

# Newspaper Clips

## September 11, 2012

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# CAMBRIDGE

# WOOS INDIA

The visiting vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge shares the ambitious India plans of the prestigious institution he heads

By Sangeeth Sebastian

**T**HE University of Cambridge, one of the world's most respected institutions of higher education with over 260 students on its rolls, is all set to appoint an India Officer to upgrade its presence in the country.

The announcement was made by Leszek Borysiewicz, the university's 345th vice-chancellor and one of the developers of the HPV vaccine, in an interview with this correspondent on the sidelines of the Lovely Professional University's annual convocation in Jalandhar.

"This is not out of any loyalty or history," Borysiewicz said, explaining the rationale behind the proposed appointment of the India Officer. "Cambridge University's interaction with India is very active. We have more than 150 active projects with India," he added. Some of the key collaborations are in the area of drug discovery, stem cell and cancer research, global food security, and nano science.

On a 12-day visit to the country, the vice-chancellor, who's an evolutionary biologist and also heads the UK Medical Research Council, will explore the possibility of setting up a Centre of Chemical Biology and Therapeutics in Bangalore to develop new drugs. Borysiewicz was one of the co-developers of the HPV vaccine administered to young women to reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

"Though a medical researcher of repute, the vice-chancellor has spoken up against an overriding emphasis on science and technology to the exclusion of humanities. "What is the point of living till 90 if you haven't got arts and humanities?" he had once famously asked in an interview to The Guardian.

"It is not enough to provide mere technological solutions," Borysiewicz said to this correspondent. "Today we can develop vaccines quickly, but making the product acceptable to the people in a democratic way requires other disciplines. From linguistics to molecular biology, there is no right or wrong discipline to study. All disciplines should be studied." Borysiewicz reiterated the



Leszek Borysiewicz, Cambridge V-C (right), greets a student at the LPU convocation. Ashok Mittal, LPU Chancellor, is to the visiting vice-chancellor's right.

need to imbibe the spirit of learning to keep pace with the times. "Nobody knows what a doctor or clinician will do in the next 30 years, that is how fast technology is progressing," he said. "There is need to cultivate a spirit of continuous education for your own benefit. Investing in that is vital."

It is a mantra he religiously fol-

## INDIA AND CAMBRIDGE: ABIDING TIES

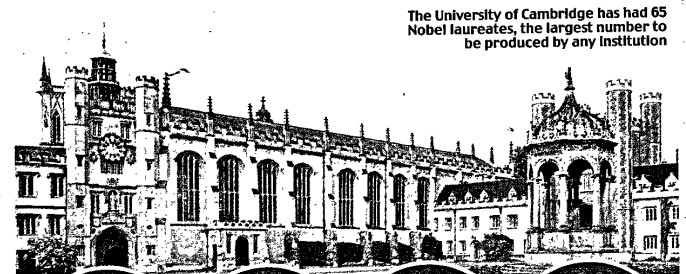
The university that counts Prime Minister Manmohan Singh among its alumni has had Indian students since the mid-1800s. Its links have grown into major collaborative research initiatives.

### FAMOUS INDIAN ALUMNI

1. Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Manmohan Singh
3. Srinivasa Ramanujan, mathematician
4. Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, physicist and one of the early pioneers of radio science
5. Venkataraman Ramakrishnan, Nobel Laureate (Chemistry; 2009)
6. Sir Partha Dasgupta, development & welfare economist
7. Ashok Venkitaraman, co-director, Cambridge Molecular Therapeutics Programme

lows to run the second oldest university in the English-speaking world. "It is easy to blow up 800 years of hard work," Borysiewicz said, referring to the university's historical legacy.

"But as a biologist I believe in the process of evolution. I believe in the ability to change. We still want people to talk about Cambridge as a leading institute in the next 30



The University of Cambridge has had 65 Nobel laureates, the largest number to be produced by any institution



### MAJOR ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES AT CAMBRIDGE

- Archaeology and Anthropology
- Biological Sciences (Cancer Research)
- Classical Studies
- Education and Social Sciences

years," the vice-chancellor added. The vice-chancellor was also critical about the UK government's new restrictive immigration policies. "We (University of Cambridge) have disagreed with the government's immigration policy. Governments do not have the right to set limits on immigration," he said emphatically. Here's a vice-chancellor who knows his mind and also know when to speak out.

### CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH TIE-UPS

The University of Cambridge has 260 academic collaborations with individuals and institutions in India in fields such as cancer research, drug discovery, global food security, immunology, public health, stem cells and type-2 diabetes.

Cambridge academics are involved in large-scale public health research projects with major Indian partners, including the Public Health Foundation of India and Indian Railways.

The Institute for Manufacturing is developing links with the new Global Manufacturing Institute at the Indian School of Business.

The university is also the lead partner in three UK-

India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI) thematic partnerships:

- (1) Seismic activity (Department of Earth Sciences with IISER, Kolkata)
- (2) Food supply chains (Institute for Manufacturing with IIM, Lucknow)
- (3) Low-cost organic-inorganic hybrid electro-luminescent devices (Department of Physics with IIT, Delhi)

# Jamia council gives green light to meta-varsity course

**Shaswati Das**

■ shaswati.das@hindustantimes.com

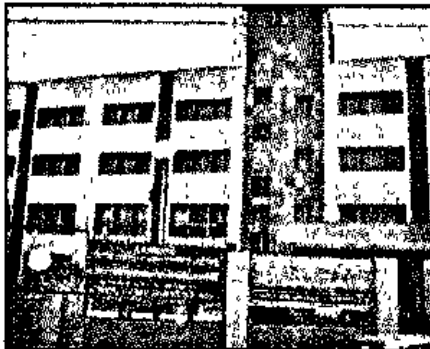
**NEW DELHI:** There's good news for math students planning to venture into the field of mass media.

Jamia Millia Islamia's academic council has given the green light to a Mathematics-Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC) meta-university course. The JMI move follows Delhi University's launch of four-year meta-college programmes.

"This is essentially a Master's in mathematics education course. Graduate students who have studied two semesters of math are eligible to apply for the course," said a JMI spokesperson.

While this inter-disciplinary course will also include concepts of math, proponents of the course maintained that its applications would also extend to everyday life.

However, it is students of



■ **Jamia Millia Islamia may roll out the course by end of September.**

HT FILE

mass communication who will benefit twice as much, since the course will heavily employ concepts taught to mass communication students at Jamia's MCRC.

"While the mathematical aspect of the course will be taught by DU professors, students will be able to use these concepts along with technology to understand the role of mathematics in mass communication. For example, cyber

media uses mathematical concepts heavily when deciding on the number of hits and clicks," she added.

The course — which is spread out over four semesters — has 20 seats for the first batch. However, the classes will be distributed between the two universities with 10 students undertaking the course in DU and 10 in JMI. Yet, all students will ultimately get a joint degree.

While the modalities of rolling out the course by the end of September are still underway, students are now looking forward to, what they perceive will be, a paradigm shift in Indian education.

"The two faculties of the respective universities are good. This will finally break the age old straight-jacketed method of doing an MBA or a regular Master's," said Sourav Shukla, who did an honours course in math from DU.

# Slowdown hits classrooms: Indian B-schools learn it the hard way

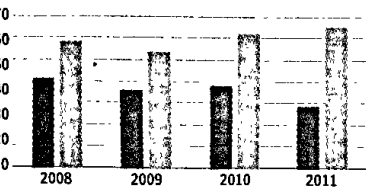
## ON A CRASH COURSE

Only 29% of graduates from Indian business schools — excluding those from the top 20 schools — managed a job straight after completing their course, compared with 41% in 2008

### Placement record for students

Percentage of students that get jobs immediately after graduating

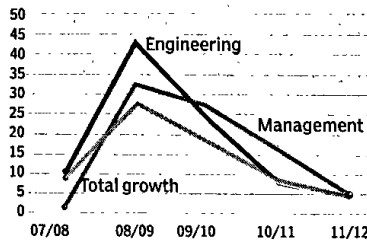
■ MBA, except top 20  
■ Engineering except top 10



