

## National News

### INX media case: P Chidambaram called kingpin of offence that wasn't a crime in 2007, Supreme Court told

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 27,

Former finance minister P Chidambaram's legal team on Tuesday kept up its attacks on the Enforcement Directorate, the federal investigating agency that has told intends to arrest him in the INX Media case. Senior lawyer Abhishek Singhvi, who is representing Chidambaram along with Kapil Sibal, told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the Enforcement Directorate had slipped up by charging the former minister for an alleged action in 2007-2008 under provisions of the money laundering law that were notified as an offence only in 2009.

"The Sections charged in the FIR were declared offences only in June 2009 through notification of amendment of the Prevention of Money



laundering Act, one year after the alleged acts took place," Singhvi, who is also a senior Congress leader, told a bench led by Justice R Banumathi. A person is being "painted as a kingpin" of an alleged offence which did not exist as an offence at the time it was committed, said Singhvi, a reference to the Delhi High Court order that rejected Chidambaram's request for pre-arrest bail. In this order that has been assailed by

Chidambaram's team, the judge had termed the former minister the kingpin of the scandal. The Enforcement Directorate accuses Chidambaram and his aides of creating "layers of money laundering web in a manner which is sufficient to make it difficult for law enforcement agencies to track the money trail of proceeds of crime. The case is linked to alleged irregularities in Foreign Investment

Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance given to the INX Media group for foreign investment to the tune of Rs 305 crore in 2007 when Chidambaram was the finance minister.

CBI registered a first information report on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in the manner the clearance had been awarded. ED filed a money-laundering case later. Singhvi argued that this was wrong since the offences invoked by the Enforcement Directorate in its complaint weren't part of the money laundering law when the crime is alleged to have taken place. Chidambaram's team also filed an application to ask the judges to order the investigating agencies to produce the transcript of Chidambaram's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in December 2018 and January 2019.

### PM Narendra Modi drives down to Arun Jaitley's house to pay tributes

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 27,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi drove down to former union minister Arun Jaitley's house on Tuesday morning to pay tributes to the BJP stalwart who had been his friend for decades. PM Modi was on an official foreign tour when Jaitley, one of BJP's tallest leaders, died on Saturday. PM Modi wrapped up the three-nation tour last night - the G-7 Summit in France was his last stop - and landed in the national capital earlier this morning. Hours later, he was

headed to Jaitley's south Delhi house to meet the former union minister's family. PM Modi paid tributes to Jaitley and extended condolences to the former minister's wife Sangeeta Jaitley, son Rohan and daughter Sonali. He spent over 40 minutes with the family. A political giant and strategist for the BJP, Jaitley, 66, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Saturday, where he had been under critical care since August 9. Prime Minister Modi was in UAE when news of Arun

Jaitley's death came in. In tweets, PM Modi described Arun Jaitley as a "political giant, towering intellectual and legal luminary" and an articulate leader who made a lasting contribution to India. PM Modi had then also spoken to Jaitley's family. Later addressing the Indian community in Bahrain, Prime Minister Modi spoke again about how he was bound by his duty on one side and on the other, his heart was full of emotions. "I cannot think that I am here in Bahrain and my dear friend Arun Jaitley is no more," he said in an emotional

speech. PM Modi and Arun Jaitley go back nearly four decades and had worked closely. The bond became closer in the late nineties when Jaitley first became a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat where Narendra Modi had been active. A few years later, Jaitley was among those in the BJP who had pitched to send Modi to Gandhinagar as chief minister. A decade later, Jaitley was among the first in the BJP who backed Narendra Modi as the BJP's presumptive prime minister for the 2014 national elections.

### Two ministers among those whose phones were stolen during Arun Jaitley's funeral

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 27,

At least five persons who attended former finance minister Arun Jaitley's funeral on Sunday reported their phones stolen, including minister of state for environment Babul Supriyo and union minister of state for commerce and industry Som Prakash. The police said they have registered the cases and are trying to trace the phones.

Supriyo said that he and his secretary both lost their phones. "There was a spot where some water was logged and therefore the area got crowded. I think it was that spot where the pickpockets targeted the visitors. We have given complaints and FIRs have been registered," he said. The minister said every 10-15 minutes someone claimed to have lost their phone. "I do not blame the police as they cannot trace every pickpocket, but some additional CCTV cameras

would help them in keeping such elements away from a gathering," he said. Taking a dig at the pickpockets, he said, "As an artist, I must appreciate that the pickpockets' artistry was better than mine at that time." The Delhi Police's additional public relations officer Anil Mittal said they had registered

five cases based on the complaints received. "The five e-FIRs have been registered on complaints from Babul Supriyo, his secretary Dharmendra Kaushal, Som Prakash, and two other persons, namely—Vinod Kumar and Rattan Dogra," Mittal said, adding that efforts to trace the phones are being made.

### Assam govt says no left out persons from NRC list to be detained till Foreigners Tribunals decide on their Indian citizenship

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 27,

The Assam government has said that no left out persons from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), will be detained under any circumstances till the Foreigners Tribunals decide on their Indian citizenship. According to a public notice issued by the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home department, 200 new Foreigners Tribunals are being set up shortly for hearing the appeals filed, which will be

notified by the state government very soon. The notice further said that another 200 Foreigners Tribunals will be set up soon and efforts are being made to set up them at convenient places so that filling and hearing of appeals can be done smoothly. The government will also make necessary arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy people. The NRC will be finalised on 31st of this month. The NRC updation process is being monitored by the Supreme Court.

