

PHASE 1 EVIDENCE PACKETS

The Last Toast — Cooperative Murder Mystery

DISTRIBUTE TO: EACH DETECTIVE GETS THEIR ASSIGNED SECTION

Cut this document into 5 sections. Each detective gets ONLY their packet:

- Detective 1: Timeline Analyst
- Detective 2: Forensics Lead
- Detective 3: Social Observer
- Detective 4: Objects & Space
- Detective 5: Motive & Money

PHASE 1: THE SCENE

Duration: 20 Minutes

Instructions

- Each detective reads their assigned evidence packet
- Take 10 minutes to read silently
- Spend remaining 10 minutes sharing findings with the group

DETECTIVE 1: TIMELINE ANALYST

Phase 1 Evidence Packet

DOCUMENT 1-A: Security Camera Log

MALHOTRA ESTATE SECURITY SERVICES CAMERA LOG EXTRACT

| Field | Detail |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date | December 13-14, 2024 |
| Cameras | SC-1 (Main Entrance), SC-2 (Driveway) |
| Prepared by | SecureTech Pvt. Ltd. |

ARRIVAL LOG

| Time | Camera | Event |
|----------|--------|---|
| 20:15:22 | SC-2 | Dr. Raghav Menon arrives with spouse |
| 22:30:18 | SC-2 | Dr. Raghav Menon and spouse depart |
| 23:18:34 | SC-2 | Vehicle convoy arrives (7 vehicles) |

| | | |
|----------|------|---|
| 23:22:11 | SC-1 | Minister Rajesh Thapar enters with bodyguard |
| 23:24:45 | SC-1 | Vikram Saxena enters alone |
| 23:31:02 | SC-1 | Priya Malhotra enters alone |
| 23:33:18 | SC-1 | Rohit Malhotra enters (driver remains in vehicle) |
| 23:38:29 | SC-1 | Kavya Sharma — already on premises (fiancée) |
| 23:41:55 | SC-1 | Deepika Joshi enters alone |
| 23:45:03 | SC-1 | Anil Verma enters alone |
| 23:45:15 | SC-2 | Nisha Malhotra and Sanjay Kapoor depart |

DEPARTURE LOG

| Time | Camera | Event |
|----------|--------|---|
| 00:16:22 | SC-1 | Minister Rajesh Thapar exits with bodyguard |
| 00:16:41 | SC-2 | Minister's vehicle departs |
| 00:32:15 | SC-1 | Vikram Saxena exits alone |
| 00:32:38 | SC-2 | Saxena's vehicle departs |

| Time | Camera | Event |
|----------|--------|--|
| 00:47:12 | SC-1 | SYSTEM MALFUNCTION - CAMERA OFFLINE |
| 01:10:34 | SC-1 | SYSTEM RESTORED - AUTO REBOOT |

| Time | Camera | Event |
|----------|--------|---|
| 01:15:08 | SC-1 | Anil Verma exits (carrying leather briefcase) |
| 01:45:31 | SC-1 | Deepika Joshi exits |
| 02:10:19 | SC-1 | Rohit Malhotra exits |
| 02:10:55 | SC-2 | Rohit Malhotra's vehicle departs (LAST TO LEAVE) |

NOTE: No departure recorded for Priya Malhotra on SC-1 or SC-2 during expected window.

Kavya Sharma remained overnight (fiancée residence).

DOCUMENT 1-B: Cell Tower Analysis

MUMBAI POLICE — CYBER CELL CELL TOWER PING ANALYSIS

| Field | Detail |
|-------|------------------|
| Case | MH/ALB/2024/1847 |

| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Date Range | December 13-14, 2024 |
| Region | Alibaug, Raigad District |

TOWER IDENTIFICATION

| Tower | Location | Distance |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ALB-1 | Malhotra Estate vicinity | 0.2 km coverage radius |
| ALB-2 | Alibaug Main Road | 2.5 km from estate |
| ALB-3 | Alibaug Ferry Terminal | 8.0 km from estate |
| MUM-7 | Mumbai Gateway | Across bay |

DEVICE: +91-98XXX-77834 (Registered: Priya Malhotra)

| Time | Tower |
|--------------|--------------|
| 23:31 | ALB-1 |
| 00:12 | ALB-1 |
| 00:47 | ALB-1 |
| 01:06 | ALB-1 |
| 01:23 | ALB-2 |

Observation: Device remained at estate until 01:06, 21 minutes later than claimed departure (00:45).

