Press Release

09.09.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office – II conducted searches from 07.09.2026 to 09.09.2026 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, at nine premises located in Kolkata, Ranchi and New Delhi, linked to M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. and its associate entities and Directors. The persons/ entities covered during the search include office premises of Akhbar-E-Mashriq Pvt Ltd, M/s Crayons Advertising and M/s Mashriq Media Pvt Ltd and residential premises of Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, MP, TMC & others.

ED investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate against M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. (publisher of the Urdu daily newspaper "Akhbar-e-Mashriq") and others alleging publication and dissemination of material promoting communal disharmony through its newspaper and through social media/digital platforms along with allegations of dubious transactions in its accounts.

ED investigation revealed that M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. maintained several bank accounts across Karnataka Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), ICICI Bank and J&K Bank, reflecting cumulative cash deposits of more than Rs. 60 Crore. Three accounts, maintained with Karnataka Bank, in which cash deposits of Rs. 5.60 Crore (Approx) had been made, were subsequently closed by the company. Scrutiny of the accounts also revealed bitcoin purchase transactions emanating from tainted sources, without any identifiable business rationale.

ED investigation also revealed that M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. is inflating the number of copies of its newspaper claimed to have been printed, far in excess of the actual number of copies printed, with the intent of misrepresenting its circulation figures and thereby securing higher advertisement revenues.

Search operation resulted in seizure of various incriminating documents and digital devices including mobile phones, laptops and hard drives. Further, bank accounts of M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd., having balances of Rs. 5.25 Crore (approx.), have also been frozen.

Further investigation is under progress.

Draft tweet:

ED, Kolkata conducted searches from 07.09.2026 to 09.09.2026 under PMLA, 2002 at 09 locations in Kolkata, Ranchi & New Delhi linked to M/s Akhbar-e-Mashriq Pvt. Ltd. & ors. Incriminating documents & digital devices were seized, and bank balances of ₹5.25 Crore (Approx) were frozen.