

The Truth about Ramdev: Honest or involved in black money?

Ramdev the self-proclaimed enemy of black money should publish all relevant facts about his 100 odd companies and any other matters that have been raised regarding his enterprises.

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This is a preliminary investigation. I've not arrived at any firm conclusion. However, from data I've compiled (and heard) alarm bells are ringingly loudly regarding Ramdev's involvement in black money (and even worse crimes). It is no longer acceptable for Ramdev to downplay the allegations (as Siddhartha Ananta did in December 2012-January 2013 – so I never received the financial documents I had requested). I invite Ramdev to COME OUT WITH ALL FACTS.

IF HE IS HONEST HE HAS NOTHING TO HIDE.

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1. Ramdev's brushing aside my audit questions, and what finally put me off his activities

I had little knowledge of Ramdev and took him (in late 2012) largely on trust, given the recommendation I had from a person I trusted. Despite that, I had diligently [started an audit](#) of Ramdev's 'empire' as part of the first steps I took when I started discussions with him. Swami Ramdev told me he is a **sanyasi** and owns **nothing**. He told me he does not own a single rupee nor any land. ([He also said this publicly](#)) All accounts of the entities associated with him (which are managed by independent Trusts or companies, through Acharya Bal Krishna) are regularly audited and provided to necessary authorities. This statement is likely false.

And he told me he has no relationship with his family. This statement is false.

I was told that four Presidents of India and 25 Chief Ministers are among the many thousands of senior leaders who have visited Patanjali Yogpeeth and its associated facilities. None has raised any matter of concern. CBI has made many allegations but there has been no proof. In brief many of my questions were waved away.

I must admit that time constraints and absence of clear proofs against Ramdev meant I assumed that everything I was told by him was true. I therefore put the audit on a back-burner, continuing the work on a [political party that I had agreed to set up in collaboration with Ramdev](#).

Even today (as at 31 August 2014) I have no direct proofs against Ramdev, except his direct support for a BJP's candidate in the 2014 elections. But my 'nose' for corruption/ black money tells me that Ramdev is not necessarily clean. Something is fishy.

I request Ramdev to voluntarily provide me with all information necessary for my investigations.

Below is a very preliminary list of things I've compiled. There's more that I am looking into, and will update this document as time permits.

1.1 Ramdev's support for corrupt BJP candidate

<http://www.sabhlokcity.com/2014/08/is-there-something-fishy-about-ramdev-and-his-empire-1/>

1.2 Ramdev's support for Subrata Roy

<http://www.sabhlokcity.com/2014/03/swami-ramdev-subrata-roys-is-a-major-case-of-black-money-do-you-still-support-him/>

1.3 RTIs that emerge from this information

1.3.1 ECI

I had complained to ECI regarding [Ramdev's comment](#). An RTI can perhaps be lodged with ECI seeking information on any action taken.

1.4 Source of data for my investigations

1.4.1 Open Magazine

<http://www.openthemagazine.com/article/nation/the-origins-of-ramdev>

1.4.2 Tehelka (Manoj Rawat)

[Baba's black sheep and the golden fleece](#)

[Boot on the other foot for baba \(detailed description of his companies\)](#)

[Baba Ramdev's epic swindle](#)

[This Baba has also amassed wealth!](#)

[Etc.](#)

2. Key players

After the success of Divya Yogpeeth Trust, Ramdev and Balkrishna formed the flagship Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust and another Bharat Swabhiman Trust. **The head and secretary of these trusts are Ramdev and Balkrishna respectively while Swami Muktanand is its treasurer.** [Source]

2.1 Ramdev

SAYED ALIPUR (MAHENDRAGARH): Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's native village in Harayana's Mahendragarh district

Baba Ramdev had left his ancestral village for the gurukul in Khanpur in 1987 on completion of his Class VIII studies.

Baba Ramdev, who was called Ramkishan in his childhood days, has all along been against the use of his surname. Contrary to popular perceptions, his kin and teachers remember him as a brilliant student till Class VIII.

2.2 Dev Dutt, Ramdev's elder brother

Dev Dutt is Baba Ramdev's elder brother.

2.3 Ramdev's younger brother Ram Bharat

[younger brother Rambharat](#)

[His younger brother Rambharat is taking care of his sprawling ashram in Haridwar, where Baba's father also stays](#)

Baba Ramdev's brother Ram Bharat manages Divya Yog Pharmacy. [Source]

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's younger brother Rambharat's speeding car injured two people at Haridwar, on June 16 night. According to police officials, Rambharat was driving a Toyota Innova when he hit two bystanders around seven kilometers away from Ramdev's Yoga Ashram Patanjali Yogpeeth in Sadar area. [Source]

Uttarakhand police launch manhunt to nab Ramdev's brother

[DS Kunwar](#), TNN | Oct 22, 2013, 07.02PM IST

DEHRADUN: [Uttarakhand](#) police has launched a massive hunt to track yoga guru Ramdev's younger brother, Rambharat who went into hiding a couple of hours after he was booked along with four others on the charges of abducting a youth.

A 12-member police team led by circle officer (Kankhal) CMS Negi is looking for Rambharat (40). He is accused of abducting Nitin Tyagi (26), holding him captive and torturing him for four days in a room at Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust, Phase 2, in

Haridwar.

IG (law and order) R S Meena said cases were registered late on Monday against Rambharat and four security guards working at the Trust under sections 365, 342 and 323 of IPC for kidnapping at Kankhal police station on a complaint lodged by the victim's grandfather Som Dutt Tyagi.

Meena said in his complaint Tyagi said that Rambharat and four others allegedly picked up the victim outside the Trust on Friday, held him hostage in a room and tortured him for four days. A senior employee close to Rambharat said that Nitin Tyagi of Rai village in western UP's Muzaffarnagar district, worked as a peon at the Trust two years ago and had suddenly disappeared after committing a theft. "On suddenly spotting Nitin Tyagi outside the Trust on the morning of October 18, Rambharat lost his cool and took him in a room to inquire him about the theft case," he said.

IG Meena said one of the security guards Ramesh Chand, wanted in connection with the case, was arrested early on Tuesday in a raid conducted by a police team. Efforts were on to arrest Rambharat and others, he added. [Source]

Ramdev's brother Ram Bharat may surrender in court on Monday, complainant youth vanishes

Sunil Pandey [Updated 26 Oct 2013, 08:51:04]

Haridwar: Ram Bharat, the brother of yoga guru Swami Ramdev, on Friday filed an application in the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

He is expected to surrender on Monday (Oct 28) before the magistrate and may attempt to get bail the same days, said his lawyer Uttam Singh Chauhan.

Meanwhile, local media reported that Nitin Tyagi, who had complained to police that he was forcibly confined by Ramdev ashram's security guards, has vanished from his relative's house in Roorkee, alongwith his grandfather Som Dutt.

A missing person complaint has been filed. Nitin Tyagi had alleged before police that Ram Bharat and the security guards had thrashed him severely on charge of theft.

Nitin Tyagi was staying at his relative Harpal Tyagi's house in Civil Lines, Roorkee alongwith his grandfather. Their original home is in Rai village near Muzaffarnagar, UP.

According to Harpal Tyagi, on Thursday night, another relative of Nitin Tyagi had come to his home. He took Nitin and his grandfather for dinner outside, and since then the two are missing.

Harpal Tyagi said, the relative came on Friday morning to his house to take back his bike, but there was no information about Nitin and his grandfather.

Haridwar police has been on the lookout of Swami Ramdev's brother Ram Bharat for the last five days. Police teams have gone to Delhi, Haryana, Dehradun and UP in search of the yoga guru's brother. [Source]

FALSE CASE

Justice V K Bisht passed the order as the complainant appeared in the court and filed an affidavit, saying he was pressurised by the police to lodge an FIR against the Yoga guru's brother, government counsel A S Gill said.

In a dramatic turn of events, the grandfather of Nitin Tyagi, who had accused Ramdev's brother Ram Bharat of abducting and torturing his grandson, today told **Uttarakhand High Court** that he had lodged the complaint under police pressure, after which the HC stayed Bharat's arrest. [Source]

2.4 Ramdev's brother-in-law Jasdev Shastri (Yashdev)

Baba's brother-in-law Jasdev Shastri manages the affairs of Patanjali Yogpeeth in Haridwar. [Source]

[In Maa Kamakhya Ltd, Ramdev's brother-in-law, Yashdev Arya, holds controlling shares where](#)

Yashdev Shastri is Ram Dev's brother-in-law and controls the pharmacy and publishing business of the Trust.

Listen to Yashdev on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSHm_5ZzCPc

And here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyvNWwl34-s>

2.5 wami Shankar Dev – property seized, potentially murdered

Baba Ramdev, Acharya Balkrishna and Acharya Karamveer started their journey together in 1990-91 at Tripura Yoga Ashram, Kankhal, a locality in Haridwar. There they used to assist in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines. Later, they were introduced to Swami Shankar Dev of Kripalu Bagh Ashram, a respected saint who had a huge tract of land in that area. Along with him, they registered a trust called Divya Yog Mandir on 5 January 1995, incorporating the Swami's property. While he was designated the chief patron, Ramdev became the president, Balkrishna general secretary and Karamveer vice-president. Jeevraj Patel was made the treasurer. The declared aim of the trust was to impart practical knowledge of yoga and pranayam, the breathing techniques which the middle class rediscovered in the past two decades.

Nine months after the trust was formed, Acharya Balkrishna expelled two businessmen, charging them with indulging in undesirable activities. This was actually the first blow struck for takeover of Divya Yog. On 10 December 1997, Sadhvi Kamla was also shown the door on the same charges. Next to go was Karamveer — he was forced to resign from the post of vice-president. Then came the masterstroke: Ramdev and Balkrishna persuaded Swami Shankar Dev to write that "in case of division of the trust, the property of the trust will be transferred to a trust with similar intention".

After this deft paperwork and ouster of the founding team, Ramdev and Balkrishna became the real owners of the trust. Baba Ramdev's journey to the top had begun. But there is a footnote to this story. Swami Shankar Dev disappeared under mysterious circumstances in 2007 and his whereabouts are not known. Swami Hath Yogi of Haridwar says that there should be a CBI inquiry and only then the truth behind his disappearance will come out. But till now nothing is known.

