

CBI registers FIR against Vaghela in NTC land scam

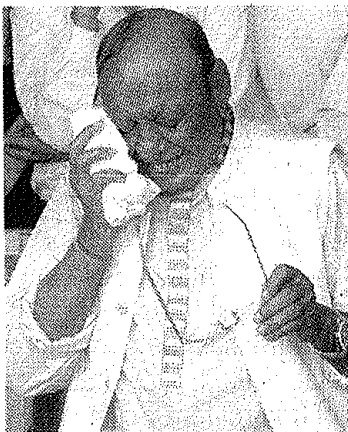
PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

A team of 12 officials from Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday conducted search operation at former Cabinet Minister for Textile Shankarsinh Vaghela in Congress-led UPA Government in connection with alleged ₹1,700 crore National Textile Corporation (NTC) land deal scam in Mumbai.

According to sources, the search operation was initiated from early morning at Vaghela's palatial residence 'Vasant Vagado' situated in Vasania village on the outskirts of Gandhinagar. The search operation continued for nearly nine hours till 4 pm. Vaghela also signed a document after the completion of the CBI search operation.

Simultaneously, an FIR was also registered against the former Gujarat Chief Minister and current Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, ex-chairman & Managing Director of NTC Ramchandran Pillai and five others for dubious sale of NTC land in Mumbai, which allegedly caused several hundred crores loss to the Exchequer.

Apart from Vaghela's residence in Gandhinagar, search operations were conducted at eight locations in three other



Former Union Textile Minister Shankarsinh Vaghela during a Press conference in Gandhinagar on Wednesday

PTI

cities, including New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. The CBI officials have reportedly have seized documents related to the scam from these locations.

Meanwhile, after the search operation, Vaghela hurriedly convened a Press conference and claimed that it was nothing but to divert the attention of public from the ongoing controversy of former IPL chief Lalit Modi, in which two top BJP leaders, including Union Minister Sushma Swaraj and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's names are also involved.

"CBI officials were cooperated by me and my family mem-

bers. They searched for long hours. All they found was a letterhead and visiting card of the time when I was union Minister. I have developed a habit of keeping my old visiting cards. Even I have kept visiting cards printed in 1977. The officials were allowed to open my cupboards. They checked two houses of my sons," he said.

According to him NTC scam was deliberately flashed from Delhi keeping political vendetta as it is seven year old matter but they (NDA government) raised the issue when the central government is in trouble over the issue of Lalit Modi.

"People were carrying away bricks of dilapidated compound walls of closed NTC mills. We were paying security charges. The decision was taken to lessen the financial burden on the PSU. The land deal was transparent and we completed all the formalities," he said, claiming that as per his information at one point of time the NDA government was to sell all NTC lands in Mumbai for ₹200 crore. He said NTC had ₹1,800 crore debt but because of the efforts of the previous Government it earned ₹2,000 crore through NTC deals. He said right from Gandhinagar to Delhi all have burned fingers in corruption.

Ex-Union minister Vaghela booked in Mumbai land scam

HT Correspondents

✉ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case of alleged fraud and criminal conspiracy against former Union textile minister Shankarsinh Vaghela and five others, including a former chairman-cum-managing director of the National Textile Corporation (NTC).

The six accused sold around 27,585 square metres of a Mumbai textile mill's land to a Kolkata-based private firm for ₹29.35 crore for development in July 2009, termed as a deal 'for peanuts'. This led to an alleged loss of ₹709.27 crore to the state exchequer.

A CBI source said, "The then Union textile minister played a role in the irregularities. When the modalities for the sale of the mill's land were being worked out in the ministry, Vaghela had shot down the proposal of the then senior NTC officials that advocated a proper valuation of the worth of the property as per then market rates."

Vaghela, a former chief minister and now the Leader of Opposition in the Gujarat Assembly, denied the accusations. "It's nothing but vendetta politics and a cheap attempt to divert attention from the ongoing controversy involving Lalit Modi, Sushma Swaraj and Vasundhara Raje. The CBI has become a BJP Bureau of Investigation," he said. In a raid conducted earlier at his Ahmedabad home, ₹13.33 lakh was recovered from the premises.

CBI books former Guj CM Vaghela in NTC land scam

Neeraj.Chauhan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Digging out another UPA-era scam, the CBI on Wednesday registered a case against former Union minister for textiles Shankersinh Vaghela, former CMD of National Textiles Corporation K Ramachandran Pillai and private company Hall & Anderson Ltd and its director Kamlesh Mehta in the alleged sale of prime land belonging to Shree Madhusudan Mills in Mumbai at "throwaway prices".

The agency raided the former Gujarat CM's residence in Gandhinagar and recovered Rs 13.33 lakh cash and now plans to interrogate him.

The sale of government-owned land to the private company at a price of Rs 29.35 crores



Shankersinh Vaghela

led to a loss of Rs 709.27 crore to the exchequer, as the market value of the prime pre-independence era property in Mumbai's Worli was much higher.

The scandal was first exclusively reported by **TOI** in May last year when CBI began a preliminary enquiry into the sale of Madhusudan Mills. Sources said that more such sales of mills owned by state-run NTC are under CBI scanner.

"M/s Madhusudan Mills

was taken over by the ministry of textiles/NTC and nationalized under the Textiles Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Act 1983 and the Textiles Undertaking (Nationalisation) Act, 1995. All the assets of the said firm (Madhusudan) were transferred to the central government/NTC and suitable amount was paid to M/s Madhusudan," CBI says about the government taking over the Madhusudan Mills, which was listed among sick companies and was not operational.

CBI officials said Kamlesh Mehta of Hall & Anderson was allowed to develop 27,500 sq m of the 80,785 sqm area of Madhusudan Mill as part of revival of mills of NTC. The land was handed over at a price of

Rs 29.35 crore to the Kolkata-based firm and its owner for redeveloping it in a move to reach a settlement in July 2009.

