



Press Release
18/07/2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office, has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) on 17.07.2026 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Mumbai against Ashokkumar Eknath Kharat @ Captain @ Bondhu Baba, his wife Kalpana Kharat, and four others for the offence of money-laundering under Section 3, punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA, 2002.

Further, on 15.07.2026, ED provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs. 19.20 Crore under Section 5 of the PMLA, 2002, held in the names of the accused and his family members. This is in addition to assets worth Rs. 17.70 Crore seized/frozen during searches conducted under Section 17 of the PMLA at multiple premises, bank lockers and vehicles linked to the accused and his associates during April and May 2026. Thus, assets worth approximately Rs. 36.90 Crore have been attached, seized or frozen in the case till date.

ED had initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Sarkar Wada, Shirdi, Sinnar and Rahata Police Stations. Investigation revealed that Ashokkumar Eknath Kharat exploited the religious faith of devotees and dishonestly induced them to part with money and properties under the pretext of performing "Avatar Poojas", curing illnesses, averting misfortune and ensuring business prosperity, thereby generating Proceeds of Crime through extortion, cheating and criminal intimidation.

Investigation further revealed that Kharat falsely projected himself as possessing divine powers and as an incarnation of Lord Shiva to deceive devotees. He laundered the Proceeds of Crime through two cooperative credit societies by fraudulently operating over multiple accounts in connivance with an employee and through multiple benami accounts for large cash deposits and subsequent withdrawals, including maturity proceeds. The laundered funds were retained with trusted associates or invested in immovable properties across Nashik, Ahmednagar, Solapur, Pune and Mumbai in the names of his family members.

Earlier, ED had also arrested Ashokkumar Eknath Kharat on 19.05.2026 under Section 19 of the PMLA, 2002 for the offence of money-laundering and he continues to be in judicial custody.

Further investigation is under progress.