

## Press Release 19.07.2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar Zonal Office has conducted search operations on 16/7/2024 at 7 locations in Punjab, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh related to liquor company M/s Malbros International Pvt Ltd and premises linked to its erstwhile Director Gautam Malhotra S/o Deep Malhotra in a money laundering investigation related to environmental crime.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of Criminal Complaint case filed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ferozepur, against M/s Malbros International Pvt Ltd for violation of various sections of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by contaminating Soil and Ground water in and around its factory premise.

ED investigation revealed that the accused entity discharged industrial effluents in the bore-wells illicitly installed in the premise of its industrial unit leading to soil and water contamination which resulted in public health risk and cattle deaths in and around adjacent areas.

ED investigation revealed that money generated through environmental crime has further been used for business activities of the company. Money trail thereof would be investigated during further investigation.

The search operation resulted in the recovery of digital devices and incriminating documents. Further, unaccounted cash to the tune of Rs. 78.15 Lakh were recovered and seized under the provisions of PMLA, 2002.

Further investigation is under progress.