"It is alleged in the process of settling of issues regarding taking over of assets and liabilities of the Madhusudan Mills, Vaghela overruled the opinion of senior officers of the textiles ministry seeking a comprehensive proposal from NTC, owning the land, including the actual valuation of the land for settlement of the issues," says CBI FIR. "Vaghela overruled this view of ministry officials due to which valuation of property was not done," said a CBI official. CBI says Vaghela abused his official position to approve the sharing of the land in the ratio of 65:35 in favour of Mehta and his company.

CBI Files FIR Against Vaghela

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered an FIR against Shankarsinh Vaghela and others including the then Managing Director of National Textile Corporation (NTC) for sale of prime property in Mumbai allegedly at "throwaway prices". Vaghela is the Leader of Opposition in Gujarat Assembly.

CBI said FIR has been registered against Vaghela, former NTC CMD Ramachandran Pillai, R K Sharma then director and M K Khare, then senior manager for allegedly causing loss of ₹709 crore to the exchequer through the sale of

NTC land in Parel. The agency in its FIR alleged that Vaghela overruled the decision of NTC officials and gave favours to a private firm.

Soon after registering the FIR, CBI carried out searches at nine locations in four cities — New Delhi, Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Kolkata — including the residence of Vaghela and others. During raids, the agency seized a fixed deposit receipt of ₹1.65 crores and details of bank locker from the premises of Pillai while ₹13.33 lakh cash were seized from Vaghela residence. Beside this, the agency also claimed to have found 2 bank locker and FD of ₹35 lakhs during the raids at the house of Sharma and Khare respectively.



ZAHID

Case against Vaghela

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Wednesday registered a case against the former Union Minister Shankarsinh Vaghela and five others for selling over 27,000 sq. metre of prime National Textile Corporation property in Mumbai to a private company allegedly at "throwaway prices", causing loss of over Rs. 700 crore to the exchequer. — PTI

CBI searches Vaghela's house over NTC scam

'Centre trying to divert attention'

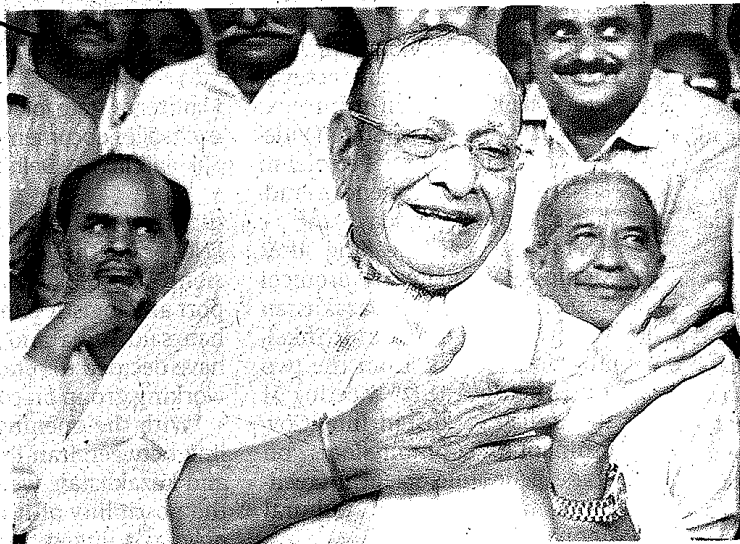
OUR BUREAU

Gandhinagar, June 17

The CBI on Wednesday registered a case against former Union Textiles Minister Shankarsinh Vaghela and five others for selling over 27,000 sq m of prime National Textile Corporation (NTC) property in Mumbai to a private company, allegedly at "throwaway prices" during the UPA-1 regime, causing a loss of over ₹700 crore to the Exchequer.

The CBI also raided the residences of Vaghela and the other accused. The former Gujarat Chief Minister claimed the raid was aimed at diverting attention from the Sushma Swaraj-Lalit Modi-Vasundhara Raje controversy. Vaghela, who once mentored Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had subsequently joined the Congress. At present, he is the Leader of Opposition in the Gujarat Assembly.

Reacting to the CBI raids that lasted about 10 hours, Vaghela told reporters here the Central



Not afraid Congress leader Shankarsinh Vaghela addressing a press conference in Gandhinagar on Wednesday PTI

agency had found "nothing" and that he "fully cooperated" with it.

He further accused the BJP of trying to divert people's attention from the Lalit Modi controversy. The BJP is losing ground both in Gujarat and at the Centre, he claimed, adding this was the reason for "sponsoring" the CBI raids on him as "political vendetta". "They have recovered nothing except a few old visiting

cards and letterheads of the Textile Ministry," the former BJP-RSS strongman said.

The CBI has filed an FIR against Vaghela, former NTC chairman Ramachandran Pillai and other officials in connection with irregularities in land deals in Mumbai.

In a combative mood, Vaghela, who had a fallout with Modi and the Sangh Parivar in the late

1990s before joining the Congress, challenged the Centre to "prove me wrong".

"This is an attempt at character assassination at a time when the Congress is doing well for the upcoming local bodies elections in Gujarat," he said outside his bungalow after the CBI completed the raids.

Political reasons

"The BJP has realised that the Congress is set for a return to power in Gujarat in 2017 and they will be kicked out of their home. The "masters" of CBI were directing the officials. Somebody was monitoring the raids with constant calls to the CBI officials. This has become the BJP Bureau of Investigation," he alleged.

NTC was faced with losses of ₹1,800 crore, and it was during his tenure as Union Textiles Minister that the government was able to sell the company's defunct mills and recover as much as ₹2,000 crore, he said.

The Congress high-command has expressed its support, he said, adding: "We will now explore our legal options."