DEVICE: +91-99XXX-88123 (Registered: Rohit Malhotra)

| Time | Tower |
|-------|-------|
| 23:33 | ALB-1 |
| 01:02 | ALB-1 |
| 02:10 | ALB-1 |
| 02:22 | ALB-2 |

Observation: Last guest to leave premises at 02:10.

Report prepared by: Inspector K. Deshmukh, Cyber Cell Date: December 15, 2024

DETECTIVE 2: FORENSICS LEAD

Phase 1 Evidence Packet

DOCUMENT 2-A: Autopsy Report Summary

MAHARASHTRA STATE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY AUTOPSY REPORT — SUMMARY

| Field | Detail |
|---------------------|--|
| Case Number | MH/ALB/2024/1847 |
| Decedent | Arjun Vikram Malhotra |
| Sex/Age | Male, 62 years |
| Date of Examination | December 14, 2024, 10:30 AM |
| Examining Physician | Dr. Sneha Kulkarni, MD Forensic Medicine |

CAUSE OF DEATH

Asphyxiation secondary to ligature strangulation.

MANNER OF DEATH

HOMICIDE

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION — NECK

| Finding | Description |
|---------------|---|
| Ligature mark | Single horizontal furrow, 1.5 cm width, circumferential |
| Position | Middle of neck, slightly rising posteriorly |
| Color | Pale brown parchment-like abrasion |
| Pattern | Consistent with smooth, flexible ligature (fabric/silk) |

INTERNAL EXAMINATION — NECK

| Finding | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| Soft tissue | Hemorrhage in sternocleidomastoid muscles bilaterally |
| Hyoid bone | Intact (no fracture) |
| Thyroid cartilage | Superior horn fractured on left side |

PETECHIAL HEMORRHAGING

| Location | Finding |
|--------------|---|
| Conjunctivae | Multiple petechiae present bilaterally |
| Facial skin | Scattered petechiae above ligature line |
| Oral mucosa | Petechiae present |

TOXICOLOGY FINDINGS

| Test | Result | Reference |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Blood Diazepam | 850 ng/mL | Therapeutic: 100-250 ng/mL |
| Blood Alcohol | 0.09% | — |
| Gastric Contents | No pills/capsules detected | — |

CRITICAL FINDING

No defensive wounds observed on hands, arms, or body.

This is highly unusual in strangulation cases where the victim typically struggles.

TIME OF DEATH ESTIMATION

| Factor | Finding | Estimate |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Liver temperature | 31.2°C at 06:15 discovery | — |
| Ambient temperature | 22°C | — |
| Rigor mortis | Early stage, jaw and neck | 3-4 hours |
| Livor mortis | Fixed, posterior | >4 hours |
| Estimated TOD | — | 2:15-2:30 AM |

Dr. Sneha Kulkarni Senior Medical Officer, Forensic Medicine

DOCUMENT 2-B: Crime Scene Evidence Inventory

ALIBAUG POLICE STATION EVIDENCE INVENTORY — PRIVATE STUDY

| Field | Detail |
|--------------------|--|
| Location | Private Study, Ground Floor, Malhotra Estate |
| Date Collected | December 14, 2024, 07:00 AM onwards |
| Collecting Officer | SI Pradeep Sawant |

EVIDENCE LOG

| Code | Item | Location Found | Initial Observations |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| EV-001 | Crystal whiskey glass | Desk surface, near right hand | Dried residue, single set of fingerprints |
| EV-002 | Champagne flute | Inside whiskey cabinet | Lipstick mark (burgundy), multiple prints |
| EV-003 | Macallan 25 bottle | Whiskey cabinet, open | Bottle ID: BTL-7711 , ~100ml remaining, seal broken |

