



## एनआरएचएम घोटाला सीबीआई को मिली छह माह की मोहलत

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

वाराणसी। एनआरएचएम घोटाले की जांच के लिए सीबीआई अभी और छह माह पूर्वाचल में रहेगी। कारण अभी पांच प्रमुख योजनाओं की पड़ताल होनी बाकी है। ऐसे में, इस दौरान टीम 16 अधिकारियों से पूछताछ के साथ सभी संबंधित योजनाओं के बाबत विभिन्न स्थलों पर छापेमारी कर भौतिक सत्यापन कर साक्ष्य जुटाने का काम करेगी।

बता दें कि सीबीआई टीम ने बनारस और आजमगढ़ मंडलों में एनआरएचएम के तहत स्वीकृत योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन की जांच 13 जनवरी से शुरू की थी। तब उम्मीद थी कि अप्रैल तक काम पूरा हो जाएगा, लेकिन अधिकारियों और वांछितों से पूछताछ, फाइलों के सूक्ष्म अध्ययन और भौतिक सत्यापन में

- अब सितंबर तक जांच एजेंसी की टीम रहेगी बनारस में
- पांच योजनाओं पर 16 अफसरों से होगी पूछताछ

काफी समय लग रहा है। ऐसे में सीबीआई ने कोर्ट से और छह माह की मोहलत हासिल कर ली है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, योजना के तहत दोनों मंडलों को मिले एक अरब से अधिक की धनराशि के खर्च की जांच होनी है। टीम अभी तक चार पूर्व सीएमओ और तीन ठेकेदारों से पूछताछ कर चुकी है, अभी 16 अधिकारियों से पूछताछ होनी है।



# सीबीआई ने की पूछताछ

## एनआरएचएम घोटाले की जांच कर रही है सीबीआई

■ एजेंसी।

इलाहाबाद। एनआरएचएम घोटाले की जांच कर रही सीबीआई टीम दूसरे दिन भी मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी कार्यालय पर जमी रही। टीम के सदस्यों ने सीएमओ और कई सीएचसी-पीएचसी प्रभारियों से पूछताछ की। इससे कार्यालय पर अफरा-तफरी का माहौल रहा। सीबीआई के आने की जानकारी होने पर कई कर्मचारी कार्यालय के बाहर जमे रहे।

इस दौरान परिसर का गेट बंद रहा। प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के तहत हुए अरबों रुपये के घोटाले की जांच करने शनिवार को सीबीआई की टीम इलाहाबाद पहुंची

थी। टीम के सदस्य घंटों जरूरी फाइलें पलटते रहे। साथ ही सीएमओ से कुछ जरूरी जानकारियां भी जुटायीं थीं। इसके बाद लगा कि टीम यहां से लौट गई, परंतु रविवार की सुबह 11 बजे टीम के सदस्य पुनः सीएमओ कार्यालय पहुंचे।

दोपहर 12 बजे के बाद सीएमओ सहित गंगा व यमुनापार के आधा दर्जन सीएचसी-पीएचसी प्रभारियों को तलब किया गया, उनसे एनआरएचएम के तहत हुए कार्यों से जुड़ी जरूरी जानकारी प्राप्त की गई। विभागीय सूत्रों के अनुसार सीबीआई टीम को कार्यों में कुछ खामियां नजर आयी हैं, जिसे उन्होंने एक फाइल में अलग से नोट किया। सीएमओ डॉ. आरके श्रीवास्तव ने कार्रवाई के बारे



में खुलकर कुछ बोलने से इंकार कर दिया, कहा कि यह सामान्य प्रक्रिया

है जिसे सीबीआई समय-समय पर पूरा करने यहां आती है।■

**मौसम के बदले मिजाज, किसानों की बड़ी परेशानी**

भदोही। मौसम के बदलते मिजाज को देखते हुए किसानों के हाथ पांव तेज चलने लगे हैं। जल्द से जल्द मड़ाई कर अनाज सुरक्षित करने के लिए किसान दिन रात एक किए हुए हैं। हालांकि इसके लिए उन्हें भारी कीमत भी चुकानी पड़ रही है।

लगभग दो सप्ताह से बिगड़े मौसम के मिजाज ने किसानों की नींद हराम करके रख दिया है। यही कारण है कि किसान अपने अन्य जरूरी काम रोक कर फसल की मड़ाई करने में तेजी से जुटे हैं। हालांकि पिछले दिनों हुई तेज बरसात के बाद अधिकतर लोग बोझ फैलाकर सुखाने

में लगे हैं, जबकि जिनकी फसलें सूख गई हैं वे तेजी के साथ मड़ाई कर अनाज घर में सुखित कर लेना चाहते हैं। इसके लिए किसान अब बिजली के भरोसे नहीं बल्कि अपने संसाधनों से मड़ाई कार्य कर रहे हैं। भले ही इसके लिए उन्हें अधिक धन खर्च करना पड़ रहा है। बताया जा रहा है कि उमड़ धुमड़ रहे बादलों को देखते हुए किसान पहले की अपेक्षा दोगुने पैसे देकर मजदूरों से काम ले रहे हैं, जबकि ट्रैक्टर मशीनों पर प्रति घंटा 300 की जगह 450 रुपए देना पड़ रहा है। मड़ाई में तेजी से जुटे अमरनाथ पाल का कहना है कि

