

National News

CBI trusted Indrani Mukerjea charged with killing daughter, not Chidambaram: Congress

Courtesy Hindustan Times
New Delhi, Aug 22,

The Congress on Thursday stepped up its offensive against the CBI and the government over the arrest of former finance minister P Chidambaram, who the opposition party said, was being persecuted to humiliate the Congress leader and tarnish his reputation in the INX Media case.

The Congress, which launched a sharp attack on the CBI, also dared the authorities to place the nature of charges against Chidambaram in public domain. The party insisted that Chidambaram and his son Karti hadn't been accused of any offence though Karti had been raided four times and summoned over 20 times.

"The (CBI's) case," Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "seems to rely solely upon the testimony of one approver—currently in prison—on trial for the shocking and alleged murder of her own daughter for which she continues to face trial."

"A seasoned politician was arrested on the statement of a woman charged with murder of her own daughter," Surjewala said, without elaborating. It was a reference to the INX



Media group co-founder Indrani Mukerjea who is in Mumbai jail facing trial for the murder of her daughter Sheena Bora. This case was also being investigated by the CBI.

Indrani Mukerjea was arrested in August 2015 after her driver, arrested under the Arms Act, accused his employer of killing his daughter three years earlier.

Peter Mukerjea was also arrested later in this case. The CBI told the court that he was the "silent killer" in this case. According to the prosecution, Indrani had been against the relationship between Sheena, Indrani's daughter from a previous marriage, and Rahul, Peter's son from a previous marriage.

Sheena was killed, her body packed in a suitcase and dumped in Maharashtra's Raigad district in April 2012.

Last year, Indrani Mukerjea told investigators that a deal of \$1 million was struck between Karti Chidambaram and the Mukerjeas to secure approval from the FIPB in favour of INX Media.

Last month, a Delhi court allowed Indrani Mukerjea to turn approver in the INX Media case. She had also claimed to have met Karti Chidambaram when they met P Chidambaram (then a finance minister) in his North Block office in 2006, he asked them to meet his son - Karti - and suggested that they help him in his business.

Karti Chidambaram, who flew down to Delhi to join a protest against his father's arrest on Thursday, told reporters that this was a baseless allegation. Karti Chidambaram claimed that he

only met Indrani Mukerjea when he was in CBI custody last year and the CBI officers brought them face to face.

Chidambaram was taken on Wednesday night from his Jor bagh residence in the national capital, soon after he appeared at Congress party offices to address media, saying he was not hiding — as many believed — but seeking protection of the law. Flanked by other senior Congress leaders and senior lawyers, he said no charges had been filed in a court by the investigating agencies. "There is a widespread impression that I and my son have committed grave offences... Nothing can be further from the truth," he said.

When Chidambaram returned to his residence after addressing the media, a CBI team arrived and whisked him away.

A lawyer with a degree from Harvard Business School, Chidambaram is one of the most prominent members of the Congress party and is a lawmaker in Rajya Sabha. Chidambaram, 73, was cabinet minister for more than six years in Manmohan Singh's Congress-led coalition government until 2014.

INX Media Case-

'Converted corruption into revolution': Ministers jab Congress over P Chidambaram

Agency
New Delhi Aug 22,

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party that has been under attack from Congress leaders over the arrest of former finance minister P Chidambaram on Thursday struck back, accusing the opposition of trying to "convert corruption into a revolution". Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi led the charge, telling news agency PTI that the Congress was working with a negative mindset.

"They have converted corruption into a revolution. This is for the first time that corruption is becoming a revolution. Till now, revolution was against corruption, now revolution is being carried out in favour of corruption," Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi told news agency.

The senior minister was responding to a string of attacks from the Congress that had gone on the offensive over the senior politician's arrest on the basis of what the opposition party described as testimony of a woman accused of killing her daughter. It was a reference to INX Media co-founder Indrani Mukerjea who told the CBI last year that a deal of \$1 million was struck between Karti Chidambaram and the Mukerjeas for getting approvals for foreign funding.

