

National

No immediate relief for P Chidambaram in Supreme Court, Chief Justice to take a call

Agency
New Delhi Aug 21,

A special leave petition was filed in Supreme Court by lawyers of former finance minister P Chidambaram seeking interim relief after the Delhi high court denied his anticipatory bail plea in the INX Media case on Tuesday. Chidambaram's plea will be put before Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi to consider for urgent listing. Chidambaram's lawyer Kapil Sibal has initially approached the court of Justice N V Ramana who said that the CJ will hear the case. "None of the three grounds to deny bail were made out (by the HC): there is no allegation that the petitioner is likely to flee justice; or that the petitioner is likely to

influence the witnesses; or that the petitioner is likely to tamper with the evidence," said the petition filed by Chidambaram. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed Chidambaram's plea and said it is a case of "monumental magnitude". The INX Media case relates to irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance given to the group for receiving Rs 305 crore overseas funds. Chidambaram was the finance minister at that time. Chidambaram had approached the Supreme Court seeking protection from arrest hours after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected in the Delhi high court. Chidambaram's lawyers were told to go to the

top court on Wednesday morning. The Delhi high court while rejecting Chidambaram's bail plea on Tuesday pointed out two factors. The court said Chidambaram has been "evasive" in his replies to the court and cited the "gravity" of the case. On Tuesday night, the CBI issued a notice to Chidambaram asking him to appear before the investigation officer "within two hours". A team of CBI officers visited his Jor Bagh residence but left after confirming that the former minister was not present there. Both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are probing the case. The CBI registered a first information

report in the case on May 15, 2017 alleging irregularities in the FIPB clearance; the ED lodged a money laundering case a year later. Indrani Mukerjee and her husband Peter Mukherjee, who co-founded INX Media in 2007, had been charged with entering into a criminal conspiracy with Karti Chidambaram, P Chidambaram's son. The Mukerjees are accused of trying to get foreign investments and evade punitive measures for not having the necessary approvals from the FIPB. Karti Chidambaram was arrested by CBI in February last year. He was released on bail in March. P Chidambaram was also questioned by the ED in January this year and on December 19 last year.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves decisions regarding re-organisation of Army Headquarters

PIB
New Delhi Aug 21,

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved certain decisions regarding re-organisation of Army Headquarters. The approval has been given based on a detailed internal study conducted by the Army Headquarters. The decisions are as follows: A separate Vigilance Cell under COAS with Tri-Services representation - Presently, the vigilance function for the COAS is through multiple agencies and there is no single point

interface. An independent vigilance cell will be made functional under COAS. Accordingly, ADG (Vigilance) will be placed directly under the COAS for this purpose. It will have three Colonel-level officers (one each from Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy). This will be done within the existing posts at AHQ. An umbrella organisation under VCOAS forenanced focus on human rights issues - To give high priority to observance of human rights convention and values, it has been decided to set up a special Human Rights Section headed by ADG

(Major General rank officers) directly under the VCOAS. It will be the nodal point to examine any HR violation reports. To enhance transparency and ensure the best of investigative expertise is available to the section, a Police officer of SSP/SP rank will be taken on deputation. Re-location of 206 Army Officers from AHQ to Formations/Units of the Field Army - A total of 206 officers will be optimized from AHQ and these officers will be made available additionally to Formations/Units of the Field Army, as per details given below:

Name of Post	Major Gen.	Brigadier	Colonel	Lt. Colonel/Major	Total
No. of Posts	03	08	09	186	206

3 killed as flood relief chopper hits cable, crashes in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi

Agency
Dehradun Aug 21,

Three people were killed as a helicopter carrying relief material for the victims of rain-affected areas of Uttarakhand crashed in Uttarkashi district on Wednesday, officials said. The chopper belonged to Heritage Aviation and was being flown by Rajpal with co-pilot Kaptan Lal. A local involved in rescue operations — Ramesh Sawar — was also on board, said Praveen Alok, media in charge, SDRF. "All the three persons on-board the helicopter, have died in the crash. Their bodies have been recovered," he added.