Source: MyHiringClub.com, Filkjobs.com/Reuters

### Growth in AICTE approved institutions slow

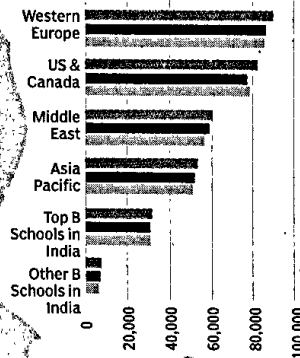
Growth percentage



Source: All India council for Technical Education (AICTE) Reuters

### Average salary earned by MBA graduates

■ 2011 ■ 2010 ■ 2009  
\$ per annum



## ■ About 140 schools offering MBA courses are expected to close this year, says Crisil

Mumbai, Sept 10

A BOOM in India's management education sector that saw the number of business schools triple to almost 4,000 over the last five years has ended as students find expensive courses are no guarantee of a well-paid job in a slowing economy. India's seemingly unstoppable economic rise, an aspiring middle class' desire to stand out in a competitive job market, and a lucrative opportunity for investors fuelled a bubble in business education that is now starting to deflate. About 140 schools offering Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses are expected to close this year, as 35% of their places were vacant in 2011-12, up from 15-20 percent in 2006-07, a report by ratings agency Crisil found.

"The boom which was there has gone," said Anshul Sharma, chairman of Asma Institute of Management, which he started in 2004 in Pune.

"Those who entered this industry with a motive to make money are leaving because there is not much money left. Every college is working to sustain itself," said Sharma.

There was a near four-fold rise to more than 3,52,000 MBA course spots in the five years to March 2012. But the allure of so-called B-schools outside the top tier is fading as the economy grows at its slowest in nine years, with the financial sector especially sluggish, and amid questions about the quality of some schools. Only 29% of graduates from Indian business schools — excluding those from the top 20 schools — get a job straight after completing their course, compared with 41% in 2008. Aditya Digne took out ₹ 3,30,000 loan to fund his MBA from a school in India's financial hub of Mumbai. Four months and 18 job interviews after graduating, the 26-year-old is still looking for a job that will pay enough to cover his expenses and monthly loan instalments of ₹10,000.

"The B-schools have promoted their brand only on placements and by boasting about salary packages. The course is theoretical and you don't learn the skills corporates want," he said.

Private education is big business in India. KPMG pegs the industry at nearly \$50 billion and projects it to reach \$115 billion by 2018. But growth rates are not uniform across the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors. "A third of all management colleges are struggling," said Narayanan Ramaswamy, a partner at KPMG. At the peak before the global financial crisis, new business schools were cropping up almost every day, some in remote towns where even quality secondary education is hard to come by.

There are two strands of MBA courses.

MBA degrees are offered by schools overseen by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the regulatory body for higher education. These schools must be affiliated to a university, have a maximum of 120 students and fees are capped by state governments. A second stream allows colleges to offer diplomas that are not accredited by AICTE. There are no standardised curriculums, class sizes are bigger and fees can be higher. An institution can offer both accredited and non-accredited MBA courses. In a city such as Pune, something of an education hub, it costs about ₹40-50 million over two years to set up a management school, which can be as basic as a modest building with classrooms, a small library and a computer room.

When demand was outrunning supply, students were willing to pay high fees for the autonomous courses, that tend to be more industry-relevant, in order to get a leg up in the job market. "People who had some land and money saw a great investment opportunity in the demand-supply gap and there was a rush to open schools," said Dhiraj Mathur, executive director at PricewaterhouseCoopers. "They were not thinking about the faculty, location, employability and brand name. They thought setting up a school would take care of the rest."

Now, some new institutions are discontinuing their autonomous courses despite often better quality education, because with no guarantee of a job, students are opting for cheaper, AICTE-approved courses.

Schools with little or no track record fill seats by paying existing students up to ₹40,000 for referring other students, Asma's Sharma said, whereas some hire agents, paying them upwards of ₹50,000 for every student they get. Sharma cannot afford to pay hefty commissions and is struggling to fill the 120 seats at his institute. Last year he enrolled only 45 students, and needs about 80 to break even.

Fees at IIM in Ahmedabad are ₹15 lakh for the two-year MBA programme. ISB, an autonomous college associated with international schools like Kellogg, Wharton and London Business School, charges ₹22 lakh. Online job portal MyHiringClub.com found the average starting salary for graduates of India's top B-schools was about \$32,400, about ₹18 lakh, more than four times the average of \$7,550 for other MBA graduates. Lavina Thadani, a 23-year-old MBA graduate from Pune, settled for a low-paying job in the capital markets team after a three-month search yielded little else. Thadani who took a ₹3,00,000 loan to get her degree earns only about ₹2,00,000 a year. "If I had known earlier I would have never done my MBA," she said.

