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ANNUAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2025

26 - 27
SEPTEMBER, 2025

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR, is proud to announce the 1st Annual Trial Advocacy Competition from 26 to 27 September, 2025.



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DISCLAIMER

This Trial Advocacy Problem has been drafted and formulated by Advocate Simarjeet Singh Satia, practicing in the courts of New Delhi. The problem is specifically prepared for the purpose of the National Trial Advocacy Competition organized by CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR, Campus.

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TRIAL PROBLEM

**IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE,
VIJAYGARH, SWARAJPURI
Case No. 1502 of 2025**

STATE OF SWARAJPURI

VERSUS

MR. ARJUN TANEJA

UNDISPUTED FACTS

Priyansh Sharma (aged 23 years), was a final-year law student at Swarajpuri National Law College and the only son of Mr. Anil Sharma, a sitting MLA from Swarajpuri. Known for his affluent background and privileged upbringing, Priyansh was a part of Swarajpuri's elite youth circles, often seen in the company of similarly placed individuals at lavish parties and exclusive gatherings.

Arjun Taneja (aged 24 years), is the younger son of Raghav Taneja, a prominent real estate developer in Swarajpuri. Arjun was known in social circles for his ownership of Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri, a sprawling farmhouse gifted to him on his 21st birthday. Greenview Farms had over time earned a reputation as the venue of choice for high-profile private parties involving young adults from business and political families. Arjun, having completed his graduation, was engaged in his family's hospitality and real estate business and was considered ambitious and deeply invested in his ventures.

Arjun and Priyansh had been childhood friends, their bond marked by years of shared experiences within privileged spaces. However, beneath the surface of friendship lay periodic tensions and disagreements often stemming from Priyansh's nonchalant attitude towards Arjun's professional ambitions and his unwillingness to leverage his father's political connections to assist Arjun's growing business interests.

On the evening of 26 March 2024, Arjun Taneja hosted a private party at Greenview Farms to celebrate the return of their mutual friend, Rahul Bhatia, from London. The gathering was of approximately 20 people throughout the evening, with the guest list comprising young professionals, students, and socialites from Swarajpuri's upper echelon. The farmhouse was prepared in its usual style: expensive liquor, gourmet food sourced from a five-star hotel, luxury vehicles parked outside, and loud music setting the ambiance. The house staff, as per routine, had been directed to retire to the servants' quarters by 8:00 PM to ensure no disturbances or prying eyes during the party. Only Raju, Arjun's trusted house attendant, remained available to serve until around 2:30 AM.

By 1:30 AM, the larger crowd had dispersed, leaving behind only five individuals at the farmhouse overnight: Arjun Taneja, Priyansh Sharma, Rahul Bhatia, Aditi Verma, and Shubham Mehra. These five had often stayed over at the farmhouse after such gatherings. The group moved between the guest rooms and the poolside lounge as the night wore on. Drinks continued, albeit at a slower pace. Conversations took a familiar turn around careers, ambitions, influence, and old jokes about who owed whom a favor.

On the morning of 27 March 2024, at approximately 6:15 AM, Kamla Devi, as part of her daily routine, began cleaning the poolside area. It was then that she discovered Priyansh Sharma's body drown in the pool. She immediately alerted the security supervisor and called the police. Priyansh was declared dead at the spot. Initial police inquiry treated the matter under Unnatural Death. However, the post-mortem revealed a blunt force injury to the back of the head coupled with secondary drowning. Further investigation uncovered packets of MDMA hidden in a storeroom adjacent to the pool area, along with indications of tampering in the farmhouse's CCTV DVR system, with footage missing between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM. Thus, the investigation led into a case of homicide combined with NDPS offences.

Pursuant to the registration of the FIR and initial investigation, Arjun Taneja was arrested on 27 March 2024. After the recovery of additional evidence and statements of material witnesses, he was produced before the Ld. Magistrate, who remanded him to judicial custody. His bail application was rejected, and he presently remains in custody pending commencement of trial.

The matter now proceeds for trial under the jurisdiction of the Principal Sessions Court, Swarajpuri. The accused, Arjun Taneja, stands charged under Sections 103 and 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Sections 22 and 25 of the NDPS Act, 1985.

THE LAWS OF SWARAJPURI ARE IN PARI MATERIA WITH THE LAWS OF INDIA

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ANNEXURE-1
FIRST INFORMATION REPORT

(Under Section 173 of the BNSS, 2023)

1. District: Swarajpuri

Police Station: Vikasnagar P.S.

Year: 2025

FIR No.: 074/2025

Date: 27/03/2024

2. Acts: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Sections 103, 238)
NDPS Act, 1985 (Sections 22, 25)

3. Occurrence of Offence: 27/03/2025, Approx. 6:15 AM

4. Information Recorded By: SI Anil Rana

5. Type of Information: Oral

6. Place of Occurrence: Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri
Approx. 5 km west of Police Station, Beat No. 03

7. Complainant/Informant Name: Kamla Devi, D/o Ram Prasad Age: 52 years,
Occupation: House-help Address: House No. 74, Shramik Colony, Swarajpuri

8. Basis for FIR: Oral report by Kamla Devi

9. Details of Known Accused: Mr. Arjun Taneja (Accused A1)
Son of Raghav Taneja Owner of Greenview Farms,
Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

10. Reason for Delay in Reporting: None

11. Particulars of Injuries (As Noticed Initially): Visible head injury on deceased

12. Post-Mortem: Conducted by Dr. Nidhi Grover

13. Inquest Report / Unnatural Death No.: Yes, filed

Brief Facts of the Case:

On the morning of 27 March 2024 at about 7:00 AM, SI Anil Rana, P.S. Vikasnagar, received a phone call from Kamla Devi, a house-help employed at Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri. Upon receiving the call, SI Anil Rana reached the spot, and Kamla Devi gave the following version of events on the basis of which this FIR is being recorded:

"I am Kamla Devi. I work as house-help at Greenview Farms owned by Arjun Taneja. I live in the servants' quarters inside the farmhouse property. Every morning, as part of my daily duty, I clean the poolside and outdoor areas. Today, on 27 March 2024, around 6:15 AM, when I went to the pool area, I saw something in the water. As I went closer, I realized it was the dead body of Priyansh Sir, who had been at the house last night for the party. He was face down in the water, not moving. I was very scared. I shouted loudly for help. Hearing my screams, Raju (our house attendant), Rahul Sir, and Aditi Madam came rushing from inside the house.

