

# Vadodara: Fake marksheet racket busted, Rajasthan man held

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*The accused Prince Pathak (in black shirt) in police custody.*

VADODARA: A duplicate marksheet and certificate racket was busted in the city following arrest of a 22-year-old man from Rajasthan on Thursday.

The surveillance squad of Gotri police station raided an office in Lalita Tower in Jetalpur on Wednesday midnight and nabbed Prince Pathak with several forged blank and filled-

up marksheets and degree certificates. Pathak who hails from Karoli district in Rajasthan had been operating from Lalita Tower under the name of N K Groups since past two years. He has been living in the city at Waghodiya Road since more than that.

On checking his office, cops found three laptops, two printers and four mobile phones which he was using to design and print the certificates. Pathak, a business administration graduate from Gujarat University, told police that he used to handover the certificates to certain centres across the country after the candidates finished their courses. However, police said that the buyers used to approach him directly through Just Dial and buy certificates for anywhere between Rs 2,000 and Rs 10,000.

“People who had not cleared class X and XII exams and wanted to apply for jobs abroad used to approach the accused for these certificates. We believe that Pathak would have sold certificates to more than 50 people,” said deputy commissioner of police (Zone II), Rajan Sushra. He added that Pathak used to gather information through internet and using a sample certificate, he used to design the duplicate one.

The certificates and marksheets that were seized from Pathak were of Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad-Uttar Pradesh, OPJS University-Churu, Uttarakhand Open School, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Open University-Agra and Jharkhand State Open School.

Police are now investigating about Pathak’s accomplices and also about the centres that he is claiming.