



## **Press Release**

**15.09.2023**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) carried out searches at 34 locations including 8 sand mining yards on 12/09/2023 in 6 districts of Tamil Nadu, residential and business premises of various persons including S. Ramachandran, K. Rathinam, Karikalan and their accomplices, Auditor P. Shanmugaraj and officials of Water Resources Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu in illegal sand mining case.

ED initiated investigation on basis of FIRs registered in various parts of Tamil Nadu disclosing allegations about huge illegal mining of river sand and gravel quarry etc. Numerous complaints have been registered with Law Enforcement Agencies, highlighting illegal mining practices rampant across Tamil Nadu.

During the search incriminating documents including diaries, bogus fake sale receipts with counterfeit QR code were found suggestive of illegal sand sales. Evidences of bogus transactions, benami companies were found. During the search, Rs. 12.82 Crore was put under freeze and unaccounted cash for Rs. 2.33 Crore was seized along with gold weighing 1024.6 grams worth Rs 56.86 Lakh.

Further investigation is under progress.