PRESS RELEASE
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ED conducts searches in Bengaluru in ISIS recruitment and terror-funding case; proceeds of crime worth Rs. 7.50 Lakh frozen

Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office on 21.07.2026 conducted search operations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at eight locations in Bengaluru in a money-laundering investigation linked to an alleged ISIS recruitment and terror-funding module. During the searches, incriminating electronic records and digital devices linked to the alleged offence were seized, and Proceeds of Crime amounting to Rs. 7.50 Lakh were frozen under Section 17(1-A) of the PMLA, 2002.

The search operation was carried out in an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered by the ED on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) relating to alleged ISIS recruitment activities involving the Iqra Welfare Trust, the Guidance for Mankind (GFM) Trust, and certain individuals based in Bengaluru.

The NIA had registered its FIR under Sections 17 (raising funds for terrorist acts), 18 (conspiracy and preparatory acts for terrorism) and 18B (recruitment of persons for terrorist acts) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and subsequently arrested Irfan Nasir (Businessman), Ahamed Abdul Cader (Business Analyst in Private Bank), Dr. Mohd. Tauqir Mahmood (BDS from KIMS, Bangalore), Zuhab Hameed Shakeel Manna @ Zohaib Manna (IT professional) except Mohd. Shihab (IT Professional) who was absconding in the case filed chargesheet naming the above stated five persons as accused as all allegedly affiliated with the banned terrorist organisation ISIS/ISIL/Daesh.

According to the NIA chargesheet, the accused entered into a criminal conspiracy to radicalise and recruit impressionable Muslim youth from Bengaluru into ISIS. They allegedly identified and radicalised recruits through a Muslim “personality development” workshop called Iqra Camp and a weekly study circle called Quran Circle, and thereafter raised and channelled funds — sourced from individuals, trusts and personal savings — to facilitate the illegal travel of recruits to Syria via Turkey to fight for ISIS against the Syrian government. The accused are also alleged to have exploited sentiments around the anti-CAA/NRC protests to incite Muslims against non-Muslims, and to have propagated ISIS ideology through encrypted social media platforms.

The ED's investigation has revealed that funds were raised by the accused by themselves and through trustees of Iqra Welfare Trust and GFM Trust which were allegedly used to finance and facilitate the recruitment of vulnerable individuals into ISIS.

Further investigation under the PMLA is underway.

The flow chart depicting the relation among the accused and related persons: