

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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The truth is out there: At a pvt forensic lab in city

Ambika Pandit | TNN

Ravindran (name changed) insured his left hand for Rs 1 crore. Less than a week later, he filed a claim with the insurance company saying his hand had been damaged beyond cure in an accident. The insurer sought the help of a forensic lab. Preliminary scientific investigations by the lab found that the injuries were self-inflicted with an aim to claim the insurance money.

New Delhi: For victims of spurious insurance claims, property fraud, forged documents, sub-standard construction material, computer data theft, hacking, paternity disputes, child swapping and a host of other crimes, the truth is just round the corner. Or so claims Truth Labs, India's first non-government forensic services provider which set up a branch about a month back in south Delhi.

Truth Labs, built on a public-private partnership model and led by government-accredited experts, will be formally launched on Tuesday by Union home minister P Chidambaram.

► 2 of 10 cases already solved, P 4

Finding Facts Fast



► Private 'truth lab' in Delhi to ease burden on four central and 25 state-run forensic labs and to fast-track resolution of internal and personal disputes

► Already handling 10 cases, 3 referred by cops. First truth lab set up in Hyderabad 2 yrs ago has dealt with 500 cases

► Subsidiary of Truth Foundation, affiliated to Truth Labs, US

FINAL REPORT IN: 1-7 days

AVG INVESTIGATION COST: Rs 5,000

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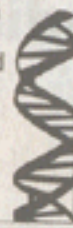


New Delhi: Truth Labs, India's first non-government forensic services provider, says cases are already pouring in. It has already received 10 cases from citizens and institutions ever since it was set up a month ago.

In another case, fingerprint and document analyses carried out by the lab helped establish the ownership of a disputed piece of agricultural land in northwest Delhi worth Rs 3 crore. Even the Delhi Police have referred three cases to the lab for analysis, said Truth Labs founder Gandhi P C Kaza, a forensic expert who had earlier helped set up the AP Forensic Science Labs, Hyderabad.

Kaza said Truth Labs had been established by a group of professionals from various science and technology fields for providing scientific investigation and detection services using modern tools. "After setting up the first Truth Labs in Hyderabad, we have forayed into Delhi in a bid to create an alternate route to justice for those who do not wish to go to the police or the courts," he said, claiming that the reports of the lab will be legal and courts will accept them as the team comprises forensic experts.

NAILING THE LIE

SERVICES ON OFFER

<p>1 QUESTIONING DOCUMENTS</p>  <p>Examination of all types of handwriting, forged stamp papers, cheques, drafts, marks, counterfeit currency, sale deeds, labels, share certificates</p>	<p>2 DISPUTED FINGERPRINTS</p>  <p>Any document containing fingerprints, palm prints, thumb impressions is examined</p>	<p>3 COMPUTER CRIME ANALYSIS</p>  <p>Any computer-based fraud, abuse such as obscene e-mails, hacking, unauthorized access, data theft, data leakage are examined for data recovery from any memory storage device such as mobile phones, SIM cards</p>
<p>6 LIE-DETECTION</p>  <p>Psychological screenings of suspects using polygraph to deal with cases of fraud, theft, abuse, harassment, threat</p>	<p>5 DNA PROFILING</p>  <p>Cases of disputed paternity, child swapping, immigration disputes and hereditary cases</p>	<p>4 ACCIDENT/FAILURE ANALYSIS</p>  <p>Scientific investigation of premature failure of buildings, bridges and other structures</p>
		<p>7 VOICE & IMAGE ANALYSIS</p>  <p>Identification of speaker from audio devices and authentication of images from the video files</p>

The lab collaborates with government set-ups like OCMB, BRPD and University of Hyderabad.

Delhi's Truth Labs has experts on fingerprints, polygraph, documentation, voice, image and DNA profiling. Kaza said the first Truth Labs in India at Hyderabad had got 500 cases in the two years of existence. The next such lab is coming up in Chennai.

"It is often seen that peo-

ple, and even institutions, prefer to stay away from courts and the policing system as they feel they don't have adequate evidence. Truth Labs were evolved to cater to the demands of common people requiring scientific services to resolve a number of civil, criminal, regulatory and non-litigious disputes," Kaza said.

He added that the government labs were overburdened and often took a long time to

deal with cases. But at Truth Labs, reports will be provided within a week, he claimed. These reports could give a person the crucial evidence he needs to file a case with the police or move court. Even institutions could use these services to take a stand on disputes, he said.

Evidence from Truth Labs could also be used for settling organizational disputes and problems internally, he added.