PRESS RELEASE
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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Ahmedabad Zonal Office has issued a Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with investigation against Arif Ali Amjad Ali Khan and Ors, attaching a total of 14 immovable properties worth approx Rs. 11.3 Crore in Godhra District, Gujarat.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of First Offence Report registered by the Range Forest Officer, Mandvi South Range, Surat Forest Division, Surat in the matter of illegal smuggling of Khair Wood in contravention of various provisions under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The main allegations in the criminal case is that the persons namely Mustaq Adam Tasiya, Moh. Tahir Ahmed Hussain and Ors. were involved in illegal cutting of Khair trees from the Wildlife Sanctuaries in various districts of Gujarat such as Vyara, Tapi, Surat, Valsad, Navsari and Narmada, without permission of the forest authorities and thereafter further transporting and selling them across state borders, thereby destroying and damaging the natural habitat of precious wildlife and generating Proceeds of Crime.

During the investigation conducted by ED, it is found that Mustaq Adam Tasiya and Moh. Tahir Ahmed Hussain in connivance with their various accomplices were continuously involved in illegal cutting of Khair tree without prior permission of the forest authorities. They were then selling it illegally into grey market and thus have caused huge losses to the Government and thereby have generated Proceeds of Crime to the tune of Crores of Rupees, accordingly ED has identified and attached their assets to the tune of Rs. 11.3 Crore.