

ROLE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Criminals are getting smarter day by day, and it is necessary for the investigating teams to map the gap of smartness. The evidence is not left to be found but need to be founded by the microscopic view. To aid the investigation forensic teams with the complete knowledge of forensic sciences. There are certain notable developments of forensic sciences which can be traced from the ancient times to the modern times. Developing the forensic science will not do the task of catching the convict but the work progress of the forensic teams need to be applied in a judicial and lawful manner. The forensic team shall not overtake courts to decide the culpability it should be left on the court to decide it. Forensic teams shall learn from the various case laws and precedents and shall aid the court to pronounce the justice. Forensic teams are the legal body which shall act according to the law, they should break the mystery but the “Rule of Law” shall be preserved. It is the duty of Judiciary to make notable remarks which shall guide the forensic teams to work with the principles of law.

Introduction

In the Common Law countries like India, the accused of crime is not compelled to make any statement to court, he is not under any burden to answer or to provide any explanation to any question asked to him, it is the responsibility of the prosecution to present the solid linkage which is called evidence to prove the relationship of the accused with the crime¹. Therefore burden is upon prosecution to prove the occurrence of the crime otherwise court may rule “Benefit of the doubt”. The final goal of the process of the litigation in front of the honorable

¹ Syed Shamsul Huda, The Principles of the Law of Crimes (Tagore Law Lectures- 1902) pg.6 (1st Edition Reprinted, 2019 K.I. Vibhute, 2019)

judges under the roof of highly reputable constitution is to investigate the “truth” and once “truth” is discovered the role of judiciary is to hold the accused as “guilty” or “not guilty”².

In the heinous crime against the humanity and female solidarity which had happened on 16th December 2012, where a female medical student was brutally raped by the monsters who were dressed in the skin of humans in a moving bus. Sadly “Nirbhaya” succumbed to her injuries due to various barbarous and merciless attacks on her pure soul. The court was hankering for the evidences, which prosecution presented among which was an evidence of presence of bite marks on the “Nirbhaya’s body”. The forensic team worked on the Odontology, which is one of the branches of the forensic sciences which helped the investigating agency to match the bite marks with the jaw setup of the offenders³. Therefore forensic evidence presented in court justified that accused had inhumanly bite the brave soul.

On October 2018 in Texas, United States of America a shocking Judgment comes up by the apex court of Texas, “Texas Court of Criminal Appeal” stating to re-open the file of a death sentence given in 2009 by the district court to the accused for doing sexual assault and killing of his neighbor. The case was revisited because the Forensic Laboratory named Austin Lab had botched the evidence and may have resulted in presenting the fake evidence in front of court which lead to the death sentence of an accused⁴. If the lab proves guilty it would be another example of judicial killing due to tampered forensic evidences presented by the police lab. This incident is highlighted because it is being reported by the news agency and court summons the incident but what about countries where such incidents doesn’t get any lime light or rather they are ignored, India could be one of them.

The Important topic for discussion therefore comes before us whether the role of the forensic science in decoding the crimes in India is sufficient or not? Is the forensic science experts are playing as the aid to the crime scene or it is just a crowd created to justify “Don’t Cross Crime Scene”? Also a most importantly tracing and matching the DNA and Fingerprints of the Accused is a silent act of forcing him to speak against himself in the court? These questions require an extensive research to answer these questions along with the other

² Terrence F. Kiely, *Evidence: Science and the Criminal Law* Pg. 15 (2001)

³ *Mukesh v. State(NCT of Delhi)* 2017 6 SCC 1 pg. 138-140 (Para 237- 246)

⁴ Chuck Lindell, *Court: Examine If Austin Crime Lab Botched Death Penalty Evidence*, Statesman (4/8/2020, 8:37 PM), <https://www.statesman.com/news/20171018/court-examine-if-austin-crime-lab-botched-death-penalty-evidence>

compelling questions to under the role of forensic science in the criminal Investigation in accordance with the Indian Legislations and precedents.

Forensic Science consist of numerous process from mapping the DNA to analyzing the blood pattern, which aids investigating agencies to know when the crime was committed and what was the method use to commit it. Forensic science helps to gather evidence as well as support other evidence presented in the courts⁵. Forensic science is not only about the gathering evidence it includes the application of various scientific methodology in the criminal litigation. Various disciplines of the science like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Sciences, and Engineering are used to trace down the evidence⁶.

