

Dowry has also become a symbol of prestige



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Dowry is not a 'gift', a 'return gift', an 'exchange' or a 'reciprocal gesture'. The problem of dowry has become a serious social evil among the upper castes and middle classes both in towns and villages. One woman dies every hour due to dowry-related problems on an average in India, which has seen a steady rise in such cases between 2007 and 2011, according to official data. In India, dowry is traditionally used as a way of displaying and increasing a family's status. As the daughter mirrors the status of her family, it is also seen as a way to preserve the family honour. With the increase in wealth of those of a lower social status, more families can now afford to give a dowry, and families of a lower social status often use it to emulate the behaviour and status of the upper classes. Dowry System is the one of the worst problem in Indian Society. It does not only affect the individual victims, the brides, but the entire social fabric which was created to help realize the aspirations of both the individuals and the collective. The brides as sacrificial goats only show the canker that spreads all over this social fabric. Women's organisations in India have moved away from anti-dowry campaigning and focused more on increasing women's independence through better access to healthcare and advice, education and employment, and encouraging women to take on political roles. Dowry violence in India is not limited to the uneducated or the poor; it infects all socioeconomic strata. Among the wealthy, the "market value" of grooms is paid via cash, commodities and property. "The richest in

Delhi pay for their daughter's husband in the form of a Mercedes, furnished apartments and hard cash". Marriage without dowry has become almost unthinkable. It is considered a matter of dignity to give more dowry than one's kinsmen and caste-fellows and others. The dowry tradition impacts a woman's health through all her life stages. Before birth, it comes in the form of sex-selective abortions. During the first few years of her life, it manifests itself in infanticide, malnutrition, illiteracy and abuse. As adolescents, girls are often overworked and not given opportunities because they are considered a financial burden. Once married, many women have to deal with the physical, emotional or financial violence that can lead to mental health issues. The practice of paying dowries in India is based on ancient tradition. It was originally a Hindu religious requirement in the Manusmriti, a text dating to 1500 BC that delineated the way of life and laws for Hindus. Among the ancient Hindus, presenting gifts to each other during a wedding was a required cultural practice. The daughter's father was expected to give the bride's family a cow and a bull. When the question of marrying the girls comes, the parents are the unhappiest creatures on earth. The only problem is not to find a groom suitable for the girl, but to meet demand of dowry. Even after the marriage the bride's parents have to shut their mouth in front of the groom and his family. Many times often girl is tortured, slighted and humiliated for no fault of hers but because the dowry she brings is not rich enough. The custom is that the bridegroom's parents would be made richer and the bride's the poorer, so the bride must suffer if the dowry fails to make the bridegroom's parents rich. The number of deaths under this category of crime against women was 8,618 in 2011 but the overall conviction rate was 35.8 per cent, slightly above the 32 per cent conviction rate recorded in the latest data for 2012. The number of dowry deaths in the country has seen a steady growth during the period between 2007 and 2011. While in 2007, 8,093 such deaths were reported, the

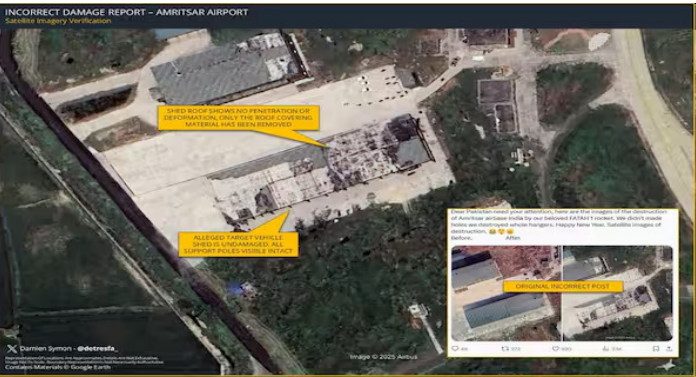
numbers rose to 8,172 and 8,383 in 2008 and 2009 respectively. The National Crime Records Bureau of India reported more than 10,000 dowry deaths in 2016 in other words, one wife is killed every 60 minutes. However, since social and cultural taboos discourage women from reporting cases, the 8,233 cases represent only the tip of a predominantly submerged iceberg. The legal system in India technically has multiple provisions to deal with dowry giving and the violence associated with it. In 1961, the Dowry Prohibition Act made demanding or giving a dowry as a pre-condition for marriage unlawful. Sections 498a of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) decrees that any death of a woman within the first seven years of the marriage will be considered by default to be because of dowry harassment; and Section 304b IPC deals with cruelty against the bride. Both laws were meant to serve as preventive measures-but the chasm between legal policies and implementation remains large and difficult to cross. It appears that brides are not humans, they do not have the feelings or dreams or natural desire to be loved. The husbands and the in-laws treat them as mere bundles of rich dowry. Unfortunately this attitude to the brides has proved demoralizing enough to have their hopes withered and the dreams blighted. Today many of the grooms only dream of netting of the bigger fish and if the brides are found to be bringing with them a small fortune they feel deceived and frustrate. Dowry may be broadly defined as gifts and valuables received in marriage by the bride, the bridegroom and his relatives. The amount of dowry is regulated by factors like boy's service and salary, social and economic status of the girl's father, the social prestige of the boy's family, educational qualifications of the girl and the boy, girl's working and her salary, girl's and boy's beauty and features, future prospects of economic security, size and the composition of the girl's and boy's family and factors like that. Dowry has also become a symbol of prestige for both the dowry-givers and the dowry-takers. (B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad - 380 015)