वाघेला के यहां छापे

वार्ता/अहमदाबाद, गांधीनगर

पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री तथा गुजरात विधानसभा में विपक्ष के वर्तमान नेता शंकर सिंह वाघेला के गांधीनगर स्थित निवास और कार्यालय पर आज सीबीआई की एक टीम ने उनकी मौजूदगी में कथित तौर पर 1700 करोड़ रुपये के नैशनल टैक्सटाइल कॉर्पोरेशन (एनटीसी) जमीन बिक्री घोटाले के सिलसिले में छापेमारी की। उधर कांग्रेस ने इस छापेमारी को मौजूदा सुषमा स्वराज-ललित मोदी प्रकरण और गुजरात में भाजपा सरकार की विफलता से लोगों का ध्यान भटकाने के लिए सीबीआई के राजनीतिक दुरुपयोग का मामला करार दिया।



शंकर सिंह वाघेला

सूत्रों ने बताया कि मुंबई से आई सीबीआई की लगभग 25 सदस्यीय टीम ने गांधीनगर स्थित श्री वाघेला के आवास बसंत वगडो में अपराह्न लगभग 11 बजे प्रवेश किया और छापेमारी तथा वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता से पूछताछ की कार्रवाई कई घंटे चली।

► शेष पृष्ठ 15 पर

दाण्डा के दावा

बताया जाता है कि सीबीआई ने इस मामले में कोलकाता, मुंबई, दिल्ली में भी नौ स्थानों पर छापेमारी की है। इससे पूर्व एनटीसी की मुम्बई स्थित जमीन को कौड़ियों के मोल लेने जाने के मामले में शंकर सिंह वाघेला और 6 अन्य के विरुद्ध मामला दर्ज किया। इस बीच, कांग्रेस के राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता तथा गुजरात के विधायक शक्ति सिंह गोहिल ने इसे सीबीआई का राजनीतिक दुरुपयोग करार देते हुए कहा कि छापेमारी के समय को देखते हुए स्पष्ट है कि देश का ध्यान विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज और प्रवर्तन निदेशालय की ओर भगौड़ा करार दिए गए पूर्व आईपीएल प्रमुख ललित मोदी की मिलीभगत के सनसनीखेज मामले से भटकाने के लिए ऐसा किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने यह भी दावा किया कि भाजपा का शासन गुजरात में पूरी तरह निष्फल रहा है और आने वाले समय में यहां होने वाले स्थानीय निकाय के चुनावों में लोगों का ध्यान इससे भी हटाने के लिए इस तरह की कार्रवाई की जा रही है। एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा कि छापेमारी के परिणामों को लेकर अदालत के दरवाजे खुले हैं। ज्ञातव्य है कि वर्ष 1998 में भाजपा से नाता तोड़ चुके वाघेला राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री भी रह चुके हैं। वह पूर्ववर्ती यूपीए सरकार में कपड़ा मंत्री थे।

एनटीसी जमीन घोटाले में वाघेला पर रिपोर्ट दर्ज

■ भाषा, नई दिल्ली

सीबीआई ने नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कॉरपोरेशन (एनटीसी) की मुंबई स्थित जमीन कथित तौर पर कौड़ियों के रेट पर एक निजी कंपनी को बेचने के मामले में पूर्व कपड़ा मंत्री शंकरसिंह वाघेला और अन्य 6 के खिलाफ एक एफआईआर दर्ज की गई है। रिपोर्ट में एनटीसी के तत्कालीन सीएमडी भी शामिल हैं। पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री और इस समय गुजरात विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता शंकर सिंह वाघेला ने कहा है कि मेरे खिलाफ सीबीआई जांच राजनीतिक प्रतिशोध की कार्रवाई है।



चार शहरों में CBI के छापे

सीबीआई सूत्रों के मुताबिक, वाघेला, एनटीसी के पूर्व अध्यक्ष-सह-महाप्रबंधक रामचंद्रन पिल्लै और अन्य के खिलाफ रिपोर्ट दर्ज की गई है। रिपोर्ट में परेल स्थित एनटीसी की जमीन की बिक्री में सरकारी खजाने को 1700 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा लगाने का आरोप लगाया गया है। रिपोर्ट दर्ज कराने के तुरंत बाद सीबीआई ने छापामारी शुरू की।

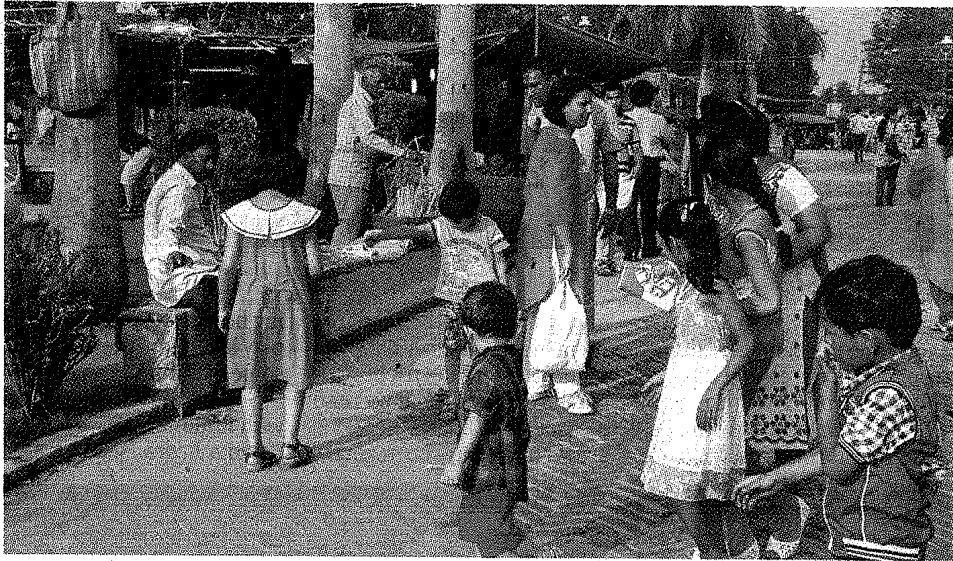
CBI registers FIR against Vaghela

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered an FIR against former Union textile minister Shankarsingh Vaghela and six others including the then chairman-cum-managing director of the **National Textile Corporation Ltd** for the sale of prime property in Mumbai allegedly at "throwaway prices" to a private company. CBI personnel aware of the issue said an FIR has been registered against Vaghela, former NTC CMD Ramachandran Pillai, and others for allegedly causing a ₹1700 crore loss to the exchequer through the sale of NTC land in Parel, in Mumbai. **PTI**



