



Press Release
09.04.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office has issued a Provisional Attachment Order (PAO), attaching immovable property worth Rs. 48.61 Lakh of Navneet Kumar, the then Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Air Cargo Complex, Kolkata and currently under suspension, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the case of smuggling of goods through Air Cargo Complex, Kolkata.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the CBI, ACB, Kolkata against Navneet Kumar and others under various Sections of IPC, 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 related to organized smuggling and illegal clearance of grossly mis-declared consignments at Air Cargo Complex, Kolkata, causing substantial loss to Government revenue.

During investigation, another FIR was also registered by the CBI, ACB, Patna under various Sections of IPC, 1860 against Navneet Kumar regarding fake educational and date of birth certificate of Navneet Kumar and manipulation in degree certificate to appear in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) civil services examination.

Investigation revealed that during surprise check by the DRI at Air Cargo Complex (ACC), Airport Kolkata on 05.06.2017, the DRI caught and seized 19 consignments which were found grossly mis-declared. After valuation done by the DRI, the seized imported items were found having worth of Rs. 194 Crore approximately against the declared value of around Rs. 44.54 Lakh. After inspection, it was also observed that goods mentioned in 19 Bills of Entry (BoE) were different from the goods actually contained in those seized consignments.

The modus operandi adopted was that the smugglers would in advance share the sensitive consignment details with Navneet Kumar through intermediaries, followed by issuance of instructions to subordinate officers by Navneet Kumar to conduct selective examination of only those packages that matched declared descriptions, while deliberately avoiding scrutiny of consignments containing mis-declared or contraband goods. Further, high-value consignments were fraudulently cleared through "Manual Out of Charge" orders in violation of prescribed EDI/CBEC guidelines, without approval of the competent authority and despite there being no system failure of EDI, thereby ensuring evasion of detection.

The investigation also established a well-organized network involving customs broker entities, G-Card holders, and private persons who coordinated documentation, examination, and clearance processes in exchange for illegal gratification. Navneet Kumar, the then Deputy Commissioner of Customs in connivance with his subordinates knowingly and deliberately indulged in unlawful, fraudulent and corrupt activities connected with smuggling and abuse of his official position.

Further investigation is under progress.