

## Officers probing Koda cases: Citizens' forum to PM

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Alleging attempts to scuttle the investigations into cases of corruption against former Jharkhand chief minister Madhu Koda, a forum of eminent citizens has urged the Prime Minister to provide protection to the officers probing the cases and ensure time-bound completion of the investigations.

In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, India Rejuvenation Initiative noted that the initiation of action against Koda had raised the hopes that corrupt politicians and bureaucrats would be brought to justice.

“... but we are deeply disturbed that the corrupt occupying influential and powerful positions and their cahoots are congregating and making a concerted bid to derail investigations. Recent attack on the son of an Income Tax inspector involved with the investigation of this case in Jamshedpur indeed comes as a ‘warning’ to the officers investigating the case. Any such effort, overt or covert, must be thwarted by the more powerful government of India headed by you,” the letter said.

The forum counts former Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti, former chief election commissioner J M Lyngdoh, former CAG V K Shunglu, ex-chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswamy, former DGPs J F Ribero and Prakash Singh as its founding members.

Lamenting the growing corruption and influence of money power in public life, the forum urged the Prime Minister to deal with this tendency with “an iron hand”.