

GROUNDreport

The curious case of Yusuf Pathan’s Vadodara land and a Rs 20.5-crore question

Aditi Raja
Vadodara, June 22

A 978 SQUARE-METRE plot in Vadodara that has been at the centre of a long-running dispute involving former India cricketer and TMC MP Yusuf Pathan is set to go under the hammer after the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) initiated the process for its public auction.

The plot is among seven municipal land parcels whose valuations were cleared by the civic body’s Standing Committee this week and are expected to be placed before the VMC General Board in July. The move comes even as Pathan has been given time by the Gujarat High Court to seek relief under a state government policy that provides for allotment of land to international sportspersons.

The disputed plot — plot number 90 in Town Planning Scheme 22 in the city’s Tandalja area — has been valued at Rs 2.10 lakh per sqm. At the approved rate, the land is worth about Rs 20.5 crore. The valuation is nearly three times the rate at which the plot was proposed to be allotted to Pathan 14 years ago. The dispute dates back to 2012 when Pathan approached the VMC seeking allotment of the land on a 99-year lease. The VMC Standing Committee and General Board approved the proposal and agreed to allot the

plot at Rs 57,270 per sqm without conducting a public auction.

However, the proposal ran into trouble when it was sent to the state’s Urban Development Department for approval. In June 2014, the department rejected the allotment, holding that the land could not be transferred without following a public bidding process. The rejection effectively stalled the proposal, but the land remained fenced and under Pathan’s possession.

The issue resurfaced in June 2024, shortly after Pathan was elected to the Lok Sabha from West Bengal’s Baharampur constituency on a TMC ticket. The BJP-controlled civic body issued him an encroachment notice, alleging unauthorised occupation of municipal land. Pathan challenged the VMC’s action and sought recognition of his claim over the plot. In August 2025, however, the High Court upheld the state government’s decision rejecting the original allotment proposal, ruling that the Urban Development Department had acted within its powers in refusing approval to the transaction.

Hearing Pathan’s appeal against the High Court order on June 15 this year, a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal granted him four weeks to pursue relief under a 1999 state policy that permits allotment of land to international sportspersons under



Yusuf Pathan FILE

certain conditions. At the same time, the Bench questioned how he had continued to occupy the land since 2014 despite the rejection of the allotment proposal and without making any payment to the civic body.

The court also indicated that compensation for unauthorised occupation of public land, if found payable, could be calculated at prevailing market rates. Against this backdrop, the VMC’s latest valuation of the land could assume significance not only for any future auction but also for determining potential recovery arising from its prolonged occupation.

Municipal officials, however, have maintained that the sportsperson policy cited by Pathan may not apply in the present case because the land belongs to the civic body rather than the

state government.

“The policy does not apply to civic body plots. The state may allocate land, but such allotment cannot be imposed on the municipal corporation,” a VMC official said, adding once the General Board approves valuation, the plot can be auctioned through a public bidding process as and when the land and estate department decides. Of the seven plots cleared for valuation, five are reserved for public and government infrastructure projects, while two have been designated for residential use. Both residential plots are located in Tandalja. Besides Pathan’s plot, the second residential parcel, plot number 97, measures 2,878 sq m and has been valued at Rs 1.5 lakh per sqm. The remaining plots are earmarked for public facilities, including a neighbourhood centre in Akota and three parcels in Bhayli reserved for a bus stand, a central health centre and a school-cum-games ground. Civic officials said plots sought by government departments for public projects may not require auction.

The land dispute has also acquired a political dimension amid the ongoing unrest within the TMC’s Lok Sabha ranks.

Pathan is among the party MPs who have backed a dissident group seeking recognition as a separate bloc in Parliament, drawing criticism from

sections of the party leadership. The controversy spilled into the public domain on June 15 when National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi alleged on X that during a protest in Parliament’s Well in Winter Session, a Muslim MP had warned Pathan that the BJP could “bulldoze” his house in Gujarat and advised him to stay away from the agitation. Ruhullah claimed that TMC MP Mahua Moitra had reassured Pathan that the Opposition would stand by him.

Responding on X, Moitra identified the MP as AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and criticised Pathan after he joined the dissident camp. “What a pity I fought for a *gaddar* (traitor) with no courage and no spine. He was better off doing commentary.”