[Source]

[Swami Shankardev's 'final letter'—addressed to Ramdev's brother-in-law Yash Dev Shastri](#)

2.6 Balakrishna

2.6.1 Where has Balakrishna's enormous wealth come from?

Balkrishna provided a personal guarantee for a Rs 9.85 crore loan from Bank of Baroda in 2009. His net worth, as recorded on the loan agreement, was Rs 45.39 crore. [Source]

ACHARYA BALAKRISHNA is head of all the medical institutions run by Divya Yog Mandir (Trust). He holds the position of managing director in five companies, director in 27 companies and is an additional director in two others. [Source]

2.7 Muktananda

Swami Muktanand, who is a disciple of Swami Shankar Dev, also looks after Divya Pharmacy, which is a unit of Divya Yog Mandir. [Source]

SWAMI UKTANAND actively participates in the production of medicines at Divya Pharmacy, a unit of Divya Yog Mandir. He specialises in the preparation of chyawanprash and amrit rasayan. Swami Muktanand is on the board of 10 companies as a director and is an additional director in another firm. [Source]

Source:



- Swami Muktanand ji born in July 1956, in West-Bengal, Swami Muktananda is the Treasurer and Founder Trustee of Patanjali Yogpeeth (Trust). He is fully associated with all the activities of Divya Yog Mandir (Trust). He is a scholar of Sanskrit with attainment of higher proficiency in the subject. He is a post-graduate of Sanskrit and a graduate of science with Mathematics. He got his Sanskrit education in the prestigious Sanskrit Gurukul Kalva (Haryana) under the able guidance of well known guru (personality) in the field of Sanskrit, Acharya Baldev.
- He had been teaching graduate and post-graduate classes of Sanskrit for more than seven years. He is well versed with the working of educational institutions. Presently he daily teaches Vedas other Sanskrit scriptures and Grammer to samnyasis and other scholars. He is keenly interested in spiritualism. He is an old and close associate of Swami Ramdev ji Maharaj. He is a nestik Brahamchari (samnyasis).

- He has very deep knowledge of herbs. Many times, he visits hilly tracks of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh for identification of herbs. He took part in investigation and research for identification of Asthavarg for years.
 - Swami Muktanand ji is actively participating in the production of medicines in Divya Pharmacy- a unit of Divya Yog Mandir (Trust). He has specialization in preparation of Chyavan Prash and Amrit Rasayan. He has more than fifteen years experience in preparation of medicines and identification of herbs.

3. Allegations of how the operations works

3.1 Divya Pharmacy

[Source]

His yoga camps, jam packed had almost every one attending the camps buying Ayurvedic medicines from his Divya Pharmacy whose branches all over the country could be seen dotted with serpentine queues to buy Ramdev's medicinal products. The pharmacy also undertakes one helluva alot of mail order business. And yet, in 2004, Divya Pharmacy's balance sheet showed a turnover of a measly Rs 673,000 and sales tax paid of Rs 53,000.

a. The problem was that operational expenses of Divya Pharmacy ran in tens of crores. So then how can we explain their low sales? For argument sake, let us assume that maybe all the serpentine queues very poorly translated into actual sales. Even so, then Divya Pharmacy should hold very high value of finished stocks and work-in-progress if it's very high operational expenses had to be explained. But the balance sheet suggested that finished stocks and work-in-progress were valued less than a Rs 50,000.

On the other hand, one of the raids by the Income Tax Department found documentary evidences to account for the missing stock. Ramdev simply distributed these stocks to his chain of trusts. For instance in 2004, stocks worth Rs 30.17 lakh was transferred to another of Ramdev trust - Divya Yoga Mandir Trust. This amount alone was 5 times the amount which was shown to the sales tax department and on which tax was paid.

On confronted with such proof, Ramdev explained that all this medicine was distributed to the poor and the needy, free of cost through his trusts. Here again there were two problems. Firstly, the transaction even if they are gifts does not appear in Divya Pharmacy's balance-sheet. Secondly, these trusts, registered or unregistered, are not permitted to engage in business activity, particularly so as they are not registered with the Sales Tax Department. Ramdev in his defence claims that these medicines are distributed free. But the IT and Sales Tax Department and media exposés have clearly established these are sold for unaccounted profit! Better still, verify it ourselves by trying to get these medicines free!

b. During the financial year 2004-05, had sent 2509.256 kg medicines through 3353 parcels. Apart from these parcels, VPP parcels worth over Rs 13 lakhs was also sent. Divya Pharmacy had received money order worth Rs 17.5 lakhs. So these figures suggest that even if the sales proceeds of its mail order business was considered, the declared turnover of Rs 673,000 was grossly undervalued, which in turn meant that the sales tax paid of Rs 53,000 meant that Divya Pharmacy was resorting to massive sales tax aversion.

With the internet boom, Ramdev now peddles 285 kinds of medicines and other products through the Internet. Uttarakhand's Sales Tax department say that they not know how to tax these sales! So Ramdev merrily evades Sales Tax here also.

In the light of all these suspicions, the Special Investigation Branch (SIB) of the Sales Tax Office (STO) raided Divya Pharmacy in 2005. The then Deputy Commissioner, Jagdish Rana, who headed the team, told Tehelka

"Till then, even I used to respect Ramdevji, for his good work. But as a tax collector, it was a clear case of sales tax evasion worth at least Rs 5 crore and we gathered documents weighing 2000 kg as form of evidence to make our case foolproof"

Huge political pressure however ensured that the case never saw the light of day and Jagdish Rana who headed the raid had to take pre-mature retirement, 4 years before his tenure was to

come to an end. The result was since then, no SIB, or any other State or Central department under Congress or BJP governments, could gather enough courage to raid Ramdev's empire again. Consequently, his empire grew even more rapidly after that.

In Uttarakhand, Sales Tax constitutes 60% of the state's total revenue. Ramdev's sales tax evasion leading to hundreds of crores annually within this context amounts to an epic swindle.

By 2012, Ramdev's sales tax evasions were generating black money to the tune of hundreds of crores annually. He couldn't keep this in the bank as he needs to account for its source. He couldn't keep them in his ashrams as they could be raided. So where else could he safely park his funds and still ensured it continued to productively multiply but in real estate? So from a yoga guru running a network of corporate ventures Ramdev transformed himself to head of one of the biggest land mafia in the country.

Baba Hathyogi, spokesman of Akhara Parishad told Tehelka:

"In the last 7-8 years, trusts owned by Ramdev have purchased huge tracts of land, in Haridwar, Roorkee and adjoining districts, in SEZs...Apart from this Ramdev has also invested in benami transactions, and expensive residential projects." Hathyogi also alleges that apart from Haridwar, Ramdev has bought huge tracts of land in other districts of Uttarakhand.

This prompted Tehelka to undertake a detailed investigation and what the findings which emerged were shocking.

After expanding the Yoga and Ayurvedic business, in 2005, Ramdev formed another trust called Patanjali Yoga Peeth Trust. This was to be the fountain head of his land racket.

a. Patanjali University



According to Tehelka investigations, Ramdev bought almost 28 hectares in Shantarshah village which falls between Roorkee and Hardiwar, on the Delhi-Mada National Highway.

"These tracts of land were purchased in the name of Acharya Balakrishna, Divya Yoga Mandir Trust and Patanjali Trust. According to the revenue records, Khata no 87, 103, 120 and 150 of Shantarshah village are registered in the name of trusts owned by Ramdev. The size of this land is 23.798 hectares (360 beegah) and Patanjali-1, Patanjali-2 and Patanjali University have been constructed on this.

Ramdev owns more than 1000 beegha of land in this area, but in the records only 360 beegha is shown as owned by Ramdev Trusts and associates. Out of this Ramdev has declared 20

hectares of land as non-agricultural land. In Uttarakhand, one cannot carry out construction on agriculture land till one declares them to be non- agricultural."

Land records show Ramdev engaged in massive benami transactions. For example, Khata no 229 is registered in the name of Gagan Kumar who is the PA of Acharya Balkrishna. He draws a meagre salary of Rs 8000 and does not file Income Tax return. As recently as 15 January, 2011, Gagan bought 1.446 hectares of land in Shantarshah. The value of the land was shown as Rs 35 lakhs in the registry but its market value is over Rs 5 crore. The land belonged to a Schedule Caste farmer and was purchased with special permission from the Special District Magistrate (SDM). Activists say the farmer had been coerced to sell his land.

Earlier, on 14 May, 2010, Gagan bought another piece of land worth Rs 1 Crore 37 lakh in Bavli-kalanjari village of Roorkee district worth at least Rs 15 crore in market value. Local journalist Ehsaan Ansari claims that Baba has bought land worth billions in the name of people like Gagan. So according to Tehelka investigations, Ramdev not only engages in massive benami land transactions but also massive evasion of stamp duties running to hundreds of crores annually.

b. Aurangabad Nyaya & Shivdaspur Panchayat in Haridwar

These villages are located at the border of Rajaji National park. According to the real estate regulations of Uttarakhand, any person or trust cannot buy agricultural land of more than 250 square metres. Under special circumstances, one can buy more land but for that one has to have a clearance from the state government. According to Tehelka:

"On 16 July, 2008, Patanjali Yogapeeth of Ramdev, got permission from the Uttarakhand government to buy 75 hectares of land in villages such as Aurangabad, Shivdaspur and others, to establish Panchkarm Vyavastha Medicine Production and Laboratories. According to the rules, the land has to be used specifically for the purpose for which it has been bought. On this agricultural land, Ramdev established a Yoga Gram. The charge of this luxury resort like Gram per day ranges from Rs 10,000 to 35,000."

The Tehelka investigations showed here Ramdev and gang forcibly dispossessed the land of farmers by illegally occupying them. Here we see the sheer brazenness of Ramdev in cooking a snook at the law of the land:

"The physical possession of the land, however, is in possession of the trusts owned by Ramdev. In the revenue record all the land of Aurangabad village are still agricultural land. According to the law of the land, before any kind of construction on the agriculture land is done, its usage change has to be done by the state and thereafter it is termed as non agriculture land.

For this the name of the buyer has to be registered in the revenue records. Ramdev and his trusts don't own a single inch of land in Aurangabad, but in brazen violation of every single tenet of the law, Ramdev's trusts have constructed a new city in the name of Yoga Gram."

3. Teliwala village

What happened in Aurangabad Nyaya & Shivdaspur Panchayat in Haridwar was replicated in Teliwala village.

"After one and a half years of formation of Yoga Gram in Aurangabad, on 26 February, 2010, Uttarakhand government allowed Patanjali Yoga Peeth to buy another 155 hectares (2235 beegha) of land in these villages. This permission was given to establish Patanjali University. Therefore Ramdev's Patanjali Yoga peeth was given 230 hectare(3450 beegha) agricultural land of Aurangabad and Teliwala village by the Uttarakhand government.

Apart from this Ramdev has bought thousands of beegha of benami land in other people's name. Several villagers claim that in Aurangabad and Teliwala village, Ramdev's trust owns

more than 4000 beegha of land. But if you look at the revenue record, just like Aurangabad village, Ramdev Trust does not own even an inch of land.”

