



Press Release
22.06.2022

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had filed a Prosecution Complaint on 03.06.2022 against Hardeep Singh and Ankur Khanna before the Special Court (PMLA), Mapusa under the provisions of PMLA, 2002. The Special Court had also taken cognizance of the same on 17.06.2022 and issue notices to the accused persons.

ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Goa Police under various section of IPC and Sections 3 & 4 of Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act, 1976 and Section 66-D of Information Technology Act, 2000 for illegal gaming activities and siphoning huge money through secret networks and thus caused loss to the exchequer of the Government.

Investigation by ED revealed that Hardeep Singh and Rahul Khanna, were operating a union namely 'Mini-India' on PP Poker online gaming app. Under their union, it is seen that around 25 to 30 clubs are being operated by different individuals. Through these clubs' individual players are invited through WhatsApp chats for placing illegal bets through poker gaming app PP Poker. It is seen that the commissions were generated @ 5% to 10 % by the said clubs on each table running in the said Clubs/Unions. The settlement of the commission and the betting amount is done illegally through hawala operators in cash or through anonymous crypto accounts with each individual player and union head by their respective club managers. Investigation has revealed that Hardeep Singh and Ankur Khanna had also invested Proceeds of Crime (POC) in the form of crypto accounts which were traced by ED.

Earlier, ED had arrested Hardeep Singh and Ankur @Rahul Khanna, both resident of Kolkata, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and also conducted searches on 06.04.2022 on the residential premises of Hardeep Singh and Rahul Khanna and other club managers/agents situated in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Goa.

Further investigation is under progress.
