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The Deleted Instagram Post Behind the Gargi College Claims

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Pankaj Punia cited the Gargi College incident to defend his tweet, but the claim that men chanting Jai Shri Ram molested students traced back to an unverified Instagram post that was later deleted. Police found evidence of mass trespassing, and the investigating DCP said the CCTV footage reviewed by then showed no accused carrying flags and the inquiry had found no political affiliation.



The Pankaj Punia tweets.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- The police probe had found mass trespassing. As of the report, no student had given a statement to police, and investigators had found no evidence of sexual harassment.
- Asked directly about the saffron flag claim, DCP Atul Thakur said the CCTV footage reviewed up to that point showed none of the accused carrying flags.
- Prashant Bhushan, Sayema, Kavita Krishnan and the JNU students' union account helped spread the version that Sharma traced to a deleted, anonymous Instagram post.
- Police arrested Congress leader Pankaj Punia over a tweet he later said referred to Gargi College, bringing the unverified version of the incident back into circulation.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in May 2020. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.