

Special Task Force busts open school marksheet gang

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BHOPAL: In a major breakthrough, the Madhya Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) have busted a gang involved in issuing fake marksheets and migration certificates of Madhya Pradesh State Open School Board to students looking for employment and higher studies.

Some of the students have secured foreign jobs using the fake mark-sheets as genuine, it's learnt. "This is an organised racket operating since 2008" said an STF officer wishing anonymity.

Those arrested have been identified as Kaushal Saraswat of Gwalior, Akhilesh Chouhan of Bhind, Ashok Gupta and Pardeep Bairagi of Bhopal. Bairagi is a computer operator working with MP State Open School Board. Fifth accused in the gang identified as Davendra Gupta has not yet been arrested.

Saraswat is said to be the mastermind of the racket; his uncle runs a school in Gwalior named Shri Krishna Memorial School. The three other accused also run private schools.

Davendra Gupta runs Baba higher secondary school at Indore while Ashok Gupta runs Maa Prabhavati higher secondary school in Bhopal and Akhilesh Chouhan runs Lal Bhahdur Shastri School in Bhind district. They charged Rs 2,000 to 5,000 from each student, said STF officers.

A total of 551 fake marks-sheets, 121 migration certificates, 250 blank mark-sheets, 30 stamps of different government departments, a laptop, six mobile phones and two SUVs were confiscated from their possession.

A case under Section 420, 466, 468, 471 and 120 (b) of IPC have been registered against them.

Earlier on Friday, Uttar Pradesh (UP) STF had unearthed a racket allegedly providing fake mark-sheets and certificates of class 10 and 12 students headquartered at Gwalior.

The accused had formed a fake education board with the name "Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh", and provided mark-sheets of class 10 and class 12 after collecting Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000 from students.

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They were also providing affiliation to schools in several states by taking Rs 52,000 from them.

Police said the accused had opened their head office in Kampoo area of Gwalior with branches in Ghaziabad and other places.

Linkage between the two gangs is being probed by the MPSTF and their Gujarat counterparts.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/Special-Task-Force-busts-open-school-marksheet-gang/articleshow/24476856.cms>