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SUPREME COURT

Not Just Pocket Change

Supreme Court Backs Seller's Right to Keep Rs. 20 Lakh 'Earnest Money' After Deal Falls Apart

Sheikh Rayees • May 3, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a case that tested the weight of a handshake backed by rupees, the Supreme Court made it clear: when parties shake on a deal and back it with earnest money, failure to follow through has consequences—especially when the contract calls it out. The country's top court upheld the forfeiture of Rs. 20 lakh paid under an Advance Sale Agreement (ATS), making it clear that this wasn't just an advance—it...

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