



Press Release
08.10.2026

Directorate of Enforcement, Bengaluru Zonal Office, is investigating irregularities in the conduct of the Veterinary Officers' Recruitment Examination conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) for 400 posts, and the proceeds of crime arising therefrom, based on multiple FIRs registered at Vidhana Soudha Police Station, Bengaluru, for offences punishable under Sections 318(3), 318(4), 336(2), 336(3) and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Investigation and evidence gathered so far have revealed an organized mechanism for generation of proceeds of crime through manipulation of the KPSC recruitment process, particularly the Veterinary Officers Recruitment Examination. Based on the evidence, the Members of the KPSC and KPSC officials have resorted to the following modus operandi to extort bribe money from the KPSC recruitment exam candidates:

**Leakage of question papers,
Leakage of candidate-specific answer keys, and
Exploitation of the 1:3 merit list for demanding gratification**

Further investigation revealed that certain candidates in the Veterinary Officers' exam were **provided the correct answer keys** just one day before the exam, i.e., on 08/01/2026, **for a bribe ranging from Rs.20 Lakhs to Rs.40 Lakhs per candidate**. The leaked answer keys were provided to certain candidates by **Shivashankarappa Sahukar, the suspended KPSC Chairman and B V Geetha, KPSC Member, for illegal gratification**. It is further revealed that B V Geetha had obtained access to the leaked Answer Keys from Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, IAS, the then Controller of Examinations (CoE), KPSC, who was entrusted with the custody and supervision of confidential examination material. Based on the seating arrangements of the candidates and by accessing the jumbled Question papers & Answer Keys, the CoE has provided the correct answer keys (*for the first 80 questions*) to B V Geetha. B V Geetha has collected Rs. 20 Lakhs in cash as an advance from one such candidate, out of the total agreed amount of Rs.40 Lakhs. Similarly, Shivashankarappa Sahukar has collected Rs. 10 Lakhs in cash as an advance from one candidate, out of the total agreed bribe amount of Rs.20 Lakhs. **So far, 06 such candidates have been identified who have secured higher scores in the final selection list, and further investigation is in progress to identify the complete list of such candidates.**

Based on the above findings, and on the basis of the material collected during investigation, a Search u/s. 17 was conducted at the premises of Shivashankarappa Sahukar and B V Geetha on 06/10/2026. Further, based on the reasons to believe recorded under Section 19 of the PMLA, 2002, **Shivashankarappa Sahukar, the suspended KPSC Chairman and B V Geetha, KPSC Member, were arrested on 06/10/2026** for their involvement in generating, collecting, and handling Proceeds of Crime arising from the aforesaid scheduled criminal activity.

Thereafter, they were produced before the Hon'ble Special Court for PMLA cases (CCH-4) on 07/10/2026, and **the Hon'ble Court granted 14 days' custody of Shivashankarappa Sahukar and B V Geetha, to the Directorate of Enforcement for investigation.**

Earlier, the Search & Seizure operations conducted by ED have resulted in the **seizure of blank signed cheques amounting to Rs. 80 lakh, along with blank signed promissory notes**, from one of the successful candidates. Further investigation revealed that **10 successful candidates were taken to a resort/Airbnb villa on the outskirts of Bengaluru one day before the examination, where they were provided with a question paper containing the correct answer options for 80 questions and made to practice/memorize them.** The question paper (marked with correct answers) containing the 80 questions was leaked by the then Controller of Examination, Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, IAS, through his close associate, Basavaraj Kannale, to these 10 candidates. **Basavaraj Kannale has collected bribe money amounting to Rs.40 Lakhs to Rs.50 lakhs from each candidate**, in consideration of facilitating their final selection in the Veterinary Officers' recruitment exam. Based on these facts and evidence, Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, CoE and Basavaraj Kannale, have been arrested u/s. 19 of the PMLA, 2002, on 18/09/2026 & 17/09/2026, respectively. The Hon'ble Special Court has remanded them to the ED for 14 days. Subsequent to his **ED custody, Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar was remanded to judicial custody by the Hon'ble Special Court for PMLA Cases, Bengaluru.** During the ED custody, Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar disclosed crucial information relating to irregularities in conducting various KPSC recruitment exams.

Further, based on the seized material from one of the KPSC officials and the enquiries conducted with Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, it was found that **certain KPSC Members and officials were exploiting the confidential 1:3 Merit list to induce candidates to pay bribes by assuring them of confirmed selection in KPSC recruitment examinations.** Usually, when publishing the 1:3 eligibility list, KPSC does not disclose individual candidates' marks. However, KPSC Members and officials accessed candidates' confidential merit positions from the CoE office and analyzed their likelihood of securing final selection. They then misused this confidential information to approach candidates and assure them of successful selection in exchange for illegal gratification. The investigation has further revealed that, **depending on the nature and level of the post, bribe amounts ranging from Rs. 10 Lakh to Rs. 50 lakh were demanded from candidates to assure their selection.** Thus, the confidential merit information available within the KPSC was allegedly misused to extract illegal gratification and generate Proceeds of Crime.

The investigation is under progress.