We all stood there in shock. Shubham Sir did not come initially; he was later found asleep in his room. I kept shouting that something had happened. Hearing the noise, Arjun Baba (the owner) also came out to the poolside from inside the house. Everyone seemed confused and scared. I told them, what had happened. He told me to immediately call the police. I called from his phone and informed the police control room."

On this information, FIR was registered initially under Unnatural Death Report. Further investigation revealed suspicious circumstances leading to the present case.

Action Taken:

Since the above information discloses the commission of cognizable offences, I hereby register this FIR and take up investigation.

FIR read over to the complainant and admitted to be correctly recorded. A copy provided free of cost.

Signed: Kamla Devi (Thumb Impression)

Sd/-
SI Anil Rana

Date of Dispatch to Court: 27/03/2025

ANNEXURE-2
INQUEST REPORT
(Under Section 194 of BNSS, 2023)

District: Swarajpuri

Police Station: Vikasnagar P.S.

FIR No.: 074/2025

Date of Report: 27/03/2025

Date of Inquest: 27/03/2025, 07:30 AM to 09:00 AM

Location: Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Name of Deceased: Priyansh Sharma

Age: 23 Years

Father's Name: Mr. Anil Sharma (Sitting MLA, Swarajpuri)

Occupation: Law Student

Residential Address: 17 Ashok Vihar, Swarajpuri

Facts ascertained during Inquest:

1. Deceased's body found face down in the swimming pool, located in the eastern courtyard of Greenview Farms.
2. On initial examination, visible head injury (blunt trauma) at the rear occipital region.
3. Clothes worn: blue shorts, grey t-shirt, no footwear.
4. Body recovered from pool; limbs slightly stiffened, consistent with rigor mortis onset.
5. No suicide note found on or near the body.
6. Premises otherwise secure; no forced entry or disturbance detected.
7. Death appears unnatural and suspicious. Further cause to be determined through Post-Mortem and Forensic Examination.

Opinion of Investigating Officer:

Prima facie, the cause of death is suspicious in nature with possible head injury leading to drowning. Inquest report forwarded to Civil Hospital for detailed Post-Mortem.

Witnesses present during Inquest:

1. Kamla Devi
2. Raju
3. Rahul Bhatia
4. Aditi Verma
5. Shubham Mehra
6. Arjun Taneja

Signature of Investigating Officer:

(Signed)

SI Anil Rana

Date: 27/03/2025

ANNEXURE-3
PANCHANAMA / OBSERVATION MAHAZAR

City: Swarajpuri

Police Station: Vikasnagar P.S., Crime Branch

Crime No.: 074/2025;

Name of Officer: SI Anil Rana, Sub-Inspector of Police, Vikasnagar P.S., Swarajpuri

Date, Time of Observation: 27/03/2025; 08:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Place of Observation: Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Names of Attesting Panch Witnesses:

Panch 1: Mr. Harinder Pal, Age 47, Resident of 13 Greenview Colony, Swarajpuri

Panch 2: Mr. Sushil Kumar, Age 51, Resident of 16 Greenview Colony, Swarajpuri

Observation of Scene of Crime:

1. The premises known as Greenview Farms is a large private property comprising a main house, guest rooms, swimming pool area, and servants' quarters at the rear end of the property.
2. Upon reaching the scene, the body of a young male, later identified as Mr. Priyansh Sharma (Age 23), was found face down drowning in the swimming pool towards the eastern corner of the premises. The deceased was wearing dark blue shorts and a light grey t-shirt, partially soaked.
3. Visible injury noted at the back of the head. Blood traces seen on the poolside tiles near the shallow end.
4. Broken whiskey glass recovered from near the pool steps; no fresh fingerprints distinguishable.
5. Poolside lounge area showed signs of recent use, empty alcohol bottles (4), glasses (6), ashtray with cigarette butts, leftover snacks (chips, sushi remnants). Labels identified as Grey Goose, Glenfiddich, and others. Packaged food wrappers from The Oberoi Hotel also present.
6. Storeroom adjoining pool area opened on search. Inside, small plastic packets containing white powdery substances found hidden inside a drawer under towels. Initial suspicion suggests contraband substances; seized and sealed on-site.

7. DVR of CCTV system recovered from inside Arjun Taneja's study room. DVR displayed footage missing from 12:00 AM to 4:00 AM. DVR seized and sealed.
8. Bedrooms of four other persons found occupied with no signs of struggle.
9. Servants' quarters locked from outside; Kamla Devi confirmed no movement outside during the night. Raju, house attendant, confirmed he retired to quarters around 2:30 AM.
10. General condition of premises otherwise neat; security fencing intact.

List of Items Seized:

- DVR of CCTV System (Sealed)
- Plastic packets containing suspected narcotics (Sealed, labelled A1-A3)
- Broken whiskey glass (Labelled B1)
- Blood sample from pool tiles (Labelled C1)
- Empty liquor bottles and food packaging (Labelled D1-D6)

Signatures of Panch Witnesses:

(Signed)
Harinder Pal
(Signed)
Sushil Kumar

Signature of Investigating Officer:

(Signed)
SI Anil Rana
Date: 27/03/2025

ANNEXURE-4
SEIZURE MEMO
Under Section 106 BNSS / NDPS Act Seizure Provisions

Crime No.: 074/2025, P.S. Vikasnagar

Date of Seizure: 27/03/2025

Place: Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Seized from: Storeroom adjoining swimming pool area (unlocked cabinet under towels).