In an affidavit dated 7 September 2007 to the Special District Magistrate, Nepali smuggler and close Ramdev aide, Balakrishna admitted he had got the benami done of the 80 percent of the land, therefore chakbandi of the village should be done again. Here is yet an example of Ramdev and his goons brazenness to openly flout the law of our land. As a result of regularization of this fraud, Ramdev’s Patanjali Yoga Peeth Trust owns the entire village making its entire residents, homeless. People’s protest is crushed by the government on behalf of Ramdev.

4. Mustafabad, Dhanpura, Ghissupura, Rani Majra and Ferupura Maujo



“These lands were bought with the special permission from the state government in the name of Patanjali Ayurveda Limited. Ramdev got the permission for medicine manufacturing and advance research in Ayurveda, but later on a food park was built here. According to villagers, Patanjali Food Park Ltd is spread over 700 beegha of land.

This Rs 98 crore project gets a subsidy of Rs 50 crore from the Food Processing Ministry. In a consortium of nine companies, most of them are owned by people very close to Ramdev. In Maa Kamakhya Ltd, Ramdev’s brother-in-law, Yashdev Arya, holds controlling shares where as in Yogi Pharmacy’s, the Managing Director are Sunil Kumar Chaturvedi and Sanjay Sharma, considered to be very close to Ramdev.”

Interestingly, when Food park was inaugurated, Ramdev made a declaration in front of Cabinet ministers and other VIPs that he will buy herbs or vegetable produce worth Rs 1000 crore from Uttarakhand. A NGO activist Sudershan Kathai says this is just empty talk as Ramdev’s food park had not even bought one lakh worth of herbs from Uttarakhand.

The Tehelka investigations revealed that several stamp duty evasion cases related to Patanjali Ayurveda Ltd re being tried in the court of the sub divisional magistrate of Haridwar which found that in order to evade tax, the land was shown to be used for agro purpose and slapped Ramdev with a fine of Rs 55 lakhs for such tax evasion. However, Ramdev’s Food Park went beyond tax evasion. It set up an industry without changing the nature of the land from agriculture to non agriculture. Yet he succeeded in soliciting Central (UPA) and State (BJP) government funding for this project!

Only in India can a Baba Ramdev, a master in corruption can become anti-corruption icon.

4. Land theft (and payment in black money?)

<http://www.sabhlokcity.com/2014/08/how-did-ramdev-get-so-much-agricultural-land-for-commercial-purposes/>

4.1 Payment potentially in black money to land owners

I was told by Ramdev that the only time black money was used was when farmers insisted on getting paid in cash. Since all funds were raised through donors, Acharya Bal Krishna was forced to ask his donors to directly pay the farmers in whatever shape they wanted, so he could acquire land for his work.

Swami Ramdev told me he is very fussy about the sources of money he receives. For instance, he returned money donated (in cheque) to the Bharat Swabhiman Trust by the owner of a liquor shop.

4.2 Public admission of payment of bribe of Rs.25 lakhs

Baba Hatyogi, national spokesperson for the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, shed more light on the matter by saying that that Swami Ramdev had given Rs 25 lakh as bribe to the said minister in lieu of the allotment of a piece of land. Baba Hatyogi said he very well knew the name of the minister, but would only reveal it when the time came. [Source]

4.2.1 Action: find out more from Baba Hatyogi

4.3 Land grab in Uttarakhand

4.3.1 Generic land grab

Once Baba Ramdev was in the saddle, his land hunger knew no bounds. He started buying vast tracts in and around Uttarakhand with a vengeance. Large tracts were purchased for growing medicinal plants in Uttarkashi, Pauri, Rudraprayag and other hill districts. All these acquisitions were made in the name of Divya Yog Mandir trust.

While the land ceiling law is very stringent in Uttarakhand, Baba Ramdev seems an honourable exception. Two government orders in the month of July 2008 allowed the trusts and companies run by Baba Ramdev to buy 1,700 bighas (1 bigha is 800 sq m). Out of this, Baba asked the government to convert the 800 bighas in Mustafabad into industrial land. The trust has bought this land at a low price and property dealers of the area say that if the land is converted to industrial use, it will be pure gold. [Source]

4.3.2 Haridwar

4.3.2.1 Encroachment

Recently, at a Janata Darbar hosted by Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, a former pradhan AS Chauhan and Charan Singh complained that about 200 bighas, which belonged to the village panchayat in Aurangabad, had been illegally occupied by Ramdev, who had purchased 600 bighas from one Fareed Khan and constructed a Yoga Gram. Here, air-conditioned cottages by the name of Tapasvi and Mahirsi were built and people were

charged thousands of rupees to stay there and get 'purification'. The district administration was asked to look into it and the report of SDM Harveer Singh was a damning indictment of the way things are run in and around Haridwar.

Filed on 5 May, the report (a copy of which is with TEHELKA), says, "In the disputed area, an effort was being made to extend the area of Yoga Gram by constructing a wall in the dry riverbed. When we reached there, it was under construction and we forced them to stop. Apart from this, a path used by Aurangabad villagers to go to the jungle after crossing the river has also been blocked. When asked about the encroachment, the authorities of Yoga Gram told the SDM that the area was barricaded because of the fear of wild animals and since the area is so vast, we didn't know that we had encroached upon the government land." [Source]

4.3.2.2 Uttarakhand govt files 81 cases against Baba Ramdev, Patanjali Yogpeeth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOCZxNJ89Y>

The Uttarakhand government has registered 81 cases against yoga guru Baba Ramdev and Patanjali Yogpeeth, the trust run by him, for violation of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (ZALR) Act and the Indian Stamps Act.

According to reports, of the 81 cases, 29 are related to illegal possession of land while 52 are regarding evasion of tax and revenue.

Addressing a press conference in Dehra Dun on Wednesday, Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna said that several of the properties held by the Patanjali trust had turned out to be **benami transactions** with no trace of the owners. Bahuguna said the administration was also probing the role of government officials, who had helped Baba Ramdev and his trust.

Bahuguna said the District Magistrate of Haridwar had initiated prosecution in 81 cases and action in many more cases would be initiated soon.

Besides, prosecution had also been initiated in 52 cases of undervaluation of the **stamp duty** that caused a loss of Rs.10 crores to the state exchequer. [Source]

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uttarakhand-slaps-landgrab-cases-on-ramdev/article5373140.ece>

After the inquiry, Haridwar District Magistrate Nidhi Pandey had also initiated legal action to evict the trust from the illegal possession of land under the section 122 of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (ZALR) Act. The DM also "noticed" many **benami transactions** of land in favour of the Yogpeeth.

Moreover, 52 instances of **stamp duty violations** have also come to notice of the government, causing a revenue loss of Rs 10 crore to the state exchequer, the report said.

In all 81 cases have been registered against Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust and many more cases are likely to be registered against the trust shortly. [Source]

4.3.2.3 15 fresh cases lodged

Dec 12, 2013

Dehradun: Eleven fresh cases of stamp duty evasion have been registered by the Uttarakhand government against Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust, spelling more trouble for the yoga guru.

All the eleven cases registered pertain to stamp duty evasion and date back eight years or more, Haridwar District Magistrate Nidhi Pandey, on whose permission the cases were lodged, told a news agency. [Dr. Nidhi Pandey, IAS is currently Addl. Secretary to Governor +91-135-2757401].

With the registration of the fresh cases, **the total number of cases registered against the Trust owned by the yoga guru in Uttarakhand have risen to 96 out of which 81 were lodged together last month and four earlier this month, she said.**

Majority of the cases have been registered for alleged violation of the Indian Stamps Act, while over two dozen of the cases pertain to violation of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (ZALR) Act, she said.

When 81 cases were lodged against Ramdev`s Trust for gross violation of land laws last month, Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna had said several of the properties held by the Patanjali Trust had turned out to be benami transactions with no trace of the owners.

The Trust had purchased 387.5 acres of land in Aurangabad and Shivdaspur villages of Haridwar district for establishing the Patanjali University, which was built just on about 20 acres, the Chief Minister had said.

The rest of the land was being used for agriculture and has been retained as a land bank for future commercial uses, Bahuguna had said quoting from a report submitted by the Haridwar DM.

As per the report submitted by the District Administration, the Trust also purchased 84.86 acres of land in village Mustafabad in the name of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park without seeking necessary permission from the authorities.

The Chief Minister said the permission granted to purchase 141.17 acres of land for manufacturing ayurvedic medicines in village Mustafabad was being violated by using the land for manufacturing, warehousing and marketing of a whole range of Patanjali products. [Source]

4.3.3 Land purchased in name of relatives

A real estate developer of Haridwar, on condition of anonymity, says, “We all know who is the biggest buyer of land in Uttarakhand.”

Another Swami, Darshan Bharti, alleges that if the government properly investigates the wealth of Ramdev, then they will find that hundred of properties are in the name of relatives of Ramdev or close associates. But this is yet to be probed, for nobody in the government is interested in such investigations [Source]

4.3.3.1 Aurangabad in Haridwar, Shivdaspur alias Teliwala, Shantarshah, Bahadurpur, Badehi, Rajputan and Mustafabad

Be it Aurangabad in Haridwar, Shivdaspur alias Teliwala, Shantarshah, Bahadurpur, Badehi, Rajputan and Mustafabad, no place was secure from the shenanigans of Ramdev. [Source]

4.3.3.2 Aurangabad and Shivdaspur for University

The Trust reportedly purchased 387.5 acres of land in villages Aurangabad and Shivdaspur for establishing the Patanjali University, which was built on about 20 acres.

The rest of the land was being used for agriculture and has been retained as a land bank for future commercial uses. [Source]

About 387.5 acres were purchased at Haridwar for establishing the Patanjali University but the campus has been set up only in the “insignificant” of land, the inquiry report said. The large chunk of the land was being used for agriculture purpose, possibly being retained by the trust as land bank for commercial uses in the future, the inquiry said. [Source]

“The Patanjali Yogpeeth committed serious breaches of land laws where it encroached upon gram sabha and government land comprising 7.766 acres at villages Shantar Shah and Aurangabad in the district,” said Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna. [Source]

4.3.3.3 Aurangabad village land used for a commercial project: Yogagram

at a Janata Darbar hosted by Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, a former pradhan AS Chauhan and Charan Singh complained that about 200 bighas, which belonged to the village panchayat in Aurangabad, had been illegally occupied by Ramdev, who had purchased 600 bighas from one Fareed Khan and constructed a Yoga Gram. Here, air-conditioned cottages by the name of Tapasvi and Mahirsi were built and people were charged thousands of rupees to stay there and get ‘purification’. The district administration was asked to look into it and the report of SDM Harveer Singh was a damning indictment of the way things are run in and around Haridwar.