In an apparent reference to the row, Owaisi wrote on X on Thursday, “Some UBT MPs are also looking to defect to BJP. Maybe we should ask the two prominent MPs to tell us who ‘threatened’ these MPs to defect to BJP? Why did the other 19 TMC MPs defect? Maybe it’ll take a month to blame someone. As the Qur’an says ‘Woe to every backbiter, slanderer’ (104:1). Why are large-scale defections to BJP so easy? Why are all these people running away? You cannot blame one ‘prominent MP’ for all your failures.”

Sabarimala to get AI-based systems, drones to manage crowds

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, June 22

THE UPCOMING annual pilgrimage to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala could see the use of AI-based crowd management systems.

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the temple, and officers of the Kerala Police held a meeting with an expert committee on Saturday in this regard, officials said. The pilgrimage season at the hill shrine will begin in the second week of November. Last year, the shrine, situated in Ke-

rala’s Pathanamthitta district, witnessed a footfall of 51 lakh devotees. Representatives of three AI firms from Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai briefed the expert committee, as well as senior TDB functionaries and police officers, about the proposal.

Pathanamthitta district police superintendent R Anand, who was tasked with preparing a report on the project, said AI technology would be used in Sabarimala in a phased manner for effective crowd management, coordination between various departments, and the safety of pilgrims.

“AI-enabled crowd manage-

ment has been effectively used in the Maha Kumbh Mela and other festivals with large gatherings. Sabarimala requires tailor-made AI solutions, considering that the temple is situated within a dense forest. We are planning to deploy the system in a phased manner in the coming season,” he said.

The SP said the AI-enabled crowd management system can offer solutions for a lot of issues in Sabarimala.

“It will ensure safe and hassle-free darshan for the devotees; people who go missing at the shrine can be easily

traced; and movement of pilgrims from 26 parking grounds can be managed without human intervention. This will also ease the heavy load on police personnel deployed at the shrine during the festival,” he said. The AI-enabled crowd monitoring and management system will comprise AI cameras, drones and GIS mapping.

Officials said that by analysing video feeds, the AI will predict crowd density, and the control room will be frequently alerted about the movement of the crowd. The system can also give forecasts about congestion. The real-time data will also help

authorities solve issues without delay, officials said, adding that the men on duty at various centres will get instant alerts via digital devices.

At present, police have erected a virtual queue system for the pilgrims, who have to register online before their visit. They can select a day and time slot for the visit to the temple and have to report at the base station accordingly, before trekking to the shrine.

However, pilgrims sometimes have to wait for several hours at various camps on the way to the temple as part of crowd control measures.

Cops on alert for Muharram as convictions in decades-old cases reopen old wounds in UP village

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, June 22

IN PATTI Shah, a village of barely a thousand residents in Uttar Pradesh’s Fatehpur district, the sentencing of 24 residents to life imprisonment in two cases linked to a deadly feud has reopened memories many residents would rather forget.

Authorities have now stepped up security ahead of Muharram amid concerns that the recent verdicts could reopen old tensions.

The convictions stem from violent clashes in 2008 and 2009 between two groups led by Mazhar Haider Naqvi, popularly known as Majju Mian, and Mohammad Shareef — once close friends whose falling out would eventually claim three lives and leave several others injured.

What fractured that friendship remains disputed even



Patti Shah is a Muslim-majority village of around 1,100 people. EXPRESS

today. Some residents point to a land dispute, others to rivalry over the post of village pradhan.

“Everyone in the village knows they were once close,” said Ram Chandra Paswan, the village head and a first-time pradhan. The homes of the two families stand barely 100 metres apart. “There are different versions, but most residents believe it began with local political rivalry and gradually deepened over the years.”

Residents said members of Majju Mian’s family had held the post of village pradhan for years, and they wielded considerable influence in village affairs.

The first clash took place on December 7, 2008. According to the prosecution, violence broke out when a procession taken out by Majju Mian and his associates reached the house of Sabir, a close associate of Shareef.

