



PRESS RELEASE

17.12.2025

ED conducts fresh searches in Goa Land Grab Case

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Panaji Zonal Office, has conducted search and seizure operations on 16.12.2025 at the residential and business premises of M/s. Models Real Estate Developers and its partners in Panaji, Goa, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). The searches were part of an ongoing PMLA investigation into a massive land grabbing case involving the illegal acquisition of prime property at Caranzalem, Goa.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by Panaji Police Station. The case pertains to a criminal conspiracy to illegally usurp tenanted agricultural land bearing Chalta No. 44 (New 44A) of P.T. Sheet No. 162 at Caranzalem, belonging to the family of Mr. Tanu Gauns.

ED investigation revealed that the accused persons, including officials of the Archdiocese of Goa and the then official of the City Survey Office, in connivance with Late Peter Vaz, former partner of M/s Models Real Estate Developers, entered into a criminal conspiracy to fraudulently manipulate revenue records. In furtherance of the said conspiracy, the name of the lawful tenant was illegally deleted from Form 'B' of the City Survey records on the basis of forged and fabricated documents. Consequently, the disputed property was unlawfully sold to M/s Models Real Estate Developers, represented by Late Peter Vaz. The said partnership firm thereafter developed a residential project, namely "**Models Mystique**," on the impugned land, thereby generating further Proceeds of Crime (PoC).

During the searches conducted at the residential premises of Diogo Nathan Vaz and Mrs. Natalina Estela Vaz at Caranzalem and the registered office of M/s. Models Real Estate Developers at Santa Inez, the ED seized incriminating material, including a Sale and Purchase Agreement dated 02.02.2007 and Title Deeds of a property in Dubai, UAE, purchased by Late Peter Vaz etc.

Digital devices seized during the searches revealed contacts of international investors, primarily from the UAE, allegedly reflecting cash-based transactions. Documents establishing the lawful tenancy rights of Tanu Gauns on the disputed property and records indicating the estimated cost of construction of apartments on the impugned land were also recovered.

Further investigation is under progress.