THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
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PREPARATIONS ON FOR R-DAY PARADE

An Indian Army Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) personnel rides a bactrian camel during rehearsals for the upcoming Republic Day Parade at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Saturday. Dense fog shrouded the national capital on Saturday morning, drastically reducing visibility. The minimum temperature was recorded as 4.4 degrees Celsius | PTI

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INDIAN-AMERICAN AJAY BANGA ON TRUMP'S BOARD OF PEACE FOR GAZA

World Bank President Ajay Banga is among the leaders named to the founding executive panel of the Board of Peace for Gaza redevelopment

BLAIR, KUSHNER AMONG OTHER MEMBERS

Other members named include US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, former UK prime minister Sir Tony Blair, Apollo Global Management CEO Marc Rowan and US Deputy National Security Advisor Robert Gabriel. Trump has declared himself chair of the board

MORE NAMES TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

- The Board of Peace will take on issues such as governance capacity-building, regional relations, reconstruction, investment attraction, large-scale funding and capital mobilisation, the White House said
- Each member will oversee a defined portfolio, the White House said, adding that more members will be announced in the coming weeks

UNSC

RESOLUTION 2803—UNDER WHICH THE GAZA BOARD OF PEACE IS CONSTITUTED

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Shinde tends his BMC flock, seeks full power parity

Proposes equal share in position of mayor; some of his corporators reach out to Uddhav

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN the afterglow of winning the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections by a slim margin, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** sees a threat and an opportunity.

First, the threat. Shinde was forced to shift his 29 newly elected Shiv Sena corporators to a luxury five-star hotel in the suburbs as some of them had opened a line of communication with the Uddhav Sena for possible defection.



As for the opportunity, Shinde proposed to the BJP leadership that the Mumbai's Mayor post should be shared equally between the two allies, adding his corporators should also get proper representation in various committees as well.

The BMC election mandate was in favour of the BJP-Shinde Sena alliance, which together won 118 seats, just four ahead of the halfway mark of 114 in the 227-member House.

Highly placed sources said Shinde first shepherded his 29 corporators to Taj Land Sand, telling them that unless he snaps his alliance with the BJP, they must stay put at the hotel and not succumb to any pressure. He also informed them that he wanted to continue unfurling the flag of the Shiv Sena at the 150-year-old BMC building so as to continue the legacy of the late Balasaheb Thackeray.

Shinde then cancelled all meetings for the day, citing illness and began his wait for a call from the BJP's top leadership to thrash out a deal.

However, a few Shinde Sena corporators are learnt to be in touch with Uddhav Thackeray.

"It is true that some Shinde's corporators phoned a person close to Uddhav ji and told him that they had no animosity against him and Aditya Thackeray ji. Since Uddhav's party won a respectable 65 BMC seats, it could try to cobble together a new alliance. If that works out, Shinde's corporators could consider switching sides," said a source who requested anonymity.

Later in the day, Uddhav issued a cryptic message: "God willing, the next mayor of Mumbai will be from the Shiv Sena (UBT)."

Apparantly aware of the pulls and pressures, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis simply said the next mayor will be from the Mahayuti alliance.

Cong high command to take call on TN alliance

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID mounting tensions over power-sharing demands with the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Congress on Saturday asserted that the party high command will take the final call on alliance strategy at an appropriate time, and directed its Tamil Nadu leaders to maintain discipline, speak in one voice, and refrain from making public statements on the issue.

The directive followed a marathon meeting between the Congress top leadership and senior Tamil Nadu leaders at the party's Indira Bhawan headquarters in New Delhi. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge chaired the meeting, which was attended by former party chief Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president K Selvaperunthagai, MPs P Chidambaram, Manickam Tagore, Karti Chidambaram, Jyothimani, V Vasanth, and Professionals' Congress chief Praveen Chakravarty, among others.

The deliberations, which stretched over four hours, included one-on-one meetings between 39 state leaders and the senior leadership, including Kharge, Rahul and Venugopal.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Venugopal said the leaders had unanimously entrusted Kharge and Rahul Gandhi with decisions on election strategy and related matters. "The discussions were constructive and focused on strengthening the Congress and its future in Tamil Nadu. The leadership patiently listened to all opinions, and leaders were given the opportunity to freely express their views," he said.

He added that the high command would take appropriate decisions in due course, keeping in mind the party's ideology and the interests of the people of the state. Venugopal also said a clear directive had been issued to all leaders to avoid speculation and refrain from commenting on the matter on social media or in the press.

PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTHY PULLED UP

According to sources, the leadership reprimanded Praveen Chakravarthy for his criticism of the DMK govt, which caused strain between the allies. Chakravarthy wrote on X that TN "has the highest outstanding debt than UP." The leaders asked him to fall in line and avoid statements that could embarrass the allies



Narendra Modi interacts with students during flagging off the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train in Malda | PTI

TMC aiding infiltrators, PM vows 'big action' if BJP wins

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

IN a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a rally in poll-bound West Bengal on Saturday, accused the Mamata Banerjee-led party of turning infiltrators into voters and said 'big action' will be taken if the BJP captures power.

"Infiltrations in Bengal are rampant because of the support of the Trinamool Congress. Big actions will be taken to push back the infiltrators after the BJP comes to power in Bengal," Modi said, addressing a 'Paribartan Sankalp Sabha' in Malda, a West Bengal district that borders Bangladesh.

"Syndicates of the party (TMC) have been allowing infiltrators in Bengal for years and making them voters," Modi said. He called infiltration a big challenge for the state. "Infiltrators get involved in crimes and take away the jobs of local youth. They are grabbing your land and making an imbalance in the population map of the country," he told the voters, adding that only the BJP can take strong action.

His remarks come weeks after the Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the state government of abetting infiltration for electoral gains.

Without taking reference of the two-day-long violence in Beldanga in the Murshidabad district, Modi lashed out at the TMC saying, "It's unfortunate how TMC hooligans have behaved indecently with a woman journalist yesterday. Girls in schools and colleges are not also safe."

Eyeing the Matua vote bank, Modi said, people who have come to India due to religious persecution need not worry. "We have given social security to the refugees through the CAA. Matua and Namasudra refugees will be brought under development activities after the BJP forms government," he said.

CM raps K'taka cops, says they failed in busting drug cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah came down heavily on the state police for what he called their failure in busting drug manufacturing units in Mysuru and Bengaluru when their Maharashtra counterparts were successful in doing it. After inaugurating a two-day annual conference of police officers at the office of the state police chief in Bengaluru on Saturday, he told reporters that tough action will be taken against erring police officers. "If Maharashtra police can come to Mysuru and Bengaluru and detect drugs, why can't our state police do it," he asked, saying Karnataka police have failed in this regard.

He was referring to an operation by the Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Mumbai police, who raided a drug manufacturing unit at Belavatta on the outskirts of Mysuru in July last year and another operation by the Maharashtra Anti-Narcotics Task Force in Horamavu, Yerappanahalli and Kannur in Bengaluru in December. "No crime can take place without the knowledge of sub-inspectors, inspectors, DySPs and ACPs. Instructions have been given to senior officers to keep a close watch over their subordinates at police stations and to ensure that they are not involved in criminal activities," he said. P6

IndiGo slapped with ₹22.2-crore penalty for last month's chaos

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday slapped a penalty of ₹22.20 crore on IndiGo for last month's massive flight disruptions. Additionally, the regulator directed the airline to furnish ₹50 crore bank guarantee to ensure compliance with its directives and long-term systemic correction.

The aviation watchdog also released the findings of a four-member committee constituted to investigate the disruptions that occurred between December 3 and 5. The committee identified four key reasons: over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness, and deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in both the management structure and operational control by the airline.

The committee observed that the airline's management failed to adequately identify planning deficiencies, maintain sufficient operational buffer and effectively implement the revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) provisions. These lapses resulted in widespread flight delays and large-scale cancellations, causing inconvenience to passengers.

Recommending long-term reform measures to prevent such incidents, the committee, in its report, said, "The findings underscore the need for balanced operational planning, robust regulatory preparedness and effective management oversight to ensure sustainable operations and passenger safety and convenience."

The report further noted that the airline's overriding focus was on maximising utilisation of crew, aircraft, and network resources, which significantly reduced roster buffer margins.

The DGCA has ordered the airline to relieve the Senior Vice President for operations control centre of current operational responsibilities. It warned Interglobe Aviation's chief executive office Pieter Elbers for inadequate oversight over flight operations and crisis management.

₹20.4 CRORE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

The ₹22.2 crore penalty includes a one-time systemic charge of ₹1.8 cr and additional ₹20.4 cr for continued noncompliance with civil aviation requirements

EXPRESS READ

Varuna village leader threatens woman officer

MYSURU: While the Karnataka government is already in a tight spot and facing embarrassment after Sidlaghatta Congress leader Rajeev Gowda allegedly abused and threatened a CMC woman commissioner, a similar incident has been reported from the Varuna constituency, represented by CM Siddaramaiah. A leader from a village allegedly abused and threatened a woman officer when she visited the site to inspect land earmarked for the construction of a hospital modelled after Nimhans. GM Puttaswamy, a resident of Gudumadanahalli village, has been accused of abusing and threatening Bhavya G, the village administrative officer (VAO) of Bandipalya circle, Varuna hobli | P9

Nod for IPL, int'l matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru



THE Karnataka Home Department has granted temporary permission to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to host international cricket matches and also the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

The development comes after members of the state government-appointed high-level committee and KSCA officials met at Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday to review the work undertaken at the stadium.

In a letter to Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh on Saturday, the home department stated, "Taking into consideration the recommendations made by the expert committee, necessary action be taken to grant temporary permission to organise cricket tournaments at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, subject to the following conditions, including the requirement that the KSCA shall complete all works and safety measures suggested by the Committee within the stipulated time."

In addition to the committee's recommendations, additional safety measures required as per international standards shall be implemented while organising tournaments. The progress of work taken up by the association at the stadium shall be continuously monitored by the high-level committee and the government. If at any point the compliance by the association is found to be insufficient or inadequate, the government and the high-level committee shall reserve the right to conduct inspections at the stadium and to revise or withdraw the permission. P9

MATTER OF CONCERN

Doddaballapur lakes contaminated, B'luru at receiving end

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Doddaballapur (Bengaluru Rural district)

ONE of the largest lakes in Bengaluru Rural, Doddatumakuru Lake, spread across 326 acres, and the other water body Chikkatumakuru Lake, covering 75 acres, are severely polluted and contaminated. In the absence of a scientific treatment plant, untreated sewage from the entire Doddaballapur town, along with chemical effluents from 52 industries in the Bashettihalli Industrial Area flows into these lakes, from where, polluted water reaches Bengaluru. The Arkavathy river, born on Nandi hills, flows to Doddaballapur uncontaminated. But at Doddaballapur lake, industrial effluents and sewage of Doddaballapur town flow into it, polluting the water body. The same water flows to Chikkatumakuru lake and then to Doddatumakuru lake, from where it flows through aquifers to Hesaraghatta and Tippagondanahalli, reaching Sangama and Cauvery, then reaching Bengaluru.

The villagers here say just ten years ago, the lake water was potable. But as factories mushroomed, they let out industrial residues into these lakes, severely polluting the water body. Also, sewage from Doddaballapur town is diverted into these lakes, while the existing sewage treatment plant (STP), constructed in 2017, is unscientific and not serving its purpose.



The polluted Chikkatumakuru Lake | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Vasanth Kumar PK, a member of the Arkavathy Horata Samithi, says the lake is part of the Arkavathy river system. "We have been protesting for a scientific solution and a full-fledged STP for Doddatumakuru and Chikkatumakuru lakes. More than 12 million litres per day (MLD) of toxic effluents are released into these lakes, contaminating several villages and putting thousands of lives at risk," he says. P9

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 18.01.2026 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Uththarayana
Ritu: Himanth **Masa:** Pausa **Paksha:** Krishna **Tithi:** Amavasya 1.02 am
Nakshatra: Purvashada 10.26 am Moon in Makara Rashi **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER MIN 12°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST Sunny
Sunrise 06.46 am
Sunset 06.14 pm
Moonrise 06.20 am
Moonset 05.53 pm





Forest officials have initiated steps to safeguard the eggs of turtles from predators

NESTING TIME!
KUNDAPUR READY TO HOST OLIVE RIDLEYS

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

IT'S the nesting season and parts of beaches along the Kundapur coast, where olive ridley turtles come to nest, have been secured. Forest officials are getting ready after reports appeared that olive ridleys had arrived on the beaches of neighbouring Uttara Kannada district.

Special enclosures have been placed on the beaches to protect turtle eggs from dogs and other predators. These enclosures also help minimise disturbance from humans during incubation.

Forest officials told TNSE that the efforts will be in place till hatchlings emerge and make their way into the sea. Usually, the eggs hatch in 50 days. Every year, beaches under the Kundapur forest division are secured during the nesting season. With a higher success rate at Byndoor for the first time last year, the division decided to strengthen its conservation efforts this season.

The division has also intensified awareness programmes for local residents and beachgoers. Lectures on the ecological role of olive ridley turtles, particularly their contribution to maintaining coastal balance by feeding on jellyfish, are being held. By consuming jellyfish, olive ridleys indirectly support the fishing community.

Globally, olive ridleys are listed as a vulnerable species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified olive ridley -- one of the seven living species of marine turtles -- as vulnerable due to its mass nesting behaviour and increasing threats from human activities such as coastal development, fishing and pollution.

Forest department sources said conservation efforts have also been launched along the coasts of neighbouring Dakshina Kannada.

In the Kundapur division, enclosures have been placed in the Kodi beach area, where turtles arrived during previous seasons. CCTV cameras have been installed at these sites to prevent vandalism and ensure round-the-clock monitoring.

Beach watchers regularly patrol the shoreline to identify nesting activity. Local fishermen also play a crucial role by keeping a watch on natural nesting sites. To encourage their participation, the department gives fishermen Rs 3,000 for identifying nesting locations. Earlier it was Rs 2,000. The ReefWatch Marine Conservation – Kundapur and other NGOs, and volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and local residents are part of the efforts to safeguard olive ridley eggs.

> *Efforts to protect the eggs of olive ridley turtles will continue till hatchlings emerge and make their way into the sea. Their eggs hatch in 50 days*
> Forest officials, Kundapur Division

If eggs are laid away from the waterline, barricades are erected to protect them. This is known as the in-situ conservation method. If eggs are laid close to the sea and face the risk of being washed away, they are carefully shifted to a hatchery readied by the department.

During relocation, eggs are handled skilfully and kept in the same orientation to avoid disturbing embryonic development. This is known as the ex-situ conservation method. Once the hatchlings emerge, they are released into the sea. Each nesting site will have 80-150 eggs. One hatchery can accommodate eggs from eight to 10 nesting sites. Last year, ex-situ conservation was done at six nesting sites and in-situ at eight sites under the Kundapur forest range. Around 1,500 eggs can be accommodated in a 12x8 ft hatchery, a forest official said. Even for in-situ conservation, basic enclosures will be erected.

The officials said the recent data showed encouraging progress. During 2024-25, 24 nesting sites were secured in Kundapur to protect 2,490 eggs. Of them, 1,842 hatchlings emerged, achieving a success rate of 73.97% compared to 50.3% in 2023-24.

Kundapur Range Forest Officer Raghavendra Naik said the department recently received information that olive ridleys had arrived along the coasts of Uttara Kannada. "This is an indication that olive ridleys could soon arrive along the beaches of Kundapur too. This time, we have initiated conservation efforts early," he added.

Local conservation enthusiast Ashok Poojary said the turtles' arrival appears delayed this year. "However, preparations are on. The sites are ready and we hope the turtles arrive soon," he added.



An olive ridley turtle hatchery being readied by the forest department in Kundapur

Dr MM Kalburgi was shot dead in 2015 for his fearless commitment to truth and rational thought. But his ideas and ideals continue to guide the intellectual tradition of Karnataka

World of Kalburgi between the covers

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

THE Vachanapitamaha PG Halakatti Research Centre has recently published 40 volumes, running into more than 25,000 pages, documenting the life, literature, research, plays, essays, speeches and intellectual legacy of the late Dr MM Kalburgi.

For academician Dr M S Madabhavi, who is working as secretary of the Centre, the publication of these volumes is not merely a scholarly exercise but a heartfelt tribute to one of Karnataka's most fearless and influential thinkers. The Vachanapitamaha P G Halakatti Research Centre was established in 2003 to preserve, promote and popularise the rich literary, cultural and heritage traditions of Karnataka, particularly the Vachana movement and other progressive streams of thought. From its very inception, Dr Kalburgi was closely associated with the centre. Dr Madabhavi recalled he always insisted that literary work is not just about publishing books, but about nurturing rational thinking, truth and social awareness.

Dr Kalburgi guided several major projects that are today regarded as milestones in Kannada literary research. He had a deep personal and intellectual connection with the Centre, the pioneering scholar who played a crucial role in preserving 12th-century Vachana literature. Kalburgi was aware of Halakatti's efforts in collecting and safeguarding Vachanas at a time when they were scattered across different regions and in danger of being lost forever. Halakatti passed away in 1964, but his work lived on, albeit dispersed in various forms and locations.

In 2004, Kalburgi decided that all available literature related to Halakatti should be gathered and preserved. Kalburgi was the Chief Editor.

Under his leadership, a team of 15 scholars was formed. They travelled extensively, collecting manuscripts, papers and related material from different parts of the state. Their effort resulted in the publication of 15 volumes, comprising nearly 10,000 papers, in 2008. This became the first major project of the centre and set a benchmark for large-scale literary documentation in Karnataka. The centre also undertook translation of literature from the Adil Shahi era. The Adil Shahi dynasty, which ruled large parts of the Deccan with Vijayapura (then Bijapur) as its capital, produced a vast body of literature in Persian, Urdu and Dakhani. Much of this material remained inaccessible to Kannada readers for centuries. The project, initiated in 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Kalburgi, aimed to translate this rich historical and literary material into Kannada. Kalburgi took on the task of identifying 21 significant books and bringing together experts proficient in Persian and Kannada to ensure accurate and meaningful translations.

Dr Kalburgi was shot dead in 2015 for his fearless commitment to truth and rational thought. His assassination sent shockwaves across the country and dealt an irreparable blow to Kannada literature and progressive intellectual traditions.

After his demise, the Adil Shahi literature project was completed by historian Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni.

Dr Madabhavi said that just as Halakatti preserved 12th-century Vachana literature and Kalburgi preserved Halakatti's work, it now became the moral responsibility of the P G Halakatti Research Centre to preserve Kalburgi's own literary and intellectual legacy. The centre entrusted the responsibility to Dr Veeranna Rajur, a close colleague of Kalburgi. Dr Rajur formed a team of 15 scholars and researchers to collect every piece of writing produced by Kalburgi. This included books, plays, research articles, essays, manuscripts and even transcripts of his speeches.

It took nearly three years of sustained effort to collect Kalburgi's works. Many of his writings were scattered across journals, conference proceedings and unpublished archives. The result was the publication of 40 volumes, released simultaneously, marking a historic moment in Kannada literary history. To ensure wider accessibility, the centre would sell the books at half their actual price, keeping in mind students, researchers and general readers.

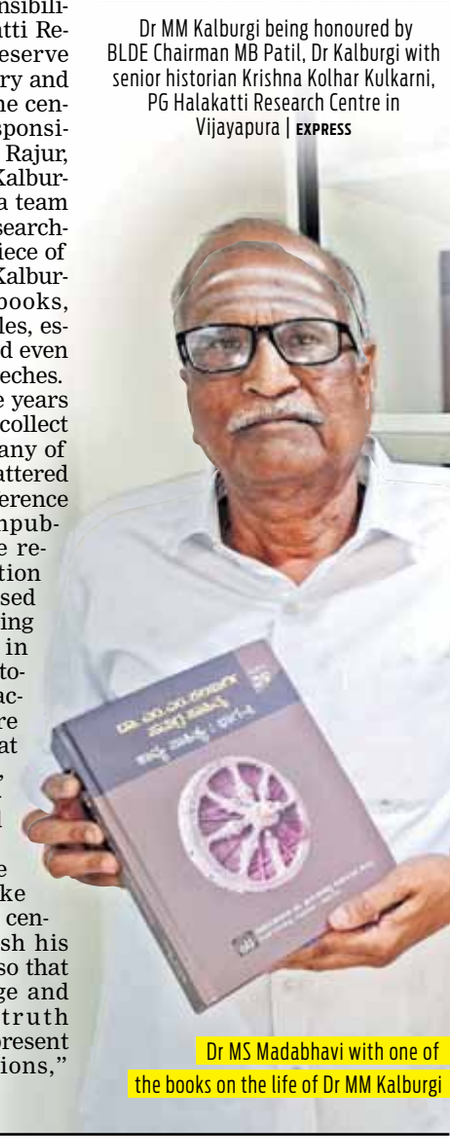
"We may never have another scholar like him. That is why the centre decided to publish his complete literature, so that his ideology, courage and commitment to truth continue to inspire present and future generations," Dr. Madabhavi said.







Dr MM Kalburgi being honoured by BLDE Chairman MB Patil, Dr Kalburgi with senior historian Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni, PG Halakatti Research Centre in Vijayapura | EXPRESS



Dr MS Madabhavi with one of the books on the life of Dr MM Kalburgi

Farmers stage protest against land acquisition for GBIT project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HUNDREDS of farmers, including women, staged a protest at the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority office premises at 'kandaya bhavana', Ramanagara opposing the acquisition of their lands for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project on Saturday.

The farmers from about twenty six villages of Byramangala and Kanchugaranahalli gram panchayat limits of Bidadi hobli picketed Magadi Congress MLA H C Balakrishna at the meeting he had organised to receive the petitions from them. They shouted 'Our land is our right', 'We will not give it..no to township', and expressed their anguish against the government.

"Since it is the government's plan, I cannot cancel the project. But I will bring your demand to the notice of the government", he said. Not convinced, the farmers had a verbal duel with the MLA. While he was receiving the petitions of some other farmers, agitators outside continued their protest. When he came out the farmers garlanded the green shawl. Breaking into a smile Balakrishna hailed farmers' protest.Chairman of the Authority G N Nagaraj Ganakal informed that as many as 84 petitions related to various issues related to the land titles, difference in measurement, unaccountable sanctioned lands have been accepted during the meeting. The GBIT project was first proposed by union minister H D Kumaraswamy of JDS in 2006 when he was the chief minister but the incumbent Congress government took it forward with a decision in the CM Siddaramaiah's cabinet in February 2025. DCM D K Shivakumar had claimed that the plan is to develop about 9,000 acres in partnership with the farmers on 50:50 share of the developed area as India's first and largest AI-powered integrated township. The JDS which changed its stance of late had staged a huge protest against the project several months ago.

Surya warns of protest over Metro fare hikes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU South MP Tejasvi Surya on Saturday warned of statewide protests if Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) proceeds with the proposed 5% Metro fare hike in February, calling Namma Metro the costliest in the country and demanding immediate reconstitution of the Fare Fixation Committee.

Surya said Metro fares in Bengaluru were nearly double those in Delhi, Chennai and Kochi for a 10-km journey, discouraging ordinary commuters from using public transport. He described the proposed hike as "unforgivable" and accused the State government and BMRCL of repeatedly burdening citizens through unjustified fare increases. Warning of agitation, he said the BJP would organise large-scale protests in front of every Metro station if the fare hike is implemented. He further accused the State government of shifting blame to the Centre and asserted that "anti-people and unscientific" fare hikes would not be accepted, urging authorities to protect commuters' interests.

He also flagged the prolonged delay of the Orange Line Metro project, which has been pending for over four years, and said BMRCL must take responsibility for the setback. "The earlier decision of the Fare Fixation Committee itself was flawed, and we had strongly objected to it. BMRCL chose to ignore those objections," he said.

Urging corrective action, Surya said the state government should immediately write to the Centre seeking reconstitution of the Fare Fixation Committee, adding that all Bengaluru MPs would extend full support to the demand.

EXPRESS READ

Mohey holds 'Bride Tribe' event at Jayanagar store



An influencer tries a bridal attire from the Mohey bridal collection | KEVIN NASHON

Bengaluru: Mohey hosted its 'Mohey Bride Tribe' event at its Jayanagar outlet in Bengaluru on Saturday, coinciding with the ongoing wedding season. The in store gathering brought together brides to be, fashion enthusiasts, influencers and media representatives. The store was transformed into an interactive space with experiences designed to go beyond routine shopping. These included a perfume sampling counter where visitors could choose fragrances based on their personality and create a customised perfume, and a 'Bangle Bangari' section that allowed guests to select bangles according to their personal style. Potli customisation and in-store photo sessions were also part of the event. Influencer Shravya Jamal, who attended the event, said wedding shopping is about the overall experience, noting that "it's a once in a lifetime moment and you want to feel special while choosing what you wear." The event offered a glimpse into how bridal retail spaces are being used as social and experiential hubs during the wedding season.



With illegal banners and unauthorised advertisements rampant after Christmas, New Year and Sankranti celebrations, officials of the Bengaluru East and West city corporations have launched a massive clearance drive, pulling down such publicity materials | EXPRESS

A tigress died of health complications in Mysuru Zoo on Saturday. According to zoo authorities, the three years and nine months old tigress, Preethi, was born on July 24, 2022 to Thara and Racky tigers. The animal had refused the food since last five days and was suffering with Haemoprotozoa

Nagamangala land scam: Officials suspended in Mandya, Mysuru dists

About 320 acres of govt land, valued at Rs 200 cr allegedly transferred to private individuals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN view of huge irregularities found in the Nagamangala taluk office in Mandya district following the suo motu case registered by Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa over illegal allotment of government land worth several crores, Regional Commissioner of Mysuru Division suspended Deputy Tahsildar and Shirastedar while Mandya district Deputy Commissioner suspended four Second Division Assistants (SDAs) and relieved an Village Accountant.

In addition to this, the Deputy Commissioner issued a show-cause notice to the Tahsildar of Nagamangala taluk on the charges of dereliction of duty, as he failed to take measures to prevent tampering with records and fabricating the land records to grant of gomal land to private persons for unlawful gain.

Back-to-back suspension, transfers in Mandya

A surprise visit by Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa on May 26 has resulted in the transfer of 26 officials and suspension of 10 in Mandya district. Justice Veerappa had taken up suo motu cognisance of large-scale irregularities, maladministration and corruption in Mandya and registered 22 complaints against several officials. Now, with the suspension of four SDAs, deputy tahsildar, shirastedar the number of suspended officials has risen to 10.

The suspended SDAs were Satish H V, Yogesh, Gurumurthy and Vijay Kumar attached to the Nagamangala taluk office. Village Assistant S Yogesh has been relieved from the service until further orders. The Deputy Commissioner submitted a report to the Regional Commissioner to suspend Deputy Tahsildar Ravishankar, Devalapura Nada Kacheri and Shirastedar H S Umesh, Administration Section of the taluk office.

The accused officials have allegedly forged, tampered with, and fabricated documents to transfer approximately 320 acres of government land, worth Rs 200 crore, to private individuals on the pretext of allotment of land under the Bagair Hukum Committee in Nagamangala taluk.

The search was conducted in the office and residences of the accused officials based on the warrant issued by the Upa Lokayukta on January 13. Subsequent to the search, the Lokayukta police registered the crime with Nagamangala police, who arrested the accused and produced them before the magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody on January 14.

The investigation of the case has been entrusted to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Nagamangala Sub Division, who has taken steps to nab other accused persons who have absconded following the crime registered.

Directing the Superintendent of Police of Lokayukta, Mandya, to examine the matter thoroughly, Justice Veerappa ordered him to submit the detailed report by January 19.



FUN WITH COLOURS

Children take part in a painting contest during Bengaluru Hubba at Freedom Park on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Man threatens car driver with dagger for close overtaking

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a road rage incident, a motorist allegedly pulled out a dagger from his pant and threatened a car driver over suspected close overtaking.

The incident occurred at a traffic junction near Nexus Shantiniketan Mall in the Kadugodi police station limits, on Friday evening.

According to the police, the victim shared a video of the incident on X, tagging the Bengaluru City Police. Based on this, the Kadugodi police registered a suo motu case against the scooter rider on Saturday for illegal possession of a weapon. Cases have also been registered under the Arms Act, along with charges of criminal intimidation, threats and obstruction to the public. Based on the vehicle registration plate number, the accused has been identified as Arbazz Khan. The police said they are analysing CCTV footage and have launched a manhunt to trace him. The police added that the victim has been called to record his statement as part of the investigation.

Preliminary inquiry suggests that the accused overtook the victim's car shortly before both vehicles stopped near the traffic junction. The scooter rider then allegedly approached the car driver, pulled out a dagger from his pants, shouted abuses, and threatened him with dire consequences before fleeing the spot. The entire incident was captured on the car's dashcam.

EXPRESS READ

Hoax email warns of suicide bomber, RDX blasts at KIA

Bengaluru: A bomb threat email claiming the presence of a human suicide bomber and RDX-based IEDs at the terminals of KIA was sent to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) official email ID on Wednesday. After a thorough check, the threat was declared a hoax. According to the FIR registered on Friday, the NOC Unit of AAI received the email at around 9.08 am on its official email ID, from gaina_ramesh@outlook.com. The email claimed, "Implement 1979 Nainar Das Police Union in Tamil Nadu: Human suicide blast using three RDX IEDs in your airport terminals," and asked authorities to evacuate passengers by 1.35 pm before the alleged blast. No suspicious objects were found, and the threat was later confirmed to be a hoax.

3 college students die as scooter jumps divider

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Three college students were killed on the spot after their scooter jumped over a road divider and collided with a lorry coming from the opposite direction on Agalakote village road in Devanahalli traffic police limits on Saturday morning.

The deceased, Srinivas (19), Manikantha (20) and Tausif (19), were all residents of Chikkajala. The accident occurred around 11.20 am when Manikantha was riding the scooter with his two friends on the pillion. They were heading towards Budigere from Devanahalli when the rider, allegedly speeding, lost control of the vehicle near a curve. The lorry driver fled the scene after the accident but was later traced and arrested. The vehicle has been seized, police said.The Devanahalli traffic police have registered a case against Manikantha as accused number one for rash and negligent riding and against the lorry driver, Ningappa M Kattimani, who hails from Vijayapura, as accused number two.

Humane care must not be compromised amid tech pressure, says Dr Manjunath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DR C N Manjunath, MP from Bengaluru Rural and former Director of the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research said, "Medicine today is under pressure from technology, rising patient expectations and increasing stress on doctors, but humane care and sound clinical decision-making must not be compromised," while inaugurating Phaco Festival 2026 in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The 10th edition of the International Ophthalmology Conference is being organised by Nethradhama Super Speciality Eye Hospital under the aegis of the Karnataka Ophthalmology Society (KOS) and the Bangalore Ophthalmology Society (BOS). The three-day event, being held from January 16 to 18, has brought together ophthalmologists, surgeons, academicians and medical technology experts from India and more than 10 countries.

With the theme "The Art and Science of Ophthalmic Practice," the conference focuses on advances in cataract and refractive eye surgery, while also addressing wider challenges in clinical practice. The programme includes scientific sessions, panel discussions, live surgical demonstrations and hands-on training sessions.

Dr Manjunath stressed that understanding patients' social and financial backgrounds was essential to ethical and effective treatment decisions.

NANDI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
E-mail: cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com, Phone and Fax: 08156-272388
NO:NMC&RI/CKB/E-TENDER/04/2025-26 Date:13.01.2026
Tender Notification
Nandi Medical College & Research Institution (District Hospital Campus) Chikkaballapura invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the E-Tenders for the following subjects. **(1)** Tisssue Processor (Call-2) **(2)** Microscopes (Call-2) **(3)** Lenin Items (Call-2) **(4)** GYM Materials **(5)** AMC for CCTV & Computers **(6)** AMC for AC Equipments **(7)** Supply for Lader. For further information about tender the details please log on to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Note:** For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our **website i.e., https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NMC&RI, CHIKKABALLAPURA
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:368/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat Chitradurga
Office of the District Ayush Officer
Old K.S.R.T.C. Depot Road, H. M.T. Compound, Church Extension Chitradurga 577501 Phone: 08194-234113
e-mail id daochitradugra2021@gmail.com
Ref No: DAOCTA/14/ZP/ACC(2)/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026
Re e-Tender Announcement
An Re e-tender is invited in two-envelope format as per the rules of KTPP-2000 for the purchase of essential medicines for the year 2025-26 for 4 Government Ayurveda Hospitals and 32 Government Ayurveda Dispensaries functioning under the Chitradurga District AYUSH Office through Re e-tender from interested authorized suppliers/manufacturers as follows.
Details of E-Tender:- (1) Total Tender Amount Rs: 54,80,000 /- **(2)** E.M.D amount at 2.5% of the total tender amount (through e-portal only) Rs.1,37,000/- **(3)** Starting Date for Downloading Tender Documents on E-Procurement Portal Date: 17-01-2026 onwards **(4)** Date of Bidders Pre Bid Meeting & Submission of Samples of Drugs Date: 23-01-2026 at 03:00 pm **(5)** Last date for uploading tender documents on e-procurement portal Date: 31-01-2026 at 5:30 pm **(6)** Tender Technical Envelope Opening Place and Date District AYUSH Office Chitradurga Date: 02-02-2026 at 11:00 AM **(7)** Date and Place of Opening of Financial Envelope The date will be fixed after verification of the technical envelope **(8)** TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER(KPPP) AYD/2025-26/IND0130/CALL-2
Tender documents are requested to be uploaded through the E-Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by the stipulated last date. For further information, the office can be contacted at the following telephone number: 08194-234113 during office hours (excluding holidays).
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/604/2025-26 **Sd/- District Ayush Officer Chitradurga.**

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Home Loan Centre, HSR Layout (64065)
Khata No. 241, 19th Main Road, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 102. Phone: 080-25564065
Email ID: racpc.hsr@sbi.co.in, maint.hsr@sbi.co.in
POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)
A/c No. HL 65213978350, Suraksha 65220402037
WHEREAS The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, HSR Layout, Bengaluru** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **28.10.2025** calling upon the **Borrower : Dr. Jagadish S N** S/o. Sri. Narayan .S.M to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 11,42,771/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakh Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One Only) as on 27.10.2025. You are also liable to pay further interest from 28.10.2025 together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower/mortgager having failed to repay the amount as mentioned in the Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the borrower/mortgager and the public in general that the undersigned, being the Authorised Officer of the **State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, HSR Layout, Bengaluru** has taken possession of the property of **Dr. Jagadish S N** S/o. Sri. Narayan .S.M, in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002, on **16.01.2026**
The borrower/mortgager in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India** for an amount of **Rs. 11,25,124/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty Four Only) as on **12.01.2026** and further interest at contractual rate from 13.01.2026 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc thereon.
The borrower/mortgager's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Vacant Site No. **42**, Old Khatha No. 813/55/**1**, 2 & 3/42, New BBMP 'A' Khatha No. 686/55/1, 2 & 3/42, issued by Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, New PID No. 011-W0141-5, situated at Jarakabandekaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and measuring East to West : 30-0 (Thirty) Feet and North to South : 40-0 (Forty) Feet, total Area 1200 Sq.feet, with building thereon standing in the name of Sri. Jagadish .S .N S/o Sri. Narayan .S.M and **bounded on : East by :** Property bearing No. 41, **West by :** Property bearing No. 43, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Property bearing No. 49.
Date : 16.01.2026 **Place : Bengaluru**
Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, HSR Layout, Bengaluru.

SMARTADS


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9916104392

OM SHANTI



With deep sorrow and heartfelt grief, we mourn the sad demise of our beloved

ANIL KUMAR SONTHALIA

9 July 1955 — 17 January 2026

A DEVOTED FAMILY MAN WHOSE LOVE, VALUES, AND WARMTH WILL FOREVER REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS

Deeply mourned by

Veena Devi Sonthalia, wife
Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, brother
Kalpana Sonthalia, sister-in-law
Sons Abhishek & Ashish
Daughters-in-law Shikha and Arya
Grandchildren Kishori, Ravishankar & Jeevan

May the departed soul attain Sadgati and eternal peace.

ANTIM YATRA (Final Journey)

Date: 18th January • Time: 10:30 AM

Venue: Trimurthy Ariana, JDA Colony, Jagatpura, Jaipur

With prayers and regards, SONTHALIA FAMILY

Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa on Saturday warned that fascist and fundamentalist forces pose a serious threat to the country's economic growth, equity, and spirit of brotherhood. He was speaking after inaugurating a two-day national seminar on 'Bahuroopi Babasaheb - March Towards Equality', organised by Rangayana at the Kiru Rangamandira auditorium in Mysuru

DKS CANCELS DAVOS TOUR, CAMPS IN DELHI

Amid murmurs of leadership change in K'taka, Shivakumar meets Rahul Gandhi; likely to meet more top leaders

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

EVEN as talks of leadership change in Karnataka refuse to die down, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar continues to camp in New Delhi.

Shivakumar, who was in Delhi on Friday night, flew to Karnataka on Saturday to attend the funeral of veteran Congress leader Bheemanna Khandre, and returned to Delhi. On Sunday, Shivakumar is likely to meet with a few leaders of the Congress high command. The immediacy has been interpreted as his keenness to prove himself as the party's go-to man, as he has turned proactive on Assam Assembly polls, being an observer, and also to counter the Siddaramaiah camp's immediate mission of getting LoP in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's nod for a cabinet reshuffle. Shivakumar is not ready to give it a chance, as a cabinet reshuffle would put the issue of leadership change on hold, opined a party insider. Shivakumar insisted that the top brass consider his demand — a word on change in leadership, a congress legislator told *The New Sunday Express.*

"If at all the high command gives its nod, the reshuffle would happen by the second week of February... else it would happen only after the budget session, which ends in March," he remarked.



DK Shivakumar



Rahul Gandhi

Shivakumar even cancelled his official tour to Davos to take part in the World Economic Forum to be held from January 18. But he attributed it to a series of meetings with AICC functionaries concerning Assam polls. Also, Shivakumar, as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief, is spearheading campaigns against the new VB-G RAM G Bill. The Karnataka government has even called for a 7-day special session of the Assembly to discuss the matter. It will begin on January 22.

After taking part in the preparatory meeting on Assam polls held at AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Friday night, Shivakumar also met Rahul Gandhi for about eight minutes, revealed informed sources.

According to sources, Shivakumar, besides reminding the change in leadership issue, might have also volunteered to take additional charge of the Kerala Assembly polls for which Energy Minister KJ George is the observer. George, who held one-on- one talks with Rahul Gandhi before Shivakumar in Delhi on Friday, has been identified as a member of the Siddaramaiah camp.

It is to be seen whether Shivakumar meets AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, considered as Rahul's Man Friday, in Delhi on Sunday and hold talks on certain issues.

Shivakumar visited Delhi to hold discussions on Assam elections. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will continue in the post until 2028. The leadership change issue has been raised by the BJP. As the BJP has never come to power on their own in Karnataka, it is trying to create confusion among the people by raising such issues

Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa

Satish-Mahadevappa closed-door meet in B'luru raises eyebrows

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

PUBLIC Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who returned from an overseas tour, held a closed-door discussion with Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa on Saturday, triggering intense political speculation within the Congress.

The two ministers, whose official residences are located next to each other near Shivananda Circle in Bengaluru, are known to be part of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's trusted inner circle. Satish had been on a week-long visit to South Africa and returned to Bengaluru on Friday. On Saturday morning, Mahadevappa called on Satish at his residence, according to informed sources.

The timing of the meeting has assumed political significance, coming at a moment when Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, a strong aspirant for the Chief Minister's post, has travelled to New Delhi where he is likely to meet Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rae Bareli Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi.

Against this backdrop, the Satish-Mahadevappa meeting in Bengaluru has drawn attention across political circles. Both the ministers have consistently maintained that Siddaramaiah should complete a full five-year term as CM, firmly opposing any change in leadership under any circumstances. In contrast, Shivakumar continues his lobbying at the Delhi level, refusing to relent on his stand, sources said.

At this critical juncture, the meeting between the two senior ministers has fuelled interpretations, further underlining the simmering power dynamics within the Congress and adding a fresh layer to the ongoing leadership debate in the state.

Will the session be anything more than political posturing?



THE State Government's decision to take up a special discussion in the legislature on the economic and social impact of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB G-RAM G) Act appears to be more an act of political posturing against the Union Government. It is unclear if such a discussion would yield any tangible outcome for lakhs of poor citizens in rural areas who depend on the government scheme for employment and livelihood.

The legislative session, from January 22 to 31, could just end up being yet another political platform for ongoing public outreach efforts by Congress and the BJP-JDS. The Congress is vehemently opposing the new Act that replaced the UPA government's flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The party has decided to launch a series of campaigns accusing the Union Government of depriving the rural poor of their employment opportunities, while the state government is attempting to send a message from the legislature and exploring possibilities for a legal battle to restore the MGNREGA.

Politically, it is a shrewd move by the Congress to up the ante on the issue with far-reaching implications for the rural economy and channelise public anger against the Union Government and the BJP. Clearly, the party is using all available opportunities and platforms to drive home its argument. The Congress's key concerns revolve around the change in the funding pattern – from a 90:10 to 60:40 Centre-State sharing arrangement – which burdens already stretched state finances.

Another major concern expressed by Congress is that the powers vested with Gram Panchayats under 73rd Constitutional Amendment have been taken away, undermining federalism and local self-governance.

The grounds on which Congress is opposing the Central Act have been highlighted by the party leaders on several occasions on different platforms, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A detailed discussion in the session could be part of a larger strategy to ensure that the message resonates more widely, attempting to pressure the Union Government to address the state's concerns.

In the pre-budget meeting called by the Union Finance Minister this week, the state government stated that "to continue to provide livelihood security to the tune of 13 crore person-days, Karnataka would require approximately Rs. 2,000 crore, which is fiscally unsustainable. New cost-sharing has increased the state burden." The state requested reconsideration of the scheme design, restoration of demand-driven employment, and adequate and uncapped Central funding.

Apart from Karnataka, a few other states – including Kerala and Tamil Nadu – have expressed concerns about the new Act. Congress leaders in Karnataka appear to be taking the lead in the fight against the new Act by planning a sustained campaign to back the party's central leaders' efforts at the national level. Much like the stand they had taken to back Rahul Gandhi's allegations of electoral malpractices, the demand for a caste census or the Centre's alleged bias against non-BJP-ruled states.

While the state government has the right to express its opinion on the issues that affect a large section of Karnataka's people, some working closely with the government believe that the government can do little except pass a resolution.

Former CM and BJP MP Jagadish Shettar, who also served as Assembly Speaker, says it is meaningless to discuss an act of Parliament in the state assembly, as they cannot take any decision on it. However, the government has strongly defended its move by stating that it cannot be expected to remain quiet when a large number of people will be impacted.

Be that as it may, the aggressive stand on the issue has allowed Congress to some extent divert attention from the leadership issue that refuses to die down, even as it attempts to set a narrative against the BJP ahead of the crucial local body polls.

For the BJP-JDS combine, the session would put to test their leaders' ability to counter the Congress's spirited opposition to the central Act and effectively defend the NDA government's decision. Apart from VB G-RAM G, the BJP will also be keen to raise several other issues, including the violent clash in Ballari where a Congress worker was allegedly killed by the bullet of a Congress leader's gunman, and a ruling party leader in Chikkaballapur district threatening a woman officer.

Politics aside, people dependent on the scheme would be keen to know if the State Government implements VB G-RAM G or comes up with its own Act. Uncertainty will do no good for those who eagerly look up to the government, regardless of political parties, to provide them with employment.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara at the annual conference of police officers in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

CM: Fence grazing field unforgivable offence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"THE involvement of police personnel in 88 criminal cases last year is a matter of shame. They not only bring bad name to the government, but also to the police department. This is like the fence grazing the field -- an unforgivable offence,"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

"If the police remain vigilant, many crimes can be prevented. ATM robbery cases and the banner-related violence in Ballari could have been avoided through prior caution," he said.

"Questioning drug peddlers or addicts can help uncover drug networks. If suppliers are interrogated, it is possible to identify manufacturers and distributors. If foreign nationals are released on bail and allowed to stay here, there is a high possibility of them re-engaging in same crimes. Foreign nationals involved in drug trafficking must be sent back to their countries without any leniency. Laws to control cyber crime and drug-related offences need to be made more stringent, and that new laws or amendments may be brought in the coming days," he said.

If tahsildars and police inspectors perform their duties properly, people in that taluk can live peacefully. "Similarly, if the deputy commissioner, superintendent of police, and CEO discharge their responsibilities effectively, people in the district can live in peace. However, in some police stations, people are forced to suffer due to certain officers failing to perform their duties properly," he added.

On the Ballari incident, he said the case has been handed over to the CID. "Ballari is a sensitive area, and the SP was suspended as he was not present on the spot. Action will be taken against those responsible after the investigation report is received," he added.

BJP holds rally in Ballari, seeks arrest of Cong MLA

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Ballari

THE BJP on Saturday held a rally in Ballari, demanding the arrest of Congress MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the recent clashes linked to a banner dispute in the city. The protest rally was held at the APMC Grounds and was flagged off by Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra.

Addressing the gathering, Vijayendra accused the Karnataka Congress government of shielding the accused and claimed that the law and order in the state had deteriorated.

He questioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the government's contributions to the Valmiki community, asserting that initiatives such as the Valmiki Development Corporation and reservation hike were undertaken during BJP rule.

Vijayendra and other leaders demanded the arrest of MLA Bharath Reddy and his close aide Satish Reddy in connection with the firing incident near former minister G Janardhana Reddy's residence. The BJP leader alleged that police stations had become "Congress offices" and accused the government of targeting backward communities.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashok said the Home Department had failed completely, alleging bias in police action. "Had BJP workers been involved, hundreds would have been arrested by now," Ashoka claimed, adding that justice could not be expected from the Congress government.

Former CM Basavaraj Bommai alleged that the firing incident was triggered by intolerance towards the growing unity and influence of BJP leaders Sriramulu and Janardhana Reddy in Ballari. He accused the Congress of looting funds meant for the Valmiki community and challenged the party to a public debate on development.

Sriramulu strongly criticised Bharath Reddy, accusing him of orchestrating violence to project power. Janardhana Reddy demanded the suspension of senior police officers, including the city DSP and reiterated the demand for a CBI probe, stating that a CID inquiry would not deliver justice.

Several BJP leaders alleged that Congress MLA Bharath Reddy's armed guards fired the shots that killed Congress worker Rajasekhar during the January 1 violence.

The rally also featured a digital display showing visuals of the firing incident.

More than 30,000 BJP workers from across Ballari district attended the rally.

The clashes had erupted during Valmiki Jayanti celebrations following a fight over banners outside Janardhana Reddy's residence, escalating into firing that claimed a life and sparked political controversy across the state.



State BJP chief BY Vijayendra with LoP R Ashoka, MLA G Janardhana Reddy and other party leaders hands over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to the family of Rajashekar Reddy who was shot dead recently, in Ballari on Saturday | EXPRESS

BJP donates Rs 10 lakh to Cong worker's family

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, LoP R Ashoka and others visited the banner clash victim and Congress worker Rajashekar Reddy's home on Saturday and donated Rs 10 lakh to the family.

HOPES HIGH AS EXCAVATION BEGINS AT LAKKUNDI

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

AFTER the Lakkundi Development Authority (LDA) began excavations on Friday on the premises of the Kote Veerabhadreshwara Temple, one of the around 20 places it has shortlisted at the historical village, several historians who visited the place from different parts of Karnataka are hoping to see the 10th century Lakkundi. On the second day, a stone that appeared like part of a Shiva linga was found at Lakkundi village.

Lakkundi village is located around 12km from Gadag and 70km from Hubballi along the Hubballi–Hosapete highway. The place was ruled by the Kalyana Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, Kalachuris, Vijayanagar kings and Danachintamani Attimabbe. The land is not only famous for sculptures, it is believed that the place has a lot of gold, silver, diamond and other treasures buried under it. Many foreign tourists who visit Badami, Hampi and Anegundi also visit Lakkundi.

With the recent find of gold ornaments from a field, people are excited about the excavation work carried out by the LDA. An LDA member said the authorities may relocate the whole village if the excavations find many historical artefacts and remains of monuments.

The first excavation was done in 2004–05 in the southern part of the Prabhu Devar Mutt in Lakkundi, which unearthed many inscriptions and monuments from the Kalyana Chalukya period. Another round of excavations were carried out in 2024 and 2025, and the collected historical artefacts inscriptions have been kept in an open museum inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in June.

Many researchers, students and tourists are visiting Lakkundi after the excavation started on Friday. Several villagers said they were ready to relocate if the government provided them houses elsewhere. Historians believe they could find the remains of at least 50 ancient temples and 50 wells in Lakkundi village.

State advisory committee member of LDA, Siddu Patil said, "Excavation has started on the premises of the Kote Veerabhadreshwara Temple in Lakkundi village. We have plans to conduct excavations at 15 to 20 points in the whole village soon. For this, we need cooperation from all villagers so that we can unearth the 10th century Lakkundi."

LDA commissioner Sharanu Gogeri said, "We have daily wage workers, guided by experts, conducting the excavation. They are paid Rs 375 per day. We hope to get treasures, inscriptions and historical monuments that will tell the old stories of Lakkundi."



Excavation on for the second day at Lakkundi village near Gadag on Saturday



Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa said Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's visit to Delhi was related to discussions on the upcoming Assembly elections in Assam. He said Shivakumar has been appointed as the Congress party's observer for the Assam elections

Activist Puneeth Kerehalli held for trespassing

He barged into a house and threatened the owner for renting it out to migrant tenants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HIGH drama unfolded outside the Bannerghatta police station on Friday night after the police arrested cow vigilante and right-wing activist **Puneeth Kerehalli** for allegedly trespassing into a house and threatening the owner for renting it out to migrant tenants. On Saturday, a court granted him bail.



As per a police complaint filed by Siddesh, a resident of Doddathoguru, the incident occurred on January 13 when Puneeth Kerehalli and his associates trespassed into his house. Kerehalli allegedly abused and threatened Siddesh for renting out his house to migrant workers, whom he suspected to be Bangladeshis.

Based on Siddesh's complaint, Kerehalli was arrested on Friday night and produced before the court on Saturday, which granted him bail, the police said. His associate Nagendrappa was also arrested for urging people to take part in the protest in the locality.

On Saturday, hundreds of Kerehalli's supporters gathered outside the police station before he was produced in court and raised slogans against the police and the ruling Congress government.

On Friday, members of the Campaign Against Hate Speech submitted a petition to the Police Commissioner, seeking action against Kerehalli for repeatedly entering migrant workers' dwellings and sheds, questioning their nationality, demanding identity documents, and threatening and intimidating them.

KU VC Ananthamurthy slams UoM VC's statement on grants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

KUVEMPU University Vice-Chancellor Prof **Sharath Ananthamurthy,** on Saturday, strongly objected to alleged remarks made by Mysore University Vice-Chancellor Prof Lokanath over the recent release of pension grants to state universities.

The state government recently sanctioned pension funds to six universities namely Mysore, Karnataka, Bengaluru, Gulbarga, Mangalore and Kuvempu, providing temporary relief to retired employees who had faced hardships due to delays in pension payments over the past several years.

In a media statement, Prof Lokanath reportedly said that the Rs 25 crore sanctioned to Mysore University was insufficient and that a financial liability of about Rs 82 crore still remained. He also claimed that while Mysore and Karnataka universities had made considerable efforts to secure funds, Kuvempu, Gulbarga and Mangalore universities received higher allocations despite not needing them.



Responding to the remarks, Prof Sharath said all six universities were facing serious financial constraints and that the government's decision to release pension grants should be viewed positively. He said Kuvempu University has over 300 pensioners and has been unable to pay pensions to employees who retired in the past five years.

"Kuvempu University had sought around Rs 29 crore towards pension liabilities, of which only Rs 15 crore has been released so far, leaving a substantial burden still unaddressed," he further added.

Prof Sharath also termed the claim that Kuvempu University had benefitted more than others as inappropriate and condemned the remarks. He said that the university heads should place their concerns before the government rather than making dismissive statements about other institutions. Integrating pension payments with the HRMS system would offer a permanent solution to the issue, he concluded.

