

Extensive bandobast for Delhi bandh

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Delhi administration has made elaborate security arrangements for Monday's strike by the factory workers who are protesting against the relocation of their units.

Delhiites are likely to experience a chaotic beginning to the new week with several organisations representing factory workers going ahead with their proposed bandh. Apprehending trouble, the police began detaining several potential trouble-makers, besides clamping prohibitory orders in dozens of what they see as likely trouble-spots.

The Delhi government ordered the closure of all schools, besides deciding to withdraw all Delhi Transport Corporation buses running on compressed natural gas, the fuel being more inflammable than petrol or diesel - a decision which appeared to be a fallout of the large-scale damages to buses during protests early last week.

The bandh comes a day before the Supreme Court is scheduled to hold a hearing on the contempt notice issued to top Delhi government officials.

Commuters were expected to face further trouble with DTC's kilometre scheme buses also deciding to "stay off the road unless given adequate security". At least 110 DTC, private and KM scheme buses were damaged in arson and rioting last week.

Lieutenant governor Vijai Kapoor met chief minister Sheila Dikshit, chief secretary P S Bhatnagar, police commissioner Ajai Raj Sharma and senior home ministry officers on Sunday to finalise arrangements even as top leaders from across the political spectrum ensured tacit support to the protesters.

However, having faced widespread criticism of the violence last week to which they had lent tacit and sometimes overt support, most leaders spearheading the agitation "promised" a peaceful on Monday. On their part, the police, too, asserted that they would crack down hard this time, a resolve missing earlier.

"We will try and ensure everything remains peaceful and there is no violence. But anti-social elements can always become part of mobs," said the president of the Delhi Manufacturers' Association, Ajit Chaudhary. Besides his organisation, the Confederation of Indian Trade Unions and the Laghu Udyog Sangharsh Samiti are also supporting the protest.

The police said they have declared about 50 spots in the city as sensitive. These would be kept under intensive patrolling. Prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPC (preventing assembly of more than four persons) have also been clamped in these areas.

Among these areas are several localities in northwest and northeast districts (they were the worst hit last week), besides west, east and south districts. Police sources ordered full deployment of the force to maintain law and order and other duties of officers and constabulary have been cancelled for Monday. About 30 companies of para-military forces, including the Rapid Action Force, have also been requisitioned, most of which will be deployed in areas like Vikas Marg, Vishwas Nagar, Seelampur, Maujpur, Tri Nagar, Bawana, Samaipur Badli, Alipur and some other areas.

A senior police officer said commissioner Ajai Raj Sharma has ordered preventive arrest of all persons who could create trouble. Their list has been drawn up on the basis of intelligence inputs and includes some factory association presidents and workers.

Even as city education and industries minister Narendra Nath said all schools had been advised to stay closed to ensure the safety of children, reports of schools in the neighbouring towns of Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad taking a decision to stay closed on their own also

This land is our land, this land is farm land

They are the ones who will bear the brunt of relocation. They will lose their farm lands, exchanged for peanuts, and face an uncertain future. But most of all, with them will vanish the villages of Delhi. Bhadra Sinha meets some farmers who will be displaced once the proposed Bawana industrial area is in place.



NEW DELHI: Sukhbir was born and brought up in Bawana village. Today, after living and farming for 50 years he is contemplating a move. "Either to Haryana or Rajasthan," says Sukhbir.

And the reason for his proposed move is the forthcoming change in the village's identity from a rural hub to an industrial slum. Bawana is one of the suburbs of Delhi which has been earmarked for the development of an industrial area which will be used to relocate the polluting industries from the city. About 1,800 acres have been taken by the government there. Sukhbir is among those farmers whose land has already been acquired by the government.

The process of acquiring land started in 1997 when one day, the villagers saw notices pasted outside their homes. The farmers were left with no option but to go to the government office and collect their compensation. Nobody asked them. Nobody told them. "We had no say. Even the money was quoted by the government only. We wanted land but they gave us money in compensation," complains another farmer Krishan.

"Three years ago when they came here searching for land, they acquired 5 acres of my land. Now I have 13 acres left in my possession, which I will not sell. I don't get attracted by the further development of the industry. In fact," says Sukhbir who prophesies the end of village life in Bawana with the advent of the industrial units.

