

CASE STUDY
2011 DELHI BOMB BLAST



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE (SEMESTER 6)

SUBJECT

CUFS2416- EXPLOSIVE ANALYSIS AND POST BLAST INVESTIGATION

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Introduction –

A blast occurred near reception counter, between gate no. 4 & 5, of Delhi high court at about 10.14 am on 07.09.2011. The blast resulted in the death of 15 and injuries to 79 persons present near the reception counter of delhi high court. Initially, Delhi police registered an fir no. 49/2011 dated 07.09.2011 at police station special cell (NDR), Delhi police, lodhi colony, new Delhi on the basis of a „Rukka“ sent to the police station by Shri Pawan Kumar, no. D-1187, inspector, special cell, NDR, Delhi police lodhi colony, New Delhi stating that unknown accused persons committed terrorist acts by exploding explosives near reception counter, between gate no. 4 & 5, of Delhi high court causing death of and severe injuries to a number of persons.

Facts disclosed during investigation –

- A sketch of two suspected persons was released by the Delhi Police Department on the day of the bombing. According to police sources, the sketches were based on the description given by an eyewitness. The sketch showed one person in his 50s, and another in his mid-20s.

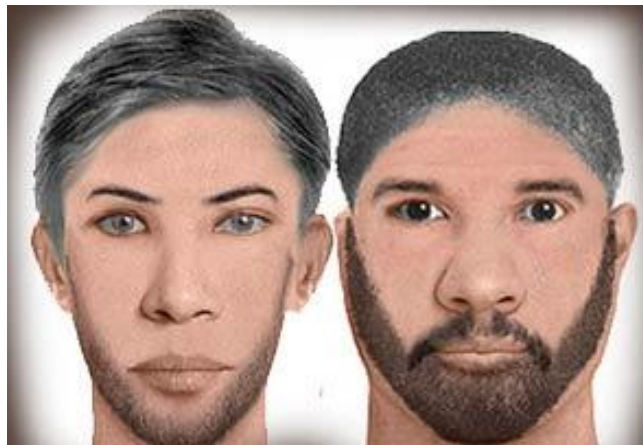


Fig 1 – Sketches of the two suspected persons

- During investigation some facts relating to terrorism in J&K have come to the notice. Jammu & Kashmir has numerous terrorist organizations operating in the region. These terrorist outfits including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen /Hizb -Ul Mujahideen Pir Panjal Regiment, Lashkar -e-Taiba, Al Badr , Harkat-Ul Jihad-E-Islami and so on. The Hizb-ulmujahideen (HM) is proscribed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Of the terrorist outfits currently operating in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HM) is one of the largest, with a cadre base drawn from both indigenous and foreign sources.

- Wasim Akram Malik , an avid internet user, is one of those leaderless jihad is, who got executed this cowardly and inhuman terrorist act by conspiring with the terrorists of the Hizb-ulmujahedeen and others. In the said „rukka“, Inspector Pawan Kumar mentioned that when he along with other police officers reached at the reception counter of the Delhi High Court situated between gates No 4 and 5 of the Delhi High Court, they found several persons lying injured and were being taken to the hospitals by the local police with the assistance of advocates and others. There was blood lying all over the place. One crater of size 4 by 3 feet with depth of around one and half feet was found created due to the impact of the blast near the gate no 4 of the High Court. The tiles and flooring near the blast spot were also found damaged. The tin shed of the reception counter of that side was also found damaged with perforations through projectiles. There were a lot of broken glass pieces lying all around the reception counter and windows of the reception counter were badly damaged. Personal belongings, mobile phones, files, currency notes etc. Alongwith human limbs and bones were lying scattered all around the spot. Impact of the blast was so high that several pieces of the partially burnt clothes were found hanging on the trees near the blast site. The Investigation of the case was entrusted to ACP Shri Bisham Singh who inspected the Scene of Crime (SOC) along with forensic experts of CFSL, New Delhi, Bomb Disposal Squad, experts of Finger Print Bureau, NSG etc.



