

PCA bats for a modern media centre in Guwahati

By our correspondent
Guwahati, July 9:

Press Club of Assam (PCA) emphasizes on the need of a modern multi-media centre in the pre-historic city of Guwahati for the benefit of working journalists across Assam and urged the State chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal to take personal interest in allotting a suitable plot of land to the registered press club for fulfilling its dream.

In a memorandum dated Guwahati, 8 July 2020 to the State government, the press club stated that the eco-friendly centre would function as an independent body and sincerely following relevant health guidelines, it would offer a meeting place for scribes, initiate programs for their skill development and capacity building, arrange for recreation facilities and also other possible welfare activities for media families. "Regular programs like press meets/briefings, interactive sessions with distinguished personalities, video conferences with foreign journalists, workshops & training programs for young scribes, regular medical clinics with the help of acclaimed hospitals for the benefit of scribes, film & documentary screenings, etc can be organized at the centre," said the PCA memorandum.

IBSD Imphal distributes sanitizers, facemasks

IT News
Imphal, July 9:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Takyelpat distributed hand sanitizers, face masks, surface disinfectant, drinking bottled water and face shields to Children Home and Senior Citizen Hom. The distribution was made by a team of IBSD, Imphal led by Dr. Sudripta Das, Scientist-F and Dr. H. Sunitibala Devi, Scientist-E, Dr. Y. Rajashekar, Scientist-D and Dr. Ch. Brajakishor, Scientist-D under the guidance of Director of the institute, Prof. Pulok K Mukherjee. The above items were distributed to the inmates of Senior Citizen's Home, Kumbi Terakhong, Lamlong and inmates of Children Home at Kanglelombi. Items were distributed as part of IBSD's ongoing outreach programme on COVID-19. It may be mentioned that IBSD had earlier distributed similar items to quarantine centres, police, truck drivers, media, old age homes and other frontline workers.

Criminal contempt case taken up for defaming High Court appointee MU Administrator Jarnail Singh

IT News
Imphal, July 9:

A division bench of Manipur High Court has taken up a criminal contempt case against one Yumann Kanta Roy, for attempting the defame the court appointee Administrator of Manipur Jarnail Singh by violating the ruling of the Manipur High Court. Yumkham Kanta Roy, aged about 53 and a resident of Lairik Yengbam Makha Leikai of Imphal East has challenged the legitimacy to the appointment of various faculties and non-teaching employees by the Administrator Jarnail Singh and filed a petition to the Manipur High Court to cancel

all the appointed employees in the Manipur University during his tenure. When the Manipur University was in a state of chaos following the uprising against the then Vice-Chancellor Prof. Aditya Prasad Pandey, one Chongtham Nimai Singh filed a Public Interest Litigation to the Manipur High Court in 2018 and following the petition a double bench of the Manipur Manipur High Court in an interim order dated October 11, 2018, appointed Former Chief Secretary of Manipur, Jarnail Singh, who is par excellence in the administrative affairs of Manipur, as the administrator of the Manipur University. While appointing Jarnail

Singh as the Administrator the High Court order categorically stated that the Administrator appointed to bring normalcy at the Manipur University is fully empowered to discharge the functions of the Vice-Chancellor as provided under the Manipur University Act, 2005 and such order relevant statuses, whose primary duty and responsibility is to bring normalcy in the state. Some eminent legal experts while talking to Imphal Times interpreted the term 'Normalcy' as maintenance and functioning of the Manipur University by even appointing whatsoever required restoring for the full functioning of the university. In an order by the division

bench of Justice Kh. Nobin Singh and Justice A. Bimol Singh dated July 7, 2020, it is stated that - "Any person, whether he is a party in this petition or not, if obstructs the smooth functioning of the Administrator, will be deemed to interfere or obstruct the administration of justice, as the Administrator has been appointed by this Court to act on behalf of the Court with the specific task of bringing normalcy to the University. Accordingly, any such person who may interfere or cause obstruction to the functioning of the Administrator may be liable to be proceeded and punished accordingly under the Contempt of Court Act, 1971

and/or under Article 215 of the Constitution of India, for which the Administrator will move this court. Any party in the proceeding will be also at liberty to bring to the notice of this court any such contumacious activity for necessary action by the Court. Earlier, court ruling at the time of appointment of Jarnail Singh as the Administrator on interim basis also stated that he is fully authorized to choose and appoint any competent person as in-charge Registrar of the University and he will be at liberty to appoint any other person(s) to aid, assist and advise him in the discharge of functions of the Vice-

