



THAKUR RAMNARAYAN COLLEGE OF LAW

LEX COMMUNIQUE -2025

TRIAL ADVOCACY

PROPOSITION

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UNDISPUTED FACTS

The renowned temple town of Dharmrashtra in Indrapur is well-known for its Dharmrashtra Temple, a place of worship managed by the influential Ballal family for over 800 years. The temple is currently under the ownership of Mahabal Ballal, a respected Member of Parliament from Indrapur, who commands considerable influence and reverence within the community. Mahabal is particularly close to three family members he considers like his own children—Rudra Ballal, Aarush Ballal, and Abhishek Ballal. Rudra serves as a temple staff member, Aarush works as an auto driver near Neelavati Lake, and Abhishek holds the position of a temple supervisor.

Dharmrashtra is not only known for the temple but also for two popular attractions Bahubali Hills and Neelavati Lake, drawing in many visitors. However, the town has a high crime rate, with 462 reported cases, 120 of which are crimes against women. Several cases have either gone unreported or were closed without investigation, adding to the concerns of the local population.

On October 9, 2023, amidst heavy rainfall, 17-year-old Soumya, a student at SDR College, Dharmrashtra, was returning home after attending extra lectures. It was the auspicious day of Ayudha Pooja, and Soumya had plans to visit her uncle's house for the festival. She was last seen at around 4:00 PM near the Neelavati Lake Bus Stop, where she got off a bus she had boarded with her friend, Anushka Nair. Soumya greeted her uncle when she saw him on the way and then proceeded toward her destination.

When Soumya failed to return home by 7:00 PM, her mother raised concerns with family members, and a search began around areas like Bhairav Pur and Dharmrashtra Naturecare Hospital. However, they were unable to find her, thereafter they filed a missing complaint.

The next day, on October 10, 2023, Soumya's body was discovered at around 10:00 AM in a forested area near a location known as Kallasanka in Bhairav Pur, close to a water stream. Her body showed clear signs of sexual assault and had been tied to a tree. The police were informed and arrived at the scene by 12:15 PM. The body was sent for post-mortem examination, and the police conducted the seizure and evidence collection.

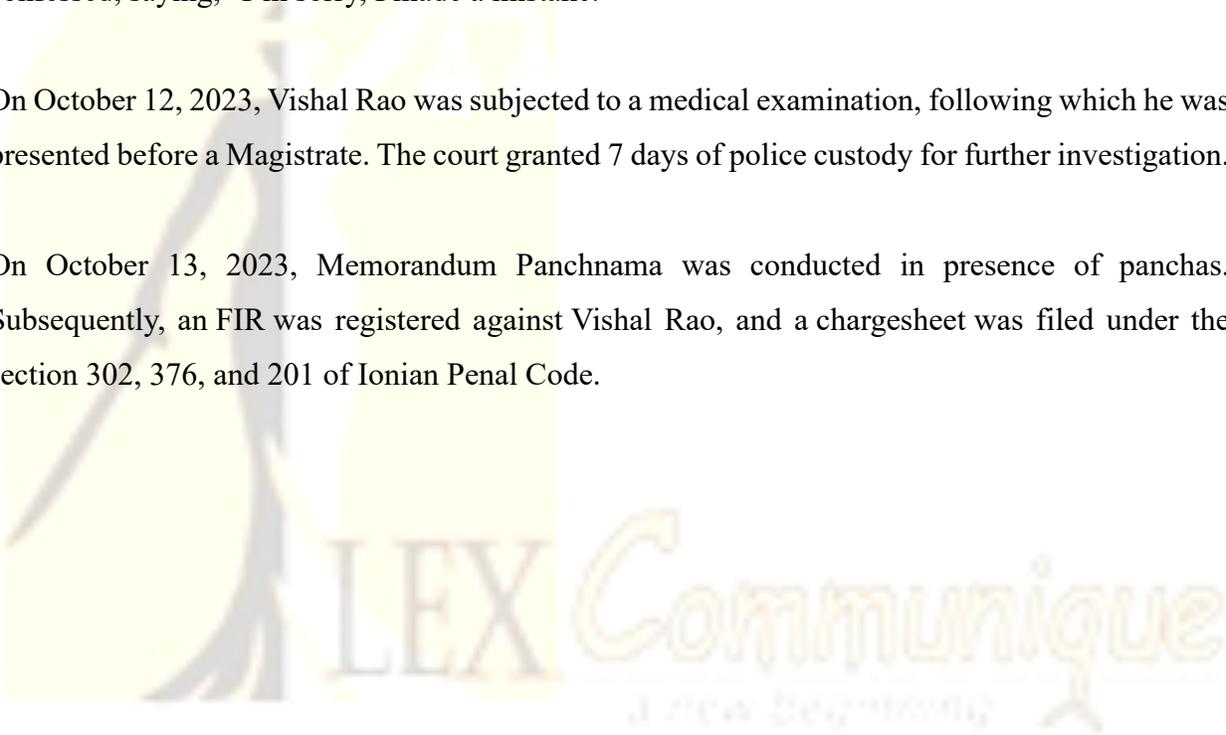
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On October 11, 2023, at around 6:30 PM, Aarush Ballal, Rudra Ballal, Abhishek Ballal and Ravi Poojary were vacating visitors from the Bahubali Hills Temple when they noticed a man sitting alone in a dark corner. When they asked him to leave, he responded by saying, "I'll leave once everyone else leaves." Suspicious of his behaviour, they asked him again, at which the man attempted to run. Finding this highly suspicious, Aarush Ballal and his colleagues caught him, thrashed him and handed him over to the Hoysala Police Station.

During interrogation, the man identified himself as Vishal Rao. When questioned by the police with the assertion, "Tell us everything, we know you've done something," Vishal broke down and confessed, saying, "I'm sorry, I made a mistake."

On October 12, 2023, Vishal Rao was subjected to a medical examination, following which he was presented before a Magistrate. The court granted 7 days of police custody for further investigation.

On October 13, 2023, Memorandum Panchnama was conducted in presence of panchas. Subsequently, an FIR was registered against Vishal Rao, and a chargesheet was filed under the section 302, 376, and 201 of Indian Penal Code.



REMAND FOR JUDICIAL CUSTODY

**IN THE COURT OF THE 87TH ADDITIONAL METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE,
SAMADHAN CITY**

C.C. No: 204/2023

In the matter between:

The State of Samadhan

.....Prosecution

v/s

Mr. Vishal Rao

.....Defence

Complainant: Mr. Anil Bhat

Accused: Mr. Vishal Rao
Aged: 34, Sri Navadurga Colony,
Kundur, Samadhan – 576112

Alleged offences are u/s 302, 376, 201 of IPC.

Date: 12/10/2023

Time: 4:15 P.M.

ORDER

This matter is brought before the Court today for the purpose of considering the remand of the accused, Mr. Vishal Rao who has been arrested in connection with an offence under Section 302, 376 and 201 of Indian Penal Code and was presented before me at 4:15 P.M. The prosecution has

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

made an application seeking judicial custody of the accused for the purpose of further investigation.

The accused did not plead ill-treatment by Police and have submitted that he was taken into custody yesterday evening at 7:00 P.M. from Bahubali Hills Mountain, Dharmrashtra Temple. The reasons mentioned for the remand application have been considered by this court. As it appears that the investigation is pending, this court grants the remand for judicial custody of accused Mr. Vishal Rao and shall be sent to judicial custody till 18/10/2023 under Section 167(2) of Cr.P.C The Jail are directed to provide all necessary facilities to the accused as per law.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date:12/10/2023

Signature of the Judge

Sd/-



COMMITAL ORDER

**IN THE COURT OF THE 87TH ADDITIONAL METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE
SAMADHAN CITY**

S.C. No: 204/2023

In the matter between:

C.C. No. 105/2023

The State of Samadhan

.....Prosecution

v/s

Mr. Vishal Rao

.....Defence

COMMITAL ORDER

(Deemed to be proved and taken on record)

WHEREAS, the abovementioned accused Mr. Vishal Rao, has committed the offenses of Murder, Rape, and Destruction of Evidence near Bhairav Pur, located in Dhamrashtra, Samadhan, on 9th October 2023 and the Court is of the opinion that there is sufficient ground to commit the case for trial.

Since the offences are under Section(s) 302, 376 and 201 of the Penal Code, 1860, it is to be exclusively tried by the Court of Sessions at Samadhan. Notice of the Committal Order has been given to the Public Prosecutor. Copies of the Final Report of the Investigating Officer have been given to the accused.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Signature of the Judge

Date: 24/06/2024

Sd/-

DENIAL OF GUILT ORDER

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE, SAMADHAN

S.C. No: 204/2023

In the matter between:

C.C. No. 204/2023

The State of Samadhan

.....Prosecution

v/s

Mr. Vishal Rao

.....Defence

CHARGES

(Deemed to be proved and taken on record)

In pursuance of the Committal Order issued by the learned 87th Additional Metropolitan Magistrate on 24th June 2024, and based upon the information presented before this Court, I, Principal Sessions Judge, Samadhan, have reason to believe that the accused, Mr. Vishal Rao, is charged with offenses of Murder, Rape, and Destruction of Evidence, alleged to have occurred near Bhairav Pur, Dharmrashtra, Samadhan, on 9th October 2023.

Upon the charges being presented to the Court, the accused, Mr. Vishal Rao, voluntarily denied responsibility for the alleged acts as outlined in the chargesheet. After a careful review, I hereby charge Mr. Vishal Rao under sections 302 (Murder), 376 (Rape), and 201 (Destruction of Evidence) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and direct that the accused to be tried before this Court.

The charges have been read and explained to Mr. Vishal Rao, who responded as follows:

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Q. Mr. Vishal Rao, have you heard and understood the contents of the charges framed against you?

Ans. Yes

Q. Do you plead guilty for the same or claim trial?

Ans. I plead not guilty and wish to contest in the Trial proceedings.

