

569 booked under Gangsters Act in 17 months

Admin targets their finance sources

NOIDA (UP), SEPT 30/-—Murder accused, mining mafias, rogue builders, liquor and drug traffickers are among 569 people from 150 gangs who have been booked under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act in last 17 months, according to officials.

The administration has now begun the process to attach their property and stop their bank transactions in a major "paradigm shift" in the policy so as to hit their source of funding, District Magistrate Brajesh Narain Singh said on Sunday. "Since May 1, 2017, 569 anti-social elements including 150 gang leaders and their 419 associates who have become a threat to citizens and law and order in the district have been booked under the UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act 1986," according to an official document.

The latest action to attach their properties is being taken under Section 14 of the Act which provides special provisions for the prevention of, and

for coping with, gangsters and anti-social activities and for connected matters. "The action will have a wide-reaching impact. There are criminals involved in a variety of crimes and we have attacked their source of

GAUTAMBUDDH NAGAR

finance by invoking this Act. "Now they will have to prove to the administration that their properties are wealth is not ill-gotten as mentioned in FIRs against them," Singh said.

He said earlier the district magistrate would have to wait for reports from the station house officers (SHOs) and local police in such matters, that caused delay. The official document detailing the cases showed that 76 of these gangs were booked from May 1, 2017, till December 31, 2017, while 74 have been booked since January till September this year. The booked include

those related to mining mafia, rogue builders involved in cheating and frauds, robbery, dacoity, murder, liquor and drug trafficking, rape, kidnapping, electricity theft, rioting, and culpable homicide, it showed.

Besides Gautam Buddha

Nagar locals, those booked include men hailing from Delhi, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Meerut, Bareilly, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Mathura, Amroha, Hapur and Saharanpur, according to the document. Singh, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal Sharma, had on September 27 announced initiating the process to attach properties of these 150 gangs and stop their financial transactions.

The administration has written to all banks in the district to freeze the accounts of the listed gang leaders and their associates and also monitor their

transactions. It has also written to all government departments including local authorities, Income Tax, Sales Tax, sub-divisional magistrates and also the police stations to keep a check on their transactions and properties, Singh said. "We have asked them to stop the financial transactions of these people, in case of movable properties, and sought details about their properties within 15 days so that we can take further action against them," he added. SSP Sharma said the gangs to be acted upon are decided by the local police.

"We have booked criminals with different sorts of modus operandi and nature of crime under the Gangsters Act," he told PTI Sunday, adding that the latest action "must have a wide impact".

On the cut-off date for the action being May 1, 2017, Singh said he had assumed the charge as the district magistrate on April 27 last year and therefore all the cases that have emerged since then have been taken

up. According to section 14 of the Gangsters Act, if a district magistrate has reason to believe that any property, whether moveable or immovable, in possession of any person has been acquired by a gangster as a result of the commission of an offence triable under this Act, he may order attachment of such property whether or not cognizance of such offence has been taken by any court.

Singh said the administration is also sharing the full list of these gangsters with the public and requesting them to share any documentary proof against these people in any case with the officials, assuring the names of those helping will be kept confidential. "We are asking the public to share with us any documentary evidence that they have so that we can ensure stringent action against them under the law," he added. He said similar action would continue in future also to reign in crime and improve law and order. (PTI)

Contamination of polio vaccines

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30/-—After traces of Polio Virus Type 2 were found in some batches of oral polio vaccine manufactured by a Ghaziabad-based pharmaceutical company, the Health Ministry has asked the polio surveillance team in UP to trace and track all children who were given the vaccine. As the

vaccine was administered as part of the government's universal immunisation programme, the ministry has also

Ministry gears up to track vaccinated children

ordered immediate withdrawal of the particular manufacturer's vaccine. Polio type 2 virus strain has been eradicated worldwide, including in India.

