



PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Guwahati Zonal Office, has provisionally attached immovable and movable properties having a total value of **Rs. 29.77 Lakh (approx.)** under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with its investigation into large-scale fraud under the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme in the State of Assam.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of FIR registered at Algapur Police Station, Hailakandi, Assam, and a subsequent Chargesheet filed against Dr. Nozmul Islam Choudhury, proprietor of Noble Hospital and Research Centre, Algapur, Hailakandi, for commission of offences under Sections 420 (cheating) and 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which are scheduled offences under Part A of the Schedule to PMLA, 2002.

ED investigation revealed that Noble Hospital and Research Centre, which was empanelled under the AB-PMJAY scheme implemented in Assam through the Atal Amrit Abhiyan Society (AAAS), fraudulently raised 920 fake reimbursement claims amounting to Rs. 77.83 Lakh (approx.) during the period from 22.02.2019 to 05.11.2022, without providing any actual medical treatment to the beneficiaries. The hospital systematically exploited the scheme by luring AB-PMJAY cardholders, photographing them lying on hospital beds to falsely depict hospitalisation, and uploading fabricated treatment records onto the Transaction Management System (TMS) portal to generate and submit reimbursement claims for treatment costs that were never incurred.

A net amount of Rs. 69.42 Lakh (approx.) (after deduction of TDS) was disbursed by the Atal Amrit Abhiyan Society to the hospital's bank accounts maintained with Canara Bank, Hailakandi Branch. Investigation has traced the money trail and established that the Proceeds of Crime were systematically siphoned off and laundered through cash withdrawals via ATMs, transfers to the personal bank account of the accused held with Axis Bank, UPI transactions to various individuals, and transfers to related persons, including the accused's brother. The bank accounts were subsequently depleted and closed, demonstrating a deliberate attempt to layer and disperse the funds to obscure their criminal origin.

Investigation has further revealed that the fraudulent activities of Noble Hospital and Research Centre were detected following a beneficiary audit conducted by a team of Atal Amrit Abhiyan Society, which found that most payment claims raised by the hospital were false and fabricated. Beneficiaries who were shown as indoor patients in the claims were found to have only visited the hospital as outpatients and were never actually admitted. Consequently, the hospital was de-empanelled from the AB-PMJAY scheme vide order dated 21.11.2022, and an FIR was lodged. The hospital has since been closed in the year 2023.

Investigation has established that the Proceeds of Crime were rapidly dissipated, and the bank accounts of the hospital were depleted and closed. In the absence of directly available Proceeds of Crime, the ED has attached properties representing the value of such proceeds as defined under Section 2(1)(u) of the PMLA, 2002.

Further investigation is under progress.