Fake photos, real threats: Pakistan's doctored imagery and the future of conflict

A few days ago, Pakistan placed satellite images in the public domain, claiming these as evidence of damage inflicted by Pakistani missile, drone, and standoff air attacks on Indian military facilities—particularly in and around Amritsar—during the brief 88-hour conflict with India in May 2025. Many people I speak to remain dismayed by these claims, made fully eight months after the conflict, that significant damage was caused to Indian defence infrastructure in Punjab and other border areas. The common reaction is dismissive: everyone knows these are lies and half-truths. India's missiles and aircraft struck their intended targets; Pakistan failed to achieve its objectives. Why would anyone believe otherwise? This reaction, widespread and emotionally satisfying, nevertheless reflects a worrying naivety about the nature of contemporary information warfare.

The problem is not whether these claims are true. The problem is how lies and 'no-truths' work in the information domain—and how easily they embed themselves when repeated, visualised, and amplified. In modern conflict, narrative control is not an adjunct to military action; it is a parallel battlespace. Pakistan understands this instinctively. Somehow, we may have been tardy in understanding this.

People obviously do not have the means to analyse satellite imagery. They do not examine metadata, shadow angles, resolution mismatches, or post-processing artefacts. They do not even seek corroboration because it does not occur to them that their minds could be taken for a ride. Human psychology tends to accept information that appears



authoritative, visual, and repeated. Information warfare exploits precisely this vulnerability—not to convince everyone, but to plant doubt, generate peripheral questioning, and weaken confidence in official versions. That is the real objective of Pakistan's doctored imagery. Tongue-in-cheek—the term 'doctored' will soon apply more to information warfare than even the medical profession from where it is borrowed. The target is not only the Indian public. It includes Pakistan's own elite, its strategic community, diaspora networks, and—critically—segments of the international audience that absorb such claims casually, through social media, office conversations, or media chatter. Once repeated enough times, half-truths acquire the glaze of truth. Pakistan's strategic culture has long relied on this method.

In 1965, Pakistan failed in its attempt to seize Jammu and Kashmir through an instigated rebellion preceded by proxy infiltration. Yet September 6 is commemorated annually as "Defence Day" or "Victory Day". For six decades, this narrative has been reinforced domestically and presented diplomatically, embedding a selective memory among foreign interlocutors posted in Islamabad.

In 1971, Pakistan suffered a catastrophic defeat, surrendered over 93,000 prisoners of war, and lost half the country. Yet a persistent internal narrative claims that the "real war" was fought in the western sector, where

outcomes were supposedly inconclusive. Strategic humiliation was reframed as moral resilience.

In 1999, Pakistan denied the involvement of its regular forces in Kargil, insisting that "mujahideen" had occupied the heights in a spontaneous uprising. Despite extensive documentation to the contrary, this version still circulates in official and semi-official discourse. Deception was followed by denial, and denial by narrative entrenchment.

The current episode—doctored satellite imagery claiming damage to Indian defence installations—belongs to the same tradition. But it also represents something more dangerous. This is not just about Pakistan. It is about the future of conflict in the age of artificial intelligence.

As AI-driven image generation, enhancement, and manipulation advance, the line between truth and falsehood will blur further. Deepfakes, synthetic satellite imagery, manipulated battlefield visuals, and fabricated damage assessments will become indistinguishable to the untrained eye. In such an environment, truth will not be self-evident. It will require context, expertise, and trust—all of which are under assault in today's information ecosystem. Information warfare of this kind aims to erode public confidence, induce strategic fatigue, and fragment societal consensus. It does not seek immediate belief; it seeks delayed doubt. Over time, that doubt weakens national resolve, complicates decision-making, and

constrains strategic options. This is why focusing only on exposing the technical flaws in Pakistan's imagery misses the larger point. The question is not whether these images are fake. It is whether India is institutionally prepared for a future in which fakes are indistinguishable from reality.