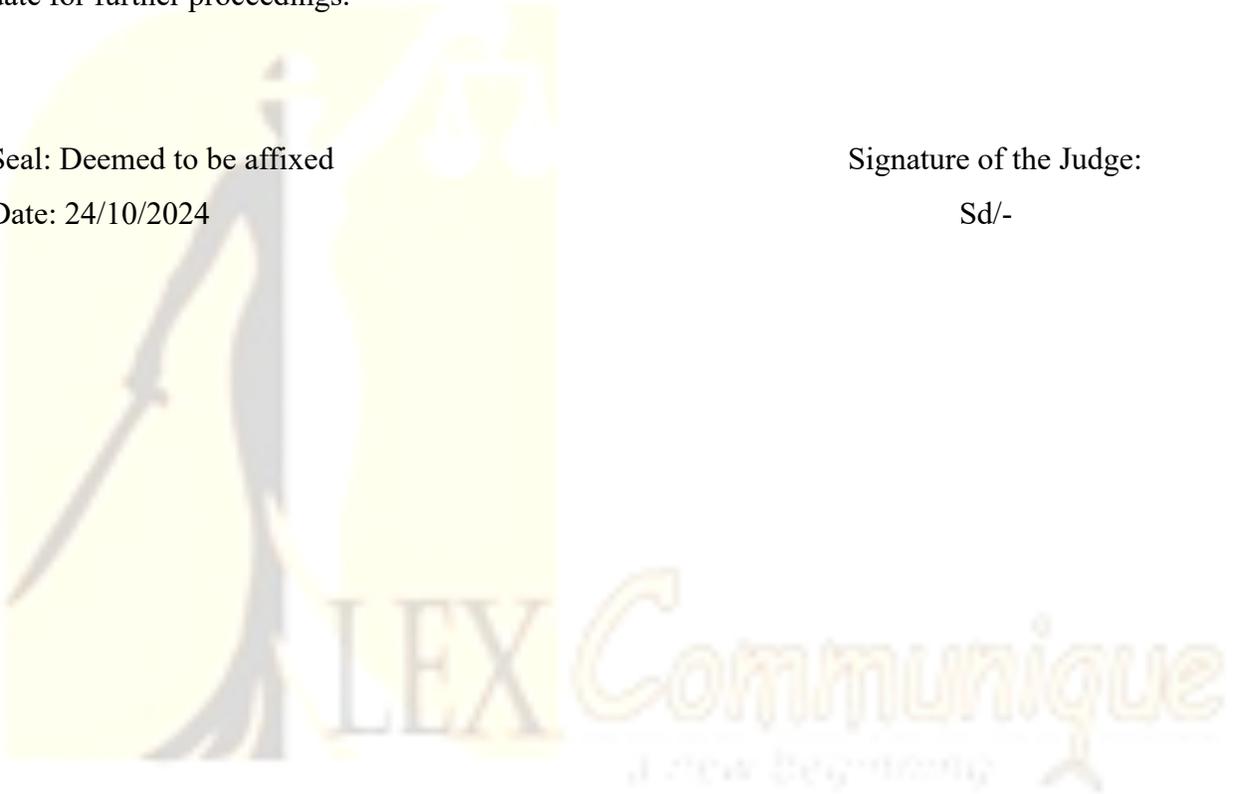
The Summons is issued to all the Witnesses and the Trial will commence on the next scheduled date, which is 08th February 2025. The accused is ordered to remain present in court on the said date for further proceedings.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date: 24/10/2024

Signature of the Judge:

Sd/-



SUMMONS TO THE ACCUSED

**IN THE COURT OF THE 87TH ADDITIONAL METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE,
SAMADHAN CITY**

S.C. No. 204/2023

SUMMONS TO THE ACCUSED

(Section 68 of the Code of Criminal Procedure)

The State of Samadhan

.....Prosecution

v/s

Mr. Vishal Rao

.....Defence

To,

(1)Vishal Rao

Whereas your attendance is necessary to answer the charges under Section 302, 376 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 you are hereby directed to appear in person before the Principal Session Judge, Samadhan on the 08th February 2025 at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Failing which, appropriate proceedings may be initiated against you according to law.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this day of 01/12/2024.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Signature of the Judge

Date: 01/12/2024

Sd/-

SUMMONS TO THE WITNESSES

**IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE
SAMADHAN CITY**

S.C. No: 204/2023

In the matter between:

C.C. No. 105/2023

The State of Samadhan

.....Prosecution

v/s

Mr. Vishal Rao

.....Defence

To,

- 1. P.I. Yogesh Kumar**
- 2. Dr. Adam D'Souza**
- 3. Dr. Shivkumar Reddy**
- 4. Anil Bhat**
- 5. Dr. Vishwanath Pandit**
- 6. Vikram. J. Doke**
- 7. Lloyd Fernandes**

ORDER

(Deemed to be proved and taken on record)

WHEREAS your attendance is required as a witness on behalf of the Prosecution in the above-mentioned case. You are hereby summoned to appear personally before this Court on 08/02/2025 to appear for the same and produce such document or things or testify on the matter.

Failure to comply with this summons without lawful excuse may result in legal consequences, including arrest and prosecution.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date: 01/12/2024

Signature of the Judge

Sd/-

ANNEXURE 1 - FIRST INFORMATION REPORT

1. **District:** Samadhan **P.S.:** Hoysala
2. **FIR No.:** 105/2023 **Date:** 10/10/2023
3. (i) **Act:** Ionian Penal Code
(ii) **Section(s):** 302, 376, 201
4. **Occurrence of Offence:**
5. **Information received at P.S.:** 10:00 A.M.
6. **Type of Information:** Oral
7. **Place of Occurrence:** Bhairav Pur
 - (a) Direction and Distance from P.S.: North East; 1.80 Kms
 - (b) Address: Hoysala Police Station, Dharmrashtra, Samadhan, Indrapur– 567112
 - (c) In case, outside the limit of this Police Station, then:
Name of P.S.: District: ----
8. **Details of known/suspected/unknown accused with full particulars:** Unknown
9. **Reasons for delay in reporting by the complainant/informant:** N.A
10. **Inquest Report/U.D. case no., if any:** N.A
11. **F.I.R. Contents:**

I am Anil Bhat, the father of the deceased Ms. Soumya, who was studying in the second PUC at SDR College, Dharmrashtra. On October 9, 2023, she did not return home from college, thereafter all the villagers, along with me started a search, but we could not find her in the vicinity that day. We subsequently filed a missing person's complaint. The next morning, I was informed that my daughter's body had been discovered in a nearby area. Her body was found half-naked, with torn clothing, her hands tied to a tree, and ligature marks around her neck, suggesting strangulation. Her school bag was also found at the scene, and it was dry despite the heavy rainfall. After witnessing her condition, I, along with many other villagers, believe that this heinous crime could not have been committed by just one person; more individuals are involved. We demand justice for our daughter.

12. **F.I.R. read over to the complainant/informant, admitted to be correctly recorded and a copy given to the complainant/informant, free of cost.**

R.O.A.C.

Date and time of dispatch to the Court:

**Signature/ Thumb Impression
of the Complainant/Informant:**

Sd/-

Signature of the Officer-in-charge,

Name: Yogesh Kumar, Rank: P.I.

Sd/-



Communique
a new beginning

ANNEXURE - 2
SPOT PANCHNAMA

Date: 10/10/2023

Pancha No.1:

Name: Lloyd Fernandes

Age: 59 Years

Residing At: Hoysala, Dharmrashtra, Indrapur.

Pancha No.2:

Name: Namrata Devadiga

Age: 46 Years

Residing At: Subramanya, Dharmrashtra, Indrapur.

We the above-mentioned Panchas were called by P.I. Yogesh Kumar, the Investigating Officer, to act as Panchas in the present case on 10th October, 2023 at about 12:15 PM. Many people were gathered around the crime scene. A red-colored bangle, a gold jumki and earring set, one gold chain, a school bag, one pair of slippers, and SDR College ID card was found near the body. They even found a watch on the deceased wrist.

No other items or property were seized by the police in our presence. The panchnama concluded at approximately 3:15 PM on the same day, and the entire process was conducted in an orderly manner. The contents of the panchnama were read over to us, and we confirm that they are correctly recorded.

Pancha No.1

Sd/-

Hoysala Police Station

Name of the I.O:

P.I. Yogesh Kumar

Sd/-

Pancha No.2

Sd/-

Hoysala Police Station

SPOTMAP OF THE CRIME SCENE

EXHIBIT - 1

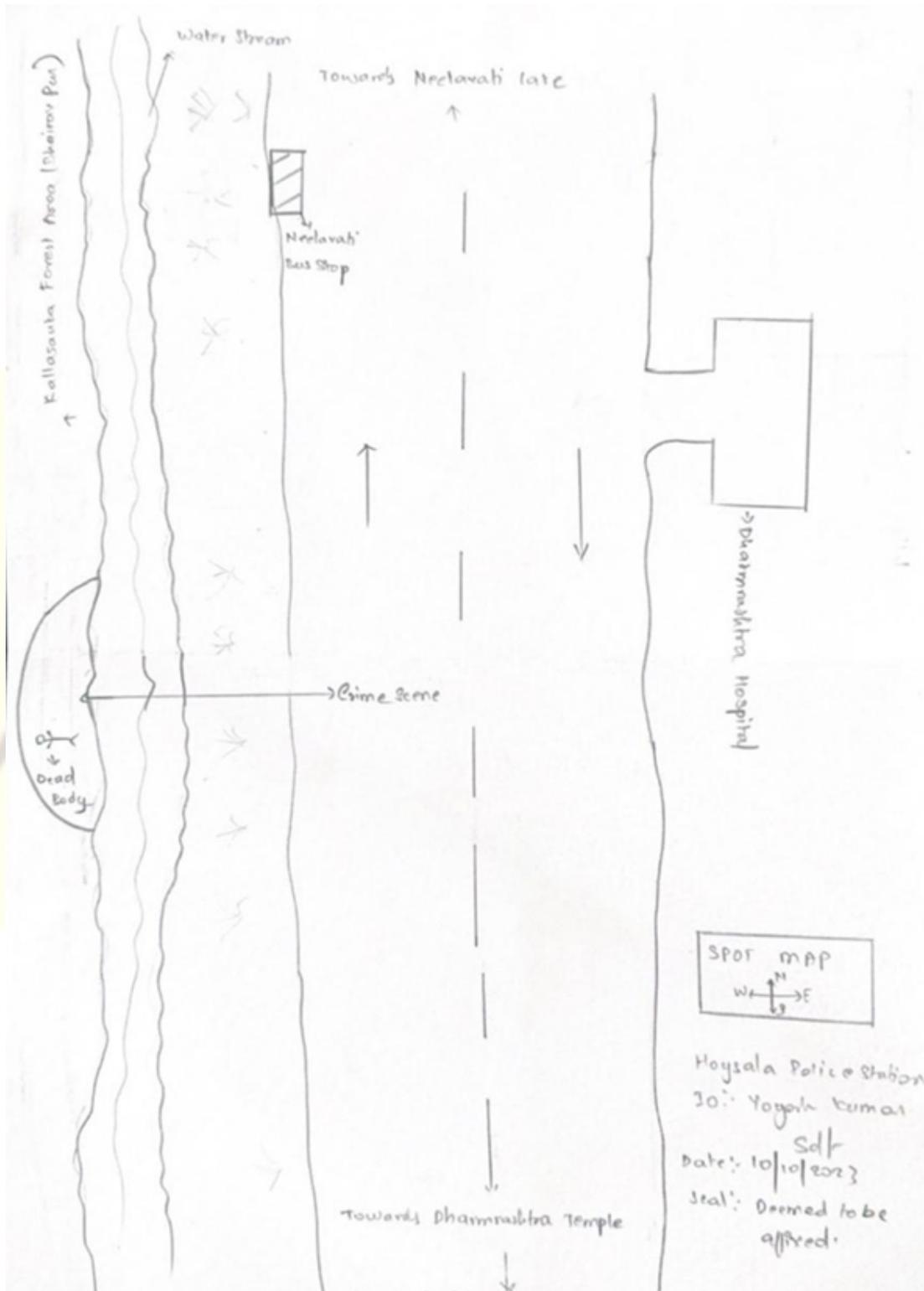


EXHIBIT – 2
CRIME SCENE



EXHIBIT – 3
ROAD TOWARDS DHARMRASHTRA TEMPLE & BAHUBALI MOUNTAIN



ANNEXURE - 3
INQUEST MEMO

Inquest Memo

- Pancha: 1) Lloyd Fernandes: Age 59, Residing at Usive, Dharmrashtra, Indraprastha
2) Namrata Devadiga: Age 46, Residing at Subramanya, Dharmrashtra, Indraprastha

