

## MP-based mathematician's work plagiarised abroad

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Bhopal, Nov 23 (UNI)

A member of the UK-based University of Exeter's School of Education and Lifelong Learning has been found guilty of plagiarising a Madhya Pradesh-based-mathematician's work pertaining to the manner in which the concept of differential calculus spread to Europe in the 16th century.

In a recent letter to former Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism Director-General Sharad Chandra Behar - a copy of the missive was obtained by UNI - University of Exeter Vice-Chancellor Steve Smith said that, subject to findings of an investigation initiated following Prof C K Raju's complaint, Mr Dennis Almeida has been asked to adhere to "conventionally-accepted tenets of authorship/acknowledgements in publications" and warned that "any failure in future to adhere to this principle... could lead to his being dismissed."

"A warning isn't enough. But that's the action the university has taken. I would use the incident to explain how this (transmission of knowledge such as calculus) happened in the past and how it continues today," Prof Raju quipped during an interview to UNI. According to the city-based mathematician, Mr Almeida got access to his work as the result of an acquaintance that developed after the latter contacted Prof Raju following a website advertisement placed by him for seeking a research associate for his Indian National Science Academy-funded project 'Madhava and the Origin of Calculus'.

"Mr Almeida expressed a desire for joint work and promised to raise the required funding. Although he couldn't contribute much academically, I accepted the

proposal," Prof Raju explained.

He alleged that Mr Almeida used various pretexts to obtain access to his unpublished work in a bid to raise finances and even brought in Dr George Joseph - a reader in the University of Manchester's Economics department - saying his British citizenship would prove helpful in raising the amount.

"However, unacceptable terms were proposed later and it appeared that I was being sidelined. So I preferred to opt out," Prof Raju said.

"Later, Mr Almeida collaborated with my former research associate J John, who had been asked to resign from my project with INSA on moral grounds and was in possession of some of my project material," he alleged.

The mathematician claimed that Mr Almeida, Mr John and Mr Zadorzhnyy of the Department of Classics, University of Liverpool, copied his ideas while coming up with a paper called 'Keralese Mathematics: Its Possible Transmission to Europe and the Consequential Educational Implications', which was printed in an "obscure" publication called 'Journal of Natural Geometry' brought out by 'Jnan Bhavan'.

But Prof Raju claimed that Mr Almeida and his co-authors, who also had access to some of the mathematician's work, fell into the "boobytrap" laid by him in order to protect originality.

"They copied certain mistakes too and that depicts their lack of understanding of elementary concepts," he added.