The agitation had reached a feverish pitch after the fisherfolk planned to surrender their ration cards at the Karaikal collectorate on Friday. However, on Wednesday evening, the office of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor announced that L-G K Kailashnathan had personally reached out to the Indian consulate in Sri Lanka. On Friday, the fisherfolk received photographs showing C Senthamizh (27), who was shot at, under treatment at Teaching Hospital in Jaffna.

The images, which captured the injured fisherman wearing a knee-spanning external fixator on his left leg, also showed Indian Consul General for Sri Lanka S Sai Murali alongside

SL court releases two Ramnad fishermen

Ramanathapuram: A Sri Lankan court released two Indian fishermen of Ramanathapuram, who were arrested by Lankan Navy for alleged IMB violation in last December, on Friday. Official sources said the SL Navy had arrested 17 Indian fishermen hailing from Rameswaram on December 24, last year. Among the arrested, about 13 fishermen were released back on February 7, while two others were sentenced to two years imprisonment.

other officials and doctors during a visit made on Wednesday. Senthamizh also spoke to his family in Kilinjalmedu, sources said. "We are stopping our protests as we are satisfied with the progress in Senthamizh's treatment. However, our vessels will remain anchored until the upcoming judicial hearing in Sri Lanka," said MK Gajendiran, a fisher representative.

Govt renews G.O. for leasing 90 acres to film industry workers



Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin handed over the renewed G.O to the office-bearers of Film Employees Federation of South India (FEFSI) | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE state government has renewed a G.O. for leasing out 90 acres of land, worth ₹180 crore, at Payyanur near Kelambakkam to workers of the film industry. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin handed over the renewed G.O to the office-bearers of Film Employees Federation of South India (FEFSI), Tamil Film Producers Council, South Indian Artists' Association and Tamil Nadu Small Screen Artists Association. Talking to reporters, Udhayanidhi said that in 2010, the

then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi allocated the above land for 99 years for a lease amount of ₹1,000 per year to the members of the film industry workers. "As per the G.O. issued then, members of FEFSI and other unions should have constructed houses within three years. But it was delayed due to some reasons. Now, following requests from the unions, Chief Minister M K Stalin has ordered a revival of the G.O. for leasing out the land for 99 years. The unions can build multi-storey buildings on the land allocated," Udhayanidhi added.

Crime against women: TN better than north states, says Udhaya

CHENNAI: Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Friday expressed concern over the rising incidents of crime against women in the country. However, the situation in Tamil Nadu is better than several north Indian states, he said. Speaking at the inauguration of Sixth International and 45th All India Criminology Conference of the Indian Society of Criminology, hosted by the criminology department of University of Madras, Udhayanidhi said, "According to National Crime Records Bureau, crimes against women have been on a steady rise in India. In 2020, a total of 3.71 lakh cases were reported, and it rose to 4.28 lakh in 2021. In 2022, it went up to 4.45 lakh cases. While the NCRB has not yet released the data for 2023 and 2024, for reasons best known to them, the trend is deeply concerning. However, TN has consistently been recording lower crime rate when compared to several northern states," Udhayanidhi said. ENS

NHRC chief to launch communal amity forum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

JUSTICE V Ramasubramanian, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission of India, will inaugurate UNITY INDIA, a national forum dedicated to promoting communal harmony on Saturday at the CPR Convention Centre in Chennai. A release said the forum intends to bridge the trust deficit between Hindus and Muslims through various initiatives, including the creation of an easily accessible database documenting positive Hindu-Muslim interactions across the country, intellectually countering divisive narratives, and encouraging challenges to extremist interpretations of religion from within the communities.

The event will be attended by prominent speakers including Justice K Kannan (former judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court), Justice P N Prakash (former Judge of Madras High Court), Prof Faizan Mustafa (Vice Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University in Patna), N L Rajah (senior advocate), Irshad Mecca (associate from Islamic Forum for the promotion of moderate thought), and A Faizur Rahman (secretary general from Islamic Forum for the promotion of moderate thought).

Sachin to be brand ambassador of Agarwals hosp



Chennai: Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital has roped in cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as its new brand ambassador. According to a release, for over two decades, the hospital has been performing 100 eye surgeries for free annually under its '100 centuries, 100 patients' programme. "I am delighted to collaborate with Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital once again. Together, we look forward to spreading awareness about the importance of eye care across India and the world," the release quoted Tendulkar as saying. ENS

Police crack burglary after 5 months, nab 3

Chennai: Police cracked a burglary that happened in Vyasarpadi in 2024 and arrested three persons involved in the crime on Thursday. According to sources, K Marimuthu (51), a senior manager at a private company, returned home from work on September 23 2024 and found 57 sovereigns stolen from his house. Based on a complaint, the police analysed CCTV footage and identified the accused as Chandrakanth Anand Mane (32), his brother Sasikanth Anand Mane (28) and Mangesh Sangle (27). Five months after the crime, police nabbed the three and recovered 3.25 sovereigns from them. Inquiries revealed that the gang had sold the stolen jewels to a man in Maharashtra. ENS



In the third phase of the Vembakottai excavation, a rare 6.68-gram conch metal was discovered recently, a first-of-its-kind unearthed in TN excavations. Talking to X, Finance Minister Thennarasu stated that a metal made of conch has been discovered | EXPRESS

48-year-old man dies by suicide at govt hosp

Chennai: A man who had been admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGH) for treatment died by suicide late on Thursday night. The Flower Bazaar police identified him as Kumar (48) of Tiruvallur, who was working as a driver for a catering company in Saidapet. He had been admitted to RGGH on February 14 for treatment of a cyst in his neck. Midnight on Thursday, Kumar told his wife that he was going to attend nature's call, but went to the fifth floor of the hospital and ended his life. (Assistance for those having suicidal thoughts is available on TN's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050)

SC farmer booked for raising crop on poramboke land

Tiruvannamalai: Village Administrative Officer Arumugam filed a complaint against Scheduled Caste (SC) farmer, Sukumar, for allegedly cultivating crops on government poramboke land, and Thellar police registered an FIR against him under Sections 192, 324(4), and 329(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on Friday. ENS

Man assaults niece, ends life after summoned for inquiry

Chennai: A 40-year-old man accused in a Pocco case died by suicide at his residence in Pulianthope on Thursday. The man sexually assaulted his nine-year-old niece. Pulianthope All Women Police registered a case. However, he had fled to Tiruvannamalai. After returning to Chennai, he died by suicide at his Pulianthope residence. ENS

Global hyperloop competition begins at IIT Madras

Chennai: Global Hyperloop competition (GHC) 2025, being organised by Indian Institute of Technology, Madras began on Friday. Ten hyperloop teams comprising 200 students are competing in the event, which is claimed to be first such event in Asia. Additionally, the event, which will conclude on February 25, will host 150 industry delegates from across the world, representing the mobility, research and hyperloop sectors. The event is being held at 'Discovery', IIT-Madras' Satellite Campus located in Thaiyur, about 36 km from the main campus. "GHC 2025 is set to position India at the heart of hyperloop innovation. It is aimed at uniting global talent, industry leaders and researchers, fostering real-world implementation of hyperloop technology," a statement from IIT-M said. Hyperloop is a mode of transportation, a high-speed train that travels in a near-vacuum tube.

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Arcil Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd., (Arcil) CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884 | Website: https://auction.arcil.co.in. Includes details of the asset, borrower information, and auction terms.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No. 2874 OF 2017. Includes names of petitioners and respondents, and the court's decision.