

Newspaper Clips

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Harvard: 125 students may have cheated in final exam

New York: About 125 Harvard University undergraduates are being investigated for cheating in a final examination last year, the largest academic misconduct scandal in the prestigious institution's history.

The Harvard College administrative board is reviewing the allegations of "academic dishonesty", ranging from "inappropriate collaboration to outright plagiarism, on a take-home final exam", dean of undergraduate education Jay Harris said in a note sent to students.

India-friendly chief of Yale to retire

The India-friendly president of the Yale University, **Richard Levin**, has announced stepping down from the helm of the American varsity at the end of the current academic session after a 20-year stint. Levin, 65, the longest-serving leader in the Ivy League, said he will retire at the end of the current academic year. Levin was instrumental in several key initiatives with India. ❧

A comprehensive review of every exam from the class found that nearly half of the 279 enrolled students may have worked together in groups to develop and share answers. Harris said the magnitude of the case is "unprecedented in anyone's living memory". The students whose work is under review have been contacted by the board, which will meet with each student separately seeking to understand all the relevant facts and to determine whether any faculty rules were violated. ❧

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Harvard roiled by largest cheating scandal

Jess Bidgood
& Richard Perez-Pena

CAMBRIDGE (MASSACHUSETTS): Harvard University revealed on Thursday what could be its largest cheating scandal in memory, saying about 125 students may have worked in groups on a take-home final exam, though they were explicitly required to work alone. The accusations, related to a single, undergraduate class in the spring semester, deal with "academic dishonesty, ranging from inappropriate collaboration to outright plagiarism," the administration said in a note sent to students.

Officials said nearly half of the more than 250 students in the class are under investigation by the Harvard Col-

lege Administrative Board and if they are found to have cheated, they could be suspended for a year. The students have been notified that they are suspected and will be called to give their accounts at investigative hearings.

"This is unprecedented in its scope and magnitude," said Jay Harris, Dean of Undergraduate Education.

Administrators would not reveal the name of the class or even the department, saying they wanted to protect the identities of the students. *The Harvard Crimson*, the university's student newspaper, reported that it was a government class, Introduction to Congress, which had 279 students, and it was taught by Matthew B. Platt,

an assistant professor.

Platt did not respond to messages seeking comment.

When final exams were graded in May, similarities were noticed in the answers given by some students, officials said, and a professor brought the matter to the administration immediately. Over the summer, Harvard's administrative board conducted an initial review, going over the exams of all the students in the class for evidence of cheating. It concluded that almost half of them showed signs of possible collaboration. "The enabling role of technology is a big part of this picture," Mr. Harris said. "It's the ease of sharing. With that has come, I believe, a certain cavalier attitude."

The university said it

planned to increase efforts to teach students about academic integrity. "The scope of the allegations suggests that there is work to be done to ensure that every student... understands and embraces the values that are fundamental to its community of scholars," Harvard's president Drew Gilpin Faust told *The Harvard Gazette*, the university's official newspaper.

Harvard's student handbook says students must "comply with the policy on collaboration established for each course," and notes that such policies vary from department to department, from class to class, and even from assignment to assignment within a class. — **New York Times News Service**

An Indian In Every Chip

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

It is said that every time Indians got a corner in Silicon Valley in the 1990s, they cranked out a start-up. By 2000, there was rarely a start up in the Valley that did not involve Indians. "The definitive smell inside a Silicon Valley start-up was of curry," Michael Lewis wrote in *The New New Thing*, a bestseller on the US digital economy that chronicles the story of Netscape's Jim Clark and the founding of Healtheon/WebMD, with Pavan Nigam, an Indian whiz he teamed up with.

The first Indian "techies" began coming to San Francisco in the 1960s. The term Silicon Valley was yet to be coined. In the 1980s, the trickle became a stream that turned into a torrent in the early 1990s, and then into a flood at the turn of the century.

By 2000 the US boasted of attracting 25,000 IIT engineering graduates. That number was a quarter of all graduates produced by the IITs since its founding in 1950.

Numerically Indians were not at the top of the list in digital America, but the fact that they were a white-collar workforce, knew English, and had an accomplished education made them highly regarded.

