



PRESS RELEASE
20/7/2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar Zonal Office, has conducted search operations under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 on 16.07.2026 at 16 premises in connection with the illegal mining of sand carried out on Shamlat land situated in Village Bhattian (Gol Panchayat), District Pathankot, which was allegedly transferred illegally through an impugned order passed by the then Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kuldeep Singh.

During the search operations, various incriminating documents relating to the illegal mining of sand and river bed material were recovered and seized from the searched premises. Unaccounted cash amounting to Rs.1.75 Crore was seized and further, freezing order on bank accounts with aggregate balance amounting to Rs. 91,34,322/- was issued under the provisions of Section 17(1A) of the PMLA, 2002.

The investigation under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Police Station, Vigilance Bureau, Amritsar against Kuldeep Singh and eight other accused in connection with the illegal transfer of common village (Shamlat) land situated in Village Bhattian, Gol Panchayat, District Pathankot, to private individuals. The alleged land, on the banks of the Ravi River, is situated close to the International Border. The appointment of Kuldeep Singh as ADC (Rural Development), Pathankot was done on the recommendation of a minister of the state government four days before his superannuation. He passed the alleged order one day before his superannuation from government service.

M/s Shree Sai Stone Crusher and Screener, M/s Shiv Shankar Stone Crusher, related entities, along with their key management personnel, who were involved in the illegal excavation of sand from the said land, were covered during the search operations.

The main finding against the individuals and the entities covered in the search is that they have illegally excavated/purchased/sold/transported sand/river-bed-material without proper authorisation and paying due taxes and royalty. The role of certain state government officials suspected to be involved in facilitating such illegal mining activity and for not taking any preventive/corrective measures thereby causing huge loss to the state exchequer is also under investigation. It was further revealed that trucks/tippers/excavators have been operating in the area rampantly during night time, some even without number plates, indicating an organized illegal mining operation.