"The chopper involved in rescue works under state civil aviation department had flown from Dehradun with relief material for Arakot village in Uttarkashi as it is the base camp for ongoing rescue operations there. After dropping some relief material there, it was heading towards another affected village named Moldi when it got entangled in power lines and crashed," said a state official on condition of anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to media. The state administration has been operating 10 helipads in the affected areas with four choppers including one of Indian Air Force in the rescue

operations after heavy rains lashed villages over the weekend. Heavy rains have killed at least 15 people and destroyed property worth at least Rs 80-100 crore in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi, the worst-hit district in the state, in the past few days. Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Tuesday visited the rain-ravaged Mori block. The torrential rains had hit about 12 villages including the worst affected Arakot, Makodi, Tikochi and Sanail villages in Uttarkashi, about 150km away from Dehradun on Sunday, damaging or washing away 20 houses. Several people were

reported buried under their debris as rescue teams launched an effort to search for them. Uttarakhand is among the north Indian states that have been reeling under the impact of incessant rains causing damage to life and property. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh are facing floods, landslides and waterlogging. Several tourists and a film crew were stranded in higher reaches of Himachal and had to be rescued. In Delhi, Yamuna is flowing above danger mark forcing evacuation of people living along the banks of the river.

INX media case: ED counts Chidambaram as a flight risk, issues lookout circular; Congress fumes

Agency
New Delhi Aug 21,

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday issued a lookout notice for P Chidambaram at airports and immigration desks moments after the Supreme Court refused to grant the former Union minister a relief from arrest in the INX Media case. A Supreme Court bench headed by Justice NV Ramana referred the matter to Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi for urgent hearing on the former minister's anticipatory bail plea in the case. "None of the three grounds to deny bail were made out (by the HC): there is no allegation that the petitioner is likely to flee justice; or that the petitioner is likely to influence the witnesses; or that the petitioner is likely to tamper with the evidence," said the petition filed by Chidambaram. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed Chidambaram's plea and said it is a case of "monumental magnitude". Chidambaram had approached the Supreme

Court seeking protection from arrest hours after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected in the Delhi high court. Chidambaram's lawyers were told to go to the top court on Wednesday morning. The INX Media case relates to irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance given to the group for receiving Rs 305 crore overseas funds. Chidambaram was the finance minister at that time. It is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and ED. CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in the FIPB clearance, ED lodged a money laundering case a year later. On Tuesday, a few hours after the Delhi High Court had rejected Chidambaram's plea for an anticipatory bail in the INX Media case, the CBI issued a notice asking him to appear before the investigation officer "within two hours". The CBI notice has asked Chidambaram to appear before R Parthasarthy, CBI deputy SP, who is investigating the case

to record his statement under Section 161 of the CrPc. The notice, reportedly, has also been sent to his email ID. A team of CBI officers visited his Jor Bagh residence but left after confirming that the former minister was not present there. They came back on Wednesday morning. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who tweeted in Chidambaram's support, lashed out at the government for hunting down the veteran politician. "An extremely qualified and respected member of the Rajya Sabha, @PChidambaram_IN ji has served our nation with loyalty for decades including as Finance Minister & Home Minister," Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said in a two-part tweet. The Congress also launched a sharp attack at the ruling BJP, underscoring that the party was standing by Chidambaram's quest for truth. "A govt that persecutes its citizens for speaking truth to power is only reiterating its own cowardly nature," the party tweeted.