ARTICLES SEIZED

S. No.	Description	Quantity	Label No.
1.	Plastic packets containing white crystalline powder (MDMA)	3 Packets	A1-A3
2.	DVR (CCTV System)	1 Unit	B1
3.	Broken whiskey glass near pool steps	1 Piece	C1
4.	Blood samples from poolside tiles	Swabs x 2	D1-D2
5.	Empty alcohol bottles		

Procedure Followed:

Items photographed, labelled, sealed on-site. Witnessed by Panchas Mr. Harinder Pal and Mr. Sushil Kumar. Chain of custody maintained. Seized articles deposited at P.S. Malkhana under Entry No. 117/2025.

Signature of Investigating Officer:

(Signed)
SI Anil Rana

Date: 27/03/2025

ANNEXURE- 5
POST MORTEM REPORT

Civil Hospital, Swarajpuri

Post-Mortem Report No.: PMR / 128 / 2025

Date of Examination: 27/03/2024

Time of Examination: 11:30 AM – 01:00 PM

Reference: Requisition from P.S. Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Crime No.: 074 / 2025

Name of Deceased: Priyansh Sharma

Age: 23 Years

Sex: Male

Occupation: Student

Address: 17, Ashok Vihar, Swarajpuri

Identification Marks: Mole on left shoulder, tattoo on right wrist ('Free Spirit')

Requisition Cause for Post-Mortem:

Requisition received from SI Anil Rana, P.S. Vikasnagar in connection with suspicious death reported at Greenview Farms.

External Examination:

- Body of a well-nourished, well-built male, measuring approximately 5'10" in height and weighing 72 kg.
- Wearing dark blue shorts and a grey t-shirt, both damp. No footwear
- Post-mortem lividity fixed and present on dependent parts.
- Rigor mortis fully developed in all four limbs.
- Eyes partially open, conjunctiva congested.
- Tongue protruding and clenched between teeth.
- Frothy fluid observed at nostrils and mouth.
- External genitalia normal, no signs of sexual assault

Visible Injuries (Ante-Mortem):

Lacerated wound measuring 3 cm x 1.5 cm x scalp deep over the midline occipital region of the skull.

a. Margins irregular; surrounding scalp swollen.

b. Consistent with blunt force impact against hard surface (tiles, concrete).

No other external injuries noted on face, neck, chest, abdomen, upper or lower limbs

Internal Examination:

Head and Central Nervous System:

- Occipital bone fractured at point corresponding to external laceration.
- Subdural hematoma present beneath occipital region (approx. 50 ml clotted blood).
- Brain congested; signs of cerebral edema noted.

Neck Structures:

- Hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages intact.
- No petechiae or bruising over neck structures suggestive of strangulation.

Thorax:

- Lungs congested and edematous; frothy fluid oozing from cut sections.
- Heart normal in size and shape; chambers contain fluid blood.
- Coronary arteries patent.
- No evidence of natural disease contributing to death.

Abdomen:

- Liver congested with mild fatty infiltration.
- Stomach contained semi-digested food particles (sushi, likely ingested 3-4 hours prior to death), emitting odour of alcohol.
- Spleen, kidneys congested; intestines gaseous.

Bladder:

- Empty.

Viscera Preserved for Chemical Analysis:

1. Stomach with contents
2. Small intestine with contents
3. Liver and gall bladder
4. Kidney
5. Blood (20 ml)
6. Urine (insufficient sample)

Cause of Death (Provisional Opinion):

The cause of death is due to blunt force trauma to the occipital region leading to unconsciousness, followed by secondary drowning.

Viscera has been preserved and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Swarajpuri, for chemical analysis to detect any presence of alcohol, narcotics, or poisons.

Final cause of death will be given after receipt of the FSL report.

Remarks:

- 1.No evidence of strangulation, firearm injuries, or other forms of mechanical asphyxia.
2. Ante-mortem injury and drowning consistent with incident circumstances as reported.

Signed:

Dr. Nidhi Grover
Senior Forensic Medical Officer
Civil Hospital, Swarajpuri

Date: 27/03/2024

ANNEXURE-6
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY REPORT

Division of Toxicology / Narcotics Analysis

Report No.: FSL / TOX / 243 / 2024

Reference: Vikasnagar Police Station, Crime No. 074 / 2024

Name of Deceased: Priyansh Sharma

Age: 23 Years

Date of Death: 27/03/2024

Requisition By: SI Anil Rana, P.S. Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Date of Receipt of Samples: 27/03/2024

Date of Examination: 28/03/2024 to 30/03/2024

Description of Articles Received for Analysis:

S. No.	Article	Label No.
1.	Stomach with contents	A1
2.	Small intestine with contents	A2
3.	Liver with gall bladder	A3
4.	Kidneys	A4
5.	Blood sample (20 ml)	A5
6.	Urine sample (insufficient volume)	A6

Tests Conducted:

- Colorimetry (Presumptive Screening)
- Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)
- Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)
- Spectrophotometric Alcohol Analysis

Results of Examination:

Alcohol Detection:

- Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC): 110 mg / 100 ml
- Alcohol detected in stomach and intestinal contents consistent with recent consumption.

Narcotic / Psychotropic Substances:

- MDMA (Ecstasy) detected in:
 - Blood (A5)
 - Stomach contents (A1)
 - Intestine contents (A2)
 - Liver (A3)
- Quantities consistent with recreational use; no overdose levels detected.