Does anybody care about us?

Despite agitations the farmers have gone unheard. While the unit owners and their employees resorted to violence on Delhi's streets against the sealing of their units, the farmers sat on a silent protest outside the Vidhan Sabha. But unlike the unit owners the farmers failed to evoke a response.

"The government and the court seem to be bothered about city life.



WHERE WILL ALL THE FLOWERS GO: Bawana, a centre of pastoral hills, may soon become a hush town story, once the polluting industries are re-located there. The villagers' lament...

But what about the villagers. Even if they are human beings and nobody should be denied to their livelihood," says Sukhbir.

Money can't buy everything

The farmers claim the monetary compensation was inadequate and brought little relief. Sukhbir complains that in 1997 he got Rs 12 lakh per acre. But the rate at which the government is selling the land to the unit owners will fetch them Rs 2 crore per acre.

Even the land which was acquired by the government is lying barren for three years. And while the land kept lying unutilised, the farmers spent money which they received as compensation. "Bulk

money is always tempting for a farmer. Some got their houses reconstructed, some purchased cars and trucks," says Sukhbir.

Goodbye to village greens

Farmers claim that a developed legal industrial unit in Bawana will provide, to several non-conformist small farmers, Sukhbir, "If my land has been bought by the government and my neighbour's has been left out, there is no reason why he will not sell it to a prospective unit owner." This could be the death knell for Delhi's villages. And the beginning of pollution abet in another area.

Number of polluting units: anybody's guess - page 3

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Delhi's week begins with a *bandh*

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

A FRESH call for city bandh on Monday has been given by associations leading the agitation against the relocation of industries. Taking precautionary measures, following the violent untoward incidents witnessed last week, the Delhi Government has ordered the closure of all schools on Monday.

The announcement was made by Delhi Education Minister Narendra Nath. In a statement on Sunday, Dr Nath said: "The step was taken as a matter of precaution for the safety of school-going

children in view of the Delhi bandh."

The Delhi Police has made massive security arrangements, including deployment of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), for the second Delhi bandh called by the small scale industry owners and workers in the Capital on Monday. Preventive ar-

SCHOOLS CLOSED TODAY

- Schools to be closed on Monday
- Bandh-call given by more than 40 industrial organisations
- KM-scheme buses to stay off the roads
- RAF deployed; 40 extra companies pressed into service
- Maujpur, Vishwas Nagar, Trilokpur, Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Najafgarh Road, Piragarhi, Outer Ring Road and Mayapuri are the problem areas, say police
- Protest march to Parliament planned
- CM to lead another delegation

certain areas to eschew any violence on Monday. Police are reported to have deployed 40 extra companies for riot control.

Delhi's transport is likely to be worst hit with KM-scheme bus owners threatening to stay off the roads if they are not guaranteed safety. Surrender Singh Dhankad, general secretary

Panchayat, said the KM-scheme buses would operate only in those areas where they would be provided police protection.

"This was made clear in a memorandum submitted to Transport Minister Parvez Hashmi on Sunday," he said.

Even the Transport Minister himself has said that Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses would operate only in those areas where police would give them clearance. The DTC has also decided to keep its CNG buses off the roads as they are more prone to inflammation. The DTC had suffered damages to the tune of about Rs 5.5 crore in the earlier round of violence. Contd on Page 4, col 6

Delhi's week begins with a bandh

From Page 1

To make the matters worse, even the truck operators are on strike on Monday to press for their demand for better tariffs.

The bandh call has been given by more than 40 industrial organisations, including Delhi Manufacturers' Federation, Laghu Udyog Sangharsh Samiti and Delhi Trade Association, at a meeting on Friday night. The organisations are protesting the refusal of Urban Development Minister Jagmohan to amend the Master Plan 2001. They are demanding that non-conforming areas with more than 70 per cent industrial units be regularised to prevent the massive relocation of more than 15 lakh people.

A protest march to Parliament on Monday and a dharna outside the Supreme Court on Tuesday have been planned as part of the protest. However, fearing a repeat of last week's violence in which three people were killed and more than 90 vehicles, including a fire tender, a post van and an ACMM's car, were destroyed, police are taking no chances.

