



PRESS RELEASE
10/07/2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) against Fr. Arlino De Mello, Fr. Victor Conceicao Rodrigues (the then Procurators of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman), Mr. Prabhakar Rama Hawaldar (the then Inspector of Survey and Land Records, City Survey, Panaji) and a private real estate development firm (as a legal entity) under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, before the Ld. Special Court (PMLA) at Merces, North Goa, in a case relating to fraudulent deprivation of tenancy rights over a parcel of land situated at Mitra, Caranzalem, North Goa.

The investigation stems from an FIR registered by Panaji Police Station, North Goa, under various Sections of IPC, 1860, on a complaint alleging that between 18.11.2004 and 05.12.2006, the accused persons conspired to record the name of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman in the Holder's column of Form 'B' pertaining to a parcel of land bearing Chalta No. 44 of P.T. Sheet No. 162 of City Survey, Panaji, admeasuring 2479 sq. mtrs., by using forged documents, thereby depriving the original tenant family of its lawful tenancy rights. On the basis of the said FIR, ED had recorded an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR).

During the course of investigation, ED conducted search operations under Section 17 of the PMLA on 16.12.2025 in Goa, resulting in the recovery of incriminating loose sheets and electronic devices.

The financial investigation conducted by ED has revealed that the accused persons, in collusion with one another, used forged documents to fraudulently register the aforesaid parcel of land in the name of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman, enabling its subsequent sale to a private real estate development firm vide Sale Deed dated 09.04.2007 for a conspicuously modest consideration of Rs. 61,97,500/-. The residential-cum-commercial project was thereafter developed and units therein were sold to multiple buyers, generating and possessing Proceeds of Crime (PoC) quantified at Rs. 27.10 Crore (approx.).

ED had earlier issued a Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) attaching immovable properties amounting to Rs. 27.10 Crore (approx.) comprising a commercial property (hotel-cum-restaurant) at Mitra, Caranzalem, Panaji, and two other immovable properties, being Proceeds of Crime as well as property representing equivalent value of Proceeds of Crime generated through the fraudulent transaction.