



Press Release

06.05.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Shimla has filed two Supplementary Prosecution Complaints (SPCs) in the Himachal Pradesh Scholarship Scam case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla on **28.03.2025**. The SPC No. 01 has been filed against **Maa Saraswati Educational Trust** and five other accused, and the SPC No. 02 has been filed against **M/s ITFT Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.** and 5 other accused. The Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla has taken **cognizance** of both the SPCs on **01.05.2025**.

The Maa Saraswati Educational Trust is currently running the Himalayan Group of Professional Institutions (HGPI), Kala Amb, Himachal Pradesh. The ITFT College in New Chandigarh was being run by M/s ITFT Consultancy Pvt Ltd.

ED had initiated investigation in this case on the basis of the FIR registered by CBI, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh regarding the irregularity in disbursement of scholarship by the Directorate of Higher Education (DoHE), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh under Post Metric Scholarship Scheme for OBC/SC/ST students of Himachal Pradesh.

ED investigation revealed that these institutes had fraudulently received scholarship funds by verifying the details of those students who were not enrolled in any course with these institutes and those students who left the institute without completing their studies. Further, in order to fraudulently obtain more amount of scholarship funds, false details of students were uploaded on the HP-e Pass portal (scholarship portal of DoHE, Shimla) by fraudulently changing the caste category of students in subsequent years; showing students as hosteller instead of day scholars and claiming bogus course fee structure for distance education courses etc.

During the course of investigation, two persons namely Vikas Bansal, the Vice Chairman of HGPI and Gulshan Sharma, who was the Executive Director of ITFT, New Chandigarh being guilty of offence of money laundering were arrested in this case on 30.01.2025. Earlier in this case, four persons had also been arrested on 30.08.2023. All the six arrested accused are in judicial custody at present. Further, movable and immovable properties valued at **Rs 30.5 Crore (approx.)** have been provisionally attached in this case.

Further investigation is under progress.