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| EV-004 | Mobile phone (Nokia 105) | Desk drawer, hidden | Burner phone, SIM installed |
| EV-005 | Pearl earring (single) | Under desk, near chair leg | Mikimoto brand, 8mm Akoya pearl |
| EV-006 | Torn paper fragment | Wastebasket | Partial text visible |
| EV-007 | Silk curtain cord | MISSING | One of pair; other cord intact |
| EV-008 | Fiber samples | Victim's neck | Silk fibers consistent with curtain material |

FINGERPRINT PRELIMINARY

| Evidence | Prints Found |
|--------------------------|--|
| EV-001 (Whiskey glass) | Single set — victim only |
| EV-002 (Champagne flute) | Multiple sets — victim, Rohit Malhotra , one unidentified |
| EV-003 (Bottle) | Multiple partial — analysis pending |

Inventory certified by: SI Pradeep Sawant

DETECTIVE 3: SOCIAL OBSERVER

Phase 1 Evidence Packet

DOCUMENT 3-A: Witness Statement — Kavya Sharma

ALIBAUG POLICE STATION WITNESS STATEMENT

| Field | Detail |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Witness | Kavya Sharma, Fiancée of deceased |
| Date | December 14, 2024, 11:00 AM |
| Statement Taken By | Inspector Mehra |

Statement:

"The party started around 8 PM. It was supposed to be a celebration — our engagement announcement. Everything was fine until around midnight.

I noticed Arjun speaking privately with Priya on the terrace around 12:30 AM. They seemed to be arguing. I confronted him about it later.

The last time I saw Arjun alive was around 1:00 AM. He said he had some work to finish in the study and would join me upstairs soon.

I went to bed around 1:20 AM. I was upset with him. I took a sleeping pill and didn't wake until the housekeeper screamed.

I didn't hear anything unusual during the night."

Signed: Kavya Sharma

DOCUMENT 3-B: Witness Statement — Rohit Malhotra

ALIBAUG POLICE STATION WITNESS STATEMENT

| Field | Detail |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Witness | Rohit Malhotra, Son of deceased |
| Date | December 14, 2024, 11:30 AM |
| Statement Taken By | Inspector Mehra |

Statement:

"I arrived at the party around 11:30 PM, after the gala. My father and I haven't been on good terms recently, but I came out of respect for the family.

I spent most of the evening avoiding my father. We had some business disagreements. I spoke briefly with Deepika, Anil, and some of the other guests.

Around 1:50 AM, I went to the study to say goodbye to my father before leaving. He was sitting at his desk, seemed drowsy — I assumed he'd had too much to drink. We exchanged a few words, nothing significant.

I left the estate around 2:10 AM. I was the last guest to leave.

I had nothing to do with my father's death."

Signed: Rohit Malhotra

DOCUMENT 3-C: Staff Interview — Housekeeper

ALIBAUG POLICE STATION WITNESS STATEMENT

| Field | Detail |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Witness | Meenakshi Rao, Housekeeper |
| Date | December 14, 2024, 08:00 AM |
| Statement Taken By | SI Pradeep Sawant |

Statement:

"I have worked for Malhotra Sahib for 8 years. I found his body at 6:15 this morning when I came to clean the study.

He was slumped in his chair at the desk. His face looked purple and there were marks on his neck. I screamed and called for help immediately.

Nothing seemed disturbed in the room, but I noticed one of the curtain cords was missing from the window. The silk ones, you know, with the tassels. Only one was there.

I also noticed a strong smell of jasmine perfume in the room. Sahib doesn't wear perfume. That fragrance — I know it. It's Ms. Deepika's perfume. She always wears that brand.

Rohit Sahib was the last person I saw leave. It was very late — past 2 AM."

Statement recorded by: SI Pradeep Sawant

DOCUMENT 3-D: Staff Interview — Bartender

ALIBAUG POLICE STATION WITNESS STATEMENT

| Field | Detail |
|--------------------|---|
| Witness | Suresh Patil, Bartender (hired for event) |
| Date | December 14, 2024, 09:00 AM |
| Statement Taken By | SI Pradeep Sawant |

Statement:

"I was working the terrace bar cart from 8 PM until about 1:30 AM.

Around 12:38 AM, I saw someone near the bar cart when I returned from getting more ice. I think someone moved some glasses around. I can't be certain who it was — the lighting was dim.

