

DELHI CRIME

Season 1

Episode 102

Written by
Richie Mehta

CONFORMED SCRIPT as on. 7 Feb, 2019

Golden Karavan LLC

SK Global Entertainment

SCRIPT NOTE - Italicized dialogue is in Hindi, the rest in English.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"The Following is Inspired by Case Files"

"Monday, 9 am"

INT. CHANDNI'S ROOM - MORNING

Chandni wakes up in her large bed, the blanket scattered and her arm hanging off one side. She checks messages on her phone before sitting up. Something's not right. We think she's seen the crime...

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

She brushes her teeth, still reading her phone, and going through a news site. She sees THE news story, and stops brushing, in shock.

INT. CHIEF MINISTER'S RESIDENCE - MORNING

The Chief Minister of Delhi, a man in his early 50s who heads the National Capital Region, sits on the phone as he has breakfast on a veranda. It's a lovely space overlooking several large trees in the private courtyard. He's on the phone.

CHIEF MINISTER
(discussing another
matter)
*... three new lines I believe...
And non-negotiable...*

His son, RAHUL (40s, handsome) comes and places a report in front of him with a post-it note that says "*FOR CHIEF MINISTER, URGENT.*" The CM reads it while still on the phone. Suddenly, he's not interested in the call.

CHIEF MINISTER (CONT'D)
Listen, I'll call you back.

He hangs up and opens the report, giving his son a quizzical look.

RAHUL

So, the happened last night, quite a heinous crime at South Delhi. My guy at Police Headquarters... he sent this.

CHIEF MINISTER

(reviews the document)
Have they nabbed anyone?

RAHUL

No, Not yet.

CHIEF MINISTER

(reads)
And this girl, Deepika?
(reads)

RAHUL

She's at Safdarjung.

He reads the details of the crime, and his eyebrows raise.

CHIEF MINISTER

Oh my. Send Ira to Safdarjung hospital, tell her to find out everything and call me.

RAHUL

Okay, Papa.

He closes the report as Rahul dials a number. He thinks for a moment, nods to himself, and stands to leave.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Back in the 'command centre,' five local transport owners sit with Vartika, Rakesh, and Bhupendra in mid-discussion. They all come from a similar world - wearing light-coloured dress shirts, dress pants, black polished shoes, their phones in their hands. They are well groomed, with slight paunches, and worn skin with bags under their eyes. It's as if they have others doing the gruelling labour work, but they have to micro-manage their businesses, which takes a toll on them.

OWNER 1

Madam you are mistaken. All of us bus owners live nearby but our busses don't operate here. The buses that move around here, their owners live in the outskirts of Delhi. The drivers stay close to their buses. Madam, you've called the wrong bus owners in. Look around the neighborhoods here.

(MORE)

OWNER 1 (CONT'D)

That's where you'll find your local drivers. Their owners live miles away

OWNER 3

Ask Mr. Sirish, most of his buses are white.

RAKESH

Do you have his number?

OWNER 3

*I should ...
(checks his phone)
Try this.*

Rakesh reads the number off the phone and dials it. No answer.

RAKESH

Switch off hai.

INT. DELHI SECRETARIAT - CONTINUOUS

The CM answers his phone. He's walking to his own office in the Delhi Secretariat, with an assistant nearby.

CHIEF MINISTER (ON PHONE)

Yeah, Ira?

IRA

Sir, I'm at the hospital. It's a gang rape on a moving bus. She was also assaulted badly with an iron rod. It's ghastly, Sir. She's in critical condition and they're not sure if she will survive.

CHIEF MINISTER

Has the media arrived?

IRA

Yes, Sir. A handful of them.

CHIEF MINISTER

Do a press conference now. Let the public know as much as possible, explain the details - what happened, how and when.

EXT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL - MORNING

Neeti pays for food at a local food vendor, counting the money in her wallet and making sure she has enough.

She then re-enters the hospital courtyard from the main street with two bags of food when she sees commotion in front of the emergency ward, people yelling and pushing.

She approaches quickly, but can't get through the crowd. She asks one hospital attendant, also trying to get through.

NEETI

What's happened?

ORDERLY

Some district councillor's here. I don't know why, the press are also in a frenzy.

Neeti sees that they're all reporters trying to get inside the ward, but staff is holding them back.

After a few moments, Ira emerges from the ward with her posse, and the press throw an onslaught of questions as they start their cameras and audio-recording devices for the impromptu press conference.

IRA

(to the crowd)

Look, I'll only speak for a few minutes!

The press calm down to listen.

IRA (CONT'D)

I can tell you that last night, in our city, a ghastly crime was committed. The victims, a young male and female, were both attacked on a moving bus. Six men were involved.

Neeti is shocked. She dials a number.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vartika answers her phone.

VARTIKA

Yeah?

NEETI

Madam Sir, there's some district counsellor here, she's talking to the media right now.

VARTIKA

News cameras?

NEETI

Yes, Madam Sir.

VARTIKA
 (to Bhupendra, nearby)
 Get a TV.

Bhupendra is already on it, going out into the corridor.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)
 Um, who's the counsellor?

NEETI
 I don't know, Madam Sir, but there
 are many people.

VARTIKA
 Just take care of Deepika, be with
 her and make sure the press doesn't
 get to her.

NEETI
 Yes Madam Sir.

A constable brings a small TV into the 'command centre'
 office as Vartika hangs up, and plugs it into the wall. He
 turns it on, and starts to adjust the antennae for Vartika
 and Bhupendra (with Rakesh next door).

It catches a signal for a popular news station, where Ira
 speaks to the press, live, from outside the emergency ward.

IRA
 (on tv, at the hospital)
 ...but the female victim has been
 brutally gang raped. Her critical
 condition. To make matters worse,
 an iron rod was used to molest
 her...

The TV news anchor takes over, from the news desk.

ANCHOR
 ... This come from Safdarjung
 hospital a few minutes ago. A
 horrific incident in Delhi, on a
 moving bus.

VARTIKA
 Shit.

Vartika goes to the window - and looks out. She sees that
 several dozen media personnel have gathered outside the gate
 and are now getting anxious, wanting to enter the premises.
 The gate guard keeps them back.

PROTESTORS
 Delhi Police, shame shame!

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Vinod, the station head, walks to the main entrance, looking at the same gathering. The old Duty Officer stands beside him.

VINOD
(to Duty Officer)
How did they find out so fast?

DUTY OFFICER
Don't know, Sir. Nobody's come in here, apart from those filing official complaints.

VINOD
Yeah?

Perplexed, Vinod calls a number on his mobile and walks back into his office.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION GROUND FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

VINOD
(into phone)
Hello, Parshant?

PRASHANT
Yeah, Vinod

VINOD
What's going on at Headquarters?

PRASHANT
All good.

VINOD
Look, I need that favour now.

PRASHANT
Sure.

VINOD
If you here anything about this case, let me know right away. Understand?

PRASHANT
Sure. Anything for you, buddy.

VINOD
Okay, Thanks

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Vartika's phone rings - it's Chandni. She shakes her head, knowing what's coming. She answers.

VARTIKA

Yeah, baby.

INT. CHANDNI'S ROOM - MORNING

Chandni sits in her unmade bed, sunlight streaming in, as she talks.

