

ED exposes ₹20 cr scam at BMS Edu Trust

Trust sold engineering seats at colleges controlled by it; agency recovers Rs 1.86 crore from premises of trustees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Zonal Office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday provisionally attached a residential plot and two flats with a market value of Rs 19.46 crore, belonging to the trustees of BMS Educational Trust, in connection with bribery associated with allocating seats at engineering colleges.

The Central agency initiated the investigation based on FIRs registered at the Malleswaram and Hanumanthnagar police stations regarding alleged irregularities in admissions to engineering courses through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). According to the ED, search operations conducted on June 25 and 26, 2025, revealed that unaccounted amounts of cash were being collected for admissions to engineering courses in colleges controlled by the BMS Educational Trust.

The investigation also revealed that engineering seats in colleges run by the trust were sold by the college management through middlemen and agents. The cash was allegedly collected directly from students and through agents acting as educational consultants. The agency said the cash collected was not disclosed in the Trust's books of accounts. During the searches, the ED seized Rs 1.86 crore in cash from premises belonging to the trustees, management of the BMS Educational Trust and agents.

The seized pieces of evidence also indicated the collection of unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 20.2 crore from the sale of seats in engineering colleges controlled by the trust. The evidence includes diary entries, WhatsApp chats and documents, which were later confirmed by the individuals involved, which include college staffers, management personnel and admission agents. The cash was allegedly used for the personal benefit of the trustees of the BMS Educational Trust, the ED said.



according to the calculation made by the court based on the evidence on record, the assets plus expenditure of the accused and his family members during the period under investigation is Rs 3.59 crore, whereas the income of the accused and his family during the same period is Rs 2.25 crore, and hence, the DA is Rs 1.34 crore. It is evident that while assessing the expenditure and income, the IO has committed a mistake

Judge Prakash Nayak

EXCISE OFFICIAL GETS THREE-YR JAIL, ₹1.34 CRORE FINE FOR GRAFT

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

IN a decade-old rare case of disproportionate assets (DA), in which the court's assessment found the assets involved to exceed what was calculated by the investigating officer (IO), the Special Court for Lokayukta Cases sentenced on January 23 former joint commissioner of excise S Srinivasamurthy to three years of simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1.34 crore.

Judge Prakash Nayak said Srinivasamurthy possessed Rs 1.34 crore worth of DA, instead of Rs 1.22 crore calculated by the IO of Karnataka Lokayukta.

Srinivasamurthy joined the excise department as a stenographer in 1978 and retired as joint commissioner in 2017. The Lokayukta police registered the case against Srinivasamurthy in 2014 for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to his known source of income during the period between 1978 and 2014.

Judge Nayak said that according to the calculation made by the court based on the evidence on record, the assets plus



expenditure of the accused and his family members during the period under investigation is Rs 3.59 crore, whereas the income of the accused and his family members during the same period is Rs 2.25 crore, and hence, the DA is Rs 1.34 crore. It is evident that while assessing and quantifying the expenditure and income, the IO has committed a mistake, and it is one of the rare cases wherein the DA, as assessed by the court based on evidence on record, is more than what assessed by the IO, the court observed.

The special court further stated that the prosecution, beyond reasonable doubt, succeeded in proving the fact that the accused possessed property or resources which are dispro-

portionate to the known sources of income and failed to satisfactorily account for it. "Hence, on overall analysis of evidence on record, this court holds that during the check period the accused was found in possession of property worth Rs. 1.34 crore disproportionate to his known source of income. Hence, the court holds that the accused has committed an offence defined under Section 13 (1) (e) punishable under Section 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act," said the ruling.

The special court said that a series of rulings by the Apex Court highlight that the court of law has a duty to protect and promote public interest and protect public confidence. Misplaced sympathy or unwarranted leniency will send a wrong signal to the public, giving room to suspect the institutional integrity, affecting the credibility of its verdict. Further, the court should bear in mind the expectation of the people that it will prevent corruption by providing prompt conviction and stern sentences, the court noted.

PRISON SECURITY

Govt bans outside food for prisoners

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a significant move aimed at strengthening prison security and streamlining administration, the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Department has, for the first time, framed detailed regulations governing the supply of food, clothing and bedding to civil prisoners and unconvicted criminal (undertrial) prisoners from private sources. The new rules, which come into force with immediate effect, strictly prohibit cooked food from being brought into prisons from outside.

