



PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Headquarters Office has conducted searches at nine locations in Keonjhar and Bhubaneswar on 10.07.2025 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The searches were conducted at residential and office premises of Soumya Shankar Chakra alias Raja Chakra and his related entities.

The operation forms part of a money laundering probe into the large-scale embezzlement of public funds from Gandhamardan Loading Agency and Transporting Co-operative Society Ltd., Keonjhar. Though the Society was set up to support its members through transportation of iron ore from OMC mines, it was allegedly turned into a front for siphoning funds by Chakra in collusion with the office bearers of the society.

So far, Rs. 40 Crore (approx.) has been found to be misappropriated through forged records, manipulated work orders, and inflated/ fake expenses under heads such as periphery development, fuel, and transport. Though Chakra was not an office bearer of the society, the probe reveals that he exercised extreme influence and controlled the day-to-day decisions of the society.

Nearly 50 vehicles with registration numbers ending with '21' used for illegal mining and transportation owned by Chakra and his benami entities have been identified during the search. Vehicles are found to be purchased using Proceeds of Crime (POC) and used in generating further POC.

ED is also probing diversion of illicit funds into the liquor business of Raja Chakra, licensed in the name of his wife, Mrs. Rupali Pattanaik. Search action revealed that though the licence to run the liquor shop was in the name of Rupali Pattanaik, payments for the sale of liquor were received in accounts of other family members.

During the search, multiple bank accounts belonging to Chakra have been freezed. Various incriminating documents and digital devices have been seized during search which are being examined.

Further investigation is under progress.