TIMES OF INDIA

8 of Bishnoi-Jathedi gang held over bizmen threats

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The crime branch in three operations caught eight shooters of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Kala Jathedi syndicate, which is suspected to be behind a spate of recent crimes such as firing at the houses of businessmen after they were sent extortion threats by the gang.

Three of the shooters are believed to be juveniles.

Special commissioner (crime), Ravindra Yadav, said the shooters were caught as the result of fortnight-long operations in various states such as Gujarat and Rajasthan. "Our investigation has revealed that Bishnoi's US-based brother, Anmol, was making extortion calls and tapping teenaged shooters from rural areas on Instagram," Yadav said. The cash collected from businessmen is then used to fund legal expenses and procure weapons.

"The funds were being collected abroad in safe havens through hawala routes by the gang members who had escaped overseas," special CP Yadav said.

One of the gang modules had fired at a house in Har Nagar Ashram on April 23. The victim told the cops he had received a voice message on March 23 from a man claiming to be Anmol Bishnoi, who had demanded Rs 2 crore. He got calls and messages reiterating the demand till March 28. Again on April 25, a day after the firing at his house, the man got a voice call from the Bishnoi group, asking him to pay up or die.

Police analysed the CCTV cameras of the area and found that the shooters had boarded an auto from Jungpura and gone to Dhaula Kuan. They had then boarded a bus to Dharuhera, Haryana. The cops tracked the bus conductor and a few others on the route. They led them to Churu, Rajasthan. The cops arrested two shooters, aged 16 and 17. The duo led the cops to their associate, identified as Harain alias Devil (18) from Rajkot. The accused used to follow Bishnoi on Instagram.

In the second operation, the cops apprehended an 18-year-old named Sameer and his 17-year-old associate from Mundka. The duo had fired at a property dealer's office in Narela on April 27. They worked for Bishnoi's associate, Akshay Pehelwan.

The third module had three men—Sunny (19), Ashu (20) and Parveen (20). They worked for Bishnoi's associate, Priyavart Kala, now in jail. They had snatched a car at gunpoint and fired at an electronics showroom in Qutubgarh last month. Priyavart was coordinating with the shooters from jail and had facilitated the delivery of pistols, police said.

HOW THE SYNDICATE OPERATES



Lawrence Bishnoi



Kala Jathedi

- Their agents/ middlemen **identify rich and vulnerable targets;** usually bookies, gamblers, real estate dealers, builders, land grabbers, jewellers, etc
- **Extortion demand sent** through WhatsApp call, letters or verbally through a visit
- The agents and middlemen try to negotiate if the businessman is willing to pay without complaining. **The amount is transferred abroad** through *hawala* channels
- In case there is no response from targets, **foot soldiers are hired to threaten them**
- These new recruits are mainly juveniles from rural areas of Haryana, Rajasthan or Delhi in 15-20 age group, who join just to get associated with the gang
- They are contacted through internet-based services, **told to reach a particular location and contact further** to receive weapons
- **They are asked to reccee the target's house,** office or shop. Once the reccee is done, they are told the exact date and time when they have to fire at the target's house/ office to scare him
- After the task, they are told to quickly exit and **change location before they are assigned a new task**