



**Press Release**

**22.08.2025**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Ranchi Zonal Office has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) before the Hon'ble Special PMLA Court, Ranchi, against Ankit Raj, son of former Jharkhand Minister Yogendra Sao, and six of his associates on 21/8/2025 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in a case of large-scale illegal sand mining and money laundering. The other accused arraigned are Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Pancham Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Manoj Prasad Dangi, Anil Kumar, and Bindeshwar Kumar Dangi.

ED initiated a money laundering investigation based on sixteen FIRs registered by the Jharkhand Police against Yogendra Sao, his family, and their associates. The predicate offences include a range of serious criminal activities such as extortion, illegal sand mining, disruption of government work, and the operation of an unlawful outfit known as the Jharkhand Tiger Group.

ED investigation revealed that Ankit Raj was the mastermind of a systematic and multi-layered illegal sand mining syndicate that generated substantial Proceeds of Crime (POC). The investigation established that Ankit Raj, in collusion with his associates, continued to illegally extract and sell sand from the Haharo, Plandu, and Damodar rivers long after his mining license had expired in 2019.

The syndicate adopted a sophisticated modus operandi to launder the illicit profits. This involved concealing illegally mined sand by mixing it with legal stock at the licensed yards of his associates, generating POC through the evasion of statutory regulations, and laundering the illicit funds through a complex network of cash deposits and financial transactions.

Through these criminal activities, Ankit Raj and his syndicate generated POC quantified at over Rs. 3.12 Crore. The ED has so far identified and provisionally attached immovable and movable properties worth Rs. 3.02 Crore, including 28 properties and two fixed deposits belonging to Ankit Raj.

Searches conducted by the ED at multiple locations in March, 2024 and July, 2025 led to the seizure of incriminating documents, digital devices, and unaccounted cash, which further corroborated the syndicate's operations.

Further investigation is under progress.