

# Candidates rope in detectives to keep an eye on friends & foes

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**I**T'S not just astrologers that politicians and candidates are making a bee-line to, private detectives have emerged the unlikely consultants for the political fraternity. Their demand is no different from the regular demand they face from suspicious spouses — to tag their partners. The only difference here is the demand is to shadow the political foes.

“I have three political clients at present. All of them

working on 165 cases assigned to them by different candidates across the state. While some suspicious MLAs want the sleuths to keep an eye on their co-workers, others want to know the campaign plans of the opposition party.

“A few of them are also keen to know about their rival's wrongdoings, so that they can make an issue out of it or inform the Election Commission,” said Utpal Chaudhary, co-owner of the agency.

Chaudhary said the charges start at Rs 3 lakh and go up



are from the same party and have similar requirements. They want a detailed report on the movement of the opposition party leaders in their respective constituencies. Two of them are from Pune and one from Mumbai,” said Rajesh Pandey, proprietor of Corporate Intelligence Services. Citing confidentiality clauses, he refused to divulge the names of his clients. □

Global Detective Agency is

depending on the nature of the case.

Suryakant Bhande Patil's detective agency Spysanket also admitted that currently they were working on the cases assigned by various MLAs. “Most of them want us to gather views of the general public about them or their party in the areas they are contesting from — to estimate their chances of winning the election,” said Patil.

