

Security guard killed while trying to thwart robbery bid

**BENGALURU:** A 22-year-old security guard was stabbed to death and two others were injured in their attempt to thwart a possible robbery by three armed men in Suryanagar on the city outskirts on Wednesday night.

Tarun, a native of Assam was working as a security guard at a residential apartment in Suryanagara near Anekal.

Police said locals, who noticed the three lying injured, rushed them to a nearby hospital. But doctors declared Tarun brought dead. The condition of one of the two men injured in the attack, is said to be critical.

According to preliminary investigation, the armed men, who had come on bikes were confronted by Tarun, who was later joined by the other two men, the employees of a private company. Police suspect that the guard and the two others were trying to thwart a possible robbery attempt.

**DH News Service**

Power cut

» There will be no power on Saturday between 10 am and 5 pm due to maintenance works. The areas to be affected are – M S Nagar, Jaibharatnagar, Ambedakarnagar, Old Bayappanahalli, Rank Road, Osborne Road, St John's Road, ITI Layout, SK Garden, Cox Town, Wheeler Road, Buddha Vihar Road, Sunder Murthy Road, Haines Road, Spencer Road, Coles Road, Netaji Road, Masjid Street, BSA Road, MC Colony, Davis Road, Cooke Town, Richards Town, Lavanya Theatre and the surrounding areas. To lodge complaints, dial 1912, SMS to 58888, or can log onto [www.bescom.org](http://www.bescom.org)



# History-sheeter Nagaraj, sons held after month-long hunt

Fugitives were constantly on the move, stayed in temples, schools

**BENGALURU/CHENNAI:** History-sheeter V Nagaraj and his two sons who had been eluding the police for nearly a month, were arrested by a special team of the city police from a village near Arcot in Vellore district in Tamil Nadu on Thursday.



Nagaraj and his two sons – Gandhi and Shastri

(ACP) Ravi Kumar, who led the team that was on the hunt for Nagaraj, called up Nagaraj's advocate and sought his client's surrender. The advocate contacted Nagaraj, who said he was not willing to surrender. The police tracked the mobile tower location to a village near Arcot and rushed to the spot. They saw a man fitting Nagaraj's description standing near a van and talking over his phone. As soon as he saw the police, he got into the van

which started moving. The police then had to chase the van for around one-and-a-half kilometres before they intercepted it. One of Nagaraj's sons was driving the van, the police said. When the police rounded them up, Nagaraj created a ruckus and screamed saying he was being kidnapped since the police were in plainclothes. There was confusion and a few passersby intimidated the Tamil Nadu police who rushed to the spot. A senior police official

from Bengaluru had to call up the Vellore district superintendent of police to intimate their counterparts that it was a police operation. Later, the three were taken for medical examination, the police added. However, Tamil Nadu police sources from the headquarters in Chennai said that they were arrested with help from the Tamil Nadu police. Nagaraj and his sons, in order to evade the police, did not stay in hotels or friends' houses. They were always on the move most of the time in a Maruti van which the two sons took turns to drive, the police said. They stayed at schools, temple premises and farmhouses where their identities were not sought, police sources said. Nagaraj made it tough for the police by not using his mobile phone constantly. He kept changing the SIM cards and handsets that were supplied to

him by one of his relatives. Sometimes, he used to call from remote locations to mislead the police. Nagaraj also managed to send two CDs to the media through his advocate where he accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and a few senior police officers of 'fixing' him by foisting false cases against him. He also said the money belonged to a man named Manjunath who claimed to be Siddaramaiah's PA and at his behest, the police had planted the cash in his house. The police had earlier arrested five of his associates to collect clues about his whereabouts and movements. Nagaraj and his sons were brought to Bengaluru on Thursday night and are being interrogated at the abduction and extortion case. Meanwhile, Nagaraj's two wives are said to have gone absconding after his arrest.

