

‘Not the time for Babri-Mandir’: BJP shifts tack to development in Bengal bypoll

Ravik Bhattacharya
Rejinagar, October 3

ON a small makeshift stage in Begunbari area of Rejinagar, BJP Bengal president Samik Bhattacharya stands beside party candidate Shankharavh Sarkar, as others jostle for space. The public meeting has come at the end of an impressive road show involving over a hundred motorcycles.

The crowd gathered around the stage is predominantly Muslim, with others looking on from balconies and rooftops. "In the last elections, our candidate lost by a huge margin. Minority voters were not with us. But this election is different," says Bhattacharya.

Days after Chief Minister Suvednu Adhikari said that the October 6 bypolls were a "test" for the minority community, and that they should come with the BJP, Bhattacharya says: "Eighty percent of Muslims stay in villages, and

their monthly income is Rs 5,000 or lower. Participation of Muslims in government jobs is also low. The situation needs to change."

While the BJP government is accused by opponents of stoking anti-minority sentiments in West Bengal to win this year's Assembly elections and to consolidate its hold in the state since then, for the bypoll in Rejinagar where nearly 70% of the population is Muslim, the party has changed its narrative to development. It is also directly reaching out to Muslims, in a manner rarely seen before in the state.

Bhattacharya, seen as the "moderate" face within the state BJP, says: "In these last six months under our government, has there been a single riot?... This is not the time to do Babri Masjid-Ram Mandir. For the next 20 years, it will be our government both at the Centre and in the state. You will have to stay with us. You will have to

choose."

A day later, during his tour of the constituency, Adhikari underlines the same at a public meeting in Shaktipur.

Bhattacharya's reference to Babri Masjid is deliberate. In the April 2026 Assembly elections, the Rejinagar seat was won by Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) leader Humayun Kabir, who laid the foundation for a replica of the mosque in the constituency.

Kabir got nearly double the votes of his BJP rival, getting 51.62% of the votes, to the BJP's 27.02%, and the TMC's 17.43%.

The Rejinagar bypoll was necessitated as Kabir resigned from the seat and retained the other constituency he won from, Nouda.

Kabir's son Gulam Nabi Azad is the AJUP candidate for the Rejinagar bypoll now. There is little sign of him though in the constituency, with Kabir claiming "intimidation" by the BJP administration, including slapping of cases, and saying the AJUP would campaign only online and on social media.

With the BJP wooing Muslims and Kabir away, the contest could go either way – particularly as the anti-BJP corner is crowded. Apart from Kabir, who used to be in the Trinamool Congress before floating the AJUP ahead of the Assembly polls, it includes the Congress, CPI(M) and the two TMC factions. All have put up candidates from the Muslim community.



West Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya campaigns ahead of Rejinagar bypoll on October 6. EXPRESS

At the site of Kabir's Babri Masjid replica, along National Highway 10, construction is on, with earthmovers at work and bricks lying in a pile. "Around Rs 10 crore have come in as donations," says Kabir, sitting in a small office at the site.

He is "being forced to take a backseat", says the AUJP leader, who seems subdued and far removed from his once firebrand image. "Apart from fresh cases against me, old cases are being revived against my party leaders. Twenty-four of them have been arrested.

Twelve of us got bail, but police kept calling me for interrogation, and harassing my followers. That is why I decided that neither my son nor I will campaign."

As per Kabir, the "harassment" has been on since May, when the government asked him to drop Babri Masjid from the name of the replica. "I refused. My security has been withdrawn."

About the other candidates, Kabir says he is not worried. "It is a straight fight between the BJP and me. And if free and fair polls are held, my son will surely win. Other parties... all will have their deposits forfeited... The BJP is trying to break the Muslim vote and consolidate Hindus behind it. But fair elections will show that people are with us."

Mamata TMC candidate Rabiul Alam Chowdhury, who is campaigning in Loknathpur, a short distance from where villagers are gathered under a single halogen light, also talks of police "threatening" their voters. In the other Bengal seat where bypoll will be held on October 6, Nandigram, the Mamata TMC candidate withdrew at the last moment, which has sharpened the party's attack on the BJP.

Chowdhury has won the Rejinagar seat thrice earlier – the 2013 bypolls (when he was with the Congress), in 2016 (again with the Congress), and in 2021 (as a TMC candidate). In the April elections, Mamata fielded Ataur Rahman in place

of Chowdhury, and he lost.

Chowdhury says their trump card is Mamata. "We are saying she is the only alternative to the BJP. The new CM only speaks and works for Hindus... Mamata Banerjee was the only one who protested when the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise robbed the voting rights of lakhs of people."

