

CBI registers a case against six accused including then public servants of asi & nma and conducts searches

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The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against Partner of Ahmedabad based private company; then Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (Ministry of Culture), Vadodara Circle; then Administrative Officer, National Monuments Authority (NMA); a private person; then Senior Conservation Assistant, ASI, Vadodara Circle; Conservation Assistant, ASI, Vadodara Circle and Unknown Public Servants & Private Persons. It was alleged that the accused in conspiracy with unknown officials of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Archaeological Survey of India, National Monuments Authority (NMA) and Other unknown private persons had

committed irregularities while granting NOCs/extension for construction / reconstruction in prohibited/regulated area of centrally protected monument and violated the rules & regulations of Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites & Remains Act during the year 2006 to 2018.

It was further alleged that the officials of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) granted No Objection Certificates to a private company for constructions in the regulated / prohibited areas, which were classified as national monuments. It was also alleged that the private person arranged an amount of Rs.30 Lakh (approx) through an Angadiya in New Delhi and handed over to a public servant for issuance of revalidation letter signed by then Member Secretary, NMA, New Delhi for construction in his premises. The private person also allegedly paid certain amount to another public servant for issuance of revalidation letter for construction.

Searches were conducted at 9 locations including residential & official premises of the accused in Ahmedabad & Vadodara of Gujarat, Khajuraho of Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi and Gadag of Karnataka which led to recovery of incriminating documents. Cash amount of Rs.26,75,000/- (approx) from the premises of the private person and Silver bricks weighing approx. 6.5 kgs from the premises of then Administrative Officer, NMA were also recovered.

Investigation is continuing.

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