

THE LAST TOAST

A Cooperative Murder Mystery for 5 Detectives

DISTRIBUTE TO: ALL PLAYERS

Give this document to all 5 detectives at the start of the game (Phase 0). This is their introduction to the case.

CASE FILE: MH/ALB/2024/1847

Field	Detail
Victim	Arjun Malhotra, Industrialist
Location	Malhotra Estate, Alibaug, Maharashtra
Date of Death	December 14, 2024
Classification	CLASSIFIED BRIEFING

HOW TO PLAY

Overview

You are a team of five detectives investigating the death of billionaire Arjun Malhotra. You will receive evidence in phases and must work together to solve the case.

Game Structure

Phase	Duration	Activity
Phase 1	20 min	Read initial evidence, share findings, establish timeline
Phase 2	30 min	Receive additional evidence, identify inconsistencies
Phase 3	15 min	Major new information revealed
Phase 4	15 min	Final deliberation, submit answers

Rules

- Each detective receives different evidence — you must share to solve the case
- No single detective has enough information alone
- Discuss openly; this is cooperative, not competitive
- At the end, you must unanimously agree on answers

Victory Condition

Answer all five final questions correctly.

THE FIVE FINAL QUESTIONS

At the end of the investigation, your team must correctly answer:

#	Question
1	Who strangled the victim?
2	Who drugged the whiskey bottle?
3	Why couldn't the victim fight back?
4	When was the bottle tampered with?
5	What single piece of evidence proves the killer's identity beyond reasonable doubt?

VICTIM PROFILE

Arjun Malhotra

Personal Information

Field	Detail
Full Name	Arjun Vikram Malhotra
Date of Birth	March 14, 1962
Age at Death	62 years
Residence	Malhotra Estate, Alibaug (primary)
	Sea Link Towers, Worli, Mumbai (city residence)

Professional Information

Field	Detail
Position	Chairman & Founder, Malhotra Industries Ltd.
Net Worth	₹47,000 Crore (approximately \$5.6 Billion USD)
Industries	Steel, Real Estate, Pharmaceuticals, Defense

Family Status

Field	Detail
Marital Status	Divorced (2019), Engaged to Kavya Sharma
Children	Son — Rohit Malhotra (31), Daughter — Nisha Malhotra (28)
Ex-Wife	Priya Malhotra (divorce settlement in dispute)
Son-in-Law	Sanjay Kapoor (married to Nisha)

Death Information

Field	Detail
Date of Death	December 14, 2024
Time of Death	Approximately 2:15-2:30 AM
Location	Private study, Malhotra Estate
Cause	Asphyxiation secondary to ligature strangulation
Contributing Factor	Sedative (Diazepam) detected in blood
Manner	HOMICIDE

Critical Finding

No defensive wounds present despite violent death by strangulation.

THE EVENT

"The Last Toast" — After-Party at Malhotra Estate

On the night of December 13-14, 2024, Arjun Malhotra hosted an intimate after-party at his Alibaug estate following the annual Malhotra Industries gala in Mumbai.

Event	Details
Gala Event	Grand Hyatt Mumbai, 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM (approximately 200 guests)
After-Party	Malhotra Estate, Alibaug, 8:00 PM onwards (40+ guests)

The after-party included family, close associates, and select business partners. Guests arrived by private ferry and car.

Timeline:

- 8:00 PM: After-party begins
- 2:10 AM: Last guest departs
- 6:15 AM: Body discovered by housekeeper

PERSONS OF INTEREST (23 Total)

Tier 1: Primary Suspects (7)

These individuals had direct access to the victim and significant motives.

1. Priya Malhotra — Ex-Wife

Field	Detail
Relationship	Ex-wife (married 1990-2019)

Age	58
Occupation	Socialite, Philanthropist
Claimed Departure	12:45 AM
Motive	₹800 Cr divorce settlement blocked

2. Kavya Sharma — Fiancée

Field	Detail
Relationship	Fiancée (engaged March 2024)
Age	34
Occupation	Interior Designer
Claimed Departure	Stayed overnight (fiancée)
Motive	Jealousy over affair rumors

3. Vikram Saxena — Business Partner

Field	Detail
Relationship	Business partner (Saxena Steel merger negotiation)
Age	55
Occupation	CEO, Saxena Steel Ltd.
Claimed Departure	12:30 AM
Motive	Lost controlling interest in ₹12,000 Cr merger