Delhi Chief Minister will lead a march of Delhi Ministers to Parliament, where the issue will come up for discussion on Monday.

Extra companies of paramilitary forces and reserve police forces have been arraigned with

any eventuality. The areas likely to see any trouble would principally be in the north-east and east districts. Areas such as Maujpur, Vishwas Nagar, Trilokpur, Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar had witnessed violent protests on Monday last week. Delhiites are advised to avoid these areas.

Other areas of Delhi may also have to bear the inconvenience. Deputy Commissioner Police (west district) Kewal Singh said Najafgarh Road, Piragarhi, Outer Ring Road and Mayapuri are likely to witness some tension.

"We have called for extra forces but we will be able to control any untoward incidents," he said.

DCP (north-west) Sandeep Goyal said Badli, Tri Nagar and some parts of Outer Ring Road are likely to be affected by the demonstration.

Special precautions are being taken in east and north-east districts in trans-Yamuna, which were worst hit during the agitations last week. Police are to maintain a special vigil on Vikas Marg, the main arterial road connecting trans-Yamuna to the main city.

In north-east district, police have arrested 200 persons involved in rioting last week. The local police has identified sensitive and hyper-sensitive areas for maintenance of law and order on Monday.

Jagmohan made a mockery of Master Plan

By Sujay Mehndolia

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 While refusing to carry out amendments to the Master Plan, the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, has talked about "urban discipline" and the need to inculcate a sense of planned growth. A look at the First Master Plan, when Mr. Jagmohan was Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority, indicates that he himself failed to implement various Plan provisions, resulting in economic growth parameters going haywire.

The first Master Plan, which came into existence in 1962, was prepared to cater to the economic needs and various land uses for a population of up to 1981. A scrutiny of its provisions and violations reveal that Mr. Jagmohan is no less to blame for the present chaos. "The Master Plan is a document prepared to ensure success of the urban planning needs to meet the growing population on the one hand and the economic needs on the other," says an expert. The planning, therefore, while proposing areas of residen-

tial use almost proposes required areas for economic activities, including industrial, commercial and services infrastructure," he feels. In fact, the UDA, with Mr. Jagmohan at the helm, saw to it that not only a majority of provisions of the Master Plan was violated but land use changed to make allotments to certain institutions. The first Master Plan was not only tampered with frequently but its aims squandered. Mr. Jagmohan as CDA Vice-Chairman, at that time, made no effort to undo the wrong. In fact, he paid little heed in his repeated plea for "urban discipline."

The first Master Plan had provisions for 15 district centres within easy travelling distance for a 1.5 to 2.5 lakh population. There were to have work cum-industrial centres with provision for small and light manufacturing units, repair shops and service industries. The area provided for the centres was 40 acres. Though some district centres were developed, the concept of work-cum-industrial centres was totally done away with. This willfully deprived the people of common facilities of about

5,000 units. Similarly, there was a provision for 192 acres for development of flatted factories, with an estimated potential of 200 to 300 workers per acre. Of this, not a single site could be developed, depriving space for over 50,000 workers in 10,000 industrial units. Also, there was a provision in the Master Plan for work-cum-industrial centres, to be constructed in 168 acres with a unit standard of 200 workers per acre and height of 10 storeys. But not a single site was developed, depriving thousands of workers of jobs and work space to over 10,000 units.

What is all the more shocking is that there was a provision of 107 acres for assembly instrument in Delhi to the South of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). But

this land was used by the DDA for allotment of offices to private NGO institutes with no support to the city of Delhi depriving at least 2,000 industrial units of eligible space. At the same time, the Master Plan also provided for 1,582 acres to be developed for light and service industries. Of this, more than 800 acres was not developed, depriving at least 5,000 units of their rightful space.

Another interesting fact is that there was a provision of 3,600 acres for use under extensive industries. Only 60 per cent of it was developed. This deprived at least 30,000 workers of job opportunities. Therefore, it is amply clear that the First Master Plan of Delhi left a gap of over 30,000 to 40,000 units, for which it was supposed

to provide industrial work space, but failed to do so. As such, when the population kept on increasing, the need and pressure of economic services also went up resulting in unauthorised development of industries in residential areas.