We Panchas, residents of Dharmrashtra were appointed to be witnesses, we were taken to the spot at Kalla Sanka near Neelavati bus stop, where we were accompanied by the Hoysala Police Force. Upon arrival, we observed the body of a deceased female, approximately 17 years old, lying dead near forest area. The body was partially naked with her hands tied by chuddidar to a tree. A school bag was lying nearby, it might belong to the deceased. Upon closer attention, we noted strangulation marks around her neck, likely caused by the ID card around her neck. Bruises were visible on her chest and stomach, suggesting signs of assault. The body was covered in mud, with mud even visible in her private areas, and traces of blood were observed near her private parts. The police then collected the body, tagging it with the name of the deceased and numbered it as 1256/2023. Subsequently, the body was sent to Hoysala Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination at around 4:00 P.M.

Date: 10/10/2023

Police Station: Hoysala Police Station

Pancha: 1) 

2) 
Signature

Investigation Officer


Signature

ANNEXURE - 4
ARREST MEMO

ARREST / COURT SURRENDER MEMO
(Separate Memo for each accused)

1. *Dist Samadha Hoysala *P.S. 2017 *Year 105/2023 *FIR No. / Proceeding No. *Date 11/10/2023

*Alphanumeric code of the Accused A1 (Write A1 to A9 for the first 9 persons, B1 for 10th persona and so on)

2. Date & Time of Arrest / Surrender: *Date 11/10/2023 Time 7:00 PM G.D. No. 2255

3. Name of the Court (if surrendered):

4. *Acts and Sections: 302, 376, 201 IPC

5. *Arrested and sent up / Arrested and released on bail / Surrendered in court and bailed out / Surrendered in court and sent to judicial custody / Surrendered in court and remanded to Police custody (tick ' ' applicable portion).

6. Particulars of the Accused:

(i). *Name: Vishal Rao

(ii). *Father's / ~~Husband's~~ Name Sudha Rao

(iii). *First Alias:

(iv). *Second Aliases:

(v). *Other Aliases:

(vi). *Nationality: Indian (vii) (a) *Passport No.

(b). *Date of Issue: (c). *Place of Issue

(viii). *Religion (ix). *Caste / Tribe.

(x). *SC/ST (xi) *Occupation: Waiter

(xii). *Permanent address: Mundur Village, Karkur Taluk,

..... Distt. Samadha P.S. Hoysala

(xiii) *Present Address:

..... Distt. " P.S. "

7. Injuries, cause of injuries and physical condition of the accused person (Indicate if medically examined):

Bruises over head, hands, legs
Lungy on head.

8. The accused, after being informed of the grounds of arrest and his legal rights, was duly taken into custody on 11/10/23 (date) at 19:00 (hours) at Moyale Police Station (place). The following article(s) was / were found on physical search, conducted on the person of the accused, and were taken into possession for which a receipt was given to the accused. **

1 Dark green, black and white shirt 2 Blue, black, red striped shirt with Mud on it 3 Dark blue, brown, yellow shirt 4 lungi
5 Green colored goraland 6 Cash amounting Rs. 3,721/-

Necessary wearing apparels were left on the accused for the sake of human dignity and body protection.

The accused was cautioned to keep himself / herself covered for purpose of identification.

Intimation given to famer (Relationship) Sudhakar Rao

** If no article found, 'Nil' may be indicated in the blank space provided below:

9. Physical features, deformities and other details of the accused:

*Sex	*Date / Year of Birth	*Build	*Height in Cms.	*Complexion	*Identification Marks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Male	24 years	Skinny	5'3	Dark	Scar on forehead

(For Modus Operandi offences only)

*Deformities / peculiarities	*Tech	*Hair	*Eye	*Habit(s)	*Dress habits
7	8	9	10	11	12
NA/-	NA/-	Black overgrown curly hair	Brown eyes	NA/-	Lungi & Shirt

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*Languages / Dialect	PLACE OF				
	*Burn Mark	*Leucoderma	*Mole	*Scar	*Tattoo
13	14	15	16	17	18
Hindi	-	-	Right eye	1 fone head	NAI-

*Other features (19)

10. Whether finger-print taken or not?:

11. Socio-economic profile of the accused showing:

(a). *Living Status: Living alone or with Family / Relation / Associate in Pucca House / Hotel / Hostel / Kachcha House / Thatched House / Slum or is homeless.

(b). *Educational qualification(s): Medical Course

(c). *Occupation: Waiter

(d). *Income Group:

(i). Lower Income (Rs. 25,001 to 50,000)

(ii). Middle Income (Rs. 1,00,01 to 2,00,000)

(iii). Upper Income (above Rs. 3,00,001)

12. Whether the accused person, as per the observations and known Police records:

* (a) Is dangerous Yes/No

* (b) Previously escaped any bail Yes/No

* (c) Is generally armed Yes/No

(d) Operates with accomplices Yes/No

(e) Has past criminal records Yes/No

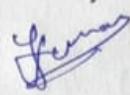
(f) Is recidivist Yes/No

* (g) Is likely to escape bail Yes/No

* (h) If released on bail, is likely to commit another crime Immediately or threaten the victims / witnesses. Yes/No

* (i). Is wanted in any other case Yes/No

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025



Signature of the Investigating officer with:

Name: Yogesh Kumar

Rank: P.I.

Number, if any: 106 Haysala

Date: 11/10/2023

Place Haysala, Police Station

ANNEXURE - 5

POST MORTEM REPORT

POST - MORTEM REPORT

Regn.No.Indoor: _____ P.M.No. 17 YEAR 2023 Unit: GA
Outdoor: _____ 10/10/2023 Ward: Dharmvashtra

Memorandum of a Post Mortem Examination held at Nature Care Hospital on the dead body of Kumari Soumya Bhat, 17 year old.

Village	Taluka-, District- <u>Samadhan</u>
City	

Performed by: Dr. Adam D Souza

GENERAL PARTICULARS:

- (a) By whom was the corpse sent. Yogesh Kumar
(b) Name of place from which sent. Kalla Sanku, Dharmvashtra.
(c) Distance of place from which sent. 12 kms. Approx.
- By whom was the corpse brought? RSI Vittal Gowda
- By whom identified? Anil Bhat, Father of deceased
- (a) The date, hour and minute of its receipt. 10/10/23 at 17:30
(b) The date, hour and minute of beginning postmortem examination. 10/10/23 at 18:00
(c) The date, hour and minute of completion of postmortem examination. 10/10/23 at 20:00
- Substance of accompanying Report from police officers or Magistrate together with the date of death, if known supposed cause of death or reason for examination. Strangulation Assault
- If not examined at Dispensary or Hospital.
(a) Name of the place where examined. NA
(b) Distance from Dispensary or Hospital.
(c) Reason why the body was not sent to the Dispensary or Hospital.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

1

7 Sex apparent age, race or caste.
Description of clothes and ornaments on the body.

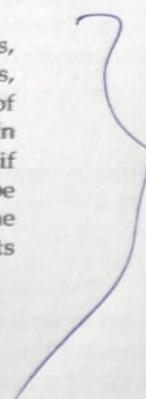
Female, 17 year old,
Ornaments included, earrings,
nose ring and a gold chain.
Clothes on body - Chuddidar - Top
Chuddidar Part, Dupatta.

8 Whether wet with water, stained with blood, soiled with vomit or faecal matter.

Wet with water, blood stains
Present over head, elbows and
Private Part, Stained with Mud.

9 Special marks on the skin such as scars, tattooing etc. any malformations, peculiarities or other marks of Identification, State of the teeth. In newly born infants, the length and (if possible) the weight of the body, to be recorded together with the state of the hair, nails and umbilical cord, its length.

Whether placenta is attached or not, if present, its size and condition.



