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Detectives as NR-EYES

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This world was meant to run on trust. But with stress levels and expectations running high, personal relations have run into rough weather. This is where detectives come in. Playing Peeping Tom is no funny business. Agatha Christie may have solved cases sitting in an armchair, but our very own Pune detectives have to sweat it out for meaty case.

"Pre and Post marital investigations are largely referred to us these days," says Narendra Kulkarni of Focus Detective Agency. "This is mostly due to the trend of online alliances in which one of the parties is usually an NRI." The agencies undertake character and financial verifications. In one such case parents of Shaina (name changed), approached a detective agency for a character verification of a proposal from Canada. The boy claimed to own a restaurant in Canada and a bungalow in Toronto. However, investigations re-

vealed that he was infact working as a steward in a hotel and lived in a slum like locality on the outskirts of Toronto. He had a business visa which was about to expire and there seemed no chances



of renewal due to certain malpractices he had indulged in while working for an IT company which had consequently fired him.

Cases are not restricted only to the boy's character verification but even the girls. As more and more people go abroad through the IT and software industry the need has increased. In one of the cases that Mr Vijaykumar Bhalla

of Globe Detective Agency took up, it was found that a lady had her birthdate and certificate changed so as to marry an NRI who was a US citizen. Initially her visa was rejected in Mumbai and so she went to Delhi with the changed birth certificate and flew to the states with her new husband. Within a month she was complain-

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ing to the police there that she was being harassed. After a few days she further complained of the atmosphere at the care centre she was put into and requested to stay with a relative. This relative turned out to be her first husband. She had all along wanted to be with him and had therefore married another NRI who could take her to the states.

Cases from the US, England, Canada and now even Netherlands are being increasingly referred to detective agencies in Pune. Contrary to popular belief, it is the would-be-grooms who make for almost sixty per cent of the clien-

tele, according to these agencies. Even in the post-marital cases it is mostly the husbands who consult the agencies. They investigate for extramarital affairs and financial condition for purpose of alimony. The evidence provided by them in such cases is held valid in the court of law.

Apart from matrimonial related cases certain agencies specialise in corporate or industrial investigations. It includes pre and post-employment scanning and verification, anti-management or union activities, infringement of Trademarks, Patents and Copyrights, etc. The last five years have seen a rapid growth in false insurance claims; this is where investigative agencies come in largely. General investigations include fingerprint and handwriting analysis, asset verification, recoveries and credit-worthiness of individuals and companies.

These agencies generally recruit ex-servicemen from the army and police. But young and unbiased persons who can be moulded are also preferred.