Press Release
23.12.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office, has arrested Niranjan Das on 19.12.2025 in connection with the **Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam** under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. He was produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, which has granted ED custody for three days i.e. till 22.12.2025.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by ACB/EOW, Raipur, Chhattisgarh under various sections of the IPC, 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Police investigation has revealed that the Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam caused a massive loss to the State Exchequer and generated more than Rs. 2500 Crore of Proceeds of Crime (POC), enriching the beneficiaries through scheduled offences.

ED investigation revealed that Niranjan Das was in receipt of POC worth approximately Rs. 18 Crore. Furthermore, evidence collected in the form of digital records, seized records and written statements establishes that he was an active accomplice of the liquor syndicate.

Investigation has established that Niranjan Das, an IAS officer, was granted additional charge of the Excise Commissioner and Secretary, Excise department solely to facilitate commission of liquor scam by the syndicate. Investigation conducted in this regard has revealed that he forsook his statutory duties as Excise Commissioner, facilitated the loot of government revenues, and allowed the syndicate to operate unchecked in exchange for his monthly payment of Rs. 50 lakh. He used to direct field officers for increasing sale of unaccounted kacha/unaccounted illicit liquor in their respective jurisdiction. His role was central to the commission of the predicate offence, subsequent laundering of POC and making the loot of state resources possible in such a blatant manner.

It is pertinent to mention that other than Niranjan Das, Anil Tuteja (Ex-IAS); Arvind Singh; Trilok Singh Dhillon; Anwar Dhebar; Arun Pati Tripathi (ITS); Kawasi Lakhma (MLA and then Excise Minister of Chhattisgarh); Chaitanya Baghel (son of Ex-CM) ; Mrs. Soumya Chaurasia were also arrested by the ED in the matter.

Further investigation is under progress.