The polio surveillance team has been asked to trace all children who were given this vaccine. They will also be tracked to see how the virus behaves in their body, a Health Ministry official said. The Health Ministry has ordered a probe into traces of polio type 2 virus were found in some batches of oral polio vaccine (OPV) manufactured by the company and arrested the firm's managing director Saturday.

The managing director of Biomed Pvt Ltd., which was supplying polio vaccines for only

government-run immunisation programmes, was arrested after the Central Drug Regulator filed an FIR in this case.

The Drugs Controller General of India has also asked the company to stop manufacture, sale or distribution till further orders. The company has five directors. While

the managing director has been arrested, we have asked the police to trace the rest directors as they also need to be questioned, a government official said.

According to the Health Ministry official, the contamination came to light after surveillance reports from Uttar Pradesh showed signs of the virus in stool samples of some children.

Immediately, the OPVs were sent for testing which confirmed that some of them were contaminated with type-2 virus. The ministry has also alerted the Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra governments assuming a possible usage of the vaccine there. The destruction of traces of Polio Virus Type 2 was ordered by the central drug regulator to all manufacturers in 2016. (PTI)

Woman IAS officer trekked Sabarimala with court order 2 decades ago

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 30/-

Over two decades before the Supreme Court allowed entry of women of all ages into the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, a woman IAS officer had visited the hill shrine as part of her official duty, armed with a special order from the high court. Braving threats from conservatives and the tough terrains of the hillock, K B Valsala Kumari, then collector of Puthanthy district, visited the temple complex at least four times during 1994-95, aged 41. Though women in the 10-50 age group were barred from entering the hill shrine then, the Kerala High Court allowed Kumari to visit the shrine to coordinate the activities of various agencies as part of the preparations of the annual pilgrim season.

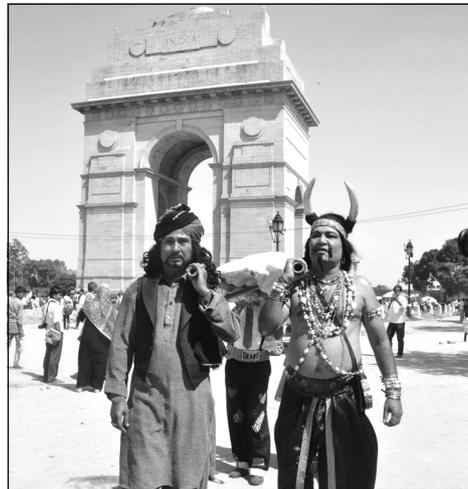
The court, however, had observed that her visit would not be connected with the pilgrimage and it would be strictly part of her official duties as the district collector. The woman officer was also asked not to climb the "Pathinettam Paal", the sacred 18 gold-plated steps, leading to the satrum sanctorum. "I could visit Sabarimala at that age, thanks to the high court order. Now, the apex court has thrown open the doors to women of all ages groups. The verdict is really good," she said. An ardent devotee of Lord Ayyappa, Kumari was the first woman to visit the Sabarimala shrine with legal backing. "The officer had ignored three letters against visiting the shrine. Kumari, who has retired from the service now, said she climbed the sacred steps and offered worship to Lord Ayyappa only after she turned 50. "I had no permission to go and see the Lord Ayyappa idol when I reached Sabarimala with the court order. But, I prayed with folded hands and meditated for a while standing below the holy steps," she told PTI. The former bureaucrat welcomed the recent Supreme Court order opening the portals of Sabarimala to women of all ages, and said anyone whose mind and body was pure can visit the shrine. Recalling her visit to the temple, she said in 1994 the high court had sought details of the preparatory works being carried out at the shrine by the government departments as part of the next pilgrim season. Kumari said she was told by her higher-ups that she could not go to the temple as there was a court order preventing the

entry of women aged 10-50 years. "So, I informed the high court that I really wanted to visit the temple and collect details. But I am unable to go (because of the bar)," Kumari said. Based on a request by her, the court granted her special permission to visit the temple and inspect the arrangements. An excited Kumari said she still has vivid memories of the hour-long trekking to the Sabarimala hills, the officials and introducing her to experience the places and sights that we had heard a lot from others," she said.

