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**JOURNALISM OF COURAGE** 

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 26 PAGES

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### Govt plans to treat medical implants as medicine

#### **PRABHA RAGHAVAN** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 18

FACING A backlash after faulty medical devices risked lives, the government plans to bring "all medical devices" and diagnostics in the country under the purview of its existing laws for medicine. If implemented, the country's drug regulator will enforce standards to ensure safety and effectiveness of these products while its pricing regulator will monitor the prices, said experts.

According to a draft notification shared Friday, the Health Ministry proposes to notify all devices under a section of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, that would define them as "drugs" starting December 1.

This would include "all devices including an instrument, apparatus, appliance, implant, material or other article, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### **Clears space for** regulation

IF IMPLEMENTED, all devices and diagnostics will need to meet specific standards. But in the absence of a law, the government will have to ensure it can effectively prevent issues like those seen with Johnson and Johnson's faulty hip implants — which risked lives and were already notified as 'drugs'.

# Ex-Hindu Mahasabha leader, appellant in Ayodhya case, killed

#### **MANISH SAHU** LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 18

KAMLESH TIWARI, former working president of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha who had appealed on behalf of the organisation in the Ayodhya case before the Supreme Court, was killed Friday at his Lucknow

A controversial leader, Tiwari founded the Hindu Samaj Party about three years ago. He had been jailed in 2015 over a remark he made about the Prophet that triggered protests and violence. The Lucknow police had also



CCTV grab of the suspects (below); Kamlesh Tiwari

invoked the NSA against him but it was set aside a year later by the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court.

An SIT has been formed and police are looking for two youths, seen in CCTV footage, entering the Khurshed Bagh house around noon. A pistol and an empty cartridge, recovered from CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**DEFYING ILLEGAL trafficking** cartels, illness, thirst and a torturous jungle trek through the Darien Gap in Panama, over 300 young migrants from Punjab and Haryana reached Mexico in a journey that lasted months only to be deported and sent back to India by Mexican author-Were made to walk through

Panama jungles. Alexia Diamond

who demanded Rs 15-20 lakh each, the men, largely from agricultural families without jobs or prospects, left their families behind after "watching YouTube videos" and hearing about people who had successfully managed to reach the US, which was meant to be their final destination too.

"I saw videos on YouTube of the journey. It didn't seem so terrifying; I had no idea we would have to walk in a jungle, without food or water," Sevak Singh, 26, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In Mukerjeas' meeting, PC

sought payoff: Chargesheet

### **FEBRUARY DEADLINE: FATF**

# **Curb funding** of terror or face blacklist: Pak is warned

#### **SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 18

IN A four-month breather for Islamabad, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Friday decided to keep Pakistan on the Grey List, but warned that it will be put on the Black List if it does not control terror funding by February 2020.

The global financial watchdog's decision comes after India mounted a diplomatic offensive against Pakistan for its blacklisting as it had not met a majority of its commitments on terrorist financing and money-laundering. While Delhi led the charge, France, the US and European Union countries also pitched in.



**FATF president Xiangmin** Liu (left) and Executive Secretary David Lewis in Paris, Friday. AP

The FATF after its five-day plenary, which concluded in Paris Friday, noted that Pakistan addressed only five of the 27 tasks given to it to control funding to CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

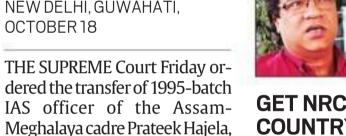
## Assam NRC chief, criticised by state, moved out on SC's order

#### **ANANTHAKRISHNANG& ABHISHEK SAHA** NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI,

OCTOBER 18 THE SUPREME Court Friday or-

in-charge of the contentious

updating of the 1951 National



**BIP** said he had published faulty list

**GET NRC FOR WHOLE COUNTRY: RSS NO. 2** PAGE 7

Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam, to Madhya Pradesh, the state he hails from. He was appointed the coordinator of the NRC process in January 2014.

ities Friday.

The order was delivered by a bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde and R F Nariman. The court asked the competent authority to issue the notification CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Approaching "visa agents"

#### ANAND MOHAN J& **ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 18

NAMING CONGRESS leader and former Union Minister PChidambaram, son Karti and 12 others including former bureaucrats of the Ministry of Finance in a chargesheet on alleged corruption in the INX Media case, the CBI Friday informed a Delhi court

that Chidambaram, as Finance Minister, had "demanded illegal gratification... in the form of overseas payoffs for himself" and guarantees for "the business interest of his son" in exchange for FIPB approval of INX Media's FDI proposals.

