

OpenVoiceNews India

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

ED Raids Properties Linked to Chhangur Baba in ₹100 Crore Money Laundering Case

July 18, 2025

– Categories: Crime



DOWNLOAD IPFS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids at 14 locations across Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on Tuesday in connection with a ₹100 crore money laundering investigation involving self-styled spiritual leader Chhangur Baba. The searches targeted properties associated with Baba and his associates, following allegations of large-scale financial irregularities and misuse of religious institutions for personal gain.

According to ED officials, the raids were carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Investigators believe that Chhangur Baba, also known as Guru Ji Maharaj, was involved in collecting massive donations from devotees under the guise of religious and charitable activities. The funds were allegedly funneled into real estate ventures and other private investments.

The case is based on multiple complaints and inputs received by financial intelligence agencies, suggesting that over ₹100 crore was laundered through shell companies and benami (proxy-owned) properties. Preliminary findings from the ED's ongoing operation have revealed unaccounted cash, incriminating documents, and digital evidence.

The agency is also examining the role of certain trusts and institutions linked to Chhangur Baba. These entities are suspected to have served as fronts to disguise illicit financial flows and evade taxation. Sources close to the investigation stated that the seized materials will be analyzed further to trace the full scope of the financial network.

Officials said statements are being recorded from several individuals connected to the case, including financial handlers and trust managers. "The raids are part of an ongoing investigation into proceeds of crime generated through unlawful means, which were then integrated into the formal economy," an ED officer told *The Times of India*.

Chhangur Baba, who has a sizable following in parts of Uttar Pradesh, has not publicly responded to the allegations. No arrests have been made so far, and the ED stated that further action will depend on the outcome of forensic analysis and verification of seized records.

The investigation uncovers the growing scrutiny of religious figures allegedly exploiting faith-based networks for financial gain. Authorities have emphasized the importance of financial transparency and accountability, especially in institutions receiving public donations.

The ED is expected to release more details in the coming days as the probe progresses. The agency continues to crack down on individuals and entities suspected of large-scale economic offenses under the PMLA framework.