Shri Alok Kumar, IAS, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, inaugurated the 'Fashionably Benaras' exhibition cum sale on Wednesday in the presence of Shri Pramod Nagpal, MD, CCIC and other senior officials from Ministry of Textiles at Central Cottage Industries Emporium, Handloom Marketing Complex, 2nd Floor, Janpath, New Delhi

● Ethnic hub



LOST CULTURE With places like Hauz Khas Village are gaining more popularity, Dilli Haat, a government initiative, must not be neglected.

Needed more *haats* in the city

We are a culturally rich and vibrant nation, a colourful mosaic of different cultures, ethnicities, languages, customs, traditions, beliefs and values. Our heritage and traditions have stood the test of time and have had a strong bearing on our development, our standing in the comity of nations, and in keeping us connected to our roots. No matter what the impact of technology and modern fads, our cultural heritage will always ignite a sense of pride in us, for our country and its heritage.

One experiences similar pride when one visits small *haats* in a city bursting with malls and shopping complexes. Somewhere, deep down they make a deep connect with us with their quaint, earthy and wholesome character, as opposed to their more plush and glitzy counterparts with their expensive fare.

A visit to a *haat*, which resembles a lot like rural India (long lost and forgotten by urban folks), makes one feel

completely at one with the ambience around—a perfect way to spend a weekend.

But it's not just about *haats*. Even as we in India, and indeed around the world, gear up to celebrate World Ethnic Day on June 19, the moot question remains—'how much ethnicity is really alive today?'

One immediately goes back to places like Hauz Khas Village (HKV) in the city, with an exclusive vintage feel of rural India. A hub of fashion designer stores and cafes, the place attracts a lot of youth and tourists, foreigners and from within the country, who list it as their all-time favourite hangout spot.

Similarly, there are three Dilli Haats running in the city, though the Pitampura and Janakpuri *haats* are comparatively less popular than the one in INA.

While the Pitampura Dilli Haat faces problems like lack of sufficient products, unreasonably high-priced items, unappealing variety and quality of food in the few stalls that

are operational, the one in Janakpuri is still relatively new and will take at least four years to get established, according to the authorities.

To learn more about the popular and successful one, *MetroLife* headed to INA Market, and was suitably rewarded. Known as the first-ever food, craft, culture and eco-friendly project, Dilli Haat provides the ambience of a traditional village market, but one suited for more contemporary needs. Here one sees a synthesis of crafts, food and cultural activity. It also provides the much needed platform for artisans, craftsmen and the hard working weavers, many of who are feted master craftsmen, from across the country.

While speaking to Dilli Haat authorities at INA (who requested anonymity), *MetroLife* discovered some little-known facts about this sprawling cultural spot of the city.

"When it comes to exclusivity and the stand-alone qualities of the *haat*, we can confidently say that a few items

that are found here, cannot be found anywhere else in Delhi," say the officials.

Undoubtedly, the Punjabi *jooti*, the *zari dupattas*, the wooden toys and the ethnic *chadars* are difficult to find in the glittering malls and shopping complexes.

"It's not just about the shopping items...", they continue, "...the *haat* provides an effective and impressive platform to all our artisans and craftsmen, who work day and night to produce these wearable and decorative items. When people come and visit the craftsmen and the weavers and pay according to their hard work, that's when our mission is fully accomplished!"

Meanwhile, various cultural festivals and events regularly take place at Dilli Haat, which on the other hand are celebrated in a more ostentatious manner by some of the more popular malls, like Select Citywalk, in the city. Apart from the regular national festivals like Diwali, Holi, Eid and Baisakhi, the *haat* is also



home to various other fascinating events like the recently concluded Sharbat Mela, the Mango Festival, crafts mela while doubling up as a popular locale for film shooting, music and other cultural events.

While employment generation is one of the big affirmations of having a *haat* in the city, it also helps promote tourism to a large extent.

But there is flip side to this pretty picture. Where on one hand the 201 stalls from 25 states of the country provide employment and visibility opportunities to a lot of people, a lot of artisans are unhappy at not getting enough opportunities to showcase their creations at the stalls.

Lajwanti, a national awardee, sadly says, "*Hamare koi ache din nahi aaye hain...*" At 65, the lady has been sell-

ing *phulkari* in Dilli Haat ever since its inauguration. She hails from Patiala and works with 1,000 other women to create beautiful pieces. "The government should help in getting more space, for better earnings and sustenance" she says.

"We keep making *phulkari* fabric all through the year, yet, we get only a few days to display them in a shop at Dilli Haat. Being a national award winner, I request the government to cater to our requirements and address our problems," she tells *MetroLife*.

Even as one revels in the colours of India, in its rawest form, the question remains unanswered: Why don't we have more *haats* or similar hubs, reserved exclusively to promote our ethnic Indian items?

Garima Arora

CBI files case against Vaghela

UPA minister had allowed land deal at throwaway prices

NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA/ AHMEDABAD: The CBI filed a case against Congress leader Shankarsinh Vaghela on Wednesday for allowing sale of a prime property in Mumbai at "throwaway prices" during his tenure as the textiles minister in the UPA-I regime.