Fig 2 – NIA team on the crime scene



Fig 3 – Crater formed due to the explosion

- The investigation of the case was taken over by NIA and the complete case files, documents and seized articles, which were in the custody of Special Cell, Delhi Police were taken into possession and scrutinized in detail. Investigation revealed that the

Delhi Police during their investigation inspected the scene of crime, prepared the sketch and seized the material evidence from blast site with the help of forensic experts from CFSL, CBI, New Delhi. Delhi Police during their investigation collected dump mobile phone data of whole of Delhi from all the mobile service providers operating in Delhi as well as the CCTV footages of 07.09.2011 from Khan Market, CGO Complex, Central Secretariat, Patel Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Indraprastha Metro stations etc. Delhi Police also examined the persons injured during the bomb blast.

- Investigation conducted by the Delhi Police further revealed that four emails were received by the media houses and Delhi Police purportedly from terrorist outfits, owing the responsibility of bomb blast at Delhi High Court. The four emails were sent at different times - one was sent on 07.09.2011 at 1.14 PM, second was sent on 07.09.2011 at 4.03 PM. Third and emails were sent on 08.09.2011 at 12.37 PM and on 09.09.2011 at 06.39PM. During investigation by NIA, the scene of crime was inspected and attempt was made to re-create the scene of crime with the help of eye witnesses and Delhi Police officials. Inspection revealed that due to the impact of the blast, there was a crater of about 4x3 ft with the depth of about 1½ ft. The tiles near the spot and windows of the reception counter were found damaged. Investigation also revealed that reception counter of the Delhi High Court was situated between gates no. 4 and 5 of the Court and was at the outer periphery of the Delhi High Court. The inspection also revealed that there was only one entrance of the reception counter which was towards the Gate No.5 of the Delhi High Court. The front portion of the reception counter where visitors make queues for getting passes issued was open from all the sides and was surrounded by a small peripheral wall measuring about 3 feet. The inspection further revealed that reception counter of the Delhi High Court was not covered under the CCTV camera surveillance system.
- NIA investigated the origin of the a fore mentioned „claim emails“ received by the media houses and Delhi police. Investigation revealed that emails sent were actually pranks played by one (age 23 years) and one XYZ (15 years) respectively. Investigation has brought out that the email to the media houses was actually sent by one of the conspirators of the instant case. The email, as the investigation revealed, was sent to the television news channels—and a copy of the same was endorsed to

NDTV channel on 07.09.2011 at 01.14PM, by the culprit, claiming the responsibility of Delhi High Court bomb blast. Gmail (Google) revealed that the said email sent belongs to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Investigation with BSNL revealed that the said IP address belongs to a landline number subscribed in the name of one Syed Manzoor Hussain S/o Syed Fazal Hussain r/o Kishtwar. Investigation further revealed that landline phone number initially installed at the residence of Syed Manzoor Hussain and the subscriber took the broadband internet connection on 14.12.2010. However, the subscriber got the telephone number with broadband connection shifted to Kishtwar, J&K in March 2011. For the sake of urgency of investigation and to prevent any other terrorist attack the facts that surfaced during the investigation conducted thus far, were conveyed to the District Police Kishtwar in J&K for immediate field enquiry. Investigation revealed that, they had one incoming telephone connection landline number with broadband internet facility which was connected to six computers installed in different cabins. During enquiry, the web history of all the computers, installed in the cyber cafe was checked by the District Police. It was found that the web history of the computer installed in cabin number 3 of café, contained URL which mentioned Google. Investigation revealed that the email, claiming the responsibility of bomb blast was sent from the computer installed in number 3 cabin of Global Internet Cyber Cafe. The Kishtwar Police during the investigation in PS Kishtwar arrested Amir Abbas Dev for allegedly sending the „claim email“ to Aajtak and NDTV on 07.09.2011, Kishtwar (J&K). Detailed investigation conducted, subsequently, however revealed that accused had no knowledge about the „claim email“

- Wasim Akram Malik took an auto rickshaw and went to the Delhi High Court and did a close reconnaissance of the area. He chose gate no. 5 as his target as there was no parking area around it and IED attack could cause maximum fatal casualties. After the reconnaissance of the High Court, Wasim went to the Old Delhi Railway station, collected his belongings from the cloak room and boarded the bus to Jammu at around 08:00 p.m. And reached home in Jammu on 30.06.2011. Investigation further revealed that in order to keep his movement in Delhi discreet and inconspicuous, he deliberately deposited his luggage at the Old Delhi Railway station cloak room while as,he had actually arrived at the New Delhi railway Station by train on 29.06.2011

morning. During mobile phone conversations, Wasim informed about his plan to avert the death sentence of Afzal Guru.