The journey also had given the officer an opportunity to have first-hand knowledge about the sanitation issues and a grave garbage problem at Sabarimala and the temple premises. "Heaps of garbage could be seen even near the temple.

Decayed flower garlands, pooja articles and clothes being dumped for years could also be seen there," Kumari, who was later entrusted with the massive sanitation drive at the shrine by the government, recollected. Realising the fragile ecosystem of Sabarimala hills, the officer had introduced nature-friendly toilets in the region. Instead of concrete structures, trenches with reusable aluminium covers were brought in as makeshift toilets, she said, adding no tree was cut. She also took the initiative to clean Pamba river at the foothills and make available safe drinking water in Sabarimala. The woman officer also conceptualised and set up the Sabarimala Sanitation Society (SSS), an exclusive cleaning machinery for the hillock shrine. "I myself took part in various drives carried out by the SSS volunteers in cleaning the river and removing the left over clothes by devotees," she said. Kumari said she could perform her duties in a better way only because she got a chance to visit Sabarimala and experience the ground reality there.

The former IAS officer, who had garnered accolades for various initiatives as the head of all women network Kudumbashree, said the infrastructure and the facilities at Sabarimala should be made "women-friendly" in the wake of the apex court order. "We can ensure women devotees a smooth darshan through better planning. Special queue system can be put in place for them. Certain days or weeks can be reserved only for women to offer worship," she suggested. (PTI)



Artists rehearse for 'The National Bhrupalya Festival' organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, at India Gate in New Delhi on Sunday. The festival will start from October 5th 2018

BSE, SSB get new chiefs

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30/-—Two of the

country's three border guarding forces - the Border Security Force and the Sashastra Seema Bal - got their new chiefs Sunday. While 1984-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer Rajni Kant Misra took over as the new Director General (DG) of the BSE, his batchmate S S Deswal became the DG of the SSB. Misra took charge from K K Sharma, who retired Sunday while Deswal succeeded Misra, who has been the SSB DG since October last year. Deswal, who was serving as the Special DG of the BSE in the Haryana cadre of the Indian Police Service. While the Misra will be in charge of the BSE till August next year, his scheduled retirement time,

Deswal will superannuate in August, 2021.

The BSE is the country's largest border guarding force with over 2.5 lakh personnel in its ranks and is tasked to guard the Indian frontiers with Pakistan (over 3,000 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km).

The about 90,000 personnel strong SSB is tasked to guard the borders with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (696 km). The third frontier guarding force ITBP (guarding 3,488 km India-China border) will also have a new chief next month with the retirement of DG R K Pachnam. All these forces work under the command of the Union Home Ministry and are also known as the Central Armed Police Forces. (PTI)

Tech executive cremated in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, SEPT 30/-—The executive of a private company who was allegedly shot dead by constables in Gomti Nagar locality here was Sunday cremated in presence of Uttar Pradesh Ministers and family members. Vivek Tiwari (38) was shot Saturday by constables Prashant Chowdhury and Sandeep Kumar while he was going to drop his colleague Sana Khan. His body was Sunday cremated at Bhaissakund in presence of state minister Brijesh Pathak and local MLA Ashutosh Tandon and others.

When asked about the incident Pathak said, "It's an unfortunate incident and we are with the family members of the victim. We will try to fast track the case so that the family can get justice as soon as possible." Principal Secretary Home and the DGP to ensure sensitive policemen in big cities. "We will enforce strict action against the guilty. If needed, a CBI probe will also be recommended," he added. Expressing grief over the incident, UP DGP Singh said no amount of apology would suffice for the loss of a precious life or heal the wounds of the devastated family. "My heart goes out for the little daughters, wife and family members of Vivek Tiwari. I share my grief with them," he said, adding such deviant, "criminal" behaviour would be reprehensible and deserved the strictest punishment. "We are determined to punish and wear out such rogues in uniform who hang our heads in shame, at the same time we have also embarked on systemic reforms through behavioural training and humanisation in the journey of reformation ahead," he added. The two constables were arrested and dismissed from the job and an FIR was registered in the matter on the basis of a complaint by Sana Khan. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had Saturday said a CBI inquiry would be recommended if needed.

