



PRESS RELEASE

17.04.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office, has conducted searches under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) on 10.04.2026 at 17 premises located in Kolkata, Bongaon, Raniganj, Murshidabad and Habra, linked to Nirajan Chandra Saha and Ors in a PDS scam case. The searches resulted into seizure of Cash of Rs. 30.9 Lakh, various incriminating documents and digital evidences related to offence of money laundering.

ED initiated investigation in this case primarily based on West Bengal Police FIR bearing No. 1150/2020 dated 23.10.2020 registered at Basirhat Police Station on the complaint of Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Ghojadanga LCS, alleging large-scale diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) wheat meant for welfare schemes. The FIR disclosed commission of offences punishable under Sections 379/411/120B of IPC and Section 7(i)(a)(ii) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. It was alleged that PDS wheat was illegally procured, fraudulently repacked by reversing gunny bags bearing Government/FCI markings, and exported towards Bangladesh through Ghojadanga LCS, thereby causing huge loss to the public exchequer and wrongful gain to the accused persons. During the course of investigation by the Police, Nirajan Chandra Saha, Sahabuddin Sk and Sahidur Rahaman were arrested. The Police has filed Charge Sheet against accused persons and entities for offences punishable under Sections 379/411/413/414/120B of IPC, 1860 and Section 7(i)(a)(ii) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The investigation revealed a deep-rooted, well-organised criminal conspiracy involving exporters, wholesalers, suppliers, transporters, commission agents and other facilitators, operating across multiple districts and having inter-state ramifications. Approximately 5101.25 metric tonnes of PDS wheat loaded in about 175 trucks were intercepted and seized from various parking locations. Large numbers of invoices, challans, bills, truck documents and other records were seized. Verification of these documents established that most of them were fraudulently prepared, lacking essential particulars such as correct vehicle numbers, licence details of wholesalers, GST numbers and authentic transaction trails, thereby clearly pointing towards deliberate fabrication to give a false appearance of lawful trade.

During ED searches, it was revealed that the accused adopted a systematic modus operandi to divert Public Distribution System (PDS) wheat meant for welfare beneficiaries. The wheat was procured at low prices through unauthorised channels, in collusion with suppliers, licensed distributors, dealers, and middlemen. Large quantities were illegally diverted from the supply chain and aggregated at multiple locations. To conceal its origin, the accused removed or reversed the original gunny bags bearing Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government markings and refilled them, thereby hiding identifying features and passing off the PDS wheat as legitimate stock for further sale in open market or export, resulting in undue enrichment of accused persons and generation of Proceeds of Crime.

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Further investigation is under progress.