- Investigation has revealed that a meeting between Wasim akram Malik and Amir Kamal, Junaid akram Malik and Shakir Hussain Sheikh @ Chhota Hafiz took place at one of the hills at Hullar in the outskirts of Kishtwar town in the second week of July 2011. In this meeting, Wasim proposed his plan of a terror strike at the Delhi High Court, by causing a powerful remote controlled IED blast. Wasim discussed about the death penalty of his idol Afzal Guru; a terrorist involved in the Indian Parliament attack in 2001. Wasim also explained the need for deploying non-Kashmiri looking boys for executing this task in Delhi, as Wasim told them, police in Delhi looks at people with Kashmiri looks with suspicion. Amir Kamal and Shakir seconded the proposal, and took upon themselves the responsibility of arranging non-Kashmiri 'boys' and getting an IED made. It was also decided that after the blast, an email would be sent to the media to give the action a wide publicity.
- Investigation revealed that the day for the blast was fixed on 07.09.2011 at Gate No.5 of Delhi High Court between 1000 to 1300 hrs. 07.09.2011 falls on Wednesday. Wednesdays are the PIL (Public Interest Litigation) days in Delhi High Court and there is relatively more rush on this day. Investigation further revealed that, Junaid, Wasim akram Malik and the two non-Kashmiri terrorists decided to meet Amir Abbas Dev on 03.09.2011 Kishtwar to enquire about the preparation for sending the email. Junaid also wanted to personally meet the boy, tasked for sending the email, as giving vast publicity to the terrorist action was of utmost importance. Investigation revealed that on 03.09.2011. Wasim Akram along with Junaid Akram Malik and two Urdu speaking militants who were introduced to Wasim as Pakistani nationals, met accused Amir Abbas Dev at 11:00 AM. Junaid was carrying a brief case containing the IED. Investigation revealed that Wasim Akram Malik deliberately introduced the said Pakistani militants to Amir Abbas Dev as Bangladeshi nationals, in order to keep their identities secret. Amir informed that he had arranged for sending the email. The plan for execution of bomb blast at Delhi High Court was discussed. Investigation revealed that the Wasim and Junaid discussed about giving money to the two urdu speaking militants, only to further mislead Amir . Junaid akram Malik told the Urdu speaking

militants (Abu Bilal and Abu Saifullah) to leave Kishtwar in the early morning of 04.09.2011 and meet him near Kud, where the brief case containing IED would be given to them by Junaid . It was also decided that Junaid would move ahead to Kud with the bomb and Wasim would see off the said two militants on 04.09.2011 morning at Kishtwar bus stand. Wasim Akram Malik also asked Amir Abbas Dev to accompany him while seeing off the two militants on 04.09.2011 morning. Wasim Akram Malik prepared the contents of the email message which was to be sent to the media after the blast on a blank piece of paper. He also wrote the steps for creating the Gmail account which was to be created with email ID. Investigation revealed that wasimakram Malik met Amir Abbas Dev on 05.09.2011 at about 1130 AM and handed him over the email message prepared by him at his house. Wasim instructed Amir Abbas Dev to keep watching TV news channel on 07.09.2011, and to send the email, a few hours after hearing the news about the bomb blast at Delhi High Court. He also directed Amir Abbas Dev to destroy the piece of paper containing the contents of the email.

- Investigation further revealed that on hearing the news of the bomb blast on 07.09.2011 on TV channels, (A-3) went to Global Internet Cybercafé, Kishtwar alongwith his friend at 01:00 PM. He was allotted cabin No.3 (A-3), with the help of the paper given by Amir Abbas Dev opened the email account and after typing the text written in the piece of paper sent the email to TV news channel, Aaj tak and NDTV, (A-3) destroyed the piece of paper given by accused Amir Abbas Dev (A-2), by chewing the same and then spitting it in the drain outside the cyber cafe. Wasim came to know about the bomb blast at Delhi High Court on 07.09.2011 from TV news channels in Jammu. As premeditated, Wasim and other conspirators desisted from discussing anything about this incident on phone. Wasim Akram Malik left for Bangladesh via Kolkata by flight and reached Bangladesh on 10.09.2011 from Kolkata by road via Haridaspur border.
- Investigation revealed that six computers were installed at Kishtwar from where the email claiming the responsibility of Delhi High Court bomb blast was sent on 07.09.2011. During investigation, one CPU and one BSNL modem which were installed café were seized. The hard disk of the said CPU has been sent to the