“Father of Toxicology”, Mathieu Joseph Bonaventure Orfila, was the first important exponent of the forensic medical sciences. The important crucial work of his like “asphyxiation”, “decomposition of the body”, and “exhumation” are still renowned field of the study under forensic sciences. Also he was the first personality to use the microscope to analyze the blood and semen stains⁷.

Eyewitnesses play important role in the identification of criminal or a deliberate description of a crime scene but there are certain loop holes of the criminal justice system which sometime lead to the hostility of the eyewitness as they may turn “hostile” therefore in late 1800s and in early 1900s Alphonse Bertillon come up with the idea of physical measurements, photography and record keeping of the accused which can be used by the investigating agency for matching or comparing with the physical evidence present at the crime scene. This approach by the Alphonse Bertillon was the founding step for the “Fingerprints tracing” which lead to major breakthroughs in the crime scene⁸.

Every Human Body created by the nature wears the cover of Human Skin, Nature also believes in the personalization model of manufacturing the goods, made every human skin unique not in the sense of “Race” but in the sense of Texture which is commonly known as

⁵ The Baez Law Firm, Understanding how forensic science is used in the criminal investigation, The Baez Law Firm (3/8/2020, 6:02 PM), <https://www.baezlawfirm.com/understanding-how-forensic-science-is-used-in-a-criminal-investigation/>

⁶ Forensic Science Plays a Pivotal Role in the Legal System, Incognito Forensic Foundation (3/8/2020, 6:14 PM), <https://ifflab.org/the-importance-of-forensic-science-in-criminal-investigations-and-justice/>

⁷ Biographies, National Library of Medicines of National Institute of Health Maryland United States of America (3/8/2020, 6:32 PM), <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/visibleproofs/galleries/biographies/orfila.html>

⁸ Supra, (3/8/2020,6:42), <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/visibleproofs/galleries/biographies/bertillon.html>

“Finger Prints”. Now if an offender had committed an offence, unless otherwise covered with other cloth, there would be impressions of the skin, usually fingerprints, though they are minute but can be traced with the forensic technology. When these finger impressions are matched with the accused, he/she gets the new terminology “Criminal”. This technique was initially discovered by the Francis Galton in 1892⁹. This technique holds the notable position in the forensic sciences.

During the dog- fights and gun battles between the state agencies and the offenders anyone hardly remembers “who was killed by whose bullet?” Bullet normally seems to be alike but for the ballistics expert every bullet carries different meaning. The wound of the gun shot can explain the exact scenario when the bullet had hit the body that too in very minute details. This was made possible when Major Calvin H. Goddard used microscope for studying the minute details of every bullet he examined the notable changes which were used to investigate major events by the agencies¹⁰.

In 1983 a murdered was committed in the Village of Narborough, Leicestershire in England and another murder was also committed in the same village in the year 1986. The victims were two teenagers who were raped and murdered. The Investigating agency hardly find any clue to caught hold of the offender, to aid them a technique of DNA processing was used which was devised in the era between 1980-1984 by the Dr. Jeffreys. Around 5000 Blood sample were voluntary captured into the test tubes and the Murderer was caught by the Police with the help of DNA Processing¹¹. DNA Processing is a notable Discipline of the Forensic Science which is used to track down the offender just by analyzing one drop of Blood present at the crime scene. However with the passage of time the “Monsters” are getting smart, they try to wipe out the crime scene with a clean cloth. So if the blood particles are not present on the crime scene then Forensic Science team try to capture the fingerprints, Indian Scientists Dr. V.K. Kashyap and Dr. Lalji Singh are known as the “Father of Indian DNA Fingerprinting”, they devised the methodological process to trace down the DNA of the

⁹Francis Galton and Fingerprints, (4/8/2020, 8:52), <http://galton.org/fingerprinter.html>

¹⁰Goddard, Calvin Hooker, Encyclopedia.com (4/8/2020, 9:04), <https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/goddard-calvin-hooker>

¹¹Evans, Collins, The casebook of forensic detection: How science solved world's 100 most baffling crimes pg. 86-89, (2nd Edition, 2007)

Accused just by tracing the Finger Prints¹². DNA can be traced even with the presence of a hair of the accused¹³.