First, India must recognise cognitive warfare as a national security issue, not merely a media or cyber concern. This demands institutional ownership at the highest levels, integrating information integrity into security planning. Second, there is a need for credible, independent analytical capacity—publicly visible and professionally trusted—that can rapidly assess and contextualise contested imagery and claims. Silence creates space for falsehood to spread; reactive rebuttals often arrive too late. Some knowledgeable media are making brave efforts themselves, but without official backing, credibility remains questionable.

Third, strategic communication must become proactive rather than defensive. Transparency, consistency, and restraint build credibility over time. In information warfare, trust is cumulative—and once lost, extremely difficult to restore.

Finally, and most importantly, society itself must be sensitised. Media literacy, critical consumption of information, and awareness of manipulation techniques are no longer optional civic skills. In the AI age, the battlefield extends into the mind of every citizen. Pakistan's doctored satellite imagery is a preview.

Future conflicts may be fought as much through fabricated visuals and engineered narratives as through missiles and manoeuvre. Nations that fail to prepare for this cognitive domain risk losing not battles—but belief. And once belief is lost, deterrence, cohesion, and strategic autonomy also follow.

Rapist Asaram's Ahmedabad address will be destroyed

Bulldozers will turn on the ashram built on land worth 500 crores; High Court allows taking back more than 45,000 sq m of land

Ahmedabad, Rapist Asaram's Ahmedabad address will now be destroyed. Bulldozers will again turn on the ashram built on land worth 500 crores. Yes... the High Court has allowed the state government to take back more than 45,000 sq m of land belonging to Asaram's ashram in Motera, near the world's largest cricket stadium on the banks of Sabarmati.

The Gujarat High Court has upheld the state government's move to take back over 45,000 square metres of public land from Asaram's ashram. The disputed land is located in a prime location in Ahmedabad. Located next to the Narendra Modi Stadium and Sardar Patel Sports Complex, Motera has established itself as the focal point of the city's sporting and urban future. Getting this land back is crucial as Ahmedabad prepares for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and nurtures its long-term dreams of hosting the Olympics.

Land allotted for religious use gradually exceeded its legal limits - The state

authorities had presented a strong factual basis before the court that the land allotted decades ago for only limited religious use had gradually exceeded its legal limits. The conditions attached to the allotment of land were clear that no commercial activity would take place on it, no unauthorised construction would take place and the necessary permissions would be strictly followed. However, during the investigation, it was revealed that extensive construction and occupation had taken place on much more land than allotted. What gave more weight to the state's case was that the ashram itself had repeatedly filed applications to regularise the unauthorised construction.

The ashram was served notices several times.

The state government's senior public prosecutor, G.H. Virk, who appeared for the state government, argued that this was not a sudden step or administrative excess. But the result of a fair, patient decision-making process. He said that the ashram was

served notices more than legally required, one hearing after another. The state government also made it clear that the attempt to encroach on public land inch by inch and then legalize it cannot be acceptable. Over 30 illegal structures regularisation applications rejected - As public concern over land misuse grew, authorities also took action. Recently, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had rejected applications to regularise over 30 illegal structures in an ashram in Motera, making it clear that illegal constructions cannot be regularised, especially in such a sensitive urban area. Following this High Court verdict, the vast land, which had been stuck in a legal limbo for a long time, is now on the verge of coming back under the control of the state government. The case was directed to be disposed of in the Appellate Authority.

As many as 32 illegal constructions have been made in the Asaram Ashram, built on land worth Rs 500 crore, which the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had issued a notice to remove. Then on January 21, 2026, the AMC rejected the Ashram's impact fee application and directed to dispose of the case

in the Appellate Authority.

The Ashram had submitted an impact fee for approval in response to a notice issued by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, which was rejected by the Municipal Corporation. The case was placed before the Appellate Authority of the Court.

In which, the Legal Committee, which met on January 21, was instructed to appoint a lawyer from the Municipal Corporation and immediately dispose of the case. 2 years ago, Bhaskar had said that occupied land worth Rs 500 crore, including Asaram Ashram, would be vacated for the Olympic Games. Asaram Ashram issued notice to vacate the land it was forced to occupy.

The state government, in a survey conducted as part of preparations for building an Olympic Village near the Narendra Modi Stadium, found that land worth crores of rupees had been occupied by Asaram Ashram, Bharatiya Seva Samaj and Sadashiv Ashram. The government had also issued notices to around 150 residential houses in addition to these three ashrams. A total of 15,778 square meters of land including Asaram Ashram will be vacated.



