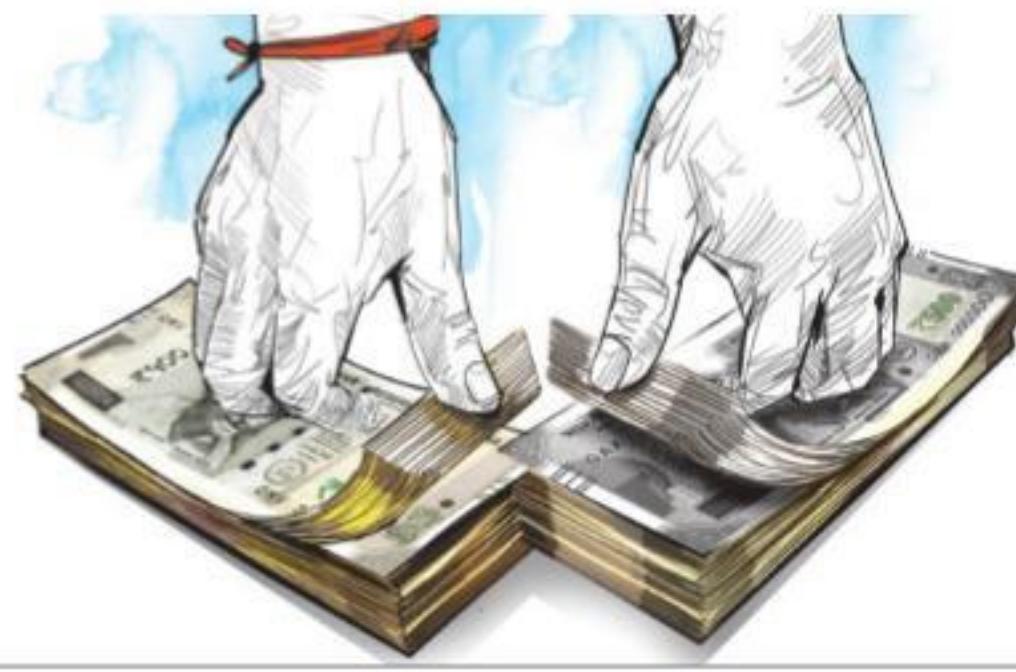




# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • MAY 08, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION



Sovereign funds' India play soared to Rs 4.7Lcr in previous financial year

In a definite indication that global investors are betting big on India, assets under custody of sovereign wealth funds in domestic companies jumped by a full 60 per cent to touch Rs 4.7 lakh crore in the 12 months ending April 2024 as against Rs 3 lakh crore in the previous year, according to the latest NSDL data. The world's largest sovereign funds have been pumping tens of billions into domestic companies/entities/infra assets | P15



## PARISHRAMA

PU COLLEGE | NEET ACADEMY

[www.parishramagroup.com](http://www.parishramagroup.com)

**BASED ON PARISHRAMA'S KEY ANSWERS  
OUR STUDENT'S EXPECTED SCORES IN NEET-2024**



<b>675</b> Harshitha H K	<b>681</b> Sinchana D J	<b>695</b> Adya Hegde	<b>701</b> Gouri S Gunda	<b>690</b> Gurukiran Y S	<b>680</b> Kirankumar M	<b>670</b> Harshitha K
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<b>670</b> Hemanth R T	<b>670</b> Samarth Y S	<b>670</b> Namana MR	<b>665</b> Honmane Sneha	<b>665</b> Preksha S Gowda	<b>660</b> Keerthana M J	<b>660</b> Poojashree VR	<b>660</b> Darshan P	<b>660</b> Keerthan Kumar	<b>660</b> Mithun K N	<b>660</b> Mohammed SH

<b>660</b> Varun Hiremath	<b>659</b> Srajan J Salian	<b>655</b> Almas Fatima NH	<b>655</b> Shreyas Prasad C	<b>652</b> Bhuvan SR	<b>651</b> Subhash Reddy	<b>650</b> Maruthi M	<b>650</b> Subash Reddy	<b>650</b> Suhas HR	<b>650</b> Tarun Gowda C	<b>650</b> Dhanushree MS

<b>649</b> Danamma Khobri	<b>648</b> Arun P	<b>646</b> Jeevika H	<b>645</b> Yash Raj	<b>645</b> Jeevitha Y	<b>643</b> Pramod Kumar B	<b>643</b> Shreyas Gowda B	<b>640</b> Amarnag M	<b>640</b> Darshan K H	<b>640</b> Mohan D Gowda	<b>640</b> Santosh R H

<b>640</b> Srinivasa D H	<b>640</b> Subhash Chandra	<b>640</b> Arpitha N	<b>640</b> Ganavi T	<b>640</b> Sneha Allgi	<b>638</b> Sindhushree L	<b>638</b> N A Akash	<b>637</b> Padmashree S	<b>637</b> Rahul H K	<b>636</b> N Rajath Kumar	<b>636</b> Shashank SN

<b>635</b> Lavanya S	<b>635</b> Kiran R Patil	<b>635</b> B R Kushi	<b>635</b> Yogitha Gowda	<b>632</b> Sumanth B S	<b>632</b> Siddarth S	<b>630</b> Prajwal R	<b>630</b> Adarsh C L	<b>630</b> Bharathesh P B	<b>630</b> Deekshit Gowda	<b>630</b> Harshith C

<b>630</b> Navdeep V	<b>630</b> Sachin R H	<b>630</b> Tharun S	<b>630</b> Vikas Saware	<b>627</b> Teja Reddy B	<b>627</b> Ananya V Agnihotri	<b>626</b> Lalith Kumar C L	<b>625</b> Gurashanthamma	<b>625</b> Mohammed Ismail	<b>625</b> Rashid Sayyed G	<b>625</b> Shashank JK

<b>624</b> Sai Pruthvi J Patil	<b>621</b> Dheeraj S R	<b>621</b> Hariprasad K S	<b>620</b> Adya Sampathila	<b>620</b> Poorvika D H G	<b>620</b> Rohini H J	<b>620</b> Madhushree M	<b>620</b> Haripreeth Gowda	<b>620</b> Nihar D Shadli	<b>620</b> Sharath Kumar	<b>620</b> Ranjith V

Many More...

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2024-25

NEET LONG TERM & PU COLLEGE

080 24413400, 74838 30545

Omkar Hills Road, Srinivasapura, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, Towards

Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560060 Follow us on:

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

E-Tender Notice No: B/7RD/2024-25/02  
Dated : 02-05-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Augmentation of	Rs. 1,68,01,564.94
Bengaluru / Santoshpur by provision of BMs for Improving sectioning of Bengaluru Yard.	
Last date for submission of bids:	Upto 15:00 Hrs on 22-05-2024
For details log on:	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Distribution	PUB/54/AA5/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Bengaluru
f. South Western Railway - SWR (C) SWRLY (S) SWRLY	

**DOCUMENT LOST**

I, Mr. G.P. MANIKANDAN, aged about 53 years, S/o late M. Vijayavaranam, R/t No.1035, 13th Main, Vijayavaranam, layout, Bilekallalli, Bangalore-560076, do hereby inform to the general public that I have lost my original Sale Deed document No. JPH 1-11261-2013 dated 20/03/2013 at Post Box No. 3562, 17/03/2013, which was registered at SPD Jayanagar (JP Nagar) Bangalore. I lost the original Sale Deed document when I want to make a Xerox copy of Sale Deed, near Bilekallalli, Bangalore. The document fell down due to damage in my bag when I want to make a copy. Inspite of my best efforts I could not trace the document in the regard on 03-05-2024. I had lodged a police complaint at Hulimavu Police Station, Bangalore, vide GSC No P01798240690378. If anybody finds the above said documents or is in possession, please handover the same to the above said address or contact me on 9513254727.

Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://facebook.com/WesternRail)

**WESTERN RAILWAY****ELECTRICAL WORK**

Sr. DEE/P/BCT, invites Tender Notice No. : EL 81/7/ 881/WA/1 dated 02.05.2024. Work and location : Mumbai Central - Electrical work in connection with Mumbai Central CFU Extension of existing sick line. Approx. cost of Bid Security Rs. : 4,02,500/- Date Time of submission: Till 06.06.2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 06.06.2024 at 15.30 hrs. NOTE: Please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 0104

For more information, visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**CITY UNION BANK LIMITED**

Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar,  
Kumbakonam - 612001. E-Mail id: [crmd@cityunionbank.in](mailto:crmd@cityunionbank.in),  
Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

**RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.88,44,920/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakh Forty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty only) as on 02-05-2024 together with further interest to be charged from 03-05-2024 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) Mrs. Seethamma, W/o, Late Narayana N. (In the personal capacity and also in the capacity of legal heir of Late Narayana N.) No.94, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore - 560037. No.2) Mr. N. Ravikumar, S/o, Late Narayana N (In the personal capacity and also in the capacity of legal heir of Late Narayana N.), No.94, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560037. No.3) Mrs. Shanthi S, W/o, Late Manjunatha N (In the capacity of legal heir of Late Manjunatha N.), No.94, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560037. No.4) Mrs. Radha, D/o, Late Narayana N (In the capacity of legal heir of Late Narayana N.) No.94, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560037. No.5) Minor Dhanusha M, S/o, Late Manjunatha N (In the capacity of legal heir of Late Manjunatha N) Represented by his Mother and Natural Guardian Mrs. Shanthi S., No.94, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560037. No.6) Minor Akshya M, D/o, Late Manjunatha N (In the capacity of legal heir of Late Manjunatha N) Represented by her Mother and Natural Guardian Mrs. Shanthi S., No.94, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560037.

**Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank**

**Schedule - A :** (Property Owned by Seethamma and Late Narayana N, Represented by legal Heirs Seethamma, Ravikumar, N. Radha and late Manjunatha N, represented by Legal Heirs Shanthi S., Dhanusha M (minor) and Akshaya M (minor) represented by Mother and Natural Guardian Shanthi S.) All that piece and parcel of the Property Bearing No.457 of Sy.No.100. BBMP Ward No.88, Aswath Nagar, BBMP Khattha No.882, Site No.457, Sy.No.100, Mumukshulu Village, 5th Cross, Aswath Nagar Marathahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring- East to West 21 feet, North to South 41 feet, Boundaries- East by - Property belonging to Muniyanna, West by - Property belonging to Rathnamma. North by - Road, South by - Property belonging to Kaveramma. Registered as Document No.9765 at SRO, K.R. Puram, Bangalore. (In this Site Area of 861 Sq.ft., building with Plinth Area of Ground Floor - 540 Sq.ft., 1st Floor - 599 Sq.ft., 2nd Floor - 599 Sq.ft., 3rd Floor - 599 Sq.ft., 4th Floor - 599 Sq.ft. & 5th Floor- 599 Sq.ft. Building exist).

**Reserve Price : Rs.1,15,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakh only)**

**RE-AUCTION DETAILS**

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
27-05-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, 324, 3rd A - Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru Rural - 560106. Telephone No.080-28453272, Cell No.934105406.

**Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:**

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, 324, 3rd A - Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru Rural - 560106. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd, together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.080-28453272, Cell No.934105406. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever" there is basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc, as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (awful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 06-05-2024 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001237. Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: [www.cityunionbank.com](http://www.cityunionbank.com)

**ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503, email: [aphmhidc@gmail.com](mailto:aphmhidc@gmail.com) & [ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com](mailto:ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com)

Tender Notice No. 1/APMSIDC/2024-25, Dated: 06.05.2024

APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform (<https://tender.appeprocurement.gov.in>) for

**Equipment Wing:** 1. Procurement and supply of Balance Equipment to new & existing medical colleges in A.P. 2. Procurement and supply of Pathology Equipment to teaching hospitals in A.P.

**Drugs Wing :** 1.N.161/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/2024-25 Procurement and supply Medicines.

Sd/- for Managing Director

DIPR No.3004PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 07/05/2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the General Public that my Client intends to sanction Educational Institution Finance loan in favour of TIMMANA GOUDA, by mortgaging the property bearing No.500/25/6, Kotha PID No.150/2002/07/00620759 carved in New Sy No.25/6, old Sy No. 25/4 (Old Sy No.25/2), measuring 0.20 1/2 Gunta out of 1 Acre situated at Hunlichahankaballi Village, Hesaragatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and the Property is bounded on East by - Government Road, West by - Land bearing Survey No.25/1, North by : Survey No.25/2 and Left over land, South by - Property belonging to Sri.H.R.Vishwanath and the aforesaid TIMMANA GOUDA claims that he is the sole and absolute owner and having acquired the same from K.R.Prasak & others through a registered sale deed, dated 17.10.2018 / 24-04-2019. Hence if anybody has any claims/objections what so ever for the mortgage of the Schedule Property in favour of my Client, the same may be lodged to the under signed, in writing within 15 days of this notice, thereafter any such objections/claims would be considered as invalid and my client will proceed further for creation of registered mortgage and disbursement of the sanctioned loan amount on the aforesaid property.

I.M. DEVAIAH & ASSOCIATES,

No. 4, 1st floor, Opp. Sesadhipuram Post office, Sesadhipuram, Bangalore-560 030. (M) 98451 05603 E-mail: [imedivah\\_advocate@yahoo.co.in](mailto:imedivah_advocate@yahoo.co.in) Place: Bangalore Date: 07.05.2024

**FORM NO.3**

[See Regulation-15(1)(x)]

**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT BENGALURU**

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

O.A. No.: 779/2023

BETWEEN : The Federal Bank Ltd, Indiranagar Branch ..... Applicant

VS. Mr. Ruhulla T.S. ..... Defendant

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendant

Mr. Ruhulla T.S. S/o Ganisab R/t: Flat No.B-602, 6th Floor, Maple Block, Golden Grand Apartments, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560022.

Also at: Kaseya Software India Pvt. Limited, Neel Rao Tech Park, Plot No. 118, Road No.3, EPIP Phase I, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560 066.

**Notice**

WHEREAS, the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Other Financial Institutions and under the Bankruptcy Act, 1933 against the defendant for recovery of a sum of Rs.20,40,722.47/- (Twenty Lakhs Forty Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Two Rupees and Paise Forty Seven Only) together with current and future interest and for other reliefs.

Takes notice that you are hereby required to appear before this Hon'ble Tribunal to show cause on 22.8.24 At 10.30 A.M. in person or by your pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. The notice of interim relief/sought.

Take notice that in case of default the application/interlocutory application will be heard and determined in his absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the 2 of May 2024.

By Order of the Tribunal

Sd/- The REGISTRAR  
Debts Recovery Tribunal  
Bengalore

**YESHWANTHPUR BRANCH (DP-10428)**

Bengaluru-560022

**[Format-Y] E-Auction Sale Notice under SARFAESI Act 2002****SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTIONS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER TO AS THE ACT).**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Canara Bank, Yeshwanthpur Branch (DP-10428), Bangalore, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, Charges and cost etc as detailed below.

The Property described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** under rule no.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

**1) Name and Address of Borrower : Sri. Rajeev M Chandan S/o Manju N Chandan, No. 27/2, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Mathikere Extension, Bangalore, Karnataka-560054. Guarantor : Sri.Lokesh.G, No. 161, 4th Block, D.B.Sandra, Vidyanayapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560013.**

**The Total Amount Due : Rs. 15,53,222.31/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two and Paise Thirty One Only) as on 06.05.2024 with further interest, costs and expenses there on due to the Yeshwanthpur (10428) Branch of Canara Bank, Bengaluru.**

**Description of the Immovable Property :** UREM of residential property at Site No. 1, Mukund meadows, Sy.No. 96/2 & 96/4, Navarathna Agrahara Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West 70 feet, 11 inches and North to South 40 Feet 3 inches totally 284 Sq. Ft and bounded as follows : East by : 30'-0 feet Road, West by : Site No. 05, North by : Government Road, South by : Site No. 02.

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

**The details regarding E-Auction are Mentioned below:**

Date and Time of E-Auction	29.05.2024 10.00 AM to 12.30 PM
Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price Rs. 61,13,000/- EMD (Rs. in Lakhs) Rs. 6,11 Lakhs
DD Favoring on (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer)	Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, Yeshwanthpur (10428) Branch, Bengaluru. Account No. 209272434, IFSC Code CNRB0010428. on or before 27.05.2024 - 5.00 p.m.</td





# 116 trees fell during Monday's rain, 28 teams get to work clearing debris

Girinath: Shoulder drains, raja kaluves must be cleared regularly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath on Tuesday said precautionary measures, including the deployment of 28 tree-cutting teams to clear fallen trees, have been taken to avoid inconvenience to the public during the rainy season. The BBMP control room reported 116 tree-fall incidents across the city on Monday.

Addressing a meeting on implementing rain damage prevention measures under BBMP, he instructed officials to take precautionary measures to avoid issues during rain.

Pointing to water logging on roads affecting vehicular movement, he suggested that shoulder drains need to be cleaned for water falling on roads to flow smoothly into the drains.

The BBMP Forest Department teams should be always ready during rain. Roadside drains and Raja Kaluves should be cleaned regularly. The cleared silt should be removed from the place immediately, he instructed them. "28 teams have already been deployed in the city to expeditiously clear fallen trees and twigs/branches during monsoon. Besides, six additional teams will be deployed. Also, eight two-wheeler teams will



A tree which fell on a car during Monday's rain in a residential area in JP Nagar is yet to be cleared on Tuesday | EXPRESS

be deployed to clear fallen trees to reduce traffic congestion. Eight tractors, two earth-movers and two cranes for clearing trees will also be commissioned. Necessary equipment and personnel are put in place. The deputy conservator of forests has been directed to arrange a dump-yard in respective zones to dump cleared fallen trees and branches," said Girinath.

The fire and emergency department, SDRF and NDRF de-

partments will also join hands with the Palike. For this, respective zonal commissioners are in regular contact with these departments. Officials should take the help of these departments in emergencies and solve the problem.

Special Commissioner of Planning Department Dr K Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner of Disaster Management Suralkar Vikas Kishore and other officials were present.

## Techie suffers spinal cord injury

Bengaluru: A 26-year-old techie sustained severe injuries when a large tree branch fell on him during Monday's rainfall. The incident occurred in Nagavarapalya in CV Raman Nagar. Ravi Kumar, a resident of Nagavarapalya, was heading home in the evening when the branch fell on his back. He reportedly sustained spinal cord injuries and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital on Old Airport Road. Speaking on the incident, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the zonal commissioner, who is reviewing the situation, has the authority to declare 'gratuitous relief' to the injured. "The zonal commissioner has the power to announce up to Rs 5 lakh as gratuitous relief. A person affected by a natural calamity or such accidents can be covered under these provisions. The official will take a call on how much relief has to be given to the victim from the BBMP for treatment," said Girinath. ENS



Ravi Kumar undergoes treatment at a private hospital in the city

ZONE	NUMBERS
Bengaluru East	8277884013
Bengaluru West	8277884012
Bengaluru North	8277884014
Bengaluru South	8277884011
Kolar	8277884015
Chikkaballapur	8277884016
Bengaluru Rural	8277884017
Ramanagara	8277884018
Tumakuru	8277884019
Chitradurga	8277884020
Davangere	8277884021

## Can't reach 1912?

Try these Bescom numbers

Bescom Tuesday released a list of phone numbers through which consumers can report electricity-related complaints when the helpline number 1912 is busy. According to a release, due to heavy rain and wind since the last three days, electric poles, power infrastructures and supply units have been damaged. The Bescom helpline 1912 has been flooded with calls preventing many consumers from reaching it. Consumers can send messages and photos along with addresses to the WhatsApp numbers. In addition, Bescom also listed 12 mobile phone numbers for consumers to send SMSes.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Other WhatsApp numbers: 9483191212, 9483191222  
Common WhatsApp number: 9449844640  
Mobile phone numbers for SMS: 9480816108, 9480816109, 9480816110, 9480816111, 9480816112, 9480816113, 9480816114, 9480816115, 9480816116, 9480816117, 9480816118 and 9480816119.

## Vehicle owners confused over installation of GPS, panic buttons

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

CONFUSION prevails among owners of transport vehicles on the installation of emergency panic buttons and location tracking devices, which have been made mandatory.

While some owners stated that the cost of the tracking devices is higher than the market price, bus and van operators are not sure of how many panic buttons and location tracking devices they should install.

As per the state government's

notification issued in November last, all public service vehicles such as yellow board cabs, vans and tourist buses have to install panic buttons and tracking devices by this November. The idea is to enhance the safety of passengers, especially women. The owners, who fail to comply with the notification, will not be allowed to renew vehicle permits and fitness certificates.

A private cab owner said the cost of the tracking device and panic button kit in the market is around Rs 4,000. However, the

unit supplied by the empanelled vendors of the transport department costs Rs 7,599, excluding GST.

He said installation of the device is not a problem, but the compulsion that it should be

obtained only from the empanelled vendors is the issue. He sought to know on what basis 13 companies have been selected to supply such devices.

A representative of a private cab operators' association said, "For vehicles such as tourist vans and buses, there is no clarity on how many panic buttons should be installed. Also, the main intention is to track the vehicles. If any passenger hits the emergency panic button, it has to be addressed. There is no clarity on how this will function."

Additional commissioner (Transport) Mallikarjuna C said, "There are 13 empanelled vendors to supply the panic button and vehicle tracking equipment. Vehicle owners can purchase the devices from these vendors. The transport department has nothing to do with pricing."

He said vehicle owners have been asked to install the devices at the earliest. Once the Model Code of Conduct ends, the department will raise awareness on it and persuade vehicle owners to install devices by November.

Employees of the 108 ambulance service have decided to call off their proposed strike after a meeting with top health officials on Tuesday. They had planned to go on a strike from Monday (May 6) and had postponed it for a day to see the outcome of the meeting. The staffers alleged that they have not

got their salaries for the past five months. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao claimed that the salaries were released on time, and dismissed opposition criticism regarding payment delays. He attributed any discrepancies in salary disbursement to the service provider, GVK EMRI. During the meeting with representatives of the ambulance staffers at Arogya Soudha, Health Commissioner Randeep D clarified that there were no salary arrears from the health department. "Any issues regarding salary payments should be addressed directly with GVK EMRI for resolution," he stressed. The ambulance staffers were assured of government cooperation in resolving any concerns in this matter. ENS

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book to get permission for borewells, but the water board objected to this in April citing groundwater depletion.

"BWSSB has clearly stated that only recycled water is permitted for building construction. But land owners get permission for empty site and once a borewell is drilled, it is used for construction purposes," he said and added that PG business is a commercial one, but the owners fraudulently

get permission by declaring the construction as domestic. Two weeks ago, residents stopped drilling of an unauthorised borewell in the same area. "After we received a complaint, we rushed to the spot and called the police. A complaint also was filed against the borewell contractor and vehicle numbers were given to the police. Henceforth, borewell contractors will be booked," said a senior BWSSB official.

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# Hacker Sriki lands in SIT net in 2017 Bitcoin theft case

Arrested from luxury hotel for failing to respond to notices from agency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

**HACKER** Sri Krishna Ramesh aka Sriki, the main accused in the Bitcoin case, was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in connection with a 2017 case, from a luxury hotel on Ballari Road early on Tuesday morning. Sriki is allegedly evading SIT inquiries and had failed to respond to notices issued by the agency in connection with the case.

The case was filed against Sriki by BV Harish, Director of Unocoin Technologies in Tumakuru, at the New Extension Police station in Tumakuru on March 26, 2017. Sriki was accused of hacking into



the company's server and stealing 60.6 Bitcoins worth Rs 1.14 crore. The cost of each Bitcoin was said to be Rs 1.67 lakh. The case was transferred to SIT for further investigation on July 18, 2023.

The laptop recovered from Sriki was subjected to scientific analysis and the SIT was successful in cracking the case.

In the Bitcoin scam, SIT is investigating eight cases registered in Cottonpet, KG Nagar, Ashoknagar and other cyber crime police stations. Sriki was out on bail in these cases.

Sriki, a resident of Jayanagar, went by the aliases online as AP, Rose and Big Boss. A software programmer, he is said to have picked up technical

skills in his school days that enabled him to allegedly commit several cyber crimes. He allegedly hacked into the main website of his school to change his and others' attendance and marks records regularly. After his schooling, he went to Amsterdam in 2014 to study computer science.

After his return, he was accused of hacking into Indian poker websites and an online gaming website.

With the money he made, he would purchase drugs from the dark web using Bitcoins, get it delivered to the Foreign Post Office in Chamarajpet. On November 4 last year, he received 'hydro ganja' from his contacts at the Chamarajpet foreign post-office and his contact was caught by the police. This case brought Sriki under the police radar.



## DAY AFTER THE STORM

A flock of birds glides in the blue sky above the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday, as the city failed to see any rainfall throughout the day | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

## HC: Imposing only fine will encourage rash driving

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court refused to quash the six-month sentence imposed on an ambulance driver from the Chikkamagaluru district, with a fine for causing an accident, resulting in the death of the car driver and grievous injuries to three passengers.

Confirming the sentence imposed by the sessions court on S Santhosh of Nidivale village in Mudigere taluk, the high court observed that the accident indicates the speed at which the ambulance might be driven. "If such an accused is dealt with by imposing with nominal sentence or a fine of a few hundred rupees, it would be an injustice to society as well as the victims of the accident. It would encourage negligent riders/drivers of vehicles to drive or ride their vehicles in a rash manner without caring for traffic rules or value of human life," the high court said.

Justice Umesh M Adiga made this observation while referring to the prayer by the counsel of the accused to impose only a fine.

On April 19, 2011, the accused was driving an ambulance rashly, and at Bidarhalli village, he rammed a Maruti Alto. The driver of the car, Prakash, died on the spot and three others sustained simple as well as grievous injuries.

The trial court, in 2014, sentenced the accused to six months simple imprisonment with a fine of Rs 4,000. He challenged this before the district court which declined to interfere with the trial court order in 2016, so he moved the high court by filing a revision petition against the sentence.

Dismissing it, the high court said: "The trial court looking at the gravity of the offence and facts of the case imposed proper sentence. Neither it is too harsh nor nominal. Hence does not call for interference."

## Woman held for stealing from sister's house

ENS @Bengaluru

A 22-year-old woman, who stole Rs 52 lakh in cash and gold worth several lakh from her elder sister's house, has been arrested by the Kengeri police. The police identified the accused as Uma, a resident of Laggere, who works as an auto consultant.

Police said Uma had a debt of Rs 5 lakh. When she asked her sister Suma and brother-in-law Kunnegowda for money, they refused. So, Uma, who knew that there was a large amount of cash kept at the house, hatched a plot to steal it. On March 22, the family was away attending a fair in Huliyurudurga, Tumakuru district. Kunnegowda, who is into steel and cement business, had asked a relative to sleep at their house till they return.

"Uma used a duplicate key and committed the theft on March 24. When the relative came in the night, he found the house ransacked and alerted Kunnegowda, who rushed home and found that Rs 52 lakh cash and 182 gram of gold coins were stolen. He filed a complaint," police said.

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A fire broke out at Raksha Healthcare Hospital in Rajanukunte on the outskirts of the city on Tuesday morning. No casualties were reported. Preliminary investigation revealed that the fire broke out due to a short circuit in the basement

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# HDK SLAMS RAHUL FOR 'MASS RAPIST' COMMENT

Says Rahul, Siddhu, DKS conspired to release pen drive, wants Cong to keep Modi, Shah out of scandal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister and JDS chief H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday made a scathing attack on senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for stating that Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna had allegedly raped over 400 women, including minors, and referring to him as "mass rapist".

"DCM DK Shivakumar is allegedly responsible for distributing the pen drive containing sleazy videos, and should be suspended from the cabinet as he doesn't deserve that post," he urged. He said he would approach Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, seeking a judicial probe into the case, and also anticipates the court will hand over the case to the CBI.