The sale of National Textile Corporation (NTC) land in central Mumbai's Parel area to a private firm reportedly caused a loss of Rs 709 crore to the exchequer. Vaghela, former Gujarat CM and present leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, walked over to the Congress from the BJP in the mid-90's following differences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Vaghela had a running feud with Modi during his stint in Gujarat, and is named along with five others, including former NTC chairman and managing direction Ramachandran Pillai, in the FIR.

Two NTC officials—R K Sharma, then director (technical), and M K Khare, then senior manager (legal)—and Kamlesh Mehta of Kolkata-based Gowani Builders, then director of Hall & Anderson Ltd, were among others who were named in the case. Hall & Anderson Ltd is now known as Shree Madhusudan Mills Ltd. The FIR is the result of preliminary enquiry that went on for more than a year.

Sources said Vaghela entered into a conspiracy that al-



Former Union textile minister Shankarsinh Vaghela

Land scam

■ Vaghela had a running feud with Narendra Modi during his stint in Gujarat

■ Deal according to CBI caused a loss of Rs 709 crore to exchequer

lowed Mehta to develop 27,500 square meters of the 80,785 square meter plot.

The mill, which was privately owned, was declared a sick unit and nationalised under the Sick Textile Undertaking (Nationalisation) Act, 1974. "The accused entered into a criminal conspiracy and transferred the land at Mumbai owned by NTC to a Kolkata-based private firm in a wrongful manner for a total consideration of (around) Rs 29.35 crore, whereas the actual value of the land was much higher. An alleged loss of (around) Rs 709.27 crore was caused to the government exchequer," a CBI statement said.

» **Vaghela, Page 8**

CBI files case against Vaghela

Vaghela, from Page 1

Sources said Vaghela overruled the recommendation made by officials that NTC must give a detailed plan on the evaluation of the land before giving sanction for sale.

Vaghela termed the CBI move as "vendetta" politics. "It has been seven years of UPA-I. Why the inquiry was not initiated in these seven to 10 years (the sale of land took place in 2007-08). This is nothing but vendetta politics," he said.

He went on to claim that as per the information at his disposal, the Vajpayee-led NDA government was planning to sell all NTC lands in Mumbai for Rs 200 crore. "NTC had a debt of Rs 1,800 crore but due to the efforts of the previous government, it earned Rs 2,000 crore through NTC land deals."

The investigators also searched nine locations in four cities—New Delhi, Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Kolkata—soon after registering the case. Vaghela's residence was also searched.

The accused have been charged under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating) of the IPC and relevant sections of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The search operation began early morning at Vaghela's residence in Gandhinagar and continued till about 4.30-5.00 pm.

DH News Service

TOUCH OF BANARAS

In an endeavour to promote the Indian weaving craft and to showcase saris, dress materials and accessories from one of the rich weaving craft centres of India, Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, a Government of India undertaking, Ministry of Textiles, is organising an exhibition cum sale of exclusive handwoven banarasi saris at the Handloom Marketing Complex. It was inaugurated by Alok Kumar, IAS, development commissioner, Ministry of Textiles.

Exclusive varieties of the saris are *jangla*, *tanchoi*, *vaskat*, cutwork, tissue, and *butidar* which are made of silk warp and silk weft, on plain/satian ground base, brocaded with extra weft patterns in different layouts introducing *butis*, bells, creepers, *buttas* in ground, border



and *anchal* for getting attractive and stylish appearance. The exhibition showcases Banarasi saris in cottons, silk cutwork, *kadua buti*, *jangla buti*, organza *jaal*, georgette, *tanchoi*, brocade, *shikargarh*, *kota* with *zari* border *buta* and silk dress material amongst many other products.

CBI charges Vaghela for loss to NTC in land scam

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

The CBI on Wednesday registered a case against former Union textiles minister Shankarsinh Vaghela, now Leader of the Opposition in Gujarat, and five others for selling over 27,000 sq.m. of prime National Textile Corporation property in Mumbai to a private firm at "throwaway prices", causing a loss of over ₹700 crores to the exchequer.

The agency filed an FIR under IPC sections on criminal conspiracy and cheating and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act on criminal misconduct, CBI sources said. It also conducted searches at nine locations, including Mr Vaghela's Gandhinagar residence, and the houses and offices of others involved in the case in New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

The case is over the sale of NTC property in the posh Worli area of Mumbai to a Kolkata firm for a meagre ₹29.35 crores. CBI sources said the FIR was filed after a year-long preliminary enquiry into the matter.

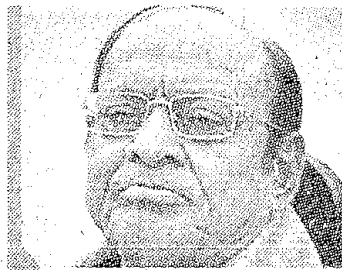
Besides the former Gujarat chief minister, those named in the FIR include then NTC chairman-cum-MD K. Ramachandran Pillai, its then director (technical) R.K. Sharma, senior manager (legal) M.K. Khare and a Kolkata private firm and its director, the sources said.

