



## **Press Release**

**17.02.2025**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jammu Sub Zonal Office has conducted search operations under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh on 13.02.2025 in the case of **Raees Ahmed Bhat and Others** in respect of various persons/entities indulged in the operation of unauthorized sales and diversions of **Codeine Based Cough Syrup (CBCS)** and associated illicit monetary gains, in the form of Proceeds of Crime.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Jammu, wherein Raees Ahmed Bhat was found involved in trafficking of CBCS, widely misused as intoxicant by drug addicts. CBCS brand named, "Cocrex", from manufacturer, M/s Vidit Healthcare, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh (managing partner, Neeraj Bhatia R/o Panipat, Haryana) was found procured, unauthorizedly diverted and sold via shell entities viz. M/s S S Industries, Faridabad (Owner Sumesh Sareen R/o Faridabad), and N.K Pharmaceuticals, Kansal Pharmaceuticals, Kansal Industries and Ors. controlled by Niket Kansal and his family members R/o Delhi with his accomplice, Garv Bhambhari R/o Faridabad.

ED investigation revealed that during 2018-24, M/s Kansal Industries, M/s Kansal Pharmaceuticals, M/s N K Pharmaceuticals, M/s Noveta Pharma and M/s S S Industry were procuring CBCS from M/s Vidit Healthcare and indulged in unauthorized distribution of the same. The license of many of such entities were also cancelled by drug controlling authorities. During 2019-25, around 55 Lakh bottles of CBCS, were procured by N.K Pharmaceuticals and other such entities, against payment of more than Rs. 20 Crore to M/s Vidit Healthcare. The same were suspected to have been diverted in open market, generating huge amount of Proceeds of Crime, with major part as cash deposits and other related bank transactions, into such entities.

The searches resulted into seizure of unexplained cash of **Rs. 40.62 Lakh**, jewellery worth **Rs. 1.61 Crore** and various documentary and digital evidence. During the search operations, 02 accused persons, viz. Garv Bhambhari and Mamta Kansal (mother of Niket Kansal), who are absconding in NCB case were also traced and the information was shared with NCB, for appropriate proceedings.

Further investigation is under progress.



Vidit Healthcare Factory, Sirmaur, HP