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Kerala Assembly rejects notice against Speaker

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS...

The Kerala Assembly on Thursday witnessed an unusual procedure of discussions on notice of the Opposition seeking removal of the Speaker, while the Speaker sat with the members and denied the series of charges ranging from nexus with gold smuggling case and corruption raised by the Opposition. With the ruling CPM-led Left Democratic Front, including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, strongly backing speaker P Sreeramakrishnan, the House rejected the notice given by Opposition party Congress-led United Democratic Front.

The Opposition staged a walkout, protesting against the Speaker's re-

luctance to step down from the post. Indian Union Muslim League MLA M Ummer gave the notice for removing the Speaker alleging his nexus with gold smuggling case accused, especially the UAE consulate ex-staff Swapna Suresh, alleged involvement in smuggling dollars and corruption in the renovation of the Legislative Assembly complex.