

Kerala: ED official among 4 booked for 'seeking bribe to settle probe'

ED Assistant Director, Shekhar Kumar, has been named as the first accused in the report submitted by the VACB at vigilance court in Ernakulam district.

A senior ED official and three others were booked Saturday by the Kerala Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau (VACB) for allegedly seeking bribe from a businessman to settle a probe.

ED Assistant Director, Shekhar Kumar, has been named as the first accused in the report submitted by the VACB at vigilance court in Ernakulam district.

While the ED official is yet to be arrested, three others, who allegedly functioned as middlemen between the agency and the businessman, were held and remanded in judicial custody. The VACB (Central) SP, S Sasidharan, said they acted upon a complaint from a cashew businessman from Kollam, Aneesh Kumar.

As per the complaint, the ED had served summons to Aneesh in 2024 citing suppressed businessman volumes with regard to cashew import from Africa. The accused official allegedly sought details of the import for the past eight years. Later, Wilson, one of the accused, approached Aneesh and told him the matter would be solved if `2 crore was paid to the ED assistant director.