The Congress also echoed Chidambaram who had, 90 minutes before his arrest at the CBI headquarters, underscored that his innocence and underscored that he hadn't been hiding as many believed but "seeking protection of the law". Before his arrest, Chidambaram's legal team had twice approached the Supreme Court to request an early hearing to his petition for protection against arrest. But the

court decided to hear the petition only on Friday. In his appeal minutes before he was picked up, Chidambaram had asked that the CBI take action against him only after the top court delivered its verdict on his request for interim bail.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the authorities were just doing their work.

"Law enforcement agencies will do their work and courts will do their own work. But, the Congress party and its leadership is trying to convert corruption into a revolution," he

said, according to Agency. Satya Pal Singh, the junior education minister, on the other hand, accused Chidambaram of not respecting law of the land and thwarting arrests. "What happened was not good, had he surrendered earlier, his dignity would have remained intact," Satya Pal Singh, a former Mumbai police commissioner told news agency.

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PM Modi embarks on three-nation tour to France, UAE and Bahrain; says focus is on bilateral relations

Agency
New Delhi Aug 22,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave on a three-nation visit to France, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain today. In the first leg of his visit, Mr Modi will meet French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and hold bilateral talks on trade, security, energy security, counter terrorism and maritime cooperation in Indo-Pacific. He will meet also meet French Prime Minister Eduard Charles Philippe.

Mr Modi will address an event of the Indian Community at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and inaugurate a memorial for Indian victims of two tragic air crashes of Air India flights in 1950 and 1966.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said his visits to France, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain will strengthen India's relations with time-tested

friends and help explore new areas of cooperation. In a statement ahead of his visit, Mr Modi said in France, he is looking forward to holding talks with President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Philippe. He added that he would also interact with the Indian community and dedicate a memorial to the Indian victims of the two Air India crashes in France in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Prime Minister said that in UAE, there would be comprehensive talks with His Highness the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He said, he is looking forward to jointly release the stamp to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi along with His Highness the Crown Prince. He said it will be an honour to receive the Order of Zayed, the highest civilian decoration

being conferred by the UAE Government, during this visit. Mr Modi said his visit to Bahrain would be the first ever Prime Ministerial visit to the Kingdom. He said, he is looking forward to meeting Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Majesty the King of Bahrain Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Talking to AIR, Indian Ambassador to France Vinay Mohan Kavatra said that Prime Minister's visit comes at a very crucial time and will boost cooperation in between the two countries in various sectors.

The bilateral discussions will strengthen the bond that exists between the two countries in key areas of strategic cooperation such as cyber security, International solar alliance and joint development projects in Information technology and cyber security.

News from the world of Medicine

Fortis, Gurugram raises awareness on Kidney diseases and challenges faced by patients on dialysis

By a Correspondent
Gurugram, August 22,

Observing the Organ Donation Month, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram organised a public awareness campaign on the importance and need for organ donation. Showcasing some remarkable and unique cases of renal transplant on patients from Haryana and adjoining areas of Haryana, Fortis hospital pledged to create mass awareness among the public.

Every year almost 100 persons per million succumb to kidney diseases. Annually in India, around 90,000 patients require undergoing renal transplant and only 5000 transplants are done. With such a huge gap, more number of patients awaiting transplant die, adding to the burden of morbidity and mortality. Raising awareness among the public for organ donation (either cadaver or live donor) will assist in curbing down the margin of mortality.

"Due to changing lifestyles and an increased prevalence of diabetes and high blood pressure, the number of patients suffering from kidney disease has increased significantly over the past few years. Most of these patients are on maintenance dialysis awaiting kidney transplant and one in three patients don't have a compatible donor in their family. Increasing awareness about brain death & organ



donation will go a long way in bridging the gap between requirement and availability. In comparison to patients on dialysis, patients undergoing kidney transplant have a better and longer quality of life. Also, in the long run, getting a transplant is more economical than getting a dialysis on a regular basis." Said Dr. Saill Jain, Director & HOD, Nephrology & Kidney Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram

Case of Suresh Kumar, 51 years was highly challenging. As the patient was facing kidney problem since last 4 years he was put on dialysis 4 months back. Even though his wife was a willing donor, but due to different blood group, he was awaiting a matching donor. Dr Jain then told him about swap kidney transplant which he underwent successfully in July 2019. When the blood group of the patient does not match with that of the donor, either ABO – incompatible transplantation or swap transplantation remains the only option. In his case the

team was able to do the swap between donors as this kind of transplant is less expensive and has fewer complications as compared to ABO incompatible transplant.

