# ED eyes bookkeeper in Uddhav kin's case

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**Mumbai:** The Enforcement Directorate is stepping up on action against a key figure in the money laundering case linked to Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's brother in-law Shridhar Patankar. The ED will approach court for a non-bailable warrant against Nandkishore Chaturvedi, a book keeper who allegedly used shell firms to circulate funds used to buy properties in the name of a firm owned by Patankar.

Chaturvedi has avoided ED summons repeatedly and the agency has issued a look-out circular to prevent him from leaving India, said sources. ED has searched for Chaturvedi in his hometown Mathura and places in Mumbai where he is known to have connections to record his statement but in vain.

Reacting to the ED's move, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said MVA members are less likely to get relief from judiciary as compared to those against whom action is taken by the state. "Be it Param Bir Singh or anyone else, there are around 25 people against whose crimes state is taking action. All of them rushed to court and got some kind of relief. Can you show me even a single instance of similar kind of relief been given by the court to our people?"

Chaturvedi along with Patankar were directors in Hamsafar Dealer Pvt Ltd and Apple Rose Mercantile Pvt Ltd, which the ED had investigated for alleged money laundering. Both the companies had transferred money into the accounts of Shree Saibaba Grihanirmiti Pvt Ltd, a firm owned and controlled by Patankar, before and after demonetisation in November 2016. Patankar is brother of Rashmi, Uddhav's wife.

The ED and income tax (I-T) have been looking for Chaturvedi since the last couple of years in separate cases they have been investigating after demonetisation.

In March 2017, ED had registered a money laundering case against the Pushpak Bullion group of companies along with its promoters Mahesh Patel and handrakant Patel for their dealing in demonetised currency. The ED had arrested Chandrakant Patel in the case. During the probe, ED learnt that Patel and kin on earlier occasions had transferred Rs 20 crore to Nandkishore Chaturvedi, an accommodation entry provider who helped to bring unaccounted funds into legal banking channels through fictitious transactions by circulating them through his shell companies. The agency's case is that part of these funds were used to buy properties through Patankar's company. The ED on Tuesday issued a press note stating that they had attached 11 flats of Patankar's company, Shree Saibaba Grihanirmiti Pvt Ltd.

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## Focus on test, track, treat: States told as Centre eases Covid-19 restrictions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Even as the Centre has decided to tread towards normalcy by lifting restrictions and restoring all economic and social activities from March 31 , the health ministry has asked states and UTs to ensure evidence based decision making for restoration and relaxations. It has also stressed on the need to follow a risk assessment based approach to open up and asked districts to review data based on critical testing.

Health secretary Rajesh Bhushan has written to states and UTs underlining the importance of continuing to implement and monitor necessary measures so as not to lose the gains made so far in the fight against Covid. States have also been asked to ensure 100% vaccination for all eligible age groups. "There should be a continued focus on the five-fold strategy i.e. test, track, treat, vaccination and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour," he wrote, adding states should enforce norms like maintaining social distancing in public spaces.

At the district level, there should be constant review of emerging data of new cases based on a sustained and critical level of testing, Bhushan said. Besides, the Centre has asked states to identify areas where restrictions need to be imposed or continued based on broad framework based on test positivity and bed occupancy.

### Dhaba owner killed after spat over ₹4 , three held

**Bareilly:** A dhaba owner in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly was allegedly killed following a verbal spat over Rs 4 with three customers. The three accused were nabbed while they were trying to escape on Wednesday, reports **Kanwardeep Singh.** Police said that the victim, identified as Sewaram Gangwar (45), is a resident of Fatehganj West. He ran a dhaba on Delhi-Lucknow NH. A probe revealed that the accused went to the dhaba for tea on March 11.







### Acid attack convict now booked for rape

**New Delhi:** A man, who was convicted earlier for throwing acid on a woman, has now been booked for threatening and assaulting the same woman. Police said the accused was released in 2011 after completing seven years in prison. The case was lodged in Uttar Pradesh. The survivor, a relative of the accused, filed a complaint . Based on her complaint, a case was registered against him. TNN

**All-women gang of robbers busted :** Delhi Police has arrested four women who had robbed a man of Rs 2,000 near the Ganda Nala area in Dwarka, an official said on Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Babli Mausam (50), Asha (30), Manisha (25) and Muskan (25), all residents of Najafgarh. IANS