मौसम का कोई भरोसा नहीं है। कब बारिश हो जाए तथा कब तूफान किसानों को बरबाद कर दे कुछ कहा नहीं जा सकता। यही कारण है कि जब तक मौसम साफ है, जितना हो सके मड़ाई का कार्य पूरा कर लिया जाए। मौसम के मिजाज को देखते हुए मड़ाई में जोर-शोर से जुटे किसान शनिवार की रात हुई बूदाबूदा से हलकान हैं, जबकि रविवार को दिन भर चले सूरज की खुका छिपी के खेल ने किसानों की पेशानी पर बल डाल दिया है। कहा जा रहा है कि अब बारिश हो गई तो किसानों के लिए किसी कयामत से कम नहीं होगी।■





# Helpless Jairam puts blinkers on graft in NREGS

By Anup Dutta  
in Bhopal

UNION rural development minister Jairam Ramesh on Sunday threw in the towel on large-scale corruption in the UPA government's flagship programme, the national rural employment guarantee scheme (NREGS).

Conceding his inability to check the looting of NREGS funds, Ramesh said at the state Congress headquarters in Bhopal: "My hands are tied. I cannot cross the line. Despite receiving complaints, I cannot order a CBI inquiry for a comprehensive probe into the irregularities."

Realising that his statement could insinuate a nexus that was stopping him from cracking the whip hard on NREGS-related corruption, he quickly added that he was helpless in directly taking action in such cases because of the nation's federal structure.

His remarks came in the wake of a ₹120 crore NREGS scam coming to light in Andhra Pradesh after an audit. This followed the recovery of ₹30 crore.

In Uttar Pradesh, complaints of a free-for-all misappropriation of funds had, in fact, become a political issue between the erstwhile BSP government and the Centre after Ramesh shot a letter to Mayawati.

In Madhya Pradesh, two years ago, a Dalit woman village head was beaten after she refused to pay "commission" from the



Centre-allocated funds for NREGS have often been misappropriated.

## PLAINSPEAK

■ Union minister Jairam Ramesh admits that one cannot rule out discrepancies in the total utilisation of ₹40,000 crore allocated under NREGS last fiscal

■ The minister says it is the responsibility of the states to see that such things do not happen

scheme in Shivpuri district. Ramdulari Jatav, the head of Dongar village council, was stopped at the gates of a bank and told to pay ₹50,000. The offender was Vakila Gurjar, son of the former village headman. She said: "Vakila assaulted me with his gun. I had gone to the bank to withdraw NREGS wage money."

In another incident, IAS officers S. Singh and C. Borkar were charged with misappropriating ₹9 crore between 2006 and 2007. An inquiry revealed that they had released funds for projects that existed only on paper and bulk of the

payments were made to workers on dates such as June 31, which don't exist on a calendar. The state government has yet to take serious action against the two bureaucrats.

Similarly, district collectors K.P. Rahi and S.S. Ali were accused of diverting ₹3 crore of NREGS funds to buy photocopiers and mats for the panchayats in 2008. Again, no action has been

taken against the duo.

All these perhaps prompted Ramesh to request the comptroller and auditor general (CAG) a few months ago for a performance and financial audit of the NREGS. This had sparked bad blood between the Centre and the states, especially Madhya Pradesh where CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan often raised the issue of central discrimination over allocation of funds.

"There is no political motive. It's the CAG who has selected the states on the basis of maximum expenditure under NREGS," he said. He clarified that the flow of funds would continue despite the auditor pointing out irregularities in the scheme.

The Centre can ill-afford to suspend the release of NREGS funds because it would be seen as an attack on federalism, particularly in BJP-ruled states such as Madhya Pradesh. Moreover, Ramesh's ministry was also wary of a further cutdown on NREGS budgetary allocation from ₹40,000 crore in 2011-12 to ₹29,000 crore for this fiscal.

**But Centre can't suspend NREGS fund flow as it will be seen as an attack on federalism**



# CBI to record Gen. statement

**PRAMOD KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 15

The CBI is set to record the statement of Chief of Army Staff General V.K. Singh by Tuesday in connection with its probe related to his allegation that bribes had been offered to him for procurement of nearly 600 "sub-standard" trucks for the Indian Army.

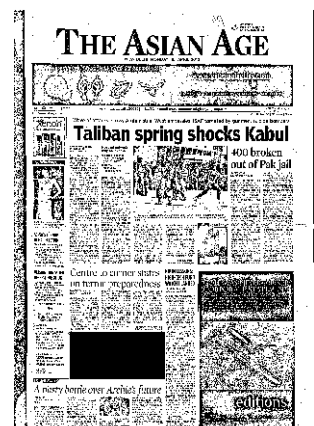


**Gen. V.K. Singh**

Sources in the agency said, "CBI sleuths are in touch with Gen. Singh.