Other Toxins / Poisons:

- Negative for cyanide, organophosphates, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, heavy metals, carbon monoxide.

Remarks:

Presence of ethyl alcohol and MDMA (3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) confirmed in the samples examined.

Signed:

Dr. Neha Rastogi

Chief Chemical Examiner (Toxicology)

Forensic Science Laboratory, Swarajpuri

Date: 01/04/2025

ANNEXURE-7
SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL OPINION
CIVIL HOSPITAL, SWARAJPURI

Supplementary Post-Mortem Medical Opinion

Reference: PMR No. 128 / 2025

Name of Deceased: Priyansh Sharma

Age: 23 Years

Date of Death: 27/03/2025

Original Post-Mortem Conducted On: 27/03/2025

FSL Report No.: FSL / TOX / 243 / 2025

Opinion (Final after Chemical Analysis):

Upon receipt and perusal of FSL Report No. FSL / TOX / 243 / 2025, dated 01/04/2025, which confirms the presence of ethyl alcohol (BAC 110 mg/100 ml) and MDMA (Ecstasy) in the viscera samples of the deceased, my final opinion as to the cause of death is as follows:

Cause of Death:

Death was caused due to blunt force trauma to the occipital region resulting in unconsciousness, followed by secondary drowning. The deceased was under the influence of alcohol and MDMA at the time of death, which likely contributed to disorientation and increased vulnerability but did not directly cause death.

Manner of Death:

Suspicious; further subject to investigation.

Signed:

Dr. Nidhi Grover

Senior Forensic Medical Officer

Civil Hospital, Swarajpuri

Date: 02/04/2025

ANNEXURE-8
STATEMENTS UNDER SECTION 180 BNSS
DEPOSITION FROM THE PROSECUTION WITNESSES

PW-1: KAMLA DEVI

Age: 52 | **Occupation:** House-help / Cook / General Staff at Greenview Farms for 3 years

"I work full-time at Greenview Farms, the farmhouse of Mr. Arjun Taneja. I don't go home every day because my quarters are inside the farmhouse property itself. We have small servant quarters near the back gate, far from the poolside and the main house.

For the past three years, this has been my routine: clean in the morning, prep meals if required, keep away from their parties. We have been told clearly that when there is a party, we sleep early, doors locked by 8 PM sharp. Arjun sir does not like the staff moving around when his friends are over. His friends are rich people's children very loud, flashy, and drunk often. I mind my business.

On 26 March 2025, there was one such party. Started as usual around 7 PM. We prepared light snacks earlier in the day, but most food comes from fancy hotels at night. Expensive wines, whiskey bottles in wooden boxes. These are not simple people. From my kitchen window, I saw cars coming and going till late evening. People in designer clothes, big watches, clicking photos by the pool. Music thumped through the walls till well past midnight. Nothing unusual.

Around 2 AM, I had come out quietly to fetch some water from the outside pump. I saw Arjun sir and Priyansh sir sitting alone by the pool. They weren't laughing. Arjun sir was looking down at his drink; Priyansh sir seemed angry, waving his hands around like he does when drunk. They have fought before, these boys. Sometimes about girls, sometimes business, sometimes nonsense. This house has heard more fights than laughter, I think.

Everyone knows Arjun sir is business-minded, short-tempered when it comes to work. Priyansh sir, on the other hand, took advantage of his father's name. They had been friends since school but argued often lately. Some say it was about Arjun sir asking for help from Priyansh sir's father for some project permissions. But we servants do not know politics. We just hear bits and pieces.

I went back to sleep. Woke up at 6:15 AM as usual. Started sweeping the poolside when I saw something in the pool, it was Priyansh sir's body, face down. I screamed. My hands started shaking. I called everyone. They said, "Call the police, don't touch anything."

That is all I know. This house is full of secrets. Cameras, drugs, fights, nothing surprises me anymore here. I have seen packets locked in cupboards. I have heard things I pretend not to hear. But murder? I never thought it would go that far."

PW-2: RAHUL BHATIA

Age: 24 | **Occupation:** Son of Industrialist, Recently Returned from London

"I have known both Arjun and Priyansh since childhood. We all come from similar backgrounds of business families, good schools, foreign trips, weekend parties. This was not our first night at Arjun's farmhouse. His parties are infamous, honestly. The farmhouse is a huge property on the outskirts, with a private pool, guest rooms, even a dedicated bar area. His family does not interfere much. They trust him with the property.

On 26 March 2025, I returned from London and Arjun threw this party to welcome me back. Around 20 people came and went throughout the evening, mostly common friends from college, a few models, some people I did not even recognize. By midnight, it was just a handful of us who stayed back. I remember Aditi, Shubham, Priyansh, Arjun, and I were the last few awake.

Food? It was lavish as usual like continental starters, sushi platters, steaks. They ordered from some five-star hotel. Alcohol was flowing freely. People were bragging about their new cars, holidays, and deals. It is the usual noise that people in our circle talk big.

Arjun and Priyansh had always been close but complicated. Arjun is very serious about his business. He is trying to expand into hospitality now. He has been frustrated that Priyansh, whose father is an MLA, wasn't helping him pull strings for some government permissions. They have fought about it before, but this time it wasn't anything major from what I saw, just Priyansh teasing Arjun, drunk, saying, "You think my father is your P.A.?" or something like that. Arjun did not react much, just got quieter.

I went to bed around 1:30 AM. I was drunk and exhausted. Before that, I saw Arjun and Priyansh sitting alone near the pool. Nothing seemed violent. But knowing Arjun, when he is brooding, he keeps things inside. He is not someone who loses control in front of people.

Honestly, I do not know what happened later. I woke up at the commotion in the morning when Kamla Devi screamed.