TRUHOME FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Ltd.)
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APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF 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 Truhome Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited), the Physical Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Truhome Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of the balance due to Truhome Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property, reserve price and earnest money deposit and date of inspection are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
(1) Gulab Rabbani Juman Ansari And (2) Sakina Khatun All Having address at :-C/o Vaishnodevi Bholanath Yadav No.6 & 7, First Floor, Noble Market, Bhadkodra, Ankleshwar, Dist- Bharuch-393001. Also at:-At. Charankhiya P.O. Navada-233, Hajariabag, Jharkhand-825312 Also At-Shop no. 1, Super Market, N.H.8, Bhadkodra, Ankleshwar, Dist-Bharuch-393001 Also At:-Plot No. 71, Pratistha Residency, Nr. Navjivan Hotel, S.no. 198, N.H.8, Kapodra, Ankleshwar, Dist- Bharuch-393001. LAN:- SHLHBRUH00000002	Demand Notice Date: 12/06/2025 Rs. 6,56,240/- (Rupees Six Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty only) as on 09/06/2025 under reference of loan account no. SHLHBRUH00000002 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice	Rs. 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Only) Bid Increment: Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs.) Rs. 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Only) Last date for submission of EMD : 11/03/2026, Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m	12-MAR-2026 Auction Time: 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.	Debiyoti Roy - 98747 02021 Sandip Mahajan 99989 44955 Property Inspection date- 10/02/2026, Time.11 AM to 1 PM
Description of Property Non agriculture plot of land in mauje Kapodra, Ankleshwar lying being land bearing Revenue Survey No. 198 admeasuring 26,102 Sq.mt. Known as PRATISTHA RESIDENCY" paikki PLOT NO. 71 Admeasuring 44.59 sq.mtrs. i.e. 480 Sq.ft. at Registration District Bharuch & Sub district Ankleshwar District Bharuch, Which is Bounded as follow:- Boundaries (As per Documents):- North : Adj. Plot No. 70. South : Adj. Plot No. 72. East : Adj. Property's backyard. West : Adj. Society Road.				
Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
(1) Anilkumar Dayaram Kushwaha, And (2) Umadevi Kushwaha All Having address at :- 608, Shreenathji Tower Golden Arce, Damruwadi sanjan road, Umbergaon-396170. Also at:-@Uma Synthetics Darshan Engineering plot no. 710 3, GIDC Umbergaon-396171 Also At:-Flat no. 302, 3rd Floor, Sahyog Residency, Nr. Royal Residency, Umbergaon-396171 Also At:-242-25 EWS Colony, Nr Pani Tanki,Gandiwadi Umbergaon-396171. LAN:- SHLHVAPI0000291	Demand Notice Date: 15/03/2025 Rs. 12,51,071/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty One Thousand Seventy One Only) as on 11/03/2025 under reference of loan account no. SHLHVAPI0000291 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice	Rs. 12,56,300/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Only) Bid Increment: Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs.) Rs. 1,25,630/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Only) Last date for submission of EMD : 11/03/2026, Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m	12-MAR-2026 Auction Time: 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.	Debiyoti Roy - 98747 02021 Sandip Mahajan 99989 44955 Property Inspection date- 10/02/2026, Time.11 AM to 1 PM
Description of Property All That Piece and parcel of the immovable property being Residential Flat no. 302 admeasuring about 739.00 sq.feet i.e. 68.68 sq.mtrs., Super Built up area , along with undivided share in land admeasuring about 10.00 sq.mtrs., lying and located on the 3rd floor (Unit no. 1 on third floor towards north as per approved layout plan) of building known as "SAHYOG RESIDENCY" Constructed on N.A. land bearing survey no. 112/Paiki 1/ Paiki 53 admeasuring about 6 hector 5 are 97 sq.mtrs. Situated at Village Umbergaon,, Taluka Umbergaon, District Valsad. Boundaries of the said property :- East : By Road. West : By Flatno. 301. North : By Common Plot. South : By Flat no. 303				
1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the website of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) website. 2) The intending bidders have to submit their EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME: AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH: BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI BANK ACCOUNT NO. Current Account No. 911020045677633 IFSC CODE: UTIB0000230. 3) The mortgagors/borrowers are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest before auction, failing which secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. 4) Please note that the secured creditor is going to issue the sale notice to all the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors by speed/ registered post. In case the same is not received by any of the parties, then this publication of sale notice may be treated as a substituted mode of service.				
Place : Surat, Vapi-Valsad Date : 09-02-2026			Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited)	