



Arrest of four Sri Lankan nationals associated with the proscribed terrorist organization Islamic State (IS) by ATS Gujarat

Date: 20/05/2024

Deputy Superintendent of Police Shri Harsh Upadhyay of Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) Gujarat had received a credible information that, four individuals namely (1) Mohamed Nusrath, (2) Mohamed Faris, (3) Mohamed Rasdeen & (4) Mohamed Nafran, all being citizens and residents of Sri Lanka, are active members of the proscribed terrorist organization Islamic State (IS) and are highly radicalised by the ideology of Islamic State. It was further revealed that they have conspired to carry out a terrorist attack at some place in India under the banner of the Islamic State (IS) and they would arrive in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on May 18 or 19 by flight or train to carry out the terrorist attack.

To corroborate the information, a team of ATS Gujarat collected and analysed the booking manifests of flights and trains coming to Ahmedabad on 18th and 19th of May. While checking the flight booking details, it was observed that the tickets of the said four Sri Lankan nationals were booked on one single PNR. During the investigation it came to the knowledge of ATS Gujarat that above four Sri Lankan citizens had booked flight tickets from Colombo to Ahmedabad via Chennai. Upon enquiring about their travel itinerary, it was confirmed that they would depart from Colombo in the morning of 19/05/2024 and reach Ahmedabad Airport at 20:10 Hrs on 19/05/2024 via Chennai by Indigo flight No: 6E 848. Immediately, teams were formed under the leaderships of SPs Shri K. Siddharth & Shri K. K. Patel and Dy.S.Ps Shri Harsh Upadhyay & Shri S.L. Chaudhari and deployed at Ahmedabad Airport since the evening of 19/05/2024. All four suspects were picked up from Ahmedabad airport itself and were brought to ATS Gujarat for their further interrogation.

As all the four individuals were not able to communicate in Hindi or English, they had to be interrogated through a translator, wherein they revealed their names as

- 1) Mohamed Nusrath s/o Ahamed Gani, Age - 33 Years, Address - 27/17, Rahmanabad, Pariymol, Nigambu, Sri Lanka,
- 2) Mohamed Nafran, s/o Naufer, Age - 27 Years, Address - 203/17, Liyards, Broad Way, Colombo-14, Sri Lanka,
- 3) Mohamed Faris s/o Mohamed Farook, Age - 35 Years, Address - 415/29, Jumma Masjid Road, Malikavat, Colombo, Sri Lanka,
- 4) Mohamed Rasdeen s/o Abdul Raheem, Age - 43 Years, Address - 36/20, Gulfanda street, Colombo-13, Sri Lanka.

The following details were revealed during examination of the items recovered from possession of the above four detained persons in presence of independent witnesses/panchas.

1. A video was retrieved from the mobile phone recovered from the possession of Mohammad Nusrath. In this video, four men are standing in front of a black flag with an inscription in Arabic. Among which the faces of two men in the middle are visible while faces of men on the sides are covered with a white cloth. These four men were seen making the Baya'ah (pledge) in Arabic and Tamil. Translating this video through a translator, it was revealed that they have pledged

to migrate to join the proscribed terrorist organization Islamic State (IS), follow the path shown by Abu Bakr Baghdadi and to teach a lesson to the attackers who commit atrocities against Muslim Community as well as to teach a lesson to Jews, Christians & members of BJP-RSS.

2. 5 photographs and 01 video were found in Proton drive used by the above entities. These photographs were of (a) a water canal with an probable landmark, (b) some parcel kept in a pink bag under the cavity of concrete boulders, (c) a parcel wrapped in a pink bag and packed with brown colored adhesive tapes, (d) a flag with Arabic writing in middle and three pistol-shaped parcels arranged side by its side and (e) three pistols and three magazines loaded with ammunition, and looking at the thumbnail of the video its appeared to be the same video of the Baya'ah mentioned above.

3. A self-sent email was also found in Proton mail used by the above-mentioned accused, which contained the GR (grid reference) mentioning the latitude & longitude of a place.

Further interrogation of the above-mentioned suspects, through a translator, in this regard revealed that they are active members of the banned terrorist organization 'Islamic State' (IS) and are followers of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and their handler is a person named Abu Pakistani. Baya'ah was given to the Amir of 'Islamic State' (IS) by them as per the instructions of this said Pakistani handler. Abu Pakistani, the IS handler, had informed them that he will share photos of the weapons and the Grid Reference location as well as the photos of the place where the weapons would be hidden on Proton Drive and Proton Mail and had instructed them to go to that place and retrieve the weapons after which he would provide them with further instructions for their task.

So, a team of Gujarat ATS immediately carried out a search in presence of the suspects, independent witnesses/panchas and translator at the Geo Co-ordinates disclosed in the proton mail, during which 3 pistols and 1 black color flag were found from a pink parcel. All the three pistols had a star marking and out of these three, 2 pistols had 7 rounds each in its attached magazine while 1 pistol had 6 rounds in its attached magazine, with a total of 20 rounds being recovered along with three star marked pistols. All the rounds had FATA written on them and all pistols had a unique star marking with their serial numbers having been deliberately scrated off to prevent their back tracking. Prima facie these 3 pistols seem to be of Norinco Type54 model whereas ammunition seems to have been manufactured in erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. "Mohammed is the Messenger of God and there is no God but Allah" was found written in white and black letters in the Arabic language on the black flag found during the discovery of these hidden articles. This black flag belongs to the banned terrorist organization Islamic State (IS).

Moreover, among the above-named detained persons, Mohammad Nusrath and Mohammad Nafran have been to India before whereas Mohammad Nusrath also holds a valid visa of Pakistan.

During the interrogation of above four individuals, through a translator, in presence of independent witness/panchas about the baya'ah video found on their mobile phone and the recovered weapons, they revealed that they were previously affiliated with a Sri Lankan radical militant outfit named National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) which was banned by the Sri Lankan government in April 2019 after the 2019 Sri Lankan Easter Bombings. In February 2024, they came in contact with the said IS handler Abu and on his indoctrination, they became members of the banned terrorist organization IS for which they had taken the baya'ah, and they had come to Ahmedabad at behest of this Pakistani Handler Abu. They were to carry out a terrorist attack somewhere in India under the guidance and instructions passed by Abu for which Abu had paid them Rs. 4,00,000/- in Sri Lankan currency and had also made arrangements for the said weapons and ammunitions to be used in terrorist attacks.

