



**Press Release**

**14.08.2023**

**Regarding false news report of Arrest of Shri Ashok Balaji**

A false news report that Shri R V Ashok Kumar, brother of Shri Senthil Balaji (Ex-Minister and MLA) has been detained in Kochi Kerala by the Directorate of Enforcement is being reported by multiple news sources. It is clarified that Shri R V Ashok Kumar has neither been detained nor been arrested by ED.

It may however be stated that Shri R V Ashok Kumar has been summoned on four occasions on 16.06.2023, 21.06.2023, 29.06.2023 and 15.07.2023 as part of the ongoing probe. He has, however, never joined the investigation and has refused to appear before ED in response to the summons citing frivolous inconsequential excuses.

In similar manner, his wife, Ms. Nirmala and his mother-in-law, Ms. P Lakshmi, have also not complied 04 individual summons.

It is significant to note that evidences indicate that all three individuals have played pivotal roles in layering and integrating the proceeds of crimes.