CHANDNI

Mom - are you working on this gang rape case?

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vartika masks her anxiety. She stands. Bhupendra is on the phone, quietly working in the background.

VARTIKA

Yeah.

CHANDNI

You're okay?

VARTIKA

Yeah, I'm fine. Baby, don't watch the news, they're blowing it out of proportion.

INT. CHANDNI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chandni stands, pacing. Vartika does the same in her office. They echo each other in action.

CHANDNI

Out of proportion? It happened on a moving bus in broad daylight?!

VARTIKA

"Daylight?" Chandni, don't believe everything you're seeing and hearing. Everything is under control.

CHANDNI

How can you say that!? Even if half of what they're saying is true it's not under control.

VARTIKA

Chandni, the world is exactly as it was 24 hours ago.

CHANDNI

That's the problem, Ma!

She hangs up.

Vartika exhales, not knowing what to do. Deal with it later, she decides. She goes back to the desk, where her notes sit.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S ADJOINING OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

In the connecting office, Rakesh answers his phone. It's Harish, his Palam-based buddy with the scar across his face.

HARISH

Hello?

RAKESH

Harish, any news?

EXT. PALAM RESIDENTIAL AREA - CONTINUOUS

Harish stands on the side of a slum-alleyway, speaking on the phone. He's surrounded by hanging laundry, working women, and playing children, all performing their daily routines.

HARISH

Yeah, there's a guy named Mr. Sirish who owns a lot of buses.

RAKESH

(writing it down)

"Sirish" has come up before.

HARISH

I heard one of his buses is missing. The driver's name is Jai Singh, check it out.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S ADJOINING OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

RAKESH

Will do. Does this missing bus have it's doors on the corner?

HARISH

(mutters to himself, thinking)

Yeah.

RAKESH

Okay, what route does it go on?

HARISH

It's a school bus - picks up kids in the morning, drops them in afternoon.

RAKESH

It's a school bus?

HARISH

On contract. After dropping students in the morning - NIC, a company called "New Index Consultancy." The bus takes it's employees to work.

RAKESH

So it sits in the company parking lot most of the day?

HARISH

Correct, after dropping the kids in the afternoon, it does the same thing in the evening. Then it's off duty

RAKESH

Brother - the most important question is where it parked at night?

HARISH

Buddy, you owe me big time. The bus parks at Ravi Dass camp.

Rakesh gets up and runs next door to Vartika and Bhupendra.

RAKESH

(to Vartika)

Madam - Ravi Dass camp, in R.K. Param...

Vartika and Bhupendra immediately look on the map of South Delhi to located the camp.

BHUPENDRA

That's near Munirka bus stand, right?

RAKESH

Yeah.

(into phone)

So the bus should be at N.I.C. now, right?

HARISH

It should be parked there but it's not. And No one knows where it is.

RAKESH

We'll find it, buddy. If you hear anything else let me know.

HARISH

Sure, brother.

RAKESH

Come home for dinner sometime.

HARISH

If it's panner scramble, for sure.

RAKESH

Done, okay.

He hangs up. Vartika and Bhupendra await, eagerly, along with Lallu and his group of cops.

RAKESH (CONT'D)

Madam - this guy Sirish, one of his busses is missing, And it matches our description, my source has confirmed. and the driver's name is Jai Singh...

Bhupendra writes "Jai Singh" on his board in chalk.

RAKESH (CONT'D)

The bus is used for school in the morning and afternoons. The rest of the time a company called N.I.C. uses it. I think we should check the N.I.C parking lot. And the school...

VARTIKA

It's a holiday today.

RAKESH

Then where else could it go?
(to Lallu)
Lallu call N.I.C.

LALLU

Yes Sir, will do.

VARTIKA

And Jai Singh, is he in R.K. Param right now?

RAKESH

At least, that's where he parks at night.

VARTIKA
 (to Bhupendra)
 Send a plain-clothes unit to R.K.
 Puram, find this Jai Singh.

Bhupendra is already on the phone.

BHUPENDRA
 On it, Madam

OWNER 1, still among the others, sitting in the office with them, gets off his phone.

OWNER 1
Madam - one of my cleaners has been missing all morning. I can't find him.

VARTIKA
What's his name?

OWNER 1
Alok Kumar.

VARTIKA
You have his number?

OWNER 1
Yes. Here.

VARTIKA
Call him.

The Owner calls him, the phone is switched off.

OWNER 1
It's switched off.

VARTIKA
Give me The number

The Owner hands his phone over to her, as she writes his name and number down, and notes the time - 10:30 am. Concurrently, Bhupendra writes "Alok Kumar" on his board.

Sudhir enters the office, having returned from the RTO office, and presents a list to Bhupendra.

SUDHIR
Sir, there are 350 white-deluxe buses registered in the Regional Transport office, along with the name of their owners, many of whom appear multiple times.

RAKESH
 Madam - should we get more constables on this?

VARTIKA

No, no way. No junior officers on this. Too many leaks. Use only Sub-Inspectors and senior officers. And if they have any doubt on any owner, call them in. We'll check them here.

Vartika's phone rings. She mutters a curse to herself, and answers. It's the JOINT C.P. - a senior officer.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)

It's the joint C.P. Yes, Sir...

MINISTER (O.S.)

... So what do want me to do about it?

INT. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS OFFICE - LATE MORNING

The Chief Minister sits with the Minister of Home Affairs, an older, stately gentleman, in a white government-standard suit with too many pens in his breast pocket. They're meeting over this crime.

MINISTER

So what do want me to do?

CHIEF MINISTER

...on a moving bus, on a main road. What else can I say? As a Home Minister, and as a father of a young woman, surely you don't stand for this lapse in policing.

MINISTER

What would you like me to do? Disband the entire Delhi Police?

CHIEF MINISTER

No, Sir. I'm Not against the police in general

MINISTER

Oh.

CHIEF MINISTER

It's just their leader.

MINISTER

Uh-huh.

CHIEF MINISTER

If this was in my control, this incident wouldn't have happened.

MINISTER

That not what the Lt. Governor
thinks.

CHIEF MINISTER

And you, sir?

MINISTER

I feel they are doing the best they
can.

The Minister exhales, unsure of what to do

EXT. MAHIPAL PUR CRIME SCENE - MORNING

Subhash arrives at the crime scene in a car with four other men from the CFSL (Central Forensics Science Lab), all experts. They have their bags of tools and equipment, and immediately begin to cordon off the crime scene on the side of the road. They're acting as we would expect a forensics team to act.

EXT. RAVI DASS CAMP - LATE MORNING

11:30 am - A team of plain-clothes inspectors, again led by Shukla and Ashok, arrives at Ravi Dass camp - a slum-like neighborhood in the middle of South-Delhi. It has the same markings as Bhupendra's own slum area - narrow alleyways, a labyrinth-like layout, bright hanging laundry, children playing everywhere, and women working, while the old men sit around (and the young are presumably at work).

They fan out, as we see from atop the camp, slowly entering from different sides, and casually, walking in, infiltrating.

Still seeing from above, one of them stops upon encountering a woman sweeping the floor.

SHUKLA

Sister, where can I find Jai Singh?

