



## **Press Release**

**11.03.2025**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Shimla has provisionally attached immovable properties having value of **Rs. 1.6 Crore (approx.)** on 11/03/2025 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the case of **Himachal Pradesh Scholarship Scam**. The attached properties include approx. 500 square yards of land located in Mohali, Punjab along with the construction on the aforesaid land registered in the name of Aman Sharma, Director in M/s ITFT Consultancy Pvt Ltd.

M/s ITFT Consultancy Pvt Ltd was running the ITFT Education Group located at New Chandigarh. Aman Sharma and his father Gulshan Sharma were the only Directors in M/s ITFT Consultancy Pvt Ltd. The ITFT Education Group, New Chandigarh had made claims for scholarship under the Post Metric Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) for SC/ST/OBC students of Himachal Pradesh.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Central Bureau of Investigation, Shimla regarding the irregularity in disbursement of scholarship by the Directorate of Higher Education (DoHE), Shimla under the PMSS for SC/ST/OBC 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 who had 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 changing course of students in subsequent years; 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. The Proceeds of Crime (POC), so obtained, by various persons involved in the offence were used to acquire movable and immovable properties in their names and in the name of their family members.

Earlier in the case, searches under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 were conducted which resulted in seizure of incriminating material, cash to the tune of Rs. 80 Lakh approx. and freezing to the tune of Rs. 2.80 Crore lying in various bank accounts. Further, earlier Provisional Attachment Orders for attachment of movable and immovable assets to the tune of Rs. 29 Crore had also been issued. Hence, the total provisional attachment of movable and immovable properties in this case now stands at **Rs 30.5 Crore (approx.)**. Further, Gulshan Sharma being guilty of the offence of money laundering had been arrested in this case on 30.01.2025. He is in judicial custody at present.

Further investigation is under progress.