

<u>Directorate of Enforcement (ED) successfully completes the 5 Day (22 - 27 September 2025) Technical Assistance Programme for the Mauritius Financial Crime Commission (FCC) on Money Laundering and Financial Intelligence</u>

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Government of India, successfully concluded a five-day capacity-building programme for officers of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), Mauritius, held from 22 to 26 September 2025 in Port Louis, Mauritius. This programme was held as a part of an agreement (MoU) signed in March 2025 by Sh. Rahul Navin, Director, Directorate of Enforcement and Mr. Titrudeo Dawoodarry, Acting Director General, Financial Crimes Commission to boost cooperation between the two countries in fighting financial crimes.

Areas of Cooperation in the MoU

Mauritius ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2004, and India ratified the same in 2011. Both countries, guided by the UNCAC, aiming to strengthen direct cooperation between law enforcement agencies, signed the MOU. The major areas of cooperation include:-

- a) To share with each other, relevant information on anti-corruption and antimoney laundering strategies
- b) To exchange ideas, knowledge, skills, technological abilities and experience
- c) To assist each other, share skills, experience and best practices
- d) To provide technical assistance in investigation, prosecution, prevention and education
- e) To share knowledge on effective investigative techniques and best practices
- f) To undertake joint activities and collaborate in each's efforts to detect and prevent ML and Corruption

As a part of the said MoU, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had sent a team of its four senior officers to Mauritius to impart training to the officers of the Financial Crime Commission (FCC) from 22nd to 26th September 2025. The delegation was headed by Special Director (Head Office) and consisted of officers of the ranks of Joint Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Legal advisor.

Inauguration Ceremony

The inaugural session of the capacity-building programme was attended by:

- 1. Mr. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister of Finance and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee of the Financial Crimes Commission,
- 2. Mrs. Kan Oye Fong Weng-Poorun, G.O.S.K, Secretary for Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office
- 3. Mr. Chedumbrum Nadarajen, Ambassador, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
- 4. Mr. T. Dawoodarry, Acting Director-General, Financial Crimes Commission

Echoing the sentiments of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India and Mauritius "are not just partners but a family," the Head of the ED delegation, highlighted the deep historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two nations. He also highlighted that this bond has evolved into a dynamic and strong partnership with Mauritius, being a key partner for India in terms of trade and investment, consistently ranking among the top sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India. He also underscored that "crime should not pay, and criminals must not enjoy the proceeds of crime," highlighting ED's 94.34 % conviction rate.

He also acknowledged and congratulated Mauritius for establishing the Financial Crimes Commission Act 2023, which unifies and subsumes the prior acts such as Prevention of Corruption Act, the Asset Recovery Act and the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act and has taken over the functions of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Asset Recovery Investigation Division (ARID), and the Integrity Reporting Services Agency (IRSA), granting FCC comprehensive powers to investigate and prosecute complex financial crimes.

Mr. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister of Finance and Chairperson of the High-Level Steering Committee in his inaugural address impressed upon the objective of the Government of Mauritius in fighting Corruption and Financial Crime. He emphasised the need for strengthening the FCC, a newly created body under the FCC Act 2023 to achieve this objective.

Training Highlights

This training programme was conceptualized to support FCC's expanded mandate and to share India's practical experience in investigations, prosecution, and asset recovery, including returning recovered funds to victims. The constitution of the programme included lectures, case studies, and hands-on workshops designed specially for the officers of FCC for their best benefit. The important topics covered include:

- Overview of the ED's mandate and operational structure.
- Comparative analysis of India's PMLA, 2002 with the FCC Act, 2023
- > Understanding the core money-laundering concepts
- Investigating corruption, cyber fraud, and drug trafficking case
- Forensic analysis of digital records
- > Handling cryptocurrency investigations and workshop on the same
- International Cooperation
- Asset recovery
- Open Source Intelligence Collection tools
- Workshop on seizure of virtual assets

The trainees included the newly inducted and serving investigators, senior investigators, chief investigators, senior officers and chief officers in asset recovery units of the FCC, Attorney General's Office and other investigative agencies. The sessions were interactive and there were detailed discussions on the practical examples explained by way of case studies. There were discussions related to the inter agency cooperation in India, differences in the structure of the FCC Act 2023 and PMLA, 2002, etc. The best practices followed by the ED were also shared during the programme. The use of technology in ED was highlighted including the development

and use of online summons module with QR code verification which has increased transparency reducing risks of forgery/cheating by miscreants. It was also impressed upon that in ED, CCTV cameras are installed at interrogation rooms to ensure fairness and transparency in investigations.

The benefits of having a centralized database was explained by giving the example of Enforcement Directorate Offender Tracking System (E-DOTS) which is the centralized data base having information related to the cases being investigated by ED.

Various meetings were also held by the Indian Delegation with the high level functionaries of Mauritius including the Secretary, Home Affairs Division of the PMO, Mauritius, Attorney General of Mauritius, who is the Central Authority in Mauritius for Mutual Legal Assistance, and Commissioner of Police, Mauritius.

Way ahead

This intensive training aimed at equipping the FCC officers with specialized skills in financial investigation, digital forensics, cross-border asset tracing and Cryptocurrency related investigation. The training programme was well received by FCC and both FCC and ED have agreed to deepen this cooperation through more virtual and in-person sessions in future.

This initiative marks a new chapter in India–Mauritius cooperation. It has also established a template for future programmes reflecting ED's continued efforts to foster international partnerships in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards and international conventions.
