

Chessboard of Bengal Strategy, symbolism & silent alliances



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

West Bengal's political landscape has always resembled a layered chessboard - every move visible yet rarely understood in its full intention. As the State approaches another charged Assembly election, Mamata Banerjee has once again demonstrated why she remains one of India's most formidable political tacticians. The latest developments from the electoral rolls controversy before the Supreme Court to Humayun Kabir's dramatic political manoeuvres suggest not chaos, but choreography.

The alleged election rolls fiasco raised by the Election Commission has provided Banerjee with a powerful narrative weapon. By framing the issue as a challenge to democratic integrity, she has positioned herself as both defender of Bengal's political autonomy and victim of institutional overreach. In a polarised environment, perception often outweighs procedure. For sections of her electorate, especially minorities and secular liberals, this stance reinforces the image of a leader resisting external pressure.

Every political era develops its chorus, voices that echo the central melody while adding sharper notes to the composition. In contemporary



Bengal, Humayun Kabir's political persona can be interpreted as one such echo, amplifying themes that align, intentionally or otherwise, with the strategic interests of the Trinamool Congress.

The Trinamool's electoral success has long rested on a complex balance between assertive regional identity and careful navigation of communal sensitivities. Kabir's interventions, however, often disrupt this balance in ways that paradoxically strengthen the party's narrative. By occupying the space of overt assertion, he allows the main leadership to appear comparatively moderately, a classic political contrast that redefines the centre by shifting the boundaries of the extreme.

Observers might argue that this dynamic transforms Kabir into a functional "B-team," not through formal affiliation alone but through narrative synergy. His statements generate controversy, controversy reshapes public discourse, and the Trinamool leadership steps in as the voice of reason, reinforcing its image as stabilizer amid turbulence.

Such relationships are rarely acknowledged openly; politics thrives on ambiguity. Yet patterns emerge over time, and in Bengal's charged atmosphere, Kabir's role often resembles that of a lightning rod, attracting ideological storms that indirectly shield the larger political structure from direct confrontation.

In this sense, he becomes less an independent storm and more a controlled current within a wider political design, shaping perception while sustaining the overarching narrative of the ruling establishment.

Yet Bengal's politics often thrives on paradox. What appears as rebellion may well be strategic divergence. Kabir's positioning as an independent Muslim leader potentially serves multiple purposes. It consolidates minority anxieties, redirects ideological energy, and most importantly, prevents fragmentation toward opposition forces like the BJP.

Speculation has already emerged suggesting that Kabir's political theatre might ultimately strengthen Banerjee's broader electoral ecosystem rather than weaken it. By operating outside the formal structure of the TMC, he can mobilise more hardline sentiments without directly implicating the ruling party, creating a dual-track strategy; moderation from the centre, mobilisation at the margins.

Whether this is deliberate coordination or merely converging interests remains unclear. However, Bengal's political history is filled with such tactical separations followed by post-election reunions. The possibility that estranged actors could unite after the polls cannot be dismissed outright. Meanwhile, Banerjee's welfare policies continue to reinforce her electoral fortress. The expansion of the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme represents more than fiscal policy; it is political messaging. By increasing monthly entitlements and allocating significant funds, the government signals a direct relationship with voters, especially women, who have emerged as the TMC's most reliable constituency.

These targeted welfare initiatives reshape electoral dynamics by personalising governance. Instead of abstract ideological debates, voters experience tangible economic support. For millions, such schemes translate into dignity and stability - powerful incentives during uncertain times.

The introduction of the Banglar Yuva Sathi scheme reflects an attempt to address youth discontent, historically a vulnerability for incumbents. By offering financial assistance to unemployed individuals, the government seeks to mitigate economic frustration while projecting a future-oriented vision.

Equally strategic are increases in allowances for Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, civic volunteers, and grassroots personnel. These groups form a vast network of local influencers who shape public perception at the community level. Strengthening their economic security simultaneously strengthens political goodwill.

Critics label these initiatives as "freebies", arguing that they strain state finances. Supporters counter that welfare expansion is essential in a state grappling with economic inequalities. The debate reveals a broader ideological divide between fiscal conservatism and populist redistribution, a divide that defines much of contemporary Indian politics.

Ultimately, Bengal's electoral drama is less about individual controversies and more about narrative control. Mamata Banerjee's strength lies not merely in policy or rhetoric, but in her ability to transform crises into political capital.

As elections approach, the interplay between symbolic politics, welfare strategies, and shifting alliances will determine whether the Trinamool Congress retains its dominance. In Bengal, politics is rarely linear, and the current moment may yet reveal unexpected alliances hidden beneath apparent confrontation.

