Directorate of Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a Prosecution Complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 before the Hon'ble Special Court under PMLA at Ranchi against (i) Pankaj Mishra, (ii) Bachhu Yadav and (iii) Prem Prakash. The Hon'ble Court was pleased to take the cognizance of the same on 20.09.2022. During investigation, 47 number of searches were conducted throughout India on several dates resulting into the seizure of Cash amounting to Rs. 5.34 Crore, freezing of bank balances amounting to Rs. 13.32 Crore, freezing of an inland vessel MV Infralink -III, reg. No- WB 1809, 5 number of stone crushers, two nos. of Hyva trucks besides the seizure of incriminating documents along with two numbers of AK 47 Assault Rifles. Earlier ED had arrested Pankaj Mishra on 19.07.2022, Bachhu Yadav on 04.08.2022 and Prem Prakash on 25.08.2022. The accused persons so arrested are presently in judicial custody.

ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Barharwa Police Station, Sahebganj District, Jharkhand under various sections of IPC, 1860, against Pankaj Mishra & others. Later on, several FIRs regarding illegal mining lodged under IPC, Explosive substances Act, Arms Act have also been taken into the ambit of scheduled offence. Till date, ED has identified POC relating to illegal mining to the tune of more than Rs. 1000 Crore in this case.

PMLA Investigation revealed that Pankaj Mishra, who enjoys political clout, being the representative of the Chief Minister, MLA from Barhait, Sahebganj, Jharkhand controls the illegal mining businesses as well as inland ferry services in Sahebganj and its adjoining areas through his accomplices. He exercises considerable control over the mining of stone chips and boulders as well as installation and operations of several crushers, set up across various mining sites in Sahebganj. Proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 42 Crore approx. acquired by the accused Pankaj Mishra have been identified till date.

Further investigation in the case is in progress.

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