



## **Press Release**

04.08.2023

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has conducted a multi-state search operation on 03.08.2023 & 04.08.2023 under the PMLA, 2002 at the residential premises of Puthenveetil Joseph Mathew @ P.J. Mathew, Proprietor, M/s. Mathew International, Mumbai and multiple other business and residential premises located at Mumbai & Kerala, in connection with illegally and dishonestly collecting Crores of rupees from emigrants by indulging in criminal activity.

ED initiated money laundering investigation under PMLA, 2002 on the basis of FIR registered by CBI, Cochin against Puthenveetil Joseph Mathew & Others.

ED investigation revealed that during the year 2015, Puthenveetil Joseph Mathew @ P.J. Mathew along with his son, Thomas Mathew @ Tom Mathew, hatched a criminal conspiracy with Mahmood Naina Prabhu, Proprietor, M/s. Munavarra Associates, Mumbai to recruit nurses for Ministry of Health, Kuwait by using the license fraudulently obtained by M/s. Munavarra Associates from the Government of India. Further, in pursuance to the conspiracy, P.J. Mathew had obtained Demand Letters and Authorisation Letters from Jezan International and Al-Amar Company, Kuwait in the name of M/s. Munavvara Associates, Mumbai for recruitment of Nurses for the Ministry of Health, Kuwait. Adolphus, then Protector of Emigrants, Cochin also joined the conspiracy. Subsequently, they conducted the above recruitment of nurses at Cochin by collecting exorbitant service charges (to the tune of approximately Rs. 20 Lakhs) from each candidate as against the maximum prescribed limit of Rs. 20,000/-. P.J. Mathew & his associates thus, thereby cheated the nursing emigrants, and derived proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs. 205.71 Crore.

During the searches, several bank accounts with cumulative balance of Rs. 76 Lakhs have been frozen and documents of immovable properties at a total market value of Rs. 12 Crore have been seized.

Further investigation is under progress.