WOMAN 1

Don't know, who are you?

SHUKLA

I'm his cousin, from Jonpur.

WOMAN 1

I haven't seen him in a while.

Ashok encounters a young man on his way to work, and stops him.

ASHOK

*Brother, Where can I find Jai
Singh, the bus driver?*

MAN 1

Who are you?

ASHOK

A friend - He's a good guy - he lent me some money when I needed it. I just wanted to pay him back.

MAN 1

He went to his brothers place oin Mehrauli, last night.

ASHOK

What's his brother's name?

MAN 1

Don't know

ASHOK

Uh, brother. Where is Mehrauli

MAN 1

Don't know

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - MORNING

A man walks up the stairs to the second floor of the station and knocks on Bhupendra's door. It opens, Bhupendra answers. He smiles at the sight of this man.

BHUPENDRA

Hey, Sartaj, come in. How are you?

SARTAJ, a Sikh man with a purple turban and short-sleeve golf shirt, enters and politely greets everyone.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)

(to the gang)

Madam, this is Sartaj, an old colleague from my bank days. Today he's a big man, owns a fleet of busses. He can give us a lot of information.

SARTAJ

At your service, Madam.

BHUPENDRA

He knows his buses.

SARTAJ

If I know nothing else, yes.

VARTIKA

Thank You for coming. We have a lot of unanswered questions.

Sartaj looks at Bhupendra, wearing his glasses.

SARTAJ

Bhupy, since when have you worn glasses?

BHUPENDRA

It's been ages. We haven't met in a while.

SARTAJ

Do this - draw a small circle on the wall. Keep looking at it from a distance. Don't blink. Let your eyes water and wash themselves. Do this five times a day. Then you won't need glasses.

BHUPENDRA

Your folk remedies won't work here, Brother

The office door opens, and Akash peers in, looking groggy, with bed-head.

VARTIKA

Akash, come in. Did you get some rest?

AKASH

A little. Uncle is still asleep. BUT my mind is...

VARTIKA

*I know. Are you hungry?
(to bhupendra)
Bhupendra...*

BHUPENDRA

Yes, Madam.

She motions to Bhupendra, who heads into the hallway. We can barely hear him down the corridor shouting at a constable to fetch them some food.

VARTIKA

*(to Akash)
Do you think you can help us with the bus route?*

AKASH

Maybe.

He sits and rubs his eyes. Vartika is confused.

VARTIKA

Now?

AKASH
 (surprised)
Sure.

VARTIKA
Come. Tell me on this.
 (points to the map)

She watches him as he stands and walks around to the map on the wall, where a few pins have already been applied to the map. Bhupendra also returns to the office.

AKASH
W boarded the bus from here, and...
 (points to a blue pin)
... They dumped us here.
 (points to a red pin)
*So in between, there was a malai
 mandir...*

Bhupendra approaches the map and stick a yellow pin in it.

BHUPENDRA
Malai mandir is here.

AKASH
*And that the drove straight, and
 then there was an overpass.*

VARTIKA
How many turns did you take?

AKASH
Three or four?

VARTIKA
Were they driving fast?

AKASH
Quite fast.

VARTIKA
How long did the attack last?

AKASH
30 or 40 minutes?

VARTIKA
And how long before they attacked?

AKASH
10 minutes.

BHUPENDRA
 (studying the map)
*I think they took a turn somewhere
 and dis two rounds.*
 (MORE)

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)

Because from the pick up point to the drop point at night, it takes 20 minutes. And there's only one turn. But he say they took 3 or 4 turns, and it took 45 minutes.

(to Akash)

Did you pass Malai Mandir once or twice.

AKASH

(thinking)

Once... actually it came twice, your'e right.

BHUPENDRA

So suppose they picked you up at 9:20 pm from here, and dumped you here at around 10:05 pm. So during this time, it's these exact hotels on the highway here. whose CCTV cameras could have footage if they're highway facing...Rakesh

RAKESH

I'll tell Jairaj.

He dials a number and disappears into the adjoining office.

VARTIKA

Good, very good. Come. Any more details about the outside of the bus?

SARTAJ

Where there any lines on the bus?

SARTAJ (CONT'D)

A thick blue or green line across the bus? If it's blue, it's diesel-powered and green is natural gas.

VARTIKA

Really?

Sartaj nods.

AKASH

I couldn't see, it was dark. But something was written on the bus.

SARTAJ

It could be the owner or brand name.

AKASH

*Could be. But when it was done,
when they dragged us to throw us
out, the door wouldn't open. They
even tried with the rod...*

BHUPENDRA

*So the back door was either jammed
shut, or sealed. What kind of buses
have only front-door entry?*

One of the original bus Owners, still sitting in the room,
pipes up as Rakesh re-enters the room.

OWNER 1

*Madam, it has to be a blue line
bus. All the blue line buses were
converted to natural gas. And most
of them became school buses. And
when they did those conversions
they sealed the back door shut so
the kids couldn't get off the back.
And those were the deluxe-coach
kinds, with longer tinted windows.*

RAKESH

*This missing "Sirish" bus is a
school bus.*

As that point hangs in the air, we hear another conversation:

INT. BIG CHILL CAFE, SAKET MALL - LATE MORNING

Chandni meets with her friends (2 teenage girls - SMRITI and ASHITA and 2 boys - ARUNESH and ARJUN) at "The Big Chill" café, a movie-themed cafe that celebrates Hollywood of the 30s and 40s, with all of the servers hailing from Nepal and the North East. It's a strange and wonderful clash of old and new India, and the west. As they sit around and have lattes, they're in the middle of a heated discussion...

CHANDNI

*... I can't wait to get out of this
bloody city. This country. I'm
done.*

SMRITI

*And the problem is this is the only
case which has been reported. Just
imagine, so many aren't?*

ARUNESH

*Apparently the police arrived and
waited at the scene for 2 hours
while they froze and bled out
before moving them.*

CHANDNI

No, don't believe that. That makes no sense.

ARUNESH

No, well, not everyone is as good a cop as your mom, Chandu.

CHANDNI

I've known enough constables to tell you that makes no sense. Even the self-serving ones. If there is a bleeding victim, you move them so that it's out of your hands as soon as possible.

SMRITI

Doesn't matter - the crime's happened, nobody disagreeing. Even now when I take an auto, I feel like I can't look at the driver in the eyes.

CHANDNI

Last month, I was getting out of the metro and I saw a guy, he had his hand out to intercept my breast. He just had his hand out like this to intercept...

(mimics a hand cupping)

... to touch me as I came by him. And I couldn't stop the push of people, and he grabbed me as I went past him. I looked back immediately and he was smiling at me, like a demon. And then the train doors shut and he was inside and I just wanted to smash his fucking smiling face in.

They're all quiet, as Arjun looks at his phone.

ARJUN

Apparently there's a protest at Vasant Vihar Station, on behalf of the victim.

SMRITI

So, let's go.

CHANDNI

What, now?

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - NOON

Kumar Vijay enters Police Headquarters. He walks the corridors, which are old, grimy-white, with dozens of cubicles, and thousands, perhaps millions of sheets of papers and files stacked atop each other.

He walks by Vishal, Vartika's husband, who salutes him.

He enters his office.

