

M.L. CASE NO. 08 OF 2025
CNR NO.WBCS01-000381-2025

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

Order no. 05 dated 26.06.2025

Today is for production of the accused persons and hearing of the bail application dated 13.06.2025 filed on behalf of the accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj.

Accused persons namely **Sonu Kumar Thakur** and **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj** are produced before this Court from the judicial custody.

Ld. Advocate for the Enforcement Directorate as well as the Ld. Advocate appointed from the LADCS, Kolkata for the accused person namely **Sonu Kumar Thakur** are present.

Ld. Counsel for the accused person namely **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj** is also present.

One written objection against the bail application dated 13.06.2025 filed on behalf of the accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj is filed on behalf of the Prosecution/ Enforcement Directorate.

Copy served.

Let the same be kept with the record.

Assistant Director, Enforcement Directorate files two separate petitions through the Ld. Counsel for the ED praying for further remanding the accused persons namely **Sonu Kumar Thakur** and **Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj** to judicial custody for a period of fourteen days in the interest of investigation of this case.

The bail application dated 13.06.2025 filed on behalf of the accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj is taken up for hearing together with the written objection dated 26.06.2025 filed by the prosecution.

At this juncture, a petition has been filed on behalf of the accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj stating that the Ld. Senior Counsel is unable to attend Court today as he is out of station and therefore an adjournment has been prayed for.

Heard both sides.

Prayer for an adjournment is considered and allowed.

Now, the petitions of the I.O. for further judicial custody of the accused persons are taken up for hearing.

Heard both sides. Considered.

On careful perusal of the materials on record vis-a-vis the application u/s 187 (3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Surksha Sanhita, 2023 read with section 65 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 it appears to me that judicial custody of the accused persons is essential to further determine the role of various other persons who helped in illegal betting and gambling activities, to confront with the other evidence and material seized during the search under PMLA and also to unearth the proceeds of crime, establish money trail and to identify the ultimate beneficiaries of crime involved in the offence of money laundering in the present case.

In view of the above, detention of the accused persons in judicial custody is essential for the sake of proper investigation. So, the prayer for further judicial custody of the accused persons is allowed.

Received one medical report in respect of the accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj along with a forwarding letter bearing no.7183.IMB dated 25.06.2025 from the Superintendent of Presidency Correctional Home in terms of order no.04 dated 16.06.2025 passed by this Court.

Perused the same and let the same be kept with the record.

Both the accused persons be remanded to J.C till date i.e. 04.07.2025.

Fixing **04.07.2025** for production of the accused persons and hearing of the bail application dated 13.06.2025 filed on behalf of the accused person namely Vishal Bharadwaj @ Badal Bharadwaj together with the written objection dated 26.06.2025 filed on behalf of the Prosecution.

Let a copy of this order be also sent to the Investigating Officer through Ld. Special P.P of Enforcement Directorate for information.

D/C by me

Sd./-

Chief Judge
City Sessions Court
Calcutta

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