Ahead of the bypolls, while refusing urgent hearing on a petition regarding voters in the two bypoll seats who are deleted from the SIR, the Supreme Court observed, "These are only by-elections."

Yes "the government will not change through this vote", Chowdhury says. "But this is a chance for minority voters to highlight their issues and take a stand."

He also accuses Kabir of representing the flip side of the BJP, in doing communal politics.

Nadia MLA Alifa Ahmed, who is accompanying Chowdhury, questions the EC for denying the Mamata TMC the party's long-held symbol. "However, everyone knows the TMC means Mamata Banerjee. The workers and voters are with us... The rebels (the other TMC faction) are the BJP's B team."

At one of the BJP offices in Baharampur town, Sarkar sits surrounded by party leaders and workers, as people rush around arranging flags and banners. The BJP candidate – the party's district president

who is contesting for an Assembly seat for the first time – says he is confident of support from all sides.

"There is no Hindu-Muslim, no minority-majority. The people of Rejinagar, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, all have decided that they want colleges, factories, a bridge, and the only person who can give them is Suvednu Adhikari and the BJP government. It is an election for development, not communal divide," Sarkar says.

A local BJP leader says the election is important for them for this reason. "We already have a consolidated Hindu vote bank in the area. Now we are going house to house and talking to Muslims. If we win, we will achieve something which we never got before – the Muslim vote," says the leader.

The BJP is also counting on the fact that all other candidates are Muslims, he admits. "This will further prevent consolidation of the Muslim vote bank." Apart from the Mamata TMC's Chowdhury, the candidates from the minority community include the CPI(M)'s Md Sayeed, the Congress's Abdullahil Kafi and the rebel TMC's Safuzzaman Sheikh.

Abdul Sheikh, 50, a farmer, says they are watching the developments closely. "We have seen all that has happened since the BJP government came. But now it is proposing something different... Let's see."

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that we are investigating the title of Raheja Universal (Pvt.) Limited ("said Holder") in respect of Premises and pro-rata common areas and facilities which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written.

Any and all person(s)/ entity(ies), including but not limited to any bank(s), financial institution(s) etc., having any share, right, title, benefit, interest, claim, objection and/ or demand etc. against the said Holder in respect of the said Premises and/or the said Premises either by way of any sale, transfer, exchange, agreement for sale, memorandum of understanding, lease, sub-lease, leave and license, caretaker basis, assignment, release, relinquishment, mortgage, charge, lien, inheritance, bequest, succession, gift, devise, maintenance, easement, trust, tenancy, sub-tenancy, occupation, possession, family arrangement/ settlement, litigation, lis pendens, attachment, award, judgement, decree or order of any court of law, contract, partnership, pledge, share-holders agreement, share-purchase agreement or any other writing / arrangement or otherwise howsoever into or upon or in respect of the said Premises or any part thereof, are hereby called upon to make the same known in writing together with copies of all documents on the basis of which such claims are made, to the undersigned within a period of 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice at Elarra Law Offices, 502, 5th Floor, Marathon Icon, Off Ganapatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel West, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013, failing which, such alleged right, title, benefit, interest, share, claim, objection and/ or demand, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived/ abandoned and not binding.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the said Premises)

a) Flat No. 1701 on H1 floor (17th level) as per MCGM admeasuring 5,071 sq. ft. equivalent to 471.11 sq. mts (Carpet area) ("Carpet area" shall mean being sum of the net useable floor area of the flat and area covered by internal walls of the flat) along with deck and elevation projections admeasuring 412 sq. ft. equivalent to 38.27 sq. mts (In bare-shell condition, and as incidental thereto shall be entitled to use 8 (eight) nos. of Car-parking spaces bearing nos. 1 to 8 situated on P6 level; and

b) Flat No. 1801 on H2 floor (18th level) as per MCGM admeasuring 5,071 sq. ft. equivalent to 471.11 sq. mts (Carpet area) ("Carpet area" shall mean being sum of the net useable floor area of the flat and area covered by internal walls of the flat) along with deck and elevation projections admeasuring 412 sq. ft. equivalent to 38.27 sq. mts in bare-shell condition, and as incidental thereto shall be entitled to use 8 (eight) nos. of Car-parking spaces bearing nos. 9 to 12, 35 to 38 situated on P6 level,

both situated in the building known as "Raheja Legend", forming part of the condominium known as "Raheja Legend Condominium", together with 5.39% each of the undivided interest appertaining to the said Premises in the common areas and facilities of the said Raheja Legend Condominium bearing Plot No.254-A of Work Estate Scheme No.52, Cadastral Survey No.1680 or Lower Parel Division Municipal G ward No.1462 situate at Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai- 400 018.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2026.