His statement is likely to be recorded by Tuesday. After recording the Army Chief's statement, agency sleuths will also record the statement of a retired official who allegedly met Gen. Singh on September 22, 2010 and offered him a bribe of ₹14 crore for procurement of "sub-standard trucks".

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# CBI has queries for general

**PRAMOD KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 15

Recording the statement of Gen. Singh is part of the agency's probe under the preliminary enquiry (PE). Agency officials will meet the Army Chief to seek clarification on certain other issues related to the Tatra trucks deal in 2010. "We cannot call him for recording the statement," sources said. Without registering a regular case, the CBI does not have the power to call anybody to CBI headquarters for recording a statement, sources clarified. "If the agency decides to convert the existing PE into a regular case, only then can the CBI send summons to people," they said. The CBI on April 11 registered a PE on the Army Chief's complaint alleging that he was offered a bribe. The agency has also prepared a set of questions to be asked of Gen. Singh at the time of record-

ing his statement. The questions include details about his reported communications with the ministry of defence on the Tatra deal in 2010; the role, if any, played by officials of the state-owned BEML and MoD; and also the roles, if any, of other private persons, apart from Ravi Rishi and a retired official, sources added.

CBI officials have also scrutinised photocopies of the communications between the Army and MoD regarding the Tatra trucks deal. "Agency officials want to know whether the Army Chief knew that the Tatra trucks deal agreement signed earlier with the Foreign Trade Corporation of Czechoslovakia, for military vehicles, was fraudulently assigned to Tatra-UK in 1997 by showing it as an original equipment manufacturer and a fully owned subsidiary of the Czech company," sources said.





# CBI 2G heat <sup>TS.</sup> on Malaysia tycoon who 'owns' Aircel

T. ANANDA Krishnan, one of the world's wealthiest persons and Malaysia's richest man, could be in for some serious trouble if he doesn't cooperate with the CBI in the 2G scam case. The case relates to the one in which former telecom minister Dayanidhi Maran is a key accused.

A special 2G court has issued Letters Rogatory (LRs) to four places on the CBI's request for Krishnan, who owns Maxis Communication which has a controlling stake in Aircel. Official sources said if Krishnan does not join their probe, the CBI could start coercive proceedings against him. Their options include freezing his Indian assets, getting Interpol to issue a Red Corner notice against him and even making a request to the Malaysian authorities for his extradition.

The LRs, a request for legal assistance for foreign countries in its probe, would be sent to authorities in Malaysia, where Krishnan is based, the UK, Mauritius and Bermuda, a British Island located in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Besides Maran and Krishnan, the other accused in the case are Maran's elder brother and Sun media group's owner Kalanidhi Maran, Ralph Marshall, a director in Astro All Asia



*T. Ananda Krishnan holds majority stake in Aircel.*

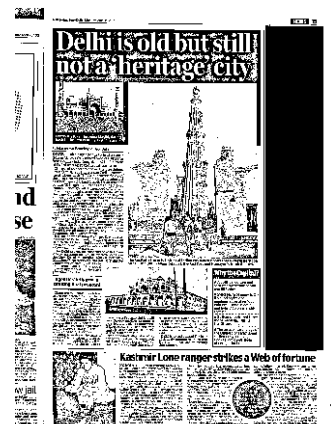
Networks and Maxis Communications and Suneeta Reddy of Apollo Hospitals. Both Krishnan and Marshall are based in Malaysia.

CBI sources said they would be calling Dayanidhi Maran for questioning soon but declined to put a time frame for it. "We will summon Maran once we have put together strong evidence against them so that there is no escape route," an official said.

They said they have gathered evidence to show that he deliberately sat over the licence request of Aircel, when it was owned by C. Sivasankaran, and then issued the company letters of intent soon after Sivasankaran sold off his stake to Krishnan, said to be a friend of the Marans.

Astro network, owned by Krishnan, had invested close to ₹550 crore in Sun Direct, which the agency alleges was a kick-back for the favours bestowed on it by the former telecom minister. It is to follow the money trail that the agency is sending a LR to Bermuda, considered a tax haven.

*Kumar Rakesh/New Delhi*





### AIRCEL-MAXIS DEAL

# CBI seeks money trail details from 4 nations

NEW DELHI, APRIL 15

A special CBI court has issued Letters Rogatory (LRs) to UK, Bermuda, Malaysia and Mauritius seeking details of the money trail in the Aircel-Maxis deal in which former Telecom Minister Dayanidhi Maran is an accused.

The LRs are an attempt by the agency to get details of financial transactions from these four countries that would help in deciphering the money trail in the case.

