

Franklin MF head, fund managers fined ₹15cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi on Monday imposed a total fine of Rs 15 crore on several Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund officials, including its head Sanjay Sapre and chief investment officer Santosh Kamat, along with a trustee and five fund managers for violating regulatory norms.

Sebi said that although the six funds were sold as having different investment strategies, they were actually managed almost with a similar high-risk investment approach. The fines relate to FTMF's six debt schemes which are under a winding-up process since April 2020.

In a related matter, Sebi also imposed a fine of Rs 45 lakh on Venkata Radhakrishnan, a director with the fund house and Rs 5 lakh on his wife, Malathi Radhakrishnan, for redeeming his investments ahead of the announcement of the closure using private information. The regulator further imposed a fine of Rs 25 lakh on Jayaram S Iyer, also a director at the fund house, for exactly the same fault as Radhakrishnans.

In another related order, Sebi imposed a fine of Rs 5 crore on Mywish Marketplaces, a startup that had taken a \$15-million loan from FTMF. The company has also been fined for redeeming its investments with one of the under-closure debt schemes just ahead of the announcement of winding up, using private information.