Sd/-
Madhura Samant
(Partner)
Elarra Law Offices
Email: Madhura@elarralawoffices.com
Elarra Law Offices, 502, 5th Floor, Marathon Icon,
Off Ganapatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel West, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused the accused **Amar @ Babu, S/o.Rampal Singh, R/o. A-10, PMJP Colony, Jan Kalyan Housing Society, Maankhurd, Mumbai, Maharashtra** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.402/2017 U/S 323/363/366/354/34 IPC & 8/21 POC SO Act Dt.19.07.2017 registered at P S Vasant Kunj North, South West District, New Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Amar @ Babu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Amar @ Babu** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Amar @ Babu**, accused of **FIR No. 402/2017 U/S 323/363/366/354/34 IPC & 8/21 POC SO Act Dt.19.07.2017, P S Vasant Kunj North, South West District, New Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.11.2026**.

By Order, Sh. Shankar Narayanan,
Additional Sessions Judge (POCSO)-01,
Room No.30, Lock Up Building,
Patala House Court Complex, New Delhi.

DP/14090/SW/2026
(Court Matter)

Four dead in factory blast in Andhra Pradesh

Express News Service
Hyderabad, October 3

AT LEAST four workers were killed and 10 others were injured when a boiler exploded at a pharmaceutical factory in Sri City in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district on Saturday morning, officials said.

The massive blast caused a part of the building's roof to collapse, trapping workers who were later rescued, officials said.

Sri City, located along National Highway (NH) 16, is one of India's largest multi-product Special Economic Zones.

GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: 6th Floor, B Building, Ganga Trueno, Lohegaon, Pune, Maharashtra 411014

APPENDIX IV (See rule 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Grihum Housing Finance Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice below dated calling upon the below Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 30th day of September Month of the Year 2026

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of secured Creditor the amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details of Property taken in possession are herein below.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers	Description of Property	Possession taken Date	Date of statutory Demand Notice	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1	WASIM KUTKAR SAYYED, SUMAIYYA MUSTAFA SAYYED, SHAKILA KUTKAR SAYYED, MUSTAFA KUTKAR SAYYAD	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Duplex Row House No. 02 Having Plotted Area Adm. 61.12sq. Mtrs And Built Up Area Adm. 115.13 Sq. Mtrs. I.E. 1239.50 Sq. Fts. In The Building Known As "Vijay Nagar Row House" Constructed On Plot No. 20 To 26 Having Total Area Adm. 1898.99 Sq. Mtrs. Out Of That No. 72/73/79 To 82/84 Situated At Majje Ozar Tal Nipahad Dist. Nashik Bounded As Follows- East : 7.50 Mtrs Road, West : Adj. Gat No. 69, South : 9 Mtrs Road, North : Adj. Gat No. 74 & 75, Duplex Row House No. 02, East : Marginal Space, West : Road, South : Row House No. 1, North : Row House No. 3.	30/09/2026	09/10/2025	Loan No. HL00627100000005028066 Rs. 2753386/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred EightySix Only) payable as on 09/10/2025 along with interest @ 12.85 % p. a. till the realization.

In any case if there is any difference between the contents of local language publication and English newspaper publication, the content, of the English newspaper language published in The Indian Express shall prevail

Date: 04.10.2026, Place: NASHIK

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Grihum Housing Finance Limited

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra
भारत संघर्ष का प्रथम एक परिवार एक बैंक

MALEGAON ZONAL OFFICE
BSNL Sanchar Sadan, Near Satana Naka Malegaon-423203
H.O.: "Lokmangal", 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-411005.