"Now a days the Kidney transplant surgery has become much easier and has fewer complications since we have started using laparoscopy and robotics. With these advanced surgeries the incisions are very small and do not cause any problem post-surgery, there is no problem faced by the donor also, as they can lead their normal life within a week. Similarly, the recipient also makes a good and early post – operative recovery," said Dr. Pradeep Bansal, Director & Head, Urology and Kidney Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram

Other patients undergoing renal transplant were also present on the occasion. These cases are an epitome of inspiration for those who are on dialysis and looking for a respite to lead a healthy and normal life.

Raj Thackeray being questioned at ED's Mumbai office for probe into IL&FS case

Agency
Mumbai Aug 22,

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray is being questioned at the South Mumbai office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) money laundering case.

Thackeray's wife Sharmila, son Amit and daughter Urvashi accompanied him from their 'Krishna Kunj' residence in Shivaji Park.

Kohinoor CTNL is being probed because it received loan and equity investments adding up to Rs 860 crore from IL&FS. It was set up by Umesh Joshi, son of former Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi, Thackeray and builder Ranjan Shirodkar in 2005. The ED is investigating how the money from IL&FS has been utilized by the company. ED sources stated they are scanning the details of the deals to check if there was any fund diversion – where the money is used for purposes other than for which it is given.

"Investigations are on to check if there is any fund diversion of the loans acquired from IL&FS," said a source privy to the probe.

Thackeray is likely to be questioned over his stake in the deal he was involved in. Joshi and Shirodkar who have been questioned in the case will be questioned again on Monday. ED sources said Kohinoor

CTNL allegedly acquired a loan without adequate security and also defaulted on repayments. Of the Rs 860 crore, Rs 225 crore was the initial investment in Kohinoor CTNL. Kohinoor Square was built in Dadar, but mired in litigation, the project suffered a slowdown. In 2008, IL&FS suffered a loss by selling its Kohinoor CTNL shares for Rs 90 crore, taking a hit of Rs 135 crore. Thackeray also sold his shares in 2008. In 2011, Kohinoor CTNL entered into an agreement to sell certain premises of the skyscraper to IL&FS and settle the amount, but it defaulted again, according to sources.

Following Kohinoor CTNL's inability to repay its loans, Joshi lost control of the company to architectural firm Sandeep Shikre and Associates in January. All roads leading to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) South Mumbai office in Ballard Estate have been barricaded ahead of Thackeray's questioning. The police are checking vehicles and their purpose before allowing vehicles to enter in the vicinity of the ED office. The police have also imposed Section 144 of CrPc (banning unlawful assembly) near the ED office.

MNS party workers have not gathered in the vicinity in view of the huge police presence. Daily life has largely remained unaffected as local train services were running smoothly while rickshaws and taxis were plying on the roads.

The Mumbai police have detained a few prominent activists of MNS as a precautionary measure. Police deployment has been increased in the city and neighbouring Thane as well to ensure that there is no law and order problem.

Earlier in the day, MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar arrived at Thackeray's residence on Thursday morning and accompanied him to the ED office.

The Mumbai police on Wednesday issued prohibitory notices, asking party workers to refrain from unlawful assembly that would hamper law and order in the city. The notices, under Section 149 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), warned MNS activists of legal action if they failed to comply. "The notices will be used as evidence against you," read one of the notices issued by the Dadar police station to an activist.

Dadar, where Thackeray lives and the under-construction Kohinoor square, which is at the centre of the controversy has been surrounded by a thick security blanket. "We have received information that your party workers and you will assemble and may create law and order problem. We cannot rule out the possibility of a cognizable offence or a serious crime and hence you have been warned," it states.