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# Waterman held for provoking mob to set MLA's house afire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Thursday arrested a 35-year-old waterman for allegedly provoking the mob that attacked Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasamurthy's residence in Kaval Byrasandra on the night of August 11 and abetting them to set it ablaze.

Mujahid alias Water Mujju, is a resident of DJ Halli. The arson at the MLA's house was the beginning of the riots that night, leading to attacks on two police stations and death of four people.

Officials found that Mujahid was not at his residence

**66** We've taken **Mujahid** into custody for eight days as we suspect he is aware of those who planned the attack on DJ police station and MLA



Srinivasamurthy's house. The MLA knew Mujahid for a long time as he worked in the area as waterman and both were on good terms

**-A police officer**

from the day the incident happened and his mobile phone was switched off. Police said Mujahid had taken shelter in his relatives' places in Kolar, Ramanagara and Mulbagal. He recently shifted to another relative's place in Chamarajpet, assuming that police were busy with narcotics case and he could get away.

However, police learnt about his arrival in the city and nabbed him.

Police said Mujahid played a crucial role in provoking the people. He even brought diesel cans to the spot. He left the city in a bike after three persons were killed in the police firing. More than 60 people, including cops, were injured in the inci-

dent. "We're also probing whether he's linked with the pro-Muslim organisations which had extended support to the violence," said police.

The mob had gathered in front of the MLA's house in protest against his nephew Naveen's Facebook post against a community.

Over 350 peoples have been arrested in the case, including SDPI leader Muzammil Pasha and BBMP corporator Irshad Begum's husband Kaleem Pasha. BBMP former mayor Sampath Raj was questioned as his personal secretary Arun Kumar was arrested. The government has ordered a magisterial probe into it.