#### PRESS NOTE

Constant and continuous strive of Angul District Police unravelled curtain from a series of heinous road dacoit of Aluminium trucks from different N.Hs of Orissa and gruesome cold-blooded murder of drivers and helpers. Angul Police added extra feather to success and to the credit of Odisha Police after arresting a group of harden, veteran, interstate truck hijackers involved in making the High Ways completely unsafe for truckers. This crime is not only restricted within the boundary of Angul District but it has spread over the N.H leading to Kolkata covering the districts of Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Cuttack Rural, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Balasore. The accused persons are involved in the brutal murder of ten persons who were innocent drivers and helpers and they have confessed that they are involved in at least 12 cases across the state.

After the gruesome murders of the driver and helper in different districts a conference at the state level was held by the ADGP crime on safe highways. Directions were given by the DGP Odisha to the SPs for detection of the cases. In Angul District after the gruesome murder of the unknown driver and helper in Kiakatta PS, a special squad was formed by the SP Angul for early detection of the cases under Insp Smruti Pradhan. The squad comprised of SI Ramesh Mahana, SI Satyavrata Rout, SI Sunil Behera and DVF constables. The squad was instructed to nab the culprits to detect the murders of the drivers/helpers in aluminium theft cases.

After engagement of the sources, the squad got a lead from the Kiakatta murder case and accordingly they laid a trap in between Handappa-Boinda on National Highway and nabbed the accused at one go along with two bolero vehicles, mobile phones, sim cards and important documents.

#### Accused Arrested:

- 1. Sangram Keshari samantaray (28) 5/0- Chabindra Samantray of Dopada, PS-Ramchandi Dist. Puri.
- 2. Susanta Pradhan, (24), S/O- Prasanta Kumar Pradhan of Boinda, PS-Handapa Dist. Angul.
- 3. Santosh Pradhan, (30), S/O- Balakrushna Pradhan At/PS-Balimela, Dist. Malkanagiri.
- 4. Gajendra Behera, 35, S/O- Bansidhara Behera At/PS-Seragada, Dist. Ganjam.
- 5. Maheswar Mukhi, 25, S/O- Anama Mukhi of Boinda Ps-Handapa, Dist. Angul.
- 6. Maguni Charana Sahoo, 32, S/O- Iswar Sahoo At- Kurumta PS-Thakurgarh, Angul.
- 7. Duryodhana Nayak, 35, S/O-Durgacharan Nayak At- Taragia PS- Dharmasala, Jajpur.
- 8. Jayadeva Nayak, 24, 5/0 Sukadeb Nayak At- Muraripur PS-Dharmasala, Jajpur.
- 9. Sk. Naser Box (26) 5/O- Sk. Husain Box of Jhadeswarpur PS-Jaleswar, Dist. Balasore.
- 10. Nalu@Narayan Behera (22) 5/O- Ratnakara Behera Vill-Salabanisahi, Boinda PS-Handapa Dist. Angul.

## PROPERTY SEIZED

- One unregistered Bolero.
- Bolero regd no. OR-19 P-2607.
- SIM cards
- Mobile Handsets
- Cash of Rs. 8,550/-
- Documentary evidence.
- Plastic ropes

#### GENESIS OF CRIME AND MODOUS OPERNDI:

The mastermind Nila @ Nilakantha Sankhari in the year 2012 misappropriated his own aluminium-loaded truck and lodged false FIR against dacoits at Badmal P.S of Jharsuguda. The Badmal Police detected the case successfully and he was arrested and lodged at Jharsuguda jail. During his remand at Jharsuguda jail, he came in contact with Sangram and Gajendra. After release on bail Nila with his brother Baikuntha organised a GANG inducting local guys Susant, Bantha, Maguni, Krishna, Sana of Chandikhol and others. The accused were using short names and formed the dacoit gang using mostly Boinda area boys. By using different vehicles like Bolero, Scorpio, and Safari, they make Kolkata bound NHs of Odisha as the heaven of their crime. Generally, they made surveillance on NH and on detection of an aluminium-loaded truck, chased the truck and getting right opportunity stopped the aluminium-laden truck by stopping the four-wheeler just in front of the truck. They will pretend as members of the finance company and will tell the innocent driver that they will seize the truck and they will allow the driver and helper to go. Thus, Nila will take the truck to Kolkata to sell the aluminium material in the grey market. The murder gang will take these innocent driver helper to the jungle side far from the spot where the vehicle was stopped. They will make them eat good food in certain cases and finding right opportunity, like the British time Thugs, these murder gang will kill the innocent driver and/or helper in a sudden spur of moment by slitting their throat with the sharp knife in a brutal manner. For the disposal of aluminium, driver Nila who is still at large was helped by Krushna and Sana of Chandikhol. They in turn will contact one Naser of Jaleshwar who earns his bread and butter by doing some transactions at the Jaleshwar Unified Inter State Gate. Naser used to contact some aluminium window grill making company at Calcutta who will purchase the aluminium from this way after the murder of the drivers and

helpers of the aluminium laden trucks. In all cases the greed of money made them blind and in order to wipe out the evidence, made them so cruel and brutal that they killed the drivers and helpers by cutting their throats abandoning the bodies at the spot. The interrogation so far revealed that they have no remorse for their crime and they were not realising that they have committed at least ten murders in the process.