South East Asia News

China confirms UK consulate worker Simon Cheng detained under local law

Courtesy The Straits Times
Beijing Aug 21,

China on Wednesday (Aug 21) confirmed that it was holding a UK consulate employee in Hong Kong on allegations of violating local law, as protesters planned to rally for his release outside the diplomatic mission. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the consulate worker, Mr Simon Cheng, has been held under a 15-day administrative detention process in Shenzhen. Mr Geng said the issue was an internal Chinese matter and not a diplomatic dispute, saying that Mr Cheng, 28, is a Hong Kong citizen. Mr Cheng was reported

missing after failing to return from an Aug 8 meeting in the adjacent city of Shenzhen. The UK's foreign office said on Tuesday that it was "extremely concerned" and was seeking information from authorities in Hong Kong and the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, which includes Shenzhen. In his remarks, Mr Geng cited China's Public Security Administration Punishment Law, a statute pertaining to minor violations. Individuals can be held under administrative detention for as long as 15 days, or roughly until Friday. Mr Geng warned the UK against meddling in the affairs of its former colony. "The British side has made a

lot of erroneous remarks on Hong Kong," he said, urging the UK "to stop pointing fingers and making accusations." Keep up with the latest in the region with the ST Asian Insider newsletter, delivered to your inbox every weekday. A "Save Simon Cheng" event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday evening at the UK Consulate General in central Hong Kong. Mr Cheng's disappearance fuels concerns about the safety of diplomatic staff in China, already heightened by the December detention of Michael Kovrig, a Hong Kong-based security analyst on leave from Canada's foreign service. Mr Kovrig has since been accused of espionage and remains in

secret detention, entitled to only monthly visits from Canadian diplomats. The Chinese government has repeatedly said it respects international agreements protecting diplomats and that foreigners who abide by the country's laws have no reason to fear detention. Mr Cheng is employed by the UK consulate and works for Scottish Development International, which encourages firms to do business with Scotland. He holds a British national overseas passport, the New York Times and others reported. The British government returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997. Tensions between the two countries have simmered in recent weeks, after Beijing accused it of meddling in its former colony by defending the rights of anti-government protesters who have brought the city to a standstill since June. The Hong Kong police said they launched a "missing person" investigation and were keeping "close contact" with Chinese authorities.

Sports News

Indian men's hockey team win Olympic Test event beating New Zealand 5-0 in Tokyo

Agency
New Delhi Aug 21,

Indian men's hockey team won the Olympic Test event beating New Zealand 5-0 in Tokyo today. Captain Harmanpreet Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma,

Gursahibjit Singh and Mandeep Singh scored one goal each for India at the Oi Hockey Stadium. India had lost 1-2 to New Zealand earlier in round-robin league-stage. Indian women's hockey team also secured its place in the

final. They played out a goalless draw against China in the third and last round-robin match. With a tally of five points from their three matches, Indian eyes topped the points table and will now face host Japan in the final later in the day.

Madhya Pradesh para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia crosses America's Catalina Channel

Agency
New Delhi Aug 21,

Divyansu Satendra Singh Lohia from Madhya Pradesh has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America yesterday. Satendra

holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels. Madhya Pradesh Sports Minister Jitu Patwari has congratulated Satendra on this achievement. Gwalior born Satendra led the Indian Para Relay team along

with five team mates and crossed the Catalina Channel in 11 hours 34 minutes. At that time, the water temperature was around 13 degrees Celsius. As per the official release, the Indian Para Relay Team started 42 km of swimming at 10.57 p.m.

NAME CORRECTION

I. Sh. Abungcha Singh, aged about 23 yrs, s/o Shri Shapam Singh, resident of Thongju part II makha Leikai, Canchipur, Imphal East District, Manipur; do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly written as **Shapam Abungcha Singh** in my BCA marksheets. That I declare my name be corrected from **Shapam Abungcha Singh** to **Sh. Abungcha Singh** in my BCA marksheet bearing roll no.13122, student of NIELIT Imphal since my name in my class 10th and 12th marksheet is written as Sh. Abungcha Singh. And my parents name remain the same i.e., Mother name- Shapam Binashakhi Devi, Father name- Shapam Shamo Singh. Sd/-
Sh. Abungcha Singh,
Thongju part II Makha leikai, Canchipur, Imphal east district, Manipur,