

An accused in the multi-crore [Punjab National Bank](#) (PBM) scam on Wednesday moved the [PMLA court](#) here challenging its jurisdiction and sought transfer of the case to [CBI](#) court.

Besides, another accused in the case on Wednesday filed an application before the special [CBI](#) court claiming lack of coordination between the two prosecuting agencies - the [Central Bureau Of Investigation](#) (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Advocate Vijay Aggarwal moved the application on behalf of Hemant Bhatt, an authorised signatory of billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi's company, before PMLA court's special judge M S Azmi, who is currently presiding over the case lodged by the ED.

The [PMLA court](#) has no power to continue with the case as the cognisance (of the charge sheet) has been taken by special [CBI](#) judge, Aggarwal said.

The CBI had earlier booked Bhatt along with others under IPC section 420 (cheating) and relevant sections of Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with the fraud.

He is also named in another FIR filed by ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with the case.

"If the act or acts of an accused in the same transaction constitute more than one offence under different laws, the person may be charged with and tried at one trial for each of such offences," Bhatt's application said.

It further mentioned that the fulcrum of both the cases, being probed by the CBI and the ED, is the alleged unauthorised issuance of Letters of Understanding (LoUs).

Moreover, witnesses in both the cases are also common. Hence, it is in the interest of justice that both the cases should be tried in the same trial by the special CBI judge, the application said.

The court is likely to pass an order in the matter on July 10.

While, another accused, Manish Bosamiya, on Wednesday filed an application before the special CBI court claiming lack of coordination between the two prosecuting agencies - CBI and ED.

Aggarwal, Bosamiya's lawyer too, said in the application that, "The CBI has made him (Bosamiya) an accused and the ED has made him a witness, so how can the person be a witness as well as accused on same facts when both the cases are to be tried jointly?" The court then issued a notice to the CBI and sought its response on the application by July 23.

The issuance of the fraudulent [LoUs](#) is said to be the crux of the mega financial fraud.

An LoU is a guarantee which is given by an issuing bank to Indian [banks](#) having branches abroad to grant a short-term credit to the applicant.

In case of default, the bank issuing the LoU has to pay the liability to the credit giving bank

along with accruing interest.

Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi are among the main accused in the scam pegged at about Rs 134 billion. They have been booked in nearly half-a-dozen cases related to the bank fraud.

They managed to flee the country in the first week of January days before the [PNB](#) was able to detect the fraud.