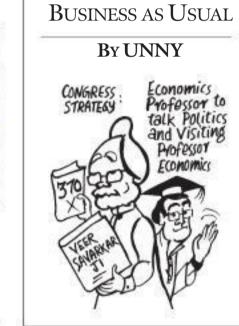
The chargesheet was filed before the mandatory 60-day period — from the day of arrest of Chidambaram in the alleged CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 16

### **EXPLAINED**



MONSOON OUT, **MONSOON IN** 



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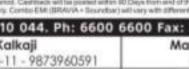
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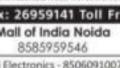
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### **EXPLAINED: WHY THE KING OF NETHERLANDS VISITED KOCHI**

The Dutch royal couple will be touring the scenic coastal town of Alappuzha on Friday and spending time in a houseboat on the famed backwaters, before flying back to Amsterdam in the evening

**VIDEO OF THE DAY** 



**ARGUMENTS ON ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN** 

Raghuram Rajan vs Nirmala Sitharaman vs **Manmohan Singh** 



**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2019: LIVE COVERAGE** 

**Congress 'already** accepted defeat' in Haryana polls: Modi

# **EXPRESS**

Why Eliud Kipchoge's marathon record comes with big asterisk

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

In the latest episode of the Express Sports podcastwe talk about Kipchoge running the record breaking marathon and why it actually illustrates the limits of athleticism

Indrani Mukerjea and Sh Pratim

Mukerjea that the contentious is-

sues of M/s INX Media (P) Limited

would be resolved. It is corrobo-

rated by the fact, revealed during

investigation, that no punitive ac

tion was taken against the com-

pany by FIPB for the above viola-

tion by the company and for this

a demand of US \$1 Million was

made by Sh Karti P

Chidambaram. Of this amount

Rs 9,96,000 was paid through cheque by M/s INX Media Pvt Ltd

as advance, subsequently, in the

garb of false invoice showing con-

sultancy favouring M/s

Advantage Strategic Consulting

Pvt Ltd - an indirectly controlled

company of Sh Karti P

been pardoned after turning ap-

prover in the case, has not been

chargesheeted though her hus-

band Pratim 'Peter' Mukerjea fig-

ures in it. Others named in the

Bhaskararaman, an associate of

Karti; Sindhushree Khullar, the

then Additional Secretary

Department of Economic

Affairs(DEA); INX Media Pvt Ltd.

presently 9X Media Pvt Ltd; INX

News Pvt Ltd, presently Direct

News; Chess Management

Services Pvt Ltd; Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt Ltd (AS-

CPL); Ajeet Kumar Dung Dung

Indrani Mukerjea, who has

Chidambaram.'

chargesheet

### Calling woman 'call girl' not abetment to suicide, rules SC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 18

THE SUPREME Court on Friday upheld a Calcutta High Court order discharging a man and his parents accused of abetting the suicide of a woman he was planning to marry, after the parents called her a "call girl".

A bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and R Subhash Reddy refused to interfere with the HC order, which said that "terming the deceased as a call-girl, there was no utterance which can be interpreted to be an act of instigating, goading or solicitation or insinuation, the deceased to commit suicide".

The HC relied on an apex court ruling, in which it had said that similar utterances like asking another "to go and die" does not constitute an offence for abetment. It said that "the act or conduct of the accused, however insulting and abusive, will not by themselves suffice to constitute abetment of commission of suicide, unless those are reasonably capable of suggesting that the accused intended by such acts, the consequence of suicide".

Agreeing, the SC said "by considering the material placed on record, we are also of the view that the present case does not present any picture of abetment allegedly committed by respondents. The suicide committed by the victim cannot be said to be the result of any action on part of respondents nor can it be said that commission of suicide by the victim was the only course open to her due to action of the respondents. There was no goading or solicitation or insinuation by any of the respondents to the victim to commit suicide".

The incident dates back to March 2004. The woman was a painter and artist, and to improve her English proficiency, her family engaged a man as her teacher.

### Tejpal's plea to delay victim's cross-examination rejected by HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** PANAJI, OCTOBER 18

THE HIGH Court of Bombay at Goa on Friday dismissed former editor of Tehelka magazine Tarun Tejpal's appeal to delay the cross-examination of the victim— with the dates still standing on October 21. Earlier, a Mapusa court, which is hearing the in-camera rape trial against Tejpal, had scheduled the cross-examination for October 21, 22, and 23.

