Press Release
19.12.2025

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Raipur Zonal Office, has arrested Smt. Saumya Chaurasia on 16.12.2025 in connection with the Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. She was produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, which has granted ED custody for three days, till 19.12.2025.

ED initiated investigation on 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 Smt. Saumya Chaurasia was in receipt of POC worth approximately Rs. 115.5 Crore. Furthermore, evidence collected in the form of digital records, seized material, and written statements establishe that Smt. Saumya Chaurasia was an active accomplice of the liquor syndicate. Digital evidence confirms her role as the central coordinating figure and intermediary between key members of the syndicate, including Anil Tuteja and Chaitanya Baghel, thereby facilitating the generation and laundering of illicit funds. Also, recovered chats reveal her involvement in the initial organization of the syndicate, including assistance in placing Arun Pati Tripathi and Niranjan Das in crucial positions within the Excise Department.

Earlier, 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) were arrested by the ED in the matter.

Further investigation is under progress.