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## Eshwarappa's PA hurt in abduction bid

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Senior BJP leader K S Eshwarappa's personal assistant on Thursday survived an abduction bid by five unidentified men. The victim Vinay, sustained a fracture on his left hand and was hospitalised. The motive behind the attempt is yet to be ascertained, said police. Vinay has been Eshwarappa's PA for the past five years. He was returning home after visiting a friend's house around 3 pm near the Mahalakshmi Layout Swimming Pool when a white SUV hit his car from behind. "I heard a thud and stopped my car. I saw five men surrounding my car," Vinay said. The suspects claimed that their SUV, a Mahindra Xylo, was damaged due to the impact. Before Vinay could reply, they grabbed him and tried to bundle him into their vehicle. "They brandished lethal weapons and one of them assaulted me. Though I resisted, they overpowered me and forced me into their car," he said. The victim claimed that the

suspects were speaking in Kannada and were aged between 25 and 30 years. He also said he hadn't seen them before. A few locals gathered at the spot after hearing the commotion. The suspects pushed Vinay out of their SUV and fled. Vinay claimed that the suspects may have followed him from his friend's house. "I feel they followed me, but I didn't observe them properly. I saw two men on two bikes with the SUV. They too fled with the five men," he said. Vinay was immediately taken to Columbia Asia Hospital for treatment. Vinay's friends claimed the motive for the abduction bid could be political. "I don't think they attempted robbery since they didn't take the watch, a wallet containing cash and a cellphone that I had," Vinay said. Vinay says he is not involved in any disputes and doesn't have rivals. Police, who registered a case, have collected CCTV footage and have formed a team to trace the suspects.



Vinay

## Bashing CM in 2nd video proved to be rowdy Nagaraj's undoing

Jagadish Angadi

**BENGALURU:** Former corporator and history-sheeter V Nagaraj dug his own grave by naming politicians in his second video, according to officers who picked him up in Tamil Nadu on Thursday.

The government set a three-day deadline for police to catch him after he released the second video on May 9. He had adversely remarked about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah while heavily praising Home Minister G Parameshwara. A Congress MLA from Bengaluru, against whom Nagaraj held a grudge, intervened in the matter. The legislator convinced the

Congress state leadership that Nagaraj's remarks could spell trouble for the government and the party. It was then that the government ordered the police to get cracking. The same day, two police teams were formed to catch Nagaraj. In the night, investigators interrogated eight of the 11 associates of Nagaraj who were picked up following the April 14 raid on his house. The men told police that it was Nagaraj's wont to run away whenever a criminal case was registered against him. He would spend the time praying at temples of female deities as he believes that would solve his problems. He would appear in public only after his lawyers helped him get bail.

Shortly thereafter, an informant tipped police off that Nagaraj was hiding in a farmhouse in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. Nagaraj's call details indicated that his phone would be switched off for at least an hour after he made a call. The next call would originate in a far-off place. Police inferred that he was doing so to mislead them, a senior officer said. The call detail record showed that Nagaraj had made a call from Vellore on Thursday morning. The major Hindu place of worship in Vellore is Sri Angala Parameswari Temple at Melmalayanur, about 90 kilometres from the district headquarters. "We had a hunch that he could be visiting

the temple. We sent a team there. Another team was stationed at Arcot town," he said. Nagaraj's younger son, Shastri, was driving the car when police intercepted it. He took a quick a turn and drove towards Harani village. Police gave a chase for 10 minutes and intercepted it between Harani and Kondavara villages. Nagaraj was sitting in the car, so was his eldest son, Gandhi. Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Hemant Nimbalkar, who is among the IPS officers whom Nagaraj criticised in his videos, said police would arrest all the people who had sheltered and supported the history-sheeter.

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## Trio who paid Rs 32 lakh in fake notes to buy 1 kg gold arrested

**BENGALURU:** Three men, who allegedly duped a city-based jeweller by paying him Rs 32 lakh in photocopied banknotes, were arrested by police on Wednesday.

The suspects had given photocopies of 2,000-rupee notes to buy one kg of gold on the busy KG Road in the heart of Bengaluru on April 24. Police gave their names as Vinod Tilakchand (45), Hemanth Gowda (33) and Harish Kumar (31)—all from Mysuru.

**Fake identity**

One of the suspects had assumed a fake identity of 'Jugraj', a businessman from Chikkamagaluru. He called the jeweller, Dinesh Kumar, on his mobile phone on the pretext of placing an order for one kilo-

gram of jewellery "for his daughter's wedding". Feigning preoccupation with the wedding preparations, he told Dinesh that his manager would hand over the cash to get the jewellery, police said. Photocopies of notes Accordingly, another suspect met Dinesh near Shikshakara Sadana on KG Road and handed over a bag containing photocopies of Rs 2,000 notes and took the delivery of gold jewellery. He managed to divert Dinesh's attention by engaging him in conversation and rode off before the jeweller could count the cash, police said. When Dinesh returned to his shop and began counting the notes, he had the biggest shock of his life: they were all

photocopies. He then approached the jurisdictional Halasuru Gate police station and filed a complaint. Police tracked down the suspects based on the call detail record (CDR) and arrested them in Mysuru. They have seized the gold along with a large amount of photocopied notes, a photocopier, two cars and other accessories. The masterminds Tilakchand and Gowda are believed to have masterminded the plot to con the jeweller while Harish supplied them fake notes. Harish also used to print cheques, bonds and fake notes and had cases against him in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Bengaluru, police added.

