



## Press Release

09/05/2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Chennai Zonal Office has conducted search operations across Chennai and Vellore on 06/05/2025 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at 16 premises associated with certain officer and various prominent consultants for Govt departments of Tamil Nadu.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Directorate of Vigilance & Anti-corruption (DVAC) against S Pandian, Superintendent of Environment Deptt. Tamil Nadu and others for alleged disproportionate case.

The searches unearthed a deep-rooted and systemic corruption network involving several prominent consultants across key Government departments. Evidences reveal that consultants/brokers acted as middlemen, floated shell companies and consultancy firms through which kickbacks were routed under the guise of service fees and consultancy payments. This web of corruption was found to operate through fixed commissions paid to officials for obtaining illegal and expedited clearances.

The investigation has confirmed the role of key consultants - Prabhakar Sigamony, A.K. Nathan, Naveen Kumar, Santhosh Kumar, and Vinoth Kumar in facilitating illegal approvals. Unaccounted cash of **Rs. 4.73 Crore**, intended for bribe payments, was seized during the searches.

During the course of the search, incriminating documents, digital records, and property documents were recovered, indicating large-scale layering and siphoning of illicit funds. ED has also identified assets and properties acquired using the Proceeds of Crime (POC) and is in the process of quantifying and attaching these under the provisions of PMLA, 2002. In a premise, an important employee of consultant has severely damaged her phone for hiding the evidences from agency. Action will be taken as per law against this person for destruction of evidences & non-cooperation with agency.

Further investigation is under progress.

