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IMA scam: CBI arrests former Minister Roshan Baig

T.H. 23/11/20

Prime accused had revealed links with him

BENGALURU BUREAU
BENGALURU

After several hours of questioning, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested former Minister Roshan Baig in the ₹4,000 crore I Monetary Advisory (IMA) investment scam. A team of CBI officials picked up Mr. Baig from his residence around 11 a.m. for questioning.

He has been remanded in judicial custody and he will be housed in the quarantine cell at Central Jail, Parappana Agrahara.

The prime accused in the case, Mohammed Mansoor



Roshan Baig being taken into custody by the CBI in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Khan, managing director and chief executive officer of the IMA Group of companies, had alleged that he had given Mr. Baig ₹400 crore. Before fleeing the country to evade arrest when the scam first broke, Mansoor Khan released an audio clip in which he blamed Mr. Baig for

his situation, claiming that the former Shivajinagar MLA who was with the Congress at the time had failed to return the above-said amount, which led to IMA defaulting on its payments.

The then Revenue Minister R.V. Deshpande had said Mr. Baig had introduced

Mansoor Khan to him seeking help. The Revenue Department was probing IMA at the time. However, Mr. Baig has been insisting that he had no role in the scam and he knew Mansoor Khan only as a businessman from his constituency. He alleged that Mansoor Khan was indulging in name-dropping to get away unscathed.

In July 2019, a Special Investigation Team probing the scam detained Mr. Baig at the airport for questioning, while he was boarding a chartered flight at Kempegowda International Airport. He was questioned by SIT for several hours before being released.

The CBI had filed a supplementary charge sheet against a total of 28 accused,

including six public servants, in October earlier this year

Mr. Baig, a seven-time MLA, was last associated with the Congress. He was earlier associated with the Janata Parivar.

Suspended by Congress

The Congress suspended him in June 2019 after his name cropped up in the IMA scam and he publicly criticised several Congress leaders. A month later, he resigned as a legislator along with other Congress and JD (S) MLAs, though he was not wooed by the BJP. He was disqualified by the then Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar, which was upheld by the Supreme Court.

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