



Press Release
14.10.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office, has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Mumbai on 30.09.2026 against Bernadette Bharat Varma, her husband and 9 others for the offence of money-laundering as defined under Section 3, punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA, 2002. The Hon'ble PMLA Special Court has ordered for issuance of pre-cognizance notices to accused in the matter.

ED Investigation was initiated on the basis of FIR registered by Cuffe Parade Police Station, Mumbai under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. It is alleged that Ex - Deputy Secretary Finance Smt. Bernadette Bharat Verma has taken advantage of the trust reposed in her by the United Services Club and has unjustly betrayed the Club by opening fake bank accounts in the name of the club's vendors and transferring the amount of around Rs. 77.52 Crore to the such fake bank accounts.

Investigation has revealed that Bernadette Bharat Varma in connivance with her husband Bharatkumar Shankarlal Varma diverted the funds of more than Rs. 79 Crore of the United Services Club to multiple dummy bank accounts opened and operated by Bharat Kumar Varma fraudulently in the names similar to entities which are / were genuine vendors of United Services Club. Subsequently, Bernadette and Bharat Varma layered the proceeds of crime through numerous inter-account transfers among various dummy entities and transferred the funds into their own personal bank accounts, joint accounts, and accounts of their family members. The part Proceeds of Crime were also utilised by accused for acquisition of immovable properties, fixed deposits, acquisition of luxury vehicles, foreign travels with family, living luxury lifestyle etc.

After the fraudulent transactions of main accused, detected during an audit of US club conducted by appointed CA in August 2024, accused also transferred part proceeds of crime amounting to around Rs. 11 Crore to one Foundation / Trust pursuant to illegal demands made by said CA and said funds were mainly utilised by said CA and / or his relatives / associates.

Earlier, ED has provisionally attached several immovable properties in the nature of flats, land, shops etc in Mumbai, Raigad area and movable properties in form of FDs, bank balance totalling to more than Rs. 47 Crore under Section 5 of the PMLA, 2002.

Further investigation is under progress.