Old beauties cruise through Delhi roads

The much-awaited 59th edition of The Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally was flagged off on Sunday by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena, marking yet another milestone in one of India's oldest and most prestigious motoring events.

The rally commenced from The Statesman House on Barakhamba Road, transforming the heart of the capital into a moving museum of automotive heritage.

In the Vintage Section (cars manufactured till 1939), the coveted Statesman Challenge, Best Overall Performance (Vintage Trophy), was awarded to Gidwaney for his meticulously maintained 1935 Bentley. The Indian Oil Heritage Preservation Trophy went to the National Rail Museum for its iconic 1914 John Morris & Sons fire engine, while the PNB Housing Vintage Excellence Trophy was clinched by Ranjit Mallik with his 1936 Bentley.

The Classic Section (1940-1956; above 1500 cc) also saw spirited competition. The Statesman Silver Jubilee Classic Elegance and Performance Trophy was presented to Suryaveer Chauhan for his 1947 M.G. The Heritage Motoring Club of India's Classic Era Mastery Trophy (Runner-up) was awarded to Uday Bahadur, who impressed judges with his 1966 Bentley.

In the Post-War Section (1945-1962; above 1500 cc), the Statesman Diamond Jubilee Post-War Elegance Achievement Trophy was won by Harshpati Singhania for his 1958



Chevrolet, while Jaideep Phookan secured the Oil India Post-War Excellence Performance Trophy with a 1962 Mercedes-Benz. Apart from these major awards, over 80 participants were recognised across various other categories.

The prizes were distributed by The Statesman Group's Chairperson R. P. Gupta, along with Director Vineet Gupta, Managing Director Ravindra Kumar, Hemant Rathore, Executive Director, IOCL, Arvind Kumar Pandey, Deputy General Manager, Bank of Baroda, and Manoj Kumar Singh, Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India.

Speaking at the event, Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena said, "I believe that more such programmes should be held in Delhi. People here are extremely passionate, and the enthusiasm of participants is clearly visible. I congratulate The Statesman and its entire team for organising such a beautiful event." The Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally, held annually in Delhi and Kolkata, is among the oldest continuously running motoring events in India and the subcontinent. First organised in Delhi in 1964, the rally was

extended to Kolkata in 1968.

This year's rally featured an extraordinary lineup of iconic automobiles, including a 1936 Rolls-Royce, a 1926 Studebaker Erskine, a 1906 Renault, a 1935 Rytcraft, a 1938 Mercedes-Benz, a 1937 Wolseley, a 1932 Baby Austin, a 1938 Adler, a 1937 Dodge, a 1929 Austin 7 Tourer, a 1919 Citro'n Torpedo, a 1913 Stoewer, and a 1912 Standard Coventry, among many others. Over 100 vintage and classic vehicles participated in the event.

One of the major attractions of the rally was the grand parade through the city, where vehicles were assessed for originality, condition, and on-road performance, accompanied by live music and enthusiastic crowds. Renowned marques such as Rolls-Royce, Bentley, and the famed 1914 John Morris fire engine from the Rail Museum, along with smaller vintage cars and outstation entries, added to the spectacle. Owners eagerly await the rally each year, as it provides a rare opportunity to drive their carefully preserved machines from a bygone era on modern roads. For residents of the National Capital, the rally offers a glimpse into automotive history, as vintage, classic, post-war, and other heritage vehicles cruise gracefully through the city and its suburbs, making the event a visual treat for automobile enthusiasts and the general public alike.

E-Auction Sale Notice
M/S. SURANA CORPORATION LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
REG. OFF.: NO. 30, GNT ROAD, MADHAVARAM CHENNAI - 600110
Liquidator: Chandramouli Ramasubramaniam
(C Ramasubramaniam, Insolvency Professional)
Liquidator Address: 'RAJ' 3B1, 3rd Floor, Gaiety Palace, No. 1L, Blackers Road, Mount Road, Chennai - 600002
Email: srinidhicra@gmail.com | Telephone No: 9884068292, 044-28528292
Registration No: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00052/2016-17/10096

E-Auction
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Date and Time of Auction: Monday, 23rd February 2026 at 02.00 P.M. to 03.00 P.M.
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and the regulations made there under with respect to sale of assets and properties owned by M/s. SURANA CORPORATION LIMITED (In Liquidation) forming part of Liquidation Estate by the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench vide order dated 25th October, 2019. The bidding of the asset stated in the below table shall be conducted by the undersigned through the e-auction platform <https://baanet.com>