SALE NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E- Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the bank of Maharashtra, the **Physical/Symbolic possession** of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **21/10/2026 between 01.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m.** for recovery of balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), as mentioned in the table. Details of the borrower/s and guarantor/s, amount due, short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Amount Due	Short description of the immovable property with known encumbrances	Reserve Price Earnest Money (EMD) Bid Increase Amount (for all three Borrower Loan accounts)
1	M/s P Square Creations through partners 1. Mr. Hemant Prabhakar Patil 2. Mr. Bharat Vishwasrao Patil 3. Mr. Jayantilal Devashi Patel 4. Mr. Hasmukh Devashi Patel Branch - Malegaon (Nashik)	Rs. 80,88,358/- plus unapplied Interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 02.04.2025 Rs. 33,27,277/- plus unapplied Interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred as on 01.08.2026	Registered Mortgage of all those pieces and parcel of Property Plot No.7 Adm. 504.00 Sq Mtr. and Plot No.8 Adm.504 Sq. Mtrs and Plot No.16 Adm. 514.03 Sq Mtr. out of G. No.1542/2A/1+ 1542/2B and construction thereon. Dabhadhi, Malegaon. Plot No.16 (Boundaries): East: Adj. S No., West: 15 Mtr.Road, North: Plot No.15, South: Plot No.17. Plot No.7+8 (Boundaries): East: Road, West: Road, North: Open Space, South: Amenity Plot No.18. Type of Possession : Symbolic	Rs.1,18,66,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighteen Lakh Sixty Six Thousand and) Rs. 11,86,600/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Only) Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
2	Mr. Baliram Ramdas Kalvar Guarantor: 1. Mr. Dinesh Subhash Sangale 2. Mr. Yogesh Ashok Sangale Branch: Manmad	Rs. 9,53,566/- plus unapplied Interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 21.01.2023	Name of property holder Mr. Baliram Ramdas Kalvar:- Registered mortgage property of all piece and parcel of property of Row House No.07 Adm Area 48 Sq. Mtr, Build Up Area 515 Sq. Ft. "sai Residency" Constructed On Plot No. 8 Situated At Survey No. 142/a/1a/5 Near Camp Area Manmad, Area 65.50 Sq.mtr, At Post Manmad, Tal. Nandgaon, Dist. Nashik. Boundries (East, West, South and North) : East: Row House No. 06, West: Row House No. 8, North: Road, South: Plot No. 7 & 8. Type of Possession : Physical	Rs. 9,80,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty Thousand only) Rs. 98,000/- (Rupees Ninety Eight Thousand and only) Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
3	M/s. A. K. Traders Through Prop. Mr. Raees Ahmad Mohammed Aarif Guarantor: Mr. Mohammed Shahzad Mohammed Arif (Branch: Malegaon (Nashik)	Rs. 3,07,85,732/- plus unapplied Interest, legal and other expenses/ charges incurred till date of realization as per Demand Notice dated 06.01.2026	Name Of Property Holder: Mr. Raees Ahmad Mohammed Aarif. Registered Mortgage of all the piece & parcel of land and building situated at CTS No. 1394/3, At Islampura, Tal. Malegaon, Dist. Nashik, Plot/Adm Area 122.68 Sq.mts Boundaries: East : CTS No. 1394/3 Part, West : CTS No. 1394/2, North : Road, South : Galli. CERSAID ID : 07AAECC5770G1ZN Assets ID : 20006315832 Physical possession.	Rs. 1,00,90,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Thousand Only) Rs. 10,09,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Nine Thousand Only) Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

E-AUCTION DATE 21/10/2026 BETWEEN 01.00 P.M. TO 05.00 P.M.

Date & Time of Inspection of Property on: 05/10/2026 to 19/10/2026 between 11.00 am. to 5.00 pm.

Last Date & Time for Deposit of EMD and Prof: 20/10/2026 upto 5.00 pm.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in> provided in the Bank's website and also on <https://banknet.com/eauction-psb/x-login> or Contact. Mr. Anas Ali (Mobile 9718617198), Mr. Chetan Kapadnis (Mobile 8956495433) and Mr.Dnyaneshwar Dhadade, Chief Manager (Mob. No.8459141304).

Place : Malegaon
Date : 03/10/2026

Authorized Officer/ Chief Manager
Bank of Maharashtra, Malegaon Zone

HDFC BANK
CIN : L65920MH1994PLC080618 | Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with **HDFC Bank Limited** by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (**HDFC**) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC**, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated hereinbelow in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/ writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Assets / Immovable Property(ies)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	Mrs. Mane Uma Satish Co-Borrower as well as Wife of Mr. Mane Satish Shrimant Borrower [since deceased] And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Mane Satish Shrimant Borrower [since deceased]	Rs. 68,912/- as on 31 August 2026	26 September 2026	Plot 13, S No CTS No 6886, H No 1 / 1007, District Osmanabad.

*with further interest, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to **HDFC** as aforesaid, then **HDFC** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset (s) / Immovable Property (ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

NOTE: This notice is published on 4th October 2026 in Indian Express & Loksatta Mumbai Parcel edition.

Date : 4th October 2026
Place : Osmanabad

For HDFC Bank Limited
Sd/-
Wakdevadi Office : HDFC Bank Ltd., Office No. 601 to 608, Sixth Floor, Godrej Eternia C, Wing B, Wakdevadi, Shivaji Nagar, Pune 411005.
Regd. Office : HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai- 400020.
Authorized Officer
020 67440500