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[Appendix - IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8 (6) R/W Rule 9(1)] PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers Suresh Manik More(Borrower), Ashwini Suresh More(Co-Borrower)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, and the physical possession of which has been taken by Omkara Assets Reconstruction Private Limited (OARPL), Secured Creditor, on 14.10.2025. The below-mentioned property will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and without recourse basis on 15.07.2026 at 01:00 pm (last date and time for submission of bids is 14.07.2026 by 6:00 PM), for recovery of Rs.10,48,698.85 (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Eight & Eighty Five Paise Only)as on 28.02.2019, plus accrued interest/unrealized interest at the contractual rate(s) together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. except recovery till the date of payment due to the M/s Omkara Assets Reconstruction Private Limited Secured Creditor from above mentioned borrower and co-borrower.

The Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd (acting in its capacity as Trustee of Omkara PS 21/2024-25 Trust) has acquired entire outstanding debts lying against above said borrower/ guarantors vide Assignment Agreement dated 19/03/2025 along with underlying security from Fullerton India Housing Finance Company Limited.

The description of the Immovable Properties, the reserve price, earnest money deposit, and known encumbrances (if any) are as follows:

Name of Borrower(s)/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees	Owner of the property	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Reserve Price	Bid Increment Amount	EMD	Date & Time of Inspection
1.Suresh Manik More(Borrower), 2.Ashwini Suresh More(Co-Borrower)	Mr.Suresh Manik More	Rs.10,48,698.85 (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Eight & Eighty Five Paise Only)as on 28.02.2019	Rs. 11,64,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 1,16,400/-	Date: 04.07.2026 Time: 1PM to 2PM

Details of the Secured Asset : All Piece Parcel Of Row House No. C-4, C Type Building, Guru Datta Nagar, Near Sant Eknath Highschool, Patthan Road, Chitegaon, Aurangabad - 431001

Boundaries Details: North: Gut No. 65, West : Santh Eknath Highschool Chitegaon, East : Land Of Devidas Kadu, South: Road, BUA:73.67 SQMT

Date of E- Auction & Time : 15.07.2026 at 01:00 PM to 02:00 pm

Last date and time for submission of bid letter of participation/KYC Document/ Proof of EMD: 14.07.2026 up to 6:00 pm

TERMS & CONDITION OF THE AUCTION: For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in <http://omkaraarc.com/auction.php>.

The auction shall be conducted online through OARPL. The last date of submission of bid (online as well as in hard copy) along with EMD (DD/ Pay Order in original or remittance by way of NEFT/ RTGS) is 14.07.2026 by 6:00 PM. The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact e-Auction Service Provider "M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd", Tel. Helpline: +91-7291981124/25/26, Helpline E-mail id: support@bnauctions.com, and for any property related query contact the Authorized Officer, Mr.Tanaji Mandavkar , Mobile: +91 9769170774,+91 9082080789, Mail: tanaji@omkaraarc.com

STATUTORY NOTICE FOR SALE UNDER Rule 8(6) and 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

This notice is also a mandatory Notice of not less than 15 (Fifteen) days to the Borrower(s) of the above loan account under Rule 8 (6) read with Rule 9(1), of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 and provisions of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, informing them about holding of auction/ sale through e-auction on the above referred date and time with the advice to redeem the assets if so desired by them, by paying the outstanding dues as mentioned herein above together with further interest and all costs charges and expenses any time before the closure of the Sale. In case of default in payment, the property shall at the discretion of the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor be sold through any of the modes as prescribed under Rule 8 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Sd/-

Date: 23.06.2026 , Place: Aurangabad

Authorized Officer, Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd. (Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of Omkara PS 21/2024-25 Trust)

Five Odisha women among TN seafood unit gas leak victims

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, June 22

FIVE OF the seven migrant workers who died after an ammonia gas leak at a private seafood export unit near Periyapalayam in Tamil Nadu’s Tiruvallur district on Sunday were from Odisha.

All five were tribal women aged between 19 and 22. They have been identified as Jimani Juang, Geetha Juang, Bhumiya Juang, Phulomani Juang and Sibani. Officials said they were from different villages in Keonjhar district, and most belonged to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Talking to The Indian Express, Keonjhar Divisional Labour Commissioner Surya Narayan Mali said officials have so far ascertained the address of Jimani Juang, who was from the Telkoi area, while efforts are on to contact the families of the other deceased.

Jimani, 19, had been working

Seven migrant workers died and more than 40 were hospitalised after an ammonia gas leak at a private seafood export unit near Periyapalayam in Tiruvallur on Sunday. FILE

at the seafood factory since October last year and was supporting her family, Mali said.

