



Press Release

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Conviction of Pradeep Nirankarnath Sharma (Ex-IAS) in a PMLA case (rigorous imprisonment for five (05) years along with fine of Rs.50,000/-].

The Hon'ble Special Judge (PMLA), Ahmedabad vide **judgement dated 06.12.2025** has passed conviction order against the accused Pradeep Nirankarnath Sharma (Ex-IAS), in PMLA Case Nos. 02/2016 and 18/2018.

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) initiated its investigation based on multiple FIRs registered at different Police Stations in Gujarat [FIR No. 03/2010 dated 31.03.2010; 09/2010 dt. 25.09.2010 registered by CID Crime, Rajkot Zone, Gujarat, and FIR 06/2014 dt. 30.09.2014 by ACB, Bhuj] under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act,.

The Pradeep Nirankarnath Sharma (Ex-IAS), when he was posted as District Collector, Bhuj (Kutch), in connivance with others, entered into criminal conspiracy and allotted Government land at lesser rates beyond his authority and thereby caused financial loss to the tune of Rs. 1,20,30,824/- to the Government of Gujarat and obtained and derived undue monetary benefits in relation to criminal activities relating to scheduled offences for himself.

Earlier, discharge application filed by accused person was rejected and on appeal, Hon'ble Supreme Court had rejected the appeal filed by accused person by observing that "The law recognizes that money laundering is not a static event but an ongoing activity, as long as illicit gains are possessed, projected as legitimate, or reintroduced into the economy. Thus, the argument that the offence is not continuing does not hold good in law or on facts, and therefore, the judgment of the High Court cannot be set aside on this ground". Earlier High Court had directed that trial be completed in a time bound manner.

The Hon'ble PMLA Court has convicted Pradeep Nirankarnath Sharma for the offence under Section 3 of The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, and ordered him to



undergo rigorous imprisonment for five (05) years along with fine of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) and in default thereof, to undergo further three (03) months simple imprisonment. Further, the Hon'ble PMLA Court has ordered for confiscation of assets to the tune of Rs. 1.32 Crores to the Central Government, which were earlier attached by the ED during the course of its investigation.

The Hon'ble Special Court also rejected the request of accused that his subsequent sentence in this PMLA case may be ordered to run concurrently with his previous sentence. Hon'ble Special Court observed that the accused was a IAS officer holding the post of District Collector and District Magistrate and has misused his official position by indulging into corrupt practice and also indulging himself in offence of money laundering disentitled him for any discretion by directing sentence to run concurrently. Hon'ble Court also observed that both the offences i.e. offence under The Prevention of Corruption Act and the offence under PMLA, 2002 are different statutes enacted with specific object and when a person is indulged in committing offence under both the statutes and is found guilty in both the cases which are tried separately, considering the seriousness and gravity of offence, there is no justifiable reason to direct concurrency of sentence and accordingly, the said request of the accused that his subsequent sentence in this case may be ordered to run concurrently with his previous sentence was rejected".