PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement, has conducted coordinated extensive search action on 44 premises in West Bengal and Jharkhand under Section 17 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 on 21.11.2025 in connection with large scale illegal mining, theft, transportation, storage and sale of coal. During the search action, cash and jewellery/gold amounting to more than Rs.14 crore along with substantial volume of incriminating evidence, including various property deeds linked to the coal syndicate and agreements related to the sale and purchase of land, and several digital devices, books of accounts of entities controlled by the said persons, etc. were found and seized.

The 20 premises in Jharkhand are located in Dhanbad & Dumka which are mainly linked to Lal Bahadur Singh, Anil Goyal, Sanjay Khemka, Amar Mondal, their companies/entities & related persons.

The 24 premises in West Bengal are located in Durgapur, Purulia, Howrah and Kolkata. The searches in West Bengal were conducted across various residential premises, offices, illegal toll collection booth and coke plants in West Bengal linked to Narendra Kharka, Krishna Murari Kayal, Yudhishthir Ghosh, Raj Kishore Yadav, Lokesh Singh, Chinmay Mondal, Nirad Baran Mondal and others. More than 100 officers of ED were involved in the searches accompanied by CRPF personnel.

ED investigation is based on multiple FIRs filed by West Bengal and Jharkhand Police in the matter of illegal coal smuggling primarily operating between West Bengal and Jharkhand. The FIRs indicate that a vast network is operating across West Bengal-Jharkhand Border involved inillegal supply ofcoal from Jharkhand into the state of West Bengal without any valid documents. The documents and other records seized during the searches have corroborated the allegations levelled in the FIRs and has also led to the identification of an organised racket operating with help of local authorities. It has revealed that the syndicate is very active in the border areas of West Bengal and Jharkhand and has generated huge proceeds of crime. Further, variousdiaries and registers containing the description of illegal cash collection and their beneficiaries have also been recovered.

During searches conducted at 3 coke plants in West Bengal coal and coal aggregates measuring around 7.9 lakhs MT were identified to be kept illegally.

Further investigation is in progress.