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - NOON

It's clean, glossy, spacious, has a big wide-screen TV mounted on the wall, and a large window overlooking the city. A different world inside this space.

As he sits, he turns on the TV and sees the news - the same clips of the Councillor revealing details of the case at the hospital. He's surprised.

It then switches back to the news Anchor:

ANCHOR

Citizens have begun to gather outside Vasant Vihar police stations and Safdurjung Hospital, demanding that justice and accountability...

His mobile phone rings, he answers on speaker mode.

KUMAR

(on phone)
Yes?

POONAM (O.S.)

Hello, Sir, it's Poonam from N-TV.

KUMAR

Yes, Poonam. How can I help you?

POONAM (O.S.)

Sir, I'd like to have you on my show this week.

KUMAR

Thank you. But I don't think I have the time with this case going on. I'm sure you will understand.

POONAM

Yes, Sir. But it's about the case itself. Maybe you can come on and tell us what you're doing to solve this horrific crime?

KUMAR

I'm sorry Poonam, I can't discuss an open case, no?

POONAM (O.S.)

Sir, right now, the Delhi Police really need a voice.

KUMAR

Yeah, I'll send you a senior officer.

POONAM

It would be better if you came in.

A beat as he considers.

KUMAR

Well, I wish I could but I can't Poonam. Thank You, Poonam, I have to rush.

He hangs up, staring at the screen still.

He dials another number, this time swiveling his chair and staring out the window.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vartika answers.

VARTIKA

Yes, Sir?

KUMAR

Things are getting interesting vartika. This Councillor on TV, she works for the Chief Minister. How did the media find out?

VARTIKA

I.. I really don't know, Sir. Maybe a nurse or a cleaner at the hospital. Too many people were involved before I was called in.

KUMAR

Uhh...You need anything from me?

VARTIKA

Yes, Sir. Can I get your authorization for certain expenses.

KUMAR

Yes of course, spend wisely. BUT catch these guys... quickly.

VARTIKA

Sir.

She hangs up and looks at Bhupendra.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)

It looks like it's in everyone's best interest that these guys get caught immediately.

BHUPENDRA

Madam, thank God they aren't rich kids.

EXT. VASANT VIHAR STATION ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Students are protesting, gathering outside Vasant Vihar station. They hold signs concerning women's rights, police accountability, and punishment for those deserving of it.

PROTESTORS

We want Justice! We want Justice!

INT. BHUPENDRA'S ADJOINING OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

VARTIKA

Looks like the students have found an extra-curricular activity. Now they'll sit outside, soak in the sunshine, for a meaningful cause. If they're lucky they'll get onto TV, and totally get in our way.

She walks back to her office as Rakesh and Bhupendra look on.

BHUPENDRA

How did they make the signboards so quickly?

INT. HOTEL DELHI AIRPORT - MID-DAY

Jairaj Singh sits in the same security office we last saw him in, going through CCTV footage of the street.

One of his men has fallen asleep, while the other is playing solitaire on his phone.

The security guard sifting through the footage is also bored.

Jairaj then spots something and leans forward.

JAIRAJ
*Stop. Didn't this bus come by
 earlier?*

SECURITY
 It did.

JAIRAJ
 Rewind it.

The guard rewinds the footage, while the other officer looks up from his solitaire game.

JAIRAJ (CONT'D)
 That it. Keep it there.

They zero in on the spot - it's the same bus, passing by within 20 minutes.

Jairaj immediately calls Bhupendra.

BHUPENDRA (O.S.)
Yeah, Jairaj.

JAIRAJ
 (on phone)
*Sir, the CCTV camera shows a white
 bus passing twice in 20 minutes.
 The first time at...*

GUARD
 9:34.

JAIRAJ
 (on phone)
...9:34 pm, and then?

GUARD
 9:53.

JAIRAJ
 (on phone)
...9:53 pm Sir.

BHUPENDRA (O.S.)
*Record a clip of that video on your
 phone and what'sapp it to me now.*

JAIRAJ
 (on phone)
Doing it now, Sir.

Jairaj hangs up, activates his video camera on his phone.

JAIRAJ (CONT'D)
*Sonny, play the clip when the bus
 first came by.*

The guard does so, as Jairaj records it.

He then sends it over 'what's app' to Bhupendra.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bhupendra's phone beeps as the video comes in.

BHUPENDRA
Akash, look at this.

He shows Akash the video, as Vartika watches on as well.

AKASH
It could be it.

VARTIKA
Come. Let's go.

Still in her pyjamas and jacket, they gather their things.

BHUPENDRA
(to Sartaj)
*Sartaj, you go too. Meet us at the
Aerodrome hotel, I'll text you the
address.*

SARTAJ
Okay.

AKASH
*Ma'am, one more thing... The
conductor was calling out to the
passengers in a weird way. I've
never heard anything like it. Maybe
that's why we noticed that bus*

VARTIKA
What do you mean by weird?

AKASH
*Dwarka, Dwarka, dwarka...((SCREAMS
A VERY STRANGE SOUND)).*

Vartika looks at Bhupendra.

VARTIKA
*Can't wait to demonstrate that in
court.
(to Akash)
Good... Thank You... Rakesh..*

RAKESH
Yes Madam

BHUPENDRA

You guys can go. I'll call if I need you.

VARTIKA

We'll go out the back. Avoid this madness.

They all leave.

INT. VINOD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vinod watches all of this, with his Duty Officer nearby. His phone rings. As he looks at the call display, he speaks to the duty officer.

VINOD

Yeah, Parshant, tell me.

PARSHANT (O.S.)

Headquarters isn't impressed with your station. They may suspend some officers.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

PARSHANT, one of Vinod's informant friends inside the Headquarters, stands in the back parking lot area of the massive Police Headquarters, full of motorcycles, with uniformed officers mulling around in every direction.

PARSHANT

Listen to me - make it look like your'e doing a lot on this case.

INT. VINOD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vinod has re-entered the sanctuary of his office.

PARSHANT

Only the prepared survive a disaster. Understand?

VINOD

I'll be fine, buddy. My DCP's overseeing this herself.

PARSHANT

If she sticks around. They know vartika's personally taken over the case. She may be the first to go.

VINOD
Is that right?

PARSHANT (O.S.)
Yeah.

He hangs up.

Vinod sits at his desk, staring ahead, lost in thought.

EXT. MAHIPAL PUR CRIME SCENE - EARLY AFTERNOON

ANGLE ON:

Extreme Close-ups of blood-stained leaves, dirt, and rubber-gloved hands taking tiny samples of each and bagging them.

At the crime scene on the side of the main road, Subhash's team surgically works the crime scene, as Vimla arrives in an autorickshaw.

She stands at the side of the road, observing the professional forensics team. A sketch artist is also at work.

Subhash walks up to her as she watches.

SUBHASH
You've submitted the hospital samples?

VIMLA
Yes, Sir. I'm just waiting for these. I'll take them straight to CFSL?

SUBHASH
They'll analyze them there before giving them back.

VIMLA
Yes, Sir. Sir, I've been working crime cases like this for 15 years. This is the first time I'm seeing a forensics team on one of them. It's so comforting

SUBHASH
It's what a pissed off the DCP can do.