Filed on 5 May, the report (a copy of which is with TEHELKA), says, “In the disputed area, an effort was being made to extend the area of Yoga Gram by constructing a wall in the dry riverbed. When we reached there, it was under construction and we forced them to stop. Apart from this, a path used by Aurangabad villagers to go to the jungle after crossing the river has also been blocked. When asked about the encroachment, the authorities of Yoga Gram told the SDM that the area was barricaded because of the fear of wild animals and since the area is so vast, we didn’t know that we had encroached upon the government land.”

The SDM also wrote; “As of now, 2.982 hectares of government land has been encroached upon by the Yoga Gram. Not only this, according to the Revenue Department, the land on which the Yoga Gram is established is not registered in the name of Yoga Gram but Kashtkar. Kindly advise for future course of action.”

[Source]

4.3.3.4 Mustafabad village land used for Patanjali Food Park in violation of conditions of sale

Re: Food park [some details](#).

The report also raised fingers on Ramdev’s vast food and herbal park at Mustafabad village in Haridwar, where 84.86 acres of land was purchased. The DM said no permission was taken by Ramdev in this regard. The DM has also initiated action to vest this land under section 167 of the ZALR Act. The government had granted permission to the Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust for purchase of 141.17 acres of land for manufacture of ayurvedic medicines and research in Mustafabad village.

But this land was used for [food park](#), which was a “blatant violation” of terms and conditions for the purchase of the land, the report said. . [Source]

The Trust also purchased 84.86 acres of land in village Mustafabad in the name of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park without seeking necessary permission from the authorities, said Bahuguna, adding that suitable action would be taken against the Trust.

The chief minister said the permission granted to purchase 141.17 acres of land for manufacturing ayurvedic medicines in village Mustafabad was being violated by using the land for manufacturing, warehousing and marketing of a whole range of Patanjali products. [Source]

4.3.4 Evasion of stamp duty

On 2 August 2010, when the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Haridwar, found the trust guilty of evading stamp duty to the tune of several lakh rupees. The SDM found that 16 properties purchased by Patanjali Ayurveda Limited were grossly undervalued to reduce the stamp duty paid. The SDM asked Balkrishna to not only pay the balance Rs 9 lakh stamp duty but also a penalty of Rs 5 lakh. Patanjali Ayurveda had purchased these properties right next to the National Highway but then tried to undervalue it. The trust has filed a review petition before the SDM. [Source]

Eleven fresh cases lodged against Ramdev's Trust: December 12, 2013

Eleven fresh cases of stamp duty evasion have been registered by the Uttarakhand government against Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust, spelling more trouble for the yoga guru.

All the eleven cases registered pertain to stamp duty evasion and date back eight years or more, Haridwar district magistrate Nidhi Pandey, on whose permission the cases were lodged, said.

With the registration of the fresh cases, the total number of cases registered against the Trust owned by the yoga guru in Uttarakhand have risen to 96 out of which 81 were lodged together last month and four earlier this month, she said.

Majority of the cases have been registered for alleged violation of the Indian Stamps Act, while over two dozen of the cases pertain to violation of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (ZALR) Act, she said.

When 81 cases were lodged against Ramdev's Trust for gross violation of land laws last month, chief minister Vijay Bahuguna had said several of the properties held by the Patanjali Trust had turned out to be benami transactions with no trace of the owners.

The Trust had purchased 387.5 acres of land in Aurangabad and Shivdaspur villages of Haridwar district for establishing the Patanjali University, which was built just on about 20 acres, the chief minister had said.

The rest of the land was being used for agriculture and has been retained as a land bank for future commercial uses, Bahuguna had said quoting from a report submitted by the Haridwar DM.

As per the report submitted by the District Administration, the Trust also purchased 84.86 acres of land in village Mustafabad in the name of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park without seeking necessary permission from the authorities.

The chief minister said the permission granted to purchase 141.17 acres of land for manufacturing ayurvedic medicines in village Mustafabad was being violated by using the land for manufacturing, warehousing and marketing of a whole range of Patanjali products. [Source]

4.4 Uttarakashi, Pauri, Rudraprayag and other hill districts

Large tracts were purchased for growing medicinal plants in Uttarkashi, Pauri, Rudraprayag and other hill districts. All these acquisitions were made in the name of Divya Yog Mandir trust. [Source]

4.5 Land for residential projects in other parts of Uttarakhand

“In the last 7-8 years, trusts owned by Ramdev has purchased huge tracts of land, in Haridwar, Roorkee and adjoining districts, in SEZs, says Baba Hathyogi, spokesman of Akhara Parishad, “Apart from this Ramdev has also invested in benami transactions, and expensive residential projects.” Hathyogi also alleges that apart from Haridwar, Ramdev has bought huge tracts of land in other districts of Uttarakhand. [Source]

4.6 Land grab in Himachal Pradesh

4.6.1 28 acres of land worth Rs. 34 crores for Rs.99

Did the Himachal Pradesh Government awarded land in Solan to the Trusts (?) at a extremely concessional rate, on a long lease arrangement? If so, why were the Trusts such a favoured beneficiary?

This is the allegation from Former Punjab chief minster Captain Amrinder Singh - 28 acres of valuable land to Ramdev at dirt cheap rates: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/video/ramdev-amrinder-singh-slams-himachal-pradesh-government/1/140964.html>

4.6.2 FIR lodged

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh police have registered an FIR against yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth after their probe established that the trust, in connivance with some district administration officials, acquired 28 acres of land at a site other than the approved one in Solan district. So far police have not included Ramdev's name in the FIR.

While the Congress government had taken possession of the land allotted on lease to [Ramdev](#) by the previous BJP administration, the police probe was initiated on the directions of the Solan deputy commissioner who had received a complaint alleging fraud.

Solan superintendent of police Ramesh Chand Chhajta said the probe established the land was leased out at a wrong place to Patanjali Yogpeeth in connivance with some officials from the district administration. He said the government had given permission for land at Chohara village but the Yogpeeth representatives later got land allotted at Kehlog village by fudging documents. [Source]

4.6.3 Balakrishna questiond for three hours

After registering a case against Patanjali Yogpeeth run by yoga guru Ramdev, Solan police on Friday grilled his close aide Acharya Balkrishna and another person for over 3 hours. The duo had applied for interim bail but they were directed by the court to join investigation. The court has now fixed the matter for March 7.

After establishing in its inquiry that Patanjali Yogpeeth in connivance with some district administration officials acquired 28 acres of land at a site other than the one approved by the state government, police had named Acharya Balkrishna and others in the FIR registered under sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of IPC and 13 (2) of Prevention of Corruption Act.

Confirming the development, Solan SP Ramesh Chand Chhajta said that Balkrishna and others were named in the FIR after which they had applied for interim bail but later joined the investigation on the direction of the court. While the Congress government after coming to power had taken possession of the said 28 acres of land in Solan district allotted on lease to Swami Ramdev by the previous BJP regime, police probe was initiated on the directions of Solan deputy commissioner, who had received a complaint alleging fraud. [Source]

4.6.4 Himachal govt takes back land 28 acres of land from Baba Ramdev

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Himachal-cancels-28-acres-allotted-to-Ramdev/articleshow/18602622.cms>

<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/himachal-govt-takes-back-land-from-baba-ramdev-62471.html>

But Ramdev has appealed:

Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth today approached the Himachal Pradesh High Court challenging cancellation of lease of about 28 acres of land by the state government.

In its writ petition, the trust has sought possession of the land given to it by the previous BJP government on a 99 year lease.

The case has been listed for February 27, and the state government has already filed a caveat.

About 28 acres of land near Sadhupul in Solan district was given to the Yogpeeth by the previous BJP government in 2010 for token lease of Rs 1 per year for a period of 99 years.

After coming to power, the Congress government cancelled the land lease on February 19.

And on February 22, the Himachal authorities, in a swift but peaceful move, took over the land given to Ramdev's trust. [Source]

4.7 Questions for Ramdev

Can you provide me with all details of land owned, and how this was acquired and paid for?

4.8 RTIs that emerge from this

4.8.1 Himachal government

4.8.2 Uttarakhand government

5. Tax evasion (black money) and money laundering through a vast network of companies

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/news/Eleven-fresh-cases-lodged-against-Ramdevs-trust/videoshow/27244703.cms>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/Tax-notice-slapped-on-Ramdev--s-trusts/950650>

5.1 CBI investigation of 2011

but in an off-the-record interview, a spokesman said officials were examining the trail of cash donations to Mr Ramdev's religious trust "to check for illegal amassing of wealth and possible tax evasion". He said the CBI had made no headway in the investigation so far. [Source]

5.2 Allegation of tax evasion

I would like to note that I was told by Ramdev that Bharat Swabhiman Trust has received authorised income tax exemptions from government. The work it does is entirely charitable. No one is charged to attend any Bharat Swabhiman camp.

5.2.1 Sales tax evasion of 5 crores

Seeing the popularity of Ramdev and the ever increasing demand of his medicines, the Sales Tax Office (STO) of Uttarakhand got suspicious about the sales of his medicines being so less. STO called for information from all the post offices of Uttarakhand. The information received from the Post Office confirmed their suspicion. It was told that Divya Pharmacy, in the financial year 2004-05, had sent 2509.256 kg medicines through 3353 parcels. Apart from these parcels, VPP parcels worth Rs 13,13000 was also sent. In this financial year only, Divya Pharmacy had received money order worth Rs 17, 50, 000.

Based on this information, the Special Investigation Branch (SIB) of the STO raided Divya Pharmacy. The then Deputy Commissioner, Jagdish Rana, who headed the team, tells us, "Till then, even I used to respect Ramdev ji, for his good work. But as a tax collector, it was a clear case of sales tax evasion." Rana said that the case of sales tax evasion was worth Rs 5 crore. [Source]

5.2.2 Owes Rs. 9000 crores? Probably false

Apparently he owes Rs.9,000 crores in taxes. This is, in my view, almost certainly false.

5.3 Allegation re: Rs.5 crores in unpaid taxes

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/baba-ramdev-trusts-asked-to-pay-rs-5-crore-for-alleged-tax-evasion-291251>

Income tax evasion: <http://www.ibtimes.co.in/yoga-guru-in-income-tax-scanner-ramdev-trusts-commercial-in-nature-375096>

Running a club, not a trust: <http://arxadvisors.in/breakingnews.php?bn=257>

5.4 Network of 34 (or is it 100) companies

[Boot on the other foot for baba](#) (detailed description of his companies)

34 companies:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/189507/archives.php>

Today, Patanjali Yogpeeth is like a thriving MNC. There are 34 companies incorporated between 2006 and 2011, dealing in medicine, construction, real estate and energy. The 2009-10 turnover was 1,100 crore. According to sources, Income Tax authorities are trying to figure out the real worth of these companies. [Source]

5.4.1 Or is it 100 companies?

ED's probe has revealed that Ramdev's trusts own over 100 companies registered with the Kanpur registrar alone, some of them launched as late as last month. The Kanpur Registrar of Companies has sent two CDs to the agency containing information on 100-odd companies now owned by Ramdev's trusts, including Patanjali Yogpeeth, a senior official said.

