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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: June 2, 2004

Re: **ARVIND GOPAL SENTENCING**

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Arvind Gopal, age 38, of Modesto, was sentenced to life plus five years in prison today after a jury found him guilty of the deliberate, premeditated attempted Murder of Sailesh Narayan and the infliction of great bodily injury with the use of a knife in October, 2003. Gopal was also found guilty of Aggravated Mayhem with the use of a knife, assault with a deadly weapon and the infliction of great bodily injury with the use of a knife, and criminal threats and the infliction of great bodily injury with the use of a knife.

This case arose out of events which occurred on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 inside a garage in an unincorporated area of Stanislaus County. Gopal slashed Narayan twice in the face with a 10 - 12 inch long knife, causing extensive injuries. At the time of the attack, the victim was unarmed. The defendant then chased the victim for 120 feet, making threatening gestures with the knife and threatening four or five times to kill him. Narayan was hospitalized and underwent extensive surgery for his injuries, some of which are permanent and irreversible.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner prosecuted the jury trial and appeared at the sentencing hearing for the People. This sentencing had been delayed for six months in order to give the defendant time to prepare a motion for a new trial. That motion was heard and denied today by the Honorable Wray Ladine.

At the sentencing hearing, Narayan addressed the court and requested the maximum possible punishment be imposed and that parole be denied when the defendant becomes eligible in approximately twelve years. He told the court that he still has a five inch scar extending from his nose to earlobe that is still visible one year after the incident.

The defendant displayed no remorse when testifying during trial, or when interviewed by the Probation department after his conviction. Judge Wray Ladine imposed a life term of imprisonment, to be served after five years in prison for the crimes of criminal threats, and infliction of great bodily injury with the personal use of a knife. Judge Ladine told Gopal that this conduct would not be tolerated in a civilized society and stated further that Gopal was a threat to the community. Gopal has a prior conviction for assault with a deadly weapon where he allegedly tried to slash his girlfriend's son with a knife.

Gopal was remanded to the custody of the department of corrections for delivery to state prison.