EXPRESS READ

TAPMI Bengaluru celebrates Founder's Day

Bengaluru: TA Pai Management Institute (TAPMI), a constituent of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), celebrated its Founders' Day at the Ramdas Pai Auditorium, MAHE Bengaluru Campus (Yelahanka) on Friday. This year, the Centre for Social Empowerment (CSE) was launched, reinforcing TAPMI Bengaluru's commitment to socially anchored management education. Pro vice chancellor of MAHE Bengaluru Prof. Madhu Veeraraghavan conveyed his best wishes to TAPMI on the success of the CSE launch. It was officially inaugurated by additional registrar & director administration of MAHE Bengaluru Dr Raghavendra Prabhu P. "While growing up I realised that the purpose of life is self-realisation and the most authentic way of self-realisation is through service," said chief guest and founder of Lotus Petal Foundation Kushal Raj Chakravorty. **ENS**



Govt, Premji Foundation sign MoU to set up 1,000-bed hosp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH a view to cater to poor population in terms of organ transplantation, the state government and Azim Premji Foundation signed an agreement on Saturday for the construction and maintenance of super speciality hospital in Kyalasanahalli in city.

Medical Education Minister, Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, said, "The hospital is being developed as a 1,000-bed multi-specialty hospital with the objective of providing quality care to the weaker sections. Overall, 75 per cent of the beds are targeted to be provided free of cost to the patients, while the remaining beds will be charged at rates comparable to those of government hospitals providing tertiary care."

He added, "The hospital will provide various specialties, with special emphasis on organ transplantation. It will also contribute to medical education and research."

The entire capital and operational costs of the hospital will be borne by the Foundation. It will be set up on government allocated ten acre land.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "The Azim Premji Foundation has set a target to spend Rs 4,000 crores on multi-organ transplant hospital in five years. For this, the government has agreed to provide 10 acres of land on lease for a period of 99 years. They have been serving in the field of education and health for almost 25 years. In 2021, it joined hands by providing Rs 1.5 crore for teacher training and in 2024 for the programme of providing eggs four days a week from LKG to class 10."



CM Siddaramaiah with Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil and Wipro Foundation CEO Anurag Behar in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

75% of the beds will be provided free of cost to the patients, while the remaining will be charged at rates comparable to those of government hospitals providing tertiary care

Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, Med Edn Minister

Daily wagers preserve 800-year-old Brahma idol



RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR
@ Betageri-Gadag

DAILY wagers in Betageri, near Gadag, have been protecting and maintaining an ancient Brahma idol and other historic monuments for nearly seven decades, showcasing a rare example of community-driven heritage conservation.

The Brahma temple in Betageri has no appointed archaks or pujaris. Instead, all residents of the locality collectively perform the role of priests. The Brahma idol here is believed to be nearly 800 years old, and locals have taken it upon themselves to safeguard not only the main idol but also several damaged sculptures found at the site.

Most residents of the area are daily wage labourers. In the 1970s, realising the historical importance of the temple and its sculptures, the elders of the village decided that the entire community would take responsibility for worship and upkeep. This unique tradition has continued uninterrupted till today. Anyone can clean the idol and offer prayers, with no restrictions based on caste, creed or religion. The site has since attracted the attention of historians and researchers.

CHAMARAJANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt of Karnataka)
Sy. No:124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar-571313.
E-Mail: directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel: 08226-226701, Website: https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Tender/Ambulance/140/2025-26 Dated: 16.01.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Short Term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for the supply of A.L.S. Ambulances to the teaching hospital of this Institution. Interested Tenderers are informed to apply the tender on or before 03.02.2026 at 5.00 pm by paying E.M.D.

If, the last date for submission of tender declared as Government Holiday, the next working day shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification in this regard will be issued. Interested tenderers may contact the college authorities for further information.

Sd/-
Dean and Director,
Chamarajanagara Institute of Medical Sciences,
Chamarajanagar.

NO: DIPR:CHANAGAR:645:2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Bengaluru South End Circle Branch,
96, South End Road, South End Circle, Bengaluru- 560004
Email: cb1173@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) 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 property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **05.02.2026 (11.00 AM to 11.30AM)**, for recovery of **Rs. 5,09,21,192.01/-** (Rupees Five Crores Nine lakhs Twenty One thousand One hundred Ninety Two and Paise one Only) as on 31.12.2025 with further interest and cost thereon due to South End Circle branch, Canara Bank from, **1. M/s Tumac Advanced Packaging,** C 50/1 KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Mysore Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560074, **2. Mrs Shobha N,** C 50/1 Kssidc Industrial Estate, Mysore Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560074 **and 3. Mr Vasant Kumar K M,** C 50/1 KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Mysore Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560074
The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or **before 04.02.2026 - 5.00 pm** (Rs.in lacs)

Lot	Description of the Immovable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	The property is located in a residential area of Land & Building (Existing Ground Floor, 1st Floor and Terrace Floor Building) situated @ Property bearing No.2/3, Old No. 38/B, 5th Main, 11th Cross Road, Bapujinagar, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560026. Extent: 2380 sq.ft.East : Residential Building,West : Residential Building,North : Road, South : Housing Board Quarters **(Property in the name of Mr. Vasant Kumar K M, S/o Late Mariyappa K)**	179.40	17.94	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact Chief Manager, South end Circle Branch, Bengaluru e, Ph. No. 9976633313, 080-22447997, 8334999471, during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 17.01.2026
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTICE NO. - PR 325/2025

The Tender Notice No. - PR 325 /2025 published in daily newspapers on 16.12.2025 for **"Setup and Operate Hybrid (Online /Offline) Examination Centre on Revenue Sharing Model at Block-A &B, Bapu Pariksha Parisar, Kumhrar, Patna"** hereby stands cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

Nodal Officer (Tender)

punjab national bank

Asset Recovery Management Branch (ARMB) : No.26-27, Raheja Towers, (I Floor), M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.
Tel No. 080-25095087. e-mail : cs8191@pnb.bank.in

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

With reference to the auction notice published in **The New Indian Express and Kannada Prabha on 10.01.2026 of Mr. Pradeep Kumar J,** Account Number - A/C No. 004100NE00024679, Customer ID - ABO012378, (BO-Bangalore City (004100). please note the following correction:
1. Wrongly published Auction date: 28.01.2026
2. Correct Auction date: 18.02.2026.
All other terms and conditions of the original notice remain unchanged.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 17.01.2026
Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER & CHIEF MANAGER
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (SECURED CREDITOR)

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre Shankarapuram (64063)
3rd Floor, No. 13/1, Kanaka's Pride Bull temple Road,
Opp: Ramakrishna Mutt, Shankarapuram Bengaluru- 560004
Tel: 080- 25943006 – 25943007 / Email: sbi.64063@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

A/C: 40001817310 / DRS

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the **STATE BANK OF INDIA, Retail Assets Central Processing Centre Shankarapuram Bengaluru, under** the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Issued a **Demand Notice** *Dated 10.11.2025* calling upon the **Borrowers : Sri. Chandan Kumar S/o Sri. Chiranjivi Kumar,** A) No. 62, Shiva Krupa, 2nd floor, 16th Cross, JP Nagar 4th Phase, near: Kotak Bank, Bengaluru- 560078, B) Flat No. 10, Ground Floor, DS MAXSTARRY Apartment, Maragondanahally Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru -560036, C) Sky high Security Domlur EGL Park, Bengaluru 560071, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 28,07,768/- (Rupees Twenty-eight Lakh Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-eight Only)** *within* 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the **undersigned has taken possession of the property** described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub of Section 4 of Section, 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement)) *Rules, 2002 on this-17.01.2026*
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount *Rs. 28,02,231/- as on 16.01.2026 and interest from 16.01.2026* and charges thereon, till the realization of the dues. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of, time available to redeem the secured Assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Schedule – A Property)

Item No.1:- All that piece and parcel of immovable converted land property beanng old survey No.76, New survey No.76/2, which measuring 1 acre and 02 guntas, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, in vide conversion order dated 16/01/2014, in vide conversion order No. ALN(AJ)SR: 63/2013-14 for residential purpose, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District. Bangalore and the same is bounded on the; **East by:** Venkatappa's Land, **West by:** Remaining land in survey No.76, presently survey No.76/1, **North by:** Land bearing survey No.79, **South by:** Road.

Item No. 2:- All that piece and parcel of immovable converted land property bearing survey No.76/1, which measunng a portion of 00-9.26 guntas, out of 4 acres, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, in vide conversion order dated 04/07/2012, in vide conversion order No. ALN(AJ)SR: 93/2012-13 for residential purpose, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and the same is bounded on the; **East by:** Land of survey No.76/1, **West by** : Road, **North by :** Private property, **South by** : Land of survey No.76/2.

AMALGAMATED SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

(Description of entire Land Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable converted land property bearing old survey No.76, new survey No.76/2, which measuring 1 acre and 02 guntas, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, In vide conversion order dated 16/01/2014. in vide conversion order No.ALN(AJ)SR: 63/2013-14 for residential purpose. issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and immovable converted land property bearing survey No.76/1. which measuring a portion of 00-9.26 guntas, out of 4 acres, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, in vide conversion order dated 04/07/2012, in vide conversion order No.ALN(AJ)SR: 93/2012-13 for residential purpose, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, which totally measuring 1 acre and 11.26 guntas and the same is bounded on the; **East by :** Private Property. **West by :** Road, **North by:** Private property, **South by :** Road and Private Property.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

(Description of proportionate land share, hereby conveyed in favour of the purchaser)

198 square feet of undivided share of right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the land in the amalgamated schedule A property.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

(Residential apartment/flat, hereby conveyed in favour of the purchaser herein)

All that piece and parcel of the two bed rooms residential apartment/flat bearing unit No. 010, situated at ground floor, having super built up area of 792 square feet in the above said residential apartment/building known as "DS-MAX STARRY" and one covered car parking area bearing No. 010, in the basement/stilt floor, constructed in the amalgamated schedule A property herein, finished with RCC roofing and vitrified tiles flooring with water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift/s, staircase/s and all other areas of common use etc..

Date: 17/01/2026
Place:Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA

Kerala Maritime Board

(A Statutory Board of Govt. Of Kerala)

Re-Tender Notice

KMB invites tenders for
Development of Riverside Recreation, and Entertainment Zone, Thalangara, Kasaragod, Kerala
In Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
E-Tender Id: 2025_KMB_796256_2
Last date of submission: 04-02-2026, 06.55 PM
For more details visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
For further information:
0471-2910040 | 9544410029 |
kmb.kerala@gmail.com.

D3/55/2026/I&PRD

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

REGIONAL OFFICE DEVANAHALLI
KULUVANAHALLI BRANCH: BIC 1919
Bangalore. Phone-Landline: 8792981750,
Mob: 9199998666. Email: cb1919@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, **Canara Bank** had issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledged and returned due to non-availability of Addresee at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by RPAD, notice could not be served. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notice are mentioned herein below.

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantor/Mortgagor : 1) Smt. Kenchamma (Borrower & Mortgagor) W/o. Chikkaguddaiah, Lakkasandra Village, Arebommanahalli Village Panchayat, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelmangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka-562111. **2) Sri Eranna C (Co-borrower)** S/o. Chikkaguddayya, Lakkasandra Village, Arebommanahalli Village Panchayat, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelmangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka 562111.

Sl. No.	Loan Number	Nature of Loan	Amount	Date of Sanction
1	1919605000003	Mortgage Loan	Rs. 17,50,000/-	28-10-2019

Total Liability Amount : 4,81,904.29 (Rupees Four Lakhs Eight One thousand Nine Hundred Four and Twenty Nine paisa Only), as on 28.12.2025, together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 26.11.2025 **Demand Notice: Date : : 09.01.2026**
Description of the Movable Property : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Khaneshumari Khata No.19/28/3, PID No. 1503007018006200032 situated at Lakkasandara Village, Aerobommanahalli Village Panchayat, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, East to West 30ft, North to South 40 ft., **Total** measuring 1200 Sq ft. **Boundaries : North :** Road, **South :** Property of Meli Gangaiah. **East :** Property of Honnegowda, **West :** Property of Krishnappa, **Name of the Title Holder Mrs. Kenchamma.**

You are here by called upon to pay Canara Bank, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here in above, failing which Canara Bank will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Guarantors. The powers available to Canara Bank under theAct include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Guarantors/Mortgagor including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by Canara Bank shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(8) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business) any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 09.01.2026
Place : Devanahalli
Sd/-Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

MANDYA DIST. CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD.,

Tele: 08232 – 274571, E-Mail:manmulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT NO: MMU/PUR/E-Procu./105/Tender - 11/2025 -26 Date: 14.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement portal only)

Mandya Milk Union Ltd. invites e-Tenders for Supply of **(1)**Tarpaulin carry bags -3000Nos, **(02)** Jerkins-2500 Nos **(3)** Backlit Board/Glowsign Board-12000 Sqft **(4)** Agent Display Flex Boards-5000 Sqft **(5)** LED/ACP Board-3000 Sqft **(6)** Sun Board With Vinyl Sticker - 20000 Sqft **(7)** Vinyl Sticker-2000 Sqft **(8)** Supply of Laminated Vinyl sticker with GI sheet – 1500 Sqft **(9)** Supply of T-Shirts- 2500 Nos **(10)** Caps-2000 Nos **(11)** 350 Ltrs Capacity Milk Cooler-250 Nos **(12)** 500 Ltrs Capacity Milk Cooler-75 Nos **(13)** 350 Ltrs Capacity Visi Cooler-100 Nos, **(14)** Supply of Jumbo Reel Truck -01 No **(15)** Supply of Paper Trolley- 2 Nos.
Interested tenderers may please refer detail notice inviting tender for eligibility criteria & other details. Tenderers can downloaded documents from: **16.01.2026,** Last date of submission of tender: **16.02.2026** at **15.00 hrs,** Date of opening of Technical tender: **17.02.2026** after **15.30 hrs** & Commercial Bid opening will be intimated. Interested Tenderer's may download bidding documents from the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** website. For More Information Contact Manager Purchase Mob: **9513888247**

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga. Ph: 08182-254832
E-Mail:eeutpsmg@gmail.com

1.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26 T.N. NO-36Call2 Dt: 16.01.2026

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender through kpp-portal system from eligible contractors for Five(05) works coming under Head of Account 4701 Upper Tunga Project.

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs.421.45 lakhs (I. No.3742 Call-2), Rs.253.49 lakhs (I. No.3743 Call-2), Rs.420.03 lakhs (I. No.3744 Call-2), Rs.421.59 lakhs (I. No.3745 Call-2) and Rs.168.92 lakhs (I. No.3746 Call-2) (excluding GST)
2) Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: **21.01.2026 up to 17.30hrs.**
3) Date for submission of filled tenders from **16.01.2026** to **27.01.2026 up to 17.30 hrs** (during office hours)
Further details on date of opening the tender/detail of work E.M.D. amount/terms and conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the under signed during office hours or in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone no.08182-254832 Information can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, KNNL,
U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No-133-01/zenkar/2025-26

BJP SC Morcha state general secretary Umesh Karjol has criticised the state government's decision to convene a special session of the legislature over change in the name of the MGNREGA, stating that it is inappropriate to call a special session for political reasons while ignoring pressing issues that the state are facing

In a first, human brain to be studied from foetal stage

ICMR-led pilot study will have Nimhans as nodal centre

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru



PSYCHIATRIC disorders are increasingly conceptualised within a neuro-developmental framework, in which genetic liability interacts with environmental exposures across the lifespan to shape brain and behavioural trajectories.

In a first of its kind in India, an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-led study is aiming to look at the growth and development of the human brain from the fetal stage onwards to characterise risk and resilience factors for long-term mental health. The Pathways to Resilience And Mental Health (PARAM) - an ICMR task-force study coordinated by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) as a nodal centre with seven additional recruitment sites across India is under way to understand deviations in these trajectories that may confer vulnerability or resilience to later psychopathology.

"In the ongoing study, we are looking at risk and resilience factors that affect mental health outcomes," said Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Nimhans, Dr Bharat Holla. He and Dr Eesha Sharma, associate professor, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nimhans are principal investigators (PIs) along with other researchers. "We are taking a step back to look at normative processes in the brain, the trajectories, the factors that influence these trajectories from the prenatal period into early adulthood within diverse socio-ecological contexts," said Holla.

"In terms of understanding how mental health or mental illness emerge, this study is a tremendous endeavour to characterise young people from the time of their birth on the multi-level ecologies that they inhabit. This will help us understand how mental illnesses emerge through the interactions of various determinants," said Sharma.

She added that a lot of previous efforts have "studied individuals during their lifetime, but we know that risks for mental illness are determined from conception and intrauterine life. During this time, mother's mental health and nutrition affect foetus growth and development," said the psychiatrist.

The PARAM project -- the first of its kind study in India -- aims to generate neuro-developmental trajectories and identify pathways to risk and resilience for mental health across the life course in India. The specific objectives are: to chart neuro-developmental trajectories of brain, cognition, behaviour and mental health across prenatal, childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood; to examine the impact of early-life exposures (maternal stress, nutrition, inflammation, toxins, digital media, and socio-environmental adversity) on developmental trajectories, with a focus on sensitive and critical periods; to integrate genetic and environmental data using G×E (Genotype-by-Environment) models and normative modelling approaches, deriving individual-level deviation scores that support subject-specific inference; to identify risk and protective factors for the onset and course of psychiatric symptoms, including biological markers, neuroimaging indices, neurocognitive functions, and psychosocial determinants; to build open, harmonised infrastructure for multimodal data (phenotypic, imaging, biospecimen, geospatial), enabling reproducibility, data sharing, and participation in global consortia. "PARAM is an observational, multi-site cohort spanning the antenatal period to 30 years, implemented as two coordinated components to maximise developmental coverage while limiting respondent burden," said Holla and Sharma.

Besides Nimhans, the seven additional recruitment sites across India are Rishi Valley Rural Health Centre, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh; Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh; Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal, Manipur; ICMR–Centre for Ageing and Mental Health (ICMR-CAMH), Kolkata; Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College (JNMMC), Raipur; All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalyani (AIIMS-K), West Bengal; and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur (AIIMS-J).

The study has representation spanning North, South, West, East and North-East regions of India, capturing heterogeneous socio-cultural contexts and exposure profiles (urban density, informal settlements, mining-adjacent areas, and regions with socio-political stressors).

Three other sites that are providing technical support for data acquisition and management are the NIMHANS Database and Biorepository (Database), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Bengaluru (C-DAC) and International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (IIIT-B).



CHANGE OF GUARD

Devotees throng Sri Krishna Mutt in Udupi on Saturday night, waiting for the grand Paryaya of Sri Shioor Mutt. A civic felicitation was accorded to outgoing seer Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamy of Sri Puthige Mutt on Saturday evening | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Lokayukta police nab 3 excise officials while accepting Rs 25 lakh bribe

Bengaluru:Lokayukta police on Saturday trapped Deputy Commissioner of Excise Jagadeesh Naik, Superintendent of Excise Thammanna K M and Excise Constable Lakkappa Gani in the city while allegedly accepting Rs 25 lakh bribe from the complainant out of Rs 80 lakh demanded to issue CL-7 and micro brewery licence. According to the official statement, the accused officials attached to Bengaluru Urban District-8 of the Excise Department at Byatarayanapura were detained by the Lokayukta police. Unable to pay the bribe of Rs 80 lakh demanded by the accused officials to issue CL-7 and micro brewery licence, the complainant, Lakshminarayana C, filed the complaint with the Superintendent of Police Shiva Prakash Devaraju, Bengaluru City-1, Lokayukta. Accordingly, the Lokayukta police laid the trap. When the accused took the bribe amount at their office in Byatarayanapura, the Lokayukta police caught Naik in the office. The other two accused, Thammanna and Lakkappa Gani, tried to escape from the office. The Lokayukta police chased them, caught Lakkappa in Byatarayanapura. Thammanna, who boarded the metro rail, was taken into custody at Malleshwaram, sources said. **ENS**

Six booked for usurping land of Tejaswini kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru city police have registered an FIR against six persons, including a woman, for reportedly usurping a piece of land belonging to former parliamentarian Tejaswini Gowda's brother using forged documents.

The site in question belongs to M Nanjegowda and is located at Basaveshwara Layout, RMV II Stage, Sanjayanagar, Nagashettihalli, Bengaluru, bearing PID No. 100-566-2 and holding an A-khata.

The property was legally registered on July 16, 2008, at the Hebbal sub-registrar's office, under registration number HBB-654/2008–09.

After the matter came to light, BL Sreeramesh, a relative of the site owner, filed a complaint with the CCB police and submitted the original documents.

The complaint has been filed against M Narayanaswamy, M Muniraju, M Muniswamy, Mamatha, Santosh SK and Srikanth, all residents of RMV Extension.

K'taka launches Elevate NxT with 146 startups

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state government on Saturday announced ELEVATE NxT and a Rs 75-crore Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund, as a push to deepen and decentralise the state's startup ecosystem.

The announcements were made at a felicitation ceremony for 146 startups selected under ELEVATE 2025, held as a part of National Startup Month, where the Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–2030 was also unveiled. The newly launched ELEVATE NxT, backed by Rs 150 crore, targets deep-tech startups working in areas such as AI, quantum computing, biotech, green energy and SpaceTech, offering grants of up to Rs 1 crore.

Complementing this, the Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund aims to catalyse startup growth across emerging districts. A total grant commitment of Rs 38.85 crore was announced for the ELEVATE 2025 cohort, comprising 103 ELEVATE winners, 33 ELEVATE Unnati startups from SC/ST community, and 10 ELEVATE Minorities startups. Notably, 43% of the selected startups are women-led, while 43% are based beyond Bengaluru.

Addressing the event, IT BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the sustained success of ELEVATE lay in its mission-mode implementation. Launched in 2017, the programme provides non-dilutive grant-in-aid support of up to Rs 50 lakh per startup, along with mentorship and subsidised incubation. Karnataka remains the first State to offer grant support to startups without taking equity. Sector-wise, the ELEVATE 2025 winners span agri-tech, biotechnology, food processing, aerospace, electronics, healthcare, IT services, education and fintech.

Under ELEVATE 2025, Rs 25.33 crore will be disbursed to the 103 selected startups. The ELEVATE Unnati cohort received Rs 9.52 crore, while ELEVATE Minorities startups were awarded Rs 3.65 crore. Since its inception, Rs 287.85 crore has been disbursed to 1,230 startups, with 37% from beyond Bengaluru and 28% women-led. The Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–2030, with an outlay of Rs 570.6 crore, targets 25,000 new startups by 2030, positioning Karnataka as a global innovation hub.

THE BANGALORE CITY CO-OP. BANK LTD.,
ESTD: 1907
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: NO.3, Pampamahakahvi Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore -18
Office ☎ 26678572 : 26600512 : 26609066. Tele Fax: (080)26617980, Web : bccbl.co.in, E -mail : recovery@bccbl.co.in

(Rule 8 (1) **POSSESSION NOTICE** (for immovable property) (Symbolically)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of The **Bangalore City Co.operative Bank Ltd.,** A.O., No.3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-18 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued and demand notice calling upon the undersigned borrowers/ legal heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers /legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers /legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 9 of the said rule.
The borrowers / legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Bangalore City Co.operative Bank Ltd., A.O., No.3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-18.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sl.No.	Name of the Loanee	Balance Outstanding	Particulars of Immovable Property & Measurement
VIJAYANAGAR BRANCH			
01	Smt. Arasukumari. R	Demand Notice Dated : 11.11.2025 Possession Notice Dated : 12.01.2026 Balance outstanding: Rs. 17,95,225/- as on : 12.01.2026	Property & Measurement :- **No.38, Old No. 03, Situated at Gramadevathe Street, Upparahalli Road, Latbagh, BBMP Ward No. 61 of Mavalli & New Ward No. 143 of Vishveshwarapuram, PID No. 61-31-38, Benglauru.** Measuring: **East to West : 27.3+20/2 feet & North to South : 29.3 feet** **East by :** 2.6 feet Common Passage, **West by :** Lane Passage, **North by :** Property No.04 belonging to N. Prema, **South by :** 3 feet common Passage..
R.T. NAGAR BRANCH			
02	Smt. Rashmi. N	Demand Notice Dated : 06.10.2025 Possession Notice Dated: 13.01.2026 Balance outstanding: Rs. 63,84,549/- as on : 13.01.2026	Property & Measurement :- **New Municipal No. 66/7, e-PID No. 7403305968, Old PID No. 96-239-66/7, Khaneshumari No. 73/173/2, Present No. 73/66-7, situated at Cholanaakanahalli, R.T. Nagar Post, Shambhulingeshwara Layout, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, BBMP Ward No. 21 of Hebbal, Bengaluru-32.** Measuring: **EasttoWest:17feet & NorthtoSouth:75 feet** **East by :** Property belongs to Babu.M, **West by :** Property belongs to Narayana Swamy, **North by :** V.P.Road, **Southby :** Property belongs to Sonnappa..

Date: 16.01.2026
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

IN THE COURT OF THE XVII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH16)
OS No. 5111 / 2023

Between :
M/s. The Federal Bank Limited, A Banking Company having its registered and head office at : Federal Towers, Aluva, Kerala - 683101. Represented by its Branch Manager at St. Marks Road Branch,
The Federal Bank Branch, At No. 9, Halycon Complex, St. Marks Road, Bengaluru.
... Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Vijay Manjunath ... Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant : Mr. Vijay Manjunath S/o. Sri. Pandurangaiah
Aged about 35 Years, R/at # No. 15/8, 5th Main, Sri Kanteshwaranagar, Near Mahalakshmi Layout, Nandini Layout, Bangalore - North, Bangaluru - 560 096.

Whereas, the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for Recovery of money for sum of Rs. 12,35,895/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Thirty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only) along with interest at the rate of 12.60% P.A. and for of Hypothecated suit schedule property against you, and you are hereby summoned to appear before the XVII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-16), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 23-02-2026 at 11.00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

SCHEDULE
(Description of Hypothecated Movable)

Hypothecation of KIA Seltos HTK Plus 1.5 (D), Motor Car bearing Registration No. KA02-MQ8928, Chasis No. MZBEP813LLN159575, Engine No. D4FALM071496.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this the 18th Day of December 2025 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristadar
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff :
B.S. Jeevan Kumar, Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner, 'A' # 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 01.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone: - 06842 254004, Email: sernbphulbani@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No, CCE_R and B_PLB_18 of 2025_26
B-978 No.104 Dated.13/01/2026

1.	The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R& B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for construction of the Building work as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Building Work**
3.	No. of tenders	:	Two No
4.	Tender cost	:	Rs.10,000/- (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**B and A class**
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of bids	:	10.00 AM of 20.01.2026 to 5.00PM of 03.02.2026
7.	Date of Opening of bid	:	11.00 AM of 04.02.2026
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only.Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani

SOUTH INDIAN Bank
REGIONAL OFFICE - BANGALORE
1st Floor, Do.No.74, Ward No.111, Front Side, Sumeru Towers, Brigade Road, Near St. Joseph's College Of Commerce, Museum Road P.O., Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka-560025. Phone : 080-25479091/ 25479092, e-mail:ro1010@sib.bank.in

[See rule 8 (1)] - POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued **Demand Notice Dated 24-Oct-2025** U/s. 13(2) of the Act calling upon the **Borrower/s [1] Mr. Sundaramurthy, S/o Chinnappaiah, (Proprietor – M/s Naveen Enterprises)** No. 36, Behind Muneswara Temple, Kammasandra Cross, Munishwara Nagar, Hebbagodi Bengaluru Urban Karnataka 560100. **Also at :-** No. 05, Sundar Building Police Quarters Road, Hennagara Post, Opp. Sommana Building, Kachanayakanahalli, Jigani, Anekal, Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka 560100 and **Guarantor/s 2. Mrs. L Manjula W/o. Sundaramurthy,** No. 36, Behind Muneswara Temple, Kammasandra Cross, Munishwara Nagar, Hebbagodi Bengaluru Urban Karnataka 560100. **Also at :-** No. 05, Sundar Building Police Quarters Road, Hennagara Post, Opp. Sommana Building, Kachanayakanahalli, Jigani, Anekal, Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka 560100 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being a sum of **Rs. 24,99,728.38 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight and paise thirty eight only) as on 23-Oct-2025** with regard to **CCOL Facility** and a sum of **Rs. 13,97,963.48 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three and paise forty eight only) as on 23-Oct-2025** with regard to **Housing Loan Facility** and with further interest, applicable penal charges and costs, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers / guarantor's having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on this the **17th day of January 2026.**
The borrower's and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The South Indian Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs. 24,99,470.97 as on 16.01.2026 with regard to CCOL Facility** and an amount of **Rs. 13,70,729.01 as on 16.01.2026 with regard to Housing Loan Facility** together with further interest and costs thereon from **01.01.2026.**
The attention of Borrowers are invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the Sarfaesi Act, 2002 entitling you to redeem the property prior to publication of Notice of Sale.

(Immovable Property Secured to the Account)

Sl.No.	Description of Immovable Property
1.	All that part and parcel of land admeasuring 1200 Sq. FL along with Building thereon and all other constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, within limits of Hennagara Grama Panchayath bearing House List Khatha No. 418/724/5 House Site bearing No. 5 forming part of converted Sy. No. 114 [Converted Vide Official Memorandum bearing Ref. ALN.SR(A)11/89-90 dated 13-01-89 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District and as per Conversion Sanction Certificate issued by the Tahsildar vide Ref.ALN.SR./104/91-92, Dated 30-05-92]; Measuring : East to West : 30 Ft., North to South : 40 Ft. and **Owned by Mr. Sundaramurthy,** more fully described in Sale Deed no. 7051/2011-12, Dated 14-12-2011 of Sub Registrar Office – Jigani bounded on : **North :** Road, **South :** Private Property in Survey No. 115, **East :** Site No. 4, **West :** Site No. 6.

Date : 17.01.2026
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer,
The South Indian Bank Ltd.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Bellandur Branch
No.21, Opp Amba Bajaj, Near Central, Outer Ring Road, Gennext, Bengaluru-560103.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY "APPENDIX-IV-A[See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

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 proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **10.02.2026 "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/ Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/ s	Detail description of the immovable/moveable property with known Encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price, EMD, Last Date of EMD Amount and Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	**Sri. Lokesha. K. S** S/o Sri. Srinivasa Reddy. M, Residential Site No.1, Near Sri Chaitanya School, Vyalikaval H.B.C.S Layout, Nagavara Village, Ward No.23, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru-560045. **And also at :** No.45, Near Rama Temple, Kothur, N.Kothur, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-563125. **And also at :** C/o AGL & T Consultancy Services, No.1, Jhanshi Building, Near Chowdeshwari Garage, Infosys Gate No.7 Road, Konnappana Agraharam, Electronic City, Bengaluru- 560100. **And also at :** No.274/1, 2nd Main Sector-A, Sri Mookambika Nilaya, Basavanagar North, Bengaluru-560034.	**Schedule Property :** All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing Vacant Site No.1, Northern Portion of property bearing No.35/1, Assessment No.35/1, BBMP Khatha No.35/1, formed in Vyalikaval H.B.C.S Layout, Near Sri Chaitanya School, situated at Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, presently comes within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, New BBMP Ward No.23, Bengaluru–560045. measuring East to West 35 Feet and North to South 41 Feet, totally measuring 1,435 Square Feet and bounded on the: East by: Private Building, West by : Site No.02, North by : Shobha Apartment, South by : Road.	**Rs.98,48,041/-** (Rupees Ninety Eight Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Forty One Only) as on **10.04.2024** inclusive of interest upto **31.12.2023** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as on Possession Notice dated **15.07.2024**	**10.02.2026** From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: **Rs.94,15,000/-** EMD: **Rs. 9,41,500/-** Last Date of EMD Amount: **10.02.2026 (2.00 PM)** Bid Increment Amount: **Rs.50,000/-**	Physical Possession	With Prior Appointment from authorized officer

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and online auction portal https://baanknet.com Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No: 080-25740624 & Mobile: 8617259213

Date: 17.01.2026
Place:- Bengaluru
Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Superintending Engineer Zone-1, BCCC
18th Floor, PU Building, Bengaluru - 560001.
No:SE/BCCC/Z-1/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 17-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER -2nd Call
Two Cover System

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Superintending Engineer, Zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractor / firm registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the Collection of Parking Fees for Various roads in Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-1 as detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Collection of Parking Fees for Cambridge Road, Wood Street and Castle Street in Shanthinagara Division **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee: ₹.92,80,000.00 EMD: 1,85,600.00**
2.	Collection of Parking Fees for Magrath, Church Street and Museum Road Shanthinagara Division **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee: ₹.92,80,000.00 EMD: 1,85,600.00**
3.	Collection of Parking Fees for 100 feet Road Indiranagara in CV Raman Nagara Division **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee: ₹.1,11,10,000.00 EMD: 2,00,000.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka from **17-01-2026** (2) Tender must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **24-01-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Technical Bids will be Opened on **27-01-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer-Zone 1
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner, KN Ramesh directed officials in the civic body limits to clear over 40 old and unclaimed vehicles parked at Mico Layout, on Saturday

K'taka, TG govts will enact Rohit Vemula Act: Rahul

It is not just a slogan, it is a necessity, says LoP in Lok Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

LEADER of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha **Rahul Gandhi** on Saturday stated that the Congress governments in Telangana and Karnataka will soon enact the Rohith Vemula Act.

Paying tributes to Rohith Vemula, the Dalit research scholar from the University of Hyderabad whose suicide in 2016 triggered nationwide protests and renewed debate on caste discrimination in higher education, Rahul wrote on X: "Rohith, your fight is our responsibility."



The lengthy post continued: "The Rohith Vemula Act is not just a slogan, it is a necessity. It aims to make caste discrimination in educational institutions a crime, ensure strict action against the guilty, and prevent any student from being broken, silenced or pushed out in the name of caste."

Rahul said that a decade after Vemula's death, the question he raised continues to haunt the country: whether everyone in India truly has an equal right to dream. Remembering Vemula as a young man who aspired to study, write and understand science, society and humanity, he added that the system failed to accept a Dalit student moving forward with ambition and confidence.

He alleged that institutional casteism, social exclusion, everyday humiliation and dehumanising treatment pushed Vemula into isolation, stripping him of dignity and support.

"This was the poison that pushed a promising young man to a point where he was left utterly alone," the Congress MP said, describing caste-based discrimination as deeply entrenched in educational institutions.

The Leader of the Opposition questioned whether the situation for Dalit students has improved over the past decade, arguing that many still face discrimination on campuses, isolation in hostels, feelings of inferiority in classrooms and, in some cases, violence and death. He said caste continues to function as the "biggest admission form" in the country, determining access, opportunity and dignity.

Calling for urgent legal reform, Rahul reiterated the Congress demand for the Rohith Vemula Act, saying it was necessary to ensure accountability and prevent discrimination in educational institutions.

END OF AN ERA

BHEEMANNA KHANDRE LAID TO REST

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI & MARUTI BAVIDODDI
@ Kalaburagi /Bidar

THE mortal remains of veteran Congress leader Bheemanna Khandre (103), who was also a former minister, were laid to rest at Shanti Dhama of Chikkalchanda village of Bhalki taluk, about 8 km from Bhalki town (near his wife Lakshmibai's samadhi, who breathed her last about a decade ago), with state honours at 6.45 pm on Saturday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dashed to Bhalki to pay his last respects to the departed soul and consoled Minister for Forest and Environment Eshwar Khandre, Bheemanna Khandre's son, and Sagar Khandre, MP of Bidar constituency and the Khandre family.

The Chief Minister, who spoke on the occasion, said that Bheemanna Khandre's 103-year life was a 'Sarthaka Baduku'. His life was an inspiration to everybody, especially to the youth. He was a socialist by nature and helped the poor, farmers, and everybody who approached him.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, other ministers and others pay their last respects to late Bheemanna Khandre (inset) at Shanti Dhama of Chikkalchanda village of Bhalki taluk, Bidar district, on Saturday evening

> **Saddened by the demise of senior Congress leader Sri Bheemanna Khandre. A freedom fighter, educationist, and stalwart Congressman, he devoted his entire life to the service of the nation and the people of Karnataka. My heartfelt condolences to Eshwar Khandre ji, the Khandre family, and all his supporters.** — Rahul Gandhi, LoP in Lok Sabha

The last rites were performed by Eshwar Khandre as per the guidance of seer of the Bhalki Hiremutt Basavalinga Pattada Devaru and Gurubasava Pattada Devaru.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar (who is also the KPCC president), Cabinet colleagues H K Patil, M B Patil, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Priyank Kharge, Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Rahim Khan, former minister Rajashekhar Patil, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, and many other political leaders, religious leaders were part of the final rites of the departed leader.

The body of Bheemanna Khandre was kept in the residence from morning till evening to facilitate the people to pay their last respects. Thousands of people, including followers of Bheemanna Khandre and Eshwar Khandre, participated in the procession. Seven rounds were fired in the air and a police band was played as a mark of respect to Bheemanna Khandre.

Bheemanna Khandre, who was ailing from age-related diseases for the last few days, breathed his last at 10.50 pm on Saturday. All shops, business establishments, and schools remained closed from morning in Bhalki. After the district administration announced a holiday on Saturday, all the schools and colleges in Bidar district were closed.

IN THE DOCK

Kerala court denies bail to MLA Rahul

AGENCIES @ Pathanamthitta

A KERALA court on Saturday dismissed the bail plea of expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil in the third sexual assault case against him in which he was arrested last week, saying that the allegations against him were serious and he has "similar antecedents".

Thiruvalla Judicial First Class Magistrate Arundhathi Dileep also said that there was a chance of witnesses being threatened or influenced, evidence being tampered with and the investigation being hampered. "Therefore, this is not a fit case to exercise the discretionary jurisdiction of this court under section 480 (when bail may be taken in case of non-bailable offence) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. In the result, the petition is dismissed," the court said.

The MLA's lawyer, Sasthamangalam S Ajithkumar, said that an appeal would be filed in the Pathanamthitta District Court next week against the magistrate's order. The prosecution, represented by Assistant Public Prosecutor Devi M G, had opposed the bail plea on the ground that Mamkootathil was not cooperating with the investigation in the case.

'Nod subject to compliance with specific norms'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

AS the proposed works are currently in progress, it is not possible at this stage to specify and permit a definite number of spectators who may be present at the stadium. Therefore, after the completion of the works and safety measures, the committee shall conduct an inspection and submit a report, the letter to the police commissioner read."The permission is sub ject to compliance with specific terms and conditions prescribed by the government and the concerned authorities," according to a press note from KSCA. The association further stated that it is confident of fulfilling all the stipulated conditions. It has already presented a detailed compliance roadmap before the expert review committee and remains fully committed to implementing all safety, security, and crowd-management measures in letter and spirit.

The fatal stampede outside the stadium during the RCB victory celebrations on June 4 last year resulted in the death of 11 people. Following the tragedy, matches were put on hold at the stadium. Just days after the incident, five police officers, including then city police commissioner B Dayanananda, were suspended.

Varuna village leader threatens woman officer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

WHILE the Karnataka government is already in a tight spot and facing embarrassment after Sidlaghatta Congress leader Rajeev Gowda allegedly abused and threatened CMC woman commissioner Amrutha Gowda, a similar incident has been reported from the Varuna constituency, represented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. A leader from a village allegedly abused and threatened a woman officer when she visited the site to inspect land earmarked for the construction of a hospital modelled after Nimhans.

GM Puttaswamy alias Benne Puttaswamy, a resident of Gudumadanahalli village in Varuna hobli, has been accused of abusing and threatening Bhavya G, the village administrative officer (VAO) of Bandipalya circle, Varuna hobli. Based on her complaint, the Mysuru South police registered an FIR under the Sections 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 79 (insult to the dignity of a woman), and 132 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging official duty) of BNS.

The complaint filed by Bhavya on December 31, 2025 states that 20 acres of land spread across survey no.s 8 (5 acres 5 guntas), 60 (6 acres 10 guntas), and 68 (8 acres 25 guntas) in Gudumadanahalli, Varuna hobli, was allotted on September 29, 2025, to the Director and Dean of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute under the Medical Education Department.

As per orders of the tahsildar, Bhavya, along with Gudumadanahalli Village Assistant Naveen Kumar, visited the village to inspect the land. But Puttaswamy allegedly abused and threatened the officials.

In her complaint, Bhavya stated that Puttaswamy questioned allotment of the land for the proposed hospital and threatened to kill her and behead the tahsildar. She alleged that Puttaswamy attempted to assault her. As Naveen was recording the incident on his mobile, Puttaswamy rushed towards him, pushed him, snatched his phone, and threatened him as well, the complaint stated. Puttaswamy later handed over the phone to another villager, Raghu, and told him to delete the video, she alleged.

Bhavya said the incident has created an atmosphere of fear, preventing her from discharging her duties freely, and sought police protection and legal action, citing the abuse and intimidation faced as a woman government employee.

A senior police officer told *TNSE* that Puttaswamy has been absconding after the incident. He said a few villagers, including Puttaswamy, have encroached eight guntas of government land and are cultivating for several years. On Friday, the tahsildar, who had arrived with the police, held a meeting with farmer leaders and persuaded them to cooperate. Land demarcation work is underway.

When questioned, District incharge Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa said officials should patiently hear people's problems and try to resolve them. "People must exercise restraint. Officials should listen to people's problems patiently and try to resolve them," he said.

AIADMK announces ₹2,000 for women, free bus ride for men

T MURUGANANDHAM
@ Chennai

SIGNALLING his readiness for a battle of populism with archrival DMK in the forthcoming Assembly election, AIADMK general secretary and former TN CM **Edappadi K Palaniswami** on Saturday made five big poll promises, including ₹2,000 monthly cash assistance for women heads of families and free bus ride for men.

Palaniswami chose the birth anniversary of AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran for launching his poll blitzkrieg. While ₹2,000 per month will be transferred to women heads of all ration card-holding families under Kulavilakku Thittam, bus travel in cities will be free for men. Under Amma Housing Scheme, government will procure land to build free houses for the homeless in rural and urban areas, and concrete houses will be built for Scheduled Caste families in land purchased by the government, rural poor will get 150 days of guaranteed jobs and subsidised two-wheelers will be given to five lakh women by reviving the Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme. Sons of SC families will also get separate homes after marriage, EPS said.



However, some of these populist measures, if implemented, may cast huge financial burden on the state, which is facing a debt burden of ₹9.55 lakh crore. For example, to pay ₹2,000 per month to 2.3 crore women heads of ration cardholders, the state government will need to set aside ₹52,800 crore per year. Considering that the size of the budget for 2025-26 is ₹4.39 lakh crore, this expenditure alone will be around 12% of the total budget.

Questioned on the financial feasibility of providing ₹2,000 per month to women heads of families, Palaniswami said, "They (the DMK) are incompetent. We have already demonstrated our capabilities."

He further said that when the AIADMK was in power, the debt burden of the state was just ₹5.18 lakh crore, despite facing a pandemic when the government had no revenue. "We handled that situation efficiently. The DMK said that an expert committee would be formed to reduce the debt burden of the state, and the revenue would go up. But contrary to that, instead of increase in income, the debt burden has increased," he added.

Efforts to woo investments not limited to GIM: Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Industries Miister MB Patil said that in the 11 months following the Global Investors' Meet (GIM) held in February last year, Karnataka has attracted Rs 1.53 lakh crore investment proposals. These investments are in addition to the commitments secured during the GIM.

Several leading companies have expressed interest in investing across key sectors. These proposals are expected to be submitted to Karnataka Udyog Mitra over a few weeks. After a subsequent approval processes, they are said to be taken up expeditiously. Patil also added that the efforts to attract investments are continuous in nature and not limited to the GIM.

He said Toyota Industries Engine Private Limited will invest Rs 1,330 crore to manufacture gasoline and hybrid engines at its Jigani facility, QpiAI India Private Limited will invest Rs 1,136 crore to establish a Quantum Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, and AT&S will invest Rs 2,850 crore in Nanjangudu for the manufacture of electronic components. JJG Aerospace will invest Rs 470 crore at Adinarayanahosahalli in Doddaballapur for manufacturing aircraft components, SAP will invest Rs 1,960 crore to open its second facility at Devanahalli, Google will invest Rs 2,500 crore in Bengaluru.

2-YEAR DOMICILE ONLY FOR THOSE BUYING FLATS, NOT SITES: BDA

BENGALURU: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has clarified that there is no change in the eligibility norms for allotment of residential sites, while reiterating that a two-year domicile requirement applies only to the allotment of flats, based on a government approval issued in 2018. The BDA stated that site allotments continue to be governed by Rule 10(2) of the BDA (Allotment of Sites), 1984, which mandates a minimum 10-year Karnataka residency, a condition that has not been relaxed. However, since there are no separate rules for flat allotments, the state government had approved a sales-based procedure allowing allotment of 2 BHK and 3 BHK flats to applicants with at least two years' residential proof in Karnataka.

EXPRESS READ

Unauthorised floors of 10 buildings demolished

BENGALURU: Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) demolished the unauthorised floors of 10 buildings in its limits on Saturday. BNCC Joint Commissioner Mohammed Nayeem Momin said action has been taken against owners of the 10 buildings as per law. The owners were issued notices and an order to demolish the unauthorised floors was passed in the first week of December last. "As per new GBA provisions, one month's time will be given to errant owners to remove unauthorised portions. If they don't remove such portions, the corporation concerned will remove them and recover demolition cost from owners," an official said.

'Unstructured, free play vital for brain devpt in kids'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

GADGETS and screen time is taking over everybody's life especially children aged 2 to 8 years. Writer and philanthropist, Rohini Nilekani released a book, The Playbook of Play at Makkala Habba organised at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. The book has blank pages and says 'No Instructions Needed', allowing children to write or draw whatever they want or imagine on these blank pages. Thus, helping them unlock their holistic development and cognitive abilities.

Addressing the audience during the launch of her book, she said, "In the last decade, Neuroscience has supported the theory that free and unstructured play allows the brain to develop better, and many more neural connections can be built. The first eight years of life are critical for brain development as almost 80% of brain develops at this time."

She added, "I do understand and sympathise with the parents of the current generation that parents try to bring structure or patterns while they play to avoid them getting glued to mobile screens. Parents must understand that the kind of skills that a child would need for any future jobs including engineering, medical or law are changing every day. Therefore, parents have to unleash the children's ability to learn for themselves in a complex and changing world. Don't rob the childhood of children in fear and anxiety of the future."

Author Rohini Nilekani interacts with a young participant at Bengaluru Hubba on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

She advised the parents to celebrate childhood 'Bachpan Manao'. "It is a societal responsibility and that is what we are trying to do through this book. We must take note that our government at the state and central levels is also encouraging children to celebrate childhood through their New National Curriculum Framework, NIPUN Bharat programmes. We have the largest programme of anganwadi centres in the country, where children are encouraged to learn while they play," Rohini explained.

The Playbook of Play is available on the website 'Bachpan Manao' to download and can be printed by the parents for their kids.

We do not know what chemicals have entered groundwater: Farmer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"IN Doddatumakuru village alone, a survey conducted over the last two years showed that out of 73 deaths, 60 were linked to organ failure. Is this because of the water? What are the authorities waiting for," he asked. The major concern is agriculture and dairy farming. Over 30,000 people from these two gram panchayats and surrounding areas depend on farming. They grow potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes and fruits, including banana. "We have no source other than the groundwater. We take our crops to KR Market and other markets in Bengaluru, which is our biggest market," a farmer from a nearby village told *TNSE*. Cattle too drink from these polluted water bodies.

With no safe drinking water sources, people from the Doddatumakuru Grama Panchayat, which includes Doddatumakuru village, and the neighbouring Mahara Hosahalli Gram Panchayat, comprising 15 villages, get drinking water through tankers from the Jakkalamadagu dam, which is 30 km away. The water is supplied to the Doddatumakuru GP water unit, from where villagers collect drinking water. This is because "the water we get through borewells to our taps is not fit even for bathing, let alone drinking. We cannot bathe without boiling it. Continuous use causes blisters and itches," says Nagarathna, a resident of the village. At Krishnappa's small grocery shop in Doddatumakuru village near Doddaballapur, villagers daily drop in to buy daily essentials. His store reflects the new era business wherein a QR code wall sticker allows smartphone-wielding customers to pay via UPI, and he earns a decent profit. But his real concern is not profit. He demands a "water guarantee" from the government.

"Who asked for the five guarantee schemes? We did not," he says. "What we are asking for is a 'water guarantee', which the government has failed to provide us," he says. Krishnappa said borewell pumps made of iron get corroded and turn into powder within a few days. "We do not know what chemicals have entered the groundwater. Toxic industrial effluents flow into our lakes, contaminating the soil and eventually the underground water," he explains.

Doddaballapur MLA Dheeraj Muniraj says they need Rs 54 crore to set up a full-fledged scientific STP to treat the water. "We have identified four acres of land for it. The plan has been submitted, but there are no grants. We have been regularly raising this issue," he says. For the villagers, there is water everywhere, but not a drop to drink. And Bengalureans, living some 50 km away, are consuming this contaminated water, and fruits and vegetables grown with it, unknown to them.



"Science is the cognition of necessity, freedom is the recognition of necessity" — Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi

FIVE-POINT AGENDA FOR MAHARASHTRA'S TRIPLE-ENGINE CITIES



THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
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DÉJÀ VU can be both fascinating and frustrating. In 1987, I wrote a cover story on the state of the then Bombay Municipal Corporation's (BMC) services and finances. The corporation had spent 64 paise of every rupee—nearly two-thirds—on itself, leaving little for the city's improvement after covering contingencies. The story in other cities was not dissimilar, often worse. Those in power had little inclination to invest in cities' future.

Nearly four decades later, the sloganeering for the 2026 municipal polls revealed little has changed. Today's BMC—in which Bombay has been replaced by Brihanmumbai—is the richest municipal corporation in India. Its budget of ₹74,427 crore is twice that of Goa, and larger than that of nine states. The pie chart on how much is spent on what shows the spending on salaries and administration is lower, but the quality of spending seems worse. The city is filthier, potholes define the contours of the roads, the curse of water shortage is visible every dawn and dusk as tankers careen down streets blaring power horns, the air quality is worse, flooding is perennial and primary health services are worse. The picture in other cities is equally bad.

This week, the BJP and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis established their dominance across urban Maharashtra, sweeping elections in every major city—Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Nagpur—and ending the day with a tally of 25 out of 29 municipal corporations. The Thackeray cousins have retained relevance and survived to fight another day. The big losers are Ajit Pawar, who tied up with Sharad Pawar and fought against the BJP, and Eknath Shinde, who tied up with BJP but finds his footprint shrinking on his home turf.

The dust and decibels will settle down in the coming weeks. The mandate demands that the BJP walks the talk. Maharashtra is among the most urbanised states. Urban India is home to over 550 million and, by 2047, over 900 million Indians will be living in cities. Urbanisation is known to be a force multiplier of growth, but it requires a viable, sustainable model to operate on.

The momentum of the grand victory affords Fadnavis an opportunity to design a template for cities to drive growth. Here is a five-point agenda—essential steps that could create a Maharashtra Model for national adoption.

Authority for accountability: The elected representatives of the cities must have the freedom to propose, own and execute their ideas for development. The BMC budget, for instance, is prepared and presented by the municipal commissioner, not the elected House. For starters, why not authorise the BMC standing committee's chief to prepare the budget? Sure, the state government can wield a veto. Three decades after the 74th amendment, the promise of self-governance is effectively hostage to the whims of state governments. Enabling authority will ensure accountability and pave the way for a directly elected mayor.

Clean up the cities: Mumbai is on the list of the 10 dirtiest cities in India. It dumps nearly 2 billion litres of sewage into the sea every day and is home to the largest garbage dump/landfill in the country. There is the issue of scale and legacy, but there is no escaping inefficiency and corruption. Why not adopt global best practices—a blend of technology and behavioural psychology from the smart cities of Songdo, Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul or Shanghai? Change calls for a sustained campaign and policy to incentivise homeowners and businesses for adopting modern sanitation methods.

Tanker-mukt water and clean air: Mumbai is not as bad as Delhi. The bad news is the state's urban air quality is getting worse—19 cities in Maharashtra consistently fail to meet the standards. This calls for more monitoring stations, last-mile e-bus connectivity and a policy with exemplary provisions for construction practices. In 2014, the BJP promised a 'tanker-mukt' Maharashtra. Yet, every city is haunted by the tanker mafia. The combination of options range from learning membrane-based recycling from New Water Singapore and solar-powered desalination plants to efficient, scalable desalination tech from Israel, Carlsbad and Saudi Arabia.

Invest in connectivity: Ideally, cities should move towards walk-to-work facilitation. In its absence, the effort should be to cut commute time and enable last-mile connectivity. Maharashtra's cities—especially Mumbai and Pune—face last-mile disconnects. In Mumbai, those using the metro or the airport struggle for connections. Cars drive off sweeping flyovers and into old road jams. In Pune, the metro is on an infinite crawl. Connectivity between IT parks and residential areas is poor. Commute times in Mumbai, Thane and Pune are less about distance and more about choked roads. The 2024 Budget created a ₹1-lakh-crore fund for 'urban challenges'. Fadnavis may want to look at it to solve his state's last-mile problems.

