



PRESS RELEASE

11.04.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office has filed a Prosecution Complaint on 09.04.2026 before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), in connection with the matter of illegal coal mining, theft, illegal coal transportation, illegal sale of coal, use of forged documents and extortion against five accused persons including Chinmoy Mondal, Kiran Khan and others.

ED initiated investigation based on 54 FIRs registered by various police stations in the Durgapur-Asansol region of West Bengal on complaints of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), CISF and local police authorities in the above matter.

Investigation revealed that the accused persons, namely Chinmoy Mondal, Kiran Khan, and their associates, were part of an organized coal syndicate operating in the Durgapur-Asansol region and adjoining areas. The syndicate was involved not only in illegal coal-related activities that include dealing in coal procured through illegal means as well as illegally transported from Jharkhand into West Bengal but also in systematic extortion of levies from valid D.O. (Delivery Order) holders, transporters, and coal purchasers. Such illegal levy, commonly referred to as 'GT,' 'Gunda Tax,' or 'Rangdari Tax,' was collected to permit coal lifting and transportation and was disguised as lifting charges, handling charges, donations etc.

Investigation has revealed that the extortion rates varied from approximately Rs. 275 per tonne to Rs. 1,500 per tonne, which amounted to an exorbitant 20-25% of the actual value of the auctioned coal. Due to such forceful levies, a significant amount of allocated coal remained un-lifted, causing substantial financial loss to ECL as well. As on date, the Proceeds of Crime generated by this syndicate in the form of such extortion alone over the last five years have been estimated at more than Rs. 650 Crore.

During investigation, searches under Section 17 of the PMLA were conducted on various dates at multiple premises linked to the accused persons and their associates. During such searches, various incriminating documents, digital devices, WhatsApp chats, records of coal lifting, levy collection sheets, bank account details and other material were recovered and seized. The searches dated 21.11.2025 and 03.02.2026 led to seizure of cash, bank balances, and valuables amounts to approximately Rs.17.57 Crore, in addition to the huge physical stock of coal and coke from the premises of the accused persons and their accomplices.

Investigation has also revealed that the accused persons used a number of proprietorship concerns and companies as fronts for routing, layering and projection of Proceeds of Crime as untainted. Analysis of bank accounts revealed substantial cash deposits and large fund movements among closely connected persons and entities.

The investigation also uncovered evidence regarding payment of bribes to various officials of the government of West Bengal and local political functionaries for facilitating movement of coal and continuation of the activities of the syndicate. Earlier the accused persons namely Chinmoy Mondal and Kiran Khan were arrested under Section 19 of the PMLA on 09.02.2026.

Further investigation is under progress.