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SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Upholds Safeguards Against Arbitrary Bank Freezes, Says ED Needs More Than Suspicion

Sheikh Rayees • August 2, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) cannot freeze a person's bank account merely on the basis of suspicion while exercising powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The court made it clear that authorities must first record valid "reasons to believe" before restricting access to bank accounts.

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