I also noticed Dr. Menon left very early, around 10:30 PM. He seemed uncomfortable, kept checking his phone.

Nisha Madam and her husband also left early — before midnight I think. They didn't seem happy."

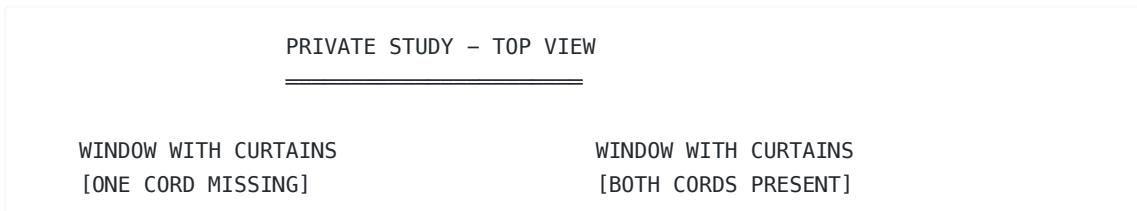
Statement recorded by: SI Pradeep Sawant

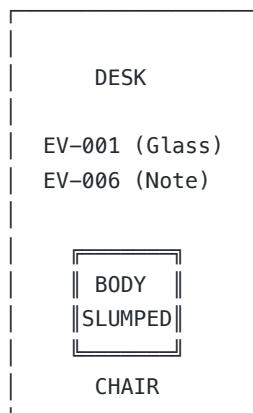
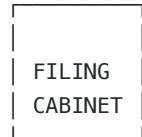
DETECTIVE 4: OBJECTS & SPACE

Phase 1 Evidence Packet

DOCUMENT 4-A: Crime Scene Diagram

MALHOTRA ESTATE — PRIVATE STUDY CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION





EV-005 (Earring found here)



DOCUMENT 4-B: Missing Curtain Cord Analysis

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION — SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

| Field | Detail |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Item | Silk curtain tieback cord |
| Material | Braided silk with tassel ends |
| Color | Deep burgundy |
| Length | Approximately 90 cm |
| Width | 1.5 cm (matches ligature mark width) |

Observations:

- Left window: ONE cord missing
- Right window: Both cords present
- Missing cord not found in study, adjacent rooms, or immediate grounds

Comparison with Autopsy:

| Ligature Mark | Missing Cord |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.5 cm width | 1.5 cm width |
| Smooth, no pattern | Braided silk (smooth surface) |
| Fabric fibers present | Silk material |

DOCUMENT 4-C: Glass Analysis

MAHARASHTRA STATE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY EVIDENCE ANALYSIS — GLASSWARE

EV-001: Crystal Whiskey Glass

| Test | Result |
|--------------|---|
| Contents | Dried whiskey residue |
| Fingerprints | Single set — Arjun Malhotra (victim) |
| Lipstick | None |
| Drug residue | Not detected (detection limit applies) |
| Position | Desk surface, near victim's right hand |

EV-002: Crystal Champagne Flute

| Test | Result |
|--------------|---|
| Contents | Dried champagne residue |
| Fingerprints | Three sets — Victim, Rohit Malhotra, one unidentified |
| Lipstick | Present — Deep burgundy color |
| Drug residue | Not detected |

| | |
|----------|---|
| Position | Inside whiskey cabinet (unusual location for champagne glass) |
|----------|---|

Question: Why was a champagne glass placed inside the whiskey cabinet?

DETECTIVE 5: MOTIVE & MONEY

Phase 1 Evidence Packet

DOCUMENT 5-A: Will Summary — Comparison

SHARMA & ASSOCIATES — CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

ORIGINAL WILL (Executed September 2023)

| Beneficiary | Equity Share | Insurance Payout |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Rohit Malhotra | 60% | ₹500 Crore |
| Nisha Malhotra | 30% | ₹200 Crore |
| Priya Malhotra | — | ₹500 Crore (settlement) |
| Charitable Trust | 10% | — |

