



**Press Release**

**19.01.2022**

Enforcement Directorate has carried out search operation in the illegal sand mining case, at the business and residential premises of the accused persons and their associates including Kudratdeep Singh, M/s Pinjore Royalty Company and its Partners/shareholders Kanwarmahip Singh & Manpreet Singh, Sunil Kumar Joshi, Jagveer Inder Singh, Randeep Singh, M/s Providers Overseas Consultants Pvt Ltd & it's other Directors/shareholders including Bhupinder Singh & Sandeep Kumar at Mohali, Ludhiana, Rupnagar, Fatehgarh Sahib and Pathankot. During the course of search, various incriminating documents related to sand mining business, property transactions; mobile phones, Indian currency more than Rs 10 Crore, Gold worth above 21 lakhs and a Rolex watch worth Rs 12 lakhs were found and seized from the search premises.

ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Police Station – Shaheed Bhagat Singh (SBS) Nagar, Punjab, under section 379, 420, 465, 467, 468 and 471 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 21(1) and 4(1) of Mines and Minerals (Regulation of Development) Act, 1957. In the aforesaid FIR, it was mentioned that a team comprising of officials of Mining Department, Civil Administration and Police Department made a surprise check on 07.03.2018 on the basis of a complaint received at the Police Station – Rahon, SBS Nagar regarding illegal sand mining. Consequently, it was found that several mines were being excavated by various machines and mining was being carried out beyond the designated area. Accordingly, several tippers/trucks, Porcelain machines, JCB Machines etc. were captured and seized by the investigating team. The seized tipper/trucks were also found to be overloaded with sand. The seized weighment slips having office stamps had actually not been issued by the concerned office and were forged. Subsequently, the mining operation at Malikpur mining site was stopped and also the approval of weighment Slips was stopped by the team. As per the FIR, apart from Malikpur, illegal mining activities were also carried out at Burjtahl Das, Barsal, Lalewal, Mandala and Khosa.

On the basis of information available, investigation was initiated against the above said mine owners and their associates in order to ascertain the money laundering activities undertaken by them for laundering their proceeds of crime.

Further Investigation in this case is ongoing.

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