

Former judge convicted on corruption charges

A special court of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) here Friday convicted a former judge on corruption charges in a six-year-old case.

The quantum of the sentence will be announced Saturday.

The court, that was benched by special CBI Judge Jagdeep Jain, convicted former district judicial magistrate S.S. Bhardwaj and acquitted Jalandhar district and sessions judge R.M. Gupta in the case.

According to the CBI officials, Gurvinder Singh Samra filed a complaint with CBI in May 2003 that Bhardwaj was demanding Rs.1.1 million (Rs.11 lakh) to settle his cases that were pending in Gupta's court.

'Bhardwaj told Samra that he can help in settling his pending cases by using his contacts and demanded Rs.11 lakh from him. Following a tip off from Samra, we laid a trap at Bhardwaj's house here May 9, 2003 and recovered Rs.700,000 cash but Bhardwaj managed to escape from there,' said a CBI official here Friday.

He added: 'Following this, Bhardwaj applied for bail but after its rejection he surrendered in the CBI court.'

Audio tapes with recorded conversation of Samra and Bhardwaj, in which the deal was struck between them was presented in the court as the main evidence.

The court acquitted Gupta on the grounds that he was unaware of this dealing.

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