Make cities liveable: Quality of life is a causal factor and a consequence of prosperity. The quality of liveability determines investment and reinvestment. The joke in Mumbai's Bandra or Pune's Koregaon Park is that you pay top-rupees for property and drive into a traffic jam of potholes. Property value in Mumbai is comparable to global cities, but it is ranked 158th on the Mercer Quality of Living index. The aspiration of Mumbai to be a global financial centre or Pune to be a start-up capital or Thane to be an industrial hub or Nagpur to be an aero-logistics hub calls for improved liveability—construct pavements, rid potholes, and build green zones and walking spaces.

Cities are engines of ideas and catalysts of growth. As John F Kennedy warned, we neglect cities at our peril, "for in neglecting them we neglect the nation".

IRAN INFERNO: PRELUDE TO A CATACLYSM



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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HISTORY offers a grim and recurring warning. When rulers confuse personal ego with national destiny, when ambition is mistaken for greatness, and when power is pursued without restraint, nations are pushed toward catastrophe. Today, that familiar and dangerous pattern is unfolding once again. This time in Iran, a nation standing at the epicentre of domestic implosion and international confrontation, with consequences that could reverberate across the world.

At the heart of this crisis stands the Khomeini-led regime, clinging to authority through repression rather than legitimacy. The domestic economy has been sacrificed at the altar of ideological vanity. At the same time, the external pressure intensifies. Donald Trump's rhetoric roars with threats of intervention and more punitive sanctions. Beijing and Moscow, sensing both strategic opportunity and ideological alignment, have rallied behind Tehran, fortifying Iran's resistance against Washington. Between these opposing power blocs stands India, caught in an excruciating bind. It is unable to abandon Iran entirely because of geography, energy needs and regional interests, yet equally unable to openly defy the US and its tightening sanctions regime.

Washington's message has been unambiguous. Nations that continue dealings with Tehran will pay a heavy price through sanctions and additional tariffs. New Delhi, reading the storm clouds carefully, has already begun recalibrating. Indian citizens have been advised to leave Iran immediately. Strategic enthusiasm for the Chabahar port project has visibly cooled. It was once touted as India's gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia. As tensions escalate, a chilling question hangs in the air. Could this Iranian crisis snowball into a third world war, or trigger the collapse of the already fragile global economic order? If world leaders fail to meet, talk and compromise, the answer may no longer be hypothetical.

The Iranian crisis today is not merely a geopolitical chessboard. It is a human tragedy unfolding in real time. The Indian government's urgent advisory urging all nationals to leave Iran underscores the severity of the situation. From Tehran to Mashhad, Tabriz to Isfahan, Shiraz to Qom, streets are simmering with violence and rage. Brutal repression has become routine. Protests flare, are crushed and re-emerge with renewed fury. Estimates suggest that nearly 10,000 Indian nationals remain stranded across Iran. Among them are students pursuing higher education, religious pilgrims seeking spiritual fulfilment, businessmen trapped by frozen transactions, engineers employed in technical projects, and tourists caught unawares by a rapidly-collapsing security environment.



AP

The current Iranian inferno did not erupt overnight. The turmoil is a culmination of centuries of historical contradictions, political betrayals, social tensions and ideological experiments gone wrong. Iran was once among humanity's greatest civilisational beacons. The Persian empire dazzled the ancient world under rulers like Cyrus the Great and Darius, leaving behind monumental legacies such as Persepolis. Persian culture gifted humanity poetry, philosophy, science, and art of extraordinary depth and beauty. Ferdowsi, Rumi and Hafez shaped universal thought. Architecture soared, music flourished and knowledge crossed continents.

In the 20th century, Iran again stood on the threshold of transformation. When Reza Shah Pahlavi took power in 1925, he laid the foundations of a modern, nationalist state. Infrastructure expanded rapidly. Roads, railways and universities emerged. Women gained rights unheard of in much of West Asia. Education spread, social mobility improved and Iran aligned itself with global modernity. Under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, from 1941 to 1979, Iranian cities blossomed into cosmopolitan centres. Women studied, worked and dressed freely. Cultural exchange with the world thrived. Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz became symbols of progress and aspiration.

Yet, beneath this polished surface, darker currents were taking shape. The Shah's secret police, SAVAK, was cultivating fear through torture and surveillance. Gargantuan corruption at the highest levels widened economic inequality. Into this volatile mix stepped Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, an exiled cleric who transformed grievance into ideology. Broadcasting sermons from France, he mobilised the disillusioned, framing modernity as moral decay and authoritarian rule as Western subjugation.

By the late 1978, Iran was ablaze with revolutionary fervour. The Shah fled in January 1979. On February 1, Khomeini returned to Tehran to a rapturous reception and a new Iran was born as an Islamic Republic. Today's Iran bears the heavy burden of that transformation. Nearly 90 million people live under crushing economic and political pressure. Inflation soars relentlessly. Unemployment is widespread, especially among the youth. Sanctions cripple industry and trade, while corruption and mismanagement corrode what remains.

Despite holding 208 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, around 12 percent of the global total, Iran's economy limps along with a GDP of roughly $400 billion, ranking it well below its potential. Now the breaking point has arrived. Religious policing has become intolerable. In addition, the State has ruthlessly tightened its grip by shutting down the internet, arresting journalists and women activists, and silencing media.

This domestic upheaval has spilled into a dangerous international confrontation. The US has served ultimatums and deployed military assets in the region. In a retaliatory move, Russia and China have tightened their embrace of Tehran. They have cited shared strategic and energy interests while denouncing American aggression. Alliances have sharpened, causing a real possibility of a major confrontation between two powerful blocs.

For India, the fallout is immediate and severe. Bilateral trade with Iran, valued at $1.6-1.8 billion, has nearly collapsed. Indian exporters face unpaid dues. Any instability in the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 percent of global oil flows, threatens India's energy security. India has been forced to indulge in a perilous tightrope while balancing ties with the US and managing regional interests in Iran—while at the same time navigating relationships with Russia and China, and above all, protecting its citizens.

Experts warn that if this crisis continues unchecked, the consequences could be catastrophic. What begins as regional unrest could metastasise into a global confrontation within months or years. The only escape from this abyss lies in urgent diplomacy. Dialogue must replace threats. De-escalation must override ego. World leaders must convene not for spectacle, but for solutions.

The choice before humanity is stark. Continue down the path of pride and power, and risk dragging the world into irreversible ruin—or step back, listen, compromise and choose coexistence over confrontation. Iran's inferno is not just its own. It is a warning flare to the world. Whether it becomes the spark of global collapse or the catalyst for collective wisdom will depend on what leaders do next. The future, precariously balanced, is watching.

THE CRISIS OF RELATIONSHIP RECESSION



OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and
author of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

RECENTLY, we have had a number of media personalities and social media influencers weighing in on marriage—with some even calling it "an outdated institution". It reflects changing value systems and the relationship recession that today's world faces.

Even a few decades ago, marriage was considered a sine qua non for every young man and woman in India, arranged by families within the community. Children were considered a safety network that would support parents in old age and perpetuate the bloodlines. Problems in relationships were often swept under the carpet, although legislation was introduced to tackle conspicuous maladies like dowry and domestic violence. Women often found themselves in an unequal relationship, with little access to economic resources and mobility.

In recent years, the reach of education and employment of women has proved to be a game-changer. Across the globe, women have begun to focus on personal goals and financial independence. They have become empowered, spell out their terms and evaluate options before entering into relationships. There is an increase in the average age of marriage for both men and women, especially in urban India. Child marriage, although illegal, is still prevalent in pockets of rural India.

The stigma that was attached to single, unmarried and childless women is receding today. The main reason is that more women are gainfully employed, take risks and enjoy social mobility. Today's women do not merely subscribe to the roles thrust upon them by societal expectations. They have discovered that they possess agency. The movie *Queen* (2013) was a rhapsody of how a single woman transforms her rejection by celebrating herself on a solo honeymoon.

Being single is not a new phenomenon. What is new is the conscious decision made by young individuals to stay single. Today's women do not see it as a milestone to be achieved by a certain age. An increase in divorce rates also reflects the mismatch in expectations.

Active sex selection with a preference for male children is coming back, contributing to the 'marriage squeeze'. Gender disparity resulting in a lack of eligible women in certain communities has given women more bargaining power in decision-making. While parents and elders despair at delays or even rejection of marriage, many youngsters have thought it through, having observed the limitations of family structures and the unequal dynamics at play.

The impact of marriage on career prospects, the cost of raising children and the support they can count on are all analysed before decisions are made. As a result, there is a rising scepticism about marriage as an institution across communities. Even the pithy signs on the back of trucks—'*Hum do, humare do*'—seem to have disappeared. An openness to unconventional live-in relationships, without seeking validation from society, is on the rise.

Higher education, rising costs and skewed demographics are changing relationship choices the world over. As societies age and loneliness bites, many countries and communities are trying to reverse the trend

In China, November 11 is celebrated as Singles' Day. Sales and discounts have transformed it into a mega shopping festival. But the fast-rising number of singles across the globe has consequences beyond the commercial, with a fall in fertility rates below the replacement rates in certain countries like India. The resultant increase in ageing populations has implications on productivity and economic growth. This is, however, not uniform across communities. There is segmental asymmetry in populations as patriarchal and authoritarian sub-groups impose marriage on youngsters and make child-bearing a moral duty for women. This is resulting in skewed demographics.

The numbers, however, do not tell the whole story. The reduction in human interactions has weakened social skills. There is a predicted increase in robotic companions, with cinema even depicting human-robot romances. While this seems outlandish, the future would see the culmination of many influences. There is a growing movement of pronatalists promoting larger families for social and economic reasons.

Japan and South Korea are among the countries offering cash incentives at every stage of a relationship—for dating, getting married and having children. Whether this will bring the desired results remains to be seen.

The rise of artificial intelligence tools has brought in a new dimension by redefining of human productivity. When the centrality of work as a source of identity no longer holds, people may seek intimacies to fill the vacuum. While youngsters enjoy their state of solitary splendour as a life choice for now, it could well be a cyclical phenomenon as the cost of social isolation rises.

QUOTE CORNER



[The US] mainstream media are so lame or so bought that they report that the Iranian government has lost control of the economy without saying that the US has crushed the Iranian economy. If the attempt at regime change through maximum pressure doesn't work, I would expect outright attacks by the US very soon.

Jeffrey Sachs, professor of economics at Columbia University

We are exiting the world in which central banks were run by economists. Once it's gone, our prediction is that it won't come back.

Wolfgang Munchau, director of EuroIntelligence, on the Trump administration's prosecution of former Fed chief Jerome Powell

I need FIFA to clearly condemn actions that kill footballers. For example, the financing of a genocide and the genocide itself.

Hedvig Lindahl, Swedish goalkeeper, refusing to join the FIFA Legends team

MAILBAG
WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Delivery pressures

Ref: *Don't dictate business model to cover government deficiencies* (Jan 17). With both consumers and investors favouring quick commerce, government intervention in such a dynamic market must avoid stifling innovation. However, the move to discourage rigid 10-minute delivery commitments is justified. Algorithm-driven pressure to meet these promises has compromised delivery workers' safety and endangered other road users. India's quick commerce can still remain globally competitive while ensuring safer working conditions and more sustainable efficiencies.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Protecting workers

Ten-minute delivery is a marketing strategy, not a customer demand. When business steps into a high-risk operational domain, the government has to protect gig workers. Regulatory safeguards are essential, but a business model thriving on speed and algorithm-driven wages is a disruptor. The platforms should have settled this issue, but their failure necessitated government intervention.

Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Waning Pawar

Ref: *Uncertain future ahead of Maha dynasts* (Jan 17). The Pawar family's political influence in Maharashtra faces significant shrinkage following the poor performance in the civic elections, especially in Mumbai, threatening their decades-long dominance. With Sharad Pawar's waning electoral appeal, the Nationalist Congress must either reinvent its strategy or risk becoming a marginal player in the political landscape.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Beyond subsidy

Ref: *Strengthening India's fertiliser backbone* (Jan 16). The article correctly points out that the fertiliser subsidy regime has led to unintended consequences such as excessive urea use, nutrient imbalance in soil, and an ever-growing fiscal burden. The suggestion to gradually bring urea under the nutrient-based subsidy system is rational and forward-looking. Equally important is the emphasis on protecting small farmers through targeted support during any transition. The broader message is significant—fertiliser policy should no longer be viewed merely as a subsidy issue, but as a strategic tool for achieving long-term agricultural sustainability and environmental resilience.

Sanjeev Jha, New Delhi

Strategic sovereignty

Ref: *When dust settles on the shadow war waged in Iran* (Jan 17). The challenge in front of the Indian government presents a moment of truth. In trying to secure the Chabahar port in Iran from the looming American sanctions in April 2026, we should end the search for a waiver. Protecting our sovereignty in the deal would entail developing a system of non-dollar payments, in a manner favourable to regional objectives.

Adnan Koduvally, Kozhikode

Citizens' kindness

Ref: *Be kind, rewind* (Jan 17). It's unfortunate that kindness toward strangers is gradually declining across India . Recently, four Tamil men harassed an innocent traveller from another state in front of everyone on a train for social media reels. Yet, no one stepped forward to help. Thankfully, there are still some good souls who care: a poor worker recently handed over lost jewellery to the authorities. We need more such people.

S Sundareswara Pandiyan, Kovur

Tree rights

Ref: *Flag removed from tree atop Thiruparankundram hill, Dargah files plaint* (Jan 17). The tree in question is sacred to Lord Shiva and Karthikeya. It is an indigenous species whose leaves are used in pujas and in Ayurvedic medicine. Even so, the focus on its 'ownership' is misplaced. Placing flags or posters on the tree should be considered inappropriate, and every tree has the right to stand and live without human disturbance.

Komala Brunschwig, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY



Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
Wins and losses will come and go, but one day, we will certainly stand tall with heads held high before Mumbai's true owners!



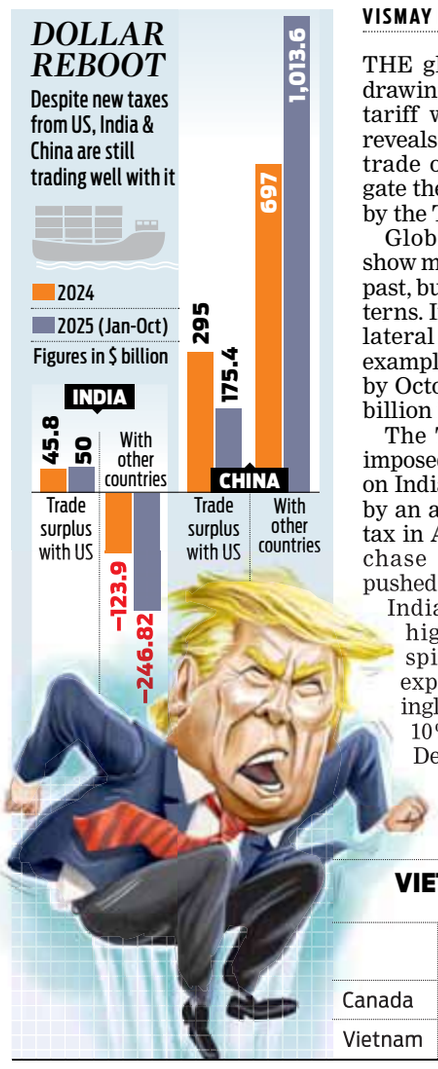
Supriya Shrinate @SupriyaShrinate
The Prime Ministers of this country used to be fearless people. But Modi ji, our country is bearing the brunt of your cowardice, enduring humiliation.



Sambit Patra @sambitswaraj
The FIR has been filed for the attack on the VDO office, but the MLA's name is missing. Mamata Banerjee should tell us who is being protected.

Trump wall & great tariff detour

Global trade is realigning, with India's US surplus showing resilience and China using Vietnam



VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

THE global trade map is redrawing itself as Washington's tariff wall rises. Data for 2025 reveals a world redesigning its trade options to circumnavigate the tariff regime imposed by the Trump administration.

Global trade realignments show many deviations from the past, but also continue past patterns. India's surplus in the bilateral trade with the US, for example, climbed to $50 billion by October 2025, up from $45.8 billion in 2024.

The Trump administration imposed a 26% reciprocal tariff on India in April 2025, followed by an additional 25% punitive tax in August over India's purchase of Russian oil. This pushed the average US tariff on Indian goods to one of the highest in the world. Despite this burden, Indian exports remained surprisingly robust, growing nearly 10% year-on-year through December 2025. It remains to be seen, however, whether this resilience is the result of the stickiness of global supply chains—where contracts and logistics cannot be moved overnight—or a sign of India's successful re-routing of its exports. While some analysts point to exemptions for key sectors, such as iPhones and pharmaceuticals as the primary stabiliser, the long-term sustainability of this volume is under scrutiny.

Globally, Vietnam has emerged as the most agile connector. Its bilateral trade surplus with the US reached $129.5 billion by October 2025, already exceeding the full-year figure for 2024. This occurred despite a 46% headline reciprocal tariff. Vietnam is a textbook case of trade diversion. While it sold more to the US, its imports from China hit $186 billion in 2025. Experts point to a China-Vietnam-US triangle, where Chinese goods often receive a "Made in Vietnam" label.

China, too, has shown resilience. Its trade surplus with the US slumped to $175.4 billion by October 2025, a sharp drop from nearly $295 billion in 2024. Average US tariffs on Chinese exports reached 47.5%. Despite this, Beijing delivered a record-shattering rebuff. By October 2025, it posted a total trade surplus of $1.189 trillion, the largest ever recorded by any nation. While its exports to the US fell by 20%, it diversified elsewhere. Shipments to Africa jumped 25.8%, and those to the ASEAN bloc rose 13.4%, proving that while tariffs can shift trade away from US shores, they have not dented China's role as the world's factory.

However, not everyone is coping well. Canada is feeling the most pain due to its direct proximity with the US. Its bilateral trade fell to $40 billion by October last year. In early 2025, Washington imposed a 25% universal tariff on Canadian imports, excluding energy products, which faced a 10% rate. These "border tariffs" increased to 35% for many goods on August 1, 2025. The measures disrupted highly integrated supply chains, prompting Canada to retaliate with its own 25% surtax on American goods. Although many of these were lifted for "USMCA-compliant" products later in 2025, the damage was already done. Canada's total trade deficit widened to an estimated $13.8 billion, and the average cost for US consumers of Canadian-made goods remains elevated.

VIETNAM IS A 'CONNECTOR', CANADA LOSES OUT

	2024		2025 (Jan-Oct)	
	TRADE SURPLUS WITH US	WITH REST OF THE WORLD	TRADE SURPLUS WITH US	WITH REST OF THE WORLD
Canada	–62	–70.1	–40	–53
Vietnam	123.46	–98.69	129.5	–109.94

Figures in $ billion

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

HIS MAGIC WORKS AGAIN, TOUCHES ALL & SUNDRY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI

DEVENDRA Fadnavis's political journey is one of steady ascent rather than sudden arrival. It began in the narrow lanes of Nagpur's municipal politics, where he began as a corporator in the Nagpur Municipal Corporation. From there, he rose methodically, emerging as a central force behind the Bharatiya Janata Party's victories in Maharashtra in the 2014 and 2024 Assembly elections. That rise culminated in his elevation as chief minister. His latest achievement has only burnished that reputation. Under his stewardship, the BJP has surged ahead in civic elections across Maharashtra, placing the party firmly on course to capture the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Asia's richest civic body, along with key municipal corporations such as Pune, Navi Mumbai, Nashik, Nagpur, Jalgaon and Kalyan-Dombivli. The scale of the sweep has reinforced Fadnavis's image as an election-winning strategist and administrator rolled into one. With the BJP poised to wrest control of Mumbai's civic crown, Fadnavis's political standing has entered a new league. The outcome has strengthened whispers within political circles about his future beyond Maharashtra, placing him among leaders spoken of as potential national faces for the saffron party.

For the BJP, the BMC victory carries deep strategic weight. The undivided Shiv Sena ruled the civic body for nearly 30 years, often with the BJP playing junior partner. That equation cracked in 2017, when the BJP decided to contest the BMC elections independently. It won 82 of the 227 seats, just two short of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, despite both parties being allies in power at the Centre and in Maharashtra at the time. Though the BJP fell short then, the contest marked a turning point.

Fadnavis used that moment as a foundation rather than a setback. Over the years, he steadily expanded the BJP's footprint in Mumbai, quietly laying the organisational and political groundwork for the next civic battle. He combined ideology with delivery, projecting himself not only as a Hindutva standard-bearer but also as a development-oriented leader with a clear infrastructure vision. During this period, Mumbai saw tangible changes. Metro services were rolled out, easing the city's chronic commuting stress. The Atal Setu connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai was completed, symbolising speed and scale. Work progressed on the underground coastal road, while the long-delayed redevelopment of the BDD chawls was pushed forward. These projects reshaped Fadnavis's image from that of a partisan leader to that of an "infra man."

NEWSMAKER



MANDAR PARDIKAR

The message resonated across social and linguistic lines. Aspirational Marathi and non-Marathi voters began to view the BJP as a party capable of reviving a city they believed was stagnating under the Thackerays' emotive and inward-looking politics. The promise was clear: growth, jobs and a better quality of life under Fadnavis's watch. Politically, he worked on multiple fronts. While consolidating the BJP's traditional vote banks among Gujaratis and North Indians, he also reached out to South Indian voters, particularly in the aftermath of Raj Thackeray's jibe at Tamil Nadu BJP leader K Annamalai. Simultaneously, Fadnavis made a direct play for the Marathi vote, long considered the Shiv Sena's exclusive preserve. Casting himself as a strong Marathi manoos, he foregrounded promises of housing through redevelopment, homes for slum dwellers, employment and security.

The Shiv Sena's traditional strength lay in its dense network of local shakhas that functioned as neighbourhood power centres. To challenge this, Devendra Fadnavis, with the BJP's Mumbai unit, replicated and modernised the model. Party offices spread across the city, and each area was assigned three shakha heads — a man, a woman, and a youth — creating a new grassroots leadership pipeline that steadily drew voters towards the BJP. Simultaneously, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena weakened Shiv Sena (UBT) by poaching shakha heads, corporators and local leaders, backing them with resources. Fadnavis reinforced this by directing projects and funds to BJP and Shinde-held areas, giving them visible achievements.

Equally significant was Fadnavis's decision to keep the BMC campaign deliberately restrained. He avoided calling in the BJP's top national leadership, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to prevent the contest from slipping into a Marathi-versus-Gujarati narrative. By doing so, he denied the Thackeray brothers their most familiar political weapon. The battle was framed squarely as one between Fadnavis and the Thackerays, stripping it of emotive distractions. In another calculated move, Devendra Fadnavis chose not to align with Ajit Pawar's NCP for the BMC elections, citing Nawab Malik's alleged links to fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim. Despite sharing power with the NCP at the state and Centre, he consciously distanced the BJP from what he viewed as political baggage. The decision allowed the party to draw a sharp ideological line and reclaim narrative control. It helped consolidate the BJP's Hindutva core while reinforcing a long-held message: on issues of national security and ideology, the BJP will not blur lines or make tactical compromises.

India will host 22 Arab foreign ministers' meet

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA will host around 22 Arab foreign ministers at the 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Delhi on January 30-31, officials said, marking a major diplomatic gathering spanning West Asia and North Africa.The meeting may also feature Syria, which came under a new administration at the end of 2024. If Syria participates, it would be the first ministerial interaction between New Delhi and Damascus since the ouster of Bashar al-Assad.

India's Joint Secretary for the West Asia and North Africa division, Suresh Kumar, had met Syria's Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani in July last year. The Arab League, founded in 1945 and headquartered in Cairo, includes Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the UAE and Yemen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened ties with the region through multiple visits, most recently to Jordan and Oman in December 2025. India has also elevated several ties with League members to strategic partnerships.

Senators seek Trump's help to lower India tariff on pulse

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

TWO Republican lawmakers have urged US President Donald Trump to press India for tariff relief on pulse crops and argued that American farmers face a "significant competitive disadvantage" in one of the world's largest food markets due to what they describe as unfair trade barriers imposed by New Delhi. In a letter dated January 16, Senators Steve Daines of Montana and Kevin Cramer of North Dakota said their states are the two largest producers of pulse crops in the United States, including peas, while India is the world's biggest consumer, accounting for nearly 27% of global consumption. Lentils, chickpeas, dried beans and peas form a staple part of the Indian diet, but US exports in these categories are subject to steep tariffs, they said.

The Senators pointed specifically to India's decision on October 30 last year to impose a 30% tariff on yellow peas, which came into effect on November 1, 2025. They argued that such measures have eroded the competitiveness of US producers despite strong demand in the Indian market. "As a result of the unfair Indian tariffs, US pulse crop producers face a significant competitive disadvantage when exporting their high-quality product to India," the letter said.



'Affects competitiveness of US producers'

Senators Steve Daines of Montana and Kevin Cramer of North Dakota pointed specifically to India's decision on October 30 last year to impose a 30% tariff on yellow peas, which came into effect on November 1, 2025. They said that such measures have eroded competitiveness of US producers despite strong demand in the Indian market.

Backing their claim, the lawmakers cited findings by the Office of the US Trade Representative, which has flagged India's average applied tariff on agricultural products at 39%, compared with 5% in the United States. The USTR has also pointed to technical and regulatory hurdles, along with market access restrictions in sectors such as agriculture, which it says have curtailed US exports to India. Daines and Cramer argued that engaging Prime Minister Narendra Modi directly on pulse crop tariffs could strengthen broader economic cooperation between the two countries. Lower tariffs, they said, would be "mutually beneficial", easing costs for Indian consumers while opening a major export market for American farmers.

Thanking Trump for his efforts to create a favourable economic environment for agricultural producers in Montana and North Dakota, the Senators urged him to prioritise favourable provisions for pulse crops as trade negotiations with India move forward. They also recalled a similar intervention during Trump's first term. Ahead of the 2020 trade talks with India, the lawmakers had raised the pulse crop issue with the President, who they said personally delivered their letter to PM Modi.

EXPRESS READ

Andamans will be developed as India's blue economy hub, says Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be developed as a hub of India's Blue Economy. Singh said India's future economic value addition will increasingly come from untapped marine resources as the country moves rapidly towards becoming one of the world's top economies. He highlighted the government's strong focus on blue economy reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.

19 bills still pending in RS, oldest on population control dates back to 1992

As many as 19 government Bills remain pending in the Rajya Sabha, with the oldest, pertaining to population control, dating back to 1992. The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House which is never dissolved, with one-third of its members retiring every two years. While the Bills pending in the Lok Sabha lapse when the House is dissolved, a Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha never lapses. Also among the pending bills is The Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

Awami League will win polls, Hasina to lead govt: Former foreign minister

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

BANGLADESH'S former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud on Saturday criticised a UNHCR report on the July-August, 2024 student movement, calling it "fabricated and highly biased" and accusing it of overlooking violence against police and members of the Awami League.

Mahmud also asserted that his party and he would "return to power" with "Sheikh Hasina leading the government" in the election as 60% of Bangladesh people want them back. He, however, stated that the "mobocracy" by the interim arrangement should end. He also alleged that around 300 media persons have been put behind bar.

While addressing a press conference, the Awami League leaders — foreign minister Hasan Mahmud and former Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel-alleged that the report failed to account for the killing of thousands of police



personnel during the unrest.

Nearly 3,000 policemen were killed, he said, citing an incident in which an entire police station, with about 40 officers inside, was set on fire. He said, "Out of 600 police station, 450 police stations were attacked and policemen were killed and weapons were looted."

The United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) report, which the Awami League Rebutted, was released a year back in February 2025. He also doubted the credibility of the casualty figures cited in the UN document.

NIA chargesheet against 5 Qaida men in Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted five accused in a case relating to online radicalisation of vulnerable youth by the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) terror group in Gujarat, the agency said.

Mohammad Fardeen, Kureshi Sefulla, Mohammad Faique, Zeeshan Ali and Shama Parveen have been charged.

During the probe, the agency said that the accused used social media platforms for propagating the anti-India ideologies of the banned AQIS. They posted provocative content. It found that the accused had called for armed revolt against the democratically elected Government.

Paracetamol safe in pregnancy, says Lancet study

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THERE is no evidence that taking paracetamol during pregnancy increases the risk of autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, or intellectual disability among children, said a latest Lancet study. Published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health, the latest findings, debunk US President Donald Trump's claims last September that the widely-used painkiller leads to autism.

The claims were condemned by medical fraternity around the globe. Led by Professor Asma Khalil, Professor of Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine at City St George's, University of London and Consultant Obstetrician, the study clearly said that maternal use of paracetamol does not raise the likelihood of neurodevelopmental disorders in children.

"Our findings suggest that previously reported links are likely to be explained by genetic predisposition or other maternal factors such as fever or underlying pain, rather than a direct effect of the paracetamol itself. The message is clear - paracetamol remains a safe option during pregnancy when taken as guided."

"This is important as paracetamol is the first-line medication we recommend for pregnant women in pain or with a fever, and so they should feel reassured that they still have a safe option to relieve them of their symptoms," she said.

Paracetamol is the most commonly used analgesic and antipyretic during pregnancy. Its safety profile is more favourable than that of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, making it the preferred choice in obstetric care, the study pointed out.

Avoiding paracetamol might expose mothers and fetuses to the risks associated with untreated pain and fever, such as miscarriage, preterm birth, or congenital defects. "Thus, the politicisation of scientific uncertainty creates confusion among pregnant people and clinicians."

The researchers reviewed 43 previous studies, making this the most detailed examination of the issue so far. The analysis covered over 2,62,000 children assessed for autism, over 3,35,000 assessed for ADHD (attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder), and around 4,06,000 assessed for intellectual disability.

"..Current evidence does not indicate a clinically important increase in the likelihood of autism spectrum disorder, ADHD or intellectual disability in children of pregnant individuals who use paracetamol as directed, supporting existing recommendations on its safety." The finding supports the recommendations made by major medical organisations regarding its use following Trump's claims.

Trump last year had said that paracetamol "is no good" and pregnant women should "fight like hell" not to take it.

Researchers hoped that this gold-standard review will put an end to any scepticism on using paracetamol during pregnancy as avoiding paracetamol for significant pain or fever can expose both mother and baby to known risks.



'Avoiding medicine can be bigger risk'

The study also stressed that avoiding paracetamol might expose mothers and fetuses to the risks associated with untreated pain and fever, such as miscarriage, pre-term birth, or congenital defects. "Thus, the politicisation of scientific uncertainty creates confusion among people and clinicians."

BENGAL SIR ROW

The West Bengal government has asked the EC to withdraw its directive to file FIRs against two EROs and AEROs in connection with the "ghost voter" controversy, an official said on Saturday.

4 DEAD AS CARS COLLIDED IN RAJASTHAN'S UDAIPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	14	Mumbai	27	22
Bhopal	26	12	Panaji	31	19
Jaipur	23	12	Patna	18	10
Amritsar	13	07	Lucknow	19	09
Chennai	28	21	Port Blair	28	23
Kolkata	24	14	Imphal	22	09
Srinagar	08	-2	Chandigarh	17	08

Gangsters on prowl, target Punjab's music industry & Kabaddi

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE recent surge in gang wars across Punjab indicates that the gangsters are attempting to take control over the state's music industry and rural sport Kabaddi league, similar to what Mumbai's underworld did in 1980s through the early 2000s.

In the latest incident, Punjabi singer and Bollywood sensation B Praak, who has belted out several super hits, allegedly got an extortion threat of ₹10 crore from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The main shooter, who last month shot dead kabaddi promoter and player Kanwar Digvijay Singh, alias Rana Balachauria, was shot dead in an encounter.



Sources privy to the matter stated that Punjabi singer Dilnoor has reportedly got a threat call warning Praak of dire consequences if money is not paid within a week. In his complaint to the Senior Superintendent of Police of SAS Nagar on January 6, Dilnoor stated that the caller reportedly identified himself as Arju Bishnoi and claimed to be associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. On January 5, Dilnoor received two threat calls from an international number, but he ignored them. But the next day he got another call which he answered briefly but hung up as he was suspicious.

Then in a purported voice message left on the number the caller demanded ₹10 crore to be paid within a week and warned that if the money was not paid, Praak would be harmed. The caller also cautioned that the threat should not be taken lightly and said that he was operating from outside India.

A police investigation has been initiated into the matter, and the call details and audio messages are being probed. On December 12, kabaddi promoter Balachauria was shot dead during a tournament in Sector 79, Sohana, amid escalating gang rivalries reportedly orchestrated by foreign-based handlers.

The SAS Nagar Police shot dead notorious shooter 23-year-old Karan Pathak on Saturday, who was the key accused and the main shooter who killed Balachauria. According to sources, Pathak—who was arrested in the case recently—complained of chest pain on Friday night and was rushed to a hospital in a police vehicle when it hit a road divider due to fog, during which he managed to flee from custody of the CIA.

A few hours later he was traced near Rurki Kham village on the airport road. During the encounter, Pathak reportedly opened fire at the police as he fired six to seven rounds from a pistol. The police fired around ten rounds. He was injured in the leg but continued firing. Pathak was first taken to a private hospital and then referred to the Phase-6 Civil Hospital, Mohali, but died later. Earlier, Punjab singers like Mankirt Aulakh, Parmish Verma, Karan Aujla, actor-cum-singer Gippy Grewal, Raj Jujhar, singer-politician Balkar Sidh have received extortion and death threats.

A firing incident had taken place outside the residence of Punjabi rapper AP Dhillion in Vancouver, Canada. Gippy was attacked in 2023 and in 2018, Verma was attacked in Mohali. On May 29, 2022, Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead.

The music industry promotes guns and violence through their songs. So, these gangsters find Punjabi singers as their soft target. As the current value of the Punjabi music industry is around thousands of crores and annually a 12 to 15% increase. As it has over 450 registered music labels that release around 20 to 25 songs every day, said the sources.

Also, international kabaddi player Sandeep Singh Sandhu, alias Nangal Ambian, was shot Jalandhar in March 2022.

Then, on November 11 last year, another Player, Gurvinder Singh, was killed in Samrala, Ludhiana, with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claiming responsibility on social media. On October 31, player Tejpal was killed, reportedly over personal enmity.

Sources revealed that it is all related to finances, as Kabaddi is related to making easy money by match fixing, through advertisements and betting. The gangsters have entered into this rural sport due to their interest in Punjabi film and music industry. "The interest of the gangsters is not related to extortion alone but they also try to legitimate their money through this industry as they float companies and take the rights of the songs of popular singers thus they get perpetual income," disclosed an officer of the Anti Gangster Task Force on the condition of anonymity.

Sources said that the phone calls of these gangster are hard to trace as these are based abroad and they use VPN and encrypted applications as they are of the view that they are safe abroad. "To get their dirty work and executions done here they recruit local youth by giving them allurements like sending them aboard," he added.

The sources further said that the tournament organisers revealed that gangsters exert influence over Kabaddi tournaments to extort money from sponsors, manipulate player participation, and control match outcomes. Some leagues operated by gangsters also extend abroad, including in Canada and the UK.

GUNSHOTS & MUSICAL NOTES

Punjab gang wars have intensified as gangsters target the music industry and Kabaddi leagues in rural areas

SINGER B PRAAK ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED ₹10 CR EXTORTION THREAT FROM THE BISHNOI GANG

Singer Dilnoor reported threat calls and a message demanding payment

The threat to Praak follows the December 12 killing of kabaddi promoter Kanwar Digvijay Singh during a tournament

Police killed main accused shooter Karan Pathak in an encounter after he allegedly opened fire while trying to escape from custody


Digvijay Singh


B Praak



GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

Minority leader quits Cong 3 days after joining

Former All Assam Minorities Students' Union president Rejaul Karim Sarkar resigned from the Congress three days after joining it. His stint was marked by a controversy over his statement about turning Sivasagar into Dhubri and Dhubri into Sivasagar. Though he came up with up with clarification later, it ruffled quite a few feathers. Sivasagar is Assamese heartland while Dhubri is a Bengali Muslim-dominated district. As groups were going for his jugular, an embarrassed Congress criticised him. In the wake of the row, Sarkar shot off a letter to state Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, against leaders Debabrata Saikia and Pradyut Bordoloi.

Split in Maha allies costs MVA dear in BMC elections

In 16 seats, defeat margin less than votes polled by Thackerays & Cong

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE BJP-led alliance has swept the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, with the Thackerays losing grip on the civic body after 25 years. An analysis of Maharashtra state election commission data shows that the scenario would have been different had Uddhav and Raj Thackeray contested the polls in alliance with INDIA bloc partners. A united fight could have helped them notch up the 114 magic figure in the 227-member BMC, according to some poll analysts.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has won 65 corporators, Congress 24, MNS 6, Samajwadi Party 2, and NCP(SP) 1 in BMC polls. If they decide to come together, they are still short of 16 seats for the majority mark. Interestingly, they lost 16 seats by contesting separately, according to the state poll panel data. In ward number one, Congress candidate Sheetal Mhatre lost by 2474 votes to Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena candidate Rekha Yadav. The Sena (UBT) candidate bagged 4314 votes, more than the Congress' losing margin.

While in BMC's ward number seven, Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Saurabh Ghosalkar lost by 797 votes against BJP candidate Ganesh Khankar, Congress candidate Ashish Fernandis bagged the 1672 votes. In ward number 20, MNS candidate Dinesh Salvi lost with a margin of 2751 votes against BJP candidate Deepak Tawade, while Congress candidate Astan Khan secured 3351 votes.

In ward no. 31, Congress candidate BhgagyaLaxmi Rajpurohit lost by 278 votes to BJP's Manish Yadav, where Sena (UBT)'s Jyoti More bagged 1803 votes. In ward no. 42, Sena (UBT)'s Pranita Nikam by 1022 votes against Shinde Sena candidate Dhanshree Baradkar, where Congress alliance partner VBA candidate Manisha Surve bagged 1066 votes.

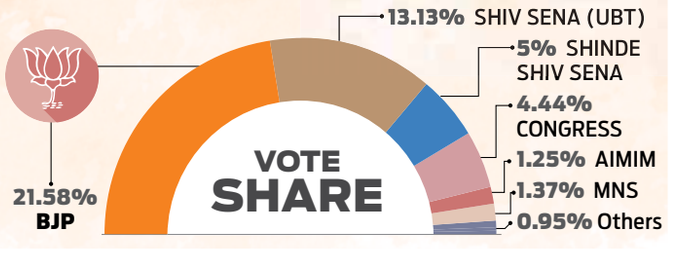
In ward number 52, Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Supriya Gadve lost by 964 votes against the BJP's Priti Satam, where the Congress candidate Swati Sangale got 1399 votes. In ward number 58, MNS candidate Virendra Jadhav lost by 2251 votes to BJP's Sandeep Patel, where Congress candidate Suryakant Mishra bagged 5459 votes. In ward number 63, Sena (UBT) candidate Devendra Ambekar lost by 538 votes against BJP's Rupesh Savarkar, where Congress candidate Priyanka Sanap bagged 4380 votes.

In ward 72, Shiv sena (UBT) candidate Manisha Panchal lost against BJP candidate Mamata Yadhav with a margin of 609 votes, while Congress candidate Gayatri Gupta received 1002 votes. In ward number 91, Sena (UBT) candidate Vasudev Madgut lost to the Shinde Sena candidate Sagun Naik by 1790, while Congress candidate Sheikh Rafikh bagged 4135 votes. In ward 148, Sena (UBT) candidate Vasant Shinde lost by 1091 votes against the Shinde Sena candidate Anjali Naik, while Congress candidate Rajendra Mahulkar secured 2267 votes.

MISSED CHANCE

Though the BJP stands tall and no other combination in the Opposition camp would have defeated it in terms of total votes polled, in certain seats, the consolidated Opposition vote could have defeated BJP/Shiv Sena candidates.





POCSO CASE

Court delivers death penalty in record 40 days

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

IN a rarest-of-rare judgment delivered with unprecedented speed, a Rajkot special court on Saturday sentenced a 30-year-old man to death for the barbaric sexual assault of a minor girl in Atkot's Kanpar village. The verdict completes the entire justice process from FIR to capital punishment in 40 days.

The incident took place on December 4, 2025 while the child was playing with her siblings in a farm labourer's garden. The accused Remsinh Dudwa arrived on a motorcycle, picked up the child, took her into nearby bushes under a tree, and raped her by inserting a five-inch iron rod inside her.

The accused fled the spot immediately. Hearing the girl's screams, her aunt, who was in the adjacent room, rushed to the spot and found the profusely bleeding child. She immediately called the girl's father and her husband. The child was rushed to a public hospital in Kanpar village. As the girl was critical, she was referred to Jasdan Government Hospital.

Later in the evening, she was shifted to Rajkot Janana Hospital. After extensive medical treatment, the unconscious girl survived. Her father informed the police about the incident. On December 8, Dudwa was arrested on suspicion. On sustained interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime. The investigating officer filed the charge sheet within just 11 days, on December 8. The case was closed within 40 days.

Rahul, Yadav trade charges over water deaths in Indore

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AFTER meeting the families affected by water contamination in Indore, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused the BJP-led state government of shirking its responsibility, and said the deaths in India's cleanest city is the new model smart city that doesn't even have clean drinking water.

"It was promised that the country will get smart cities. What happened in Indore is the new model smart city, where there is no drinking water. This is new urban model is not confined to Indore alone, but also happening in other cities," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha told reporters after meeting 18 bereaved families in Bhagirathpura locality.

He said the government has to own up the responsibility for what happened in Indore. "The affected families are entitled to compensation, as the tragedy happened due to government's negligence only," he added. Gandhi handed over cheques of ₹1 lakh each to families he met.

Pointing towards an overhead water tank, he said, "This tank symbolises that still there is no clean water here; only band aid has been applied. People want that a proper system is put in place to provide them clean drinking water," Gandhi said. Reacting to accusation of BJP leaders, including CM Mohan Yadav, that he is politicising the issue, Gandhi said, "I'm the Leader of Opposition. I am here to ensure that residents get clean drinking water."

During Gandhi's visit to Indore, CM Yadav visited the now defunct Union Carbide factory in Bhopal and questioned the previous central government headed by Rajiv Gandhi on the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy. "Instead of playing politics on dead bodies in Indore, Rahul Gandhi should apologise for the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy which claimed thousands of lives. He should particularly apologise for allowing the prime accused Warren Anderson flee from Bhopal and India, as it was his (Rahul's) father who ruled at the Centre, while a Congress government was in power in MP at that time."



The affected families are entitled to compensation, as the tragedy happened due to government's negligence

Rahul Gandhi, Lok Sabha LoP

CM invokes Bhopal gas tragedy

During Gandhi's visit to Indore, CM Yadav visited the now defunct Union Carbide factory in Bhopal and questioned the previous Central government headed by Rajiv Gandhi on the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy. He sought an apology from Rahul for it.



Big boost as state gets green power project

Assam is steadily moving towards achieving its goal of 2,000 MW of renewable power and greater energy self-reliance, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said after inaugurating a 70 MW solar power project at Khudigaon in Bilasipara recently. Built at a cost of over ₹350 crore, the project will generate 141 million units of electricity annually, while reducing nearly 1.15 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions. Sarma said Assam's solar capacity now stands at 680 MW, thanks to a series of steps taken by the state government. He said the project in Bilasipara would significantly contribute towards making the state self-reliant in the green power sector.

FIFA World Cup fans get up close with trophy

Football aficionados got a rare chance to see the FIFA World Cup 2026 trophy up close when it arrived in Guwahati the other day. An event was organised at the ACA Stadium where a large number of fans turned up to become a part of history. This was the first time that the trophy was unveiled in Assam. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "Guwahati welcomed the iconic FIFA World Cup trophy as part of its global tour. Its presence reflects our state's growing connect with global sporting excellence and inspires our youth to dream big and play bigger." The state's Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare said it was pure magic, pure goosebumps.

POWER OF WORDS

'Judge me as Amish... judge me for my karma, not my birth'

ADITHI REENA AJITH @ Jaipur

IN a wide-ranging conversation, bestselling author Amish Tripathi drew from history, mythology, politics, and philosophy to reflect on his recent book 'The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath,' unity, historical memory, and the idea of a dharmic India.

Presented by The New Indian Express, the session featured Tripathi in conversation with Viveka Kumari—writer, designer, and former theatre professional. The conversation began with Tripathi addressing why he chooses not to use his surname in his books.

"My legal name is Amish Tripathi. Tripathi is a caste surname. Judge me as Amish, not where I was born," he said.

The conversation soon moved to the historical foundations of his latest novel, set during the Chola period. Tripathi explained that it stemmed from both a love for history and a commitment to dharma.

He expressed frustration with how Indian history is taught in schools. "Our education system does not give us an adequate understanding of how truly special this land is, and I try to explore that through my books," he said. "South India gets a 'meanwhile in the South' in textbooks."

Highlighting Raja Raja Chola's empire, Tripathi argued that Indian history has been flattened into a narrow geographical narrative centred on North India. He also challenged the framing of the last thousand years of Indian history as a story of repeated defeat. Instead, he called it "the greatest resistance in human history."



Author Amish Tripathi in conversation with Viveka Kumari | EXPRESS

Partition, heritage, & histories we owe our children

ADITHI REENA AJITH @ Jaipur

THE third day of the Jaipur Literature Festival unfolded on a spirited note with author and philanthropist Sudha Murty in conversation about her latest children's book. In a lively conversation with Mandira Nayar, presented by The New Indian Express (TNIE), Murty spoke about writing for children, choosing English as a literary language, and the values she hopes young readers carry forward.

'The Magic of the Lost Earring' is the third book in Murty's popular Nooni series. The character of Nooni is inspired by Murty's granddaughter, Anoushka; the book also marks Murty's 50th publication. In the story, Nooni discovers an ancient earring that takes her on a journey across India and London, uncovering layers of family history along the way. Through this, Murty introduces themes of courage, heritage, and the pain of the Partition.

"I always wanted to tell many stories to her [Anoushka], but it's not possible to do video calls all the time," Murty said. "So, I decided I should write books for her." She noted the lack of children's stories in India that focus on adventure and travel in ways young Indian readers can relate to. While authors like Enid Blyton remain popular, Murty observed that those worlds can feel distant for Indian children.

"I wanted to tell Anoushka—look, the freedom of the land that you enjoy today was not easy," she said. Reflecting on her family's history, Murty spoke of her son-in-law and former UK Prime MInister rishi Sunak's ancestors who were forced to leave Lahore and Abbottabad during the Partition, migrating through Nairobi and Dar es Salaam before eventually settling in London.


In a lively conversation with Mandira Nayar, author Sudha Murty spoke about writing for children and choosing English as a literary language | EXPRESS

On writing in English, Murty credited journalist T.J.S. George—a former editor of TNIE, for encouraging her to begin writing in the language at 50. "This is a tribute to him and to The New Indian Express," she said. "He gave me my first break. I started writing columns, and I began writing in English in the year 2000." She added that English allowed her work to be translated into multiple Indian languages, broadening its reach.

Reflecting on the responsibility of writing for children, Murty offered a memorable metaphor. "A child's mind is like a wet wall," she said. "You must write with a sharp edge, like a piece of glass. Once it dries, what you have written stays there."

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 41 **Corrigendum No.04 (Time Extension)** Date: 17/01/2026

e-Tender No. 01/DGM (E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of e-Tender No. 01/DGM(E&M D-II)/ UJVNL/2025-26 invited by office of the Dy. General Manager, E&M Design-II, UJVN Ltd., Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) are hereby extended as follows:

Last date for submission of bid on e-portal: 02.02.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.

Last date for submission of original document (Hard copies): 06.02.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.

Date & Time of opening of technical bid on e-portal: 09.02.2026 from 11:00 Hrs.

Other terms & condition shall remain same. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".

Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-II)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Government of Karnataka

DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT

BMTC, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628, Fax : 080-22226630, E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com, dult@karnataka.gov.in

No: DULT-TECH/7/2025 Date:17.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) invites separate tender (packages) E-bids from the qualified consultancies for the services of preparation of Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for 11 District Headquarters of Karnataka. The last date for the receipt of e-bid on the KPPP portal for the **tender is 02.03.2026, 5.30pm.** The bidders may download the tender document for from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in web portal.

Tender Numbers are as follows:

Sl. No.	District Headquarter	Tender No.
1	Udupi and Chikmagaluru	DULT/2025-26/SE0036
2	Raichur	DULT/2025-26/SE0037
3	Kolar and Chitradurga	DULT/2025-26/SE0038
4	Hospet	DULT/2025-26/SE0039
5	Hassan and Mandya	DULT/2025-26/SE0040
6	Bidar	DULT/2025-26/SE0041
7	Bagalkote and Gadag -Betageri	DULT/2025-26/SE0042

Sd/- Adiministrative Officer
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department.

DIPR/CP/5081/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

TUMAKURU CITY CORPORATION TUMAKURU

Phone : 0816-2272200, Helpline : 94498 72599,
E-mail : ka.tumakuru.cc@gmail.com
Website : www.tumakurucity.mrc.gov.in

No.: T.C.C./Engineer Section/Civil/CR/21/25-26 Date: 16-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-Procurement Portal through only)

The Executive Engineer, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999 - 2000 through KPPP Portal for Corporation Grant Work for tenders Eligible Contractors with PWD License Certificate can Participate in the Tender.

Contractors can Download and Submit the Tenders through KPPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be Paid Electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1) Date of Receipt of Tenders : 16-01-2026, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 30-01-2026 at 4.30 p.m., 3) Pre-Bid Meeting : 23-01-2026 at 11.30 a.m., 4) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 31-01-2026 at 4.35 p.m., 5) Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) : 02-02-2026 at 10.30 a.m.

Postponement of Calendar of events (if any) is only Through KPPP Portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tumakuru City Corporation Tumakuru.

DIPR/Tumkur/73/Manipal/2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Bengaluru South End Circle Branch, 96, South End Road, South End Circle, Bengaluru- 560004, Email:cb1173@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) 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 property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **05.02.2026 (11.00 AM to 11.30AM)**, for recovery of **Rs.3,20,25,891.53/-** (Rupees Three Crore Twenty lakhs Twenty Five thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One and Paisa Fifty Three Only), , as on 31.12.2025 with further interest and cost thereon due to South End Circle branch, Canara Bank from, **1. Sri.Srinivas Burra,** #2911, 5th Main, Vontikoppal , Mysuru-570002. **2. Smt.Vasundhara B,** Flat No G-1, Door No.2930, Brigade Royal Apartments, Gokulam Main Road, Vontikopal, Mysuru-570002. **3. M/s. Star Horizon Consulting Services,** No.704, Rashi 14Cr, 2nd Main, Gokulam, 3rd Stage, Mysuru-570002. Represented by its Proprietrix Smt.Vasundhara. B

The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or **before 04.02.2026 - 5.00 pm**

DETAILS AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY(IES) (Rs.in lacs)

Lot	Description of the Immovable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	**SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Property being the Vacant Site bearing No.334 in Converted Survey No.23/2 situated at Kasavanahalli Village, vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S).388/1991-92, dated 14.05.1992 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District and Converted Survey No.35, vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S).365/1991-92, dated 22.05.1992 issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru District situated at Junna Sandra Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, now comes under jurisdiction of Doddakennahalli Village Panchayath Area, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 80 Feet and North to South 50 Feet totally measuring 4,000 Square Feet and bounded:_On the East: 50 feet Road, On the West: Site No. 344 and 345 , On the North: Site No. 333, On the South: Site No. 335 **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY:** 378 Square Feet undivided share, right. Title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.101 in the Ground Floor in the Residential Apartment Complex known as K.R.RESIDENCY constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property having a Super Built Up Area measuring 1,200 Square Feet including proportionate share in common areas, such as, passages, lobbies, staircase, lifts, etc., alongwith One Covered Car Parking Space	64.58 Lakhs	6.458 Lakhs	1.00 Lakhs

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact Chief Manager, South end Circle Branch, Bengaluru e, Ph. No. 9976633313, 080-22447997, 8334999471, during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 17.01.2026

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, RAICHUR

No.EE/PRED/RCR/AE/E-Tender/2025-26/27 Date: 17.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement)

On Turn-key basis Tenders are invited through e-procurement for the following works by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Raichur on the behalf of Governor of Karnataka, from the contractors registered in PRED as per the schedule given below:

Issue of Blank Tender Documents from : 19.01.2026
Receipt of completed tender documents : 31.01.2026 up to 4.30 P.M
Technical Bid opening on : 21-02-2026 at 5.00 P.M. (If possible)
Financial Bid opening on : 05.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M. (If possible)

Indent Nos.:-

1) **Raichur Taluk :** 21168, 21151, 21161, 21152, 20323, 21363, 21366, 21860, 21903, 21872, 21880, 21915, 21916, 21918, 22431, 21920

Further details can be obtained by logging on the http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
(Shivappa H.) **Executive Engineer**
P.R.E. Division, Raichur

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA
PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG

Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel no. 0364-2591510/94851 06663

No:DHSME&R/SMC/TENDER/IV/31/2025-26/117 Dtd; Shillong, the 15th January, 2026

CORRIGENDUM

In continuation of the tender notice for "Supply and Installation of Equipment/Items for the Department of Skill Lab as per NMC at Shillong Medical College Shillong" under the Directorate of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME) (NIT No. DHSME&R/SMC/TENDER/IV/20/2025/10033), it is hereby notified that the Directorate has been relocated.