By 1990, immigrants made up a third of the scientific and engineering workforce in

cradle of enterprise and innovation has seen unmatched technological renaissance. The transistor was an East Coast creation born in 1947 at Bell Labs, another tech crucible that would be led by Indian engineer Arun Netravali at the turn of the century. A few years on, a young Sikh Narendra Singh Kapany, created fibre optics. In 1967, Kapany took his seven-year-old Optics Technology public, arguably making him the first Indian entrepreneur to do so.

In 1964, Amar G. Bose, professor of electrical engineering at MIT, founded Bose Corporation. Disappointed to find a stereo he purchased came with speakers that failed to reproduce the realism of a live performance, Bose conducted extensive research in speaker design and psychoacoustics, achieving breakthroughs in sound reproduction.

Kapany's effort and Bose's success sent a frisson of excitement among the earliest Indian techies. Bose became a cult hero for many, including Suhas Patil, a young IIT-Kharagpur graduate who studied under Bose at MIT. "The way he (Bose) parlayed his academic and research knowledge into a business made a deep impression," says Patil, who like his idol also aborted a teaching career to go into business.

Kapany and Bose's exploits emboldened Indian newcomers. In 1973, Farouq Arjani, a young Parsi entrepreneur from Mumbai, founded Artec International, a pioneer in word processing.

A few years later, Thampy Thomas, a Keralite from BITS Pilani, found Elxsi, among the earliest Valley ventures to make mainframe computers.

In 1981, miffed at being laid off from three jobs, IITian Kanwal Rekhi decided to build his business with fellow IITian Inder Mohan Singh. They founded Excelan, a computer network management company that sold to Novell in 1987 for \$200 mn, a record then for an immigrant-founded company.

By far the most celebrated success was Vinod Khosla's. A Pune-born IITian, who came to Stanford for graduate studies, Khosla stepped out into Silicon Valley and started computer applications maker Daisy Systems with a bunch of Israelis in 1980. Two years later, he cranked up Sun Microsystems with others to revolutionise the concept of open workstations, large computers that could be connected to each other.

Sun remains the biggest and most-lauded Indian landmark in the American hi-tech space. By the turn of the century, Khosla would sustain and nourish a score of cutting edge hi-tech companies worth more than \$200 billion and earn the accolade "the greatest venture capitalist of all time."

Silicon Valley. By 1998, Chinese and Indian engineers were senior executives at a quarter of Silicon Valley's new tech businesses. Some 25% of the nearly 11,500 high-tech firms born in the Valley between 1990 and 1998 were founded by Chinese or Indian entrepreneurs.

In 1998, US government figures disclosed that Indians got 44% of the 65,000 H1-B visas issued for the year.

From the time Intel's first microprocessor was introduced to the age of the Pentiums — concocted by Indian chip technologist Vinod Dham with millions of transistors on a single chip — and thereafter, this

DATE SHEET

Aug 21-Sep 10	Submission of Application Forms
Sept 15	Shortlist Announced
Sept 23	Aptitude Test for Shortlisted Candidates
Oct 2	Aptitude Test Results
Oct 9-11	GD/Interview-Regional Level
Oct 19	Final Shortlist
Nov 2 & 3	GD/Interview in Delhi
Nov 5	Announcement of Times Scholars

Poor SC/ST enrolment in higher edu

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The first-ever survey of higher education in the country shows that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not been able to reap its benefits. The survey reveals that though Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has gone up to about 20%, private unaided colleges have the lowest number of students.

It is expected that when the final results of survey appear by year-end, enrolment would be go up across the spectrum. But the provision-

al data for SCs/STs is a cause for worry. Enrolment of SC students is only 10.2%; male (10.3%) and females (10.1%). In case of STs, GER is pitiable at 4.4%; male students (4.3%) and females (4.6%).

With such a poor GER, it is natural that they have a poor presence as college and university teachers. Only 7.4% of teachers belong to SC and 2.9% are STs.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) have, however, done well. Though getting reservation in central government institutions for the past five

While Gross Enrolment Ratio for SC, ST students and teachers is pitiable, OBCs have done well in both categories over the last five years

years and also in many state government institutions, politically powerful OBCs enrolment figure stands at 27.1%. Even as teachers in higher educational institutions OBCs have a dominat-

ing presence at 23.3%.