His interest in acquiring a large number of ayurvedic companies has raised alarm even as officials investigating the empire are awaiting responses from registrar of companies from several other states. [Source]

BABA RAMDEV'S companies are involved in a wide range of activities including manufacturing biscuits, cosmetics and bioresearch.

OUT OF these 34 companies, Patanjali Ayurveda Limited is the largest concern with a paid up capital of 41 crore. It was this company, set up in 2006, which donated 10 lakh to the BJP during the 2009 Lok Sabha election. Balkrishna later added that the company also donated a similar amount to the Congress.

THE AYURVEDIC products made by the company are sold through a website (www.healthservices.divyayoga-.com), which includes 32 packages to tackle various diseases, some of which even the doctors don't have a cure for. The website also sells around 225 Ayurvedic medicines, herbal products, books VCDs, DVDs, etc.

VEDIC BROADCASTING Limited, which runs the Aastha channel, has a paid up capital of Rs16 crore. Baba Ramdev shot to fame after imparting yoga lessons on this channel.

ONE CAN become a 'dignified' member of Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust by paying Rs 51,000. If you pay Rs 21,000, you can become a 'respected' member. For a corporate membership, one has to shell out Rs 11 lakh. Repeated requests by TEHELKA for a copy of the donor list were turned down by the trust.

THE TRUST has refused to disclose its worth or turnover of its companies. In the past, Ramdev has claimed that his trust is worth Rs 1,100 crore. [Source]

5.4.2 Swami Ramdev Health Care Pvt Ltd

Late in October 2006, Acharya Balkrishna (a Saral form spells his name 'Balkrishan', unlike his PAN card) and Mukta Nanda, the directors of Swami Ramdev Health Care Pvt Ltd, changed the company's name to Vedic Aarogya Pvt Ltd. In June 2007, it became Vedic

Broadcastings Pvt Ltd. Then, Vedic Broadcastings Ltd. For now, it is called Vedic Broadcasting Ltd (without the 's').

A notice filed with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs reveals why the company's first name was an ill-thought one. SK Garg, one of the main shareholders in Swami Ramdev Health Care, wrote, '...there is no change in the object clause of the company. Only first name (sic) is proposed to be changed because the promoters do not want to use the name of Swami Ramdevji to avoid any controversy'. Later, they would reason that astrological compulsions required 'Broadcastings' to become 'Broadcasting'. All this happened in a world far from the attention of Aastha's shareholders, who were until then grappling with issues of mismanagement at the channel. [Source]

5.4.3 International trusts

PATANJALI YOGPEETH Trust UK was set up in 2006. Its head office is located in Glasgow. One of the trustees, Sunita Poddar, donated an island off the shore of Scotland worth Rs 16 crore to Ramdev.

PATANJALI YOGPEETH Trust USA was established as a registered US charity in 2008 in Texas and has 400 donors. The trust recently purchased 94 acres to build a Patanjali Yogpeeth Centre in the suburbs of Houston. [Source]

5.5 Violations of FEMA

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2114527/Baba-black-sheep-Enforcement-Directorate-uncovers-Ramdevs-dubious-transactions-amounting-Rs-64-crore-violation-foreign-exchange-rules.html>

5.5.1 Business disclosure not met

CARE has suspended the ratings for a massive food and herbal park promoted by Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved for failing to provide information about its business operations. [Source]

Latest rating: http://www.brickworkratings.com/press-pdf/Patanjali-Food-and-Herbal-Park-BankLoan_15.01Cr-Rationale-9Apr2014.pdf

After run-ins with income tax authorities over alleged tax evasion, yoga guru Ramdev, better known as Baba Ramdev, now has rating agencies biting at his heels. CARE has suspended the ratings for a massive food and herbal park promoted by Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved for failing to provide information about its business operations.

This is a year after CARE had reaffirmed its **non-investment grade (BB+)** rating to Patanjali Food & Herbal Park (PFHP) for long-term bank credit. PFHP had last disclosed its audited numbers in 2011-12, stating its operating income was Rs 11.16 crore and profit after tax Rs 2.75 crore.

The park began commercial operations in 2010 with Patanjali Ayurved, a key group company, holding 49 per cent; the rest was held by associate companies.

The self-styled yoga guru has a sprawling business empire, churning out food, medicinal products, cosmetics and toiletries under the Patanjali brand. The group's turnover is estimated at about Rs 500 crore, with four manufacturing plants producing about 500 different items daily.

While seeking funds for the park, Patanjali Ayurved had given an unconditional corporate guarantee to banks. **Banking sources say the money raised by PFHP was Rs 25-30 crore.**

Fund-raising in jeopardy

The food and herbal park was set up in Uttarakhand, with an initial investment of about Rs 200 crore. The suspension of ratings by CARE will mean Ramdev's possible plans to raise money for the park might be jeopardised. Typically, banks seek external ratings on companies seeking loans or financial guarantee.

The food and herbal park was intended to support Ramdev's plan to expand distribution of his products. The yoga guru had earlier said he wanted to reach every household by pushing his products into neighbourhood or kirana stores. That plan was undone, thanks to tax evasion charges slapped on him by income tax authorities a few years ago.

Despite this, in 2009, Ramdev laid the foundation stone of his food and herbal park in Haridwar, following a fillip provided in this segment by the central government in the 11th Plan. The government had approved the setting up of 10 mega food parks in the 11th Plan; in the 12th Plan, this was revised to 12 food parks. The amount set aside for the 12 parks was Rs 1,714 crore. [Source]

Patanjali had identified 90 acres at Padartha in Haridwar, where the food park would be established.

5.6 Money laundering

5.6.1 Acharya booked

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/balkrishna-aide-of-baba-ramdev-booked-in-money-laundering-case-may-be-arrested-258034>

5.6.2 Digvijay calls him money launderer

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/congress-leader-claims-baba-ramdev-black-money-140922483.html>

http://article.wn.com/view/2014/04/19/Baba_Ramdev_is_a_money_launderer_says_Digvijay/

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/baba-ramdev-exits-from-mega-food-park-project.html>

5.6.3 Not proven?

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/poojya-acharya-bal-krishan-ji-maharaj/no-proof-of-fema-violations-against-ramdev-trusts-ed/242850749092845>

Some cases closed but others still continue:

<http://www.asianage.com/india/enforcement-directorate-set-close-case-against-ramdev-aide-093>

5.7 Questions for Ramdev

Can you provide me with all details of all taxes paid?

5.8 RTIs that emerge from this information

The following RTIs are needed

5.8.1 Enforcement Directorate

6. Questions regarding basic qualifications in Ayurveda

6.1 Fake degree (of Balakrishna)

A case of cheating and criminal conspiracy was earlier registered by the CBI against Balkrishna for buying fake degrees and also violating section 12 of Indian Passport Act.

The probe agency took the decision after Sampurna Nand Sanskrit University Registrar Rajnish Shukla told it that university records did not feature the two degrees mentioned by Ramdev's aide.

Balkrishna's degrees reportedly showed he had passed two courses- 'Purv Madhyma' and 'Shastri'- from the university.

Shukla said the CBI found the enrollment numbers as mentioned in Balkrishna's degrees belonged to another student. [[Source](#)]

6.2 Fake degree (Ramdev's)

<http://nirmukta.com/2011/06/09/a-critical-look-at-baba-ramdevs-claims/>

7. Food park funds

GOI runs a [food park scheme](#). Food Park Scheme is the flagship program of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

In April he tied up with Tetra Pak, a multinational food processing company, to package a new range of ready-to-drink health beverages. Tetra Pak invested 250m rupees to set up two package-making machines - each capable of manufacturing 32,000 units an hour - near the guru's yoga resort [\[Source\]](#)

7.1 Employees amassing black money?

[Two employees of Ramdev's Food and Herbal Park company booked for fraud](#)

Mar 07, 2014

#Dehradun #Uttarakhand Corruption allegations surfaced against Ramdev's employees after an FIR was filed against two persons late on Thursday night for allegedly showing fake transactions to amass huge amount of company funds for personal gains.

The irony in the case is that Ramdev of late has been advocating his stand against corruption and has, during his yoga sessions on television, repeatedly talked of following the path of honesty.

However, the the auditor and cheque delivery employee of his own company - Patanjali Food and Herbal Park - showed that they were buying supplies worth crores from 12 firms for when actually no such order was place by Ramdev's company, a report in Amarujala said.

From March to October last year, both of them used company's money for personal use. They managed to amass crores of money.

Two employees of Ramdev

The matter came to light during an audit survey when it came to the notice of top officials that no such orders were placed by the company and that the employees were showing fake transactions and indulging in an act of fraud, the report said.

Amarujala reported that General Manager(Finance) of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park, Yashdev Arya, on Thursday filed an FIR against the two alleging that they had duped the company of crores of rupees by showing fake transactions.

7.2 Government funding of food park

Status of Implementation of 40 Mega Food Park Projects as on 28.02.2014

S No	Name	State	Project cost	Date of In-principle approval	Date of Final Approval	Amount of grant approved	Amount of grant released	Actual expenditure
38	Patanjali Food & Herbal Park Pvt. Ltd, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	95.08	16.12.2008	27.03.2009	50	45	73.27

Patanjali has been granted Rs.50 crores, with 45 crores released – as at 28 February 2014. [\[Source\]](#)

Patanjali Food and Herbal Park

Patanjali Food and Herbal Park has been created under the Mega Food Parks Scheme (MFPS) by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India during the 11th 5-year plan (2007-12). PFHPL, the first of its kind public-private partnership that has been established in the hill state of Uttarakhand in India. It is aimed at creating state of the art processing facilities in the major agricultural/ horticultural clusters in the country.

The unit already has 12 successful units running including units for Packaging material and Containers e.g. flour mill, candy plant, digestives unit, juice plant etc.; a co-packing facility along with a multi-fruit juice and nutraceutical processing line; PET and HDPE line and corrugated Boxes line. The food park has abundant land of 84 acres (0.34 sq. km) at present etc, dry Warehouses with a capacity of 20000 MT; advanced warehousing and material handling system for grains; world class central laboratory for in-house testing; Overhead Water Tanks; Sewage Treatment Plant; Water Treatment Plant Capacity and Compressors.

