



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**20.03.2024**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kochi Zonal office has conducted search operations under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at 9 locations across Kerala, Karnataka and Goa on 14- 03-2024, 15-03-2024 and 16-03-2024 in the case of Muhammed Hafiz and others. During the course of Search, Gold Jewellery weighing 1672.8 Grams, Indian currency worth Rs. 12.5 Lakh, 7 mobile phones and various incriminating documents were seized. Further, Freezing Order for the balances/FDs worth Rs. 4.4 Crore lying in the bank accounts of the accused was also issued during the course of Search.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Kerala Police, Goa Police and Karnataka Police under various sections of IPC, 1860 wherein it is alleged that Muhammed Hafeez and his associates indulged in offences of cheating by impersonation, misappropriation of funds, forgery and fabrication of documents and extracted money worth Rs. 108.73 Crore from his in-laws with a view to meet unlawful demand for more dowry.

During the search proceedings, it is revealed that Muhammed Hafeez is using a vehicle displaying the official protocol sticker issued by the Karnataka Legislative assembly in the name N A Haris, MLA of Shanti Nagar constituency, Bangalore. On further enquiry, it is revealed that the said vehicle was purchased by Muhammed Haris Nalapad, S/o Sh. N A Haris but registered in the name of Nafih Muhammed Naser who is a close relative and political aid of N A Haris, MLA and cousin to Muhammed Haris Nalapad. Muhammed Haris Nalapad is presently serving as the General Secretary of Karnataka Youth Congress and is a close friend of Muhammed Hafeez.

Further investigation is under process.