NA

- 10 Condition of body:
Whether well nourished, thin or emaciated, warm or cold. *well nourished & Cold.*
- Rigor Mortis:- Well marked, slight Rigor mortis present and well-developed stag or absent whether present in the whole body or part only. *Rigor Mortis Present not wholly.*
- 12 Extent and signs of decomposition:- Presence of Postmortem lividity present over back side of the Post Mortem lividity buttocks, loins, back and body and fixed in nature. thighs or any other part. Whether bullae present and the nature of their contained fluid, Condition of the cuticle. *No signs of decomposition*
- 13 Features :- Whether natural or swollen, state of both the eyes, position of tongue, nature of fluid (if any) Mouth: *Tongue Protruded, both eyes partially closed*
- 14 Condition of Skin :- Marks of blood, Sand particles, weeds and grass adherent at places. etc., in suspected drowning the presence or Cutis anserina found at places. absence of cutis anserina to be noted. *Marks of blood, Mud all over the body,*
- 15 Injuries to external genitals, indication of purging *Yes*
- 16 Position of Limbs :- Especially of arms and of Washer man's hands and feet appreciable. fingers in suspected drowning the presence or absence of sand or earth within the nails or on the skin or hand or feet. *Left Leg crossed inwards, Right hand crossed inwards, Mud present between Thighs, hands, nails, over all skin.*
- 17 Surface wounds and injuries:- Their natural position, dimension (measured) and directions to be accurately stated, their probable age and causes to be noted. *A horizontal strangulation mark measuring approx. 7 inches at center of the neck
Laceration wound of 0.5 x 0.5 cm at vulva and 0.5 x 0.7 wound visible on vagina.
Hymen torned.
Head injury mark of 3 inches present.
Both elbows having injury of superficial nature.*
- If bruises are present, what is the condition of the subcutaneous tissues?
(N.B.): - When injuries are numerous and cannot be mentioned within the space available they should be mentioned on a separate paper which should be signed)

- 18 Other injuries discovered by external examination or palpation such as fractures etc. **NO**
 Can you say definitely that the injuries shown against Serial No.: 17 and 18 are ante-mortem injuries? **Yes**

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

- 19 Head :- **Minor injury of 3 inches off the forehead, nature superficial.**
- (i) injuries under the scalp and their nature.
 (ii) Skull Vault and base, describe their sites, dimensions directions etc.
 (iii) Brain :- The appearance of its weight and general condition of the organ itself and any abnormality found in its examination to be carefully noted. **Brain weighing 1199 gms. containing edematous.**

20 Thorax :-

- (a) Walls, ribs, Cartilages ... **congested**
 (b) Pleura ... **Intact**
 (c) Larynx, Trachea and Bronchi ... **Intact**
 (d) Right Lung with weight ... **540 gms - congested**
 (e) Left Lung with weight ... **460 gms - congested**
 (f) Pericardium ... **Intact**
 (g) Heart with weight ... **249 gms**
 (h) Large vessels ... **Patent**
 (i) Additional remarks ... **Nothing significant**

21 Abdomen :-

Walls **Slight injury Present nature - Blunt force.**

State which viscera (if any) have been retained for chemical examination and also quote the number of the bottles containing the same.....

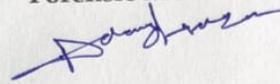
- (a) Stomach with contents, small intestine, sample of liver, kidney, spleen, blood.
- (b) clothes
- (c) slides from vagina

22 Spine and spinal cord* -----
.... Intact, Nothing Significant

23 Opinion as to the cause or probable cause of death..... Strangulation by force, death due to Asphyxia.

Date: 10/10/23

Signature
Forensic Medicine Dept.



* The Spinal cord need not be examined unless there are any indication of disease, Strychnine poisoning or injury.

If viscera have been preserved it may please be stated immediately whether examination by the Chemical analyser is necessary or they are to be destroyed.

Forwarded to the Police Inspector I. D. Yogesh Kumar Police Station,

Professor & Head
Forensic Medicine Dept.



ANNEXURE – 6

WOUND CERTIFICATE

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

K.S. HEGDE MEDICAL ACADEMY

POST NITHYANANDA NAGAR BHAIRAV PUR – 575018, INDRAPUR

I herewith certify the result of my examination of Mr. Vishal Rao, S/o Mr. Sudhakar Rao, 34 year old male, Weight: 43 kg, Height: 5'3, residing at Sri Navadurga Prasad, near House Board colony, Kundur Village, Karka Taluk, Samadhan District.

Identification Mark:

1. Multiple old healed injuries on the palmar aspect of both forearm (Hesitation Cuts)

Serial No.	Name of Injury	Size of Injury	On what part of body	Whether simple or grievous	By what kind of weapon inflicted
1	Infected abrasion	2 cm x 0.3 cm	Obliquely placed over the mid forehead, 5cm above the nasal bridge.	Simple	Blunt Force
2	Abrasion	0.5 cm x 0.2 cm	2 cm lateral (towards the left side) to the injury no.1.	Simple	Blunt Force
3	Multiple abrasions (6 in number)	Varying dimensions, largest being	Over the forehead situated adjacent injury no. 1 and 2.	Simple	Blunt Force

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

		0.5 cm x 0.1 cm			
4	Abrasion	1.0 cm x 1.0 cm	The lateral aspect of back of right wrist	Simple	Blunt Force
5	Abrasion	0.5 cm x 0.5 cm	The back of left wrist on the medial side.	Simple	Blunt Force
6	Abrasion (3 in number)	0.4 cm x 0.1 cm	Lower half of neck on the right side.	Simple	Blunt Force
7	Abrasion	0.3 cm x 0.6 cm	Antero lateral aspect of middle one third of right thigh.	Simple	Blunt Force
8	Abrasion	0.4 cm x 0.5 cm	The dorso medial. Aspect of right big toe.	Simple	Blunt Force
9	4 Abrasion	0.2 cm x 0.2 cm	The back of medial aspect of right wrist.	Simple	Blunt Force
10	3 Abrasion	0.5 cm x 0.2 cm	The outer aspect of left ankle joint.	Simple	Blunt Force
11	Contusion	0.7 x 0.5 cm	Around the urethral opening.	Simple	Blunt Force
12	Abrasion	1.0 cm x 0.5 cm	On the left side of stomach.	Simple	Blunt Force
13	Abrasion	1.0 cm x 0.2 cm	On the upper chest	Simple	Blunt Force

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

14	Abrasion	0.5 cm x 0.3 cm	On left side of forearm	Simple	Blunt Force
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2. Examination Findings:

a. Injuries Findings:

- Injuries 1, 2, 3, and 6, as per my report, appear to have been caused by nails.
- Injury 11, which was red in color, was located on his genitals.
- Injuries 1 to 11 were likely inflicted within 48 to 72 hours before the examination.
- Injuries 12 and 13 were likely inflicted within 24 hours before the examination.
- Injuries 14 could have been inflicted anytime from a few hours to 72 hours before the examination.

Total of 14 injuries were identified on the body of the accused.

b. Condition:

The accused is suffering from **phimosis**, a condition where the foreskin does not retract. The accused retains physical capability for sexual activity, Although it may involve significant discomfort.

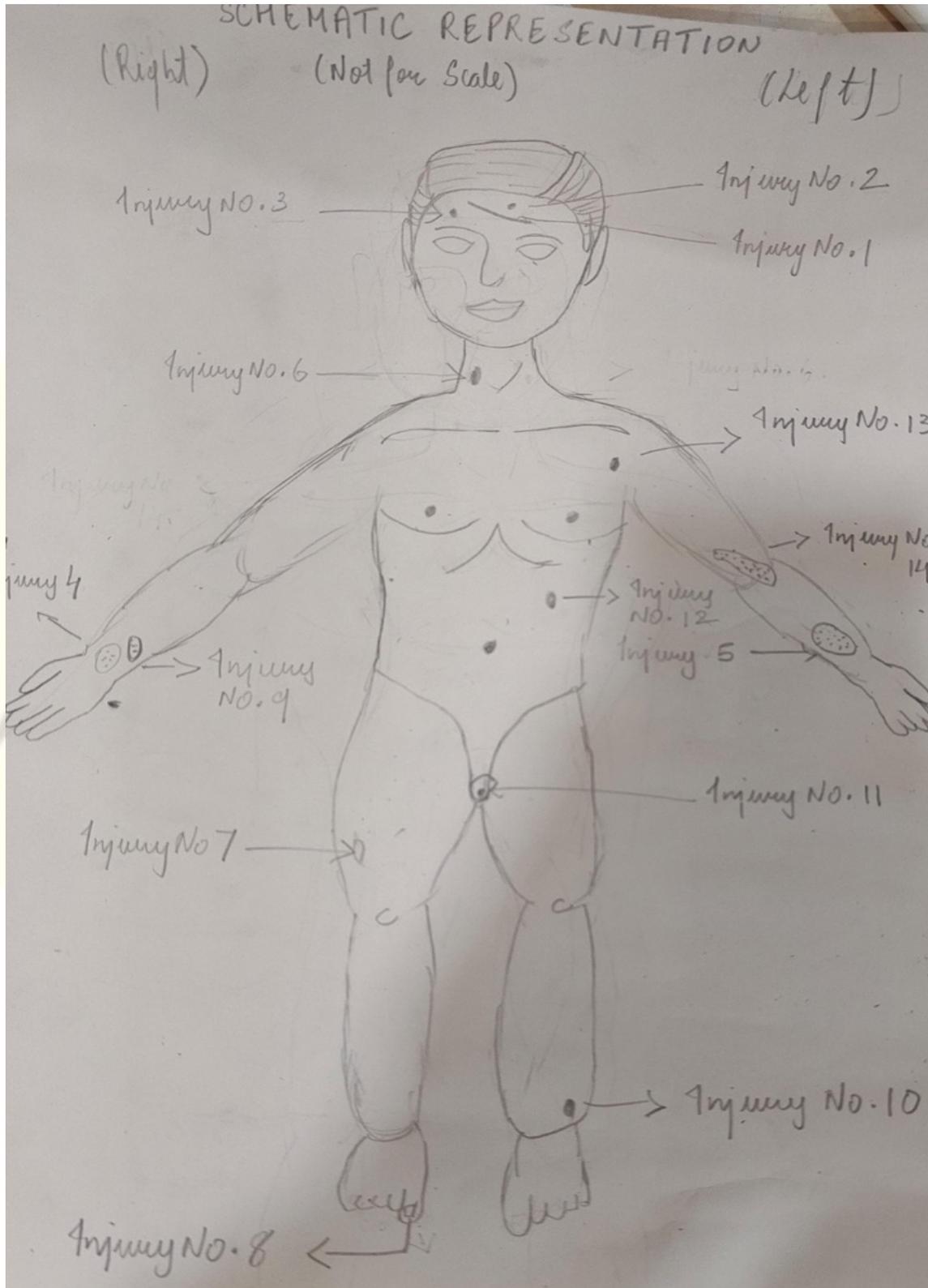
3. Nature of Injury:

Injury Number	Time since injury	Reasons
1 to 11	48 to 72 hours	Brownish colour scab
12 & 13	Few hours to 72 hours	Bluish colour
14	Less than 24 hours	Reddish in colour

Remarks: There were two sets of injuries of different age groups as mentioned above.

4. Interior View (Schematic Representation)

EXHIBIT - 4



LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

I certify that the Mr. Vishal Rao has given us consent for physical examination.

Place: Derakatte, Dharmrashtra

Date: 12-10-23

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date: 12-10-2023

Signature of the Doctor

Sd/-

Shivkumar Reddy



ANNEXURE - 7

NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TEST

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH & NEURO SCEINCES
DEEMED UNIVERSITY, SAMADHAN – 29

Date: 12/10/2023

To,
Hoysala Police Station,
Samadhan.

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: Regarding Mr. Vishal Rao S/o Sudhakar Rao, Crime No. 105/2023 of Hoysala Police Station.

