

# **CBI tampering with evidence, there is a threat to my life: Devender Kumar**

## News Headlines

In a bizarre twist of events, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday during the hearing in Devender Kumar case at Patiala House Court admitted that they made a “mistake” in disclosing the seizure they made after conducting searches at Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Devendra Kumar’s home. In a detailed reply filed before a special CBI court, the newly incorporated investigation team said “they promptly acted” on the complaint by Kumar’s son. The copy of CBI’s reply before the designated court says that the CBI’s search list reflects that only one mobile phone was seized during the search proceedings. “I took over the case on 24th October. An oral complaint was made by the son of the applicant on 25th October regarding seizure of several mobile phones, one iPad, and one external hard disc by Inspector Dinesh Kumar without entering the same in the search list and without giving any receipt for the same. We immediately corrected it,” said investigation officer Satish Dagar in his reply. The team under Satish Dagar has told the court that one assistant programmer Banwari Lal was in possession of seven mobile phones, one external disc, one Apple iPad which was given to him by Inspector Dinesh Kumar – the officer who carried out the searches at Devender Kumar’s home – for retrieving the data. These items were taken over by the newly formed investigation team on October 26. Devender Kumar’s counsel has alleged that the CBI fabricated the evidence and was tampering with the evidence. “They misled the court. Wrong information was provided. Phones were not even sealed for two days and there is a high possibility that it might have been

tampered,” said Kumar’s lawyer to the court. Satish Dagar, who is heading the investigation, was appointed after the interim chief K Nageshwar Rao took over. One of the first actions taken by the interim chief was to altogether form a new team to probe the allegations levelled against Special Director Rakesh Asthana and his team member in the Moin Qureshi case. The earlier team under Director Alok Verma was immediately disbanded and key officers were transferred to other units of CBI. The seizure controversy in the Devender Kumar case is one of the many embarrassments the country’s premier investigation agency had to face in the last few days. In the CBI vs CBI war, the investigation agency has also told the court that an extortion racket was being carried out in the guise of investigation. Devender Kumar was sent to judicial custody by the court as CBI did not ask for further custody. The court will hear his bail application on Wednesday. Devender Kumar’s lawyer however opposed the judicial demand and told the court to send Devender Kumar to any jail outside Delhi as there was threat to his life. Also read | CBI may bury evidence against Asthana, R&AW official shielded accused, claims shunted officer Must read | Inside story of Alok Verma vs Rakesh Asthana fight in CBI Watch | What lies behind Alok Verma vs Rakesh Asthana fight in CBI?

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