

Newspaper Clips

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Mumbai University makes world's Top 20 multi-millionaire alumni list

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The University of Mumbai has more multi-millionaires as alumni than the University of Cambridge or Brown University. And if varities from the US are excluded, it is second only to Oxford in the number of students who have gone on to become super-rich.

The University of Mumbai is the only Indian entry in a top 20 graduate 'rich list' that has ranked universities that will make you a millionaire. With 372 multi-millionaires (net worth: \$37 billion) as alumni, it is ranked 18th in the list. Delhi University also finds mention, though it does not figure in the top 20. It has 229 super-rich alumni. A research by wealth analyst Wealth-X said Har-

FORMER STUDENTS TODAY'S SUPER-RICH

1 Harvard University 2,964 alumni (total worth \$622bn)	5 New York University 828 alumni (worth \$110bn)
2 University of Pennsylvania 1,502 alumni (worth \$242bn)	16 Oxford University 401 alumni (worth \$51bn)
3 Stanford University 1,174 alumni (worth \$171bn)	18 University of Mumbai 372 alumni (worth \$37bn)
4 Columbia University 889 alumni (worth \$116bn)	19 University of Cambridge 361 alumni (worth \$93bn)

- American universities are home to the largest number of super-rich alumni, with 85% representation in the ranking
- Only three out of the global top 20 are non-US universities: Oxford, Mumbai and Cambridge

vard boasts of the highest number of rich alumni: 2,964 multi-millionaires worth a total of \$622 billion.

Harvard is also the alma mater of 52 billionaires, the largest number of billionaire

alumni. The list was compiled by counting the number of former students from each university who are believed to be worth £20 million, taking into account their earnings, properties and other assets. Oxford

tops the list from the UK with 401 super-rich graduates, but Cambridge has more billionaires. The list, which is dominated by American universities, has Oxford at No. 16 and Cambridge at No. 19.

"University of Mumbai has the highest percentage of ultra high net worth (UHNW) alumni who have inherited their wealth at 27% as well as the highest percentage of UHNW alumni who have inherited wealth and proceeded to create fortunes of their own at 29%," the study says. So, 44% of multi-millionaire alumni from Mumbai University are "self-made". One of India's oldest universities, it was established in 1857 and boasts of alumni such as RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani and cricket icon Sunil Gavaskar.

Apex Court blow to AICTE

Private colleges do not require technical education regulator's approval to conduct MBA and MCA courses, rules SC

ABRAHAM THOMAS
■ NEW DELHI

Private colleges will no longer require permission of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to conduct MBA and MCA courses, ruled the Supreme Court on Thursday. This could, yet again, lead to mushrooming of colleges vying to offer these lucrative courses.

The bench of Justices BS Chauhan and V Gopala Gowda held that though MCA was a technical course, the AICTE had no business to lay down standards as for this purpose the Parliament had already enacted the UGC Act. Moreover, the role of AICTE was advisory and could only impose uniform standards of education in affiliated members of a university by putting a note to the UGC, the bench said.

About the MBA course, the bench held "MBA course is not a technical course within the definition of AICTE Act" and "...approval from the AICTE is not required for obtaining permission and running MBA course by the appellant colleges."

The order came on a bunch

Uncertainty over Govt's new accreditation norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's judgment has come even as the HRD Ministry has decided to make both AICTE and UGC accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutes including those conducting MBA and MCA programmes.

Keeping in view the mushrooming higher educational institutes offering MBA, MCA, and Engineering, the HRD Ministry went for the significant policy change in the accreditation policy for a higher educational institute in February this year.

HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju last December had also

of appeals filed by Association of Management of Private Colleges along with certain private colleges in Tamil Nadu which defied the AICTE order directing them to seek prior approval for starting an MCA course.