Coming down heavily on Rahul Gandhi, Kumaraswamy at a marathon press conference taunted that Gandhi had seen the videos and got statistics and information on the pen drive before anyone else. "Rahul Gandhi said that among the rape victims were girls under 16 years of age. On what basis did he make this statement? He

## Congress leaders 'planting victims', says Kumaraswamy

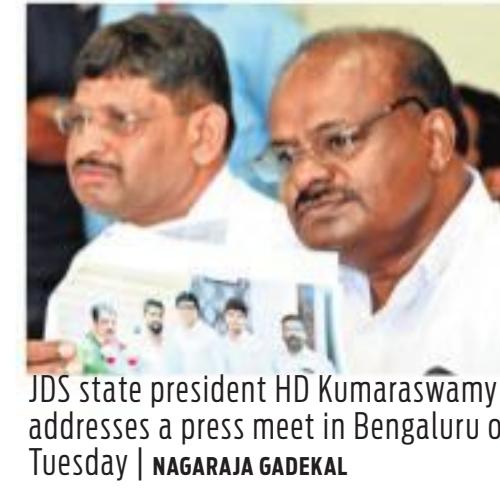
Kumaraswamy alleged that CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar have been "planting" victims in connection with Prajwal Revanna's alleged sex scandal case. He claimed the "victims" had been terrorised into lodging complaints against Prajwal and his father Revanna. "A former ZP member lodged a complaint on April 28 that she was raped (by Prajwal) at gun-point for several years. But the woman shared the stage with the accused (Prajwal) on April 22 during a campaign," he pointed out. Kumaraswamy expressed doubts about another victim being allegedly kidnapped by Revanna, and rescued by police from a farmhouse. "It is a different story and I will reveal more about it later," he said. He clarified that he was not defending Prajwal, but only wants a fair probe into the case. "It is the duty of the government to secure Prajwal from wherever he is," he replied to a query.

has insisted that cases be filed under the PoCSO Act. Why has notice not been given to Rahul Gandhi," he questioned.

He claimed that Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had allegedly conspired and released the pen drive and blamed them for ruining the dignity of the state, besides "mortgaging the dignity of the women (victims)."

## 'Cong lost sleep over alliance'

Kumaraswamy was replying to Gandhi's reported statement at an election rally in Shivamogga, targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that "Prajwal Revanna rapes 400 women and makes videos. This is not a sex



scandal but rape, but the Prime Minister campaigned for him (Prajwal). Every woman should know that when the PM sought votes, he knew what Prajwal did and so did all BJP leaders, yet they backed Prajwal".

"Why are you dragging the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah into this? You lost your sleep when JDS forged an alliance with BJP, which is why this case has been blown up into national and international news. Congress Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said financial compensation will be given to the victims," he said. "Congress leaders sat with the pen drive and Surjewala himself ticked which video should be released first and which latter. Now, you are speaking of compensation to the victims?"

Terming the Special Investigation Team (SIT) "Siddaramaiah Investigation Team and Shivakumar Investigation Team", he said it is a "puppet of CM Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar", and wanted to know why Naveen Gowda, an aide of a Karnataka minister, Karthik, Prajwal's driver, and Puttaswamy, alias Putty, a habitual offender, have not been arrested yet.

He clarified that he is not worried whether the JDS-BJP alliance will continue or not, and said it is up to the BJP to take a call.



JDS leaders and activists stage a protest against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and former MP LR Shivarame Gowda, in connection with the leaked pen drive case, in Mandya on Tuesday | EXPRESS

# SIT probe a witch-hunt against me, says Revanna

ENS @Bengaluru

HOLENARISIPUR JDS MLA HD Revanna, an accused in the sexual harassment case, on Tuesday alleged that the statement given by the DCM to the media and the CM writing to the PM clearly indicated that the SIT investigation was nothing but a calculated witch-hunt aimed at humiliating him and his family. Revanna stated this in his bail petition filed before the special court. Referring to the developments before and after the rejection of his interim anticipatory bail petition, Revanna contended that the SIT investigation lacked honesty and its sole intention was to arrest him and to ensure that he was humiliated.

Though the SIT stated that no non-bailable offence was invoked when he had filed the first anticipatory bail petition, which was withdrawn later; another case was booked accusing him of kidnapping a woman only to ensure his arrest, Revanna alleged.

The MLA's counsel said that the DCM had categorically stated in the media that Revanna would be arrested and put behind bars for at least two months. This indicated the true intention of the investigation. The SIT's aim was to ensure that Revanna and his family were humiliated on one pretext or the other, he added.

The counsel alleged that the actions of the CM writing to the PM asking him to get the diplomatic passport of Revanna's son cancelled and making the same public were an attempt to influence the investigation. The case of kidnapping against Revanna was registered only to harass him. The petitioner, who is innocent of the alleged crime, had been made a scapegoat by the political party opposed to Revanna. Its aim was to malign his reputation and to influence the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections, the counsel claimed.

# JDS demands judicial probe into sex scandal, plans stir in Mysuru today

ENS @Mysuru

IN an attempt to salvage the party's reputation which has tanked due to the alleged sex scandal involving Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, JDS leaders are demanding a judicial investigation by a sitting judge of the Karnataka High Court.

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday, former minister and JDS MLA GT Devegowda expressed scepticism on the ability of the SIT to conduct an impartial inquiry. "Given Congress' reluctance to hand over the case to the CBI, fearing the Central government's interference, it is imperative that a sitting judge of the Karnataka High Court oversees the investigation," he stated.

Devegowda insisted that the SIT should find out who distributed the pen drives containing explicit videos. "We suspect that the pen drives were distributed under the direction of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. The SIT should arrest those responsible for their distribution. Instead of conducting a thorough investigation, Congress is blaming JDS supreme HD Deve Gowda, former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the incident."

Accusing Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar of conspiring to undermine JDS in the state, he said the party will protest in Mysuru. "JDS workers, particularly women, will gather near Mysuru Palace to protest against Congress and demand a judicial inquiry on Wednesday," he declared.

Former MLA Sa Ra Mahesh said he will retire from politics and resign from JDS mem-

bership if SIT proves that a woman was rescued from the farmhouse of Holenaripur MLA HD Revanna's aide Rakesh in Kalenahalli.

"If SIT releases video or photographic evidence of the woman being rescued from Revanna's assistant's farmhouse, I will immediately retire from politics and leave JDS," he vowed. He said that according to his sources, the woman had actually been harboured in her relative Pavitra Harish's house in Hunsur.

Accusing Congress of foisting false cases against JDS leaders in the Mysuru region, he said, "I know who influenced the woman's son to file a kidnapping case, who drafted the complaint and what incentives were offered to him. I will substantiate these claims with supporting documents. We cannot expect impartiality from SIT who are concerned with their own career prospects."

# Case filed against corporator after posting clip of voting

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Ballari

A case has been registered against a Ballari City Municipal Corporation BJP member after he illegally carried his mobile phone inside the polling booth and made a video of him casting his vote. The complainant has been registered against Ward No. 10 corporator Tilak Kumar K (38) for violating the ECI guidelines. After the video went viral, the poll panel flying squad filed a case against him at the Cowl Bazar police station."

A senior district administration official said the incident occurred at polling booth No. 63 at Vasavi English Medium School. He also revealed in his social media account that he voted for Ballari BJP candidate B Sriramulu, writing, 'Done with my duty to Sriramulu.'

The official said, "As per ECI guidelines, carrying a mobile phone inside a polling booth and video recording are illegal. An FIR has been registered at the Cowl Bazar police station."

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @Dandebagh (Uttara Kannada)

THEY boated for 40 minutes and trekked for another 20 before reaching their polling booths at this village in Uttara Kannada district.

Not the ones to be discouraged by the difficulties they face, 70 villagers from Hitchkad Kurve -- an island village nestled in the Gangavalli river, came in their boats to cast their votes as this is the only mode of transport for them.

Hitchkad Kurve, an Instagram-

mable island surrounded by coconut groves and forests, is an isolated patch with 30 fishermen families, with almost all households owning a boat to fish in the river that adjoins an estuary.

On Tuesday, the villagers crossed the river in boats to arrive at polling booths. "It takes us nearly 40 minutes to reach this bank at Dandebagh village. We need another 15-20 minutes to arrive at the polling booth," said Beera Thimmanna Harikantha, who had come to vote with his family members.

The villagers have been de-



Mutnakurve. We were unhappy with that. But we do not want to make it an issue in this election. We have all been coming to vote regularly," said Beera.

"We have been travelling like this from the days of my great grandfather. We have to cross the river every time we need any essential commodity. We have to return by 5 pm or else we have to stay at Dandebagh with our friends or relatives," said Dikshit Prakash Harikantha.

The village got electricity, gas connection and other

JDS and BJP workers staged a protest in Kolar on Tuesday, demanding that the probe into the alleged sex scandal, involving MP Prajwal Revanna, be handed over to the CBI. Workers of both parties gathered near the bus stand circle and blocked the road in protest

newindianexpress.com

## INTERPOL ALERT AGAINST HASSAN MP PRAJWAL

BENGALURU: Responding to a request by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) through the CBI to issue Blue Corner Notice against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, accused No. 2 in the Hassan sex scandal case, International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) on Monday reportedly alerted all 196 member countries to identify and report if the MP is spotted in their jurisdiction. The SIT had approached the CBI, which is the nodal agency of Interpol, to issue the notice against Prajwal.

Alerting the member countries is part of the procedure followed by Interpol. Despite issuing two regular notices and a lookout notice, Prajwal did not appear before the SIT. He is said to have gone to Germany on April 27, a day after Lok Sabha polling in Karnataka. Prajwal, who has a diplomatic passport, needs visa to travel abroad. It is said that Prajwal has booked a return ticket to Bengaluru from Munich on May 15 and will be landing in the city on May 16. The MP is also said to have travelled to Dubai from Germany after the sex scandal came to light.

## PROVE ALLEGATIONS WITH EVIDENCE, PATEL CHALLENGES DEVARAJE GOWDA

HASSAN: Congress candidate for the Hassan Parliamentary constituency Shreyas Patel has challenged BJP leader Devaraje Gowda, claiming that he would take 'political sanyasa' if the alleged remarks that he met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, in connection with the alleged sex scandal involving JDS' Prajwal Revanna are proven. Speaking to reporters in Holenaripur, Patel said he did not contact any Congress leader or the victims, in connection with the scandal. Taking a dig at Devaraje Gowda, who had also charged Shivakumar as being the mastermind of the pen drive's circulation, Patel claimed that the allegations are baseless and politically-motivated.

He added that he will file a deformation case against Devaraje Gowda for tarnishing his image and the party by unnecessarily dragging his name into the issue, which is being probed by the SIT. Patel said he is ready for an open debate with any leader over the issue and Gowda could have furnished proper evidence to substantiate his alleged remarks. "Devaraje Gowda is also trying to divert the sex scandal issue," he alleged.

## CAN PROVE SHIVAKUMAR HAND BEHIND SEX SCANDAL, SAYS RAMESH JARKIHOLI

BELAGAVI: Gokal MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi, who was caught in a sex CD case, on Tuesday said that he has evidence to prove the direct involvement of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in the sex scandal case allegedly implicating Hassan JDS MP Prajwal Revanna. After exercising his franchise, he charged that Shivakumar was involved in the release of his sex CD too. Shivakumar, who is rich, feels he

can buy anything with money. The law should take its own course and such incidents should stop, Jarkiholi said. "Not just Shivakumar, our (BJP) people too are hand-in-glove in it. I will expose everything after June 4 (when the Lok Sabha poll results are announced)," he said. Jarkiholi said he does not trust the SIT probing the case and he would reveal all details only if the case is handed over to the CBI. The investigation should be overseen by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court even if it is handed over to the CBI, he added. "Such (sleaze) CDs of CM Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar may also surface in the coming days. I had alerted everyone about the possibility of such tapes, but no one paid heed to me," he said.

**I know who influenced the woman's son to file a kidnapping case, who drafted the complaint and what incentives were offered to him. I will substantiate these claims with supporting documents**

- GT Devegowda, JDS MLA

# Devaraje Gowda behind sharing of pen drive: Congress leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BP Manjegowda, a Congress leader from Hassan, has refuted allegations made against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar by advocate and Hassan BJP leader Devaraje Gowda. Addressing reporters on Tuesday, the Congress leader said that both Devaraje Gowda and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna's car driver Kartik should be arrested for the truth to come out, regarding the circulation of the videos and photographs of the ongoing sex scandal.

"Devaraje Gowda has resorted to blackmailing Congress leaders by blaming them for the circulation of sex tapes. He is the originator of sharing of the pen drives. Gowda is the first to get the pen drive and the first to see its contents. He was the first to copy the pen drives. He gave them to the BJP leaders in Delhi and the state. In fact, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had called former CM HD Kumaraswamy and told him not to give a Lok Sabha ticket to Prajwal, and to field some other candidate. Even Kumaraswamy has implicitly accepted this," Manjegowda claimed.

"This being the truth, to what extent is it right to unnecessarily accuse Shivakumar of sharing the pen drives. Shivakumar is campaigning continuously, not only in Karnataka, but even in other states and how can he be held responsible," Manjegowda questioned.

"Devaraje Gowda held a press conference on Monday on the directions of some BJP leaders, since the voting for the second phase in Karnataka was a few hours away," Manjegowda alleged, further adding that both Devaraje Gowda and Kartik have to be arrested for the truth to come out.

# Posters on CM, DCM: Congress approaches top cop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Congress lodged a complaint with the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, seeking that the miscreants, who had pasted posters containing pictures of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, with abusive language being reportedly used against them in parts of the city, be arrested.

The Bengaluru Central District Campaign Committee chairman G Prakash urged that an investigation be conducted, as there was a conspiracy by some "politicians" behind the incident. Stringent legal action should be taken in this regard, he said. The delegation of Congress leaders which approached the commissioner was led by KPCC general secretary S Manohar.

## Plaint against Devaraje Gowda

Another delegation of the Congress, led by Bengaluru West Campaign Committee chairman Puttaraju Y lodged a complaint with the Karnataka Lokayukta against BJP leader and lawyer Devaraje Gowda. "In an interaction with media, referring to the family of Holenaripur MLA HD Revanna and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, Devaraje Gowda stated that he had an offer of Rs 20 crore, Rs 50 crore and Rs 70 crore, when he was fighting a case against Prajwal in the court to disqualify him from his LS membership in the past. This should be investigated," Puttaraju appealed.

amenities five years ago, just before Covid. The worst time for them is when it rains. "When it pours, the water level rises and we all move out of our village. The Hitchkada Government School is our abode till the floods subside," said Sandesh Dhanvanthi Harijantha, another youth here.

The villagers together have around 100 acres of land, the majority of which is owned by Nadava community. Harijanthas are mainly fishermen and own small patches. They fish or work in farms as labourers.

# KERALA VET STUDENT SUBJECTED TO PUBLIC TRIAL: CBI REPORT

Partially-naked student beaten up badly, forced to 'confess'; 19 people booked

P RAMDAS @Kochi

VETERINARY college student Sidharthan JS was brutally assaulted, subjected to public trial and denied medical attention for hours, the final report by the CBI investigating the 20-year-old's death has revealed.

Sidharthan, a student of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, was found hanging in the washroom of his hostel in Pookode, Wayanad, on February 18.

The CBI's New Delhi Unit submitted the report before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Ernakulam on April 25. The document, a copy of which is with TNIE, brings to light the horrific ordeal the youth from Thiruvananthapuram was subjected to, from the night of February 16 until the early hours of February 17.

As per the report, the 19 people booked in the case, stripped Sidharthan down to his undergarments while questioning his alleged misbehaviour towards a girl student. The report said Sidharthan was continuously beaten up with a belt, ca-

ble wire of a glue gun, and also slapped and kicked. A partially-naked Sidharthan was also forced to 'confess' his guilt before the inmates, the CBI document said.

The assault, along with restraint, confinement, humiliation, and harassment, started around 9.30pm on February 16 and lasted till 1am on February 17, said the report.

"The humiliation and harassment deprived the deceased of his self-respect and dignity," said the report, adding that after beating and humiliating him, the accused neither provided him medical care nor offer consolation to bring him out of the mental trauma, thereby abetting Sidharthan to commit suicide.

While the postmortem report suggests 'death due to hanging', the CBI sought a second opinion. The autopsy report and detailed notes of the forensic doctor, along with photographs taken at the time of the postmortem, have been forwarded to AIIMS, New Delhi, for expert opinion. "The second opinion from the board is awaited," the report said.



## FLY HIGH

A woman sells colourful balloons on a busy summer evening in Chennai on Tuesday | P JAWAHAR

### EXPRESS READ

#### West Nile Fever: Health officials initiate measures for mosquito eradication

Thrissur: In the wake of two people testing positive for West Nile fever in Kerala, health officials have initiated preventive measures, including mosquito eradication. About a week ago, a 79-year-old man from Vadapally, who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Thrissur, died due to a viral infection. The presence of the West Nile virus was detected after his death.

## East coast receives pre-monsoon showers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Jeypore



Parts of Hyderabad came under heavy rain on Tuesday  
| SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

Locals in Koraput and Jeypore subdivision breathed a sigh of relief as heavy rains accompanied by strong winds swept through the region on Tuesday, providing respite from the scorching summer heat.

Rain began early in the day and continued late into the evening, causing havoc in Koraput, Jeypore, Kundra, Boiparigudea, and Lamapat. Numerous trees were uprooted and power supply disrupted due to damages to electric poles and conductors.

### Rain brings hope in TN

After temperature reached a blistering 107°F on Monday, Salem received much-needed rain on Tuesday morning, bringing an average of 8.74mm rain.

The rain offered a glimmer of hope for the water reservoirs in the area, particularly the Mettur dam. As of 8 am, the dam's water level stood at 52.100 feet, and the storage was 19,160 mcf. Inflow to the dam was 54 cusecs while 1500 cusecs of water was discharged for drinking water requirements. No water is being released into the canals.

Dharmapuri received 203.2 mm total rainfall till Tuesday morning Krishnagiri district received 276.54 mm total rainfall. Since last week, six cattle died in lightning strike at Shoolagiri, Denkanikottai taluk.

### Lightning claims 1 life in TS

Siddipet district witnessed a sudden change in the atmosphere on Tuesday, as thunder, lightning, gusty winds and heavy rain hit the district. Lightning struck the road and caught fire. Officials said one person was killed by lightning in Lakdaram village.

## Mysuru students' learning device gets recognition from MoE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

mysuru's Excel Public School students' 'Anytime Education' device has been recognised by the Ministry of Education as one of the top 20 innovations at 'School Innovation Contest' 2023-24. 'School Innovation Contest' was launched by the MoE inviting over 6,000 project submissions from across the country. The contest was developed by the Govt of India for systematically fostering the culture of innovation in all higher education institutions and schools across the country.

Students of Excel Public School — Eshanvi Nandeesh Preetham, C B Swarna, and Divya Satish — over the last eight months underwent boot camp training leading up to an elevator pitch to the ministry. Their elevator pitch for 'Anytime Education' was selected among the 20 in India who qualified for funding.

The students received the first tranche in March and are expected to receive the second tranche in June. The funding from the ministry will help the students to further develop the product and market its use-case across relevant forums and exhibitions. The innovation will also be showcased at the NEP national-level exhibition in Delhi to be held in July, 2024.

The device is powered by a solar panel with a power backup and comes with preloaded digital content. Students can access a vast library of educational content with no internet, ensuring uninterrupted learning. Students also have access to a timetable/class schedule to receive real-time personalised learning from subject experts. Inspired by the Philippines' model of using HAM radio, the A.T.E device connects students with teachers through HAM radio system for one on one discussions. The education content is currently available in English and Kannada.

Excel Public School principal Mathew K G said: "We are elated by this prestigious recognition by the Govt of India. The accomplishment of our students at the Ministry of Education's 'School Innovation Contest' is a source of immense pride for the school."

The solar-powered 'Anytime Education' device developed by Eshanvi Nandeesh Preetham, C B Swarna, and Divya Satish of the Excel Public School | EXPRESS

## UCO BANK Asset Management Branch-2117, 1st Floor, No.13/22 Kempegowda Road, Bangalore-560 009. Email: banamb@ucobank.co.in

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION SALE (for immovable properties)

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued a Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and there after in exercise of powers under Section 13(12) of SARFAESI Act 2002 has taken possession of properties mortgaged to Bank under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002. The undersigned in the capacity of Authorised Officer has decided for sale of the following properties to public by E-auction and invite bids from the intending purchasers for purchase of the immovable properties mentioned hereunder on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS" basis.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower's / Guarantor.	a) Date of Demand Notice b) Date of Possession c) Present outstanding dues	a) Date & Time for inspection of the property b) Bid submission last date c) Date & Time of E-auction	a) Reserve Price b) EMD Amount c) Bid Increase Amount
1	Borrower:- 1.Mr.S. Kiran Kumar, S/o Late Sreenivasa Murthy # No.82/1(Old No 62), PID No.133- WO 145-59 Binny Layout, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Bangalore, Bangalore- 560104. 2. Mrs. Savitha L, W/o Mr.S. Kiran Kumar, # No.82/1 (Old No. 62), PID No.133- WO 145-59 Binny Layout, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Bangalore, Bangalore-560104. Mortgagor:- Mr. S. Kiran Kumar, S/o, Late Sreenivasa Murthy.	a) 28-10-2019 b) 06-02-2020 c) Rs.2,36,73,458.15 plus interest and costs charges etc	a) 28.05.2024 Between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. b) as per MSTC guidelines c) 30.05.2024 between 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.	Mentioned Below
Item No.1 :-	Flat No. B001 having super built up area 1223 sq.ft in Ground Floor and Bounded on : East by : Corridor & Flat No.B010, West by : Open Space, North by : Flat No.002, South by : Open Space.		a) Rs.37,30,000/- b) Rs.3,73,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	
Item No.2 :-	Flat No. B105 having super built up area 1165 sq.ft in First Floor and Bounded on: East by: Corridor & Flat No.B106, West By: Open Space, North by: Open Space, South by: Flat No.B104.		a) Rs.35,70,000/- b) Rs.3,57,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	
Item No.3 :-	Flat No. B106 having super built up area 1110 sq.ft in First Floor and Bounded on: East by: Open Space, West by: Corridor & Flat No.B105, North by: Open Space, South by: Flat No.107.		a) Rs.34,10,000/- b) Rs.3,41,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	
Item No.4 :-	Flat No. B205 having super built up area 1165 sq.ft in Second Floor and Bounded on: East by: Corridor & Flat No.B206, West By: Open Space, North by: Open Space, South by: Flat No.204.		a) Rs.35,70,000/- b) Rs.3,57,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	
Item No.5 :-	Flat No. B206 having super built up area 1110 sq.ft in Second Floor and Bounded on: East by: Open Space, West By: Corridor & Flat No.B205, North by: Open Space, South by: Flat No.207.		a) Rs.34,10,000/- b) Rs.3,41,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	
Item No.6 :-	Flat No. B305 having super built up area 1165 sq.ft in Third Floor and Bounded on: East by: Corridor & Flat No.B306, West By: Open Space, North by: Open Space, South by: Flat No.304.		a) Rs.35,70,000/- b) Rs.3,57,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	
Item No.7 :-	Flat No. B306 having super built up area 1110 sq.ft in Third Floor and Bounded on: East by: Open Space, West By: Corridor & Flat No.B305, North by: Open Space, South by: Flat No.307.		a) Rs.34,10,000/- b) Rs.3,41,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-	

A/C No. 00240210007150, IFSC Code : UCBA0000024, UCO Bank, Bangalore City Branch, E-mail: banamb@ucobank.co.in

Details of known encumbrances: Not Known

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) Sale shall be subjected to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and Conditions of the sale is available/ Published in the following websites/ Web Portal: i) <https://ibapi.in>, ii) <https://msteccommerce.com>
- 2) The Properties are being sold on "As Is Where Is Basis" and "As Is What Is Basis" and "Whatever There Is Basis"
- 3) The Particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officers, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- 4) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website. <https://msteccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> on date 30.05.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.
- 5) It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and make self-bid and participate in the auction. 6) The final decision is vested with Authorized Officer.

Date: 06.05.2024, Place: Bangalore

## Kept away from foreign team studying polls, says civil society

BANSY KALAPPA AND NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Bengaluru/ Belagavi

CIVIL society groups have expressed strong displeasure and frustration over the visit of about 75 foreign delegates from 23 countries on a tour of India to study the Lok Sabha elections, and say that it appears to be "a protected tour; stage-managed exercise and a sham".

In Belagavi, members of Yeddu Karnata, an umbrella organisation of social and political activists, criticised the district administration for refusing to allow them to meet members of the delegation which visited Belagavi and Chikkodi, where polls were held on Tuesday.

A group of activists met Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Nitesh Patil with a request to permit them to meet representatives of five foreign countries

who were in Belagavi on Monday and Tuesday. However, Patil refused to permit them, saying he had no authority to issue such permits.

"We told him we had valid reasons to raise objections to the poll process followed by the Election Commission of India, and would like to bring this to the notice of the foreign delegates. But he did not listen and said we were free to complain to the ECI or approach the Supreme Court. Then we decided to present a memorandum to the DC with a request to pass it on to the foreign delegates," Siddagouda Modagi, farmer leader and Eddele Karnataka member, told reporters.

The memorandum said the EC has failed to conduct free and fair elections, with dereliction of duty. The process of appointing the Chief Election Commissioner is biased, affecting its au-

tonomy. The model code of conduct is selectively implemented, complaints against the ruling party are not taken seriously, and grievances about EVMs are also not addressed. ECI has not acted against speeches by leaders like the PM, hate and divisive politics that openly targets a specific minority group, like arrest of chief ministers and freezing of accounts of opposition parties etc.

Reacting to this, Ashok Sharma, retired IFS officer, and MG Devasahayam, retired senior IAS officer from Bengaluru, told TNIE, "They brought the delegates to show public trust in the electoral process, so why are they avoiding civil society? They claim it is the largest delegation of foreign delegates who have come to independently see our electoral process. Civil society groups wanted to meet them but were not allowed."

## KSE files plaint against videos showing him backing BYR

ENS @Shivamogga

INDEPENDENT candidate KS Eshwarappa on Tuesday filed a complaint with Deputy Commissioner and district election officer Gurudatta Hegde on Tuesday about posting of an old video in which Eshwarappa is supporting BJP candidate BY Raghavendra and another paper cutting, saying he has remained neutral that has gone viral. He urged the DC to take action against those involved in making this video viral.

Addressing the media, Eshwarappa alleged that Raghavendra is engaged in posting the videos that have gone viral. The BJP candidate has done this as he fears losing the election, Eshwarappa alleged.

Later in the evening, he also filed a similar complaint with Superintendent of Police Mithun Kumar.

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# Joy of voting in booth: Age, physical ability doesn't stop them

Apart from these factors, the enthusiastic voters even beat the soaring mercury

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

AT the ripe age of 100, Gangava Vastrad of Talewad village in Kohlur taluk, Vijayapura, and Yallubai Venkanna Lad from Ashe village in Chikkodi, proved that if the spirit is willing and will is strong, nothing can stop them from doing their ballot duty.

This was also true for Moin M Junnedi, the para-swimmer who came in a wheelchair, beating the scorching summer heat and temperatures of over 42 degree Celsius to vote in Tilakwadi, Belagavi, on Tuesday. Hanumavva, a 95-year-old specially challenged woman, came all by herself to her booth in Kudligi, Ballari district.

Similarly, Shavigangamma (98) preferred to visit the booth in Abbalagere, Shimoga parliamentary constituency, as did Radhamma (98) from Sangana-kallu village in Ballari, unmindful of heat wave conditions.

Participating in Phase-3 of the Lok Sabha elections in 14 parliamentary constituencies spread over Kalyan, Malnad and Kittur Karnataka regions, these voters truly celebrated the festival of democracy.

Data from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, showed that a total of 32,433 (95.08%) voters cast their vote from home, of the 34,110 approved voters. CEO Karnataka, Manoj Kumar Meen-

na told *The New Indian Express* that VFH (vote from home) was introduced for the first time in this election. "The staffers approached voters booth-wise, based on the list they had prepared, but many voters preferred to visit polling booths, saying they enjoyed the experience."

This was not the case with 85-year old Ganapathi Shinde, though, who came to vote in Hukkeri because officials did not visit his home.

A group of 265 mentally challenged people in Vijayapura came to the booth to vote. Similarly, a visually challenged person used the Braille facility in Vijayapura. Specially challenged Praveen and Chaya came in wheelchairs, deterred by the poor facilities at Maravanthe polling booth.



A man carries Lakshmavva, 80, after she cast her vote in Adargundi village in Dharwad district on Tuesday | DHEMANTH

A man carries Lakshmavva, 80, after she cast her vote in Adargundi village in Dharwad district on Tuesday | DHEMANTH

## AND POLLING ENDS IN KARNATAKA...



It is curtains for Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka on Tuesday. (Clockwise from top left) BJP leader and former CM BS Yediyurappa and sons, BY Vijayendra and BY Raghavendra, pose after voting in Shivamogga; Former CM Basavaraj Bommai and his family show off their inked finger in Dharwad; Actor Rishab Shetty poses after voting in Keradi village, Byndoor, in Shivamogga LS segment and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and his wife Radhabai outside a booth in Kalaburagi | EXPRESS

## CHIKKODI SEES HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

KARNATAKA Chief Electoral Officer Majok Kumar Meena because of the poor turnout in Bengaluru's three urban constituencies, the overall percentage dropped in Phase-2 elections.

