PRESS RELEASE

24.04.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Shimla Sub-Zonal Office, has successfully obtained an order for confiscation of two properties belonging to accused **Mandeep Rana** vide order dated **23.04.2026,** who has been declared a **Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)** on 03.01.2026, by the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla. The Hon'ble Special Court was pleased to order for confiscation of the said properties belonging to Mandeep Rana after the application for the same was filed before the Court.

ED initiated investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, based on three FIRs registered at Dharampur Police Station, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh under various Sections of the IPC, 1860 (scheduled offences under the PMLA), in connection with a large-scale fake degree scam involving Manav Bharti University and its associated entities.

ED investigation revealed that Raj Kumar Rana, in criminal conspiracy with the co-accused including his wife Ashoni Kanwar and son Mandeep Rana, orchestrated a well-organized racket for selling fake degrees through agents and intermediaries. These fraudulent degrees were issued in the name of Manav Bharti University, Solan in exchange for money from students.

The magnitude of the fraud is alarming, with Proceeds of Crime quantified at approximately Rs. 387 Crore. This is a very severe financial offence where the accused played with the careers, aspirations and futures of countless young individuals, placing them at severe academic and professional risk for petty financial gains.

The Proceeds of Crime were systematically layered and laundered through a network of transactions and subsequently invested in acquisition of movable and immovable properties across multiple states in the names of the accused persons and their related entities. ED has attached assets worth approximately Rs. 200 Crore till date, all of which have been confirmed by the Hon'ble Adjudicating Authority under the PMLA.

However, in flagrant and calculated defiance of the judicial process, Mandeep Rana wilfully disregarded and failed to comply with the summons issued by the Hon'ble Court, consciously choosing to evade the due process of law. Despite repeated summons and exhaustive, sustained efforts undertaken by the ED to secure his presence, the accused has deliberately and persistently refused to join the investigation or submit to the jurisdiction of Indian courts. Such conduct constitutes a brazen and intentional obstruction of justice. Consequently, stringent coercive proceedings were compelled to be initiated against him in accordance with law.

In view of their continued evasion, ED initiated proceedings under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 against Mandeep Rana was declared a Fugitive Economic Offender on 03.01.2026 and has delivered a decisive blow to a massive fake degree racket by securing a confiscation order against Fugitive Economic Offender Mandeep Rana vide order dated 23.04.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla by filing an application under Section 12(2) of the said Act seeking confiscation of his properties.

The Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Shimla has now allowed the application and ordered confiscation of the immovable properties belonging to Mandeep Rana who has been declared the Fugitive economic offender by the special court.

The above properties sought for confiscation have already been attached under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 and the court held that the same are liable to be proceeded against for confiscation under section 12(2) of the FEO Act, 2018. The Hon'ble Court unequivocally held that an application under section 4(c) of the FEO Act for confiscation can validly rely on the findings and attachments made in the corresponding PMLA proceedings and the same constitute sufficient proof that the properties sought to be confiscated under the present proceedings are indeed Proceeds of Crime within the meaning of FEO Act.

The present confiscation order is a clear and explicit assertion of deterrence against evasion of Indian law. It sends a powerful message that absconding from the country or defying the judicial process will not shield offenders from stringent legal consequences. ED remains steadfast in its commitment to trace fugitive offenders, secure their return to India through all lawful means, and ensure that they face the due process of law. Simultaneously, relentless efforts will continue to identify, attach, and confiscate all properties linked to Proceeds of Crime, thereby dismantling the financial backbone of such criminal networks.

Further investigation is under progress.