■ More on Page 2

सीबीआई ने वाघेला के खिलाफ दर्ज किया केस

नई दिल्ली। नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन (एनटीसी) की जमीन को एक निजी कंपनी को औने-पौने दाम पर बेचने के मामले में सीबीआई ने बुधवार को पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला और छह अन्य लोगों के खिलाफ केस दर्ज कर लिया है। आरोप है कि इस सौदे से कारपोरेशन को 709 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान उठाना पड़ा था।

सीबीआई सूत्रों के अनुसार कांग्रेस नेता वाघेला के साथ कारपोरेशन के तत्कालीन सीएमडी रामचंद्रन पिल्लई के खिलाफ भी मामला दर्ज किया गया है। केस दर्ज होने के तुरंत बाद एजेंसी ने नई दिल्ली, गांधीनगर, मुंबई और कोलकाता में नौ जगहों पर छापेमारी की। जांच एजेंसी ने यह



एनटीसी की जमीन को औने पौने दाम पर बेचने का मामला

कहते हुए कुछ और बताने से इनकार कर दिया कि तलाशी अब भी जारी है। बता दें कि इस मामले में एक साल लंबी प्राथमिक जांच के बाद यह कार्रवाई हुई है। जिस जमीन को कौड़ियों के भाव बेचने की बात की जा रही है, वह मुंबई के परेल में स्थित थी। वाघेला फिलहाल गुजरात विधानसभा में नेता विपक्ष हैं। एजेंसी

NTC LAND DEAL

CBI books Vaghela for irregularities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD,
JUNE 17

THE CBI Wednesday registered an FIR against former Union textile minister Shankarsinh Vaghela, former National Textiles Corporation (NTC) chairman and managing director K Ramchandran Pillai and others in connection with the irregular transfer of prime mill land in Mumbai to a private developer that allegedly led to a loss of around Rs 709.27 crore to NTC.

Others named in the FIR are R K Sharma, then Director (Technical) of NTC; M K Khare, then Senior Manager (Legal) of NTC; M/s Hall and Anderson Ltd; Kamlesh Mehta, Director of Hall

and Anderson Ltd and other unknown persons. The accused have been booked under the IPC sections for criminal conspiracy and cheating and sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

According to CBI sources, cash worth Rs 13.33 lakh was seized during the search at the Gandhinagar residence of Vaghela, who said the move to file an FIR against him was like "*ulta chor kotwal ko dannte* (the pot calling the kettle black)" and an attempt to divert attention from the controversy surrounding External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

The sources also said a fixed deposit of Rs 1.65 crore and a locker were seized during a search at Pillai's residence, two lockers and credit cards were

seized from Sharma's home and a fixed deposit of Rs 45 lakh and a locker were seized at Khare's residence.

Searches were also conducted at the offices of NTC in New Delhi and Mumbai, the office of Hall and Anderson in Kolkata and at the office of a firm called Lotus Enterprises in Mumbai.

"The accused entered into a criminal conspiracy and transferred the land of M/s Shree Madhusudan Mills in Worli, owned by the NTC since the mill was nationalised, to Mehta's firm in Kolkata in July 2009 in a wrongful manner for a total consideration of Rs 29.35 crore whereas the actual value of the land was much higher. This led to an alleged loss of Rs 709.27 crore to the government excheq-

uer," said a CBI source.

Sources further said that Hall and Anderson was allowed to develop 27,500 sq m of the 80,785 sq m mill.

According to the CBI, M/s Shree Madhusudan Mills was taken over by the Ministry of Textiles/NTC and nationalised under the Textiles Undertakings (Taking over of Management) Act, 1983 and the Textiles Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1995.

"All assets of the said firm were transferred to NTC and a suitable amount was paid as compensation to M/s Shree Madhusudan Mills," said a CBI source.

Elaborating on Vaghela's role, the source said, "It is alleged that in the process of settling of issues regarding taking over of assets

and liabilities of the said firm, the then Union Minister of Textiles overruled the opinion of senior officers of the ministry for a comprehensive proposal from NTC, which owned the land, including recommendation by the officers for actual valuation of the land for settlement of the issues."

The source added: "Abusing his official position, the textile minister approved the sharing of the land in the ratio of 65 : 35 in the favour of Hall and Anderson Ltd, owned and controlled by Kamlesh Mehta. Accordingly, 35 per cent share of land was transferred to Hall and Anderson Ltd against consideration of Rs 29.35 crore," the source added.

The CBI had registered a Preliminary Enquiry in the matter on May 13, 2014.

दिल्ली में बनारसी साड़ियों की प्रदर्शनी



जनपथ स्थित
हथकरघा विपणन
कांप्लेक्स में
बनारसी साड़ी
की प्रदर्शनी का
उद्घाटन करते
केंद्रीय कुटीर
उद्योग निगम के
प्रबंध निदेशक
प्रमोद नागपाल।

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : बनारसी साड़ियों का देश-विदेश में क्रेज है। ऐसे में अगर नवीनतम फैशन में बनारसी साड़ी दिल्ली में उपलब्ध हो जाए तो फिर क्या कहने। यह तो दिल्ली की महिलाओं के लिए उत्सव सरीखा मौका है। बुधवार को जनपथ स्थित हथकरघा विपणन कांप्लेक्स में फैशनेबली बनारस प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन केंद्रीय कुटीर उद्योग निगम (सीसीआईसी) के प्रबंध निदेशक प्रमोद नागपाल और कपड़ा मंत्रालय के अन्य वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने किया। इस प्रदर्शनी में कॉटन, सिल्क, कटवर्क, जंगलबुटी, समेत अन्य कपड़ों के परिधान महिलाओं, पुरुषों और बच्चों के लिए उपलब्ध है। प्रदर्शनी में बनारसी साड़ी की खरीदारी करने पर 15 फीसद की छूट भी मिल रही है। प्रदर्शनी 26 जून तक चलेगी।

वाघेला के खिलाफ एनटीसी जमीन घोटाले में एफआईआर

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। सीबीआई ने नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन (एनटीसी) की मुंबई स्थित जमीन कथित रूप से 'कौड़ियों के मोल' पर एक निजी कंपनी को बेचे जाने के मामले में पूर्व कपड़ा मंत्री शंकरसिंह वाघेला और छह अन्य के खिलाफ एक प्राथमिकी दर्ज की है। जिनके खिलाफ



■ नई दिल्ली, गांधीनगर, मुंबई और कोलकाता में नौ स्थलों पर छापे मारे

प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई है उनमें एनटीसी के तत्कालीन सीएमडी भी शामिल हैं।

सीबीआई सूत्रों ने बताया कि प्राथमिकी वाघेला, एनटीसी के पूर्व अध्यक्ष-सह-महाप्रबंधक रामचंद्रन पिल्लै और अन्य के खिलाफ दर्ज की गई है और उसमें परेल स्थित एनटीसी की जमीन की बिक्री में सरकारी खजाने को 1700 करोड़ रु का घाटा लगाने का आरोप लगाया गया है। प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराने के तुरंत बाद सीबीआई ने आज चार शहरों - नई दिल्ली, गांधीनगर, मुंबई और कोलकाता - में नौ स्थलों पर छापेमारी शुरू कर दी। इनमें वाघेला और अन्य के निवास भी शामिल हैं। (शेष पेज 2)

वाघेला के खिलाफ एनटीसी...