The colleges had raised a legal objection that the AICTE

CASES PENDING FOR NOD (AS ON DEC 2012)

Technical Institutes:	3800
MBA Institutes:	3700
Hotel Mgmt, Catering etc:	240
Polytechnics:	3500
Applied Studies:	60
Pendency Instt, Prog:	60,000

announced a new accreditation body - Indian Board of Accreditation (IBA). He said that IBA was a new initiative by AICTE just like the existing National Board of Accreditation (NBA), which too has a role for accreditation and renewal relat-

Act being an enactment of Parliament could not be amended in year 2000 without being placed in the Parliament. This argument was accepted by the Court to knock off AICTE's jurisdiction.

The judgment by the apex court is a huge blow to the

HRD Ministry had just in Feb this year made both AICTE and UGC accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutes including those conducting MBA and MCA programmes

ed works.

The UGC and AICTE accreditation for every higher educational institution and every programme was aimed at

AICTE which made it mandatory for any college running MBA/MCA course affiliated to any University to seek its prior approval.

This regulation was added under the AICTE Act by way of an amendment in year 2000 recognised both MBA and

certifying academic quality. AICTE is the apex body of technical and management educational institutes in the country.

The new accreditation norms came as the fate of the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010 continues to hang in the balance in Parliament.

At present, AICTE is overburdened with affiliation applications from thousands of institutes and over 60,000 programmes from the diploma level to post-graduate level in Engineering and Technology, Architecture, Pharmacy, Town Planning and Management Studies.

MCA courses to be "technical" courses.

Figures available with the court revealed that till 2001-02, AICTE-approved 865 institutions conducted MCA courses offering 40,792 seats. This number is now set to rise since the SC decision.

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Why students need the right to copy

The lawsuit by publishers seeking to stop Delhi University from distributing photocopied course packs goes against the spirit of education for all

Shamnad Basheer

Late last year, leading publishing houses including Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press brought a copyright action against Delhi University and a tiny photocopy shop licensed by it, seeking to restrain them from supplying educational course packs to students. This lawsuit sent shock waves across the academic community, leading more than 300 authors and academics including famed Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen to protest this copyright aggression in an open letter to publishers. Tellingly, 33 of the authors of various books mentioned specifically in the lawsuit (as having been copied in the course packs) signed this protest letter making it clear that they were dissociating themselves from this unfortunate lawsuit.

For those not familiar with the term, course packs are compilations of limited excerpts from copyrighted books, put together painstakingly by faculty members in accordance with a carefully designed syllabus and teaching plan.

'Fair use'

What makes the lawsuit particularly egregious is the fact that publishers are effectively seeking an outright ban on all course packs, even those that extract and use no more than 10 per cent of the copyrighted book. Under U.S. law, reproducing up to 10 per cent of the copyrighted books is "fair use" of a copyrighted work, and therefore legal. Given that India is a developing country, with poorer students and more severe educational access constraints, it stands to reason that Indian courts ought to peg this number at 30 per cent or even higher.

Further, the Indian education exception is far wider than its U.S. counterpart. Section 52(1) (a) embodies the "fair use" exception and permits any fair dealing of a copyrighted work for the purpose of research and private study. In addition, unlike the U.S., Section 52(1)(i) embodies a separate exception, under which it is perfectly legal to reproduce any copyrighted work during the course of educational instruction. These exceptions reflect a clear Parliamentary in-



BREAKING FREE: The case also shows why it is necessary for academics to explore alternative open access models. A meeting in October 2012 at Delhi University to examine the implications of the case. — PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tention to exempt core aspects of education from the private sphere of copyright infringement. Eviscerating these exceptions at the behest of publishers will strike at the very heart of our constitutional guarantee of a fundamental right to education for all.

In fact, copyright scholars have begun labelling these exceptions as "rights" accruing in favour of beneficiaries such as students. In *CCH Canadian Ltd. v. Law Society of Upper Canada*, the Supreme Court of Canada endorsed this sentiment noting that:

"...The fair dealing exception, like other exceptions in the Copyright Act, is a user's right. In order to maintain the proper balance between the rights of a copyright owner and users' interests, it must not be interpreted restrictively."

