



Press Release
27.10.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar Zonal Office has arrested Tarun Khosla, a Delhi-based ticketing agent on 23.10.2026 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the 'Dunkey Route Case' relating to Indians deported from the USA in February 2025. He has been granted into ED Custody till 30.10.2026 by a Special PMLA Court.

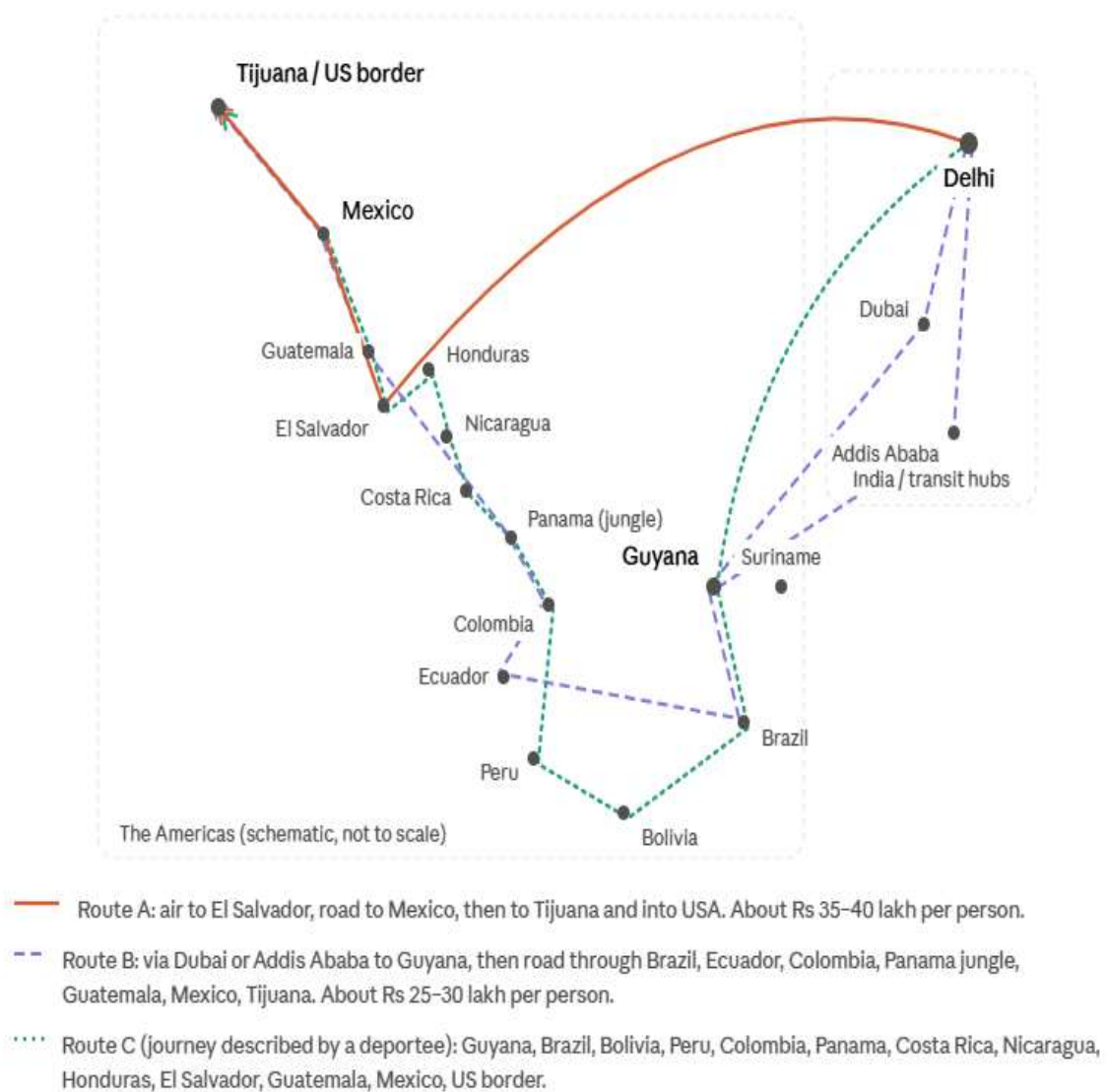
ED investigation was initiated on the basis of various FIRs registered by Punjab Police and Haryana Police under various sections of BNS, 2023 (erstwhile IPC, 1860), the Emigration Act, 1983 and after more than 300 Indian nationals were deported from the USA in February 2025 for having entered the USA illegally through the Mexico border.