REVISED WILL (Executed December 1, 2024)

| Beneficiary | Equity Share | Insurance Payout | Change |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Rohit Malhotra | 10% | ₹50 Crore | -50%, -₹450 Cr |
| Nisha Malhotra | 25% | ₹150 Crore | -5%, -₹50 Cr |
| Kavya Sharma | 40% | ₹300 Crore | NEW |
| Deepika Joshi | 5% (+₹50 Cr cash) | ₹150 Crore | NEW |
| Sanjay Kapoor | 5% | ₹50 Crore | NEW |
| Priya Malhotra | — | ₹200 Crore | Reduced by ₹300 Cr |
| Charitable Trust | 15% | — | +5% |

ROHIT MALHOTRA'S TOTAL LOSS

| Category | Old Will | New Will | Loss |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Equity Share | 60% (~₹28,200 Cr) | 10% (~₹4,700 Cr) | ₹23,500 Cr |
| Insurance | ₹500 Cr | ₹50 Cr | ₹450 Cr |
| TOTAL | — | — | ₹23,950 Cr |

Note: Rohit was formally notified of will changes on **December 1, 2024** — 13 days before the murder.

DOCUMENT 5-B: Insurance Policy Extract

ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICY SUMMARY — CONFIDENTIAL

| Field | Detail |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Policy Number | ICICI-LI-2019-7845621 |
| Insured | Arjun Vikram Malhotra |
| Sum Assured | ₹900 Crore |
| Policy Type | Term Life with Critical Illness Rider |

Beneficiary Distribution (As of December 1, 2024):

| Beneficiary | Percentage | Amount |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| Kavya Sharma | 33.3% | ₹300 Cr |
| Priya Malhotra | 22.2% | ₹200 Cr |
| Deepika Joshi | 16.7% | ₹150 Cr |
| Nisha Malhotra | 16.7% | ₹150 Cr |
| Rohit Malhotra | 5.5% | ₹50 Cr |
| Sanjay Kapoor | 5.5% | ₹50 Cr |

CRITICAL CLAUSE — Section 12.4:

*"In the event a beneficiary is convicted of causing or contributing to the death of the insured, said beneficiary shall **forfeit all claims** to benefits under this policy. Forfeited amounts shall be redistributed proportionally among remaining eligible beneficiaries."*

DOCUMENT 5-C: Anonymous Threat Email

EXTRACTED FROM VICTIM'S EMAIL SERVER

From: whistleblower.truth@protonmail.com
To: arjun.malhotra@malhotra-industries.com
Date: December 10, 2024, 9:47 PM
Subject: Deadline

Mr. Malhotra,

You have until December 15 to make things right.

Confess to the board, or I will release everything.

The ₹340 crore. The Singapore accounts. The defense contracts.

Your choice.

- Someone who knows

Note: Email traced to anonymous server. Sender identity unknown.

DOCUMENT 5-D: Motive Summary — All 23 Suspects

INVESTIGATION ANALYSIS — FINANCIAL MOTIVES

TIER 1 (Primary Suspects)

| Suspect | Financial Impact | Motive Strength |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Rohit Malhotra | Lost ₹23,950 Cr | EXTREME |
| Priya Malhotra | Lost ₹300 Cr settlement | HIGH |
| Kavya Sharma | Gained ₹300 Cr + 40% | BENEFICIARY |
| Deepika Joshi | Gained ₹200 Cr + 5% | BENEFICIARY |
| Anil Verma | ₹340 Cr embezzlement exposed | HIGH |
| Vikram Saxena | Lost merger control | HIGH |
| Min. Thapar | ₹400 Cr scandal | HIGH |

TIER 2 (Secondary Suspects)

| Suspect | Financial Impact | Motive Strength |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Nisha Malhotra | Lost ₹50 Cr; competition with Rohit | MODERATE |
| Sanjay Kapoor | Gained ₹50 Cr + 5%; excluded from business | MODERATE |
| Karan Malhotra | Passed over for COO | MODERATE |
| Dr. Raghav Menon | Potential malpractice | MODERATE |
| Adv. Sunil Sharma | Will access; knowledge | LOW |
| Col. Prakash Singh | Knows secrets; blackmail | MODERATE |

END OF PHASE 1 EVIDENCE

Proceed to group discussion. Share your findings.

Timer: 10 minutes for sharing before Phase 2 begins.