Sharing the regulations on social media platform 'X', Director General of Police (Prisons) Alok Kumar said that the regulations are issued under Section 30 of the Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963, and the decision has been taken considering concerns related to prison safety, security, staff shortage, overcrowding, administrative feasibility and health issues. Prison authorities noted that all prisoners are already being provided adequate food, clothing and

bedding by the department in accordance with existing laws and prison manuals.

While cooked food from private sources is completely barred, the regulations allow a limited quantity of uncooked and packaged food items to be supplied during admission or interviews, subject to strict inspection. These include fresh fruits not exceeding 2kg per person per week. Dry fruits are permitted up to half a kg, while bakery and confectionery items are also allowed within the same limit. No other food items will be permitted.

The regulations apply uniformly to all prisons across Karnataka and cover only civil prisoners and undertrial prisoners.

The new rules also regulate the quantity of clothing that prisoners may receive from private sources. Civil and undertrial prisoners will be allowed only two pairs of outer cloths and two pairs of inner garments, in addition to the clothes worn at the time of admission. Possession of clothing beyond the prescribed limit will lead to seizure and confiscation.



Congress avoiding real issues by creating Guv row: Prathap Simha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

MLC Prathap Simha Nayak on Saturday alleged that the Congress government deliberately raised controversy over the Governor's conduct during the joint session of the assembly, to avoid discussion on prevailing issues and to cover up its own failures. Nayak said, "The Congress showed a clear lack of interest in discussing issues affecting the state and instead chose to politicise the governor's address. It disrespected the constitution by making allegations against the governor during a Joint Assembly session."

Nayak claimed that the speech prepared for the Governor contained criticism of the Central government from the 'second to the twelfth paragraph', instead of highlighting the achievements of the state government at the beginning, as per convention. He alleged that even the wording in the speech was manipulated, with references alleg-

edly changed from RAM G to GRAM G, indicating deliberate political intent.

The Governor discharged his constitutional duties and read the first and last paragraphs of the address, except for the objectionable content. The Governor acted strictly within the framework of the Constitution, he asserted. He also strongly criticised MLC BK Hariprasad and S Ravi during the joint session. He alleged that they behaved in an unruly manner. 'Such goonda-like behaviour exposes the mentality of the Congress government and shows utter disrespect to the Constitution,' Nayak said.



The Congress showed a clear lack of interest in discussing issues affecting the state... It disrespected the constitution by making allegations against the governor during a Joint Assembly session

Prathap Nayak Simha, MLC

MLC Prathap Simha Nayak addressing media on Saturday



Ballari SP Suman Pennekar visits the house which was allegedly set on fire in Ballari on Friday. Right: BJP workers stage a protest condemning the fire incident | EXPRESS



EIGHT HELD FOR SETTING FIRE TO JANARDHANA REDDY'S BUILDING

KIRAN BALANNAVAR @ Ballari

THE Ballari police on Saturday arrested eight persons, including a few juveniles, in connection with the fire incident on a property owned by BJP MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy and former minister B Sriramulu at G Square Layout in the town during a protest staged against the Congress MLA on Friday night.

Ballari Range Inspector General (IG) of Police PS Harsha said the case had been cracked and eight accused persons have been arrested. "Some of those arrested appear to be minors. We are verifying their age-related documents. Further details will be shared after the inter-

rogation is completed," he said.

Ballari Rural Police registered the case based on a complaint lodged by site engineer Rizwan, in which he alleged that around 10 miscreants allegedly set fire to a house, causing damage to the furniture and equipment worth approximately Rs 1.25 crore.

Ballari Superintendent of Police (SP) Suman D Pennekar on Saturday said that during the preliminary investigation, scientific evidence was collected from the crime scene with the assistance of the Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) team. Based on the scientific clues gathered from the spot, a total of eight individuals were taken into custody, six of whom are juveniles.

"The preliminary inquiry suggests that the minors climbed on the roof of the house to shoot reels and take photos. It is alleged that two members of the group set fire to the structure. All eight arrested persons have been questioned, and their statements are consistent with the physical and scientific evidence collected so far," Pennekar said.

Reddy said, "The house was not unguarded. Two security guards kept watch on the property round the clock. Some police personnel are allegedly pressuring the arrested persons not to take names. Based on the video footage recorded by our security guards, the whole incident appears to be pre-planned."

