

**PARDHI GANGS OF GANGA KHED, PARBHANI DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA
STATE**

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In 1984 there were series of Highway dacoities in the districts of Adilabad, Warangal, Khammam, Chitoor, Ananthapur and Nellore, in which the gang members clad in knickers and banyans armed with iron rods used to way-lay cyclists and motor cyclists passing on the road, hit them with iron rods resulting on the spot death of some of the motor-cyclists and relieve them of their belongings. In a period of two to three months about 18 cases were reported in which 15 deaths took place. An analytical study of the offences indicated that all these offences were committed by a particular gang and common factors that were noticed were:

1. The victims died as a result of cranial fractures
2. Paltry sums were stolen.
3. Occurred on the road, nearby railway tracks
4. The offenders were clad in banyans, shirts, mostly drunk, smelling awfully and repeatedly committed offences at the same place. Similar offences were reported in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The Anti Dacoity Cell, exchanged information with Karnataka and Maharashtra Police in a meeting held at Bangalore and pinpointed the “GAON

PARDIS”, of Parbhani district staying at Ghatcoper, Bhedu, and Mulang etc of Thane district, Maharashtra state. The C.I.D. sleuths in Co-ordination with the Thane Police succeeded in apprehending the gang of seven members concerned in 18 cases of the state and recovered the stolen properties. The Test Identification parade of the accused and properties were completed and charge sheets were filed. Yavathmal Police of Maharashtra required these accused in their cases and obtained their police custody from Bangalore to complete their investigation. When four of the accused namely Manshiram Kashiram, Shankarkashiram, Sukthya Bankatya Pawar, Laxshman Maruti Pawar were kept in Yavathmal P.S., they threw remnants of their food in the eyes of the sentry Constable and escaped from lawful custody. The remaining accused faced trial and were convicted to 7 years R.I. Recently one of the absconding accused Manshiram Kashiram was traced and produced in the court.

All the members of this gang are hard nuts to crack. They are in habit of not disclosing their own identity or their associates and family members. Some of them behave funny as if they are dumb, do not know any other language except Marathi and never come out with true voluntary statement and take lot of time in giving a correct picture of the crime committed by them. The rendezvous of these gang members is usually big railway stations or in front of the railway stations and they move under the cover of selling toys, balloons and other petty articles in dirty clothing by not bathing for weeks together. They travel by trains

without tickets and are familiar with different junctions and train timings. All parties assemble at Chandrapur in Matha-ki-Jatra once in a year, drink, enjoy themselves and disperse. The gang often visits Bombay and stays at Bandra, Mulan, Ghatcoper, and Bhimandi Railway Stations for a few days and leaves for committing offences.

In all high way dacoities and robberies which occur in quick succession along the railway tracks in which senseless beating is done one can strongly suspect Gaon Pardhies of Nirladh, Razora of Gangakhed taluk Parbhani dist who are known for committing such offences.