

NAXALS TURNED DACOITS

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Slack surveillance over recorded offenders led to re-forming of a gang and a series of dacoities in the suburbs of Hyderabad, Nalgonda and Warangal district. During 2002 a gang of dacoits clad in olive green and jungle patch uniforms struck terror in the peripheral areas of Hyderabad city by attacking isolated, selected targets, beat the inmates mercilessly and decamped with booty. In a dacoity that occurred in a colony at Suraram, the offenders killed one of the villagers who chased them. They also abducted a Police officer in the limits of Bhongir, tied his hands and legs, placed him in their Sumo jeep in between the seats, gagged his mouth, snatched his service pistol and committed three dacoities with it in Bhongir, Yadgirigutta and Warangal limits. They were responsible for about 12 offences in the districts of Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda and Warangal,

The Warangal and Rangareddy district Police suspected the gang to be from Warangal, led by Manupati Sammaiah S/o Uppalaiah R/o Malakpally in Dharam Sagar Mandal of Warangal district. Sammaiah an ex-member of PWG dalam could not accommodate himself in the dalam, fell out and formed a gang of his own and committed a number of 'money actions' in Warangal district of which a case vide Cr.No.64/2000 U/s 395 IPC and Sec 25 (A) Arms Act of PS Dharmasagar was brought on record and all gang members were arrested and sent to judicial custody.

In Central Prison Warangal, Sammaiah and his gang members came in acquaintance of one Kodati Ramulu R/o Nandigama Krishna district, father of a notorious dacoit Kodati Venkat Krishna @ Jinna @Kumar and with their efforts Sammaiah and his gang members came out and formed a new gang with Erukalas of Nandigama of Krishna district and Malkapally of Warangal district. Jinna was a notorious dacoit wanted by police of Krishna and Guntur districts. His younger brother Kodathi Srinivas had died in an encounter with Guntur Police. All being from the Erukala community, they became a well organized gang, came to Hyderabad city, took shelters in different slums, used to join at a particular place to

chalk out their future action, and committed a series of offences in Gollapally of Shamshabad, Suraram of Ranga Reddy district Ramojipally of Yadagirigutta PS, Kurmaguda of Bhongir PS, Raghunathpally Wardhannapet and Sangham of Waranagal district.

The Range Crime Control squad officers of Warangal City visited Hyderabad in search of this gang, located their houses in Ramanthapur, Lalaguda but the gang members were away from their houses. This clue was taken by Uppal Police who succeeded in nabbing most of the gang members. The leader of the gang Kodati Venkat Krishna @ Jinna was on run. On information, the Police party visited Cuddapah and in an exchange of fire he died on the spot. When the other members of gang were in judicial custody, Police custody of the two of the accused Manapati Sammaiah and Kodati Chinna Satyanaryana @ Chanti, younger brother of Kodati Venkat Krishna @ Jinna @ Kumar, was obtained for effecting recoveries. When they were being brought from Shadnagar to Rajendranagar their jeep over turned and the accused made a bid to escape from the custody by snatching a weapon from the escort party and fired at the Police. The escort party returned fire, killing both of them. The reign of terror created by this gang came to an end.

The gang was composed of 10 to 12 offenders clad in olive green and jungle patch uniforms. They hired autos and Sumos to reach the scene of crime, commit offence and used to get back to their hideouts in Hyderabad City. As Manupati Sammaiah R/o Malkapally had moved with PWG and knew all the tactics of threatening people, putting pressure over their family members and extorting money from big landlords, Excise and Civil contractors, he used the same tactics in all the cases. They used to pose themselves as 'Annalu' or as Policemen and threaten the inmates with exploding bombs if they did not open the doors. Thus they used to gain entry into the houses, threaten the inmates at the point of knives and sticks and commit offences. They also used to bolt the doors of neighbouring houses in order to prevent them from coming to the rescue of the victims. While leaving the houses also they used to threaten the inmates not to try and attract the attention of neighbours and that bombs had been kept and they would explode at

any time. The women members of the gang used to dispose off the property. The gang had been active for 10 years. They were armed with hunting sickles “Veta Kodavallu”, fresh branches of bushes and bombs. The gang also used the pistol snatched from the S.I.

Lack of surveillance over known offenders led to the formation of a new gang and resulted in more crimes of different modus operandi. There is a dire necessity to check the complicity of ex-convicts and criminals on record periodically, especially in un-located cases.