Chancellor. Thus, all staff including faculty members appointed by the Administrator at the capacity of the Vice-Chancellor is legitimate and there is no question of quashing it as long as discrepancy or anomalies to the conduct of the recruitment has been found. Meanwhile, assuming the situation of the Manipur University restoring to normalcy, The Ministry of Human Resource and Development had advertised to appoint the post of the Vice-Chancellor. Till June 20, the last date for submission of the form for the post, over 120 applications have been received, a source said.

State to provide tap connections to all rural households by 2022

Imphal, July 9:

Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Shekhawat discussed various aspects of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Manipur with the Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh through video conferencing. This is in continuation of extensive exercise carried out by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti by consulting States/UTs for the last 3 months, wherein water supply schemes of the States were analyzed so as to provide household tap connections in villages. Government of India is implementing the flagship programme 'Jal Jeevan Mission' in partnership with States to ensure every rural household in the country has Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) for potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in their living standards. It's the endeavour of the Government to provide tap connections in rural

households on priority basis during prevailing CoVid-19 situation, so that rural people don't have to go to public stand-posts for fetching water. The CM assured that all households of the State will be provided with tap connections by 2022. All habitations in rural areas will be covered through piped water supply, so that poor and marginalized people get tap connections in household premises. Manipur is planning 100% coverage by FY 2021-22, ahead of national goal by 2024. By doing so, Manipur will be the first State in North-East to accomplish the ambitious target of providing tap connection to every rural household. Out of 4.51 lakh rural households in Manipur, 0.32 lakh (7.17%) are provided with FHTCs. Out of the remaining 4.19 lakh households, Manipur plans to provide tap connections in 2 lakh households during 2020-21. During the current year, State is planning for 100% coverage of 1 district and 15 blocks and 1,275 villages. In 2020-21, Rs. 131.80 Crore has been allocated and

Imphal, July 9:

Education Minister Dr. Thokchom Radheshyam today attended the inauguration session of the Two Day Panel Discussion on "Emerging Disciplines and Their Prospects and Challenges in Manipur" sponsored by the State Project Directorate of Rashtriya Uchchait Shiksha Abhiyan, Manipur. He said that the focus for subjects offered in the Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) of the state should have relevance in the modern times and should be productive in the future. We must ensure that the subjects and disciplines provided in the colleges and HEIs syllabus are upgraded with the changing times. The effectiveness of the subjects or courses offered, need to be analysed in the context of the market demand and their purpose in the development of the society. He expressed that before introducing a new discipline or subject, one must keep in mind the interest of the students and future of the society.

Education sector needs to re-evaluate disciplines offered in the context of global advancement: Minister Education

He added that employability is only one of the aspects of education. He expressed hope that the aim of the panel discussion will help in addressing the key issues to improve the quality of higher education. Dr. Th. Radheshyam acknowledging the shortage of teachers in the state stated that unlike other departments, appointing a teacher is not a casual task. After a series of meetings with the officials concerned of the Department of Higher and Technical Education, a plan to conduct a survey and audit for the various subjects and disciplines, students - teachers' ratio and other related infrastructural features of the HEIs was suggested. He opined that depending on the feasibility, a centrally located institution may be allocated to provide classes on subjects where there is a lesser number of students to address the issue of teacher shortage for some extent. He urged the teachers to collaborate and communicate to work as a team to improve and bring advancement in the education

sector of the state. Commissioner, Higher & Technical Education, Shri M. Harekrishna said that there is a need to discuss the necessary steps being taken up in the higher education sector of the state. The global scientific and technological advancement have questioned and challenged every existing facet related to education. Emerging necessities and demands accelerated evolution of new subjects. There has been a paradigm shift in the higher education sector creating a gap. He added that it is therefore important that the younger generations are directed to a knowledge-based society where knowledge attained is used to bring development and advancement in the society. The two day panel discussion will have four technical sessions on the themes - The Gap between Present Curriculum and Present Employability Crisis to be chaired by Prof. W. Nabakumar Singh and Necessity of Pedagogical Approach in Academic Institutions for Developing Originality of

Learners - Innovations, Creativity, Problems Solving, etc to be chaired by Prof. Joykumar Meitei Laishram on the first day. On the second day of the session the 10th July 2020 the discussions will be held on the theme - Need of Overhauling Curriculum Challenges to be chaired by Dr. R. K. Nimai Singh and Examination Reforms for Quality and Learner Friendly to be chaired by Prof. W. Nabakumar Singh. The main aim of this panel discussion is to address the selected themes and invite the experts from industries, academic and societal bases to discuss the key issues to improve the quality of higher education. This discussion will provide a chance of sharing experience and expertise between different stakeholders for mutual benefits, integrating inputs on teaching learning processes for developing the state and nation as a whole. The programme was attended by Director, University & Higher Education Department, Khumanthem Diana Devi, subject experts, teachers, officials concerned and students.

Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs 18th meeting of Group of Ministers (GOM) on COVID-19 GoM informed of measures to keep people informed

PIB
New Delhi, July 9:

The 18th meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 was held under the chairpersonship of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare by a video-conference, here today. He was joined by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Foreign Minister, Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, and Sh. Mansukh Mandaviya,

Minister of State, Chemical and Fertilizers, & Shipping, Dr. Vinod Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog joined the meeting through video conference link. At the outset, the GoM was briefed on the current status of COVID-19 in India. The global comparison between the five most affected countries clearly depicted that India has one of the lowest cases per million (538) and deaths per million (15) compared the global average of 1453 and 68.7, respectively. Within the country, eight states (Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu,

Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat) contribute to around 90% of the active caseload and 49 districts account for 80% of active caseload, as of today. Moreover, six states (Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) account for 86% of total deaths, and 32 districts account for 80% deaths. The GoM was briefed that special efforts were made in the regions showing higher Case Fatality Rate. In a detailed presentation by

Shri Amit Khare, Chairman of Empowered Group-8 (on Information, Communication and Public Awareness), the GoM was briefed on the key steps taken in Communication of information and in raising public awareness. The group received 6,755 alerts of fake news out of which 5,890 were replied to directly and rebuttals were published to 17 foreign media stories. The group also coordinated the issue of 98 daily COVID-19 bulletins, 92 media briefings and 2,482 press releases. The group played a pro-active role

in behavioral change campaign during the pandemic and in creating awareness regarding the relief measures to farmer and MSME units under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan launched by the Prime Minister. It was highlighted that the mental health issues related to COVID-19 pandemic will be a major part of the communication strategy going forward through discussions in the media. Dissemination of messages and information in regional language was focused on to

reach maximum audience through interpersonal and mass communication. Ms Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health), Rajesh Bhushan, OSD (MoHFW), Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO (Niti Aayog), Dr. Balram Bhargava, DG (ICMR), P D Vaghela, Secretary (Pharma), Sanjeev Ranjan, Secretary (Shipping), Ravi Capoor, Secretary (Textiles), Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary (ITWS), Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary (MEITY), representatives of ITBP, participated through virtual media.

★ Editorial

Fate of rivers in Imphal during COVID 19 pandemic

Many people who are critiques of crime against nature, the COVID 19 pandemic indeed is a blessing in disguise. For some time, when the pandemic first emerged, the world witnessed the most panicky life. Almost all major countries take up immediate measures to fight the spread of the virus. Some countries imposed total lockdown crippling all forms of normalcy. Forget about the multinational companies, even those living on daily wages were forced to stop live. Television, newspaper, social media, traditional media – all discuss and relay issues related to COVID 19 pandemic. A new word call 'social distancing' which perhaps is an antithesis to sociology has been made mandatory by many governments running different countries across the world. The majority of the world was put too near standstill. When human activities were put to hold for a few months, an air of freedom seems to be blowing on the lap of the mother earth. Environmentalists say they had never seen River Ganga as clean as they see during the lockdown. It was just around thirty days that such comments were heard. Imagine the condition of the river had the lockdown been a little longer.