Assets	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Amount
PLANT & MACHINERY, OFFICE EQUIPMENTS, FURNITURE, AIR CONDITIONERS & UTILITIES FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS PRODUCTION	Rs. 15,64,799/-	1,56,479/-

Terms and Condition of the E-Auction are under:

- E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" as such sale is without any kind of warranties and indemnities through approved service provider M/s. PSB ALLIANCE PRIVATE LIMITED via <https://baanet.com>
- This sale notice shall be read with Complete E-Auction process document containing details of the Assets, the bidding process, the document to be submitted and the general terms and conditions of online auction sale which are available on websites link <https://baanet.com>
- The highest offer received from E-Auction will be declared as successful bid. The Liquidator reserves the right to choose in announcing the successful bidder based on the highest bid received.
- The bid form can be downloaded from the website of <https://baanet.com> The tender documents should be downloaded from the website <https://baanet.com> and can be submitted to the said portal only on or before Saturday, 21st February 2026 to 6.00 P.M. and will not be provided from/to the liquidator's office. No submission of documents or payment of EMD or any correspondence should be made with the Liquidator office, till the end of the auction and till the end of announcement of successful bidder.
- Prospective bidders shall deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through the Baanet auction platform. The Bidders should pay the EMD only through e-wallet portal of Baanet.com on or before Saturday, 21st February 2026 to 6.00 P.M.
- Last date and time of submission of EMD & bid related document mentioned in the Tender documents is 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 21st February 2026.
- The date and time of E-Auction on, Monday, 23rd February 2026, 02.00 P.M. & 03.00 P.M.
- If any bid is made within the last 5 minutes of closure time, the bidding time will be extended automatically by another 5 minutes and if no higher bid is received within the extended 5 minutes, the auction will automatically get closed at the extended 5 minutes.
- The intended bidder who has deposited EMD and require assistance in creating login id and password may contact the E-mail: support.baanet@psballiance.com and psba@psballiance.com
- The EMD amount of unsuccessful Bidders will be refunded within one week. The EMD shall not bear any interest.
- The bidder who submits highest offer (more than Reserve Price) on closure of online auction shall be declared successful bidder subject to approval by the Liquidator. The liquidator reserves his rights to reject any or all of the offers or accept offer for one or more properties received without assigning any reasons whatsoever at any stage.
- Upon confirmation of sale, the purchaser shall deposit 25% of sale price (including EMD) immediately and the balance sale consideration within 90 days of the date of such demand, provided that payment made after 30 days shall attract interest at the rate of 12% as per Sub-clause 12 of Clause 1 of Schedule I of IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations 2016 as amended from time to time.
- The sale shall be cancelled if the payment is not received within 90 days and the amount paid will be forfeited. For more particulars about e-auction, the bidders are requested to go through the tender form thoroughly.
- The highest bidder would bear the applicable GST, charges/ fees payable for ownership transfer, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. The Liquidator will not be responsible for any charge, lien under sale. The Liquidator has absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn, postpone, extend the auction without assigning any reasons whatsoever. No objections will accrue to the Liquidator in such an event.
- The intending bidders, prior to submitting their bid, should make their independent inquiries regarding the title of property, dues of local taxes, electricity and water charges, maintenance charges, if any and inspect the property at their own expenses and satisfy themselves. The properties mentioned above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with prior appointment contacting Mr. C. Ramasubramaniam, Liquidator (+91 9884068292).
- Prospective bidders shall submit the requisite documents, including a declaration of eligibility under Section 29A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code through the electronic auction platform.
- The advertisement will be valid for 90 days from the date of advertisement. The properties mentioned above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with prior appointment contacting Mr. C. Ramasubramaniam (+91 9884068292)

Sd/-
Chandramouli Ramasubramaniam
(C Ramasubramaniam)

Date: 09/02/2026
Place: Chennai
Liquidator of SURANA CORPORATION LIMITED
Registration No: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00052/2016-17/10096

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POSSESSION NOTICE
REF: POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE 8 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED, pursuant to demand notice issued on its respective dates as given below, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 calling upon you/Borrowers, the under named to pay outstanding dues as within 60 days from the date of receipt of respective notices. You/Borrowers all, however, have failed to pay the said outstanding dues within stipulated time, hence HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED are in exercise and having right as conferred under the provision of sub section (4) of section 13 of SARFESI ACT, 2002 read with rules thereunder, taken POSSESSION of the secured assets as mentioned herein below:

