



PRESS RELEASE

04.09.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bhopal Zonal Office has arrested Shobhit Tripathi, the then CEO of Janpad Panchayat, Sironj, Madhya Pradesh, on 02.09.2026 under Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with a money laundering investigation relating to fraudulent disbursement of government funds under the Marriage Assistance Scheme. He was produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Bhopal on 03.09.2026 and the Hon'ble Court granted ED custody till 09.09.2026 for further investigation under PMLA.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing, Bhopal against Shobhit Tripathi, then Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Janpad Panchayat, Sironj, and others.

ED Investigation revealed that the Marriage Assistance Scheme was implemented by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing financial assistance of Rs. 51,000/- to eligible daughters of registered construction workers. Shobhit Tripathi, during his tenure as CEO of Janpad Panchayat, Sironj w.e.f. 2019 to November 2021, in collusion with others, approved and disbursed government funds amounting to Rs.30.18 Crore in respect of suspicious marriage assistance cases.

ED Investigation also revealed that forged and fabricated application forms and beneficiary documents were used to fraudulently obtain benefits under the Scheme. Funds were transferred into bank accounts opened or misused on the basis of false credentials and immediately withdrawn in multiple cash tranches. Benefits were also found to have been extended to ineligible persons and during the COVID-19 lockdown period when public marriages were prohibited. Earlier, on 03.10.2025, search operations were conducted by ED which resulted in recovery and seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices.

Further investigation is under progress.