

# 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 <b>depart</b>
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 <b>depart</b>

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	<b>SYSTEM MALFUNCTION - CAMERA OFFLINE</b>
01:10:34	SC-1	<b>SYSTEM RESTORED - AUTO REBOOT</b>

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 ( <b>LAST TO LEAVE</b> )

**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
<b>EV-007</b>	<b>Silk curtain cord</b>	<b>MISSING</b>	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 — <b>victim only</b>
EV-002 (Champagne flute)	Multiple sets — victim, <b>Rohit Malhotra</b> , 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*

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**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*

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**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

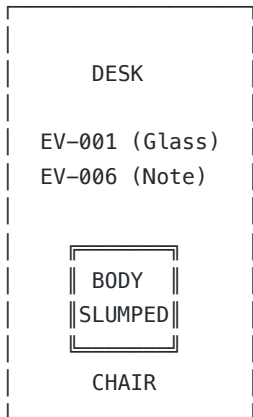
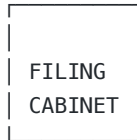
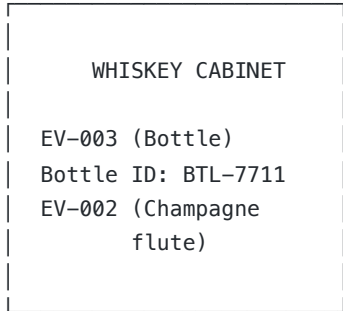
Phase 1 Evidence Packet

DOCUMENT 4-A: Crime Scene Diagram

MALHOTRA ESTATE — PRIVATE STUDY CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION

PRIVATE STUDY – TOP VIEW	
WINDOW WITH CURTAINS [ONE CORD MISSING]	WINDOW WITH CURTAINS [BOTH CORDS PRESENT]





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

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**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	<b>Not detected</b> (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)
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**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	<b>EXTREME</b>
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.**