

ACTIVITY REPORT 2018 - 2019

FACULTY: Science

DEPARTMENT/ COMMITTEE : Biochemistry

IQAC ACTIVITY No: SVC/2018-19/BIOCHEM/SOC/5

NAME OF THE ACTIVITY: Interview with Mr. Alok Mittal, IPS, Inspector General, NIA, Govt of India

DATE	FACULTY	DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE	COORDINATORS NAME
December 2018	Science	Biochemistry "Catalysis" Biochemical Society	Dr. Nandita Narayanasamy Dr. Shalini Sen
TIME	VENUE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NATURE: Outdoor/Indoor
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm	NIA Offices	2 staff and 3 students	Outdoor/Indoor
SUPPORT/ASSISTANCE:	Department Association Fund		

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITY (CRITERION NO. - II, V, VII)

TOPIC/SUBJECT OF THE ACTIVITY	Conduct of an interview of Mr. Alok Mittal, IPS, Inspector General, NIA, Govt of India.
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide students with the opportunity to interact with eminent personalities in the chosen area of science and technology. Train them in the conduct of an interview and to translate the interview into a published document after proper editing
METHODOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for a suitable personality for the given subject. Obtain their consent for the interview and fix a convenient time. Conduct the interview with prepared and extempore questions Write, edit, format and publish in the Department Annual magazine 'Expressions'
OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students learn the importance of background reading required to conduct an interview. They appreciate the discipline and decorum necessary when interacting with scientists and administrators in a professional space Hands on experience in journalistic skills. Positive encouragement and inspiration towards higher education and research

PROOFS & DOCUMENTS ATTACHED (Tick mark the proofs attached):

Notice & Letters	Student list of participation ✓	Activity report ✓	Photos ✓	Feedback form
Feedback analysis	News clip with details	Certificate	Any other	

IQAC Document No:	Criterion No:	Metric No:
Departmental file no	IQAC file No;	

NAME OF TEACHER & SIGNATURE	NAME OF HEAD/ COMMITTEE INCHARGE & SIGNATURE	IQAC COORDINATOR (SEAL & SIGNATURE)
Dr. Nandita Narayanasamy Dr. Shalini Sen	Dr. Nitika Kaushal Teacher-in-Charge Department of Biochemistry	Dr. N. Latha IQAC Coordinator Sri Venkateswara College

For Reference

Criterion I	Curricular Aspects (planning & Implementation)	Criterion V	Student Support & Progression
Criterion II	Teaching Learning & Evaluation	Criterion VI	Governance
Criterion III	Research, Innovations & Extension	Criterion VII	Institutional Values & Best Practices
Criterion IV	Learning Resources and Infrastructure		

Proof:

- **Photo**



- Interview Report

GETTING TO THE TRUTH

An interview with Mr Alok Mittal, IPS

Naintara Jain, BSc (H) Biochemistry III yr

Alok Mittal, IPS, is the Inspector General, NIA. Originally from Allahabad, he holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Roorkee and master's degree in Police Management from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He also completed his post graduate diploma in Cyber Laws from NALSAR University of Law. Before his association with NIA, he has been part of Haryana Police and the CBI Economic Offences Wing & Cyber Crime Cell. During his illustrious career, he had been actively involved in cyber safety campaigns and was awarded the Indian Police medal in 2009



Sir, what is the procedure when it comes to processing a crime scene for forensic sample collection?

There is a standard procedure followed when it comes to evidence collection at crime scenes. The cardinal principle of any investigation is that the chain of custody of evidence has to be maintained. The foremost thing is to ensure that the scene of crime is preserved. The SHO of the Police Station, on being informed of the crime, calls in a mobile unit of trained personnel to the crime scene who help the investigative officers lift the samples. The evidence is collected and sealed in the presence of some independent witnesses before being transported to the court or Police Station and put under lock. The evidence is then deposited in the court and with the courts' permission sent to the forensic laboratory. Sometimes the evidence may also be directly sent for analysis from the Police Station. The independent witnesses, who are not associated with the Police Department are called to depose before the court with respect to the evidence. Government officials are usually preferred as witnesses as they are easy to track and summon to court.

Do the Police officers also get any training in forensics?

Police officers do get fundamental training in forensic evidence collection but they usually don't need to actually process the evidence as the district level mobile forensics units serve their purpose well. However, basic rules are taught and well known to the Police officials;



NIA - National Investigative Agency - is a federal Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India with a clear and narrow mandate to investigate violations of anti-terror laws. Established on 31st December 2008, after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, the agency is an independent body that has powers to act in response to terror related crimes across states without any special permission.