The CBI has alleged that Maran received Rs 547 crore as kickbacks from Malaysian telecom company Maxis, sources said. The agency is also likely to question Maran in connection with the case this month, they said. These allegations have been refuted by Maran. An email seeking Maxis' comment remained

### MARAN'S 'ROLE'

The CBI has alleged that ex-Telecom Minister Dayanidhi Maran received Rs 547 crore from Malaysian telecom company Maxis and sat over Aircel's licence request

He allegedly deprived Aircel, then owned by C Sivasankaran, the licence since he wanted him to sell it to Ananda Krishnan, who was close to the Marans

Once Maxis took over Aircel; it got licences for 14 circles in a very short span

The agency is likely to question Maran this month

unanswered. The CBI probe has reached the shores of the Caribbean island of Bermuda and the United Kingdom from where the money was allegedly routed to Indian companies. The agency had earlier confined its probe to Malaysia and Mauritius in connection with the alleged

routing of money in the take over of Aircel by Malaysian giant Maxis.

Besides Maran, the CBI had also accused his brother Kalanithi Maran, Sun Direct TV director, Maxis Communication chairman T Ananda Krishnan, senior executive of Astro All Asia



Dayanidhi Maran

Network and Maxis' Ralph Marshall and three companies — Astro All Asia Networks, Sun Direct TV and Maxis Communications — of complicity.

It has been alleged by Aircel former chief C Sivasankaran that Maran as the then Telecom Minister had favoured the Maxis group in the take over of his company and 'that' return 'investments were made by it through Astro Network in Sun TV, owned by the Maran family.

Sources in the CBI alleged that a quid-pro-quo on the part of the then Telecom Minister was established. They also alleged that the probe indicated that there was evidence to suggest that files relating to Sivasankaran were "deliberately" delayed. — PTI





# CBI's hiring plan hits a legal roadblock

**Nagendar Sharma**

■ nagendar.sharma@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is struggling to find enough officers to run its operations.

With every third post of investigators in the country's premier probe agency lying vacant, CBI's desperate attempt to re-employ retired officers has hit a legal roadblock. The law ministry has

shown the rule book to the CBI that could push its plan to tide over the staff crunch by a year.

Based on the opinion of its top law officer, Attorney General GE Vahanvati, the ministry has advised the CBI to "modify the rules" to permit appointment of retired officers on contract basis.

According to official figures, 502 of the 1,343 sanctioned posts of probe officers in the CBI are lying vacant. The CBI recently

wrote to the department for personnel and training (DoPT), which deals with agency's administrative issues, seeking permission to re-employ retired officers.

Since the DoPT is currently being looked after by the PM, his office sought the law ministry's advice on whether those re-employed on contract basis can exercise powers of investigation under the criminal law.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

## CRUNCH TIME

- CBI wants to hire retired officers on contract basis to fill up 502 vacant posts
- PMO seeks law ministry's opinion on whether these officers can be given powers
- Ministry gives nod but tells CBI to modify rules, which could delay hiring by a year

## CBI hiring plan...

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The Attorney General in his opinion stated: "As long as there is no bar in the constitution or rules, there is no infirmity in appointing a retired officer on contract basis to exercise the powers of investigation under the code for criminal procedure."

But what adds to the CBI's misery is his note of caution. "I may point out by way of abundant caution that it would be advisable to modify the rules to permit appointment of retired officers on contract basis to suitably empower them," Vahanvati

said.

This is for the second time in recent days that the CBI attempts to reduce its workload has hit a wall. A similar attempt by the group of ministers (GoM) to tackle corruption, headed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee, to form a panel to review graft cases probed by the CBI pending in trial courts for more than 10 years was snubbed by the Supreme Court. The CBI stated that a total of 7,157 graft cases investigated by it are pending in courts out of which 2,400 are more than a decade old."







## TATRA TRUCK PROCUREMENT SCANDAL

# CBI cauldron boils for BEML chief

RAKESH K SINGH  
NEW DELHI

**B**EML chief VRS Natarajan, who has been summoned by the CBI for examination in the Tatra truck procurement scandal on Tuesday, is likely to face a number of uncomfortable questions from sleuths with regard to the deal between the PSU and a UK-based intermediary firm.

Natarajan has been the CMD for the last one decade and his examination by the CBI assumes significance as he could unravel the complexities involved in the controversial deal.

BEML chairman and managing director (CMD), sources said, will be quizzed on the reasons for entering into an agreement in 1997 for supply of the all terrain vehicles through UK-based Tatra Sipox, an intermediary firm and not an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) in contravention of the defence procurement rules that allow acquisition through OEMs only.

He will also be quizzed on the reasons for renewal of the contract in 2003 despite the



**Natarajan will be quizzed on reasons for renewal of the contract in 2003, despite the CAG report in 2000 pointing out serious lapses in the procurement of the trucks**

CAG in report in 2000 pointing out serious lapses in the procurement of the trucks. In addition, the agency will grill him on 500 trucks (that cost the exchequer ₹80 lakh apiece) lying unused for want of spare parts, 3,000 engines supplied without the necessary gear box and piling up of unwanted inventory.

