



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**01.01.2024**

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has conducted a search operation at one location in Patna on 19.12.2023 and further consequential search operation was carried out at three locations in Kolkata and one location in Kharagpur, West Bengal on 27/12/2023. ED has arrested three accused namely Nitesh Kumar in Patna on 20/12/23 and Sagar Yadav & Santosh Kumar in Kolkata on 28/12/2023 in connection with a case of Cyber fraud/cheating committed on an Irish national.

ED initiated investigation based on information cum complaint of cyber fraud committed on an Irish National. The complaint reveals that victim reported a fraud activity wherein she had been cheated of an amount of 950 Euros (Rs. 84,941.40/-) through Cyber fraud activities.

ED investigation revealed that Nitesh Kumar, a native of Patna, Bihar had cheated an Irish National and later transferred the "Proceeds of Crime" to his bank account in India as RDA remittance. Nitesh Kumar was arrested on 20.12.2023 and was produced before the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Patna, Bihar wherein he was sent to Judicial Custody and later ED custody for 6 days. Further it was also revealed that a group consist of 8/10 persons is continuously involved in cheating foreign nationals mainly Irish people and receiving proceeds of crime in their various bank accounts in India through rewire accounts. These people have been functioning in a manner/pattern of a call centre at Kharagpur, West Bengal.

Based on intelligence and specific inputs, key members of the group and their locations were identified and searches were carried out at three locations in Kolkata and one location in Kharagpur, West Bengal on 27/12/2023. Two key members of the group namely Sagar Yadav and Santosh Kumar who were instrumental in commission of offence of money laundering were arrested on 28/12/2023 at Kolkata and the searches also resulted in recovery of incriminating details / records (both physical/digital) and also cash of Rs. 1.85 Crore. The above mentioned material and cash so found during the search action has been seized and balance of Rs.3.67 Crore in the various bank accounts involved in the offence of money laundering have been frozen.

Further investigation is under progress.