

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಕುಣಿಕೆಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

4

ಶಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Central

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 28/6/20

## ED records Ahmed Patel's statement

The agency had questioned his kin earlier in the Sterling Biotech case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday recorded the statement of senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel in connection with a case involving the Vadodara-based Sterling Biotech Ltd.

Mr. Patel is above 65 years of age, under the COVID-19 guideline, his statement is being recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act at his residence," said a senior agency official. In August 2019, the ED recorded the statements of Mr. Patel's son in the case. It had also quizzed his son-in-law Irfan Siddique. Their names had come up follow-



Ahmed Patel

ing the questioning of one Sunil Yadav, who earlier worked for Chetan Sandesara of the Sterling Biotech group, in 2017.

The ED investigation is based on one of the FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against

Sterling Biotech and others in October 2017. One case is related to alleged routing of undeclared funds belonging to unknown Income-Tax Department officials and the other pertains to bank loan defaults of ₹8,100-crore.

The promoters of Sterling Biotech, including Chetan and Nitin Sandesara, had fled India along with their family members and till recently, were suspected to be in Albania, where their brother-in-law Hitesh Patel was detained in March last year.

Assets worth over ₹14,500 crore have been attached by the ED in the bank loan case so far. The properties in-

clude four Nigeria-based oil rigs and an oil field, several ships listed with Panama authorities, an aircraft registered in the United States and one flat in London.

It is alleged that the Sandesaras had taken loans from an Andhra Bank-led consortium and diverted the funds for financing the Nigerian oil business operations and personal use.

In a statement, Mr. Patel said: "Every time there is Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha election or the government is facing a crisis one or more investment agencies become a [redacted] the instructions of one individual"