

PRESS RELEASE
17.02.2013

Crime Branch of Chandigarh police got a major success in solving the burglary case, which took place in Hotel Park Plaza Sector-17, Chandigarh on 11.02.2013.

On 10.02.2013 at about 8.30 PM, Dr. Mohit Singla (NRI) alongwith his wife Dr Ashima had checked in room No. 317 of Hotel Park Plaza. During the night they did not leave their room and even took dinner in their room.

On 11.02.2013, at about 9.00 AM, they got a phone call which they did not attend. After some time, Dr. Singla enquired from the reception of the hotel regarding any message for him as they had received a missed call. The person sitting at the front-desk of the said hotel told that neither they were aware about any phone call nor there was any message for Dr. Mohit Singla.

On the same day at about 10.30 AM, Dr. Mohit received another phone call from a male person, who stated that there was a complementary breakfast for them at coffee-house in the ground-floor of the hotel. On this the doctor couple went to the coffee-house at about 10.54 AM but found that no such breakfast was there, as told them on phone. At about 11.54 AM, when they returned back to their room after having breakfast on their own expenses, they tried to open their room but could not do it. Suddenly, a person from the hotel staff came there and opened their room with another key. After going inside the room couple started getting ready as they had to check-out at 12.00 PM. Mrs. Ashima w/o Dr. Mohit had to wear earrings from one of her jewelry box, but she found her jewelry missing. She immediately informed her husband about the missing jewelry. When they checked their luggage properly, they found that cash of Rs. 30,000/- in Indian currency, 4,000 Canadian dollars, 250 carat solitaire ear-rings, one 80 carat solitaire locket, one gold set with pendant and ear-

rings, two pairs of diamond ear-rings, one pair of silver anklet etc were also missing from there room.

Later, on the complaint of Dr. Ashima Gupta, a case FIR No. 56 Dated 11.02.2013 u/s 454, 380, 34 IPC was registered at Police Station Sector-17, Chandigarh.

On 12.02.2013, Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising Insp. Ranjodh Singh (Incharge/Crime Branch), Insp. Ram Gopal (SHO/PS-17), SI Sohan Lal (Incharge/PP-Neelam) under the supervision of Sh. Satbir Singh, DSP/Crime was formed by the senior officers; vide order No. 334-341/SSP/Chandigarh/Dated 12.02.2013.

The abovementioned case of theft was of well-planned nature as the switch connecting with all the 16 CCTV cameras of 3rd & 4th floors of the above-said hotel was found not functional at the time of occurrence of crime.

In order to solve the case, the Special Investigation Team -SIT- went through all the probable aspects to gather the maximum details to unearth the crime. In the course of initial probe the team questioned numbers of hotel employees and subsequently gathered some vital clues through technical surveillance. The team inspected the CCTV camera footages of hotel Park Plaza in Sector-17, Chandigarh and hotel Radison at Jalandhar (Punjab) where the same modus operandi was adopted by the criminals to commit the burglary in room No. 405 where Dr. Ankush Puri was a victim of similar crime.

The SIT got major success by solving abovementioned burglary case by arresting an accused, namely Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag S/o Bhanji Chhang from near hotel Aditya, Malad, Swami Viveka Nand Road, Mumbai.

With the arrest of accused, police recovered golden colour chain, silver colour bracelet and silver colour chain from his possession. On the spot interrogation, accused further revealed that he was staying in the hotel Aditi, where he had kept some stolen ornaments. Police immediately searched his hotel room and found one pair of silver colour anklets, silver colour chain, one gold colour chain, one pair of tops, one pair of silver colour earrings, one light blue colour stone and one white colour stone and cash Rs 18,000. The accused admitted that all these abovementioned articles are stolen by him and his accomplice. The police will now get these articles identified from concerned complainants also.

While investigating the case, police found that both accused Jayesh R. Sejpal and Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag came to hotel Park Plaza on 10th of February in the late evening hours. There they identified a doctor couple to make their target, who had checked in the hotel at around 8:30 pm. When luggage of the couple was carried to their room by the hotel staff, one accused Jayesh R. Sejpal managed to sneak in the lift to identify the room, in which luggage was dropped. After that both of the accused left the hotel.

In the next morning on 12th February, both of the accused entered in hotel Park Plaza with pre planned strategy to target doctor couple.

As per plan to bring the doctor couple out from their room, accused Jayesh R. Sejpal made a call in the room of doctor couple at 9 am, but the call was not attended. After that again at 10 AM they made another call in the room of couple and said that their complementary breakfast was ready. After that the couple came down at around 10:54 AM for having the said breakfast, but was surprised to see that there was not any such complementary breakfast for them. Then they took the breakfast on their own expenses in the coffee house at ground floor of the hotel.

