**Press Release**
**16.01.2026**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Nagpur Sub-Zonal Office has carried out search operations under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at 16 premises located in Bhopal, Hoshangabad & Betul Districts of Madhya Pradesh and Nagpur & Bhandra Districts of Maharashtra, in respect to investigation relating to Illegal Sand Mining from the Sand Ghats located in and around area of Nagpur and Bhandra Districts of Maharashtra.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of offences registered under various Sections of IPC, 1860 at Sadar and Ambazari Police Station of Nagpur City against Narendra Pimple, Amol alias Guddu Khorgade and others. They were accused of running an organized illegal sand mining operation by using forged and fake Electronic Transit Permits to extract, transport and sell sand unlawfully. It was revealed that despite the sand ghats around Nagpur were closed but the sand mafia in collusion with transporters and others were actively engaged in illegal excavation of sand from the sand ghats and receiving fake royalties from Madhya Pradesh and using the same to sell illegal sand in Nagpur. Several such cases have been booked by the Police Authorities against the offenders.

The money laundering investigation conducted by the ED has revealed that illegal sand mining was being carried out on a large scale by organized sand mafia groups. They adopted a planned and deceptive method to avoid detection by law enforcement agencies during transportation of illegal sand. Investigation has shown that a syndicate led by one Rahul Khanna and Bablu Agarwal was preparing false and fabricated Electronic Transit Permits (ETPs) in the name of legally leased sand ghats located in Madhya Pradesh. These fake ETPs were sold to sand mafia operators in Nagpur for amounts ranging from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 10,000 per ETP. Using these fake ETPs, the sand mafia operators transported illegally excavated sand from sand ghats located in Nagpur and nearby areas. However, in government records, they falsely showed that the sand was loaded from legally leased ghats in Madhya Pradesh. The vehicle numbers mentioned in the ETPs were also shown as valid and registered on the government portal. However, analysis of GPS data of these vehicles revealed that the vehicles never travelled to the Madhya Pradesh ghats as mentioned in the ETPs. Instead, during the same time period shown in the ETPs, the vehicles made repeated trips from illegal sand ghats in and around Nagpur. Through this method, the accused persons earned large illegal profits and caused heavy loss to the Government by evading royalty and taxes. The Proceeds of Crime (POC) generated from these activities are prima facie estimated to be more than Rs. 30 Crore.

The search operation led to seizure of unaccounted/unexplainable Cash of Rs. 38.43 Lakh, voluminous incriminating documents/records/property papers, digital devices containing evidence of illegal sand mining & thereby deriving huge POC and investing the same in acquisition of properties. Searches also led to freezing of movable assets in the form of bank balance worth Rs. 1.34 Crore & seizure of 08 Vehicles consisting 01 BMW, 02 Fortuner, 01 Thar, 02 JCB Machines & 02 Pokland Machines.

Further investigation is under progress.









