PRESS RELEASE
25.10.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) on 18.10.2025 against seven (7) accused persons namely Vedasto Audax (Tanzanian National), Masoom Uikey, Chirag Dudhat, Tariro Brightmore Mangwana (Zimbabwe national), Reshma Wadekar, Mangesh Wadekar and Nibu Vincent under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) in the ongoing investigation into an international drug trafficking and money laundering case against Nibu Vincent and others. This development follows a comprehensive investigation initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Crime Branch, Goa Police, in connection with the smuggling of 4.325 kilograms of cocaine into India from Laos.

Earlier, on 19.08.2025, the ED had conducted nationwide search operations at multiple locations across Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. These operations resulted in the seizure of significant digital evidence, incriminating documents, and the freezing of several bank accounts suspected to be linked to the laundering of Proceeds of Crime (POC).

During the course of the investigation, Tariro Brightmore Mangwana was arrested under Section 19 of the PMLA, 2002 on 22.08.2025 for his central role in facilitating International narcotics trafficking and laundering illicit POC generated from smuggling of narcotics drugs. He was found to have facilitated travel arrangements and financed the Indian nationals acting as drug couriers. Further, Tariro Brightmore Mangwana was found to be receiving commission for these activities from the key accused Vedasto Audax, a Tanzanian National.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the PMLA, 2002, ED has simultaneously issued a Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) dated 18.10.2025 amounting to Rs.45.15 Lakh i.r.o. one house at North 24 Parganas, West Bengal belonging to one of the accused person Mrs. Reshma Wadekar who had carried 4.3 Kgs of Cocaine to India from Vientiane in March 2025 in one of her drug trafficking instances. The financial investigation done so far by ED has revealed generation of POC to the tune of Rs. 88.14 Lakh associated with the drug trafficking.

The investigation conducted by ED has revealed accused person's linkages related to international rackets operating from the Golden triangle, Middle East, Nepal, Bangladesh etc and networks responsible for procurement and distribution of narcotic substances and money laundering associated with it, clearly demonstrating the global dimensions of the syndicate. Further investigation is ongoing to identify additional beneficiaries, facilitators, and assets derived from the POC. ED investigation has also revealed the use of shell entities and benami accounts for routing funds, thereby disguising the origin of the money earned through drug trafficking.

ED reiterates its commitment to unearth and dismantle drug trafficking networks by targeting their financial infrastructure. This action forms part of the larger national objective under the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan', aimed at creating a drug-free India. The ED remains steadfast in its resolve to trace, identify, and attach all assets generated through illegal drug trade and money laundering.