The BEML boss will also be asked about the action taken by the public sector undertaking after the Comptroller and Auditor General pointed out several

lapses in procurement of the trucks. The agency suspects that as many as 3000 completely knocked down (CKD) kits for the assembly of the trucks were procured and payments have been fully accounted for in BEML books and cost the exchequer huge amounts but did not contain the necessary gearbox.

He is also likely to be posed questions on the issue of indigenisation of components manufacturing. The sleuths may ask him at what stage is the indigenisation of

components (whose charge is with the BEML) and what percentage of indigenised components are fitted in the trucks.

This apart, he will also be quizzed on various aspects of the deal between BEML and the UK-based intermediary firm, including expiry of the 2003 agreement between the defence PSU and Tatra Sipox and until when will the components for these vehicles be on the import list.

The agency is also likely to examine him if the General Staff Qualitative Requirement was downgraded to suit Tatra Sipox for supply of the trucks to Army. As many as 7,000 trucks have been procured so far, including about 5,000 since 1997, the year in which Tatra Sipox arrived on the scene. Earlier, the trucks were procured directly from the iconic Czech company Tatra a.S.

Vectra chairman Ravi Rishi, a named accused in the case has already been questioned several times over the deal between the UK-based company and defence PSU Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML).



# Telangana on boil, but leaders are clueless

9.



SHASHI SHEKHAR

The recent incidents of communal violence in Hyderabad are an indicator of turmoil that lies ahead

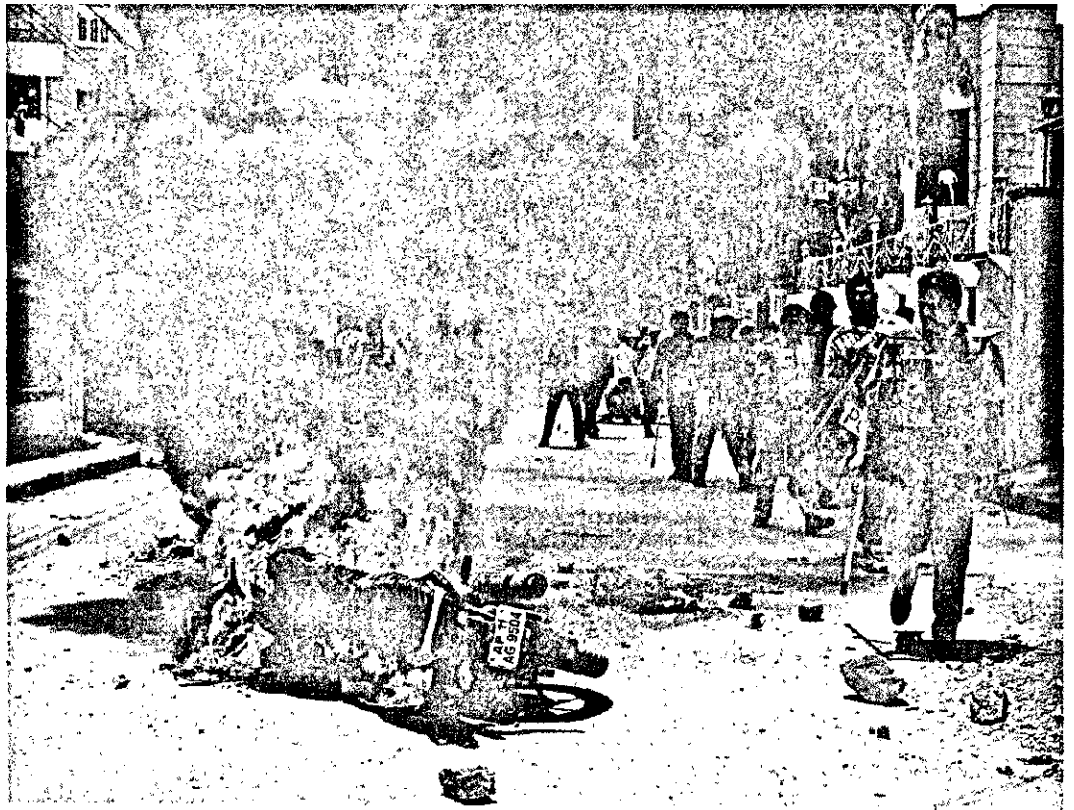
One of film actresses, Urmila Matondkar's early breaks in the Telugu movie industry was a Ram Gopal Verma movie called *Gaayam* made in 1993. The movie also featured Revathi and a less nationally known male lead actor, Jagapathi Babu. While much of the storyline is said to have been inspired by *The Godfather* and other Western sources, there was an element of factual reality closer home on how communal riots were engineered in Hyderabad to force a Chief Minister out.

Hyderabad was witness to a series of incidents of communal rioting between 1990 and 1992 even as dissidence within the Congress saw three different Congress Chief Ministers within that span of three years. The strong correlation between weak Congress Chief Ministers in Andhra Pradesh and communal violence in Hyderabad is not limited to the early 1990s. Between 1980 and 1983, Andhra Pradesh saw a similar parade of weak Congress Chief Ministers being swapped from New Delhi and a highly controversial Congress-engineered coup against NT Rama Rao in 1984, with some of the worst incidents of communal rioting in Hyderabad.