VIMLA
Did she pull the strings to get them, or you, Sir?

SUBHASH
I called in a favour.

VIMLA

Amazing. If I called them they wouldn't pay any attention.

SUBHASH

Stay in this as long as I have, you'll owe, and be owed, favours to your death. Just keep a good ledger for them.

VIMLA

Yes, Sir. But Sir, why are you here? You have your own station to look after.

Subhash thinks for a moment.

SUBHASH

Yeah, I do. But I owe the DCP a favour.

INT. VARTIKA'S AMBASSADOR VEHICLE - DAY

On the way to the Hotel Delhi Airport, Bhupendra rides shotgun as Rakesh and Vartika sit in the car. Bhupendra's phone rings, he answers.

BHUPENDRA

Yeah, go ahead.

Bhupendra puts the phone on speaker for Vartika to hear.

EXT. RAVI DASS CAMP - DAY

Shukla - who was interviewing local slum dwellers earlier - reports as he stands at the edge of the camp, on the roadside.

SHUKLA

Sir, we got Jai Singh's bus number from one of the neighbours - it's "9094." We were told he was with his brother in Mehrauli last night, but can't confirm it. They're all missing.

BHUPENDRA

So find them.

SHUKLA

Yes Sir.

INT. VARTIKA'S AMBASSADOR VEHICLE - DAY

He hangs up and looks back at Vartika and Rakesh.

RAKESH

We'll need a better image of the bus to show Akash.

BHUPENDRA

There's something about Akash that's bothering me.

RAKESH

Meaning?

BHUPENDRA

I don't know just a bad feeling.

Bhupendra looks back at Vartika, silent this entire time. She's tearing up, as she stares out the window.

They're shocked - they've never seen this woman even close to an emotional break in the years they've known her.

She looks at Bhupendra.

VARTIKA

They've destroyed this girl. Worse than death. We've seen a lot of cases, but these bastards crossed all boundaries. We're solving this case - we have to get those bastards.

The men are quiet, having gotten caught up in the thrill of the hunt.

INT. HOTEL DELHI AIRPORT SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter the tiny security room. Jairaj and his men stand and make room for them, all cramming inside. Vartika, Bhupendra, and Rakesh sit closest to the monitors, while the others stand behind them.

JAIRAJ

(to the security guard)
Play it.

He presses play, and the bus drives by the corner of the frame.

VARTIKA

Something's written on it?

BHUPENDRA

Yeah

VARTIKA

What is it?

The image stops as the bus drives by. They can see something is written on the outside of the bus, but it's too blurry to make out.

The officer that was playing solitaire on his phone earlier steps up.

SOLITAIRE COP

Ma'am. I can get a clear image. My camera's high resolution.

VARTIKA

This is the original image. It can;t get clearer.

(pointing to the security screen)

SOLITAIRE COP

One minute, excuse me, sir...

He put his phone in front of the screen, as if to take a photograph, but doesn't click it. Just holding it there, it comes into focus, and the image is much clearer on his phone!

He then takes a photo and show the others.

SOLITAIRE COP (CONT'D)

See this, Ma'am.

VARTIKA

Sirish Travels

It says "Sirish Travels."

EXT. DELHI STREETS - DAY

At various road blocks around the city, constables receive text message details about the "Sirish" bus, with a still image attached.

INT. HOTEL DELHI AIRPORT LOBBY - DAY

ANGLE ON: several phone chargers being plugged into walls in the small sitting area of the low-class hotel lobby.

Vartika, Bhupendra, and Rakesh all start making calls as they charge their phones, while a few other people mull about, in and out of the security room, which is just a few meters away.

We get glimpses of their frenzied conversations.

VARTIKA (ON PHONE)

Send more plain clothes officers at Ravi Dass camp to apprehend Jai Singh... "Jai Singh."

Bhupendra is on another call...

BHUPENDRA (ON PHONE)
Is this the Delhi Transport Corporation? ... I'm calling from the Delhi Police. I need to know how many buses with "Sirish travels" are registered in the NCR. Whom do I speak to?

Vartika finishes her call.

VARTIKA
 (to Rakesh)
 Pick up all the contractors of "Sirish Travels" buses. And where the hell is this Sirish?

RAKESH
 (to Vartika as he holds his call)
 He's on the line, he's looking for Jai Singh.

Akash then emerges from the security room with his Uncle.

AKASH
This looks like the bus.

Another voice from inside the room calls out.

SARTAJ (O.S.)
Hey look at this! Look, look.

Bhupendra hangs up his call, and rushes inside the security room with Vartika.

INT. HOTEL DELHI AIRPORT SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bhupendra's bus-expert friend Sartaj is inside, studying the footage with the security guard. It's an electric atmosphere.

They gather around him and the monitor as he points.

SARTAJ
 See that? The front left wheel axle - the cap's missing.

Looks at Vartika.

VARTIKA
 Okay give these details to our respective teams at Ravi Das Camp. The bus has "Sirish Travels," written on it, the back door is jammed shut and there is a Lord Shiv Idol.. And

SARTAJ

On the front left wheel axel, the caps missing.

VARTIKA

The caps missing....

She thinks for a moment as Bhupendra is about to dial another number.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)

Actually let's go to Ravi Dass camp.

RAKESH

What?

BHUPENDRA

You're going yourself...?

VARTIKA

Absolutely... This is our man, and I want to be there when we get him.

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Kumar Vijay watches more news reports on his office TV.

ON TV: The news team has pulled a random bus over, and in a true sensationalist way, claims that this could very well be the bus from the crime. They also mention reports about how the initial police response was so slow, and how the police arrived at the crime scene and argued over jurisdiction for over two hours before they moved the female victim.

REPORTER

The Delhi Police sat around for two hours, and did nothing. The girl and the boy were lying there. It could have been this seat where they were molested.

KUMAR

I don't understand where they get this rubbish from, Sir?

We realize Kumar is on live speaker phone with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

MINISTER (O.S.)

The reports are getting out of hand, and rumours are flying. Public opinion is totally against you. I think you should do a press conference, clear up all rumours.

KUMAR

The DCP South can do it, she knows the details on the ground, Sir.

MINISTER (O.S.)

Okay, Good luck.

KUMAR

Thank you, Minister.

He hangs up, and dials Vartika on the same phone.

EXT. DELHI STREETS

REPORTER (O.S.)

The same bus where last night a woman and woman were picked up and the woman was gang raped

INT. VARTIKA'S AMBASSADOR VEHICLE - DAY

Vartika's back in the car, with Rakesh and Bhupendra. Narayan is there too, monitoring the wireless, creating a mobile command centre of sorts.

They're driving towards Ravi Dass camp, scanning, hunting.

She answers her buzzing phone.

VARTIKA

Yes, Sir?

KUMAR

Vartika, the news reports are spreading rumours which is not helping at all. I need you should do a press conference as soon as there is some breakthrough. You know the details on the ground, and I think it'll help if they hear it from you.

VARTIKA

No problem, Sir. I'll do it later this afternoon.

KUMAR

Good. I think you should release the clip of the bus. Let the public help find it.

VARTIKA

I don't think It's a good idea, Sir.

KUMAR

Why? That's not real evidence, just an image, no?

