

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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## PC granted bail, but stays in ED custody

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to P Chidambaram in the INX media case, turning down the CBI's argument that the former finance minister, if released, could flee the country and tamper with evidence and influence the witnesses.

However, Chidambaram, who has been behind bars for two months, will not be a free man ever after getting relief as the Enforcement Directorate has taken him into custody for alleged involvement in money laundering arising out of financial transactions in the same case. Now, he will have to fight another round of legal battle to get bail in the ED case.

A bench of Justices R Banumathi, A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy said there

“Till date, there has been no allegation regarding influencing of any witness by him or his men...there is no whisper that any material witness has been approached

We are unable to accept the contention that flight risk of economic offenders should be looked at as a national phenomenon because certain other offenders have flown out of the country – SC

was no merit in the CBI's submission that Chidambaram was a flight risk and there was a possibility of him absconding as he had already surrendered his passport and there was a lookout notice issued against him.

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## PC can't travel abroad without trial court's nod

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The SC also noted that Congress leader P Chidambaram had neither sought permission to travel abroad during 18 months when he was granted interim protection by the HC nor did he make any attempt to flee outside after the registration of the FIR against him. However, the bench restrained the former FM from travelling abroad without the trial court's permission. The bench also directed him to make himself available for interrogation as and when required by the CBI.

The apex court, however, refused to give credence to the CBI's allegations. Agreeing with the contention of Chidambaram's lawyers, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, the bench said, "CBI has no direct evidence against the appellant (Chidambaram) regarding the allegation of directly or indirectly influencing the witnesses." It also asked why agency raised this ground only when bail plea was filed in the HC and did not mention it before the trial court.