

Special forensic van for rape victims

'Nirbhaya Investigation Van' will collect and examine forensic evidence from crime scenes; experts launch mobile forensic van on Saturday

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To enable women fighting against crime, the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) in Gandhinagar, in collaboration with a company of forensic experts, is gearing up to launch the 'Nirbhaya Investigation Van'. The idea is to ensure forensic evidence is collected from the scene of crime at the earliest and female victims of crimes like sexual assault and violence are not repeatedly subjected to humiliating examination, sources said. The collaboration launched a mobile forensic van on Saturday and is working on a digital investigation van.

"Forensic evidence collected from the crime scene is crucial during a case and is helpful in ensuring justice for the victim," said Dr J M Vyas, director general of GFSU, as he inaugurated the mobile forensic van on Saturday. The



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launch was organised during the two-day 16th All India Conference of Directors of FPB (Finger Print Bureaus) being hosted by GFSU at the Directorate of Forensic Science in Gandhinagar. Elaborating on the newly launched van, Vyas said, "GFSU is responsible for designing the facility and deciding on the scientific kits to be made available in the van. The tests will be conducted in the van itself and

reports too will be available at the van itself. The private company is responsible for sales of the three vans — the mobile forensic van launched on Saturday, the Nirbhaya Investigation Van and Digital Investigation Van — GFSU will get royalty from the sales."

ONE FOR THE WOMEN

Sharing details about the Nirbhaya Investigation Van, Vyas said, "Victims

SCIENTIFIC KITS IN VANS

- » Crime scene investigation kit
- » Narcotic drug detection kit
- » Explosive detection kit
- » Bullet hole identification kit
- » Gunshot residue detection and collection kit
- » Semen detection and collection kit
- » Blood detection and collection kit
- » DNA sample and collection kit
- » Multi-tunable light source
- » Latent fingerprint development kit

and give reports. The van will include kits for semen-hair-saliva detection tests, blood grouping and even DNA profiling."

Dr Rukmani Krishnamurthy, chairman and CEO of Helix Advisory Ltd added, "The idea is to provide a space to conduct tests in the privacy of the van. Having launched the mobile forensic van, we are in process of getting clearance for the special women's van which will be launched in a few months while the experts work on the digital investigation van to help fight cyber crime."

New Delhi has ordered 11 of the forensic mobile vans while eight will go to Uttar Pradesh and two in Goa, she said, adding, "The vans will be available in two sizes, small and large. While the smaller vans are priced around Rs 22 lakh each, the bigger vans will range between Rs 30 to Rs 35 lakh."

Vyas added that the city will order mobile forensic vans on the requirement of the state.

of sexual assault and violence are subjected to repeated harassment in the course of investigation of the crime. Often, accused fail to be punished due to lack of evidence.

To avoid the humiliation of victims and ensure forensic evidence in the case, we developed the concept of a special forensic examination van for women. The van will reach the crime scene, gather evidence, examine it