ED investigation has revealed that persons wishing to go to the USA were induced by agents and middlemen on the false promise of sending them through legal channels, and were instead sent through the 'Dunkey route' i.e. crossing the borders of several South/Central American countries illegally through dangerous routes with the help of local donkers and the mafia. Such persons were charged about ₹30 lakh to ₹60 lakh.

Previously, searches were conducted in this case on 09.07.2025 and 11.07.2025 at 19 locations wherein incriminating documents, records and digital devices and materials were found and recovered including **bogus immigration Stamp & bogus Visa stamp pertaining to Nicaragua and Ethiopia**,. Further, on 15.12.2025, ED had provisionally attached movable and immovable properties **worth Rs. 5.41 Crore (approx.)** including agricultural land, residential premises, business premises and bank accounts balances derived out/equivalent to the Proceeds of Crime generated by various agents who were involved in sending persons to the USA illegally.

Subsequently, ED had carried out searches at multiple locations across Punjab, Haryana and Delhi on 18.12.2025 and 19.12.2025, during which cash of ₹4.62 Crore, gold bars and coins weighing about 5.9 kg and silver bars weighing about 313 kg (total values amounting to ₹ 19.14 Crore), besides incriminating documents and digital devices, were seized from the premises of said Tarun Khosla. In addition to the same, Over 50 original passports of third parties, diaries, records of transactions, property documents and digital devices were also recovered from other premises.

Investigation has revealed that Tarun Khosla was a key facilitator of the Dunkey Route network. He has been involved with multiple agents from Punjab and Haryana who used to collect passports and money from the persons wishing to go to the USA and handed them over to him in Delhi. He then arranged visas and air tickets to transit countries in South America such as Guyana, Suriname, Ecuador and El Salvador, etc. and further facilitated movement of such persons towards the US border using illegal and dangerous route. He was a key decision-maker on routes and pricing for each person travelling through the "Dunkey Route". The said routes undertaken for illegal entry into the USA are indicated below:



Data retrieved from his seized mobile phones revealed his incriminating chats indicating that he acted as an immigration-clearance fixer. His chats with an international contact reveal on-ground coordination at foreign airports, including collection of money for immigration clearance, facilitation of tickets, handling of passengers, and payments in USD. Instructions such as "OK to Board" endorsements and coordination with airline/immigration personnel further established his operational control over transit arrangements. Investigation further revealed that Tarun Khosla is a major player in the said illegal business of Dunki route who used to make arrangements for sending persons to USA through illegal dunky route such as VISA clearance for South American Countries, arranging fake/forged yellow fever vaccination certificate, booking tickets, handling the donkers.

He had chats with foreign donkers such as "Mike" in Mexico, "Ali" in Brazil and another contact in Mexico "Kristi" who used to manage donkers in respect of crossing of persons through Dunki route and related payments. Cash deposits to the tune of ₹ 30.38 Crore through 414 cash-credit transactions were found during F.Y. 2022-23 to F.Y. 2024-25 in the bank account of his proprietorship firm M/s BJ International.

The investigation so far has revealed that this was a well organized network, facilitating such illegal travel by organizing and co-ordinating end-to-end operations luring general gullible public and earning huge commissions from such people, over the last several years.

Further investigation is under progress.