

APPENDIX: PERSONS OF INTEREST

The Last Toast — Cooperative Murder Mystery

OPTIONAL — AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

This document provides additional context on Tier 3 suspects. Players may request it during investigation, or host can offer it if players ask about background characters.

TIER 3: ADDITIONAL PERSONS OF INTEREST

These individuals have been interviewed and cleared of direct involvement but may have relevant information. They are included for reference and to add depth to the investigation.

14. Meenakshi Rao — Housekeeper

Field	Detail
Relationship	Housekeeper (8 years)
Age	54
At Party	On duty
Alibi	Working in kitchen/service areas throughout evening

Background:

- Long-serving employee, trusted by the family
- Discovered the body at 6:15 AM on December 14
- Received the whiskey bottle delivery on December 12
- Confirmed bottle seal was intact when delivered
- Knows all family dynamics and secrets

Statement Summary: "I placed the bottle in Sir's cabinet. It was sealed — Sir is very particular about that. I did not open it. I did not touch it again."

Relevance: Key witness for bottle chain of custody. Confirms seal was intact at delivery.

15. Ramesh Kumar — Chef

Field	Detail
Relationship	Estate Chef (5 years)
Age	42
At Party	On duty
Alibi	In main kitchen preparing food until 2:30 AM

Background:

- Professional chef, previously worked at Taj Mumbai
- No known conflicts with the family
- Has access to service kitchen (near camera junction box)
- Multiple staff confirm his presence in main kitchen

Statement Summary: "I was cooking throughout the party. I did not go to the study. I did not see anything unusual."

Relevance: Alibi is solid. No connection to evidence. Cleared.

16. Krishnan M. — Driver

Field	Detail
Relationship	Personal Driver (10 years)
Age	48
At Party	On duty
Alibi	Drove multiple guests; waiting in staff quarters

Background:

- Drove Rohit Malhotra to the estate on December 13
- Waited in staff quarters during party
- Drove Deepika Joshi home at 1:45 AM
- Longtime trusted employee

Statement Summary: "I drove Rohit Sir to the party. Later I took Deepika Madam home. She was quiet in the car."

Relevance: Confirms departure times. Notes Deepika was "quiet" (emotional state after meeting with Arjun).

17. Suresh Patil — Bartender

Field	Detail
Relationship	Hired for event (first time at estate)
Age	35
At Party	On duty
Alibi	At bar cart/drawing room throughout party

Background:

- Professional bartender, hired through catering agency
- First time working at Malhotra Estate
- Observed multiple key interactions during party
- Provided critical witness statements

Key Observations:

- Saw Kavya and Deepika arguing on terrace at 11:45 PM

- Saw Rohit go toward study at 1:50 AM
- Noted Rohit came out 20 minutes later looking "calm" (unusual given his earlier agitation)

Relevance: Critical witness. Observations support case timeline.

18. Anita Reddy — Company Accountant

Field	Detail
Relationship	Senior Accountant, Malhotra Industries (7 years)
Age	38
At Party	Not invited
Alibi	In Pune visiting family

Background:

- Works under CFO Anil Verma
- Had discovered financial discrepancies in October 2024
- Reported concerns to internal audit (not yet escalated to Chairman)
- No personal connection to family members

Relevance: Her discovery of discrepancies relates to Anil Verma's embezzlement motive. She was not at the party.

19. Raj Oberoi — Former Business Partner

Field	Detail
Relationship	Former partner in real estate ventures (parted ways 2018)
Age	59
At Party	Not invited
Alibi	In Dubai on business

Background:

- Partnership ended acrimoniously over profit disputes
- Lost ₹200 Cr in failed joint venture
- Had publicly criticized Arjun in business circles
- No recent contact with the family

Statement Summary: "We had our differences years ago. I moved on. I was in Dubai when he died."

Relevance: Old grudge, but no opportunity. Flight records confirm Dubai alibi. Cleared.

20. Neha Gupta — Journalist

Field	Detail
Relationship	Business journalist, Economic Herald

Age	33
At Party	Not invited
Alibi	Working late at newspaper office (corroborated)

Background:

- Investigating Malhotra Industries for months
- Had received anonymous tips about financial irregularities
- Was preparing exposé on corporate governance issues
- Never had direct contact with victim

Relevance: Part of whistleblower subplot. May have received information from Deepika (suspected whistleblower). Not directly involved in murder.

21. Vishal Mehta — Private Investigator

Field	Detail
Relationship	Hired by Arjun Malhotra
Age	45
At Party	Not invited
Alibi	Surveillance work in Mumbai

Background:

- Arjun hired him in November 2024 to investigate the whistleblower
- Had been tracking corporate leaks
- Reported findings to Arjun on December 10
- His report may have informed Arjun's last text: "I know who you are"

Relevance: His investigation helps explain Arjun's knowledge about the whistleblower. The burner phone found in Arjun's desk was likely used for communication with Mehta.

22. Ravi Singh — Bodyguard

Field	Detail
Relationship	Personal Security (3 years)
Age	38
At Party	On duty
Alibi	Stationed at main entrance, then patrol

Background:

- Former Army, professional security training
- Stationed at main entrance until midnight
- Conducted perimeter patrols after midnight

- Did not enter main house during party

Statement Summary: "I was outside. I checked the perimeter every 30 minutes. I did not hear anything from the study. The windows were closed."

Relevance: Explains why strangulation was not heard. Confirms he did not witness the crime. His patrol schedule means he was not near the study at the time of murder.

23. Vikash Mehta — Catering Coordinator

Field	Detail
Relationship	Hired catering staff (first time at estate)
Age	32
At Party	On duty
Alibi	Working bar service; departed with catering crew at 2:30 AM

Background:

- Catering Coordinator for Silver Spoon Catering Services
- First time at Malhotra Estate
- Education: St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (2011-2014)
- Originally from working-class family in Thane
- Oversaw all catering setup and operations

Statement Summary: "I coordinated the catering team. Made sure everything was set up properly. Left with the rest of the crew around 2:30 AM. I don't know anything about what happened."

Relevance: Catering staff present during critical period. Departed AFTER all guests left (02:30 AM). Had access to service kitchen path (not covered by cameras).

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: TIER 2 SUSPECTS SUMMARY

For quick reference, the secondary suspects (who were present at party but left before critical window or have solid alibis):

Name	Role	Left Party	Key Detail
Nisha Malhotra	Daughter	11:45 PM	With husband; has alibi
Sanjay Kapoor	Son-in-Law	11:45 PM	With wife; has alibi
Karan Malhotra	Nephew	Not invited	Was not at estate
Dr. Raghav Menon	Physician	10:30 PM	Earliest departure; alibi confirmed
Adv. Sunil Sharma	Attorney	Not invited	Was not at estate
Col. Prakash Singh	Security Chief	Off duty	Was not at estate

EVIDENCE CROSS-REFERENCE

Who Had Access to the Study?

Person	Dec 12 (Original Bottle)	Dec 13 (Swap Window 19:00-20:00)	Dec 14 (Murder ~02:15)
Rohit Malhotra	YES (19:32-21:15)	NO (arrived later)	Departed 02:10
Deepika Joshi	NO	NO	Departed 01:45
Priya Malhotra	NO	NO	Departed ~01:06
Kavya Sharma	YES (at estate)	YES (signed staging checklist 19:30)	YES (stayed overnight)
Vikash Mehta	NO	YES (arrived with catering 19:00)	YES (departed 02:30)
Anil Verma	NO	NO	Departed 01:15
Vikram Saxena	NO (sent bottle remotely)	NO	Departed 00:30
Minister Thapar	NO	NO	Departed 00:16

Critical: Kavya and Vikash are the only two people who had access during BOTH the swap window (Dec 13, 19:00-20:00) AND were still present after Rohit departed (02:10 AM).

Pharmaceutical Access

Person	Type of Access	Notes
Rohit Malhotra	₹2.5L purchase from Mehta Pharmaceuticals	FLAGGED BUT UNEXPLAINED — never connected to the crime
Vikash Mehta	Unknown source	CCTV shows he purchased bottle BTL-7711 (Dec 11)
Dr. Raghav Menon	Physician — can prescribe controlled substances	Left party early (10:30 PM)
Deepika Joshi	Father is Ayurvedic practitioner (herbal, not pharmaceutical)	Not relevant
Priya Malhotra	Personal prescription for sleeping pills (different compound)	Not Diazepam

Note: Rohit's pharmaceutical purchase remains unexplained. It may have been for an unrelated purpose, or possibly his own aborted plan. The actual Diazepam used in the murder was acquired by Vikash Mehta through unknown channels.

END OF APPENDIX

This document is optional reading for players who want additional context on the full suspect pool.