



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**15-06-2026**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Headquarters Unit, has filed a Prosecution Complaint before the Hon'ble Special Court Dwarka District Courts, New Delhi against Chirag Tomar, Pankaj Tomar, Kushagra Shakya, Akash Vaish, Rahul Anand, Ketan Luthra, M/s Tomar Group of Industries Private Limited and M/s Exahomes Realtors under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in connection with the Coinbase Phishing Scam case.

ED initially initiated investigation on the basis of newspaper report that an Indian National named Chirag Tomar was arrested in USA for stealing more than \$20 million through use of fake or spoofed websites mimicking the cryptocurrency exchange website Coinbase. The investigation revealed that Chirag Tomar, currently in custody in USA, was involved in a large-scale cyber fraud by spoofing the website of the cryptocurrency exchange "Coinbase" and stealing cryptocurrency. Subsequently, details relating to the criminal proceedings and evidence collected in the matter were sought from the competent authorities in the United States through Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) channels and were received during the course of investigation.

Investigation revealed that Chirag Tomar was involved in a large-scale cryptocurrency fraud by spoofing the website of Coinbase, a USA-based cryptocurrency exchange. Chirag Tomar was arrested by the FBI at Atlanta airport on 20.12.2023 and has been sentenced by the competent US Court to 60 months' imprisonment, followed by two years of supervised release.

Investigation revealed that Chirag Tomar and his associates created and used fake websites resembling the genuine Coinbase platform to deceive victims and obtain their login credentials, two-factor authentication codes and other access details. After gaining access to the victims' Coinbase accounts, cryptocurrency holdings were transferred to wallets controlled by Chirag Tomar and his co-conspirators. The stolen cryptocurrency was thereafter converted into other virtual digital assets, moved through multiple wallets and ultimately converted into Indian Rupees through P2P cryptocurrency transactions.

ED investigation further revealed that the sale proceeds of stolen cryptocurrency were received in the bank accounts of Chirag Tomar, his family members, group entities and associates, including M/s Tomar Group of Industries Private Limited, M/s Exahomes Realtors, Akash Vaish, Rahul Anand and other persons. The funds were layered through multiple bank accounts and were utilised for purchase of movable and immovable properties, thereby projecting the Proceeds of Crime as untainted assets.

ED has so far provisionally attached movable and immovable properties valued at Rs. 64.55 Crore in the case. Further Investigation is under progress.

ED cautions citizens to remain vigilant against phishing scams and fraudulent communications. Such scams aim to steal personal and financial information through fake websites, emails, messages or calls. Citizens are advised not to click on unknown links, not to share OTPs, passwords, or bank details, and to verify the authenticity of any communication before responding. The ED urges all citizens to stay alert and safeguard their personal information to prevent fraud.