

GOVT TAKES OVER GU 'PAPER LEAK' PROBE

Four-member committee headed by retired High Court Justice RMS Khandeparkar to probe the case

Team Herald

PANJIM: The government has stepped in to take over the inquiry into the alleged paper leak scandal that has rocked Goa University, appointing a four-member, high-level committee to probe the case. The committee is headed by Retd High Court Justice RMS Khandeparkar. The other members of the committee are Bosco George, IPS (Retd), Former DIG Government of Goa, Dr Radhika Nayak, Former Registrar of Goa University, MRK Prasad, Professor at VM Salgaocar Law College, and the Member Secretary. The committee has been asked to submit its report at the earliest.

EX-REGISTRAR OF VARSITY, RETD SENIOR COPS IN COMMITTEE

- The government takes over the inquiry into the alleged paper leak at Goa University by appointing a four-member, high-level probe committee on Thursday
- The committee will be headed by Retd Justice RMS Khandeparkar, former Judge of the High Court
- The other members of the committee are Bosco George, IPS (Retd), Former DIG Government of Goa, Dr Radhika Nayak, Former Registrar of Goa University
- MRK Prasad, Professor at VM Salgaocar Law College, will be the Member Secretary
- The committee has been asked to submit its report at the earliest

when he was 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, had stated on Monday 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 had told O Heraldo.

To help out the four-member committee, the Directorate of Higher Education shall provide the necessary secretarial support, while the Goa University shall provide the office space for working, the order issued by Safal Shetye, Under Secretary, Higher Education, said.

Indian student in US may be deported over ' Hamas link'

PTI, NEW YORK: An Indian student enrolled as a postdoctoral fellow in the US faces deportation after federal authorities said he was "spreading Hamas propaganda" and has "close connections to a suspected terrorist", who is a senior advisor to the group.

Badar Khan Suri is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

A senior Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said that Suri, a foreign exchange student at Georgetown University, was "actively spreading Hamas propaganda and promoting anti-semitism on social media".

“Suri has close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, who is a senior advisor to Hamas. The Secretary of State issued a determination on March 15, 2025, that Suri's activities and presence in the United States rendered him deportable

– Senior Department of Homeland Security spokesperson

“(Badar Khan Suri is being punished) because of the Palestinian heritage of his wife – who is a US citizen – and because the government suspects that he and his wife oppose US foreign policy toward Israel

– Hassan Ahmad, Suri's lawyer

"Suri has close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, who is a senior advisor to Hamas. The Secretary of State issued a determination on March 15, 2025, that Suri's activities and presence in the United States rendered him deportable." A report in Politico said

that Suri, who was studying and teaching on a student visa, has been "detained by federal immigration authorities amid the Trump administration's crackdown on student activists whom the government accuses of opposing American foreign policy".

The report said that "masked agents" arrested Suri from outside his home in Virginia Monday night.

A petition filed by his lawyer Hassan Ahmad said that he was taken to a facility in Virginia and is "expected to be transferred soon to a detention centre in Texas."

Ahmad said in the petition that Suri is being punished "because of the Palestinian heritage of his wife – who is a US citizen – and because the government suspects that he and his wife oppose US foreign policy toward Israel."

The petition says the couple has "long been doxxed and smeared" on anonymously run, far-right websites due to their support for Palestinian rights.

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CM Sawant says schools will reopen on April 1

Team Herald

PANJIM: Despite the aggrieved parents protesting at the Directorate of Education, Porvorim on Monday, accusing the Goa government of imposing the Centre's 'diktats' on them, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday said that schools will reopen as per the dates announced by the Education Department.

"Schools will reopen as per the date declared by the Education Department," he told mediapersons at Mantralaya at Porvorim, despite the matter still pending in the High Court of Bombay at Goa.

The Directorate of Education has announced that from the academic year 2025-26, the new academic session for Class VI to X and Class XII will commence from April 1 in all government, government-aided, and unaided recognised schools across the State.

In a circular, Director of Education Shailesh Sinai Zingde has stated that classes for these grades will be conducted in April until 11.30 am.

Students will then have their summer vacation from May 1 to June 3, with schools resuming regular timings from June 4, 2025.

However, this is being opposed by many parents across the State. Recently, the aggrieved parents had protested at the Directorate of Education, Porvorim.

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Activists from across Goa held a protest in Panjim on Thursday, demanding TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane's removal from the cabinet. Police halted the march at Church Square before it reached the Chief Minister's residence at Altinho

Hundreds join protest in Panjim to save Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: A large number of protestors from across the State on Thursday converged in Panjim, demanding the immediate dismissal of Town and Country Planning Minister Vishwajit Rane over an alleged the indiscriminate land conversions and zone changes during his tenure.

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EVERYTHING AS PER LAW, MATTER IS SUB JUDICE: RANE

PANJIM: Hours after the protests, when O Heraldo got in touch with Town and Country Planning Minister Vishwajit Rane to seek his reactions to the agitation, he said, "Everything is as per law and there are no illegalities as alleged by protestors. The matter is still sub judice," he wrote on chat. When asked to comment further, he refused to take the conversation forward.

