



PRESS RELEASE

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office has conducted search operations at 17 locations related to Seat Blocking Scam in private engineering colleges in Bangalore on 25.06.2025 and 26.06.2025 under the provisions of Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The search proceedings were conducted at the office premises of BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute of Engineering and Technology, New Horizon College of Engineering and persons associate with these institutions. The search proceedings were also conducted at the premises of few entities engaged in educational consultancy services and some private agents associated with the scam.

During the said search operations, various incriminating documents related to money laundering activities and other digital devices have been found and seized. The search proceedings have revealed evidences with respect to widespread seat blocking and use of cash/money in admission process in popular professional courses in the private institutes. There is an extensive network of agents, educational consultancy service entities which is used to bring students for admission from across the India to these institutes. The admission in Management quota seats is done mostly in opaque manner based on extraneous consideration such as cash/money. In addition to the evidences gathered, the Proceeds of Crime in the form of cash to the tune of Rs. 1.37 Crore (approx.) was also found and seized during the search proceedings.

Earlier, ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the KEA (Karnataka Examination Authority) against BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute of Engineering and Technology, New Horizon College of Engineering and unknown persons under various sections of IPC/BNSS. It is alleged that these colleges colluded with unknown persons, obtained the log-in credentials of students registered with KEA and blocked seats by opting seats in their college in the name of students who were not actually going to take admission.

Further investigation is under progress.