



CASE FILE: 304

Death Investigation Briefing

Subject: Ananya Mehra

Location: Hotel Suite 304

Date of Incident: 15-10-2023

Status: Under Investigation

### 1. Incident Overview

On the evening of 15 October 2023, Ananya Sharma was discovered unresponsive inside the bathroom of Hotel Suite 304.

Emergency services were contacted shortly after the discovery. Upon arrival, the victim was found inside the bathtub with a severe wrist injury. A blade was located near the victim at the scene.

Initial observations suggested the possibility of a self-inflicted injury, though several elements at the scene require further examination.

The subject was declared deceased at the location.

### 2. Scene Summary

The bathroom environment appeared carefully arranged.

The bathtub contained water mixed with blood. Several candles had been placed around the tub area, and a champagne bottle with two glasses was located on a nearby table.

One of the champagne glasses contained a lipstick residue on the rim.

No major disturbance was observed within the bedroom or main suite area.

Personal belongings appeared largely undisturbed.

The overall condition of the scene has raised questions regarding whether the arrangement reflects the natural sequence of events.

### 3. Individuals of Interest

The following individuals were present at the hotel premises during the relevant timeframe:

- Arjun Mehra – Spouse of the deceased
- Rohan Malhotra – Former partner of the deceased
- Naina Sharma – Sister of the deceased
- Meera Patel – Service staff member present on the floor during the evening. Statements from these individuals have been recorded.

### 4. Timeline (Preliminary)

Based on witness accounts and available information, the following details have been noted: Earlier in the evening, Ananya Sharma was seen interacting with multiple individuals within the hotel.

A witness reported hearing raised voices coming from the suite at some point prior to the incident.

Shortly afterward, a woman resembling Naina Sharma was reportedly seen speaking with Arjun Mehra in the corridor outside the suite. The interaction appeared personal in nature. The same individual was later observed entering Suite 304 approximately thirty minutes before the incident was reported.

Movement along the corridor during this timeframe has been noted but remains under review.

#### 5. Observations

- The scene environment appeared unusually composed.
- Evidence suggests the presence of more than one individual earlier in the evening.
- Witness accounts describe interactions and conversations shortly before the incident.
- Certain elements of the scene may require further evaluation to determine whether they reflect natural events or deliberate arrangement.

At this stage, the manner of death has not been conclusively determined.

#### Investigator Evaluation – Answer Key

1. According to you, is it suicide or crime?

Answer: Homicide staged to look like suicide.

The scene was arranged to resemble a self-inflicted act, but several forensic and situational clues contradict suicide.

2. Does the locked bathroom door support suicide or could it be staged?

Answer: It could be staged.

The door being locked from inside initially suggests suicide, but such locks can be manipulated. Other inconsistencies in the scene indicate deliberate staging.

3. Who had the last confirmed interaction with Ananya?

Answer: Arjun.

Witnesses heard an argument from the room and Arjun was seen near the suite shortly before the incident.

4. Who benefits most from Ananya's death?

Answer: Arjun.

The life insurance policy worth ₹2 crore had not yet been changed because the confirmation signature was missing, meaning the original beneficiary would still benefit.

5. Which piece of evidence appears most suspicious at the scene?

Answer: The blade in the same hand as the wrist injury with no hesitation marks.

This strongly contradicts typical suicide patterns.

6. Which suspect had the best opportunity to commit the crime?

Answer: Naina

According to the witness statement, a woman resembling Naina was seen in the corridor interacting with Arjun shortly before the incident.

7. What detail in the timeline seems inconsistent?

Answer: Arjun's claim that he left to buy a cake.

No cake was found in the room and there is no proof that he actually went to get one.

8. Could this crime involve more than one person?

Answer: No

The nature of the injury and the staging of the scene suggest the actions of one person rather than a collaborative effort.

9. If it is a homicide, what emotion drove the crime – anger, fear or control?

Answer: Control.

The scene appears carefully arranged and staged, suggesting a controlled and calculated act rather than a spontaneous attack.

10. What is the motive of the crime?

Answer: Financial motive.

The life insurance policy worth ₹2 crore provided a strong incentive.

11. Is it planned or impulsive?

Answer: Planned.

Evidence such as the staged suicide scene, candles, and controlled environment indicates preparation.

12. What assumptions did you make in the beginning?

Answer: That it was a suicide.

The scene was deliberately arranged to create this assumption.

13. What clue reshaped your conclusion?

Answer: The forensic evidence of the wrist injury.

The lack of hesitation marks and unnatural blade placement contradict suicide.

14. What were the forensic evidences about the cut in the wrist?

Answer:

Deep incised wound

No hesitation marks

Blade loosely placed in the same hand

Blood dilution pattern indicating possible movement before entering the tub

These findings suggest the injury was not self-inflicted.

15. Who is the killer?

Answer: Arjun Mehra

Arjun had:

The strongest financial motive

Opportunity during the timeline gap

Presence near the room before the incident

Inconsistent explanation about leaving to get a cake

The suicide scene was staged to divert suspicion.