



Press Release

23.03.2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested Santhosh Eappen, Managing Partner of M/s Unitac Builders and Developers and M/s Sane Ventures LLP under PMLA, 2002, in connection with the investigation being conducted relating to the LIFE Mission Scam.

A money laundering case has been recorded by ED on the basis of FIR registered by CBI, ACB, Cochin and VACB, Thiruvananthapuram against M/s Unitac, M/s Sane Ventures and others under Prevention of Corruption Act for suspected pecuniary advantage obtained by some persons from the Life Mission Project and illegal gratifications received by various persons including some public servants.

UAE based charitable organization named Red Crescent approached the UAE Consulate General, Thiruvananthapuram offering to donate in Kerala for Charity Purpose. Officials of UAE Consulate, Thiruvananthapuram in turn approached the Kerala Government through the CMO and in this regards signed the MoU on 11.07.2019 with Life Mission Team.

A conspiracy was hatched by the Consulate employees with active support of M. Sivasankar, then Pr. Secretary to the Chief Minister to generate commission as bribe from the funds donated by Red Crescent by awarding the LIFE Mission project to M/s Unitac Builders and Developers and M/s Sane Ventures LLP run by Santhosh Eappen. From the funds received from UAE Red Crescent, Santhosh Eappen had arranged an upfront commission as bribe for UAE Consulate Officials and Kerala Government Officials by withdrawing money from the bank accounts of the companies of Santhosh Eappen, which is also admitted by him.

ED has arrested Santhosh Eappen on 20.03.2023 and produced him before the Hon'ble PMLA Court on 21.03.2023. The Hon'ble Court has granted ED custody for three days.

Further investigation in this case is under progress.