छापेमारी अभी जारी है। सूत्रों ने इस मामले में अतिरिक्त ब्योरा देने से इनकार कर दिया, क्योंकि छापेमारी अभी जारी है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि मामले में एक साल से प्राथमिक जांच करने के बाद प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई। वाघेला एक वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता हैं। वह गुजरात विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता हैं और राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री रह चुके हैं।

मेरे खिलाफ प्राथमिकी भाजपा की बदले की राजनीति : वाघेला

गांधीनगर (भाषा)। पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री और कांग्रेस नेता शंकर सिंह वाघेला ने सीबीआई द्वारा उनके खिलाफ दर्ज की गई प्राथमिकी को भाजपा की बदले की राजनीति बताया। मुंबई में एक कीमती संपत्ति को बहुत कम कीमत पर एक निजी कंपनी को बेचे जाने के सिलसिले में उन पर प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई है। संप्रग-एक के शासनकाल के दौरान गलत काम करने के आरोपों से इंकार करते हुए गुजरात विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता वाघेला ने कहा कि संप्रग-एक शासन के सात वर्ष गुजर गए हैं। उन सात से दस वर्षों में कोई जांच क्यों नहीं हुई (जमीन की बिक्री 2007-08 के दौरान हुई)। यह भाजपा की बदले की राजनीति है।

वह सीबीआई द्वारा उनके एवं छह अन्य के खिलाफ दर्ज की गई प्राथमिकी के सिलसिले में जवाब दे रहे थे। राष्ट्रीय टैक्सटाइल कॉरपोरेशन (एनटीसी) के

■ वाघेला पर मुंबई में एक कीमती संपत्ति को बहुत कम कीमत पर एक निजी कंपनी को बेचने का है आरोप

तत्कालीन सीएमडी रामचंद्रन पिल्लई पर भी मुंबई के पारेल में एक निजी कंपनी को कथित रूप से काफी रियायती दर पर एनटीसी की जमीन बेचने के आरोप हैं। प्राथमिकी में कहा गया है कि वाघेला एवं

अन्य के कृत्यों से राजस्व को 709 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ है। वाघेला ने कहा कि जब मैंने काम संभाला तो एनटीसी की स्थिति खराब थी। लोग एनटीसी मिल परिसर में अतिक्रमण कर रहे थे।

एनटीसी की जमीन बेचने में कोई गलती नहीं की गई। उन्होंने कहा कि मुंबई में एनटीसी मिल के चार से पांच प्लॉट बेचे गए और अहमदाबाद में तीन प्लॉट बेचे गए। पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री वाघेला ने कहा कि मैं राजग सरकार से कहूंगा कि चोर पुलिस को डांट रहा है। ऐसा दिन आएगा जब हम मुख्यमंत्री (आनंदीबेन पटेल) या प्रधानमंत्री (नरेन्द्र मोदी) को भंडाफोड़ करने में नहीं हिचकेंगे।

वाघेला के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज

जागरण न्यूज नेटवर्क, नई दिल्ली : राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की जमीन कौड़ियों के भाव बेच देने के आरोप में सीबीआई ने पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर कई स्थानों पर छापेमारी की है। इस दौरान वाघेला के आवास से 13.3 लाख की नगद राशि बरामद हुई।

सात सौ करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के इस घोटाले में बुधवार को पांच अन्य लोगों के खिलाफ भी प्राथमिकी दर्ज की गई। इनमें वस्त्र निगम के तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष सह प्रबंध निदेशक रामचंद्रन पिल्लै भी शामिल हैं। वाघेला के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज होने के बाद अब गिरफ्तारी की तलवार लटक रही है। दूसरी तरफ, वाघेला का कहना है कि उनके खिलाफ राजनीतिक साजिश के तहत भाजपा के इशारे पर कार्रवाई हुई है।

बुधवार को एफआईआर दर्ज करने के तुरंत बाद सीबीआई की कई टीमों ने नई दिल्ली, गांधीनगर, मुंबई और कोलकाता में नौ स्थानों पर एक साथ छापेमारी शुरू कर दी। सूत्रों के अनुसार, पिल्लै के घर से 1.65 करोड़ के फिक्स्ड डिपॉजिट के दस्तावेज



शंकर सिंह वाघेला

सात सौ करोड़ का घोटाला

- ♦ वस्त्र निगम भूमि घोटाले में पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री पर शिकंजा
- ♦ कई स्थानों पर छापे, वाघेला के घर से 13.3 लाख बरामद

बरामद हुए। अन्य अधिकारियों के यहां भी छापेमारी की गई है। उल्लेखनीय है कि वाघेला इस समय गुजरात विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता हैं। वे इससे पहले राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री भी रह चुके हैं।

क्या है मामला : वाघेला पर आरोप है

कि वर्ष 2004 से 2009 के दौरान केंद्र में कपड़ा मंत्री रहते उन्होंने निगम की मुंबई स्थित अपोलो, यूनाइटेड, गोल्ड मोहर, न्यू सिटी मिल्स आदि की 27 हजार वर्ग मीटर जमीन बेचने में निजी कंपनियों को फायदा

