

## **PRESS NOTE**

### **GUNDEPUDI TEMPLE OFFENCE CRACKED BY SOT-RACHAKONDA LB NAGAR TEAM AND RECOVERED 12 PANCHALOHA IDOLS WORTH OF 3 CRORES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET.**

The sleuths of Special Operations Team, Rachakonda Commissionerate, LB Nagar Zone team arrested three persons and solved the theft of 12 Panchaloha idols from ancient Ramalayam temple at Gundepudi Village under Maripeda police station of Mahabubabad district and recovered all panchaloha antique idols from their possession.

#### **Brief Facts:-**

Ramalayam temple located at Gundepudi Village in Maripeda Mandal in Mahabuba District of Telangana State. The incident came to light on 28-10-2018 when the temple priest Samudrala Vennkata Laxmi Narasimhacharyulu found the idols thefted from the temple by unknown persons. The Maripeda police had registered a case vide Cr. No. 273/2018 U/s 457,380 IPC of Maripeda police station of Mahbubabad District.

The processional deities had been kept inside the temple along with the main idols for years. "The temple is small and ancient. Only locals knew about it, Significance of the idols "locals believe that the idols belong to the Kakatiya era. However, the exact age of the idols is yet to be ascertained scientifically." As there had not been enough security for the idols in the temple. In the absence of strong room, only a small lock was used to keep the idols locked. Moreover, CCTV cameras are not installed in the premises.

#### **The details of the accused persons:-**

- 1 : Karamtoth Latchi Ram S/o. Ghansha, age 31 yrs, Occ. Auto Driver R/o. HNo. 85, Block No. B-11, Singareni Colony, Saidabad, Hyderabad N/o. Dhaku Thanda, Chillapuram(V), Samsthan Narayanpuram(M), Yadadri Bhongir District.
- 2 : Karamtoth Santosh S/o. Bansi, age 21 yrs, Occ. Cab Driver R/o Bupesh Guptha Nagar, Meerpet, N/o Dhaku Thanda, Chillapuram (V) Samasthan Narayanpuram (M) Yadadri Bhongir District.

- 3 : Vankudothu John S/o. Koplra, age 31 yrs, Occ. Cab Driver R/o Ganeshpuri Colony, Chaithyapuri, Hyderabad N/o. Ramla Thanda, Suryapet District.

The accused Latchi Ram went to Gundepudi Village for darshan, on noticing panchaloha idols, he hatched a plan to steal the ancient panchaloha idols from the temple, made recce with the assistance of Karamtoth Santosh (HB Offender) & Vankudothu John (Cab Driver). He along with Santosh proceeded to Gundepudi (V) of Maripeda (M) Mahabubabad district on Vankudothu John car and committed theft of panchaloha idols from temple and at the time Vankudothu John assisted in the commission of offence.

**Seized Property:- (Total Panchaloha Idols -12 Nos)**

- 1) Srirama, Seethamma, Laxmana (all 3 idols each 18 inches height)
- 2) Sudarshana Swami, 12 inch height
- 3) Alwarulu – 02 Nos
- 4) Six (06) small idols
  - a. Vishnumurthi,
  - b. Sridevi,
  - c. Bhoodevi,
  - d. Krishnudu
  - e. Idol
  - f. Idol all are panchaloha idols with approximate 4 inches height
- 5) Silver Kiritalu – 03 Nos
- 6) TATA Indica Vista Car Br. No. TS05UA-2812
- 7) Mobile Phones – 03 Nos

**Modus Operandi:-**

The accused Santosh was found to be involved in House Burglaries earlier in various police stations of Rachakonda Commissionerate along with other associates. The both Latchi Ram & Karamtoth Santosh used to move around in rural areas abutting towns looking for temples which had antique panchaloha idols. They carried small sized iron rod to break open the locks and doors of the temple and committed the theft while their associate Vankudothu John made guard outside of the temple from his car. In their first attempt, they set their eyes on Ramalayam Temple at Gundepudi (V) in Maripeda Mandal of Mahabubad District and successfully completed theft of panchaloha idols on the intervening night of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Though they are skilful in their craft they had no idea how to sell the valuable panchaloha idols in the market. The three big idols were chopped off to small portion by the accused, the remaining idols some piece were taken to check the gold content in it. They decided to melt the idols to collect the gold.

On a tip off the sleuths of Special Operations Team, LB Nagar Zone, Rachakonda apprehended the three accused persons on 23-11-2018 Near Kothaguda X road under the limits of Abdullahpurmet, on interrogation they voluntarily confessed to their involvement in the theft and the stolen idols 1) Srirama, 2) Seethamma, 3) Laxmana(all 3 idols each 18 inches height approximately) recovered from the house of Latchi Ram. On further interrogation, the accused Karamtoth Santosh also led the police team his house and recovered Nine panchaloha idols, Police seized total 12 panchaloha idos, one Tata Indica Vista car from the possession of Vankdotu John which was used for commission of offence and three mobile phones from their possession.

The above arrests were made under the supervision of **Sri Mahesh M Bhagwat. IPS.**, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, under the guidance of Sri J. Surender Reddy, Addl. Dy. Commissioner of Police, Special Operations Team, by Sri T. Ravi Kumar Inspector SOT, A.A. Raju, Sub-Inspector and the staff of Special Operations Team, Rachakonda.





