



National Investigation Agency

Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India



NIA Press Release

NIA SPL. COURT SENTENCES ANOTHER KEY LeT TERROR OPERATIVE IN BENGALURU PRISON RADICALISATION CASE.

New Delhi, 2nd May 2026

Another key operative of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist organisation has been convicted and sentenced by a special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the 2023 Bengaluru prison radicalisation case.

The Bengaluru special court has sentenced Vikram Kumar @ Chota Usman to seven years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) along with Rs.30,000 in fine, under various provisions of IPC, UA (P) Act and Explosive Substances Act.

Vikram is the eighth accused to be convicted and sentenced in the case case, re-registered by NIA as RC-28/2023/NIA/DLI. Just last month, the court had sentenced seven other accused, including mastermind and LeT member T Naseer, who had hatched the terror radicalisation conspiracy while being an under trial prisoner in the Parapanna Agrahara Central Prisons in the 2008 Bengaluru serial blast case.

NIA investigation had revealed that accused Vikram Kumar was radicalised and recruited by Naseer and co-accused Junaid Ahmed while in the Bengaluru prison. He had stayed in touch with Naseer and Junaid after his release. In May 2023, Vikram had collected a dead drop of hand grenades and walkie-talkies from Ambala in Haryana and handed them to a co-accused in Bengaluru.

Vikram, who was funded by Junaid, was also involved in the larger conspiracy to facilitate the escape of T Naseer en route from the prison to a court, as part of LeT's agenda to promote terror activities in India and damage national security and sovereignty, as per the investigations of NIA.

The case was originally registered by the Bengaluru Central Crime Branch (CCB) in July 2023 following the seizure of arms, ammunition and digital devices from habitual offenders, who had planned to unleash a series of terrorist attacks in Bengaluru city to further LeT's activities. NIA, which took over the case from CCB, had uncovered the larger conspiracy involved in the case, including the plot to facilitate Naseer's escape.

The anti-terror agency had filed a chargesheet against 12 accused persons, including Junaid, who is still absconding. Efforts are on to track Junaid.