

New Delhi: Four years after 14-year-old Aarushi Talwar was murdered along with her domestic help Hemraj, the country still wants to know, who killed Aarushi?

School-going teenaged Aarushi was murdered on the intervening night of May 15-16, 2008, at her Noida residence and the body of domestic help, Hemraj, was found on their terrace the following day. The CBI has arrested her mother Nupur as a prime suspect.

Here are 10 questions the CBI must answer on the biggest unsolved murder mystery in the crime history of India.

1. Why is the CBI ignoring evidence from its own probe such as the forensic report confirming that Hemraj's blood was on a pillow cover seized from another domestic help Krishna's room? Why is it not revealing any details of its investigation on three other suspects?
2. The agency claims Aarushi's father Dr Rajesh killed the duo under sudden provocation. But people wonder why didn't his clothes from that evening have either of the victims' blood on them? The CBI claims three days prior to the murder, Krishna was angry with Rajesh after he scolded him for making an incorrect dental cast. Talwar's driver Umesh Sharma had also claimed to have seen Rajesh in the same clothes on the morning of May 16 as on the evening of 15.
3. Doubts have also been raised on the CBI's maiden investigation team. Why does the CBI now not mention the first team's investigations — such as its sound reconstruction test at the Talwar's house in June 2008 that concluded that sound from Aarushi's room couldn't be heard in her parents' room; or its UV Light Testing on June 1, 2008, that apparently didn't pick up any bloodstains to indicate that Hemraj was killed anywhere except the terrace?
4. If Aarushi's parents tampered with the crime scene, why would they have left the biggest clue — the Ballantine's whiskey bottle with many fingerprints and both victims' bloodstains for the police to find the next morning? If they actually killed their daughter, why did they protest the CBI's move to close the case last year and insist that investigations continue?
5. Why is the CBI refusing to put all speculation to rest and get touch DNA testing on the evidence it has gathered, such as the whiskey bottle with still-unidentified fingerprints? Touch DNA is a technique that's been used in criminal cases worldwide since it can analyse evidence even after years of contamination.
6. The Talwar's have been asking for advanced forensics like touch DNA. Why is the CBI refusing to do that?
7. Why do experts at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, completely contradict the CBI's latest theories about the murder weapon? The authorities first posited that the murder weapon was a khukri (a curved Nepali knife), then they shifted to a scalpel, then to a golf club (or perhaps a combination of golf club and scalpel). Now, the CBI found Krishna's khukri to be clean of any human blood, and its only evidence for the golf club theory is that two of Rajesh's clubs in his golf set were cleaner than the others — disregarding

these two inconclusive accounts leaves you with the experts' opinion presented in a report in The Indian Express on 7 June 2008, which said that AIIMS experts concluded that Aarushi was murdered with a sharp-edged knife, given the deep cut on her throat (with probably a wooden handle to administer the blunt injuries) — rather than a surgical instrument like a scalpel, which “is so small it can only cut the skin layer by layer”.

8. Does the CBI believe or not believe in the results of the multiple lie detector, brain-mapping and narco-analysis tests the suspects have undergone? For example, why does the CBI still consider it suspicious that Nupur Talwar couldn't explain where the key to Aarushi's self-locking door was on 16 May morning (till it was discovered later), even though Nupur has successfully answered this question during the several lie detector, brain-mapping and narco-analysis tests she's passed, stating that she probably made the crucial mistake of leaving the key in the door after visiting her child on 15th night.

9. Why do the post-mortem doctor Sunil Dohre and his assistants' statements to the CBI rubbish their own original report? How credible is it that they somehow remembered radical new facts for the CBI about Aarushi's body that are not present in their original postmortem report — drastic facts such as her hymen was “ruptured”, had “an old tear”, “the vaginal orifice... was unduly large”, “mouth of cervix was visible”, her private parts were extraordinarily dilated and cleaned after the murder. These new facts are not only radical but contradict the original report, since extraordinary dilation and cleaning is inconsistent with the post-mortem report's claim about presence of whitish discharge under the External Examination header of Vagina.

10. How are we being 'sensitive' to the underclass by unquestioningly believing the police and CBI's insinuations that Hemraj-the-grandfather was in a sexual relationship with a child, while discounting the testimonies of the maid and driver Umesh Sharma?

What happened on the night Aarushi was killed?

The Aarushi double murder case still remains a riddle that has perplexed the CBI and the nation alike. The probe into the murder of teenaged Aarushi and Hemraj was conducted by two different teams of the CBI, each filing contradictory reports.

The first CBI investigation was conducted by a team led by joint director Arun Kumar between June 2008 and April 2009. Arun handed over the investigation to a team led by Deputy Director Nilabh Kishore in May 2009.

While Arun Kumar's team gave a clean chit to Aarushi's parents and put the blame squarely on the three servants, the second team pointed a finger at Aarushi's father, Rajesh Talwar, absolving the servants.

What the Arun Kumar's report said

The three domestic helps -- Krishna, Raj Kumar and Vijay Mandal -- went to Aarushi's room in an inebriated state, gagged her and hit her on the head with a blunt object.

According to Arun Kumar, "They also tried to abuse her". He added, "This led to an altercation between them. Fearing that the noise would wake the Talwars, they went to the terrace where Raj Kumar and Krishna had a scuffle with Hemraj and killed him."

Then Krishna and Raj Kumar came back to Aarushi's room and slit her throat.

The most obvious question that has repeatedly been asked is -- how could the Talwars, who were sleeping in the next room, miss all the commotion?

Arun Kumar's team conducted a drill to prove that due to the loud air-conditioner in their room, it is likely that they could have missed all the noise.

The team put the servants through narco-analysis tests, but let the Talwars off after a lie detector test.

What could have happened that night: Nilabh Kishore's report

Kishore's report is a completely different version. His report says that the three servants were not present at the Talwar home when the murders took place. Only the Talwars were in the house.

This investigation claims that after Aarushi was killed, her private parts were cleaned; so were the bloodstains and drag-marks on the staircase that lead to terrace.

On the night of the murder, the Internet router in the apartment remained active with small gaps- the last activity was at 3.43 a.m. when it was finally switched off, nearly three hours after the approximate time of the murder. Aarushi, who would usually use her mobile phone till as late as 1 a.m., switched it off at 9.10pm. that night. The mobile phone went missing and was recovered 14 months after the murders in September 2009, but its memory had been wiped clean.

Unlike Arun Kumar's team, Kishore did a narco-analysis on the Talwars. In its closure report, the CBI says that "there is no evidence against the servants except the narco test which was unreliable". In the same report they say that scientific tests on Talwars "have not conclusively indicated their involvement in the crime".

The servants were given a clean chit by Kishore's team because they were apparently not in the house. Where were they? According to Kishore's report, Raj Kumar, the domestic help of the Durrani (family friends of the Talwars), was at the railway station from 11.30 p.m. to receive Durrani's wife, something that the Durrani deny having told the CBI.

Krishna was detained from his residence by the Uttar Pradesh Police while he was sleeping. The report said there were "eyewitnesses" (who happen to be Krishna's family members) that he was all alone at his home on the night of the murders.

30 months of investigation, but no answers:

The two rival reports have painted an extremely hazy picture. And the conclusion of the final report is a testimony to that: "There is absence of a clear motive and incomplete understanding of the sequence of events and non-recovery of one weapon of offence and their link to either the servants or the parents".

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