



NIA Press Release

NIA Arrests Harboured Chief Conspirator in Praveen Nettaru Murder Case

New Delhi, 21st January 2025

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused in the Praveen Nettaru murder case.

Ateeq Ahmed is the 21st accused to be arrested in the case relating to the brutal killing of Nettaru in Bellare village of Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka, by members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in July 2022.

Ateeq had, under the PFI leadership's guidance, harboured and assisted Mustafa Paichar, identified as the chief conspirator in the case. Mustafa had planned and executed the murder, carried out as part of the PFI agenda to trigger fear and communal unrest among the people.

After the attack, Mustafa had absconded and Ateeq had facilitated his movement, including transporting him to Chennai. He had helped Mustafa evade law enforcement till the latter's arrest in May 2024.

NIA, which had taken over the case from the local police in August 2022, had found during investigation that PFI had formed secret teams, referred to as "PFI Service Teams" and trained in arms and surveillance, to carry out targeted killings such as that of Nettaru.

The agency is continuing with its investigation to trace the remaining six accused, against whom rewards have been announced.