The survey in which institutions were asked to provide all information to a dedicated portal has so far received data from more than 450 out of 621 universities, around 9,000 of 27,468 colleges, 1,800 of 4,118 technical institutes and 2,000 of 5,268 standalone institutions. So far, among the institutions that have responded 1% of the university and 9% of the colleges are exclusively meant for girls' education. Also, out of total enrolment, 17% is under distance education mode.

India to tick off UK on varsity rap

Ashis Ray | TNN

London: With more than 600 Indian students facing deportation after United Kingdom's Border Agency revoked the London Metropolitan University's licence to admit students from non-European Union countries, the Indian government is likely to convey its displeasure to British authorities.

It's also investigating whether there has been "discrimination" against bona fide Indian students who may be deported before completing their studies as a result of Thursday's decision.

Sources revealed the British foreign office is appre-



IN EYE OF VISA STORM

hending an angry representation from India. While the British home office wouldn't confirm this, a ministry spokesperson said the total number of students impacted by UKBA's move could rise to 3,000. An Indian high com-

mission spokesperson said that a diplomat had visited LMU for fact finding.

The high commission is unlikely to defend students who over-stayed after their UK visas expired. But it's expected to take a dim view of unsettling those who've not committed any infringement. India will argue against different rules for an Indian student from an EU national. It'll also say London Met students from EU are not being penalised for their insufficient knowledge of English or for their inadequate attendance.

Those who still have valid visas have been given 60 days to find a place at another uni-

versity to continue their studies. A wide section of the British media have backed the Indian stance asking why they can't pursue this at LMU and, instead, go through agonizing process of seeking alternatives.

Chris Bryant, the opposition Labour party's immigration spokesman, said the decision would bring "lasting damage to the international reputation of the British university system which brings billions into the UK economy every year".

At the centre of the row is Britain's right-wing immigration minister, Damien Green, the author of the UKBA's drastic solution strategy.



CLOSED: The office of London Metropolitan University at Barakhamba Road

London varsity shut city office month ago

LMU Crisis Leaves Parents Worried

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Even as over 350 Indian students continued to face uncertainty on Friday after the UK Border Agency (UKBA) revoked London Metropolitan University's (LMU) licence to admit and teach international students, their Delhi office has also been closed down. On Friday, a signboard of another company was seen pasted over LMU's signboard and the door was locked.

Until a few days ago, the university used to specify the addresses of its offices in Delhi and Chennai on their website but now even those have been taken off.

SI UK Education Council, an education agency that counsels students for education in UK also has its office on the same floor as LMU, at the seventh floor of Ashoka Estate, Barakhamba Road. They however claimed that LMU had closed its Delhi office almost a month ago. "They closed because the university wanted to cut cost and they vacated around 31 July," said director, SI UK Education Council, Dwayne Gallagher.

The agency had received a mail from LMU saying that all admissions for the coming season were closed and a hotline has been set up for the current batch of students who have been affected or who want to get in touch with LMU. "Many

other UK universities have expressed interest in absorbing the international students who have been affected by LMU's closure. It is not public yet but universities have communicated to help these students," added Gallagher.

SI UK Education Council received a lot of calls from worried parents of students who were studying at LMU. "This morning we got a lot of calls from parents asking about alternative universities," added Manager, SI UK Education Council, Puneet Soin.

According to media reports, UK Border Agency staff have claimed one in four of LMU's overseas students (26 out of a sample of 101) did not have valid visas, 142 out of 250 had 'attendance problems' and 20 out of 50 interviewed had limited English speaking abilities.

Gallagher said that it was hard to believe that so many students had invalid visas. "I find it hard to believe that so many students have invalid visas. Also students usually clear English test before they are given admission to any UK university. How can so many students fake that test? I hope that this doesn't happen with any other UK university in future," he said.

LMU's international students have been given 60 days to find alternative courses and universities or face deportation from the UK.