



**Press Release**  
**05.09.2023**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has seized approx. 4 kgs of gold bullion and gold jewelry worth Rs. 2.12 Crore (approx.) on 04.09.2023 during search operation conducted under provisions of PMLA, 2002 for the bank lockers in Ludhiana belonging to the accused persons and their associates in **Punjab Tender Scam** case.

Earlier, ED carried out search operations on 24.08.2023 in **Punjab Tender Scam** case at the residential premises of Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Ex-Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Punjab and his associates at 25 locations at Ludhiana, Mohali, Nawanshahr, Jalandhar and Amritsar in Punjab. The search operations on 24.08.2023 had led to seizure of cash and freezing of funds lying in the bank accounts and freezing of properties at an aggregate amount of more than Rs. 6.5 Crore. During the course of search and seizure actions on 24.08.2023, the said bank lockers were put under freeze. After the recent searches, the total value of recovery including seizure and freezing in this case has reached to more than Rs. 8.6 Crore.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by Vigilance Bureau of Ludhiana, under various sections of IPC 1860 and of PC Act, 1988. On the basis of information available, investigation was initiated against the above said persons and their associates in order to ascertain the money laundering activities undertaken by them for laundering the proceeds of crime.

Further Investigation is under progress.