

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESS NOTE


It may be recalled that on 21-10-2006 in an incident that occurred at Meena Jewellers, M.J. Towers, Somajiguda Road, Panjagutta, Hyderabad, three persons namely (i) Toofan Ashid, aged 36 years; (ii) Devendra Bhardwaj aged 22 years and (iii) Sailesh Bhardwaj aged 20 years were burnt to death when they were trapped inside the building.

The loss of lives was mainly due to non provision of safe and satisfactory Means of Escape i.e., staircases and locking the roof exits. The victims could not escape due to smoke logging in the building nor go out to the open terrace due to locking of the terrace door. The owner also failed to provide mandatory fire safety measures like automatic sprinklers system, automatic detection and alarm system, wet riser system, hose reel system and fire pumps, which could have prevented the life loss of the victims.

In a landmark judgment on 27-11-2007, the XIV Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Hyderabad convicted two accused persons namely (i) the Managing Director/owner Sri Umesh P. Jeethawani and Sri V. Venkatesh, Manager, when they admitted the offence and pleaded guilty voluntarily, u/sec. 31 of A.P. Fire Services Act, 1999. They were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs.15,000/- (fifteen thousand only) each in default Simple Imprisonment for 30 days.

This is the first time that a prosecution has been launched in the State of Andhra Pradesh by the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

You are requested to publish this information in the public interest for preventing other builders from violating the provisions of A.P. Fire Services Act, 1999 which has been enacted to safe guard the lives and property of citizens.


(Smt. Aruna M. Bahuguna, IPS.)
Director General of Fire and Emergency Services,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

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IN THE COURT OF THE XIV ADDL CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE,
AT HYDERABAD

Present: M. K. Gupta, Esq. B.Sc., P.A.
XIV Addl Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Hyderabad.

METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE'S JUDGMENT U/SEC 31 CR.P.C

1. Name of the accused
2. Name of the complainant of the offence
3. Name of the Magistrate

Calendar Case No. STC 1/2007

State of A.P. through District Fire Officer, Hyderabad.

1. Name of the accused person and his address and residence

1. M/S Meena Jewellers, M.J.Towers, Somajiguda Road, Panjagutta, Hyd rep. by the Managing Director/Own Sri Umesh P. Jeethawani and other H.No. 8-2-698, Road No.12, Banjar Hills, Hyderabad.
2. V. Venkatesh, S/o V. Agaiiah, Aged 29 years, Manager of A.1., H.No. 4-8-886, Putlibowli, Ram Mandir Hyderabad.

(a) The offence complained of or proved
(b) The plea of the accused and his explanation (if any)

U/Sec. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ 31 of A.P. Fire Service Act, 1999
:- Pleading guilty

Final Order: Accused 1 and 2 are examined u/sec. 251 Cr.P.C. for offence punishable u/sec. 31 of A.P. Fire Services Act, 1999, they admit the offence and pleaded guilty voluntarily and claimed not to be tried. Hence A.1 and A.2 are found guilty for the offence punishable u/sec. 31 of A.P. Fire Service Act, 1999 and convicted u/sec. 251 Cr.P.C. and sentenced to pay fine of Rs.15000/- (fifteen thousand only) and SI for 30 days by each accused. Total fine comes to Rs.30000/-.



27.11.2007.

APPENDIX OF EVIDENCE :

(Handwritten signature)

XIV ADDL CHIEF METROPOLITAN
MAGISTRATE - HYDERABAD
XIV Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
(For trial of Communal Disturbances)
Court - At Nampally, Hyderabad.

carried to be true copy
(Handwritten signature)
Deputy Clerk