



## **ECONOMIC OFFENCES WING**

NEW DELHI

22 April 2023

### **PRESS RELEASE**

- ***ECONOMIC OFFENCES WING, DELHI POLICE HAS ARRESTED ONE ACCUSED PERSON NAMED PANKAJ SONI IN A MULTI-VICTIM CASE OF CHEATING THROUGH LUCKY DRAW SCHEME.***
- ***ACCUSED DUPED SEVERAL GULLIBLE INVESTORS BY TAKING MONTHLY DEPOSITS AND FLEEING AWAY AFTER AMASSING MONEY.***

#### **BRIEF FACTS:**

Complaint of 124 victims, residents of Karol Bagh, were lodged at the Economic Offences Wing, Delhi Police against a jeweller namely Pankaj Soni, owner of Shree Balaji Jewellers, Sat Nagar, Karol Bagh, wherein they alleged that Pankaj Soni started various committee schemes in the names of 'Dhan Laxmi Lucky Draw', 'Shree Balaji Lucky Draw' and invited persons to deposit money every month. The investors were lured on the pretext that every month a lucky investor would get gold worth Rs 1 lakh. This led hundreds of investors to deposit their hard-earned money, who were assured of returns after the maturity period of 20 months if they do not win the lucky draw. The accused jeweller opened lucky draw for a few months and gained the confidence of the investors. After accumulating huge amount of rupees from the investors, the accused suddenly closed his shop and fled away deceiving hundreds of investors. The case was registered at vide FIR No. 105/2022 PS EOW, and investigated.

## **INVESTIGATION:**

During the investigation, the victims who lodged their complaints against accused Pankaj Soni were examined. He was running the business under the name and style of Shree Balaji Jewellers at Karol Bagh. Investigation revealed that he had left all known whereabouts after cheating the hard-earned money of innocent investors and was at large.

## **MODUS OPERANDI:**

Accused Pankaj Soni floated various committee schemes in the names of 'Dhan Laxmi Lucky Draw', 'Shree Balaji Lucky Draw' and invited persons to deposit money every month. The investors were lured on the pretext that every month a lucky investor would get gold worth Rs 1 lakh. This led hundreds of investors to deposit their hard-earned money every month since 2018, who were also promised assured returns after the maturity period if they do not win the lucky draw. The accused opened the lucky draws for a few months and gained the confidence of the investors. After accumulating huge amount of money from the investors, the accused suddenly closed his shop and fled away deceiving hundreds of investors. Accused Pankaj Soni, after collecting money from innocent investors, fled along with his family after closing the shop and leaving the rented accommodation.

## **TEAM AND ARREST:**

A dedicated team comprising Inspector Sunil Kumar, SI Sanjay, and ASI Sanjeev, under the close supervision of ACP/EOW Shri Ghanshyam was constituted. The team arrested the accused Pankaj Soni on 20.04.2023. The accused has been granted police custody remand by the Hon'ble Court. During interrogation he has revealed that after absconding he left for Rajasthan and later came back to Delhi and started living at a different place. Further investigation, including efforts to trace the trail of the money collected by the accused, is in progress.

## **PROFILE OF THE ARRESTED ACCUSED:**

Accused Pankaj Soni S/o Sh. Damodar Soni R/o Pratap Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, New Delhi, aged 42 years, ran a jewellery shop in the name of Shree Balaji Jewellers at Sat Nagar, Karol Bagh in a rented shop. He studied up to high school and then started working at jewellery stores. He

then started running his shop under the name Balaji Jewellers, and ran the schemes to deceive gullible customers after gaining their trust.

**WORDS OF CAUTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

The general public is hereby cautioned not to get trapped in such types of frauds and always materialize the deals through banking transactions. No papers should be signed without thorough perusal and understanding. Make sure that the scheme floated by the persons is genuine. Such schemes in which unusually high returns are promised to the investors in a short span of time usually turn out to be fraud after some time. Any aggrieved person may approach the Office of DCP/Economic Offences Wing or SHO/Police Station, Economic Offences Wing, Mandir Marg, New Delhi and file his complaint on any working day during office hours. The complaints may also be sent electronically at [dcp-eow-dl@nic.in](mailto:dcp-eow-dl@nic.in). Communication may also be made online with Delhi Police on the Website of Delhi Police :- <https://www.delhipolice.nic.in>

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