Press Release
31.12.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office has conducted searches under PMLA, 2002 on 29.12.2025 at ten premises located in Raipur and Mahasamund in the State of Chhattisgarh at the residential and official premises of Harmeet Singh Khanuja and others in the case of illegal compensation received for land acquisition for the Raipur–Visakhapatnam Highway Project under the Bharatmala Scheme.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the ACB/EOW, Raipur against Nirbhay Sahu, the then SDO (Revenue), Abhanpur, Raipur and others under various Sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Indian Penal Code, 1860. The FIR alleges that illegal compensation was received by the accused persons in collusion with government officials through falsification of official records for land acquisition for the Raipur–Visakhapatnam Highway project .

ED investigation revealed that the accused persons, in criminal conspiracy with certain public servants, fraudulently obtained excess compensation for land acquired under the Bharatmala Project by “deliberately dividing large land parcels” among family members through back-dated entries. This artificial division of land was carried out to project multiple smaller holdings prior to land acquisition, thereby exploiting the compensation framework to claim higher compensation. Revenue records were manipulated to reflect such divisions as having occurred before the acquisition process, leading to sanction and disbursement of inflated illegal compensation amounts. The excess illegal compensation so received constituted Proceeds of Crime (POC) and resulted in wrongful loss to the Government exchequer and corresponding unlawful gain to the accused persons.

The search action resulted into seizure of cash amounting to Rs. 40 Lakh, digital devices and various incriminating documents. Also, several movable and immovable assets acquired in the names of persons involved from the POC generated from the commission of the scheduled offence were identified during the search action.

Further investigation is under progress.