



PRESS RELEASE
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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Patna has conducted search operations on 11.12.2025 at 4 locations in Muzaffarpur in a case related to fraudulent withdrawals from bank accounts from a Punjab National Bank Branch in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. During these searches several incriminating material and documents have been found and seized.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of two FIRs registered by Bihar Police at Nagar Police Station, Muzaffarpur, under various Sections of Indian Penal Code, 1860, which constitute scheduled offences under PMLA, 2002. Investigation in this case revealed a sophisticated banking fraud and money laundering scheme that resulted in fraudulent siphoning of Rs.1.29 Crore (approx.) from the savings accounts of two victims of Rs. 1.07 Crore (approx.) and Rs. 22.40 Lakh (approx.) respectively, maintained with Punjab National Bank (PNB), Jawaharlal Road Branch, Muzaffarpur.

The fraud was executed through a sophisticated modus operandi involving SIM card swapping and online banking manipulation. The victims' mobile numbers, which was registered with the bank for SMS alerts and online banking authentication, were fraudulently swapped by criminals using fake identity documents. During the period when criminals had control over the duplicate SIM card, they activated internet banking services on the victims' accounts by sending messages to PNB's toll-free service number. Then huge funds were transferred from those accounts and were routed through multiple layers and finally substantial portion of such funds were withdrawn in cash from ATMs in Kolkata and then deposited in different bank accounts of the perpetrators from CDMs.

During the searches, incriminating material and documents have been found and seized. Further, funds worth Rs.83 Lakh (approx.) lying in bank accounts of the perpetrators have been found and freezed during the searches.

Further investigation is under progress.