PRESS RELE5SE
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The Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla has declared Ashoni Kanwar (mother) and Mandeep Rana (son) as Fugitive Economic Offenders as per the provisions of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, (FEOA) 2018 in the **Fake Degree Scam Case** vide order dated 03.01.2026 based on the application filed by the ED, Shimla Sub Zonal Office.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of three FIRs registered by Dharampur Police Station, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh under various sections of IPC, 1860.

ED investigation revealed that the accused Raj Kumar Rana with the help of his other co-accused including his wife Ashoni Kanwar and son Mandeep Rana sold fake degrees in lieu of money from agents/students. These fake degrees were sold in the name of **Manav Bharti University, Solan** and the Proceeds of Crime generated through this sale of fake degrees is quantified at **Rs 387 Crore**.

The money obtained from this illegal activity was used by Raj Kumar Rana, Ashoni Kanwar and Mandeep Rana to acquire various movable and immovable assets across various states in their own names and in the names of other related entities. ED has attached assets amounting to **Rs. 200 Crore (approx.)** till date in the matter and the attachments have been confirmed by Ld. Adjudicating Authority, PMLA.

Earlier in this case, ED had also filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) before Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh against 14 persons and 02 entities including Raj Kumar Rana, Ashoni Kanwar, Mandeep Rana and others under the PMLA, 2002. The Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA) took cognizance of the PC on 04.01.2023 and issued summonses to Ashoni Kanwar and Mandeep Rana, which were not complied by them. Pursuant thereto, open ended Non Bailable Warrants were issued by the Hon'ble Court on 04.11.2023 against Ashoni Kanwar and Mandeep Rana.

Further, during the course of investigation it was revealed that Ashoni Kanwar and Mandeep Rana had both fled the country after registration of FIRs against Manav Bharti University and presently residing in **Australia**. Both the persons were summoned to join the investigation but they never joined the investigation. Moreover, all out efforts were made to bring both the accused back to India to face the trial but both accused refused to return to India to face criminal prosecution.

Accordingly, an application under FEOA, 2018 was filed by ED, Shimla Sub Zonal Office as per section 4 of the FEOA, 2018 seeking to declare Ashoni Kanwar and Mandeep Rana as Fugitive Economic Offenders and the same was allowed by the Ld. Special Court (PMLA) Shimla vide its order dated 03.01.2026.

Further investigation is under progress.



Ashoni Kanwar



Mandeep Rana