Growing up as a child in Hyderabad, watching news of curfew being imposed on *Doordarshan*, was a favourite pastime, for one of our Mathematics teachers would invariably have to skip showing up to work. Curfew in Hyderabad those days meant there was always the outside chance of either school being closed or a free period. The incidents of communal rioting in Hyderabad were not funny anymore as we grew up to come to terms with its grim reality in the early 1990s. During the 1990 violence another Mathematics teacher was booked under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and put away without bail, for the only crime of being a Hindu in his twenties in an area of the old city that saw violence against Muslims.

Hyderabad once again in the past week saw deliberately provoked incidents of communal violence. Some have attempted to attribute it to VHP leader Pravin Togadia's earlier presence in that city, which in the opinion of this columnist is a naive and superficial reading of the dynamics that are shaping up in Andhra Pradesh. The State once again is witness to a weak Congress Chief Minister with no real base. There are a number of powerful lobbies of current and former Congressmen that have been at the receiving end of a variety of court and CBI interventions with their commercial interests around Hyderabad and political interests elsewhere under threat. Last but not the least there is a new political dynamic that is emerging that is unsettling many from the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen to the *Telangana Rashtra Samithi*.

The communal incidents of the past week in Hyderabad must not be seen in isolation given the anxiety expressed by the MIM and other Muslim groups even before these incidents. Sangareddy, about



50km to the west of Hyderabad, saw communal incidents in the weeks leading up to the incidents in Hyderabad. In both Sangareddy and Hyderabad, there was deliberate provocation in the name of insult to religious symbols of one kind or another. But what is curious is the line pushed by the MIM and the so-called Muslim civil rights groups, both of whom linked the communal flare-up to the BJP's surprise win in a bypoll election to the State Assembly in a different district of the Telangana region — Mahabubnagar.

The Congress and the Telugu Desam Party have declined in the Telangana region for some time now over the T-State issue. What is, however, interesting about the Mahabubnagar contest is that it was the first time that there was a competitive election between pro-Telangana parties since the movement for joint political action for a separate Telangana State emerged. The margin of victory for the BJP in Mahabubnagar may have been narrow, but it is significant that the BJP managed to hold its own against the TRS in a Telangana seat with a large concentration of Muslim population. Hence, the angst of the MIM and other Muslim groups is highly understandable.

This columnist had many months back lamented that the movement in support of a separate Telangana State had to first make

**HYDERABAD ONCE AGAIN SAW COMMUNAL VIOLENCE THIS PAST WEEK. THESE INCIDENTS MUST NOT BE SEEN IN ISOLATION BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TELANGANA REGION**

its case to the rest of Andhra. This columnist had also lamented that, despite the churning in Andhra politics and the fragmentation of political parties, the BJP had failed to produce a leader who could reach beyond the regional divide to chart a new course. This past week the BJP's young chief in Andhra Pradesh, G Kishan Reddy, released a 14 page booklet in Telugu, making a direct socio-economic case to the people of Rayalseema and Andhra on why a regional bifurcation of the State would not hurt their interest but instead create

new opportunity. It was heartening to see him actually take up the challenge of making a positive case for Telangana to the rest of Andhra by touring both regions.

It is too early to say if the BJP's Mahabubnagar win was an anomaly or a leading indicator of the undercurrents in play in Telangana. One thing is, however, clear: The political ferment within the Congress in Andhra has reached its rotten limit, with factions going at each other within the party and beyond. Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party seems to also be scripting its path to increasing irrelevance with its failure to take a clear stance on Telangana while continuing to be mired in family feuds within NTR's extended family.

The political environment in Andhra Pradesh is in a flux, putting a State that sends the highest number of Congress MPs in play for the first time in decades, opening up the possibility of a new configuration to emerge.

How far the BJP will gain in this environment, is an open question, but it may have found a new rising star in young Kishan Reddy who has shown a proclivity for engaging on policy issues in the past and has now shown the conviction to take a bold and enlightened stance on the Telangana issue.



### **CBI CONTINUES PROBE AGAINST GALI REDDY**

**Bellary:** For the third successive day, CBI teams from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka continued the probe into alleged illegal mining operations committed by former Karnataka Minister G Janardhana Reddy. Teams of officials from the agency and experts from different departments including Mines and Geology continued their investigations on Sunday in mineral rich Sandur region of the district pursuant to a Supreme Court directive.

According to official sources, CBI officials held discussions with officials from state departments of Mining, Earth sciences, Forest and Revenue and then went on to conduct on-the-spot probe in mining areas coming under Ramghad and surrounding areas owned by Reddy's Associated Mining Company and Deccan Mining Syndicate.