I will say this: Arjun has helped Priyansh before. When Priyansh had a gambling debt situation two years ago, Arjun sorted it out quietly through some moneylender connections. They were friends but also had moments where pride came in between. Both had big egos."

PW-3: ADITI VERMA

Age: 23 | **Occupation:** Law Student

"I have been part of Arjun and Priyansh's circle for a few years now. I have attended almost all their parties. Greenview Farms is like a second home to us. It is huge with swimming pool, manicured lawns, indoor bar, private guest rooms. They treat staff almost invisibly; Kamla Devi and others stay out of sight once the party starts.

The party on the evening of 26 March started as usual. Drinks, music, too much showing off. Some people flaunting watches worth lakhs, others talking about their latest foreign vacations, crypto investments, new startup ideas. Typical rich boy nonsense. The food was over-the-top as always. I remember someone even brought in cigars, though I did not see Priyansh or Arjun smoke them.

By 2 AM of 27 March, most people had either passed out or gone home. Only Shubham, Rahul, Arjun, Priyansh, and I were still around. I was tired. Before I went to my room, I saw Arjun and Priyansh sitting alone near the pool, talking. It did not seem aggressive. But Arjun looked... withdrawn, not his usual lively self. Priyansh was rambling; he gets emotional when drunk, starts talking about politics, his father, people using his name.

I heard once that Arjun had covered for Priyansh after some mess with a car accident a year ago. They fought, sure, but they also had each other's backs. Rich boys fight, then drink together again the next night.

When I woke up to the shouting in the morning, I never imagined Priyansh would be dead. Yes, people drank too much, yes drugs floated sometimes, but murder? It is hard to believe.

One thing though, anyone could have accessed the DVR room. It is not locked. Even staff wander in when cleaning."

PW-4: DR. NIDHI GROVER

Age: 44 | **Occupation:** Senior Forensic Medical Officer, Civil Hospital Swarajpuri

"I conducted the post-mortem examination of Priyansh Sharma on 27 March 2025 at 11:30 AM. The deceased had sustained an ante-mortem lacerated wound measuring 3 cm x 1.5 cm over the occipital region, consistent with blunt force trauma, likely caused by impact against a hard surface such as poolside tiles.

Internally, there was subdural hemorrhage under the occipital region, occipital bone fracture, cerebral congestion, and signs of secondary drowning including frothy fluid in airways and congested lungs.

The cause of death was unconsciousness due to blunt force trauma to the head, followed by drowning. I preserved viscera samples for chemical analysis. The final cause of death was confirmed after receiving the FSL report, which showed alcohol (BAC 110 mg/100ml) and MDMA (Ecstasy) present in the deceased's system. Intoxication contributed to disorientation but was not the direct cause of death."

PW-5: SI ANIL RANA (INVESTIGATING OFFICER)

Age: 50 | **Occupation:** Sub-Inspector, Vikasnagar Police Station

"I received a call on 27 March 2024 at about 7:00 AM from Kamla Devi reporting that a young male guest had been found in the swimming pool at Greenview Farms. I reached the spot and found the body of Priyansh Sharma already declared dead.

During my investigation, I seized the DVR from the farmhouse CCTV system, which had missing footage between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM. I recovered three packets of suspected narcotics (MDMA) from a storeroom near the pool area.

Witness statements indicated that the deceased and accused were last seen together around 2:00 AM. Post-mortem confirmed head injury and drowning. FSL later confirmed the presence of alcohol and MDMA in the deceased's body.

Given these findings, the case was converted to charges under Section 103 BNS (Murder), Section 238 BNS (Destruction of Evidence), and Sections 22 and 25 NDPS Act."

**STATEMENTS UNDER SECTION 180 BNSS
DEPOSITION FROM DEFENCE WITNESSES**

DW-1: SHUBHAM MEHRA

Age: 24 | **Occupation:** Son of a Businessman, Family owns Car Dealership Chain

"Arjun and Priyansh have been like brothers to me since school. We have grown up together in the same circle. Parties at Greenview Farms are not what the media or outsiders think. It is not like drugs and crime happen every time. These are gatherings among friends. Sure, there's music, good food, some alcohol, but it is just privileged kids relaxing in a safe space.

That night, 26 March 2025, there were about 20 people through the evening, but only five of us stayed back, Rahul, Aditi, Priyansh, Arjun, and I. By 1:30 AM, I was in my room. I did not hear any arguments, no shouting, no crashing sounds.

I know Priyansh drank, but he was not reckless. People like to gossip; one friend's overdose becomes everyone's rumor. I never saw Priyansh take any drugs that night.

Arjun is not the kind of guy who fights violently. He is strict about business, yes, and sometimes gets upset if people waste his time. But violence? No. In fact, two years ago, Arjun bailed Priyansh out quietly when Priyansh crashed his father's car drunk. That is the kind of friend Arjun is.

The servants say anything to save themselves. CCTV tampering? Could have been any staff. Those DVR rooms are not locked properly.

I woke up at 6:30 AM hearing Kamla Devi's screams. I did not even believe it at first. Priyansh dead? It makes no sense."

DW-2: DIGITAL FORENSICS EXPERT

Name: Mr. Arvind Joshi | **Occupation:** Private Digital Forensic Consultant

"I was approached by Mr. Taneja's legal team to review the DVR and CCTV system from Greenview Farms. On analysis, I found the footage missing between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM. However, the tampering was not professional. It appeared to be a manual overwrite, likely done using the system's internal interface.

Chain of custody was broken; the DVR was accessed by multiple people before it reached the police forensic lab. Any suggestion that only Mr. Arjun Taneja could have tampered is not technically sound. Anyone with access like staff, security, even casual visitors could have done it.

In my professional opinion, this evidence cannot conclusively be attributed to Arjun Taneja alone."

