



PRESS RELEASE

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ED ARRESTS MASTERMIND OF GOA LAND-GRABBING SYNDICATE UNDER PMLA

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, Goa, has arrested Siddique Khan @ Suleman Khan, S/o late Mohammed Khan, aged about 55 years, resident of Karwar, Karnataka, on 16.07.2026 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The accused is the mastermind and principal beneficiary of an organised syndicate engaged in the large-scale grabbing of high-value immovable properties in Goa through forged and fabricated title documents.

ED initiated the money-laundering investigation on the basis of multiple criminal cases registered by the Goa Police against the accused and his associates for offences of forgery, cheating and fraudulent transfer of immovable properties, which are scheduled offences under the PMLA. The State Police has filed charge sheets in the said cases.

Investigation conducted by ED under the PMLA has revealed that the syndicate fabricated forged and antedated sale deeds and title documents — in several instances in the names of deceased or fictitious predecessors of the rightful owners — and used them to fraudulently mutate and transfer ownership of valuable land parcels in the official land records in favour of the accused and his associates. The properties so grabbed were thereafter sold, developed or sought to be monetised, thereby generating substantial Proceeds of Crime which were projected as untainted property.

The immovable properties fraudulently acquired and held by / on behalf of the accused aggregate to approximately 25 hectares (about 62.5 acres) of high-value land. As no genuine consideration was ever paid and the title was obtained purely through forgery, the Proceeds of Crime have been provisionally estimated at not less than Rs. 300 crore, subject to final quantification.

The accused, a history-sheeter with several antecedent cases, was arrested by ED under the PMLA on 16.07.2026 after following the due process of law. On his production before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), North Goa, ED has been granted 5 (five) days' custody of the accused for custodial interrogation, to trace the complete money trail, identify the tainted properties and other beneficiaries, and unearth the wider conspiracy.

Further investigation is under progress.