Accordingly, the address for submission of tenders is revised as under:

"Directorate of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME), MMSRB Building DHS (MI) Top Floor, Health Complex, Nongkynrih - Laitumkhrah, Shillong, Meghalaya - 793003".

All tenders and related documents shall henceforth be submitted at the above address only. Tenders submitted at the earlier address after issuance of this notice shall not be considered.

All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged. This Corrigendum shall form an integral part of the tender documents.

(Sd/-)
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Meghalaya, Pasteur Hills, Shillong

M.I.P.R. No. 2594
Dt, : 16/1/26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) 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 / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.02.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM), [with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of sale], for recovery of Rs.51,93,56,260.57 (Rupees Fifty One Crores Ninety Three Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty and Fifty Seven Paisa Only) as on 16.01.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/s. Ambika Electronics,** Ground Floor, No. 952, A Sunder Mahal, 14th Cross, Hoskerahalli, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085. **(2) Mr. Ramesh Aithal,** S/o Sri. K.Venkattraman Aithal, 85. Yukthi, Avalahalli, 3rd Stage, Girinagar, Bangalore-560055. **(3) Mr. K.Shantharam Holla,** S/o Achula Holla, B 202, Ashwini Apartment, 14 Ring Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070. **(4) Mr. K.V.R. Somayaji,** 97, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Sarakki Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560078. **(5) Smt. K.Veena** W/o Mr.K.V.R.Somayaji, 97, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Sarakki Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560078. **(6) Mr. Sri. Sadananda Maiya** S/o Late PYN Maiya. 342/20, Shanthala, 1st B Main Road, Jayanagar West, Bangalore-82.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **05.02.2026 - 5.00 pm.** (₹.in Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	Residential Site No 5, carved out of sy no 29/13 of Mayagananahalli Village, Kasaba hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk, V P Katha No 571-5-29/13, Measuring 8000 sft standing in the name of Sri Ramesh Aithal and K Shantahrama Holla. Area Sq. ft. 8000 **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.8062193N, Longitude- 77.3170495E**	₹. 120.00	₹. 12.00	₹. 1.00
	TOTAL	120.00	12.00	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 08025310066, 9483544116, 8508442767 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 17.01.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) 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 property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.02.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 21,11,12,062.44/- as on 16.01.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru** of Canara Bank from **(1) M/S Gokul Dairy Rep by its Partner's** located at Sy No -240, No 157, NH -48 B M Road, Gottigere, Kunigal, Tumkur Dist. Karnataka - 572130. **(2) Rep by its Partner Sri. K N Krishna Murthy** S/o K R Narayanappa , no 176, Sri Krishna, 5th Main, A Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Yelehanka, Bangalore-560064. **(3) Sri. K N Ranganath** S/o Sri. K.R. Narayanappa, No 565, Maddur Road, Kunigal, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka 572130. **(4) Sri K R Gayathri** W/o Sri K N Krishna Murthy, No 176, Sri Krishna, 5th main, A Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064. **(5) K Supriya** D/o K N Krishna Murthy, No.176, Sri Krishna, 5th Main, A Sector, Yelahanka new Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **05.02.2026 - 5.00 PM.** (₹.in Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value	Inspection date & time
1	Residential vacant site Situated at Khata no 2142/2580 (Old No.2580/5089) Kunigal Town, Municipal council, near KHB colony and property in the name of partner K R Gayathri W/o K N Krishna Murthy. Total extent of land is 6120 Sq ft. Boundaries: East: property belong to Sarawathi bai, West: property belong to K N Balaji Rao, North: Lake Yard, South: Road and property belong to K N Krishnamurthy. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 130133.3N, Longitude- 770206.4E.**	₹. 173.00	₹. 17.30	₹. 1.00	**31.01.2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
2	Converted land site Sy.No.240/2, Old 240, Khata No.184/211 Old Khata No.240/2 measuring 2 acres 7 guntas plus 7 guntas of Kharab in all measuring 2 acre and 14 guntas within the limits of Beguru Village Panchayat, Gottigere Village, Hutrigere Village, Hutridurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur Dt., bounded by : East: Property of Shafiullah Khan, West : Road, North: Ansarulla Khan; South: Land of Abdul Azeez and Fiaz Khan, Valuation at time of sanction ₹.691.24. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 130157.4N, Longitude-770356.9E .**	₹. 332.00	₹. 33.20	₹. 1.00	
	Total	**₹.505.00**			

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9866977711 and 9483544116** during office hours on any working day.

Date : 17.01.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

ಶ್ರೀ ಸುಬ್ರಮಣ್ಯೇಶ್ವರ ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಲಿ.,
Sree Subramanyeswara Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

ESTD.1971

(R.B.I. Licence No. UBD-KA 550 P)
A.O. : Rajatha Bhavana, No.106, R.V.Road, Visveswarapuram, Bengaluru-560 004.
Ph : 080-22422461/63, Email: recovery@subcobank.com.Website: subcobank.com

NOTICE OF SALE- IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Auction sale under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act 2002 of the Immovable property mortgaged to **Sree Subramanyeswara Co-Operative Bank Limited, Rajatha Bhavana, No.106, R.V.Road, Visveswarapuram, Bengaluru-560 004** for recovery of secured debts below mentioned. For the realization of these debts the mortgaged property has brought for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION".**

Borrower / Owner Name	Description of the Properties & Loan Amount	Auction Date & Time and Place	Reserve Price & EMD Amount
V V Puram Branch. Phone: 080-22422461/63, 26622462.			
Smt. C.N. Sunanda Sri Nagarja.N	All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property being the residential/commercial premises bearing municipal No.28 (old No.74), PID:No:23-2-28, Situated at 59th 'B' Cross Road, 4th N Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, BBMP ward No 23 (Prakashnagar), measuring East to West : 50 feet and North to South : 40 feet, totally measuring about 2000 Sq. Ft, consisting 3 floors building and bounded as following boundaries: East by: Drain, West by: Road, North by: Site bearing No; 73,South by: Site bearing No; 75. Property belongs to Smt.C.N Sunanda W/o Sri N.Nagaraja. **For Recovery of Rs.2,50,75,279.00 (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine Only) and future interest and Other charges from 01/01/2026**	**Date: 05/02/2026 Thursday 11.30 AM** **at Rajatha Bhavana, No.106, R.V.Road, Visveswarapuram, Bengaluru-04**	**Rs.2,00,00,000/-** **EMD Amount Rs.20,00,000/-**

TERMS AND CONDITION OF AUCTION

(1) The intending bidders should Deposit EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price by means of Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque/Pay Order drawn in favour of **Sree Subramanyeswara Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Rajatha Bhavana No.106, R V Road, V V Puram, Bengaluru-560004,** payable at Bangalore. The Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque/Pay Order shall be drawn after the date of publication of this Auction Sale Notice. **(2)** The property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price. **(3)** In case the bidder is not successful the E M D amount shall be refunded without interest. **(4)** The EMD amount shall be liable for forfeiture without prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Auction Sale. **(5)** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the Sale Price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in NEFT/RTGS or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale Price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the properties shall be put for re-auction. **(6)** The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues/taxes/charges/property tax/KEB charges/water charges/conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws. **(7)** The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all of the tender or/bid/offer and/or adjourn/postpone/cancel the Auction Sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice. **(8)** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. **(9)** The properties can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 AM and 5.00 PM at his expenses at the address mentioned in the Schedule. **(10)** The properties are put for sale on "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" The intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title, ownership, statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property. **(11)** In case of stay of further proceedings by DRT/DRAT/High Court or any other court, the auction may either be deferred or cancelled and persons participating in the sale shall have no right to claim damages, compensation or cost for such postponement or cancellation. **(12)** This is also notice to the (Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors) aforesaid loan about holding of auction sale on above mentioned date if their dues are not repaid in full. other terms and conditions applicable as per the Act.

For further details the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, Sree Subramanyeswara Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Rajatha Bhavana No.106, R.V Road, V V Puram, Bengaluru-560004. for ascertaining the details of properties and also for inspection of property (Ph.080-26622462, 22422461/63, 9900607365)

Date : 17.01.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sree Subramanyeswara Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

OFFICE OF THE
Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City

To No. ADM-II/21/2026 **dated 14.01.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: To provide service for procurement of stationery/ consumable articles to Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru City - reg.

Inviting tender notification for production of stationery items service to Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru City for the year 2026-2027 from reputed private vendors for any clarifications / further details regarding EMD, Tender information found on official website:**https://bengaluru.dcourts.gov.in/notice-category/tenders/**

Sl No.	Description of Articles	Sl No.	Description of Articles
1	6 Lever Lock (Godrej)	40	Mask
2	7 Lever Lock (Godrej)	41	Pad Ink
3	8 Lever Lock (Godrej)	42	Paper Weight
4	Ball pin	43	Pen stand
5	Beetel M53 Telephone Instrument	44	Phenyle 5 ltrs can
6	Black Pencils (1 box)	45	Plastic Bucket (big size-16 Ltrs)
7	Big size towel Turkey (36 x 72")	46	Plastic Bucket (small size-5 ltrs)
8	Bombay Broom (Monkey brand)	47	Plastic Dust Pan
9	Brown tape 2 inches	48	Plastic Mug
10	Chair Pillows (cushion)	49	Plastic Tray (Brite)
11	Calculator Casio WJ 240 J	50	Porcelain Plates
12	Coconut Broom	51	Poker
13	Coir mat (2 x 4ft)	52	Punching needle
14	Cora Cloth	53	Room Freshner-Odonil
15	Cotton Tags	54	Royal Blue Black Ink Bottle
16	Cotton thread	55	Royal Blue Green Ink bottle
17	Cup & Saucer set of six	56	Rubber Band
18	Dustbin small without lid	57	Stapler Big
19	Dustbin trolley type - 50 Ltrs	58	Stapler Small
20	Dust Pan	59	Spider web Cleaning stick
21	Emergency Light	60	Stapler Pins - Small
22	Everyday battery cells AA	61	Stapler Pins - Big
23	Extension cord (CONA)	62	Steel flask½ ltr. (Milton)
24	Exo round dish wash soap	63	Steel Flask - ltr. (Milton)
25	File Folders	64	Steel spoon
26	File Wrapper	65	Stitching Thread (1 box)
27	Floor Wiper with stick	66	Aluminum Trunk
28	Gandhi Portrait photo with frame	67	Tabalak Thread (1 Kg)
29	Baba Saheb Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Portrait photo with frame	68	Table calling bell
30	Green Baize cloth	69	Kora cloth (thick 44" Panna)
31	Gum Bottles	70	Toilet Cleaning Brush
32	Harpic Toilet Cleaner 500ml	71	Telephone Cable coil – 2 pair
33	Hand towel	72	Reputed company Suitcase 21"
34	Hanger	73	Wall clock
35	Hand Gloves	74	Water Glass
36	Heavy Duty single Punching machine (metal)	75	Water glass covering plate
37	Ink Pad small size & big size	76	Water Pad
38	Liquid Hand wash 250 ml	77	White Tape 1 inch
39	Marker Pen	78	Writing Pad

1. Date of issue of tender documents: **16.01.2026. 2.** Last date for objections: **23.01.2026. 3.** Last date for submission of tender applications: **06.02.2026. 4.** Date of opening of tenders: **07.02.2026.**

Sd/-
Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru city.

DIPR/CP/5075/Zen/2025-26

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

11 people aboard Indonesian plane vanish in mountainous region; search underway

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Trump invites more leaders to join Gaza 'Board of Peace'

Former British PM Tony Blair, US officials and regional powerbrokers named to supervise ceasefire, security and reconstruction efforts

TEL AVIV

TWO of President Donald Trump's closest confidants, a former British prime minister, an American general and a collection of top officials from Middle Eastern governments are at the forefront of the US Gaza ceasefire plan.

The White House this week announced the members of a new Palestinian committee to run Gaza's day to day affairs, along with an executive committee of international experts who will supervise these efforts. They include a high-powered group of people with strong connections across the region and varying degrees of leverage of Israel and Hamas.

The entire effort will be overseen by the "Board of Peace" — a collection of world leaders led by Trump whose other members still have not been named. Still, this week's appointments mark an important step forward for Trump's ambitious ceasefire plan.

Marco Rubio is the US secretary of state and national security adviser, putting him at the center of American foreign policy. Steve Witkoff has served as the White House Mideast envoy during Trump's second term in office. Jared Kushner is Trump's son-in-law who has long been a key foreign policy adviser to Trump.

Tony Blair, the British prime minister from 1997 to 2007, Blair has decades of experience in the Middle East.

Major General Jasper has been appointed commander of the International Stabilization Force, an on-the-ground multinational force meant to enforce and guarantee the ceasefire.

Hakan Fidan has been the Turkish foreign minister since 2023 and is close to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Ali Al-Thawadi is a diplomat from Qatar, which has been a key mediator between Israel and Hamas throughout the war.

General Hassan Rashadis the director of Egypt's intelligence agency. Egypt borders both Israel and Gaza and, like Qatar, has been a key mediator throughout the war.

Reem Al-Hashimy is a Cabinet minister for the United Arab Emirates. The wealthy Gulf country has strong ties with Israel and is expected to play an important role in the reconstruction process of Gaza. Marc Rowan is a co-founder, chief executive and chairman of Apollo Global Management, a U.S. asset-management firm.

Sigrid Kaag, the Netherlands' former deputy prime minister, has served as the United Nations coordinator for humanitarian aid to Gaza since the war erupted in late 2023.

Robert Gabriel served as a policy adviser on Trump's first presidential campaign and currently is deputy national security adviser. Yakir Gabay is an Israeli billionaire who is a major shareholder in Aroundtown SA, a global real estate group. Nickolay Mladenov, a Bulgarian politician and former U.N. envoy to the Middle East, will serve as the "high representative" for Gaza.

Ali Shaath has been named as head of the new Palestinian committee administering Gaza's daily affairs. *AP*

Israel objects to US announcement of leaders

NAHARIYA: Israel's government is objecting to the White House announcement of leaders who will play a role in overseeing next steps in Gaza as the ceasefire moves into its challenging second phase. The rare criticism from Israel of its close ally in Washington said the Gaza executive committee "was not coordinated with Israel and is contrary to its policy," without details. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the foreign ministry to contact Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 835



TOLL SO FAR

71,392

US delegation voices support for Denmark, Greenland

NUUK

A bipartisan US congressional delegation on Saturday sought to reassure Denmark and Greenland of their support following President Donald Trump's threat to punish countries with tariffs if they don't back the US taking over the strategic Arctic island. Delegation leader Senator Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, said the current rhetoric around Greenland is causing concern across the Danish kingdom. He said he wants to de-escalate the situation. "I hope that the people of the Kingdom of Denmark do not abandon their faith in the American people," Coons said in Copenhagen, adding that the US has respect for Denmark and NATO "for all we've done together."

Donald Trump said on Saturday that he would charge a 10 per cent import tax starting in February on goods from eight European nations because of their opposition to American control of Greenland. Trump said in a social media post that Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Finland would face the tariff and that it would climb to 25 per cent on June 1 if a deal is not in place. Meanwhile, Danish Major General Soren Andersen, leader of the Joint Arctic Command, told The Associated Press that Denmark does not expect the US military to attack Greenland, or any other NATO ally, and that European troops were recently deployed to Nuuk for Arctic defense training. *AP*

Syrian troops move into towns after Kurdish withdrawal

DEIR HAFER

SYRIAN government forces entered two northern towns Saturday morning after the command of Kurdish-led fighters said it would evacuate the area in an apparent move to avoid conflict.

Two soldiers were killed and others wounded in a clash as they entered the town of Maskana, state media reported. Meanwhile, troops made their way into the town of Deir Hafer. The two towns changed hands after deadly fighting erupted earlier this month between government troops and the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in the city of Aleppo, Syria's largest. It ended with the evacuation of Kurdish fighters from three neighborhoods taken over by government forces.

An Associated Press reporter on Saturday saw government tanks, armored personnel carriers and other vehicles, including pickup trucks with heavy machine guns mounted on top, entering Deir Hafer after bulldozers removed barriers. There was no SDF presence on the edge of the town. The Syrian military said its forces were in full control of Deir Hafer, captured the Jarrah air base to the east, and were in the process of clearing mines and explosives. It added that troops would move toward the nearby town of Maskana, where an AP reporter saw a military convoy rolling in hours later.

"Our happiness is beyond expression. It is the happiness of liberation," said Hussein Mustafa as he welcomed troops entering Deir Hafer. He blasted the SDF, saying now residents of the town can celebrate that government forces are in charge at last. Another resident, Mohammed al-Jaber, said: "The Syrian Arab Army came here and liberated us from this terrorist organisation."

The SDF for years has been the main US partner in Syria in the fight against the Islamic State group, but Ankara considers the SDF a terrorist organisation because of its association with Kurdish separatist insurgents in Turkey. Some of the factions that now make up the Syrian army were formerly Turkish-backed insurgent groups that have a long history of clashing with Kurdish forces. *AP*



A convoy of Syrian government forces carrying machine guns drives on a road leading to the town of Deir Hafer in Syria | AP

Ukrainian team in US for peace talks amid strikes

KYIV

A Ukrainian delegation arrived in the United States for talks on Saturday on a US-led diplomatic push to end the nearly 4-year-old war as Russian attacks again took aim at Ukraine's power grid, cutting electricity and heating in freezing temperatures.

Kyrylo Budanov, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, said he arrived in the US to discuss "the details of the peace agreement."

Writing on the Telegram messaging app, Budanov said he, together with Ukrainian negotiators Rustem Umerov and Davyd Arakhamia, would meet with US envoy Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and U.S. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll.

Also on Telegram, Zelenskyy said Saturday that the principal task for the Ukrainian delegation was to convey how ongoing Russian strikes are undermining diplomacy.

The strikes, he said, are "constantly worsening even the small opportunities for dialogue that existed. The American side must understand this." Zelenskyy's latest comments came after he said on Friday that the delegation would try to finalize with US officials documents for a proposed peace settlement that relate to postwar security guarantees and economic recovery. *AP*



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Khamenei calls Trump 'criminal' over Iran protests

DUBAI

IRAN's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday branded US President Donald Trump a "criminal" for supporting protesters in Iran, and blamed demonstrators for causing thousands of deaths. In a speech broadcast by state television, Khamenei said the protests had left "several thousand" people dead — the first indication from an Iranian leader of the extent of the casualties from the wave of protests that began December 28 and led to a bloody crackdown.

"In this revolt, the US president made remarks in person, encouraged seditious people to go ahead and said: 'We do support you, we do support you militarily,'" said Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters. He reiterated an accusation that the US seeks domination over Iran's economic and political resources.

"We do consider the US president a criminal, because of casualties and damages, because of accusations against the Iranian nation," he said. He described the protesters as "foot soldiers" of the United States and said they had destroyed mosques and educational centers. "Through hurting people, they killed several thousand of them," he said. His comments come a day after Trump sounded a conciliatory tone, saying that "Iran canceled the hanging of over 800 people," and adding that "I greatly respect the fact that they canceled." He did not clarify whom he spoke to in Iran to confirm the state of any planned executions. His comments were a sign he may be backing away from a military strike.

The official IRNA news agency reported that Tehran Prosecutor General Ali Salehi, referring to Trump's remarks about the cancellation of the death sentence of 800 protesters, said: "Trump always makes futile and irrelevant statements. Our attitude is severe, preventive and fast." He did not elaborate. *AP*

Ugandan prez wins 7th term, oppn upset

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni won his seventh term with 71.65% of votes, according to official results Saturday, in an election marred by internet shutdown and fraud claims by his youthful challenger, who rejected the outcome and called for peaceful protests.

The musician-turned-politician best known as Bobi Wine took 24.72% of the vote, the final results showed. Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, has condemned what he described as an unfair electoral process and alleged abductions of his polling agents. He said he had rejected the "fake results" and urged Ugandans to peacefully protest until the "rightful results are announced."

Wine said he had to escape to avoid arrest by security forces who stormed his house on Friday night. His party said earlier he was forcefully taken away in an army helicopter but police denied it. Police spokesperson Kituuma Rusoke said Wine was "not under arrest" and free to leave, but access to his home was restricted to prevent incitement. *AP*

Journalists in Bangladesh demand protection amid rising mob attacks

DHAKA

JOURNALISTS, editors and owners of media outlets in Bangladesh on Saturday demanded that authorities protect them following recent attacks on two leading national dailies by mobs.

They said the media industry in the South Asian country is being systematically targeted in the interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus. They said the administration failed to prevent attacks on the Daily Star, the country's leading English-language daily, and the Prothom Alo, the largest Bengali-language newspaper, both based in Dhaka, the capital. In December, angry mobs stormed the offices of the two newspapers and set fire to the buildings, trapping journalists and other staff inside, shortly after the death of a prominent Islamist activist.

The newspaper authorities blamed the authorities under the interim government for failing to adequately respond to the incidents despite repeated requests for help to disperse the mobs. Hours later, the trapped journalists who took shelter on the roof of the Daily Star newspaper were rescued. The buildings were looted. A leader of the Editors Council, an independent body of newspaper editors, was manhandled by the attackers when he arrived at the scene.

On the same day, liberal cultural centers were also attacked in Dhaka. It was not clear why the protesters attacked the newspapers, whose editors are known to be closely connected with Yunus. Protests had been organized in recent months outside the offices of the dailies by Islamists who accused the newspapers of links with India. On Saturday, the Editors Council and the Newspapers Owners Association of Bangladesh held a joint conference where editors, journalist union leaders and reporters nationwide demanded authorities uphold press freedom ahead of February elections.

Editors Council President Nurul Kabir warned that attempts to silence media and democratic institutions reflect a dangerous pattern. *AP*



Journalists and media owners attend a conference demanding protection after attacks on two Dhaka newspapers | AP

Hindu worker killed at Bangladesh petrol pump

A Hindu fuel station worker was crushed to death in Bangladesh after trying to stop a car leaving without paying, police said. Ripon Saha, 30, was run over at a petrol pump in Rajbari district on Friday. Police seized the vehicle and arrested its owner and driver. Authorities are investigating whether the killing is linked to recent violence targeting minorities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, D.Chayapathi S/o G.Duraiswamy, aged 70 years, R/at No.24, CIIQ road, Byadarahalli, Muneshwara layout, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560091.

I state that, I am the absolute owner in possession of the property bearing Site No.548 measuring east to west 30 feet and north to south 40 feet, in total measuring 1200 square feet situated at Chandapura village. Attibele Hobli, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru district, which I got through the registered sale deed vide document No 1919/1989-90 dated 06.01.1990 in the office of sub registrar Anekal.

I state that, the original sale deed dated: 06.01.1990 is lost on 10.12.2025 while travelling at Kempegowda Bus station in this regard, I have lodged the police complaint vide Lost report No. 2009295/2026, dated: 14.01.2026

If anyone found the aforesaid original document, kindly contact within 7 days from the date this publication at the above address.

D. Chayapathi

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my clients Sri Vinay Agarwal and Sri Vijay Kumar Agarwal Children of Sri Rajendra Agarwal R/at No. 21, 12th Main Road, Puttenahalli Palya, Near Roshini Enclave Apartment J.P. Nagar 7th Phase Bengaluru - 78, intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Smt. Rathnamma W/o Sri K.B. Gurumurthy Reddy R/at No. 5, 5th Main, 5th Cross, Krishna Nagar Kothanur J.P. Nagar 8th Phase Bengaluru -78, who represents that she is the absolute owner in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property and that the Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances whatsoever and that there are no third party claims or rights on the Schedule Property.

Any person/s having any claim/s over the Schedule Property or having any objection/s about the above mentioned transaction may write to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary evidence, on which they are basing their claim, failing which my clients will proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s, objection/s of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential property bearing No. 1, (Old Khatha No. 47/B), sites formed in Sy. No. 131, situated at Kothanur village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk measuring East to West: 60-0 ft and North to South 40-0 ft, totally measuring 2400 Sqft. along with building, presently coming within the jurisdiction of the BBMP, ward No. 195, together with all appurtenances whether situated on below or above the surface, and bounded on;

East by : Road
West by : Property No. 2
North by : Private Property
South by : Road

M. MUNEGOWDA
Advocate and Consultant
No. 64/1, S.M. Plaza, 2nd Floor, Dr. D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore -04
Mobile: 9342878205;
Bangalore Dated: 17/01/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public Notices that my client Smt. Anitha Kamath D/o Late Mangalpady Mohan Shenoy, aged about 60 years residing at No. B57, Alaka, 59/2B Pratapaditya Road, Kalighat District, Kolkata, Kolkata, West Bengal is the absolute Owner of the property which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and acquired through a registered WILL which is registered as Document No. 280/1999-2000, Book-I, Volume No. 77, at page No. 118 to 129 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore Further inform that, my client has misplaced the above said WILL which is bequeathed by her father late Mangalpady Mohan Shenoy S/o Late M.D.Shenoy and registered as Document No. 280/1999-2000, Book-I, Volume No. 77, at page No. 118 to 129 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore . Hence my client has lodged Complaint in the jurisdictional police station on 17.01.2026

Therefore, any person(s) having any claim in respect of the below referred property or part thereof by any right/title/interest/ otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby advised to approach in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned within a period of 3 days (both days inclusive) of the publication hereof failing which the claim of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Flat No.110, First FLOOR, Block-D of the Residential Apartment known as "USHAS APARTMENT" Consisting of the two Bedrooms and 900 Square feet of Super Built up area and 440.89 Square feet of undivided share.

Smt. SUNANDA S RATHOD, Advocate
Office at No.8, offices No 317, Prabhath Complex, 1st floor, Bangalore - 560 009.
Mob: 9945681973, Date:17-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby informed that the following original document has been Lost / Misplaced and is not traceable till date: Original Registered Sale Deed, dated 24-06-2014, vide Document No.DBP-1-03098-2014-15, stored in CD No.DBPD326, dated 24-06-2014, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura. The Agriculture Land bearing Sy.No.78, situated at THIPPAPURA VILLAGE, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 02 Guntas and bounded on: East by: Property of Chikka Hanumappa, West by: Property of Venkatesh, North by: Property of Anjaneya and South by: Property of Hanumanthappa.

Our Client Mr. Rakesh Kumar, lodged a Police Complaint on 13-01-2026 through his counsel Mr. M Ramachandra, regarding the loss of document in Sampangirama Nagara Police Station, Bengaluru City, vide the Lost Report bearing No.2006896/2026, dated 13-01-2026 in respect of the aforesaid document. Public at large may take notice that our client will not be held responsible in the event of unauthorized and illegal use of the stolen document.

In the event of any one finding the said document, finders may kindly inform the undersigned Advocates firm within 10 days of this public notice. Otherwise our client will proceed with all future transaction without the aforesaid original document and state that it is lost beyond recoverability if not found and use the certified copies to enforce the same thereof.

DMS ASSOCIATES, Advocates
No.10, 1st Main Road, Sampangiramanagara, Bengaluru-560 027. Mob: 9901770087, Email id : dmsdev@gmail.com,
Date:17-01-2026

Government Of India
Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
BANGALORE (DRT 2)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/108/2024 IN OA NO. 768/2021
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Versus
M/S JAGADISH S AND ANOTHER

TO:
(CH) Union Bank Of India (Andhra Bank)
South End Circle Branch,
No.3, 6th Main road, Opp. Traffic Police Station, Manjunath Mansion, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011
....CERTIFICATE HOLDER

VS
(CD 1) Sri. Jagadish S, S/o Sri Ramulu, R/at No. 39, 1st G Cross, J S Nagar, Nandini Layout, Near Sushil Naidu Kalyana Mantapa, Bangalore-560096
Also At:
Sri. Jagadish S, S/o Sri Ramulu, Zaxx Unisex Saloon, No. 7/1, 2nd Stage, West of Chord Road, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560086, Karnataka.
Also At:
Sri Jagadish S, S/o Sri Ramulu, Flat No. G-101, Ground Floor, Royal Paradise, Property No. 24, Kadirenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli-560070.
Also At:
Sri Jagadish S, S/o Sri Ramulu, No. 109, 8th B Cross, Near Sushil Naidu Hall, J.S Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bangalore North-560096, Karnataka.
(CD 2) Smt. Jayanthi B.S.
W/o Sri Jagadish S, R/at No. 39, 1st G Cross, J S Nagar, Nandini Layout, Near Sushil Naidu Kalyana Mantapa, Bangalore, Kamataka-560096
Also At:
Smt. Jayanthi B.S. W/o Sri Jagadish S Flat No. G-101, Ground Floor, Royal Paradise, Property No. 24, Kadirenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560070, Karnataka.
Also At:
Smt Jayanthi B.S. W/o Sri Jagadish S, Teacher at St. Thomas Indian School, No. 34, 3rd Main, J S Nagar, Bangalore-560096, Karnataka.
...CERTIFICATE DEBTORS

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT 2) in OA/768/2021 an amount of Rs. 43,57,094.99/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Ninety Four and Paise Ninety Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 8.5% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 22.03.2021 till realization and costs of Rs. 46,005/- (Rupees Forty Six Thousands Five Only) has become due against you jointly and severally Plus. overdue interest @ 2% p.a. is also applicable.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. Your hereby order to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from this notice.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 30.03.2024

Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Bangalore (DRT 2)

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
YELLAPUR DIVISION, YELLAPUR

No:A4:DTS: January-2026 :Sale-1:CR-6:2025-26 Date: 09.01.2026

DETAILED NOTIFICATION FOR e-TENDER CUM AUCTION OF TIMBER IN MUNDGOD AND KIRWATTI DEPOT OF YELLAPUR DIVISION, YELLAPUR

KARNATAKA FOREST CODE, 1976
APPENDIX XVIII A (Rule 64)

ಅಪರ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KFD/FRM/B3(SALE)/22/2025-FRM-KFD Date:07-01-2026 E-176117126 ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ FEE 168 FDP 2017 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-14-11-2017 ಮತ್ತು 27-02-2018, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ FEE 25 FDP 2020 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.08.2022

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, timber and other forest produce stocked and lotted in the Mundgod and Kirwatti Government Timber Depots of Yellapur Division, Yellapur will be sold through the public e-tender cum auction method in MSTC portal for one or more sessions from **30.01.2026 to 31.01.2026 (All four sessions) at Govt timber Depot Kirwattid depot, from 02.02.2026 to 05.02.2026 (All four sessions) and 06.02.2026 (Two sessions) at Govt timber Depot Mundgod** from 10.00 A.M till the bidding for all lots is completed. The Sale Conducting Officer will be The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Yellapur Division, Yellapur.

FOR ANY CLARIFICATIONS, YOU CAN CONTACT:
The Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt Timber Depot, Kirwatti:
acfgtdkwt@gmail.com Phone No.08419-238534
The Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt Timber Depot, Mundgod:
acfgtdmundgod@gmail.com Phone No. 08301-222152
The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Yellapur division, Yellapur:
yellapurdcf5@yahoo.com, dcfyellapur@gmail.com
Phone no.08419-261273
Sri Damodar Manager MSTC Limited, Bengaluru
Mobile No. 98410022252 / 9535347426 / 9980147110

Sd/- Harsha Bhanu G.P. IFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Yellapur Division, Yellapur

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA:951/25-26 Dt.16.01.2026

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$300 MN Amount to be split between four Venezuelan banks which was notified the country's govt to deposit revenue in an account in Qatar, enabling them to sell dollars to companies.

Tiger verdict to reshape VC/PE funding, exits

Foreign funds may look for stricter term sheets, conservative valuations

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ & PUSHPITA DEY @ Bengaluru/New Delhi

THE Supreme Court's ruling on denying tax treaty benefits to Mauritius-based entities of Tiger Global is expected to have far-reaching implications for venture capital (VC), private equity (PE) and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), potentially reshaping investment structures, exit valuations and deal timelines in India's start-up ecosystem.

Tax experts said the judgment marks a decisive shift towards a substance-over-form approach in treaty interpretation, significantly strengthening the tax department's ability to challenge offshore holding structures — including those earlier believed to be protected under grandfathering provisions.

It held that mere possession of a Tax Residency Certificate (TRC) does not conclusively establish entitlement to treaty benefits, nor does it prevent tax authorities from examining whether intermediary entities were interposed primarily to avoid tax.

The verdict raises concerns that the tax department may go after more investments made through Mauritius or Singapore

Investors will have to be extra careful about the legal structure and history of the start-ups



Investors will respond to the verdict with tighter tax clauses, holdbacks and more conservative valuations

Investors will now want to explicitly clarify who will bear the burden if a tax issue arises later which is logical

Impact on exits, valuations

Lokesh Shah, partner at CMS INDUSLAW, said the ruling would prompt PE, VC and FPI investors to re-examine their holding structures and reassess exit-related tax exposure.

"This risk will directly affect transaction structuring and start-up exit valuations, including the need for tax gross-up and withholding protections, enhanced indemnities and other risk-allocation provisions. These factors are likely to extend deal negotiations and closure timelines," he said. Market participants noted that exit pricing — particularly in late-stage deals and secondary transactions — could be recalibrated to factor in potential capital gains tax exposure where treaty protection is uncertain.

Venture capitalists and start-up insiders said the judgment would not only discourage holding-company structures in Mauritius or Singapore but also lead to tighter term sheets and higher fund holdbacks at exit.

"This ruling doesn't stop investment, but it changes how risk is priced. Treaty structures without real substance will face more scrutiny, longer exits and lower net outcomes," said a venture capitalist. "Investors will respond with tighter tax clauses, holdbacks and more conservative valuations. Founders may feel this most in the short term."

Anurabh Sinha, founder and CEO of UClean, said setting aside a significant portion of exit proceeds in escrow is increasingly becoming standard practice. "Now that the court has made its stance clear, investors would rather be safe than sorry. They are withholding funds or deducting taxes at source during exits to cover potential future tax claims," he said. Sinha added that term sheets are likely to become much stricter. "Investors will want clarity on who bears the burden if a tax issue arises later. In several recent deals that burden appears to be shifting towards founders or the start-up itself," he said.

Substance over form

A key takeaway from the verdict is the court's clarification that the General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) can override treaty grandfathering. Experts said this could have significant implications for PE funds, hedge funds and FPIs using Mauritius- and Singapore-based structures, including for pre-2017 investments. It also underscored the relevance of business intent in determining the substance of a transaction, drawing on principles laid down in the Vodafone ruling.

The judgment empowers tax officials to independently examine treaty claims rather than rely solely on TRCs, reinforcing substance-over-form principles in cross-border transactions. Zeel Jambuwala, co-founder and partner at Aurtus, said the court's observations effectively extend the substance-over-form test to treaty eligibility itself. "This could significantly impact the PE and VC industry, requiring a detailed review of legacy structures and even closed deals. Tax costs and structuring will now form a critical part of commercial negotiations and valuations going forward," she said.

Industry-wide implications

While the ruling does not automatically reopen closed cases, tax experts cautioned that it materially strengthens the department's hand in reassessment proceedings, where permitted by law. It is expected to usher in a phase of heightened uncertainty for foreign investors, but could fundamentally reshape how offshore investments and start-up exits involving India are structured.

Siddarth Pai, founding partner at 3one4 Capital & co-chair regulatory affairs committee at Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (IVCA), says with this verdict, the floodgates to re-examine past exits and even exits from IPOs has been opened. "The tax department will closely scrutinise exits to Mauritius-based entities. While many fund managers have pivoted to Singapore, SEBI AIFs or GIFT IFSC, the past presence in Mauritius will need investors and advisers to re-examine their tax risk and make provisions," he says.

A startup founder told *TNIE* that if they raise VC funding, they would rather do it under an Indian entity.

WILL AI CRASH LIKE THE DOT-COM BOOM?

IN the late 1990s, India fell in love with internet. Neon-lit cybercafés were everywhere; companies were adding '.com' to their names to double their valuations with little more than a URL and a pitch deck; investors believing they were sitting on a gold mine, dreaming of a future where clicks would replace commerce. Valuations soared; startups with no revenue, and often no product, were going public. Then came 2000: the music stopped and the mirage cleared. Trillions and inflated dreams evaporated.

The dot-com bust didn't kill the internet — it killed the promise of an instant digital future. Instead, it cleared the runway for its sustainable adoption, and out of that rubble rose Google, Amazon, and the foundations of the modern digital economy. Reality reset, driven by those who deliberately built for the future. The lesson is: most revolutions in tech don't arrive with a bang. They arrive disguised as slow, frustrating, incremental change.

Hype cycles around technology are not new. Our amnesia around them seems to be. The 2013 was when I began noticing AI entering enterprise in deployable forms — embedded in chatbots, predictive analytics, and fraud detection systems. Years later, we've arrived at generative AI, a tremendous technology leap, meaning systems that can create content, design workflows, write code, and even offer decision-making guidance. ChatGPT took the world by storm, not because it was powerful, but because it is accessible. Now, everyone can play. This level of unfettered access changed the conversation nearly overnight.

Artificial Intelligence offers alluring dreams; promising to write better code, replace customer support, and birth unicorns run by a single founder and a dozen agents. But the truth is that the enterprise still hasn't caught up with the dazzling headlines. Ensuring business-wide AI adoption is slower to implement. It can be uneven and fragmented; AI labs often operating in isolated silos. This is not about simply plugging in a new tool, but rewiring a whole system; shifting how we work, learn, and even think.

Crash probability

The question is if the AI will crash like the dot-com bubble. The probability is around 33%; not inevitable, but very possible. This is not to be alarmist, but the ingredients are familiar: soaring valuations, inexperienced start-ups, overhyped demos, bold headlines, and investors chasing the next miracle without understanding the tech or use case. Many are stuck in pilot mode with prototypes not translating into scaled impact; incomplete data; a missing trust layer; and analog processes.



TECH-TONIC SHIFT

VINEET NAYAR
former CEO of HCL Technologies and founder-chairman of Sampark Foundation

We are already seeing some startups valued at hundreds of millions, even billions, without proprietary models, differentiated data, or clear customer traction — experiments riding an open-sourced wave. A crash may not be such a bad thing.

What would this look like? AI budgets quietly shrinking; overfunded startups beginning layoffs or pivoting to 'enterprise SaaS'; LLM enthusiasm getting tempered by cost, quality, and compliance constraints; boards beginning to question the ROI of these tools. What it might leave behind is the builders — teams solving real problems, quietly creating the foundations for AI's true revolution. This can shift conversations from what AI could do to what it should do. By clearing distractions, we can come out stronger — setting the stage for durable innovation.

The way forward

The way forward is prepare. The iceberg may be real, but that doesn't mean the ship has to sink. This scenario does not signify failure but pruning; replacing vanity projects with the meaningful applications to address challenges, whether by making society more equitable, quality education and healthcare more accessible, or governance more transparent. While many promising AI labs, for instance, are suffocated by procurement delays, data security concerns, and turf wars between functions, those that succeed exhibit rare traits: shared ownership, executive support, and a relentless focus on solving actual user problems. The challenge lies in the process. We must move beyond trying to fit AI into legacy workflows and invest in redesigning completely. Success comes from letting go of processes that no longer serve us while using AI as the enabler.

What is missing? Currently, AI helps companies do what they already do, just faster — summarise meetings, write emails; solving for productivity instead of working towards market creation. These tools remain siloed — no one has fully cracked the stack, from ingestion to modelling to decisioning to compliance to UX. With AI infrastructure still evolving, scale is difficult to achieve.

It is time for companies to unlearn, reimagine, solve one real problem better than anyone else, focus on workflows, prove retention, and know what system they're replacing.

The internet didn't fail. We misused and misunderstood it. I doubt AI will fail either. The opportunity ahead is enormous — but so is the temptation to get carried away. The lesson from 2000 is simple: Technology survives. Hype doesn't.

HDFC Bank Q3 profit rises 11.5% on robust loan growth

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai



INDIA'S largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported an 11.5% rise in standalone net profit at ₹18,650 in Q3FY26 against ₹16.736 crore during the same period last fiscal, driven by double-digit loan growth and the resultant interest income alongwith stable asset quality.

This is the first time the bank has seen a double-digit growth in profit since its merger with HDFC Ltd in 2023.

Chief Financial Officer Srinivasan Vaidyanath told presspersons that the bank will see growth in deposits and advances, and it hopes to reduce high credit deposit ratio which stood at 98.7 in the current quarter.

He said that the bank has made a provision of ₹800 crore as per the requirement of statutory changes due to new labour codes. It said the net interest income grew 6.4% to ₹32,620 crore on a steady growth in core earnings, healthy deposit accretion and stable asset quality, even as margins remained under some pressure.

The GNPA stood at ₹35,179 crore compared to ₹36,019 crore a year earlier and the net NPAs declined to ₹11,982 crore from ₹11,588 crore a year ago,.

Ahead of the quarterly results, the HDFC Bank share prices rose 0.55% to ₹930.55 on Friday. The stock has gained 13.7% in the last one year, outperforming the Nifty, which has returned less than 11% during the same period.

Operating expenses for the quarter were ₹18,770 crore. The bank's core cost-to-income ratio was 39.2 during the quarter, the CFO said.

Provisions amounted to ₹2,840 crore for the quarter, shrinking over 10% on-year. This was helped by the release of contingent provisions of ₹1,040 crore, primarily related to a large borrower group meeting specific conditions.

Yes Bank profit up 55% to ₹952 cr over asset quality

The Yes Bank reported a solid set of numbers for December quarter with standalone net profit zooming 55.4% on-year to ₹952 crore, driven by higher margins, sharply lower credit cost and asset quality improved. CEO Prashant Kumar said on a sequential basis, too the bank reported a massive 45.4% jump in net income.

ICICI Bank's PAT falls by 4% to ₹11,318 crore

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE ICICI Bank reported on Saturday a 4% year-on-year decline in standalone net profit to ₹11,318 crore for December quarter against ₹11,792.40 crore during the same period last year, weighing down by sharp rise in provision of ₹2,556 crore, including one-time agriculture provision of ₹1,283 crore.

On a consolidated basis too, the bank group saw its bottom-line shrinking marginally with the consolidated net income falling to ₹12,538 crore from ₹12,883 crore even as assets grew 8.8% to ₹27.53 lakh crore from ₹25.31 lakh crore.

The bank management, led by the chief executive officer (CEO) Sandeep Bakhshi and executive director Sandeep Batra, said the net interest income for the period grew 7.7%, and the overall asset quality was better with lower NPA ratios.

The provision issue belongs a period from 2012 and covers fully secured agri book in the form of term loans running into around ₹25,000 crore.

Neville's entry into Ratan Tata Trust delayed again

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE appointment of Tata Trusts' chairman Noel Tata's son Neville Tata to Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) faced fresh delays after the cancellation of a board meeting scheduled on Saturday, people familiar with the matter said. Some reports said, the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Neville's induction into the SRTT, one of the two key trusts under Tata Trusts which has 66% stakes in Tata Sons, is being viewed as enhancing Noel's influence across the trusts, while elevating the 32-year-old into the Tata group's inner circle of power players and signalling his potential for a leadership role in the country's largest conglomerate.

It has to be noted that Tata Trusts' vice-chairman Venu Srinivasan, close confidante of Ratan Tata and Noel, was the main reason for the Neville's bid to get onto the board of SRTT in November when Neville was appointed to the board of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Srinivasan, who was Noel's Man Friday during his troubles with Mehli Mistry, opposed the move to appoint the latter's son into the board, citing procedural issues such as not being included in the meeting agenda prior to the meeting.



The trusts has a dual role of philanthropic entities and majority owners of Tata Sons, commanding nearly 66.4% of its total stakes. The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the SRTT own around 27.98% and 23.56%, respectively, in Tata Sons.

Experts believe securing seats on their boards thus equates to wielding significant influence over the group.

Ratan's half brother Noel had earlier inducted his son Neville and Tata group veteran Bhaskar Bhat onto the board of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT). The induction came amid rebellion from key figure Mistry, who was ousted late last year. Neville, the youngest of the three children of Noel and Aloo Tata (sister of Cyrus Mistry and cousin of Mehli Mistry), is a Bayes Business School graduate, had joined Trent, which is chaired by his father, in 2016. Noel's two daughters Leah (39) and Maya (36) also are present on the boards of all the smaller Tata Trusts, and Neville is the first to be inducted onto the key trusts.

Business & Beyond

Anil Kumar Singh takes over as Director (Commercial) of NALCO

Anil Kumar Singh has assumed the charge of Director (Commercial) of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna company. Prior to this, Singh was working as General Manager (Materials & Contracts) and in-charge — HR at Hindustan Copper Limited, a CPSE under the Ministry of Mines. Singh has a remarkable work experience of over 35 years in the Commercial division of the Metal Industry. He is a graduate in Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering from BIT Sindri in 1990. He also acquired degree in GDMM, MBA (Materials Management) and PGDCA. He began his career in the Materials Management Division at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Visakhapatnam.



HPCL commissions residue upgradation facility at Visakh Refinery in Visakhapatnam

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has successfully commissioned the Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF) at its Visakh Refinery, marking a major milestone in India's deep-conversion refining capability and contributing meaningfully to national energy security. Several critical project equipment were indigenously manufactured, thereby, strengthening India's refining self-reliance. This first-of-its-kind facility in India showcases unprecedented engineering scale, housing among the world's heaviest three LC-Max reactors of ~2,200 MT each. With a capacity of 3.55 MMTPA, RUF employs advanced LC-Max based residue hydrocracking technology to achieve about 93% conversion of bottom oils into high-value products.

BHEL commences supply of underslung traction transformers for Vande Bharat

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has achieved yet another significant milestone in its 'Make in India' initiatives for the rail transportation sector by commencing supply of underslung traction transformers for the prestigious Vande Bharat Sleeper Train project being executed by BHEL-led consortium with TRSL. A flag-off ceremony was held at BHEL's Jhansi plant. Bani Varma, Director (IS&P), BHEL, and S. M. Ramanathan, Director (E, R&D), BHEL, flagged off the first set of semi-high-speed underslung traction transformers virtually. Earlier Traction Converters for the same project were flagged off from BHEL's Bengaluru plant. This further strengthens BHEL's strategic entry into the semi-high-speed propulsion segment, with operational speed of up to 160 kmph and design speed of 180 kmph. The transformers are being despatched to Kolkata for final assembly.

NMIA crosses 1 lakh passenger mark within 19 days of opening

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has marked a key operational milestone by crossing one lakh passengers within the first 19 days of commercial operations, reflecting strong passenger traction and a steady ramp-up in travel demand from the region As of January 12, NMIA handled a total of 1,09,917 passengers, comprising 55,934 arriving and 53,983 departing passengers. The airport recorded its busiest day on 10 January 2026, with 7,345 passengers handled in a day. The NMIA managed 734 Air Traffic Movements, including 32 General Aviation ATMs, demonstrating growing utilisation across both scheduled and general aviation operations.



IHCL opens Ginger Hotel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, marked its foray into Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu with a Ginger branded hotel. This is a greenfield project. Suma Venkatesh, Executive Vice President – Real Estate & Development, IHCL, said, "Tuticorin is emerging as a key economic hub in South India, driven by its strong industrial base and new investments. The growth of mega projects in the automobile and energy sectors has created significant long-stay demand. This signing reinforces IHCL's commitment to catering to evolving needs in high-potential destinations."

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया BOI
Bank of India
RPC LAYOUT BRANCH
 # 46, 5th Main, RPC Layout, Bangalore - 560040.
Ph.: 080-22959517, 22959516, E-Mail : RpcLayout.Bengaluru@bankofindia.co.in

Ref.No. : BZO/ZO/2024-25/RPCLayout/01 Date : 30-12-2025

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

To,
B K Suresh, No. 1246, 8th Cross, Near Sbi Chandra Layout, Vijayangar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560040.
Also available at : Flat No. : G-02, Ground Floor, Shree Sai Shankara Apartment, 7/1, Palace Cross Road, Bengaluru - 560051.
Mr. B K Raja Gopal, No. 1246, 8th Cross, Near Sbi Chandra Layout, Vijayangar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560040.
Sir / Madam,

At the request made by you, the Bank has granted to you various Credit facilities aggregating to an amount of **Rs. 4,40,00,000/-** We give hereunder details of various credit facilities granted by us and the outstanding dues there under as on the date of this notice :

Nature of Facility	Sanction Limit	Outstanding Dues
Home Loan A/c. Number : 842375110000390	Rs. 4,10,00,000.00	Rs. 4,07,41,666.48
Personal Loan A/c Number : 842360810000027	Rs. 30,00,000.00	Rs. 25,67,023.00

2. The aforesaid credit facilities granted by the Bank are secured by the following assets/securities (particulars of properties/assets charged to Bank).

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : Schedule A Property :- All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.7/1, situated at Palace cross Road, Bangalore, measuring 13,000 square feet and bounded on : **East By :** Private Property, **West By :** Vendors Vacant Land Measuring 1405 Sq.Ft., **North By :** Palace Cross Road, **South By:** Private Property.
Schedule B property :- All that piece and parcel of the residential flat bearing No. G-02 Ground floor, 4 Bed Room Flat in Residential Apartment Complex known as "Shree Sai Shanakara Apartments" Constructed on the Schedule A Property having super built up area of 2760 Square Feet which is include of the Floors and Walls between the Flats and Proportionate Share in All Common Areas, including the Proportionate Share in the Common Areas such as, Passengers Pathway, Lobbies, Staircase, Garden Area, Sump, Overhead Tanks on the Terrace and Solar Panels and Other Areas of Common Car Parking Slots in the basement. The flat is within in the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, bearing Khata Certificate / E-Khata, PID No. 78-119-7/1-2, Ward No. 78, Vasannthnagar - Bangalore. Boundaries for the Flat : **East** : Corridor, **West :** Open Space, **North** : Open Space, **South :** Open Space.

3. As you have defaulted in repayment of your dues to the Bank under the said credit facilities, we have classified your account as Non-Performing Asset with effect from **Date : 29-12-2025** in accordance with the directions/guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
4. For the reasons stated above, we hereby give you notice under Section 13(2) of the above noted Act and call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities by paying to the Bank sum of **Rs. 4,07,41,666.48/- (Rupees Four Crores Seven Lakhs Forty One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six and Paisa Forty Eight) in Home Loan @ 9.85% P.A in Home Loan from Date : 29-12-2025 and Rs. 25,67,023.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Sixty Seven-Thousand and Twenty Three) @ 10.50% P.A in the Personal Loan from Date : 29-12-2025, Total aggregating to Rs. 4,33,08,689.48 (Rupees Four Crores Thirty three Lakhs Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Nine and Paisa Forty Eight)** along with further interest at contractual interest thereon compounded with monthly rests and all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank, till repayment by you within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which please note that we will entirely at your risks as to costs and consequences exercise the powers vested with the Bank under Section13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, against the secured assets mentioned above.
5. While we call upon you to discharge your liability as above by payment of the entire dues to the Banks together with applicable interest, all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank till repayment and redeem the secured assets, within the period mentioned above, please take important note that as per section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of Secured assets will be available to you only till the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.
6. The amounts realised from exercising the powers mentioned above, will firstly be applied in payments of all costs, charges and expenses which are incurred by us and/ or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly in discharge of the Bank's dues as mentioned above with contractual interest from **Date: 30-12-2023** till the date of actual realisation and the residue of the money, if any, after the Bank's entire dues (including under any of your other dues to the Bank whether as borrower or guarantor) are fully recovered, shall be paid to you.
7. If the said dues are not fully recovered from the proceeds realised in the course of exercise of the said powers against the secured assets, we reserve our right to proceed against you and your other Assets including by filing legal/recovery actions before Debts Recovery Tribunal / Courts for recovery of the balance amount due along with all costs etc. incidental thereto from you.
8. Please take note that as per Sub-Section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease, license, gift mortgage or otherwise.
9. The undersigned is a duly Authorised Officer of the Bank to issue this notice and exercise powers under section 13 of the aforesaid Act.
10. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other right or remedy available to the Bank.