Public prosecutor S Rivankar confirmed on Friday that the Court had dismissed the appeal.

Citing that his lawyers are not available till the year-end, Tejpal had asked for a date in December. With a Supreme Court deadline to finish the case in six months from August, the High Court said it cannot afford any more delays. The victim has been examined by the prosecution and will now face questions from Tejpal's lawyers.

The prosecution is then expected to reveal the witnesses it wants to question, based on the manner in which the crossexamination is conducted. Earlier too, Tejpal had sought a change of dates citing lack of electronic evidence shared by investigating team to his lawyers to present a suitable

defence.

#### Appellant killed Mexico camp the spot, are being analysed. Police are looking into call detail

**FROM PAGE ONE** 

records of Tiwari's mobile phone and will question a policeman stationed at the house for his security. They are also drawing sketches of the suspects.

After a preliminary check, doctors told police that Tiwari's throat had been slit. Later, Additional SP (West Lucknow) Vikas Chandra Tripathi said the "postmortem report of Kamlesh Tiwari stated that there is a bullet injury near the neck." Tiwari's wife Kiran has lodged

an FIR against two clerics of Bijnor mosques, accusing them of murder and criminal conspiracy. She alleged that they were behind the killing. In 2015, after Tiwari's remark on the Prophet led to protests, the clerics had announced cash rewards for his head. Incidentally, one of them was arrested a year later by Bijnor police on the charge of rape.

Meanwhile, police are also looking into a Gujarat police chargesheet from two years ago. Alleged IS operatives Kasim Stimberwala and Obed Mirza, arrested in October 2017, told Gujarat police about plans to kill Confirming this, Gujarat ATS

DIG Himanshu Shukla said: "In the chargesheet, it is mentioned that Kasim and Obed had confessed to police that they had planned to kill Kamlesh Tiwari because he had allegedly made objectionable remarks about the Prophet." Following his killing, Tiwari's

supporters and area residents blocked the Naka road crossing demanding immediate arrest of the assailants. Stones were hurled and shops downed shutters. Hari Shankar Jain, Tiwari's

lawyer before the Supreme Court, said: "Kamlesh Tiwari was one of the appellants in the Supreme Court in the title suit of Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid. The appeal was admitted in the Supreme Court." He said the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha had filed its plea through Tiwari.

Additional SP Tripathi said Tiwari's assailants appeared to be known to him, and police are also probing personal enmity as a possible motive for the murder.

Swarashtra Deep Singh, incharge of Tiwari's party for Kushinagar district, who was present in the room when the assailants arrived, told The Indian Express: "At around 11 am, Kamlesh Tiwari received a phone call after which he asked his wife, Kiran, to clean the room on the first floor of the building since some visitors were arriving. He also asked her to prepare tea for

Over an hour later, two persons showed up and went straight to the first floor where Tiwari was waiting for them. Kiran was on the ground floor while their three sons were not present in the house, Singh said.

"After half-an-hour, one of the visitors gave me money to go and buy cigarettes for him. When I returned after a few minutes, I was shocked to see Tiwari lying on the floor. There were injuries around his throat and blood was oozing out. The visitors were not around," Singh said, adding that he raised an alarm and Tiwari's wife ran to the first floor. The police were informed.

Tiwari was taken to the Trauma Centre of the King George Medical University where he was declared dead. While police officers claimed a policeman, deployed for Tiwari's security, was present on the first floor of the house, Singh said he did not

see him. Tiwari hailed from Sitapur. He contested the 2012 assembly election from central Lucknow on the ticket of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha but was defeated.

farmer from Jalandhar who left India on July 29 told The Indian Express.

The 311 men landed at Delhi's IGI Airport Friday after Mexico deported them for illegally entering the country and trying to cross over to the US from there.

Finding "visa agents", the men said, was the easy part. Deep Singh, 23, a farmer from Sangrur, said, "Many of our friends are now in the US; we just ask them about these agents. In Jalandhar, there are also many WhatsApp forwards meant to sell this idea to young men." The only thing each needs is

his photo. "We just had to get to Delhi from Punjab and then we got tickets which had details of where to go. We don't even need to ask anything, the agents just know," said Deep. After a flight to Ecuador, the

men were transported by road or flight to Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and finally Mexico. They spent weeks lodged in cheap hotels, passing one immigration check after another. "At several points in the journey, five-six people carrying guns would accompany us," said one man who did not wish to be identified.

