

Fake death certificates used to claim Rs 81 lakh in life insurance: Thane cops bust racket

The people arrested include two doctors who were practising in Mumbra and a staffer at a crematorium. The police say it's suspected that the gang members had been involved in the racket for the past few years.

News | Crime | Fake death certificates used to claim Rs 81 lakh in life insurance: Thane cops bust racket
Divyesh Singh | Mumbai | UPDATED: January 28, 2019 22:32 IST



Photo for representation: Reuters

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 suspect reveals modus operandi
- The gang swindled Rs 81 lakh
- They filed claims of Rs 55 lakh recently

Agang whose members claimed life insurance worth over Rs 80 lakh using fake death certificates has been busted by the Thane Police's crime branch.

Chandrashekhar Shinde, a suspect arrested in Kalyan, revealed the modus operandi during questioning: gang members issued death register entries with help from a staffer in a crematorium in Mumbra.

Then, the gang got certificates issued by the Thane Municipal Corporation: certificates that were then used to claim money from firms that had sold insurance to thirteen people -- ten from Maharashtra and three from Andhra Pradesh, all of whom are still alive.

The gang swindled Rs 81 lakh.

There were two doctors in the gang: Abdul Siddiqui and Imran Siddiqui. The two men, who practised in Mumbra, issued false death declarations. Both have been arrested.

Besides the doctors and the crematorium staffer -- Tejpal Mehrol -- two more of Shinde's accomplices -- Narayan Shinde and Lakshmi Narayan Shinde -- were also arrested.

The investigation in the case was started by API Santosh Shevale.

Sanju John, a senior police inspector from Unit 3 of the crime branch, said the gang filed claims of around Rs 55 lakh recently for people who are still alive. The claim would have been issued if the police hadn't cracked the case.

The police say it's suspected that the gang members had been involved in the racket for the past few years. It's suspected that they've filed many other fake death claims.

The police now have custody of the arrested suspects for 14 days.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/crime/story/thane-gang-dupe-insurance-companies-fake-death-certificates-1441174-2019-01-28>