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ISRO case: SC asks CBI to look into panel report

Police officers 'framed' space scientist

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NEW DELHI

16/4/21
The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to look into the Justice D.K. Jain Committee report on senior Kerala police officials who allegedly framed space scientist Nambi Narayanan in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) espionage case of 1994.

A Bench, led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, said the report concerned a "serious matter" warranting a CBI probe. "This requires a thorough investigation," Justice Khanwilkar said. "Registrar Judicial shall forward a copy



Nambi Narayanan

of the report to the Acting Director, CBI, who may proceed in accordance with the law... Open to the CBI to treat the report as a preliminary enquiry report and proceed accordingly," the order said.

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ISRO case: SC asks CBI to look into panel report

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The Supreme Court barred the public circulation of the contents of the report. The Supreme Court copy would be placed in a sealed cover.

Advocate Amit Sharma, for one of the police officers, retired ADGP Siby Mathews, said while Mr. Narayanan was heard out by the committee, Mr. Mathews was not called or given an opportunity to state his case.

"Naturally, the accused need not be heard before registration of offence..." Justice Khanwilkar reacted.

The Centre has also put its weight behind a report filed by a three-member Committee chaired by former Supreme Court judge Jus-

tice D.K. Jain.

The Centre had applied to the Supreme Court, urging it to accept on record the inquiry report submitted by the Justice Jain Committee and take suitable action on the suggestions made within against the "erring officials".

Mr. Narayanan, in his petition before the Supreme Court, had arraigned Mr. Mathews, K.K. Joshwa and S. Vijayan, the latter two had retired in senior positions in the police, as responsible.

The Committee was constituted by the Supreme Court in September 2018 to find out "ways and means to take appropriate steps against the erring officials".