Karandlaje hands out appointment letters to 267 cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Shobha Karandlaje participated on Saturday handed over appointment letters to 267 newly selected Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel at the 18th Rozgar Mela organised at the Subsidiary Training Centre of the Border Security Force (BSF) in the state capital. The event reaffirmed the Union Government's commitment to youth empowerment and large-scale employment generation.

Addressing the gathering, the minister highlighted the significance of the Rozgar Mela in providing government employment to young aspirants and strengthening public institutions across the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through video conferencing, facilitated the distribution of more than 61,000 appointment letters to newly recruited personnel across various Central government departments and organisations nationwide.



Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje hands over the appointment letter to a candidate at the 18th Rozgar Mela in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK

Registered Office: Grape Garden, No.27, 3rd 'A' Cross, 18th Main, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560095, Karnataka.
Branch Office: Plot No.17 CG, Totannavar Complex, Hanagal Road, Near APMC Market, Ashwini Nagar, Haveri Karnataka-581110

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Notice for Sale under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI ACT) 2002. Read with Proviso Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The undersigned as Authorised Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, has taken possession of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that E-Auction of the mortgage properties in the below mentioned account for realization of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under.

S. No.	Loan Account Number/ Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor	(i) Date of 13-2 Notice & Demand Amount as on (ii) Date of Possession	Present Outstanding Balance	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR
1.	1131210080000007 / 1. Mr. Veeresh Barangi 2. Mrs. Lakshmi Barangi	(i) 10.06.2021 & ₹ 10,90,846/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Ninety Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Six Only) as on 09.06.2021 (ii) Symbolic Possession 08.07.2022 & Physical Possession 14.11.2025	₹ 28,02,941.11 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty One and Eleven Paise only) as on 19.01.2026	₹ 7,60,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)	₹ 76,000/- (Rupees Seventy Six Thousand Only)
2.	1131210180000004 / 1. Mr. Basavaraj Gayakavadi 2. Mrs. Jyotiba V Gayakavadi 3. Mrs. Uma Gayakavadi	(i) 20.10.2023 & ₹ 11,77,327/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Seven Only) as on 19.10.2023 (ii) Symbolic Possession 19.02.2024 & Physical Possession 25.10.2025	₹ 18,33,010.96 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Ten and Ninety Six Paise only) as on 17.01.2026	₹ 16,75,700/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	₹ 1,67,570/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Only)

Property Description/Schedule: All that piece and parcel of Land and Building Comprised in Nagara-sabhe, Carved in Property - Bearing R/S No-6A/2A/1, Total Plot area measuring 1117 square feet Situated at Haveri (Shiddeswara-Vijaya Nagar) Nagara-sabhe, Haveri Taluk and District Haveri Bounded as under : East: The Plot Road, West: Remaining Property of R/S No-6A/2A/1, North: Remaining Property of R/S No-6A/2A/1, South: Remaining Property of R/S No-6A/2A/1, Measuring in all 1117 Square Feet with all buildings and structures thereon. The above property is owned by Mr. Veeresh Siu Gangappa Barangi (No.1 among you)

Property Description/Schedule: All that piece and parcel of the Land building with property bearing No.268/2, Plot No.521, TMC No.772, Measuring 728.16-00 Sqft situated at Nagara Sabhe Haveri Taluk and District and bounded on: East: Road, West: Plot No.514, North: Plot No.522, South: Plot No.520, The above property is owned by Mrs.Uma Gayakavadi (No.3 among you)

List of encumbrances: 1. Second Charge created in favour of K.C.C. Bank on the property subsequent to charge of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's over the property. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank is holding valid first and primary charge over the property.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 11.03.2026, from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 Noon

Last Date for submission of Bid on or before 10.03.2026, Between 10.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m.
Date & Time of Inspection of the property 09.03.2026 Between 10.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m

For More Details Contact Bank Authorized Officer :
Mr. Navarathana - 96633 84014 / Mr. Tijo Sajjan - 78451 92961