DW-3: RAJU

Age: 35 | **Occupation:** House Attendant / Personal Assistant to Arjun Taneja

"I have worked at Greenview Farms for over 7 years now. I am not just a servant; I look after the property, manage errands for Arjun Baba, and oversee arrangements during parties. Kamla Devi handles cleaning and kitchen. I handle everything else.

People say many things about these parties, but honestly, these are not the wild things outsiders imagine. Mostly friends talking, food from big hotels, some alcohol. Arjun Baba is very particular about who comes in, what happens. I always lock the staff quarters early that we are not to be seen during the parties. But I stay up to make sure the guests have water, towels, whatever they need.

That night, 26 March 2025, there were maybe 20 people till midnight. After that, only 5 remained. I served drinks until 1:00 AM. After that, everyone seemed to settle down, music went low, people moved to rooms or the poolside. Arjun Baba and Priyansh Sir were near the pool till about 2 AM. I know because I took them extra glasses. I heard Priyansh Sir saying something about "not being a political broker for friends." Arjun Baba just laughed it off.

I did not see anything after that. I went to my quarters by 2:30 AM. I did not touch the cameras, did not clean anything after. I do not know who did.

People say I am loyal to Arjun Baba. That is true. He has helped my family many times. But I did nothing wrong here. All these police talk of drugs and fights but I've never seen anything like that here. Not openly. People exaggerate."

DW-4: THERAPIST

Name: Dr. Shruti Malhotra | **Age:** 39 | **Occupation:** Clinical Psychologist, Swarajpuri Wellness Centre

"I am a practicing clinical psychologist and have been consulting with Ms. Aditi Verma periodically for over a year. She has been undergoing therapy primarily for issues relating to anxiety, episodes of insomnia, and feelings of rejection and isolation, particularly in social and interpersonal contexts.

On the early morning of 27 March 2025, at around 3:20 AM, I received a missed call on my phone from Aditi's registered number. This was unusual but not unprecedented; Aditi has, in the past, reached out during episodes of acute anxiety, even outside normal hours. However, I did not answer that night.

When I spoke to Aditi the next afternoon, she casually mentioned having been unable to sleep and feeling "panicked," though she did not elaborate. She said she had been "overthinking," felt suffocated, and that being at Greenview Farms made her feel more anxious. She did not mention any argument or incident that night.

In previous sessions, Aditi had shared feelings of being "excluded, ignored, or unwanted" within her friend circle, particularly involving Mr. Priyansh Sharma. She described feeling humiliated on occasions where she perceived Priyansh dismissing her opinions or mocking her in front of others. She once used the words, "They all think I'm weak, even Priyansh."

I am not aware of any direct threats or violent tendencies on Aditi's part, but it is my professional observation that she tends to react to emotional triggers with heightened anxiety, withdrawal, and overthinking."

DW-5 ARJUN TANEJA

Age: 24 Years | **Occupation:** Real Estate and Hospitality Business

Address: Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

"I, Arjun Taneja, have been wrongfully accused of causing the death of my friend, Priyansh Sharma. I want to clarify everything I know about the night of 26 March 2025.

I have known Priyansh since school. Our fathers belong to the same circles, politics, and real estate in Swarajpuri go together. Priyansh was my friend but also someone who enjoyed reminding people of his father's power. We often argued about business, about connections, about silly things. But those arguments were never violent. We were friends; that is how we were.

On 26 March 2025, I hosted a small get-together for Rahul Bhatia, who had just returned from London. About 20 people attended on and off during the evening. Music, drinks, food from The Oberoi, expensive brands, the usual. People exaggerate these parties as wild or illegal. They are not. They are just privileged kids talking too loudly, drinking too much sometimes.

By 1:30 AM, only Rahul, Aditi, Shubham, Priyansh, and I were left. Shubham had gone to his room early. Rahul also retired soon after. Aditi, as usual, seemed restless. She stayed around the pool, scrolling through her phone. I remember seeing her alone by the veranda at times.

Priyansh and I sat by the pool for a while. Yes, we argued a bit. He teased me about how I kept expecting his father to help me with permissions for my new hospitality project. He said something like, "Do I look like my father's secretary to you?" It stung, but I did not react. I am not someone who lashes out. I have heard worse from him before.

Around 2:00 AM, I told him I was heading inside. He was drunk but conscious. I assumed he would come in soon. I went inside, checked on Rahul, passed by Aditi's room, her light was still on. I went to my study briefly, then to bed. I did not step outside again.

People talk about the CCTV DVR being tampered with. I had no reason to delete anything. I did not even handle the DVR that night. It is common knowledge among the staff that anyone who knows the house can access it, Raju, sometimes Aditi for the Wi-Fi, even Shubham has played with it before for music settings. That system is outdated.

Raju served us drinks till about 1:30 AM. After that, he went to his quarters. Kamla Devi was not around after 8 PM as per usual instructions. No one else had a reason to be near the pool after 2 AM.

I woke up to Kamla Devi screaming at 6:15 AM. I rushed out and saw Priyansh in the pool. I was in shock. I had no idea how this could have happened. Everyone looked confused, except Aditi. I do not want to accuse anyone, but I found it odd later when I heard she had been awake till nearly 5 AM and had even tried to call her therapist. She seemed fine when I saw her before I went to bed.

I had nothing to gain by hurting Priyansh. Yes, I was frustrated about business. But that night, I walked away. That is who I am, I distance myself when things get heated. I did not touch him. I did not delete footage. I did not plant drugs.

This accusation has destroyed my life, my business reputation, and my family's name. I have been cooperative with the investigation from the beginning because I have nothing to hide. Priyansh was my friend, even if we fought sometimes. I would never kill my friend."

