



Press Release  
28.02.2025

On the basis of Operational Analysis Report in the case of Money Mule Accounts received from FIU-IND, Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bhubaneswar Zonal office after conducting preliminary investigations has conducted search operations at the office and residences of Forest range officials of Jaipatna Range, Kalahandi South division, District Kalahandi, Odisha on 28.02.2025.

Specific inputs received and preliminary investigations conducted by ED revealed that certain forest department officials were involved in the using of a number of mule accounts to divert huge amounts of money and misappropriate funds meant for various government schemes. Investigation also revealed that officials of the rank of forest guard and ranger were involved in opening of 121 mule accounts in the name of different individuals in which funds were received through NEFT from the range office followed by immediate withdrawals through ATM. Many of these accounts were opened using the same mobile numbers. Total diversion of funds of the Forest Department is suspected to be in excess of Rs. 2.5 Crore.

During the search operations, various ATM cards of mule accounts, mobile phones, withdrawal slips, digital devices, incriminating documents and an illegal suspected tiger skin has been seized.

Further investigation is under progress.