Fixating on the history of the Indian Forensic Sciences and its contribution in Criminal Investigation can be etched to our ancestral History, the usage of fingerprints or finger impressions or thumb impressions were prevalent since the era of Chanakya, which can be detected in the 2300 years old book, “Arthashastra”, book by Chanakya¹⁴.

In India amid Nineteenth Century, the cases of poisoning were rampant and was posing as an obstacle in the criminal justice. To curb the problem in 1849 the first chemical analyzing lab was set up in Madras, which use scrutinize the toxic present in the body or the food or any object, also it use to scan the blood stains along with semen stains present in the crime scene¹⁵.

Precedently to 1892 Police investigating agency use to mesmerize the facial recognition of the offenders to keep a stringent check on the habitual offenders, but after the Bertillon’s Anthropometric system discovery Anthropometric lab was established in Calcutta in 1892¹⁶.

Due to rebellion activities in British Empire, Government set up the institute to detect the cause of explosion which also used to investigate whether the cause behind explosion was accidental or it was a controlled blast with certain intention the establishment was done in Nagpur in the year 1898¹⁷.

Also usage of Firearms during British Regime, become a compelling reason to establish the ballistics labs in India, to analyze the wounds and shots by the bullets British India Government established the small Ballistics lab in every police division of all most all presidency cities like Calcutta¹⁸.

¹²Special Correspondent, Lalji Singh, ‘Father of DNA Fingerprinting in India’ Passes Away, The Hindu (6/8/2020, 9:43 PM), <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/lalji-singh-father-of-dna-fingerprinting-in-india-passes-away/article21389954.ece>

¹³Hair, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, (6/8/2020, 9:46 PM), <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/forensic-science/Pages/trace-hair.aspx>

¹⁴Tewari R K, Ravikumar K V, History and development of forensic science in India, J Postgrad Med [serial online] 2000 (6/8/2020, 10:11 PM), <http://www.jpgmonline.com/text.asp?2000/46/4/303/250>

¹⁵*Id.*

¹⁶Supra at 15

¹⁷*Id.*

¹⁸*Id.*

The Tandoor Case: Creating Discrepancy between Forensic Teams

Sushil Sharma, was the president of the “Delhi Youth Congress” and Ms. NainaSahni who was then General Sectary of the “Delhi Youth Congress”, both of them use to work together in their party office which later developed into the Love relationship between them, NainaSahni use to visit the Flat of Sushil Sharma and in many instances she had stayed at night at his place. The love between them took a step further and they got secretly married. NainaSahni started living together after their marriage. Shushil Sharma Owned a Barbeque Restaurant in the notable area of the Delhi¹⁹.

On a fine night of year 1995, a lady from the Restaurant complex came out shouting “AagLagihaiAaglagihai”, the patrolling police officer stopped by her alarm and went from backdoor of the barbeque restaurant to inspect the cause of flames and fumes coming out from the restaurant. On his investigation he congress party worker was burning something in the “Tandoor” and he answered that he is burning the old party banners and poster. Certain more patrolling police officer came from front door of the restaurant and on smelling the poor and pungent smell coming from “Tandoor” Extinguished the fire from the tandoor and looked into the “Tandoor” to investigate the burning matter. What they see in the next second was a shocking, tandoor consists of the Burning human remains and the on close and careful look it was Female’s human remains which were burning and other parts which were chopped in the pieces, were packed in the black polyethene bag²⁰.

Accused(s) were arrested and investigation began on. Prosecution charged Sushil Sharma under various section of Indian Penal Code, such as 302, 120 B, and 201²¹.

The Story flows as follow, Sushil Sharma came to know about the extra marital affairs of his wife NainaSahni with the third person, at many instances neighbors also reported that there used to be a quarrel between them as NainaSahni was trying to make their wedding public. Some Incidents which are reported also cite that Sushil Sharma use to physically beat his wife. There incidents brought instability to their relationship. Which later constituted as the

¹⁹Sushil Sharma v. State (N.C.T of Delhi),2014 4 SCC 317 page 326 (Para 3-4)

²⁰*Id.*Page 327 (Para 5-7)

²¹*Id.*Page 326 (Para 2)

motive for Sushil Sharma to commit the murder of his wife Naina Sahni. On one of the following day Sushil Sharma Allegedly shoot his wife with his revolver which resulted into her death, to dispose of the body as to get rid-off of the evidence Sushil Sharma chopped her body into fine pieces and packed them into black plastic bag and take the body parts to his Restaurant where he tries to burn the body by disposing them into “Tandoor”, which he deputed one of his congress party work for the same, who was burning her remains when Police raided²². This was an act Horrific Barbequing!

