

## ***Trial Problem:***

In late 2014, over a period of approximately two years, nine teenage girls from Thane section of Maharashtra disappeared. In the beginning, investigators believed that the girls had been sold into prostitution by families unable to afford wedding dowries, but the consistent denials by their kin forced them to seek another explanation.

Late in December, a college girl named Jui claimed that an auto rickshaw driver had attempted to abduct her in front of a wine shop. Working undercover in the local wine shop back-rooms, detectives learned of a rumour that an auto driver called Shiva was behind the crimes, disposing of the bodies by cremating them and pouring the remains into the nearby creek.

The following morning, the police picked up the suspect. During a period of two years from 2012 to 2014, Shiva had allegedly abducted and murdered 9 people in Thane, Maharashtra.

Shiva was tried for six murders, committed over a period of two years in 2012-2014. He was tried for the murders of Kavita, Sheela, Sandesh, Madhav, Ganesh and Raju. The bodies of the victims were either burnt or buried inside residential houses.

During his arrest, Shiva blamed films for "making a devil of him", and during interrogation he revealed a more sinister force. According to the statement which he narrated to the Investigation Officer, he stated that he had kidnapped the girls for powerful state politicians, subsequently disposing their bodies after his patrons had raped them. The police presented him the next day in the Magistrate's Court and recorded his statement in the presence of the Honorable Magistrate.

Shiva's trial was conducted in the Thane Sessions Court.



**Adv. B.P. Apte Memorial Inter-Collegiate Mock Trial & Judgment Writing Competition 2014.**