Date : 30.12.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Bank of India**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the General Public that my client Sri. Hombuja Jain Math, at, having Humcha - Hosanagara Taluk, Shivamogga District - 577 436. has irretrievably lost the original Gift Deed 19-12-1981, registered as Document No. 5560/1981/82 of Book - I, Vol. No. 1778 at pages 8 to11 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk. My client has lodged a Police Complaint for lost article on 14-01-2026, under acknowledgement issued by the Bangalore City Police bearing Sl. No. 2009704, Lost Report No. 2009704/2026.
If any person / s found the said Gift deed please come forward with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitably rewarded. If anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in the process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 7 days from this paper publication. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY - A
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing number 367/334/311/20/9 (previous - Khaneshumari No. 85/5) situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, coming under the jurisdiction of Bommanahalli Municipal Council presently under the limits of BBMP admeasuring East to West 103 feet and North to South 30 feet and bounded as follows
East by : 30 Feet Road, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Land bearing No. 12 out of Sy.No. 21/1 belonging to Sreemad Devendrakeerthi Bhattaraka Mahaswamiji Sri Hombuja Jain Math, Humcha, **South by :** Property bearing No. 90/84/79 of Smt. Rathna & Rathnamma, Smt. J.Uma & Sml. J.Usha

Sri. B. Dinesh, Advocate,
No.16, Second Floor, Padmavathi Arcade, 1st Main Road, N.R. Colony, Bangalore- 560 019.
Mob : 9448505446 & 8904420395
Place : Bangalore Date : 17-01-2026

IN THE COURT OF XXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-6)
O.S. No. 6484/2012

Bhoopal. P ... PLAINTIFF -V/s-
Govindappa. P and Ors ... DEFENDANTS

Bhoopal.P, Aged about 43 years, S/o. Late Munipoovanna, R/at No. 109, Munipoovanna Layout, Manorayana Palya, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032.

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT No.10 NOTICE TO THE PROPOSE DEFENDANT NO.24 AND 35

To, **1) Smt. Muli Josh,** W/o. M.C. Josh, Aged about 56 years, Munipoovanna Layout, Manorayana Palya, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032. ... **DEFENDANT No.10**
2) Sri. Sharunkumar .N, S/o. Sri. Neelakantan, Aged about 29 years, R/at Ambika Nilayan, No. 46/4, Tulasamma Layout, Manorayana Palya, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032. ... **PROPOSED DEFENDANT No.24**
3) Mrs. Manjula, W/o Mr. N Raja, Aged about 36 years, R/a No. 47/1, 1st Cross, Seethappa Layout, Cholanayakanahalli, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032. ... **PROPOSED DEFENDANT No.35**

Whereas the above named plaintiff instituted a suit against you for Partition with interest from the date of the suit till realization.
You are hereby summoned/Notice to appear before this court on **22-01-2026** at 11:00 A.M. in person or through advocate/ pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE - A
All the piece and parcel of the property in Sy. No. 47, measuring 1 acre situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: East by: Property belongs to Muninagappa, West by: Remaining portion of same Sy. No. North by : Channel, South by : Property belongs to Pillappa

SCHEDULE - B
All the piece and parcel of the property in Sy. No. 49/6, Khatha No. 76(c) measuring 5 guntas out of 9 guntas situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: East by: Property belongs to Pillappa, West by: Venkatashamappa's land, North by : Sy. No. 47, South by : Venkatashamappa's Property

SCHEDULE - C
All the piece and parcel of the property in Sy. No. 44/2, Khatha No. 38 measuring 50 X 42 feet situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Muninayana Palya, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: East by : Dhoopanahalli Muniyamma's House, West by: Lakshmaiah's property, North by : Road, South by : Munishamappa Reddy property.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 19-12-2025
By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court at Bangalore.

Advocate for plaintiff: **DHANISHA GIRI**
No. 27, Serpentine Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020.
Ph No. 8951023654, "
Email: dhanishe@nbgchambers.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **D.Thimma Reddy** S/o Dodda Kondaiah, aged 72 years, R/at No.44/1, 7th Main, 19th C Cross, BTM Layout, N S Palya, Bengaluru - 560076
I state that, I am the absolute owner in possession of the property bearing Site No.555 measuring east to west 30 feet and north to south 40 feet, in total measuring 1200 square feet situated at Chandapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, which I got through the registered sale deed vide document No 1917/1989-90 dated: 06.01 1990 in the office of sub registrar Anekal.
I state that, the original sale deed dated: 06.01.1990 is lost on 14.08.2025 while travelling at Kempegowda Bus station in this regard, I have lodge the police complaint vide Lost report No. 2009289/2026, dated : 14.01.2026
if anyone found the aforesaid original document, kindly contact within 7 days from the date this publication at the above address.

D.Thimma Reddy

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client intend to enter into development agreement inrespect of the below mentioned Schedule Property from its lawful owner viz., **SRI.RAJESH KUMAR.B.M,** S/o Sri. Mukundappa, aged about 44 years, Residing at No.G 501, HAL Colony, Central Township, Bengaluru-560 037. The Owner represent that he is the absolute owner and has good marketable right, title and interest therein and there are no other persons have any right, title, interest or claim over the Schedule Property.
Any person or persons, Banks, Financial institutions etc., having any valid right, title interest or any claim over the Schedule Property or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claim/s within **14 days** from the date of this public notice with the undersigned, if no valid objections are received within the stipulated date, my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.90/2 (Old Sy.No.90), measuring 1acre, situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on the :-
East by : Land bearing Sy.No.90/1 and Sy.No.62
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.89
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.89
South by : Land bearing Sy.No.64 and Sy.No.65

SD/- **K.VENKATA SUDHEER,** ADVOCATE NO.548/51/1, 1ST FLOOR GARUTHMAN PARK, ANDAL TEMPLE STREET (BEHIND R.V.TEACHER'S COLLEGE) R.V.ROAD, BASAVANAGUDI BANGALORE – 560 004 MOBILE: 9845682098

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client is agreed to purchase the below mentioned property from **(1) Smt. M. Navamani, (2) Sri. K. Niranjan** and any person or persons claiming any interest on the below mentioned property or any part thereof, is hereby required to communicate the same to me, with documentary evidence at my Office, **situated at No.1063/71A, F-3A, 2nd Main, 8th Cross, Vidyaranyapuram, Mysore- 570 008,** within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication, failing which my client shall proceed with the sale transaction, without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived for all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
3 BHK Flat bearing No.**202,** in the Second Floor, East Facing, of **'SN INFRA'** having super built up area of **1425 Square Feet,** with one covered car parking Slot No: **202,** inclusive of proportionate share of common areas along with **282 Square Feet** of undivided share, right, title and interest in residential property bearing Site No. 414, situated in the layout formed by the Bharath Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., known as Bharath HBCS Layout (Sri. B.L. Lakkegowda Nagar), in Sy. No.77(p), 78(p), 79, 80(P), 87(p), 88/1(p), of Uttarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, East to West 40-0 Feet and North to South: (76.0 + 70.0) /2 Feet, in all measuring 2920 Square Feet and bounded on
East by : Site No.415,
West by : Site No.413,
North by : Site No.427 and
South by : Road,
now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Uttarahalli Sub Zone, Bengaluru, ward 184, assigned with BBMP Khatha No.414/414, New BBMP Katha No.414/183/414.

Sri. LAXMI .Y.S, Advocate
No.1063/71-A, F-3A, 2nd Main, 8th Cross, Vidyaranyapuram, Mysore-570008.
Date:17-01-2026

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
No.: E.E./KNNL/BDN-4/T.No./ PB-1/2700 Bhadra Tender Notice No.: 19/2025-26 Date: 16.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, The Executive Engineer, KNNL, No. 4, B.R.L.B.C. Division, Bhadravathi invites tender through e-procurement platform from registered contractors for 05 Nos. of works under 2700 Bhadra Head of Account.
1. Last dates for requesting Tender Forms and submitting applications: From 17.01.2026 to 29.01.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs. **2**. Date of opening Financial Bid (For Sl. No. 01 to 04): 30.01.2026 at 17.30 Hrs. **3**. Date of opening Technical Bid (For Sl. No. 05): 30.01.2026 at 17.30 Hrs. **4**. Date of opening Financial Bid (For Sl. No. 05): After obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority **5**. Time Period: 04 Months (including rainy season) **6**. Amount put to Tender From Rs. 8.45 lakhs to Rs. 55.91 lakhs **7**. E.M.D. Amount From Rs. 10,600/- to Rs. 56,000/-
For information and further details this office can be contacted during office hours. Phone: 8660573513

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/143/01/1652

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

IDFC FIRST Bank

(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **29.10.2025** calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors **1. M/S SRI VENKATESHWARA TRADERS, 2. LOKESH KUMAR N, 3. SUNITHA M B,** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 4,61,75,735/- (Rupees Four Crore SixtyOne Lac Seventy-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-Five Only) as on 18.10.2025** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Demand notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **15th day of JAN 2026.**
The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount of **Rs. 4,61,75,735/- (Rupees Four Crore SixtyOne Lac Seventy-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-Five Only)** and interest thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub - Section (8) Of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Properties.

All That Piece And Parcel Of The Residential Property Bearing Site No. 6, Khatha No. 1024, Carved Out Of Property Assessment No. 102/4, Situated At Hennur, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now Comes Under The Limits Of Bbmp Bangalore-560043, Measuring East To West 45 Feet, And North To South (30+24)/2 Feet, (i.e. On The Eastern Side 30 Feet, On The Western Side 24 Feet), Totally Measuring 1215 Square Feet, And **Bounded As : East :** Private Property **West :** 25 Feet Wide Road **North :** Site No. 5 **South:** Site No. 7

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

Date : **15-01-2026**
Place : **KARNATAKA**
Loan Account No : **10144934523**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my clients Sri Bhupendra P Patel S/o Sri Popatlel Patel, Sri Diweni Suresh Hansraj S/o Sri Hansraj, Sri Kalpeshbhai Rameshbhai Manani S/o Sri Rameshbhai and Smt. Rajeshree Patel W/o Sri Manoj Manilal Patel, presently all R/at No. 385, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Royal County 8th Phase J.P. Nagar Bengaluru -83 intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Smt. Nagarathna Rajesh, W/o Late Sri Rajesh K. and her children R/at No. 54, 1st Main, Vignesh Castle, Subanna Garden Vijayanagar, Bengaluru -40, who represents that they are the absolute owners in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property and that the Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances whatsoever and that there are no third party claims or rights on the Schedule Property.
Any person/s having any claim/s over the Schedule Property or having any objection/s about the above mentioned transaction may write to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary evidence, on which they are basing their claim, failing which my clients will proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s, objection/s of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of immovable converted land bearing Sy. No. **42/6,** (Old No. 42/1)) measuring **1 Acre 01 gunta** situated at Kodigehalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballaura Taluk Bangalore Rural District, together with all appurtenances whether situated on below or above the surface, and bounded on the:
East by : Property of Eerappa
West by : Property of K.V. Papanna
North by : Main Road
South by : Property of Thimmaiah

M. MUNEGOWDA
Advocate and Consultant
No. 64/1, S.M. Plaza, 2nd Floor, Dr. D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore -04
Mobile: 9342878205;
Bangalore Dated: 17/01/2026

BEFORE THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XX ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
Original Suit No. 283 of 2026 (CCH-32)

BETWEEN: Mrs. Anusha Rai D/o Hanumantharaya H, R at No.9026, 2nd floor Tower 9, Prestige Bagamane Temple Bells, 9th Main Road, Jawaregowda Nagar, Javarandoddi, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 **Plaintiff**
AND Mr. Chandu @ Chandan Prasad and Ors. **Defendants**
To, **NOTICE TO DEFENDANT No. 17- JOHN DOE ALIAS ASHOK KUMAR**
John Doe alias Ashok Kumar (Unknown Persons)
Being the administrators, owners, and handlers of Social Media and Profiles other unknown identitiesand unidentifiable accounts active on the social media platforms of the Defendant Nos. 1-34.
The Plaintiffs have filed the above suit seeking reliefs of declaration, permanent prohibitory injunction restraining the Defendants from publishing and uploading defamatory contents against the Plaintiffs, and mandatory injunction directing the Defendants to remove and delete such defamatory Content from all social media platforms.The Plaintiffs have filed A.No. 2 under Order 39 Rule 1 and 2 of CPC seeking temporary injunction and I.A. No. 3 under similar provisions seeking direction to remove, delete, disable access de-index, de- list and block all access containing defamatory statements against the Plaintiffs from social media.
Whereas, this Hon'ble Court on 13-Jan-2026 was pleased to pass the following Order:
"Defendants, their agents, officers or any other persons acting through or claiming right under the defendants are hereby restrained by an order of ex-parte ad-interim temporary injunction from telecasting or broadcasting or printing or publishing or circulating or posting or accommodating the posting or transmitting or web hosting or sharing or expressing any defamatory articles, news, images, photograph, video footage and/ or pictures involving or referring to plaintiff negatively impacting the plaintiff and committing any act or intentional omission raising negative image, character assassination or creating sarcastic views and leveling baseless and unverified allegations against the plaintiff and from discussing her character in any manner including showing livestill images or footages or pictures involving or referring to the plaintiff in any manner whatsoever, till the date of next hearing.
Defendants, their agents, servants, employees, their representatives, administrators, assignees and all other persons acting on their behalf or claiming through or under them are hearby directed to remove/delete/disable access/ de-index the defamatory material uploaded and published in the media and portals pertaining to the Plaintiff till the date of next hearing. 08.04.2026.
(The case is posted on next date of hearing: 08.04.2026)
Given under the hand and seal on this 14th January 2026 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Senior Seristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff: No. 296, Kamakshipalya, Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru-560079
14.01.2026, Bangalore

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, AT BENGALURU
Commercial Court Complex ,4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House, Ambedkar Veedhi, K. G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009
O. A. No.263/2023

Between: Karnataka Bank Limited, Mathimane Aramanekoppa GP Branch, Hosanagara Taluk, Rep by its Branch Manager **...Applicant**
And
M/s. Nagara Rice & flour Mill, Rep by its proprietor and 6 others ...Defendants
SUMMONS / NOTICE TO DEFENDANT No.6 AND DEFENDANT NO.7 UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
To,
1. Mr. Archit Krishna Kamath, S/o. Late Krishna Kamath, No. S-70, Sri Nagashree Nilaya, 3rd Cross, 3rd Stage, Kirloskar Colony, Basaveshwarangar, Bengaluru - 560 079. **...Defendant No. 6**
2. Mrs . Radhika C. Ramachandra W/o. Late Ramachandra Gujarepete, Modugoppa, Nagar Post, Hosanagara, Shivamogga - 577 425. **...Defendant No.7**
Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against both of you for the recovery of sum of **Rs.43,81,340/-** (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.
The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed you to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent in support of his/their delence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **18.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 16th day of January 2026.

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bengaluru

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO: 55/2025 Dt.16.01.2026
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice
PUBT1772

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in.**"

Tender No.	Brief Description
LH257455	Supply & installation of FRP Modular Toilet
25254500A	Set of pins for brake Rigging
38255023	Modified Elastomeric Pad(Design-B)
29261125	Thermoplastic polyurethane spring
LH257446	One coach set of air spring Assemblies
LH257450	Bogie frame Assemblies
25253210A	Room temperature Vulcanising
67255005A	Supply Installation and commissioning of Hydraulic Re-Railing Equipment
25254496	Metallized Carbon strips for Pantographs
82255032	HQ MED GTE fully Automated Integrated clinical Chemistry and Immunoassay Analyser (CLIA)

Note: Due dates of tender opening
SL.No.01 on dt.23.01.2026.SL.No. 02&3 on dt.30.01.2026. SL.No. 04 on dt.04.02.2026 SL.No.05 to 09 on 06.02.2026. SL.No. 10 on dt.23.02.2026

CORRIGENDUM
1) Tender Notice No.54/2025 dt. 09.01.2026 may be read as below

Tender No.	Brief Description
52255010B	Ip Based VSS for Electric locos
LN256561B	Air spring 140 KN
33251513A	Brake Cylinder
33251514A	Higher Capacity Air spring Assembly
54255007B	Routers with WAN ports for Tier-2 and tier 3 locations of SCR
66259683	Procurement of valves etc, for Track Machine.
LN256561C	Higher capacity Air spring 180 KN
66259544	Track Machine spares of plasser make
66259542	Procurement of Valve etc for Track Machine.
38252363	NON-Asbestos "L" type
LN265039	Road shunting vehicle of 135T
60258788	PSC Guard rail Sleepers to T-8970
82255015	HQ MED GTE LAPROSCOPE SET
82255007A	HQ MED Modular Operation Theaters

SL.No.01 on dt..23.01.2026. SL.No.02 03 on dt.27.01.2026 SL.No.04 on 29.01.2026. SL.No. 05 on dt 30.01.2026 SL.No. 06 to10 on dt.02.02.2026 SL.No. 11 on dt.05.02.2026 SL.No.12 to14 on dt.09.02.2026

2) Tender Notice No.49/2025 dt. 05.12.2025 Tender No.29255033 due on 05.01.2026 Brieff Supply, erection, Commissioning may be read as Due date 23.01.2026 instead of existing

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above **Rs.50 Lakhs.**
For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad
A2243

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

ARM Branch– II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Telephone numbers 080-25310099, 080-25310181 – e-mail – cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) 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 Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-2 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25.02.2026 from 01:00 pm to 03.00 pm . [with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of sale],** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **24.02.2026.** **(₹. in Lakhs)**

Sl. No.	Borrower Name/ Description of the movable / immovable assets	Total Liabilities as per Sale Notice	Details and Full Description of the Property	Reserve Price & EMD
1.	**(1) Mr.Srinivasa Gowda B T** S/o. Mr,Thimmaiah, #813/A,1st Main Road, NGO Layout, Vrushabhavathi Nagar, Bangalore-560079. **(2) Mr.Srinivasa Gowda B T:** Also Available at # 17/3, Ashokapura Community Hall Road, Industrial Sub-Urb, Yeshwanthapura, Bangalore-560022. **(3) Mrs. Mangala H B (Guarantor)** W/o. Mr. Srinivasa B T, #813/A, 1st Main Road, NGO Layout, Vrushabhavathi Nagar, Bangalore-560079. **(4) M/s.V N G Developers (Builder) Represented by Its Managing Partner and Partner CH. Laxmareddy,** #M005, Renaissance Exotica Jakkur Plantation Road, Bellari Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064. **(5) Mr. Mukka Vinod Kumar (Builder Mng Partner) available at:** "Antrelia Homes" Sy.No.91/2,92/4 & 92/5 Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North-560064. **6. Mr.C.H.Laxmareddy,** #M005, Renaissance Exotica Jakkur Plantation Road, Bellari Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.	**Rs. 3,09,73,836.56 (Rupees Three Crore Nine Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six and Fifty Six Paisa Only) plus further interest thereon from 15.01.2026 and other expenses**	**SCHEDULE-A PROPERTY (Description of the full land where villa is being constructed) : "This property is under Tripartite Agreement"** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands being Sy.No.91/1, measuring 01 Acre 09 Guntas, Sy.No.91/2 measuring 04 Acres, Sy.No/92/4, measuring 02 Acres 26 Guntas and Sy. No.92/5, measuring 18 Guntas, altogether measuring 08 Acres 13 Guntas, Situated at Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. **SCHEDULE-B PROPERTY (Description of the villa with undivided/ proportionate share in the land) :** All that piece and parcel of the residential Plot being No.66, in a Layout known as **"ANTALIEA HOMES"** ,formed out of residentially converted lands to the extent of 08 Acres 13 Guntas in Sy.No.91/1,91/2,92/4 and 92/5 of Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobbli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West 15 meter and North to South 9 meter, in all measuring 1453.14 Square Feet in the name of **Mr. Srinivasa Gowda B T** and bounded on the: East by : 9 Meter Road, West by : Plot No.61, North by : Plot No.65 and South by : Plot No.67. **SCHEDULE-C PROPERTY :** Residential Independent Villa No.66 to be constructed in Schedule B Property with a super built up area of 2835 Square Feet.	**Reserve Price Rs. 197.51 EMD Rs. 19.76**

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS : (a) Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website **https://baanknet.com/** Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.(b) The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer. (c) The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. (d) EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan. (e) After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before **24.02.2026,** to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email. (i) Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.(ii) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. (iii) Bid Form. The intending bidders should register their names at portal **https://baanknet.com/** and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, M/s.PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) - e-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com
EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest. (f) Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of **Rs.1,00,000/-.** The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.(g) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006298 (h) For sale proceeds of **Rs.50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty lacs)** and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.(i) All charges for Conveyance. Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.(j) Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any

U19 WC: No handshake at toss as India beat B'desh

The strained bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh filtered onto the cricket field as captains of the two teams abstained from customary handshake ahead of their U19 World Cup tie on Saturday. India went on to beat Bangladesh by 18 runs via DLS method in a thrilling finish. BCB later called it "unintentional and momentary lapse" by its team's skipper.

T20 WC: BCB wants to play in Sri Lanka, requests ICC to swap group

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN & FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

AFTER another day of discussion in Dhaka, the Bangladesh Cricket Board has requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to swap group that would allow them to play in Sri Lanka. The BCB apparently has been quiet adamant that they would not play in India because of security concerns to their players and fans, and as reported by this newspaper on Wednesday, is more inclined towards playing in Sri Lanka.

The BCB had suggested that they should be moved form Group C where they have to play West Indies, Italy, England and Nepal to Group B in place of Ireland. Group B also includes hosts Sri Lanka, Australia, Oman and Zimbabwe. It needs to be seen if the ICC agrees to such a request, especially with Cricket Ireland saying that the global cricketing body has given them definite assurances of playing in Sri Lanka. The BCB had a meeting with two-member ICC delegate - Gaurav Saxena, General Manager, Events and Corporate Communications, and Andrew Ephgrave, General Manager, Integrity Unit -- in Dhaka on Saturday. Ephgrave has attended the meeting in person while Saxena virtually as he did not get a visa on time. "During the discussions, the BCB reiterated its formal request to the ICC to relocate Bangladesh's matches to Sri Lanka. The Board also shared the Bangladesh Government's views and concerns on safety and security of the team, Bangladeshi fans, media and other stakeholders," said BCB in a statement. "The discussions were conducted in a constructive, cordial and professional manner, with all parties engaging openly on the relevant issues. Among other points, the possibility of moving Bangladesh to a different group as a means of facilitating the matter with minimum logistical adjustments was discussed," said BCB.

From the BCB's side, its chief Mohammad Aminul Islam and vice presidents, director and Chairman of Cricket Operations Committee Nazmul Abedeen and Chief Executive Officer Nizam Uddin Chowdhury were present. It is understood that swapping groups could be difficult and the ICC may not agree to BCB demands. The whole issue started after Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman was dropped from the KKR team on Indian cricket board's directive.

ICC have given us definite assurances: Ireland

Meanwhile, an Irish board source has confirmed to this daily that ICC have given them assurances that their original schedule will remain as it is. "We've received definitive assurances that we won't move from the original schedule," the source told this daily. "We're definitely playing the Group Stage in Sri Lanka."

BIG SERVICE DOWN UNDER

With the year's first Slam, the Australian Slam, a go, here's a look at the different subplots to watch out for from Melbourne Park...

Djokovic's great science experiment

Novak Djokovic could announce his retirement without playing another match and be recognised as the greatest to have ever played the game just because of his sheer weight of achievements. But the Serb is still grinding. After a mixed year – four semifinals at the Majors – there's solid evidence that he's still one of the best but finds it hard to beat Carlos Alcaraz or **Jannik Sinner** in best of five play. To that end, he has hired Dr Mark Kovacs, an elite sports science expert, to his entourage. Kovacs is renowned for his work in a number of areas including stretching, flexibility and optimum human performance. Will the former World No. 1 get to No. 25?

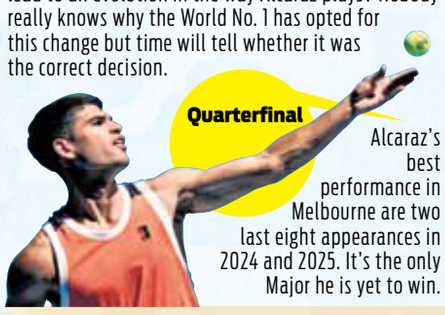


10 Djokovic has 10 titles at Melbourne

Sunday Special

Alcaraz's great unknown

Carlos Alcaraz's battle with Jannik Sinner – the duo have equally split the last eight Slams – will be one of the major themes throughout 2026. But how will his decision to move away from Juan Carlos Ferrero change his tennis ways? The Spaniard had coached him from the age of 15 so Alcaraz, in a way, is entering the unknown. It's what makes this one of the most eagerly anticipated subplots of the year. Ferrero wanted to stay but Alcaraz wanted a split. Will this lead to an evolution in the way Alcaraz plays? Nobody really knows why the World No. 1 has opted for this change but time will tell whether it was the correct decision.



Quarterfinal Alcaraz's best performance in Melbourne are two last eight appearances in 2024 and 2025. It's the only Major he is yet to win.

THE PROMISE OF TIEN AND FONSECA

A couple of generations tried their damnedest to break the Big Three stranglehold. The likes of Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev are now established players with a very good record but between the three of the above-mentioned players, they have one Slam and a lot of disappointments. Now, the likes of Learner Tien (20) and Joan Fonseca (19) will try their best to break the duopoly. There's enough hype and they have the kind of game that will put bums on seats but that hasn't necessarily translated into results and big titles previously.

What separates him from a lot of the other guys in the draw is just his power — forehand, backhand, serve and just what he's able to bring point by point. He's exciting, he's got good aura, he's a very likeable character as well.
— Roger Federer's glowing praise for Fonseca

Live on Sony Sports Network



Swiatek's career Slam chatter

By her very lofty standards, Iga Swiatek didn't have a good start to 2025. She was expected to complete the career Slam last year but she lost in the semifinal to **Madison Keys**. The French Open – the clay is usually her friend – turned to be a foe and the Pole's form dipped alarmingly before she clinched Wimbledon. She was predictably asked about adding the one Major missing from her cabinet but she deadbatted away. However, the focus will remain on it when she takes to court for the opening round. She has the game as well as the intelligence to win but there's a very loaded field.

A loaded women's field

On the men's side, there's a generational duopoly. On the women's side, there are rivalries up and down but there's no clear-cut favourite. Sample this. Seven of the top eight in the women's section have at least been to a Major final (it's four on the men's side). And No. 9, Mirra Andreeva, still only 18, could be about to have a big year. It's what makes the women's game so much more exciting as there's jeopardy and a sense of unpredictability. That four different players won Majors is ample proof of that. 2026 promises to be more of the same.

India's continued fall

There was a time when Ramkumar Ramanathan was billed as the next great Indian tennis hope. On Friday, he reached the final of an ITF event. Sumit Nagal was ranked inside the world's top 100 a few years ago. On Friday, he was playing a Challenger in Thailand. When the qualifying list was out in December, it spoke volumes that no Indian managed to even qualify for the qualifier. It succinctly captures how far Indian men's singles tennis has fallen and how far it has to rise to even make it to the main draw of a Major. There is some doubles representation but a reminder. No tennis player enters the ecosystem dreaming of glory in doubles play.

Top five seeds | **Men:** Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner, Alexander Zverev, Novak Djokovic, Lorenzo Musetti | **Women:** Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Amanda Anisimova, Elena Rybakina

SUNDAY'S MATCHES (SELECT) | **Men:** Alcaraz vs Adam Walton Zverev vs Gabriel Diallo | **Women:** Sabalenka vs Tiantsoa Rajaonah, Emma Raducanu vs Mananchaya Sawangkaew

India's 50-over home dominance under threat

Hosts have lost only four ODI bilateral series in India since 2010

GOMESH S @ Chennai

ON Saturday, as India pacer Mohammed Siraj addressed the media ahead of the third and final one-day international (ODI) against New Zealand in Indore, questions about different players' form, roles, team environment and more started to fill the room. While it is not unusual for a senior player of the team to answer such questions, this time there seems to be a little more anxiety and tension in the air.

There are reasons too. After News Zealand secured the second ODI rather easily, India are now in a precarious position. If the visitors manage to eke out a victory in Indore on Sunday, they have a chance to make history for the second time in two years. Last time they beat India in red-ball series 3-0 and now if they win this will be their first white ball 50-over series win in India. If India's red-ball dominance at home in the 21st century is much revered and talked about before it was ended by New Zealand in 2024, their ODI record at home has largely been impeccable and something that seemed impregnable.

Since 2010, India have played 30 ODI series at home, losing only four. They lost to Pakistan in 2012, South Africa in 2015, and Australia in 2019 and 2023. Apart from these four, India have seldom put their foot wrong in home ODIs. And a big part of this positive run would be attributed to their top-order dominance and the two ODI legends — Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. The duo leads the batting charts at home bilaterals since 2010 and the next active player in the list is KL Rahul (fifth). The trio are still integral part of the playing XI and are still winning matches for India, but what has changed in recent times is the relevancy of the format.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Indian players during a training session in Indore on Saturday | PTI

Blockbuster decider on cards

Winner takes all as India face New Zealand in third and final ODI. A look...

EYES ON ROHIT
Rohit Sharma is only behind Virat Kohli among ODI batters of this generation but there seems to be a shift in his pace after he was stripped of captaincy. Sharma, since October, has batted at a significantly lower strike rate compared to last three years. Will be interesting to see if that continues.

WILL NITISH PLAY?
Indore has historically been a high-scoring white-ball ground and it remains to be seen whether Nitish Kumar Reddy retains his place. The youngster did not do much in Rajkot and the post-match comments brought the limelight on him. Will the team stick to him or will they go for an extra spin option in Ayush Badoni.

India vs New Zealand, Indore | **Live on Star Sports & JioHotstar, 1.30PM**

Focus on Sinner-Alcaraz once again in Oz Open

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai



(L-R) Lleyton Hewitt, Roger Federer, Ash Barty, Andre Agassi and Pat Rafter | AFP

THERE is always some kind of romance surrounding the first Grand Slam of the year. The only Slam to be played on the other hemisphere of the world, has its own charm. The longest Grand Slam final between Novak Djokovic, who is defying age to play his 81st Grand Slam this year and another legend now-retired Rafael Nadal was played on this surface in 2012. The ebb and flow still resonates across the Rod Laver Arena as the match ended after a gruelling five sets in 5 hours 53 minutes. There were sobbing scenes when Roger Federer lifted the trophy at the age of 36 after making a stunning comeback from injury.

2026 is a different era, different time. New champions have started filling in the shoes left behind by some of the games' greatest. As another instalment of Australian Open gets under way on Sunday, the limelight would shift to two of tennis' most-loved players of this generation — Carlos Alcaraz (world No 1) and Jannik Sinner (No 2). Their fabled rivalry has yet to transcend into eternal greatness like those of Fderer vs Nadal but as things stand, it does have the ingredients to become one. Last year they met four Grand Slam finals and shared two each. This year could be the same.

One of India's former No 1 player Somdev Devvarman would be watching and looking into the finer details of the Australian Open. And like the entire world, he too would be setting his eyes on the Spaniard and the Italian. "The way they have ended 2025, the fact that they have won nine of the last nine Slams, they are getting better and stronger. The current age where they are at historically tells us that they are only going to get better from here on," Devvarman said during an interaction.

The other spotlight would be on the Djokovic, who has won the highest number of Grand Slams in the world. Devvarman felt that Djokovic's challenge may continue in 2026. The Serbian reached the semifinals in all Grand Slams but failed to reach the final for the first time since 2017. "The age that Djokovic tells us that things are going to start getting a little tougher. So, as a tennis fan you wonder, does Novak have one more left? If he does, does he need help from his peers? Or is it possible at all? Main question of men's tennis, at least for now," he said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Patil, Fulmali back in T20I team for Oz tour

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AFTER being out of the Indian team for more than 15 months, off-spinning all-rounder Shreyanka Patil is back in the national side for the Australia tour. Patil, along with Bharti Fulmali, has been named in the T20I squad for the multi-format series Down Under.

Patil got injured during the 2024 T20 World Cup and have been out of the team since. Making a comeback in the ongoing Women's Premier League, the youngster has taken eight wickets in four games including a fifer against Gujarat Giants on Friday. On the back of her performance, Patil has been named in the T20I side. Meanwhile, Fulmali, who has 92 runs at 92 46 average and 191.66 strike rate so far, has earned her second India call-up. India will play three ODIs, as many T20Is and a Test match in Perth. Kashvee Gautam is also named for the ODI series. While the selection committee have named the white-ball squads, they are yet to announce the team for the only Test Down Under.**T20I squad:** Harmanpreet (C), Mandhana (VC), Verma, Thakur, Sree Charani, Vaishnavi, Gaud, Rana, Deepti, Richa (WK), G Kamalini (WK), Arundhati, Amanjot, Jemimah, Bharti, Shreyanka; **ODI squad:** Harmanpreet (C), Mandhana (VC), Verma, Thakur, Sree Charani, Vaishnavi, Kranti, Rana, Deepti, Richa Ghosh (WK), G Kamalini (WK), Kashvee, Amanjot, Jemimah, Deol.

Lanning help UP beat MI, Smriti shines

ENS @ Chennai

SKIPPER Meg Lanning and fellow Australian Phoebe Litchfield struck dominating half centuries to set up UP Warriorz's comprehensive 22-run win over defending champions Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League (WPL) here on Saturday. Later, Smriti Mandhana's 96 took Royal Challengers Bengaluru home vs Delhi Capitals.

Put in to bat, Lanning (70) and Litchfield (61) shared 119 runs for the second wicket off just 76 balls to take UP Warriorz to 187/8. In reply, Mumbai struggled all throughout with their top batters failing to make it count. In the end, they fell short by 22 runs.

EXPRESS READ

Markram ton helps DSG stay alive in SA20

DURBAN: Aiden Markram blazed the second SA20 century of his career to keep Durban's Super Giants' season alive. The Proteas T20 captain showed that he is the man for the big occasion, flexing his biceps by smashing 108 off 58 balls (12x4, 5x6), with DSG's season on the line.

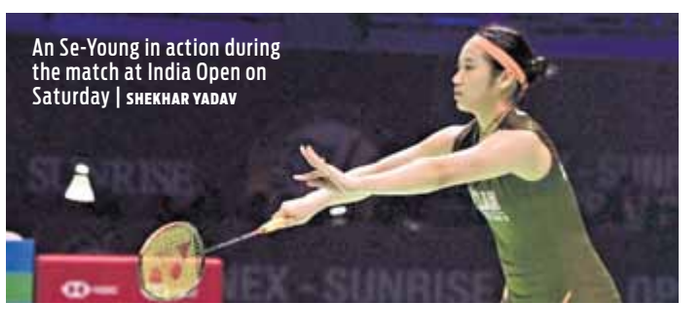
Utd dominate City in Manchester derby

MANCHESTER: Manchester United gave Michael Carrick a dream start to his interim tenure, beating Manchester City 2-0 to deal a huge blow to their rivals' PL title aspirations. Meanwhile, Tottenham Hotspur lost 1-2 at home to lowly West Ham.

INDIA OPEN

The unstoppable force & might of South Korean Se-young

ANMOL GURUNG @ New Delhi



An Se-Young in action during the match at India Open on Saturday | SHEKHAR YADAV

AN Se-young, over the years, has made winning a quotidian exercise. Hers is a unique case that maybe merits a proper research about her overall game, her mental fortitude that seems to be impenetrable at the moment. Every new tournament, her rivals come with a mission to unlock her weakness. They end up scratching their heads.

An enters the court, plays the games on her terms and generally walks away with a W. That has been the story so far at the India Open here. An came, conquered and marched into the finals without a fuss, notching up her 29th consecutive victory on BWF World Tour in the process. That level of consistency is simply remarkable in a sport which is highly demanding at the top level.

Sporting her trademark headband, the World No 1 produced a badminton clinic on Saturday. It was at Ratchanok Intanon's expense, who was one of the shuttlers who had entered the Super 750 meet with hopes to unlock the mystery behind her methods. An, with her usual steely focus, was spot on as usual. With her meticulously crafted drop shots, powerful forehand smashes, fine movement around the court and her swift agility, An snuffed the life out of the seasoned opponent from Thailand, who was fighting a losing battle. After 32 minutes of An's visible superiority, it was all done and dusted. The South Korean An, the Paris Olympic gold medallist and 2023 world champion, was bowing to the crowd after making light work of Intanon. The score read 21-11, 21-7. When asked what makes An near-invincible, Intanon said she forces her opponent to err by dictating the pace of the game. "When she plays with others, she plays a different style but when she faces me, she brings her other game. I can play well but now, I cannot play faster as compared to her game. Sometimes I'm still stuck figuring out how to be faster, and when I try to play faster, I end up making errors," Intanon said. **Select results:** MS: J Christie bt L Kean Yew 21-18, 22-20; WS: An Se Young bt R Intanon 21-11, 21-7; Wang Zhi Yi bt Chen Yu Fei 21-15, 23-21; WD: 1 Sheng/Tan bt Baek/Lee 21-12, 17-21, 21-14; Fukushima/Matsumoto bt Tan/Muralitharan 21-16, 21-13; XD: Puavaranukroh/Paewsampran bt Feng/Huang 16-21, 21-19, 21-16.

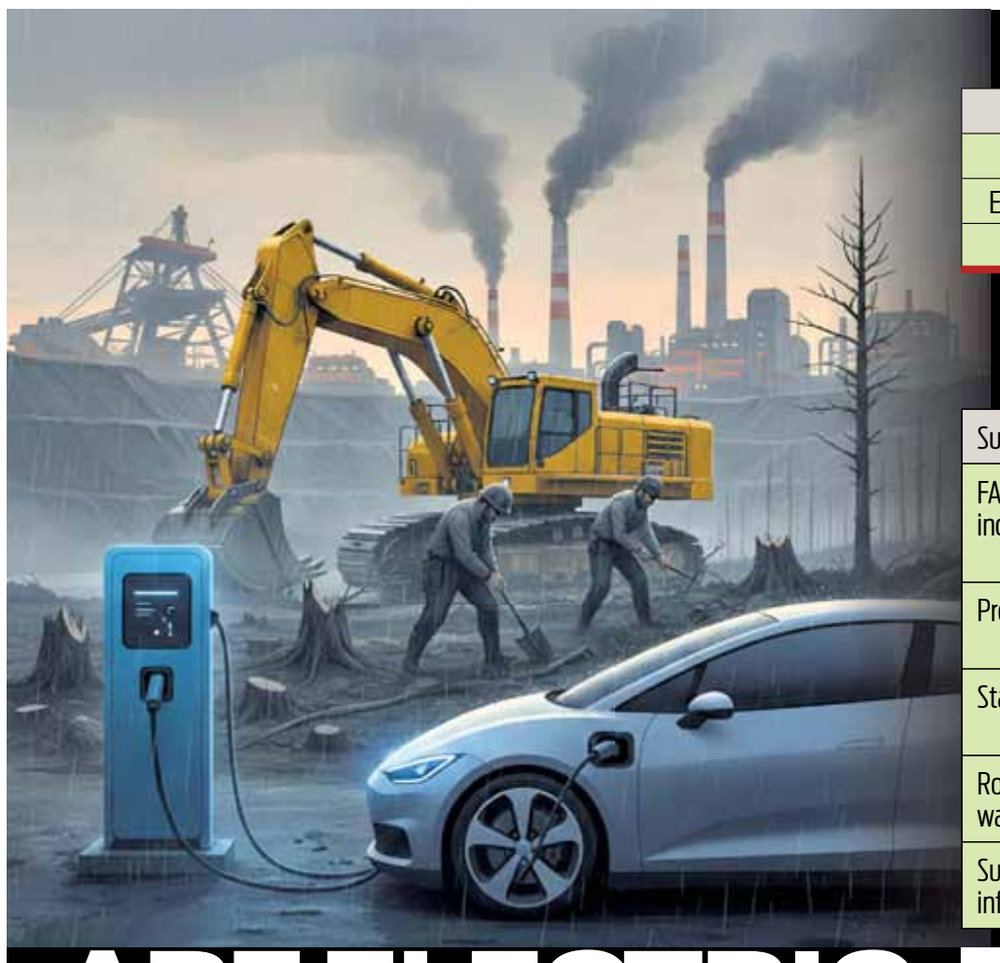
Full story: newindianexpress.com

Unwanted 'material' brings game to halt again

India Open witnessed yet another unwanted incident on Saturday. A women's doubles affair between top-seeded Chinese pairing of Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning and sixth seeds Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee of Korea was briefly halted after debris fell from the rooftop of the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex. The incident occurred when the Chinese duo was leading 6-3 in Game 1. The match officials stopped the tie for a few minutes before inspecting what had fallen and cleaning it. The players initially felt that it was bird droppings, but the BWF officials later clarified that the interruption was caused by 'materials from a bird's nest'. This edition of the India Open has been marred by controversies since the opening day.

Starting Jan 1, China slashed EV subsidy from 20% to 12% of a newly bought car's cost. The maximum subsidy, however, remained capped at 20,000 yuan

In contrast, those who purchase a petrol-powered vehicle get a 10% subsidy, with the maximum amount set at 15,000 yuan. This has made petrol cars more attractive



ARE ELECTRIC CARS ALWAYS CLEANER?

Carbon accounting of petrol, electricity, and India's coal grid

Total implied subsidy embedded in EV prices

Vehicle segment	Estimated total subsidy (₹)	Implied price suppression
Electric two-wheeler	₹25,000–₹60,000	15–30%
Electric car (₹14–16 lakh range)	₹4–₹7 lakh	30–45%
Electric commercial vehicles	₹3–₹6 lakh	25–40%

EV subsidy break-up and implied price impact in India

Subsidy component	Nature of subsidy	Typical benefit (₹)	% impact on EV price
FAME-II demand incentive	Overt (direct fiscal subsidy)	₹50,000–₹1.5 lakh (cars); up to 15–40% earlier for 2-wheelers	10–30% (segment-dependent)
Preferential GST (5%)	Covert (tax expenditure)	₹2–3 lakh on a ₹15 lakh EV	15–25%
State purchase subsidy	Overt (state fiscal support)	₹50,000–₹2.5 lakh (state-dependent)	5–15%
Road tax & registration waiver	Covert (fee exemption)	₹50,000–₹1.5 lakh	3–8%
Subsidised charging & infra support	Covert (capital & tariff support)	Not upfront; lowers running cost	Indirect (lifecycle cost)

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

ELECTRIC vehicles (EVs) are frequently presented as a panacea for the intractable problem of vehicular pollution. This presumption, however, rests on a partial reading of emissions. A widening body of academic research demonstrates that the climatic footprint of a vehicle is not determined solely by the technology that turns its wheels, but by the entire energy architecture that sustains its motion. When two vehicles of identical mass and horsepower are juxtaposed—one powered by petrol, the other by electricity generated from fossil fuels—the carbon calculus becomes markedly more intricate than tailpipe-centred comparisons suggest.

To grasp this complexity, researchers rely on well-to-wheel (WTW) and life-cycle assessment (LCA) frameworks. These analytical instruments trace emissions from the point of fuel extraction and processing—the "well"—through conversion, transmission, and ultimately energy use at the wheels.

Comparison between internal combustion engines and EVs

A conventional petrol vehicle converts chemical energy into mechanical motion through an internal combustion engine, a process characterised by profound thermodynamic inefficiency. Canonical engineering studies show that barely 15–20 per cent of petrol's energy content is converted into useful work, with the remainder dissipated as waste heat through exhaust and cooling systems. From a carbon standpoint, the combustion of petrol releases approximately 2.3 kg of CO_2 per litre. When upstream emissions arising from crude oil extraction, refining, and transportation are incorporated, the well-to-wheel emissions of a typical petrol car in India fall within the range of 150–180 grams of CO_2 per km, contingent upon vehicle efficiency and driving conditions.

Electric motors convert roughly 85–90 per cent of electrical energy into motion. But EVs do not generate energy. They depend on electricity that charges their batteries. EV performance is grid-dependent by design. This dependence becomes decisive in countries such as India, where electricity generation remains overwhelmingly coal-based (more than 75 per cent).

Scenario One: Petrol burned at the power plant

Consider a thought experiment. Instead of combusting petrol within a vehicle engine, the same fuel is burned in a thermal power plant to generate electricity, which is then used to charge an EV. Under real-world operating conditions, thermal power plants convert fuel into electricity at efficiencies of roughly 33–38 per cent. In India, an additional 15–17 per cent of generated electricity is lost during transmission and distribution before it reaches the end user. Charging losses and battery inefficiencies further erode usable energy by approximately 15–20 per cent.

Once these layered inefficiencies are aggregated, the ostensible efficiency superiority of EVs is substantially reduced. Multiple well-to-wheel studies demonstrate that an EV powered by electricity generated from petroleum products yields only a marginal reduction—and in some cases no reduction at all—in CO_2 emissions relative to a petrol internal combustion engine vehicle. The apparent advantage dissolves once upstream losses are fully internalised.

Scenario Two: India's coal-dominated grid

The comparison becomes more fraught when electricity is generated not from petrol but from coal. Coal-based electricity in India exhibits a high carbon intensity, frequently exceeding 800–900 grams of CO_2 per kilowatt-hour at the point of generation. When transmission and distribution losses are incorporated, the effective emissions per delivered kilowatt-hour escalate further. Peer-reviewed studies find that EVs charged on coal-heavy grids can emit between 200 and 226 grams of CO_2 per km on a well-to-wheel basis.

EVs and the hidden architecture of subsidies

Beneath the rapid global proliferation of EVs lies a dense, often obfuscated lattice of overt and covert subsidies.

- **Overt subsidies:** Overt subsidies constitute the most visible instruments of state intervention. These include direct purchase incentives, tax rebates, reduced registration fees, and production-linked incentives for manufacturers. The United States' federal tax credit of up to USD 7,500, generous purchase bonuses across Europe, and China's expansive pre-2022 subsidy regime were central to early EV adoption. Empirical research corroborates this effect. A global econometric analysis finds EV demand to be highly price-elastic: a 1 per cent reduction in effective purchase price increases EV sales by approximately 2.5–3 per cent. Subsidies, in other words, translate into sales more than proportionately.

India's experience conforms to this pattern. Under FAME-II, combined with GST reductions (from 12 per cent to 5 per cent) and state-level incentives, EV prices—particularly in the two-wheeler segment—were effectively reduced by 30–50 per cent. Empirical studies identify a statistically significant relationship between subsidy intensity and EV uptake, especially for electric two- and three-wheelers.

- **Covert subsidies:** The invisible supports are less conspicuous, yet no less consequential. These encompass publicly financed charging infrastructure, preferential electricity tariffs, subsidised land for battery manufacturing, research grants, relaxed regulatory treatment, and import-duty exemptions for critical components. Globally, such support is substantial: the IEA estimates cumulative public spending on EV charging infrastructure exceeded USD 35 billion by 2023.

In India, most public charging stations are funded or co-funded by central and state governments, while distribution companies absorb part of the cost of preferential tariffs—effectively a cross-subsidy borne by other electricity consumers.

What happens when subsidies are withdrawn?

Cross-national evidence indicates that subsidy withdrawal precipitates price increases and adoption slowdowns, at least in the short to medium term. Germany's reduction of EV purchase incentives in 2023 was followed by a marked deceleration in EV sales growth. Comparable effects were observed in Sweden and the Netherlands, particularly in private leasing markets. EU-level modelling suggests that eliminating purchase subsidies would significantly curtail EV market share, especially among middle-income households. In the United States, analysis indicates that up to half of early EV purchases would not have occurred absent subsidies.

Indian assessments are not much different. Without FAME-II and associated tax concessions, most mass-market electric two-wheelers and cars would struggle to compete with ICE alternatives, particularly given higher financing costs and persistent range anxiety. Bernstein Research concludes that the Indian EV industry "is not viable at scale without incentives" under prevailing cost structures. In a parliamentary response, the Minister of State for Heavy Industries stated that 6,559 crore had been disbursed as EV demand incentives up to 31 March 2025, benefiting 1,616,215 vehicles.

Price scenarios without subsidies

If these subsidies were withdrawn, EV prices would rise through multiple channels:

The removal of direct purchase incentives would immediately raise sticker prices by approximately 10–30 per cent, depending on the segment. The reinstatement of standard GST and road taxes would add a further 5–10 per cent. Infrastructure costs, no longer socialised, would increasingly be passed on to consumers via higher charging tariffs.

In the Indian context, the elimination of direct subsidies, preferential GST treatment, and state-level fiscal support would plausibly raise EV prices by roughly 30–45 per cent overall, fundamentally reconfiguring the affordability calculus that currently sustains EV adoption.

Carbon debt of electric vehicles: Manufacturing, materials, and the limits of decarbonisation

While EVs eliminate tailpipe emissions, this framing occludes a critical dimension: the substantial carbon debt incurred during manufacturing, particularly battery production.

Carbon debt refers to the upfront greenhouse gas emissions generated during raw material extraction, component manufacturing, and vehicle assembly. Life-cycle analysis studies consistently show that EVs leave the factory with higher embodied emissions than comparable petrol or diesel vehicles.

Lithium-ion battery production is the single largest contributor. Mining and refining lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese, copper, and graphite, followed by energy-intensive cell manufacturing, generate emissions estimated at 60–100 kg CO -eq per kWh of battery capacity. For a mid-size EV with a 60–75 kWh battery, this translates into 4–7 tonnes of CO -eq even before accounting for the remainder of the vehicle. EVs also require greater quantities of aluminium and copper to offset battery mass—materials whose production is itself highly carbon-intensive.

Battery degradation compounds these concerns. EV batteries typically lose 20–30 per cent of capacity after 100,000 miles. Replacement costs can approach USD 20,000, rendering EV ownership economically untenable for lower-income households. Absent robust recycling systems, discarded battery packs pose serious contamination risks. Battery recycling infrastructure is limited and technologically demanding. In the United Kingdom, tens of thousands of used EV batteries remain in storage, with only a small fraction recycled. Resource scarcity and geopolitical concentration further complicate the picture. Battery material supply chains are frequently associated with labour abuses and ecological degradation in producer countries, while dependence on a narrow set of processors—particularly in China—renders the EV ecosystem vulnerable to geopolitical shocks.

Carbon payback and policy implications

The environmental case for EVs ultimately hinges on carbon payback: the point at which lower operational emissions offset higher manufacturing emissions. While most LCAs agree that EVs do achieve payback, the distance and time required vary sharply with grid composition. In coal-dominated systems such as India's, the payback horizon lengthens considerably, rendering decarbonisation contingent on power-sector transformation rather than vehicle technology alone.

EVs eliminate tailpipe emissions but accrue carbon debt during production, generate non-exhaust pollution, and confront binding constraints arising from material scarcity and recycling inadequacies. Their climate advantage is contingent rather than absolute. In India, as elsewhere, EV markets are ineluctably policy-constructed, resting on layered subsidies. Any sustainable mobility strategy must therefore reckon with manufacturing emissions, end-of-life governance, and material trade-offs—not merely the absence of smoke at the tailpipe.

17A: PROTECTS CORRUPT BABUS? OR PURGES POLICY PARALYSIS?

T K VINEETH @ Kochi

THE Supreme Court's recent split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) has raised questions about the robustness of India's primary legislative framework for anti-corruption. The section, which mandates prior government approval before investigating public servants for corruption allegations, was partially read down and upheld as constitutional by Justice K V Viswanathan while it was struck down by Justice B V Nagarathna. The case will now go to a larger bench.

Anti-graft laws in India

Public servants in India can be penalised for corruption under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988. The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 prohibits benami transactions linked to corruption. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 also penalises public servants for the offence of money laundering. The Prevention of Corruption Act was enacted to streamline all legislation pertaining to such offences committed by public servants.

Section 17A

Section 17A of the PCA bars investigative agencies from probing public servants without prior approval from the government. The section was introduced in July 2018 through an amendment to the Act. It bars the police from conducting any inquiry without prior approval of the competent authority (Central government, state government, or the authority empowered to remove him/her from office). The only exception is cases involving arrest on the spot for accepting or attempting to accept a bribe.



The section was brought in to protect public servants from harassment through frivolous complaints, creating a statutory filter to screen complaints before any full-fledged investigation can be launched. This way, it also ensures that investigations are conducted with proper oversight. Critics argue that such a pre-condition effectively makes investigations against senior officials a non-starter, while the government claims such provisions are essential to protect honest officers and prevent 'policy paralysis'.