VARTIKA

But Sir if the culprits find out that we've seen the bus then they're going to try to hide it or burn it. And if the public finds the bus, they'll definitely going taint it before we can get our hands on it. The case is going to collapse even before it begins. Sir, I promise you, by mid afternoon we'll have the bus and the first man in custody. But until then I don't want to release this. And in fact, if we can duck it, we should.

KUMAR

(reluctant)

Okay, then be cryptic. But be ready if they jump on you.

VARTIKA

That's fine, Sir. I'm prepared

KUMAR

Good. And by the way I hear DCp south is running around in sweat pants- is it true?

VARTIKA

Uh, Sir... I've been out all night, Sir.

A beat as he chuckles.

KUMAR

Good luck.

VARTIKA

(embarrassed)

Sir.

As she hangs up, so does Bhupendra, who was on a call.

BHUPENDRA

Okay. Mr. Sirish confirmed - that both bus 9094 and it's driver, Jai Singh are missing.

Vartika takes this in, nodding to herself.

EXT. RAVI DASS CAMP - DAY

The Ambassador arrives at Ravi Dass Camp and pulls over.

Bhupendra and Rakesh get out immediately, while Vartika stays inside.

Bhupendra speaks to Shukla, who stands with a local fellow, clearly cooperating with them.

SHUKLA

*This guy confirms - the front left
tire on Jai Singh's bus has no
wheel cover. Tell him*

LOCAL GUY

Yes, Sir. Yes.

Vimla walks up to them, also at the scene. It's an unofficial gathering of plain clothes cops, and they're putting all of their eggs in this 'Jai Singh' basket.

Bhupendra looks around, no sign of any bus.

INT. VARTIKA'S AMBASSADOR VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Vartika waits anxiously from inside the car, watching.

INT. SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL ER WARD - DAY

Neeti sits in the emergency ward, outside Dipika's curtained-off area. Dipika is unconscious, recovering from surgery.

Neeti can see inside, as her Mom whispers into Dipika's ear.

KIRAN

*.. I sent it to the tailor. He'll
give it back in a few days. And
then when you wear it, we'll go
out, okay?*

Neeti receives a text, and looks at it. It's from Devinder, her new fiancée:

"Where have you gone? No answer to my calls..."

Clearly exhausted, she puts her phone away.

KIRAN (CONT'D)

*When will this be over? Everything
will be alright, soon.*

EXT. RAVI DASS CAMP - AFTERNOON

Bhupendra and his men continue to keep an eye, quietly, patiently waiting, as Vartika sits in her vehicle, examining something on her phone.

BHUPENDRA

Did they settle you arrears?

VIMLA

No, Sir. It's been a year, nothings changed.

BHUPENDRA

He's a piece of work. I'll talk to him.

The Local Guy then taps Bhupendra on the shoulder, as he speaks with Vimla, and points down the street. They all turn to see a white bus approaching. Bhupendra knocks on Vartika's window.

INT. VARTIKA'S AMBASSADOR VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Vartika looks up from her phone, and sees the bus.

A large white bus, with "Sirish travels," pull up nearby.

Bhupendra motions for all of his men, undercover in the area, to move, Vimla included. Vartika emerges from the vehicle and joins them, all heading towards the bus.

BHUPENDRA

Ma'am.. Bus...

EXT. RAVI DAS CAMP - AFTERNOON

Vartika gets out of the car and approaches the bus

VARTIKA

Go Rakesh.. Left... Get him, get him.

The DRIVER emerges, sees a couple of people moving towards him, and suddenly makes a run for it. Everyone runs towards him. He has nowhere to go, as cops are on every side of the bus.

They quickly and quietly snatch him and throw him into one of their vehicles.

Outside of a few bystanders, the neighborhood is none the wiser, not seeing what transpired so quickly.

Vartika and Bhupendra join the Driver inside the car, as the one who snatched him emerges, given them room.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

In the back, Vartika sits on one side as Bhupendra sits on another, while Rakesh sits in the shotgun seat. Cops outside casually block anyone's view inside.

BHUPENDRA
You have ID?

JAI SINGH
Yes, Sir

BHUPENDRA
Show me. Quickly.

The Driver hands it over with his left hand.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)
(reading)
"Jai Singh." Why did you run?

No answer.

Bhupendra slaps him suddenly - catching him off guard. As he reels from the attack, they notice that he's handicapped - his left arm is mangled and useless!

JAI SINGH
I saw people running after me, so I ran.

VARTIKA
Is this your bus?

JAI SINGH
Yeah. I'm just a driver. Why, what did I do?

BHUPENDRA
Come to the station we'll talk.

Vartika types into a her phone, a text to Kumar: "We have the first man."

Jai is confused as he looks back at his bus.

JAI SINGH
Sir, tell me what has happened?

BHUPENDRA
Have patience.

A text message response from Kumar: a smiley face.

VARTIKA
 (to Bhupendra and Rakesh)
 We need to move the bus to a safe
 spot, where nobody can find it.

RAKESH
 Madam how about Nehru stadium. The
 Administrator's a friend.

VARTIKA
 Perfect.

She dials a number. Jai sits quietly, caressing the cheek he
 was struck on, afraid.

VARTIKA (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
 Subhash, Is your forensics team
 still with you?

EXT. MAHIPAL PUR CRIME SCENE - DAY

Subhash stands on the side of the road, while the others seem
 to be wrapping up.

SUBHASH
 Yeah, just finishing here.

VARTIKA
 Okay. We have a bus. I'm sending it
 to Nehru stadium with Vimla. No one
 should know about it. And keep it
 away from the reporters. Go there
 with your team and make sure only
 your team gets on the bus, no one
 else

SUBHASH
 Yes, Sure Madam.

She hangs up.

EXT. RAVI DASS CAMP - DAY

She gets out of the vehicle and spots Vimla.

VARTIKA
Vimla!

Vimla scoots over to her boss.

VARTIKA (CONT'D)
*Take the bus to Nehru stadium. The
 forensics will be done there.*

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

The bus engine turns on, as Vimla takes a seat near the driver, Ashok. They drive off.

VARTIKA (O.S.)

Make sure nobody knows about this
and nobody touches it. If it get
damaged in public outrage, we're
fucked

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The bus barrels by, moving into busy traffic.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

As they drive, they keep a watch out for passerby's, people staring at them in traffic.

They stop at a red light.

Vimla looks out the window and sees a driver listening to the radio news - about the crime! The driver looks at the bus, but doesn't put 2 & 2 together. Vimla is tense, and focused.

They move on, and stop in traffic, slowly moving. A group of students walk alongside it, chatting angrily about something. Vimla starts talking, in order to alleviate the tension.

VIMLA

Well this is fun.

ASHOK

We still have five more guys out there. I don't think we're not going home tonight!

VIMLA

So be it. More importantly, what's for dinner?

ASHOK

Ravi's food stand.

VIMLA

No way, too oily.

ASHOK

I hear they're using coconut oil now.

VIMLA

No kidding.

She's impressed.