The above mentioned anecdote is not so fluid to be solved easily as there arises discrepancies between forensic and medical teams. One group of medical examiner who done the preliminary examination believed that there was no sign of the gun shot and the cause of death was hemorrhage but other group with initial investigation believed that cause of death was due to gun shot as gun injuries was said to be visible. Adding to further controversy forensic team captured a revolver far away from the crime scene in Bangalore and examined the ballistics report which came to be positive indicating the shot fired from the bullet to injure the deceased was fired from same recovered revolver. Experiencing the chaos created due to discrepancy Delhi Police Chief and Lt. Governor of Delhi orders to constitute a new board of doctors for investigating the situation and second postmortem was agreed upon. After Second postmortem was conducted, it was revealed that death was due to gunshot injuries present on skull²³. What was the reasons for this confusion? The Initial group of Doctors made an excuse that due unavailability of the X ray machine in the mortuary the x ray was not conducted and Autopsy stand “Accomplished” on the ground of examination made on “Naked Eyes”. What if there was no concept was engaging forensic team or no science of Ballistics? Simply there would be no recovery of the murder weapon (Revolver), however if somehow Revolver was recovered without the expert of Ballistics no one could conclude that the shot was fired from the revolver, this contention arise a new question which lead to construction of “boards of doctors”, “If shot was fired where it had gone?” or “it was a ghost bullet as in the case of John F. Kennedy?”. So I believe Investigation team shall “Thanks” Forensic teams.

²²Supra. at 19 Page 342- 343 (Para 30-34)

²³Id. Page 326 (Para 2)

“Nithari” Case: Analyzing DNA of the Monstrous Meal

The following case is termed as “Horrendous”, “Ghastly”, “Gruesome” and “Horrifying”. In the 2005 year onwards certain children and women went missing from the sector 31 of the Noida, district GautamBudh Nagar, especially near the Nithari Village of the Noida. Police Investigation begin “After Progressively Media Coverage”, However Police Party does not come under any distress by undergoing the investigation as the accused easily made confession to the investigating officer leading to the crime scene. Confession includes murder of the multiple women and children murders, the body used to chopped pieces which was later used by the SurendraKoli (Accused, Offender) to cook the chopped body meat for having his “Monstrous Meal”. Two of the female victims were raped and killed by the accused and was buried in the backyard of the building. The remains were recovered by the Police Party from the “D-5 Sector 31 Noida”, after the convict has led police to the crime scene, where police recovered the body parts chopped in pieces and being kept as an “Showcase” Skull, Bones, Buried Remains, clothes of the victim²⁴. When the case was presented before the bench comprising Honorable Justice MarkandeyKatju and Honorable Justice GyanSudha Mishra, Bench opined notable and crucial remark regarding DNA fingerprinting and Tracing. Bench cited the words of James D. Watson, who cautioned the investigating agency about the proper tracing and careful handling of the DNA samples taken from the crime scene, the DNA simple not only look similar in the test tube but even after marking their trace of origin can put forensic team and medical units in the perplexing state. Hereinafter the case of O.J. Simpson’s case where Forensic Team and Police team was confused in handling the DNA evidence which was later use to argue by the defense council holding liable investigating and forensic team for contaminating the evidence. The bench emphasized on the conclusion made in the book by the M. Krawczak and J. Schmidtke: DNA Fingerprinting, The identifications made by tracing the DNA is based on the Probabilities, there could be billions-trillions time the identification made is just a false probability “it is not necessary that if DNA is matching, then the accused is guilty”. The Judges shall take note of this while deciding the Life or Death of a person. However in the said case of “NithariHatyaKand”, Honorable Lordship and Honorable Ladyship categorized this case in the category of “Rarest of the rare” and confirmed the death sentence of Surendrakoli citing

²⁴Moninder Singh Pandher, *SurendraKoli v. State of U.P.* 2009 SCC Online All 1117

him as a “Serial Killer who had made his house a slaughter house where innocent children use to visit regularly”²⁵.