Similarly, what Mr. Jagmohan missed out in this whole affair was that the elected Government came to power in Delhi only 10 years ago. Before that the DDA and the Urban Development Ministry were responsible for the planning.

The effort to protect the "disrupt" CDA in this entire affair can be understood, but why are lakhs of people made to pay for the blunders committed by some bureaucrats and influential people?

HARYANA POWER GENERATION CORPON.

CORRIGENDUM

The due date of opening of Part I tender against N.I.T. PTP/PCM-4938 for

PANIPAT THERMAL POWER STATION

(A unit of Haryana Power Generation Corpn.)

Chief Engineer / O&M, PTPS, Panipat, Haryana Power Generation Corpn. invites tenders for supply of following material for KILN BHEL Raw Mills of 110MW Unit-1 to 4:

Delhi bandh: steps to tackle violence

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, NOV. 28. With intelligence reports pointing to possibility of large-scale violence during the "Delhi Bandh" — called by Delhi Manufacturers Association tomorrow to protest against the closure of polluting units — and identifying over 100 places as likely trouble-spots, the Delhi police stated that it will deal firmly with protestors and not allow them to hold the city to ransom.

Stating that the "soft approach" adopted last week, will make way for a stronger one, a senior officer said violence will not be tolerated and those indulging in unlawful activities will be dealt with severely.

"We will not lash out at the protestors at the drop of the hat, but will not hesitate to use force if need be."

The joint Commissioner (New Delhi Range), Mr. Suresh Roy, said while protestors have been refused permission to hold a demonstration at Parliament Street, the police would also not allow them to block traffic anywhere. "No blockade will be allowed anywhere. We will try to ensure that normal life is not disrupted and flow of traffic is smooth," he said.

As part of the arrangements, Mr Roy said about 40

companies have been sought from outside. Drawn from the Delhi Armed Police, Provincial Armed Constabulary, Central Reserve Police Force and Rapid Action Force, these have been provided to various districts. In the New Delhi Range, 18 companies will be stationed in the New Delhi District, while three will be given to East District and four to North East

District, which witnessed the maximum violence last Monday.

Similarly in Northern Range, the three companies have been provided to North West District, which saw large-scale violence last week. North Delhi and Central Delhi, which had remained largely peaceful, have been provided one company each as a precautionary measure.

Mr Roy said ten CP's Reserve force and six other

companies would remain on stand-by to meet any immediate demand in any part of the city.

Asserting that the local units have also been mobilised to meet any eventuality, he said specific measures have also been taken to prevent any outbreak of violence. "Police personnel will be stationed near most government buildings and the railway police and authorities have been alerted so that railway property is not damaged."

Taxis, autos to ply

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, NOV. 28. Taxis and autos in the Capital will ply as usual tomorrow and only in areas where violence is reported will there will be withdrawal of services.

This was announced by Mr. Jaswant Singh Arora, leader of the Taxis and auto drivers union here today. "We are not part of the strike but apprehending damage to vehicles, we will not ply in areas where trouble might be reported," he said.

38 Congress dharna against the closure of units

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, Nov. 20. The Delhi Pradesh Congress activists today staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar here to protest against the Union Urban Development Minister Mr Jagmohan's refusal to amend Delhi's Master Plan 2001.

The DPCO president, Mr N. B. Chandra, who led the demonstration, described as "ruthless" and "anti-people", the Ministry's decision not to amend the Master Plan.

Claiming that closure of polluting units was resulting in loss of jobs to lakhs of workers and lead to loss of tax revenue, he said he had urged the Ministry to declare areas having 75 per cent concentration of such units as industrial. In a letter of October 1, 1999, he said he had also demanded that the Government should be allowed to make a special zoning area.

He said the Government had failed to amend the Master Plan to provide for the closure of polluting units. He said the Government had failed to take any steps with the help of the State Government to close down the polluting units. He said that the Government had failed to take any steps to close down the polluting units. Mr Jagmohan took a decision to amend the Master Plan.