But none could anticipate the terrifying journey that awaited them at Panama, where they were told to trek by themselves for five-seven days through a dense jungle. "The path is made, and markers using plastic bags are already in place. For three days, we did not even have water. We drank the sweat we would squeeze out of our shirts. There was no food. There were animals in the forest, and a lot of us fell ill," said Sonu, 22, a graduate from Kurukshetra University.

Manjeet Singh, 28, from Amritsar claimed the "mafia" accompanying them would ask for \$50(roughly Rs 3,500) from each man every once in a while. He claimed some men had died on the journey but did not provide further details.

Once the men arrived in Mexico, they were arrested by authorities and put in "camps", which were "like jails, where they took us out at specific times and gave us food twice a day", said Sevak. Rinku Ram, 24, from a village in Harvana, recalled suffering from a severe allergy and falling ill at the camp. "They used to keep us shut inside; everyone got diseases," he said.

The agents had told the men to ask Mexican authorities for "passes" that would let them leave the camps temporarily, which is when they would enter the US. "Once we cross over (to the US), we make up a story and a case is filed. But we can work still," said Manjeet, recalling what he had been told by the agents.

But the men soon realised no such passes would be provided to them. "They kept us there for 25-30 days and then deported us," said Sevak.

Back in India, the men say their plan for a fresh start has left them worse off than before. "It took me four months to reach Mexico. For 45 days they kept us in the camp, I sold my land, now I don't know what to do," said Deep Singh. Manjeet Singh said: "I have been unemployed since 2014 after getting a diploma, and this was my last chance... but I will come back."

(With inputs from Alexia Diamond)

### Prateek Hajela

for this "forthwith and in any case within seven days from today".

"Upon hearing Mr. Prateek Haiela, learned State Coordinator. the learned Attorney General and the learned Solicitor General and taking into account the totality of the facts of the case, we order for the inter-cadre transfer of Mr. Hajela to the State of Madhya

# Curb funding of terror: Pak warned

**FULL COVERAGE** 

terror groups like the Lashkare-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad — both are responsible for a series of attacks in India.

The decision means, Pakistan has been given time until February 2020 to fulfil its commitments or risk being blacklisted.

According to sources, an objective assessment of Pakistan's progress in implementing its action plan was obtained, including in connection with situations of other countries. Apart from some action taken by Islamabad, the FATF noted the insufficiency of Pakistan's implementation as "serious concerns". According to French diplo-

matic sources, the immediate blacklisting of Pakistan did not garner the consensus of all FATF members as the most effective response. The compliance require-

ment is quite strict — it asks for "significant and sustainable progress", "across the range".

"It is clear that the FATF will take action if progress cannot be established," the source

Sources also said that there is an explicit threat of being blacklisted, if applicable. If Pakistan continues on the

Grey List or gets put in Dark Grey List, it will be very difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union, making its financial condition more precarious. Such action could include

calling upon global financial institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan. This language is the same used for Iran, which is already on the Black List.

The FATF discussed all jurisdictions, which are under review, including Pakistan and there was consensus on Pakistan, with its poor performance on the 27-point action plan, despite expiry of its 15-month timeline.

was able to address only five out of 27 items. It was unanimously decided to express serious concern with overall lack of progress in addressing its transnational terror funding risks," the official said.

"It was noted that Pakistan

Pakistan was placed on the Grey List in June last year and given a plan of action to be completed by October 2019 or face the risk of being placed on the black List along with Iran and North Korea.

China, Turkey and Malaysia are learnt to have resisted India's efforts. The Indian Express has

learnt that the China and Turkey pushed to give Pakistan a "little more time" to fulfil its commitments. Saudi Arabia has not yet committed to giving support or oppose the Indian effort.

At the meeting, India is learnt to have asked FATF members to blacklist Pakistan citing the recent example that Islamabad has allowed Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed to withdraw funds from his frozen accounts. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had meetings with their counterparts of many FATF member countries over the last few weeks, especially at the UN General Assembly in New York. While Modi had met lead-

ers from Belgium, France, US, UK, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa among others at the UN, Iaishankar had met his counterparts from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Singapore, Turkey, Japan at the UN in New York. He has also met his counterparts from the two regional organisations in the FATF - the GCC and the EC.

Earlier, Jaishankar met leaders from Finland - on his way to New York - and his counterparts from France, Germany, Canada. NSA Ajit Doval and Jaishankar had also visited Russia separately.