The constituencies that went to polls in Phase-3 in the state have no metropolitan cities. Hence, the overall turnout was good, he added.

In Bellary, election officials Lakshmi Devi and Ravichandra were rushed to hospital after they suffered low blood pressure. According to doctors, it was due to heatwave.

Meena said despite the ban on using mobile phones inside

polling booths, incidents of people voting, videographing and posting it on social media were reported. Details were being collected from polling officials and action will be taken accordingly, he added.

Many politicians, including All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge, former chief ministers BS Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai, and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi exercised their franchise. Padma Shri awardee and poll icon Manjamma Jogatti also exercised her franchise.

Lok Sabha elections ended in Karnataka on Tuesday. Of the 93 constituencies that went to polls, 14 are from Karnataka.

At 9 am, the voter turnout was just 9.45%.

This made the election officials a little apprehensive as they expected a huge turnout during morning hours, given the weather conditions.

The turnout increased to 24.48% at 11am, giving the officials some hope. It rose to 41.59% at 1.30pm and then to 54.20% at 3pm. At 5pm, the turnout was 66.05%.

### Highest and lowest

The highest voter turnout of 76.99% was recorded in Chikkodi constituency and the lowest of 61.73% in Gulbarga, the home constituency of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. Uttara Kannada, with the least number of voters (16,41,156), recorded 73.52%.

### VOTER TURNOUT IN PHASE 3 LS POLLS (IN %)

CONSTITUENCY	2019	2024
Chikkodi	75.62	76.99
Belgaum	67.84	71
Balgalkot	70.7	70.10
Bijapur	61.89	64.71
Gulbarga	61.18	61.73
Raichur	58.34	61.81
Bidar	63	63.55
Koppal	68.56	69.87
Bellary	69.76	72.35
Haideri	74.21	74.75
Dharwad	70.29	72.12
Uttara Kannada	74.16	73.52
Davanagere	73.19	76.23
Shimoga	76.58	76.05

ECI writes to X, seeks removal of BJP post on Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Bengaluru

THE Election Commission of India on Tuesday wrote to social media platform X, urging it to remove one of the posts by BJP4Karnataka, that claimed that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were allegedly giving funds to people from minority communities. The ECI said the post is violative of the extant legal framework.

A video posted on May 4 from the official handle of Karnataka BJP depicts caricatures of Rahul Gandhi and Siddaramaiah putting an egg with 'Muslims' written on it, into a nest that already has three eggs on which SC, ST and OBC are written. In the video, Rahul Gandhi feeds the 'Muslims' egg with funds, and after hatching, the birdie comes out and kicks out other birds that were hatched from other eggs.

Objecting to this, Congress had filed an FIR earlier, following which ECI officials directed X to take down the post immediately. "This is issued with the approval of the competent authority," Anuj Chandak, Joint Director and Nodal Officer, ECI, mentioned in his letter to X. The letter also mentioned that an FIR has already been registered. "It is further brought to your notice that the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, through Cyber Crime Division, Bengaluru, has already directed X on May 5 to take down the objectionable post as per section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act and Rule 3(1)(d) of the Information Technology (intermediary guidelines and digital media ethics code) Rules 2021. However, the post has not been taken down yet," it stated.

## Byelection to Shorapur records 67pc voter turnout

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI  
@ Yadgir

THE bypolls to Shorapur Assembly segment was by and large peaceful, barring an incident of stone pelting at Badypur village in the taluk. According to Returning Officer Kavya, the constituency saw a voter turnout of 67% as of 8 pm.

In all, six candidates, including former minister Raja Narasimha Naik (also known as Raju Gowda) from the BJP and Raja Venugopal Nayak from the Congress, are in the fray.

The bypoll was necessitated following the death of Shorapur MLA Raja Venkatappa Naik in January of this year. Raja Venugopal Nayak, who is the son of Raja Venkatappa, is the Congress candidate.

The voters of Shorapur Assembly constituency voted to elect their MLA and MP for Raichur constituency the same day. EVMs for both elections were placed in the voting compartment.

The voters were asked to press the buttons on both EVMs after entering the voting compartment. As the EVMs were put in the same compartment and the voters voted simultaneously, there was no question of putting ink on two fingers, official sources said.

## FIR against MP for violating ECI rules

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Davanagere

AN FIR was registered against Davanagere BJP MP Dr GM Siddeshwara on Tuesday for violating the ECI guidelines on secret ballot.

According to a police complaint filed by election officials, Dr Siddeshwara peeped into the voters' compartment while at booth No 236 in Maganuru Basappa Public School in Davanagere North assembly segment. Dr Siddeshwara and his family members went to the booth in the morning to vote.

After checking the CCTV footage at 10.48am, he directed Rajesh Kumar NR, FST head of Davanagere North assembly constituency, to file a police complaint. Kumar filed the complaint around 5pm at Vidyanganagar police station.

went to the voters' compartment and peeped into it while Gayathri was exercising her franchise.

The election officials termed this act a violation of the ECI guidelines. Meanwhile, a video of Dr Siddeshwara peeping into the voters' compartment went viral on social media.

Davanagere North assistant returning officer Ismail reported the matter to DC and returning officer of Davanagere parliamentary constituency Dr Venkatesh MV.

After checking the CCTV footage at 10.48am, he directed Rajesh Kumar NR, FST head of Davanagere North assembly constituency, to file a police complaint. Kumar filed the complaint around 5pm at Vidyanganagar police station.



### Case against Khuba for entering booth wearing party symbol

Bidar: A case has been booked against Union MoS for Chemical and Fertilisers, Bhagwanth Khuba, under Section 30 of the Representation of People Act on charges of entering the polling booth sporting the party symbol and addressing the press within 100m of the booth in Aurad town. According to Bidar Deputy Commissioner Govind Reddy, who is also the District Election Officer, the police booked the case following a complaint lodged by the Assistant Returning Officer, Aurad taluk. The ARO, while lodging the complaint, has furnished the booth officer's report regarding the alleged violation of code of conduct.



## Cong MLA enters Dharwad after four years to vote

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH  
@ Dharwad

DHARWAD MLA Vinay Kulkarni got a brief respite on Tuesday as the Karnataka High Court allowed him to enter Dharwad district for two hours to cast his vote in Phase 3 of the Lok Sabha elections. Dharwad went to the polls on Tuesday.

The MLA, accompanied by his family, was given a rousing welcome by Congress workers near the polling booth in Saptapuri. Vinay entered the district after four years, as the Supreme Court has barred his entry into Dharwad for his alleged involvement in the killing of ZP member Yogishgouda Goudar in June 2016. As the case was transferred to the CBI, he was

arrested in November 2020. His efforts to get bail in the lower courts and the HC did not fructify. Kulkarni, however, got respite from the Supreme Court, which gave him conditional bail in August 2021, directing him not to enter Dharwad district. Kulkarni contested the 2023 Assembly polls without entering his constituency. He, however, was not permitted to vote then. His request to vote in the mayoral polls was also not refused by the court.

After voting, Kulkarni said that he was happy to be in the district for at least two hours. "Congress will win more than 20 seats in the state. The Lingayat leaders have blessed us. I thank the court for allowing me to vote," he said.

## 'Election is a festival': This family of 180 has 96 voters!

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

96 voters in one family! Yes, you read it right. No political party can ignore the Koppad family of Noolvi village in Dharwad district, as this colossal household of 180 members comprises 96 eligible voters.

Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency went to the polls on Tuesday (May 7) and saw a turnout of 68%.

The Koppad family of 180 lives in different houses on the same street in the village. Of the 96 voters, 30 are women. While the men, who also

number 30, visit the polling booths during their lunch time, the seniors vote in the evening hours owing to the scorching summer. "We do not miss voting," said Kantappa Koppad, a senior member of the family. "Since the beginning, we have lived in one large house. When families started growing, we started shifting to different houses on the same street, and today the entire street has Koppad family houses. Men who work in fields go to vote after the women return home. For us elections are a reason for a get-together like any other festival," he added.

Fakiravva Koppad, who is a Gram Panchayat member, pointed out that their family constitutes 30% of the total population. Every family has its own business, such as agriculture, vehicles on rent, and shops. Children study in villages as well as in Hubballi," she added. The families come together on many occasions, including the annual pilgrimage. "We need 12 vehicles and we move like a convoy," she added.

Voting is a serious matter, and we encourage all families to exercise their franchise," said an elderly member of the family. "Though we live separately, we come together during festivals. The election is nothing less than any festival for us," he said.

### 38 OF A FAMILY VOTE IN ONE BOOTH!

Davanagere: Thirty-eight voters from a single family voted in Davanagere on Tuesday. Journalists K Chandrantha and K Ekanthappa, who are brothers, along with 36 members of their family residing at Davanagere North Assembly segment, voted in a booth in Bakreshwar High School. "My sister Yashoda Handral and her husband YH Handral along with their son HY Praveen, came from Delhi to vote. Another daughter, Aishwarya Rani, also came from Bengaluru to vote," Ekanthappa told *TNE*.



voters in the ward that she represents. "We are 180 members now living in separate houses next to each other in the vil-

BIHAR

# PM takes a jibe at Lalu's Muslim quota remark

Modi says religion-based quota an insult to Ambedkar; RJD chief later makes U-turn

RAMASHANKAR & ANURAAG SINGH  
@Patna/Bhopal

FORMER Bihar chief minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Tuesday stoked a controversy after he favoured "full reservation" for Muslims, drawing flak from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA leaders.

Lalu later backtracked on his statement after Modi and other leaders launched a broadside against him even as he countered the PM, asking if he was aware of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

Referring to Lalu's comment, Modi said in MP that the Congress was silent, but one of its allies confirmed the INDIA bloc's intentions of giving reservation to Muslims. He also referred RJD president as a leader "who ate fodder meant for animals".

Speaking to the media in Patna, Lalu alleged that the ruling BJP wanted to do away with reservations by scrapping the Constitution. "Muslims need full reservation... The BJP wants to finish off the Constitution and democracy of the country," the RJD supremo said. After his remarks triggered a political storm, Lalu put out a video message clarifying that the basis of reservation should not be religion but social backwardness.

## What Lalu Prasad said

Speaking to the media in Patna, Lalu alleged that the ruling BJP wanted to do away with reservations by scrapping the Constitution. "Muslims need full reservation... The BJP wants to finish off the Constitution and democracy of the country," the RJD supremo said. After his remarks triggered a political storm, Lalu put out a video message clarifying that the basis of reservation should not be religion but social backwardness.

they want to give it Muslims."

Apparently taken aback by PM's strong comments, the RJD chief said, "Is he (Modi) a bigger and real OBC than me? He has also no more understanding of the problems of the poor, backwards and Dalits."

Lalu said, "Sanghis (RSS leaders) and BJP leaders have old wish and conspiracy to abolish Baba Saheb's Constitution and reservation given by Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur. In 2000, the then BJP-led NDA government at the Centre had even formed Constitution Review Commission. Had they faith in Constitution, they would not have used divisive language, spreading hatred in the society."

Raising the issue of Congress government in Karnataka including the Muslims among the OBC category, Modi said the Congress is eyeing the reservation of SC, ST and OBC. "They've already done it in Karnataka by bringing all Muslims in the OBC category, which will steal the 27% reservation of existing OBC for its vote bank. The Congress now wants to replicate the same model nationally, isn't it like backstabbing Baba Saheb Ambedkar and disrespecting the country's Constitution."

The PM came down heavily on the Congress, saying that it did not want Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar to get credit for making the Constitution. "That is why now Congress has started saying that Baba Saheb's contribution in making the Constitution was less, Nehruji played the biggest role in making the Constitution. Do you agree with this?" Modi asked.

As his remarks triggered a political storm, Lalu put out a video message clarifying that the basis of reservation should not be religion but social backwardness.

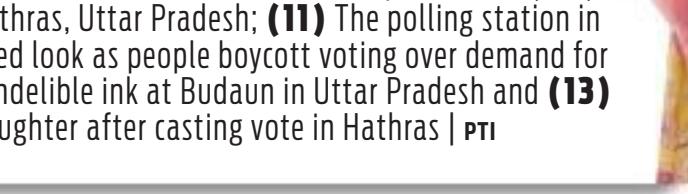
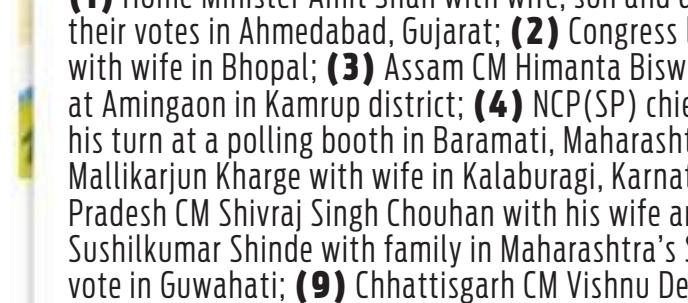
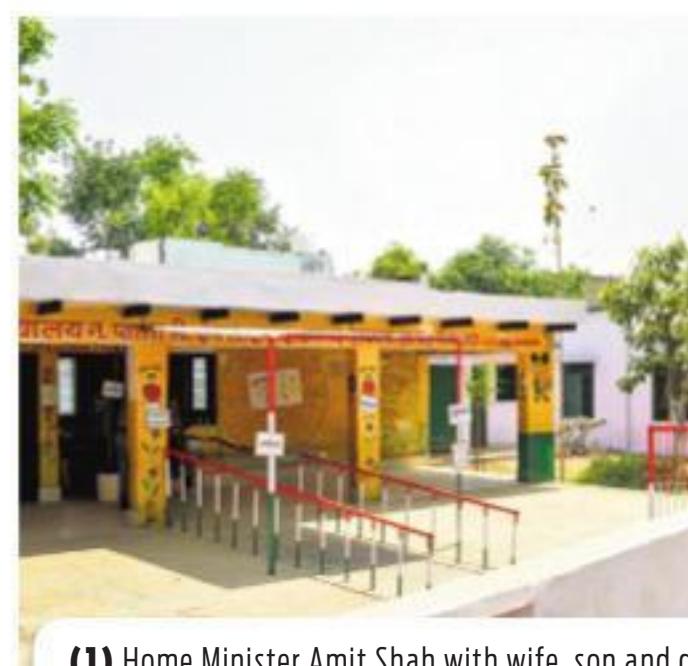
"The basis of reservation is social backwardness and not religion, PM lacks even this much understanding. I have got the Mandal Commission implemented. Whether Modi has ever read recommendations of the Mandal Commission? More than 3,500 backward castes get reservation under Mandal Commission and hundreds of castes from other reservation also have the reservation facility," he said.

Obliquely referring to Lalu's words, Modi said, "The Opposition can't see beyond appeasement. A fodder scam accused leader who is out on bail is advocating reservations for Muslims. He (Lalu) says reservations must be given to Muslims, and that means whatever reservation SCs/STs and OBCs have,



## RAISED TO POWER-III

From the ruling class to the hoi polloi voted in the third phase of LS polls. While the exact turnout figures are yet to come, voter enthusiasm was visible all around



(1) Home Minister Amit Shah with wife, son and daughter-in-law after casting their votes in Ahmedabad, Gujarat; (2) Congress leader Digvijaya Singh with wife in Bhopal; (3) Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma with his family at Amingaon in Kamrup district; (4) NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar waits for his turn at a polling booth in Baramati, Maharashtra; (5) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with wife in Kalaburagi, Karnataka; (6) Former Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan with his wife and sons in Sehore; (7) Congress leader Sushilkumar Shinde with family in Maharashtra's Solapur; (8) People brave the rains to vote in Guwahati; (9) Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo casts his vote in Jashpur district; (10) An elderly voter flaunts his inked finger in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh; (11) The polling station in Nagla Fatta village in Hathras wears a deserted look as people boycott voting over demand for roads; (12) Women show their fingers with indelible ink at Budana in Uttar Pradesh and (13) A mother carries her physically challenged daughter after casting vote in Hathras | PTI

JHARKHAND

## Rahul vows ₹1L to poor, raise in NREGA wages



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting in Jharkhand's Gumla on Tuesday | PTI



If the Constitution is destroyed, tribals will be finished, dalits will be finished and OBCs will be nowhere as everything will go to the 10-15 millionaires of this country

Rahul Gandhi,  
Congress leader

Jal, Jungle,  
Zameen

Rahul Gandhi promised to ensure tribals' rights over jal, jungle and zameen. "Adivasi means who have the first rights on the land of this country. If I am calling you adivasi... it means jal, jungle and zameen of this country belongs to you and hence you must have the first rights on it," he said. "We call you Adivasi, they (saffron organisations) call you Vanvashi which is kind of derogatory word for you. This is wrong... Vanavasi means those who live in jungles. You are not vanvashi, you are Adivasi... You are those who have the first right over jal, jungle and zameen," he said.

They don't want your progress. They want you to work as their domestic helps in big cities. They don't want your children to become engineers, lawyers and doctors," he added.

"This is the difference between BJP and INDIA bloc... We want your children to become doctors, engineers, lawyers and industrialists. Today they call you Vanvashi... In another few years, they will finish the jungles and ask you to beg before the people," Gandhi said.

He said the BJP wants to do away with Constitution so

that they can rule according to their own will. "But, INDIA Alliance will not let it happen and we are ready to sacrifice our lives to protect the Constitution," he said.

"It is the Constitution which gives you reservation, gives you employment, it gives education to your children and it also helps you getting treated in hospitals. If it is destroyed, tribals will be finished, dalits will be finished and OBCs will be nowhere as everything will go to the 10-15 millionaires of this country belongs to you," he said.

## ELECTION 2024

### BJP expels 28 members in Arunachal for 6 years

The BJP in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday expelled 28 members for six years after they contested the simultaneous assembly and parliamentary elections against the party's official candidates. The 28 members had contested the polls on tickets of National People's Party, Nationalist Congress Party, People's Party of Arunachal and as independent candidates.

### Another JMM MLA files papers as Independent

Another JMM legislator, Lobin Hembrom, on Tuesday filed nomination as an independent candidate from Rajmahal seat in Jharkhand.

As per the seat-sharing agreement in the ruling alliance in Jharkhand, the Rajmahal seat went to JMM, which fielded its sitting

MP Vijay Hansdak. Hembrom, the Borio legislator, filed the papers from Rajmahal to protest Hansdak's selection by the party.

### BJP candidates face farmers' ire in Punjab

BJP candidates continued to face farmers' ire in Punjab with party nominees Hans Raj Hans and Dinesh Babu on Tuesday witnessing protests during campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls. Hans is the BJP candidate from the Faridkot constituency while Babu is in the fray from Gurdaspur seat. The BJP candidates and leaders have been facing protests from farmers when they are campaigning for the polls in the state.

## VALLEY SEATS

### BJP plays hide and seek in Kashmir messaging

MAD ASHRAF MIR

The party has also not publicly announced whom the party would support in Anantnag and Baramulla LS seat.

When asked whom the party will support on three Valley seats, BJP's general secretary (Org) Ashok Koul said Home Minister Amit Shah has already made it clear that the party won't support NC, PDP and Congress.

"The party workers are free to vote for any candidate other than NC, PDP and Congress.

We have not told them anything. We have told them not to vote for NC, PDP and Congress and rest they can vote for anybody," he said.

Asked whether it would create confusion among the party workers, Koul said, "There will be no confusion. Our party workers are mature enough and they know whom to vote".

Another BJP leader, wishing to be named, said there has been a lot of positive change in Kashmir since Article 370 abrogation.

The BJP leader said there has been a lot of promotion of bat and apple in the last few years, indirectly referring to Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari.



# EDITORIAL

BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY 08.05.2024

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## RELEGATION FROM TOP TIER NEEDED TO BOOST INDIAN FOOTBALL

**A**NOTHER season of the Indian Super League is over. Mumbai Football Club lifted the title after beating Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Saturday. There were moments of jubilation and thrilling encounters interspersed with a sprinkling of controversies. Despite all this, there is a substantial debate on the quality of football being played in the middle. The topic that is dominating the discussion is the issue of relegation from the league. This was suggested by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in its roadmap for improving Indian football and making it more competitive. Intriguing as it may sound, ISL is one of the few top-flight national leagues that does not have relegation. And that needs to begin by the next season. The other side of the move—promotion from the I-League—started last year, when Punjab FC (formerly RoundGlass Punjab) joined ISL.

However, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) is still not clear about it. Things got a little more circumspect after AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said that ISL would not be ready for relegation unless the I-League raised its bar. It is understandable if there is no promotion, but relegation is needed to keep the bottom-of-the-league clubs motivated and busy. It would push the likes of Hyderabad FC, which won only one match this entire season.

One must also understand that AIFF runs the I-League—so if its standard is not good enough, they should concentrate on improving it. The I-League has been going on for over 15 years and was the premier league until ISL was given the top status. And the I-League is not without promise either. If its quality was so hopeless, the just-promoted Punjab FC would have finished at the bottom of the ISL; instead, there were four clubs including East Bengal, Jamshedpur and former champions Bengaluru below Punjab. Even ISL teams scout from the I-League. It's not that all ISL teams are doing well financially either—there was an exodus from Hyderabad FC when it failed to pay players. So the onus is on AIFF; the I-League's supposed lack of quality should not be an excuse to not introduce relegation in ISL. Instead, AIFF should help nurture the I-League, which in turn will help ISL and, in the long run, the national team. To keep ISL healthy and kicking, other leagues need to prosper, too.

## CONG FAILS TO GRAB OPPN ROLE IN ODISHA

**T**HE closer Odisha comes to its first phase of polls, the faster the Congress seems to be unravelling in the state. There are three major political parties in the fray. The ruling Biju Janata Dal and the challenger BJP are engaged in a no-holds-barred contest. But the Congress is busy fighting its own demons. Last week, the party's Puri Lok Sabha candidate Sucharita Mohanty returned her ticket days before the nominations closed, citing a lack of funds for campaigning. She was apparently told by the party that her constituency was in a category in which the candidate must fend for herself or himself. For the record, at her first electoral outing in 2014, Mohanty polled 2.59 lakh votes. The grand old party has, so far, changed candidates in 10 assembly and two parliamentary constituencies, leaving little scope for the nominees to even make a serious bid. On Sunday, its change of the Puri assembly candidate led to violence.

This is only a symptom of the greater malaise that has gripped the party. This election presented the Congress a chance to regain political space in the state when the BJD and BJP were busy planning an alliance. It was an ideal opportunity to take up the vacant opposition space, but the party—riddled with favouritism, infighting and a self-over-party ideology—squandered it. It was on show when a nondescript place was chosen for Rahul Gandhi's campaign meeting on April 28. While a politically strategic location could have created an impact over the bigger region, the candidate's interest was preferred to the party's. Unsurprisingly, many of its senior members with electoral relevance quit ahead of the elections to join either the BJD or the BJP. Disenchanted by the top leadership's inability to grasp the situation—the need for young leaders, resources and change—the Congress has seen exodus of even its hardcore followers.

In Odisha, once ruled by the Congress for close to 40 years, there are still pockets where the party enjoys support, but has made little effort to revive it. With its base slipping away fast, the GOP could find itself decimated as the BJD and BJP are out to swallow its vote share. The opposition space is important in a democracy. But such is the state of affairs that the Congress appears in no mood to even grab that role.

### QUICK TAKE

#### RECOGNISE INDIA'S WW2 EFFORT

**T**HE UN observes May 8-9 as a time for remembering all Second World War victims. It marks the Allied forces' victory in Europe and is bookmarked by state events every year. One acknowledgement that goes missing is for India's contribution. More than 85,000 Indian soldiers died in the war. Claude Auchinleck, commander of the Indian army during the war, said the British could not have done without India's help, which included money and rations too. Yet the contribution is now airbrushed out of official Western accounts. The repayment that was expected around independence was not realised. The West can at least start by honouring the Indian soldiers' efforts.

**A**n individual, I have been associated with the RSS, ABVP and BJP for more than 40 years. From the controversy over the renaming of Marathwada University in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (previously Aurangabad) to the vexed issue of quota for the underprivileged, from the 1982-83 movement led by Bal Thackeray against Babasaheb Ambedkar's writings in *The Riddle of Rama and Krishna* and the RSS's vocal opposition to that movement, I have witnessed how the Sangh leadership had adroitly handled scores of issues with a firm commitment to its total opposition to caste-based discrimination.

As per my understanding, there are at least three key aspects of the RSS's approach to castes. First, its unequivocal support to quota for the socially marginalised. Second, its emphasis on ensuring that social justice is reflected in our day-to-day conduct. And third, its approach towards smaller identities as an inseparable part of a larger identity.

However, the overarching philosophy guiding the RSS's approach to all these vexed issues associated with the caste question is that of *samarasata* or social harmony. In the RSS scheme of things, the term adds significant value to the idea of social equality. It is more meaningful as it connotes not just intellectual acceptance for equality and justice, but also emotional participation in the process with an emphasis on sharing and caring. *Samarasata*, to me, is all about emotional integration. It is about a sense of belonging (to the entire society), about making every social group feel that the entire society needs every marginalised group and values its contribution. *Samarasata* is more about empathy than just sympathy.

But make no mistake. This emphasis is not for the sake of emotions alone. It aims to complement our intellectual conviction and commitment to social justice. Atal Bihari Vajpeyi's decision to rename the social welfare ministry as social justice ministry was not for no reason. Besides, this element of emotions makes social equality not just an egalitarian value, but a matter of experiential harmony.

As pointed out by Ram Madhav in a blog, "Samata is equality in thoughts; *samaanta* is equality in law; but *samarasata* is equality of emotions and feelings. For achieving *samarasata*—social harmony, to put it simply—fraternity is the basic requirement." Madhav further brings to our notice that, "Buddha, Mahavir, Basaveshwara, Kanakadasa, Ram-

The Sangh takes *samarasata* or social harmony among castes as an essential concept that goes beyond tokenism. That's why it has always supported quotas for the underprivileged

## WHY THE SANGH SUPPORTS RESERVATION

VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

Senior BJP leader



SOURAV ROY

akrishna, Vivekananda, Narayana Guru, Dayananda Saraswati, Tilak, Gandhi, Ambedkar, Savarkar, Jyotiba Phule—endless is the list of great men who have sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of the lofty ideal of social harmony."

Way back in 1982, at a grand RSS convention in Pune, the then Sar-Sanghchalak Balasaheb Deoras said without mincing words that if untouchability is not a sin, there is no sin on earth, and hence this social evil has to go lock, stock and barrel. The same kind of unambiguity was again witnessed when the present Sar-Sanghchalak, Mohanrao Bhagwat, repeatedly stated that quotas for the SC, ST and OBCs will have to continue uninterrupted. As recently as April, he said, "The RSS had always stood for reserva-

tion, as sanctioned and guaranteed under the Constitution, and that the organisation believed reservation should continue as long as it was necessary for those who needed it, provided it was for reasons of backwardness and lack of parity in terms of their living or social standing."

He elaborated, "We kept our own fellow human beings behind in the social system. We did not care for them and it continued for 2,000 years. Until we provide them equality, some special remedies have to be there, and reservation is one of them." All in all, there is no scope for even a iota of doubt about the Sangh's unequivocal support for quota.

Social equality and justice are principles that are supremely important and hence nobody can oppose. However,

## FOR AN AKSHAYA TRITIYA WITHOUT CHILD MARRIAGES

BHUWAN RIBHU

Child rights activist, lawyer & author of *When Children Have Children: Tipping Point to End Child Marriage*

was not high on the list of priorities for most countries until it was included in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (target 5.3: "eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations"). Consequently, 193 member states are now racing to eliminate the practice by 2030. In the past decade, at least eight countries have outlawed child marriage or



One in four Indian girls is married before the legal age. The reasons for so many child marriages include cultural acceptance, disparity in laws, poverty and patriarchy. This Akshaya Tritiya, state governments, panchayats and civil society should come together to stop the practice

have increased the minimum marriage age. But in the US, child marriage continues to be legal in 38 out of the 50 states.

India is home to a third of the world's child brides, according to UNICEF. Thus, the recent initiatives in India on awareness, education as well as strict law enforcement, like Assam's anti-child marriage drive, may become the first step towards putting the country at the forefront of global efforts on the count.

