

Press Release
30.10.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office-I, has conducted search operations on 28.10.2026, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 across 11 premises in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), as well as Surat and Bhavnagar (Gujarat) to trace the drug trafficking network and Proceeds of Crime (PoC) generated through the illicit drug trade acquired by a well-established international narcotics syndicate headed by Navin Chichkar, Dhiraj Chichkar, and their associates. Searches were conducted to trace the modus through which drug sale proceeds received mainly in cash, was infused in financial economy and further layered so as to project the same as legitimate income.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of a complaint filed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Mumbai, under various provisions of the NDPS Act, following the seizure of substantial quantities of high-grade hydroponic cannabis (Ganja), cocaine and unaccounted cash in Mumbai/Navi Mumbai. Navin Chichkar and others were allegedly involved in an established international network engaged in the sale of cocaine, hydroponic cannabis, LSD and cannabis edibles, largely sourced from outside India.

During the course of searches various incriminating material and digital devices including high-end smartphones, laptops, and internal storage media, along with commercial books of accounts, financial ledgers, and investment records were seized.

The Searches have revealed that proceeds generated from the sale of narcotic drugs were routed and cash was **converted into foreign currencies**, including US dollars and Thai Baht, which were subsequently made available to the accused. Moreover, proceeds of crime in cash was also invested in certain legitimate businesses so that the same is shown as untainted money.

Searches were also conducted at the premises relating to “Crypto Trader(s)” which revealed details of certain “**Crypto Wallets / Assets** prima-facie linked to the proceeds of crime. It is gathered that the suspected person(s) operating a number of Crypto Trading accounts from outside India. The identified details are being examined to trace linked accounts, transaction histories, and to secure Proceeds of Crime.

Further investigation is under progress.