



Press Release
14.12.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Lucknow Zonal Office has conducted search operations on 12.12.2025 and 13.12.2025 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with the illegal trade and diversion of codeine-based cough syrup. The searches were carried out at 25 premises, including residential and office premises of the accused and their associates, located across Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Saharanpur, Ranchi, and Ahmedabad.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of 30 FIRs registered by the Uttar Pradesh Police under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, the Indian Penal Code, and other applicable laws. These FIRs alleged the existence of a well-organised, multi-layered criminal syndicate engaged in the illegal procurement, storage, diversion, and sale of codeine-based cough syrups in gross violation of statutory controls. It was alleged that the accused persons, acting through their entities, procured large quantities of codeine-based cough syrup and thereafter floated multiple firms, fraudulently obtained licences, and fabricated records to divert the said stock for non-medical and narcotic purposes, including inter-State diversion and trafficking to Nepal and Bangladesh. It was further alleged that substantial proceeds generated from the illicit trade were received/placed in the bank accounts of front entities and subsequently layered and funnelled through multiple transactions to the entities and accounts controlled by the accused persons.

The search operations under Section 17 of the PMLA, 2002 conducted at the residential and office premises of the accused persons resulted in the recovery and seizure of various incriminating documents and records related to the PMLA investigation.

Further investigation is under progress.