पहुंचाया। सीबीआई का अनुमान है कि इन सौदों से सरकार को 709 करोड़, 27 लाख रुपये का नुकसान हुआ। कंपनियों को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए नियमों को भी बदला गया।

एनटीसी भूमि घोटाले में वाघेला के खिलाफ रपट दर्ज

नई दिल्ली, 17 जून (भाषा)। केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) ने पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला और पांच अन्य के खिलाफ मुंबई में नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन (एनटीसी) की 27 हजार वर्गमीटर बेशकीमती जमीन एक निजी कंपनी को बहुत ही कम कीमत पर बेचने के सिलसिले में मामला दर्ज किया है। जमीन बेचने के कारण सरकार को 700 करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा का नुकसान हुआ है।

सीबीआई सूत्रों ने कहा कि करीब एक साल की जांच के बाद एजेंसी ने आपराधिक साजिश, ठगी और आपराधिक मामले में भ्रष्टाचार निरोधक अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज की है।

सूत्रों ने कहा कि गुजरात के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री वाघेला के अलावा प्राथमिकी में जिन लोगों का नाम है, उनमें एनटीसी के तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष सह प्रबंध निदेशक के. रामचंद्रन पिल्लै, इसके तत्कालीन निदेशक (तकनीकी) आरके शर्मा, वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (कानूनी) एम.

के. खरे और कोलकाता की निजी कंपनी और इसके निदेशक शामिल हैं। प्राथमिकी दर्ज किए जाने के तुरंत बाद सीबीआई ने गांधीनगर में वाघेला, यहां पर पिल्लै, शर्मा और खरे के आवासों के अलावा एनटीसी के यहां और मुंबई के परिसरों पर छापेमारी की। कोलकाता में निजी कंपनी के निदेशक के आवास पर भी छापे मारे गए। सूत्रों ने कहा कि छापेमारी के दौरान सीबीआई ने वाघेला के आवास से 13.30 लाख रुपए नकद, पिल्लै के आवास से 1.65 करोड़ रुपए सावधि जमा के दस्तावेज, शर्मा के आवास से दो लॉकर और क्रेडिट कार्ड और खरे के आवास से 45 लाख रुपए की सावधि जमा और एक लॉकर बरामद किया है।

सीबीआई के अधिकारी आरके गौड़ ने यहां कहा कि आरोप के मुताबिक आरोपियों ने आपराधिक साजिश कर मुंबई में एनटीसी की जमीन को कोलकाता की एक निजी कंपनी को गलत तरीके से करीब 29.35 करोड़ रुपए में बेच दिया, जबकि जमीन की वास्तविक कीमत

काफी ज्यादा थी। इससे सरकारी खजाने को करीब 709.27 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हुआ।

सीबीआई सूत्रों ने कहा कि यूपीए शासन के दौरान वाघेला ने अपने मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों की अनुशंसा को खारिज कर दिया जिसमें सुझाव दिया गया था कि निजी कंपनी को बेचे जाने से पहले जमीन के मूल्य की विस्तृत योजना एनटीसी को सौंपी जानी चाहिए।

मालूम हो कि संपत्ति 'बीमार' मधुसूदन मिल की 80785 वर्गमीटर जमीन का हिस्सा है जिसे एनटीसी ने टेक्सटाइल अंडरटेकिंग्स अधिनियम 1983 और टेक्सटाइल अंडरटेकिंग्स अधिनियम 1995 के तहत अधिग्रहित किया था।

सीबीआई सूत्रों ने कहा कि कंपनी की सभी संपत्तियों को केंद्र सरकार को एनटीसी के माध्यम से स्थानांतरित किया गया और मधुसूदन मिल को उचित भुगतान किया गया। एनटीसी ने कोलकाता की निजी कंपनी को 27585 वर्गमीटर की जमीन 29.35 करोड़ रुपए में देने का फैसला किया था।

700 करोड़ का घोटाला : पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री वाघेला के घर पर सीबीआई छापा

भास्कर न्यूज नेटवर्क | एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली/अहमदाबाद/गांधीनगर

सीबीआई ने नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कॉर्पोरेशन घोटाले के 700 करोड़ के जमीन घोटाले में नौ स्थानों पर छापे मारे। इसमें पूर्व केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री तथा गुजरात विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता शंकर सिंह वाघेला का घर और दफ्तर भी शामिल है।

इस मामले को लेकर सीबीआई ने पहले से जांच कर रही थी। एजेंसी ने इस मामले में एफआईआर भी दर्ज



डेढ़ करोड़ की एफडी और 13 लाख नकद बरामद

सीबीआई सूत्रों के मुताबिक वाघेला के घर से 13 लाख रुपये से ज्यादा बरामद हुए हैं। जबकि एनटीसी के पूर्व सीएमडी रामचंद्र पिल्लई के यहां से डेढ़ करोड़ से ज्यादा की एफडी बरामद हुई है। सीबीआई को कुछ लॉकरों की जानकारी मिली है। इनके खुलने पर जानकारी मिलेगी। हालांकि सीबीआई ने अब तक का कोई खुलासा नहीं किया है।

की है। बुधवार को गुजरात, मुंबई, कोलकाता समेत अन्य शहरों में 9 जगहों पर छापे मारे गए हैं। पूर्व मंत्री के घर 25 सदस्यीय सीबीआई की टीम पहुंची थी। उनसे 10 घंटे तक सीबीआई के अधिकारियों ने पूछताछ की। सीबीआई प्रवक्ता

आरके गौड के मुताबिक पूर्व कपड़ा मंत्री वाघेला, नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कॉर्पोरेशन (एनसीटी) के सीएमडी रामचंद्रन पिल्लई समेत अन्य लोगों को एनसीटी की मुंबई के परेल की जमीन बेचने के मामले में 700 करोड़ के घोटाले में आरोपी है।