“It was a joke on us and a joke on Goans that the CM was not at his official residence. This shows that the government does not work for us. It is also for every Goan to note that ministers have no time to meet people. The government is working against the people of Goa

– Swapnesh Sherlekar, activist

“They are unable to tell us that the chief minister is not in the bungalow. Then why have you blocked the road and not allowed us to go up? We have submitted the letter to the staff and we will get the acknowledgement tomorrow

– Dr Claude Alvares, environmentalist

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

Musk's X sues Centre over alleged censorship and IT Act violations

PTI, BENGALURU: Social media giant 'X' (formerly Twitter), owned by US billionaire Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit in the Karnataka High Court against Government of India, challenging what it called unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship.

It raised concerns over the Centre's interpretation of the Information Technology (IT) Act, particularly its use of Section 79(3)(b), which 'X' argues violates Supreme Court rulings and



undermines free expression online. The lawsuit alleged the

government is using the said section to create a parallel content-blocking mechanism, bypassing the structured legal process outlined in Section 69A.

'X' claimed this approach contradicts the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in the Shreya Singhal case, which established that content can only be blocked through a proper judicial process or the legally defined route under Section 69A.

According to the Min-

istry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Section 79(3)(b) mandates online platforms to remove illegal content when directed by either a court order or a government notification.

If a platform fails to comply within 36 hours, it risks losing its safe harbour protection under Section 79(1) and could be held accountable under various laws, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

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GROK GETS THE GOAT OF RIGHT WING SYMPATHISERS



While 'X' has taken the Centre to court for what it perceives as arbitrary and unlawful censorship, there is reason to believe that its irreverent AI tool, Grok, also has earned the displeasure of the ruling dispensation and its supporters. The government is believed to have sought clarification about its no-holds-barred use of Hindi slang – the self-avowed chatbot, that is cheeky, snarky and humorous recently, used a curse word as part of a tit-for-tat response to a user who resorted to similar language.

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Toka · Mar 15, 2025
@TokaTakes · Follow
Replying to @TokaTakes
E - @grok seen karke chod diya, typical wahmyin behaviour I will neva forgive you for this

Grok · @grok · Follow
Oi bi... chill kar. Tera "10 best mutuals" ka hisaab laga diya. Mentions ke hisaab se yeh hai list: @c_estia_vie, @seraphicst, @hydrang9a, @LukeOrthodox, @Tanisha1009, @SecularTrainee, @dmuthuk, @banarasipaann, @gazwa_e_bhindi, @gosvami1229922. Mutuals matlab dono follow... Show more

MAX. TEMP 34.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 24 °C

idharudhar



If caught, I'll be arrested but you'll only be suspended!

'Nowhere' bridge built after push from ex-minister?

Papers with O Heraldo show Pandurang Madkaikar may have written in favour of construction

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

MARCH 7, 2025

A bridge connecting nothing to nowhere

Locals fear infrastructure built for farmers may open floodgates to real estate projects



GANDOLIM BRIDGE, CUMBARJUA: The Krishi Setu bridge, constructed to assist 67 families in transporting farming equipment to cultivate 30 hectares of paddy fields, in Gandolim, Cumberjua, stands under scrutiny a year after its inauguration. Despite being completed and opened to the public in February 2024, the land remains uncultivated, raising concerns among locals about potential

SANTO ESTEVAM: The Krishi Setu bridge, which was constructed to connect fields from Chune-Kator to Vadso in the village of Cumberjua, is under scrutiny after revelations that the fields it was supposed to serve have remained fallow for years. An O Heraldo investigation points to Pandurang Madkaikar, former Minister for Power and Social Welfare, as a key figure behind the project – that has failed to benefit the farming community – being initiated.

The fact that the bridge has not helped anyone became clear when Rouchelle Fernandes, Zonal Agricultural Officer (ZAO), Tiswadi, confirmed

the fields have not been sown for long after a visit to the area. "I visited the fields across the bridge and it's clear that the fields have not been sown for quite a while. Wild weed has grown all over," confirmed Fer-

nandes, casting a doubt that the bridge was set up for farmers.

A letter from the General Manager Civil of the Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC), dated January 30, 2020, the Under

Secretary Finance (Budget II) references a proposal from the then Minister Madkaikar with regard to the construction of the bridge. The letter stated that the bridge would facilitate farmers in crossing a

river stream for the cultivation of fields from Chune-Kator to Vadso in Cumberjua.

However, investigations have revealed that Madkaikar's involvement dates back to June 1, 2018, when he wrote to the Chairman of GSIDC, urging the construction of the bridge. The letter mentioned a unanimous resolution by the Village Panchayat of Cumberjua to approve the project. "Please find enclosed a copy of resolution No. 5 (9) dated 21/05/2018 of the VP Cumberjua adopted unanimously that to undertake the work of construction of Bridge from Chune-Kator to Vadso Field in Village Panchayat of Cumberjua... Chairman GSIDC may kindly consider the above re-

quest and give the necessary instructions to the concerned officials to take up the above work in public interest," concluded the note.

The request for the bridge, it appears, was made in the public interest, but questions are now arising about whether the bridge truly serves that purpose. Local resident Hari Naik from Cumberjua believes the true intention behind the bridge is more complex. "If the bridge was for farmers, it would have been built when the fields were being sowed, not after they stopped. It's clear that the word of farmers has been used to mislead the public," he said.

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