Public interest

Recently, an association of students and academics applied to be impleaded as parties to the lawsuit, so that they could help the court arrive at a robust interpretation of the copyright exceptions. While allowing these impleadments, the judge noted the critical importance of "public interest" in deciding intellectual property cases. These developments come close on the heels of the famed *Novartis* decision where the

Supreme Court foregrounded the interests of the public in accessing affordable medication.

Danger of this licence

Meanwhile, publishers have offered the tantalising option of acquiring a licence from the Indian Reprographic Rights Organisation (IRRO), an organisation set up by publishers to collect royalties on their behalf. This is a dangerous route to tread for three reasons.

First, taking a licence for course packs amounts to paying for a right that does not exist. It bears reiteration that photocopying for the purpose of educational instruction is a legal exception under copyright law and one is not required to seek the permission of the copyright owner and/or pay any licence fees.

Second, the IRRO and publishers are likely to offer a paltry licensing fee at the start. Once their foot is in the door, there is no stopping them from rapidly escalating licensing fees year after year. Canadian universities bore the brunt of this copyright greed around a year or so ago and refused to renew their licenses.

Third, the IRRO does not hold the rights to all published works. If Universities are to track down and enter into licensing deals with every copyright owner, this would lead to excessive de-

lays in the preparation of course packs.

Academic institutions should therefore refrain from entering into any deal with the IRRO or publishers till such time as the case is disposed of. In fact, given the rather wide language of Section 52(1)(i), institutions are well within their right to presume that the creation of course packs and related educational material is legal, until a court holds otherwise.

No Indian editions

Notwithstanding the egregiousness of this lawsuit, a key advantage is that it forces us to re-examine the current publishing and pricing model that places profit above the interest of students. Academics need to come together and explore alternative open access models in order to break through this private profit monopoly thicket that has come to plague academic publishing.

That a majority of educational textbooks are priced above the affordability range of an average Indian student is well known. A recent empirical study done by me along with my students reveals that a vast majority of popular legal and social science titles have no corresponding Indian editions and need to be purchased at rates equivalent to or higher than in the West.

Therefore, the claim by publishers that course packs would destroy their market for books and put them out of business is highly questionable. Given that this is the first copyright law suit to be brought against course packs, one can only assume that the healthy growth figures boasted by the academic publishing industry means that course packs have not done them much damage. If at all anything, the inclusion of extracts of copyrighted works in the course packs is likely to encourage readers to buy the books when they can afford them.

In the end, this lawsuit must be seen for what it is: a highly pernicious attempt to fill the coffers of publishers at the expense of students! It must be resisted with all the moral and legal force we have.

(Shamnad Basheer teaches IP Law at NUJS, Kolkata. He wishes to thank Amita Baviskar for her inputs in this piece.)

HT Jaipur

Kota IIIT to be a reality soon

FINALLY Site for the institution approved; laying of foundation likely next month; classes may run temporarily at MNIT Jaipur

Aabshar H Quazi

■ aabshar.quazi@hindustantimes.com

KOTA: The decks have been cleared for the proposed Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Kota.

The site selection committee (SSC) of the Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) on Thursday approved the IIIT site in Kota and even announced the foundation laying for the proposed institute next month.

There are also possibilities that the upcoming 2013-14 academic session of IIIT Kota may run coming temporarily at MNIT Jaipur.

Hindustan Times had published a report about the delay in establishment of IIIT Kota on March 6, 2013.

The SSC comprises Alok Mishra, director of the tech-



■ Union government's site selection committee at the site of the proposed IIIT in Kota on Thursday.

AH ZAIDI/HT PHOTO

nical education, MHRD; SG Deshmukh, the director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gwalior; and Rajeev Swaroop, principal secretary

technical education, Rajasthan. The team visited the proposed IIIT site at Ranpur in Kota on Thursday and found it feasible. The SSC members also

discussed the infrastructural requirements for the institute with Kota district collector Jogaram as well as officials of Urban Improvement Trust and

other departments.