Jessica Lal Murder Case: Expertise Inadmissible

Another Murder case by the “V.I.P Accused”. In the year of 1999, in the territorial Jurisdiction of New Delhi on the midnight of 29th April, 1999 an unprecedented act happened. A party was going on in the Open area of a Restaurant, where the deceased, Jessica Lal was working as a part time bar tender. Accused with his friends came to the party in order to enjoy the liquor and high bass music. As the status of midnight was achieved by the “time”, the party was at stage of conclusion and the liquor segment was closed and no drinks were allowed to be served to the guests. Accused making request for the drinks was denied by the waiter after which he started acting in a furious manner, Jessica Lal also tried to make him understand that no further drinks would be served to him. After a couple of arguments Accused lost his temper and fired the gunshot, first shot was aimed to the roof and other shot was aimed at Jessica Lal’s left eye, after which she was fallen and next morning in the hospital she was declared “Brought Dead”. The accused and his Friends ran away from the spot as soon as Jessica Lal collapsed taking the murder weapon with them. Later the murder weapon was discovered from their said car²⁶.

Forensic Teams arrived at the crime scene and started sniffing for the evidence, However Murder weapon was later discovered from the accused’s vehicle which was later sent to the ballistics laboratory for the ballistics report. The Forensic Expert for ballistics science (as referred to R in the said case) comes up with the theory, “two Bullets theory”. The two bullet theory says that the one of the bullet which was first fired aimed at roof and the other bullet fired aimed at Jessica was fired from two different guns. And the first bullet was fired from the gun of accused recovered by the investigating agency but the report shows that the other bullet was not identical to the gun of the accused. This contention gave the advantage to the defense council pleading his “V.I.P” client not guilty. In his submission to the Honorable Supreme Court of India he states, “It appears that the two cartridge are from two different pistol”, the apex court said that the word “appear” is too wide and vague to make the conclusion, the statement made by the expert is not solving the purpose of the forensic

²⁵Surendra Koli v. State of U.P., 2011 4 SCC 80

²⁶Sidhartha Vashisht alias Manu Sharma v. State (NCT of Delhi), 2010 6 SCC 1

evidence but increasing the discrepancy. No one could make out from this statement that there is a theory of the two bullets. The statement made by the expert is more or less a statement made by the layman after making preliminary examination. The court affirmably mentions that expert seems to be perplexed to explain the two bullets theory to the court, making the evidence inconclusive in the nature. The bench mentions that when bullets and weapon are tested for ballistics in the forensic science lab the weapon is used for the test fire and then the report is made but in this case due to confusion it seems that there was hardly any test fire was made. Bench cited the example of the checking the sample of handwriting which is used to distinguish the forged document and specimen document, the expert can only make the difference if he has the possession of both the set and give a comparative analysis if the expert does have only one set and without examining the other he makes the conclusion, he is said to make an layman observation, therefore it is similar in the case of ballistics, both of the bullets needs to be compared. Later it was confirmed in the court room that the bullet was fired from the same gun of the accused the difference in the bullet occurred due the immense pressure built in the barrel of the gun, which sometimes differ the identity of the bullet fired²⁷.

Hyderabad Vet Rape Case: Need for Forensic Secrecy?

There is only gap of approximately 7 years between 16 December 2012 and 27 November 2019, which is presumed to be enough to strengthen the safe environment for women and to devise certain methods to provide security to women in the country. Not even a decade was passed but the monsters under the human skins reopen the old wound. On the evening of 27th November 2019, a Veterinarian Medical Student was on the way to a dermatologist, for which she had procured the appointment. She was on her scooty which she parked near the toll plaza to book a cab to her destination. The toll plaza was 7 kilometers away from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad. After her work was completed she came back to the parking spot at toll plaza, where she found that one of the tire of her scooty was deflated. One of the accused who was the lorry driver came to help her, he called his accomplice who was his helper to fix the tire, Helper took the scooty first in one direction and then two others claiming to her that he was searching the shop. She was in fear and discomfort due these events she was constantly on phone with her sister who advised her to leave the spot. The

²⁷Supra at 26.

moon was already up in the sky. Her phone got switched off, and the crime was committed. Two other accomplices of the lorry driver along with him and his helper forced an alcoholic drink to her mouth, and then they raped her brutally after which they murdered her and most horrendous act was committed that they burnt the body of her to the ashes. Next morning the crime was reported to whole country and investigation began. Of course the news was too hard to swallow, the protest began in the whole country and the fire of anger was ignited in the nation. Everyone was shocked as they were shocked at the time of Nirbhaya. The only difference was identity of victim was changed, the offenders were new, place was changed but the crime against humanity was of same or even worse the quantum²⁸.