Ref Letter D/s No. 7/2023 dated 12-10-2023

This is to bring to your attention that Mr. Vishal Rao was admitted to our hospital on 12/10/2023, for Mental Status examination and complete evaluation as per your letter D/s. No. 7/2023/1/1, dated 12-10-2023 On special Mental Status examination, ward observation and psychological tests no signs and symptoms of Mental disorders were seen in him Mr. Vishal Rao will be discharged and sent back to the Jail.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date: 12/10/2023

Signature of the Doctor

Sd/-

Dr. Vishwanath Pandit

NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Case Reference: S.C. No: 204/2023

Date of Examination: 12th October, 2023

Examining Physician: Dr. Vishwanath Pandit

Location: Dharmrashtra, Indrapur.

Patient Information:

Name of Accused: Vishal

Age: 34 Years

Gender: Male

Personal Profile:

Vishal was assessed in connection with the forensic case. During the mental status examination, no observable neurotic or psychotic symptoms were noted. He appeared physically normal and mentally alert at the time of the forensic psychological assessment. However, it was observed that Vishal was not entirely stable as he was struggling to control his anger. He did not report any history of medical or surgical issues, further indicating no significant underlying medical conditions that could impact his cognitive function.

Behavioural Assessment:

The behavioural analysis interview of Vishal was conducted on 12th October, 2023. During the session, he was generally cooperative, particularly during the initial general questions, making good eye contact. However, when the conversation shifted towards the specific incident under investigation, his behavior changed. Upon repeated questioning about the incident, Vishal would close his eyes and refrain from responding, especially after being shown video footage of himself assisting the police in locating and recovering his belongings. His attitude toward the interview shifted dramatically after this point.

Vishal's overall behavior towards the interview became defensive, and he exhibited signs of avoidance. He did not elaborate on answers when asked about critical aspects of the case and repeatedly attempted to change the topic when confronted about inconsistencies in his statements regarding the time he worked at his prior job. Rather than responding, he became visibly agitated and aggressive, refusing to accept the questions being posed.

Throughout the 3-4 hour interview, Vishal displayed physical signs of discomfort and tension. He shook his legs persistently during questioning, though this behavior ceased once the formal questioning ended, and the interview shifted to paperwork. At several points during the interview, he exhibited signs of physical tension, such as tightening his jaw and appearing visibly uncomfortable. Initially, when asked general background questions, Vishal behaved normally, but when the questioning focused pertaining to case, his body language changed drastically. His throat became dry, and his hand and facial muscles tensed noticeably.

During the session, it was observed that Vishal's behavior and psychomotor activity were not always rational or logical, suggesting underlying anxiety or discomfort related to the interrogation process and the specifics of the incident.

Impression and Diagnosis:

Vishal presents with no observable neurotic or psychotic symptoms. However, his behavioural response to questioning, particularly around key aspects of the incident, suggests heightened emotional distress and anxiety. His physical reactions during the interview, including tightened jaw, muscle tension, and attempts to avoid direct confrontation about specific facts, indicate psychological unease. There were no signs of a major neurological disorder, but the accused's inability to remain calm and composed during questioning raises concerns about possible emotional instability or anxiety under stress.

Recommendations: It is recommended that:

- Further psychological assessment be conducted to evaluate the depth of emotional distress.
- Monitoring of behaviour under high-stress environments should continue, as the subject exhibits signs of avoidance and agitation during confrontation.

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

Conclusion: The neurological and psychological assessment of Vishal reveals no significant physical or neurological impairments. However, his behaviour during the forensic interview suggests psychological tension, particularly when confronted with evidence or questioned about key aspects of the case. Further evaluation may be necessary to understand the extent of his emotional instability.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Signature of the Neurologist

Date: 12/10/2023

Sd/-



ANNEXURE - 8

FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY REPORT

1. Case Information:

Lab Reference Number: 15

Case Title: S.C. No: 204/2023

Date of Examination: 20/10/2023

Submitted By: Hoysala Police Station

2. Reporting Officer:

Name: Vikram J. Doke

Designation: Assistant Director, Department of Toxicology

Forensic Science Laboratory: Madiwala, Indrapur.

Years of Experience: Practicing Since 2004

3. Examination Details:

On the 20/10/2023, I received 12 sealed items for DNA analysis. Upon inspection, I confirmed that the seals were intact and matched the sample seals provided by the police.

Item No.	Description	Status
1	Chudidar top, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
2	Chudidar pants, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
3	Chudidar dupatta, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
4	Tights, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
5	Pubic hair and nail clippings of Kumari Soumya, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
6	Vaginal swab of Kumari Soumya, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
7	Blood sample of Kumari Soumya	Received
8	Pubic hair of the accused, wrapped in white cloth and sealed	Received
9	Shirt of the accused	Received
10	Lungi (towel) of the accused	Received
11	Underwear of the accused	Received
12	Blood sample of the accused	Received

Items were marked I-615 to I-627 SR respectively.

4. Findings:

Opinion Based on DNA Results:

1. The nails sent in **Item No. 5** belong to a female.
2. The pubic hairs sent in **Item No. 8** included both male and female hair samples.
3. The hairs found in the towel (**Item No. 10**) belonged to two different men.
4. The blood sample sent in **Item No. 12** was that of the accused, and its DNA results matched the pubic hairs sent in **Item No. 8** and the hairs found in six locations on the towel sent in **Item No. 10**, identified as belonging to the accused.
5. The DNA test results of the blood sample sent in **Item No. 7** were compared with the fingernails sent in **Item No. 5**, but the results were not comparable.
6. The hairs found in six locations on the towel sent in **Item No. 10** were compared with the DNA of the blood sample sent in **Item No. 12**. One hair had a root and belonged to a different male, while two other hairs did not have roots, so no DNA results were available for them.

Vaginal Swab Findings:

- The vaginal swab sent in **Item No. 6** did not yield any results due to improper storage. The swab contained fungus, which compromised the DNA testing process. A vaginal swab should be dried and packed by a medical professional immediately after collection, as per standard procedures. This was not done in this case, rendering the sample unusable for DNA analysis.

5. Conclusion:

The examination of the items yielded significant findings regarding the DNA evidence related to the case. However, the lack of viable results from the vaginal swab limits the available evidence for analysis.

The evidence suggests potential links between the accused and the case, particularly with respect to the blood sample and hair comparisons.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date: 20/10/2023

Signature of the Officer

Sd/-

ANNEXURE - 9

MEMORANDUM PANCHNAMA

Crime No.: S.C. No: 204/2023

**Offences: Under Section 302, 376,
and 201 of IPC**

Date: 13/10/2023

Time: 8:00 PM

On 13th October 2023, I, the undersigned, along with the Investigating Officer and other police officials, proceeded with the accused, Mr. Vishal Rao, in the police jeep from the Hoysala Police Station. The vehicle was halted near Dharmrashtra Nature Care Hospital, from where the accused walked towards a location known as Kallasanka, approximately 200 meters away from the hospital.

Upon reaching Kallasanka, the accused pointed to a specific area and stated that this was the location where he committed the murder. The following is a detailed statement provided by the accused:-

Approximately 4-5 days ago, while walking from Dharmrashtra towards Neelavati Lake, the accused observed a girl walking alone. Overcome with emotions, he approached her and gestured for her to move towards the forest area. The girl appeared scared and attempted to escape, splashing water on herself in the process. Despite her efforts, the accused pursued her, placed his hand on her shoulder to stop her, and, in a further attempt to silence her, covered her mouth and dragged her towards a nearby stream.

Though the girl resisted, the accused overpowered her, lifted her, and carried her across a ditch to a secluded spot by the canal. There, he attempted to force himself on her, but she struggled fiercely. To prevent her from screaming, he used the ID card she was wearing to strangle her. As her resistance weakened, the accused tied her hands using her chudidhar and, fearing that she might report the crime, he decided to kill her. He continued to strangle her with the ID card until she ceased to breathe.

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

After the act, the accused stayed at the scene till early morning, fearing detection. Once darkness set in, he left the area and walked towards the Bahubali Hills shrine. There, he sat on the steps for a few hours. A group of people later spotted him acting suspiciously. Panicking, the accused attempted to flee but was apprehended and handed over to the police.

Upon examination of the location pointed out by the accused at Kallasanka, two policemen who were stationed at the scene assisted in verifying the location of the crime.

After concluding the on-site investigation, we returned to the police station. The accused's clothing, worn at the time of the incident, was recovered in accordance with legal procedures. The clothing has been taken into police custody as evidence.

The memorandum proceedings were concluded at 8:00 PM on 13/10/2023.

Pancha No.1

Lloyd Fernandes

Sd/-

Police Officer-in-Charge:

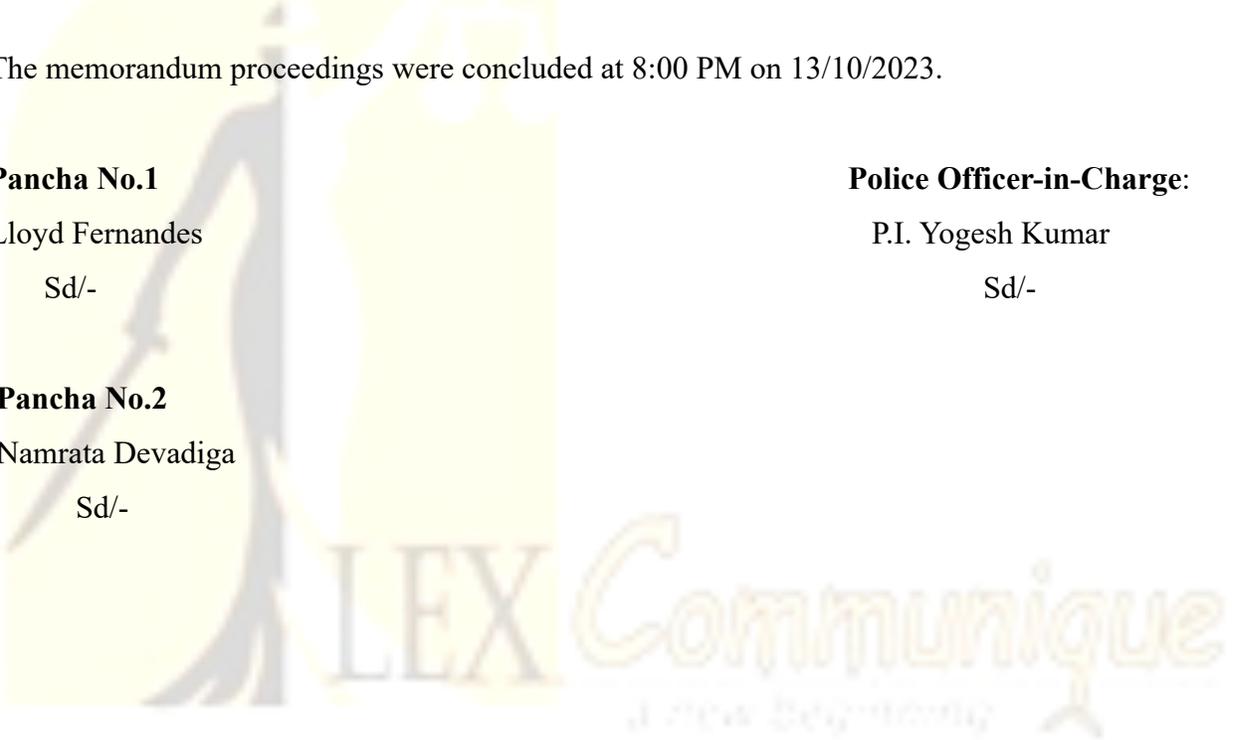
P.I. Yogesh Kumar

Sd/-

Pancha No.2

Namrata Devadiga

Sd/-



FINAL FORM / REPORT
(Under Section 173 Cr.PC)

