

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Other State Legislative Assembly Matters
ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 24/3/21

Speaker funded college in Sharjah: Swapna

ED makes public the deposition of prime accused in the gold smuggling case

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The registration of a criminal case against unnamed officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has further intensified its face-off with the Left Democratic Front government with the investigation agency now making public a deposition of Swapna Suresh, prime accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, regarding the investment of Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan in a college in Sharjah.

The statement has been attached to a petition challenging the registration of a criminal case against unnamed ED officials in Kochi for forcing Swapna to make statements against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.



P. Sreeramakrishnan

The statement was given by Swapna before the Deputy Director of Enforcement at the women's prison at Atakulangara in Thiruvananthapuram on December 15.

Request to Sharjah ruler
Swapna had reportedly deposed that the Speaker wanted to start a branch of Mid-

dle East College in Sharjah and he had requested the ruler of Sharjah to provide land. He also told her that he had made an investment in the college.

Swapna had stated that Lafeer, a Non-Resident Indian from Ponnani district, was the owner of the college and that she was introduced to Mr. Lafeer and Kiran, a native of Thiruvananthapuram and Dean of the college, by the Speaker and M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister.

Mr. Sreeramakrishnan, Mr. Sivasankar, Mr. Kiran, and Mr. Lafeer wanted her to relocate to Sharjah and head their business development wing in West Asia.

The group was "dedicatedly working for the project," she reportedly told the ED.

"As instructed by Mr. Sivasankar, I visited Oman in April 2018 to the premises and to meet Khalid, an Omani national who was also one of the directors of the college in Oman, to discuss the way forward and how to take the process further," Swapna had stated.

When the ED asked her how did she know that the Speaker had requested the ruler of Sharjah to provide land for the college in Sharjah, Swapna replied that during the visit of the ruler to Thiruvananthapuram, the Speaker had "requested an opportunity to meet him."



KERALA