Mr Chandra said when the Government was asked to amend the Master Plan, it had failed to do so. He said that the Government had failed to take any steps to close down the polluting units. He said that the Government had failed to take any steps to close down the polluting units.



Workers of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee holding dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Sunday demanding amendment of Delhi Master Plan.

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BJP in a tight spot

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, Nov. 20. The "uncompromising stand" of the Union Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, has put the Delhi BJP, its senior leaders and MPs in a fix. The stand-off between Mr. Jagmohan and the Delhi BJP leaders is likely to reach a flash-point in the coming days.

On the other hand, the Congress (I) is waging a battle for the cause of lakhs of workers likely to be affected by the closure of industries. But here too, the Congress (I) has been unable to put up a united front. In fact, the dissidents are voicing a totally different line, sending wrong signals.

The recent agitation by workers and factory owners has provided an opportunity to the former Chief Minister, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, to flex his muscles and get back at his arch rival, Mr. Jagmohan. Mr. Khurana has been quick to grab the opportunity and form a "Laghu Udyog Bachao Samiti" to save the industries. He had coined the "Delhi Vikas Mahasangh" when the issue of unauthorised colonies was at its peak in July this year.

It is, of course, another matter that Mr. Khurana has forgotten that he had opposed changes in the Master Plan of Delhi 2001 when he was Chief Minister in 1995. What seems to have dented the credibility of BJP leaders, particularly Mr. Khurana, is their claim time and again of meeting the Prime Minister and claiming that they have been assured of necessary changes in the Master Plan. Mr. Khurana's tall claim came to nought when Mr. Jagmohan announced that he was ready to consider minor changes to the Master Plan in accordance with the Sagar Committee Findings. Officials, however, feel that in the present circumstances, these recommendations do not hold much water.

The erosion in public support for the BJP could be

seen in the low turnout for the protest planned under the leadership of the city president, Mr. Mange Ram Garg, at Old Secretariat on November 21. So poor was the show that even party leaders preferred to stay away. Many senior leaders in private, blamed the BJP-dominated MCD for the violence in Delhi. "What was the need to cancel 60,000 ad hoc licences in one day and send MCD parties to seal units in residential areas. This should have been done after consultations. The party's credibility has been eroded," said a senior leader.

As for the Congress, it has been able to put up a united show inside the Delhi Assembly, but the conduct of many of its MLAs outside, left much to be desired. The Congress (I) has been unable to put up a united front. In fact, the dissidents are voicing a totally different line, sending wrong signals.

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Fear grips Delhi on the eye of bandh

27/11/2001
The Hindustan
By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, NOV. 26. Life in the Capital is likely to come to a standstill on Monday as an overwhelming majority of buses will keep off the roads in view of the "Delhi Bandh" call given by the city's bus operators and workers.

The Government has also decided to keep all schools closed as a precautionary measure.

The Chief Minister, Ms. Sheila Dixit, and the Lt. Governor, Mr. Vijal Kapoor, held a meeting this morning to assess the situation.

Ms. Dixit also convened a review meeting later in the evening, in which a decision to keep schools closed was taken.

"The step has been taken as a matter of precaution for the safety of school children," said the Education Minister, Dr. Narendra Nath, in a statement.

With last week's large scale violence still fresh in memory, a fear psychosis has gripped the city.

Newspaper offices were flooded with calls from residents. By late evening, there was a feeling among the public not to venture out unless it was very urgent.

Private bus operators have decided not to ply their buses dur-

ing the first couple of hours.

On the other hand, the Delhi Transport Corporation will run its buses on schedule — minus its 130 CNG buses — thus providing a skeletal service.

On an average, 9,000 buses ply on Delhi roads daily.

"We do not want to risk our CNG buses. Last week as many as 11 DTC buses were burnt and 136 badly damaged. But we will ply about 1,000 buses," said the DTC Chairman, Mr. Rakesh Mehta.

Instructions have been given to all depot managers and drivers to adopt a policy of wait and watch.

"Wherever there is violence, buses would not ply and in case they are stuck up the drivers have been asked to park their buses at the nearest depot," he said.

