

India's deputy drug controller held for bribe

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Singapore: India's top investigation agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation has trapped the Deputy Drugs Controller of the country, Mr A Chandrasekhara Rao in a bribery scandal.

Reports revealed that Mr Rao was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 as part payment of the Rs 4 lakh total bribe.

Mr Rao, who also heads the Hyderabad Zone of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization is said to have demanded the bribe to extend the licence of Janani Voluntary Blood Bank, which operates in Secunderabad and Kukatpally.

Top CBI personnel conducted the search of Deputy Drugs Controller's house and seized Rs 26 lakh in cash, gold ornaments, and property documents that are being verified to find out whether they are disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Ms Laxmi Reddy, the CEO and president of the blood bank is said to have filed a complaint against this with the investigating agency. She was told to put the cash in a cover, which Mr Rao slipped into a drawer just as the agency sleuths entered his office and caught him.

CBI is now said to be verifying another written complaint by a pharmaceutical company against the Deputy Drug Controller. Reports specified that a locker in his house is yet to be opened.

Mr Chandrasekhara Rao has been arrested under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

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