

Metro Cable Theft

Gang in op for 9 yrs dodging cops' radar

Carried out cable theft in cities that had a Metro but never got identified until G'nagar police busted them

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A day after the Gandhinagar Police busted an interstate gang involved in the theft of Metro rail cable, it emerged that the gang had carried out thefts in every city that had a Metro. Interestingly, they used legal ways to transport the stolen metro cables, sending them via railways and getting a valid receipt to avoid any suspicion.

What has shocked cops is the fact that the gang had been operating for nine years, but had never ever been identified or caught.

Top police officials told Mirror that the gang was led by Masoom Malek of Baghpat and Raja Qureshi of Ghaziabad. The two, who are on the run, executed their thefts with military precision using custom-made electric cutters to sever high-voltage cables and extract copper from them. The cutters were covered by rubber and plastic which prevented the used from getting electrocuted.

Cops arrested four members of the gang - Mushraf Mulejat, Rashid Dhobi,



Arrested gang members with customised electric cutters

Rashid Ansari and Irshad Malik, all from Baghpat while 11 others, including Masoom and Raja, are on the run. "We have dispatched a team to UP to nab the other gang members," said PSI Divansinh Vala of Gandhinagar Local Crime Branch (LCB).

Rented houses

Sources said the gang which snapped metro railway cables in Gandhinagar had rented a house in Kalol. "They took the stolen cables to the rented house where they extracted copper from them. The copper was then packed in boxes and shipped through the Railways to UP with all the necessary receipts to avoid suspicion."

The gang operated like a

corporation with its members stationed across different cities. In each theft operation, a team of these members would arrive in the targeted city. In Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, they stayed at budget hotels near Kalupur Railway Station and targeted vulnerable metro rail lines and infrastructure, executing the thefts in dead of night.

Past offences

Preliminary investigation has also revealed similar theft cases, possibly linked to the gang, were registered in other states but remained unsolved. Police are now collaborating with railway authorities and the Crime Branch of other states to piece together the larger conspiracy.