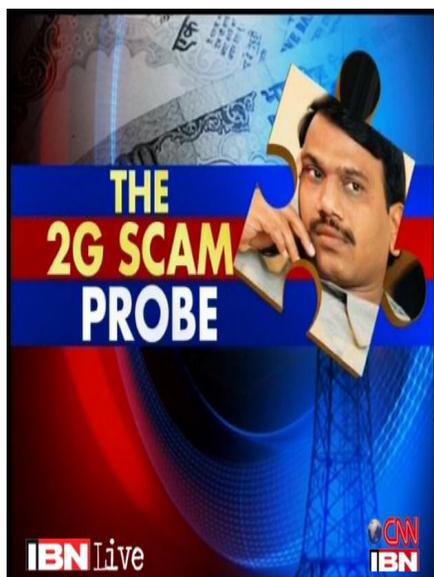




2G Scam: Latest News

- [Out of jail, Raja in Parliament](#) 16-MAY-12A Raja, the prime accused in 2G spectrum scam, today came to Parliament a day after being released from Tihar jail where he was lodged after his arrest in the case on February 1 last year.
- [Raja gets bail after 15 months in jail](#) Andimuthu Raja, former telecom minister and the prime accused in the 2G spectrum scam, was granted bail on Tuesday after 15 months in Tihar jail.
- [2G case: Court to hear A Raja's bail plea tomorrow](#) Delhi court is likely to hear tomorrow arguments on the bail plea of former Telecom Minister A Raja who

is in custody since his arrest on February 2 last year and is facing trial in the 2G spectrum allocation scam case.



THE SPECTRUM SCAM

A Raja, former telecom minister and prime accused in the 2G spectrum scam, got bail from a CBI special court on Tuesday and walked out after 15 months in jail.

Raja emerged from the Tihar Jail to slogan-shouting and bursting of crackers by DMK workers..

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- [Raja out of jail, but will DMK warm up to him?](#)
- [Sweets time in Tihar jail](#)

Nehru Marg home in the capital and was ushered in with an aarti amid the beating of drums and distribution of sweets.

Raja, who was forced to resign as minister in November 2010, was the first accused to be arrested in the 2G scam — India's biggest corruption case — and the last one to apply for and get bail.

Thirteen other accused are already out of jail. "Considering the progress of the trial, period of custody (of Raja) and the fact that all other accused have been released on bail, further detention of the accused would not serve any purpose," special judge OP Saini said.

Raja was directed to furnish a personal bond of Rs. 20 lakh and two sureties of the same amount, not influence anyone linked to the case and not visit the department of telecom or his home state of Tamil Nadu without the court's permission. He has to surrender his passport and be in court for all hearings.

The CBI had charged Raja with criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and corruption. He was lodged in sub-jail no. 1 at Tihar since his arrest on February 2, 2011.

DMK chief M Karunanidhi welcomed Raja's release and said he would remain in active politics. "All in the DMK support Raja," he said.

Raja's wife MA Parameswari said there would be no celebrations but a family get-together "after a very long time".

In the courtroom, Raja was erroneously thought to have got bail much before the order was passed. Even as the judge asked for Raja, someone said "allowed", prompting cheering by most. Raja too raised his hands in relief.

NEW DELHI: After spending 15 months in Tihar Jail, former telecom minister [A Raja](#) finally walked out of the jail complex amongst much fanfare. Granted bail by a Delhi court in the 2G spectrum case, a visibly happy Raja returned to jail from court at 4.40pm.

"He had been quite hopeful of getting bail before he had left for court on Tuesday morning and had told his co-inmates the same. When he reached jail, he joked with the Tamil Nadu police posted at the deory and was smiling at everyone. He ordered sweets from the south Indian canteen in jail and distributed it amongst jail staff and ward number 9, where he was



staying," said a jail source. South Indian fare had been started in the canteen for the first time at Raja's request, said jail officials.

Raja was later released at 7pm from jail after he completed all legal formalities following the bail order. "We received his bail order at 5.45pm and he was released after the formalities were concluded. His brother-in-law had come to take him from jail," said Neeraj Kumar, DG (Prisons).

Raja, who did not want to interact with media, left [Tihar Jail](#) quietly in a silver sedan, accompanied by his relatives and DMK leaders including MP TR Baalu.

Meanwhile, a crowd of DMK supporters had gathered at the jail entrance, bursting firecrackers and shouting slogans while waving red and black DMK flags. Nearly 500 supporters of the former minister had come down to Delhi from Tamil Nadu to 'take him back'. "I am happy that he is being released, I have been an ardent supporter of him, hope he is cleared of all charges someday," said one of his supporters who had come all the way from Padambalore, Raja's native district in Tamil Nadu.

Raja, who was granted bail on the ground of parity as other 13 co-accused have already secured bail, had apparently been planning the plea for months. "Initially, when he had entered jail he would play badminton and other activities. But for the last several weeks, he had been only poring over law books or meticulously go through legal matter relating to his case. He had told jail officials that he was a lawyer himself so was following the court proceedings to determine when is the best time to apply for bail," said a highly-placed jail source.

Raja's close aide Siddharth Behura had been awarded bail last week. Raja, who was arrested last year on February 2, is the fourteenth person to be granted bail on the case. Raja had spent 15 months in jail number 1 in Tihar. He had been lodged in the same ward where [Indira Gandhi](#) killers Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh had been lodged. Raja shared jail space with other high-profile criminals such as Sukhram, SS Rathi and RK Sharma during his stint in Tihar.