

## TEACHER SUSPENDED OVER QUESTION PAPER 'THEFT' AT GOA VARSITY

### Fact-finding committee will submit report in 48 hours, but no formal complaint has been lodged yet

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Assistant Professor whose name has come up in the alleged question paper theft at Goa University was suspended pending enquiry on Monday by university Vice-Chancellor Harilal B Menon, though he admitted that no formal complaint on the question paper theft had been made to him so far.

The allegations kept the university campus on the boil all through the day, with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists protesting and raising slogans, demanding the teacher's suspension.

■ The teacher's name first got embroiled in a controversy in September 2024, when he is alleged to have accessed the cabin of a colleague to retrieve chemicals for experiments  
■ The matter was resolved after the Assistant Professor apologised, though no formal complaint was lodged  
■ After activists submitted a complaint to Agassaim Police Station on Sunday, he was handed a suspension order on Monday pending enquiry  
■ Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists protested and raised slogans, demanding the teacher's suspension on Monday

“I have not received complaints regarding exams or grievances about the examination process. The only issue I was informed about was the opening of a faculty member's cabin, but there was no mention of question papers being leaked”

—Ramesh Pai, Dean and Head, School of Physical and Applied Sciences

“There will be further disciplinary action if the committee submits a report that substantiates the claims”

—Harilal B Menon, GU Vice-Chancellor

led by Kashinath Shetye on Sunday. Menon confirmed that a two-member fact-finding committee has been constituted to investigate and submit a report within 48 hours.

Menon clarified that further action would be taken based on the findings of the committee. “There will be further disciplinary action if the committee submits a report that substantiates the claims,” he said. Governor and Chancellor of Goa University, P S Sreedharan Pillai has also asked for a detailed report from the Vice-Chancellor.

The teacher's name first got embroiled in a controversy in September 2024,

when he is alleged to have accessed the cabin of a colleague to retrieve chemicals for experiments. The matter was resolved after the Assistant Professor apologised, though no formal complaint was lodged.

Ramesh Pai, Dean and Head of the School of Physical and Applied Sciences, stated that no exam-related complaints had been made to him about the Assistant Professor. “I have not received complaints regarding exams or grievances about the examination process. The only issue I was informed about was

the opening of a faculty member's cabin, but there was no mention of question papers being leaked,” he said.

During the day, the ABVP activists raised slogans and gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor on campus, preventing him from leaving the university to meet the Vice-Chancellor. They demanding access to copies of the fact-finding committee's report and the suspension order. The ABVP members staged a demonstration outside the Vice-Chancellor's office, shouting slogans and calling for swift action.

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## SELFLESS SERVICE



Volunteers from Birmingham's Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Britain clean the gold-plated surfaces at the Golden Temple as part of their sewa in Amritsar, on Monday

## Suresh Prabhu backs locals on rail double-tracking issue

### Says people's voice must be heard before taking up any development project, or else it can be challenged in court

Team Herald

QUEPEM: Former Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has called upon the Goa government to prioritise the voices of local residents before proceeding with the controversial double-tracking project by the Indian Railways.

Prabhu, who was here to attend Shigmotsav Parade, emphasised the importance of public consulta-

tion in any developmental project.

“Public hearing is a must for any project. It was made mandatory in 1998. Without public hearing, any project can be challenged in court,” Prabhu said while speaking to the media. He stressed that the Goa government must give due consideration to the concerns of local communities, particularly in villages like Velsao and Cansaulim,

where residents have strongly opposed the project.

“It should be the firm stand of the government. People in Goa are living with their traditional businesses like fishing, farming, horticulture and tourism. No doubt double-tracking will help development, but without the permission of the local people, it should not happen,” he added.

Regarding the unrest in

Velsao, Prabhu urged authorities to address the grievances of the villagers and ensure that their concerns are resolved before moving forward with the project.

The double-tracking project, perceived to enhance railway connectivity for coal transportation, has faced stiff resistance from residents who fear environmental degradation and threats to their livelihoods.

**BIG DISCOUNT SHOPPING FESTIVAL**  
**SGPDA GROUND MARGAO**  
14th To 23rd MAR  
TIME: 10.30 am To 9.00 pm

The suspension of the Assistant Professor at the School of Physical and Applied Sciences came in response to a formal complaint lodged at the Agassaim Police Station by a group of activists

## Curfew imposed in Manipur's Churachandpur

PTI, IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR: Curfew was imposed in Manipur's Churachandpur on Monday as a precautionary measure following clashes between Hmar and Zomi communities, a top official said.

This comes a day after a Hmar tribal leader was assaulted amidst demands from the community to identify the perpetrators.

“Curfew was imposed in Churachandpur as a precautionary measure following the clashes,” the official said.

“We have imposed curfew after receiving a report from Churachandpur SP indicating serious apprehension of a breach of law and order,” another officer added.