1. Details:

a) **District:** Samadhan District

b) **P.S.:** Hoysala Police Station

c) **Year:** 2023

d) **FIR No:** 105/2023

2. Chargesheet No/Final Report No: C.C. No. 105/2023

3. Date of filling Report: 06/01/2024

4. Acts: Ionian Penal Code, 1860

5. Section(s): 302, 376, and 201

6. If supplementary or original: Original

7. Name of the I.O.: P.I. Yogesh Kumar

Rank: PI **No.:** 106/Hoysala

8. Name of the Complainant/Informant: Anil Bhat

9. Information of properties/ articles/ documents seized/ seized during Investigation:

SL No.	Date of Seizure/Recovery	Property Recovered/seized	Estimated value (original value)	P.S. Property No.	Property seized/ recovered from
1	10/10/2023	Chudidar top wrapped in white cloth and sealed	N/A	1/2023	Next to the deceased's body
2	10/10/2023	Chudidar pants wrapped in white clothes and sealed	N/A	2/2023	Next to the deceased's body

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

3	10/10/2023	Chudidar Dupatta wrapped in white cloth and sealed	N/A	3/2023	Next to the deceased's body
4	10/10/2023	Tights wrapped in white clothes and sealed.	N/A	4/2023	Next to the deceased's body
5	10/10/2023	Pubic hair and nail clipping of Kumari Soumya wrapped in white clothes and sealed.	N/A	5/2023	From the deceased's body
6	10/10/2023	Vaginal swab of Kumari Soumya wrapped and white cloth and sealed.	N/A	6/2023	From the deceased's body
7	10/10/2023	Blood samples of Kumari Soumya.	N/A	7/2023	From the deceased's body
8	10/10/2023	Pubic hair of the accused wrapped in white clothes and sealed.	N/A	8/2023	From the accused's body
9	11/10/2023	Shirt of the accused.	N/A	9/2023	From the accused's body
10	11/10/2023	Lungi (Towel) Of the accused.	N/A	10/2023	From the accused's body

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11	11/10/2023	Underwear of the accused.	N/A	11/2023	From the accused's body
12	11/10/2023	Blood samples of the accused.	N/A	12/2023	From the accused's body

10. Details of the Accused Persons charge-sheeted:

- a) **Name:** Vishal Rao
- b) **Father's Name:** Sudhakar Rao
- c) **Age:** 34 **D.O.B.:** 08/09/1993
- d) **Sex:** Male
- e) **Blood Group:** AB+
- f) **Nationality:** Ionian
- g) **Religion:** N/A
- h) **Address:** Kundur Village, Karka Taluk, Samadhan
- i) **Provisional Crime No.:**
- j) **Regular Crime No.:** N/A
- k) **Date of Apprehension.:** N/A
- l) **Date of Release on Bail:** N/A
- m) **Date of which forwarded to Court:**
- n) **Under Act(s) and Section (s):** Section 302, 376 and 201 of I.P.C.
- o) **Name of Bailer and their Addresses:** N/A
- p) **Previous conviction with case ref.:** N/A
- q) **Status of the Accused:** Judicial Custody

11. Brief Course of the Investigation:

The investigation into the incident that occurred on October 9, 2023, involving the rape and murder of 17-year-old Soumya, led to the arrest of the accused, Vishal Rao. During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that on the evening of October 9, 2023, Soumya was last seen at the Neelavati Lake Bus Stop, where she got down from a bus. Despite her family's immediate efforts to locate her after she went missing, Soumya's body was horrifically

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

discovered the next morning, on October 10, 2023, in a forested area near Kalla sank. The post-mortem examination confirmed signs of sexual assault, and the body was tied to a tree. Based on a series of events on October 11, 2023, involving temple staff, including Rudra Ballal, Aarush Ballal, and Abhishek Ballal, who apprehended Vishal Rao under suspicious circumstances at the Bahubali Temple, the accused was handed over to the Hoysala Police. Upon interrogation, Vishal Rao admitted to the crime and provided crucial information about the location near Neelavati Lake, where he claimed to have committed the offense. Then subsequently we gathered evidence from the crime scene, which was sent for forensic analysis. Based on this investigation, an FIR was registered against Vishal Rao, and he was charged under sections 302 (murder), 376 (rape), and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of an offense) of the Indian Penal Code. The charge sheet has been filed accordingly.

12. List of Prosecution Witnesses:-

- a. P.I. Yogesh Kumar
- b. Dr. Adam D'Souza
- c. Dr. Shivkumar Reddy
- d. Anil Bhat
- e. Dr. Vishwanath Pandit
- f. Vikram. J. Doke
- g. Llyod Fernandes

Date: 06/01/2024

Forwarded by the Station House

Officer/ Officer-in-Charge:

Rank: P.I.

Signature of the Officer-in-Charge:

Sd/-

Name of the I.O: Yogesh Kumar

Rank: P.I

Signature of the I.O submitting the

Final Report/ Charge-sheet:

Sd/-

ANNEXURE - 10

CONFESSION STATEMENT BY MR. VISHAL RAO

Under Section 164 of CR.P.C.

Accused, herein, u/s 164 of Cr.PC, confesses that:

I am Vishal Rao his Lordship has explained me that I am not bound to make a confession that, if I do so, it may be used as evidence against me. I belong to a poor family, with no real standing in society. On the day in question, October 10th, I had just returned from Sringeri in the morning hours after offering prayers at the Shrine. I took blessings from God, had Anna Prasad (lunch) at the temple, and then proceeded to Bahubali Hills Mountain. I wanted to meditate and find some peace, so I spent the afternoon sitting quietly, deep in thought and prayer.

As the evening approached, a few men arrived and began interrogating me in a very aggressive manner. They demanded that I leave immediately. I was confused by their behaviour, as I had done nothing wrong. When I calmly replied, "I will leave once everyone leaves," they grew more hostile. They began threatening me. I was scared and felt helpless. In fear, I started walking away as quickly as I could. Then, out of nowhere, they started shouting, "Thief! Thief! Thief!"

Before I could even comprehend what was happening, they attacked me. They thrashed me brutally, hitting me without mercy. I screamed for help, but no one intervened. The pain was unbearable, and I was severely injured. These men then dragged me to the police station.

When I arrived at the police station, I noticed that the same men who had beaten me were now speaking casually with the officers. I was in shock, but I still held onto the hope that the police would hear my side of the story and help me. But instead, the moment I was brought in, the officers accused me of committing a crime I had no knowledge of. They told me, "We know what you have done. Tell us the whole story."

Your Honour, I kept telling them repeatedly that I was innocent, that I didn't know anything about the incident they were referring to. I begged for mercy, I begged them to believe me, but they

refused to listen. I asked them to contact my family, but they ignored my pleas. The pain from my injuries, the fear of what they would do to me, and the helplessness of my situation were overwhelming.

The next day, the police took me to a doctor for a check-up. I was in severe pain from the beatings I had received. Afterward, one of the officers interrogated me again, asking about details of the crime. But, Your Honour, I knew nothing of the incident they were referring to, and I couldn't answer their questions. I was at a complete loss, and my mind was clouded with fear and confusion. That evening, they threatened me again, this time before my appearance in court. They told me to admit that I was aware of the charges and the crime committed, or things would get worse for me. When I was brought before the court, I wanted to speak up, to tell the truth about what had happened to me, but I was surrounded by policemen, and the fear they had instilled in me kept me silent.

Your Honour, I swear that I had nothing to do with the crime I am being blamed for. I was at Bahubali Hills Mountain, meditating, when these men approached me, accused me, beat me, and handed me over to the police. Since that moment, I have been living in constant fear. I come from a poor background, and I do not have the power or means to fight against this injustice. I was scared of the torture they threatened me with, and that is why I admitted to something I did not do.

I have explained to Mr. Vishal Rao that he is not bound to make a confession and that, if he does so, any confession he may make, may be used as evidence against him and I believe that this confession was voluntarily made. It was taken in my presence and hearing, and was read over to the person making it and admitted. By him to be correct, and it contains a full and true account of the statement made by him.

Seal: Deemed to be affixed

Date: 12/10/2023

Signature of the 4th MMC:

Sd/-

Signature of Vishal Rao

Sd/-

PROSECUTION WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION WITNESS NO. 2 – DR. ADAM D’SOUZA

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C

Name of Witness: Dr. Adam D’Souza

Designation: Medical Officer, Hoysala Govt. Hospital, Hoysala

Father’s Name: Usman D’Souza

Age: 55 years

Address: Hoysala

Employment: Medical Officer, Hoysala Govt. Hospital, Hoysala

I, Dr. Adam D’Souza, aged 55 years, residing in Hoysala, and currently employed as a Medical Officer at Taluk Public Hospital, Hoysala, hereby provide the following statement:

I have been working as a Medical Officer at the Taluk Public Hospital, Hoysala, since September 2006. On 11/10/2023, I conducted a post-mortem examination on the body of a deceased female, identified as Kumari Soumya, aged 17 years, who was of normal build.

The post-mortem examination was conducted as per standard medical protocols, and I will provide the findings in the report issued to the investigating officer. The body was brought to me under the supervision of the concerned police authorities for further investigation related to her cause of death.

This statement is being recorded for the purpose of aiding the ongoing investigation into the death of Kumari Soumya. I also affirm that I will provide my testimony and statement in due process during the trial as and when required by the court.

PROSECUTION WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION WITNESS NO. 3 – SHIVKUMAR REDDY

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C

Name of Witness: Shivkumar Reddy

Father's Name: Narasimha Reddy

Age: 47 years

Designation: Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, KS Hegde Medical Academy, Bhairav Pur.