4. Rohit Malhotra — Son

Field	Detail
Relationship	Son
Age	31
Occupation	COO, Malhotra Industries
Claimed Departure	2:10 AM (last to leave)
Motive	Inheritance reduced by ₹23,950 Cr in new will

5. Deepika Joshi — Executive Assistant

Field	Detail
Relationship	Personal Assistant (4 years)

Age	29
Occupation	Executive Assistant to Chairman
Claimed Departure	1:45 AM
Motive	Secret relationship; seeking paternity acknowledgment

6. Minister Rajesh Thapar — Politician

Field	Detail
Relationship	Political associate
Age	61
Occupation	Union Minister for Heavy Industries
Claimed Departure	12:16 AM (first among suspects to leave)
Motive	₹400 Cr bribery scandal exposure

7. Anil Verma — CFO

Field	Detail
Relationship	Employee (12 years)
Age	48
Occupation	CFO, Malhotra Industries
Claimed Departure	1:15 AM
Motive	₹340 Cr embezzlement about to be exposed

Tier 2: Secondary Suspects (6)

These individuals have motives and connections but were not present during the critical time window, or left before midnight.

8. Nisha Malhotra — Daughter

Field	Detail
Relationship	Daughter
Age	28
Occupation	Investment Banker
Departure	11:45 PM (with husband)
Motive	Inheritance competition with brother Rohit

9. Sanjay Kapoor — Son-in-Law

Field	Detail
Relationship	Son-in-Law (Nisha's husband)
Age	32
Occupation	Corporate Lawyer
Departure	11:45 PM (with wife)
Motive	Excluded from business decisions despite qualifications

10. Karan Malhotra — Nephew

Field	Detail
Relationship	Nephew (brother's son)
Age	35
Occupation	Director, Northern Operations
At Party	Not invited
Motive	Passed over for COO position in favor of Rohit

11. Dr. Raghav Menon — Personal Physician

Field	Detail
Relationship	Personal physician (8 years)
Age	52
Occupation	Private physician, cardiologist
Departure	10:30 PM (earliest among suspects)
Motive	Potential malpractice cover-up

12. Advocate Sunil Sharma — Estate Attorney

Field	Detail
Relationship	Legal counsel (15 years)
Age	60
Occupation	Senior Partner, Sharma & Associates
At Party	Not invited
Motive	Access to will, knowledge of all beneficiary changes

13. Col. Prakash Singh (Retd.) — Security Chief

Field	Detail
Relationship	Head of Estate Security (6 years)
Age	55
Occupation	Chief Security Officer
At Party	Off-duty that night
Motive	Knows family secrets; potential blackmail history

Tier 3: Additional Persons of Interest (10)

See Appendix for details. These individuals have been interviewed and cleared of direct involvement but may have relevant information.

Name	Role	At Party
Meenakshi Rao	Housekeeper (8 years)	On duty
Ramesh Kumar	Chef	On duty
Krishnan M.	Driver	On duty
Suresh Patil	Bartender (hired for event)	On duty
Vikash Mehta	Catering Coordinator (hired for event)	On duty
Anita Reddy	Company Accountant	Not invited
Raj Oberoi	Former Business Partner	Not invited
Neha Gupta	Journalist	Not invited
Vishal Mehta	Private Investigator	Not invited
Ravi Singh	Bodyguard	On duty