The E-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

The E-Auction will be conducted through Ujjivan Small Finance Bank approved E-auction service provider - M/s. C1 India PVT LTD. Contact person - Mr. Prabhakaran (Mobile No. 74182 81709). The intending bidders are advised to visit <https://www.bankauctions.com> or <https://www.ujjivansfb.in/e-auctions> for the details of the property in the website and for taking part in the bid they should register their names at <https://www.bankauctions.com> and get their user-id and password free of cost. Prospective bidders may avail online training on E-Auction from the service provider M/s. C1 India PVT LTD. Helpline Number's- 72919 18824, 25, 26 support email- id- support@bankauctions.com, Auction portal - <https://www.bankauctions.com>.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's / Secured Creditor's website i.e., <https://www.ujjivansfb.in/e-auctions/> / <https://www.bankauctions.com>

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Date : 25.01.2026

Karnataka Mahila Jana Janapada Kreedotsava and Mahila Vaibhava on Feb 1

Mangaluru: A state-level women sports and cultural fest 'Karnataka Mahila Jana Janapada Kreedotsava and Mahila Vaibhava' will be held at Town Hall in Mangaluru on February 1 and 2. Chanchala Thejomaya, president of Mangaluru taluk Mahila Mandaligala Okkoota, said women from 31 districts will display the folk art of their districts at the fest. "We are organising the sports and cultural event to provide a platform for women to show their talents. Our motto is women's empowerment. Our federation has played a vital role in creating awareness among women on women-centric schemes of the government and its effective implementation. During the event, women from 31 districts will come together and participate in sports and cultural activities," she said. Chanchala said that five women achievers will be conferred the Karnataka Mahila Ratna Award, which carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each. Teams displaying the best folk art among 31 districts will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, followed by Rs 75,000 for second place and Rs 50,000 for third place. All the participating teams will receive a cash prize of Rs 10,000 each. In addition, to promote young writers below 35 years of age, an article writing competition will be held. The programme will be flagged off at 8.30am at UBMC Ground, Shanti Nilaya at Balmatta in Mangaluru on February 1 with a colourful procession which will culminate at Nehru Maidan. As part of Janapada Kreedotsava, women will participate in tug of war and other events. ENS

Untested honey a health risk, say experts

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ABHISHEK Mandal, Scientist, Regional Honey Testing Lab, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, told The New Sunday Express, "This (testing) is important as farmers spray honeycombs with pesticides to keep them safe from diseases. Once honey is brought under the scope of National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) certification, it is also tested for pesticide residues and the prescribed 17 Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) honey quality parameters to ensure better honey quality."

Another senior scientist at the ICAR-IIHR honey testing centre said, "While the demand for honey is rising, analysis shows that

most samples of honey are not suited for consumption. There is a lot of potential in southern India, but the number of samples tested is less." This means a large section of consumers in southern states are vulnerable to the adverse health impacts of consuming synthetic, pesticides-ridden or adulterated honey.

Experts pointed out that untested honey can put one's health at risk. Raw and untested honey can contain natural toxins, like grayanotoxin - nicknamed "rhodotoxin" - which is a group of potent neurotoxins found in plants, which can disrupt sodium channels in the body and cause low blood pressure, slow heart rate, dizziness and confusion. This toxin causes poisoning, leading to a range of effects from mild incapacitation to severe cardiac issues, including heart block, which could be fatal. Unlike

processed honey, raw honey can also contain pollen grains, which can be allergic to some consumers. They confirmed that honey production from Large Area Multipurpose Societies (LAMPS) has gone up, particularly in South India, but the quality needs to be verified. An official from a LAMP Society in Karnataka said, "Since honey is procured by locals, mostly tribals, most samples are not tested, as testing is costly and time-consuming and these people need quick money."

Dr Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, said enforcement to ensure good quality honey has increased, but awareness among people too needs to go up. Major brands and certified companies send samples for testing as they cannot risk their reputation. But that is not

the case with other samples available in the market. At present, as per the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) norms, testing for pesticide residue and other synthesizers is done once a fortnight from select samples.

Officials in the ministry of horticulture said that while Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab lead in honey production, southern states too are catching up, but testing needs to increase for the safety of consumers. As per the National Bee Board, 14,859 beekeepers, 269 beekeeping and honey societies, 150 firms and 206 companies are registered on the Madhukranti portal as of October 2025. Of these, 658 are registered beekeepers from Karnataka with 10,813 bee colonies. In 2024, India produced 1.4 lakh metric tonne of honey which increased to 1.5 lakh metric tonne in the year 2025.