SARADHA CHIT FUND SCAM

SC notice to Rajeev Kumar on CBI's plea challenging anticipatory bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, November 29

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday sought response from West Bengal cadre IPS officer Rajeev Kumar on CBI's appeal challenging the anticipatory bail granted to him in the multi-crore Saradha chit fund scam case.

While issuing notice to Kumar on CBI's appeal, a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde told solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, that the probe agency has to convince the court why the former Kolkata Police commissioner's custody was needed in the case.

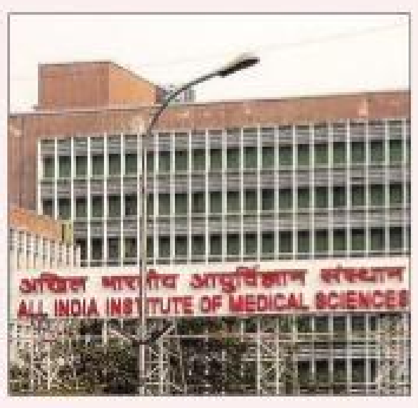
"We are issuing notice. You have to convince us why his custody is necessary. That is the only thing. Otherwise he is a high ranking official," the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, told Mehta.

Mehta told the bench that Kumar was earlier absconding for quite some time and he has suppressed relevant materials which were collected by him during the probe.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of ₹2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.

Kumar was part of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the West Bengal government for probing the scam before the Supreme Court handed over the case, along with other chit fund cases, to the CBI in 2014.

AIIMS falls prey to banking fraud, loses over ₹12 cr



PAYAL BANERJEE
New Delhi, November 29

INDIA'S PREMIER MEDICAL institute AIIMS fell prey to a banking fraud as over ₹12 crore has been stolen from its two bank accounts with the State Bank of India by allegedly using 'cloned cheques' over the past one month, official sources said.

The money has been siphoned off from the bank accounts the AIIMS has with the State Bank of India (SBI) from its non-home branches in other cities, the sources said.

Even after the fraud came to light, attempts were made to illegally withdraw over ₹29 crore allegedly using cloned cheques from SBI's non-home branches located in Dehradun and Mumbai in the last one week.

However, the attempts were foiled.

The hospital administration has already approached the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police seeking an investigation into the scam.

According to an official, fraud cheque leaves presented at SBI's branches passed UV ray tests, and in most of the cases, the original cheque leaves with same series were still in the possession of the institute, the AIIMS said in a report to the health ministry.

It said the SBI has failed to follow verification protocol while clearing cheques at non-home branches and asked the bank to deposit the stolen amount. — PTI

Ratul Puri moves bail plea, court seeks ED's response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, November 29

A DELHI COURT on Friday sought response from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a bail application filed by businessman Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, in a money laundering case related to a bank loan fraud.

The ED had arrested Puri on August 20. He is currently in judicial custody in the case

Special judge Arvind Kumar issued notice to the ED and directed it to file a reply by November 30.

The ED had last month filed a chargesheet against Puri and company Moser Baer before Special Judge Sanjay Garg and the court is scheduled to take up the matter later in the day.

The ED had arrested Puri on August 20. He is currently in judicial custody in the case.

Puri is also in judicial custody in another money laundering case related to AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam.
