

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE No. 12/2009**

**Sub:- Formation of "Temple Theft Investigation Special Team" (TTIST) -  
Directions - Regarding.**

Thefts from religious institutions have a wider societal impact. Delays in detection of such cases lead to adverse public opinion. Presently, some cases of Temple Thefts are being investigated by the CB CID, while others are being investigated by local police units concerned. This has resulted in the splintering of relevant data on crimes and criminals. There is also lack of co-ordination among different Investigating Officers. The reach - both geographical and numerical - of the individual I.O is very limited. The vast reach and greater manpower resources of the local Police are necessary for networking of investigations spread over large areas involving verification of the complicity of large number of persons. This cannot be done by a small team. Hence, to build up a data bank on such offences and criminals involved therein and to ensure more effective and wide spread investigation through a properly supervised and co-ordinated investigative structure, it is proposed to constitute a special wing as follows:

**(1) Name:**

This special wing will be known as Temple Theft Investigation Special Team (TTIST)

**(2) Constitution:**

The Team will be headed by the Superintendent of Police of the CB CID, Ernakulam, nominated by ADGP (Crimes) who will report directly to IGP (Crimes), CBCID. He will be assisted by a Dy.SP of CB CID. The Unit, headquartered at Kochi will have 2 SIs and 6 HC/PCs to carry out the work of the HQ and the strength will be drawn from CB CID. ADGP (Crimes) will be in overall charge of the Temple Theft Investigation Special Team (TTIST).

**(3) Investigation Officers:**

Investigating Officers / Personnel for cases occurring in each Range will be drawn from the Local Police and will perform duties in TTIST in addition to their normal functions. Dy.SP Crime Detachment of the Range HQ will head the Range Unit. To assist the Dy.SsP, sufficient number of CIs, SIs and HCs / PCs also should be nominated for the Range Units by the Zonal IGP. This should be need based according to the patterns of occurrence of Temple Thefts in each Range and the cases already under investigation.

**(4) Investigation:**

The existing Temple Theft cases already under investigation by the local police units will continue as such except unlocated cases in which property worth more than 1 Lakh has been stolen. Such cases may be assigned to the TTIST by the Range IGP. Investigation of all Temple Theft Cases already under investigation by various units of the CB CID will be taken over by the Range Dy.SP's of TTIST.

All information on all Temple Thefts occurring anywhere in the State must be exchanged among all the Teams in all the Ranges. For this purpose, a monthly co-ordination meeting will be held by the head of the Team at Ernakulam.

New Cases of Temple Theft in which the value of the property lost is above Rs.1 Lakh will be taken over by the TTIST within 2 days of registration of the FIR if there is no clear indication regarding accused. In other cases, the investigation may be taken over at the discretion of the ADGP (Crimes) where the Case is connected to others under investigation by the TTIST or otherwise relevant. The Director General of Police and Zonal ADsGP may also order the Range Dy.SsP to take over the investigation of Cases wherever they feel necessary.

When investigation is so taken over, there will not be any change in Crime Number and other particulars of the Case. After investigation, the Case will be charge-sheeted through the registering Police Station only. In other words, the Cases will not be transferred to CB CID. TTIST will act as a nodal co-ordinating agency for ensuring state wide sweep of investigative ambit.

Local SsP / CsP will ensure that whenever a Temple Theft Case occurs, the full details are communicated within 24 hours to all TTIST Range Dy.SsP and the SP at Kochi.

**(5) Data Bank:**

The Superintendent of Police, TTIST, will create a Data Bank of all relevant information on Temple Theft Cases. This will be maintained at the Special Team Headquarters in Kochi. The database should be created on an Open Source platform to enable integration with departmental systems in future. This will be made accessible to all Investigating Officers in the State under proper authorization.

**(6) Supervision:**

ADGP (Crimes) will be in overall charge of the TTIST. The Superintendent of Police will be responsible for the close monitoring of investigation in all cases taken up by the TTIST. IGP (Crimes) will review the investigation of these Cases and will be the authority responsible for filing Special Reports, if any, called for by the Hon'ble High Court or any other statutory body. IGP (Crimes) will also be the Nodal Officer for inter-state matters relating to all Temple Thefts. On conclusion of investigation one copy of the Case Diary (CD) will be kept at the Police Station concerned, one at the Sub-Divisional Office concerned and one at the TTIST Office.

**(7) Delegation:**

The IGP (Crimes) will be delegated with the authority to issue presidency passports to Special Team personnel for proceeding out of the State for purposes of investigation. However, in an emergency, the SP of the TTIST may issue such passports informing IGP (Crimes) or ADGP (Crimes) of the fact. IGP (Crimes) may visit Karnataka Police HQ and Tamil Nadu HQ at least once in six months to liaise with officers supervising Temple Theft Investigations in those States. Action will also be taken by IGP (Crimes) to build up an Inter-state Database on Idol Thefts.

  
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