EXT. VASANT VIHAR STATION REAR - DAY

Vartika and the others reach Vasant Vihar station, but park in the cinema behind it. They emerge from the vehicle, and make their way to the fence. There's a small hole in the chain - they climb through it (with some jumping over) and enter through the back entrance of the station, avoiding the crowd of protestors and press out front.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION - CONTINUOUS

Inside the station, they walk down the corridor. Every officer that passes by knows who this is, and stare in disbelief at the disabled man they've caught! Vinod joins the walking parade, making sure he's near the prisoner. One of the constables hands Vartika a fresh uniform. She grabs it as Jai Singh is taken into a small room to be processed. The constables from the checkpoint linger as Jai Singh disappears, and they glare with shock, anger, confusion.

EXT. VASANT VIHAR STATION - CONTINUOUS

Now in her uniform for the first time, Vartika emerges from the front entrance of the station, where a stool is placed by another constable as the press and protestors shout at her. Constables keep people back, and the camera operators silence everyone as Vartika prepares to speak. It's an impromptu press briefing on the street. Chandni stands with her friends, watching, with her head covered with a shall, watching. Her friend are shocked too - it's her mom speaking!

VARTIKA

Last evening, um, there were two victims discovered, found in this area. They were brutally attacked. This is being classified as a heinous crime.

REPORTER 1

Ma'am in hindi.

VARTIKA

The female victim has been gang raped, and the male victim attacked.

REPORTER 2

What's their condition now?

Vartika then clocks Chandni standing in the crowd! She stumbles, and does a double-take. But then she can't find her anymore. Everyone blurs into each other again, with no familiar faces.

Chandni - having accidentally made eye contact with her mother, hides behind a taller man. Vartika continues...

VARTIKA

I cannot uh... I'm not allowed to..
But the investigation is underway,
we are making progress

INT. KUMAR VIJAY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kumar watches it live.

VARTIKA (O.S.)

... And hope to solve the case
soon...We are trying our best to
apprehend the culprit. I just want
to say one thing - Let the police
do their job

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

In the same building, in the mess hall, a TV plays the same
press conference, where Vartika's husband Vishal watches,
along with others.

VARTIKA (ON SCREEN)

... As soon as we have more
information we'll update you. Thank
you, Thank You

Vishal watches the TV as she disappears inside, and the press
start to yell out more questions, while protestors demand
more answers. The camera filming all of this goes lopsided,
as if it's been hit by someone.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Vartika tries to call Chandni It's unavailable.

CHANDNI

Hi this is Chandni, please leave a
message.

Vartika checks her phone, the text she just received from her
husband: *"Nicely done darling."*

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

She pops her head into Bhupendra's office, as Jai Singh sits
in a chair on the centre of the room, facing Rakesh.

Bhupendra joins Vartika, and the two of them leave the
office, heading to another, smaller office down the corridor.
She received a text from Vishal: *"Out with her friends, as
far as I know."* They enter.

INT. PHONE EXPERT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the tiny space sits the PHONE EXPERT, an officer wearing plain clothes, working on an old computer, scrolling through call logs for another case. Bhupendra hands him Jai Singh's phone.

VARTIKA

Bhupendra

BHUPENDRA

Here's Jai Singh's phone, pull his call logs immediately.

He doesn't seem too bothered by their request.

PHONE EXPERT

You'll have them tomorrow.

VARTIKA

(snaps)

We need them today. And you're not leaving until we have them

PHONE EXPERT

Why today...?

Vartika is taken back by the question.

Clearly not intimidated by this woman (think a long-standing union worker) he stares at her for a moment as he wipes the phone down with a lens cloth.

PHONE EXPERT (CONT'D)

I'll see what I can do, Madam Sir.

Annoyed, she leaves with Bhupendra, who gets the last word in...

BHUPENDRA

(quietly to Phone Expert)

Listen, if I were you, I'd do it now. Get working.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

They walk back to Bhupendra's office. Another call on Vartika's phone. She answers, it's Neeti.

VARTIKA

Yeah.

NEETI

Madam, she's still sleeping, recovering. No update. Family is doing okay, I'm just staying close.

VARTIKA

Okay good. Listen, we have someone in custody, we're going to interrogate. If things are quiet there, come here. I want you to see this.

NEETI

(a beat)

Okay Madam, I'll check.

Vartika hangs up.

Before entering the office, she looks at Bhupendra.

VARTIKA

(quietly)

Can do this cleanly?

BHUPENDRA

Meaning?

VARTIKA

Following protocol, the proper way.

BHUPENDRA

This is justice. What does 'proper' have to do with it.

VARTIKA

Let's try it my way. Let's see.

BHUPENDRA

You're the boss, Madam.

VARTIKA

Where's Akash?

BHUPENDRA

Gone home to get clothes with one of my guys. He'll be back soon.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

They all re-enter Bhupendra's office.

Rakesh and Vinod are present. They all sit, facing Jai Singh.

She looks at him. Jai wears the face of an innocent man, not at all like a hardened rapist.

JAI SINGH

What happened? I haven't done anything.

BHUPENDRA

What were you doing all day?

JAI SINGH

Working.

RAKESH

Oh Yeah? It's a school holiday, and you didn't stop at N.I.C. Where were you?

JAI SINGH

So what law did I break. I can't drive my bus around?

BHUPENDRA

(raises his voice)

Motherfucker, Now you're asking us the questions?

JAI SINGH

I don't understand any of this. I didn't do anything.

VARTIKA

You didn't do anything?

JAI SINGH

No.

VARTIKA

The agree to be identified by the victim of a crime that took place last night?

JAI SINGH

No, no way. What victim? Who is he?

VARTIKA

So you're refusing?'

JAI SINGH

First tell me what this is about?!

VARTIKA

If your'e refusing, it can be used against you... Shall we log it?

Jai sighs, not knowing what to do.

EXT. TYGRAJ FOOTBALL STADIUM PARKING LOT - DUSK

The bus enters a football stadium parking lot. Several police officers wait to receive it, along with Subhash and the forensics team, as the bus is parked.

The door opens and Vimla emerges, as Subhash and his team get on.

INT. BUS - DUSK

The forensics team look around, and see that the floor is glistening - it's been recently washed.

One of the CFSL guys turns a flood lamp on, giving them a boost in light.

They open their kits to look for clues.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The interrogation continues...

JAI SINGH

Yes, I drive bus number 9094. First I pick up school kids, and then N.I.C employees - everyday.

RAKESH

Where were you last night?

JAI SINGH

With my brother in Mehrauli. We had a small party, ate chicken and then slept.

BHUPENDRA

What's your brother's name and number?

JAI SINGH

His name's Dada but he doesn't have a phone.

BHUPENDRA

Okay fine. His address?

JAI SINGH

I don't know. We partied in the courtyard outside his home and slept there - his place is too small to accommodate us. He's a doorman in the colony.

BHUPENDRA

Who else was there?

JAI SINGH

My other brother, Amar.

RAKESH

Where were you today?

JAI SINGH

I was sleeping. It was a school holiday.

(MORE)

JAI SINGH (CONT'D)
So I went to N.I.C., then had lunch, parked on roadside and slept.

RAKESH
Where's your bus cleaner?

JAI SINGH
Cleaner.. He's gone.

Vinod is getting annoyed, watching Jai Singh struggle.

BHUPENDRA
You said your other brother Amar is a bus conductor?

JAI SINGH
Yes, he is.