"All private bus operators, including those under KM Scheme, Blue Line and chartered buses will also wait for a couple of hours in the morning before deciding on plying their buses. "We cannot risk our buses. Last week two of our buses were burnt as early as 8 p.m. in Seelampur. If there is normalcy and no untoward incident, we will run a partial service."

Chopra demands BJP MPs' resignation

BY Correspondent

New Delhi, November 22

DELHI PRADESH Congress Committee (DPCC) president Subhash Chopra today charged that BJP MPs from Delhi were shedding crocodile tears over the plight of the industrial workers in the Capital.

He said that the MPs had also favoured an amendment in the Master Plan for Delhi but their views were ignored by Urban Development Minister Jagmohan and other party leaders. "If this is the case, they should resign," he remarked.

Addressing a Press conference, the DPCC president said that the livelihood of 15 lakh workers was at stake "with Jagmohan taking the stand that all industrial units should be removed from non-conforming areas".

He added that the verdict of the courts had only pertained to removing polluting industrial units from non conforming areas and not all industries.

The DPCC also organised a dharna today at Jantar Mantar to protest against the policies of Jagmohan.

"Even the DPCC wants polluting units should be shifted out of non-conforming areas but the non-polluting units should be allowed to stay on," said the DPCC president Chopra also demanded that the Delhi Master Plan should be immediately amended.

"The decision of Jagmohan not to amend the Delhi Master Plan will result in mass unemployment," he pointed out.

He added that so far there had been 226 amendments in the Delhi Master Plan since 1962 and said that when this was the case, there



Delhi Congress leaders at Parliament Street protesting against the relocation of small scale industrial units on Sunday. Photo: Virendra Singh

could be no objection to another amendment especially if it benefited the poor. "Even the Constitution of the country was amended so many times," he stated.

Other Delhi Congress leaders who attended the Press conference were Jag Prवेश Chandra, Sajjan Kumar, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Mukesh Sharma.

Regarding the handh call issued by the Delhi Manufacturers Federation for closure of industrial units on Monday, Chopra said that while the Congress was not offi-

cially supporting the handh, "our sympathies are with them".

Chopra also told mediapersons that the Delhi Government had written to the Urban Development Ministry on October 1 last year that areas where 70 per cent of the industries are concentrated should be declared as industrial areas.

According to Chopra, the Delhi Government had also written that service sectors like flour mills, dry cleaning shops, auto repair shops and other small units should be allowed to run in the non-conforming areas.

"While the DDA approved this, the Urban Development Ministry did not. Jagmohan has taken an adamant stand," he added.

Chopra said that if the Master Plan had been amended in accordance with this suggestion, a situation would not have arisen as it did a few days back "when a large number of workers had spilled on to the streets to protest against the loss of livelihood".

He also said that the Congress was disappointed with the utterances of Jagmohan in Parliament on the issue.

Delhi braces for bandh today

Holiday for schools ● Public transport could be hit

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, November 26

THE NATIONAL Capital braced for a fresh wave of protests as workers and owners of some 1 lakh industrial units, that are facing closure, called for a day-long bandh tomorrow.

The Delhi Government has declared tomorrow a holiday for all schools. Colleges affiliated to the Delhi University, however, are to function as usual.

The Delhi Transport Corporation is to operate all of its 900-strong fleet, except for some 120 CNG-fuelled buses. (Transport Minister Pervez Hashmi explained: "If, God forbid, some arsonists target a gas-fuelled bus, the consequences could be far more calamitous than a conventional bus."). Around

7,000 private buses too could be off the roads tomorrow, with at least one union of operators suggesting that in view of last week's arson on Delhi streets, they will play safe tomorrow.

Joint Commissioner of Police (northern range) Ajay Chadha said that the police were arresting potential trouble-makers as a preventive measure. "We are deploying extra forces tomorrow and will maintain a constant vigil," he said. DCP (Traffic) S. Beniwal also said that the police would deploy cranes at strategic locations in the Capital to ensure that there are no traffic blockades.

