PRESS RELEASE
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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office has arrested Paavan Nanda and Ms. Saumya Singh Rathore, Directors of M/s WinZO Games Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi (an entity engaged in hosting online Real Money Games), on 26/11/2025, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, for their alleged involvement in the offence of money laundering. Following the arrests, the matter was presented before the Hon'ble Principal City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH-1) on 27/11/2025. The Hon'ble Court has granted ED custody of Paavan Nanda and Ms. Saumya Singh Rathore, for a period of 10 days (till 06/12/2025), for further investigation.

Last week, ED, Bengaluru Zonal Office has conducted search operations at the office premises of M/s. WinZO Games Pvt. Ltd. and the residential premises of Ms. Saumya Singh Rathore, based on the FIRs filed against M/s WinZO Games Pvt. Ltd and others on the grounds of cheating, blocking of accounts, impersonation, misuse of PAN etc.

ED investigation revealed that M/s. WinZO Pvt Ltd was engaged in criminal activities and fraudulent practices i.e. customers were made to play with algorithms/software without being made aware of the fact that they are playing with software/algorithms and not with humans in real money games. WinZO has also prevented/limited withdrawals of monies held by the customers in the wallets of M/s WinZO pvt ltd. M/s. WinZO Pvt Ltd also generated Proceeds of Crime (POC) in the form of bet amounts placed and lost by real customers through the unscrupulous use of such algorithms/software which are received by the entity in its bank accounts.

So far, the **POC amounting to Rs.505 Crore have been frozen** in the form of bank balances, bonds, FDRs, mutual funds under section 17 1A of the PMLA, 2002.

ED investigation also revealed that WINZO company is operating Real Money Games (RMGs) in foreign countries such as Brazil, USA and Germany etc., from India (on the same platform used by the Indian entity), even after the ban of RMGs by Union Government. It is also found that global operations i.e, hosting of all type of games (including RMGs) are undertaken under the single App(application), same platform from India.

It was also found that the funds by the Indian entity have been diverted to USA and Singapore under the garb of overseas investments. The **funds worth USD 55 Million (Rs.489.90 Crore) have been parked in their bank account in USA** (bank accounts held in the name of ‘WINZO US Inc.”),which is a shell company, since all the operations and day to day business activities, operation of bank accounts is done from India.

Further investigation is under progress.