Computer Forensics Lab of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through Legal Attaché, USA Embassy, New Delhi for its analysis. During investigation, various material / exhibits including one brief case handle, seven Plastic parts of a briefcase, two broken frames of briefcase, one broken lock of briefcase, one broken frame's part of briefcase, one briefcase (open & close) Clip, two torn Rexene pieces brown & black, one plastic piece of helmet, one red & green coloured electric wire, one switch type case block, etc., which were seized from the blast site were sent to CFSL, CBI, New Delhi for analysis and expert opinion.

Forensic evidences found -

- The CFSL has opined that, “in the Improvised Explosive Device, the Charge containing PETN, Ammonium Nitrate & Fuel Oil had been used in the explosion. The report further opined that “the Iron nails could have been used as „missiles“ in the IED.”
- The experts deciphered the indented handwriting available on the blank papers recovered from the house of search of accused Wasim Akram Malik. The deciphered handwriting contains the text of the email which was prepared and handed over by the accused Wasim Akram Malik to Amir Abbas Dev for giving to (A-3) on 05.09.2011. The same text was emailed by (A-3) on 07.09.2011 after the blast from Kishtwar claiming the responsibility of the Delhi High Court bomb blast. The expert also opined that specimen handwritings of accused Wasim Akram Malik match with the deciphered handwriting as well as the handwriting available on the requisition slip of the cloak room of Old Delhi Railway Station.

Verdict –

- Thus investigation prima facie establishes a prosecutable case against the accused persons Wasim Akram Malik, Amir Abbas Dev, Amir Kamal, Junaid Akram Malik and Shakir Hussain Sheikh @Chota Hafiz and they are therefore liable for punishment for the offences Section 120B, 121, 121A, 122, 123 302,307,323,325, 436 and 440 of IPC, Section 3, 4 & 5 of Explosive Substances Act and Section 16, 18, 20, 38and 39 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
- The investigation in respect of Abu Bilal and Abu Saifullah, the two terrorists who reportedly planted the bomb at Delhi High Court could not be completed as their

identities are yet to be established. The sanction for prosecution of the a fore mentioned accused persons under Section 196 of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, u/s 7 of Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and Section 45(1) of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been obtained from the Government of India and the same is enclosed herewith.

- The order to transfer the chargesheet in respect of accused (A-3), a juvenile delinquent, to Juvenile Justice Board New Delhi has been issued.

Challenges faced by Forensic Investigators -

- During investigation, the Hon“ble special Court of NIA, New Delhi was requested seeking permission to conduct Forensic Assessment Interview, Screening by Suspect Detection System, Polygraph examination (Lie Detector Test) & Brain Electrical Oscillations Signature Test (BEOS) of accused Wasim Akram Malik. However, the accused Wasim Akram Malik who was in judicial custody, refused to undergo the aforesaid tests and as such the Hon“ble Court did not grant permission for conducting the test upon the accused Wasim Akram Malik.
- Abu Bilal and Abu Saifullah, the two terrorists who reportedly planted the bomb at Delhi High Court were not arrested as their identities couldn't be revealed as there were lack of surveillance cameras in that particular area where the bomb was planted.

Inference –

- A severe blast jolted the Delhi High Court premises on the morning of September 7, 2011. Gate No. 5, the site of the blast, was chosen due to a lack of vigilance and improper surveillance of that area. Lack of surveillance cameras and security at the site made it a vulnerable place and thus an ideal choice for the terrorist (accused) to cause such a heinous crime.
- Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HM), with its headquarters in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, is operational in Jammu and Kashmir and is one of the most important terrorist outfits in terms of its effectiveness in perpetrating violence across the state as well as outside the state at regular intervals.

- IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) had become the „weapon of choice“ for the terrorists, as they require little skill to set up and allow terrorists to launch devastating attacks with a limited investment.

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