Reuters



# Scientists claim breakthrough on first vaccine against dengue

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: The world's first effective vaccine against dengue could be available by 2015.

Scientists on Tuesday announced a major dengue vaccine breakthrough, with a candidate vaccine showing a 60%-90% protection rate against three virus strains

## ► **No testing on animals, P 11**

(DENV 1, 3 and 4) that causes the mosquito-borne disease. The vaccine CYD-TDV was also found to be safe and well-

## DEADLY DISEASE

► Of the **220 million** people infected annually, two million—mostly kids—develop dengue haemorrhagic fever

► WHO says dengue costs India almost **\$29.3m** a year

► Dengue infected **19,000** Indians in **2011**, killing **180**

tolerated, with no side-effects on those who received it. No vaccine is now available to protect against dengue, and

## GM mosquito that kills own species

US and UK scientists have developed a strain of genetically modified mosquito that is capable of destroying its own species. They anticipate its failure to fly will ensure it dies quickly in the wild, curbing dengue. **P 17**

efforts to develop one have been hampered by the fact that dengue is caused by four viruses—DENV 1, 2, 3 and 4.

HT, Indore

# Coaching: A boon or bane?



**FEES VERSUS SERVICES** While most of the students opine that the fee charged by coaching centres is justified, there are some who believe self-studies are enough to clear competitive exams. Hindustan Times speaks to students and experts to get an insight into the coaching bazaar



**VIJAY SWAROOP & AMRITA U KADAM**

Pradeep Kumar Sahu, 17, spends two hours travelling from Dewas to Indore to attend his coaching class. Manik Poundrik, 17, utilises that time in relaxing and going out with friends. Both of them are Class 12 students and IIT aspirants but what differs is their take on studying. While Pradeep prefers coaching classes, Manik believes in self-study. The contradictory views of students compel one to ponder whether the coaching institutes have really helped students or it is the individual's view that matters as far as cracking competitive examinations are concerned?

On Saturday, principals and teachers of some private schools, during an award ceremony, raised concern over the growth of coaching centres in the city, which according to them was 'minting' money. They cast serious reservations about an education system which allows relatively affluent students with access to coaching schools to dominate merit lists in common entrance exams. Contradictory to this, a coaching institute owner told HT that teachers and principals of well-known schools act as agents for these coaching institutes.

Set aside all the blame game and all that one can see is the stakeholders—the schools (which can do with standard education facility as their students depend on coaching) and the coaching institutes making the most of all this by putting the students and their parents under pressure. Joint director of school education SB Singh says, "The school curriculum is designed in a fashion that no extra burden is added on students. These coaching institutes are flouting all the guidelines of the Human Rights Commission and they are putting additional pressure on the students."

The culture of coaching classes has also redefined the student-teacher relation. "The only motive of coaching institutes is to earn money. A student has become a client and teacher a service provider," says Anand Kumar, founder of Super 30, which teaches students from weaker section for IIT and other engineering entrance tests.

Teachers feel that coaching would

## CASE STUDIES

### Case 1

Pradeep Kumar Sahu, 17, a student of Class 12, is an IIT aspirant from Dewas. He spends two-and-a-half hours shuttling between Dewas and Indore, a distance of 30km to achieve his goal.

"I am studying in Class 12 in my home town Dewas and preparing for entrance examination of Indian Institute of Technology. For the sake of good guidance and support, I have joined a known coaching institute in Indore. I have coaching facility in my home town but I don't want to take a chance with my future," said Sahu.

"My day starts at 4am. I study early in the morning for two-three hours. Later, I attend school from 8am to 1pm. After an hour of travelling, I reach the coaching centre by 2pm," he said. With the strict schedule of studies and scheduled classes, Sahu gets free by 7 or 8pm and reaches home not before 9pm. Sahu's

time table doesn't end there. After an hour of rest and dinner, he goes back to studies from 10pm to 12am. "My parents have high hopes and I don't want to let them down. The only reason to join a coaching is the guidance they provide and the attention they pay to studies. The small tricks and tips given by experienced faculty keeps me updated. I am dependent on coaching institutes as guidance of school teachers is not enough for clearing competitive exams. My strict schedule leaves little time for rest or recreation but I am hoping for a better future so it's just a little sacrifice," he added.

