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Police to use new forensic tests to gather evidence

MUMBAI: Several new forensic techniques are being used in the Shakti Mill gangrape case to extract as much evidence against the accused as possible.

While crime scene foraging — a technique normally reserved for terror cases — was carried out by a team of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), the agency that worked on the Delhi gangrape case as well, at the Shakti Mill compound on Tuesday; the police revealed they are using the Layered Voice Analysis (LVA) test on the five accused.

Himanshu Roy, joint commissioner of police, crime, said, "The LVA technique would be used for the first time. Though it is not admissible as evidence in a court, it is a potent investigation tool."

An officer said they would record the voice of the accused while asking them general questions such as their name, which will then be followed by questions related to the crime

"The deviation in the two tones will give us an entry point into the questioning process," he said.

Explaining how the technique works, Dr R K r i s h n a m u r t h y, former Maharashtra FSL director and present chairman Helik advisory, said, "One can detect deception by identifying various stress, emotional status in a recorded conversation. This technique can detect the intention behind the lie and does not require the person's consent."

Two psychologists from Ahmedabad FSL, the only government laboratory to have this facility, have reached Mumbai to employ this technique.

Meanwhile, eight officials of Delhi-based CFSL collected samples from the crime scene for around two hours on Tuesday. The police, however, refused to divulge what samples were collected.

Dr Rajinder Singh, director CFSL, said, "We will send the report depending upon how urgently it is needed."

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