



# THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS



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COVER STORY



**FROM ROCKY TO ROCKSTAR**  
The upcoming biopic on Sanjay Dutt reveals his journey from a debutant in cinema to a drug addict to a living legend

**A THOUSAND UNTOLD STORIES**  
Odia sculptor Biswajita Moharana has made her art a tool to sensitise people on female foeticide



**FRIENDS OF THE FELINE**  
Pune-based ecologist Vidya Athreya is mentoring people to foster a peaceful coexistence between the man and the big cat

**THE TRAVELLER'S PLANET**  
From glamping to food tours and wellness vacations to voluntarism, the Indian traveller is spoilt for choice. He is ready to go the extra mile and foray into the unknown — be it Mawlynnong or Morocco

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## This sarkari school gives private institutions a run for their money

A number of children have switched over to the state-run school from private institutions

### How magnanimity can make difference

Industrialist and alumnus Ajit Kumar Rai donated a three-storey building worth Rs 1.25 crore to Vittla school

**Sri Sathya Sai Annapurna Seva Trust provides breakfast to students everyday**

Alumni formed a committee and recruited 11 teachers and three helpers and pay them



Students at the Government Model Higher Primary School at Vittla

**It is the first time that I have seen even Christian children joining the government after quitting a convent school**

- Vishwanath Gowda, headmaster, Vittla school



Students of the government have van facility too.

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

WHILE many government schools in the state are suffering from want of students, the one at Vittla in Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district sees parents queue up to admit their wards.

During the current academic year, 203 students have taken fresh admissions to classes 1-9 at the Government Model Higher Primary School taking its strength to 736, compared to last year's 534. This apart, the nursery opened at this school last year has seen its strength go up from 86 to 203 this year.

What's more surprising is the government school is giving several private schools in its vicinity a run for their money. At least 25 students from four private schools have joined the government school this year; a trend which is rare elsewhere. So much was the rush for admis-

sions that the headmaster had to convince people of neighbouring villages to admit their wards to their nearby government schools.

The turnaround of the school is attributed to the improvement in the physical infrastructure and quality in teaching. Six months ago, Ajit Kumar Rai, an industrialist and an alumnus of the school donated a three-storey building worth Rs 1.25 crore to his alma mater. Many other alumni also joined him to contribute their might to the school. As a result, the school acquired the characteristics of a private institution complete with school bus, computer and science laboratories, library and English speaking course and extra-curricular activities like karate, music and Bharatanatyam. Sri Sathya Sai Annapurna Seva Trust provides breakfast to the students everyday. The school alumni who formed a committee

have also recruited 11 teachers and three helpers and pay them.

Headmaster Vishwanath Gowda said 125 students have taken admissions to class 1 this year till Saturday. The fresh admissions to other classes are: Second standard (10), third (12), fourth (5), sixth (50), seventh (13) and eighth (16). He said he has been serving in the school for more than two decades and it is the first time that he has seen even Christian children joining the government after quitting a convent school.

He said the 15 permanent and one temporary teachers of the school are dedicated and hold extra classes even during holidays.

Narayan Gowda, BRC, Bantwal, said the school is a good example that state-run schools can still attract students. He a proposal has been sent to the authorities to sanction five more teachers to the school.