## North East News

### NSCN (IM) firm on separate flag & constitution demand, writes to Modi

Courtesy Northeast Now  
Guwahati Aug 27,

The NSCN (IM) in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that an honourable solution to the Naga issue is possible only when the issues like a separate flag and constitution are agreed upon. The Naga rebel outfit, who had been in peace process with the government since 1997, further said that the framework agreement signed between the Central government and NSCN-IM is yet to come to fruition despite three years having passed. "Three years is a long period but the Framework Agreement is yet to have its fruition as the Government of India is going slow in taking its stand on core issues," the outfit said in a statement. This changing situation and other developments compels NSCN chairman Q. Tuccu and general secretary Th. Muivah to write a letter to Modi about the doubt and confusion raised by Naga people if an honourable political solution can be arrived at between the two parties, it said.



"This is in reference to the core issues like Naga flag and constitution which are yet to be agreed upon between the two parties. "Without these two core issues solved, any solution would be far from honourable because Nagas' pride and identity is deeply entrenched here," added NSCN (IM). "As we look back the long journey of Indo-Naga political talks spanning over twenty two years, the Government of India has done a great job to assure the Nagas that they deserve a solution that is nothing less than honourable and acceptable," the outfit maintained. It further said that giving official recognition to the

unique history and situation of the Nagas is taken as the correct step towards this direction. The NSCN leadership also urged the Central government to ensure restraint by the Assam Rifles and said that the scenario at present resembles like the pre-ceasefire period with the force showing an aggressive postures, harassing villagers and frisking commuters. "The villagers were harassed with uncomfortable questions giving them much mental unrest. As days passed, AR have become more unruly and going towards the direction to sow seeds of another bloody conflicts with the Nagas," rued the group.

### Assam govt to provide free legal aid to people excluded from final citizens list

Courtesy Northeast today  
Guwahati Aug 27,

Assam government will make necessary arrangements to provide free legal aid to those needy people, who would be excluded from the final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31, a senior government official said this morning. Persons left out of the NRC will not be detained under any circumstance until foreigners tribunals (FTs) declare it. Assam's Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Political department) Kumar Sanjay Krishna said in a statement. "The state government will make necessary arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy people amongst those excluded from NRC, by providing all assistance through the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA)," he said. Under the provisions of Foreigners' Act, 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order,

1964, only foreigners tribunals are empowered to declare a person foreigner. "Therefore, non-inclusion of a person's name in NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as foreigner," the statement said. For the benefit of those whose names do not appear in the final NRC, appeals can be made under Section 8 of Schedule to the Citizenship Rules, 2003. The Centre has extended the time limit for filing of appeals from 60 days to 120 days and necessary amendment in this regard has been made in the Foreigners' (Tribunals) Amendment Order, 2019. Two hundred foreigners tribunals are being set up shortly for hearing the appeals filed in the designated foreigners tribunals, which will be notified by the state government very soon, the statement said. Another 200 foreigners tribunals will be set up soon and effort is being made to establish them at convenient

places so that filing and hearing of appeals are done smoothly and efficiently, he said. The process of updation of NRC is being carried out by the Registrar General of India and the entire process is under the direct monitoring of the Supreme Court. The final NRC, unique to Assam, will be published on August 31. The previous NRC was published in the state in 1951. When the draft NRC was published on July 30, 2018, there was a huge controversy over the exclusion of 40.7 lakh people from it. The draft NRC included the names of 2.9 crore people out of the total 3.29 crore applications. In the list published in June 2019, over a lakh more people were excluded. The Supreme Court-monitored NRC exercise, aimed at identifying illegal immigrants in the state that borders Bangladesh, was carried out in Assam, which faced influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century.

### Minority Affairs Ministry team reaches Kashmir valley to identify areas to implement Central govt's development projects

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 27,

A team of Minority Affairs Ministry today reached Kashmir on a two-day visit. During their stay, the team will identify the areas to implement Central government's development projects in the valley. Due to Article 370 and other reasons, several developmental projects

could not reach to people of Jammu and Kashmir and the team will assess the need of opening schools, colleges, skill development centres, hospitals and others facilities for the development of the J&K and Ladakh. The team will also prepare a comprehensive report on possibilities of social-economic development projects in the regions.

### No 'virgin' word in Bangladesh marriage certificates:

Courtesy Northeast Now  
Guwahati Aug 27,

In a landmark judgement, Bangladesh's top court stated that the word 'virgin' must be removed from Muslim marriage certificates in the country. The verdict came after campaigners challenged the 'humiliating and discriminatory' term, according to reports. Under the country's Muslim marriage laws, a bride has to select one of three options on the certificate whether she is a kumari (virgin), a widow or divorced. The court while giving the judgement on Sunday also ordered the government to replace the derogatory term with



'unmarried'. The court is expected to publish its full verdict by October. The changes in the certificate are expected to come into effect after the final verdict is published. Notably, rights groups of the country have been criticizing the term for quite some time.

The term was used in certificates since they were introduced in 1961. They were of the view that it breaches the privacy of the woman getting married. The judgement also ordered authorities to introduce the options 'unmarried, widower or divorced' for the groom on the certificate.