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### Cookies and slices course

» The Institute of Baking & Cake Art will conduct a 5-day cookies and slices course commencing on May 15. For more details visit their website [www.ibca-blr.net](http://www.ibca-blr.net) or contact 80886 01601.

## Pink Hoysala picks molester from bus as victim texts cop

**BENGALURU:** A 47-year-old software engineer landed in the Bellandur police net for molesting a woman in a moving BMTC Volvo bus on Wednesday. Madhusudhan Rao, the suspect, is a resident of Utarahalli. The victim, who works for a private firm, was waiting for a bus at the ITPL bus stop to reach her destination near Silk Board junction. Rao too was waiting for a bus. Both boarded a bus around 6.30 pm. "He was sitting behind me and there were a few other passengers in the bus," she told police. Minutes after the bus left, he touched the victim with his leg. She moved her leg away, but Rao kept touching her

legs, police said. She contacted the Bellandur police inspector through a text message seeking help. "We soon alerted a pink Hoysala patrol vehicle in the area which was about one km away from the bus. The patrol vehicle staff stopped the bus and entered it. The victim virtually burst out and narrated her ordeal on seeing the police," a police officer said. The pink Hoysala patrol vehicle is a service the city police launched recently for women's safety. Rao was shocked to see the police as he did not know the victim had informed them. He pleaded innocence, but the police took him away for interrogation.

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### For young minds



Students learn about the earth and its atmosphere through multimedia projection at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum on the occasion of 'National Technology Day' in the city on Thursday. **DH PHOTO**

## Authority meant to hear complaints about overcharging schools toothless

Meghna Choukkar

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** As the clamour rises against private schools charging excess fees, the District level Education Regulating Authority (DERA), which has the authority to hear such complaints, has not been able to address the issue for want of reform. The authority in Bengaluru (Urban) district, under the chairmanship of the deputy commissioner, has met only four times in the academic year 2016-17. The number of complaints received in the same period has risen to 66. According to records in the DC's office, most of the complaints by parents are about excess fees charged by schools and improper admission procedures. Of the four meetings held in the previous academic year, two were to discuss the

**SHASHI KUMAR D, GENERAL SECRETARY OF ASSOCIATED MANagements OF PRIVATE UN-AIDED ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL IN K'TAKA (KAMS): "DERA is dependent on DDPIs and Block Education Officers to inspect the school and give them reports on an estimated fee which can be collected. If this is the case, what is the purpose of having such an authority?"**

same issue. In the 2015-16 academic year, approximately the same number of complaints were received. However, records of meetings and action

### Members of DERA

- Deputy Commissioner of the district (Chairman)
- Chief Executive Officer, zilla panchayat
- Executive Engineer, zilla panchayat
- Deputy Director of PU Education of the district
- Deputy Director of Public Instruction of the district

taken were not available. The Karnataka Educational Institutions (classification, regulation, and prescription of curricula etc.) Rules 1995 lay out the jurisdiction and constitution of DERA and give it the authority to hear cases of educational institutions violating rules about admission and fee collection. The Karnataka Education (Second Amendment) Act 2017, has made DERA part of the Act and given it addition-

**AJAY SETH, ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: We are of the view that instead of a single officer, like the DDPI or Block Education Officer, deciding on their own, it would be better to have a committee headed by a senior officer of the rank of deputy commissioner to look into such matters.**

al powers to impose penalty on institutions for not taking measures to ensure child safety, for not paying teachers on time, employing faculty with-

out necessary qualifications and not maintaining a schedule of employees. Ajay Seth, additional chief secretary, Department of Primary and Secondary Education, acknowledged that DERA has limitations and in certain districts, meetings may not be happening regularly. "There are some missing elements. The basic rules say that DERA shall devise its own procedure to conduct enquiries. We need to lay down rules on what these procedures are," he said. In the coming months, Seth said that they would lay out DERA's functioning in detail and make it more effective. "We will have a relook at the constitution of the authority as well and it will be open for review. We want to provide a credible forum for matters to be heard," he said. They will consider creating a public domain where details of cases can be accessed.