Sr. No	Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice	Total O/s as on date of Demand Notice (in INR)	Date of possession
1.	Syed Abuthahir, SYED ALI FATHIMA	House-104,1,HappiNest,E,Paruthipattu,Off Poonamallee,Avadi high road,Avadi,chennai-600077. Bounded By: South by - Survey No. 482. Survey No.485, Survey No.489 (part) of Paruthipattu village, East by - Survey No. 492(part) & Surley 550 of Paruthipattu Village, West by - 12 m wide road on Survey No. 464,465 adjacent to VGN Apartments, North by - Survey No.463 (part). Survey No.454 (part) of Paruthipattu village.	04-12-2025	1,811,334	05-02-2026
2.	Mohan Kumar, Revathi Mohankumar,	House-Plot No.60(Middle Part), Comprised in Old S.Nos.121/3 and 121/5, as per Patta bearing No.4910, New S.No.121/45,'Kolachi Amman Nagar', Morai Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District,Thiruvallur,Tamil Nadu-600054. Bounded By: North by - Plot No: 60, South by - Plot NO: 60, East by - Plot NO: 75, West by - Common Road.	04-12-2025	1,044,770	05-02-2026
3.	Ramesh C, Madhana S, Deena Ramesh	House-Door No:3/185, Survey No:11/5, As Per Patta New Survey No:5/59, V.O.C. Street, Meppur Village, Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District,Thiruvallur,Tamil Nadu-600123. Bounded by: North by - Plot and Building belongs to Mrs.Gowri, South by - Common Passage, East by - Vacant Plot, West by - Road.	04-12-2025	853,452	05-02-2026
4.	Kamarajan Krishnan, Bhavani Krishnan,	Flat-Door no.29, Union Salai, Maraimalai Nagar,Survey No: 23/3B3,23/3C, as per Patta survey no. 23/3B3B, 23/3C2,Chengalpattu,Tamil Nadu-603204. Bounded By: North by - Property belongs to Mr. Nanthagopal, South by - 12 Feet Road, East by - Property belongs to Mr. Purushothaman, West by - Property belongs to Mr. Chandrasekaran.	04-12-2025	1,726,348	05-02-2026
5.	Nagajothi S,Sanjay S,	House-Plot.No.26, Old S.No.250/4A1 & 250/4B3, New S.No.250/4A1A & 250/4B3A, As per patta sub divided S.No.250/4A1A, Plot.No.26,Sri Balamurugan Nagar, Gudapakam Village, Avadi SRO,Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District,Chennai,Tamil Nadu-600124. Bounded By: North by - 18 feet Road, South by - Plot no 30 & 31, East by - Plot no 27, West by - Plot no 25.	04-12-2025	1,103,764	05-02-2026
6.	Balakrishnan Venugopal, Sivashankari Balakrishnan,	House-Plot No.38, Adhithya Nagar, Chinnayangulam Village, Kanchipuram Taluk, Kanchipuram District, 650 Sq.Ft Old S.No.50/11A, Patta No.1003 as per Patta New S.No.50/25 SRO of Kanchipuram Joint-IV and the Registration District Kanchipuram, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu-631502. Bounded By: East by - Plot No.37 & 39, West by - S.No.38 & Plot No.38 Western part, North by - S.No.38, South by - Road.	04-12-2025	679,510	05-02-2026
7.	Murugesan Kannan, Nagatha Murugesan,	Flat-Old S.No.220/8, New S.No.220/28, Kondamangalam Village, Chengalpattu Joint II SRO, Chengalpattu Taluk & District-Tamil Nadu-603209. Bounded By: North by - Ruthrakottai, South by - House belongs to Mrs.Vijaya, East by - House belongs to Mrs.Devaki, West by - Road.	04-12-2025	201,559	05-02-2026
8.	S Dhakshnamoorthy, D Uma,	House-Plot No.45, Baba Garden, Old S.No.112/3 & 112/4C, New S.No.112/2B & 112/3B, V.No.57 Aaladu Village, Ponneri SRO & Taluk, Thiruvallur District,Tamil Nadu-601204. Bounded By: North by - Plot No.46, South by - Plot No.44, East by - Plot No.41, West by - Panchayat Road.	04-12-2025	730,533	05-02-2026
9.	Janakiraman S, Sekar M, Amudha Sekar,	House-Old Survey No. 24/2 Part, New Survey No.181/3, at Peravallur Village, Ponneri Tk., Thiruvallur Dt.situate within the SubRegistration District of Ponneri and the Registration District of Thiruvallur,Thiruvallur,Tamil Nadu-601206. Bounded By: East by - Common Passage, West by - Vacant Land, North by - Remaining Part of this land, South by - Paramasivan Plot & House.	04-12-2025	803,342	05-02-2026