#### Govt plans to treat medical implants as medicine industry and the impact it had enough in a moment of growwhether used alone or in com-Central drug regulator's licenc-

bination, including a software or an accessory, intended by its manufacturer to be used specially for human beings or animals which does not achieve the primary intended action in or on human body or animals by any pharmacological or immunological or metabolic means, but which may assist in its intended function.'

This, according to the draft, will apply to devices used for diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation or assistance for any disease, disorder, injury or disability. It will also apply to products, including implants, used for the "investigation, replacement or modification or support" of the anatomy or of a physiological

Devices used to support or sustain life, medical device disinfectants as well as contraceptive devices will also be regulated under this notification. The Ministry has sought comments on the proposal before November 17.

Manufacturers and importers of most of these devices will have at least 1.5 years to voluntarily register with the ing authority, according to another draft notification released Friday. The draft, which would amend the country's existing Medical Device Rules (2017), would apply to all devices in a phased manner, starting with 23 devices, including disposable syringes, cardiac stents, intra ocular lenses, knee and hip implants and heart valves, that are already regulated as "drugs" under the country's drug laws.

By Jan 1, 2020, nebulizers, blood pressure monitoring devices, glucometers, digital thermometers, will have to start registering with the Central Licencing Authority, while around nine devices, including all implantable medical devices and equipment, CT scan equipment, defibrillators, X-ray and dialysis machines will face this requirement from April 1, 2020.

In April, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) recommended notifying all medical devices in a phased manner. This came almost five months after The Indian Express published the 'Implant Files', a series of investigative reports highlighting lapses in regulation in India's medical devices

on patients. This included Johnson & Johnson's use of loopholes in US laws to obtain approval for and marketing hip implants in India, that had to be globally recalled in 2010. "The (draft notification)

means that CDSCO (Central

Drugs Standard Control Organisation) can apply provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act as well as the Medial Devices Rules 2017 on all medical devices...It can also punish them for violations as per the Act. Once devices are defined as 'drugs', NPPA (the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) can also monitor their prices and ensure that they don't raise it more than 10 per cent every year,' said Archana Sahadeva, an independent lawyer representing pharma companies.

"There are apprehensions that this is a knee jerk reaction to subvert the framing of a new medical devices act that will institute a separate devices regulatory agency, independent of CDSCO," said a stakeholder who did not wish to be identified. "Merely expanding the scope of regulation to all devices is not ing number of safety disasters involving devices and the CDSCO's pathetic track record in responding to them. We have been asking for strengthening and comprehensive reforms of regulation for patient safety," said Malini Aisola of patient activist group All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN).

correctly regulate devices as 'drugs' may not help fully address patient needs to access affordable safe devices that are indigenously available," said Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator of Indian medical devices lobby group, Association of Indian Medical Devices Industry (AIMED).

"Devices need a risk proportional penal system and decriminalisation of most offences. Regulator needs to have administrative powers to...protect public or ensure field safety actions or product recalls and not feel inept or handicapped to do so as was seen last year in the [&] case. Every minor issue need not be referred to an over burdened judiciary with limited technical knowledge," he added.

the then section officer of FIPB unit (MoF); Rabindra Prasad, the then under secretary of FIPB unit; Pradeep Kumar Bagga, the then OSD (CM&I), FIPB unit; Prabodh Saxena, Director of FIPB Unit; and Anup K Pujari, the then Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade) in the In May 2017, the CBI had registered an FIR alleging irregularities in the FIPB clearance granted "Continuing attempts to in-

to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 in 2007 when crore Chidambaram was Finance Minister. The ED later lodged a money laundering case in the matter. Chidambaram denied any wrongdoing, and rejected the charges levelled at him by the two agencies.

Arrested on August 21 by the CBI which is probing alleged corruption in the case. Chidambaram has been in judicial custody since September 5. On Friday, the Supreme Court

reserved its order on Chidambaram's bail plea with the CBI opposing it, claiming it was at a crucial stage of investigating more cases of FIPB approvals to companies and their alleged financial transactions with his son Karti, and that granting bail at at this stage would hamper probe as his very presence would intimidate witnesses.

Appearing for the agency, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Justice R Banumathi that the FIPB approval granted to INX Media was not only the issue under investigation though this was the only one mentioned in the FIR.

He said that one of the witnesses in the case had given a statement under Section 164 CrPC about attempts to influence him and that the CBI had not revealed his name in the chargesheet.

