

# 'CCTV grabs inadequate to identify church attackers'

## But Can Compare Suspects' Photos With Footage, Say Forensic Experts

Vijay V Singh & Vijay Singh | TNN

**Mumbai/Navi Mumbai:** A day after the police arrested four men in connection with the stone-pelting incident at a Navi Mumbai church, forensic experts said the CCTV footage is very poor to identify the attackers. They said as the CCTV camera was at a distance, they cannot enhance the images to identify the suspects. Also, the camera's alignment was not in proper direction.

Four men on a bike were caught on camera hurling stones at St George Catholic church, damaging the glass enclosure of a St George statue, on March 21. While the Navi Mumbai police admitted that the CCTV footage is blurred, they said they had methodically worked on clues from the video to catch the four culprits—Rahul Patil, Anil Chavan, Laxman Sugwekar and Mohammed Shaikh.

"From the CCTV grabs, we could make out that one of the attackers was wearing a full-

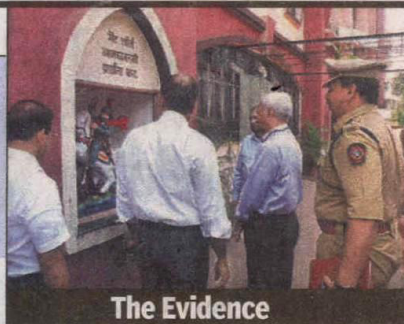
### THE ARRESTS

**Rahul Patil (39)** | Ran illegal online lottery business near St George Catholic church. Suspected the church was against his gambling den and had asked cops to raid it

**Laxman Sugwekar (21)** | Brother-in-law of Patil; helped run the gambling den

**Anil Chauhan (27)** | A painter, he was a regular at the gambling den. He is reportedly a drug addict

**Mohammed Shaikh (20)** | Employed at a Chinese food stall, he also was a regular at the gambling den. He knew Patil and Sugwekar



The Evidence

- Police have seized the motorcycle and the long-sleeved striped t-shirt worn by Shaikh
- Cops have done panchanama and taken confessional statements of the four accused
- Minute details like how the accused were seated on the bike and drove to the church also matches details in panchanama

sleeved striped t-shirt and his hair was long on the top, but trimmed like a military-cut from both the sides. We made enquiries among locals, who identified him as Shaikh," said Sanjay Yenpure, DCP, zone 2. "All four men have confessed to their involvement in the church attack."

The police had requested Helik Advisory, a private forensic lab, to help them identify the men from the CCTV grabs as it claimed to use advanced technology. The forensic ex-

perts said the footage didn't help identify the suspect's t-shirt, its colour, or his hairstyle, as claimed by the Navi Mumbai police.

But Rukmani Krishnamurthy, former director of the state forensic science laboratory and chairperson of Helik Advisory, said it is easier to compare the suspects' photographs with those in the footage. "The same goes for the t-shirt." The experts advise the police to make the four arrested suspects undergo lie-detector tests.