According to officials, many young women from tribal areas of Keonjhar migrate to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to work in seafood processing units. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed

condolences to the bereaved families and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the family of each deceased worker.

A three-member Odisha government team, led by a senior official, reached Tiruvallur Monday to coordinate with Tamil Nadu authorities and extend support to the families of the deceased labourers.

Steps are also being taken to bring back the bodies after post-mortem examinations are completed, Labour Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia said.

As many of the injured are also from Odisha, the government said the team is taking steps to ensure they receive the best possible medical care.

“The chief minister has already held a high-level meeting over the incident and directed senior officials to remain in constant touch with the authorities in Tamil Nadu to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured labourers and extend all possible help,” the labour minister said.

In her first India trip as Japan PM, Sanae Takaichi likely to visit Guwahati on July 1-3

Shubhajt Roy
New Delhi, June 22

JAPAN’S PRIME Minister Sanae Takaichi is expected to visit India from July 1 to 3, sources said, adding that the venue of the bilateral summit is likely to be in Guwahati. This will be Takaichi’s first bilateral visit to India since she assumed office in October last year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Japanese counterpart in France on the sidelines of the G7 leaders’ summit last week, where Modi said he had a “great interaction with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of Japan”. He said, “India and Japan will continue to deepen ties in diverse sectors, with a priority on trade and investment.”

The venue of Guwahati is

Takaichi assumed office in October last year

being considered since Japan has been working on projects in

the north-east, as part of India’s Act East policy. In fact, Japan’s former PM Shinzo Abe — considered to be Takaichi’s mentor — was supposed to come to Guwahati in December 2019, but the plan was cancelled due to the anti-CAA protests at that time.

Modi and Takaichi have met a couple of times in the past eight months, since she became the PM of Japan. In October last year, Modi spoke to her and agreed to focus on “economic security, defence cooperation and talent mobility”.

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NOTICE FOR E-TENDER
"Selection of a Bidder to Provide Software Services, Including Design, Development, Implementation and Execution of e-Suraksha Application for Security Guards Board."

The chairman, Security Guard Board of Brihanmumbai and Thane district, Sanpada, Navi Mumbai invites proposals from reputed and experienced companies to participate in the e-tender process to get selected as an agency for above mentioned work.

TENDER FEE	EMD	ESTIMATED COST	LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION
1,73,000/-	17,30,000/-	17,30,00,000/-	14/07/2026 17:00 Hrs

For the detailed Tender document, interested participants should visit <https://sgb.etenders.in>.
Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is **14/07/2026 17:00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chairman,
Security Guard Board of Brihanmumbai and Thane District, Sanpada, Navi Mumbai

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Government of Karnataka, invites applications from eligible and experienced professionals for appointment to the post of Technical Director under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP), a World Bank-supported programme.

IMPORTANT NOTE
The post was previously advertised on 16.12.2025, 03.01.2026 and 03.03.2026. Based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee constituted by the Government, the eligibility criteria have been revised and the post is hereby re-advertised to attract a larger pool of qualified candidates. Candidates who have already applied and appeared for the interview conducted on 15.04.2026 need not apply again. Their applications will be considered along with the applications received pursuant to this notification.

Eligibility (Essential):
1. Post-Graduation in Earth Sciences / Atmospheric Sciences/ Climate Sciences/Hydrology/Meteorology / Geological Sciences / Geo-Informatics / Water Resources Engineering/ Agriculture Sciences / Geotechnical Engineering / Disaster Management / Environmental Sciences / Remote Sensing & GIS or related disciplines.
2. Minimum 15 years of relevant professional experience.
3. Ph.D. is desirable but not mandatory.

Remuneration:
Consolidated monthly remuneration will be decided at the time of interview based on the performance, experience and suitability for external candidates. Pay protection will be considered for deputation candidates as per Government rules for the eligible candidates.

Tenure:
Initially for Two (02) Years, extendable up to Three (03) additional years on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory performance.

For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), application format and eligibility conditions, visit the KSNDMC website: www.ksndmc.org

Last Date for Submission of Applications: 1st July, 2026, 5.00 PM

Sd/- DIRECTOR, KSNDMC