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Gang behind 35 metro cable thefts busted, four arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: As cricket fans cheered the IPL thriller in the city, a gang of thieves quietly dismantled 700 metres of cable from a metro corridor near Koba Circle. Police later discovered this was not their first hit. A surveillance-led crackdown revealed the group's involvement in over 35 such thefts, with operations stretching across cities. The arrest of four men uncovered a vast network of interlinked crimes.

Their latest heist, carried out on the night of June 2, saw the gang strike near the Old Koba Metro Station, causing damage worth Rs 17.85 lakh. This was the third metro cable theft in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar corridor in just two weeks.

Using CCTV footage from the Netram Project and technical surveillance, investigators from the Gandhinagar local crime branch identified two suspicious vehicles involved in the crime. Subsequent questioning of the vehicle owners and suspects, combined with information obtained from technical surveillance, led the cops to Kalol, where the suspects had rented a property to hide and process stolen goods.

The police conducted a



The accused, allegedly, stole cables from the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar metro corridor in just two weeks

raid, only to catch the gang members in the act of stripping the stolen cables for copper wires. They seized a significant amount of stolen property, including 368.8kg of copper wires valued at Rs 2.95 lakh and 130.2kg of plastic. Police also seized a car and mobile phones, bringing the total value of recovered property to Rs 8.32 lakh.

Further interrogation and technical analysis revealed the involvement of 13 individuals in the metro cable theft scheme. The gang members admitted to multiple thefts at different locations, including near Shahpur and Gyaspur metro stations.

Those arrested include Musharraf Mulejat, 32, Rashid Dhobi, 21, Rashid Ansari, 45, and Irshad Malik, 33, all residents of Bagpat in Uttar Pradesh. The absconding gang members are Shehzad

Modus operandi

The gang executed their operations by targeting cities with functioning metro networks. They would rent a self-drive large four-wheeler, and secure a property to process stolen goods. Before a heist, they would scout metro routes, then use ropes, trees, or nearby walls to climb pillars and cut overhead cables with large cutters. The stolen cables were then taken to their rented hideout, stripped of plastic and rubber, and the copper wires bundled. These bundles were then transported by train from Kalupur Railway Station to Delhi for sale.

Amruddin Malik, Aamir Akbar Malik, Arif Babu Malik, Ikhlakh Iqbal Malik, Imran Malik, Arif Rafiq, Sonu Babu Kasar, Arshad Asgar Malik, Bilal Qureshi, Raja Qureshi, and Masoom Yasin Malik.