



**Press Release**  
**10.07.2025**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar has carried out search operations at 11 locations across states of Punjab and Haryana in districts of Amritsar, Sangrur, Patiala & Moga; and Ambala, Kurukshetra, and Karnal on 09.07.2025 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with a money laundering investigation in 'Donkey Route Case' related to Indians deported from USA in Feb 2025. During the searches, various incriminating documents, records and digital devices were recovered and seized.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by Punjab Police and Haryana Police under various sections of BNS 2023(erstwhile IPC 1860) and Immigration Act, 1983.

During investigation it was revealed that persons who were willing to go to USA were duped by travel agents and middlemen on false promises of sending them through legal channels. However they were sent to USA through 'Donkey route' by crossing the borders of various countries illegally through dangerous routes with the help of donkers [human trafficking conduits] and the mafia. Further, the agents, in collusion with donkers and the mafia, used to create threatening situations for the persons to extort more money from the family members.

During search as many as 30 original passports were found in the house of one of the agents who was involved in sending the people through the 'donkey route'. Credible evidence have been recovered which indicates that agents have done cash/hawala transactions of many crores of Rupees by duping prospective clients. Also, during search names of various agents and immigration agencies has come into notice who are carrying out illegal dunkey route business on large scale.

Further investigation is under progress.