

CITY



EXPRESS



SALUTE TO A LEGEND

Soon after B V Karanth's 85th birth anniversary, his proteges share memories

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WORDS OF WISDOM

A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge

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OUR WEEKLY FILM REVIEW

Shashanka Ghosh's *Khoobsurat* is a series of pretty selfies. Our verdict: it is a one-time watch

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HOME LOANS FOR WOMEN

International Finance Corporation plans to give more funds to women looking for home loans

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100 cam-equipped chowkis coming up



The group spends ₹1 lakh on each chowki, and is committed to their maintenance as well. In return, it gets mentions and advertising space

A private group funding the outposts believes they will help keep an eye on busy streets, and provide shelter to the police

by A Sharadhaa

Bangalore: A real estate group is setting up 100 police chowkis with hidden cameras across the city.

They help citizens find protection in hitherto unpoliced areas, and allow the police to monitor the city more closely, according to Hisham Syed Tamiz of Ezzy group, which describes itself as a "luxury real estate brand".

"These mini police stations will be manned 24/7 and equipped with a camera which will later be connected to the central monitoring centre," he told *Express*.

The group handed over 10 chowkis to the Yelahanka police as requested by the

BUT IS IT A GOOD IDEA?

Constant surveillance by the police is not good for citizens. It could turn out to be a problem for street vendors. Even otherwise, it is not healthy for our everyday life to be constantly monitored by the police. In such initiatives, corporates also have their own interests in mind. State functioning should be unblemished by any private interest and such services should be initiated by the government. Involvement by the private sector should be minimised.

— Gowthaman Ranganathan, *Alternative Law Forum*

Yelahanka United Environment Association (YUVA). It plans to instal 100 chowkis across many neighbourhoods.

The outpost also works as a shelter for policemen on duty. The group spends ₹1 lakh on each chowki, and is committed to their maintenance as well. In return, it gets mentions and advertising space.

In addition to the chowkis in Yelahanka, the group has installed six in Bangalore South and five in Bangalore Central and Cantonment put together.

"People who feel they need security can approach us through the police department and we will set up a chowki," said Tamiz.

The group is also looking at "downtrodden areas".

Three 'permanent' chowkis, of the ones now installed, are made of hollow bricks.

"Every day, we read and watch news about crime. Police outposts deter criminals," he said.

Tamiz says the hidden cameras would help the police in cases where they don't have witnesses.

According to Jagadeesh, joint secretary of YUVA, the chowkis are now functioning in Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka Old Town and at the entrance of Judicial Layout.

M R Thirtaraj, assistant commissioner of police, said, "Police cannot sit on the roads as they are on duty for long hours. These chowkis help them work better."