PRESS RELEASE
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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Agartala Sub Zonal Office, has provisionally attached bank balances valued at approximately Rs.1.12 Crore under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, vide a Provisional Attachment Order dated 31.07.2026, in a case involving impersonation of Government officials and cheating of investors and businessmen through entities bearing deceptive similarity to Government organisations. The attached assets comprise bank balances held in the names of shell entities controlled by Utpal Kumar Chowdhury, a suspended IAS officer of the Tripura cadre Abhishek Chandra, and a private housing company, representing Proceeds of Crime traced to them.

ED initiated investigation under the PMLA, 2002 on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Police in West Bengal and Tripura against Utpal Kumar Chowdhury and his associates for offences of cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust and impersonation under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which are scheduled offences under the PMLA, 2002.

Investigation has revealed that Utpal Kumar Chowdhury projected himself as a senior officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and got prepared fake identity cards to that effect. He incorporated firms bearing deceptive similarity to Government departments and Public Sector Undertakings, including ‘Directorate of Higher Education, Tripura’ and ‘M/s Bridge & Roof Co.’, and fraudulently took control of a registered trust, Chaltakhali Swamiji Seva Sangha. Using these entities, he allegedly lured businessmen and investors with false promises of Government tenders, mid-day meal supply contracts and rubber business profits, and induced them to remit funds running into crores of rupees into bank accounts of these entities.

The Proceeds of Crime so collected were routed through a web of shell firms controlled by the accused and his associates, and were substantially withdrawn in cash for distribution. A significant portion of the proceeds was further traced to downstream entities and integrated into immovable properties, vehicles and other assets held in the names of the accused and his family members.

Investigation has further revealed that Abhishek Chandra, IAS, an officer of the Tripura cadre presently under suspension, received Proceeds of Crime generated by Utpal Kumar Chowdhury and his associates, both directly into his personal bank accounts and indirectly through payments made by scheme entities to a private housing company towards booking of a flat in his name.

Including the present order, the total value of assets provisionally attached in the case, across two Provisional Attachment Orders, stands at approximately Rs.1.63 Crore.

Further investigation is under progress.