MALHOTRA ESTATE — GROUND FLOOR PLAN

MALHOTRA ESTATE — GROUND FLOOR

Scale: Not to Scale

Orientation: North ↑

GARDEN WALL

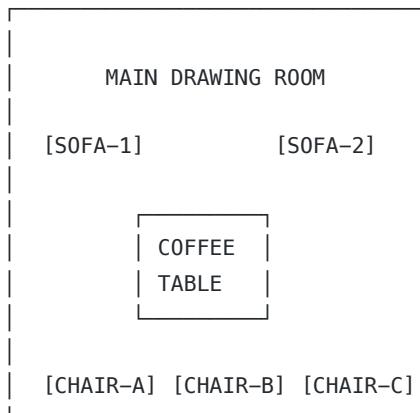
GARDEN

FOUNTAIN

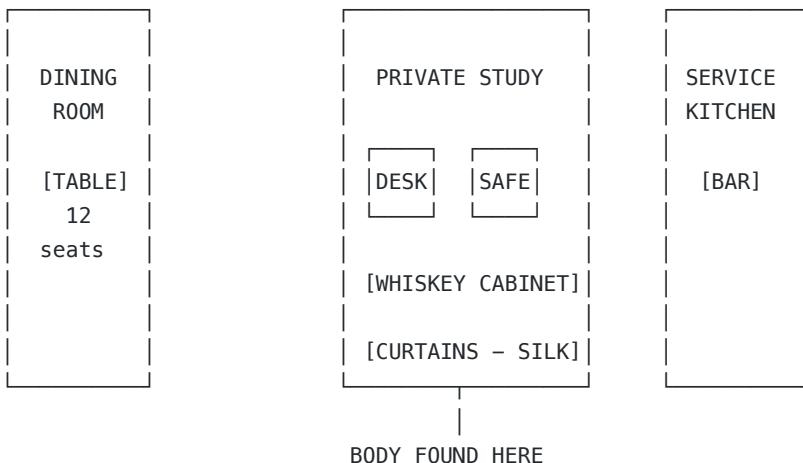


TERRACE

Outdoor Seating (4 chairs)	Bar Cart [BC]
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MAIN HALLWAY



MAIN ENTRANCE



DRIVEWAY → GATE

LEGEND

[BC] = Bar Cart – Champagne, wine, cocktail glasses
[BAR] = Wet Bar – Secondary drink preparation

SECURITY SYSTEM

Camera Locations

Camera	Location	Coverage
SC-1	Main Entrance	Main Entrance, Hallway
SC-2	Driveway	Driveway, Gate, Vehicles
SC-3	Drawing Room	Drawing Room, Hallway Entry
SC-4	Terrace	Terrace, Garden Entry

Note: The private study has **NO CAMERA** installed per the owner's standing instruction for "confidential business meetings."

ARRIVAL LOG

Security Camera SC-2 — Main Gate

Time	Person	Notes
20:15	Dr. Raghav Menon	With spouse
22:30	Dr. Raghav Menon	Departed (earliest)
23:22	Minister Rajesh Thapar	Accompanied by bodyguard
23:24	Vikram Saxena	Alone
23:31	Priya Malhotra	Alone
23:33	Rohit Malhotra	With driver (driver departed)
23:38	Kavya Sharma	Already at estate (staying there)
23:41	Deepika Joshi	Alone
23:45	Anil Verma	Alone
23:45	Nisha & Sanjay	Departed at 23:45

ABOUT DIAZEPAM

Maharashtra State Forensic Laboratory — Reference Note

Diazepam is a benzodiazepine sedative commonly used for anxiety, muscle spasms, and seizures. At high doses, it causes severe sedation and muscle weakness.

Property	Detail
Common Names	Valium
Therapeutic Range	100-250 ng/mL
Toxic Range	>500 ng/mL
Effects at Toxic Levels	Severe drowsiness, muscle weakness, impaired coordination, confusion, respiratory depression
Onset	15-45 minutes after ingestion
Availability	Prescription medication; also available through pharmaceutical channels

Victim's Blood Level: 850 ng/mL (well above toxic threshold)

ABOUT THE CAUSE OF DEATH

Ligature Strangulation

Ligature strangulation involves compression of the neck using a flexible object (cord, rope, belt, etc.) applied with sufficient force to occlude blood vessels and/or airway.

Finding	Significance
Ligature marks	Indicates external force applied to neck
Petechial hemorrhaging	Small red dots in eyes/face from blood pressure
Hyoid bone	May be fractured in violent strangulation
Defensive wounds	Typically present when victim can resist

Critical Observation: The victim showed **NO DEFENSIVE WOUNDS** despite violent death. This suggests he was unable to resist the attack.

DETECTIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Cut along dotted lines and distribute:

DETECTIVE 1: TIMELINE ANALYST

Focus: Security footage, timestamps, movement patterns, alibis

DETECTIVE 2: FORENSICS LEAD

Focus: Autopsy, toxicology, physical evidence, crime scene analysis

DETECTIVE 3: SOCIAL OBSERVER

Focus: Witness statements, relationships, behavioral observations

DETECTIVE 4: OBJECTS & SPACE

Focus: Physical layout, objects, positions, spatial analysis

DETECTIVE 5: MOTIVE & MONEY

Focus: Financial records, wills, business dealings, motives

PROCEED TO PHASE 1

Once all detectives have read this brief, the host will distribute Phase 1 evidence packets.

Each detective will receive different documents relevant to their specialty.

Remember: No single detective has enough information to solve the case. You must share your evidence and work together.

END OF CASE BRIEF

Await Phase 1 Evidence Distribution