Forensic Team arrived at the crime scene and all the evidence was started to be put in the test tubes, report comes up and was stated that the DNA of the burnt body was matched to the Victim's parent confirming the body belonged to the victim, Disha. DNA samples of accused were also taken up which were confirmed with the semen stains found on the spot belonged to the accused(s). The report was published in the newspaper and was sent to the police authorities²⁹.

The District court granted the Police Custody of the accused(s) for seven days to the police, the Special Investigation Team had killed all the four accused at the crime scene in an encounter, police claimed that these four accused try to flee from the spot when the police brought him for the recreation of the crime scene³⁰.

National Human Right Commission issued the notice to the police authority seeking the investigation in the killing of four accused(s). Many judges and jurors opined that if police fails to bring the accused(s) to the court then the court will gradually shut down.

We shall not go into the merit whether the act done by the police was commendable or requires criticism, does the justice served or not? The question which need to be ponder upon

²⁸Abhinay Deshpande, Hyderabad veterinarian case: Rape, rage, and an exchange of fire, The Hindu, (15/8/2020, 10:22 PM), <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/rape-rage-and-an-exchange-of-fire/article30300278.ece>

²⁹Abhinay Deshpande, Forensic lab submits Disha's DNA analysis report, The Hindu, (15/8/2020, 10:52 PM), <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/forensic-lab-submits-dishas-dna-analysis-report/article30289988.ece>

³⁰Abhinay Deshpande, All four accused in Hyderabad vet rape and murder case shot dead, The Hindu, (15/8/2020, 10:54 PM), <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/four-accused-in-hyderabad-vet-rape-and-murder-case-shot-dead/article30202752.ece>

is whether forensic secrecy need to be maintained or not? Does forensic evidence need to be submitted directly to the courts by the forensic teams? Does giving up the forensic reports to the police and investigating agency transform officials in Judges? The answers of these questions remains unanswered until a strong judgment or report comes up.

The Conclusion

As we saw forensic science is an old study whose evidence can be found from the time of Chanakya, there were significant use of forensic science since ages, evidences collection and analysis is possible only due to the significant developments happened the stream of science especially in the discipline of forensics. Many cases in history was solved due to the presence of forensic team on the tarmac. Many crimes which unanswered got there answers in the form of forensic reports. But the forensic team is not anointed by god but appointed by the law, in simple words it comprises of mortals which are subjected to errors which is commonly known as human errors.

In the Tandoor Case accused was caught hold of because of the forensic team recovering the murder weapon away from the crime scene, not only recovering it but also analyzing the ballistics report which joined the dots and solved the mystery. This incidents remarks that forensic team is the “boon” for the investigating teams. Thus we can say they are not crowding up the crime scene but actually working for tracing the offender. But the NithariHatyakand tell us that it is the responsibility of the forensic teams and other team associated with them to carefully handle the test samples. Also this case tells us that however the DNA samples matches to the accused but as it is based on the probabilities the court cannot convict the accused only on the basis of forensic evidence. The case of Jessica Lal tells us that it is not necessary that every time the advice of the expert would be admissible, it depends on the court to decide whether forensic expert is making a notable point or is just trying to create confusion to invite “benefit of doubt” for the offender. The case of Hyderabad Vet, put up the valid question for maintaining the secrecy of the forensic evidence which need to be only disclosed in the court room.

No doubt forensic teams are aiding the investigation and trying to reduce the time for catching the wrong doer but forensic evidence requires proper care and techniques. Forensic

evidence may not be conclusive in nature they are based on probabilities and it is important for the forensic team not to disclose the report to anyone and directly present in front of court so that the “real” judge can decide the whole story. No doubt the role of forensic sciences in crime investigation in India is crucial but the forensic teams shall learn from the precedents cited by the court and should only aid the court for deciding the culpability of the offender and not anyone else. Forensic science is subjected to certain checks and balances.

