



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**22.08.2025**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, has conducted extensive search operations at multiple locations spread across Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh on 19.08.2025 in the case of Nibu Vincent and others.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the Crime Branch, Goa Police in relation to delivery of 4.3 Kilograms of Cocaine.

During the course of the search operation, the ED teams seized multiple digital devices, electronic storage media, and other incriminating documents and froze multiple bank accounts which were used in money laundering activities. The materials recovered contain vital evidence pointing towards the financial trail of drug trafficking proceeds, the use of layering techniques to conceal illicit funds, and the involvement of secondary handlers and facilitators who acted as the second layer of the syndicate. PMLA Investigations indicates strong evidence of international linkages and communication with networks outside India, suggesting that the cartel was not limited to Goa alone but had cross-border contacts for both procurement and distribution. Furthermore, 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. The investigations revealed that certain foreign nationals were involved in procuring travel tickets and arranging logistics for Indian nationals to travel abroad for trafficking of narcotics drugs. The search operation brought to light that the role of a larger organized syndicate engaged in narcotics trafficking racketeering and laundering of proceeds of crime and narcotics across multiple states and even foreign jurisdictions.

During the investigation it was found that one Tariro Mangwana, Zimbabwe national was involved in laundering of funds for the Indian national as the remuneration for acting as a mule and made arrangement for travel and logistics. Out of 8 such Indian nationals 4 were arrested either in India or in foreign jurisdictions for involvement or possession of narcotics drugs. Based on his involvement in International Organized drug syndicate and money laundering, Tariro Mangwana was arrested under section 19 of the PMLA, 2002. The Special Court under PMLA at Goa has remanded the accused in ED Custody for 3 days.

ED reiterates its commitment to combating drug trafficking, immoral trafficking, and money laundering by employing all provisions of the PMLA and related laws. As part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, ED remains steadfast in its resolve to dismantle drug trafficking networks by striking at their financial roots. By targeting the laundering of illicit proceeds and attaching properties acquired through drug money, ED is reinforcing the national campaign's objective of building a drug-free India. This operation exemplifies ED's continuous efforts to curb the illegal drug trade and to trace, identify, and attach the proceeds of crime generated from such activities along with sending a strong deterrent message.

Further investigation in the matter is under progress to identify all beneficiaries, facilitators, and to trace the assets generated out of the illicit activities.