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## Dance

**Bharatanatyam:** As part of MES Kaladevi Dance Festival, Sheshadri Iyengar will perform a repertoire choreographed by his teacher, the late KJ Sarasa. In fact, Sarasa has also trained leading exponents like Padmini Ravi. **Today, at MPL Shastri Auditorium, 6.30pm**



## Art

**Best of Ranga:** An exhibition of 70 caricatures by the late NK Ranga aka Ranganathan are on display. This collection of local and international celebrities is rare as each picture is autographed by the people in the drawings. **Today, at Indian Institute of Cartoonists, 10am to 6pm**



## Traders Plan Grand Opening On Monday



After a fire tragedy, BBMP planned to demolish the old structure of Russell Market, a multi-storeyed building, which will have basement parking

## Traders decide to rebuild market, civic body upset

Upset that traders demolish the market by external affairs minister even donated Rs 1 crore to raise the old structure new multi-storeyed building with basement parking (traders) two floors. The move is not feasible as it poses and below that Mohammed Idrees, Market Traders Association

weak structure. The agency did not issue a no-objection certificate to traders, despite Bescom renewing the electrical wiring and connections of the entire building.

On Friday too, the deputy mayor continued to say the BBMP intends converting the building into a three-floor one with basement parking. "We renovated the KR Market where we did not do any major changes but got better and safer facilities for traders while retaining the aesthetic look," Harish said.



Ideally, maintenance of the market and parking for customers should be taken up by both BBMP and traders. But whether the market's charm can be preserved after renovation is a question mark. It's an iconic building and part of the ethnic culture of people who live around it. It's not possible for BBMP to maintain cleanliness of the market with the meagre tax paid by traders. The tax is very low and fixed ages ago. To develop the area, traders and occupants must think of parking and cleanliness, but if BBMP thinks adding floors to the building will help, they are not quite right.

— Zafar Saifi | GREAT-GRANDSON OF HAJEE SIR ISMAIL SAIFI

## HC: Give khata, don't insist on betterment fee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** Here is cheering news for lakhs of property owners in the newly added areas of BBMP.

The high court on Friday made it clear that the BBMP cannot deny registration of khata in favour of citizens on the plank of non-payment of betterment charges.

Justice BS Patil set aside the differential rates of improvement (betterment) charges fixed by the civic body by terming them 'arbitrary and unreasonable'.

Disposing of 300 petitions challenging the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Recovery of Improvement Expenses) Rules, 2009, the judge directed BBMP to register khata in the event land owners have satisfied all other legal requirements.

"Rule 5, which provides for collection of improvement expenses at the time of registration of khata, is set aside only to the extent that it provides for recovery of amount at the time of registration," the court has said.

However, the judge upheld the validity of all other provisions of the Rules, including the provision for collecting betterment charges retrospectively from January 1, 2007. The Rules were notified in March 2, 2010.

The court is of the view that the provision made in the Rules for collecting the full sum runs contrary to the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act and has declared the same as illegal.



The high court observed that differential rates of improvement fixed for different sites based on the dimensions are arbitrary and unreasonable as it cannot be held that owners of smaller sites/lands are always economically weak

The court also observed that the differential rates of improvement fixed for different sites based on the dimensions are arbitrary and unreasonable as it cannot be held that owners of smaller sites/lands are always economically weak and invariably utilize lesser infrastructure.

"Many areas were part of villages on the outskirts and many agriculturists, who owned lands, might have got them converted and the areas became a part of the newly constituted BBMP. They (land owners) will have to now shell out huge amount towards improvement expenses at higher rates because they possess large sites/properties," the judge has said while reserving liberty to BBMP to undertake the exercise afresh of quantifying the betterment charges and the collection.

The BBMP had fixed rates ranging from Rs 150 per sqm to Rs 400 per sqm for sites of various dimensions.

## Notice on plea against mayoral roster