The year 2023 saw the world's largest social mobilisation against child marriage, led by 54 government departments across India, leading to over 5 crore people pledging against the practice under the aegis of the Child Marriage Free India campaign. This Akshaya Tritiya will

be a litmus test for those who were a part of this campaign to convert the resolve into deliverables.

First, state governments must prevent mass child marriages through awareness and law enforcement. Awareness campaigns can include school workshops, street plays, and checking the ages of brides and grooms.

Second, strict enforcement of the PCMA can be ensured if the agencies entrusted to uphold the law, such as the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) that's conferred with the power of a first-class judicial magistrate, start issuing injunctions. If a child marriage is solemnised despite an injunction, it is considered void. But in a majority of cases, the CWC has confined its role to short-term rehabilitation of children who need protection.

Panchayats can activate child welfare and protection committees at the village, block and district levels to monitor PCMA implementation; conduct counselling sessions for parents and relatives planning to marry off their children; monitor dropouts and stay vigilant for children missing from schools for more than seven days without intimation.

Third, aggressive prosecutorial drives under the PCMA and application of other criminal laws including those on trafficking, child rape and the POCSO Act will create deterrence. Stern messages should be sent by prosecuting priests, qazis and pandits who preside over such unions.

Fourth, it is time quality education is provided to all children, especially girls, till the age of 18. This must also be included in election manifestos of all parties.

In April 2024, India witnessed the heartening news of a girl topping inter examinations in Andhra Pradesh after her under-age marriage was stopped and she was able to pursue studies because of the efforts of her local MLA and district magistrate in Kurnool. This girl could be a living testimony of a brighter future. The time to ensure such a future for our children is now. If we fail to protect our children, nothing else would matter.

(Views are personal)

India's doom was sealed the very day they invented the word *mlechchha* and stopped from communion with others

Swami Vivekananda

newindianexpress.com

many who principally agree with these values fail to practice them with all sincerity. Many RSS-inspired organisations may not be passing resolutions or giving sermons on these principles. But their commitment to these values is often reflected in their conduct.

When Mahatma Gandhi and later Ambedkar visited RSS camps, they were satisfied that in the RSS, castes or details of social background are neither asked nor given any importance. Many in the RSS make a conscious effort to identify with underprivileged sections. During the birth centenary of Ambedkar some 23 years earlier, many in the RSS ensured that a portrait of Ambedkar adorned their homes. Many, like Girish Prabhune of Pune, have been untiringly working for the upliftment of the Parahis and similar denotified, nomadic tribal communities.

In the late 1980s, the RSS emphasis on building bridges was taken to such an extent that Texas Gaikwad, a Dalit Marathi playwright who had written a play depicting RSS volunteers as murderers of the nation, was approached and a dialogue was established to discuss prejudices and misgivings. In 1982-83, when many Hindu leaders including Bal Thackeray demanded a ban on Ambedkar's book, *Riddle of Ram*, the RSS-BJP refrained from seeking such a ban.

The RSS has its own way of explaining the relationship of castes and communities with the entire society. The approach is that, like all parts of the body, every section is important and all of them are interdependent too. Like the relationship of a body part with the entire body, every section of society relates with the society at large. This relationship is simultaneously related mutually as well as with the entire body. Hence the very question of a superiority-inferiority conflict is resolved with this interdependence, complemented by the spirit of co-working and mutuality.

Significantly, when it comes to *samarasata*, the RSS has always refrained from just tokenism. Organisations trying to wear social equality on their sleeves do a huge disservice to the cause. *Samarasata* is a silent revolution that emerged out of the thinking of the RSS leadership. Here, intellectual integrity and commitment are complemented by an element of emotionality. While equality could be just superficial and short-lived, *samarasata* is more profound and enduring with its focus on conduct and emotions. It has become the RSS's own way of doing away with hypocrisy and lip service.

(Views are personal)  
vinays57@gmail.com

### MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

#### Planned succession

Ref: Godrej business split a lesson for family enterprises (May 7). Exemplary tradition of excellence carved out in a span of 127 years makes Godrej stand head and shoulders above almost all business enterprises in India. Let all the upcoming business houses emulate their steps of succession.  
**S Madhavan Thampi, Haripad**

#### False promises

Ref: Andhra sides make similar promises (May 7). The ruling dispensation made several promises lavishly before the last election. Similar was the experience with the present opposition leader also. People no longer look into the content of the manifesto or take election promises seriously as they tend to evaporate with the election mood.  
**A G Rajmohan, Anantapur**

#### Off-season break

Ref: How to deal with the epidemic of overtourism (May 7). Over-exploitation always leads to under-availability. To cope with the prospects of a tourist destination losing its sheen, some kind of break in operations may be mooted because these days, even off-season has had significant footfall.  
**Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur**

#### Inorganic growth

It is fallacious to conclude that higher taxes result in better tourist amenities. The government does not have a futuristic vision on tourism development. Tourism is growing in an inorganic manner, which needs better focus, an enabling plan and time-bound action.  
**Rajrao Kumar, Bengaluru**

#### Owner's negligence

The news that two pet rottewilers attacked a small girl at a park is appalling. It's sad the dog owner's negligence cost the small girl. Although the police have registered a case, nothing will come of it because the victim belongs to a poor family—the daughter of the park's watchman. That there were similar incidents in the past, too, speaks volumes about the owner's level of respect for the laws of the land.  
**P G Menon, Chennai**

#### Dangerous search

It's heartbreaking that an elephant was electrocuted by a sagging power line while searching for water. No animal should die due to a lack of water and food. The government must act swiftly to provide water sources, food and protect forest boundaries. Additionally, strict measures need to be taken to prevent human encroachment into forest areas and ensure habitat preservation.  
**V Paramesari, Tiruchirappalli**



# Maldives foreign minister to visit Delhi on May 9

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi



A DAY ahead of the complete Indian military troop (88 members) withdrawal from the archipelago slated for May 10, Maldives Foreign Minister **Moosa Zameer** will be on an official visit to Delhi.

Two batches of the 88 Indian military personnel have returned and the last batch is expected soon. These Indians were deployed with one helicopter and two Dornier aircraft that India had deployed in Maldives for medical assistance and emergency services.

The fourth core group meeting between India and the Maldives took place in Delhi on May 3.

Meanwhile, **Moosa Zameer** will meet External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar during his upcoming visit.

Interestingly, **Zameer** is considering meeting India travel and tourism professionals while in the national capital. It may be recalled that after a Maldivian politician used derogatory words for Prime Minister Narendra Modi (when he was in Lakshadweep last year), Indian tour operators had launched a 'boycott Maldives' campaign.

As a result the outflow of Indian tourists to the Maldives dropped. Indian celebrities who

used to travel frequently to the country also stopped and that had dampened their outreach.

Statistics reveal that Indian tourists to the Maldives dropped to 42,638 as on April 30 this year from 73,195 from the corresponding period of the previous year.

Indians formed a substantial share of tourists to the Maldives until 2023, however, the diplomatic downturn in its relations with India will continue to impact the tourist inflows.

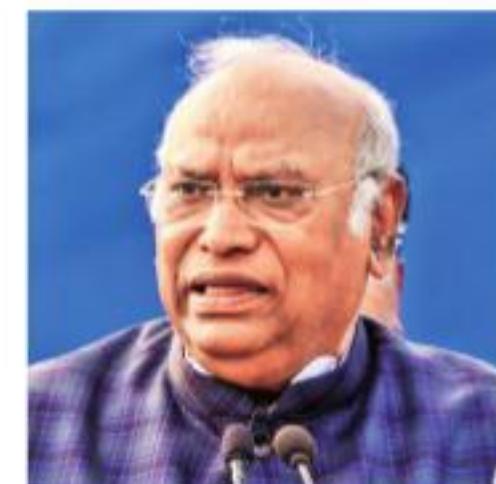
Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday "Moosa Zameer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, will be in India on an official visit on May 9."

"The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and Foreign Minister Zameer's visit is expected to lend further momentum to the bilateral cooperation between the two countries," the MEA said in a statement.

## Kharge writes to INDIA allies over discrepancies in EC data

Poll panel is yet to publish total number of voters in each constituency

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi



UPPING the ante on the alleged discrepancies in the voting data released by the Election Commission of India (EC) in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha polls, Congress president **Mallikarjun Kharge** on Tuesday wrote to the leaders of various parties of the opposition INDIA bloc urging them to raise their voice to safeguard democracy and protect the independent functioning of the poll body.

"Let us ensure the independence of the Election Commission of India and make it accountable," his letter read.

The EC released the final voter turnout figures for the first two phases on April 30, eleven days after the first phase on April 19, and four days after the second phase on April 26.

However, it is yet to publish the total number of voters in each Parliamentary constituency.

Several opposition parties, including Congress, CPM, and TMC have raised questions about the delay in releasing the polling data and the non-disclosure of the number of registered voters.

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are the fight to save democracy and the Constitution of India, said Kharge in his letter, which he shared on X. "As you are aware of the recent developments,

the credibility of the ECI is at an all-time low. It is in the public domain how the ECI, perhaps for the first time in history, delayed the release of the final voting percentages of the first and second phases of the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress chief also questioned the inordinate delay in releasing the final voting percentages for the two phases.

"In my electoral life of 52 years, I have never witnessed such a high increment of voting percentages, in the final published data, that we now assume came from the later hours of voting on the polling days."

The Congress chief also sought to know if there were any issues with the EVMs.

"On earlier occasions, the Commission has published voter turnout data within 24 hours of polling. What has changed this time? Why has the Commission failed to issue any clarifications to justify the delay, despite being repeatedly questioned by political parties and political activists?" he wondered.

The Congress veteran also threw a volley of questions to the EC. "We ask the Commission, for the first phase, why is there a near increase of 5.5% in the final voter turnout from the date of conclusion of voting (at 7 pm on 19.04.2024) to the delayed release of voter turnout data (on 30.04.2024)?"

For the second phase, there is a near increase of more than 5.74% in the final voter turnout from the date of conclusion of voting (at 7 pm on 26.04.2024) to the delayed release of data (On 30.04.2024)," he asked.

Apart from the delay, Kharge pointed out that the data released does not mention the votes polled in each Parliamentary constituency and the respective assembly constituencies.

**On earlier occasions, the Election Commission has published voter turnout data within 24 hours of polling. What has changed this time? Why has the Commission failed to issue any clarification to justify the delay, despite being repeatedly questioned by political parties and political activists?**

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

Congress' former media coordinator Khera, actor Shekhar Suman join BJP

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

BIHAR-born Bollywood actor Shekhar Suman and former Congress national media coordinator Radhika Khera joined the BJP on Tuesday. Their joining came on the third phase of poling in general elections and triggered speculation that the saffron party may consider sending Shekhar Suman to the Rajya Sabha either from Bihar or some other Hindi heartland state.

Shekhar Suman has recently been seen in the 'Heeramandi' webseries. After joining the party, the actor said he joined the BJP with "positive thoughts" for contributing to the development of the nation.

Speaking to the media, Shekhar said: "I did not know until yesterday that I would be sitting here. A lot of things happen in life. Sometimes you don't know what you are supposed to do and you get a direction from above and you follow it".

Shekhar Suman had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election 2009 as a Congress candidate when he was pitted against BJP's Shatrughan Sinha from the Patna Sahib.

Radhika Khera quit the Congress recently accusing some party leaders of torturing her because she visited the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Speaking to

May contest from Bihar

Shekhar Suman's joining BJP came on the third phase of polling in general elections and triggered speculation that the saffron party may consider sending him to the Rajya Sabha either from Bihar or some other Hindi heartland state. Before Shekhar, another actor Rupali Ganguly had also joined the saffron ranks.

the media, Radhika complained about "mistrust" after her Ayodhya visit. "Today's Congress is not Mahatma Gandhi's Congress, it is anti-Ram, anti-Hindu Congress", she alleged.

"I was punished in Congress for being a Hindu, a Sanatan girl and a devotee of Lord Ram," she said.

BJP sources said over 2,000 prominent leaders from various parties, mostly from Congress and AAP, have joined the BJP in the last 6-7 months.

Before Shekhar joined the BJP, another actor Rupali Ganguly joined the saffron ranks. Other prominent leaders who have joined BJP ahead of the LS polls are industrialist and former Congress leader Navin Jindal, former IAF chief Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduria, former Congress leader and spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh, former Delhi Congress leader Arvinder Singh Lovely.

## SC grants partial relief to 25K Bengal teachers

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court, in its decision on Tuesday, partially stayed the Calcutta High Court order that cancelled the appointment of over 25,000 assistant teachers and non-teaching staff in West Bengal, pending the final outcome of the Supreme Court's judgement.

This order provides a partial relief for the appointed teachers, as the Supreme Court stayed the Calcutta High Court's decision to cancel their appointments. However, the appointees must remain apprehensive about their future as the CBI continues its investigation, as mandated by the Supreme Court.

The SC said that the CBI would persist with its investigation into the scam but would not take any coercive steps or actions against the candidates or state government officials.

The Calcutta High Court had ordered the cancellation of 25,000 appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff after finding irregularities and misconduct without proper reasoning.

The Supreme Court granted conditional interim protection from the previous order and stated that the salaries of the unlawfully appointed individu-



### 'Ensure no innocent is in history sheet'

The top court on Tuesday asked the police in states and UTs to ensure that innocents and individuals from backward communities are not named in a history sheet. Initiating suo motu action, a bench said there are some studies available in the public domain that reveal a pattern of "unfair, prejudicial and atrocious" mindset.

als should be refunded, contingent on the case's outcome.

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, emphasised the need for an expeditious disposal of the matter to serve the interests of justice.

The state government challenged the High Court's order, claiming it was made arbitrarily and without proper reasoning.

During the hearing, the apex court described the alleged recruitment scam in West Bengal as "systemic fraud," stressing that authorities are duty-bound to maintain digitised records related to the appointments.

On April 24, the West Bengal

government appealed to the Supreme Court against the Calcutta High Court's decision, which invalidated and cancelled the appointment of 25,753 teachers made by the state's School Service Commission (SSC) in state-run schools.

The state government challenged the High Court's order, claiming it was made arbitrarily and without proper reasoning.

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## SC asks Patanjali to remove misleading ads

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

OBSERVING that certain misleading advertisements for Patanjali products are still available on various online platforms, the Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned Patanjali about the steps being taken to remove them.

The court also denied an oral request to exempt the personal appearances of Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna at the next hearing. Previously, the apex court had excused them from appearing in person today, resulting in their absence.

The bench asked Patanjali what actions were being taken to contact the relevant agencies to remove the ads. "We want to point out that your misleading ads, which promote products that have now been prohibited, are still accessible on internet channels. What actions are you taking to remove them?" the apex court inquired.

The arguments on Tuesday were inconclusive and will continue after the Supreme Court's summer vacation.

INDIAN Naval ships Delhi, Shakti and Kiltan have reached Singapore as part of the long-leg operational deployment, led by Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

The visiting ships were given a warm welcome by personnel of Republic of Singapore Navy and the High Commissioner of India. "The visit is part of the Operational Deployment of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China sea," the Indian Navy said in a statement.

"This visit is poised to strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations through a series of engagements," it said.

INS Delhi is a guided missile destroyer, Shakti a replenishment fleet tanker and Kiltan an anti-submarine warfare corvette.

The region of SCS has been bearing tensions due to contested claims to maritime boundaries, which include islands and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). China has been asserting its claim, based on its historical rights. Currently, the

## Indian Navy's warships in Singapore before deployment in South China Sea

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

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Chinese navy is involved in a standoff with the US-backed Philippines naval ships in the South China Sea.

The Philippines is asserting its claim over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, which is strongly resisted by China. China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Enrique A Manalo, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar,

and SFA co-chaired the 5th meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation.

Holding wide-ranging and substantive discussions on regional and international issues of mutual concern, they underlined that "both countries have a shared interest in a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. They underlined the need for peaceful settlement of disputes and for adherence to international law, especially the UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award on South China Sea."

## India slams Canada over offensive float during parade by Khalistani activists

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

### Extremist elements

A float in the Nagar Kirtan parade in Canada's Malton showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi behind bars. "As you are aware, we have repeatedly raised our strong concerns about the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against our political leadership. Last year, a float depicting the assassination of our former PM was used in a procession. Display of posters of Indian diplomats have also been put out across Canada," said MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal.

"As you are aware, we have repeatedly raised our strong concerns about the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against our political leadership. Last year, a float depicting the assassination of our former prime minister was used in a procession. Posters of Indian diplomats have also been put out across Canada threatening violence against them," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

India has reaffirmed that celebration and glorification of violence should not be a part of

their responsibilities without fear," Jaiswal said.

India has urged Canada to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements a safe haven and political space.

Meanwhile, Canada's Immigration Minister Marc Miller has rejected External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remark that Ottawa is "lax" about admitting criminals into the country, saying authorities conduct a thorough record check on people entering Canada on student visas.

On Saturday, Jaishankar said that India had "convinced them (Canadian authorities) several times not to give visa, legitimacy or political space to such people for whom it is causing problems for us and also for our relationship." His remarks came after Canadian authorities charged three Indians, who entered the country on student visa, with the murder of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

any civilised society. Democratic countries, which respect the rule of law, should not allow intimidation by radical elements in the name of freedom of expression, it said.

"We continue to remain concerned about the security of our diplomatic representatives in Canada and expect the government of Canada to ensure that they are able to carry out

J'khand cash haul: Minister's aide, help arrested

MUKEH RANJAN @ Ranchi



THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam's personal secretary Sanjiv Lal and the latter's domestic help on Tuesday, following the recovery of more than ₹35 crore cash from a flat linked to them, officials said.

The agency also undertook fresh searches at five locations in the state and seized another ₹1.5 crore in cash. Lal and his domestic help, Jehegir Alam, were taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following their questioning and produced before court, the officials said. In its remand note submitted to the court, ED said, "It is ascertained that Sanjeev Lal takes care of the collection of commission on behalf of some influential persons and plays a pivotal role in managing the tenders and collection of commission from engineers. The commission is distributed to higher ups of government. Names of senior bureaucrats have emerged...."

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On Monday, ED conducted raids at multiple locations in Ranchi linked to former rural development department chief engineer Virendra Ram, who is under judicial custody after being arrested by ED in a money laundering case.



INDIA	Max	Min	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	24	Mumbai	33 - 26
Bhopal	36	22	Panaji	33 - 24
Jaipur	37	24	Patna	38 - 24
Amritsar	34	18	Lucknow	37 - 20
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	32 - 26
Kolkata	31	25	Imphal	29 - 18
Srinagar	23	08	Chandigarh	36 - 18

# Prestige of big players at stake in key states

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE voting for the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections concluded on Tuesday, with voters in 93 constituencies across 12 states and one Union Territory exercising their franchise.

All 25 of 26 constituencies of Gujarat, the remaining 14 seats of Karnataka, 11 seats in Maharashtra, 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh, nine seats in Madhya Pradesh, seven seats in Chhattisgarh, five seats in Bihar, four seats each in Assam and Bengal, two seats in Goa, and one seat each in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu went to polling.



The results on this seat will be keenly watched, as this will determine which faction of the NCP has control over it. In Madhya Pradesh

Guna seat will be in focus, as civil aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is in the fray. He was a Congress MP from the constituency from 2002 to 2019. In 2019, he lost from his family bastion to the BJP candidate Krishna Pal Singh.

Scindia has now switched to the BJP and this time he is up against the Congress' Rao Yadvendra Singh Yadav.

In Uttar Pradesh Mainpuri seat has been in focus for its being a family bastion of former UP Chief Minister late Muayam Singh Yadav.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is seeking his re-election from the Gandhinagar constituency in Gujarat, a seat which has been won by the BJP since 1989. The seat has been represented by BJP leaders like Lal Krishna Advani and former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This time 62-year-old Sonal Patel of Congress is pitted against Shah.

## WEST BENGAL

Sporadic violence marred the third round in the four constituencies in West Bengal as TMC, BJP and Congress workers clashed in various parts of Murshidabad and Jangipur seats. The TMC, the BJP, and the Congress-CPM alliance lodged separate complaints related to poll violence, voter intimidation, and assaults on poll agents in the first few hours of polling, sources from the parties said. The EC received 182 complaints by 9am, most of which were from Murshidabad and Jangipur. All the four seats are minority-dominated, with the Trinamool holding Murshidabad and Jangipur, while the BJP has Malda North, Malda South is represented by the Congress. In Jangipur area, BJP's Dhananjay Ghosh faced protests by TMC cadres as he tried to enter some of the booths. Around 73,37,651 voters, including 36,12,395 women and 154 from third gender, were eligible to vote. "The TMC has unleashed a reign of terror. EC must take strict action," said Mohammed Salim, Left-Congress candidate.

## MAHARASHTRA

Around 55% voting polling on eleven Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. The highest polling was reported in Kolhapur at 63.71% while the lowest was 45.68 % in Baramati constituency. In Baramati, Madha, and Hatkalangale, there were allegations and counter-allegations about money changing hands. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar posted a series of videos where deputy CM Ajit Pawar-led NCP workers were purportedly seen offering money. A police vehicle was used to distribute the money for the votes by the ruling party, "alleged Rohit Pawar, the grandnephew of Sharad Pawar. NCP MLA Dutta Barne video went viral when he was seen abusing the some people who were working for NCP (SP) candidate Supriya Sule and asking to vote for her. After the incident, Supriya Sule rushed to the spot to console her party workers and asked the police to take action. Actor-couple Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia Deshmukh voted in Latur, while Union minister Narayan Rane voted in Sindhudurg.



**OVERALL TURNOUT 61.45%**

## UTTAR PRADESH

Continuing with the streak of low voter-turnout, the voting percentage across 10 seats, mainly of Rohilkhand and Yadav land, stood out to be over 57 per cent. According to Election Commission figures, Agra witnessed 53.99% voting, Aonla 57.08%, Badaun 54.05%, Bareilly 57.88%, Etah 59.17%, Fatehpur Sikri 57.09%, Ferozabad 58.22%, Hathras 55.36%, Mainpuri 58.59% and Sambhal 62.81%. Meanwhile, during the day, a group of Muslim women, in Badaun's Sahaswan assembly segment, claimed that they were stopped from casting their vote. They also alleged that the men accompanying them were beaten up by police. However, Badaun District Magistrate Manoj Kumar refuted the charges, saying the people who had already cast their votes were gathering unnecessarily. Incidents of poll boycott were reported from many places. Voters in Badaun's Dhoranpur village boycotted it for the first three hours as their demand for a road was not fulfilled.

## CHHATTISGARH

The third phase of polling in the remaining seven constituencies in Chhattisgarh recorded over 67% voter turnout till 5 pm on Tuesday. "The turnout is an approximate figure and might rise as voters were seen standing in queues at various polling stations after 5 pm," said an official of the chief electoral office in Raipur. Two ST-reserved seats of Raigarh and Surguja recorded the highest voter turnout at 76.48% and 75.12%. Bilaspur and Raipur witnessed low turnout at 60.05% and 61.25%. There were 168 candidates in fray and over 1.39 core voters in the third phase. Eight voters were stung by bees at a polling station in Aara village of Jashpur district. All were taken to a community health centre. In Raipur, a voter, Sudhir Mandpe, was not allowed to vote as the poll staff at Mother Teresa ward told him that he was not alive according to records. Mandpe claimed he voted in the Assembly polls four months ago.

## GOA/ DAMAN AND DIU

Daman and Diu constituency braced itself for high-stake showdown between BJP and Congress-led by Lalu Bhai Patel and Ketan Dhaya Bhai Patel. At Varkund village in Daman, first-time voters were welcomed with flowers. Meanwhile in Goa, while there were no queues outside polling stations in the first few hours, voters started stepping out later in the day. Goa assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar said his assembly constituency of Canacona will record more than 80 per cent turnout, and more votes would mean an advantage for the BJP. State Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai said voters had come out in large numbers to vote for the BJP. Congress leader Girish Chodankar, however, refused to concede that it is an advantage for the BJP. More than 11 lakh voters were eligible to exercise their franchise for elections to the two Lok Sabha seats in Goa. A total of 16 candidates, eight were in the fray in North and South Goa constituencies each.

## KARNATAKA

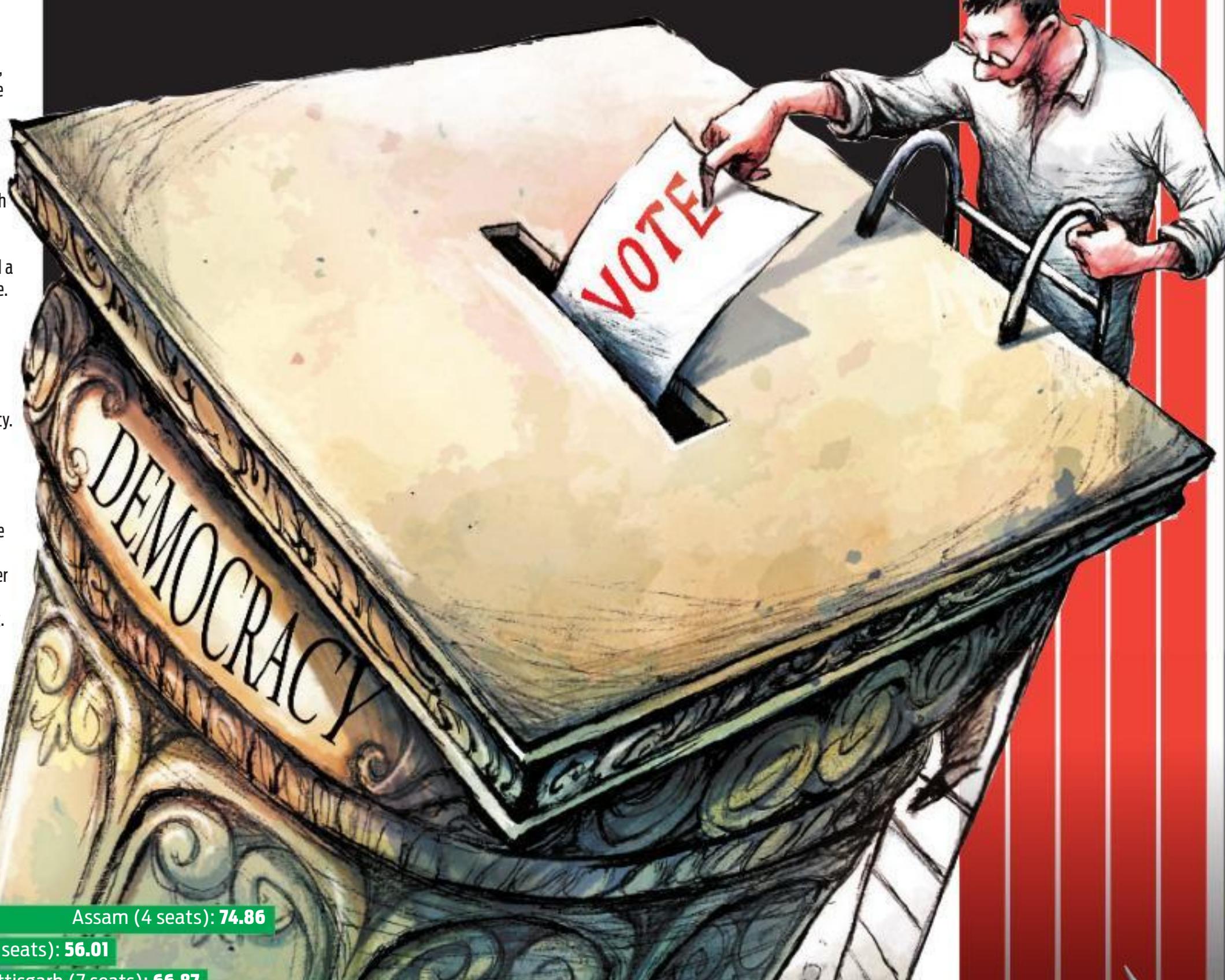
The elections witnessed a straight fight between the ruling Congress and the BJP in these segments. The JD(S) is not contesting in these seats and is supporting its NDA alliance partner – the BJP. The segments in the northern districts where elections were held today are Chikkodi, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal, Bellary, Haveri, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Davangere and Shimoga. A total of 227 candidates – 206 men and 21 women -- are in the fray for this phase covering northern districts. The Congress and BJP are locking horns on the electoral battleground again in less than a fortnight in Karnataka. Karnataka is the most important state for the BJP in South India as it's only here that it has held power in the past. Despite sporadic rains in most parts of the state, the 14 segments that went to polls faced heat wave-like conditions, with maximum temperatures between 38 and 44 degrees Celsius in districts.

