

[Home](#) [Explained](#) [Political Pulse](#) [India](#) [Cities](#) [Opinion](#)

Follow Us:



The Indian EXPRESS

[Entertainment](#) [Sports](#) [Audio](#)[Education](#)

Friday, July 01, 2022

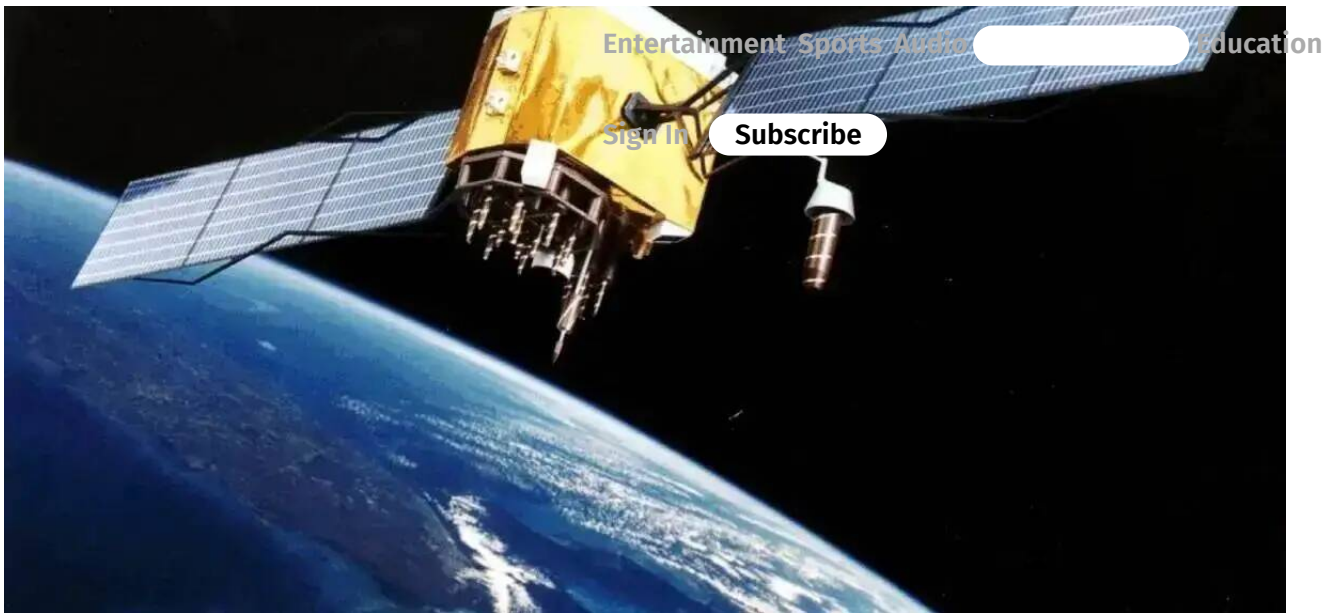
[Sign In](#)[Subscribe](#)[Home](#) / [Cities](#) / [Bangalore](#) / Devas-Antrix deal: ED seeks to declare Devas Multimedia CEO fugitive economic offender in PMLA case

Devas-Antrix deal: ED seeks to declare Devas Multimedia CEO fugitive economic offender in PMLA case

The special court is yet to take up the application filed by the ED earlier this month for declaring the Devas Multimedia CEO an economic offender. It had in April 2022 ordered the splitting up of the charge sheet against Viswanathan and nine others on account of the Devas Multimedia CEO not responding to court summons.

By: **Express News Service** | Bengaluru |

June 30, 2022 2:24:47 pm



The declaration of an individual as a fugitive economic offender will allow the ED to seek confiscation of properties belonging to the accused in India and abroad which are identified as proceeds of an economic crime. (Representational)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought permission from a special court in Bengaluru to declare the US-based founder and CEO of the now liquidated start-up firm Devas Multimedia Private Limited a fugitive economic offender.

The ED has moved an application under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, to declare Ramachandran Viswanathan an economic offender ahead of a trial in a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case being pursued by the central agency over the failed 2005 satellite deal between Devas Multimedia and the Isro's commercial arm Antrix Corp.

The declaration of an individual as a fugitive economic offender will allow the ED to seek confiscation of properties belonging to the accused in India and abroad which are identified as proceeds of an economic crime.

The special court is yet to take up the application filed by the ED earlier this month for declaring the Devas Multimedia CEO an economic offender. It had in April 2022 ordered the splitting up of the charge sheet against Viswanathan and nine others on account of the Devas Multimedia CEO not responding to court summons.

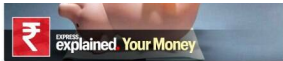
BEST OF EXPRESS PREMIUM

Premium

Premium

Premium

Premium


[Home](#) [Explained](#) [Political Pulse](#) [India](#) [Cities](#) [Opinion](#)


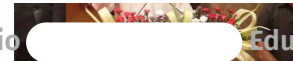
Explained: What unchanged small savings rates mean for banks, savers



Fadnavis stunned, but BJP clear about reasons, kept Eknath Shinde in loop



Maneck Davar writes the services sector



With Shinde in seat, BJP defangs Uddhav, next stop BMC

[Sign In](#) [Subscribe](#)
[More Premium Stories >>](#)

In March, the special court rejected a plea by the ED for a proclamation order against Viswanathan. The ED sought a proclamation order against the Devas Multimedia executive to compel him to present himself in the special court in Bengaluru for the trial of a money laundering case filed against him and six others in 2018.

Viswanathan is a satellite communications entrepreneur in the US and is the president of Omnispace LLC, a startup in that country, which is putting together a constellation of satellites to power 5G from space, especially to provide connectivity to remote areas where the terrestrial mobile network does not work.

Devas Multimedia and its investors, including the German telecom major Deutsche Telekom, are involved in a protracted legal battle across the world over the decision of the Government of India in 2011 to annul a 2005 satellite deal between Devas and Isro's Antrix.

BANGALORE NEWS

1 [Alt News co-founder Zubair brought to Bengaluru, police recover electronic devices from house](#)

2 [Karnataka pollution control board gears up to enforce single-use plastic ban from tomorrow](#)

3 [Bunts, Billava communities unhappy over exclusion of lessons on Kayyar Kinhanna Rai, Narayana Guru](#)

[More from Bangalore](#)

Viswanathan is among 10 individuals and entities accused of money laundering by the ED in a charge sheet filed in July 2018. Among others accused in the case are several senior Devas officials, three subsidiaries of the firm, and a former executive director of the Antrix Corporation.