

Record Tracking by Police Service K9

TUNGA (Tracker) in Successful Chase in Crime Investigation by Davangere Police, Karnataka

Operation Background of the Case

Cr No. 81/2020 u/s 302, 201, R/w 34 IPC Basavapatna PS, Channagiri Sub Division, Davanagere

A case was reported at Basavapatna PS on 10-07-2020 by complainant Shri Nagaraj Naik s/o Kalya Naik, Nagarkatte Tanda, Davangere Tq that his brother Chandra Naik, aged 24, of Nagarkatte Tanda, was murdered at a hillock in Sulekere by the 2 brothers, who had earlier borrowed 1.7 Lakh rupees from the deceased. There were frequent quarrels between them for money.

Circumstances when Dog Squad was Employed

PSI Basavapatna called to control room to inform an unidentified dead body found lying upside down in a hillock of Sulekere. There were none around it. Dy SP Prashant Munnolli and CPI R R Patil wanted to ensure a personal visit to guide the newly posted PSI Kum. Bharati Kankanawadi. She also said there's a suspicion as half-eaten food packets were lying from the place of suspected fall. Yes, it was a 50-60 feet gorge in which body got stuck halfway upside down. On the

visit that night at 8:15 pm there was also a stone on which bloodstains were evident. We zeroed it to murder and not UDR.

Tracking of Accused

Additional SP Shri Rajeev M visited the spot and said that it isn't suitable to lift the body that night, as it posed many risks to the rescue team. We put the night guard with a generator.

First hint: we got a hotel check out bill lying beside the body. Enquired with the hotel management to provide the check-in details. Found the Identity of the deceased. It was Chandra Naik, s/o Kalya Naik, 25, Lambani Nagarkatte Tanda, Davangere Rural taluk. The suspected vehicle parked nearby was his brother's. The deceased was identified without any doubt.

The Uniqueness of the Case

Dog Squad chipped in by 9:30 pm. A crime dog named Tunga, 9yrs old Doberman from District armed reserve, Davangere arrived at the spot and started running without a stop, we had no clue it would run 11km sniffing the traces. Yes, it was 11km. As it reached Kashipur

Tanda, exactly at a place in front of a house. Meanwhile, the relatives of deceased were raising doubts over 2 brothers of same Tanda, and Kashipur happens to be their close relative's address.

We zeroed in and enquired whereabouts. the suspicion grew stronger.

Challenges Involved

Next day morning Fire Brigade team arrived and wrapped up the body (with all fear of corona getting transferred by bloodstains).

As this was getting sensational body was moved to Chigateri general hospital for Post mortem. To the surprise of the I/o Shri RR Patil, CPI, Channagiri and also the doctor, there was a bullet shot entry wound on the right side of the temple region of the head. There wasn't any exit wound. We found a bullet in the skull which was 7.62mm, generally used in licensed pistol. The injury mark suggested close-range shot and not point-blank.

4 quarter whiskey, 5 packets of egg rice, one pack cigarette, 2 smoked cigarette buds, 4 litres water, blood-stained stone, definitely there were more than 2 people involved in the



crime. Accordingly, we made teams and distributed work. Extensively searched and enquired about the suspects. CPI RR Patil told Dy SP that, he has read about missing pistol somewhere in Dharwad some days ago. On enquiry with our counterparts in Dharwad, the confirmation came in. A weapon was missing since the past 20 days along with some gold and money. BINGO, both the weapon types were matching! but questions remain unanswered, where the hell is the weapon, who triggered it, and why? The information of stolen weapon was received from Vidyagiri PS of Dharwad registered in Cr No. 42/2020 u/s 380, 454, 457 IPC dated 22/06/2020. A team led by DySP went to Dharwad to gather further information. With the help of local police, the information was gathered and suspects enquired.