The food park has an integrated Cold chain facility with a capacity of 2500 MT including Pre-cooling chambers, Ripening chambers, Variable Humidity stores, Multi commodity Cold storages and Reefer Room (Capacity 2500 MT); Crates & Crate washing; Weigh-bridge (Capacity 60 MT); Multi commodity automated washing and grading unit; Parking for commercial vehicles; Parking for private vehicles and Inhouse packaging units. [\[Source\]](#)

7.3 RTIs that emerge from this information

The following RTIs are needed

7.3.1 Ministry of food processing

Ask for all details of funding and purpose of funding. Whether the funds were spent according to the purpose of funding.

8. Shady friends

8.1 Subrata Roy

we have had the curious spectacle of a *yogi* fighting for cleaner politics flying around in private aircraft owned by shady businesshouses like **Subroto Roy**'s Sahara group, and then meeting Union ministers in the five-star Claridges hotel, owned by one of India's more controversial arms dealers, **Suresh Nanda**, whose son **Sanjeev Nanda** was involved in the BMW accident that mowed down pavement dwellers. [[Source](#)]

9. Criminality?

9.1 Brother booked for kidnapping

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/baba-ramdev-brother-booked-for-kidnapping-on-the-run/1/317418.html>

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's brother Bharat has been booked for allegedly kidnapping and beating up a youth.

Uttarakhand Police booked Bharat after a raid at Ramdev's Patanjali ashram on Monday night where they found an injured young man identified as Nitin Tyagi.

Tyagi said Bharat had abducted him.

Police arrested four people from the spot but Bharat escaped.

Tyagi apparently used to work for Ramdev but he quit sometime back. This Bharat did not like and abducted the youth with the help of security guards.

Tyagi's relatives then approached the Uttarakhand Chief Minister and a police team was sent out to look for him.

Bharat is currently absconding. [\[Source\]](#)

9.2 Missing guru: Likely untrue allegation of Ramdev's involvement

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-10-14/news/43027447_1_baba-ramdev-swami-shankar-dev-acharya-balkrishna

In this regard I was told by Siddhartha Ananta that a proper suicide note was found in the handwriting of Shankar Dev, and that he had chosen to take Samadhi in the Ganges.

Any allegation of Ramdev's involvement in this is likely to be false (see [CBI likely to exonerate](#)).

Newsreport of 2007

Yoga guru Swami Ramdev's spiritual guide and mentor Swami Shankar Dev has been missing from the Divya Yoga Mandir Trust at Kankhal since July 14. While a search is on, a letter found in his room has left all intrigued.

Officials at Kankhal police station, who are investigating the matter, said the Swami went to the nearby Guru Niwas Mandir in the evening, met Swami Chattrapati Dass and left the place at 6 pm. **Then he reportedly bought some fruits and boarded a rickshaw. He has not been seen since.**

In a letter later found in his room, Swami Shankar Dev apologised to his colleagues Yashdev Shastri, Beliram, Haridas, Chakordass and Nirwanji for not being able to return the money he had borrowed from them. He added that he was not keeping well and hence was unhappy and had decided to leave.

However, the Swami continues to be a trustee of the Divya Yoga Mandir Trust, which runs a successful pharmacy. Though old and not keeping well of late, the Swami was not starved of money as he was one of the authorised signatories of the trust, said Swami Balkrishna, trust secretary.

"We are looking into every aspect", said Hardwar SSP V Murugesan, who has formed an investigating team headed by SP (City) Ajay Joshi.

Swami Ramdev, who is currently touring the United States, has expressed grave concern at the disappearance of his guru. "Swamiji has been in constant touch. He has been ringing up all his contacts in Hardwar, seeking their help in tracing his guru," said Swami Balkrishna.

Hailing from Almora district of Kumaon, Swami Shankar Dev initiated Swami Ramdev into yoga and was his spiritual guru. He stayed in the Divya Yoga Mandir Trust at Kankhal from where Swami Ramdev also started his journey to name and fame.

The septuagenarian Swami went out every evening to meet fellow monks in other ashrams till his disappearance. [Source]

EXCLUSIVE: OUTLOOK-IBN A GURU DISAPPEARS

If The Pose Holds

An *Outlook-IBN* investigation, conducted over several months, catches policemen and others spilling the beans on the shoddy investigation into the disappearance of Swami Shankardev, Baba Ramdev's guru

PUSHP SHARMA

"I have taken some loan from you for this trust but I couldn't repay you. Please forgive me. I am leaving."

These 21 words in three selective lines (the police wouldn't part with the original or a copy) indicate that the author 'left' of his own accord, even provides a plausible motive. But five years after Baba Ramdev's guru, Swami Shankardev, went missing from the Divya Yog ashram in Haridwar in July 2007, the mystery behind his disappearance has not been lifted; in fact, more intrigue has unravelled after an *Outlook-IBN* undercover investigation. And not only because someone tampered with the date of the letter and sought to make it July 14 from July 11; or because the police was informed by Ramdev's Man Friday, Acharya Balkrishna, only on July 16, a full two days or more after his disappearance.



Swami Shankardev

The investigation, which recorded conversations with six police officers (besides ashram inmates, doctors and others), reveals a strange, even shocking, indifference to the disappearance of the 78-year-old founder and helmsman of the ashram. Equally strangely, the ashram showed no interest in tracing the whereabouts of the missing guru—a man who once held veto power over the Divya Yog Trust. And stranger still, the police displayed no urgency to investigate till "something or someone" decided earlier this year that the case had to be formally closed.

The policeman who filed the final report (FR) this April admits on camera that he was "forced" to file it. He says he was reluctant to do so because of the sensitivity of the case but was bluntly told that he would have to close the case if he valued his job.

Now, who would be interested in bringing such pressure on the police and why? That too after the file had gathered dust for five years?

It remains unclear what really happened in July 2007—or in the run-up to it. Ramdev, the present head, was himself out of the country at the time. Swami Shankardev’s ‘final letter’—addressed to Ramdev’s brother-in-law Yash Dev Shastri—would have people believe that the guru, who suffered from tuberculosis of the spinal cord and possibly of the lungs, “left” because he could not repay his “loans”. One inmate alleges that Shankardev was reduced to selling cardboard and styrofoam boxes of medicines to foot his medical bills during his last few months at the ashram.



Bitter medicine? The entrance to the Divya Yog Trust, Patanjali, Haridwar. (Photograph by Jitender Gupta)

How much money could Swami Shankardev have taken as loan, when, and for what purpose? At the time of his disappearance, he held two bank accounts: one (a/c 0251000-100-100-172) at the Punjab National Bank, which had a balance of Rs 2,420, and the other at the Indian Overseas Bank (a/c 51879), which had a balance of Rs 1,881. But with the ashram expanding and thriving (its 2007 turnover was Rs 50 crore), why would he find it difficult to repay any loan? What is more, the people to whom he ostensibly owed money were also inmates of the ashram and hardly cash rich.

Shankardev’s accounts held a paltry Rs 4,000, but he was an authorised signatory to the Rs 50-cr trust’s bank accounts.

Strangely, the police seem to have no clue about most things concerning the case—about how much money the missing guru owed, whether the guru is merely missing or whether he committed suicide or was eliminated. Some of the investigating officers have been candid in confessing on record that a proper investigation is carried out only when they are prodded into action. In this case, neither the senior officers nor the complainant evinced much interest in tracking the missing guru. So virtually no investigation was done. “*Hum log kaam, sahi bataoon, toh tabhi karte hain jab pressure hota hai...hamare upar toh koi aisa pressure thha bhi nahin! Maine bahut zyada kaam isme, frankly, kiya bhi nahin* (Frankly, I didn’t do much on this case because there was no pressure of any kind),” said an investigating officer on camera.

Surprisingly, Baba Ramdev did not meet the investigators even once regarding the disappearance of his guru, the man who transferred the Divya Yog ashram to him and made him chairman.

So, in April 2012, the police closed the case, having failed to make any headway. So what's new? Thousands of Indians disappear every year, never to be found. But then Shankardev was not just another old man. He was one of the four trustees and had the powers to veto decisions taken by the trust. While his two personal bank accounts had a combined balance of a paltry four thousand rupees, he was an authorised signatory and could operate the trust's bank accounts.

And yet, his disappearance did not create much of a flutter. The ashram showed little urgency in trying to trace its own founder, who had voluntarily given up the reins of the ashram in 1995 to his far more worldly-wise and nationally known disciple, Baba Ramdev.

Investigations conducted by the police were perfunctory. Explains SI R.B. Chamola, a member of the investigating team, "Nobody took any interest in this case; I do not remember anyone ever asking about the progress of the investigation." Chamola, incidentally, is the same man who led a special Delhi Police team which arrested Sher Singh Rana, former dacoit queen Phoolan Devi's killer, from Calcutta after he had escaped from Tihar—a "competent policeman" with 52 encounters under his belt.

Chamola admits on camera that the old man could have been a victim of a criminal conspiracy: "*Aaj bhi agar aap Haridwar mein jaoge to kaafi sare log yehi kahenge ki yeh sab inhi ka kiya hua kaam hai* (Even now, if you go to Haridwar, people will freely say it's an inside job)."

Chamola adds: "*Guru inhi ke paas the, missing bhi inhi ki taraf se registered hui kyunki saari cheezein dekhte bhi yahi the. Ab jab ek complainer hai uski family ya wohi kuch complaint nahi kar raha hai police se.* (Guru lived with others in the ashram. Missing complaint was filed by them as they looked after everything. Now, when a complainant is not following up, what can be done?)"

An old associate of Shankardev, Karamveer, Chamola added, had also voiced his doubts over the disappearance of the titular head. Karamveer left the ashram after Swamiji handed over charge to Ramdev. Vipin Pradhan, a colleague of Karamveer at the Divya Yog ashram, also left with him. According to the police report, when the investigating officer met Vipin, he said: "*Trust mein bhai-bhatijawaad badh gaya thha. Purane logon ki awhelna ho rahi thhi. Shankardevji 70-75 saal ke buzurg hain. Beemar bhi rehte hain. Balkrishanji aur Ramdev ke vyavhar se dukhi the. Unko koi nahi poochta thha. Na hi unki koi haisiyat thhi.* (Blood relations were given preference over senior people in the ashram. Shankardev was an old, sick man. He was upset with the behaviour of Balkrishnaji and Ramdev. Nobody bothered about him, nor did he have any say over there.)"

Earlier this year, pressure was finally exerted to get the case closed. SI Surendra Bisht, who filed the FR in April 2012, claims he had initially refused, on the plea that it was a sensitive case and required supervision of officers holding superior positions. "*Main toh bas SI hi hoon* (I am just an SI)," he had protested. But he was bluntly told that he would have to pay a heavy price if he failed to comply with the order. "*Kyun, naukri nahin karni hai kya?* (Don't you want to continue in service?)" he was asked. Not surprisingly, he agreed to close the case ("*Maine kaha theek hai, theek ha*").

The case should have been treated far more seriously from the beginning, he reflected, saying far greater urgency was on display while closing the case.