10.	Elumalai Chellan, Alamelu E,	House-S.No.45/72, S.No.45/73, and S.No.45/75, Admeasuring with an extent of 700 Sq.ft., or 65 Sq.Mtrs., Situated at Siruvada Village, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Thiruvallur, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu-601202. Bounded By: North by - Common Passage, South by - Church Plot, East by - Panchayat Road, West by - Sivalingam & Govindan Plot.	04-12-2025	515,751	05-02-2026
11.	Sukumar Mani,Rekha Sukumar, Mani Govindasamy,	House-Old Survey No.91/2B, New Survey No.144/40, 144/31, 144/32, Perumal Kovil Street, Anantheri Village, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu-602026. Bounded By: North by - Street, South by - Padma Plot, East by - Sekar Plot, West by - Ramesh House.	04-12-2025	1,629,736	05-02-2026
12.	Majeeth Sulthan, Nasira Begam Majeeth,	House-New T.S.No.1339/17 & 1339/18, T.S.No.1339/1, Ward.No.6, Block.No.39, Plot.No.29, Sri Shanmuga Nagar, Vanniyarpalayam Village, Cuddalore Municipality, Cuddalore Joint I SRO, Cuddalore RD,Cuddalore,Tamil Nadu-607001. Bounded By: North by - Private Property, South by - Plot No.28, East by - Layout South North Road, West by - Municipal Road.	04-12-2025	1,870,190	05-02-2026
13.	Nagarajan Dhasarathan, Loganayagi Dhasarathan, Dhasarathan Varatharajan,	House-S.No. 372/1, Patta No. 256, New S.No. 372/1A1A, Plot No. 6 South Part, R.R. Nagar, Vellanur Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District,Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu-600062. Bounded By: North by - Remaining Land in Plot No.6, South by - 30 Feet Wide Road, East by - 30 Feet Wide Road, West by - Plot No.1.	04-12-2025	858,304	05-02-2026
14.	Elangesh Muthu S, Thillaikani S,	Flat-Plot No.77 (Part) & Plot No.78 (Part), Old S.No.20, Then S.No.20/3, New S.Nos.20/11B(Part), 20/1B(Part) & 20/3A(Part), Residential Flat, bearing Flat No.K, nd Floor Situated at Iyyenchery Village, Chengalpattu Taluk & District,Kancheepuram,Tamil Nadu-603202. Bounded By: North by - 30 Feet Road, South by - Property belonged to Rajamani Ammal, East by - Plot No.77 (Part) Belonged to M/s.Projana Housing Pvt Ltd, West by - Plot No.78 (Part),Belonged to Mr.Perumal.	04-12-2025	2,643,698	05-02-2026
15.	Suganya Sekar, Manikandan Ayyanar,	Flat-Plot No.79B,Old S.No.370/3C16, New S.No.467/50B, Residential Flat, Flat No.S1, nd Floor Guru Apartments Ganesh Nagar Kayarambedu Village, Chengalpattu Taluk District,Chengalpattu,Tamil Nadu-603202. Bounded By: North by - Plot Nos. 73, 74 and Shop Site, South by - Plot No. 79A, East by - Existing Road (30 Feet Wide Road), West by - Plot No. 78.	04-12-2025	2,291,743	05-02-2026
16.	Ganapathy Elumalai, Sagunthala Elumalai,	House-Comprised in Grama Natham Old S.No.341/3, New S.No.632/6, measuring with an extent of 1090 Sq.ft., or 101 Sq.mtr., Situated at Chinnakavanam-II, Madimaikandigal Village, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur Distric,Thiruvallur,Tamil Nadu-601204. Bounded BY: North by - Lane, South by - Remining Land in s.no. 632/6, East by - Canal, West by - Land & House belongs to Mr. Manika Reddyar & Mr. Elumalai Reddyar.	04-12-2025	514,798	05-02-2026

The borrower having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ Guarantor 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 rule on the date mentioned above.

The **BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS** and the **PUBLIC IN GENERAL** are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above referred Properties/Secured Assets or any part thereof and any dealing with the said Properties/Secured Assets shall be subject to charge of HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED for the amount mentioned hereinabove against Properties/Secured Assets which is payable with the further interest thereon until payment in full.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Place: Chennai
Date: 09-02-2026

Authorised Officer,
Home First Finance Company India Limited

