



IOCL Official's Kidnappers arrested: Major success came across Gautam Buddha Nagar Police's way as it rescued the abducted senior central government official from the hands of kidnappers. Three kidnappers were arrested and more than half of the extortion money and some firearms were recovered in the joint operation between GB Nagar Police and UP STF in Agra on Saturday.

SSP Gautam Buddha Nagar, Praveen Kumar during a press conference at his office said, Shri Satyendra Narain Singh, a joint director in Petroleum Conservation Research Centre, New Delhi, was kidnapped from Omega 1 Greater Noida area when he had gone out for a night walk on July 8. The abductors had demanded a ransom of Rs. 2 crores from the victim's wife Uma Singh, the same night. **Sent at 19:16 on Sunday, 15th July 2012.**



GAIL Manager missing: A Manager at Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) in Mathura has been kidnapped allegedly for ransom. Although the incident took place on June 11, a case was lodged with the Mathura refinery police station on Wednesday evening by a GAIL official. Mathura SSP NR Padmaja said Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar had left office along with the driver for his flat in GAIL colony nearby on Monday evening, but did not reach home. The driver was also untraceable.

"A case of kidnapping has been registered and the police teams are on the job to trace him. The motive behind the kidnapping is yet to be known," the SSP said. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Ram Lal Verma said that Bhatnagar had left his office in an SUV, which had been hired by the company. The mobile phones of the manager and the driver were switched off since then. **Express news service: Lucknow, Fri Jun 15 2012, 03:03 hrs**

ABDUCTION ATTEMPT: DO WE HAVE A PLAN?

Capt SB Tyagi, COAS'CC, FISM, CSC

Without being judgmental, professional assessment of the cases indicate that there have been striking similarities in both the abduction cases and knowing these similarities will help us in understanding the modus operandi of criminals and Do's and Don'ts to be adopted. Following factors stand-out -

1. Maintaining similar routine day-in and day-out.
2. Exhibiting affluence and maintaining lifestyle which to some may appear to be luxurious.
3. Trusting blindly out-sourced employees / domestic helps.
4. No planning for self-defense.

WHO ARE POTENTIAL VICTIMS?

What catches abductors' attention is to the fact that PSU's, especially Oil and Gas sector have started hiring air conditioned SUV's for field / project duties. Most of such vehicle do not have commercial number plates and give the impression to abductors that concerned employees owns a Chauffeur driven car and therefore must be senior and highly paid! This raises the 'ransom quotient' of the individual. The 'ransom quotient' is individual's own or of his family's financial capacity to pay the ransom! Sometimes even poor man may have higher quotient since some of his family members are very rich and have close bonding with the victim.



Vehicle advances in Oil and Gas sector PSUs afford employees to buy luxury Sedans and SUVs. High salaries and generous perks also permit employees to indulge in shopping of designer clothes and accessories. Such are again indicators of affluence and raises the 'ransom quotient'. Frequenting malls and 'Fine Dine' restaurants are also observed by the abductors as much as their careless movements with no preparation of self defence. Maintaining routine is almost taken as a matter of pride of most of people little realizing that this increases their vulnerability of becoming victim of abduction.

NEW MODUS OPERANDI

Abductors have new business ideas. It is no more a conventional gang carrying-out abduction leading to ransom. Like a successful business model, abduction is carried out by one specialized group whereas scouting and reconnaissance is conducted by another. Collection of ransom money is done by third group. All three groups consist of specialized people and work in close coordination and corporation. This kind of synergy in criminals was first witnessed during the times of gangs of dreaded 'Dadua' and 'Nirbhay Gujjar' in UP and the trend seems to have been picked by the gangs operating now a days.

The 'Scouting and Reconnaissance Group' identifies the potential victim and collects as much information as possible about his financial background, details of the family and the routines. Such information is forwarded at a price to 'Abduction Group', which carries out the actual abduction and hands over the victim to another 'Ransom Collection group' a collect their fees. This group is the one which contacts the family or friends or colleagues and demand the ransom. They keep moving constantly since they know that they might be on physical and electronic surveillance. They unlike erstwhile dacoits do not have hideouts or shelters and have fast mode of transport or else run through the jungles for long starches. They also run the greatest risk and would therefore torture and physically manhandle the victim. Merciless beating is resorted by them to break the victims so that when contact is made to the family or friend, the victim convinces them to pay the ransom money or else he will be killed!

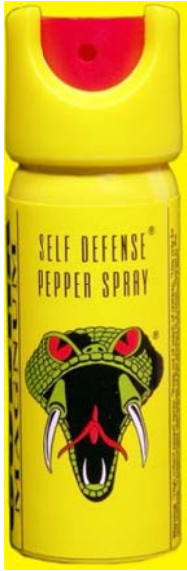
DOS AND DON'TS

1. Public display of wealth should be avoided.
2. Following a routine and pattern should be avoided.
3. Outsource employees / domestic helps should not be blindly trusted and they should be shared the information on 'need to know basis' only.
4. Travel program should not be shared with drivers and attendants in advance unless compelling reason demand to do so.
5. Mobile phone should store 'ICE' (In case of emergency). Most of the android phones and smart phones have features to send SOS message to multiple recipients. This feature must be activated.
6. Have GPRS in your mobile phones activated which will enable police to trace your movements after abduction.
7. Do not hesitate to reveal the password which in any case abductors will extract after torturing.

8. If forced to use ATM, try culprits to stand in front of ATM machine which have facility to take snap shot for all transactions. This will help police to get at least some photograph of culprit when police gets to knows about the transaction made.
9. Antagonizing the abductors is not a wise thing. Their purpose of abduction is to get ransom money and not the murder but once pushed against the wall they may not hesitate.
10. If you can convince them, you might get medicines for your BP or diabetes. Try not to get injured or sick since abductors would be then compelled to dispose of their liability (i.e. you!) rather carrying along as they would be moving frequently to avoid getting caught.
11. To avoid getting caught unprepared while driving alone in deserted dark road, keep self-defense kit in the car. It may consist small hammer, a whistle and a batten at elementary level. One can keep pepper spray and 'Axe - Hammer combination Tool'. The Pepper Spray canes such as 'Bodyguard' or 'Cobra' can be bought 'over the counter' at any leading chemist shop whereas the combination tools can be bought from any road side vendors selling cheap Chinese item! These will cost at the most Rs.700 and Rs.250 respectively.
12. The hammer and axe will come handy in unfortunate case of accident for breaking the glass and coming out of wreckage. In addition this tool can be used in self-defense also. The pepper spray can knock unconscious your assailant for few minutes and the vegetable dye of the spray is difficult to remove for many days and will help in identification of the assailant.
13. Additional tools of this combination will be helpful in first-aid repair of the vehicles in case of breakdown and works as back-up of your car tool-box.



Axe - Hammer combination Tool'



Pepper Spray