Address: Samadhan City, Samadhan, Indrapur– 567112

I, Shivkumar Reddy, aged 47 years, residing in Samadhan and currently employed as a Professor and Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at KS Hegde Medical Academy, Bhairav Pur, for the past six years, make the following statement:

On 12th October 2023, at around 2:00 PM, I was approached by P.I. Yogesh Kumar from Hoysala Police Station, who brought before me one Mr. Vishal Rao. I was informed that Mr. Vishal Rao was involved in a case related to rape and murder and was requested to perform a medical examination on him.

During the medical examination, I found that Mr. Vishal Rao was suffering from a condition known as phimosis, where the foreskin does not retract. Additionally, I observed 14 injuries on his body.

This statement is being recorded to assist in the ongoing investigation concerning the death of Kumari Soumya. I affirm that I will provide my testimony and any required statements during the trial, as and when requested by the court.

PROSECUTION WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION WITNESS NO. 4 – ANIL BHAT

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

Name of Witness: Anil Bhat

Age: 49 years

Occupation: Civil Contractor

Address: Pullak House 24-A, Dharmrashtra, Indrapur, 4011089.

I, Anil Bhat, aged 49 years, am a civil contractor residing at the aforementioned address along with my wife, Kusumavati, and our four daughters. Soumya was my second eldest daughter. She was studying in the 2nd PUC at SDR College, Dharmrashtra. Her daily routine involved attending college at 7:30 AM and returning home by 4:00 PM.

On the 7th of October, I dropped Soumya off at college at around 8:00 AM before heading to Hoysala for work. She was expected to attend a family function at my brother-in-law's house later that evening. She had mentioned that she was fasting that day and would directly go to the function and have dinner there. However, she did not return that evening. I called my relatives and informed my brother-in-law about her absence. He told me that around 4:15 PM, while he was on his way to Neelavati, he saw Soumya heading toward his house, and she greeted him.

As she failed to return, we grew increasingly concerned and began searching for her. Around 500 people from our village gathered at Bhairav Pur to assist in the search, but we were unable to find her. I filed a missing person report with the police, but they informed me that come tomorrow and asked me to bring a photograph of Soumya. The police later visited our house and saw Soumya's clothes and books.

The next morning, during the continued search efforts, between 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, a body was discovered in a nearby area. Although I was informed of the discovery, I was in a state of shock and unable to go to the scene immediately. Later, the body was identified as that of my daughter, Soumya. Her body was in a horrifying condition she was found half-naked, with her clothing torn, and her hands were tied to a tree with a shawl. A ligature mark was visible around

her neck, suggesting strangulation. Her school bag was found at the scene, but despite the heavy rains on the 7th and 8th of October, the bag appeared to be dry.

Her body was taken to the hospital on the same day. The police conducted a panchnama and took Soumya's inner garments from our house the next day as part of their investigation. The discovery of Soumya's body deeply shocked our entire community, leading to widespread protests and unrest, particularly after the accused was arrested. Many in the community, including myself, still believe that more individuals beyond those apprehended were involved in the heinous crime committed against my daughter.



PROSECUTION WITNESS STATEMENTS

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION WITNESS NO. 5 – DR. VISHWANATH
PANDIT**

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C

Name of Witness: Dr. Vishwanath Pandit

Age: 51 years

Occupation: Medico-Legal Officer

Address: Hoysala, Dharmrashtra, Samadhan, Indrapur– 567112

I, Dr. Vishwanath Pandit, aged 51 years, residing at the above mentioned address, currently employed as a Medico-Legal Officer, make the following statement:

On 10th October, I was called upon by the Hoysala Police to conduct a mental status examination of the accused, Vishal Rao, who had been apprehended in connection with a criminal case. I performed a comprehensive mental status examination of Mr. Vishal Rao. During this assessment, I inquired about his family history of mental illness, any previous mental health diagnoses, and any current symptoms or issues he may have been experiencing. I closely observed his behaviour, demeanour, and emotional responses throughout the examination, evaluating his orientation to person, place, and time, as well as his memory, attention span, and judgment. Additionally, I assessed his thought patterns, looking for any signs of delusions, hallucinations, or other abnormal thoughts, and explored his understanding of the charges against him and his ability to make rational decisions.

Based on my clinical evaluation, I found that Mr. Vishal Rao did not present any signs of a major mental disorder. He demonstrated an adequate capacity to comprehend the nature and object of the legal proceedings. However, I observed that whenever Mr. Rao was questioned about the incident or the events on the night in question, he exhibited physical signs of distress, such as clenching his jaw, which suggested that he was attempting to control his anger, particularly when asked about details of the case.

LEX COMMUNIQUE TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2025

While Mr. Rao showed some symptoms of stress and anxiety, these appeared to be a normal response to the seriousness of the charges against him. No formal psychological tests or questionnaires were administered during this examination, as my conclusions were based on clinical observation and a detailed interview.

I am aware that Mr. Vishal Rao declined to undergo a polygraph test or brain mapping examination, but I was not involved in these investigative procedures. My role was strictly limited to conducting the mental status examination on the aforementioned date.

This statement is being recorded to aid the ongoing investigation into the death of Kumari Soumya. I affirm that I will provide my testimony and any necessary statements during the trial, as and when requested by the court.



PROSECUTION WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION WITNESS NO. 6 – LLYOD FERNANDES

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

Name of Witness: Llyod Fernandes

Father's Name: Vincent Fernandes

Age: 59 years

Occupation: Auto Driver

Address: Hoysala, Indrapur.

I, Maxim Christe, aged 59 years, reside in Hoysala and work as an auto driver. I am aware of the case involving the missing and murdered girl named Soumya. On the 13th of October, 2023, at around 3:30 pm, I went to the Hoysala Police Station as I had been informed that the accused had been found and that the police would take him to the location where the crime had been committed. The police requested our presence for this purpose, and we left the station at around 4:00 pm.

We traveled to Dharmrashtra and stopped near Naturecare Hospital. The accused was brought out of the jeep and taken to Kallasanka, which was approximately 200 meters away from where we had stopped. The accused, by pointing with his hand, indicated that this was the place where he had committed the murder.

Later, at the police station, further items were seized from the accused and from his bag. These included:

- 1) A white pancha with a blue border, which had some stains on it
- 2) A dark green, black, and white collared half-sleeve striped shirt
- 3) Green underpants
- 4) A brown and coffee-colored striped half-sleeve old shirt
- 5) A blue, black, and red striped full-sleeve shirt with black mud stuck on it
- 6) A dark blue, brown, and yellow checked full-sleeve shirt
- 7) A kumkum (vermilion) and white-violet bairas
- 8) A kumkum green design-bordered white panche
- 9) A kumkum-colored tulsi garland

- 10) A cream-colored long tulsi garland
- 11) Cash amounting to Rs. 3,721/-

These items were also sealed in our presence, and I signed the relevant documents afterwards. The mahajar for these items was performed between 7:30 pm and 8:00 pm.

This statement is being recorded to aid in the ongoing investigation concerning the death of Kumari Soumya. I affirm that I will provide my testimony and any necessary statements during the trial, as and when required by the court.



PROSECUTION WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROSECUTION WITNESS NO. 7 – VIKRAM J. DOKE

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

Name of Witness: Vikram J. Doke

Father's Name: Janardhan Doke

Age: 42 years

Occupation: Assistant Director, Department of Toxicology, Forensic Science Laboratory, Madiwala, Bangalore

Address: Bhairav Pur, Indrapur.

I, Vikram J. Doke, aged 42 years, residing at Bhairav Pur, Indrapur currently serving as the Assistant Director in the Department of Toxicology at the Forensic Science Laboratory, Bhairav Pur, Indrapur, make the following statement:

Since 2004, I have worked in various capacities within the Toxicology Department and the DNA Center at the Forensic Science Laboratory.

On 20th October 2023, Hoysala Police Station submitted 12 sealed items before me for examination, along with an official letter requesting a DNA analysis. Upon initial inspection, I confirmed that all the seals on the submitted items were intact and matched the sample seals provided by the police for verification.

This statement is being recorded to aid in the ongoing investigation concerning the death of Kumari Soumya. I affirm that I will provide my testimony and any necessary statements during the trial, as and when required by the court.

DEFENCE WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEFENCE WITNESS NO 1 - JANARDHAN

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

I, Janardhan, aged 47, residing at Dharmrashtra, have been working as a security guard at Naturecare Hospital, Shantivana, Dharmrashtra, for the past 8 years. My duty hours are eight hours per shift, and there are three shifts in total. I work alongside two other security guards, Chandrasekhar and Harish.

I knew Soumya, the daughter of Anil, as I used to see her regularly on her way to college. Over time, I became familiar with her.

On 9th October 2023, it rained heavily in the afternoon, and later that day, Soumya went missing. On that day, my duty was from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the hospital. At approximately 4:00 PM to 4:15 PM, I saw Soumya getting off near the Neelavati Bus Stop. She was carrying a bag and an umbrella as it had rained earlier between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. I noticed 4 men on motorcycles roaming around the area for a while. They appeared suspicious as they were waiting for quite some time in the vicinity.

Later in the evening, at around 7:30 PM, Soumya's father, Anil, along with a large group of villagers, came to me while searching for her. He asked if I had seen his daughter. I told him that I had seen her earlier that afternoon near the Neelavati Bus Stop but did not hear any unusual noises or sounds like screaming in the area. Anil then informed me that Soumya had not returned home.

The area where I last saw her has a ditch, and due to the rain, there was a significant amount of water in the area. The police recorded my statement as part of their investigation, and I reported everything that I had observed.