J.R. Jindal of the Delhi Factory

Parliament *chale*

DELHI CHIEF Minister Sheila Dikshit is to lead her Council of Ministers to Parliament on Monday to register her government's protest against the sealing of industrial units in the Capital. **HTC, New Delhi**

Owners Association said he hopes that "criminal elements don't take advantage of the situation."

Last Monday, the national Capital was rocked by widespread violence after workers

spilled on to the streets to protest against the sealing of industries in the non-conforming areas.

"We are opposed to the closure of non-polluting industrial units in the Capital in non-conforming areas till the government allots the necessary land and creates infrastructure in other areas," said Mr Jindal. He, however, stated that the association was not opposed to the closure of polluting units.

At least two people were killed, scores injured and dozens of vehicles set on fire during the two days of violence last week, which threw chaos into the streets of New Delhi.

To stem the swelling protestors, the Centre last Wednesday said it would consider amending plans to save some of the factories facing the axe. But the protesting workers are clearly not convinced.

"We plan to highlight the plight of the workers by whatever means we may use," warned a leader from the Small Scale Industries Action Front, one of the unions which led last week's violent protests.

The Supreme Court in 1996 identified 1.21 lakh units which it said were responsible for the mounting air and water pollution and ordered their relocation or closure.

All schools to remain closed

Delhi bandh today, violence feared

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Nov. 26. — For the second consecutive week, Delhi will witness a Monday bandh. Intelligence agencies fear violence tomorrow.

The city is gearing up for the "Dilli bandh" called by Laghu Udyog Sangharsh Samiti and other organisations against the closure of industrial units in non-conforming areas by the Delhi government.

All schools will remain closed tomorrow. The Delhi education minister, Dr Narendra Nath, said, "The step has been taken as a precaution for the safety of school children."

Additional security forces will be deployed to maintain law and order. In the North-East District, which was badly affected by the riots last week, three companies of the Rapid Action Force commandoes will be deployed. Two companies of the Delhi Armed Police will also be deployed at sensitive areas.

Station House Officers of all police stations in Delhi have been directed to deploy all the available staff and beat constables in particular have been asked to keep in contact with local traders and political leaders.

"We are not taking any chances this time. Last time they had given us an assurance that the demonstration will be peaceful. But they had come

fully prepared to start riots," said a senior police officer.

The Deputy Commissioners of Police who head the Capital's nine districts met today to chalk out contingency plans for tomorrow, said a senior officer.

It was decided that police will maintain strict vigil in Seelampur, Ustad Nagar and Durgapuri in east Delhi and Samaipur Badli, Mangolpuri, Peeragarhi Chowk and Bawana in North-West District which witnessed the maximum violence last week.

The Delhi government has instructed sub-divisional magistrates to maintain law and order during their drive to seal illegal industrial units. The drive is likely to continue tomorrow.

The Laghu Udyog Bharati, an apex body of small industrial units, has also supported tomorrow's bandh call. The president of LUB, Mr Sudershan Sareen, said, "The closure of small-scale units in the Capital will ultimately benefit the multinational Corporations." Criticising the Delhi government's drive to close these units, Mr Sareen said the Master Plan should be amended to resolve the crisis.

Mr Sareen said LUB will participate in "tomorrow's" bandh which is supported by a large number of market associations and trade organisations. Earlier, the

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Laghu Udyog Sangharsh Samiti had also called for a Delhi bandh, the second in the last two weeks, on Monday, 27 November.

The Delhi Manufacturers Federation has also supported this call and has announced a 'dharna' at Jantar Mantar and another protest demonstration outside the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

The Laghu Udyog Sangharsh Samiti while announcing the 'bandh' call has warned that it will intensify its agitation if its demand for amending the Delhi Master Plan, 2001 is not accepted.

The Samiti Secretary, Mr J N Joshi, said the decision to organise the bandh is supported by about 60 industrial organisations.

Mr Joshi has charged the Delhi government with not presenting the complete facts regarding the issue before the Supreme Court.

The "callous and indifferent" attitude of the authorities had forced the owners and workers of industrial units to come out on the roads to press for their demand, he said.

The first bandh call was given by the Samiti last Monday which triggered off violence and unrest in different parts of the Capital claiming three lives and leaving about one hundred people injured. More than 100 buses and public property at several places were damaged.

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