Later, the team visited Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, where Rajeev Swaroop briefed mediapersons that all formalities for the proposed IIIT in Kota were completed on Thursday as the committee had approved its site, around 100 acres in area.

He said work on IIIT Kota would start soon.

"A society for the IIIT Kota will be formed within the next 10 days and foundation laying ceremony of the institute is likely to be done next month," Swaroop said.

He added that efforts were on to make IIIT Kota functional from the coming academic session itself, and classes for the first batch may be run temporarily at the mentor institute of IIIT Kota, which is Malviya National Institute of Technology

(MNIT), Jaipur.

The upcoming IIIT Kota will be the first among 20 other IIITs announced in the country and will be established under PPP (public-private partnership) mode.

The industrial partners of IIIT Kota include Hindustan Motors, New Delhi; Genpact India, Jaipur; Cairn India Limited; and Vkrangee Software Limited, Mumbai.

Around Rs 128 crore are likely to be spent on the establishment of the institute, of which Rs 64 crore will be spent by the Union government, Rs 45 crore by the state government and Rs 19.2 crore by the industrial partners.

Swaroop said the Union government had already sanctioned Rs 10 crore of the corpus fund for IIIT Kota, of which Rs 3.75 crore of the first installment had already been issued.

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Curb on selling photocopied course packs in DU stays

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a setback to Delhi University students, the Delhi high court on Thursday refused to lift the stay imposed earlier on a university-licensed photocopier accused of violating copyright of international publishers.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw wasn't impressed by the contention of the students' body that HC vacate its stay order restraining the photocopies in view of approaching examinations in May this year. The students had argued the stay makes it difficult for them to get access to photocopied course related material. But HC pointed out there are several other such shops across the campus whose facilities the students can avail, even as it posted for May 8 for further hearing a copyright suit against the photocopies.

During the hearing on Thursday, the high court heard at length the arguments made by the publishers who want it to permanently bar photocopiers from selling their text books as photo copies to students. Publishers including the University Press, the Cambridge University Press and Taylor and Francis, all offshore publishing houses had on August 14 last year moved the court against Rameshwari Photocopy Service located inside the DU campus alleging it infringed their copyright over the text books.

The court then restrained Rameshwari Photocopy Service from "making or selling course packs and also reproducing the plaintiff's publication or substantial portion by compiling the same either in a book form or in the form of a course pack, till the final disposal of the said application". The publishers cited systems prevalent globally to argue that none allows such blatant sale of intellectual property in the manner it happens in DU where entire books are photocopied and sold at cheaper rates.

HT Kolkata

UGC CHARGES INDIA'S 1ST DALIT VARSIITY WITH FUND MISUSE

Charu Sudan Kasturi■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A University Grants Commission (UGC) probe has accused an Odisha-based higher education institute started by retired IAS officer and former MP of misusing over ₹25 crore funds awarded to it by the higher education regulator.

Based on the probe's report, the UGC has decided to stop all future funding to the National Institute of Social Work and Social Sciences (NISWASS), founded by Radhakant Nayak, a former secretary in the Union rural development ministry and a one-term Rajya Sabha Congress MP.

But the report of the enquiry committee — under former bureaucrat S Sathyam — has raised hard questions about the UGC's decision under its former chairman Sukhdeo Thorat to award NISWASS the ₹25 crore funds in the first place.

Launched in 1971, NISWASS has applied to the Centre for deemed university status, and states on its website that the tag would make it India's "first Dalit University."

NISWASS director general Bidyut Kumar Pramanik told HT the institute had provided UGC the documents that the regulator had demanded — including utilisation certificates detailing how it used the central funds — in March.

"We are hopeful to receive a favourable response from the UGC to our reply," Pramanik said. Nayak is recovering from a surgery and could not speak.

But the UGC, government sources said, is unlikely to review its decision.