Mehta too referred to the meeting at Chidambaram's office, saying investigations had revealed that the Mukerjeas, along with a third person, had met him in his office on March 9, 2007, but the visitor's register was stated to be destroyed because of lapse of time.

"However, contemporaneous evidence collected from Hotel Oberoi corroborates the statements of Indrani Mukerjea, that she and Peter Mukerjea were staying in Hotel Oberoi, New Delhi between 6.3.2007 and 9.3.2007 and they having used

maximum period permissible under the relevant rules/ regulations," the bench said in its order. Significantly, the order is also

CJI Ranjan Gogoi's last one on the NRC updation process since the bench directed that other NRC related matters would be heard on November 26. The CJI who became part of the bench hearing the NRC matter in August 2014 is scheduled to retire on November 17, 2019.

The Supreme Court took over the monitoring of the updation process in December 2014, and the final updated NRC was published on August 31 this year. The final NRC included 3,11,21,004 names and left out 19,06,657 persons.

When Attorney General KK Venugopal asked the bench if there was any reason for the transfer order, CJI Gogoi replied "Is there any order without a reason?" He did not elaborate. When contacted, Hajela de-

clined to comment. Assam's Commissioner and Secretary (Home and Political) Department to comment.

Pradesh on deputation for the ship with the Assam government, and mounting criticism of his by the state unit of various political parties including the BJP and the Congress in the last few months. They said the NRC updation process was anyway complete.

In July this year, the Assam government and the Centre petitioned the SC for re-verification of a sample of names included in the draft NRC - 20% in border districts and 10% elsewhere - but this was dismissed by the apex court after Hajela said that re-verification of 27% names was already done.

Since then, the state government and the state unit of the BJP have sharply criticised Hajela. In a statement on July 24, the state BJP said, Hajela was working under the direction of "certain forces" to "publish a faulty NRC with names of illegal foreigners in it".

On August 1, the state government released the exclusion data of the draft NRC to question the accuracy of the process and criticised Hajela. In its reply on the corruption case — runs out on Chidambaram, the then Finance October 20.

It refers to a meeting at Chidambaram's North Block office where, according to the CBI, this demand for "payoffs" was made in the presence of journalist Vir Sanghvi.

the Enforcement Directorate that during that period, we met several people in Delhi to tell them about the venture. I do not exactly remember who all of them were and have no specific recollection of this meeting. In any case, Peter Mukerjea knew Mr Chidambaram from his Star TV days... This is all in my evidence as are my two meetings with Mr Chidambaram after I had left INX a few months later when I urged him to investigate irregularities in INX's finances. The FIPB clearance was for INX Media, an entertainment company. I worked for INX News, a separate com-The CBI, in its chargesheet,

said: "Smt Indrani Mukerjea, the then Director M/s INX Media (P) Sanghvi had met Sh

Minister in his office at North Block, New Delhi, regarding the FIPB approval. In the said meeting Shri P Chidambaram demanded illegal gratification from Smt Indrani Mukerjea and Sh Pratim Mukerjea in the form of Reached for comment, overseas payoffs for himself and Sanghvi said: "I told the CBI and he also demanded that business interest of his son Sh Karti P Chidambaram should also be taken care in lieu of FIPB approval of M/s INX Media (P) Ltd and M/s INX News (P) Ltd.' It refers to another meeting at

the Hyatt Regency coffee shop in New Delhi between the Mukerjeas and Karti in June 2008 after the Income Tax raised guestions about the FDI proposal. Seeking clarifications, the I-T asked: "Whether M/s INX Media (P) Limited, which had an approval for FDI of Rs 4.62 crores only, could receive excess investment to the tune of Rs. 262 crores (as on May 2008)" and "Whether M/s INX Media (P) Limited could also make a downstream investment in M/s INX News (P) Limited without the FIPB approval."

Ashutosh Agnihotri also declined floor of the Assembly, the state Limited and Sh Pratim Mukerjea, the hotel vehicle for internal government had said that her husband as the then Chief travel on 9.3.2007, which was "During the meeting at the Hajela's reasoning was wrong. State government sources, Operating Officer, M/s INX Media coffee shop at Hotel Hayat used for travelling to the petihowever, said Hajela's transfer (P) Limited along with Sh Vir Regency, New Delhi, Sh Karti P tioner's office where the meeting Chidambaram follows his deteriorating relation-Chidambaram assured Smt was held," he said.