



PRESS RELEASE

24.01.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has conducted follow up search operations on 17.01.2024 at 13 locations in Mumbai, Lucknow, Delhi & Ahmedabad under the provisions of Prevention of Money Landering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with a money laundering case against Drug Trafficker Ali Asgar Shirazi & others.

ED had initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Jogeshwari Police Station, Mumbai invoking various sections of NDPS Act, 1985 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 against Ali Asgar Shirazi & others.

ED investigation revealed that the drug syndicate operated by Aliasgar Shirazi & Ors. included Telecommunication Companies running call centres/websites, Logistic Companies, Consultancy Companies and Dummy Pharma Companies wherein illegal shipping of opioids from India to foreign countries and routing of the proceeds of the sale of the same to India using various channels was done. The search operations have revealed that various companies incorporated in USA by members of this syndicate have been operating Payment Gateways. The said payment gateways have been used by this syndicate to route the proceeds of sale of opioids in USA to India. During the investigation, it was found that there were huge cash deposits in the accounts linked to Ali Asgar Shirazi and related persons/entities, which prima facie appears to be illegal money earned via selling of various drugs like ketamine.

During the search, ED has seized a total of Rs. 2.17 Crore in FDRs and cash. Further, several digital devices including mobile phones & laptops and incriminating documents related to properties and records of transactions related to opioid medicines were also seized.

ED had arrested Drug trafficker Ali Asgar Shirazi on 05.01.2024 and the Hon'ble PMLA Court, Mumbai has given custody of Ali Asgar Shirazi to ED up to 18.01.2024. Moreover, during investigation of the case, searches were also conducted at 10 locations in Mumbai in the month of October, 2023 in which Rs. 62.61 Lakh in cash and valuables and several digital devices including mobile phones & laptops and other incriminating records were seized.

Further investigation is under progress.