



Press Release
1/08/2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office has conducted search operations at 12 different locations across Mumbai, Pune, Nasik and Satana under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 on 29.07.2025 in the case of Jayesh Mehta and others (VVMC Scam Case). The Search operation led to **Seizure of cash amounting to Rs. 1.33 Crore** apart from large number of incriminating documents/devices in the nature of Property documents in the name of Relatives and Benamidars of Anil Pawar, IAS, the then Commissioner VVCMC, Cash & Cheque deposit slips amongst others.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIR registered by Mira Bhayandar Police Commissionerate against builders, local henchmen and others. The case pertains to “illegal construction of residential cum commercial buildings on government and private land” under jurisdiction of “Vasai Virar CityMunicipal Corporation (VVCMC)” since 2009. Over a period of time, 41 illegal buildings were constructed on the land reserved for “Sewage Treatment Plant” and “Dumping Ground” as per the approved development plan of Vasai Virar City. The accused builders and developers have deceived the general public at large by constructing illegal buildings on such land and subsequently selling it to them (general public) by fabricating approval documents. Even with prior knowledge that these buildings were unauthorized and would eventually be demolished, the developers misled the people by selling units in these buildings thereby committing serious fraud.

The Hon’ble Bombay HC vide its order dated 08.07.2024 ordered the demolition of all 41 buildings. Thereafter, an SLP was filed before the Hon’ble Supreme Court by the families residing in 41 illegal buildings which was dismissed. The demolition of all 41 buildings was completed by VVCMC on 20.02.2025.

ED investigation revealed that an organized cartel of VVCMC officer’s viz. Commissioner, Deputy Director Town Planner, Junior Engineers, Architects, CAs and Liasoners are operating in collusion with each other. This cartel is responsible for large scale “illegal construction” in the Jurisdiction of VVCMC. The then Commissioner VVCMC Anil Pawar, IAS played a crucial role in this cartel. Investigation conducted under PMLA has revealed that, **after joining** of Anil Pawar as Commissioner of VVCMC, the **commission amount** (bribe amount) was **fixed** at the rate of **Rs 20-25 per sq ft** for Commissioner and Rs 10 per sq ft for Y.S.Reddy as DDTP (Deputy Director, Town Planning) on the total area of the project.

During the course of search operation, large number of incriminating documents were seized which reveals that Anil Pawar, IAS created number of entities in the name of his family members/relatives/ benamidars to launder the bribe amount collected. The formation of shell entities coincides with his posting as VVCMC Commissioner. These entities are primarily engaged in the business of construction & redevelopment of residential towers, Construction of Warehouses etc.

The digital devices seized during the search operation reveals his close involvement creating this close nexus of VVCMC officials/officers and the Architects/CA's/Liasoners and throws light on the extent of large-scale corruption and black money flowing in the VVCMC to get the approval for construction of buildings.

Earlier Search operations in the case led to cash seizure of Rs. 8.94 Crore (approx.), Diamond studded Jewellery and Bullion worth Rs. 23.25 Crore and freezing of Bank balances/ Shares/ Mutual Funds/FDs worth Rs. 13.86 Crore.

Further investigation is under progress.

