



Press Release
27-05-2026

1. Directorate of Enforcement [ED], Kochi Zone conducted search on 27.05.2026 on M/s Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL), its directors Shri S. N. Sasidharan Kartha, Shri Saran S. Kartha, Smt Veena [daughter of Sh. P. Vijayan, Ex CM of Kerala] and her company M/s Exalogic Solutions Private Limited. The searches were conducted at 10 premises across various premises in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kannur, Trivandrum and Bangalore.
2. CMRL is a public listed company in which 48.75% shares are held by general public and also 13.41 % shares are held by the Kerala state PSU M/s Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (as on 31.03.2023)..
3. CMRL was searched by Income Tax Department in January 2019 during which certain fake expenses to the extent of about Rs. 130 crore was identified. The fake expenses were also admitted by CMRL before the Income Tax Settlement Commission [ITSC]. The ITSC in its order has given a finding of various bribes given to various persons by CMRL and the admissions made by CMRL personnel. A complaint was made before SFIO [Serious Fraud Investigation Office] based on the income tax department findings and Ministry of Corporate Affairs directed investigations by SFIO. Accordingly, SFIO started investigations. ED had initiated investigations under PMLA based on the investigations initiated by SFIO. However, the same was challenged before the Kerala High Court by CMRL on the ground that there was no predicate offence and the court had issued 'no coercive action' by ED in this case on 12-04-2024.
4. The SFIO filed Prosecution Complaint on 03.04.2025 for corporate fraud against Shri Sasidharan Kartha & 12 Others before the Hon'ble Additional Sessions Court – VII, Ernakulam, Kerala. The SFIO Prosecution complaint contains scheduled offence of PMLA. As per SFIO, Shri S. N. Sasidharan Kartha, the Managing Director and his son, Shri Saran S. Kartha received Rs. 30.63 crores in cumulative remuneration from F Y. 2015-16 to FY 2022-23 despite no dividend payments. SFIO investigations also revealed that fictitious cash expenses of Rs. 182 Crores over a span of 15 years [which was used for bribing various persons]. It was further alleged that CMRL paid Rs. 91 Crores towards transport services to the companies owned by the Shri Sasidharan Kartha family.
5. One of the fake expenses booked by CMRL is towards the payment to Smt. Veena, daughter of Shri. P Vijayan, Ex Chief Minister of Kerala. The Company of Mrs. Veena, M/s Exalogic Solutions Private Limited (an One-Person Company), received fraudulent payments totaling Rs. 2.78 Crores from CMRL under the guise of IT Consultancy Services. Further M/s Empower India Capital Investment Private Limited (EICPL) operated by Shri Sasidharan Kartha, MD of CMRL, extended loans to Exalogic totalling Rs. 50 Lakhs, despite Exalogic failing to make timely repayments.
6. The High court of Kerala dismissed writ petition filed by CMRL on 26-05-2026. The high court held that initiation of PMLA investigations are valid and does not require predicate offence to initiate investigations. Further the court noted that as on the date of judgment, predicate offence existed as SFIO had filed its prosecution complaint with scheduled offence of PMLA.



7. The investigations done by ED before, showed that proceeds of crime was generated by the management of CMRL led by Sh. S. N. Sasidharan Kartha and bribes were paid to various persons. Smt. Veena is a recipient of money from CRML without rendering any services. Intelligence gathered by ED showed that Smt. Veena was residing with her father Sh. P. Vijayan [Ex CM, Keralam] at Thiruvananthapuram. Accordingly, the premises where she was residing was covered. When the search team reached the premises where Smt. Veena was residing, her father Sh. P. Vijayan [Ex CM, Keralam] was also present.
8. During the search several incriminating records/ accounts, digital evidences, Investments/Bank FD were found. ED has freezed about Rs. 18.36 crore in around 242 accounts identified during the search operations. The evidences recovered are being analyzed.
9. During the search operation, one of the ED search teams was attacked by a group of people after conclusion of the search operation at the premises of Smt. Veena and Sh. P. Vijayan at Thiruvananthapuram. The crowd attacked the ED team cars with bricks and iron rods without any provocation. This shows that some people conspired for the attack and was not a spontaneous reaction. The 3 cars in which ED search team and CRPF personnel were travelling were attacked and vandalized. One of the drivers of the car suffered eye injury during the attack. ED followed due process and did not resist the crowd nor the CRPF personnel used any aggression on the crowd. ED has lodged FIR with the Trivandrum Police for legal action against the attackers.
10. ED would continue with the investigations with respect to other persons who were paid bribes/ money by CRML so as to identify the proceeds of crime.