

ATM thief's kin hands over ₹32L to police

Nitasha Natu | TNN

Mumbai: A day after the driver of a cash van fled with Rs 78 lakh meant for ATMs, the police recovered over 40% of the amount from one of his relatives. Arun Waghmare, the driver, is still at large and is believed to have joined hands with a colleague, Satish Angle, who, too, is missing.

Waghmare (29) is an employee of Writer Safeguard Pvt Ltd, which takes contracts for ATM replenishment and maintenance. On Tuesday, while his colleagues were loading cash in an HDFC Bank ATM in Kandivli (West), Waghmare drove off with the remaining money. The van was found abandoned at another Kandivli location.

"He went straight to the residence of his wife's uncle, Laxman Gaikwad, in Kandarpada, Dahisar. The 80-year-old Gaikwad is bed-ridden. Waghmare kept his sack of money in the loft of the flat before leaving," said a police officer. "When Laxman's son Balu returned home, the octogenarian told him Waghmare had dropped by. Balu found the sack of cash and was stunned when he heard Waghmare's name in television news reports about the theft. Balu handed over the sack, which contained Rs 32 lakh, to the MHB Colony police."

The crime branch has detained some of Waghmare's relatives for questioning. "When Waghmare came to Gaikwad's place, he was ac-



► Forensic experts say firms should conduct psychological profiling of candidates to rule out criminal tendencies

► This is essential in the ATM replenishment and security industry as employees handle large amounts of cash and require integrity, says Dr Rukmani Krishnamurthy, chairman, Helix Advisory Ltd

► She suggests a technique called 'silence talker', where cameras capture the facial movements of a candidate during an interview for integrity analysis

companied by Angle," ACP Jaywant Hargude said. A police team has gone to Beed, where the duo hails from.

Angle was in the past booked in a case of assault. Call records show he was in touch with Waghmare on Tuesday, the day of the crime. Also, he had taken the day off from work.

The police have not ruled out the involvement of more people in the case.

"The lock of the trunk that held the cash inside the van was broken with a hammer. Also, tools were found, which are believed to be Waghmare's," a police officer said.