## MADHYA PRADESH

Three high-profile constituencies where political biggies were contesting reported maximum voter turnout, as around 66% voting was reported on nine seats of Madhya Pradesh during the third phase of polls on Tuesday. The seats had reported 66.63% turnout in 2019. In the first two phases, the turnout was 8% and 9% less compared to that of 2019. Rajgarh seat from where former CM Digvijaya Singh was contesting as Congress candidate reported maximum 75%, followed by 74% in Vidisha where ex-CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan was the BJP candidate. Guna, where union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is the BJP candidate, reported 72% voting, and Betul (ST) 73%. State capital Bhopal and Gwalior reported 64% and 67% polling respectively, while the lowest 55% polling was reported in Bhind (SC) seat. Morena recorded 58% turnout. No major incident was reported from across the 19 districts, where the polls happened on the nine seats.



# HIGHS & LOWS IN BATTLE OF MIDWAY



DHUBRI (ASSAM)	79.70%
MURSHIDABAD (WEST BENGAL)	76.49%
BARPETA (ASSAM)	76.20%
KOKRAJHAR (ASSAM)	74.24%
MALDAH DAHKSHIN (WEST BENGAL)	73.68%

TOP FIVE SEATS WITH HIGH TURNOUT

AMRELI (GUJARAT)	45.59%
BARHAMATI (MAHARASHTRA)	45.68%
PORBANDAR (GUJARAT)	46.51%
BHAVNAGAR (GUJARAT)	48.59%
KACHCHH (GUJARAT)	48.9%

TOP FIVE SEATS WITH LOWEST TURNOUT



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Our client MR. MONTY KUMAR GULAB CHAND SHAH, desirous of purchasing the Schedule Property from its owner MR. DEEPAK N.M S/o Mr. N.M. Mahadev, residing at No.509, 4th Cross, 4th Main Road, Jangathanagar, T.K.Layout, Mysore - 570009.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner against the said owner or objecting such sale should write to the under signed within **FOURTEEN DAYS** of issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights in respect of the Schedule Property, after which period my client shall proceed with the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever in nature on the Schedule Property.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.no.51/B (Or Sy.no.51/A) situated at Okkarehalli Village B.G.Pur Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District measuring 1 acre 18 guntas and bounded on the-

**East by:** Property belonging to Sri.D.Umapathi

**West by:** Road

**North by:** Private Property

**South by:** Private Property.

C.P.SAJEEV & JAISR.KRISHNAN, Advocates, No.34 & 35, 1st Floor, 8th Main, 13th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-03

Ph.No. 9845200930 and 9880748335

E-mail : Krishnan.jais@gmail.com

**Can Fin Homes Ltd**

No. C-2, S. N. Praveen Arcade,  
KIAAD Industrial Area, APC Circle,  
Anekal Main Road, Jigani, Bangalore - 560 105.  
CIN:L85110KA1987PLC008699

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)"

To,

1. Mr. Madishetty Akhil, (Borrower), Site No.01, Vinayaka Enclave, Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560100

2. Ms. Vediyyamal, (Co- Borrower) Site No.01, Vinayaka Enclave, Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560100 No. 1 & 2 amongst you have availed a housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset belonging to No.1 of /Amongst you. An amount of **Rs. 45,97,686/-** (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Six Only) is due from you, to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on 02.05.2024 together with future interest at the contracted rate.

**Details of the mortgaged Property:** Site No.01, Khatha No.78, Assessment No.78, Situated at Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560100, Measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 37 Feet in all Measuring 740 Sqft along with Ground Floor, First Floor, Second floor & Third Floor Measuring 700 Sqft in each floor totally measuring 2800 Sqft. Bounded on the: East: Site No.1A, West: Private Property, North: Road, South:Private Property.

Registered demand notice was sent to Nos. 1 & 2 amongst you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, but the same was returned unserved. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s as per the said Act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to adhere to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on **30.04.2024** as per the NHB Guidelines. The borrowers and any others claiming under them are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon from **02.05.2024** within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Sd:-

Authorised Officer  
Can Fin Homes Limited

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Mr. Satish Kumar Cherukuri and Ms Gutti Sugatha have intend to purchase the below mentioned property from its present owner Mr. Dasari Hanumantha Rao. Anyone having any sort of claims or objection relating to the Schedule Property or proposed sale may lodge the same with the under signed within 15 days from the public notice with supporting document failing which the same transaction shall be completed without any return to suit/notice, interest and claim.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All the piece and parcel of the residential house property which is constructed on Plot No.643 bearing kattu no.266 assessment reg no.232 and 89 formed in in Sy.no.232 & 89, and

consisted of 2 storey building conversion Order no. B.DIS/ALN/SR(S)375/1991-92 DATED 22.05.1992 & B.DIS/ALN/SR(S)371/1991-92 DATED 22.05.1992 in the layout known as "KPCL EMPLOYEES COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LTD", situated at Kasavanhalli Village, Vaithur Road, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District

Adv. Varghese Salvan P.S., Cannon Law Chamber Advocate and Legal Consultant Bangalore, #2091/5th Cross, 2nd Main, Bellandur(V&P) Bangalore-560103, Ph: +919886934352 E-mail: cannonlawchamber@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that our client Mr. SMT. DEEPAK M.K w/o Pavankumar, aged about 32 years, Residing at No.154, 9th Cross, Telecom Layout, Vinayakanagar, Srirampura, Bangalore-560064, intends to purchase the properties described in the schedule herein from Smt. LAKSHMINARASAMMA, D/o, Late. Subbaiah Lakshminarasimha D/o, Narasappa Suresh S/o, Narasappa Padma D/o, Narasappa all are residing at Kudlu, Kudlu, Hullahalli Village, Hobli, Nelgramma Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist, and Thimmakka son of Dattaih residing at Bhemarayapatna village, Doddaabavangala Hobli, Doddababupura Taluk, Bangalore rural Dist, are the absolute owners of the same.

Any person or persons having objections to the above transactions are required forward same to the under signed along with the relevant materials, within 30 days from the absence of any objections within the above said period it shall be deemed that there are no objections or that they have been waived and the sale deed will be executed in favor of our client without any further reference in this regard.

**SCHEDULE**

All that piece and parcel of property No. 48/4 extent of 0.26 guntas in MR.No.21/988-89 dated 22-2-2023, situated at Lingapura village, Doddababupura Hobli, Doddababupura Taluk, Bangalore Rural dist, and bounded on **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** private property.

P. N. Ramkrishna, M. Hemavathi, Advocates, HRV Associates, Office at No.99, First Floor, BGS Layout, Jakkur - Amruthnalli Main Road, Bangalore - 560064.

**TNE**

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**TENDER - CUM - AUCTION SALE NOTICE****AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.**

Whereas, (1) Mr. Kishore N S/o Narasimhaiah K N, (2) Mr. Narasimhaiah K N S/o Subbarayappa, (3) Mr. Subhas N S/o Narasimhaiah K N, (4) Mr. Prakash N S/o Narasimhaiah K N All are residing at: No.5, Park Road, Near Ganesh Temple, Rama Mohanapura, Srirampura, Bengaluru-560021, having failed to repay the debt in respect of borrowing from Sree Charan Souardha Co-Op Bank Ltd. Sultanpet Branch, Bengaluru. The total amount due and payable by them jointly and severally as per the agreed terms and conditions is Rs.1,94,40,548/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Four Lakhs Forty Thousand Five Hundred Forty Only) as on **30.04.2024**, along with interest at the applicable rate and costs thereon.

Whereas the Bank has issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the Act, the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the mortgaged property including those more fully described hereunder, and the Bank has decided to sell the below mentioned property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act read with the relevant rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

**Description of Property**

Date & Time of Opening Tender and Place of Auction

Reserve Price & EMD Amount

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential House constructed on Site No.103, having Old Municipal No.162/65, further Municipal No.16236, property bearing Old. No.1623, New No.6, PID No.8-2-3, situated at Park Road, Ramamohanpura, Ward No.8, BBMP, Bangalore, Nagappa Block, Srirampura, Bangalore City Corporation Division No.10, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 90 feet of Site area along with RCC Roofed House and Bounded by: East: Property No.1622, West: Property No.1624/5, North: Conservancy, South: Park Road.	12.06.2024 at 11.30 AM	Rs.5,04,00,000/- (Rupees Five Crore Four Lakhs Only)
Sree Charan Souardha Co-Op Bank Ltd., Head Office, Bengaluru.	EMD: Rs.50,40,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Forty Thousand Only)	

**Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale:** 1) The Tender form can be collected from Sree Charan Souardha Co-Op Bank Ltd. Head Office: No.87/1, H.B Samaja Road, Gandhi Bazar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. (Ph. 080-26676837) on all working days during office hours. 2) The intending bidders should submit their bids in the prescribed tender form in closed cover along with EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price by means of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order drawn in favour of Sree Charan Souardha Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bengaluru- payable at Bengaluru. The Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order shall be drawn after the date of publication of this Tender - cum - Auction Sale Notice. 3) Tenders not in the prescribed format will not be accepted. The tender along with the EMD shall be submitted at Sree Charan Souardha Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bengaluru latest by **11.06.2024 before 4.30 P.M.** Tender without EMD shall be summarily rejected. 4) The property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price. 5) In case the bidder is not successful the E M D amount shall be refunded without interest. 6) 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. 7) The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorised Officer in the presence of the available / attending bidders at **11.30 AM on 12.06.2024.** 8) After opening the tenders, the intending bidders may be given opportunity at the discretion of the Authorised Officer to have, intense bidding amongst themselves to enhance the offer Price. 9) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% OF THE SALE PRICE (INCLUSIVE OF EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash 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 property shall be put for re-auction. 10) The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues / taxes / charges / property tax / E B 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. 11) 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. 12) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. 13) The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 AM and -5.00PM at his expenses at the address mentioned in the Schedule. 14) The property is 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. 15) 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. 16) 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 Charan Souardha Co-Op Bank Ltd. Head Office: No.87/1, H.B Samaja Road, Gandhi Bazar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of property Contact (Ph. 080-26676837) E-Mail: loans.ho@sreicharanbank.com / manager.ho@sreicharanbank.com

Date: 06.05.2024

Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer

The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

Date: 07.05.2024

Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer

Sree Charan Souardha Co-Operative Bank Ltd Bangalore- 560004

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the General Public that my client is intending to purchase schedule property from **Smt. Bhagyaamma wife of Late Venkataswamy** (late Venkataswamy, aged about 60 years, residing at M. Hosahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore).

The general public are hereby informed that any person's having any manner of rights, claim's, objections, in respect of the schedule property may notify the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of the notice along with documentary proof in support of their claim or right of the same, failing which my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property as there is no right, claim or charge on the schedule property to purchase the same.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All the piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing Sy.no.51/B (Or Sy.no.51/A) situated at Okkarehalli Village B.G.Pur Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District measuring 1 acre 18 guntas and bounded on the-

**East by:** Property belonging to Sri. D.Umapathi

**West by:** Road and Ker.

**North by :** Private Property

**South by :** Private Property.

**Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.no.51/B (Or Sy.no.51/A) situated at Okkarehalli Village B.G.Pur Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District measuring 1 acre 20 guntas and bounded on the:

**East by :** Property belonging to Sri. Mandegowda Mahadeva.

**West by :** Road and Ker.

**North by :** Property belonging to Sri. Police Mahadeva.

**South by :** Property belonging to Sri. Subba Shetty.

**Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.no.51/B (Or Sy.no.51/A) situated at Okkarehalli Village B.G.Pur Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District measuring 1 acre 20 guntas and bounded on the:

**East by :** Property belonging to Sri. Puttanna.

**West by :** Property belonging to Sri. Mahadeva H.N.M.

**North by :** Road.

**South by :** Property belonging to Sri. Narajaru.

**Item No.3:** All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.no.51/B (Or Sy.no.51/A) situated at Okkarehalli Village B.G.Pur Hobli, Malavalli Taluk Mandya District measuring 1 acre 20 guntas and bounded on the:

**East by :** Property belonging to Sri. Puttanna.

**West by :** Property belonging to Sri. Mahadeva H.N.M.

**North by :** Road.

**South by :** Property belonging to Sri. Narajaru.



From Nepal have joined the Russian army for the Ukraine war



LR: Light Rain	WI: Windy	HR: Heavy Rain	SN: Snow
TDS: Thundershower	LC: Light Cloud	SNY: Sunny	

# Israel stops short of full-fledged offensive in Rafah

Takes control of border crossing with Egypt; rejects warnings from allies; truce negotiations with Hamas on edge

## CAIRO

ISRAELI tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as ceasefire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge. The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already experiencing "full-blown famine." The Israeli forces overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an



Egyptian-Qatari mediated ceasefire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands. The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if

only barely — for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which as it marked its 7-month

point Tuesday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip. The incursion appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. The looming operation threatens to widen a rift between Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into the city.

"Netanyahu only cares about coming out on top. He doesn't care about children. I don't think he'll agree" to a deal, said

Najwa al-Saksuk as her family packed up.

Israeli strikes rang out and raised plumes of black smoke. The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the Israeli military said, taking "operational control" of it. Footage released by the military showed Israeli flags flying from tanks that seized the area.

It also said that ground troops and airstrikes targeted suspected Hamas positions in Rafah. The military claimed it had intelligence the crossing was "being used for terrorist purposes," though it did not immediately provide evidence. AP

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client intends to purchase/acquire the property described in the Schedule hereto below free from all encumbrances from its respective owners mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder. The Owners represents and warrants that they are the absolute owners of their respective properties.

Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim/s, and the claims, if any, of such person(s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

## SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural lands totally ad measuring 3 Acres and 20 Gunta situated at Ittamatu Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District, The details of Survey numbers and Owners are as follows:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	OWNER'S NAME	EXTENT				BOUNDARIES			
			A	G	East By	West By	North By	South By		
1.	173/5 (old Sy No. 173/2A1)	Mr.M.Ravi & Mr. T.K.Thimmaraju.	1	0	Land of Mr.Shivanna & Smt.Chikkati SusheelaDevi	Land of Annayannam & Chikkasiddhulu	Govt Road	Land belonging to M/s.Mico Naukarara Grubh Nirmanam Sahakara Sangha Niyyamitha		
2.	173/6 (old Sy No. 173/2A1)	Mr.Shivanna & Smt.Chikkati SusheelaDevi	0	34	Remaining land in Sy No.173/6	Road & Bund	Land in Sy No.138	Land in Sy No.173/5		
3.	137/1B (old Sy No. 137/1)	Mr.Shivanna & Smt.Chikkati SusheelaDevi	0	34	Land in Sy No.138	Land in Sy No.137/3	Land in Sy No.137/1A	Land in Sy No.173/6		
4.	138	Mr.Shivanna & Smt.Chikkati SusheelaDevi	0	32	Land in Sy No. 173/6 belonging to Korallamma	Land in Sy No. 173/6 belonging to Korallamma	PWD Road	Land in Sy No. 137/1B belonging to Korallamma		

## Vaishali Basawanal, Advocate VSB Law Associates

# 312, III Level, Prestige Meridian II, # 29-30 M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001

Ph No: 9844091496 email : vaishali70@gmail.com

Place: Bangalore

Date: 07-05-2024

## Indian Overseas Bank

JAYANAGAR-VII BLOCK BRANCH: No.253, Kanakapura Main Road, Jayanagar 7th Block, Bangalore-560070, Phone: 080-22950195, email: iob0842@iob.in

## DEMAND NOTICE

DEAD NOTICE TO BORROWERS/ MORTGAGORS/ GUARANTORS UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002  
Borrower: 1) M/s. Marthanda Enterprises, Proprietor: Mrs. Soumya Katti, Office address: No 5/1-9 Avalahalli Village, Near Khodays Glass Factory, Anjanapura, Uttarahalli-Bangalore-560062. 2) Mrs. Soumya Katti W/o. Maltesh G Vrittikoppa, Address: Flat No.304 Third floor, SUMO KRUPA TEMPLE VIEW, Property No.1217/4 and 5 Gubba Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South-560062. Address-2: Flat No.7F, Vallabha Jagannath SKN Gubba Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South-560062. 3) Malatesh G Vrittikoppa, Address-1: Flat No.304 Third floor, SUMO KRUPA TEMPLE VIEW, Property No.1217/4 and 5, Gubba Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South-560062.

Guarantor: 4) Nil.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Our Credit Facilities with Indian Overseas Bank, Jayanagar 7th Block Branch

1) You, the above named borrowers of our Bank have availed the following credit facilities from our Jayanagar 7th Block Branch. The details of the credit facilities with outstanding dues are as under:

Sl. No.	Nature of facility	Limit Rs.	Rate of Interest%+2.00% penal interest	Total Dues as on 24.04.2024
1	Cash Credit-PUB-084233000000020	50,00,000/-	12.90% (12.90%+2.00% penal Interest)	50,51,311.71/-
2	Housing Loan-084203464000013	48,00,000/-	9.65% (9.65%+2.00% penal Interest)	44,05,872/-
3	Vehicle Loan-084203452000050	17,50,000/-	10.05% (10.05%+2.00% penal Interest)	14,31,833.95/-

With further interest at contractual rates/rests will become payable from the date mentioned above till date of payment.

The credits facilities were secured by the assets mentioned below by way of mortgage/Hypothecation/Hirepurchase/Lease (as Applicable)of the property standing in the names of the mortgagors (Borrowers/Coplicant). You have acknowledged from time to time the liabilities under the above transactions through various documents executed by you.

2) The details of securities in favour of the Bank for the aforesaid credit facilities are :

Nature of Security: (Housing Loan) Mortgage Prime Security

Schedule A Property: All the piece and parcel of the converted land property BBMP Katha bearing No.1217/4 and 1217/5 totally measuring 22 ½ gunta only,formed in the land in bearing Sy Nos.4 and 5,which is converted for non-agricultural\_residential purpose,with official memorandum bearing No.BDS ALN/S1180/2004-05 dated:03/07/2004,born are issued by then Special Deputy Commissioner,Bangalore District,Bangalore situated at Gubba Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,within limits of BBMP Ward No.184 within the limits of BBMP ward No.184 and the same is bounded on the Boundaries: East by: Remaining Portion of land in Sy No.4 and 5, West by: 60 feet Wide Road, North by: Remaining Portion of land in Sy No.4, South by: 40 feet Road and then remaining land in Sy No.5. Schedule B Property: All that the piece and parcel of the Two Bedrooms Residential Apartment bearing flat No.TF 304 in the 3rd floor of SUMO KRUPA TEMPLE VIEW apartment constructed in Schedule A Property with super built up area of 1270 sq ft along with 371.88 sq ft of undivided right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the land described in the schedule 'A' property with one covered car parking area bearing No.TP-304 in the basement floor with water,Electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages,lobbies,lift,stairscase and other areas of common use etc., Vehicle Loan Hypothecation Prime Security: Hypothecation of Volkswagen Taigun 1.0 AT Topline 2021 Candy White Registration No:KA05ND7237; Chassis No:MEXM1CW6NT011535; Engine No:DTB026485 Make& Model :Volkswagen/Taigun/Topline 1.0 Ts1 At Cash Credit Hypothecation Prime Security: Hypothecation of Stock and Boot Debts

You the Proprietor/ Borrower/Coplicant at SNo.1,2 and 3 have also availed the following credit facility from our bank:

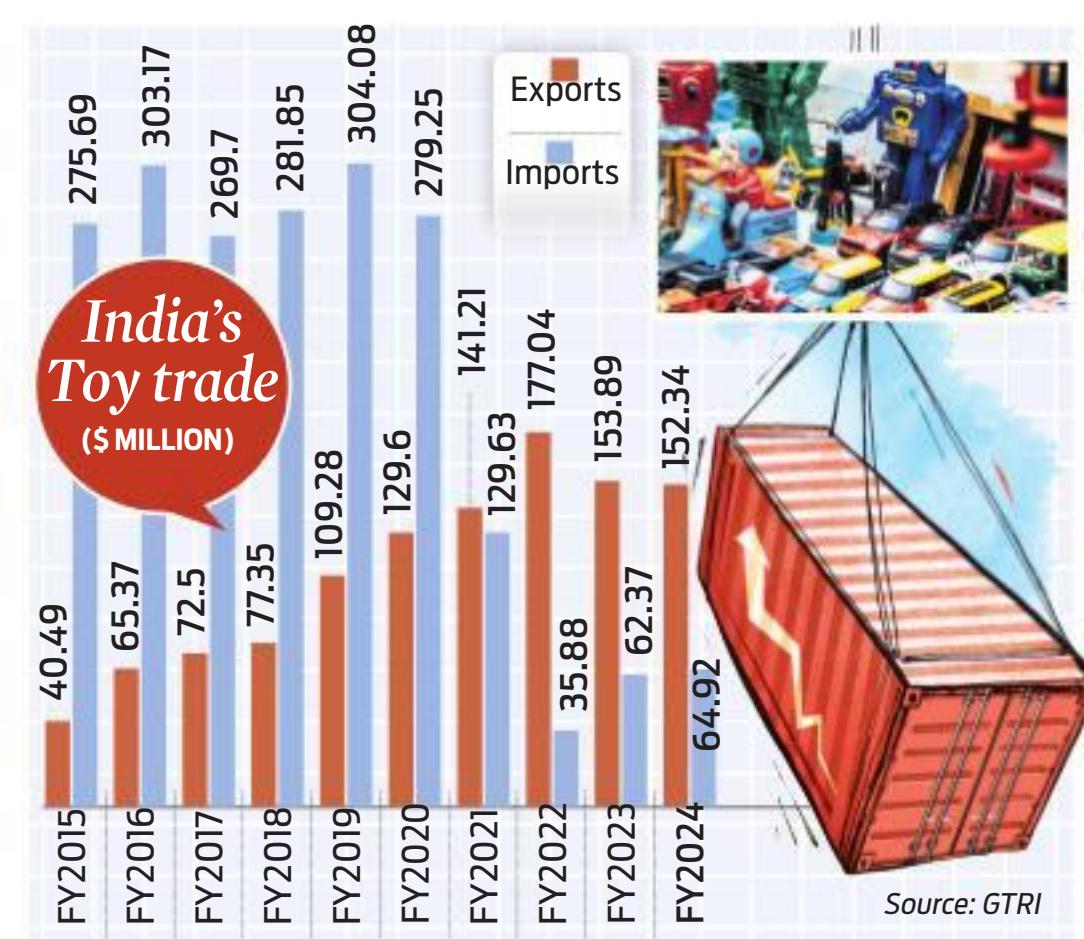
Sl. No.	Nature of facility	Limit Rs.	Rate of Interest%+2.00% penal interest	Total Dues as on 24.04.2024	Date of NPA (if any)
1	Cash Credit-PUB-084233000000020 (Marthanda Enterprises)	50,00,000/-	12.90% (12.90%+2.00% penal Interest)	50,51,311.71/-	23.04.2024
2	Housing Loan-084203464000013 Soumya Katti & Malatesh G Vrittikoppa	48,00,000/-	9.65% (9.65%+2.00% penal Interest)	44,05,872/-	23.04.2024
3	Vehicle Loan-084203452000050 Soumya Katti	17,50,000/-	10.05% (10.05%+2.00% penal Interest)	14,31,833.95/-	23.04.2024

3) Consequent upon defaults committed by the above named borrowers in payment of the principal debt/interest as per agreed terms, your loan account mentioned above has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 23.04.2024 as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines and directives. Despite our reminders for regularization of our account, you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon. 4) Since you the above named Proprietor/Borrower/Coplicant have failed to meet the liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by the securities mentioned above and upon classification of your account as Non-Performing Asset, we hereby recall our advances to you and give you notice under Sub-Section (2) of Section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating to Rs.1,08,89,017.66/- (rate of interest @ 12.90%+2.00% penal interest) &amp; Vehicle Loan: 084250345200050 @ 1



# Toy exports fall 14% after hitting peak in 2021-22

Slowdown in mkts like US, Europe; subsidies in China, Vietnam main reasons, say industry



DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA'S toy exports have hit the slow lane after showing spectacular rise since FY215. After touching a peak of \$177 million in FY22, exports of toys have been declining ever since. As per the data collated by the Global Trade Research Institute (GTRI), toy exports have come down to \$152 million in FY24. Simultaneously there has been a rise in imports. Toy imports have risen 81% since FY22 to \$65 million.

As per the industry, the tapering off of exports could be attributed to slowdown in major markets like the US and Europe. The stagnation could be attributed to 'cost disability' that Indian manufacturers face due to high subsidies given to manufacturers in China and Vietnam.

Talking to TNIE, chairman of Toy Association of India Manu Gupta said that India has achieved a certain critical level of toy exports, but in order to



exponentially grow from here, the industry needs to overcome the cost disability it faces due to massive subsidies offered by countries like China and Vietnam. He says in order to grow toy exports in the country, the government should consider the request for a Production-Linked Incentive scheme for the sector. He also bats for a National Toys Policy for a comprehensive boost to the sector.

Ajay Srivastava, founder, GTRI, however, attributes the stagnation in exports to the inability of quality control measures to boost exports.

"While quality control measures were primarily aimed at boosting local industry and ensuring safety, they did not significantly enhance India's toy exports," says Srivastava of GTRI. Introduction of higher import duties and the quality control measures has impacted the toy trade in India with imports falling drastically from \$304.1 million in FY19 to \$64.9 million in FY24.

## Number of 'ghost malls' increases in major cities

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

OWING to growing preference towards online shopping and the advent of top 'Grade A' class shopping centres, number of ghost shopping malls, characterised by a vacancy rate exceeding 40%, rose from 57 in 2022 to 64 in 2023 across eight major cities, said real estate consultancy firm Knight Frank on Tuesday.

The consultant noted that there has been a sharp rise in low-performing retail assets with nearly 13.3 million square feet (mn sq ft) of retail shopping centre space categorised as ghost shopping centres. There has been an increase of 238% year-on-year (YoY) in ghost shopping centres by gross leasable area (GLA) since 2022 in the prime markets. As a result of the rise in vacant spaces,



Knight Frank estimates that loss of value to be at ₹6700 crore or \$798 million in 2023.

National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the highest Ghost Shopping Centre stock measuring at 5.3 mn sq ft (rise of 58% YoY), followed by Mumbai with 2.1 mn sq ft (rise of 86% YoY) and Bengaluru with 2.0 mn sq ft (rise of 46% YoY). The sharpest rise in

## Sovereign wealth funds' assets in India rise 60%

BENN KOCHVEEDAN @ Mumbai

ASSETS under custody of sovereign wealth funds in domestic companies rose by 60% to touch ₹4.7 lakh crore in the 12 months period preceding April 2024 as against ₹3 lakh crore last year, according to the latest NSDI data.

The world's largest sovereign funds such as the Government Pension Fund Global of Norway, which with ₹1.4 lakh crore in assets under custody is the world's largest; the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the Sama Foreign Holdings of Saudi Arabia, the Canadian Pension Funds, the GIC & Temasek of Singapore, and the Kuwait Investment Authority, among others, are some of the leading sovereign wealth funds which

have been pumping tens of billions into domestic companies/entities/infra assets. They're increasing their India bet, as the country remains the fastest growing large market.

These funds have been putting money in the country on the back of tax exemptions they have begun to get since recent years along with relaxation in the KYC norms, which has reduced the compliance cost ad time for them. Total securities/assets owned by sovereign wealth funds in domestic companies/entities/infra assets jumped by 60% to ₹4.7 lakh crore in the year ending April 2024, show data. In the previous 12 months period ending April 2023, assets under custody of these funds was ₹3 lakh crore, according to the same data.

## Hinduja overhauls corp structure for RelCap deal

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE successful bidder for Reliance Capital – IndusIndia International Holding Ltd (IIHL) – has changed the entire corporate structure of the transaction for implementation of the resolution plan 20 days ahead of the deadline for completion of the process.

Under the new structure, the transaction will take place through four new companies – Cyture India Private Limited,

Ecopolis Properties Private Limited, Cyturex Technologies Private Limited, and IIHL BFSI Holding Limited. In the earlier structure, the Hinduja Group had proposed to implement the entire transaction primarily through two companies – IIHL BFSI (India) Ltd and Aasia Enterprises.