ANNEXURE- 9
FORENSIC EXAMINATION REPORT OF THE CCTV DVR
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, SWARAJPURI

Division: Cyber Forensics

Report No.: FSL / CYB / 117 / 2025

Reference: Vikasnagar Police Station, Crime No. 074 / 2025

Subject: Forensic Examination Report of DVR (CCTV System) seized from Greenview Farms

Date of Receipt of Device: 28/03/2025

Date of Examination: 29/03/2025- 01/04/2025

DESCRIPTION OF DEVICE EXAMINED:

- Make: Hikvision
- Model: DS-7608NI-K1
- Serial No.: GVF 45782021
- Storage Capacity: 2 TB HDD
- Date Range for Requested Examination: 26 March 2025 -27 March 2025

Device sealed and labelled as Exhibit B1, recovered from the study room of Greenview Farms, Plot No. 14, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri.

OBJECT OF EXAMINATION:

To verify:

- 1.Integrity of stored footage.
- 2.Presence of any tampering, deletion, overwriting, or manipulation.
- 3.Recovery of any deleted data, if possible.

METHOD OF EXAMINATION:

- Physical inspection of DVR hardware.
- Imaging of HDD using Write Blocker.
- File System Analysis through EnCase Forensic Suite.
- Metadata verification.
- Examination of Log Files.

FINDINGS:

- 1.Footage Analysis: Continuous footage available from 26 March 2024, 06:00 AM to 26 March 2024, 11:59 PM. Footage for the period from 12:00 AM to 4:00 AM on 27 March 2024 is missing.

2. System Log Analysis:

- Logs indicate manual deletion of data during early hours of 27 March 2024.
- Exact user identity cannot be determined from system logs as the device was configured with shared generic access (admin/admin).
- The log shows manual overwrite commands executed between 4:05 AM and 4:10 AM on 27 March 2024.

3. Physical Security: No evidence of external device tampering; no signs of forced access.

System was accessed through its normal interface.

4. Recovered Data: Partial recovery attempts yielded no retrievable footage from the deleted window. Data blocks were overwritten effectively.

CONCLUSION:

1. The DVR exhibits signs of manual deletion / overwriting of data between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM on 27 March 2024.
2. The deletion was carried out through normal user access, not by external hacking tools or physical intervention.
3. User identity cannot be ascertained due to the absence of user-specific login tracking. Access could have been gained by anyone familiar with the system (staff, residents, frequent guests).
4. The missing footage is irretrievable through forensic methods.

Remarks:

- DVR security configuration was weak; shared login credentials allowed unrestricted access to multiple individuals.
- This report does not infer responsibility or intent; it merely confirms the fact of manual deletion.

Signed:

Mr. Arvind Joshi

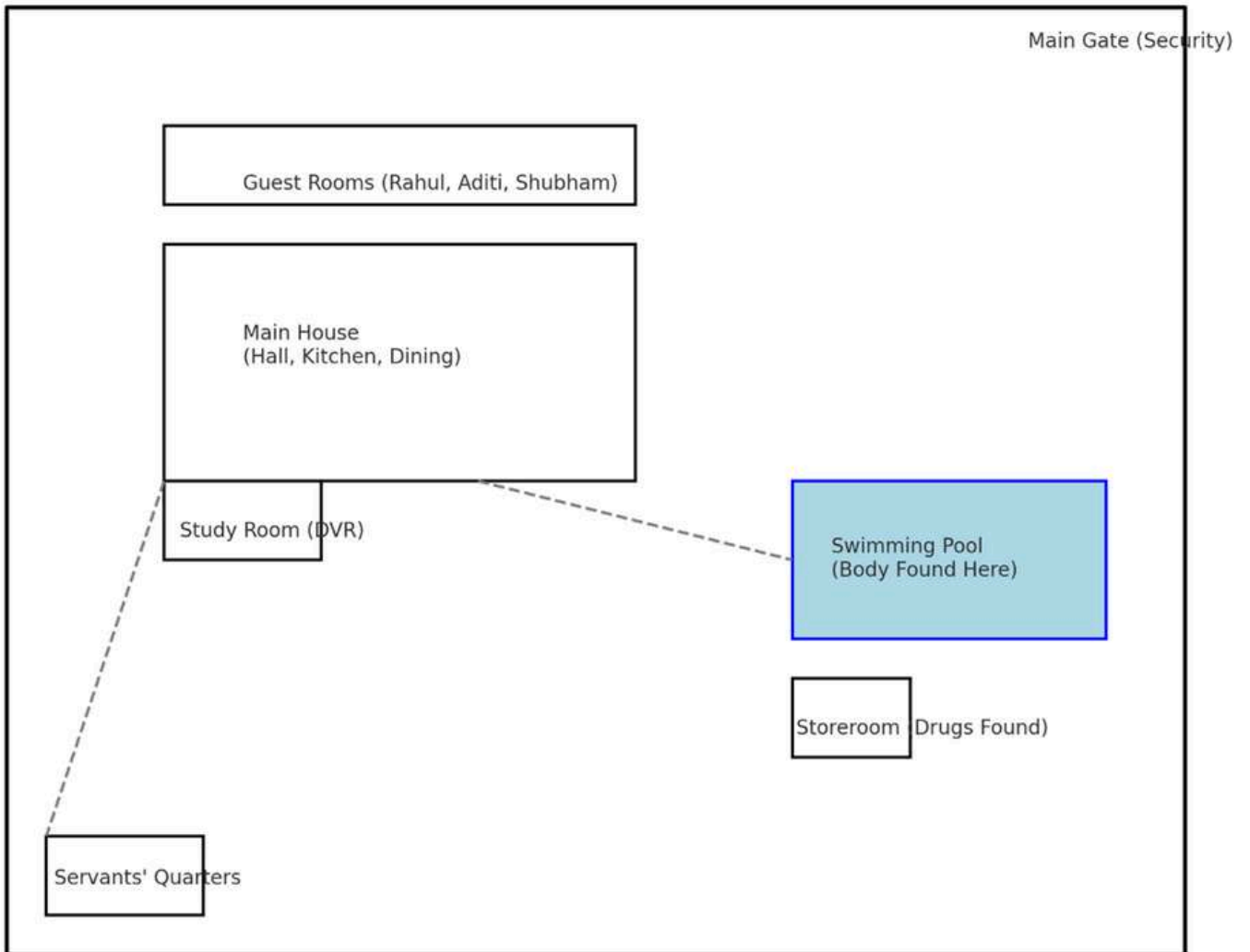
Senior Cyber Forensics Officer

Forensic Science Laboratory, Swarajpuri

Date: 02/04/2025

ANNEXURE – 10
GREENVIEW FARM SKETCH

Detailed Sketch of Greenview Farms (Incident Location)



ANNEXURE - 11
CRIME SCENE PICTURE



ANNEXURE-12
STORE ROOM PICTURE



FINAL CHARGESHEET
IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE, SWARAJPURI
Crime No.: 074/2025
Police Station: Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri
Case No.: S.C. No. 1502 of 2025
CHARGESHEET UNDER SECTION 193 BNSS

Complainant:

Kamla Devi

W/o Ram Prasad

House-help at Greenview Farms, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Accused:

Arjun Taneja (A-1)

S/o Raghav Taneja

R/o Greenview Farms, Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Occupation: Real Estate & Hospitality Business

Brief Facts of the Case:

On 27 March 2025 at around 6:15 AM, the complainant Kamla Devi, house-help at Greenview Farms, discovered the body of Priyansh Sharma (23 years), face down in the swimming pool of the farmhouse. Upon raising an alarm, other house occupants including Rahul Bhatia, Aditi Verma, and the accused Arjun Taneja gathered at the spot. Priyansh Sharma had been present at the farmhouse for a party on the previous night.

Police reached the scene and initially registered the case under Unnatural Death. During investigation, it was found that the deceased had sustained blunt force trauma to the occipital region, followed by drowning. Post-mortem confirmed ante-mortem injury and secondary drowning. Viscera was preserved for analysis.

Further investigation revealed that the DVR footage of CCTV cameras covering the pool area was found deleted between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM on 27 March 2025, as per the forensic cyber report. Additionally, three packets containing MDMA (Ecstasy) were recovered from the storeroom adjacent to the poolside. Forensic toxicology confirmed the presence of alcohol and MDMA in the deceased's system.

Witness statements revealed that the accused and the deceased had been alone at the poolside till 2:00 AM, following a verbal argument over business-related favours allegedly refused by Priyansh. Circumstantial evidence points towards the accused's opportunity, motive, and presence at the scene.

Offences Invoked:

- Section 103 BNS, 2023 (Murder)
- Section 238 BNS, 2023 (Causing Disappearance of Evidence of Offence)
- Section 22 NDPS Act, 1985 (Possession of Psychotropic Substances)
- Section 25 NDPS Act, 1985 (Permitting Premises for Commission of Offence)

Nature of Evidence:

Circumstantial; no direct eyewitness to the moment of offence. Medical, forensic, technical evidence collectively establish opportunity, motive, and concealment efforts.

Witness List (Total: 10 Witnesses):

S. No.	Name	Nature of Witness
1.	Kamla Devi	Complainant / Discovery of Body
2.	Dr. Nidhi Grover	Post-Mortem Officer
3.	SI Anil Rana	Investigating Officer
4.	Rahul Bhatia	Friend / Party Guest
5.	Aditi Verma	Friend / Party Guest
6.	Shubham Mehra	Friend / Party Guest (Defence)
7.	Raju	House-help (Defence)
8.	Arvind Joshi	Cyber Forensics Expert (DVR Report)
9.	Dr. Neha Rastogi	Toxicology Expert (FSL)
10.	Dr. Shruti Malhotra	Aditi's Therapist (Defence)

Documents Relied Upon (Annexures):

Exhibit No.	Description
Ex. P-1	FIR (074/2025)
Ex. P-2	Inquest Report
Ex. P-3	Panchnama / Observation Mahazar
Ex. P-4	Seizure Memo (DVR, MDMA Packets, etc.)
Ex. P-5	Post-Mortem Report
Ex. P-6	FSL Toxicology Report (Alcohol, MDMA Confirmed)
Ex. P-7	Supplementary Medical Opinion(Final Cause)
Ex. P-8	DVR Forensic Report (Deletion Confirmed)
Ex. P-9	Farmhouse Pool Sketch
Ex. P-10	Crime Scene Picture
Ex. P-11	Store Room Picture

Final Charges Against Accused (A-1):

1. Section 103 BNS – For causing the death of Priyansh Sharma through head injury and resulting drowning.
2. Section 238 BNS – For tampering with CCTV DVR footage to conceal the circumstances of the offence.
3. Section 22 NDPS Act – For possession of MDMA (Ecstasy) on premises.
4. Section 25 NDPS Act – For knowingly permitting his premises to be used for illegal possession/use of psychotropic substances.

Status of the Accused:

The accused, Arjun Taneja, was arrested on 27 March 2024 and was remanded to judicial custody. His application for bail was rejected by the Ld. Magistrate, and he continues to remain in custody awaiting trial.

Prayer:

Since sufficient material exists against the accused for commission of the above offences, this Hon'ble Court may kindly take cognizance and proceed to frame charges for trial.

Submitted by: SI Anil Rana (Investigating Officer)
P.S. Vikasnagar, Swarajpuri

Date: 03/04/2025

Signature: (Signed)