



## NIA Press Release

Main Absconding Assailant in Kerala's Sreenivasan Murder Case Arrested by NIA

New Delhi, 4th April 2025

In a major breakthrough in the 2022 PFI-orchestrated Palakkad Sreenivasan murder case of Kerala, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested the main assailant, who had been on the run for the past three years.

Shamnad E K @ Shamnad Illikkal, a resident of Manjeri (Malappuram, Kerala), was carrying a reward of Rs. 7 lakh for his arrest. An accused in several other cases too, he was finally nabbed from Ernakulam after sustained efforts by NIA's Absconder Tracking Team.

The accused had been under the protection of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) and was living under a concealed identity since the gruesome killing of RSS leader Sreenivasan.

NIA investigations in the case, registered in September 2022, revealed that the murder conspiracy was hatched by PFI leaders and cadres with the aim to create communal divide. The outfit was engaged in radicalizing vulnerable Muslim youth to promote its violent agenda of establishing Islamic Rule in India by 2047. The recruits were trained in handling of weapons by PFI, which was also actively raising funds for carrying out acts of terror and violence in the country.

The banned outfit was executing its nefarious through multiple wings and units, such as 'Reporters Wing', 'Physical and Arms Training Wing' and 'Service Teams', as per NIA investigations, which further revealed that PFI was using its various campuses, facilities and infrastructure to impart arms training to selected cadres in the guise of Physical Education, Yoga Training, etc.

NIA has so far chargesheeted 63 accused as part of its ongoing investigations in the case (RC-02/2022/NIA/KOC).