# CBI cracks racket of fake I-T returns, I-T refunds

RAHUL TRIPATHI  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 15

IN what the CBI says could be the “tip of an iceberg”, the agency has found at least 1,100 cases of allegedly fraudulent refund checks issued by the Income Tax department that has resulted in the illegal withdrawal of more than Rs 6 crore over the last three months.

The CBI has arrested two persons, including an accountant: Pankaj Kumar Gupta and Amit Kumar Sharma. Both, allegedly in league with IT officials, gained access to Central Board of Direct Taxes’ latest software system to generate fake IT returns.

Investigators said that the accused first generated forged Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards with the help of agents. During raids in Delhi and Gurgaon, the CBI seized 89 PAN cards along with PAN card applications. The accused, us-

» Accused teamed up with IT officials to generate fake PAN cards, fake addresses

» Using these cards, they entered IT system, generated fake IT returns

» They then tweaked refund amount but kept it between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1 lakh.

» Postman was paid for each cheque delivered

ing these PAN numbers, entered the IT system, generated fake returns and tweaked refund amounts. They kept these between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1 lakh on each account so that seniors weren’t alerted.

This was then processed by the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**





## CBI cracks racket of fake I-T returns

system and a cheque payable at State Bank of India — CBDT's refund banker — was issued.

All the cheques, sources said, were sent to a particular post office in Delhi with minor changes in the address of the taxpayers such as lane and house numbers. The CBI is said to have found that one postman delivered all these checks to one individual and was paid Rs 200 for each delivery.

Sharma, who was arrested from Burdwan in West Ben-

gal, allegedly opened bank accounts in false names to get these cheques encashed, sources said.

His arrest led to the seizure of Rs 1.25 crore in cash; properties worth Rs 1.5 crore; PAN cards, pass-books, cheque-books and driving licences. The name of Pankaj Gupta cropped up during investigations and he was also arrested. "Gupta delivered the refund cheques to Sharma at the cost of 50 per cent of the amount of the cheques,"

said a top CBI officer.

The CBI team stumbled upon 250 such transactions which were carried out by another group in the previous financial year. "We are in the process of getting the details of these transactions and may file another case," added an officer.

Said a CBDT official: "An internal inquiry is being conducted by the CBDT to fix the responsibility." The CBI is also awaiting details from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which handles the

software to furnish details regarding IT officials who logged into the system and generated the fake returns.

The scrutiny of the system installed by the IT Department also found that the software could be breached. IT officials handling assessments and refunds were found to be ill-equipped in system management. The CBI registered a case under Section 420 (cheating), 120 b (criminal conspiracy) of IPC and various sections of the IT Act.





# Forestry scam: MoEF seeks CBI probe

## Counters DoPT's Stand Against Inquiry, Cites Violations By Haryana Govt

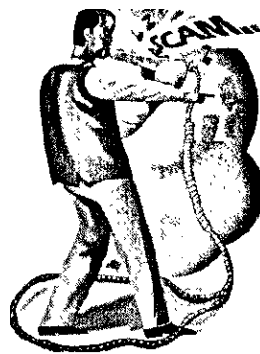
Nitin Sethi | TNN

**New Delhi:** The Union environment and forests ministry (MoEF) has taken a position countering the Union government's department of personnel and training (DoPT) and stuck to its demand for a CBI inquiry in the forestry scam cases in Haryana.

In a letter written to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the environment ministry has reiterated its view that severe violations of forests and wildlife laws were committed in the three cases — digging a canal inside the Saraswati Wildlife Sanctuary in violation of wildlife laws and Supreme Court orders in Kurukshetra; illegal spend-

ing of public funds on private property in Fatehabad; and misappropriation of funds for plantations in Jhajjar in Haryana which involved senior IAS and IFoS officials and politicians in the state. The ministry has stuck to its guns that the cases must be investigated and not dropped.

All these cases came to light when a forest officer in Haryana, Sanjiv Chaturvedi, brought it to the Centre's notice. The Centre revoked the false chargesheets imposed by the state government against Chaturvedi and based on a two-member committee report and recommendations by the CBI and the CVC, pushed for investigations into the scam by the cen-



tral probe agency. The CVC had recommended protection for Chaturvedi and along with the CBI recommended that the cases were fit for investigations.

But when the environ-

ment ministry asked the Haryana government to institute a CBI inquiry into the cases as per the CVC's recommendations, the state got back by disclosing a confidential note of the DoPT written to the PMO and accessed through RTI stating that the committee's report had been ultra vires and the Centre did not have the powers to intervene in what it considered was the jurisdiction of the state government. The DoPT note, written after a CBI inquiry was demanded, did not ask for such a demand to be withdrawn by the Centre and suggested status quo until the environment ministry or the Haryana government approached it for further action.

Now, the environment ministry has filed a status report to the CVC and countered the defence put up by the Haryana government using the DoPT note. The environment ministry has said the violations are criminal offences under the central wildlife and forests laws. Forestry and wildlife falls under the Concurrent List. It has also noted that the case pertains to misuse of central government funds and therefore it holds the right to prosecute and move against the accused.

