

Robbed ATM had outdated security system

Tampering with new surveillance device would have resulted in an instant alarm

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EVEN Sherlock Holmes would have enjoyed probing the Citibank ATM robbery on Sunday, where cash worth over Rs 21 lakh was stolen.

Armed with few clues about the suspect — around 30-35 years, height about 5.6 inches, wearing blue pant and colourful shirt — sleuths attached to the detection section of Kandivli

police station and crime branch are on the hunt for the culprit, who was wearing a helmet.

Inquires revealed that the ATM centre had the old Analog security measure in place, unlike other centers, where digital surveillance systems are installed. "Analog system is an outdated method of monitoring, where the CCTV system stores images on a video cassette. It does not provide quick fraud identification, without any central monitoring system in place," explained an ATM security expert.

He added, "If this centre had the digital surveillance system, any attempt to tamper with the ATM machine would have been immediately alerted to the



central monitoring station. Also, all transaction details are then monitored through a web browser that records the details in the hard disk memory."

ATM fraud scene in India

While organised gangs have not targeted ATMs in India,

there are quite a few recent incidents. Many frauds reported involve close relatives or associates of the victim. There are several cases involving the security people manning the ATM sites. Raj Menon, one of the Directors at Intellvisions which provides round the clock ATM surveillance solutions to many banks, says, "Managing the risk associated with ATM frauds and minimising money laundering are important issues. Law enforcement and regulatory authorities expect banks to keep track of all ATM transactions. As frauds become more serious, banks must protect much more than their customers' money. They need to protect their reputations," he said.