



## **Press Release**

**16.02.2024**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested Vikrant Shetty and Rajkumar Maithi on 15.02.2024 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in relation to the land grabbing cases in Goa. The Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA) has granted ED custody till 20.02.2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by Goa Police against Vikrant Shetty, Mohammed Suhail, Rajkumar Maithi and other accused persons involved in the illegal grabbing of immovable properties across the state of Goa. Subsequently a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Goa Police was also formed by the Govt. of Goa to investigate the matter.

ED investigation revealed that various immovable properties were illegally acquired by the accused persons in their names or in the names of their associates/relatives. The accused persons placed forged documents in the land records for supporting their claim that the immovable properties belonged to their ancestors. Based on these forged documents, they were able to get their names updated/inserted in the land records. Some of these properties were further sold by the accused persons to buyers from Goa and other States. A Provisional Attachment order in this matter had already been issued earlier attaching 31 properties worth Rs. 39.24 Crores.

Both the above said persons, namely Vikrant Shetty and Rajkumar Maithi, along with other associates /accused persons were instrumental in the forging/fudging of the land records and consequent illegal grabbing of vast extents of land all over Goa.

Further investigation is under progress.