

**Attending "jihadi meetings" is not considered a terrorist act, according to Karnataka High Court ruling, which the Supreme Court has taken notice of**

*The Hon'ble High Court had ruled that hosting training facilities for members of organisations that are not outlawed by the government and attending jihadi meetings are not terrorist acts.*

The Karnataka High Court's decision that attending "jihadi meetings" of organisations that are not prohibited by the government does not constitute a "terrorist act" was appealed by the Central government, and the Karnataka Supreme Court issued notice in the case on Friday [Union v. Saleem Khan].

A notice with a four-week return period was published by a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli.

Aishwarya Bhati, Additional Solicitor General, appeared on behalf of the Central government.

The Karnataka High Court ruled in April of this year that participating in jihadi gatherings, buying training supplies, and setting up training shelters for members of organisations not outlawed by the government under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) do not constitute "terrorist acts" under Section 2(k) of the UAPA.

Therefore, a Division Bench of Justices B Veerappa and S Rachaiah granted bail to a person accused of committing terrorism offences under the UAPA on the justification that the group he was affiliated with was not a prohibited organisation.

According to the prosecution, a case was filed against 17 accused people after the police received information.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was given the case, and during its investigation, it learned more details about the appellants who were appearing before the High Court.

Later, a chargesheet was submitted against them in accordance with Sections 18 (punishment for conspiracy), 18A (organising of terrorist camps), 20, 39 (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. (IPC).

The trial court denied the two accused's request for bail on the grounds that there was enough evidence proving their involvement in the alleged crime. As a result, they went to the High Court.