According to IIHL, Cyture India will act as the holding company of Aasia as it will hold a majority stake in Aasia Enterprises, and its shareholders will be the same as that of partners of Aasia – Ashok Hinduja, Harsha Hinduja, and Shom Hinduja.

ers will be the same as that of partners of Aasia – Ashok Hinduja, Harsha Hinduja, and Shom Hinduja. The other two new entities – Cyturex Technologies and Ecopolis Properties – will be the 100% subsidiaries of Aasia Enterprises. The

### Cyture to act as holding co of Aasia

As per IIHL, Cyture India will act as the holding company of Aasia as it will hold a majority stake in Aasia Enterprises, and its shareholders will be the same as that of partners of Aasia – Ashok Hinduja, Harsha Hinduja, and Shom Hinduja.



fourth newly introduced and incorporated company, IIHL BFSI Holding Ltd will be 100% owned by IIHL. The company has apprised of the change to the Reserve Bank of India, which had on 17 November 2023 given approval to its earlier structure for the transaction.

IIHL has emerged as the successful bidder for erstwhile Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Capital with creditors approving its resolution plan with 99.6% vote share.

## Volatility Index touches 1-year high ahead of 2024 general elections outcome

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the general elections results, volatility index, or India VIX, surged for the ninth straight session on Tuesday to hit a fresh 52-week high, sending jitter in the market. The index hit a high of 17.63 on Tuesday and later closed at 17.01, up 2.45%. With this, the fear gauge has jumped more than 70% in the last nine trading sessions.

"The rise aligns with historical trends, as the VIX typically climbs before major events like general elections... Based on this historical context, a further increase in the VIX is likely, with a potential move towards 25 before the election results," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastik Investmart.

The historical data shows that the index has seen a jump of 150% during 2019 and over 200% in 2014. Meena further states that two key factors are driving the VIX's rise. First, portfolio investors are buying protective put options to hedge their holdings. Second, traders are speculating on significant price movements post-election by purchasing both calls and put options.

The India VIX is a volatility index calculated by the NSE from the order book of NIFTY options. The best bid-ask quotes of near and next-month NIFTY options contracts traded on the NSE's F&O segment are used for this. India VIX reflects investors' perceptions of market volatility in the near term, i.e. it portrays market volatility over the next 30 calendar days.

The fresh surge in India VIX comes after it had dropped 20% to 10.2 levels on April 23 when bulls were all over the market.

Since then the index has seen a sharp spike, raising concerns among market participants. Equity market benchmarks – BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty have fallen more than 2% each in the last three sessions.

"While a lot can be explained in terms of historical trends, the approach of record peaks, upcoming election results, and even the liquidity impact on lot size reduction in Nifty, the recent swings are difficult to fully attribute," said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

James added that what is raising eyebrows now is how steep and the extent of the rise and fall is despite the short time frame. Just three weeks back, the VIX had fallen to record lows, after Nifty averted a major fall and bounced off the previous month's low, calming investors.

## Apex court reverses decision, extends relief to tobacco manufacturers

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

IN a recent development, the Supreme Court, upon reviewing a petition by Urmin Products, has decided to grant relief to tobacco manufacturers. The case, originating in 2006 over the classification of chewing tobacco and scented Zarda for excise duty purposes, saw the tribunal initially ruling in favour of the companies. However, a subsequent appeal by revenue authorities led to a significant financial burden on the manufacturers.

In tier 1 cities, total number of shopping centres have reduced in a period of one year. Despite new addition of 8 new retail centres, number of shopping centres reduced to 263 in 2023 as 16 shopping centres were shut down over the last year.

While the tobacco companies did the valuation for excise duty purposes based upon the maximum retail price valuation rule, the revenue authorities disputed by levying and demanding



the differential tax, based on the transaction value of product. Abhishek A Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers, representing the tobacco companies argued for the application of cum duty tax principles in determining the duty owed.

He argued that the cardinal

principle of cum duty can't be ignored for finalisation of the demand and the quantum of duty must be finalised by the tribunal, keeping in mind the provisions of cum duty tax. The apex court accepted the review application to the extent of cum duty tax and ordered that tribunal must determine the quantum of duty based on this principle.

Cum duty principles will make the differential taxes to almost nil as these products were charged at 67% tax at that time. Interestingly, the tribunal had not given any ruling on the principles of cum duty tax at the initial stage as on the other two principles the tribunal had already decided in favour of the companies.

## Will achieve \$1 bn in revenues: Happiest Minds

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU-based mid-tier IT company Happiest Minds Technologies, which posted a 14% increase in the full financial year FY24 revenue at Rs 1,625 crore, is on track to achieve its long-term vision of \$1 billion in revenues by FY31.

In an interaction with TNIE, Venkatraman Narayanan, MD & CEO, said the objective of reaching \$1 billion will be a combination of both organic and inorganic growth. The company recently acquired PureSoftware Technologies for about ₹779 crore and this will strengthen the company's Banking, Financial Services, Insurance (BFSI) and Healthcare and Life Sciences verticals. It also acquired Macmillan Learning India for about Rs



There were years when we have grown 37%, so our CAGR has been quite solid up until now and we are planning to keep the same growth rate or maybe even slightly better.

Venkatraman Narayanan, MD & CEO, Happiest Minds Technologies

4.5 crore to strengthen its edtech vertical. Narayanan said the compa-

ny's organic growth has been quite strong. "We have been growing at about 21-22% until now and in fact much faster. There were years when we have grown 37%, so our CAGR has been quite solid up until now and we are planning to keep the same growth rate or maybe even slightly better."

In a post-earnings media call, Ashok Soota, Executive Chairman, said FY25 is poised to be its best-ever year since the IPO. In February, the company announced its new vertical organisation structure comprising six new Industry Groups including edtech in order to compete in the global markets. It is also bullish on Gen AI and has created a Gen AI business unit.

Joseph Anantharaju, Executive Vice Chairman, said, this

separate business unit helps both internally and externally. "Internally because it gets the focus and the importance that you need to make it successful and from a customer perspective, it shows our seriousness and the depth that we are building," he added.

The company has around 14 customers already on Gen AI and it expects this to gather momentum through the year and into the next year. He added that they have built up a good sales pipeline for FY25. Happiest Minds is also looking at Gen AI as one of its prime engines of growth. "As long as we are focusing on areas like Gen AI, automation, security, there will be opportunities because these are all areas of need for customers," Anantharaju added.

## Dr Reddy's PAT up 36% to ₹1,307 cr; revenue at ₹7K cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES on Tuesday reported a 36% rise in its consolidated profit after tax at ₹1,307 crore for the quarter ended March 2024, aided by robust sales in the US market.

The Hyderabad-based drug company had reported a net profit of ₹959 crore in the January-March quarter of 2022-23 fiscal. Revenue rose to ₹7,083 crore in the period under review from ₹6,297 crore in the fourth quarter of FY23. For the full year ended on March 31, 2024, the drug major said its PAT rose to ₹5,568 crore as compared with ₹4,507 crore in 2022-23 financial year. Revenue rose to ₹27,916 crore for FY24 as against ₹24,588 crore in FY23.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general Public is hereby informed that at our Client Smt. Kamalika V D/o Venkateswarappa (Aadhar No.4332 5804 0964) intends to Purchase the Immoveable properties more fully described in the schedule Property hereunder from its present owner Mr. H R Venkateswarappa (Aadhar No.4332 Chandra Sekar (Aadhar No.4644 4054 3333) aged about 49 yrs Ret. No.781 8th Main, 4th Block, 7th Cross, Vidyanayapura, 5th Block and the same was Gifted From Smt. K. M. Venkateswarappa to Mr. H R Venkateswarappa on 16th May 1988 Cross : Near Water Tank, Sakthasagarang, Bangalore - 560092, who is the guardian of the original documents of the below shown property has lost the following documents:-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Sir JAYATEETH VENKOBRA PADKI, S/o. Venkobra Bachan Rao, about 58 years, residing at No. 10/10, 2nd Main, 16th B Cross : Near Water Tank, Sakthasagarang, Bangalore - 560092, who is the guardian of the original documents of the below shown property has lost the following documents:-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Properties from its owners Sri.K.Chandrasekhar [Item No. 01] and Sri.M.Devendra [Item No. 02]. Any person/s, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim etc., over the Schedule Properties may lodge his/her/ its objections or claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidence with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 07 days hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the purchase transaction. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained/binding on our client.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

(a) Allotment Letter No. 255 dated : 10.09.2001 issued by BHEL Housing Co-operative Society Limited.

(b) Original Sale Deed bearing No. 8231/2001-02 of Book No. 1, CD No. 71 dated : 04.10.2001, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore.

(c) Possession Certificate No. 376 dated : 04.05.2002 issued by BHEL Housing Co-operative Society Limited.

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Marsh expected to be fit to bowl in T20 WC

Australia coach Andrew McDonald on Tuesday said even though skipper Mitchell Marsh's progress is slower than expected, the all-rounder will be fit to bowl in the upcoming T20 World Cup. "We've got plenty of time now that he has been ruled out the IPL. (Our) first game is just short of a month away now. So ample time for him to get ready," McDonald said.

[newindianexpress.com](http://newindianexpress.com)

# Aman, Deepak eye Paris ticket as World Qualifier to kick-off Thursday

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

A TOTAL of 14 Indian wrestlers (six each in men's freestyle and Greco-Roman and two in women) will be in action when the World Olympic Games Qualifier, the last chance to earn Paris ticket, begins in Istanbul on Thursday.

As many as four women wrestlers (Vinesh Phogat 50kg, Antim Panghal 53kg, Anshu Malik 57kg and Reetika Hoods 76kg) have earned an Olympic quota each but none of the male grapplers have managed a place for the country in the 2024 Games so far. Hopes were high when the men wrestlers competed at the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier last month but none of them could manage to reach the final. Sujeept Kalkal (65kg) and Deepak Punia (86kg), who got stranded

at the Dubai International Airport and could reach the venue only after the weigh-in, did not compete. The Indian team comprising 13 wrestlers, eight coaches and three physiotherapists along with the Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Kumar Singh flew for Istanbul on Tuesday morning. Deepak (86kg) is learnt to have flown for the venue on Sunday. The competition will begin with bouts in Greco-Roman followed by women's wrestling on Friday. The men freestyle wrestlers' competition will begin on Saturday. As per the criteria, the finalists apart from the winner of the play-off between two bronze medalists in each weight category will earn the quota.

## Challenges in freestyle

All eyes will be on Aman Sehra-

wat (57kg), Sujeept (65kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Sumit Malik (125kg) in the men's freestyle. Aman might have failed to reach the final in the Asian Qualifier but he could be India's brightest prospect in Istanbul. The 2023 Asian Games bronze medalist, however, will have to face tough challenges from Tokyo Olympian Georgi Vangelov of Bulgaria, world silver medallist Alireza Sarlak of Iran and Muhammet Karavus, the local favourite.

If that was not enough, Spencer Lee of the USA, former U-17 and U-20 world champion, will be in Istanbul, making his comeback to international tournament eight years after world title in U-20. Aman, the 2022 U-23 world champion, will also have to go past world bronze medalists Zanabazar Zandabud of Mongolia and German Horst



Lehr: Han Chong Song, the 2023 Asian Games silver medalist is also in the fray. Sujeept will be raring to go this time. Like, Aman he too will face stiff competitions from Zain Allen Rutherford of the USA, the 2022 world silver medalist.

Tokyo Olympian Deepak too has to overcome challenges from quite a few wrestlers including Magomed Eldarovitch Ramazanov of Bulgaria, who won gold in the first Ranking Series in Zagreb and Magomed Sharipov of Bahrain. The latter had recently lost to Deepak in the 2023 Asian Games. Punia's namesake, Deepak, who will compete in 97kg, will have to counter challenge from Nishan Preet Singh Randhawa of Canada. The Canadian defeated Deepak in the 2022 Common-

wealth Games.

Sumit Malik, who qualified for the Tokyo Games but had to sit out as he was tested positive for banned substances, will again try his luck in the 125kg. His biggest rival will be Zhiwei Deng of China. The veteran Chinese wrestler already has two world medals (silver in 2018 and bronze in 2019) apart from the 2018 Asian Games silver in his kitty. The rivalry of Sumit with Aiaal Lazarev of Kyrgyzstan can go to next level as the latter will be one of the contenders in 125kg. He defeated Sumit in the 2023 Asian Games by technical superiority. Earlier, the Indian had beaten him in the qualification round in the 2021 World Qualifier. Lazarev finished third but earned the ticket for the Tokyo Games as Sumit failed the dope test.

## Chinese threat for women

Mansi (62kg) and Nisha Dahiya (68kg) will try to leave behind their respective losses at the Asian qualifying event and make it six out of six for the country in women's wrestling for the Paris Games. Once again, the duo will have to face strong fight from their rivals especially the Chinese wrestlers. For Mansi, Jia Long from China can be one of the toughest rivals. The Chinese had won silver in the 2022 Worlds apart from winning the 2023 Asian Championships gold. Similarly, Chinese Feng Zhou could be Nisha's biggest competitor Zhou, the three-time Asian Games gold medalist and two-time world medalist (2018 bronze & 2015 silver), will be geared up to win the elusive Olympic medal.

# JAKE, THE REAPER OF RUNS

Despite missing the WC berth, the Australian youngster once again lit up the stage in IPL

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN  
@Chennai

EVEN as late as the second week of March, Jake Fraser-McGurk's Summer plans didn't involve playing for Delhi Capitals. The breakout star of the Indian Premier League (IPL) may have probably been looking at shooting some hoops with mates, some fishing and working on his game in March, April and May.

Then, a spot opened up thanks to Lungi Ngidi's injury. Delhi plumped for him even if they had a stacked Aussie-heavy top-order. Whether by chance or by design, it has worked wonders. He has been electric and has routinely embarrassed top bowlers. On Tuesday, the opener continued with a breath-taking takedown of Rajasthan Royals inside the powerplay. He had made a soporific start (run-a-ball 7) as Trent Boult, one of the finest new-ball operators in the history of the league in terms of wickets, had altered the line of attack. The Kiwi usually searches for some swing early to bring the pads into play. Here, it was a nod to McGurk's aggression so the seamer was looking to angle in deliveries, with the length going to be short as well as full.

Off the fourth ball of the innings, Boult had hit McGurk in the unmentionables. The opener was down and the physio spent a good time working to ensure nothing was damaged. By the time McGurk's work was done for the evening, he had put a big dent in the visitors' aspirations of sealing a playoff berth with a win. After being hit in the box, McGurk went 401640401444646. Sure, some of those were slogs but the good thing with the way he slogs is his base, the bat speed and balance. It was in evidence straightforwardly as he hit through the line off Boult over mid-off after giving some room. His first six of the night — also off Boult

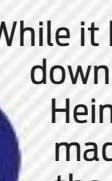


Delhi's Jake Fraser-McGurk smashed a 20-ball 50 against Rajasthan on Tuesday | AP

## BATTLE FOR THE FOURTH

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants – two teams fighting to be in the top four – go up against each other. A look...

**NEED FOR TWO POINTS**  
SRH and LSG, placed fourth and fifth, respectively, need two wins in three matches to make the play-offs. Which practically makes this a direct match-up, giving the winning team a headstart. Who will come out on top?



### WILL AGARWAL PLAY?

After what seemed like a set combination for Hyderabad, Pat Cummins and Co went back to Mayank Agarwal in the last game. However, will he continue? If so, how much will it affect the team combination? The questions remain.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Lucknow Super Giants, Hyderabad**

Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7.30PM

— was pumped straight into the sightscreen. The front leg was already out of the way when the Kiwi bowler was in his delivery stride. When the ball pitched inside his hitting zone, the bat made one smooth arc to send the ball soaring over the bowler's head. More boundaries followed. When Avesh Khan was introduced, the 22-year-old got lucky as an inside edge narrowly evaded the leg-stump before it sped

past Sanju Samson for a boundary. More good luck followed him as an uppish club just evaded the man stationed at extra cover. Avesh very quickly lost his length and JFM brought down the full face of the bat to loft him over mid-off. Sanju Samson had some words of advice but it didn't matter much as he kept travelling. In the process, the Australian reached a 19-ball 50. It ought to have been 56

Teams	P	W	L	Pts	NRR
KKR	11	8	3	16	1.45
RR	11	8	3	16	0.47
CSK	11	6	5	12	0.7
SRH	11	6	5	12	-0.06
DC	12	6	6	12	-0.31
LSG	11	6	5	12	-0.37
RCB	11	4	7	8	-0.04
PBKS	11	4	7	8	-0.18
MI	12	4	8	8	-0.21
GT	11	4	7	8	-1.32

\* – until the end of RR vs DC match

off 20 as an attempted R Ashwin carrom ball was a knee-high full-toss. But he mishit the delivery straight to covers. 60/1 off 42 overs. The light had been extinguished against the run of play but he had fulfilled his role to perfection as DC posted 221/8 before restricting RR to 201/8 to seal a 20-run win.

Having already had multiple innings like this this year, a few people expected him to feature in Australia squad but he didn't have any expectation. "There's two ways you can look at it," he told the *Willow Talk* podcast last week. "They (selectors) probably had a good idea of what (the squad) was a month and a half ago, trying to build that, how they can get the connection in that team. It's also hard to fit in. You've got David Warner, our best opener ever in three formats. You've got Travis Head, who's lighting it up over here (in the IPL) and has lit up for the past 18 months. And then Mitch Marsh is the same and he's also the captain." But with Warner still nursing an injury, Marsh still convalescing back home, will they be tempted to relook at Fraser-McGurk? With more than 15 days to go to hand in the final 15-man squads, you can't rule it out. Not yet anyway.

**Brief scores:** DC 221/8 in 20 ovs Jake 50, Porel 65; Ashwin 3/24) bt RR 201/8 in 20 ovs (Samson 66, Parag 27; Mukesh 2/30).

### EXPRESS READ

#### Boxer Preeti bags gold medal

ASTANA: Paris Olympics-bound Preeti was among seven Indian boxers to have clinched the gold medal as the country's medals tally hit a high of 43 at the conclusion of the Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships. Indian boxers won 12 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals to finish second behind hosts Kazakhstan who bagged 48 medals.

#### Hridoy shines for Bangladesh

Chattogram: Towhid Hridoy hit his maiden half-century as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by nine runs in the third T20 on Tuesday to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Put into bat first, Bangladesh compiled 165-8 with Hridoy hitting a 38-ball-57 and then defended the total by restricting Zimbabwe to 156-9.

#### MLC to add 6 extra league games

San Francisco: The second edition of Major League Cricket will start on July 5 and will feature an additional six league matches, the organisers said on Tuesday. The defending champions MI New York featuring former West Indies cricketer Kieron Pollard will take on 2023 runner-up Seattle Orcas in the opening match on July 5.

ment which will have nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz to decide the winner. The tournament favourite is Magnus Carlsen of Norway who starts as the top seed. The four players who have signed up for the entire tour are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan.

All of them will take part in four out of five events out of which two will be classical and remaining three will be rapid and blitz.

**AGENCIES @ Warsaw**

FRESH from his historic triumph at the Candidates' tournament, Indian Grandmaster D.Gukesh will compete in the Superbet Rapid and Blitz chess tournament which begins here on Wednesday.

A part of the Grand Chess tour, the event will also see GM R Praggnanandhaa in action for the first time since the Candidates while world number seven Erigais Arjun is the other Indian in the 10-player field for the tourna-

**ment which will have nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz to decide the winner. The tournament favourite is Magnus Carlsen of Norway who starts as the top seed. The four players who have signed up for the entire tour are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan.**

All of them will take part in four out of five events out of which two will be classical and remaining three will be rapid and blitz.

# Crystal Palace hand out royal thrashing to Man United

AFP @London

MANCHESTER United are at risk of failing to qualify for Europe next season after a dismal 4-0 thrashing at Crystal Palace left the Red Devils eighth in the Premier League.

Michael Olise scored twice, either side of goals from the in-form Jean-Philippe Mateta and Tyrick Mitchell, as the Eagles' resurgence since the appointment of Oliver Glaser as manager continues.

The time for a change of boss at Old Trafford could be coming soon as Erik ten Hag fails to ar-

rest a slide in his second season in charge. United have only been absent from European competition once since the 1989-90 season.

That came after finishing seventh in David Moyes' sole campaign 10 years ago and the Scot was sacked with four games of the season to go. United have never come lower than seventh in the Premier League era but are staring that possibility in the face with Arsenal to come at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Ten Hag has routinely cited injury problems as mitigation for his side's struggles.

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said he was confident his side could overcome Bayern Munich on Wednesday to reach the Champions League final.

The record 14-time winners snatched a 2-2 draw in the first leg of the semi-final clash in Munich with Vinicius Junior scoring a brace. "I am confident because this is Real Madrid, we have this squad, I'm confident in the fans who will help us," Ancelotti told a news conference Tuesday. "We think we've got it better, but (Bayern coach Thomas) Tuchel will think he does too."

Ancelotti admitted German giants Bayern, six-time win-

ners, were the superior side in the first leg draw at the Allianz Arena. "These are similar clubs, they have great history and a lot of success in the Champions League," continued the Italian coach. "We respect them... they did better than us in the first leg."

The coach confirmed Andriy Lunin would start in goal despite Thibaut Courtois returning from injury and keeping a clean sheet as Madrid clinched their La Liga crown this weekend. The Belgian stopper had been out since last summer with a bad knee injury. "The plan for a player coming back from injury does not change because of one game," said Ancelotti. "Courtois is doing well but he

needs time to get back to his best self -- he had an ideal game." Madrid defender Dani Carvajal said the team was right

# India's Kavin Quintal secures top-10 finish

CHENNAI: Indian rider Kavin Quintal made a stunning debut in the 2024 FM JuniorGP World Championship with a top-10 finish in the Stk European class in Round 2 at the Circuito do Estoril, outside Lisbon, Portugal. Kavin, who represents Fifty Motorsport team, clocked 23:19.001s for the 11 laps, just 34.665s adrift of the winner Adrian Rodriguez of Spain (SF Racing) and just 16.092s off fifth-placed Lorenz Della Porta (Yamaha GV Racing). The 18-year-old faced early setbacks and had to start the race from the 30th position on the grid.

"will be time to celebrate at the weekend, that's why we took that decision," said the Spain international. "We're having a great year, we're very excited for the Champions League, we're two games away from lifting it again. The dressing room knows it -- in the streets they're giving us encouragement so we can dream of our 15th."

Various long-standing Madrid players could leave at the end of the season after years spent at the club, with Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, Lucas Vazquez and Nacho Fernandez all out of contract in the summer. "I hope not, but some will be living their final Champions League match at the Bernabeu," added Carvajal.

# After missing out in 2023, Real keen to enter CL final

AGENCIES @ Madrid



Real Madrid's players attend a training session in Madrid on Tuesday | AFP

to avoid celebrating their title success on Saturday. "Not celebrating was the best thing to do, there's a vital game and there



A life of joy and happiness is possible only on the basis of knowledge and science  
- Dr S Radhakrishnan

# TIME AT 35-KM HIGH

B'luru-based watchmaker builds India's first space-qualified watch, which ticks successfully in the stratosphere

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

**E**VERYWHERE, time has no beginning and no end, just perpetual existence. However, in space, which stretches into infinity, time takes a whole new meaning. Helping astronauts, who call space home for several months, to keep time is not only a challenge, but a feat achieved through a blend of creativity, engineering, and ingenuity. Several space watches have been crafted over the years, handsomely adorning the wrists of space-farers, telling them the time on Earth, and aiding them to keep a track of normal life, routine and tasks.

Bengaluru-based Bangalore Watch Company (BWC), which has embarked upon the exercise of celebrating India's space prowess through its distinct wristwatches, aims to go higher. Recently, the six-year-old Indian watchmaker rolled out the country's first space-qualified watch, the *Apogee Karman Line*, which went through careful design and rigorous testing over the last 18 months, reaching high up and deep into the stratosphere, before landing safely back on Earth.

**Space is the limit**

In 2021, the company launched the 'Apogee' series of watches as an ode to the Indian space programme. Apogee refers to the point in the orbit of the Moon or a satellite at which it is furthest from the Earth.

"We didn't want to stop at

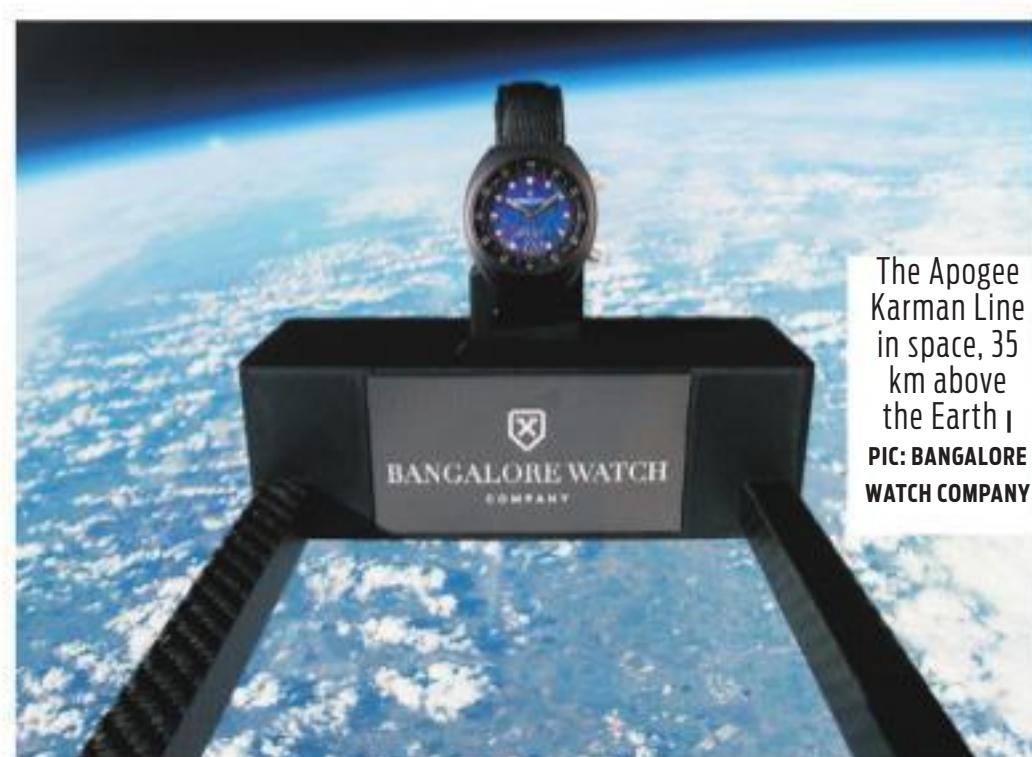
creating watches that were merely inspired by space, but to see if we could build them to be qualified and tested for space," says Bangalore Watch Company Co-Founder Mercy Amalraj. Accordingly, BWC's Apogee Karman Line terms itself as the first space-qualified watch from an Indian company.

Built on the Apogee series,

BWC's new watch line has been designed to survive and function in space, which is an unforgiving environment, a vacuum, with no gravity, no oxygen, and extremely low temperatures, and space watches are designed to work seamlessly in these conditions.

"Watches have been to space before. But most of them have been used only inside capsules or other spacecraft, in a pressurised environment. Only a few have been exposed to the outside. Not all watches can withstand external conditions of outer space, where temperatures plummet to -250 degrees Celsius, when facing away from the Sun, and +250 degrees Celsius when facing the Sun.

We wanted our Apogee to be fit for outer space, and not just inside a capsule. Accordingly, the company created a specific prototype and performed a lot of testing on Earth, before the final test in space," says Bangalore Watch Company Co-Founder and Creative Director Nirupesh Joshi. The idea involved taking a few candidate watches from the Apogee series, testing them on the ground so as to mimic conditions in space, and then send a



The Apogee Karman Line in space, 35 km above the Earth | PIC: BANGALORE WATCH COMPANY

converted into kinetic energy. "We subjected the candidate watches to differential pressure (low and high), repeating the cycle several times. Then we conducted freeze tests. Usually, when temperatures change, a watch's glass shatters and there is condensation behind the crystal. These tests were to eliminate such issues," he says.

**The launch**

Post the successful on-ground tests, the watch had to be launched into space. BWC partnered with a UK-based company specialising in high-altitude hydrogen-powered balloons. "We had to build a 2-kg payload with a carbon fibre spacecraft, with our watch fitted on it externally. Multiple cameras were to record the whole journey. The spacecraft was attached to a balloon, and was launched from the UK, attaining a height of 114,000 feet (35 km), i.e., much higher than a commercial flight. At this altitude, the balloon was remotely detonated to bring the payload back to Earth. The latter started free-falling at 300 kmph, and was remotely parachuted to the ground as it got closer.

