



ED Raids Jharkhand's Rural Development Department

Why in News?

Recently, [The Enforcement Directorate \(ED\)](#) raided the premises of the **Jharkhand rural development department** in Ranchi as part of a [money laundering](#) investigation in which it recently seized huge cash.

Key Points

- The ED had claimed before a court that the government officials from "top to bottom" of the rural development department are involved in the alleged illegal cash payments nexus.
 - It also claimed that the names of "senior bureaucrats and politicians" have emerged in the case and this is being investigated.
- The **money laundering case of September, 2020** is based on an **anti-corruption branch (Jamshedpur) case** of Jharkhand Police and a March 2023 FIR filed by the [Economic Offences Wing \(EOW\)](#) of the Delhi Police against former chief engineer of the state rural works department and some others.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

- It is a **multi-disciplinary organization** mandated with investigation of offences of **money laundering** and **violations of foreign exchange laws**.
 - It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.
- As a **premier financial investigation agency of the Government of India**, the Enforcement Directorate functions in strict compliance with the Constitution and Laws of India.

Money laundering

- It is **concealing or disguising the identity of illegally obtained proceeds** so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources. It is frequently a component of other, much more serious, crimes such as drug trafficking, robbery or extortion.
- According to the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#), global Money Laundering is estimated between **2 to 5% of World Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.