DEFENCE WITNESS STATEMENTS

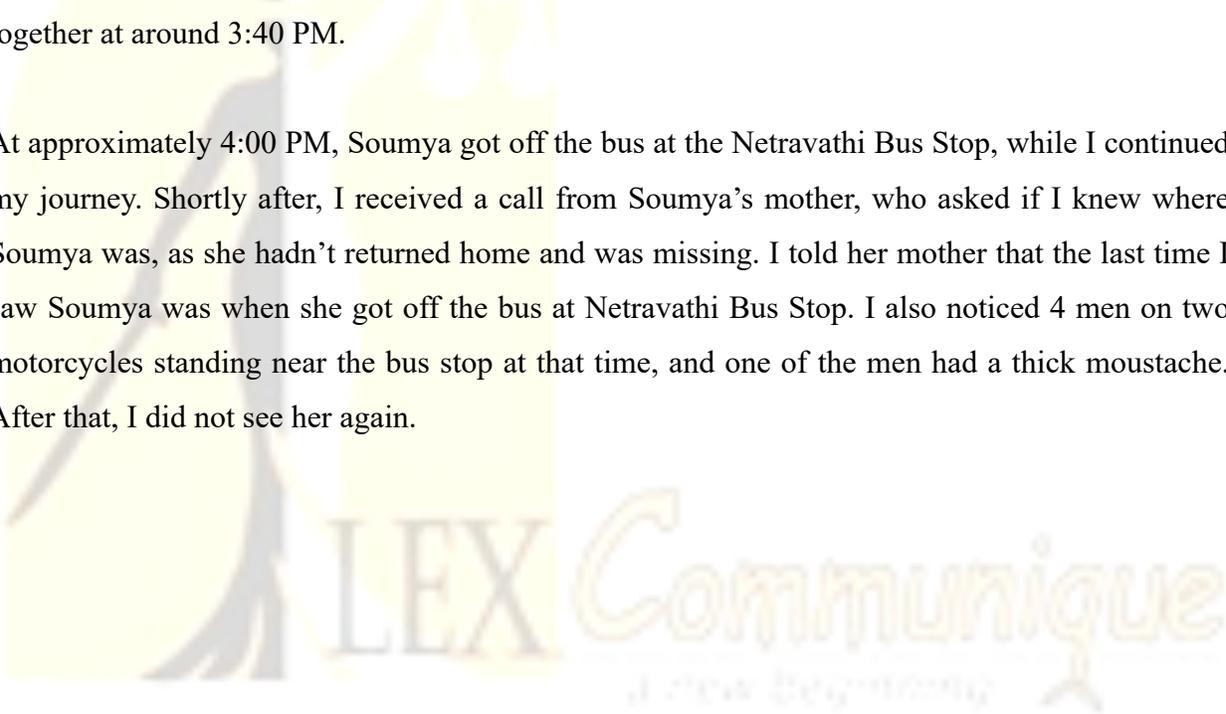
WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEFENCE WITNESS NO 2 - ANUSHKA NAIR

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

I, Anushka Nair, aged 17, residing at Urva, am a student at SDR College, Dharmrashtra, studying in the second year of PUC. I was a close friend and classmate of Soumya.

On 9th October 2023, we had extra classes at the college, which ended at around 3:30 PM. After the class, I offered my tiffin to Soumya, but she declined as she was fasting for Ayudha Pooja. She mentioned that she would be having her lunch at her uncle's house later. We both left the college together at around 3:40 PM.

At approximately 4:00 PM, Soumya got off the bus at the Netravathi Bus Stop, while I continued my journey. Shortly after, I received a call from Soumya's mother, who asked if I knew where Soumya was, as she hadn't returned home and was missing. I told her mother that the last time I saw Soumya was when she got off the bus at Netravathi Bus Stop. I also noticed 4 men on two motorcycles standing near the bus stop at that time, and one of the men had a thick moustache. After that, I did not see her again.



DEFENCE WITNESS STATEMENTS

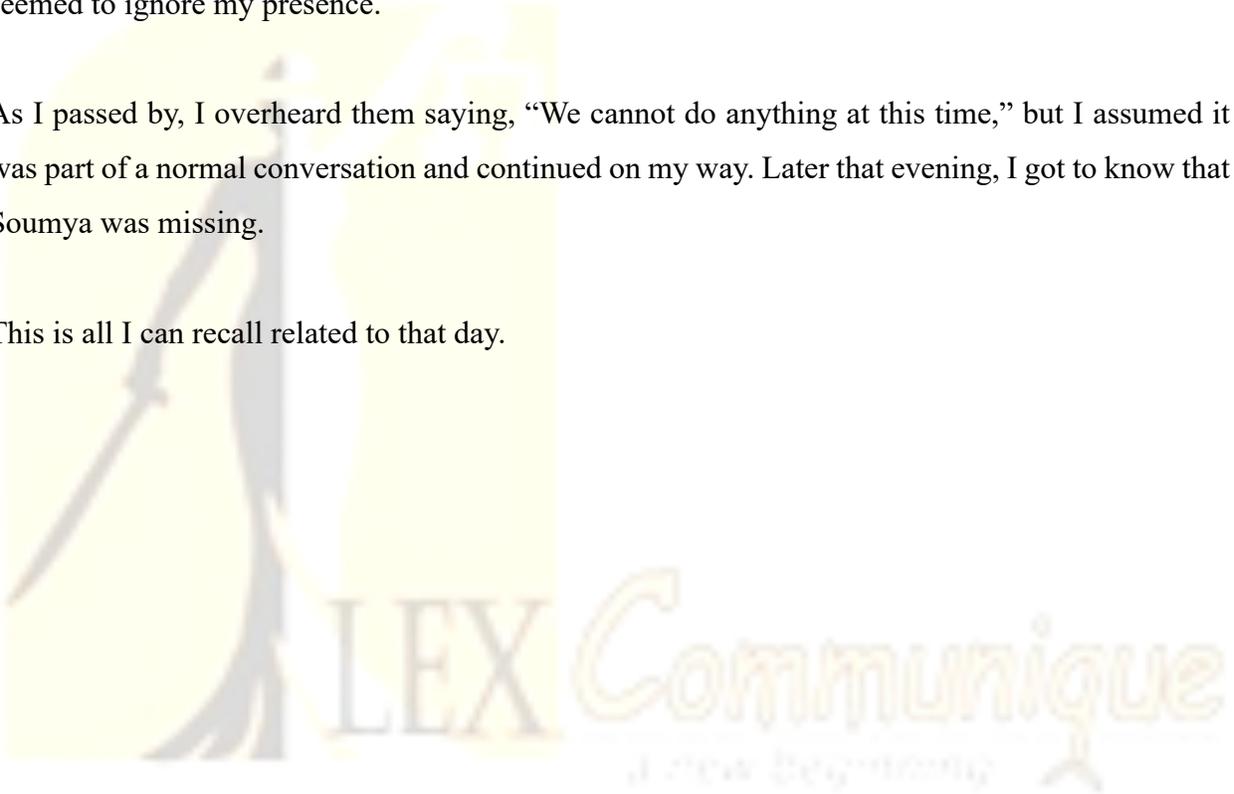
WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEFENCE WITNESS NO 3 - YASHODA

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

I, Yashoda, aged 36, residing at Dharmrashtra, work at a factory near Neelavati Lake, and I am Soumya's maternal aunt. On 9th October 2023, around 1:00 PM, while returning home from my factory, I saw Aarush Ballal, Rudra Ballal, and Abhishek Ballal on a motorcycle near Bhairav Pur. Normally, Aarush Ballal greets me when we meet, but this time he didn't acknowledge me and seemed to ignore my presence.

As I passed by, I overheard them saying, "We cannot do anything at this time," but I assumed it was part of a normal conversation and continued on my way. Later that evening, I got to know that Soumya was missing.

This is all I can recall related to that day.



DEFENCE WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEFENCE WITNESS NO 4 – BHASKAR POOJARY

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

I, Bhaskar Poojary, aged 54, resident of Bhairav Pur village, have been living here since birth. I work as a professor and also engage in agriculture. Over the years, I have observed several incidents in Dharmrashtra after the area came under the administration of Virendra Hegde. High-profile officials, including the Chief Minister, frequently visit Dharmrashtra, and crime in the locality has noticeably increased. I personally knew Soumya and her family, who were known for their decent reputation.

The location where the crime occurred is notorious for suspicious activities, and despite several incidents, no formal investigations or FIRs have been filed. Villagers, including myself, have come across human remains such as bones, skeletons, hair, clothing, and women's footwear in the surrounding forest. There has been a consistent pattern of suspicion directed at the three Ballal brothers from Dharmrashtra and relatives of Virendra Hegde.

On 10th October 2023, at around 3:00 AM, I heard some noise and noticed a Bolero vehicle passing through the area. The following morning, I got to know that a dead body had been discovered near that vicinity.

DEFENCE WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEFENCE WITNESS NO 5 – RAGHAVENDRA

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

My name is Raghavendra, and I am 42 years old, proudly owning the Sarda Hotel in Shringeri, a family-run establishment that I have successfully operated for the past 20 to 25 years. Throughout this time, I have cultivated a reputation for providing excellent hospitality and service to our guests, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

One of my employees, Vishal Rao, worked as a waiter at my hotel from April 6, 2023, until October, 2023. Despite being overqualified for the position, he chose to work with me due to his challenging financial circumstances. He expressed a strong desire to support his family and improve his situation. During his six months of employment, Vishal consistently demonstrated exemplary behaviour and a remarkable work ethic. I never witnessed any misconduct towards customers, nor did I receive complaints about his performance or behaviour.

Vishal was punctual, friendly, and attentive to the needs of our guests, contributing positively to the overall experience at the hotel. His dedication to his work was evident in the way he engaged with customers, often going above and beyond to ensure they felt comfortable and valued.

In addition to his professionalism, Vishal was a highly spiritual individual. He often visited the temple for meditation both before and after his shifts, which reflected his calm demeanour and positive outlook on life. To my knowledge, he had no bad habits or addictions and was respected by his colleagues for his integrity and commitment.

I was shocked to learn about his arrest after seeing the news on television. It was difficult to reconcile this news with the Vishal I knew, an individual with a kind heart and a strong moral compass. I genuinely believed he was on a path to overcome his challenges, and it pains me to see him in such a situation, as I held a high regard for his character and work ethic during his time at my hotel.

DEFENCE WITNESS STATEMENTS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DEFENCE WITNESS NO 6 – SURESH RAO

Under Section 161 of Cr.P.C.

I, Suresh Rao, am the elder brother of Vishal Rao. I am 40 years old and work as a carpenter in Samadhan. My brother Vishal has studied mechanical course in Samadhan. During his college years, he was trained in karate and even achieved a black belt. He was among the strongest members of our family. I was also going to karate classes with him but had to discontinue due to personal reasons.

On one occasion, Vishal participated in a karate competition where he suffered a severe injury affecting his brain's nerve system, leading to a period of unsoundness. We provided him with multiple treatments for his nerve condition, and he eventually recovered around 75%. After his recovery, he relocated to Shringeri for employment.

Our family has an annual tradition from ancestral times where we hold a pooja every October. Vishal always comes home during this period and brings prasadam from nearby temples, as he is a very spiritual person. Since college time he has a habit of regularly meditating for two hours daily.

On 10th October 2023, officers from the Hoysala police arrived at our residence and informed us that Vishal had been arrested. When we asked for details about his alleged actions, they did not provide a clear response. Later, we discovered that he had been charged with murder and rape.