

JNU prof's son held for fraud

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Ahmedabad: A team of Gandhinagar police's special operations group (SOG) arrested two persons from Kanpur on July 27, in connection with an online fraud of Rs 27.59 lakh. The duo was brought to Gandhinagar on Tuesday. The prime accused is the son of a now-deceased Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) professor, said investigators.

SOG officials said Alok Prasad, a senior manager with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) at Bhat, had approached Gandhinagar police with a complaint on July 14, that officials of one Delhi-based Centre for Development Studies (CDS) had defrauded the institute out of Rs 27.59 lakh, paid via account-to-account transfers and online payments. The fraudsters promised to ensure the institution got a contract to monitor NGOs, which they said was commissioned by the



The accused in police custody

ministry of home affairs (MHA).

"When the address provided for CDS was checked, it turned out to be false. There was no trace of the persons who claimed to be associated with it either. Based on technical surveillance, it was found that one of the accused was Amjad Sohel Ahmed. Working on leads, two teams were sent to Delhi and Kanpur for further investigation. Ahmed was arrested from Kanpur with his associ-

ate Arvind Kumar Verma, a resident of Lucknow," said D D Sodha, inspector of SOG.

Sodha said Ahmed's father, Afzal Ahmed, was a professor at JNU. "He had founded CDS in 1985 which was involved in genuine activities. After his death, the organization was defunct. Along with Verma, who an associate at the organization, Ahmed decided to take advantage of the name and forged tender details, inviting bids for NGO monitoring activities," he said.

Investigators said Ahmed would to promise state-wide projects worth crores to the parties interested and would get payments for them. After the first payment, they would promise similar rights for nearby states and charge towards various taxes. They have also duped organizations in other states similarly. While three FIRs have been registered with Telangana police, one has been registered with Orissa police, said investigators.