While the two ministries have now locked horns, the Haryana government has refused to do more than carry out departmental inquiries in limited cases.

**LIKE THAT ONLY**





## रेड्डी मामले पर सीबीआई की याचिका खारिज

हैदराबाद, (वार्ता): आंध्रप्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश मदन भीम राव लोकुर ने वाईएसआर कांग्रेस पार्टी के अध्यक्ष जगन मोहन रेड्डी की ज्ञात आय से अधिक संपत्ति अर्जित करने के मामले में जगति प्रकाशन के उपाध्यक्ष विजय साई रेड्डी की निचली अदालत से मंजूर जमानत के खिलाफ केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) की याचिका आवास पर सुनने से आज इन्कार कर दिया। सीबीआई ने न्यायमूर्ति लोकुर से आग्रह किया कि वह श्री रेड्डी को जमानत मंजूर होने के खिलाफ उसकी याचिका की सुनवाई आज ही अपने आवास पर करें, लेकिन मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने इस आग्रह को टुकराते हुए जांच एजेंसी को कल न्यायालय में याचिका दायर करने को कहा। नामपल्ली स्थित सीबीआई की अदालत ने श्री रेड्डी की 13 अप्रैल को सशर्त जमानत मंजूर की थी। श्री रेड्डी को अपना पासपोर्ट जमा कराने तथा जांच एजेंसी को जानकारी दिए बिना शहर नहीं छोड़ने की पाबंदी के तहत जमानत मंजूर की गयी थी। जगति प्रकाशन के उपाध्यक्ष को इस मामले में दूसरा आरोपी बनाते हुए दो जनवरी को सीबीआई ने गिरफ्तार किया था।





## एयरसेल-मैक्सिस सौदा मामले में चार देशों को न्यायिक अनुरोध पत्र जारी

नई दिल्ली, जास : एयरसेल और मैक्सिस के बीच सौदा मामले में सीबीआई की अपील पर पटियाला हाउस कोर्ट की विशेष अदालत ने चार देशों की सरकारों को न्यायिक अनुरोध पत्र जारी किया है। सौदे में पैसों के लेन-देन के बारे में पता करने के लिए इस आशय का अनुरोध पत्र जारी किया गया है। बता दें कि इस मामले में पूर्व दूरसंचार मंत्री दयानिधि मारन आरोपी हैं। उन पर मलेशियाई दूरसंचार कंपनी मैक्सिस से 547 करोड़ रुपये लेने का आरोप है।

मालूम हो कि विशेष अदालत ने ये न्यायिक

अनुरोध पत्र अमेरिका, बरमुडा, मलेशिया और मॉरीशस सरकार को जारी किए हैं। इन पत्रों के माध्यम से इन देशों की सरकारों से एयरसेल व मैक्सिस कंपनी के बीच पैसे के लेन देन की जानकारी मांगी गई है।

सीबीआई ने उक्त मामले में अदालत को बताया कि बरमुडा के सेरेबियन द्वीप और अमेरिका के जरिए एयरसेल व मैक्सिस के बीच हुए सौदे का पैसा भारत में पहुंचा था। इसके बाद मैक्सिस कंपनी ने एयरसेल कंपनी को टेकओवर कर लिया था।





### एनआरएचएम घोटाला : सीबीआई ने घना दफ्तर

इलाहाबाद : एनआरएचएम घोटाले की जांच कर रही सीबीआई टीम दूसरे दिन भी मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी कार्यालय पर जमी रही। टीम ने सीएमओ और कई सीएचसी-पीएचसी प्रभारियों से पूछताछ की। सीबीआई के आने की जानकारी होने पर कई कर्मचारी कार्यालय के बाहर जमे रहे। इस दौरान परिसर का गेट बंद रहा। प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के तहत हुए अरबों रुपये के घोटाले की जांच करने शनिवार को सीबीआई की टीम इलाहाबाद पहुंची थी। टीम के सदस्य घंटों जरूरी फाइलें पलटते रहे। साथ ही सीएमओ से कुछ जरूरी जानकारियां भी जुटायी थीं। इसके बाद लगा कि टीम यहां से लौट गई, परंतु रविवार की सुबह 11 बजे टीम के सदस्य पुनः सीएमओ कार्यालय पहुंचे। दोपहर 12 बजे के बाद सीएमओ सहित गंगा व यमुनापार के आधा दर्जन सीएचसी-पीएचसी प्रभारियों को तलब किया गया, उनसे एनआरएचएम के तहत हुए कार्यों से जुड़ी जरूरी जानकारी प्राप्त की गई। विभागीय सूत्रों के अनुसार सीबीआई टीम को कार्यों में कुछ खामियां नजर आयी हैं, जिसे उन्होंने एक फाइल में अलग से नोट किया। सीएमओ डॉ. आरके श्रीवास्तव ने कार्रवाई के बारे में खुलकर कुछ बोलने से इंकार कर दिया, कहा कि यह सामान्य प्रक्रिया है जिसे सीबीआई समय-समय पर पूरा करने यहां आती है।

