



# Polygraph Test

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A magistrate's court in Kerala has allowed the police to conduct a polygraph (lie detector) test on at least 10 staff members of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple

## About Polygraph Test:

A polygraph test is a method used to measure physiological responses to questions to determine whether a person is being truthful.

Records physiological responses such as pulse rate, blood pressure, respiration, and galvanic skin response while a person answers questions.

## Legal Status in India

No statute mandates polygraph tests; the practice is governed under investigative discretion of police/intelligence agencies.

Indian Evidence Act, 1872: Section 45 allows expert opinion evidence. Polygraph reports can be presented as expert opinion, but not treated as conclusive evidence.

**Supreme Court Position:** In *Selvi v. State of Karnataka* (2010), SC ruled:

Polygraph, narco-analysis, and brain-mapping tests cannot be forced, as they violate Article 20(3) (Right against self-incrimination).

They cannot be admitted as evidence in criminal trials without voluntary consent.

## Constitutional Provisions

Article 20(3) – Protection against self-incrimination: No person can be compelled to testify against themselves in a criminal case. Forced polygraph tests violate this right.

Article 21 – Right to Life and Personal Liberty: Non-consensual polygraph tests may violate personal liberty and dignity.