

Palande evasive, expert says narco-test takes skill

Vijay V Singh | TNN

Mumbai: Murder accused Vijay Palande is believed to have given vague replies during the narco test he underwent on Thursday. A source said that primary indications from Palande's replies were that he denied involvement in either Karankumar Kakkar's or Delhi businessman Arunkumar Tikku's murders. While Palande's associate Dhananjay Shinde confirmed his role in killing Kakkar and Tikku, both he and Palande denied any knowledge of a third victim whose identity is unknown, said the source.

However, a forensic expert said it is difficult for a person to lie in narco-analysis and it is for experts present during the test to ask specific questions and sift through the various replies. Former director of Kalina Forensic Science Laboratory and now chairperson of Helik Advisory, Rukmani Krishnamurthy, said, "A subject can't lie in a narco-analysis, but can give multiple irrelevant and vague answers to a question. The expert has to collect the relevant points from the reply and connect them to get a lead."

Senior crime branch officers refused comment on the test till they received the official report from the forensic laboratory. An officer said earlier attempts to get clues about the third victim through brain mapping and lie detector tests on Palande and Shinde were in vain. Results of scientific tests, while not admissible as evidence in court, help provide leads to the investigation. Police have already filed chargesheets against Palande and Shinde in the Kakkar and Tikku murders based on strong evidence of their involvement.

The source that during the test, Palande provided a positive reply, admitting to killing union leader Anup Das and his father Swaraj Ranjan Das in 1998. He had been already convicted in the Das murder case but jumped parole in it. He was on bail in another case when he plotted the Kakkar and Tikku murders.

SLIPPERY SUSPECTS?

What is Narco-analysis

A chemical, phenobarbitone, is injected into the suspect, which neutralizes the suspect's imagination and induces a sort of trance. In this particular state, the ability of a person to hold back information is very low. However, a person often gives multiple answers. Experts usually pose the same question differently before they can get the relevant reply



Police still don't have clues about the identity of the other person killed in Karankumar Kakkar's flat



TESTS CONDUCTED ON THE ACCUSED

Aug 29 Lie-detector
Aug 30 Brain-mapping
Sept 6 Narco-analysis

Results
Inconclusive



Vijay Palande

NARCO-ANALYSIS

Admitted | Palande said he killed Anup Das and his father Swaraj Ranjan Das in 1998
Inconclusive | His replies about the murders of Arunkumar Tikku, Karankumar Kakkar and the third unknown victim were inconclusive

CASES

1998 | Murders of Air India employee Anup Das and his father Swaraj Ranjan Das
Motive | To grab their Rs 5cr flat at Mittal Park, Juhu
Status | Convicted only in the Swaraj Ranjan murder, Palande challenged it in the HC. Jumped parole in 2003

2006 | Fake passport
Status | Palande got bail in 2008 on the grounds that he had already spent nine years in jail, as police failed to inform court that he had jumped parole earlier

March 5, 2012 | Murdered aspiring producer Karankumar Kakkar
Motive | Allegedly to steal his BMW car, valuables and cash
Status | Arrested

April 7, 2012 | Delhi-based businessman Arunkumar Tikku murdered by Palande's associates, on his orders
Motive | Usurp Tikku's Oshiwara flat after killing Tikku's son Anuj later
Status | Arrested

OTHER CASES

Escape from custody | Andheri police booked him for escaping from custody of crime branch unit-8 after his arrest in Tikku's murder

Forgery | Amboli police booked him for forgery for producing fake documents for a leave and licence agreement at Oberoi Springs

Jagdish Shejwal alias Dhananjay Shinde

NARCO-ANALYSIS

Admitted | He admitted to killing Karankumar Kakkar and Arunkumar Tikku
Denied | He denied any knowledge about the third victim, who was reportedly killed at Kakkar's flat

CASES

1999 | Killed a person in Borivli over a minor dispute
Status | Shinde was sentenced to life and later released on parole. He later jumped parole

March 5, 2012 | Murdered Karankumar Kakkar
Status | Arrested

April 7, 2012 | Murdered Arunkumar Tikku at Palande's behest
Status | Arrested

However, police said they are confident of Palande's involvement in the third murder case, as it was Palande who led them to the spot at Kumbharli Ghat from where they recovered the skull. The blood-

stains found in Kakkar's bathroom matched with those on the skull which indicated that the victim was killed in Kakkar's bathroom before him. Palande and Shinde killed Kakkar in his flat, they chopped his

body into pieces and dumped it at the ghat. Shinde helped the police recover Kakkar's torso; however, his skull is yet to be recovered. Palande had insisted that the recovered skull belonged to Kakkar.