



**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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P R E S S N O T E

4-YEAR-OLD SENSATIONAL MURDER CASE OF A PAWN BROKER CRACKED

With the arrest of three accused persons, the 4-year-old sensational case of 'Murder for Gain' of a Pawn Broker stands 'solved'.

On 05.04.2014, a case of 'Murder for Gain' was registered at Orleanpet Police Station on the complaint of Shri. Sohanlal Dhoot r/o Rainbow Nagar, Puducherry that his brother Radhe Shyam Dhoot (aged 50 years/2014) s/o Ram Nivas Dhoot was hacked to death by inflicting grievous injuries with knives in his Pawn Broker Shop at Maraimalai Adigal Salai, Nellithope by unknown robbers/killers, who decamped with 7.5 kg gold jewellery, worth Rs. 1.30 Crore from the Shop. The case was taken up for investigation in the right earnest. However, the case could not be cracked and it continued to be under investigation.

The DIGP (Law & Order) Rajiv Ranjan, IPS, in order to have focused investigation, activated the Special Task Force led by Inspector Karthikeyan and SI Ramesh to detect the case. The team consists of SGHCs Jayaprakash, Anandou, Murali, Krishnamurthy and PCs Manikandan, Palaniraja, Venkatesan, Saravanan, Shinoj, Govindan, Jagadeesh, Ilanthamizh, Arulvelan & Home Guard Elumalai.

The team revisited the 'Scene of Crime', studied the case records, deployed sources in the area and extensively examined the witnesses & locals. Surveillance was mounted on the accused persons including their relatives & friends. Interestingly, there was a breakthrough in the case and the Police Team unraveled the mystery.

On 07.04.18, the Police team laid separate traps and the accused persons, viz., (1) **Gopi @ Gopinath** (30) s/o Kumar, r/o Vision Apartment, Pavithra Manikkam, Thiruvarur Dt., Tamilnadu, (2) **Arun @ Arul Kumar** (30) s/o Umapathy, r/o No.219, Subbaiah Nagar, Thattanchavady, Puducherry and (3) **Jothi @ Suyam Jothi** (29) s/o Jayamoorthy, r/o No.24, Gangaianman Koil St., Thattanchavady, Puducherry have been arrested. They have confessed to their crime.

The tactful interrogation revealed that the accused persons Gopi @ Gopinath, Arun @ Arul Kumar and Jothi @ Suyam Jothi are class-mates. They were working as Drivers for load-carrier vehicles. As the trio wanted to become rich quickly, they hatched a plot to rob the gold jewellery from any Pawn Broker Shop after killing its owners. As Gopi was working as Driver in a Cement Godown, adjacent to the Pawn Broker Shop of the deceased person Radhe Shyam Dhoot, he knew the movement of the deceased and accordingly, the trio conspired to loot his shop. As per their plan, the accused Jothi @ Suyam Jothi pledged a gold jewellery with the deceased person on the day before the incident by giving false name & address. The next day, i.e., on 05.04.2014 at about 08.00 AM, the accused persons Suyam Jothi & Arun went inside the Shop and told the deceased person that they want to redeem the jewellery. When the deceased person went inside the room, where the locker was kept, immediately the accused persons Gopi & Arun followed him inside the room and killed him brutally by stabbing on his stomach and neck with knives. They robbed a part of the gold jewellery from the locker and sped away in a Car, brought by the accused Suyam Jothi. The jewellery was disposed of by the accused Gokulakrishnan r/o Thiruvarur (TN), who is the uncle of the accused Gopi, by way of pledging in Banks and selling in various Jewellery Shops in the form of jewellery and in-gots after melting it. The gold jewellery worth Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, pledged in some Banks and other Jewellery Shops will be recovered.

After committing the offence, the accused Gopi absconded from his work place and had settled in his native place, viz., Thiruvarur (TN). He had purchased land, lorry and also running a bakery in Thiruvarur in the name of his uncle Gokulakrishnan. The accused Arun also purchased a lorry & luxury car and leading a lavish life. The other accused persons Suyam Jothi and Gokulakrishnan are also living luxuriously. Their changed lifestyle created doubt and the STF team closely shadowed them for several months. The 'Jig-saw Puzzle' came to an end after a period of four years. The absconding accused person Gokulakrishnan and some other persons will also be nabbed.

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(RAJIV RANJAN, IPS)
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