

**M.L Case No 08 of 2025**  
**ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024**

**Present: Sri Sukumar Ray**  
**Chief Judge, City Sessions Court, Calcutta**  
**J.O. CODE NO.WB00590.**

**Order no. 01 dated 04.06.2025**

Two accused persons, namely, Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur, have been produced before this Court along with the original complaint/ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024 and two separate applications under sections 187(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973) read with section 65 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 praying for 12 days custody of the Enforcement Directorate.

It further appears that accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj has been produced before this court on transit remand as per the order of the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kamrup (M), Guwahati dated 03.06.2025 and another accused person namely Sonu Kumar Thakur, has been produced before this court on transit remand as per the order of the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jalpaiguri dated 03.06.2025.

Seen the original complaint/ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024, arrest memo(s), arrest order(s), information about grounds of arrest, personal search memo(s), grounds of arrest, reasons to believe for invoking section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and medical paper(s).

The skeleton record received from the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kamrup (M), Guwahati and Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jalpaiguri be tagged with this record.

Perused the materials available in the case diary and original complaint/ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024. Considered.

Registered as a Prevention of Money Laundering Act complaint case and note in the relevant register.

Ld. Special Public Prosecutor (s) representing the Enforcement Directorate is/are present.

Ld. Advocate, Shri Debtanu Dutta of LADCS, Kolkata has appeared before this Court and represented the accused persons.

Heard both sides.

It appears from the record that there is prima facie materials to proceed against the accused persons against whom the complaint has been filed.

Hence the prayer of the I.O to accept the complaint is **allowed**.

Complaint is accepted and the **cognizance is taken**.

The accused persons namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur are taken into custody.

Investigating Officer Mukesh Kumar, Assistant Director, Enforcement Directorate files two separate remand petitions, under sections 187(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973) read with section 65 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 praying for the

custody under Enforcement Directorate of the accused persons, namely, Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur for a period of 12 days.

Perused the materials available in the case diary and the original the complaint/ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024.

The investigation under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 was initiated by the Enforcement Directorate, by recording ECIR being no. complaint/ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024.

Seen the prayers of the investigating officer who has prayed for 12 days custody of Enforcement Directorate of accused persons namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur in connection with ECIR/KLZO-II/03/2024 dated 01.02.2024.

Now, the prayers for custody of the accused persons under Enforcement Directorate are taken up for hearing.

Ld. Special Public Prosecutor appearing/representing the Enforcement Directorate praying for custody of the accused persons and submits that the same is very much necessary for the purpose of investigation as well as to establish the money trail and trace out the proceeds of crime obtained through illegal betting and gambling activities and diverted through various mule bank accounts by these two accused persons. Their custody is also necessary for confronting them with the electronic evidence seized from their possession and to unearth the facts associated with the offence of money laundering involving crucial information, which is in exclusive knowledge of the accused persons namely Shri Vishal Bhardwaj @ Badal Bhardwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur and to bring out the *modus operandi* and actual role of conspirators in commission of the offence of money laundering.

Ld. Counsel representing the accused persons submits that 12 days custody of the Enforcement Directorate is not necessary in the instant case.

Perused the complaint/ECIR, materials available in the case diary and submissions of both sides.

It appears that the accused persons have been indicated for allegedly committing offence punishable u/s 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

In **CBI Vs Vikash Mishra reported in 2023 (6) SCC 49**, the Hon'ble Apex Court observed that the right of custodial interrogation of the accused is very important right in favour of investigating agency to unearth the truth and should not be curtailed.

On bare reading of the prayers for custody of Enforcement Directorate and the materials available on the case diary, I am of the view that 10 days custody of the accused persons namely **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur** under Enforcement Directorate is required to facilitate the works of investigation and to unearth the facts associated with the offence of money laundering involving crucial information, which is in exclusive knowledge of the accused persons namely Shri Vishal Bhardwaj @ Badal Bhardwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur and to bring out the *modus operandi* and actual role of conspirators in commission of the offence of money laundering.

In view of above, both the prayers for investigating officer for custody of Enforcement Directorate are **allowed**.

The gamut of investigation is considered while allowing the period of the custody of the Enforcement Directorate.

The I.O is permitted to take the accused persons namely, **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur** under the custody of Enforcement Directorate.

Thus, the accused persons namely, **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur** be remanded to the custody of Enforcement Directorate till **13.06.2025**.

Fix **13.06.2025** for production of the accused persons namely, **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj and Sonu Kumar Thakur** from the custody of Enforcement Directorate.

The I.O is directed to get accused persons medically examined before taking them to the custody under Enforcement Directorate. The I.O is also directed to get accused persons medically examined every 48 hours while the accused persons are in custody of the Enforcement Directorate and he should comply with the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and National Human Rights Commission in this regard.

Return the case diary and call for the same on the date so fixed.

Let a copy of this order be handed over to the Investigating Officer of Enforcement Directorate through Ld. Special Public Prosecutor for strict compliance of this order.

Dictated & corrected by me

Sd/-

Chief Judge  
City Sessions Court, Calcutta.

Sd/-

Chief Judge  
City Sessions Court, Calcutta.