



PRESS RELEASE
22.05.2026

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office has arrested Smt. Nowhera Shaik on 21/05/2026 from Gurugram, Haryana under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in the case of Heera Group and others in a matter related to defrauding of investors. She was thereafter brought to Hyderabad immediately and produced before Hon'ble PMLA Court, Hyderabad late night on 21/05/2026 and has been remanded to judicial custody.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Telangana Police and Andhra Pradesh Police against Smt. Nowhera Shaik, Smt. Molly Thomas, Biju Thomas and Heera Group of companies by aggrieved depositors across the country against Smt. Nowhera Shaik for defrauding 1,72,114 investors of more than Rs. 3000 Crore.

During investigation by ED, it was learnt that deposits were collected by Nowhera Shaikh from investors across India on the pretext of investment in Heera Group of Companies by offering huge returns of around 36% per annum, and thereafter failed to return their profits/principal amounts.

Smt Nowhera Shaik and related persons diverted the depositors' funds to their personal accounts through company bank accounts for wrongful gain and amassed huge movable and immovable properties by utilizing illegally gained money.

During investigation, ED identified various properties purchased from the Proceeds of Crime and attached the same under the provisions of PMLA, 2002. Smt Nowhera Shaik had filed WP No 31 of 2020 & MA 2227 of 2024 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and tried to derail the ongoing investigation by putting wrong facts before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. She was successful in delaying the ongoing investigation by getting orders from the Hon'ble Court on the wrong facts. Further, during the course of hearing before the Hon'ble Court she dared to mislead the Hon'ble Court by giving wrong affidavit that one Shri C.K.Moula Sharif was ready to purchase the properties worth Rs 580 Crore and produced some bank account related documents in support of her claim, however, the Hon'ble Court has observed that the said person was not having any funds in the Bank Account mentioned in the affidavit and accordingly ordered for contempt proceedings against Shri C K Moula Sharif. During the course of investigation, Smt Nowhera Shaik had sold some confirmed attached properties of ED by giving wrong affidavit before the respective Tahsildar/ Revenue Officials and generated further Proceeds of Crime, accordingly, for such offence FIR was registered against her. All such facts were brought to the notice of Hon'ble Supreme Court by ED on different occasions by filing Status Report and the Hon'ble Court has viewed all these facts seriously. For the first time the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (CrI) No. 31 of 2020 and MA No. 2227 of 2024 gave orders in favour of ED, to initiate auction of all the attached properties prior to trial and confiscation orders of the PMLA court and return the investor's money through SFIO. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had also directed Smt Nowhera Shaik to co-operate with ED in the ongoing auction proceedings and execute Sale Deed for the properties registered by her in her name or in the name of her associates by utilizing Proceeds of Crime or crime money.

ED had initiated auction proceedings and some of the properties were successfully auctioned fetching almost Rs. 122 Crore and Smt Nowhera Shaik was requested to execute Sale Deed of the auctioned properties. However, Smt. Nowhera Shaik failed to cooperate in the execution of sale deeds in favour of successful bidders and made repeated attempts to obstruct the auction proceedings.



ED again approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court while taking serious note of her conduct, directed her to surrender before jail authorities within one week time and execute Sale Deeds of 16 auctioned properties within 2 months time vide order dated 08.04.2026 and in the event of her defiance issuance of NBW against her including cancellation of bail granted to her, in accordance with law. However, she did not surrender before the jail authorities.

Since she did not co-operate, ED had approached the Special PMLA Court to cancel bail granted to her and issuance of NBW in compliance to order dated 08.04.2026 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. During the said bail cancellation and NBW proceedings she tried to mislead the Hon'ble Special Court. She filed an affidavit wherein she revealed to the Hon'ble Court that she had surrendered before the Jail authorities at Hyderabad, however, they denied to take her into custody. The Hon'ble Court had enquired from the Jail authorities, who informed that she never approached them for surrender. The Hon'ble Special PMLA Court examined the entire matter in light of the order dated 08.04.2026 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and also observed her misleading conduct and had issued NBW against her on 07.05.2026 with a direction to ED to execute the warrant and produce her before the Court. The Hon'ble Special Court had also cancelled her bail granted in this matter.

ED officials made efforts to trace and apprehend her at known addresses in Hyderabad, Bangalore, however, she was not found there, and it was learnt that she was absconding to evade arrest. Based on inputs, ED made efforts to apprehend her from Bangalore, however, she was not found there.

Subsequently, ED developed intelligence through local sources and got input that Smt. Nowhera Shaik was hiding in Gurugram, Haryana, under a fake identity using forged documents and was accompanied by one Shri Sameer Khan, her associate. Acting swiftly on the said intelligence input, officers of ED, along with Haryana Police officials traced her location alongwith vehicle used by her. A joint operation was conducted at the location and Smt. Nowhera Shaik was successfully apprehended on 21st May'26 from Salt Stayz, Sector-45, Gurugram, Haryana (AIR BNB property), where she was staying on the Aadhar Card issued in the name of Shaik Khamar Jahan alongwith Shri Sameer Khan, her associate. In compliance of the Warrant of Arrest issued by the Hon'ble Special Court under PMLA, she was arrested and brought to Hyderabad immediately and produced before Hon'ble PMLA Court, Hyderabad late night on 21st May'26 and has been remanded to judicial custody.

Earlier, one imposter namely Kalyan Banerjee trying to interfere in the auctioning of immovable properties by ED in compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was arrested by ED on 10.01.2026 from Secunderabad. He, at the instance of Smt Nowhera Shaik was trying to influence the ED officials by impersonating himself as an Advocate and close associate of Senior Bureaucrats/ Politicians.

ED has once again demonstrated that any attempt to evade legal proceedings, interfere in investigation, or obstruct auction proceedings undertaken for restitution to victims shall be dealt with firmly in accordance with law.

Further investigation in the case is going on.