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## LSR student from the North- East molested by cab driver in Capital

By Neetu Chandra in New Delhi

YET ANOTHER girl from the North- East has become a victim of molestation in the city. A student of Lady Shri Ram College was molested inside a moving taxi by the driver in New Friends Colony area in South East Delhi.

Last week, the student was returning from a party from Hotel Surya. “ She was returning from a party thrown by her friends at the hotel. After partying she asked the hotel to arrange a cab for her,” a senior police officer said.

The hotel provided her with a cab. The victim was accompanied by three friends, who were sitting on the rear seat while she was sitting beside the driver.

“ The accused driver Hoshiyar Singh on the pretext of changing the vehicles gears was inappropriately touching her.

Initially the victim thought that it was inadvertent and ignored it. But when the driver kept brushing against her she realised something was amiss and ordered the driver to stop the car,” the officer said.

The victim called up her sister who studies in Jamia Millia Islamia and made a PCR call. Police lodged an FIR against the accused driver under section 354/ 509 of IPC. The driver has been arrested.

“ We will also interrogate the chief of the taxi stand from where the taxi was hired by the hotel,” police said.

The latest incident comes days after a 30- year- old woman from the North- East was picked up by five drunken men near Dhaula Kuan on November 24 and gangraped in a moving vehicle.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau ( NCRB), since 1971 the increase in rape cases has been 678 per cent. In eight years from 2001- 08, crimes against women have increased by 112 per cent.

Going by the cases registered by police, a rape takes place every day in the national Capital. According to the NCRB, the conviction rate in rape and molestation cases in India is a dismal 27 per cent — almost one in four cases.

*neetu.chandra@mailtoday.in*

