

# Gujarat judge suspended

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AHMEDABAD: Additional sessions judge R H Sharma, who was a CBI lawyer in the Sanjay Dutt case and was credited with one of the fastest disposal of cases as sessions judge in Ahmedabad, has been suspended on charges of corruption.

The decision was taken by Gujarat high court which got more than 40 complaints of irregularities, corruption and rude behaviour against the judge during the past more than a decade. Advocate P R Agarwal, who had sought details of complaints filed against the judge under RTI Act, said the court's decision was long awaited by litigants and lawyers.

The registrar general of high court, P P Bhatt, confirmed Sharma's suspension on counts of numerous complaints of irregularities against him. A departmental inquiry would be conducted against him, he said adding further action against the suspended judge will be taken after the inquiry report.

When Mumbai was shaken by the 1993 serial blasts, the CBI sought Sharma's help in the Tada case registered against Sanjay Dutt. Sharma went to Mumbai, but only to become a victim of another blast after a couple of months.

Information given by the HC reveals that complaints were made against Sharma by litigants, police as well as lawyers from almost courts in Gujarat, where he was a judicial officer for a decade. Sharma, who was known for his quick disposal of cases especially criminal cases, had an interesting past. While he was practicing as an advocate, the CBI picked him up for its panel of special advocates.