Back here in Imphal, the most polluted river or perhaps the dirtiest in the entire country, sees clean water flowing these days. Time and again some concern ministers or bureaucrats or social workers had initiated several work programmes or campaigns to keep the Nambul river clean and free from pollution. None of the efforts has so far been succeeded in making the River that runs through the middle of the Imphal city pollution free river. The dream about making Nambul another river Thames of the United Kingdom never comes true besides all effort.

For over sixty days, Manipur has been put into partial lockdown without allowing the Manipur's commercial hubs Khwairamband keithel, Paona, and Thangal market to open. Almost all commercial activities in these commercial hubs have been put to halt for around three months by now and because of this the one time most crowded commercial hubs that gave headache to municipality workers in cleaning the garbage have been somehow relieved. Because, people have stopped visiting the commercial zone, garbage products from this section of the area have been reduced to almost zero levels. The Nambul river that flows next to the commercial hubs has been a dumping zone of the garbage produced from Khwairamband area and that is perhaps the reason for the failure in every effort to make Nambul – free from pollution. Maybe those concerned departments especially assigned to use all their skill and wisdom by paying huge amounts of salary are not efficient enough to find a solution to deliver what they have been assigned for. But then nature is not so cruel, when some concern humans were left helpless in rendering their service to the environment, it showed some form of extra natural phenomenon that sometimes took the entire human race to surprise. The COVID pandemic may be term as another phenomenon leaving aside the scientific theory.

Perhaps it is because of the COVID 19 pandemic that the long-cherished desires of Imphalites to see Nambul river clean comes true. Part and partial credit should be given to the state Environmental department. The enthusiasm of the environmental department to show their credentials in rendering their services is well noted when the department organized a boat rally for media persons at the Nambul river. It was not merely a boat ride rally but was a rally to create awareness to the people on the importance of keeping the Nambul river clean and tidy.

Nature had done its part, it is now up to the people particularly those working in the environment sector to formulate a lasting mechanism of keeping Nambul river another Thames of the United Kingdom.

Letter to the Editor

A Reader's Response to your article "A.I. in modern era"

Dear Sir,

This is a response to your article titled, "A.I. in modern era" written by Shri Sanjibam Jugeshwor Singh and published in Imphal Times newspaper on 8th of July, 2020.

It is enriching to go through a general but comprehensive understanding of the A.I. I myself have done some developments in machine learning. The world is able to crack some success in the supervised learning mechanism. The result is present before us in form of various voice assistance and automated chatboxes among others. There is no pure unsupervised learning mechanism developed yet. For example, the Google voice assistant and Siri were heavily made to learn over strict iterative supervision and large collection of samples, before they were launched into market as products. Their unsupervised learning skills are still so raw that a consumer cannot trust them for a long duration in a room with other people as there is no surety if they will pick up voice commands not intended for them.

Also, there are a lot of scope of the visual analytics and such A.I. systems to aid the retail sector. In times of the COVID-19, such an effort, even though half-baked has great chances to be used by people. Also, there is a wide space open for Indian developers to include A.I. into their products after increasing boycott of Chinese products.

However, the A.I. industry is still taking its baby steps. Yet it is startling to see that we do not have a dedicated software regulator on the lines of R.B.I. as in money market or SEBI in stock market while increasingly the software market in India has become biggest on planet in terms of number of consumers or users as well as producers or coders. Yes, indeed there is a dark side to the A.I. as is with every other new industry. In terms of regulations, it is not that we are dumb about software or cannot regulate them. In fact, India's IT industry is force in the world to reckon. Many CEOs, managers as well as developers from India are employed at big software firms. It is just that we are acting quick to raise such regulatory structures to keep a check on data privacy, industrial standards inter alia in this market.

Regards,
Apurv
Patna, Bihar

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In-Situ and Ex-Situ Transmissions of COVID-19



Mr. Paojakhp Guite

Of late, rumours roared buzzingly across the State that COVID-19 had reached its climax of transmission: Community Transmission. In epidemiology, community spread happens to be the third stage. At this stage, sources of the disease are not known. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines Community Transmission as one which is "evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through sentinel samples (routine systematic testing of respiratory samples from established laboratories)".

In the US, a Community Transmission of the disease (COVID-19) has three specific source countries. Therefore, community spread in the US means those cases which are occurring in people who did not have any known contact with others from China, South Korea or Italy.

