

Extradition of 'D' man: Thai court backs India over Pak

Mumbai: In a major set-back for gangster Dawood Ibrahim and a diplomatic victory for India, a Thailand court has ruled in favour of Delhi's request for extraditing Chhota Shakeel's aide Mudassar Hussain Sayyed, alias Munna Zingada.

A gangster from Mumbai's Jogeshwari, Zingada had gone to Bangkok along with a few others and had at Shakeel's behest made an attempt on the life of rival gangster Rajendra Nikhalje, alias Chhota Rajan, in Bangkok in 2000. Sources in intelligence agencies said that if everything goes well, 50-year-old Zingada should be behind bars in India by September-end. Rajan's key aide, Rohit Verma, was killed in the Bangkok attack, and Zingada was jailed for 10 years.

Don's bogus docus didn't help

Sources said that since Zingada had entered Thailand on a Pakistani passport bearing the name of one Mohammed Saleem, the Pakistan government had been claiming that he was their citizen. India and Pakistan had locked horns for now almost eight years before the Thai authorities claiming Zingada's nationality. Shakeel had left no stone to prove Zingada's nationality by submitting bogus Pakistani school leaving certificate and a passport.

"Their claim was bogus but our documentation, our presentation before the Thai court that Zingada's attempt on Chhota Rajan, an Indian

gangster, itself was a strong proof that Zingada was Indian. Secondly, we also collected his dossier of him joining the gang, his school and ration and voting card and lastly, DNA samples of his family members which further strengthened our case," said a senior official on condition of anonymity. The officer added that now the Thai authorities, which has ruled in favour of India, will give a month's time to Zingada to challenge their order and that too purely on merits otherwise he will be handed over to India.

A senior IPS officer said the Pakistan government's process of Zingada's extradition before the Thai court has also exposed how the ISI-

backed Dawood is supported by the Pakistani government. Sources said the Indian government's continuous efforts and Mumbai police's material evidence brought them success.

In 2016, a team headed by then DCP (crime) Dhananjay Kulkarni had gone to Bangkok to expedite the Zingada extradition process. The crime branch team had submitted a comprehensive dossier on Zingada before a Thai court, listing his criminal forays in Mumbai between 1994 and 97 along with "incontrovertible proof of his Indian nationality", which included his passport detail, fingerprints, and the DNA samples of his family members.