

<u>Press Release</u> <u>01.01.2024</u>

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached proceeds of crime in the form of movable and immovable properties valued at Rs. 1.15 Crore belonging to C Thinagaraja and his family members in the **Court Embezzlement Case** of 'C Thinagaraja and Others.' The accused C Thinagaraja was found to be involved in the embezzlement of 'Judicial Court Funds' amounting to Rs. 1.15 Crore by fraudulent and corrupt practices.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the District Crime Branch (DCB), Pattukkottai, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu under various sections of Indian Penal Code 1860, in relation with the misappropriation of 'Judicial Court Funds'.

ED investigation revealed that C Thinagaraja, while working as Translator / Central Nazir at III, Additional District Court, Pattukottai, and while handling Motor Accident Claim Tribunal's related payment works, has fraudulently prepared and signed payment instructions to banks without the signature of the Hon'ble Judge, corrected/forged cheques signed by the Hon'ble Judge, illicitly deposited cheques/amounts into his own bank accounts & thus misappropriated 'Judicial Court Funds' amounting to Rs. 1.15 Crore.

Further, ED investigation into the utilisation of proceeds of crime (Rs. 1.15 Crore) has revealed that C Thinagaraja purchased one plot with ground floor in the name of his wife Manimozhi for Rs. 44 lakhs at Pattukottai, Thanjavur and further spent Rs. 31 lakhs for construction of first floor; purchased one Innova Crysta Car for Rs. 18 lakhs in the name of his son; and parked an amount of Rs. 20.50 lakhs in his residence, which was seized by the DCB, Thanjavur. Therefore, upon establishing the money trail of proceeds of crime with the assets acquired, the tainted movable and immovable properties valued at Rs. 1.15 Crore, belonging to C Thinagaraja and his family members, were provisionally attached by the ED.

Further investigation is under progress.