Similarly, in Manipur, the third stage of transmission of COVID-19 may be evidenced by inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases to those who have a "staying history" in quarantine centres i.e., occurring in people who did not have known contact with someone from Community Quarantine Centres (CQC) or Institutional QCs or Home Quarantines. Community Transmission as such is yet to take place in the state (if not prevented in the right direction).

As of I write this piece, Manipur has contracted 4-digit cases of COVID-19. These thousand cases have been clinically confirmed through sentinel samples thanks to the

Government of Manipur. However, none of these cases can be traced or related to a community spread. Most of them had their transmissions happened among the inmates themselves inside the Quarantine centres. I call this mode of transmission as *In-Situ* transmission. Apart from this transmission, we also have some confirmed cases on who had initially tested negative while in a quarantine centre, but later confirmed positive after a requisite 14-day or more quarantining. Still in this case, s/he is believed to have contracted from fellow inmates i.e., both having a staying history in Quarantine centres. I call this mode as *Ex-Situ* transmission. Both the in-situ and ex-situ transmissions are non-local, non-community. They can be collectively called *Managed Transmissions*. The managed transmissions, namely in-situ and ex-situ transmissions are said to be the spill-over effects of mismanagement of transportation and quarantine facilities of returnees.

Air Transmission

One of the fastest modes of transport is airways. Ministry of Civil Aviation was quite prompt to consider the home sickness of its people living outside their home states. The Union Ministry works with State Governments of the country in unison to repatriate the expatriates. As a result, while a stringent lockdown was strictly enforced on ground, traffic began to jam in the air from 25th May, 2020 after a brief ban on airways.

The passengers reached quarantine centres in 4 to five hours time. Asymptomatic persons carried with them the disease. Hence, the disease travelled in such a breakneck speed to reach the jewelled land (Manipur) through air. Thus, air is being polluted. At the initial stage, due to lack of testing technology and of Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) kits, quarantining alone was not robust enough to contain the disease within its four walls. Worse, Quarantine centres were not able to provide basic amenities to the

inmates. This raised questions of security concerns. Lack of basic amenities poses an existential threat (basic necessities like toilet, washroom, diet, etc.) to humankind. This existential threat to the inmates was a viable route for the virus to spread easily to as many as people in a very short span of time. This sort of Quarantine centres is no less than the holocaust of the Nazis. In a nutshell, COVID-19 is a passenger-borne and not air-borne. Let's give time to the World Health Organisation to refute its own earlier finding that the virus is not air-borne. Kudos to those experts who have, after a series of rigorous research, lettered the world health body to review its earlier guidelines on transmission of the Coronavirus. If the air-borne transmission is proved, Lockdown 6.0 is likely to be imposed all the more harshly. Alas, our atmospheric aerosols have been adulterated by the airways!

Real Transmission

Maximum contractions in minimum time of the disease happened through railways. Numbers of passengers are comparatively larger and the time taken to reach a destination is over 19 times more than that of airways. Defying Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), passengers turned the Shramik special trains as an Opera centre- enjoyed the whole journey with music, songs and instruments on the train. Not maintained social distancing guidelines. They thronged in groups. Therefore, Rails apparently have become the real breeding ground of COVID-19.

Behavioural Transmission

Only pointing at the infrastructural loopholes in the Quarantine centres might not do us good. Expecting a VIP treatment will be counterproductive- since late last year, we have had an unstable government in the state. In fact, hitherto, finance might not have been an issue. Rather, the issue at hand is the moral failures of the inmates who could not bear the brunt of existential challenges. The

government, therefore, under the garb of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have invested most of their times in lecturing. Flouting the guidelines on the train continued till the Quarantine centres. Some inmates were seen in their worst discipline. They even felt like meeting in their rendezvous. Some were exposed to their erotic dancing moves by themselves. The news of this undesirable behaviour went viral and national. While even religious gatherings were prohibited, some inmates were found in group in some Quarantine centres without maintaining social distance and performed their religious worships therein. For such zealot persons, humanity appears to be contradictory with religion. Rather, the two are complimentary and go hand in hand. As long as humanity exists, so will also religion. Religion is something which is ingrained in us, and humanity needs to be inculcated. For atheists, humanity is their religion.

