

# Paper leaks, fake degrees, recruitment fraud: ED probes ₹4,000-crore scams in education sector

The Hindu, dt: 11.5.26, pg. no. 12

**Devesh K. Pandey**

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate is currently investigating alleged scams of nearly ₹4,000 crore in the education sector. The cases involve paper leaks, alleged fake admissions, scholarship frauds, fake degree rackets and recruitment scams. The agency has attached assets currently worth ₹1,500 crore and arrested several high-profile accused across States.

The latest case involves entities linked to Al-Falah Group, in which the agency recently re-arrested Group chief Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui for his alleged role in the use of forged papers to acquire land in Delhi. The ED filed a prosecution complaint after provisionally attaching 54 acres of land along with buildings, worth about ₹139.97



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crore. It quantified the total proceeds of alleged crime in the case at ₹493.24 crore.

The agency has alleged that the institutions in question projected expired NAAC accreditations as valid to induce admissions. The university was also shown as recognised under Section 12(B) of the University Grants Commission Act. Besides, there

were alleged irregularities in obtaining approvals and certifications.

## Teachers' scam

In the alleged Primary Teachers' scam in West Bengal, the agency has attached properties worth ₹151.26 crore. Seven people, including former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and his aide Arpita Mukherjee, were arrested. It also attached assets worth ₹3.65 crore linked to MLA Chandranath Sinha.

The second case from the same State pertains to the hiring of assistant teachers (Classes IX-XII). The ED froze assets worth ₹238.8 crore. On April 3, 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the Calcutta High Court's cancellation of 25,000 appointments. In the "Group C and D Staff" recruitment scam in West

Bengal, attachments rose to ₹247 crore.

Last year, the ED started investigating alleged financial irregularities worth ₹2,000 crore in the construction of over 12,000 classrooms and semi-permanent structures for Delhi government schools during the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) tenure from 2015 to 2023. Former Ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain are under the scanner.

The agency is also probing the alleged fraudulent blocking of seats in private engineering colleges in Karnataka.

## Scholarship fraud

Multiple cases of alleged scholarship fraud have also been pursued by the agency. In Himachal Pradesh, private institutions allegedly siphoned government scholarships intended for

Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Class, and minority students.

A similar scam was unearthed in Uttar Pradesh, where the Hygia Group allegedly claimed Central and State scholarships by forging student data. In Karnataka's Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College, ₹33.34 crore in stipend funds meant for postgraduate medical students were allegedly misappropriated between 2018 and 2024. The ED attached ₹5.87 crore in immovable assets and seized properties worth ₹85 lakh.

In August 2025, a fake NRI quota racket linked to medical admissions across multiple private colleges came under the scanner. Such instances involving over ₹23 crore were also identified in West Bengal and Odisha.