



## National Investigation Agency

Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India



### NIA Press Release

#### NIA CHARGESHEETS MAIN HARBOURER OF ASSAILANTS & CONSPIRATORS IN RAMALINGAM MURDER CASE

New Delhi, 13th February 2026

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed charges against accused Imthathullah for harbouring the assailants and conspirators involved in the Ramalingam murder case.

The brutal killing of Ramalingam by cadres of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in March 2019 had threatened the communal harmony and stability of the state of Tamil Nadu.

The NIA, which had taken over the probe in the case soon after the attack, today filed a chargesheet against Imthathullah, a resident of Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu, before its Special Court in Poonamallee, Chennai.

The accused has been charged with having “knowingly harboured the assailants and conspirators” involved in the murder of Ramalingam in Thirubhuvanam, Tamil Nadu, as part of a larger conspiracy aimed at creating communal disharmony and terror. As per NIA findings in the case, he had sheltered the absconding Proclaimed Offenders (POs) for nearly six years despite being aware of their involvement in the killing.

The fatal attack on Ramalingam had taken place on 5th February 2019, when PFI members, allegedly engaged in forcible religious conversions near Pakku Vinayakam Thoppu, had gotten into an altercation with the victim who had tried to stop them. Immediately thereafter, PFI had conspired to ‘eliminate’ Ramalingam the same day.

In August 2019, NIA had chargesheeted 18 accused in the case RC-06/2019/NIA/DLI. Of these, six were absconding and were declared Proclaimed Offenders. In 2021, the anti-terror agency arrested one PO, while subsequent investigations led to the arrest of three others in 2025. It was then found that those three absconders had been provided shelter by Imthathullah at Ambur Biryani Restaurant in Kodaikanal. Imthathullah was arrested in August 2025.

NIA, which also apprehended the remaining absconders in 2025, is continuing with its efforts to identify and prosecute other harbourers and associates of the banned PFI involved in the conspiracy.