BHUPENDRA
Where is he?

JAI SINGH
I don't know. He's also gone.

BHUPENDRA
You don't know where your brother is? You all had chicken last night, and now he's missing?

JAI SINGH
I really don't know.

Vinod stands up and approaches him. He shakes him, hard.

VINOD
You really don't know. Shall I refresh your memory, asshole?

VARTIKA
Vinod?

Vinod stops.

The cops look at each other, clearly unsure if they're doing the right thing. Vartika motions for Vinod to back off. Jai is trying to catch his breath, disturbed.

RAKESH
Since when has the wheel cover been missing?

JAI SINGH
(quietly, as if he's almost broken)
Since forever. I keep telling my boss to replace it.
 (MORE)

JAI SINGH (CONT'D)
*Sir, please let me go. I'm
 Innocent. Look, I'm disabled. How
 could I do it.*

Bhupendra looks at Vartika and Rakesh. They all step into the corridor to confer.

VARTIKA
 Come out.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION CORRIDOR - NIGHT

VARTIKA
 This isn't working.

RAKESH
 (uncertain)
 His story doesn't fit. I don't
 know... We have people at Ravi Dass
 camp trying to find his brother.
 Let's keep him here for a while.

BHUPENDRA
 Don't worry about that. We can keep
 him for another 20 hours.

VARTIKA
 He's handicapped for God's sake. We
 can't keep doing this to him.

BHUPENDRA
 Akash?

VARTIKA
 No, he refused to be identified, we
 just have to do this properly.

Bhupendra yells down the corridor.

BHUPENDRA
 Sudhir, come here.

Sudhir quickly pops out of a nearby office and joins them.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)
*Jai Singh has a brother somewhere
 in Mehrauli. Find him. But first go
 to Ravi Dass camp. See what you and
 learn. But quietly.*

SUDHIR
 Yes, Sir.

RAKESH
I'll go with him you.

VARTIKA
 Were the hell are the call logs?
 Are they ready or not?

Vartika and Bhupendra go back to the Phone Expert's office.

INT. PHONE EXPERT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

They enter, he's still in place, working on God-knows-what.

PHONE EXPERT
 (not looking up from his
 paper work)
You'll get them tomorrow.

Vartika stares at him - he doesn't even look up at her. She leans down into his line of sight.

VARTIKA
*You have one hour or your'e
 finished.*

BHUPENDRA
 Motherfucker, You'll be suspended.
 Get them

She leaves. Bhupendra motions for him to try his best.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Vartika answers her phone as she leaves the Phone Expert's office. It's Subhash at the stadium.

VARTIKA
 Yeah, tell me.

SUBHASH
 Madam, this bus is clean, we can't
 find anything.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Subhash sits in the bus, covered in sweat, re-bandaging his injured foot. Behind him, the entire team is taking a break, all sitting in different rows, bored.

VARTIKA
 Check properly. There has to be
 something.

SUBHASH
 Even if there was, they've cleaned
 it well.

VARTIKA

You're not looking hard enough! I'm sure he's the one. If you can't do your job, I'll come myself and do it. For fucking sake, rip that bus apart, and find it!

SUBHASH

Right Ma'am.

She hangs up.

Subhash looks at his team, clearly uninterested in proceeding.

CFSL GUY

So can we go now, Sir?

SUBHASH

Just wait.

He finishes bandaging his foot, stands, and slowly walks down the aisle.

SUBHASH (CONT'D)

(to nobody in particular)

The guy said he was sitting in the 3rd or 4th row, meaning there.

He stops around the 3rd row.

SUBHASH (CONT'D)

The girl was then brought to the back. That means, here. Maybe here. Check those two rows carefully.

He gets on his hands and knees, examining. He then sees something that could be a rust mark, or a faint drop of blood.

He looks around, and gets an idea.

SUBHASH (CONT'D)

(calling one of the guys)

Gaurav.

GAURAV

Yes, Sir?

GAURAV, one of the CFSL Guys, comes over.

SUBHASH

Can you remove the floorboards?

GAURAV

Yes, Sir. But we don't have the right tools.

SUBHASH

You must have a screwdriver?

GAURAV

We're a forensics team, not mechanics.

Subhash stands up.

EXT. TYGRAJ FOOTBALL STADIUM PARKING LOT - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: the trunk of a car. Subhash opens it, grabs his tool box, and closes it, limping back to the bus (he's parked near it).

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Subhash drops back to his knees, and using whatever tools he can, starts to remove the aluminum lining of the floor himself as the other guys watch.

SUBHASH

(struggling)

I have to do everything myself. If the DCP shows up here, it'll be our blood that spills.

INT. VASANT VIHAR STATION CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Back at the station, Bhupendra and Vartika sip chai, still in the corridor, taking a break.

VARTIKA

Let's go inside.

BHUPENDRA

Ma'am, if this is the wrong guy, the right one is probably long gone by now.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They go back into the interrogation room, where Jai Singh sips a glass of water. They sit. Everyone is quiet, staring at Jai.

BHUPENDRA

Look we know you're lying, tell us the truth?

JAI SINGH

I keep telling you, you got the wrong tip. Speak to my brother, he'll vouch for me.

BHUPENDRA

But you said he doesn't have a phone.

JAI SINGH

Yes, but you can take me to him. Everything will be cleared up.

The cops look at each other, unsure of what to do.

Neeti enters the room at this point, having come from the hospital, as an observer. She looks around the room, and then at Jai Singh.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Subhash continues to struggle to remove the aluminum lining of the floor. These are not the right tools, but he doesn't care. The others just sit around, watching him sweat profusely.

He finally manages to remove one piece.

To his surprise, there's blood underneath, everywhere!

He laughs, so happy to see it.

SUBHASH

I told you motherfuckers.

The others move in closer to examine it. He screams and stands, elated.

He calls Vartika.

VARTIKA (O.S.)

Tell me.

INT. BHUPENDRA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Vartika answers, still sitting in front of Jai.

SUBHASH (O.S.)

We found it, Madam. Blood everywhere. It's him.

VARTIKA

(stone-faced)

Good.

She hangs up, staring at Jai Singh, who stares right back at her, perhaps even knowing that she has him now.

The Phone Expert pops his head in, papers in his hands.

PHONE EXPERT
Call logs, Madam Sir.

BHUPENDRA
Give it to me.

Bhupendra takes them and scans through them before nodding and looking at Vartika.

Bhupendra smiles as he reads the logs in front of Jai.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)
This is something! Last night at 9:16 pm you received a call for 13 seconds, here at Hauz Khas. Then at 10:04 and 10:06pm you received two calls for 51 seconds and 56 seconds, here at Vasant Gaon. (Points to the map on the wall.) ... That means, last night, your phone was active on the route of the bus.

Jai Singh stares back at him, saying nothing.

BHUPENDRA (CONT'D)
You can run away from the system. You can run away from the police. But you can't run away from rotten luck...

VARTIKA
And you're lying that you were with your brother in Mehrauli all night. Your phone logs prove this. And we found blood on your bus.

JAI SINGH
No I was with my...

Vartika loses her composure. She steps closer to him and slaps him, breaking her own orders.

The others just watch.

END OF EPISODE 102