



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**08.04.2026**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, has provisionally attached immovable properties valued at approximately Rs. 17.45 Crore under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with an ongoing investigation pertaining to the “illegal operation” of the establishment “Birch by Romeo Lane” at Arpora, Goa.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Goa Police at Anjuna Police Station and Mapusa Police Station against Saurabh Luthra and others under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The said FIRs relate not only to the tragic fire incident dated 06.12.2025, which resulted in the loss of 25 lives and injuries to several persons, but also to offences involving large-scale forgery and fabrication of statutory documents, including No Objection Certificates (NOCs), for the purpose of obtaining regulatory approvals.

Investigation under the PMLA has revealed that the establishment was being operated by M/s Being GS Hospitality Goa Arpora LLP without obtaining mandatory statutory approvals, including the requisite Fire NOC. It has further emerged that the partners of the said entity had submitted forged and fabricated documents, such as a fake Health NOC and forged Police Clearance Certificate, to various authorities in order to secure licences and project the establishment as lawfully compliant.

Further investigation has brought to light that the partners, in active connivance with each other, knowingly continued the commercial operations of the establishment despite the absence and expiry of mandatory licences. Notably, the trade licence had expired on 31.03.2024 and was not renewed; however, the establishment continued to operate in blatant violation of statutory requirements.

The investigation has further revealed that the establishment generated total revenue amounting to approximately Rs. 29.78 Crore during the period from FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26 (till 06.12.2025) by way of illegal operation, which has been identified as “Proceeds of Crime” within the meaning of Section 2(1)(u) of the PMLA, 2002.

Earlier, during the course of investigation, searches were conducted on 23.01.2026 at multiple premises linked to the subject entity, which resulted in the seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices, along with freezing of bank accounts amounting to approximately Rs. 59 Lakh.

Further investigation is under progress.