The moment doctor couple came down from their room, accused Jayesh R. Sejpal went in the lobby of third floor through hotel lift and made a call to hotel reception by pretending him occupant of room number 317 where doctor couple was staying. He asked at reception to send a second key of the room number 317 by saying that there is a problem in the original key of the room.

The hotel staff immediately sent the second key at third floor where Jayesh R. Sejpal received the key and when the hotel staff asked for original non-working key, then he said that he has already sent the key at the reception. After that Jayesh R. Sejpal entered in the room of doctor couple and stolen abovementioned articles and cash and meanwhile his accomplice Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag was keeping watch on doctor couple at coffee shop, where they were having breakfast. Both of the accused completed their operation within the period of 15 to 20 minutes without any obstacle. After committing the crime, accused left the hotel at 11:18 AM. The doctor couple came to know about the crime when they came to in their room after having breakfast.

During the interrogation, accused Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag revealed that he met Jayesh R. Sejpal another accused in the crime when he was arrested in a case of quarrel and remained in Arthur road jail for a week. After coming out from the jail they committed theft in the hotels of Mumbai. In the year of 2000, both were arrested by the cops of Kolaba police station Mumbai. After getting bail from the court, they again started committing crime in the different cities of the country, most of them are well know tourist places. They were caught in Chennai in six criminal cases of theft/burglaries. Both of the accused remained in jail there for 13 months. After coming out from the jail, they again were caught in Agra in the case of theft in a hotel in the year of 2006. Jayesh R. Seibal was convicted for five years in this criminal case while Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag got the bail, but did not attend the court later. Ramesh

Bhanaji Chhag started a business of Ice cream Shop in the name of Zero Degree Shop No. 1 Rashmi Avenue, Thakur Complex Kandiwal, East Mumbai. After completing the conviction period, Jayesh R. Sejpai again met Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag and both decided to commit crime of theft and burglaries. Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag immediately rented out his ice cream shop and both resumed the crime as per planned strategy.

They moved out to Mumbai and committed crime in over half a dozen prominent tourist states including Gujrat, Jodhpur, Chennai, Vijaywada, Karnatka, Punjab and Chandigarh.

For committing crimes in Jalandhar and Chandigarh, they left from Mumbai on 7th February by train. Initially, they reached Ajmer and paid obeisance at holy Ajmer Sharif Dargah. After that they reached to Delhi and stayed in a hotel adjoining the New Delhi Railway Station.

On 9th February they left New Delhi and reached to Jalandhar and committed crime there at Redison hotel on 10th of February. After that they reached to Chandigarh and hired room number 111 in hotel Modern Palace, at Attawa in sector 42 in Chandigarh. After coming to city they visited hotel Shivalik-view and Park Plaza for the identification of targets. Later they identified doctor couple in hotel Park Plaza in sector 17 in Chandigarh on 10th of February. After committing the crime on 11th of February, both of the accused left Chandigarh on 11th February for New Delhi in the noon. After reaching Delhi, they hired a room at a hotel near Nizamudin Railway Station. On 12th February they left for Mumbai from New Delhi and reached to Mumbai on 13th of February. In Mumbai, they hired a room in hotel Aditi Malad, Swami Vivekanand Road, Mumbai.

In the course of probe, the investigation team also recovered total six ATM cards of Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag. Out of total six, four ATMs are of HDFC bank and one each of State Bank of India and Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank.

Further probe found that another accused in the case Jayesh R. Sejpal having account in Bank of India in Mumbai. While inquiring the bank account of Jayesh R Sejpal, constant deposition of money has been traced. It was found that an amount of rupees 49,000 each was deposited on 14th and 15th February 2013. The total amount in the account was found Rs 6.88 lakh.

Modus Operandi

Both of the accused used to target visitors of big hotels. As per modus operandi after identifying the visitors of hotels in advance, they used to make call to the target visitors on the name of complementary breakfast to bring them out from their respective rooms. When the visitors came out from their rooms, accused Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag used to keep watch on the activities of the targeted persons, while another Jayesh R. Sejpal commits the crime after entering in the rooms of visitors after asking for second keys of the rooms by pretending him original occupant of the hotel room from hotel staff. During the course of committing crime, both of the accused used to remain in touch with each other through mobile phones.

The accused Ramesh Bhanaji Chhag was produced in the court of duty magistrate Sh Ajit Pal Singh, JMIC, Chandigarh from where he was sent on police remand till 28th of February. Further investigation is on progress to nab another accused in the case and to unearth other crimes committed by the both accused, if any.