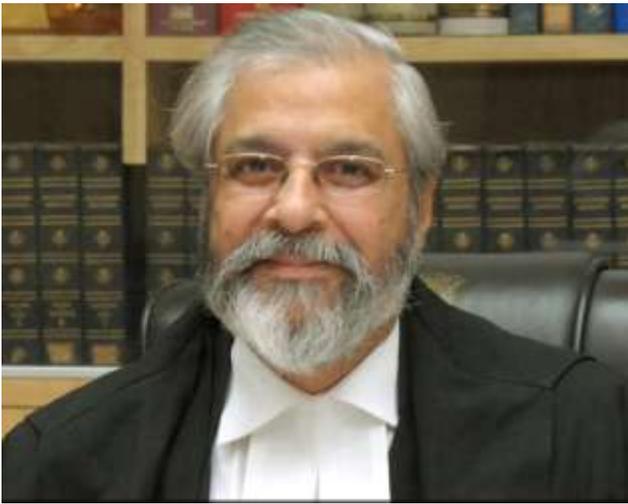


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Judge Supreme Court of India *since* 2012



The Hon'ble Justice
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Judge Supreme Court of India *since* 2013

New Delhi : A Supreme Court-appointed panel on Tuesday 12.07.2016 confirmed allegations against former CBI director Ranjit Sinha that he met people accused in an alleged scandal involving government allocation of coalfields from 2004 to 2009.

The panel was formed in 2015 to probe allegations that a visitor's book from Sinha's official home showed he met several suspects in the coal scam. The alleged meetings triggered suspicion that the then CBI chief tried to influence investigation in collusion with government officials and private companies in under-priced sale of coalfields.

Earlier on Tuesday, Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi told the Supreme Court that an apex court panel, appointed to inquire into the allegations of scuttling of the coal block allocation scam probe by then CBI director Ranjit Sinha, has indicated that prima facie there was an attempt to influence the investigation.

Rohatgi, who was provided with the copy of the interim report, said he had gone through the report of the panel headed by former CBI special director ML Sharma which has found that the visitors' diary at Sinha's residence was genuine.

However, he said that the correctness of entries in the visitors' diary could only be ascertained in a court of law through evidence. "Unless there is evidence in a court of law which says that the visitor's register is genuine, we may not be able to proceed in the matter," he said.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Sinha, refuted the allegation saying the entries in the register or the diary were dubious or fictitious as the former CBI director was not in the national capital on many of those days.

"There is not a single case where I (Sinha) have taken a decision contrary to the investigating officers in closing coal cases," Singh said. Taking note of the submissions, a bench comprising **Justices Madan B Lokur**, Kurian Joseph and **A K Sikri** reserved its order for passing directions.

However, rapping the agency for slow progress, the court said, "We have been telling you (CBI) time and again to complete the investigation. Every time you say we will do it within one month. Last time you had said that you will do it by June 30. But still you have not done it. Please do it expeditiously," the Bench said.

source : 13 July 2016, New Delhi, millenniumpost *adapted*

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