The petition

In November 2018, the Centre for Public Litigation moved the Supreme Court complaining that Section 17A attacks the heart of the anti-graft law. It said the amendment seeks to stall investigations at the very threshold for want of sanction. The petitioner's counsel, Prashant Bhushan, argued that the requirement for prior approval for investigation mirrored similar provisions already struck down by the Supreme Court in earlier cases. The petition also sought to point out the conflict of interest that Section 17A throws up as it allows higher government authorities, including ministers who may themselves be involved in decision-making, to decide whether an investigation should start.

Single Directive

Section 17A of PCA is not the first such provision the government inserted to shield public servants. In 1969, the then Central government issued the Single Directive, a consolidated set of executive instructions, to the CBI on initiating inquiries and registering cases against senior officials of the government, public sector units and nationalised banks, mandating prior approval for such probes. In December 1997, the Supreme Court struck it down as unconstitutional in Vineet Narain v. Union of India, better known as the Jain hawala case.

Section 6A of DPSE Act

Six years later, in 2003, the government introduced Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DPSE) Act to restore the prior approval requirement for investigating senior officials. Section 6A(1) stipulated that any investigation into charges against officers of the rank of joint secretary and above can begin only after government approval. This looked like the Single Directive being reintroduced with a new name. The Supreme Court struck down this provision, too, in Subramanian Swamy v Union of India. The 2014 judgment held that the section violated the norm of equality as it extended protection only to a higher class of officials and not everyone.



VOICES
DEVDUTT PATTANAIK
PREETI SHENOY
ANU AGGARWAL
RAVI SHANKAR
LUKE COUTINHO
MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS
MAGAZINE
JANUARY 18 2026 SUNDAY PAGES 12

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The New Richie Rich

Money has a makeover in India, where young billionaires are rewriting what wealth looks like

By **TANISHA SAXENA**

Once upon a time, India's billionaires wore safari suits or pinstripes—men who built empires, not apps in dorm rooms. Wealth was slow, methodical, and inherited like heirlooms. But that era of inherited opulence is fading. Today, India's money is young, caffeinated, and restless—coded in algorithms, pitched in boardrooms, and scaled on cloud servers. The script has flipped from the slow burn of old money to the meteoric rise of digital wealth. A generation ago, India's richest were scions of steel, cement, and textile dynasties—Tata, Birla, Bajaj. Business was tangible, hierarchical, and legacy-driven. Now, the richest young Indians, men and women trade in ideas, not inventory. They build unicorns out of code and confidence. Their inheritance is ambition.

According to the Hurun Global Rich List (2025), India now counts 358 billionaires—over six times its 2012 tally. Even more telling: the average age of new billionaires has slipped into the early 30s. The youngest, Zepto founders Kaivalya Vohra and Aadit Palicha, became billionaires before 24. Meanwhile, millionaire households have nearly doubled in four years to 8.7 lakh. What's powering this surge? Technology, policy, and a new kind of hustle. Digital India and Startup India have turned Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR into fertile playgrounds for innovation. Economist Dr Rajeev Ahuja calls it "the inevitable outcome of ecosystem economics." He explains, "Cities like Bengaluru have become India's Silicon Valley precisely because they offer an ecosystem of investors, mentors, regulatory support, and government incentives." In other words, the young dream—and the ecosystem backs their audacity. Contrast this with the post-Independence decades, when India's middle class aspired to stability, not speed. Success meant a government job, a steady salary, a modest house. Even tycoons like Dhirubhai Ambani or Adi Godrej embodied patience and permanence. Today's founders build over weekends.

But meteoric rises also create spectacular collapses. The unravelling of ed-tech giant Byju's—once valued at $22 billion—has become a cautionary tale. There is also a quieter phenomenon: the exodus of wealth. More Indian billionaires and multi-millionaires are renouncing residency for mobility, regulatory flexibility, and geopolitical insurance. Reports now place India among the top three nations for high-net-worth outflows, with Dubai, Singapore, London, and Zurich as preferred destinations.

Meanwhile, beneath the glitter of young money lies a widening economic canyon. The top one per cent controls over 40 per cent of national wealth; the bottom half owns less than three per cent. As sociologist Dr Tabish Hashmi puts it, "We are witnessing a paradoxical transition—hyper-visibility of young success alongside hyper-precarity for those outside the innovation economy." If old money was opaque and inaccessible, new money is seductive and performative.

Yet the symbolism of young wealth is undeniable. The average Indian millionaire today is younger, riskier, and more globally connected. They negotiate on WhatsApp with Palo Alto investors, juggle multiple ventures, and think in valuations. In the last decade, India has produced over 110 unicorns, and with each one, a new batch of 20- and 30-something founders has joined the ranks of the ultra-rich. They invest in NFTs, green tech, AI, and the next big disruption.

From a ₹75,000 loan in Ludhiana to the helm of a global cybersecurity firm, 31-year-old Trishneet Arora's journey feels like a slow, stubborn act of belief. When he launched TAC Security as a teenager, cybersecurity in India was still a fuzzy idea. A school dropout by choice, Arora learned early that risk could be a form of faith. Today, TAC Security works with governments and Fortune 500 firms, yet his language remains spare: "People don't buy products—they buy trust. And trust has to be earned every day."

That belief shapes TAC's culture, where mistakes become "learning systems, not blame systems," and leadership is more composure than command. "When the environment is volatile," he says, "your team borrows composure from you." By 2030, Arora wants India to be the most cyber-secure nation in the world. In 2024, he entered the Hurun Rich List as one of India's youngest billionaires (₹1,100 crore), a detail he brushes aside: "My journey is still a beginning." That same hunger for transformation—and the refusal to wait for permission—defined Ritesh Agarwal, 31, a few years later, though in a very different space. In 2013, while most 19-year-olds were chasing exams, Agarwal was knocking on hotel doors and mapping rooms, convinced India's budget stays could be better. That instinct became OYO.

Asked what his younger self understood about ambition, he pauses. "I understood it as a refusal to accept the world as it was," he says. "I didn't wait for perfect conditions. I treated

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Devita Saraf
Chairman and chief executive officer of Vu Technologies
Total net worth: ₹1,800 crore

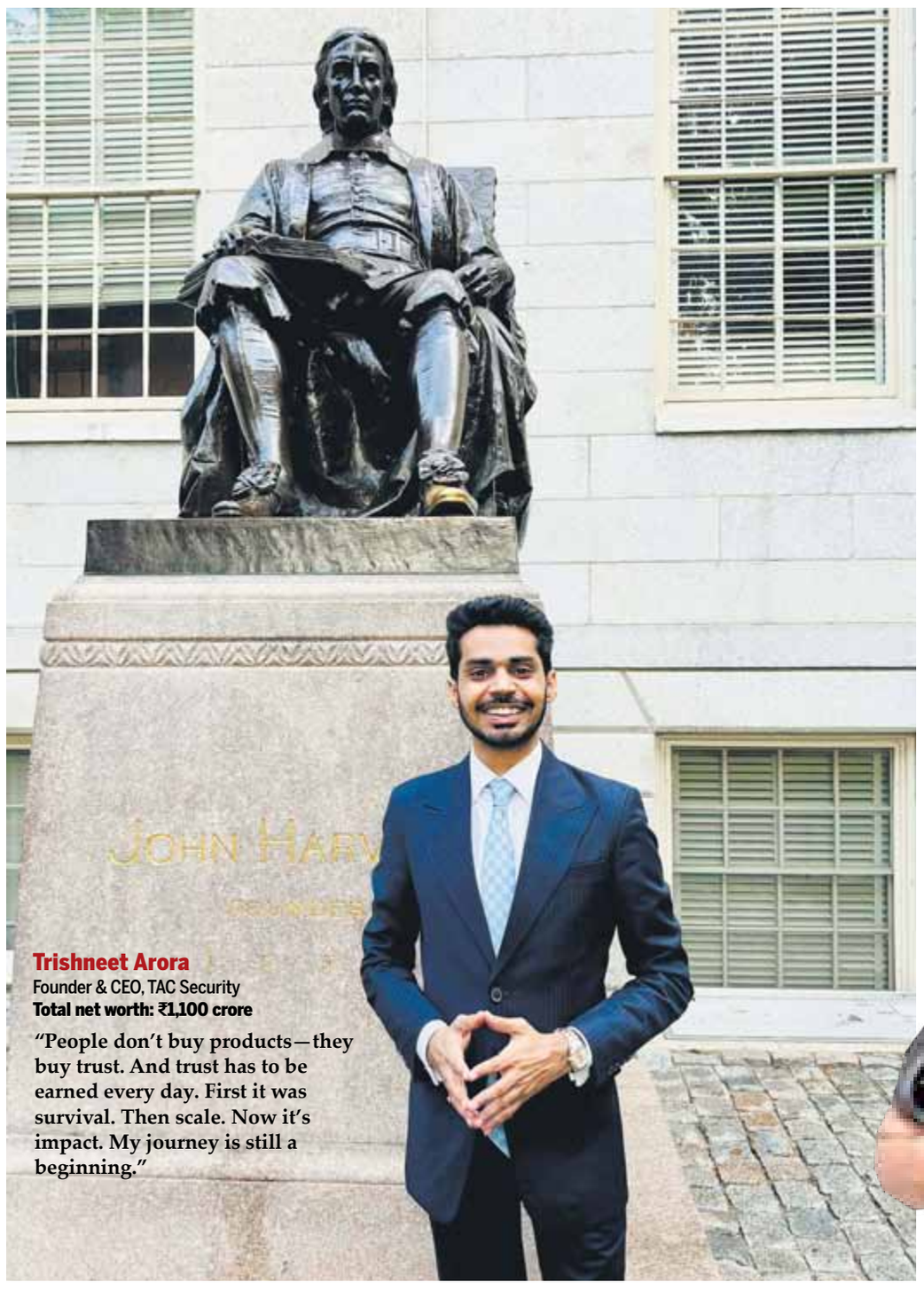
"I actually coined the term luxury in technology. Tech was about science over senses—low excitement, low experience. I wanted it to feel like fashion, cars, jewellery."



Raj Hadvani
Director and CEO of Gopal Snacks
Total net worth: ₹400 crore



Gaurav K Singh
Founder and CEO of Womeki Group
Company net worth: ₹350 crore



Trishneet Arora
Founder & CEO, TAC Security
Total net worth: ₹1,100 crore

"People don't buy products—they buy trust. And trust has to be earned every day. First it was survival. Then scale. Now it's impact. My journey is still a beginning."

YOUNG

Dominantly from tech, fintech, SaaS, EV, D2C, renewable energy

Median time to billion-dollar valuation: 5-12 years

India now has 110-plus unicorns driven almost entirely by external capital

Wealth is valuation-driven and intangible

Global-first revenue models

Operate in lightly regulated or newly regulated sectors (tech, crypto, AI, D2C); policy still catching up to categories they create

Public thought-leadership developed via podcasts, LinkedIn, X, TED, content

Comfortable taking secondary exits, ESOP buybacks, partial cash-outs

OLD

Dominantly from commodities, manufacturing, energy, real estate, banking and infra

Median time to billion-dollar fortune: 20-40 years

Banks, NBFCs, public markets, family capital were primary sources

Wealth is asset-heavy plus tangible

Domestic-first scale with later international expansion

Operate in highly regulated sectors (energy, telecom, steel, ports, banking); they require state coordination, licenses, concessions, tenders

Low social visibility, high institutional visibility

Wealth remains locked in operating companies for decades



Kanika Tekriwal
CEO and co-founder of private aviation company JetSetGo
Total net worth: ₹400 crore



Siddharth Shankar
Founder of Tails Trading
Total net worth: ₹14,490 crore

Continued from page 1

every barrier as something to solve that day." The pandemic was OYO's rupture. Revenues collapsed; a reset followed. "I rebuilt my confidence by returning to repeatable fundamentals—cash, customer experience, leadership depth," he says. He still credits India's *jugaad* for OYO's early velocity, but he's unsentimental about its limits. "Improvisation alone doesn't scale. You need systems, metrics, and productisation."

Across the seas, Siddharth Shankar, 34, founder of Tails Trading, took a different route, yet the thread of calculated ambition connects him to Arora, Agarwal and Hadvani. Staying on in the UK after his studies wasn't strategy—it was instinct. Brexit had scrambled markets and visas, but "the disruptions weren't just challenges," he recalls. "They were white spaces." Where others saw risk, he saw room to build. "True scale comes when you don't just own a slice of the process," he says. There were fractures too. A sudden split with co-founders left him steering alone as the business outgrew its structure. "The growth was fast, but the foundation wasn't," he admits. Rebuilding teams across borders forced a shift in mindset: "It made me stop hustling and start building systems." After an exit reportedly north of half a billion dollars—placing his personal net worth at about ₹14,490 crore—ambition didn't shrink. It widened. Numbers, he shrugs, "don't measure reputation."

Long before there were boardrooms or blueprints, there was just a promise. "Womeki—a real estate and infrastructure company—didn't start with offices or investors, it started with a dream," says Gaurav K Singh, 31. Trust, however, came the hard way. Banks said no. Investors stayed silent. "That silence was louder than any rejection," Singh recalls. He knocked on doors, reinvested every rupee, and refused to dilute the purpose. "The foundation wasn't cement and land—it was trust." His aesthetic shaped his philosophy of resilience. One near-failed deal rewired his thinking: "Obstacles aren't roadblocks; they're opportunities to grow stronger and smarter." Even money changed meaning. "Earlier, it meant freedom to take risks. Today, it means responsibility—the power to build things that endure."

In a similar spirit, 38-year-old Anshul Agrawal rewrote the destiny of Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH). In 2010, fresh out of IIT Delhi and a startup stint in Gurugram, he made what felt like a contrarian move: "It felt like a risk—trading urban innovation for traditional roots. But it was where ambition met opportunity." From a 100-sq-ft garage in 1992, MDPH now produces four crore *agarbattis* a day, powered by 5,000 women and supporting 20,000 livelihoods. Revenue rose from ₹45 crore in 2010 to a projected ₹1,000 crore, but Agrawal measures success differently: "Every stick we make carries the fragrance of empowerment."

Raised in a Marwari household where ethics mattered as much as balance sheets, he believes "Legacy ends where complacency begins." That discipline took MDPH to 40-plus countries, earned it the Highest Employment Generation Award in 2019, and even a Harvard case study in 2024. "Being Indian is my superpower," he says. His estimated net worth—about ₹750 crore—is tied to the company's rise, not the other way around.

Aayush Jindal's story in footwear echoes the same patient grit. The 33-year-old's estimated net worth—roughly ₹500 crore—wasn't built on breakout moments but disciplined accumulation. The turning point was a quiet gamble: "Leaving the comfort of a predictable role to bet on scale was my first real pivot." In an industry ruled by speed and thin margins, he chose patience. A festive-season sellout for Asian Footwears didn't feel like luck, but validation. "That win taught me sustainable businesses grow by compounding sensible risks."

Then came the reckoning. After a major ramp-up, demand dipped, inventory piled, and cash tightened. "It forced an ugly but necessary discipline." The reset reshaped supply chains, data systems, and leadership itself. Now in his 30s, his idea of money has evolved. "Earlier, it meant options. Now it's responsibility."

Likewise, 36-year-old Kanika Tekriwal's flight into private aviation is a case study in defying convention. Told she couldn't be a pilot, she didn't argue—she built an airline instead. At 24, with no lineage in aviation and just enough money to test an idea, she founded JetSetGo to make private flying transparent, efficient, and accessible. Today it operates one of India's largest private jet fleets, but the real beginning wasn't a boardroom—it was a hospital room. At 21, battling cancer, Tekriwal confronted mortality early. "You stop waiting for the world's permission and start writing your own rules," she says. Early years were unforgiving—cash crunches, fragile trust, relentless skepticism. Today, with an estimated net worth of ₹420 crore, she sees money not as validation but as leverage.

When Aksha Kamboj, 40, walks into a room, there's no ceremony—just certainty. "Leadership," she says, "is clarity of vision." As Executive Chairperson of Aspect Global Ventures and the first woman Vice President of the India Bullion & Jewellers Association, she moves between bullion, real estate, hospitality, and sports—sectors that rarely intersect. Her entry into the male-dominated bullion world wasn't rebellion but correction. "My goal wasn't to break a glass ceiling," she says. "It was to bring transparency, technology, and trust together." That shift helped women around her step into leadership "with confidence and clarity." In 2023, when her team Tiigers of Kolkata won the Indian Street Premier League, it reinforced an old belief: "Sports taught me leadership through belief, not control." From mass dining at Nom Nom Express to fine dining at Opa Kipo, Kamboj builds at the edge of tradition and technology. At 40, her focus remains simple: "To do work that matters—and prove there is no gender in success."

If earlier stories were about endurance and scale, 44-year-old Devita Saraf's is aesthetic disruption—the belief that technology could feel aspirational, not utilitarian. On a humid Mumbai afternoon in 2006, while most 24-year-olds were settling into first jobs, Saraf was sketching a provocation: a luxury technology brand from India. "Tech was about science over senses. I wanted it to feel like fashion, cars, jewellery." Vu Televisions became one of the country's leading premium TV brands, though the journey was jagged. In 2014, at ₹25 crore in revenue, she nearly sold the company. Then came Harvard Business School's OPM programme. "My classmates couldn't understand why I'd sell something I'd spent years building." She returned, leaned into e-commerce, and Vu surged from ₹30 crore to ₹960 crore in four years. "Sometimes the biggest challenge isn't external," she says. "It's when you think you've reached your limit."

In a modest Sardarshahar workshop, a 25-year-old learned the meaning of testing limits when he hammered *sheesham* wood into the beginnings of what would become one of India's most trusted furniture brands. That young man was Raghunandan Saraf, now 39-year-old Founder & CEO of Saraf Furniture, with an approximate net worth of ₹300 crore. When he began, no logistics company even served Sardarshahar. Today, a 2.5-lakh-sq-ft facility connects thousands of homes across India through transport routes, warehousing, and supply chains that turned isolation into advantage. His deepest satisfaction isn't expansion charts—it's seeing artisans no longer forced to migrate for work. "We've built not just a business, but belief," he says. "That world-class work can rise from small-town India with vision, discipline, and faith in craft."

Online, the brand looks seamless, but Saraf insists the real story lives beneath the polish. "Authenticity isn't about perfection; it's about presence. People trust resilience more than a highlight reel."

The most decisive moment of 38-year-old Ashish Agarwal's life too arrived with resilience. A multinational job evaporated into months of waiting. "That stillness was the opportunity I needed to consider everything. That was when Enzyme—India's leading provider of managed offices spaces—was born." What began as a response to rejection grew quietly into a ₹100-crore enterprise—not through blitz-scaling or funding theatrics, but through conviction. "It took longer," he admits, "but it gave us rare independence, control, and sustainability."

In the early days, the hurdle wasn't infrastructure—it was trust. Enzyme grew through consistency and word-of-mouth. "Trust," he says, "is more valuable than money." Time, not money, is his most prized asset—time to reflect, mentor, and stay grounded. As he puts it: "If I could build a ₹100-crore company from a delayed job offer, maybe the next generation will see that purpose is the real profit."

Even legacy wealth keepers are charting their own course. For example, 38-year-old Priyavrata Mafatlal faced a different kind of inherited reckoning. In December 2018, jet-lagged before what he assumed was a routine board meeting, his father walked in and dropped the news with disarming calm: you'll be announced CEO-elect tomorrow. The next day, he was responsible for a 113-year-old enterprise and over 5,000 employees. Today, as Vice-Chairman of the Arvind Mafatlal Group and MD of Mafatlal Industries Ltd., he balances legacy with modern pressure. "The Mafatlal name gives us trust," he says, "but agility keeps us alive." Under him, the company shifted from pure manufacturing to FMCG thinking—faster, customer-first. "We stopped asking what we could make, and started asking what the customer actually needed." The doubts lingered. "At one point, I genuinely feared I'd be the one to shut down the company my family built," he admits. His moral compass was shaped early. "Wealth isn't a privilege," he says quietly. "It's a responsibility. It doesn't define you—it reveals your principles." Today, his company's estimated net worth of about ₹4,500 crore is less inheritance and more stewardship.

Where Mafatlal thrived on reinvention, 31-year-old Raj Hadvani approached legacy with measured imagination. He never says he inherited Gopal Snacks—he prefers "continuing and reimagining." "My father built Gopal Snacks on strong fundamentals of quality and trust. That foundation gave me the confidence to experiment and to think bigger." Evolution came through calibrated shifts: refreshed packaging, sharper visuals, and a new brand, Cristos, for wafers and nachos. "Customers don't always want something new," he says. "They want something familiar, presented in a new way." Even his idea of being global is rooted in restraint. "Being international doesn't mean copying others," he says. "Our flavours are Indian, but our processes and packaging meet global benchmarks." That balance was tested during Gopal's IPO and a parallel family restructuring. "It was a defining chapter for me," he reflects. Post-listing, Hadvani emerged among India's youngest consumer-sector wealth creators, with the company valued at roughly ₹4,000 crore.

When Deeksha Suri, 45, stepped into her role as Executive Director of The Lalit, she began with trust. "The defining moment was realising this isn't just a hospitality brand—it's a living legacy built on values, people, and purpose." Born into one of India's storied hospitality families, Suri carved her own lane—expanding into Tier-II and Tier-III cities, and reframing growth as "developing destinations, not just hotels." These emerging cities, she says, feel like "the real, rising India."

The road wasn't always welcoming. "Hospitality wasn't designed with women in mind," she says. Instead of pushing back, she pushed forward, changing systems quietly. Today, half of The Lalit's leadership team is female. Behind her stands her biggest influence—her mother, Dr Jyotsna Suri—whose three principles form the family's true inheritance: "patience, perseverance, and punctuality." Her counsel to the restless generation chasing their first big break is disarmingly straightforward: "Hospitality is about people, not products. Build something that stands for more than profit—that's what endures." In an economy where disruption is celebrated and IPOs are treated like cricket finals, her reminder lands like a rare pause. Because for all the headlines about India's young billionaires rewriting capitalism, their stories reveal its timeless contradictions. Innovation may be the new inheritance, but power still whispers in the familiar accents of advantage. Money in this new India doesn't grow old—and it certainly doesn't sleep.



Priyavarta Mafatlal
Managing director of Mafatlal Industries Ltd.
Total net worth: ₹4,500 crore

"Wealth isn't a privilege. It's a responsibility. It doesn't define you—it reveals your principles. Build with conscience, not just competence. Markets will shift. Principles must not."





Aayush Jindal
CEO of Asian Footwears
Total net worth: ₹500 crore

Deeksha Suri
Executive Director of The Lalit Hotel
Company net worth: ₹870 crore



Anshul Agrawal
Director of Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH) and Zed Black
Total net worth: ₹750 crore



Ritesh Agarwal
Founder and CEO of PRISM
Total net worth: ₹16,000 crore

MONEY MATTERS

- Wealth isn't a privilege. It's a responsibility
- **Money doesn't define you—it reveals your principles**
- Wealth means the power to build things that endure
- **Capital is fuel**
- Luxury isn't about showing off
- **Money is independence**
- Real wealth is to live on your own terms
- **True wealth lies in the impact we create**

BUSINESS MANTRA

- Speed, without endurance, is fragile
- **Start small. Dream big**
- Don't wait for perfect conditions
- **Legacy isn't a museum piece—it's a living thing that must evolve to survive**
- Success is fluid
- **Build with conviction, not validation**
- Obstacles aren't roadblocks; they're opportunities to grow stronger and smarter
- **Being Indian is a superpower**
- Stop waiting for the world's permission and start writing your own rules
- **Leadership is clarity of vision**
- There is no gender in success

The Accidental Goatherd

Kashmiri artist, entrepreneur, and founder of The Pashmina Goat Project, Babar Afzal works to raise awareness of real pashmina



Babar Afzal with pashmina goats

By NOOR ANAND CHAWLA

Ever since he can remember, Babar Afzal has moved to a rhythm few recognise. As a teenager, he sold abstract art for eye-watering sums without a day of formal training. Later, he dove into ethical hacking. And just when his life seemed to settle into the predictability of a consulting career, it took a sharp turn, the one towards goats.

In the 2010s, during one of Afzal's routine trips home to Srinagar, he came across a news report that changed the course of his life: 25,000 pashmina goats in Ladakh's Changthang valley had starved to death during an extreme winter. These goats survive on the valley's sparse, peculiar foliage. Climate change had tipped a fragile balance, and devastation followed.

"That moment pushed me to look at this situation much deeply," he recalls. Afzal, then, joined a nomadic group in Kashmir and began moving mountain to mountain with a flock of 1,500 goats. For years, he lived as a goatherd—migrating with the seasons, learning about the lands, and absorbing a way of life honed over centuries.

That lived experience became the backbone of The Pashmina Goat Project, an initiative dedicated not only to preserving the authenticity of Pashmina fibre but also supporting shepherd communities, livelihoods, and the knowledge systems associated with pashmina.

Afzal's response has been characteristically hybrid: part art, part activism, part technology. One strand is what he calls 'Luxury Pashmina Art'—abstract works painted in translucent layers directly onto pashmina wool, often embroidered to add depth. The pieces take months, sometimes years, echoing the time-intensive craft traditions they honour. Proceeds fund herders, artisans and their families.

The Changpas, the nomadic herders of Changthang, are central to this story. "The community of Changpas who care for these goats have the key to a happy life," Afzal says. "They don't stay in the same place for long. If you stay in one place for too long, you will destroy the environment around."

For generations, these communities relied on their understanding of the environment—when to move, where to graze, how to survive lethal winters. Climate change has scrambled that wisdom. Add to this the flood of fake pashmina—cheap mill-made imitations passed off as the real thing—which threaten their livelihoods.

For generations, Changpas relied on their environmental intelligence—when to move, graze, how to survive lethal winters. Climate change has scrambled that wisdom

Afzal has also built a blockchain-inspired repository that tracks pashmina from goat to garment, eliminating middlemen and ensuring herders and weavers are paid fairly.

Working across the entire chain—goatherds, spinners, dyers, weavers and finishers—Afzal has helped position authentic pashmina within the global sustainable luxury conversation. Artisan incomes have also risen by 35–40 percent since the project began in 2013. "I believe that everyone is linked—the birds, seeds, animals, and the humans who reap its benefits," he says. "There is art, a love of community, but most of all compassion for nature's numerous creatures."



A scene from the play

Quantum of Injustice

By SRAVASTI DATTA

A bare stage hums with intellectual tension and questions of belonging. In *The Trial of Abdus Salam*, Bengaluru-based playwright-director Nilanjan P Choudhury distills the life of Abdus Salam, the first Muslim scientist to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979, into a taut, two-character confrontation, performed by Krishna Hebbale and Harish Seshadri.

Born in Pakistan in 1926, Salam rose to global acclaim even as his homeland erased him, because he belonged to the Ahmadiyya sect. "The Ahmadiyya community has been declared non-Muslims or heretics in Pakistan, through constitutional amendments in 1974," Choudhury notes. "Salam was deeply wounded by the way orthodox leaders mistreated him."

The influence of Frayn's *Copenhagen* is evident, but Choudhury's voice is his own—urgent, humane, and political. Salam's life, the director argues, matters because it rejects binaries

The play frames this through an imagined bureaucratic trial over Salam's burial rights, turning history into moral pressure. What elevates the work is its fearless embrace of science as action: a staged demonstration of parity violation becomes a moment of theatrical discovery. "I have gone beyond just mentioning the concept and actually shown an experiment," Choudhury says.

The influence of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* is evident, but Choudhury's voice is his own—urgent, humane, and political. Salam's life, he argues, matters now because it rejects binaries: "He combined deep rationality with strong faith, without seeing them as contradictory." Part of a science-theatre trilogy, the play also honours Salam's institutional legacy, such as International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

In just 90 minutes, the play becomes an act of reclamation—of a scientist, of reason, and of the idea that knowledge can outlast borders, prejudice, and silence.

The History in Broken Things

Dutch artist Bouke de Vries asks us to sit with damage rather than erase it



Bouke de Vries with his artwork; (right) the broken glass vase

By BINDU GOPAL RAO

The work of memory collapses time," said German philosopher Walter Benjamin. At MAP in Bengaluru, that idea is sealed in glass, holding together what was once broken. *Memory Vessels*, by the Dutch artist Bouke de Vries, is an installation featuring tall, pristine glass vases, inside which lie shattered terracotta fragments—cracked, chipped, incomplete. The fractures aren't disguised or repaired; they are the spotlight.

"As an artist and conservator, I have always been drawn to the tension between preservation and destruction," says de Vries. "In this installation, I encase broken ceramics within glass vases, highlighting the beauty in imperfection rather than hiding it. The idea is to present fractures as part of an object's history." Each vessel is different. Some fragments lean inward, others in the middle of a collapse. Together, they read like pauses in time—moments of impact frozen just after the fall. "Each vessel tells a story of memory and reinvention, allowing broken pieces to take on a new existence," he adds.

Much of the work grows directly out of de Vries' training as a ceramics conservator. "During an internship at the V&A Museum, I worked on an ancient Roman glass cinerary urn that once contained the ashes of a Roman citizen." That encounter stayed with him. "When I began creating my own work, I was drawn to the idea of making a glass funerary urn for a broken vase."

His process is almost ritualistic. When he finds a broken terracotta vase that speaks to him, he commissions a replica in glass. The original fragments are then carefully arranged and fixed inside. "The glass becomes a memory of the original vase," he explains.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of these works unexpectedly went viral on Instagram. People began projecting themselves onto it. "I discovered that 11 people across the world had even gotten tattoos of my work."

There's also a political statement in the material choices. The fragments are sourced entirely from India. "It was important to use materials sourced from India," he notes, acknowledging regional history and craftsmanship. "Such large-scale glass vessels would not have been possible to produce in places like the UK anymore."



LIVE

LEISURE CORNER



MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

Rooted in the idea of the mirror as both object and metaphor, the exhibition celebrates the works of renowned artist Shibu Natesan. Through landscapes, plein air studies, and moments drawn from lived experience, Natesan reflects on impermanence, memory, and the quiet rhythms of everyday life. There will also be a launch of a major publication on the artist. *Mirror Man, Mirror Me – Part II ; January 23 to March 1, 2026; Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi; Entry: Free*



GOAN BEATS

Set against the pulse of contemporary Indian hip-hop, this live performance brings a defining voice of the scene to the stage. Goa-based rapper, r Nathan Joseph Mendes, known as Tsumyoki, delivers a dynamic set shaped by his genre-blending sound, moving fluidly between hip-hop, pop, and trap. *Tsumyoki Live; January 22, 2026,*

Mapping Mahabharata to Lactose Intolerance

RESURRECTING FAITH

Devdutt Pattanaik
Mythologist, Author, Speaker



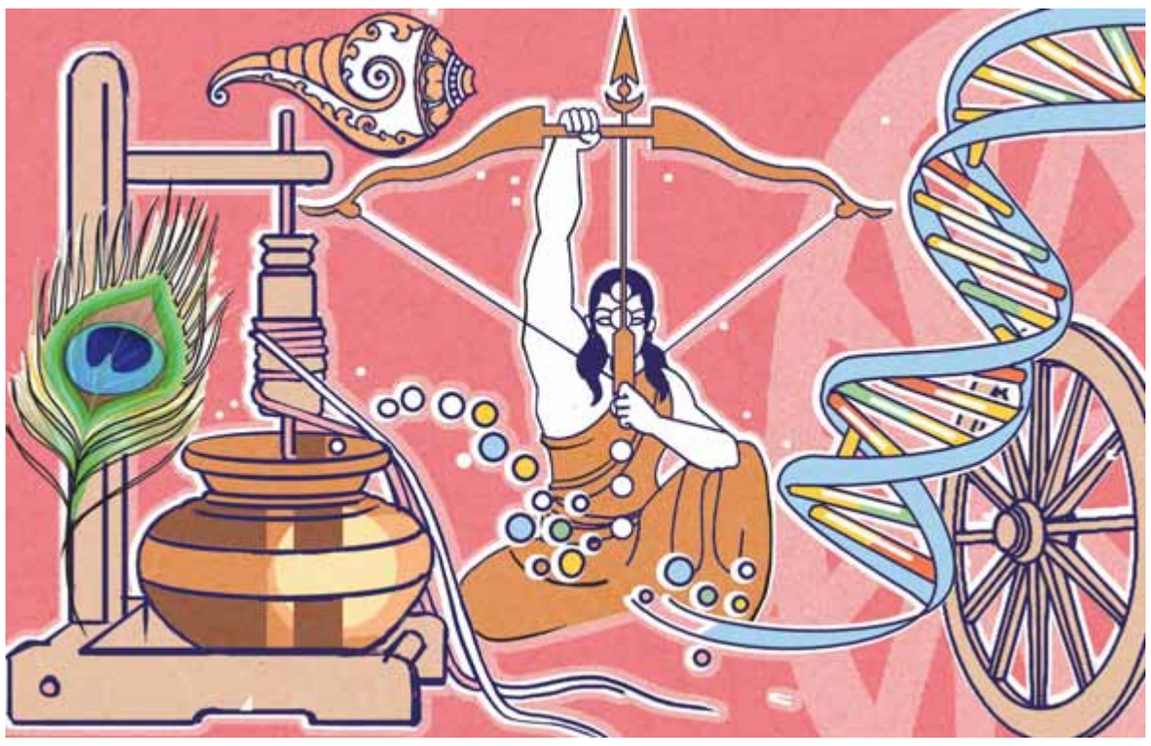
Lactose tolerance, the ability to digest milk sugar into adulthood, is a genetic mutation that arose among pastoralists in Eurasia, who tamed the horse for its milk, around 5000 BC. By 3000 BC, they spread to Europe and by 1000 BC to South Asia. These were the same people who spread their language, patriarchy, and technologies—horse-drawn spoked-wheel chariots and composite bows—across continents. The Rig Veda and the Mahabharata echo this Steppe inheritance. Rig Veda and Mahabharata tell stories of North India, where 80 per cent of adults can digest lactose. In the south, only 20 per cent can.

Yet a recent map on the internet claimed that the Mahabharata war involved the entire subcontinent, from the Himalayas to the southern seas. This is a political fantasy. The epic itself never mentions the rivers Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, or Kaveri. Its geography is much narrower: Hastinapur in western Uttar Pradesh, Kurukshetra in Haryana, Matsya near Jaipur, Trigarta in Punjab, Panchala between the Ganga and Yamuna. Horses came from Sindh, Madra, and Gandhara; elephants from Magadha. The events took place long before the Brahmin migration to South India after 300 AD, an event captured in the myth of Agastya and proven by the presence of Brahmin land-grants (*brahmadeya*).

In Jain retellings, the war is not even between Pandavas and Kauravas of Haryana but between Krishna of Dwarka (Gujarat) and Jarasandha of Magadha (Bihar) over Mathura—a trade war between western and eastern powers for control of the Ganga-Yamuna routes. Archaeology supports a great flood around 800 BC at Hastinapur, echoed in the Purana story of Nichakshu, who moved the capital after the deluge.

Krishna's bow Sharanga, made of horn, indicates a composite weapon typical of the Eurasian steppes around 1500 BC. The chariot of Arjuna with spoked wheels and horse power reflects the same technology seen in Egypt, Greece, and China, in the late Bronze Age. Late Vedic Brahmana texts say elephants were tamed in India around 1000 BC, and the Puranas place the Nanda dynasty of Magadha roughly 25 generations after the great war—suggesting that the Mahabharata events were remembered from around 1000 BCE. This is when South India was famous for Megalithic sites, where iron was smelted.

Claims that the "Mahabharata chariot" found at Baghpat, dated to 1800 BCE, as proof of the war are misplaced. The vehicle has



solid wheels—too heavy for early horses, fit only for oxen—just like the wagons depicted in Oxus (Central Asian) civilisation artefacts.

The war as originally told knew of chariots but not horse riders—for cavalry emerged in the Near East only after 700 BC and came to India with Alexander's armies around 350 BC. The story of the war expanded over a millennium, absorbing later additions. Tribes like Shakas and Kushanas, who appeared in India around 100 BC and 100 AD, are mentioned by later scribes of the Mahabharata. As Brahmins moved south seeking royal patronage, they carried the Mahabharata with them. Southern kings soon claimed connection to the northern war. Chera rulers of Kerala said they fed the Kurukshetra armies as did kings of Udupi. Pallavas of Kanchipuram claimed descent from Ashwatthama. These claims show the growing prestige of the epic and the desire of southern dynasties to be woven into the northern mythic fabric.

Those who argue that the Mahabharata was a pan-Indian nationalist war often support the discredited "Out of India" theory—the idea that Indo-European speakers spread from India to Iran and Europe. Their arguments rely on the ignorance of their audience. The Mahabharata links the region of Balkh (Central Asia) to the brother of Shantanu, ancestor of Pandavas and Kauravas, indicating the story-tellers were familiar with the trade route by which horses came into India, traded for local iron.

After 2010, scientists were able to analyse ancient DNA. These show that the so-called 'Aryan' gene (Y-chromosome haplogroup R1a-Z93) started entering India only five centuries after Harappan cities ceased to exist, so after 1500 BC. By 100 BC, it was widespread amongst Indo-Aryan-speaking North Indians where intermarriage was common. After 300 AD, it spread to the south, but still remains restricted amongst Brahmins and a few landed elites, due to strict caste endogamy rules that began around this time.

Thus, the genetic story matches the digestive and mythic one. Men from the Steppes brought their horses, chariots, milk-drinking habits, and patriarchal gods. They merged with local communities, married local women, descendents of Harappans. Their children composed the hymns of the Rig Veda and sang of the war at Kurukshetra. The warriors and their children may have been able to digest milk but their mothers would have preferred curds. In all probability, these mothers would have been the first to manufacture ghee, using butter from curds, as they still do in the south, not milk.

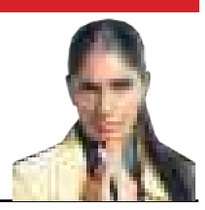
Posts on X: @devduttmyth

THINK

When the World Looks Back at India

SIMPLY ANU

Anu Aggarwal
Actor, speaker, yogi and author



Something has shifted—and it's no longer subtle.

India's travel boom is turning heads across the Asia-Pacific. Countries like Japan, South Korea, and Australia are actively reimagining how they welcome Indian travellers. Our passport has momentum. Our presence carries weight. Indians today are not "emerging"; we are arriving—in boardrooms, on global platforms, in conversations that once spoke about us rather than with us.

Popular culture reflects this shift too. Indian faces now stand comfortably beside global icons—not as tokens, not as exceptions, but as equals. It feels like a full circle moment. India no longer needs explanation. It is being experienced.

This change feels deeply personal to me.

Three decades ago, when I travelled abroad as a model and actor, I was often told, "You don't look Indian." In America, I was mistaken for Mexican or Spanish; in France, mulatto. There was admiration, yes—but also surprise. The global imagination then had a narrow frame for India: Mahatma Gandhi, poverty, underdevelopment. Anything outside that box felt unexpected.

I won't deny that I felt privileged—to be welcomed, to be admired, to be liked in the West at a time when that wasn't common for Indians. But even then, something kept me anchored. I was already meditating. Already inward-facing. Humility wasn't something I learned later—it was present from the start. So the applause never became my identity. I received it with gratitude, but I never mistook it for wholeness.

That grounding became essential later in my life. It references my recognition by the World Human Rights Protection Commission and my ongoing engagement in social and human rights work.

What helped me rebuild were practices—yoga, meditation, mindfulness—not as philosophy, but as lived experience. I write as someone who broke, healed, and stood up again

After surviving an accident that brought me face to face with mortality, clarity arrived with uncompromising honesty: we are one. And when life is returned to you after all odds, it asks something of you in return. For me, that calling became service—working toward justice, dignity, health, and peace across caste, colour, nationality, and economic divides.

This journey also gave birth to my upcoming book. What began as an exploration of mental health slowly revealed a deeper misunderstanding—how narrowly we define success. We are taught to equate it with money, fame, and ambition. Yoga speaks of this as a phase of consciousness. I lived it fully. And the truth is simple: it didn't give me happiness. In fact, it quietly took it away.

What helped me rebuild were practices—yoga, meditation, mindfulness—not as philosophy, but as lived experience. I don't write as a guru speaking from above. I write as someone who broke, healed, and stood up again using the very tools she now shares.

And no, this doesn't mean I've walked away from acting. Acting is still a language I speak. But today, I choose scripts the way I choose beliefs—with care. I'm drawn to roles rooted in dignity, equality, justice, and empowerment—stories that elevate rather than exploit the human experience.

Through our Foundation, we now work closely with schools and communities, focusing on mental wellbeing and prevention—calming young minds before distress turns into disease. This is community work. It has never been personal charity. It belongs to all of us.

As 2026 begins, the invitation is simple: participate, collaborate, and care. India has found its voice. Now let's use it—with clarity, compassion, and conscious intent.

Here's to a strong, awakened year ahead.

Instagram: @anusualanu

Trump, America Move from 'Great Satan' to 'Great Disruptor'?

PROVOCATEUR

Ravi Shankar
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Iran is trending. Trump says it's about democracy, saving protestors and freedom. With hundreds dead and thousands detained under a brutal government crackdown, the world watches a volatile moment escalate into a potential turning point. Iran's leadership says it is fully prepared for war if the US intervenes, while Washington keeps "very strong options" including military force on the table in response to the deaths of civilians. Trump has warned Tehran about crossing a "red line", maintained tariffs on trade partners dealing with Iran, and urged the protection of protestors from afar. The Islamic Republic rose from the ashes of a popular revolt against an autocratic Shah, backed implicitly and explicitly by the US. With exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi now calling for action, the spectre of regime change looms once more over Tehran. If Trump were to invade Iran, overthrow the ayatollahs, and install exiled Pahlavi—already engaging with Washington—what name would history give the Orange Man? Would this be dubbed a neo-Pahlavi reconquest under the banner of democracy?

Trump doesn't care. The real headline is oil, gas and control. Iran is one of the biggest energy vaults on Earth. It controls the Strait of Hormuz and sits between Asia, Europe and the Middle East like a switchboard. Whoever controls Iran controls prices, routes and leverage. But Trump should know this is not the 1940s. After America entered World War II alongside Britain, it inherited the British Empire's military footprint. The US took over British naval bases, strategic ports and global dominance. The empire changed hands without being officially declared. The Soviet Union did the same after conquering Eastern Europe, planting its military presence across the Baltics and even Cuba. Empires don't always announce themselves. They expand through bases, access, and control. Trump's pitch about being the "de facto president" of Venezuela shows something new: America is no longer hiding behind CIA coups and covert regime changes in Africa or Latin America. This is open militarism, direct ownership and direct control sans a mask. Next, if Trump ever tries to take Greenland by force, NATO will collapse overnight. America would be attacking territory protected by its own allies. Europe would be forced to choose between war and loyalty. The alliance would shatter to Russia's glee. Capitalism punishes instability. Economic war will follow. Markets would panic. Investors would pull money out of the US. Trade retaliation would hit American companies. The dollar's strength depends on trust; break that and borrowing will become expensive, inflation will rise, and America will bleed economically without a single bomb falling on its soil.



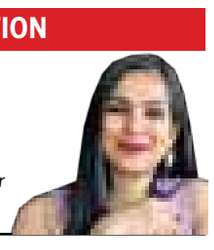
In this era of shifting tectonics, India's choice is stark. With a powerful military, a decisive political leadership, vast manpower, and rich natural resources, India is uniquely positioned to emerge as Asia's dominant military power to balance the triumvirate while navigating a wary China. The Bhagavad Gita exhorts: "*kankseta phalam svadharmaya yuddhac chreyo 'nyat…*"—Better to die in one's own duty than live fulfilling another's (Gita 3.35). India cannot stand as a passive spectator in a world where great powers redraw maps in pursuit of resources and influence. It must act decisively, uphold its strategic interests, and be prepared not for war but for deterrence, leadership, and regional stability. Buy the best weapons available globally, not wait years to perfect indigenous versions. Power respects speed. In this new order Pakistan is not a power player, it is a pressure point. It doesn't shape the game, it reacts to it. Its economy is too weak, its politics too unstable, and its military too dependent on external sponsors to act independently. Right now Pakistan survives on a mix of Chinese loans, Gulf money and IMF life support. That means its foreign policy is transactional. Pakistan becomes a buffer state in the Triad vs China with shrinking relevance. It will lean even harder into China because it has nowhere else to go. But the moment Pakistan becomes more liability than asset, Beijing will slow down, not step up. Pakistan remains dangerous but not dominant. Nuclear weapons give it deterrence, not leadership. It can prevent defeat, but it cannot shape outcomes beyond its borders. A rising India and a distracted China make Pakistan feel cornered. That's when it historically becomes more unpredictable. Not stronger, but just more desperate, which is often more dangerous. But Pakistan is simply a side character stuck between bigger, richer, calmer players.

Make no mistake. If Trump invades Iran, he won't be ending tyranny. He'll just be replacing one form of control with another. The ayatollahs ruled with God and guns while Trump will rule in absentia with oil and contracts. Iran won't be freed. It will only be transferred not from dictatorship to democracy, but from theology to capitalism. Not from oppression to dignity, but from clerics to corporations. Trump will be known as the man who turned a civilisation into a transaction and called it liberation.

The Seeds We Sow: On Parenting and Presence

BY INVITATION

Preeti Shenoy
Novelist, Illustrator, Speaker



On New Year's Eve, driving home along a narrow road with a birthday cake for my gardener, my heart felt buoyant with year-end cheer. Then what I witnessed made every ounce of festive warmth evaporate.

A woman walked along the roadside, gripping a toddler's hand, the child on the traffic side, his tiny arm stretched overhead at an unnatural angle while she stayed safely on the inner edge. As my car approached, she yanked him roughly toward her. He cried out, whether from pain or fear, I couldn't tell. Her response was another harsh pull, then a slap to his head, before she lifted his wailing body and carried him away, cursing.

I don't know if she was his mother or hired help. What I do know is that no child deserves such callousness.

I understand the exhaustion of early parenthood, the sleepless nights, the bone-deep fatigue. But I also remember the overwhelming joy, my daughter perpetually perched on my hip, so constant that friends joked she was my 'extra fitting.' I chose not to hire help because I couldn't imagine entrusting my children to anyone else. I also recognise this is a privilege many don't have.

Therein lies the modern parent's dilemma: return to work and wrestle with guilt or stay home and grapple with frustration over shelved ambitions. Many women face this impossible choice without support. No workplace creches, no family nearby, no option untouched by psychological cost.

As I handed my gardener his cake and watched his face illuminate, I couldn't stop thinking about that toddler. Could his mother have made a better choice? Or was I witnessing something darker, resentment toward a burden she never wanted?

Harry Chapin's *Cat's in the Cradle* haunts me at moments like these. The song chronicles a father perpetually too busy for his son, missing milestones, postponing connection, always promising 'we'll have a good time then.' When the son grows up, he becomes exactly like his father: too busy, too distant. The father, now retired and lonely, finally understands what he cultivated. A perfect replica of his own absence.



Children become what we show them, not what we tell them.

Why have children if you're unwilling to commit wholeheartedly to them? Having children is about presence. It is recognising that the small human depending on you didn't ask to be here, but deserves your wholehearted devotion, no matter how tired you are.

My gardener knows what many parents have forgotten: you reap what you sow. Every morning, he tends the plants with patient hands, understanding that neglect yields withering, while consistent care brings abundant bloom. You cannot curse a seedling for failing to thrive if you've given it neither water nor sun. Yanking a tender shoot can damage its roots irreparably.

His birthday cake sat waiting because for many years he had cultivated my garden with care. While I'd been generous to him, somewhere in my city, a toddler was learning that the world is harsh, that hands meant to protect can hurt, that his needs are burdensome.

We reap what we sow. In children. In hearts we touch. In the life we build, one choice at a time.

As midnight struck and a new year began, I thought of that crying toddler and prayed that someone, somewhere, was finally holding him gently.

Instagram: @preeti.shenoy

From FOMO to FOPO

There was a time when we feared being left out of the tribe. Today, we fear the tribe itself. That's Fear of People's Opinions

By KONKONA ROY



We've all heard of FOMO—that anxious itch that someone else is living a better life than you. But now, FOPO has entered the chat: Fear of People's Opinions. And unlike FOMO, this one doesn't just nudge your weekend plans—it rewires how you speak, dress, work, post, love, and sometimes… who you become.

Take Ayesha, 29, a marketing executive who recently spiralled over a routine pitch deck. Not because of the workload—she's handled far worse—but because of the anticipation. Years ago in college, a professor shredded her presentation in front of a packed class. One humiliating moment, and her brain bookmarked public judgement as danger. Ever since, the stakes have shifted. Fonts, colours, phrasing, stats—nothing escapes scrutiny. "What if they think I'm not smart enough? Or too opinionated? What if they see me as incompetent?" she asks. Her colleagues see someone polished and prepared. They don't see the mental gymnastics behind the scenes—the self-censorship, the second-guessing, the exhaustion.

"Mindfulness gives clarity. It separates fear from fact. You stop reacting from insecurity and start responding with intention."
Udit Bothra, mindfulness and meditation coach

"We often see FOPO as people-pleasing, constant agreement, or switching personas depending on the company."
Prachi Saxena, clinical psychologist

FOPO doesn't stop at boardrooms. It follows people into brunches, breakups, family dinners, and Instagram captions. Ayesha won't post a joke without running it through a friend or two. She edits her personality like a brand asset—not too loud, not too soft, not too much. Like many, she's become fluent in social moderation.

Psychiatrist Dr Harbandna Sawhney puts it bluntly: "In early human tribes, belonging meant survival. Rejection meant exile. Exile meant death." The brain hasn't updated its software just because our predators wear suits and carry feedback forms. The amygdala still scans for social threats. Cortisol spikes. Serotonin dips. Dopamine chases praise like tiny applause.

If Ayesha's FOPO shows up at work, Rishabh's shows up online. The 21-year-old design student isn't even a content creator, but one reel can take six drafts, three edits, and group polls for approval. "Does this look too try-hard?" is his recurring philosophy question. He submits only what he thinks professors or peers will approve. "I don't even know what my real aesthetic is anymore," he admits.

Prachi Saxena, Clinical Psychologist and co-founder of 'The Emotional Wellness Initiatives', FOPO isn't always loud and obvious. "You'll often see it as people-pleasing, constant agreement, or switching personas depending on company," she explains. People start mirroring others—copying fashion, habits, even opinions—without pausing to ask: Is this really me? Saxena calls it "social shape-shifting."

Gen Z and millennials have it even harder. Older generations feared family judgment, neighbours, and aunties. Younger ones fear being cringe, cancelled, irrelevant, or—the worst sin of all—uninteresting. FOPO isn't purely psychological either. Chronic stress affects sleep, digestion, skin, mood, and eventually funnels into anxiety, depression, and burnout. Perfectionism, impostor syndrome, trauma—FOPO loves to braid itself into all of them.

But here's the twist: FOPO isn't all bad. A little FOPO keeps society functioning. It makes us considerate, empathetic, bearable. The problem starts when FOPO stops regulating behaviour and starts deciding identity. When it overrides values. When saying "no" feels unsafe. When life becomes a performance for an imaginary panel of critics.

Mindfulness coach Udit Bothra offers a counter: "Mindfulness creates separation. You stop reacting from insecurity and start responding with intention." But he warns against turning spirituality into a new approval contest. "If you replace societal validation with spiritual validation, you're still outsourcing your worth."

Therapies like CBT and ACT help people unhook from mental narratives and re-anchor to their own values—not the audience's.

Because the truth no one tells you is this: Most people are too busy worrying about how they're perceived to care that deeply about how you are. And even when they do care—should that decide who you are?

So the next time you catch yourself asking, "Do they like me?" try Ayesha's new replacement question: "Do I like me?" That's the shift. That's the exit ramp. That's when FOPO loses its grip.

FEEL

OPINION Luke Coutinho



Repeating Till it Becomes Rhythm

Most people don't start feeling unwell because of one festive meal, one wedding weekend, or one late night. We love blaming the 'big event' because it's convenient. But often it's the slow build: the same rushed breakfast (or no breakfast), the same late dinners, the same hours of sitting, the same scrolling before bed, and the same stress carried like background music.

Every January, we watch the same story repeat. Someone decides, "From Jan 1, I'm going to wake up at 5, eat clean, work out daily, quit sugar, quit carbs, quit joy." It lasts a week. Maybe ten days. Then real life shows up, and the plan collapses because it was never designed to be lived, only to be attempted.