"The whole watch survived. We have four hours of footage on its entire journey, and how it sustained in that environment (at -60 degrees Celsius), and returned safely to Earth. There was no condensation behind the crystal, no issue with the movement or mechanism. Hence, we believe that this is the first Indian watch that has gone to space, and the first Indian watch that has been qualified for outer space," states Joshi, adding that the eventual goal is to see that the Apogee series would be worn by astronauts in human space-flight missions.

watch into space, to see if it survives through the inhospitable conditions up there.

**Sturdy for space**

The Karman Line is a boundary 100 km above mean sea level that borders Earth's atmosphere, and the beginning of space is 100 km above the Earth – it's where space starts. "We called our idea the 'Karman Line Project', because we wanted to send the Apogee watch into the stratosphere," Joshi says. The company began by arriving at an ideal design and construction for a watch that could be put to the test of space-flight, and its safe return to Earth.



The blue dials of the watch

Two years ago, it developed a proprietary material called 'Cerasteel', comprising a steel inner core and a ceramic exterior, with an American firm. Cerasteel is rated an impressive '9H' on the pencil hardness test. Along with a black Cerasteel unibody case, and a special mechanism from Switzerland, offering 68 hours power reserve, a meteorite dial was also included. Sourced from a Swedish meteorite hunter, the blue-coloured Muonionalusta meteorite fell to the Earth a million years ago, but is believed to be older than our planet (over 4.5 billion years old). It was discovered in 1904. Besides, a scratch-resistant domed sapphire crystal, with two layers of anti-reflective coating, and a genuine leather strap were some other features.

A major problem that had to be addressed was pressure. There is no pressure in space, only vacuum. Another was temperature. These watches are not battery-powered, and work on automatic mechanism. They have hundreds of moving parts; when you move an arm, potential energy is

**FORESIGHT**

## FUTURISTIC VISION-RESTORING LONG-LASTING IMPLANT FOR VISUALLY-IMPAIRED

The future holds much promise for sight restoration for the visually challenged in the future.

Researchers have developed an electrode the size of a neuron – just 40 microns wide and 10 microns thick (1 micron is one-thousandth of a millimetre) – that, when embedded on an implant in large numbers, can stimulate electrical impulses to the visual cortex in the brain to create an image. However, the team of researchers from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, University of Freiburg and the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, have not yet created an entire implant that can grant the visually challenged full normalcy of vision, but just laid the foundation to create just such an implant that can do so in the future. What they have developed is just one minuscule electrode – the size as mentioned above – but a series of those embedded on an implant could have the potential to restore full vision to a visually challenged individual. The seed of the vision implant created by these researchers is just a 'thread' with many electrodes placed in a row. In the long term you would need several threads with thousands of electrodes connected to each one, and the results of this study are a key step towards such an implant of the future. By creating a really small electrode the size of a single neuron, researchers have the potential to fit lots of electrodes onto a single implant and build up a more detailed image for the user. The unique mix of flexible, non-corrosive materials makes this a long-lasting solution for vision implants to help vision restoration in the future.

Nirad Mudur

Simply SCIENTIFICO

Science is a world in itself. Here are some interesting facts that connect with you

Nirad Mudur

**FACT OF THE MATTER**

**PINPOINTING HUMAN 'NEURAL COMPASS'**

BIRMINGHAM: A pattern of brain activity that helps prevent us from getting lost has been identified in a new study, published in *Nature Human Behaviour*. Researchers at the University of Birmingham and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich have for the first time been able to pinpoint the location of an internal neural compass which the human brain uses to orientate itself in space and navigate through the environment. The research identifies finely tuned head direction signals within the brain. The results are comparable to neural codes in rodents and have implications for understanding diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimers, where navigation and orientation are often impaired.



## XPRESSFOCUS

### ARJUNAA JEWELLERS

## Embracing Tradition and Innovation this Akshaya Trithiya



As the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Trithiya approaches, Arjunaa Jewellers stands ready to mark the celebration with a blend of tradition and innovation. This year's festivities promise to be nothing short of extraordinary, as the brand continues its legacy of excellence in the world of precious jewellery.

Founded amidst the challenges of the pandemic, Arjunaa Jewellers has quickly risen to prominence, becoming a household name known for its commitment to quality, craftsmanship and Accuracy in Design. With a multi-generational legacy spanning over six decades, the brand seamlessly merges the expertise of seasoned artisans with the fresh perspective of young entrepreneurs, backed by the experience of two seasoned directors.

Rahul A Jain and Akshay A Jain, the dynamic duo behind Arjunaa Jewellers, embody the spirit of innovation and tradition. With their vision and dedication, they have propelled the brand to new heights every season, while staying true to its roots and ideals at the inception. Reflecting on their journey, Rahul shares, "For us, Akshaya Trithiya is not just a celebration; it's a testament to our commitment to preserving and honouring our cultural heritage through our craftsmanship."

Joining forces with Rahul and Akshay are two directors, Ashok D Jain and Vinod Kumar Jain, each boasting over three decades of experience in the jewellery industry. Their expertise and guidance have been instrumental in shaping Arjunaa Jewellers into the epitome of excellence it is today.

Ashok D Jain emphasises the significance of Akshaya Trithiya in Indian culture,



Akshaya Trithiya is a time-honoured tradition that symbolises prosperity and abundance. It is a joyous occasion that brings families together to celebrate the blessings of wealth and fortune. We are just fortunate to be the epicentre of this sentiment, at Arjunaa.

- VINOD KUMAR JAIN,  
Director, Arjunaa Jewellers



At Arjunaa Jewellers, we strive to capture the essence of Akshaya Trithiya in every piece we create, in this season. Our designs are not just ornaments; they are embodiments of prosperity, timeless beauty and of course, Accuracy in Design.

- ASHOK D. JAIN,  
Director, Arjunaa Jewellers



We are excited to showcase our newest creations to our patrons this Akshaya Trithiya. Our collections are inspired by the rich tapestry of Indian culture and tradition, and we are confident that they will resonate with our customers.

- AKSHAY A. JAIN,  
Director, Arjunaa Jewellers



For us, Akshaya Trithiya is not just a celebration; it's a testament to our commitment to preserving and honouring our cultural heritage through our craftsmanship.

- RAHUL JAIN,  
Director, Arjunaa Jewellers



and this Akshaya Trithiya will be no different: ensuring that customers can celebrate the occasion in style while also enjoying the wonderful designs made by the lineage of artisans at Arjunaa.

"We want to make Akshaya Trithiya truly memorable for our customers," explains Rahul. "That's why we are constantly working towards ensuring that each customer who walks into the portals of Arjunaa has a unique and warm hospitable experience. From a valet to a children's play area, there should be nothing in the way of our Arjunaa patrons hav-

ing a wonderful experience with us, this Akshaya Trithiya."

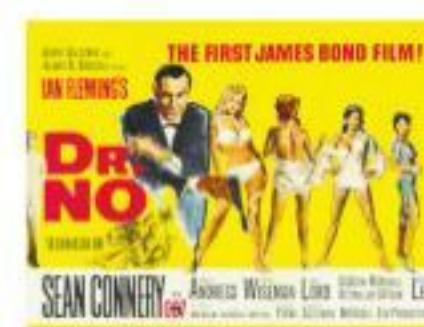
With its unwavering commitment to quality, craftsmanship, and customer satisfaction, Arjunaa Jewellers is poised to make this Akshaya Trithiya a truly unforgettable experience for jewellery enthusiasts across Bengaluru and beyond – as proven by them being the titular holders of the Paramparik Jewellery Award from NJA in 2021, within the first year of Arjunaa's inception.

As Ashok D Jain aptly puts it, "Akshaya Trithiya is a time to embrace tradition, celebrate prosperity, and

create lasting memories with loved ones. At Arjunaa Jewellers, we invite you to join us in commemorating this auspicious occasion with elegance and grace."

With the combined expertise of its directors and the passion of its founders, Arjunaa Jewellers continues to shine as a guiding light of excellence in the world of precious jewellery, setting new standards of craftsmanship and innovation with each passing year. This Akshaya Trithiya, let Arjunaa Jewellers be your destination for timeless beauty and unparalleled luxury.

**Address:** # 69, 38th A Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041.  
**T:** 080- 26651969, 41241969 /70. [www.arjunaa.com](http://www.arjunaa.com)



## DAY'S DIARY

### First Bond film

On this day in 1963, the first-ever James Bond film, *Dr. No*, starring Sean Connery as the super-spy codenamed 007 premiered in the US

## PLOT

Co-starring Ursula Andress, Joseph Wiseman and Jack Lord, *Dr. No* sends Bond to Jamaica to investigate the murders of a fellow agent and his secretary



## CHARACTERISATION

The spy was created by novelist Ian Fleming in his 1953 thriller *Casino Royale*. He wrote 12 novels over the next 10 years featuring Bond



## TRIVIA

Connery went on to appear in six more Bond films, including *Goldfinger*, *From Russia With Love*, *Thunderball*, *You Only Live Twice* and *Never Say Never Again*

**CE's guide to happenings in the city**

PG2

Director Akash Khurana, known for his works such as the OTT series *Mismatched*, is bringing his 80th play, *This Time*, weaving a tale of unexpected college reunions and the inevitable transformation wrought by time



# CLASS ACT

POOJA DAS

**R**EUNIONS always have a special place in our hearts. While many might term stories of people growing apart and finding their way back years later as a cliché, most people yearn for it; to connect with who they used to be and go back to the familiarity of carefree laughter with people they grew up with. Bringing this sense of nostalgia and yearning to stage for the first time in Bengaluru, is the renowned director of *Mismatched* fame, Akash Khurana with his 80th production *This Time*. "The story is centred around a college reunion and a lot of people who have passed out 20 years ago are coming back to reconnect. The protagonists are two people who used to date each other and don't know that the other is coming. The spine of the story is what happens when they meet," says Khurana, adding, "The play is about nostalgia and growing up and how things change over time."

The concept of *This Time* germinated from Khurana's long-standing desire to explore the dynamics of a college reunion. "I have been wanting to do a college reunion for a very long time. I thought that it's such a wonderful setting for a play. But I was not finding the right story to tell. Then a friend

## ACT

of mine who has been doing research on the concept of time shared some insights which had to do with how cultures study time and the importance they give to time and clocks. A lot of ideas started marinating in my head," explains the writer-director, who thought that this concept could perfectly blend with the setting of a reunion.

Khurana acknowledges that he has 'taken experience from his past', saying, "I'm from St Xavier's College, Bombay and in my head, the play is set there. A lot of the characters, whether it is the faculty or friends, are inspired from people I know. But the six actors have also brought a lot of their own references and experiences to the play." He further highlights that while his former produc-

tion *The F Word* was 'a tribute to families', *This Time* is more of 'a tribute to exes'. While the play draws on his experiences, he also says that a lot has come from his imagination. The protagonists are a futurologist and a museum curator. "I don't know any futurologists," laughs Khurana, pointing out, "Their chosen professions, that

is, one studies the future and the other has chosen to look into the past, puts a contrast in the tension between the two human beings."

While it might look like a romantic comedy on the surface, Khurana says it talks about a lot of 'people things'. "In totality, it is about the pros and cons of nostalgia. There is merit in holding on to the past, but there's also a downside. It's a very interesting take on growing up and almost like a coming-of-age story for middle-aged people," he adds. The play essentially mirrors his own journey, exploring the dichotomy of clinging to the past while facing the uncertainties of the future. "I'm 44 today and when you are approaching this age, whether you call it midlife crisis or anything else, it is about looking back at the past, because it holds certain memories for you; the future is a bit uncertain, and you're stuck in the middle," shares Khurana candidly. The director has finished the third season of *Mismatched* and is currently working on its post production. "Now that my shoot is over, I'm focusing on taking our plays across the country," signs-off Khurana.

(*This Time* will be staged on May 9 and 10; 7.30pm at Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar)

In totality, [the play] is about the pros and cons of nostalgia. There is merit in holding on to the past, but there's also a downside. It's a very interesting take on growing up and is a coming-of-age story for middle-aged people

Akash Khurana, director



A still from the play



This game designing organisation has been conducting public sessions of their new game, developed to discuss water management strategies in the wake of the city's water crisis and raise awareness among people



## Tackling H2 woes

playing part begins where different crises arise in the city and players are given different choices. For example, if a pandemic occurs and residential water consumption increases, the group has to debate among themselves on the solution to this problem from the given choices and then see the consequences of their decisions," says Iddya.

While Hanigalu highlights pressing water issues facing Bengaluru to great effect through real-time data, gathering such data has been a huge challenge.

"There is a lack of adequate data and continuous data on different aspects of water security. So the second part of the game was aimed at highlighting these gaps. If you want to plan for a sustainable city, data is crucial for effective planning," explains Iddya, who aims to engage more deeply with policymakers to influence water security planning.

HE water crisis in Bengaluru has become one of those annual occurrences over the last five years where, despite ample warnings and precedents, people are late to act. Whether it's news of lakes drying up or the concrete-covered city failing to retain any groundwater, the situation is bound to worsen if the city continues to walk in a memory fog. Fields of View (FoV), a game design organisation based in the city, is trying to raise awareness and contribute through Hanigalu, a game that simulates water crisis management.

"We conceptualised the game just before the pandemic, in collaboration with Azim Premji University as part of the Small Grants Programme of the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum. The idea was to create a ward-level water security planning tool; pick a ward and create

US-based musician Adarsh Iyengar's latest song addresses the water crisis and its ties to climate change



MONIKA MONALISA

F Bengaluru was notorious for anything in the past, it was for its traffic jams. But now, it seems the severe water scarcity has also made Bengaluru world-famous.

Having lived in the USA for 10 years, Adarsh Iyengar has been following the water situation in Bengaluru, and the news has been nothing short of heartbreaking for him. This prompted him to express his angst and sorrow through his music. His latest single, *Belake*, encapsulates all those emotions.

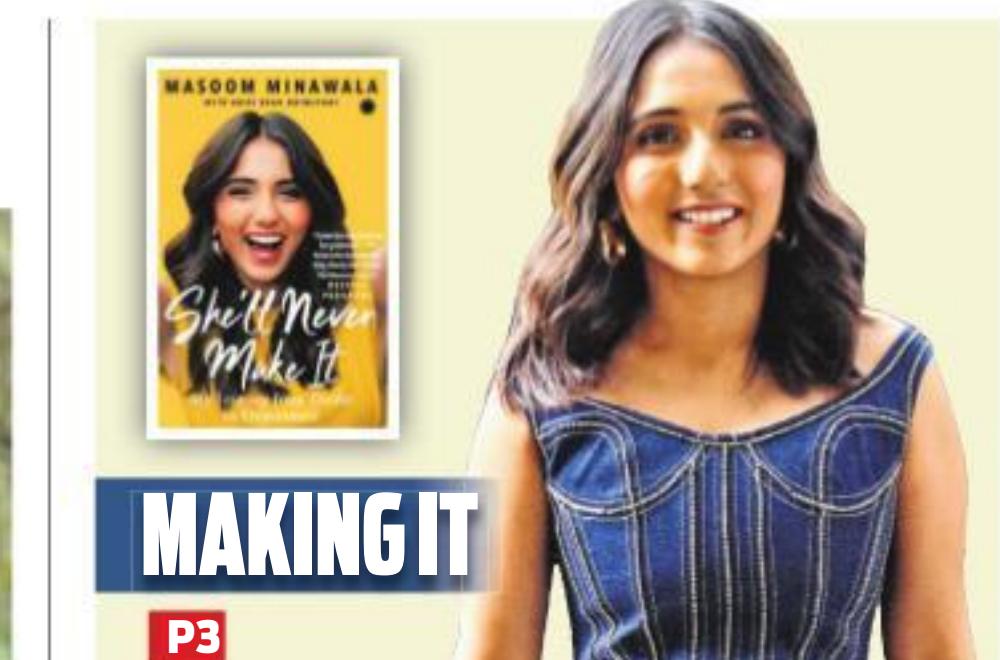
"Staying away from the country brought me closer to it. Bengaluru is my favourite city in the world, and it's heartbreaking to see it in this situation. The internet is filled with news about the water crisis in the city. People are planning to leave because of the situation," says Iyengar, speaking from Dallas.

*Belake*, which translates to 'light', is a 'small prayer' for the

situation to improve and become brighter in the future.

"The water crisis is a universal problem. By 2030, it is predicted that 40 per cent of the world's population will suffer from a lack of access to drinking water. There has already been a significant increase in average temperatures each year. I hope the song puts some amount of spotlight on this matter," says Iyengar, who originally hails from Shivamogga. The music album is directed by Rakshit Thirthahalli, with music by Hemant Jois.

A techie by profession, Iyengar has always been inclined towards music. Having participated in many singing talent shows, he has decided to use his music to spread awareness about issues. "I don't want to make music for commercial purposes. For example, my song *Jaya He* pays tribute to soldiers, *Forever* explores the twists of fate, *Hope* sheds light on vitiligo, and *Quit* addresses the scourge of drugs," explains Iyengar.



## MAKING IT

P3

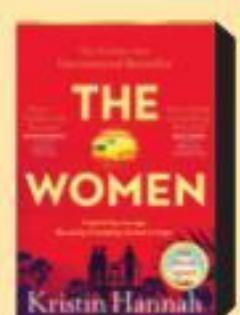


## MAKING IT

P3

**St. Philomena's Memorial School**  
St. Philomena's Memorial School, Mariyappanapalya, Near Gnanabharathi Bangalore from ICSE board have been scored 81% and above

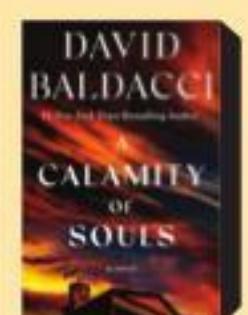
RESULT	NAME	PERCENTAGE
100%	RANGASWAMY SECRETARY	96.80%
100%	JOSVIN SHAWN LOBO	96.80%
91.40%	DISHA N BHUSHAN	91.40%
87.20%	PAVAN J SHASHANK YADAV P	87.20%
85.40%	CHANDANA PAWAR	85.40%
81%	POOJITH A B	81%
81%	PUNITH KUMAR Y	81%



### The Women: A Novel

by Kristin Hannah

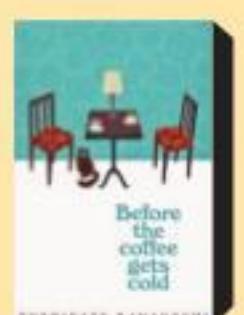
The story revolves around 28-year-old Frances McGrath, a nursing student who has led a sheltered life to date and is faced with the realities of the world as she decides to join the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War. The war, which continues beyond the battleground, changes the way Frances views her life.



### A Calamity of Souls

by David Baldacci

Based on the tumultuous time of 1984 in South Virginia, this story revolves around Jack Lee, a white lawyer who defends the case of a wrongfully accused black man, along with a black lawyer named Desiree Dubose.



### Before the Coffee Gets Cold

by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

In a Tokyo café, patrons discover they can travel back in time, but with strict rules: they cannot leave the café and must return before their coffee gets cold. Through poignant stories, individuals seek closure, rectify past regrets, and confront unresolved relationships, all within the time it takes for coffee to cool.



### TICKET TO THRILL

People try out the newly-launched 150-feet tall amusement ride Sky Flyer, at Fun World Amusement Park at Palace Grounds | ALLEN EGENUSE J

### QUICKFIX

### CRISPY CORN SNACK

#### INGREDIENTS

- Sweet corn
- Corn flour: 4 tsp
- Rice flour: 2 tsp
- Maida (optional): 1 tsp
- Chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Black pepper: 1.5 tsp
- Salt as per taste
- Lemon: 1
- Capsicum: 1
- Onion: 1
- Coriander leaves

#### METHOD

- Boil the sweet corn with water and a little bit of salt for 2 to 3 minutes; drain and rinse under running water.
- In a mixing bowl, add corn flour, rice flour, maida, salt, and chilli powder, and mix it with sweet corn. Do not add any excess water to retain the crispiness of the corn.
- Heat enough oil to deep-fry. Once the oil is hot, drop the corn into the pan batch-wise.
- In a bowl, mix the fried corn with finely chopped capsicum, onion, coriander leaves, salt, pepper powder, and lemon.
- Now, the crispy corn is ready to serve and devour!



Contributed by Anu, Bengaluru

### WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



### Summer Camp

Join the five-day Param Historical Summer Camp, where children aged 9-16 take an enriching journey as they get to explore their roots and strengthen their understanding of history and culture.

**When:** May 8, 10 am  
**Where:** Yuvapatha, Jayanagar  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



### Story Walk

Walk through the lanes of Indiranagar with storyteller Vikram Sridhar as you discover the streets through the folklore, heritage and ecology of the neighbourhood.

**When:** May 12, 7am **Where:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com

### Aroma Therapy

Relax and destress with this candle-making workshop as you use oils to create custom fragrances according to your preferences. Learn the craft of making three candles with different aromas as you indulge in a therapeutic environment.

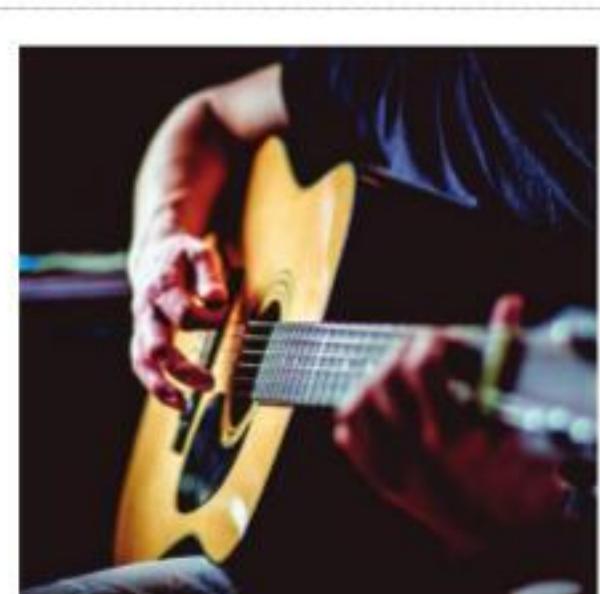
**When:** May 9, 5 pm  
**Where:** Paint Café Studio, Whitefield  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



### Jam Along

Get ready to jam with fellow musicians and unwind a musical journey with a blend of multiple genres, including acoustic, classical, folk, fusion, and more.

**When:** May 8, 7.30pm  
**Where:** House of Stories, Indiranagar  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



### Comedy Night

Take a break this weekend and laugh your heart out with seasoned comedians on stage. Interact with people who resonate with your interests and join this memorable stand-up comedy.

**When:** May 8, 9 pm  
**Where:** Burger Man, Indiranagar  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



### Open-Air Cinema

Step into the world of crime and chaos with Sunset Cinema Club screening the iconic movie *Pulp Fiction* under the starlit sky.

**When:** May 10, 7pm  
**Where:** GCBC: Garden City Beer Collective, Gantiganahalli  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



### Singing Melodies

Dive into the world of music with this unique western vocals workshop, meant for all children above four years old. Discover your passion with your voice and hone your musical skills.

**When:** May 9, 11am  
**Where:** Toco Intelligent Experience Centre, Bellandur  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



### Musical Tribute

Enjoy a fantastic musical evening honouring the classic band *Coldplay*, presented by Nikhil Vai Collective. Prepare yourself to hear them in a classical interpretation like never before.

**When:** May 11, 8.30pm  
**Where:** Hard Rock Cafe, Ashok Nagar  
**Details:** bookmyshow.com



HARRIS ALI

The expert has been coordinating the affairs of the Cochin Book Club for many years now.

#### How to run a book club?

India has a huge number of passionate readers. However, the idea of book clubs is not so popular here, and we have witnessed the premature death of many clubs. Nevertheless, you can still start and run a book club successfully if you follow the below guidelines.

**Be patient:** Your book club may not become popular overnight (unless you are a celebrity), as 'book clubbers' are a rare species. Keep doing the right things, persevere, and maintain a strong online presence, and with time, your club will be filled with passionate book lovers.

**Value your members:** The members are the assets of your book club. Make sure every participant feels comfortable and gets an opportunity for active participation.

They define the success of the club in the long run.

**Find a place:** Find a suitable place conducive to productive book discussions. It should provide an ambience where the participants can interact peacefully, such as in the silent corner of a cafe, a meeting room, or even a member's home.

**Decide participant strength:** For focused discussions, a small group of 6 to 10 people would be ideal. However, if you give more importance to book lovers' socialising, you may do away with such restrictions.

**Decide the theme:** If you aim to run a book club for a specific theme or genre, such as fantasy or non-fiction, make it clear from the beginning and add only relevant people.

**Collaborate:** At times, you may collaborate with related communities, such as art, history, or publishing groups, to conduct special events or host a book release or author reading session. It helps spread the word about your club.

### FITBIT

## ADHO MUKHA SVANASANA VARIATION CHAIR

(DOWNWARD FACING DOG POSE WITH CHAIR)

This variation is derived from a traditional yoga asana, Downward Facing Dog Pose. In this variation, students require less effort and flexibility. This chair variation is incredibly helpful if you have a sensitive wrist, upper body weakness, arthritis, headache, dizziness, or balance issues. An easy and comfortable pose, it can be done by seniors or pregnant women.

#### STEPS

- Stand upright in Tadasana with your arms on the sides.
- Place your palms on the chair's seat and walk backwards. Maintain the distance between the chair and you. Avoid slipping and keep both the heels and toes together.
- Once comfortable, take a breath in and then exhale slowly. Press the chair away from you, move your hips back and up towards the ceiling, lowering the chest towards the ground.
- Slowly stretch the spine and move back until your ears align with the upper arms.
- Allow the back of the legs to stretch completely so that the knees are not bent and the heels are touching the ground. The hips, knees, and ankles should be kept perpendicular to the floor.
- Get into the Downward Facing Dog Pose and stay here for five deep breaths or as per your capacity.

- To release, keep your hands on the chair for support, and just walk forward and come up to standing.
- Finally, get back to Tadasana, close your eyes, and connect to your breath in the Three-Part Breath Mountain Pose.

#### LIMITATIONS

- Avoid eating any meal for at least 3-4 hours before practising it.
- Avoid putting too much weight on the hands.
- Students who have injuries in their ankles, wrists, and back, or suffer from cardiac or stomach problems, have a weak body frame, and supple joints, avoid this. People with high BP can practise it gently.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

### ART CORNER



COLOURS OF THE PLANET

Painting by Balu BS, an MFA student, who is speech and hearing impaired, from the College of Fine Arts Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram



## MAKING IT

As someone who has struggled to be taken seriously, fashion trendsetter Masoom Minawala, who has donned the hat of an author, hopes her book on her life will help those making unconventional choices

MONIKA MONALISA

**S**HE is a fashion influencer, entrepreneur, and fashion blogger. Now, with her latest book, *She'll Never Make It* (Juggernaut, ₹399), **Masoom Minawala** adds 'author' to her repertoire. Recently in Bengaluru for the book's launch, the 30-year-old's popularity was evident as a long queue of followers braved the heat just to express their admiration of her journey.

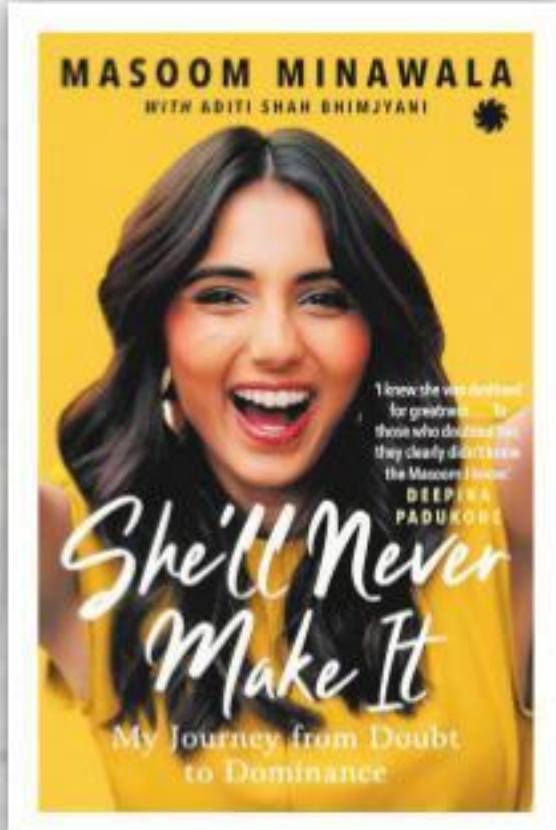
As one of the top content creators in the country with more than 1.4 million followers, it may seem quite early for Minawala to chronicle her journey, but according to her, this

project has been long-pending. "Almost eight years ago, someone planted this idea in me. A friend of mine suggested I write a book too. She, who was then working at a publishing house, set up a meeting, which didn't go too well," recalls Minawala, adding that the idea then got shelved. "Fast forward to two years ago... Someone else again mentioned that I should write a book, and I wondered what I would write about. I kept doubting whether it was too early for that, but decided to go ahead with it anyway," says Minawala, who co-authored the book with Aditi Shah Bhimjyani.