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## STRANDED AMONG STARS: SUNITA WILLIAMS SAGA

**TALE OF RESILIENCE**  
Launch Date: June 5, 2024  
SUNITA WILLIAMS and BUTCH WILMORE lift off  
Original mission duration: 8-10 days  
Extended Stay Decision: August 24, 2024  
Planned Return Date: March 18-19, 2025  
Total Duration: 287 days

**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**  
**Muscle Atrophy:** Loss of up to 20% muscle mass due to reduced load on legs, back  
**Bone Density Loss:** 1-1.5%

loss per month, increasing fracture risk  
**Cardiovascular Changes:** Heart muscle atrophy, leading to dizziness/fainting  
**Vision Issues:** May cause flattened eyeballs & optic nerve swelling, affecting vision  
**Radiation Exposure:** Increased risk to brain, bones



Sunita Williams with other astronauts after the SpaceX capsule docked with the ISS

“Prolonged isolation and uncertainty can cause stress, but we have routines and support”

— Sunita Williams

“It wasn't a problem [staying longer]. We talk to our families—I even chat with my daughter's boyfriend”

— Butch Wilmore

**NO OVERTIME FOR EXTENDED STAY**  
Astronauts not eligible for overtime but only an additional allowance of \$1,148 (₹1 lakh) each for 287 days

**PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS**  
**Isolation Stress:** Prolonged confinement and separation from family can lead to anxiety, depression  
**Reentry Disorientation:** Adjusting to Earth's gravity may cause a sense of loss or body clock disruption  
**Recovery:** A 45-day NASA programme to regain stability and address dizziness, nausea, weakness

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## Trump declares Biden's pardons 'void, vacant'



**AGENCY, AIR FORCE ONE:** Former US President Donald Trump declared all pardons signed by Joe Biden invalid, claiming they were signed by autopen rather than the former US president himself.

Trump posted on Truth Social: “The ‘Pardons’ that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of Political Thugs, and many others, are hereby declared VOID, VACANT, AND OF NO FURTHER FORCE OR EFFECT, because of the fact that they were done by Autopen.”

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**WHAT IS AN AUTOPEN?** An autopen is a machine that replicates a person's handwritten signature. It captures the signature digitally and, via a mechanical arm or pen, uses it to sign documents, rendering an end product very close to a handwritten signature. A person's signature is detected and recorded electronically. A robotic arm or mechanical pen afterwards reproduces that signature on various documents. The result is a close imitation of a handwritten signature, although it is produced with machine automations.

### BIDEN'S CONTROVERSIAL PARDONS

Biden issued preemptive pardons to several individuals, including:

- Former Rep Liz Cheney and other members of the January 6 congressional committee that investigated Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election
- Retired General Mark Milley, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Dr Anthony Fauci, former NIAID director, along with his family
- Hunter Biden, the president's son
- Biden said these pardons were intended to shield individuals from what he described as politically motivated retaliation.

MAX. TEMP 34.0 °C  
MIN. TEMP 24.5 °C

**idharudhar**  
EXCHANGE RATE  
USD - ₹ 86.72  
EUR - ₹ 94.63  
INR - ₹ 112.6  
CURRENCY EXCHANGE  
TN GOVT REPLACES RUPEE SYMBOL

NO dollars, no euros, I need the new Tamil Nadu rupees!

## Special police squad set up to rein in Delhi Romeos

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: Delhi Police is set to launch 'Shishtachar' squads, also known as 'anti-eve teasing' squads, to improve women's safety in the national capital. The initiative will “focus on enforcing the law, rather than imposing personal or cultural morality on individuals”, read a circular issued by the Delhi police.

The decision follows a promise made by the Bharatiya Janata Party before the Delhi assembly elections to introduce 'Anti-Romeo Squads' and install CCTV cameras in public spaces as part of their poll manifesto.

As per an order signed by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, “These squads will comprise trained personnel, who shall focus on preventing, deterring, and responding to such offences on a real-time basis.”

Each district will have two Anti-Romeo Squads led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP). Every squad will include an inspector, a



sub-inspector, and five male police officers, along with four female personnel. The Anti-Auto Theft Squad (AATS) will also support the teams by providing technical assistance.

The squads will also deploy plain-clothed female police officers to identify and deter perpetrators.

### RAKSHA 'BANDHAN'

- Each district will have 2 squads led by an ACP
- Each squad to have 1 inspector, 1 sub-inspector, 5 male officers and 4 female personnel
- Anti-Auto Theft Squad (AATS) to provide technical assistance
- Plain-clothed female officers to be deployed to deter offenders discreetly
- Surprise checks on public transport; awareness campaigns with DTC staff
- Collaboration with RWAs, MWAs and local volunteers for improved vigilance

Suggesting collaboration with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Market Welfare Associations (MWAs), and local volunteers to enhance vigilance and identify more vulnerable spots, the squad will focus on victim protection, ensuring survivors don't face public scrutiny.

The primary focus will be on 'hot-spots and vulnerable areas' that pose risks to women's safety. These locations will be identified by the District Deputy Commissioners of Police (DDCPs). Officers will operate in plain clothes to monitor suspicious activities and take action against offenders.

The squads will also conduct surprise checks on public transport and interact with Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) drivers, conductors, and passengers to encourage them to report incidents. The directive further states, “The squads will operate with a multi-faceted approach involving prevention, intervention, and victim assistance.”

The squads will send weekly reports to senior officers, with their work being overseen by the Assistant Commissioner of Police.

According to Delhi Police data, 4,273 cases of rape, molestation and eve-teasing were reported in the city until December 15 last year. Out of these, 1,971 cases were registered at various police stations across Delhi.

With the launch of 'Shishtachar' squads, authorities hope to create a safer environment for women and curb such crimes in the city.