Why Consistency Beats Intensity

Our body thrives when it has an aligned circadian rhythm. Your cells adapt to what you repeat, not what you attempt once in a burst of motivation. Hormones settle when your sleep and wake-up timings are steady, the gut calms when meals are mostly real and predictable, and the nervous system downshifts when stress is processed day to day, not 'handled' once it becomes a meltdown.

Start smaller: one fixed bedtime, one home-cooked meal most days, one non-negotiable walk, five minutes of breathing. Let the body trust you again.



The Daily Rhythm That Your Cells Understand

Our body runs on a rhythm. When your rhythm is right, your system feels safe enough to repair. When it's chaotic for weeks, your body adapts, but it adapts into survival. People who feel better long-term aren't the ones who do 'everything' for 10 days. They're the ones who repeat a few basics most days, even imperfectly.

Here are the anchors we come back to:

1) Start your day like you're not being chased

Light, hydration, a calm first hour, and a tiny movement ritual. Your nervous system sets the tone before your inbox does.

2) Eat in a way your gut can predict

Meal timing, real food most days, and simple pauses between meals. Your gut responds to what you consistently feed it, not what you post occasionally.

3) Move to circulate life, not to punish the body

A walk after meals, strength a few times a week, mobility daily. Consistency beats intensity here too.

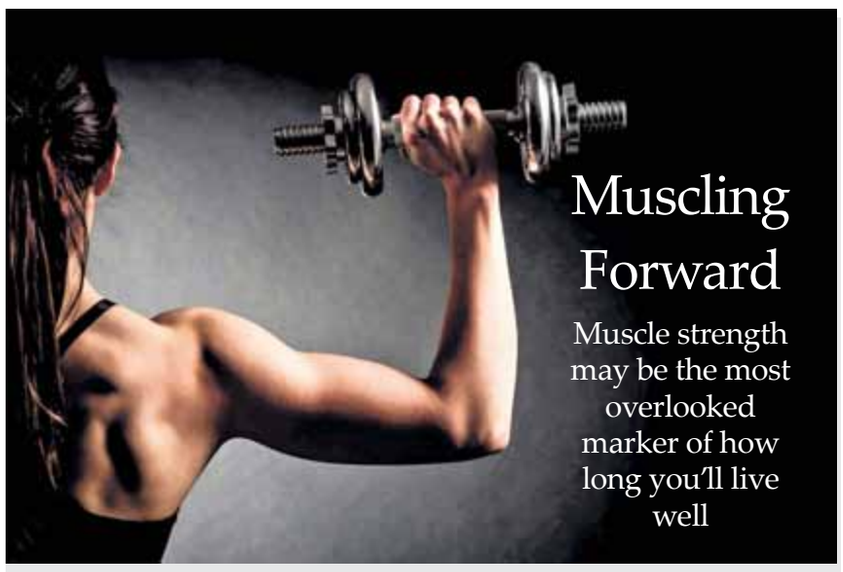
4) Protect your evenings like it's a medicine

An earlier dinner, a screen wind-down, and a repeatable sleep window. This is where repair actually happens.

Most people don't need more information. They need a calmer, more repeatable way to live. Our body responds beautifully when you stop swinging between extremes and start giving it steady signals and the right foundations. So be intentional, not intense. Instead of a fear-based approach, try positive reinforcement:

Notice what worked this week, and repeat it. Health isn't built through punishment. It's built through practice.

Coutinho is an integrative lifestyle expert



Muscling Forward

Muscle strength may be the most overlooked marker of how long you'll live well

By MEDHA DUTTA YADAV

For years, Indian wellness culture chased thinness, flexibility, and endurance—often in that order. But a quieter, sturdier truth has emerged from clinics and research labs alike: muscle strength may be one of the strongest predictors of how long we live well. Not just alive, not just disease-free, but capable—able to climb stairs without fear, travel without exhaustion, recover from illness without months of decline, and age without surrendering autonomy.

Muscle, it turns out, is not cosmetic tissue. It is a metabolic organ. It regulates blood sugar, mops up excess glucose, protects bones from fractures, cushions joints, and releases myokines—anti-inflammatory compounds that support the heart, brain, and immune system. "Indian adults tend to lose muscle earlier and faster because of sedentary lifestyles and poor protein intake," says Dr Pranjal Misra, a Mumbai physician. "Low muscle mass worsens insulin resistance and accelerates metabolic disease. Strength training is no longer optional—it is preventive medicine."

A real-world example brings this home. At 55, Delhi-based communications consultant Neha Kapoor was ticking all the 'normal' boxes—not overweight, no dramatic illness, regular morning walks. Yet she battled chronic fatigue, frequent back pain, and rising blood sugar levels that baffled her. On medical advice, she began structured strength training twice a week: compound lifts, resistance bands, progressive loading—nothing fancy, just consistent. Two years later, her muscle mass had increased, her HbA1c stabilised without medication, and the back pain that once dictated her day quietly vanished. "I didn't realise how weak I had become until strength made daily life feel effortless again," she says.

According to Dr Avantika Sharma, a Gurugram dietician, this shift is critical, especially for women. "After 40, hormonal changes accelerate muscle and bone loss. If women don't actively build strength, they lose metabolic protection. Strength training preserves mobility, balance, and confidence—it is anti-ageing at a cellular level."

What makes muscle such a powerful longevity tool is not brute force but reserve. Studies consistently show that people with higher grip strength and lower-body strength have significantly lower all-cause mortality—regardless of body weight. As India prepares for a rapidly ageing population, the future of healthy ageing may look surprisingly low-tech: dumbbells, resistance bands, bodyweight squats, and the radical idea that lifting heavy things might be the most intelligent investment we can make.

FIT BIT



A PROMPT DOCTOR

A newly released ChatGPT feature, ChatGPT Health, allows users to connect their medical records and data from wellness apps and wearable devices with the AI chatbot. ChatGPT says the new tool is designed to help users understand test results, get advice on diets, workouts, and doctors' appointments. OpenAI says, it will "help people take a more active role in understanding and managing their health and wellness."



AN AFFORDABLE DOSE

Higher medicine prices might not necessarily mean better quality drugs. A new study by MESH, says generics are equally effective as their branded variants, despite being 5-14 times cheaper. The study compared 131 medicines across 22 therapeutic categories, including treatments for chronic illnesses. And drugs supplied through Jan Aushadhi stores and the Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd passed rigorous quality tests. The study may help build the trust in generics.

PRODUCT REVIEW

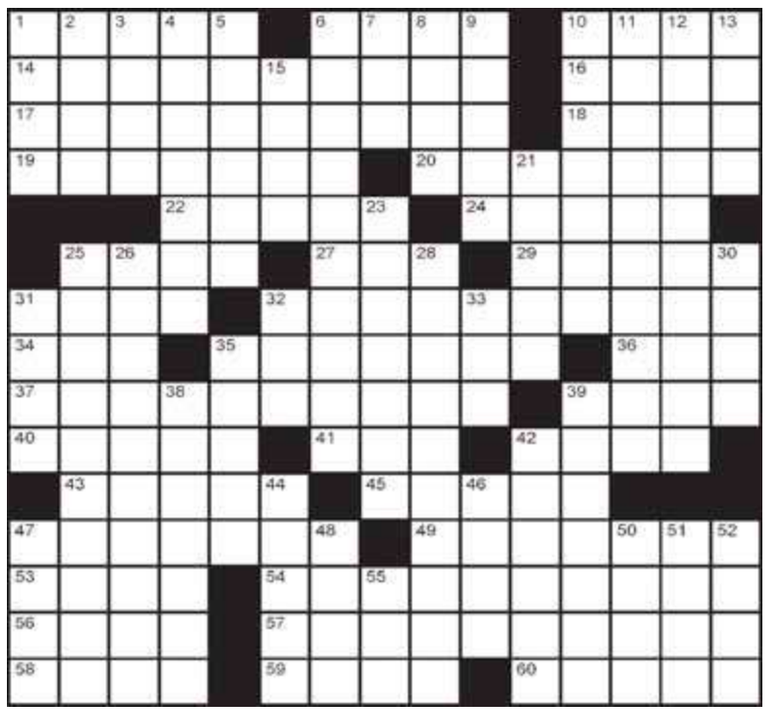
Comfort Colour

I didn't expect winter lipstick to feel this… friendly. Mistral of Milan's new Hydrating Lipstick arrives with the theme "Hydrate in Colour," and honestly, it delivers colour in full technicolour. One swipe and the pigment shows up without needing motivational speeches—vivid, creamy, and surprisingly lightweight for something that promises skincare-grade nourishment. The formula reads like a cold-weather survival kit: Shea Butter, Vitamin E, and a whole bouquet of plant oils. On application, it feels plush and cushy, like my lips just received a mini spa appointment. Plus, I love that it's vegan, paraben-free, and cruelty-free—always a quiet win in my book. The six shades are expressive and joyfully wearable, especially for winter when makeup often gets shy and muted. There's something undeniably confidence-boosting about colour that doesn't apologise. Now for the plot twist: while it does hydrate on contact and keeps lips comfortable initially, the moisture doesn't hang around as long as I'd like. After a couple of hours (or sooner if I've had coffee), I do feel the need to reapply—especially in colder, drier environments where lips tend to turn temperamental. Wish the hydration stamina matched the pigment stamina. The verdict: a winter-ready lip option for anyone who wants bold colour with skincare vibes—just keep it in your bag, because the moisturising effects are more short-story than epic novel. ***—Medha Dutta Yadav***



Mistral of Milan Hydrating Lipstick
Price: ₹625
Availability: Online & Retail

CROSSWORD | FAST WALKER — 483



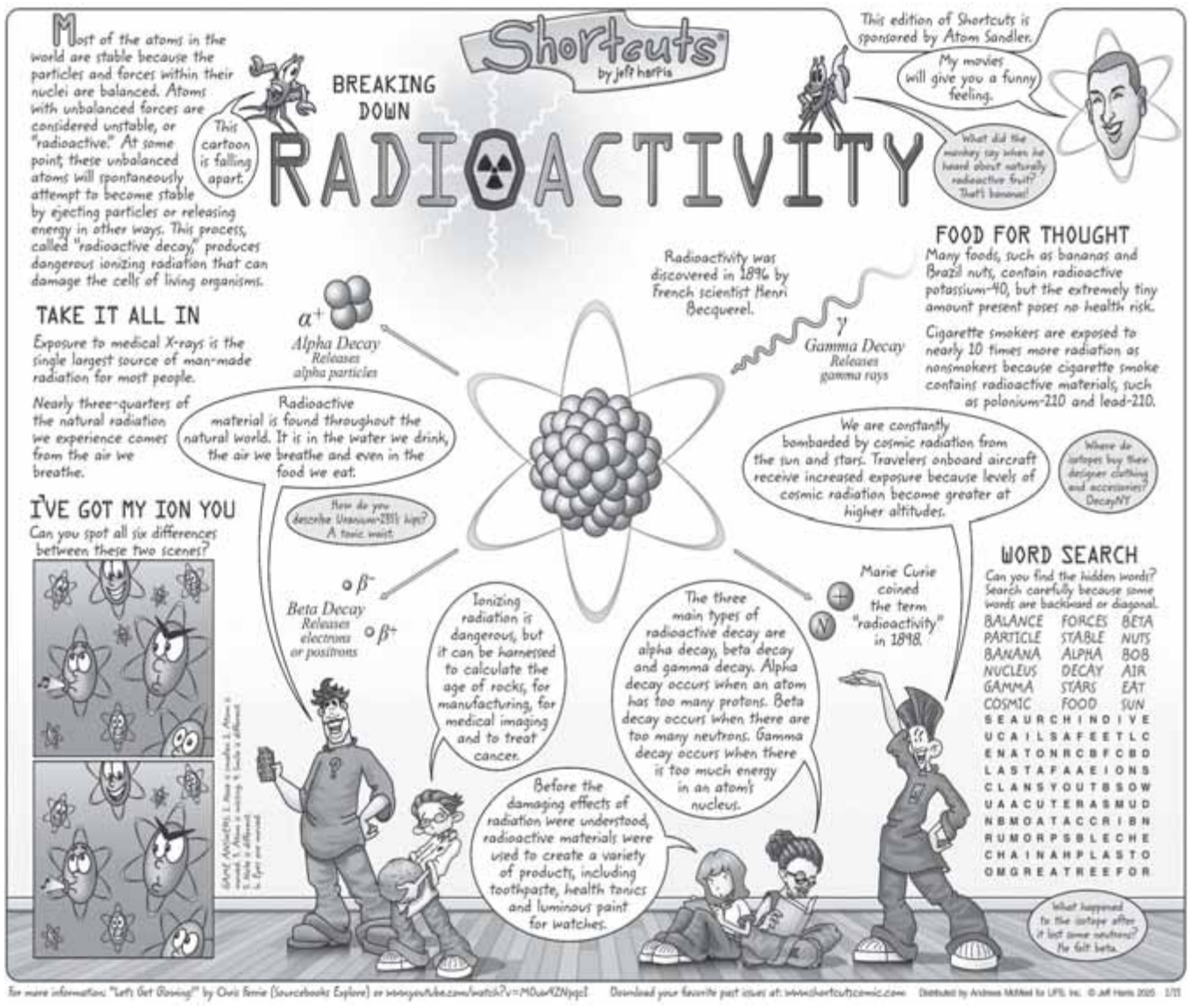
Across

1 Reprimand
6 Word before "drop" or "drum"
10 Transmitted
14 Opportunity to see "Sleepless in Seattle" before sleeping, say
16 Ad award
17 Message addressed to an individual but intended for all to read
18 Nevada tourist city
19 Hereditary
20 "I'll gladly do that!"
22 Hands, in Spanish
24 Comes face-to-face with
25 Degrees for some execs
27 Siri's platform
29 Substitute for legal tender
31 James of "The Godfather"
32 Question after nobody answers the door
34 Creative pursuit
35 High-speed camera system used in awards shows
36 __ favor (please, in Spanish)
37 Indicator of acidity or political support
39 "This __ take long"
40 Coke and Pepsi
41 Yoga surface
42 Neck area
43 Nuisances
45 Flat vacancy sign
47 Mr. Met and Benny the Bull, for two
49 Gradually increase, with "up"
53 Marine apex predator
54 Person with a sound mind?
56 Asterisk
57 What Costco offers for no cost
58 Banks of fashion
59 Fish propellers
60 Affirmative responses

Down

1 Urban haze
2 Get by
3 Pizzeria appliance
4 Football center, guard or tackle
5 Triangular river formations
6 Crypto kiosk
7 Reality show with a Golden Buzzer, briefly
8 "__ living her best life"
9 Pull some strings?
10 Sound from suddenly braking
11 Music genre for Robyn or Charli XCX
12 Singer dubbed the "High Priestess of Soul"
13 Phineas or Ferb, e.g.
15 German refusal
21 Put back to zero, e.g.
23 Vegan protein source
25 Nintendo series with board game elements
26 Reminder of a past fight
28 Tales that appeal to emotion
30 Sassy
31 Integral math course?
32 Ice Bucket Challenge cause
33 "... kidding!"
35 Enthusiasm
38 Eyelash makeup
39 "I'll show you how it's done"
42 Earnings after tax
44 Musical lines?
46 Vietnam neighbor
47 The "M" in MVP
48 __ Cruise (Katie Holmes' daughter)
50 Body parts that "don't lie" in a Shakira song
51 French fashion magazine
52 Casual tops
55 Lion's lair

Solution to last week's puzzle in the bottom right corner of the page



SUDOKU | EVIL AND HARD

5			8	7	9			
		2			3	9		
	9						4	
		5						8
	8			4			9	
1						6		
	2						7	
		1	6			8		
			7	5	2			1

7							9	5
	4		1					
		5					8	7
		1	8	3				
2	5			7			6	8
				6	5	2		
9	3					8		
					6		4	
1	7							9

Test your number crunching with our unique 2-in-1 puzzle

Fill in the grid with digwits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. Each w has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing

QUESTION TIME
by Lalitha Balakrishnan

1. What ornate chamber, originally installed in the Catherine Palace near St Petersburg, became known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World" due to its elaborate coloured mosaics?
(a) Amber room
(b) Blue room
(c) Pink room
2. An expenditure which is written off or charged in more than one accounting period with benefits estimated to accrue in more than one financial year is
(a) Capital expenditure
(b) Revenue expenditure
(c) Deferred revenue expenditure
3. Phycology is the scientific study of?
(a) Algae
(b) Fungi
(c) Fossils
4.Who wrote *Time Machine*?
(a) H G Wells
(b) Stephen Hawking
(c) Oscar Wilde
5. Nicosia is the capital of which country?
(a) Albania
(b) Philippines
(c) Cyprus
6. *281 and Beyond* is which cricketer's autobiography?
(a) Rahul Dravid
(b) VVS Laxman
(c) MS Dhoni
7. Which sport is P V Sindhu associated with?
(a) Badminton
(b) Wrestling
(c) Billiards
8. Whose birth anniversary is celebrated as National Youth Day?
(a) Swami Dayanand Saraswathi
(b) Swami Chinmayananda
(c) Swami Vivekananda
9. The 38th Parallel separates
(a) Afghanistan and Pakistan
(b) North Korea and South Korea
(c) India and Bangladesh
10. Which of these deals with the study of birds?
(a) Ornithology
(b) Entomology
(c) Herpetology

Answers to last week's questions
1.a, 2c, 3.a, 4.a, 5.a, 6.b, 7.c, 8.a, 9.c, 10a

Winner
Kannikaparameswari R - Puducherry
Nitu Roy - Odisha
N Naveenananda - Andhra Pradesh
Anita Rana - Delhi
Arup Kumar Pal - West Bengal

Answers to this week's questions will appear next week. Only entries with all correct answers sent before Wednesday noon will be considered for prizes.

Email your answers along with your name, phone number and complete address to sundayquiz@newindianexpress.com. For example, if the answer for Question No. 1 is A, it should be written as 1. A. Please mention QT and the issue date in MM/DD/YY format (for example, QT, April 25, 2021) in the subject line of the email. Only entries with these details will be considered for prizes.

FIVE ALL-CORRECT ENTRIES WILL WIN THE BOOK, *THE GOENKA LETTERS: AGONY AND ECSTACY IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS*

IS YOUR FRIEND TOO CLINGY? (Adult female)

1: How often do you see or speak to your friend?
a) You catch up at least once a week over coffee
b) Every day because you work together
c) She phones or texts daily
2: It's your birthday and you are having a party, you invite your friend's plus one. Who would she be likely to bring with her?
a) A friend of hers
b) Her partner
c) No one, she would come alone
3: You are at home enjoying a quiet evening when your friend phones you in tears. She has had an argument with her boyfriend. What would she expect you to do?
a) Comfort her over the telephone and see her the next day
b) Go straight round with a box of hankies and a shoulder to cry on
c) Invite her over
4: You decide to go to evening art classes to learn painting and mention it to your friend, what would she say?
a) That it's a great idea, she hopes you enjoy
b) That it sounds fun and she will take an evening class in a different subject
c) That she'll join the same class as you
5: Your friend has been invited to her cousin's wedding and asks you to come shopping with her to choose an outfit. Would she respect your opinion?
a) She wouldn't buy anything unless you liked it
b) She would discuss her choices with you, and welcome your advice
c) No, she would completely ignore it
6: It's vacation time and you plan to spend a fortnight chilling out with your sister in an exotic location. What would your friend be likely to say when you tell her you are going away?
a) Have a good time
b) Send me a postcard
c) Can I come, too?
7: Has your friend ever bought the same item of clothing that you purchased?
a) No, you have totally different styles
b) Yes, but only by coincidence
c) Yes, she sometimes dresses like your identical twin
8: While out shopping, you meet up with your friend. What would happen?
a) She would stop to chat and then go her way
b) She would follow you round the shops
c) On her suggestion, the pair of you would go for a coffee
9: Does your friend ever criticize your other friends?
a) No, because they are her friends, too
b) She has never met them to be able to do so
c) Yes, she finds faults with all of them
10: If you and your friend were going to the movies and you invited another friend along, would she be annoyed?
a) Yes, she wouldn't want to share your company with anyone else
b) It wouldn't bother her at all
c) No, she would probably invite her friend, too

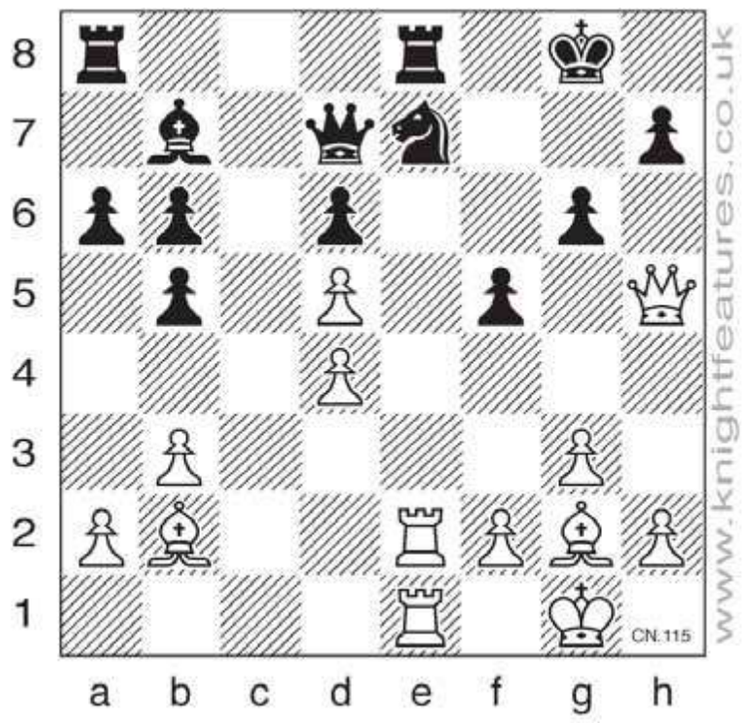
HOW TO SCORE:

	a	b	c
1.	0	1	3
2.	1	2	3
3.	1	3	2
4.	1	2	3
5.	3	2	1
6.	0	1	3
7.	1	2	3
8.	1	3	2
9.	3	2	1
10.	3	2	1

What your score means:
Between 0-10: The good news is that your friend is not in the least clingy. However, the bad news is it would appear that she doesn't put a lot of importance on your friendship. It could be that now is the time to terminate your relationship, as neither of you are totally committed to it. You have many more friends, and obviously don't need her in your life. **Between 11-20:** It is quite obvious that your friend values your friendship. Consequently, she would never put it in jeopardy by being too suffocating or demanding. Together you have created the right balance in your relationship, with neither of you being too clingy. She knows she can rely on you without her being too dependent, and you know she's there for you on the same basis. **Between 21-30:** Your friend is far too clingy. From her behaviour it would appear that you are her only friend. She needs to get to know more people to make friends. You should encourage her to widen her social circle. Take a step back from your friendship, and don't see her so often. Remember this is for her benefit and you are being cruel to be kind.

Asia Features

CHESS | Leonard Barden



BARDEN CHESS

Yasser Seirawan v Boris Gulko, US championship, Salt Lake City 1999. So often in chess an apparently trivial decision makes the difference between success and failure. If Seirawan (White, to play) had won today's position, he would have knocked out Gulko, who went on to win the US title. White has doubled rooks on an open line and an aggressive queen, but Black's last turn g7-g6 menaced the queen and prepared to capture White's central d5 pawn.
Seirawan can move his queen to (a) g5 or (b) h4 to set up a triple attack on the Gulko e7 knight and thus force events. There seems little between the two choices, but only one of them wins. Grandmaster Seirawan failed to solve the puzzle; can you do better? For full solution credit, you need to spot a hidden weakness in the non-winning choice.

Solution CN 115: (b) wins after 1 Qh4 Nxd5 2 Bxd5+ Bxd5 3 Re7 threatening both Rxd7 and Qxh7+. (a) 1 Qg5? fails because after Nxd5 2 Bxd5+ Bxd5 3 Re7 Black can play Re8! and if 4 Rxd7 (here the winning Qxh7+ is not possible) Re1 mate.

Chess Problems Distributed by Knight Features
www.knightfeatures.com,
info@knightfeatures.co.uk

SUDOKU I TODAY'S SOLUTION

Evil Sudoku

5	1	4	8	7	9	3	6	2
6	7	2	4	1	3	9	8	5
3	9	8	5	2	6	1	4	7
9	4	5	3	6	7	2	1	8
2	8	6	1	4	5	7	9	3
1	3	7	2	9	8	6	5	4
4	2	3	9	8	1	5	7	6
7	5	1	6	3	4	8	2	9
8	6	9	7	5	2	4	3	1

Hard Sudoku

7	1	2	6	8	3	4	9	5
8	4	9	1	5	7	3	2	6
3	6	5	2	4	9	1	8	7
6	9	1	8	3	2	5	7	4
2	5	3	4	7	1	9	6	8
4	8	7	9	6	5	2	1	3
9	3	6	7	1	4	8	5	2
5	2	8	3	9	6	7	4	1
1	7	4	5	2	8	6	3	9

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



PEANUTS by Charles M Schulz





DRAWING CONCLUSIONS by Arun Ramkumar



FUTUREPAST by Kishore Mohan



ALMANAC
TODAY 18.01.2026

Year: Vishwavasu
Thai: Thei Pirai
Paush: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Amavasya till 25.22 hrs.
Nakshatra (Star): P Shadha till 10.15 hrs.
Moon in Dhanu till 16.42 hrs.
Today is Darsh Amavasya, Thai Amavasya
Rahukaalam: 04.30 pm to 06.00 pm
Yamagantam: 12 noon to 01.30 pm
Gulikakalam: 03.00 pm to 04.30 pm



BIRTH STONES CAPRICORN

(December 22 - January 20)

The Capricorn birthstone is Garnet. Capricorns are characterised as some of the most determined and dedicated personalities of all the signs of the zodiac. Garnets are said to attract the energy of planet Saturn, the ruling planet of Capricorns, helping those who wear it prosper and lead a more aligned lifestyle- mentally, spiritually, and physically. Capricorns naturally seek out the approval of others to help them feel worthy, which explains why many of them are workaholics. They also tend to be pessimistic and suspicious in nature- doubting the praise or approval they do obtain. Wearing a garnet can balance out unwarranted feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt and help a Capricorn forge ahead in their life's path in a more relaxed and confident manner. Garnets, especially red garnets, are said to protect against certain types of depression and negative thoughts. These stones aid a person's stellar characteristics.

HOW THE CARDS FALL Meenakshi Rani
meenakshirani33@gmail.com



WHAT TO EXPECT, HOW TO COPE

LOVE RELATIONSHIPS WORK HEALTH **MONEY**

ARIES



A trip yields results better than any communication or online negotiation does. You get parties to agree on 'better terms' of sale. Bills of credit are honoured and the 'cash register sings'. Sales make unsold inventory 'fly off the shelves'. A tax break arrives after the intervention of a trusted aide. A collaboration produces results that translates into recovery of money owed for years. A penalty fee appears due to negligence. Overseas players evince interest in co-branding and manufacture. Education, philanthropy, research organisations, and credit firms do well.

TAURUS



A 'trickle down' theory is the best compromise in a deal that's stuck in red tape. You await a breakthrough but content yourself with part payments and extensions. A new venture is deferred by external factors including government rules and 'force majeure'. Alternative projects materialise even as 'sharks begin to circle'. A repayment plan that stalled is back in place but you put expansion on a 'need basis only'. A stalled salary, pension, or perk arrives. Microfinance, fisheries, and processed food pick pace.

GEMINI



A business move is 'fast tracked' and you are startled by the speed and alacrity with which projects move. Commercial ventures 'take off'; monies are realised; sales-purchases are rewarding and a 'wealth of contentment' and satisfaction arrives too. Remittances, arrears, and dues are cleared. 'Ease of doing business' is established. A negotiation 'standoff' turns in your favour with an adversary or competitor backing down. Money and gifts are a welcome break. Apparel, export, currency trade, property, silver and gasses bring a surplus.

CANCER



You are ready to 'alter course'. Occupations, investments, and professions 'plateau' in terms of returns. You seek 'diversity' and more cash and hitherto 'unexplored' sectors of investment. Ponzi schemes teach you to 'steer clear of temptation' even if you 'wade into the shallow end'. A family tree is altered with new 'additions' that affect disbursements, resources, and rights in a business. 'Legacy ventures' struggle against a cheaper product. A 'rarified space' helps expand luxury goods for 'serious money'. Tin, aeronautics, plastics, and cables beckon.

LEO



A stock portfolio rejig has you drop a couple of 'hot potatoes'. You have the wherewithal to 'cut your losses' and still keep everyone happy. A foray into industry, business, or entrepreneurship has you explore 'unusual channels' of funding to expand the kitty. Institutional support proves 'whimsical in practice' despite 'paper proclamations'. A middleman is 'sliced out of money talks' for being duplicitous. An overlap of work dents the budget. A youngster delights in more pocket money! Jewellery, electricity, pipelines, railway components, coal, and surgical goods surge.

VIRGO



A calculated move has you tactfully 'retract' from a deal. New frontiers are conquered with money arriving even from grudging players. Purchase of a home, luxuries, and 'creature comfort' assets are 'clocked'. 'Liquidity' is channeled into business expansion. A source of income, trade, cash, or line of credit opens. A door is broken down leaving business rivals in disarray. Blue chip investments pay off. Peripheral expenses and minor stock liquidation are covered by 'margins' and inflow. A 'king' transfers his crown for a fee. Cottage industry, minerals, entertainment, and mergers beckon.

LIBRA



Tenancy income is altered leaving you to explore options. You pay 'processing' or 'handler's fees' but find someone 'dodging the assignment'. A backlog of interest surfaces as you look at bank loans and business logjams. Children grab impressive and well paid spots. A routine investment has a trap, forcing you to pull away. A 'bug' is detected in time and an online payment stays safe. A deal that conjured big bucks reaches its finale on an agreeable note. Windfalls, furnaces, petroleum products, automobiles, and paper products scintillate.

SCORPIO



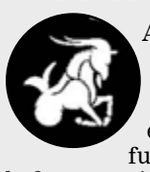
A wealth of untapped opportunities; you decide to go after 'the next big thing'. Some fish are 'hard to net' as pitches and presentations for investment are put on hold. Overseas grants are curtailed by peculiar considerations. A local backer or banker proves reliable in helping 'accelerate' a venture. A youngster' rings up a tab' that is eye watering. A female struggles to 'moonlight' but ends up opting for business. A friend tries to rope you into a scheme, 'pyramid', chain or good old fashioned 'shakedown'. Beverages, packaged water, tea, rubber, and shoes have good innings.

SAGITTARIUS



A singular approach has you wrap up a deal and 'pocket' the profit. Loose ends are tied even as policies 'race you to the finish line'. Settlements arrive. New ventures, start ups, and burgeoning businesses 'rake in the moolah'. Ideation and research firms get valuable grants. Professionals see huge jumps in salary and perks with 'well tempered' players. Licence fees are paid enabling new starts. Relief through tax cuts is staggered but puts a smile on your face. Fashion, accessories, horticulture, bakeries and fruit prosper.

CAPRICORN



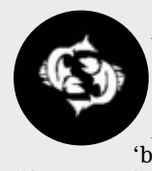
A sluggish phase has you address investment glitches and accept 'seasonal shifts' in preferences. 'Sick units' guzzle funds and you stem leaks before pouring more to cover operational costs. Medical expenses 'dent the wallet' and insurance bridges the gap. A deal exposes chinks and cracks and you discover an 'escape clause' before a charlatan is off with your cash. A deficit, unpaid debt or cash shortage receives your full attention. A youngster needs help with a hovering claim. Media, nightclubs, spas, sports goods, and utility goods show promise.

AQUARIUS



A fiscal decision stares you in the face. Dodging potential hiccups; you carve a route that takes you out of entanglement with the 'wrong' people. An exit plan has you dodge an inquest; drop questionable cargo, money laundering or entrapment. You emerge unscathed owing to skilled timing of decisions. Deflection, diversion and movement 'in a new direction' bring survival and protection of assets. A traitor gets caught in a trap of their own making to your relief. Steel, defence, arms, canned goods, beverages, and tools have a jumpstart.

PISCES



A new alliance brings glory. You 'soar' in professional spaces with steady money and stock options. An investment of the past 'bears fruit' after idling in 'dusty stock portfolios'. Youngsters get respected internships. A project arrives with plenty of margins. The spotlight shines on 'proper channels' of investment with the need to keep things 'clean and transparent'. A deal that 'blurs lines of legality' is exposed and you exit a shady operation. Realty, commercial vehicles, healthcare, organic food, and specialized farming thrive.

ASTROGAZE

Holiday Mathis
holidaymathis@gmail.com



An Invitation to YOU

Who moves through life without questioning themselves? The rigid, the foolish, and the incurious. Self-doubt is the mark of an evolving mind. Those who never question, never grow.



ARIES

March 21-April 19: You feel right with the world when all your relationships are in good standing. You're willing to let certain things go or let another person win, especially when the stakes are low, because you'd rather not be bothered with petty scores. They pull focus from the projects and goals you will be progressing this week.



TAURUS

Apr 21-May 21: The way you greet people has evolved through the years. It's about to change again, this time intentionally because you aim to bring more warmth to even casual interactions. It's like you sense people need it. You don't just accept the tone of the world - you set it, making sure your influence is felt.



GEMINI

May 22-June 21: The week demands high energy, and you'll need help. Maybe it's an excellent playlist or cheerful company. Maybe it's coffee or competition. Do plan a chill day for future. It's harder to plan it than to drive yourself with an ambitious to-do list. Relaxation time is sacred and needs to be protected.



CANCER

June 22-July 23: "How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?" asks a Bob Dylan song. But unlike this song, the answer is not blowing in the wind because there are definite markers of worthiness for certain roles. You will meet the requirements. Also, make sure that you require this of others.



LEO

July 24-Aug 23: When things don't go to plan, the immature seek a scapegoat. You prefer to be more scientific. It's not about who is to blame. Rather, it's about how things work, and that can usually be figured out with experimentation, observation, intelligence and perseverance - all qualities you have plenty of this week.



VIRGO

Aug 24-Sept 23: The mighty oak grew on its own, without a parent standing over it giving it an allowance, or a chore chart, or even a cheering section. So if you've been undersupported or a bit untended, just know that it may have nothing to do with how things turn out for you. You're strong, and you're destined to endure as you reach for the sun.



LIBRA

Sept 24-Oct 23: If someone keeps coming back to you but you can't return the impulse, it's usually a sign that they were getting a lot more of what they needed out of the relationship than you were. It's something to think about. You might even consider getting outside opinions because a clear perspective is needed for the happiest outcome here.



SCORPIO

Oct 24-Nov 22: It's perplexing. You go into a situation or conversation just hoping to connect, and emotions erupt. It's not you. It's a combination of factors. And though you're not the sole cause, you can be the sole fixer by simply walking away. Your wisdom and fine character will shine this week as you give people respect and space.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 22: It's not that you don't have a support system, it's just that it's a little bit decentralized. Sometimes it feels like there's no one to lean on 100%, and maybe that is for the best. There are things you will need this week, and it's a real variety pack of needs at that. Ask for 10% from 10 different people, and all will be fulfilled.



CAPRICORN

Dec-23 Jan 20: A servant's heart is a trait that may or may not exist in a service provider. Some people are too needy or oblivious to correctly fulfill the role, and will, in some way or another, take from the ones they are supposed to be helping. Stay aware of the many currencies in play. You will be the voice of reason and justice this week.



AQUARIUS

Jan 21-Feb19: This week, the magic question is not "How?" or "Who?" but "When?" If you act at the right time, everything else falls into place. When is the right time? Be ready, stay alert, and act upon your first inkling that opportunity is at hand. Your instincts are spot-on, and it will almost feel as though you were being nudged to move.



PISCES

Feb 20-Mar 20: Even a very cold day has an optimal hour in which the temperature is more bearable and conducive to a walk in the fresh air. The metaphor applies to a challenge you face this week. Even a difficult stretch will have its moments of warm th and sunshine. You will emerge victorious in part because of your ability to make the most of the lighter moments.

YOUR FORTUNE THIS WEEK Amarakosha



What the planets say about your prospects for wealth, romance and professional success this week

ARIES (Mar 21–Apr 19)
Work: You may adapt well to new systems and tools. The boss may trust you with private work or ask you to train others.
Money: Good news will come through an older friend. You will see cash rise with your hustle.
Couples: You both may enjoy small moments and focus on building the future you have dreamt of.
Singles: Dating apps may waste your time; be careful of hookup hunters and romance scammers.

TAURUS (Apr 20–May 20)
Work: You may finally get solutions for obstacles that have been testing you, but they may come with chances to learn new skills. Expect sudden travel.
Money: An unexpected windfall may come in, but urgent expenses could also arise.
Couples: You may face sudden formal issues but handling them together may strengthen trust.
Singles: You may be attracted to someone outside your type, bringing excitement and uncertainty.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20)
Work: You may make steady progress on both visible and behind-the-scenes tasks. A competitor may unexpectedly offer a business opportunity.
Money: Disputes may start seeing solutions. If you are in property-related work, you close the deals.
Couples: Schedules may cause strain but relationship stays strong with talks on shared investments.
Singles: You may not seek love but it may find you as someone from a mixed setting shows interest.

CANCER (June 21–July 22)
Work: You may revisit an old project and see its new promise while others may see dead ends. You also have sharp eyes turning office chaos upside.
Money: Someone close may ask to borrow money, and setting boundaries won't be easy.
Couples: Relationship feels steady and warm. Honest talk about future may bring you both closer.
Singles: If you are in a love game with many rivals, you win. A new environment may open doors.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22)
Work: Your main job and side hustle both bring chances to show your skills and earn more. If you have an interview this week, expect a positive reply.
Money: An investment that once paid well may drop. Medical costs or device repairs may come up.
Couples: You may be busy but love stays strong. Even a short time together may feel important.
Singles: While talking to an interest, respect is key as their feelings may not be as high as yours.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22)
Work: Higher ups may step in to fix problems. A sudden task will motivate you. Jobseekers may get a job in creative or entertainment industries.
Money: Taking smart risks can bring good returns. Some unexpected child expenses may arise.
Couples: Your relationship feels refreshed. A shared interest may bring excitement back.
Singles: You may meet someone new but may have no feelings serious enough to pursue anything.

LIBRA (Sept 23–Oct 22)
Work: You could get all tasks done before the deadline and clear back log. A sudden change in team or workplace may benefit you if you step up.
Money: Friends or family may help you save money through small gifts or shared meals.
Couples: An unexpected situation may lead to serious discussions, eventually making you grow.
Singles: You finally quit holding on to the past. A new person may enter your life through family.

SCORPIO (Oct 23–Nov 21)
Work: Unexpected travel may change your routine but bring good results. An acquaintance may offer you a new job or a work partnership.
Money: Money discussions will turn out well and you will get what you have asked for.
Couples: Quality time, open talk, and small happy moments could keep your bond strong.
Singles: If you are dating someone, they may seek a serious bond while you may still be unsure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22–Dec 21)
Work: You perform fast and deliver strong results that impress your boss. A good project or new opportunity comes your way.
Money: An unexpected chance to earn more may come to you. Negotiations will get a good outcome.
Couples: You both work hard toward shared goals. When busy, communication is strong.
Singles: You may fall for someone from work but keep it private to avoid gossip

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19)
Work: Someone may copy ideas or shift blame, so keep your work protected. This week tests your patience and how you deal with people.
Money: A sudden expense for health or device repair may crop up, so keep some money aside.
Couples: You both support each other and talk seriously about the future with a shared direction.
Singles: Love at first sight may happen to you. One person may stand out and feel special right away.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20–Feb 18)
Work: You are quick to understand situations and fix issues before they grow. An option to change teams, companies, or locations may come to you.
Money: Unexpected personal expenses may pop up. Keep your financial plans private.
Couples: An unspoken tension may surface. Honest talk may feel uncomfortable but helps.
Singles: Someone catches your attention even though background differences create challenges.

PISCES (Feb 19–Mar 20)
Work: You may overthink every detail, but when it matters, you do well. A surprise chance to take on more responsibility may come to you.
Money: An older male friend or mentor may bring a chance to earn. Past work may start to bear fruit.
Couples: The mood is gentle and warm. You both may discuss home, money, and a future together.
Singles: Feelings may grow from friendship with both preferring to keep quiet until you feel sure.



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The fiery circuit of Sagittarius, Leo, and Aries was very active during the first two weeks of January. This has caused a large number of accidents, earthquakes, and flaring up of a lot of political matters. From today till next month, it is Capricorn who will be holding four planets in its sign. The combustion of Mars, Mercury, and Venus still continues. Capricorn, the ninth house of India represents the navy and related matters, the supreme court, law and order, import and export, foreign travel, nationalism, and maintenance of tighter border safety between countries. All of these could be highlighted and enhanced by the Capricorn stellium. Mars is naturally violent but when hidden behind the Sun, becomes lethal to create some devastating incident.

As per the new moon chart of January 19, the present time is extremely sensitive for India as six planets will be on one side of the zodiac. This also indicates the occurrence of some seismic activity. Many a time it has come to notice that whenever a whole lot of planets sit in one house in the zodiac sky their impact creates some unfortunate event.

A stretched combustion and tight conjunction of planets makes the current transit highly intense and challenging. It asks for maturity, awareness, and restraint from raising one's voice for political reasons. Acting due to anger, pride, or emotions can create lasting damage. Staying away from making derogatory remarks on social media is all the more important.

A word now about the horoscope of Mrs Sonia Gandhi of the Congress party. She has just completed seventy-nine years in December. As a Cancer rising person, she has eighth lord Saturn retrograde in her *lagana* and *lagana* lord Moon is in the twelfth house. Moon is hemmed between two strong malefic Rahu and Saturn and there is an aspect of Mars on it. A very badly afflicted Moon clearly indicates prolonged health issues related to the respiratory tract, chronic cough, bronchitis, or some lungs' related problem. She was hospitalized when four planets were hitting her natal Mars in the sixth house of sickness. Currently Ketu is transiting in Leo in the second house but from December this year, it will come over her *lagana* and over her eighth lord Saturn along with *dasha* of Venus and Rahu. So, from the health point of view, this could be a difficult year for her.

As closely conjunct Saturn and Neptune are continuing their jourey in watery Pisces and Rahu in Aquarius, this year too shows a threat and danger to the seas and oceans. Under their heaviness, there has been a significant rise in global sea levels and they have also become a part of the zones of war. All industries related to sea will face challenges. 2025 saw frequent tropical cyclones across multiple basins. But on a positive note, there have also been many discoveries. Global trade through sea has increasing and inland waterways have also seen a growth.

What Lies Beneath in Bucharest

Below its grand boulevards and architecture, this Romanian city is built on buried rivers, forgotten war history and unrealised dreams

By NEETA LAL

Bucharest is not a city that charms instantly. It works in layers, like a palimpsest rewritten again and again—history pressed atop ambition, ambition over erasure. But the real drama begins underground. Beneath the grand boulevards and socialist-era concrete lies a vast hydraulic underworld: forgotten rivers, diverted streams, and thermal waters that once dictated the Romanian city's survival.

The most storied of these waterways, the Dâmbovita, was both lifeline and menace. Floods ravaged the city for centuries, until the river was disciplined—channeled, and partially hidden beneath streets to make way for modern Bucharest. Today, traffic hums above what was once a restless force of nature. "Bucharest's boulevards and squares rest over subterranean waterways that flow quietly below," guide Elena Popa explains, gesturing toward what appears to be an ordinary street. "It's a surreal foundation for one of Eastern Europe's most surprising capitals."

The city is paradoxical by design—its past buried but never erased. Nowhere is this tension more theatrical than in its architecture. The colossal Palace of Parliament dominates the skyline in pale stone bravado. Conceived by Nicolae Ceausescu, it's an expression of late-communist excess so vast that it almost defies scale. It casts a literal and symbolic shadow—one the city has learned to live with.

Yet, walk a few blocks away and the city shape-shifts. Belle Époque villas peek from behind iron gates; Orthodox churches gleam like gilded reliquaries; and 19th-century façades recall the era when Bucharest was christened the "Little Paris" of the East. French neoclassicism lingers in arches, squares, and a Triumphal Arch that nods openly to its Parisian cousin.



NEETA LAL





(Clockwise from above) Bucharest's 19th century façades and Art Deco architecture; a bronze statue; Arcul de Triumf—a triumphal arch

Then comes Bucharest's most cinematic surprise: its Art Deco and Modernist inheritance—one of Europe's richest and least celebrated. Between the wars, architects trained in Paris and Vienna returned home with modernist convictions and Deco flourishes. They left behind streamlined apartment blocks with curved balconies, porthole windows, and geometric detailing that feels both glamorous and utilitarian. "Bucharest has more Art Deco buildings than any European city except Paris, and one of the largest surviving ensembles globally," Popa notes. Many stand unrestored, their faded elegance lending the streets a slightly noir atmosphere—beautiful, imperfect, and utterly photogenic.

Below these buildings, another secret simmers. More than 30 abandoned thermal springs lie trapped beneath the city, once intended to anchor spa complexes that would rival Budapest and Baden-Baden. Wars and politics intervened, but the waters never disappeared. Geologists believe they could still transform Bucharest into a wellness capital—an unfulfilled promise bubbling patiently underground.

Above ground, nature reasserts itself in unexpected ways. Lakes and canals have become corridors for wildlife; foxes, herons, and otters are regular city residents. The most startling example is Vacaresti Nature Park—an abandoned development site reclaimed by reeds and wetlands, now Europe's only urban delta. Over 200 bird species thrive here, framed by apartment blocks and office towers. It is an ecological accident turned miracle, and one of Bucharest's quiet triumphs.

In Lipscani, the historic heart, the city's contradictions finally collide. Cobblestone lanes wind past medieval merchants' houses and 19th-century inns that have survived earthquakes and dictatorship alike. At its centre stands Caru' cu Bere, a neo-Gothic beer hall where stained glass glows and conversations have flowed since 1879. Around it, antique shops, cafés, and bookstores coexist with a thrum of nightlife that feels both bohemian and unapologetically current.

Bucharest today is also a city in creative overdrive. Designers rescue Deco apartments from decay; young chefs reinterpret Romanian classics; independent theatres and bookstores flourish. The National Museum of Contemporary Art interrogates the past while embracing new artistic languages. Each spring, the Spotlight Festival turns façades into luminous canvases, while the George Enescu Festival draws the world's finest musicians to the city.

What makes Bucharest irresistible is not polish but depth. It is a capital built on buried rivers and unrealised dreams, where Art Deco balconies overlook streets flowing over water you cannot see. The city doesn't announce itself—it waits, quietly confident, for those willing to look beneath the surface.

QUICK TAKE



A WEEKEND WANDERLUST

Tropika Brewing, a tropical-inspired dining and craft brewery destination, has now officially opened its doors in Marathahalli, Bengaluru. The serene, holiday-like escape within the city, blends nature, design and indulgent hospitality under one expansive roof. Spread across a lush one-acre space, the immersive urban retreat with cascading waterfalls, abundant greenery and breezy layouts invites guests to slow down and savour the moment. With a menu of over 200 globally inspired dishes, ranging from familiar comfort to contemporary international offerings Tropika is truly a weekend getaway.
Where: *Marathahalli, Bengaluru*



A FLIGHT FOR FURRY FRIENDS

Travelling with pets has become easier now. With its new "Paws on Board" policy, Air India has revised their pet travel policy—making the process clearer, faster, and far more pet-friendly. As per the new rules, cats and dogs weighing up to 10 kg, can now travel inside the economy cabin on selected domestic and international Air India flights. The policy covers over 80 domestic and international routes including key destinations in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America.

Raising the Bar

In Fontainhas, where time slips between pastel walls and shuttered windows, Joseph Bar pours Goa by the glass—slow, heady, unforgettable



MEDHA DUTTA YADAV

By MEDHA DUTTA YADAV

By the time you find Joseph Bar, you're already a little undone—in the best way. Fontainhas does that to you. The Latin Quarter in Panjim, Goa, loosens your sense of urgency with its crooked lanes and sun-faded façades. Joseph Bar sits quietly among it all, unassuming, almost shy, as if daring you to pass it by. Most don't. The bar was set up sometime in the 1960s by Joseph Pereira, long before Fontainhas became a checklist destination and long before Goa learned to market itself. If there is a philosophy guiding it, it's one Goans understand instinctively: *susegad*—that untranslatable state of ease where nothing is rushed and everything arrives when it's meant to.

Yellow bulbs cast a forgiving glow that flatters everyone. The walls are crowded with framed photographs, handwritten notes, old posters, and layers of lived-in detail. "At heart, it's still the same bar," says Atish Antonio Fernandes, current owner and keeper of this Fontainhas institution, leaning against the counter with the ease of someone deeply at home in his surroundings. "People change, seasons change—but the bar stays. We serve what we believe in."



What Pereira believes in is evident in the glass. This is one of the few places in Goa where *feni* is treated with quiet respect. Here, it's poured without apology—neat, over ice, or eased into drinks that let its sharp, fruity character speak. The cashew *feni* with lime, chilli and soda is clean and bracing, cutting through the evening heat. The *kokum*-infused *feni* or *Tambde Rosa*, a deep, moody red, balances tartness with a gentle sweetness that lingers on the tongue.

Then there's the food—small plates that vanish almost instantly. *Chorizo pão*, glistening with oil and spice, delivers a slow, satisfying heat. Beef croquettes, crisp outside and yielding within, demand to be eaten hot and without distraction. On certain evenings, there's simple *poi* with Goan sausages, or *ros* omelet. "This is food you eat with your hands, with your drink, with time," says Gundu, the bartender.

Time stretches easily here. Conversation flows unforced. At Joseph Bar, strangers become companions by their second peg. Artists, musicians, architects, travellers who extended their holidays, and locals who never left Fontainhas all find themselves leaning closer as the night deepens.

"I came in for one drink," laughs Rhea D'Souza, a Mumbai-based photographer who has been visiting the bar for nearly a decade. "That was seven years ago. Every time I'm back in Goa, this is my first stop." No one is ever asked to move on. Joseph Bar operates on its own tempo. "This bar has seen everything," Gundu says quietly. "People arrive one way and leave another. That's enough for me." When you finally step back into the night, Fontainhas feels calmer, almost hushed. Joseph Bar glows behind you, steady and alive, waiting for the next familiar stranger to walk in.

(Left) The facade; (below) the interiors and Gundu, the bartender



MEDHA DUTTA YADAV



A guest enjoying the beer spa

Beer-bettered

By KHURSHEED DINSHAW

Most of us, or at least the beer enthusiasts, have fancied a tub filled with icy cold beer. But, even in our far-off imaginations, a wooden bath tub, filled with steaming beer bubbles of barley, and brewer yeast seem delightfully off-script—or at best, an AI imagination. But, the wooden bathtubs brimming with beer at Orlando's My Beer Spa has made an almost baffling experience into a 'beer-forward' wellness concept.

From the moment you step inside, the hoppy smell of beer sets the mood. Malt and hop oils gently tease the senses. And of course, the reception and spa rooms welcome you with effervescent beer.

Bottle openers with sassy slogans and fridge magnets with cheerfully irreverent wisdom, remind you to not overthink life. Even the bath and body lineup plays along: vegan olive-oil soaps made with craft beer, rich butters, and oatmeal, scented like orange, apple, charcoal ale, and sunshine shandy. Shampoos and conditioners come infused with beer and a lemongrass-basil lift; hand and body lotions blend hops, barley, and probiotics.

However, the showstopper is the extra-deep, jetted wooden tub—roomy enough for two—filled with a non-alcoholic beer-infused soak. It's hydrotherapy with a playful edge. Hops open pores and energise, prized for its anti-inflammatory properties. Brewer's yeast brings a vitamin-B boost that skin loves. Barley contributes its cocktail of minerals—calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium, zinc, copper—supporting skin and hair health. The warmth encourages circulation, eases stiffness, and melts muscle tension, while the mind drifts into an unhurried calm.

While your body soaks complimentary drought beer and house-made red or white sangria are just some extra indulgences.

Post the soak, the ritual continues in the pre-heated infrared sauna. Chromotherapy lighting casts a gentle glow as heat dries the skin, reducing muscle fatigue, improving circulation, and gently nudging collagen production. The body feels newly tuned.

And if you think it's over. An expected but luxurious grounding waits for you on a hay bed. You cover the hay with a sheet, settle in, and let your body temperature normalise as the benefits of the therapy sink in.

The hour-long experience leaves you lightly perfumed with subtle hoppy scent, soft skin, and spirits lifted—proof that sometimes wellness comes from the most unexpected things.

