



PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had conducted searches at 02 premises in Kerala and 02 premises in Tamil Nadu covering the office and residential premises of Nandu @ Nandagopal - Prop. Of KGN Bullion, Samju T.M, Shamsudheen, on 12.04.2023 as part of investigation in the Kerala Gold Smuggling Case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

During the Searches, Statement of Samju T.M. was recorded wherein he had inter-alia admitted that he had procured 4500 grams of smuggled gold from Mohammed Shafi (smuggler) which was subsequently sold through the shop of his father-in-law, Shamsudheen to end customers.

During the course of the search proceedings 7 immovable properties worth of Rs. 1.13 Crore and Gold worth of Rs. 27.65 Lakh were found and seized.

Earlier, an ECIR was recorded in the Kerala Gold Smuggling Case on the basis of FIR registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Kochi, under various sections of Unlawful activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 consequent to the seizure of 30.245 kgs of smuggled gold by Customs (Preventive) at Trivandrum International Airport, which was camouflaged as diplomatic baggage of UAE Consulate, Thiruvananthapuram. The accused Sarith P.S., Smt. Swapna Prabha Suresh and Sandeep Nair were arrested on 22.07.2020 by ED and were taken into ED custody from 05.08.2020 to 17.08.2020. On the basis of investigation conducted, Prosecution Complaint u/s 45 of the PMLA was filed on 06.10.2020 against Sarith P. S., Smt. Swapna Prabha Suresh and Sandeep Nair.

On further investigation, it came to light that M. Sivasankar, IAS, then Principal Secretary to Chief Minister of Kerala was also involved in assisting the accused persons in gold smuggling. M. Sivasankar was also arrested by ED on 28.10.2020 and he was arraigned as additional accused.

Thereafter, Provisional Attachment Order for attaching FDs in bank accounts and cash seized from bank lockers totaling to Rs. 1.85 Crore (belonging to Smt. Swapna Suresh, Sandeep Nair, Sarith and Sadan Kumar, F/o Sarith) was issued on 23.12.2020, which was duly confirmed by the Hon'ble Adjudicating Authority (PMLA), New Delhi. A Supplementary



Prosecution Complaint against the Accused Persons including M. Sivasankar was filed on 24.12.2020.

During the course of ongoing investigation relating to the seizure of smuggled gold by Customs, it was revealed that, Rs. 14.98 Lakhs was handed over by Sarith P. S. to his cousin Akhil S. for keeping in safe custody and this amount was part of the proceeds of crime generated by Sarith P. S. and Smt. Swapna Suresh out of smuggling of gold and commission received. Therefore, a Provisional Attachment Order dated 15.09.2021 was issued for attaching movable properties being cash of Rs. 14.98 Lakh and smuggled gold weighing 30.245 Kg valued at Rs. 14.82 Crore (lying in the custody of Cochin Customs). The said attachment was also confirmed by the Hon'ble Adjudicating Authority (PMLA), New Delhi.

Further Investigation is in progress.
