ED questions Chidambaram in UPA-era aviation scam case

Probe also relates to the purchase of over 30 aircraft, costing about $700,000,000, for Air India

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The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a case against former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in connection with the purchase of 30 aircraft for Air India during his tenure. The agency has also questioned Chidambaram on the management of a shadow company, which is said to have been used to misappropriate funds.

The ED had earlier filed a chargesheet against former Defence Minister A K Antony for his alleged role in the scam. Antony had been questioned by the ED in connection with the purchase of the aircraft in 2010.

Chidambaram has denied any wrongdoing and said that the deal was done in the best interest of the country. He has also said that the aircraft were purchased for national security reasons.

The ED has already seized assets worth over $200 million in the case so far.

Govt approves 2,636 new charitable centres in 62 cities

The Union Government has approved the setting up of 2,636 new charitable centres in 62 cities across the country. The Centre has also announced the allocation of Rs 7,500 crore to set up such centres.

The centres will be set up under the Scheme for Setting up of Charitable Centres in Urban Areas, which was notified in July 2020. The scheme aims to provide facilities like schools, hospitals, and community centres to the urban poor.

The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah, said that the scheme was a step towards achieving the goal of ‘Housing for All’ and would benefit millions of people living in urban areas.

Jet Airways (India) Limited

Jet Airways has announced the closure of its operations with immediate effect. The airline had been struggling with financial difficulties for several years and had been unable to find a buyer.

The airline said in a statement that it had not been able to generate sufficient revenues to sustain operations. It also pointed out that the airline was facing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jet Airways had been one of the largest airlines in India and had flown to over 50 destinations in India and abroad. The airline had been forced to fire thousands of employees in recent years due to its financial crisis.