Let Death be Your Guide

Facing mortality dissolves illusion, clarifies values, and urges for a fully lived life before regret becomes the final teacher

By ANIL BHATNAGAR



When we embrace death, even the mundane glows: coffee tastes richer, laughter rings clearer, and a loved one's touch feels like a miracle

In the stillness of the room, the faint hum of a ceiling fan feels like a heart beating against silence. Surrounded by his family, Aviral rests his head in his son's lap, his lips trembling as he whispers, "I thought death was for others, always distant, never mine."

His voice breaks as he continues, "But now that it's staring at me, I feel the pain of leaving you all behind." His eyes well up with tears and his gaze fixed on his son. He pauses and and confesses, "What pains me more than death is the guilt—of dreams left unpursued, love unexpressed, and a life without purpose. I tossed away moments like pebbles, realising too late that they were diamonds."

"Son, hold fast to your diamonds—don't let them slip away." With these words, the flame of Aviral's life flickers out. Outside, a lone bird sings, as if in reminder that birth and death are as natural to the world as singing is to her. Still, in that timeless moment, a dying father passed to his son the essence of life. Aviral's last breath still echoes: the real sorrow is not that we die, but that we never truly lived.

Disconnected from what will truly fulfil us, or out of fear of failure, we cling to routines and safe tasks that earn applause but not meaning. Yet it is the unlived life—not the failures—that wounds us the most. Seen from the window of death, every passing minute becomes a jewel we will never hold again. Death often turns into our clearest teacher; in its gaze we suddenly see our own future—the moment every mask, every bank balance, every story we told ourselves falls away.

Unsurprisingly, unlit candles haunt us more than those that flicker, fail, or burn unevenly. Modern psychology echoes this ancient observation. Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman's research shows that we dwell more on missed opportunities than on triumphs.

Modern life numbs us with busyness, seducing us into mistaking movement for meaning. We scroll endlessly, achieve tirelessly, yet forget to ask if what we chase will matter when breath slows. Death, when contemplated, becomes the mirror that restores clarity.

The *Katha Upanishad* teaches that seeing mortality frees us. The Buddha called meditation on death "supreme". Sufi mystics echo the same truth: "Die before you die, live fully." Each points to the same clarity—death strips illusion and reveals life's real priorities.

How can you let death, your guru, guide you? Imagine your regretful self whispering from the deathbed—urging you to weave these practices into your days:

• Pause often during the day. Ask if your actions mirror your deepest values. Life is too precious to live on autopilot.

• Face your death regrets head-on. Ask if you go on living the way you are and make no changes, what you would regret on your deathbed.

• Practice *maranasati* each evening. Lie down and imagine this is your final night. Let gratitude fill you—for breath, shelter, and every heartbeat never promised. Rise next morning as being granted one more dawn and notice how petty worries fade and ordinary moments begin to glow.

• Express love freely. Don't wait for tomorrow to tell loved ones how much they mean to you—for words unspoken in life echo hollow in death's shadow.

• Live authentically. Listen to your inner voice and follow what it reveals, not what earns others' approval.

• Dare to dream boldly. Ask what you would do with your life if money, courage, time, and support were not constraints? The answer often points to your hidden purpose.

• Give more than you take: Wisdom traditions—and even research, such as John Izzo's — remind us that life's sanctity blossoms in what we give, not in what we gather.

• Practice 'candle vision'. See each day as a flame in death's gentle gaze. Will you let it blaze with love, purpose, and gratitude—or fade into smoke?

Like iron, we can rust away in the idleness of half-hearted living, only to regret inconsolably when death draws near. Or we can wear out through purposeful, loving, and devoted service, gleaming with noble pride when the day comes.

To many, seeing death as a guide may seem sorrowful, yet the opposite is true. The wisdom of many ancient traditions keeps death close: monks meditate in graveyards, samurai compose poems on death, and sages keep skulls as reminders of impermanence. They do so not to bring gloom to life but to illuminate it. When we embrace death, even the mundane glows: coffee tastes richer, laughter rings clearer and a loved one's touch feels like a borrowed miracle.

When we let death walk beside us as our guide, we learn to weigh every act and word against the backdrop of eternity. It stops us from postponing love and waiting for perfect conditions to be kind or courageous.

So, let our prayer be this:

O Death, in life's darkness, be my light, my guru, and my-guide—so I may meet you not with regrets, but with peace, fulfilment, and pride.

Anil Bhatnagar is a corporate trainer, spiritual coach, a student of neuroscience, and the author of several books, including Success 24 X 7. *He can be reached at thrive.ab@gmail.com*

BELIEVE

SACRED SPACE **Joshimath, Uttarakhand**



Joshimath, traditionally known as Jyotirmath in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, occupies a distinctive place in India's sacred geography. More than a Himalayan town, it is a centre of transmission, anchored in the pursuit of inner illumination. The name itself evokes *jyoti*—divine light, signalling a landscape oriented towards *jnana*—knowledge and discernment. Its enduring significance rests on its association with Adi Sankaracharya, who established Jyotirmath as the northern *pitha* within a fourfold monastic order designed to stabilise India's spiritual *mandala*. Each *pitha* safeguards a Vedic stream; Jyotirmath is traditionally entrusted with the Atharva Veda and the teaching of *Advaita Vedanta*, where reality is understood as non-dual consciousness and liberation arises through *viveka*—discriminative insight—rather than ritual accumulation. Joshimath also functions as a spiritual threshold. It prepares the seeker for Badrinath, through inward orientation, reflecting the Himalayan ideal of ascent as interiorisation. Shrines such as the Narsingh Temple embody continuity over monumentality, where deity, devotee, and time are in dialogue.

EPICS FOR CHILDREN | GAURAV YADAV

Warriors Respect Women



In the Ramayana, when Rishi Vishwamitra went to King Dasharatha and asked for his son Rama, he mentioned that *rakshasas* like Maricha and Subahu were interrupting his *yagyas* or sacrifices. At that time, Rama was only 16 years of age, and Dasharatha was reluctant to send him to fight demons. Vishwamitra had, perhaps, anticipated this. That is why he did not mention that Tataka, a *rakshasi*—female demoness, also needed to be killed. In that age, the Kshatriya warriors had a strict code of conduct, according to which women were never to be killed. Dasharatha may have been even more reluctant to send Rama if he knew that he would be required to kill a woman.

After just two days of the journey, even before they had reached Vishwamitra's *ashram*, they passed through Tataka *vana*, the forest where Tataka had established a reign of terror. Vishwamitra told Rama that there used to be two prosperous cities called Malada and Karusha in that region. To a *yaksha* named Suketu, a daughter called Tataka was born. Due to a boon by Lord Brahma, she possessed the strength of a thousand elephants. In the course of time, she was married and had a son, but due to her angry and wicked nature, she became a man-eater *rakshasi*. Vishwamitra knew that it would be difficult for Rama to overcome the warrior ethos, so he quoted examples from the past, where women had to be killed when they threatened dharma. He told about Manthara, the daughter of demon Virochana, who threatened to destroy the world, and had to be killed by Indra. He also told Rama about how Lord Vishnu had to kill Rishi Bhrigu's wife when she led the Asuras in battle against the Devas, in Bhrigu's absence.

Inspired by Vishwamitra's words, Rama grasped the middle of his bow with his fist and twanged the bow. The terrible sound filled all directions and attracted Tataka to the spot. She was gigantic in size, malformed in features, and extremely angry. On seeing her, Rama's warrior ethos overpowered everything he had been told. He said, 'O Lakshmana! She is invincible and possesses the strength of Maya. I will now make her withdraw by severing her ears and the tip of her nose. Since she is protected by her nature as a woman, I do not wish to kill her. It is my view that one should only destroy her valour and her speed.' However, Tataka invited her own end by attacking Rama. Raising her arms, she roared and rushed with great force towards Rama. Left with no other option, Rama shot an arrow at her and slew her.

YouTube: @Mahabalak.English



MASTER MIND

"The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike." ~ THUCYDIDES

FOUNDATIONS OF INNER LIFE

Tapas and the Alchemy of Discipline



***Tapas*, derived from the Sanskrit word *tap*, which means 'to heat', refers to disciplined effort that generates inner transformation. In classical Indian thought, *tapas* is the fire that purifies awareness by steadily confronting resistance, distraction, and inertia. It is not mortification but self-regulation undertaken for clarity.**

Ancient texts offer examples. Sage Vishwamitra's prolonged austerities were aimed not at withdrawal but at mastering the senses and stabilising the mind. In the Yoga Sutras, Patanjali lists *tapas* as the core of Kriya Yoga, explaining that disciplined practice weakens mental afflictions and sharpens perception. Even householders practised *tapas* through regulated living—observing fasts, maintaining vows, or adhering to daily ritual.

***Tapas* may appear modest: sitting through discomfort in meditation, maintaining silence when reaction feels tempting, or being disciplined despite mental resistance. Buddhist monastics similarly observe strict schedules, not as punishment, but to reduce mental fragmentation and cultivate attention.**

Psychologically, such discipline builds resilience and impulse control. Modern studies on self-regulation echo this insight: consistent effort strengthens attentional stability and emotional regulation.

AMMASPEAK Mata Amritanandamayi



Live in Love to Truly Live

Children, fear is the main obstacle standing in the way of our success in life. Fear robs us of our ability to harness our strengths and talents. But there is a special power that can help us overcome fear: love. Love gives us the strength to push aside every obstacle and move forward.

There was once a widow in a village. She made her living selling milk inside the king's fortress. One day, she climbed up as usual to the mountain fortress to sell milk. By the time she finished selling the milk, the fortress gates had closed.

She tearfully pleaded with the guards, "My child is all alone in the hut. It's getting dark. If I don't reach home soon, my child will start crying in fear. If something happens to my child, I won't be able to survive. Please have mercy on me and allow me to leave the fortress."

But the guards were not willing to open the fortress gates. With utmost anguish, the milkmaid started searching for some other way out of the fortress.

When the fortress gates opened the next morning, the milkmaid was standing outside, waiting to enter. The guards were stunned. They could not understand how she had left the fortress. They took the woman to the king.



Human life is meant to begin in love, be lived in love, and eventually end in love. Love gives us the strength to face any danger. When love fills our heart, even the fear of death will not daunt us

The king asked her how she had left the fortress. The woman explained in detail what had happened. The king went with her to see the place from which she had exited.

It was a small opening in the fortress wall. Even in the clear light of day, the climb down the sheer cliff face seemed impossible. The king asked the milkmaid, "While climbing down the mountain in the dark, didn't you feel even a little fear?"

The milkmaid said, "Yesterday, I had only one thought in mind: to go to my child somehow. I knew that my child would be frightened not seeing me. I forgot myself. There was no place for fear in my heart."

Neither danger nor obstacles deterred the milkmaid. Her love for her child gave her the strength to overcome all problems. When love fills our heart, even the fear of death will not daunt us. Love gives us the strength to face any danger.

Human life is meant to begin in love, be lived in love, and eventually end in love. Love connects every being in creation. Whether humans or animals, it is the power of love that binds a child to its mother and a mother to her child. Unfortunately, today, even though most of us spend our entire lives in search of love, we typically die without ever finding it.

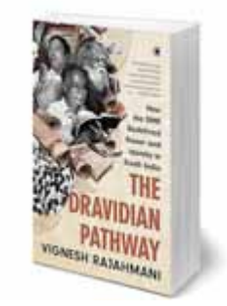
When the full moon rises, the Earth is freed from the darkness of night. Similarly, may the light of love and selflessness dispel the darkness of selfishness, hatred, and conflict covering the world. May a beautiful new dawn of goodness bloom. May the light of truth and dharma fill the hearts of humanity.

The writer is a world-renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian

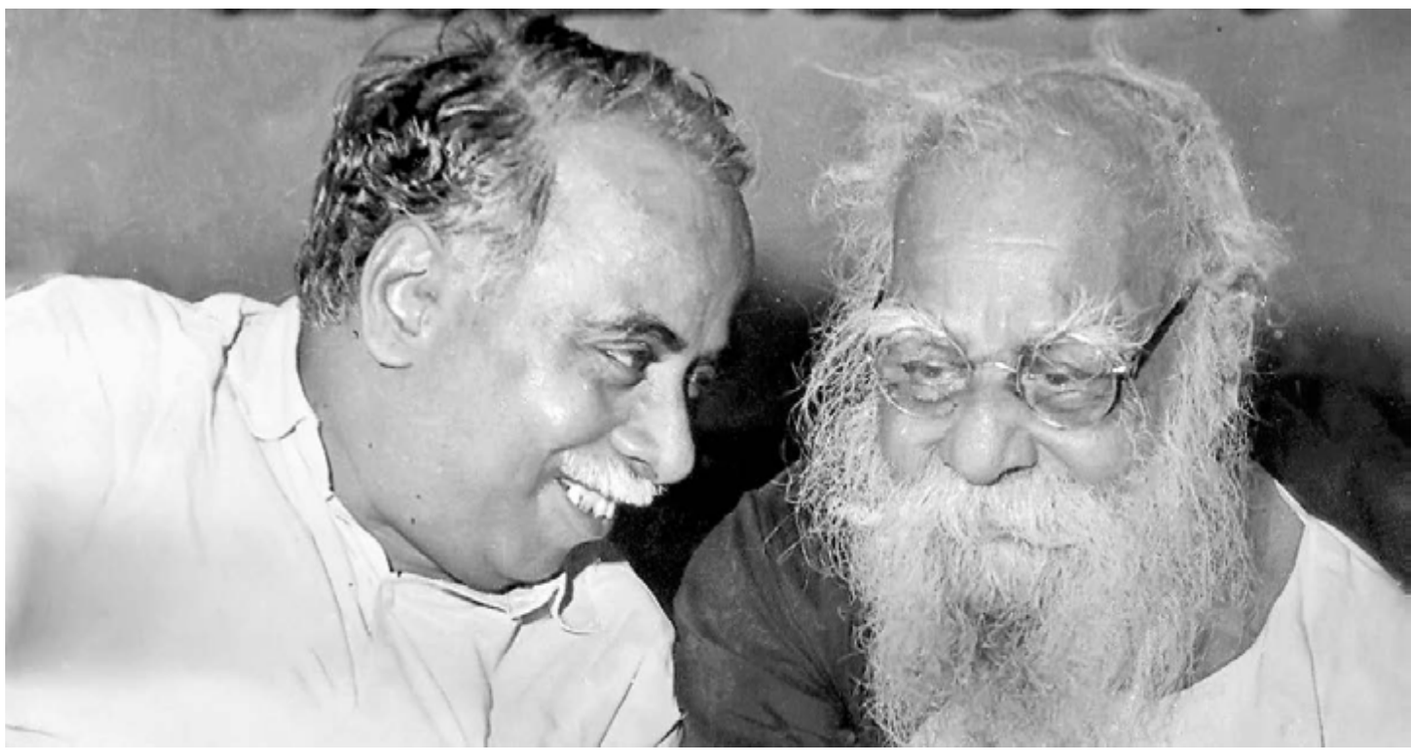
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The Gaps in the Dravidian Story

The meticulous history of the DMK documents the party's victory over Brahmin dominance but falls short of a structural caste critique



The Dravidian Pathway
By: Vignesh Rajahmani
Publisher: Context
Pages: 296
Price: ₹799



Two key leaders of the movement: CN Annadurai (left) and Periyar EV Ramasamy

By ANAND NEELAKANTAN

Vignesh Rajahmani's *The Dravidian Pathway: How the DMK Redefined Power and Identity in South India* enters the scholarly arena as an ambitious attempt to chronicle the evolution of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) from a potent socio-cultural movement into an enduring electoral juggernaut. The book's core contribution is its detailed analysis of how the DMK strategically synthesised anti-caste ideology and Tamil linguistic pride to forge an inclusive Dravidian-Tamil identity, ultimately reshaping the political landscape of South India. However, while praised for its meticulous historical reconstruction of the DMK's ascent, the book suffers from a pronounced celebratory tone and a significant under-critique of the movement's failures, particularly concerning deep-rooted caste inequalities.

The primary strength of *The Dravidian Pathway* lies in its innovative methodological approach. Rajahmani successfully challenges the existing academic tendency to focus solely on the outcomes of political parties, instead highlighting the dynamic interplay between the Dravidian social movement and its transition into an electoral force. The author dedicates substantial space to exploring the strategic leadership of key figures—Periyar EV Ramasamy, CN Annadurai, and M Karunanidhi—showing how they navigated the tension between radical ideological purity and political pragmatism necessary for electoral success.

The book excels in its detailed reconstruction of the DMK's grassroots mobilisation machinery. A significant and original contribution is the extensive analysis of *'padippakams'* (reading rooms). Rajahmani convincingly argues that these reading rooms, established alongside party branches, were far more than mere libraries. They functioned as decentralised ideological training grounds, where party cadres were educated on the principles of social justice, self-respect, and the Dravidian-Tamil ethos. These spaces, being easily accessible with no formal entry barriers, allowed the DMK to build a mass-based political force by internalising the movement's ideas within its non-Brahmin core support base. The book provides granular, data-driven evidence, including a sociological mapping of electoral outcomes and a breakdown of candidate profiles between 1951 and 1967, which visually demonstrate the success of the DMK in empowering the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and challenging the political monopoly of the Congress party. This narrative emphasises the party's ideological agility that allowed it to adapt to changing political realities while remaining rooted in its core anti-caste mission.

A significant contribution is the extensive analysis of *'padippakams'* (reading rooms), which functioned as decentralised ideological training grounds for the party

Despite its compelling historical narrative, the book is severely undermined by a perceived lack of critical distance, lending credence to the critique that it reads more as an apologist's eulogy than a balanced scholarly study. This weakness is most apparent in the book's treatment of the enduring caste system and the narrow scope of the DMK's "social justice" impact.

Firstly, the celebratory narrative of OBC empowerment often eclipses a necessary critical engagement with the DMK's failure to dismantle the caste hierarchy entirely. While the DMK successfully ousted Brahmin hegemony, critics argue that this merely paved the way for the hegemony of dominant intermediate OBC castes. This shift is not adequately scrutinised in the book. Contemporary facts of caste-based oppression, such as the persistence of caste atrocities in southern districts like Madurai, including the 'two-glass system' and violence against Dalits (Scheduled Castes), reveal the glaring limitations of the Dravidian model in achieving justice for the most marginalised. The focus on OBC gains deflects attention from the continuing systemic persecution of SC/STs.

Secondly, a comparative analysis reveals the limits of Tamil Nadu's model. Rajahmani's implied superiority of the DMK's social justice implementation falls short when contrasted with progressive states like Kerala. Kerala's political movements, which emphasised radical land reforms and comprehensive social redistribution, resulted in uniformly high Human Development Index (HDI) metrics that arguably benefited all communities, including SC/STs, more equitably in health and education, than Tamil Nadu's approach, which focused more on status assertion and state-level welfare.

Most damningly, the political exclusion of the lowest castes speaks volumes about the movement's ultimate priorities. Despite the DMK's decades-long dominance and its founding ethos of anti-caste self-respect, the fact remains that Tamil Nadu has never had a Scheduled Caste Chief Minister. This political reality stands in stark contrast to other Indian states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh, which have seen multiple Dalit leaders assume the state's highest executive office. This systemic failure to extend the highest political power to the SC community strongly suggests that the Dravidian-Tamil identity, while inclusive for non-Brahmin castes, was ultimately constrained by the political aspirations of the newly dominant groups.

The Dravidian Pathway is a highly valuable, data-rich historical account of the DMK's organisational and ideological triumph in the years leading up to 1967. It provides an excellent framework for understanding how a political party sustains its ideological energy through mobilisation and organisational ingenuity, exemplified by the *padippakams*. However, the book's narrative lens is too sympathetic, allowing the party's historical successes to overshadow its critical failures. By largely stopping its deep analysis at the point of the DMK's electoral victory, and by failing to rigorously interrogate the persistence of caste oppression and the political exclusion of SC/STs, Rajahmani's work leaves the impression of being a eulogy of a DMK apologist. For a definitive study on the DMK's impact, a subsequent critical analysis is required to thoroughly assess the actual depth and breadth of the social justice dividend in Tamil Nadu.

BOOK TASTINGS



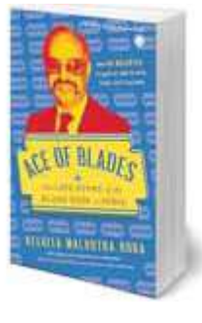
The Great Sanctions Hack
By: Urjit Patel
Publisher: Rupa Publications
Pages: 146
Price: ₹495
The book explains why outdated policies falter in today's volatile economy—and proposes a smarter, more resilient way forward.



The Social Life of Indian Trains
By: Amitava Kumar
Publisher: Aleph Book Company
Pages: 152
Price: ₹399
Featuring his experiences of Indian trains, the author explores how trains are integral to the national psyche.



Beyond The Spotlight
By: Prosenjit Chatterjee, Roshmila Bhattacharya
Publisher: Rupa Publications
Pages: 272
Price: ₹595
The book is a voyage through Prosenjit Chatterjee's memories and a glimpse into the lives of people behind stardom.

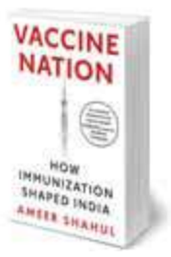


Ace of Blades
By: Reenita Malhotra Hora
Publisher: Jaico Publishing House
Pages: 416
Price: ₹899
This is an account of the life of RK Malhotra—the mind behind iconic razor blade brands—offering an insight into India's blade revolution.

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The Nation that took a Shot

With a sound grasp of science, the narrative tells the untold story of India's rise as a major producer of affordable vaccines



Vaccine Nation
By: Ameer Shahul
Publisher: Pan Macmillan
Pages: 478
Price: ₹458

By ANUJA CHANDRAMOULI

The development of vaccines has proved revolutionary, transforming our approach to eradicating life-threatening diseases. *In Vaccine Nation: How Immunisation Shaped India*, Ameer Shahul chronicles the highly underappreciated story of how India emerged as a global vaccine powerhouse—one of the largest producers of high-quality, cost-effective vaccines, supplying effective immunisations to over a hundred countries. He traces how the country blazed fresh trails in innovation after having languished on the sidelines during the colonial era, held back by British apathy and a near-nonexistent healthcare infrastructure.

Shahul offers a meticulous and sweeping account of India's immunisation journey. The story begins in the early twentieth century, when the British established vaccine institutions in cool hill stations, designed to serve colonial officers rather than the colonised masses—emblematic of a civilisational gulf deepened by racism, poverty and illiteracy. Though the seeds had been sown, independent India had little to build on, emerging bruised and battered after centuries of oppression and the fresh wounds of a bloody Partition, guided largely by a vision of self-reliance.

With a sound grasp of science, Shahul is also a compelling storyteller, sketching vivid portraits of giants in the field such as Waldemar Haffkine, Sahib Singh Sokhey, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, John Jacob, Gursaran Talwar, Varaprasad Reddy and Cyrus Poonawala. He peppers the narrative with striking anecdotes—including the claim that had a closely guarded secret about Muhammad Ali Jinnah's health been revealed, Partition itself might have been averted. His account of the development and production of the 1957 influenza vaccine in less than four months—still a record—is particularly thrilling.

Equally gripping is his narration of a desi David-versus-Goliath tale. Varaprasad Reddy and his Shantha team, inspired by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin—who famously refused to patent their groundbreaking work on polio—dared to launch Shanvac-B, an effective hepatitis B vaccine priced at about one dollar. Despite dire predictions, the venture turned profitable and forced market prices to drop dramatically, delivering a stinging rebuke to rapacious big pharma. As Shahul notes, "Shantha had held a mirror to the true face of foreign vaccine companies operating in India. Indian health administrators and regulators were stunned to discover that a company claiming to 'exist to save lives' had been selling a life-saving vaccine at 150 times its cost!"

While generously celebrating success stories and unlikely heroes in this epic of vaccination, Shahul does not shy away from sharp criticism of those within and outside the system who enabled corruption and profiteering. He documents how many failures led to human rights violations and egregious breaches of medical ethics, with innovation repeatedly undermined by exploitation. Pulling no punches, the author recounts the sordid saga of the excesses of PMK leader S Ramadoss during his tenure as Health Minister after the 2004 elections under the United Progressive Alliance. Decades of hard-won progress were undone through unsavoury manoeuvres, including the unjust suspension of licences of three reputed, government-supported vaccine makers for personal gain. The result was a largely preventable, man-made vaccine shortage that reached catastrophic proportions and directly contributed to the unaccounted deaths of countless infants. Despite mounting pressure and censure, those responsible were never brought to justice. The fallout, Shahul writes, was near nuclear: "The vaccine sector had by now morphed into a theatre of political influence, with pharma giants currying favour with their political benefactors through opaque instruments like electoral bonds."

Shahul is a compelling storyteller, sketching vivid portraits of giants in the field of vaccination, peppered with striking anecdotes



Recounting India's successes and failures during the Covid-19 pandemic, Shahul makes it clear that vaccine equity remains elusive. Wealthy Western nations remain unwilling to share technology or meaningfully assist, while within India an alarming trend has emerged in which science is bent to suit ideological narratives. In conclusion, Shahul urges, "Let India not just remain the vaccine capital of the world but also become its conscience—advancing science not merely for prestige, but for purpose."

All the Light We cannot See

By SHARMISTHA JHA



Flashlight
By: Susan Choi
Publisher: Jonathan Cape
Pages: 464
Price: ₹583

Spanning decades and moving between post-war Japan, North Korea, and the American suburbs, Susan Choi's *Flashlight* blends geopolitics with domestic literary fiction. A sudden disappearance forever changes the life of the Kang family. Serk Kang, earlier Seok, is a Korean immigrant living in post-war Japan. After suffering poverty and systemic discrimination for decades, Serk's parents fall for propaganda and move to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite Serk's pleas. Shortly after, Serk migrates to the US, where social alienation continues to follow him. There, he meets Anne, an American, whom he marries three years later. Anne, raised by her siblings, gave up her first child, Tobias, for adoption at the age of 19. The world has not been kind to both Anne or Serk. In their respective lives, they never fit in, and this convinces them that they may be a fit for each other. However, their marriage is troubled from the very beginning. Wrongly matched, they attempt to function as a family for the sake of their daughter, Louisa

Serk later moves his family to Japan, hoping to reunite with his parents, a motive he keeps secret from Anne and Louisa. Around this time, Anne begins to show early signs of multiple sclerosis, believed to be caused by the loneliness and alienation. She cannot speak Japanese and spends her days confined to their damp apartment.

Louisa is finally learning the ways of Japan when the Kang family suffers a life-altering event. In 1978, when Louisa is ten, Serk and Louisa take a walk on the jetty by the sea. Serk slips and falls. Louisa is later found grey and hypothermic. Serk is never found and is presumed dead. Anne and Louisa return to the US, their lives pulled in different directions, and decades pass before the devastating reality of what truly happened on the night of the disappearance slowly emerges.

Alternating between the viewpoints of Louisa, Anne, Serk, and occasionally Tobias, Choi brings into focus the secrets and misunderstandings that quietly demolish a family. Anne begins meeting Tobias weekly when he turns eighteen. Serk has secrets of his own. He maintains that he had no family before he met Anne, even as he regularly meets his sister in Japan. Louisa is caught between Anne and Serk, learning early how silence becomes a way of survival.

The symbol of the flashlight appears at the beginning, as Louisa recalls fragments from the night Serk disappeared. The flashlight reappears at different points in the narrative. It mirrors the novel's structure: the reader sees only what the narrow beam allows. Choi reveals vivid details of a single day and then leaps across months and decades. Time speeds up and slows down. The reader is left to make sense of what remains unseen.

Flashlight is a story of family ties, anxieties, isolation, and lives fractured by geopolitical forces. Drawing strength from the unsaid and the unseen, the novel lingers long after it ends.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Let's Brooch the Topic

This wedding season, get your glam on with these stunning brooches



Manish Malhotra High Jewellery
Manish Malhotra's exquisite brooches are the most sought-after ones. As seen on celebrities, each one is made with precious metals and stones, and entails hundreds of hours of craftsmanship. A signature of the couturier, these pins are one-of-a-kind.
Price: Upon request



Tyrel Polki and Diamond Brooch from Tyaani by Karan Johar >>
Crafted in 18-carat gold, this inimitable brooch from Karan Johar's brand has natural, uncut polki diamonds and gemstones. It is made-to-order and customisable.
Price: ₹6,41,600



GLAMIRA Brooch Gervas
This 14K white gold piece, featuring 14-carat, cabochon round garnet and real diamond accent stones, is a stunning accentuation for any outfit. Customise it according to your choice of precious stones and create something that is uniquely you.
Price: ₹46,49,269



Jadau 18 Karat Gold Brooch Pin at Swadesh
Ornate and quintessential, this one's made with 18K gold, polki diamonds, emeralds, pearls and tanzanites. The peacock and floral motifs look stunning.
Price: ₹4,14,990



<<Darbar-e-Noor Brooch by Shreem Jewels
This 22K gold piece with semi-precious green onyx, ruby pink stones, and white diamonds is ideal for traditionalists. The stones are embedded using the traditional jewellery-making technique of *jadtar*. It is timeless and gender neutral.
Price: ₹2,11,150

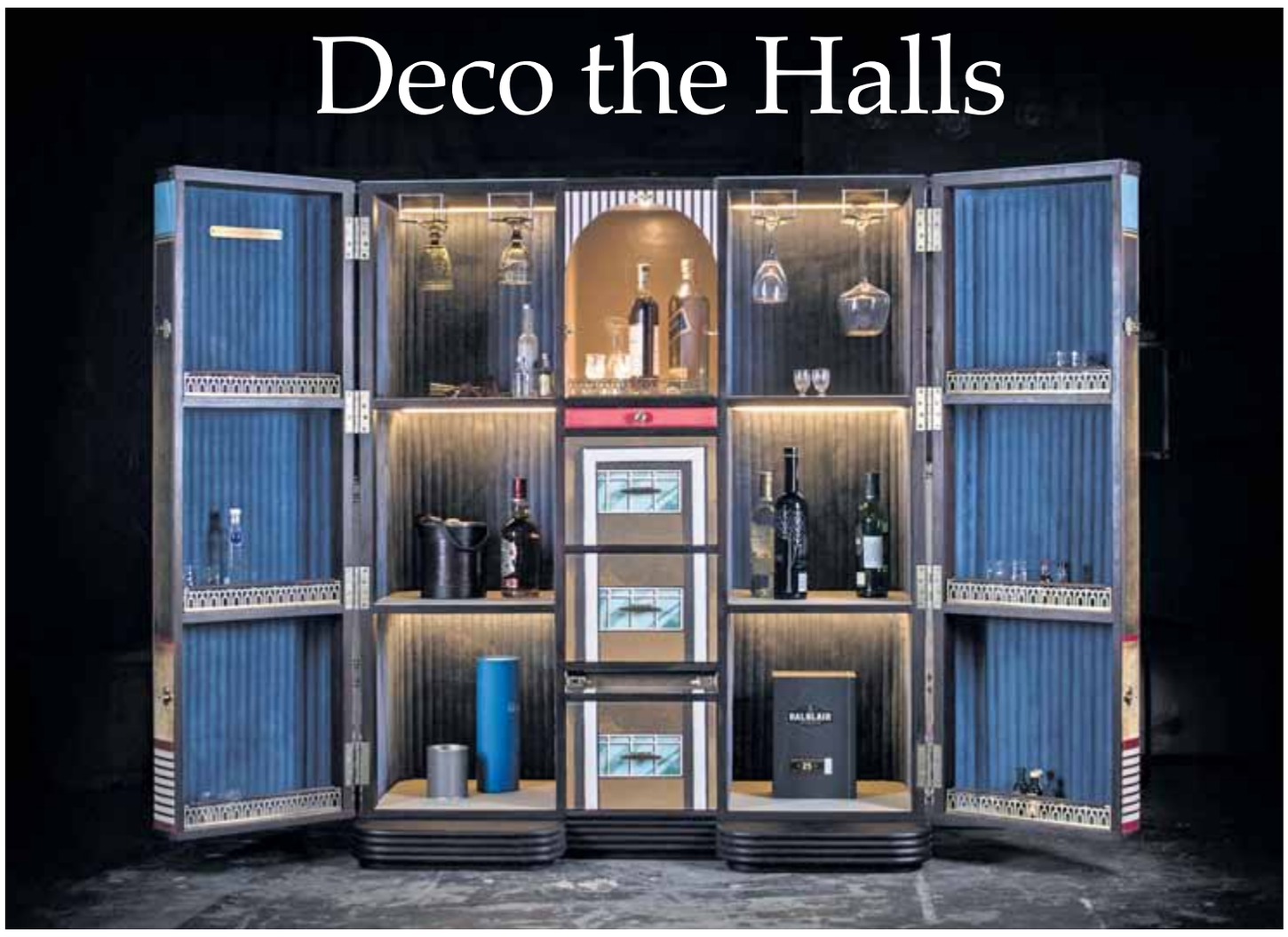
—RS

Ring Master-y

There's a new smart ring making all the right noises and for all the right reasons. Diesel and Ultrahuman's collaboration have resulted in the Diesel Ultrahuman Ring—one that combines what's touted to be the world's most comfortable smart ring. The ring measures a host of markers, including sleep quality, step count, calories, and heart rate, and also tracks real-time recovery and stress, caffeine levels with suggested cut-off times, and ovulation cycles to put you in tune with your body. It's your personal manager and trainer, all rolled into one! Available in two styles, shiny silver and distressed black, it features the Diesel Double D logo, and comes with a base charger in iconic Diesel red. It is available across key global markets through selected Diesel stores, diesel.com, ultrahuman.com, Amazon, and leading retail partners.



Deco the Halls



The legacy of Art Deco in Mumbai is the inspiration behind a new collection of bar cabinets

By RACHNA SRIVASTAVA

A stroll around Marine Drive or South Bombay leaves one in awe of the architectural style that is rightfully having its moment: Art Deco. Bold geometry, nautical shapes, and strong colours stay with you. Now you can bring home a Liberty Cinema, or Soona Mahal or even a Shiv Shakti Bhavan. Not a diorama, but a piece of furniture that can be a whole personality. Combining the distinct 20th-century architectural design with wooden artistry, Atelier Bobby Aggarwal has crafted a range of art deco-inspired bar cabinets: Marine Drive Graffiti.

The Art Deco movement turned 100 in 2025, and Mumbai is a living, breathing capital with a bevy of documented and archived Art Deco structures. 1528, to be precise. Drawing inspiration from its aesthetic legacy, Aggarwal has devoted an entire collection of handcrafted bar cabinets to the centenary celebration under his design house, PortsideCafé Furniture Studio.

"I've always been enamoured by the distinctive and varied architecture of South Bombay, and Art Deco resonated with me the most," he says. This collection, which is his contemporary take on the movement, reinterprets geometry, ornamentation, and sense of glamour. Crafted in teak wood and sheathed in printed leather, each bespoke cabinet is rich in tactical designs. "Leather has always been my go-to material, so I've incorporated it as a key part of the materiality, alongside wood and brass accents," adds the Delhi-based designer known for his avant-garde designs. This approach lends the pieces richness and a level of exclusivity that makes them truly special.

The Marine Drive Graffiti collection features six distinct designs—four smaller formats and two larger pieces—inspired by and featuring the bas-relief facades, ziggurats, chevrons, and more motifs which are the defining factors of the architectural silhouettes dotting the Queen's Necklace. Each mini-bar is a modern-day cabinet of curiosities. And, a collector's item. Aggarwal deems it as a "dialogue between form, colour, and memory with subtle and not-so-subtle references to the music, fashion, design, freedom, liberty, and other cultural influences of the era." You would also notice a subtle nod to '60s Wes Anderson and Bollywood movies in terms of hues and grandeur.





There's a Sea View Mahal cabinet in colours like Marine Blue and Malabar Green that features the curves and detailed balconies. Shakti Bhavan Oval Bronze replicates the edifice of the Oval Maidan's Shiv Shakti Bhavan in all its glory. You can see the arched balconies, cinematic windows and solid brass railings. The Metro Tower Victoria Yellow's design detail and blue linear quilted ultra suede lining stay true to grandeur. The pop of colour in Liberty Tower Colaba Blue is striking. But it is the Soonawala Mansion Deco Amber that has the most intricate and granular elements. The plants, the benches, the arches, the cat, and the floors are all remarkable. The riot of colours in it will catch each astute eye.

The leather used is hand-strained, distressed, padded and stitched; reflective of the mastery. The liquor cabinets come with leather-lined shelves, solid brass handles, hinges and railings, a pullout tray, and LED lights. Each form and its function is thoroughly thought through. Any piece from this collection, when it adorns your home, will become the focal point. Conversations are bound to flow not only around the artistry of the piece itself, but also lean into a much larger Art Deco aesthetic dialogue. The collection is retailed exclusively through Nilaya Anthology, which presents it to a discerning audience and commissions each piece individually. "This bespoke model ensures that these handcrafted cabinets receive exceptional attention and remain rare within the market," says Aggarwal.

Prices available on request



(Clockwise from top) Liberty Tower Colaba Blue; Shakti Bhavan Oval Bronze; Sea View Mahal Marine Blue; Metro Tower Victoria Yellow

Knot Just a Carpet

With Gaman, Rajasthan-based rug brand Greyweave lets its Virasat collection travel across Mandawa's *havelis*



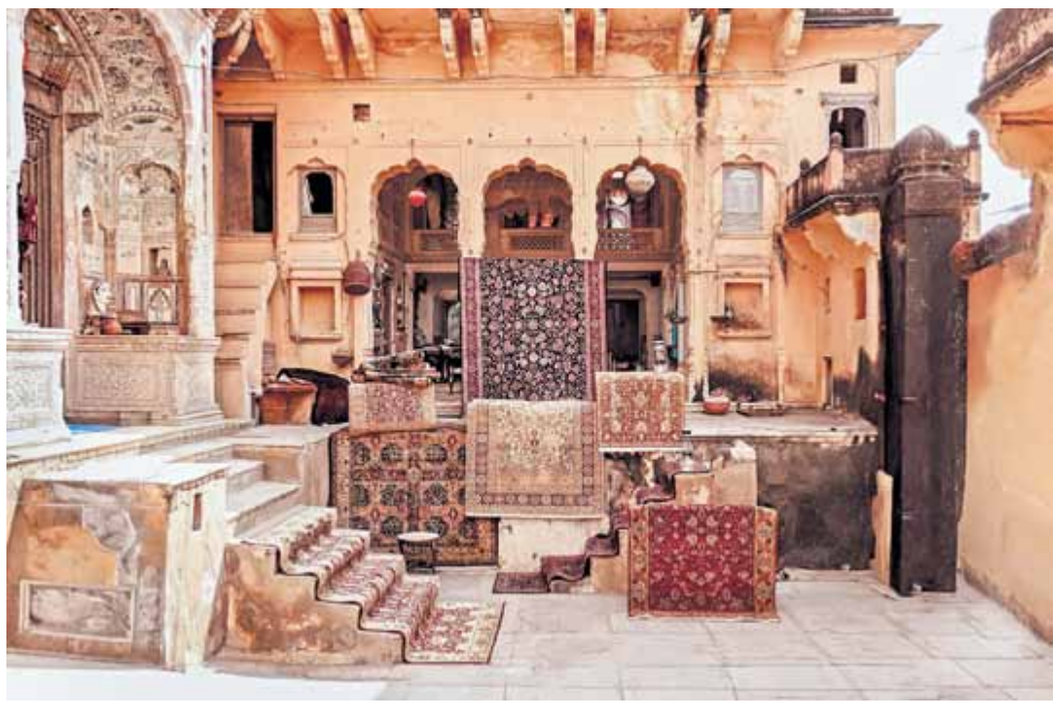
By GEETIKA SACHDEV

In the courtyards of Mandawa's frescoed *havelis*, time feels unhurried. Sunlight brushes against painted walls, horses stand still as if paused mid-journey, and hand-knotted rugs unfurl across stone floors—not as décor, but as witnesses. This is the setting for Gaman, a visual campaign by Rajasthan-based rug studio Greyweave, created to represent its latest collection, Virasat.

Gaman, which means 'movement' or 'journey' in Sanskrit, is not a conventional campaign. It is conceived as a passage of cultures, materialism, and memory. "We didn't want to present Virasat as something frozen in time," says Neha Kapoor, co-founder of Greyweave. "For us, tradition is alive. It moves, travels, absorbs, and transforms."

Virasat comprises 10 hand-knotted rug designs, all made using pure wool and silk. At its heart is a desire to revisit heritage as a living archive—one shaped by centuries of exchange along routes such as the Silk Road, where India conversed with Persia and Central Asia through colour, pattern, and material.





The palette of Virasat reflects this lineage. Deep reds, blacks, greens, and golds dominate; these hues were historically derived from vegetable dyes and seen in Persian carpets. "Earlier, colours were never pastel," Kapoor explains. "They were rich, primary, and natural." She points to indigo as an example of shared heritage: known as indigo in India, lapis in parts of Central Asia, the colour itself becomes a metaphor for cultural dialogue.

Motifs, too, are drawn from history but reinterpreted for the present. Paisleys, variously seen as mangoes, cypress trees, or symbols of fertility, appear alongside floral patterns, *jali*-like geometries and garden layouts reminiscent of Persian *charbaghs*. Greyweave's own journey mirrors this philosophy. Founded in 2021 by Neha Kapoor and her husband Vikas Gupta, the brand builds on a 40-year family legacy of manufacturing hand-knotted rugs for global markets. Even its name reflects balance. "Grey exists between black and white," Kapoor explains. "It's about coexistence, not extremes. And weave is the quiet conversation between the maker and the material."

WATCH

‘Diaspora Genre has a Unique Cultural Position’

Gurinder Chadha speaks with **Deepa Natarajan Lobo** about her latest film, *Christmas Karma,* and why she likes to tell her own stories

For generations that have grown up on a potpourri of crossover films, filmmaker Gurinder Chadha needs no introduction. The director of the cult classic *Bend It Like Beckham* has spent decades telling stories of migration, belonging and cross-cultural identities. With her latest film *Christmas Karma,* the filmmaker continues her long-standing engagement with diaspora narratives. In this conversation, Chadha reflects on her journey into cinema and what it’s like to be an independent filmmaker.

The film, *Christmas Karma,* struggled to find backing initially. How difficult was that phase?

Independent filmmaking is struggling everywhere. And for stories rooted in the diaspora, it’s even harder to find belief and backing. So, it feels like a miracle to make a film even today. There were moments when the film felt impossible. Then, quite unexpectedly, I bumped into producer Anushka (Shah) at Cannes. I later sent her the script, and she immediately understood it from an Indian perspective. Their faith gave it a completely new life.

An adaptation of Dickens’ classic for modern audiences is a huge undertaking. What inspired you?

I’ve always loved *It’s a Wonderful Life*, which also draws from Dickens’ classic. Since Indian cinema has always had a good dose of emotions, I thought of revisiting *A Christmas Carol*, but with a slice of a real, raw chapter of history—the story of Indians who were expelled from Uganda in the 1970s and sent to England. The journey of Scrooge (played by Kunal Nayyar), one such refugee, is quite painful, but when he is redeemed, it’s incredibly rewarding.

During your growing-up years, was cinema always on your mind?

Not at all. I had this dream to be a long-distance lorry driver! I was fascinated by the idea of driving a big truck down open roads, being in charge of something so massive and getting whatever I wanted from the stores.



A scene from *Christmas Karma;* (right) Gurinder Chadha



As a woman filmmaker, you constantly have to prove your relevance. Our perspectives are still not always seen as central, and that can be exhausting

Cinema entered my life in layers. On British television, I watched a lot of English films and the old comedies. When it came to Indian films, my father would make us watch classics such as *Mother India*. I remember watching *Purab Aur Paschim* and feeling shocked by its portrayal of Indians in the West.

Much later, during an internship at a magazine in Delhi, I came across a paper on how women were represented in the Indian media. Once again, it was an eye-opening experience and changed the way I viewed cinema forever. That’s when I realised that I didn’t want to just watch films anymore; I wanted to get behind the camera, tell my own stories and also apply them to United Kingdom.

***Christmas Karma* has an extraordinary cast and music lineup. How integral was music to its soul?**

It was amazing to work with Kunal Nayyar, Eva Longoria and the rest of the cast. Shaznay Lewis, who worked with me on *Bend It Like Beckham,* composed original music for this film too. We also had Anoushka Shankar, Panjabi MC and Malkit Singh, bringing a powerful cultural energy.

Do you have any favourites among the films you’ve directed?

I love to explore identities and bring cultures together, and every film that I have made has had many special moments.

Viceroy’s House is especially close to my heart. It was my way of exploring my grandparents’ Partition story, though it didn’t get the English release in India that I had hoped for. *Bride and Prejudice* was enormous fun too, especially filming those large family scenes.

What trends in cinema excite you the most today?

We’re at an interesting crossroads in cinema right now. New voices are finally finding platforms, and I hope that continues. I see myself as part of this diaspora genre, which has a unique cultural position. I’ve been fortunate to occupy this space, and I hope many more storytellers will now be able to express themselves without filters. It’s also good to see more documentaries being made today.

As a woman leader in a male-dominated industry, do you face many challenges?

There are definitely more women in Indian films now, which is wonderful to see. But the challenges remain, especially when it comes to funding and creative leadership. You constantly have to prove your relevance. Our perspectives are still not always seen as central, and that can be exhausting.

Any latest film that you enjoyed watching?

I really liked *Homebound*.

What advice would you give young filmmakers today?

Just know why you are doing it. Be absolutely clear about what you want to say. Stay on top of your story. For filmmakers like us, especially from the diaspora, getting a film made is often nothing short of a miracle. But that’s exactly why it’s worth pursuing.



Stepping into Her Own

After years of pauses and pivots, Chitrangda Singh is finally playing the long game with *Battle of Galwan* and *Raat Akeli Hai 2*

By PUJA TALWAR

Chitrangda Singh is revelling in what she describes as a moment of validation in her career. 2025 offered her a wide canvas to showcase her repertoire across genres and platforms, with *Khakee: The Bengal Chapter, Housefull 5* and *Raat Akeli Hai 2*. The momentum, she believes, marks the beginning of what she jokingly calls ‘Chitrangda 2.0’. “I’ve been looking for work with good filmmakers,” she says. “When different directors want to work with you, it validates you as an actor. 2025 was definitely a gold-star year for my filmography.”

One of her biggest projects yet is *Battle of Galwan,* a war drama starring Salman Khan and directed by Apoorva Lakhia. Based on the 2020 Galwan Valley conflict between Indian and Chinese troops, the film blends large-scale commercial filmmaking with real-life events. “We shot in Ladakh, and the locations were stunning,” she says. “It was funny to shoot the romantic songs first, before getting into the drama. But Salman is an extremely warm co-star; he makes you feel comfortable. Even though it’s a commercial film, it gave me tremendous scope as an actor.”

The casting—Salman Khan, 60, opposite the 49-year-old Singh—has also struck a chord. “Emotional maturity matters more than age,” she says. “Sometimes that maturity comes with age, sometimes it comes naturally, like with someone like Alia Bhatt. For me, emotional rhythm is key. That’s what makes a pairing believable.”

A self-taught actor with a quietly arresting screen presence, Singh’s journey has never followed the industry playbook. She burst onto the scene with Sudhir Mishra’s *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* in 2005, winning critical acclaim and Best Debut awards. But instead of capitalising on the moment, she stepped away for personal reasons, turning down projects like Shah Rukh Khan’s *Chalte Chalte* and Abhishek Chaubey’s *Ishqiya*. “It’s been a rollercoaster,” she says. “But knowing the person I was then, I don’t think I could’ve done it differently. That break made me a better actor. It improved my emotional quotient and gave me perspective. Work slowed down, yes, but I don’t regret it. I have a beautiful son, and I learnt how important it is to have a life outside work.”

If she could change one thing, she admits, it would be how completely she disconnected. “I changed my phone number and cut myself off,” she says. “Maybe if I hadn’t, and if I’d known who was looking out for me, I might’ve found a way to balance my family and work better.”

Her return—with *Yeh Saali Zindagi* and *Desi Boyz*—was gradual but deliberate. Over time, she rebuilt her filmography with layered, often morally complex roles. She credits OTT platforms for expanding possibilities for women. “These stories allow women to be real—flawed, grey, contradictory. Perfect characters are boring. There is no ideal world, so there can’t be ideal people. That duality is what makes characters interesting.”

Singh is also returning to production, eight years after her debut with *Soorma,* a biographical drama on hockey player Sandeep Singh. Her next project, she confirms, is another biopic. “I’ve finally got the rights, and it’s almost locked,” she says. “I really want to tell this story.”

For now, Singh is in no hurry. “I want to build steadily,” she says. “You have to be careful about what you choose. There’s no rush. Good things take time, and I’m in a happy space.”

A poster of *Raat Akeli Hai 2*



Following her success with *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi,* Singh stepped away from the industry for personal reasons, turning down projects like *Chalte Chalte*

BINGE BOX



SHE FIGHTS BACK

After theatrical release, this film, inspired by a landmark judgment, is finally on OTT. It follows Shazia Bano, who takes her husband to court after he abandons her, fueling a national debate on women’s rights. Watch ***Haq*** on **Netflix** starring Emraan Hashmi, Yami Gautam Dhar

TRENDING

Freedom At Midnight Season 2 ***SONYLiv***
CAST: Chirag Vohra, Sidhant Gupta, Rajendra Chawla
PLOT: The second season deals with events such as the Partition, accession of Kashmir, and the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

People We Meet on Vacation ***Netflix***
CAST: Emily Bader, Tom Blyth, and Sarah Catherine Hook
PLOT: In this romantic drama, two polar-opposite pals wonder if they could be a perfect romantic match.

The Night Manager Season 2 ***Prime Video***
CAST: Tom Hiddleston, Hugh Laurie
PLOT: Based on the internationally acclaimed novel, this suspenseful thriller follows Jonathan Pine, as he endeavours to bring down the notorious arms dealer Richard Roper.

Splitsvilla Season 16 ***JioHotstar***
CAST: Anjali, Anisha Shinde, Diksha Pawar, Sadhaaf Shankar
PLOT: The new season focuses on choosing between love and monetary incentives, with Uorfi Javed and Nia disrupting the game.

Taskaree: The Smuggler’s Web ***Netflix***
CAST: Emraan Hashmi, Sharad Kelkar, and Zoya Afroz
PLOT: It follows a dedicated customs officer and his team as they take on a notorious smuggler leading a powerful syndicate, even as unexpected obstacles threaten their mission.

PODCAST REVIEW

The Original Social Observer



THE THING ABOUT AUSTEN
Host: Diane Neu, Zan Cammack
Platform: Spotify
Genre: Conversational
Language: English
Rating: ★★★★★

It’s easy to forget how much mental dust has settled on Jane Austen over time. Somewhere between school syllabi, polite adaptations, and the cultural shorthand of “bonnets and romance,” Austen has quietly been rendered predictable. *The Thing About Austen* blows that assumption apart—calmly, intelligently, and with a spark of mischief.

A large part of that magic comes from the hosts, Diane Neu and Zan Cammack, whose chemistry feels less like a lecture and more like an ongoing, deeply curious conversation. They don’t posture as gatekeepers or over-explain their expertise. Instead, they think alongside the listener, circling ideas, disagreeing gently, laughing at Austen’s jokes, and lingering on moments that most readings glide past. The show refuses to treat Austen as literary porcelain. One episode reframes *Pride and Prejudice* not as a love story first, but as a comedy of social misfires and bruised egos. Elizabeth and Darcy become less aspirational and more recognisably human—people tripping over pride, prejudice, and their own assumptions. Another standout thread across episodes is money—who has it, who doesn’t, and who pretends not to care. The hosts return again and again to Austen’s financial realism, unpacking how inheritance laws, dowries, and economic precarity quietly drive the plots.

What’s especially rewarding is the attention given to side characters. Neu and Cammack relish the busybodies, the snobs, the pompous men with inflated authority, and the women forced into cheerfulness or silence. These episodes are where Austen’s observational genius truly shines—and where the hosts’ insight feels razor-sharp. The tone never tips into dryness. The conversations remain warm, witty, and unpretentious, making space for humour as well as critique.

As the episodes accumulate, a larger argument emerges without ever being hammered home: Austen has been mislabelled as gentle for far too long. Through Neu and Cammack’s lens, her work feels incisive, funny, and quietly ruthless about social performance and self-deception. By the time several episodes have been heard, the relationship with Austen subtly shifts. Her writing is read differently. There is more laughter, and more wincing. *The Thing About Austen* invites listeners into an ongoing, intelligent conversation—and once inside, it’s difficult to leave.

—Medha Dutta Yadav



Representational Picture