



Press Release
20/02/2024

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 against ten accused persons namely Nitesh Kumar, Sagar Yadav, Santosh Kumar, M/s Leconix Business Center Pvt Ltd, M/s Scrapix Consultancy Services Pvt Ltd, M/s Scrapix Capital Pvt Ltd, M/s Scrapix Hospitality Pvt Ltd, M/s. Casanovus Realty Pvt Ltd, M/s. Casanovus Hospitality Pvt Ltd and M/s. Casanovus Developers Pvt Ltd before the Hon'ble Special PMLA Court, Patna. The Hon'ble Court has taken cognizance of the PC on 16.02.2024.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of information of cyber fraud committed on an Irish National. The complaint alleged that an Irish National had been cheated of 950 Euros through cyber fraud by an Indian national and later the "Proceeds of Crime" were transferred to India.

ED investigation revealed that accused persons namely Nitesh Kumar, Sagar Yadav, Santosh Yadav along with their associates had setup fake call centers in the name of M/s Leconix Business Center Pvt Ltd at various locations in Kolkata and Kharagpur. During the course of search operation at the call center at Kharagpur, 70 computer systems along-with IP telephones and headphones were found installed at the premise. For commission of the offence, the accused formed shell entities, arranged various mule bank accounts (in India and abroad), procured various hardwares and softwares and engaged college dropouts & unemployed youth for running the fake call center. It is learnt that staff engaged for running call center used to contact the victims by making calls to them and once connected with the victims they used to remotely access the mobile phones / digital devices of the victims and fraudulently sought information from the victims to debit money from the victims bank account. Later the proceeds of crime used to be remitted to India through account transfer or money exchange platforms. Bank account statements of the accounts used for layering and laundering of POC were obtained and the same were analyzed. Based on analysis of the bank account statements, 44 victims who are Irish nationals have been identified and it is also noticed that so far the accused have received foreign remittances of Rs. 7.30 Crore approx. So far, proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs. 1.82 Crore approx. , in cash, have been seized and funds to the tune of Rs. 2.82 Crore approx. available in the various mule bank accounts have been frozen.

During the course of investigation conducted under PMLA, searches were conducted u/s 17 of PMLA, 2002 on 19.12.2023, 27.12.2023, 13.01.2024, 17.01.2024 and 05.02.2024 at various locations in Patna, Kolkata and Kharagpur and various incriminating documents including 1.88 Crore Cash, 56 Debits Cards, various Mobile Phones, Laptop and Ipad were found and seized alongwith freezing of Rs. 2.82 Crore approx. available in various bank accounts. The accused persons namely Nitesh Kumar, Sagar Yadav and Santosh Kumar were arrested on 20.12.2023 and 28.12.2023 and currently they are under Judicial Custody.

Further investigation is under progress.