## A Birds Eye View on Crime:

## 1. <u>Hirakud PS Case NO- 50 dt.06.04.2014</u>, U/S- 408 IPC.

In this case, the above noted accused persons in the month of March hijacked a Kharagpur bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-149 and committed murder of the driver of the truck by cutting his throat and tying his hands by rope, threw the dead body on the side of NH. The dead body was disposed off near Khamara in Samal PS of Angul which is yet to be traced. The aluminium was disposed off at Calcutta. The truck is yet to be recovered in the case.

## 2. <u>Parjanga PS Case NO-80 dt.02.05.2014, U/S-302/201 IPC.</u>

In this case the above noted accused persons in the month of May hijacked a Angul bound cement loaded truck plying through NH-149 and committed murder of the driver of the truck by cutting his throat using a sharp edged weapon and threw the dead body near Dadaraghati of Dhenkanal district. Considering that the helper was a small boy, they allowed the helper to go at home. They disposed the cement truck at Dhenkanal bye-pass to a veteran scarp dealer Ashok Sha.

3. <u>Kiakata P.S Case No 11/14 U/S 302/201 IPC, Dt. 10/5/2014.</u>

<u>Kiakata P.S Case No 12/14, U/S 302/201 IPC, Dt. 12/5/2014.</u>

<u>Nalco P.S Case No 55/14,U/S 407/34 IPC, Dt. 29/5/2014.</u>

In this case, the above noted accused persons in the month of May hijacked a Delhi bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-55 and committed murder of the driver and helper of the truck by cutting their throats using a sharp edged weapon and threw the dead bodies near Kiakata at two different places. They disposed off the aluminium material at Kolkata. Both the bodies have been recovered.

### 4. Jaleswar PS Case NO-130 dt.10.06.2014, U/S-379 IPC.

In this case, the above noted accused persons in the month of March hijacked a Kharagpur bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-5 and committed murder of the driver of the truck by cutting his throat and tying his hands by rope, threw the dead body on the side of NH in Keonjhar district. Luckily, the helper of the truck ran away. The material was disposed off in Kolkatta.

### 5. Angul PS Case NO-408 dt. 15.07.2014, U/S- 379 IPC.

In this case the above noted accused persons in the month of July hijacked a Rajastan bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-55 and committed murder of the driver of the truck by cutting his throat using a sharp edged weapon and threw the dead body near Vasundhara Coal Mines in Hemgiri PS Sundargarha District on Brajraj Nagar Hemgiri road. The dead body is yet to traced in the case. The gang disposed the aluminium at Kolkata while the truck was disposed off somewhere. In this case the gang moved the driver at so many places in Jharsuguda pretending him that they are from finance company, made him to eat good food including fish and gruesomely killed the driver by slitting the throat.

#### 6. <u>Angul P.S Case No 433/14, Dt 27/7/2014, U/S 379 IPC.</u>

In this case the above noted accused persons in the month of July hijacked a Kharagpur bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-55 and committed murder of the driver and helper of the truck by tying their hands in rope and threw them alive in River Debi near Kakatpur, Puri. The dead body of the driver has been recovered. In this case a UD case was registered at Kakatpur PS case. The body of the helper is yet to be traced. In this case the driver and helper were under so much threat and duress of the criminal gang that they have not raised hue and cry at the toll gate on way from balasore to bhadrak and puri. The gang members told that they are from the finance company and they will let them go and in a sudden spur of moment they pushed them alive in the river from the bridge while their hands were tied with plastic rope. They disposed the aluminium material at Kolkata while the truck is yet to be recovered.

## 7. Khamar P.S. Case NO-76 dt.14.08.2014, U/S-394 IPC.

In this case the above noted accused persons in the month of August committed dacoity of a twelve(12) wheeler truck from NH-149 and disposed the truck at Dhenkanal bye-pass to a veteran scarp dealer Ashok Sha at Dhenkenal. In this case the driver was spared by them.

# 8. <u>Kanjipani PS Case NO- 22 d t. 20/8/14 U/S- 395/364 IPC</u> turned to 396/364 IPC.

In this case, the above noted accused persons in the month of August hijacked a Kolkata bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-49(near kanjipani ghati) and committed murder of the driver of the truck by assaulting on his head and threw the dead body on the road in Keonjhar District.

#### 9. Athagarh PS Case NO-178 dt.24.08.2014,U/S-396/307 IPC.

In this case , the above noted accused persons in the month of August hijacked a Kolkata bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-55 and committed murder of the helper of the truck by cutting his throat and tying his hands by rope, threw the dead body at Cashew field near Athagarh. Luckily the driver of the truck ran away in injured condition. The dead body of the helper has been recovered.

### 10. <u>Chendipada PS Case NO-181 dt.01.10.2014, U/S -302 IPC.</u>

In this case accused Susanta Pradhan committed murder of one Suduru Sahu of Hatianali, Chendipada in the night of 21.09.2014 by firing from a country made SBML, gun.

Further, these criminals may be involved in other cases also. The investigation in this case is going on. The accused are being forwarded to the court of law. By nabbing the accused involved in the thugee, dacoity and murders gangs the Angul police has ensured in keeping the highways safe.

# (11) Kanjipani PS Case NO- 22 dt. 20/8/14 U/S- 395/364 IPC turned to 396/364 IPC.

In this case, the above noted accused persons in the month of August hijacked a Kolkata bound Aluminium loaded truck plying through NH-49(near kanjipani ghati) and committed murder of the driver of the truck by assaulting on his head and threw the dead body on the road in Keonjhar District.

## Accused persons

