

# BMC may seek forensic help in missing files case

Linah Balliga | TNN

**Mumbai:** Civic officials from the building proposals department may soon come under the scanner. The BMC is in the process of roping in forensic experts to nab culprits responsible for crucial files that have gone missing since 2009.

**TOI** was the first to report on June 2 that files of 3,474 buildings from Bandra to Jogeshwari had gone missing since 2009. These accounted for close to 10% of the 35,000 buildings in the belt.

On Tuesday, municipal commissioner Sitaram Kunte met Dr Rukmini Krishnamurthy, former director of Kalina Forensic Science Laboratory who now runs Helix Advisory, a firm with a team of 20 former government forensic experts.

"We had a meeting. We will decide on what investigative skills will be required from this forensic expert and subsequently figure out a method," said Kunte. Krishnamurthy is working out modalities to help in the investigation.

The first step will be to look at CCTV footage stored in the BMC's building proposals department.

## MIND READING?

Psychological tools that may be used for probe in the case

### LAYERED VOICE ANALYSIS

It is a security-level technology designed for truth verification and detection of deceit. It measures the emotional content of human speech, captured live or extracted from recorded audio.

**POLYGRAPH** | It is an instrument that measures different physiological responses simultaneously as

"Then, according to the dates, we will look for suspicious persons through the images." Krishnamurthy added that Dipti Puranik, another forensic expert, will use latest technology in forensic profiling.

"First we will do psychological profiling which will lead to the person who is involved in the act. Once we locate the group responsible in handling of files, we will subject its members to testing procedures. A lie detector can also be used. But the best course is layered voice analysis."

In the meantime, Kunte

## 3,474 Bandra-Andheri building files missing

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**Mumbai:** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) H-West ward office has filed a police complaint saying that the files of 3,474 buildings from Bandra to Jogeshwari have gone missing in just over four decades from 1966 to 2009. This accounts for around 10% of the belt's 35,000 buildings. Shockingly, around 10% of the missing files — or

The H-west office of BMC has filed a police complaint about the files missing over four decades as activists contend they were 'destroyed' to help builders cheat rules.

Ashok Ghant, administrative officer of the H-West

### TOI report on June 2

a person is questioned. The theory is that when a person lies, the lying causes a certain amount of stress that produces changes in the autonomic functions

has instructed all wards to file an FIR on missing files under Maharashtra Records Act's Section 9. After the **TOI** report, a special standing committee meeting was held on July 3, where an inquiry was ordered into the disappearance of over 5,900 files across the city.

Many of these files containing real estate documents and development proposals went missing from offices of seniors. Standing committee chairman Rahul Shewale also demanded that the BMC seek a CID probe.