

Dear press and media community,

(Bcc intentional)

In postscript are details about our sustained efforts to create awareness, enable as well as pressurize the current Goa government to improve the plight of Computer education in schools given its extremely high potential to positively impact the teaching effectiveness of all other subjects as witnessed across the globe.

While the state government has recently gone into an overdrive signing MOUs with Google and others, practical outcomes from these remain to be seen given the fact that this very same government has been squatting on basic simple things in its direct control for months and years. Govt's inaction despite schemes and budget availability, and tendency to waste precious public funds on unsuitable hardware and unnecessary licensed software for school education needs to be strongly questioned. We request your support to push the govt into action. Kindly cover this story in your publications and let us know if you need any quotes or bytes from our Executive Team.

Thank you very much.

Regards,

Goa IT Professionals – GITP | www.goaitpro.org | goaitp@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Goa IT Professionals - GITP <goaitp@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 14, 2016 at 2:32 PM

Subject: FOR CM's ATTENTION: Education portfolio looking bad...needs urgent action...see email for details

To: cm goa <cm.goa@nic.in>, Laxmikant Parsekar <*****@gmail.com>, cmo goa <cmo.goa@nic.in>, Chief Secretary - Goa <cs-go@nic.in>, Goa Director DoIT <dir-dit.goa@nic.in>, dir-educ.goa@nic.in, dir-dte.goa@nic.in, "subhash.phaldessai" <*****@yahoo.com>, Managing Director - Infotech Corp of Goa <md@infotechgoa.com>

Respected Chief Minister, Laxmikant Parsekar:

While we are appreciative of your efforts to establish a MOU with Google which has some standard value-adds for Goan schools, GITP would like to bring to your attention the following points related to your Education portfolio for urgent action from your government:

1. As explained to you in our meeting on 27Jan2016, and even as of today, the state of Goan school computer education continues to be terrible. This remains a serious blot on your tenure as the Education Minister of Goa.

- a. Barely 1-2 of the 10 govt-provided PCs are in working condition.
- b. Most software licences (Windows OS, MS Office) on govt-provided PCs are pirated.
- c. Syllabus is centered on the clerical instead of the creative and productive use of computers.
- d. Most computer teachers are incompetent even on basics.
- e. Scheme240 created by your govt a year ago and the Rs.25 crores provisioned in this FY budget are yet to reach the schools.

2. With extremely cost-effective and rugged hardware available today (viz. Raspberry Pi etc.) and Free Open Source Software (FOSS), it is criminal for any govt to be spending precious public funds on purchase of the traditional expensive and delicate hardware and licensed software which have historically only led to scams and the above mentioned plight of our Goa schools. As explained to you on 27Jan, with just Rs.1.58cr every school in Goa could be given 10 Raspberry Pi (or equivalent) kits to revive their dead Computer Labs. Any Goa govt. department found violating such cost-effective recommendations will face GITP's and the larger IT community's wrath in public including RTIs and legal action if necessary. **Our core team members have witnessed first-hand a senior Education Dept. official (name to be disclosed if needed) recently claiming that Goa InfoTech Corp. has issued a tender for traditional hardware for schools. Please stop it immediately and channel the same funds towards the right hardware (software free) as per our above recommendations based on time-tested global best practices.**

3. Goa Board of Education has initiated a major drive to upgrade the Computer Education syllabus for classes 9-12 from next academic year as a result of which they have held workshops in each taluka for all school Computer Teachers besides also holding a seminar for all HSSE Principals. GITP and its well-wishers have contributed in this effort by conducting some of these demonstration sessions, lending our Project GEIT hardware to Goa Board and offering to train all school computer teachers for free. Such self-initiative is commendable for a govt body and GITP vouches its full hands-on support to any other Goa govt. department that proactively works to improve the situation.

4. As briefly discussed with you by our Vice President, Vincent Toscano, at the recent Google MOU event, an initiative akin to Goa Board's needs to be undertaken by the Dept of Education to upgrade the Computer Education syllabus for classes 5-8. We understand certain organizational impediments exist there but with the recent appointment of Nila Mohanan as the Education Secretary GITP now optimistically looks forward to progress in the right direction. Please provide your full support and force as needed to move things forward with this dept.

5. Excessive delays on disbursal of Scheme240 and the 25cr budget do not reflect well on your govt in an election year. Kindly help fast track their implementation without potential mis-use by traditional unscrupulous elements in the governmental supply chain.

6. Lastly, kindly fast track the Google MOU commitments related to Goan schools on a war footing so that its positive impact is evident at ground level at the earliest.

We keenly look forward to your leadership and drive to **get the above mentioned things done within the next couple months before the election freeze denies you the opportunity to salvage the current poor track record of your Education Dept.** Be assured of GITP's full support in doing the right things for the budding Goan generations presently in school.

FYI this communication will be released to the press after a couple days.

Regards,

Goa IT Professionals – GITP | www.goaitpro.org | goaitp@gmail.com