**THE JUDGES'
DILEMMA:**

Article 20(3) in The Constitution Of India 1949 states that "No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself". This law has very serious implications on the power of investigative agencies to collect samples from the accused. A very good example of this dilemma is *Ritash Sinha vs State Of U.P.& Anr* (7 December, 2012). An audio recording was recovered and believed to be of the main accused. However, the accused in question refused to give a voice sample and protested to the court. Though the judges were divided, the final decision was in his favour as there is no law which compels the accused to submit voice samples, unlike evidence such-as handwriting samples and of late, even a few biological samples. This matter, still debated in the Supreme Court, brings to the forefront the importance of a balance in interests of an individual and society.

for example, all evidence should be dry before collection. They also have to work with the Forensics labs to get samples for comparison such as writing samples for handwriting analysis. Often, in cases of suicides or fake wills, this become very important as you need a few pages of handwriting samples for the expert to be able to compare handwriting. This especially poses a problem in rural areas: officers then have to look for school, college and even bank records to obtain samples.

Despite the chain of custody and the presence of witnesses, does evidence tampering still happen?

Unfortunately, evidence tampering is not completely unheard of. People sometimes plant samples, or even get them changed at the other end. While it is not very common is serious crimes, it has been seen in smaller investigations such as those involved in petrol adulteration, and even adulteration in food: the collected samples get delayed or exchange, often due to the influence of the proprietor. Further, even if the evidence is not tainted, the experts have a certain element of discretion available which can be exploited. This especially holds true for evidence based on handwriting analysis in which the expert compares features like pressure, flow and letter formation and can report some uncertainty in his conclusion, such as by stating that "other possibilities cannot be ruled out". In such cases, the benefit of doubt is then given to the accused and he may be acquitted.

How much weight does forensic evidence hold in court?

Forensic evidences are what we refer to as 'clinching evidence' - while circumstantial evidence can point towards a possible suspect, forensic analysis can lead to definitive proof, specially in cases involving firearms or DNA analysis such as in incidences of rape, murder or blackmail. In case of any contradictory indications, the court believes the forensic reports.

However, the strength of the evidence depends on ensuring the chain of custody, absence of delays in transferring evidence to the lab and the expert whose analysis is submitted.

The law classifies evidence as 'oral' and 'documentary' evidence.

Forensics also falls in these categories. While the documentary evidence is the submitted report, the prosecution has to establish the procedure used to arrive at the reported conclusion. All persons accused of committing a crime have a "Right to Fair Trial" and get an opportunity to cross examine the witness or forensic expert, who then has to sustain and stand by their testimony. In case they waver or change, the forensic evidence may be dismissed.

Moreover, all forensic tools are not admissible in court but are very important to drive the investigation forward. Polygraphs and Narco test can be carried out, subject to consent from the person of interest before the magistrate or the judge, but have no evidentiary value.

Are the forensic laboratories affiliated with the Police Department or are they independent institutions?

The forensic labs are not under Police and are impartial independent institutes. Central Forensic Science Labs (CFSLs) fall under the purview of Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. All states also have Forensic Science Laboratories under the State government. However, due to the extremely high number of exhibits sent everyday, the results get delayed and often courts have to order processing of evidence on priority for certain cases. Document analysis specially takes a very long time and evidence can get queued upto even two years. Many states have developed Regional Forensics Laboratories at district level to expedite this process. NIA, being a federal body and dealing primarily with terrorism gets priority. We work with a number of National labs for forensic analysis including the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), as well as some state labs.

Sir, since your expertise lies in cyber crimes, could you please elaborate a bit on cyber forensics?

Cyber forensics has revolutionised crime solving in a lot of ways. While the device itself cannot be continuously worked on for fear of tampering, mirror images are made for analysis by the experts as well as data collection for the purpose of investigation by us. Our devices - phones and computers save a lot of data we don't even realise. Cyber forensics includes extraction of data from the device as well as the server, specially deleted data. In addition to retrieving data, we can also construct timelines of the suspects' activities in terms of their movement, and who they were in touch with

- Attendance

ACTIVITY: interview

Date: Dec 2018 **Time:** 3:00- 5:00pm

Venue: NIA offices

Criterion No: II/V/VII

Sr. No.	Name of the student	Group	Signature
1.	Naintara Jain	BSc (H) Biochemistry	
2.	Sucharita Sen	BSc (H) Biochemistry	
3.	Harsh Bhakri	BSc (H) Biochemistry	



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Dr. Padma Priyadarshini
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This is to certify that the Activity report (Teacher/Department /Society/Association) has been submitted for documentation to IQAC, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi.

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