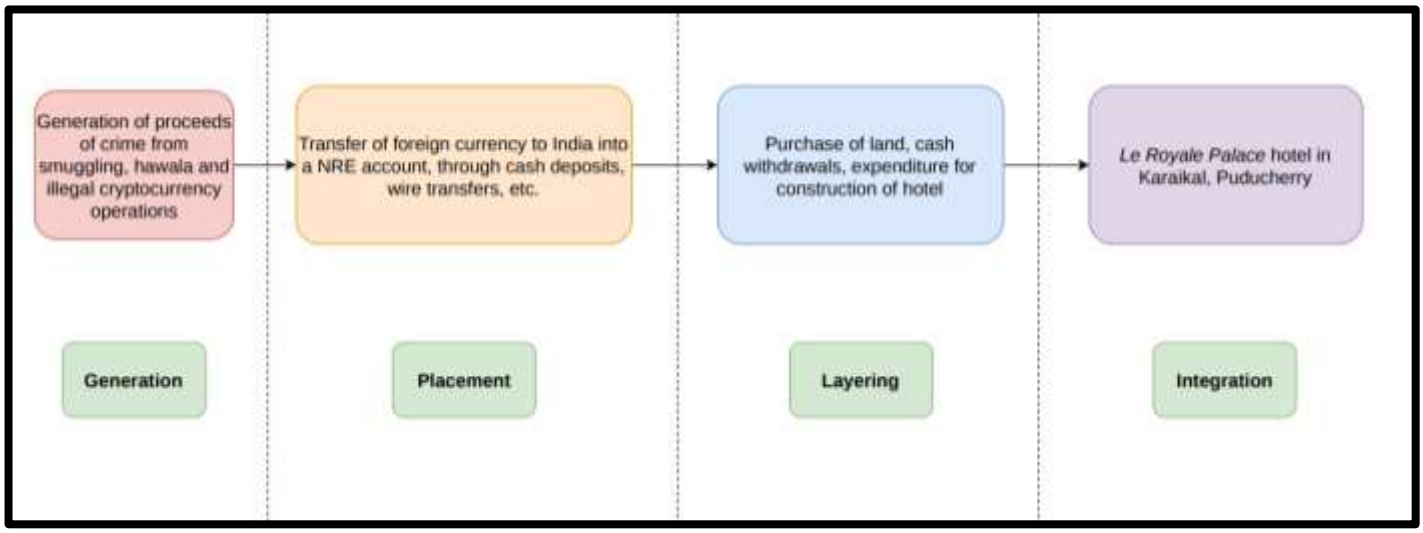
PRESS RELEASE

26.11.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Chennai Zonal Office-II has provisionally attached immovable property, viz. Hotel Le Royale Palace, Karaikal, Puducherry (land and five-storied hotel building), valued at approx. Rs. 12.64 Crore, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with a money laundering investigation related to a smuggling and hawala case involving Mougamadou Nizamoudine and others.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of credible information received from the Government of the French Republic regarding smuggling, hawala and other offences committed abroad by Mougamadou Nizamoudine and his sons, Mohamed Mubeen Nizamoudine, Shahine Shafique Mougamadou Nizamoudine and Rashine Nizamoudine. The information further indicated that the Proceeds of Crime generated from these offences were transferred to India and utilized for acquiring and constructing the immovable property, viz. Hotel Le Royale Palace, Karaikal.

ED investigation has revealed that Mougamadou Nizamoudine and his sons carried out smuggling of gold, hawala and illegal cryptocurrency transfers from France between 2019 and 2023 on a commission basis. Through these criminal activities, they generated Proceeds of Crime, which were transferred from 2019 onwards into an NRE account in India through foreign currency cash deposits and through wire transfers from the UAE via agents. These funds were then integrated into the financial system through the purchase of land and the construction of Hotel Le Royale Palace, Karaikal, and Puducherry.



Accordingly, ED has provisionally attached the land and building of Le Royale Palace, Karaikal, valued at Rs. 12.64 Crore (approx.) as Proceeds of Crime under PMLA, 2002.

Earlier, ED had conducted search operations on 28.10.2026 at 3 premises in Karaikal, Puducherry and Chennai, during which digital devices and incriminating documents were seized.

Further investigation is under progress.