



Press Release

15.05.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hqrs. Office filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) in the case of Atiq Ahmad and others before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Lucknow, UP, against Smt. Sahista Praveen, w/o Late Atiq Ahmad, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, pertaining to a case involving a multi-crore extortion racket. The Hon'ble Special Court has taken cognizance of the PC on 14.05.2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, against Atiq Ahmad and others for criminal offences related to extortion, cheating, forgery, and illegal acquisition of assets. Later, the scope of the money laundering investigation was expanded to include several FIRs filed at various police stations for criminal offences related to murder, extortion, cheating, forgery, land grabbing, and crimes of a similar nature.

During the investigation, in order to trace further proceeds of crime acquired by Atiq Ahmad and his associates/family members/relatives, it came to notice that Atiq Ahmad and his associates were investing their ill-gotten money acquired through illegal activities in purchasing immovable properties. It was also found that these immovable properties were registered in the names of various other persons/benami holders to avoid detection by government agencies/tax authorities.

Earlier, ED had attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs. 8.14 Crore belonging to Late Atiq Ahmad and Ms. Shaista Parveen vide Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) dated 13.12.2021. The attached properties include land situated at Tehsil Phulpur, Allahabad, registered in the name of Shaista Parveen, and a combined balance of Rs. 1.28 Crore lying in 10 bank accounts of Atiq Ahmad and one bank account of Shaista Parveen.

Further, in April and June 2023, a total no. of 27 premises linked to associates of Atiq Ahmad were searched by ED. These operations led to the seizure of cash amounting to Rs. 1.15 Crore, gold/ jewelry valued at Rs. 6 Crore, and numerous other incriminating records.

Further investigation is under progress.

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