

VIGILANCE DIRECTORATE
ODISHA, CUTTACK.



PRESS RELEASE

Dt.18.06.2026

**ANKUI FORESTER UNDER DELANG FOREST RANGE, DIST-PURI
ARRESTED BY ODISHA VIGILANCE FOR TAKING BRIBE RS.25,000/-
TO ALLOW A TRACTOR OWNER TO PASS THROUGH FOREST ROAD.**

FURTHER, CASH RS.1.41 LAKHS SEIZED DURING HOUSE SEARCH.

Today i.e. on 18.06.2026, Rakesh Kumar Panda, Forester, Ankui under Delang Forest Range, Dist-Puri has been **apprehended** by Odisha Vigilance for demanding and taking undue advantage (bribe) of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-five Thousand) from a tractor owner to allow him to take his tractor carrying excavated earth to his field through a forest road, threatening to seize it otherwise. The accused Forester Sri Panda demanded bribe Rs.25,000/- from the tractor owner to allow him to use the forest road. Finding no other means, the complt. (tractor owner) reported the matter to vigilance authorities.

Based on the above complaint, a trap was laid on 18.06.2026, wherein the accused Rakesh Kumar Panda, Forester was **nabbed** by the team of Odisha Vigilance in his office room for demanding and taking undue advantage (bribe) of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-five Thousand) from a tractor owner. The entire bribe money was recovered and seized from the possession of Sri Panda in presence of witnesses. Right hand wash of Sri Panda gave positive chemical reaction, confirming taking and handling of bribe money by him. Following the trap, **simultaneous searches have been launched** on the Govt. residential quarter of Sri Panda at Ankui and residential house at Khordha. During house search, cash Rs.1.41 lakh was recovered from his house at Khordha and seized. Accused

Rakesh Kumar Panda, Forester has been arrested and is being forwarded to the Court.

In this connection, Bhubaneswar Vigilance PS Case No.11 dated 17.06.2026 U/s 7 Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered and is under investigation.