Prison Bluff

Government should not always play a face-saving tactic. Declaring that a violator of Quarantine SOPs be put into a prison is a gimmick. Nevertheless, the government calling for the bluff was the immediate and viable solution against the clamours of half-fed disgruntled inmates.

Battle against COVID-19 is not to be fought by government alone. It is a people's war. From government to returnees to quarantinees to common people, we have to stand together on a war footing to emerge victorious against this disease. Doing this would reduce the burden of doctors, Para-medics and other frontline health workers. Eventually, human beings will develop such a technology and immune system to edge the dreaded SARS-CoV-2 out of humanity not to come back forever.

(The write-up tones satirical, and yet the writer puts up his best to walk the tightrope. He may be reached at guitepaojakhp9@gmail.com or 6009962948)

A Nigerian arrested with drugs worth Rs 2 crore



By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 9:

A Nigerian who had arrived by New Delhi-Ernakulam Mangala Express was arrested at Talaja in Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) with addictive drug "Amphetamines" worth Rs two crore, by Railway Protection Force (RPF).

The accused who disclosed his name as Sunny Ocha IYKE (41), a native of Nigeria in West Africa, was carrying a bag containing the drug, identified as Amphetamine, a banned substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985, in a train from New Delhi.

He was apprehended by RPF Head Constable KH Shelar and Shivaji Pawar of Maharashtra Security Force, working under RPF, when he got down from New Delhi-Ernakulam Mangala Express between Nilaje and Talaja, after resorting to alarm chain pulling on late Tuesday evening. He was travelling on an AC-3 Tier ticket from New Delhi to Panvel. He was taken to RPF office located at "Divya", in Thane district.

"His bag was checked and after a suspicious substance was found, he was detained for enquiry. Senior Divisional Security Commandant, Mumbai Division, Central Railway coordinated with the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB), Mumbai and their help was sought," Central Railway said.

The Investigating team along with experts at RPF "Divya" examined the substance and detected a narcotic drug namely "Amphetamines" weighing 2.300 kg. The approximate value of seized drug is Rs. 2 Crore. The Amphetamines is highly addictive drug that stimulates the central nervous system and it is given to the people suffering from "Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The accused and the seized drug substance were handed over to NCB authorities following procedure under NDPS Act.

However an attempt to bring in drugs despite strict monitoring during ongoing COVID-10 induced lock down has baffled authorities who are trying to find out whether there is a larger syndicate involved behind this drug trafficking.

Nirav Modi's property confiscated

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, July 9:

The property of diamond merchant Nirav Modi wanted in a Rs. 11,356.84 crore fraud involving the Punjab National Bank, including four flats at "Samudra Mahal" in Worli in South Mumbai and a sea-side farm house and land in Alibaug in Konkan (Maharashtra) was confiscated by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday.

Modi (49), who was declared a fugitive economic offender by the special court in Mumbai on 5 December, 2019, is currently lodged in a UK jail after being arrested in London in March, 2019. He is fighting extradition to India, while his uncle Mehul Choksi, wanted in the same case, is hiding in Anituga (West Indies).

The case relates to fraudulent letter of undertaking worth Rs.11,356.84 crore issued by the PNB, at its Brady House branch in Fort, in South Mumbai, making the bank liable for the amount. The fraud was allegedly organized by Modi.

Besides property in Mumbai, a wind mill in Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), a flat in London and residential flats in UAE, shares and bank deposits were also confiscated taking the total value of property seized in the last two days to Rs.

329.66 crore under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA), the ED said in a statement.

The seizure was effected based on the directions given by the Special Judge Vijay C Barde under FEOA, on 8 June, who had ordered attachment of the property within one month. That was the first order of asset confiscation passed under the FEO Act in the country.

Till now ED had attached assets worth Rs 2,348 crore of Modi under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002(PMLA) on 10 June, ED had brought back 108 consignments of over 2,300 kg of polished diamonds and pearls worth Rs 1,350 crore of firms belonging to Modi and Choksi from Hong Kong.

Modi is second business after Vijay Mallya to be declared fugitive economic offender under FEOA, which empowers any special court, set up under PMLA, to confiscate all properties and assets of economic offenders who are charged in offences measuring over Rs 100 crore and are evading prosecution by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts. The law mainly seeks to expedite the losses incurred by banks and other entities by confiscating properties of the offender.