Constable Prashant Chaudhary, however, said after noticing some "suspicious activity", he asked the victim to come out of the SUV but he did not and instead tried to hit him and he had to open fire in self-defence. A fired bullet pierced the windscreen as the car rammed into a pillar, police had said. The autopsy report had later confirmed the death was caused by gunshot injuries. District Magistrate Kaushalraj Sharma has ordered a magisterial inquiry in the case and a SIT was also constituted by the DGP to probe the matter. UP Congress chief Raj Babbar also visited the victim's house Sunday and said, "You (CM) might be busy in political management of the incident otherwise you should have come to meet daughters of the victim." Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to corner the BJP government in the state and said he also spoke to the victim's wife Kalpana over phone. (PTI)



Central Institute for Arid Horticulture employees participating in 'Swachhha Hi Seva' campaign, in Bikaner on Sunday

Cost of replacing clinical with diagnostic medicine

DR. ARUN MITRA

Medicine is not a profession but a passion. Patient-doctor relationship is one of mutual trust based on doctors' devotion to the patient as a human being in totality. Doctor in the past was fully connected to the family of the patient and had continuous information about her/his health problems. In old days, when medicine was not so much developed, clinicians (Vaid) at the maximum would check the pulse and put hand on the abdomen to form opinion of the disease.

With the advent of modern medicine, certain protocol was prepared to treat the patient. The first step in that is to get the patient's history with relevant questions. By good history taking the doctor can extract the relevant

information from the patient which many a times the patient does not feel as important. No doubt each and every patient wants that that she/he be properly listened to by the doctor with empathy even though many a times the information being given may not be important to reach clinical diagnosis. A few words of sympathy, encouragement through proper dialogue do help the patient feel better most of the times.

History taking is followed by examination of various systems of the body as needed for the particular disease. These may be followed by investigations relevant to the case. The new investigative facilities have helped a lot in diagnosing and giving proper treatment, which was not possible till a few years back. This has also

helped in prevention of complications from occurring. The investigations have supplemented the clinical knowledge of the doctor.

In recent past there has been a surge in the investigations ordered by the doctors. This has many a times raised scepticism in the minds of the patient. There are, however, several reasons for the increasing tendency of ordering investigations for which the doctor alone cannot be blamed.

There has been an increase in violence against the doctors in the past. Therefore, no doctor wants to miss anything. It has been seen that the patient's relatives, who were earlier reluctant when it came to investigations, would in case of a mishap start blaming the doctor and saying that

they never objected to any investigations. Doctors also fear litigations against them. Therefore, they have started practicing defensive medicine.

But needless to say that there has been a technocratic shift in medical practice. With the changes that have occurred in economic relations and government, healthcare is no more being viewed as a social issue. With the entry of corporate sector in the health care system, the whole scenario has changed. For their health is purely a business with little empathy for the patient. Doctors are under pressure to generate income. Diagnostic investigations became primary and clinical knowledge took a back seat. Many doctors, instead of spending time on history taking and examining the

patient, just started ordering investigations. The whole scenario has led to the development of unhealthy practices by some medical practitioners. There are reports of some doctors ordering investigations for the purpose of getting cuts and commissions. This is not only unethical, illegal but a sin. Charging money from a suffering person for the service which one has not provided is unacceptable. It is unfortunate that there have cropped up some 'medical gate keepers' whose only job is to bring empathy for the patient and charge referral fee whether for diagnostic or for clinical treatment purpose. Such practices have to be checked by the appropriate authorities, medical bodies and society through dialogue. (IPA)