The book contains not just her life story but also the tricks and tips she used in her career, one of them being networking. "Networking changed the game for me. I was not a very outgoing person. I was anxious about going to social gatherings alone. Now I have my team with me, so I feel in control, but there was a time I didn't know what to do. Then I realised how important it is to flip that switch, and it made a huge difference to my career trajectory," she says.

Having walked the ramp at Paris Fashion Week, supported local designers, and created a wave on Instagram with 'Masoom magic', it is hard to believe that Minawala never thought she would enter the world of fashion. "I was clueless. I had no idea what I wanted to do. I didn't have the slightest inclination towards fashion. It was one little step that I took that brought me here," she confides.

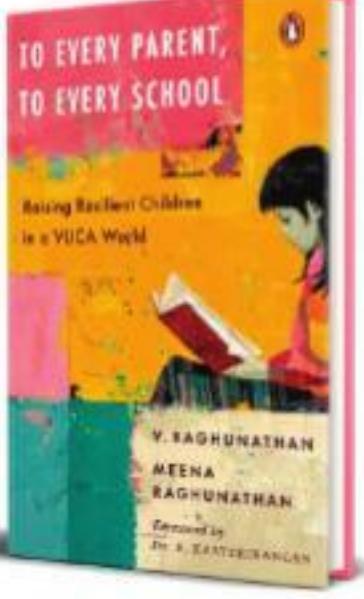
With the current boom in content creation, terms like content creator and influencer are being loosely thrown around. Minawala clarifies, saying anyone can be an influencer in their own right. "I create content for a living. I am not an influencer by occupation but a content creator by occupation. The same goes for any other celebrity who is an actor and influences us through their acting," she explains.



PIC: VINDU KUMAR

### Prominent academicians to launch guide on preparing children for challenges ahead

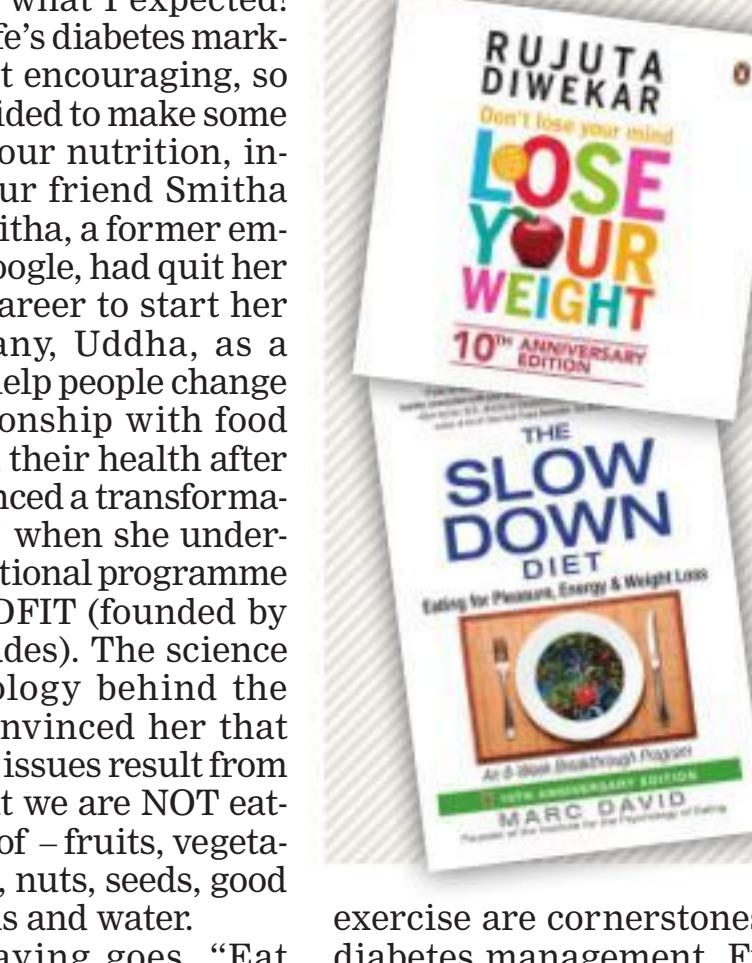
Publishing company Penguin Random House India, is set to release a book by thought leaders V Raghunathan and Meena Raghunathan titled *To Every Parent, To Every School*. The book attempts to address the challenges posed by our swiftly-changing VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous) world. It highlights that one needs to be inculcated with attitudes and mindsets that enables them to confront whatever obstacles lie ahead. The book emphasises the need to empower children with the capacity to anticipate and adapt to rapid changes as they occur.



### NUGGETS

#### Book on Indian philosophical thought set for launch

Author Moloy K Bannerjee's latest book *A Pocket Guide to The Six Systems of Indian Philosophy* is set to launch on May 12, 11am at Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan (BVB), Race Course Road. The book will be released by Chiranjeev Singh, the former ambassador to UNESCO and VC of BVB. Introducing philosophical thought through the ages to the general reader, the book seeks to discuss the foundational philosophies which constitute Indian thought. This attempt is to put forth in simple language the constituent elements of the six systems of Indian philosophy: samkhya, yoga, nyaya, vaisesika, purva mimamsa and vedanta.



As the saying goes, "Eat your food as medicine, or you will have to eat medicine as your food!" The entire food industry has driven people towards a health epidemic. On 1 January, 2024, my wife and I started the three-month WILDFIT programme with Uddha and my numbers started to steadily improve. By the end of three months, I was off my medication (metformin) and had reversed the diabetes (A1C of 5.9). My energy levels significantly improved; I

disregarding my father's exercise are cornerstones of diabetes management. Fung explains how nutrition should be the prime focus. Food writer Mark Bittman lost 35 pounds and saw marked improvement in his blood levels by simply eliminating meat and processed foods from two of his three daily meals. As he points out, in *Food Matters: A Guide to Conscious Eating*, if you eat more vegetables and whole grains, your health, and that of the world, will improve.

Disregarding my father's

long-standing advice, I have been gulping my food as if it were a task to be completed, changing my ways only after I'd turned 50! Marc David in his bestseller *The Slow Down Diet* presents a new way to understand our relationship to food, focusing on quality and the pleasure of eating to transform and improve metabolism. Citing cutting-edge research on body biochemistry as well as success stories from his own nutritional counseling practice, he shows that when we attend to body, mind, and spirit simultaneously, we can shed pounds, increase energy, and enhance digestion to feel rejuvenated.

A must-watch documentary on Netflix is *You Are What You Eat: A Twin Experiment*. It showcases an eight-week, Stanford University study that put 22 sets of genetically identical twins on opposing (but healthy) diets: omnivore and vegan. The results are fascinating – it's not the genes, it's the greens!

Rujuta Diwekar, India's leading sports-science and nutrition expert, recommends a blend of traditional food wisdom and modern nutritional science for a healthy body and mind, with the motto: Eat local, Think global. While her books focus on dieting (*Don't Lose Your Mind, Lose Your Weight*), I believe in the mantra, 'eat healthy and lose weight, rather than lose weight to become healthy'.

There are thousands of programmes and an entire diet-and-fitness industry, but the fundamentals remain the same. Enjoy Mother Nature's bounty – fruit, veggies, greens, nuts, seeds and proteins – and keep hydrated. Eating well is a learnt skill and I'm glad I acquired it!

(The writer's views are personal)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, LALITHA DEVI (new name) W/o Shanthilal Tater aged about 52 years & Ra/ No. 19, Suganilla 1st Main 5th Cross, Garden School Road, Kempegowda Nagar, T. Dasara Halli, Bengaluru-560057, In Aadhar card & other records my name has been entered as LEELA SHANTILAL (old name). Now I have changed my name to LALITHA DEVI for all official purposes in future, vide affidavit dt 03.05.2024. Sworn before Notary K.C.shashikala Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, (OLD NAME) SITHAL PRASAD PANDEY, Father of NO. 16115543F NK RAVI KUMAR PANDEY, Residing at Gram Badhra (Vill & Post), Semriya (TK), Rewa (Dist), MADHYA PRADESH (State), PIN: 486445, Have Changed My Name to (NEW NAME) SHEETAL PRASAD PANDEY And DOB from 01.01.1965 to 01.01.1970 Vide Affidavit Dated 06.05.2024 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, M. VANI residing at 8th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Manjunatha Nagar, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to SUBBALAKSHMI M vide affidavit dated 02-05-24 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, GRACE, aged 55 years, W/o Late ASHOK, residing at #3 'B' Street, Byadarahalli Benson Town Post Bengaluru-560046 have changed my Name to GRACE MARLIN, vide Affidavit Dated: 06/05/2024 Before Notary GANGARAJU. B. N. Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, MOHAMED GHOUSE S/o Ibrahim Shaik R/at No.232, Anwar Layout Shampur Main Road Bengaluru- 560045 have changed my name to MOHAMMED GHOUSE vide affidavit dated: 07/05/2024 Before Notary Basavaraju Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, SIDDARTH THADIMARRI S/o Ravindra Thadimari aged about 20 years R/at No.53/B, 32nd Main, 1T1 Colony, J P Nagar, 1st Phase, Bengaluru- 560078 have changed my name to SIDDARTHA THADIMARRI vide affidavit dated: 06/05/2024 Before Notary Mamatha N.K Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, SHIVRAM SARAN VEDULA, S/o Digvijay Kumar Vedula, residing at # 38/1/1, 2nd Floor, 12th Main, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Opp : Can Fin Homes, Bangalore- 560011, have changed my name as SHIVRAM VEDULA (New Name), vide affidavit dated 07-05-2024 before Notary Public MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K, B'lore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, KRITHIKA MASTHI, Aged about 27 years, wife of ASHUTOSH M ANANTH Residing at No:55/191, 42nd Cross, Jayanagar 8th Block, Banashankari 2nd Stage Bangalore-560070, have changed my name from KRITHIKA P B alias KRITHIKA PALAMUDRAM BHASKAR to KRITHIKA MASTHI, vide affidavit dated 7/5/2024 sworn to before Mohammed Hussain.K advocate and Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
I, RAKESH KUMAR Residing at No.15/1, Viviani Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005 I hereby declare that my name wrongly mentioned as RAKESH KUMAR ROSHANAL earlier in my PAN card, my correct and actual name mentioned as RAKESH KUMAR in my Aadhaar Card and PAN Card, I am using as all correspondence & Transaction in future RAKESH KUMAR name only. Vide Affidavit dated 06.05.2024 sworn before Notary M Venkataraman, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, (OLD NAME) ASHA PANDEY, Mother of NO. 16115543F NK RAVI KUMAR PANDEY, Residing at Gram Badhra (Vill & Post), Semriya (TK), Rewa (Dist), MADHYA PRADESH (State), PIN: 486445, Have Changed My Name to (NEW NAME) ASHA PANDEY, And DOB from 15.12.1968 to 01.01.1968 Vide Affidavit Dated 06.05.2024 Sworn Before Notary SRINATHA .D.R at Bangalore.

**AFFIDAVIT**  
I, YASHWINI ARUN, D/o Arun Kupuswamy, age 20 years, R/at No. 34/1, Muneshwara Layout, Varanasi, Mother Teresa School Road, Bengaluru-560036, do hereby declare that my correct name is YASHWINI ARUN and the same is recorded in my Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Education documents but in my Bajaj Allianz Policy No. YASHWINI A, where surname is not elaborated as ARUN, both names are one and the same and refers to me, vide affidavit dated 2nd May 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary YASHWINI A., Dated: 06-05-2024 at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, UMESHA MURTHY M.V, S/o Late J.N.Vasudeva, aged about 51 years, R/at No.3, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Garudanilayam, CPV Block, Gangangan, Extension, Bangalore North R.T.Nagar, Bangalore - 560032, I have changed my name from "UMESH MURTHY M.V." Instead of "UMESA MURTHY M.V.", by an affidavit sworn before Notary YASHWINI A., Dated: 06-05-2024 at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, MATHANGI JAGANATHAN, W/o Padmanabhan Subramanian, age 50 years, R/at No. 215 R Nivas, 2nd cross Kalkere Main Road Near Mathew Memorial School Sir M.V. Nagar Ramamurthy Nagar, VIC, Bangalore North P.O. Doonvarangal Bangalore-560016 have changed my Name from SHAMALA to SHAMALA.D.K. Vide Affidavit dated 07/05/2024 Before Notary S. SAMUEL SOLOMON Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, NAGAPPAN J. S/o Jayaraman K Rist No. DA-13, 1st Cross, PWD/KHE Quarters, KHB Main Road, Kevaliyasandran, R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-32 I have changed my minor daughter's name from N. Hasini to Hasini Nagappan and my minor son's name from N. Rohith to Rohith Nagappan for all future purposes. Also changed my name from Nagappan J. to J. Nagappan for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dt:20-04-2024 Sworn before Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, LAVANYA MURALIDHARA, C/o. Muralidhara, Aged about 49 years, Residing at No. 26, 1 Floor, Jala Hobli, Berek, Bandikodigenhalli P.O., Bengaluru - 562 149, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from LAVANYA MURALIDHARA vide affidavit dated 07.05.2024 sworn to before Puttaramaiah, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, TANVI MANIYANGHAT D/o Rajesh Maniyanth, and Resident of No.110, 10th Cross, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560 038, have changed my name from TANVI MANIYANGHAT to TANVI MANIYANGHAT, vide affidavit dated 7/5/2024 sworn to before T.C.Thimmaraya advocate and notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, (OLD NAME) G VENKATAIAH, Father of NO. 16128571M SPR GANGAPURAM SURESH, Residing at House NO. 6-154, Veldanda (Vill/Tehsil), Veldanda (Post), Nagarkurni (Dist), TELANGANA (State), PIN: 509360, Have Changed My Name to (NEW NAME) GANGAPURAM VENKATAIAH, And DOB from 09.08.1965 to 16.10.1965 Vide Affidavit Dated 06.05.2024 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, (OLD NAME) NARAYAN KOLLYA HEGDE residing at Flat No. F-710, Parimala Sunridge Apartment, Whitefield, Varthur Main Road, Opposite D-Mart, Siddapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru, PIN: 560066, have changed my Name from (OLD NAME) NARAYAN KOLLYA HEGDE to (NEW NAME) NARAYANA KOLLYA HEGDE vide Affidavit dated 7th May 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary T.R. RAGHAVENDRA RAO at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, VIJAYA ANANTH .V, D/o Venkoba Rao, W/o Ananth Kumar T.H, age 43 years, R/at No. 279, 3rd Floor, Begur Mane, 16th Main, 39th Cross, 4th T' Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 041 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from VIJAYA .V to VIJAYA ANANTH .V, henceforth I shall be known and called as VIJAYA ANANTH .V for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 06.05.2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary T. RAGHAVENDRA RAO at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, SHAMALA, Legally wedded Spouse No. JC-748573N EX NB SUB KARTHIKARATHUL REVINDRAN Residing at No. 215 R Nivas, 2nd cross Kalkere Main Road Near Mathew Memorial School Sir M.V. Nagar Ramamurthy Nagar, VIC, Bangalore North P.O. Doonvarangal Bangalore-560016 have changed my Name from SHAMALA to SHAMALA.D.K. Vide Affidavit dated 07/05/2024 Before Notary S. SAMUEL SOLOMON Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, SHARAN JOHN MANNAMALAIYAL, S/o John Mannamalai Philipose, age 35 years, R/t No. 141, Agara Main Road, Opp. North Woods, Vaddarapura, Horamavu, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SHARAN JOHN to SHARAN JOHN MANNAMALAIYAL, henceforth I shall be known and called as SHARAN JOHN MANNAMALAIYAL for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 06.05.2024, sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, SHYAMAL KANAILAL DHUA, S/o Mr. Kanailal Dhua & Mrs. Dipti Dhua, presently residing at Flat No. D-301, 3rd Floor, Alpine Eco, Doddanekundi, Bangalore-560048, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SHYAMAL DHUA to SHYAMAL KANAILAL DHUA, vide affidavit dated 07.05.2024 sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, JAYDEV SUKUMAR, resident of FLAT No. 204 RAJA HELIX APARTMENT, 9th MAIN ROAD, BILEKAHALI, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560045, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) FAYAZ KHAN AZEEM to (NEW NAME) FAYAZ KHAN vide Affidavit dated 03.05.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, (OLD NAME) FAYAZ KHAN AZEEM residing at No.19, Chikkanna Layout, 3rd Cross, Anwar Layout, Bangalore - 560045, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) FAYAZ KHAN AZEEM to (NEW NAME) FAYAZ KHAN vide Affidavit dated 03.05.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

## To a healthy, happy me!

### FLYLEAF VR FEROSE

(The author is a technologist based in Silicon Valley who is gently mad about books)

In October 2023 when I went for my annual health check-up, I was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes (A1C of 8.9).

I was so confident that my test result was wrong, that I retook it, only to find a result worse than what I expected! Even my wife's diabetes markers were not encouraging, so we both decided to make some changes to our nutrition, inspired by our friend Smitha Prabhu. Smitha, a former employee of Google, had quit her corporate career to start her own company, Uddha, as a mission to help people change their relationship with food and reclaim their health after she experienced a transformation herself when she underwent a nutritional programme called WILDFIT (founded by Eric Edmeades). The science and psychology behind the regimen convinced her that most health issues result from the food that we are NOT eating enough of – fruits, vegetables, greens, nuts, seeds, good fats, proteins and water.

As the saying goes, "Eat your food as medicine, or you will have to eat medicine as your food!" The entire food industry has driven people towards a health epidemic. On 1 January, 2024, my wife and I started the three-month WILDFIT programme with Uddha and my numbers started to steadily improve. By the end of three months, I was off my medication (metformin) and had reversed the diabetes (A1C of 5.9). My energy levels significantly improved; I

didn't need afternoon naps and I have realised it's the quality of the food that matters and not the quantity.

I read extensively to understand our body and eating habits. Jason Fung's book, *The Diabetes Code: Prevent and Reverse Type 2 Diabetes Naturally*, is an instruction manual that explains in detail how Type 2 diabetes has become the epidemic of the 21st century and why conventional treatments (including drugs) don't work. Although diet and

long-standing advice, I have been gulping my food as if it were a task to be completed, changing my ways only after I'd turned 50! Marc David in his bestseller *The Slow Down Diet* presents a new way to understand our relationship to food, focusing on quality and the pleasure of eating to transform and improve metabolism. Citing cutting-edge research on body biochemistry as well as success stories from his own nutritional counseling practice, he shows that when we attend to body, mind, and spirit simultaneously, we



Speculation mounts as Tamil actor Teju Ashwini is rumoured to make her Kannada debut in Crazy Star Ravichandran's next big project, a sequel to *Premaloka*, featuring his elder son, Manoranjan

## TEJU ASHWINI TO BE THE FACE OF RAVICHANDRAN'S *PREMALOKA 2*?

A SHARADHAA

**V**RAVICHANDRAN, the director and actor behind the superhit film *Premaloka* (1987), is now gearing up to recreate history with *Premaloka 2*. The filmmaker's next big venture, currently in the scripting stages, will feature his elder son, Manoranjan Ravichandran, in the lead role. While Ravichandran has kept plot and other details under wraps, however, he had announced at a recent event that *Premaloka 2* would be officially launched on his birthday (May 30) and that he would compose 25 songs for the film.

Meanwhile, the spotlight is on its female lead. Known

for his choice of heroines, Ravichandran is recognised as one of Kannada cinema's prominent filmmakers who has brought in top heroines from other languages. Just as he stirred excitement by casting Juhi Chawla in *Premaloka*, speculation about the lead female actor for the sequel by the Crazy Star is creating a sense of anticipation among the audience. Although there have been no official announcements from the team, sources suggest that Teju Ashwini might be the face of *Premaloka 2*.

A dancer and choreographer, Teju Ashwini gained recognition through a stint in the series *Kalyana Sa-*

*maya Sadham* and has made a mark in Tamil cinema with films like *Enna Solla Pogirai*, *Moondram Kan*, and *Kauthu Vaakula Rendu Kaadhal*. Sources reveal that Teju has been in and out of Bengaluru over the last six months and has been spotted in discussions with the *Premaloka 2* team. She has also been seen with Manoranjan, the lead actor, a couple of times, and recently, there was a discussion of him introducing her to a few close friends from the film industry as the *Premaloka 2* heroine. While awaiting official confirmation from the team, fans are eager to see if Teju will make her Kannada debut with the film.

Ravichandran  
Teju Ashwini

'I ensure my role contributes to the story and the character arc'

**S**HRTI Prakash believes that, as an artist, it is essential to make an impact on screen, even if it is for a short duration. She explains that certain films offer characters that leave a lasting impression, regardless of their screen time. "Being part of *Grey Games* was primarily because I connected with my character, Shanaya. Many celebrities find it challenging to voice their opinions. It is crucial to acknowledge both the positive and negative aspects of fame, and Shanaya's complexity connected with me, and I hope it creates the same impact on the audience," says Shruti.

Despite her character's brief appearance in the film, Shruti confirms that her role contributes significantly to the story and the character arc. "In films with ensemble casts, understanding the essence of the content is crucial as an artist," she adds.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS IN *GREY GAMES*

CE FEATURES

**G**ANGADHAR Salimath's film *Grey Games*, based on a concept centred on online gaming and starring Jai in his debut and Vijay Raghavendra, introduces strong female characters to the cybercrime thriller. While Shruti Prakash plays a film star in *Grey Games*, Bhavana Rao portrays a police

officer for the first time. Aparna, a versatile actor and a popular face on the small screen with *Maja Talkies*, makes her comeback with *Grey Games*. The film, which is an Anand Mugad venture, also has Ishita Singh and Aparna Vastarey as part of its principal cast. CE catches up with these actors to discuss *Grey Games*, their respective characters, and more.



Aparna

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4

## CE FEATURES

**S**HRTI Prakash has been the face of a handful of films in Kannada cinema and has worked in a few Hindi daily soaps. She also made her mark as a contestant on *Bigg Boss Kannada*. Now, Shruti is all set to begin an exciting journey into Bollywood as she makes her Hindi debut with director Vikram Bhatt in *Haunted 2*. A sequel to the spine-chilling original, she steps into the spotlight as the female lead along side Mimo Chakraborty, in a production helmed by Anand Pandit. Shruti, who hails from Belagavi and is currently based in Mumbai, expresses her eagerness to navigate challenges to make a splash in the Hindi film industry.

Reflecting on her linguistic journey, the actor shares, "Since my father being in the army and we have moved around the country, my Hindi is stronger due to my father's postings in North India. Kannada, on the other hand, is the language we speak at home, which I have further honed during my time on *Bigg Boss*."

Shruti, who is excited and looking forward to her Bollywood debut, says, "While I always looked forward to working in South Indian cinema, Bollywood was an equally enticing prospect, and now it's become a reality." The actor has almost completed shooting for her portions and has just ten more days of filming. Shruti considers it a significant milestone to be a part of the director's film and states, "Being part of a Bhat film is like a stamp of quality."

Revealing details on how she got into the project, the actor explains that she landed the opportunity through a casting agent. After being shortlisted among 60 profiles, she met Vikram Bhat, and since then, there has been no looking back.

Shruti credits Vikram Bhatt's guidance in embracing her role as Yamini in *Haunted 2*, describing it as an invaluable learning experience to work under his direction. "Though I have

# Shruti Prakash to make her Bollywood debut with Vikram Bhatt's *Haunted 2*

The actor shares insights on her big break in B-Town, her firsthand experiences of working with the director on the horror sequel

some experience in the film industry, working on this film feels like a fresh start. Vikram sir's clarity of vision makes it easier for us actors to understand our characters and deliver our best on-screen," she says.

Despite the reputation of

Bhat's films for their bold content, Shruti assures that *Haunted 2* maintains a family-friendly approach. "It's a clean film," she assures.

On balancing her acting career alongside her passion for music, Shruti notes that she continues to pursue her passion while keeping her feet firmly on films in

Hindi as well as in Kannada. "I'm grateful for the exciting opportunities coming my way," she signs off.



Shruti Prakash



Vikram Bhat and Shruti Prakash

## Nicolas Cage to headline *The Carpenter's Son*

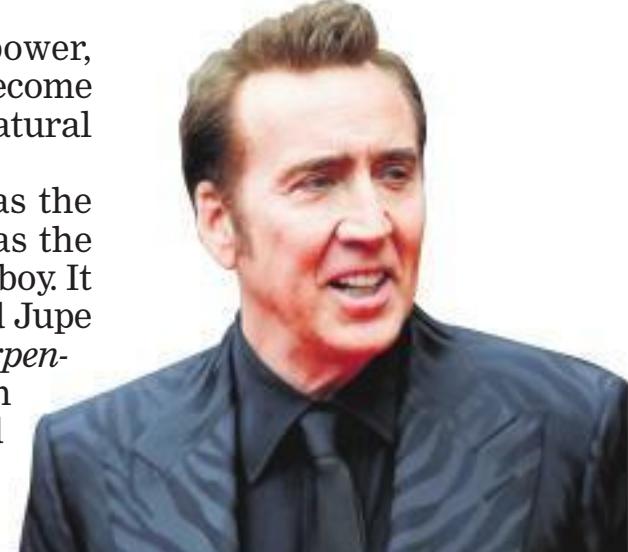
**N**ICOLAS Cage, who was last seen in *Dream Scenario*, is all set to headline *The Carpenter's Son*. Written and directed by Egyptian-American filmmaker Lofti Nathan, the film will reportedly be a horror story rendered around Jesus' childhood. The cast of the film also includes Noah Jupe, Souheila Yacoub, along with singer-

turned-actor FKA Twigs.

According to the official storyline, "The Carpenter's Son" tells the dark story of a family hiding out in Roman Egypt. The son, known only as 'the boy', is driven to doubt by another mysterious child and rebels against his guardian, the Carpenter, revealing inherent powers and a fate beyond his comprehension. As

he exercises his own power, the boy and his family become the target of horrors, natural and divine."

The film stars Cage as the carpenter, FKA Twigs as the mother, and Jupe as the boy. It reunites FKA Twigs and Jupe after *Honey Boy*. *The Carpenter's Son* is all set to go on floors in towards the end of this year.



'Playing a cybercrime officer, I reckon, was a big responsibility'

**B**HAVANA Rao, an actor often remembered for her role in *Gaalipata*, is thrilled to portray a cybercrime officer for the first time. "Having a variety of roles is great. When I was offered the role of a cop, I felt it was a big responsibility. I focused on making my mannerisms and investigative techniques realistic. I was hesitant at first, wondering if I could pull it off, but I hope I did." Regarding *Grey Games* as a subject, Bhavana finds it to be a completely different world. "I am used to outdoor games, and we did not play many video games. When I heard the story from the director, I realised that crime exists in this virtual world. The addiction and curiosity of this new genre caught my attention and prompted me to take on the role."



'Gangadhar Salimath had a clear vision of my character and the overall story'

**T**OR Aparna, a well-known anchor popular for her stint on the reality show *Maja Talkies*, returning to acting with *Grey Games* after a 20-year break was a significant decision. "It is not that I did not want to work; I did receive offers. But the role's significance mattered to me. Often, I was not fully briefed on what exactly I was supposed to do. I prioritised the importance of

my role rather than its duration. Many times, the roles I was offered did not satisfy me, so I was not eager to accept them," explains Aparna, who plays the mother of the character played by Jai in *Grey Games*.

"I received a call from a friend about the project, and during our first meeting, I realised that Gangadhar Salimath had a clear vision of my character and the

pleasant experience. Gangadhar's clear direction and the team's professionalism made me feel at ease. I quickly tuned into the director's cues and reactions. It felt like I was working with a familiar team, and everyone made me comfortable." Aparna looks forward to her next project, *Gramayana*, starring Vinay Rajkumar as the lead.