Pradeep Chauhan, investigating officer of the case in 2011, when contacted, ruled out any possibility of foul play. But he conceded that in 2007 Ramdev was well respected and his stars were in the ascendant. He was not embroiled in any controversy or dispute either. "It is possible that because of his aura, nobody suspected any foul play," he says.

Documents related to the investigation indicate that Shankardev's final letter was sent for forensic examination along with several samples of the old man's writing. The report of the forensic lab at Dehradun confirmed that the handwriting in the letter matched that of the one in the samples. But the date on the letter had been tampered with and a different date had been overwritten with the help of a different pen and with different ink.

First person reports raise sufficient doubts to merit a reinvestigation. By all accounts, Shankardev was a well-meaning person and was not driven by worldly ambitions of expanding his empire. He had handed over the reins of the ashram at the age of 66 to Ramdev.

The most damning indictment, though, comes from a former driver at the ashram, Rahul. The old man in later years was treated with utter disdain, he claims. The ashram, which was rolling in money and boasted of a fleet of cars, would refuse to provide a vehicle and ask him to take a rickshaw instead when he travelled. The old man would often lament his decision to cede control of the ashram to others and speak to people sympathetic to him. On such occasions, he would often be beaten up by the bouncers (*"Andar ke jo worker hain, woh batate thhe ki aaj Maharajji pe bajaya hai"*). Rahul also says on camera that the old man was more fond of Karamveer. But whenever he was caught speaking to the former inmate over the phone, he would be locked up and confined by way of punishment. Shankardev, he claims, was suffering from several ailments but was not treated properly.

Investigation by the police also found that Shankardev had not been to see his doctor for at least a year-and-a-half before he disappeared, though he suffered from tuberculosis of the lungs as well as the spinal cord. But Dr Kamal Nayan Gambhir claimed he was suffering from spinal tuberculosis alone and had been to see him even on the day he disappeared. Which of the two claims can be deemed credible and why would the police 'misquote' the doctor?

A shoddy investigation, police indifference and inaction followed by a sudden burst of activity to put a lid on the case, have raised many eyebrows in this hills district. A dark shadow still hangs over an old man's disappearance.



"Not even once during the investigation did the complainant enquire about the progress made. The senior officers too never showed any interest. There was no pressure on us to pursue the case; so, frankly, I did not carry out much of an investigation." **R.B. Chamola, Group Sub-inspector, Haridwar**



"The case wasn't treated with the seriousness it deserved. The file gathered dust for three years before it came to me. No investigation was ever done on the conspiracy angle.... I was forced to file the Final Report (FR), I was bluntly asked whether I valued my job." **Surendra Bisht, Sub-inspector, Bhagwanpur**



"I was the first investigating officer of the case but I could never meet Baba Ramdev. I did meet Acharya



"In 2007, nobody would have suspected any foul play. They was no reason to. The ashram was doing

Balkrishna once or twice but soon I was transferred. Shankardev was a forlorn figure, who would normally be found seated outside the ashram.” **S.S. Samant, SHO, Bhagwanpur**

well. Neither the ashram nor the Baba was embroiled in any controversy. There were no disputes.... It’s possible the officials were carried away by the aura.” **Pradeep Chauhan, Senior SI, Vasant Vihar**



“Ramdev did not need Shankardev anymore. The latter had the authority to sign cheques. I myself did not look into the accounts. But I doubt if Baba Ramdev cared much for his guru. At the same time, I do not believe in these conspiracy theories either.” **Manikant Mishra, Circle Officer, Dalanwala**



“I do not believe Shankardev was such an important figure and counted for much. It’s entirely possible he may have felt neglected but it’s difficult to conclude that someone will take such a drastic step (like murder, kidnapping or suicide) to get rid of him.” **Ajay Joshi IPS, SP, Dehradun**

[Source]

9.2.1 Suspicious letter

Lucknow, July 20: The mystery behind the disappearance of Baba Ramdev’s mentor has deepened with the recovery of a letter whose authenticity appears suspect.

The note, written by Mahant Shankerdev and being examined by handwriting experts, suggests two possible reasons for him going away.

In the letter, Shankerdev speaks about his “unbearable pain” from chronic lung and spinal tuberculosis. But he does not say how leaving the ashram would make him feel better or if he has gone to an undisclosed place for treatment.

The suspense has increased with a mention about loans that Shankerdev says he has to repay to some of the ashram’s inmates. But one person he has named died 40 years ago.

“Shankerdev has begged pardon from Yashdev Shastri, Bali Ram, Hari Dass, Chakor Dass, Nirwanji, all inmates, for not returning the money he had taken from them as loan,” said Hardwar superintendent of police Ajay Joshi, who is heading the probe.

But what has puzzled the police, which stumbled on the letter during a search of Shankerdev's room last evening, is the reference to Ram, the sadhu who is dead.

The question nagging investigators and inmates alike is: Did Shankerdev not know that Ram is not alive? Most of them at the ashram feel it is highly unlikely.

Shastri, another sadhu named in the letter, is with Ramdev on his overseas trip that has now taken him to the UK.

"We have doubts about the authenticity of the letter. That is why we have sought expert opinion on it," Joshi said.

Ashram chief and Ramdev's trusted associate Acharya Balkrishna confirmed that Shankerdev had been suffering from chronic problems in his lungs and spine.

But he was surprised at the mention of unpaid loans, saying Shankerdev was himself one of the signing authorities for clearing cheques on behalf of the ashram. It is unlikely that he would not be able to repay the money.

"How can the guru of one of the richest yoga gurus (Ramdev) suffer from this kind of financial crisis?" another inmate at the ashram wondered.

"We have intimated all branches of the ashram about Shankerdev. Ramdev, too, has expressed concern over his guru's disappearance under such mysterious circumstances," said Balkrishna.

Ramdev is believed to have called up Uttarakhand chief minister B.C. Khanduri, expressing anguish over the disappearance of his guru and requesting a quick probe [Source]

9.3 Rajiv Dixit 'murder': Likely untrue allegation of Ramdev's involvement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGyCwM68Nz4> – post mortem allegedly not conducted.

Rajiv Dixit was a prominent leader who was part of Bharat Swabhiman movement. Unfortunately he died of a heart attack in Bihar.

On the morning of the day he died, Rajiv Dixit had a small heart attack. I was informed by Siddhartha Ananta that when Ramdev came to know of it, he called - four times that day - to request Rajiv Dixit to go to a good hospital to get assessed. Rajiv Dixit refused to go on the ground that he was an advocate of Ayurveda and would not go to any allopathic institution. The same evening, he suffered a massive heart attack and was finally rushed to hospital. All records at the hospital clearly show he suffered a heart attack.

No one from Rajiv Dixit's family, nor anyone from the police or any authority, has raised any issue regarding this natural death of Rajiv Dixit.

This story has been repeated by Ramdev here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JP7vpLyb06k>

9.4 Fake passport (of Balakrishna): Likely untrue allegation

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/fake-passport-court-to-frame-charges-against-ramdev-aide-balkrishna/424153-3.html>

<http://www.asianage.com/india/enforcement-directorate-set-close-case-against-ramdev-aide-093>

“Role of Balkrishna is, however, still under the scanner of the ED in connection with its probe into overseas investments and transactions carried out by organisations allegedly associated with the yoga guru.

“The ED wants to conclude its probe into the alleged violations of the Passport Act by Balkrishna at the earliest. Final decision will be taken after receiving detailed report from the zone.”

10. Draft RTI applications

10.1 Generic content

See RTI application [here](#).

10.2 Specific content

10.2.1 Uttarakhand Government

[Blog post](#)

10.2.1.1 How to pay fee

[FEES for Public Authorities under the Uttarakhand RTI Rules:](#)

Application Fee (Sec 6(1))

Application Fee is Rs. 10.00

Fees to be paid by Cash, Bankers Cheque, Demand Draft or IPO payable to “Accounts Officer” or designated officer OR By Treasury Challan OR by Non Judicial Stamp Paper

10.2.1.2 PIO address

Public Information Officer

c/o Deputy Commissioner

Haridwar [Email: dm-har-ua@nic.in]

Uttarakhand - 249403

10.2.1.3 (b) Subject matter of the information request:

Information about the land and the various cases relating to the land occupied in Uttarakhand by activities under the banner of Ramkishan Yadav (popularly known as Baba Ramdev) and various trusts and companies operated under his banner in the State of Uttarakhand , including what can be called the Patanjali trusts (such as Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust Divya Yoga Mandir Trust and Bharat Swabhiman Trust) and companies owned or managed by such Trusts and his brothers Dev dutta and Ram Bharat, brother-in-law Jasdev Shastri, Acharya Balakrishna and Swami Muktanand or through others.

10.2.1.4 (c) The period to which the information relates:

2000 to date.

10.2.1.5 (d) Specific details of information in less than 500 words: Details may be attached on additional A4 size paper if required.

It was reported in Tehelka on on **18 June 2011** (<http://bit.ly/1uVLrfK>) that two government orders in the month of July 2008 allowed the trusts and companies run by Baba Ramdev to buy 1,700 bighas (1 bigha is 800 sq m). Out of this, Baba asked the government to convert the 800 bighas in Mustafabad into industrial land.

Also, on 2 August 2010, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Haridwar, found Ramdev’s trust guilty of evading stamp duty to the tune of several lakh rupees. The SDM found that 16 properties purchased by Patanjali Ayurveda Limited were grossly undervalued to reduce the

stamp duty paid. The SDM asked the company to not only pay the balance Rs 9 lakh stamp duty but also a penalty of Rs 5 lakh. Patanjali Ayurveda had purchased these properties right next to the National Highway but then tried to undervalue it.

The 18 June 2011 report of Tehelka also reported that the SDM Harveer Singh of Haridwar had investigated about 200 bighas which belonged to the village panchayat in Aurangabad and had allegedly been illegally occupied by Ramdev for the Yoga Gram. The report of 5 Ma reportedly says that "In the disputed area, an effort was being made to extend the area of Yoga Gram by constructing a wall in the dry riverbed. When we reached there, it was under construction and we forced them to stop. Apart from this, a path used by Aurangabad villagers to go to the jungle after crossing the river has also been blocked. When asked about the encroachment, the authorities of Yoga Gram told the SDM that the area was barricaded because of the fear of wild animals and since the area is so vast, we didn't know that we had encroached upon the government land. Further 2.982 hectares of government land was encroached upon by the Yoga Gram according to the SDM.

Apparently the land on which the Yoga Gram is established is not registered in the name of Yoga Gram but Kashtkar (according to the Revenue Department).

