Press Release
22.09.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Headquarters Office, has arrested **Gaurav Dawar S/o Sh. Ashok Dawar** on 17.09.2026 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with a case involving large scale import of drugs (heroin), concealed in semi processed talc, alongside linked narcotics seizures across Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana. Accused Gaurav Dawar was produced before the Ld. Special Judge (PMLA), Tis Hazari Courts (West District), New Delhi, on 18.09.2026, wherein the Hon'ble Court was pleased to remand the accused to 05 days of ED Custody.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of FIR registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the provisions of UAPA, 1967, NDPS Act, 1985 and IPC, 1860 against Harpreet Singh Talwar and others for the drug smuggling activities.

Earlier NIA had filed six charge sheets in the case wherein NIA had charged multiple accused for conspiring with international drug smuggling syndicate based out of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Dubai, operating under the mastermind Vitaysh Koser @ Raju Dubai, a wanted accused, along with Pakistani ISI agents and Afghan nationals. Investigation has also revealed that proceeds to the tune of Rs. 74 Crore generated from illegal sale of narcotic drugs have been transferred via hawala to Afghanistan and used for funding terrorist activities.

ED investigation has revealed generation of Proceeds of Crime (PoC) totaling Rs. 89 Crore, through contraband smuggling, distribution of drug proceeds and Hawala operation including the aforesaid Hawala of the Rs. 74 Crore initially identified by NIA. Further investigation is under progress to identify additional Proceeds of Crime generated in this process.

In this case multiple rounds of searches under PMLA, 2002 have been conducted, with latest round of searches being conducted between 15.07.2026 to 17.07.2026. Investigation further revealed that Gaurav Dawar along with co-accused Harpreet Singh Talwar, received remuneration in kind and hawala for facilitating smuggling of narcotics consignments sent by the international drug syndicate. The remuneration in kind received by the conspirators include prohibited items like “Gudangaram Cigarettes’, “Beetel nut” consignments including dry dates, perfumes etc. from the mastermind Raju Dubai.

In addition to this, it has been revealed that Gaurav Dawar received cash in AED directly from Raju Dubai multiple times when he visited Dubai for facilitating the smuggling.

ED investigation further revealed that the tainted proceeds derived from narcotics trafficking and contraband smuggling were systematically layered and integrated into commercial hospitality ventures, night clubs, and luxury assets. Gaurav Dawar made cash investments in the Delhi based night clubs namely “Play boy club and white club” operated through the entity M/s Newera Feast and Hospitality Pvt Ltd. (NFHPL) along with co accused.

The above arrest action by ED is part of the **‘Whole of the Government’** approach to break the drug smuggling racket and the nexus involved in drug smuggling, money laundering and hawala transactions. ED is committed to upholding national security and the integrity of India's economic fabric.

Further investigation is under progress.

***