Motive Behind the Murder

Further enquiry revealed about suspects. On enquiry, we were misled to kill the time. We nabbed the culprit, Mr Chetan @Chetu aged 21 was secured near Kashipur bus stand. who initially refused to

accept, later confessed having done this as he was promised good booty as supari. Who intern intended to waive off his father's debts with the supari (money received as a kickback for killing someone). The accused confessed having hatched the conspiracy along with Mr Purushottam s/o Manja Naik, 17 Yrs, Nagarkatte Tanda and his brother Mr Sachin S/o Annappa, 21 yrs, Nagarkatte Tanda. They were also accused in the complaint and were absconding ever since.

Strengths and Weaknesses

The weapon was initially told to be thrown in the Shantisagar (Asia's second-biggest lake nearby, aka Sulekere) to destroy evidence, we planned underwater metal detector, underwater camera, divers from Harihara taluk etc.

Before they could arrive, he confessed and showed the weapon hid in the bund on the hillock. A sigh of relief to the IO (investigating officer) because without recovery of weapon, everything looks like a cooked up story, fingerprints were taken and matched. 5 live rounds, 1 Indian ordinance factory made pistol GSF, Kashani make was recovered.

Lessons Learnt/ Recommendations

- When there is a doubt, be doubly sure. Involve the Dog Squad and Finger Print unit in every crime scene to collect pieces of evidence, as early as possible.
- Dig deeper into the case it

might detect other cases too. Who knew in this murder case property offences and arms act cases would be detected.

- Make teams and divide the work based on competence.
- Take the help of local police whenever you venture outside your jurisdiction.
- Don't depend only on CDR/ Tower location, criminals have moved on. Human intelligence is equally important, collect as much as local information.

The Proud Team Members

The team comprised of Mr Prashant Munnolli, Dy SP, RR Patil, CPI, Bharati Kankanwadi, PSI Basavapatna, Shivarudrappa Meti, PSI Santebennur, crime staff Rudresh HC 265, Rudresh HC 287, Dharamappa PC-21, Mahesh Naik PC 537, Manja Naik PC 367 and Dog Handler HC KM Prakash and 3 Drivers.



TUNGA (Doberman Pinscher)

Tunga, a nine-year-old Doberman Pinscher, scientifically called as *Canis Lupus Familiaris*, weighs around 27 kg and 23 inches tall, was born on April 16, 2010. After having its basic training during 2010-11 at Adugudi, Bengaluru is in active service till date at DAR unit, Davangere.

The Black and Tan canine till now has participated in 60 murder SOC's and 51 HBT SOC's. In many cases, the Tunga has clued the I.O.s and in 13 important criminal cases it has directly traced the accused, and in 3 criminal cases, it has identified the houses of the accused.

The handler Head Constable K.M. Prakash has a strict daily regimen of 6-7 km morning trekking and feeds twice a day, the relished food.

The present case of Basavapatna P.S. crime no. 81/2020 u/s 302,201, r/w 34 IPC was reported on 10 July 2020, wherein Mr Chandra Naik aged 24, a native of Nagarkatte Tanda was shot with a 0.32 NP Bore pistol on the left temple region.

Tunga reached the SOC at around 9:30 pm at sulekere water channel. It started its journey from SOC after a thorough examination of the spot and victim, then traversed the area in the dark leading to Kashipura Tanda 11 km away from the SOC. The clue of gang murder was cracked at kashipura Tanda, wherein the A1- Chetan @ Chetu was residing.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the gang of HBT offenders all of them belonging to Nagarkatte Tanda of Davangere Rural limits, had used the stolen 0.32 NP Bore pistol for committing the offence of murder. Subsequently, a bunch of property offences have been traced, with the help of Tunga's brave and fantastic feat.

Tunga presently stays with other 3 canines at the DAR kennel, Davangere.

Tunga was profusely felicitated and rewarded by Dr Amar Kumar Pandey, IPS, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Bengaluru on 17 July 2020 during his North Karnataka tour.



“Fundamentally, the first rule of Training a K9 in any realm is that the K9 must have Fun doing that. Further, the K9's Enthusiasm to Work is directly proportional to the Strong Reward Value System.”