It was reported in *The Hindu* on **20 November 2013** that the then Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna announced that several properties held by the Patanjali trust had turned out to be benami transactions with no trace of the owners. [<http://bit.ly/Xn9sjE>] The CM announced that the Uttarakhand Government had registered 81 cases against Baba Ramdev and Patanjali Yogpeeth for violation of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (ZALR) Act and the Indian Stamps Act. Of the 81 cases, 29 relate to illegal possession of land while 52 relate to evasion of tax and revenue, mainly relating to undervaluation of stamp duty that caused a loss of Rs.10 crores to the state exchequer.

It is understood that the Patanjali Trust had purchased 387.5 acres of land in Aurangabad and Shivdaspur villages of Haridwar district for establishing the Patanjali University, which was built just on about 20 acres. The rest of the land was being used for agriculture and has been retained as a land bank for future commercial uses.

Also, the Trust purchased 84.86 acres of land in village Mustafabad in the name of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park without seeking necessary permission from the authorities. The District Magistrate Nidhi Pandey found that no permission was taken by Ramdev in this regard. The DM initiated action to vest this land under section 167 of the ZALR Act.

The government had granted permission to the Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust for purchase of 141.17 acres of land for manufacture of ayurvedic medicines and research in Mustafabad village. But this land was used for food park, which was a "blatant violation" of terms and conditions for the purchase of the land.

It was reported in *The Economic Times* on **Dec 12, 2013** that a further 15 cases were lodged in December against Ramdev, making a total of 96 cases.

I seek the following:

- 1) Copies of inquiry report and orders issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Haridwar to Patanjali Ayurveda Limited on 2 August 2010 or thereabouts, who found Ramdev's trust guilty of evading stamp duty to the tune of several lakh rupees.
- 2) Copies of the inquiry reports by the district administration on encroachments by Ramdev's organisations such as in Yogram.
- 3) Copy of all documents of the 96 cases and any other cases so far lodged against Ramdev and/or his trusts, including:
 - the investigation report/s by the authorities;

- all attachments cited in the report/s including photocopy of the land records (including name of Village, Khata No., Khasara No., area in bighas, area in acres, name of land holder, name of father of the land owner, address of the land owner, date of purchase);
- all government permissions regarding Ramdev's lands (such as the 2008 order allowing the purchase of July 2008 allowed the trusts and companies run by Baba Ramdev to buy 1,700 bighas or permissions – if any – to create Yog Gram); and
- efforts made to trace the registered land owners;

4) Copy of documents that provide a formal estimate of land value and stamp duty for each land investigated, and details of the estimation of the loss of Rs.10 crores (or more) to the exchequer, including all documentation that forms part of the prosecution case.

5) All subsequent documents related to the cases including record of the action/s taken by the Uttarakhand Government to prosecute Baba Ramdev and his many trusts, and copies of any consequent judgements.

6) Copy of any investigations carried out by the Uttarakhand Government into sources of income of Baba Ramdev, his relatives and partners such as Muktananda and/or other the land owners who have purchased the land occupied by the trusts, and/or of his trust/s.

7) Copy of any documents relating to the seizure of land for which registered owner could not be traced (benami owner) after due effort, or seizure of land which exceeds the limits prescribed by the law.

8) Copy of land records with full details of ownership, value, and date of purchases, relating to any activities conducted under the banner of Baba Ramdev anywhere in Uttarakhand, including but not limited to Mustafabad, Aurangabad, Shivdaspur (alias Teliwala), Shantarshah, Bahadurpur, Badehi or Rajputan.

10.2.2 Himachal Government

[Blog post](#)

10.2.2.1 Payment

Only by cash/ Treasury Challan

10.2.2.2 PIO address

c/o Deputy Commissioner

Solan

Himachal Pradesh 173212

10.2.2.3 (b) Subject matter of the information request:

Information about the land and the various cases relating to the land occupied in Himachal Pradesh by activities under the banner of Ramkishan Yadav (popularly known as Baba Ramdev) and various trusts and companies operated under his banner in the State of Himachal Pradesh, including what can be called the Patanjali trusts (such as Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust Divya Yoga Mandir Trust and Bharat Swabhiman Trust) and companies owned or managed by such trusts and his brothers Dev dutta and Ram Bharat, brother-in-law Jasdev Shastri, Acharya Balakrishna and Swami Muktanand or through others.

10.2.2.4 (c) The period to which the information relates:

2008 to date.

10.2.2.5 (d) Specific details of information in less than 500 words: Details may be attached on additional A4 size paper if required.

It was reported by the Former Punjab chief minister Captain Amrinder Singh on June 9, 2011 [URL: <http://bit.ly/1tOTUSA>] that the Himachal Pradesh Government awarded 28 acres of valuable land (worth over Rs.30 crores) near Sadhupul in Solan district on lease for 99 years for Rs.99 by the then BJP government in 2010.

If so, why were the Trusts such a favoured beneficiary?

It was reported by the Times of India on Feb 21, 2013 that Himachal Government has cancelled the lease on February 19 2013 [<http://bit.ly/1ql8dZ1>]. On February 22, 2013 the Himachal authorities, in a swift but peaceful move, took over the land given to Ramdev's trust. On Feb 25, 2013, the Economic Times reported that Ramdev has appealed against this order to the Himachal Pradesh High Court. [<http://bit.ly/1rqYfLc>]

I seek the following:

- 1) Copy of the original order of 2010 leasing the land near Sadhupul in Solan district to Ramdev or to his associates or associated organisations, including all conditions attached to the lease.
- 2) Copy of all documents that justified this land being given to Ramdev on lease
- 3) Copy of the Himachal Government order of the February 2013 order cancelling the allocation, and copy of all documents justifying the cancellation of the lease.
- 4) Copy of any documents lodged by the Himachal Government in the Himachal High Court to defend against Ramdev.

10.2.3 Ministry of Food Processing Industries

[Blog post](#)

10.2.3.1 CPIO address

[Shri SK Singh](#)

Under Secretary

Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Panchsheel Bhawan

August Kranti Marg

New Delhi-110049

Tel No. 011-26493224, sk.singh@nic.in

10.2.3.2 (b) Subject matter of the information request:

Information about the land, funding, management and activities of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park Pvt. Ltd. Uttarakhand operated under the banner of Ramkishan Yadav (popularly known as Baba Ramdev) and various trusts and companies operated under his banner, including what can be called the Patanjali trusts (such as Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust Divya Yoga Mandir Trust and Bharat Swabhimani Trust) and companies owned or managed by such Trusts and his brothers Dev dutta and Ram Bharat, brother-in-law Jasdev Shastri, Acharya Balakrishna and Swami Muktanand or through others.

10.2.3.3 (c) The period to which the information relates:

2005 to date.

10.2.3.4 (d) Specific details of information in less than 500 words: Details may be attached on additional A4 size paper if required.

Patanjali Food and Herbal Park Pvt. Ltd. Uttarakhand (henceforth called "Food Park") received Government approval of Rs. 50 crores on 27 March 2009, with Rs.45 crores released to date, according to records on the website of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

I would like to seek the following documents in relation to the Food Park:

- 1) Copy of the business case/s that supported the approval of Rs. 50 crores.
- 2) Copy of details of land and ownership of land of the Food Park (including specific plot numbers and names of owners).
- 3) Copy of Government approval for use of the land for purposes of the Food Park.
- 4) Copy of the Government's final approval letter dated 27.3.2009.
- 5) Copy of reports submitted by the Food Park to the Government of India.
- 6) Copy of documents relating to the names of companies operating in the Food Park. It is understood from the Times of India that Patanjali Ayurveda Limited is the largest concern with a paid up capital of 41 crore [Source: <http://bit.ly/1uVLrfK>]. Copy of documents relating to the names of the directors of these companies, including any proof of income of these directors.
- 7) Copy of any investigations or inspections conducted regarding compliance of the Food Park with the conditions imposed for the grant, in particular, whether the companies that are operating in the Food Park are genuinely independent companies, or whether these are merely shell companies basically owned by Baba Ramdev, his relatives or Acharya Balakrishna and Swami Muktanand.
- 8) Copy of any investigation into the business practices of the Food Park, particularly in relation to practice of dodging taxes and failing to disclose income through use of further shell companies and trusts to move profits out of the system.

10.2.4 Enforcement Directorate

[Blog post](#)

10.2.4.1 PIO address

Sh. GS Chawla

Deputy Director (Ph: 011-24645663)

Directorate of Enforcement

Hqrs. Office

Government of India

6th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan

Khan Market

New Delhi 110003

10.2.4.2 (b) Subject matter of the information request:

Information about the data compiled by the Enforcement Directorate regarding the funding, management and activities of Patanjali Food and Herbal Park Pvt. Ltd. Uttarakhand operated under the banner of Ramkishan Yadav (popularly known as Baba Ramdev) and various trusts and companies operated under his banner, including what can be called the Patanjali trusts

(such as Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust Divya Yoga Mandir Trust and Bharat Swabhiman Trust) and companies owned or managed by such Trusts and his brothers Dev dutta and Ram Bharat, brother-in-law Jasdev Shastri, Acharya Balakrishna and Swami Muktanand or through others.

10.2.4.3 (c) The period to which the information relates:

2005 to date.

10.2.4.4 (d) Specific details of information in less than 500 words: Details may be attached on additional A4 size paper if required.

On 2 September 2011 the Times of India reported on ED's investigations which found that that Ramdev's trusts own over 100 companies registered with the Kanpur registrar alone. The Kanpur Registrar of Companies sent two CDs to the agency containing information on 100-odd companies now owned by Ramdev's trusts, including Patanjali Yogpeeth. [Source: <http://bit.ly/1ymI869>]

I would like to seek:

- 1) A copy of all documents including electronic data records collected during all EDF investigations into organisations (companies, trusts) operating under the Ramdev baner.
- 2) Copy of any closure report of investigations into these organisations.
- 3) Copy of reports on any ongoing investigations and any charges filed to date.

10.2.5 Election Commission of India

Blog post

10.2.5.1 PIO address

Sh. Kumar Rajeev, PIO for Rajasthan
Under Secretary (Ph: 23717057)
Election Commission of India
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

10.2.5.2 Method for fees to be paid:

Postal Order drawn in favour of Under Secretary or Accounts Officer, Election Commission of India. In the case of fee paid by way of Indian Postal Order the same must be payable at "Post Office, Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi" [Source].

10.2.5.3 (b) Subject matter of the information request:

Documents relating to any inquiry caused into the use of black money by BJP candidate Mahant Chand Nath (Alwar) in the 2014 General Elections.

10.2.5.4 (c) The period to which the information relates:

2014 to date.

10.2.5.5 (d) Specific details of information in less than 500 words: Details may be attached on additional A4 size paper if required.

In a video published by news agencies on 18 April 2014 (e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csBktuL-tME#t=53>), BJP candidate Mahant Chand Nath (Alwar) says to Ramdev:

