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ED arrests Satyendar Jain in money laundering case

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*ED arrests Satyendar Jain in money laundering case*

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain on Monday for allegedly “misleading investigations and transferring proceeds of crime” — a serious offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He had been called to the ED headquarters in connection with money laundering investigations he has been facing since 2017 when the enforcement agency booked him under the PMLA on an FIR registered by the CBI. On April 5 this year, the ED had attached properties worth Rs 5 crore linked to him and his family members.

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The case is based on a 2017 CBI FIR against Jain for allegedly receiving Rs 4.63 crore in his family-controlled entities in 2015-16. Jain and his wife, according to the initial probe, had one-third of the shares in these companies during the period in question. CBI had also accused Jain of laundering more than Rs 11 crore during 2010-12 before he became a public servant.

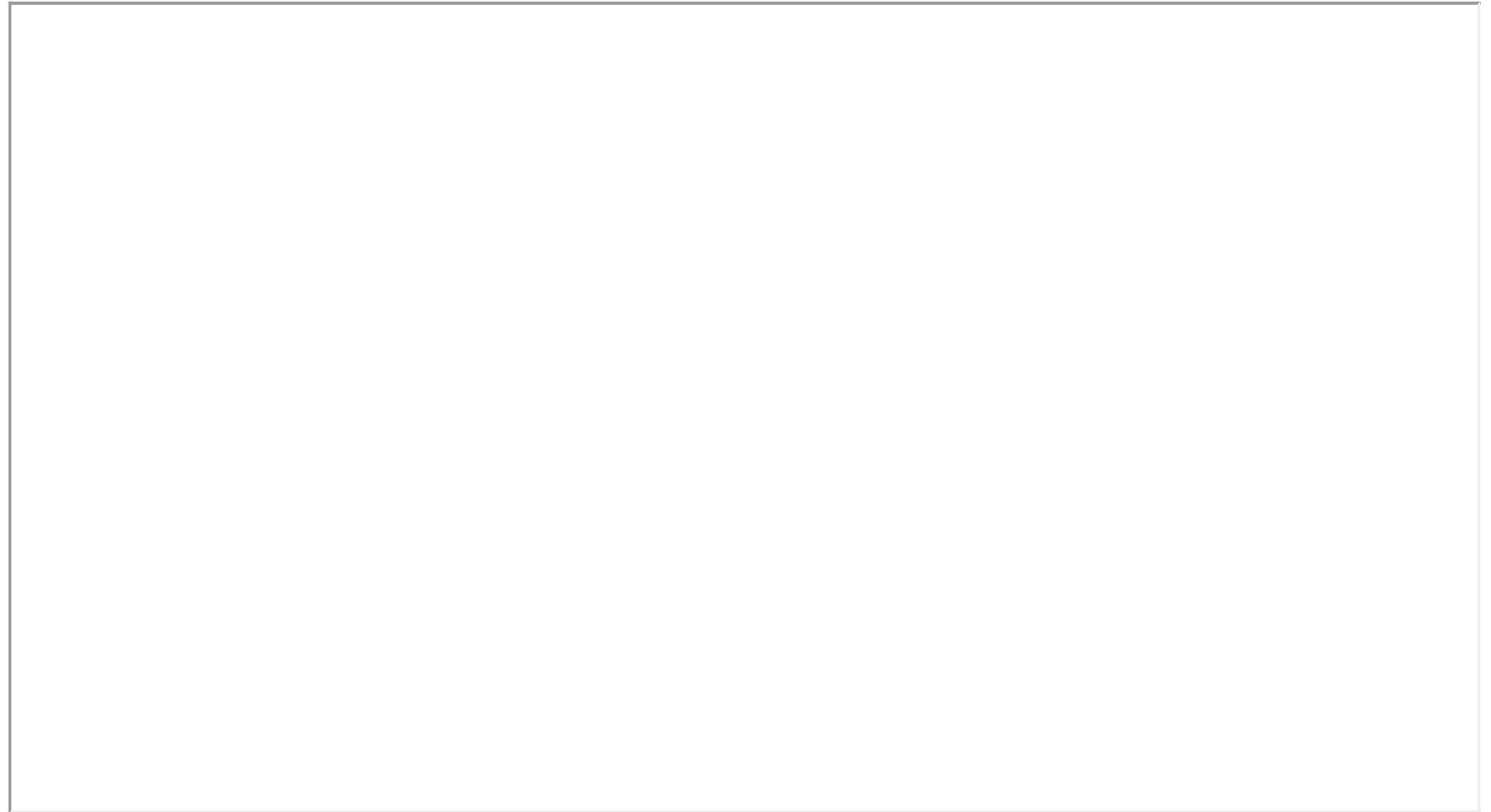
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The twin investigations are focused on the purchase of over 200 bighas in Auchandi, Bawana, Karala and Mohammed Mazvi

villages in Delhi between 2010 and 2016 by firms linked to Jain and his family members.



Reacting to the arrest, Delhi's deputy CM Manish Sisodia said BJP has arrested Jain to prevent him from going to Himachal (for campaigning) as the saffron party knows it is losing in the hill state. Sisodia said the ED has been investigating this "fake" case for eight years and has not found anything against him (Jain).

GOT ₹4.8CR FROM SHELL COS: ED

➤ According to ED probe, during 2015-16, when **Satyendar Jain** was a public servant, five firms beneficially owned and controlled by him received 'accommodation entries' worth ₹4.8 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through hawala route

➤ Jain held for

'misleading investigation' & 'transferring proceeds of crime'. ED's PMLA case against him is based on CBI's 2017 FIR

➤ The 5 companies and the minister's close family members Swati, Indu and Sushila Jain are co-accused in the PMLA case

➤ ED had attached properties worth ₹5cr of Jain & his kin in the same case this April 5



“Jain's arrest is politically motivated. BJP fears a crushing loss in Himachal polls at the hands of AAP (Jain is the party's in-charge of the elections). He was arrested to prevent him from going to the state

— **Manish Sisodia**, Delhi Dy CM

"For many years, ED had stopped even calling him for probe because there was nothing found against him," Sisodia said. Now they have again taken action as he is AAP's election in-charge for Himachal, he added.

CBI sources said Jain had, in fact, been chargesheeted in 2018 after his assets were found to be worth over 217% as compared to his income from known sources.

The agency had also charged his wife Poonam Jain besides business associates Ajit Prasad Jain, Vaibhav Jain, Sunil Jain and Ayush Jain in the case. CBI's probe had come across total disproportionate assets worth Rs 1.47 crore in Jain's possession.

According to ED, the health minister had been allegedly laundering black money using Kolkata-based shell companies. In its attachment order of April 5, the agency had named Akinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, Indo Metal impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas

Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Manglayatan Projects Pvt Ltd, J J Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd and close family members Swati Jain, Sushila Jain and Indu Jain as co-accused in the PMLA case.

"Investigation by ED revealed that during 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the above-mentioned companies beneficially owned and controlled by him received accommodation entries to the tune of Rs 4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through hawala route," the ED had said in its attachment order.

These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for the repayment of loan taken for purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi, the agency further claimed.

In 2018, the Income Tax department, too, had independently probed the Kolkata-based shell companies involved in providing 'accommodation entries' to companies controlled by Jain and his family members.

Earlier, this month CBI had filed a closure report in a different unrelated case against Jain in connection with hiring of a creative agency by the PWD department, also under him.