### Case 2

Manik Poundrik, 17, a student of Class 12, is preparing for AIEEE and IIT-JEE but she finds enough time for family and friends. Reason: she believes in self-study and pays proper attention to the lectures given to her at her school, Saraswati Shishu Mandir at Khaibwala Tank. Manik has been a brilliant student all these

years but she isn't extraordinarily different from the others. What makes

her stand out is her approach. "I am confident and I believe that clearing these entrance exams is my need and not want. Like water is a need and lavish food is want. Need makes you work harder," she says. She attends her school from 8am to 2pm, comes back home and relaxes. She then starts studying at around 4.30pm and studies till 6.30pm. "I generally study mathematics during this time because this is the best time to solve problems and I also prepare for the competitive exams." At 6.30pm, she takes a break and goes out with friends or rests at home. She again picks up her chemistry book at 8pm for two hours and then studies physics from 11.30pm to 1am. "I have enough time in between my schedule and even if I have to go out, I can. My schedule is very flexible and it is feasible. I study languages when I get bored of the routine," she adds. Manik never joined any coaching class. "I have seen that most of the students join these classes because they get notes there. I make my own notes after reading the books well. I have seen a lot of them bunking classes and roaming around in the city in the name of coaching classes. If I have any doubt, I ask my school teachers after the class. They have always helped me and I feel that one should not hesitate in asking the school teachers for help."



be unnecessary if entrance exams were genuinely based on the Class 12 curriculum. However, as long as coaching institutes exist, there is great temptation among parents to enroll their children in them, especially if they lack the motivation to study on their own. However, promoters and managers of Indore's rapidly multiplying coaching institutes beg to differ. They believe that they provide a valuable service to society by supplementing in different tuition being dispensed by unmotivated teachers in the crowded school classrooms. In their opinion, they help equip students in deriving full value from school and

college education.

Professor of sociology Gyanprakash feels that the growth of coaching institutes as 'dummy schools' is wrong. "Attendance should be made compulsory in schools. The coaching centres will not be fruitful in the long run and the students would miss the basic knowledge. Coaching has become fashion now and the parents are compelled to send their children just because the others around are sending their children," he said.

Rajshree Sharma, whose daughter Reema is in Class II says, "I don't think that sending children to coaching is needed if they get proper attention

to what is being taught in school. They should just get back home and revise it every day."

Despite all the criticisms, the fact is that only a small percentage of students qualify on their own in any competitive exam. "You have to seek guidance in modern trends at one point or the other, be it for engineering, medical, MBA or public service commissions," said an IITian, who preferred anonymity.

Coaching institutes' proprietors allege that school teachers are always in a hurry to complete the vast prescribed syllabus and seldom have the time to develop the application and

problem-solving skills of students which are increasingly being tested in common entrance exams. Hence, students are driven to coaching centres, which fulfill this need. Interestingly, these institutes promote themselves as 'toppers factory'. That these institutes are not mere commercially driven teaching shops is also evidenced by the fact that a large number of them offer modestly priced correspondence courses which are invaluable to students in poorly-managed and under-served government schools in rural India.

[www.kadamb@hindustantimes.com](mailto:www.kadamb@hindustantimes.com)

## VOXPOP

Do you think coaching institutes provide quality education vis-a-vis the fees they charge?

I think they provide quality education according to their fees. They focus on teaching for school as well as competitive exam. The study material they provide helps a lot in understanding each subject in detail. The teaching method and experience of faculty also helps us to score better in exams. The individual attention paid in doubt clearing session and the motivation provided by teachers is worth the fees.



UPESH NANDWAL, CLASS 12, IIT AIEEE aspirant



I don't mind paying the amount they charge because coaching provides an environment needed for competitive exam. The attention one gets and the quality of teaching is nice. The syllabus is completed on time and a schedule to balance between board examinations and competitive exam is also maintained.

PRABHANSHU TAYLOR, CLASS 12, IIT AIEEE aspirant

I think the fee which coaching institutes charge is justified because I get a proper environment to study. The target of syllabus completion is also achieved so I don't have to worry about school studies. Self-studies for competitive exams are not enough. The guidance provided by faculty at coaching is the best as they tell us what, when and how much to study. So, it takes off the major burden of scheduling everything.



ASHWIN YADAV, CLASS 12, IIT AIEEE aspirant

(AS TOLD TO SHRISHY MISHRA)

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## INTERVIEW

**SUNDEEP GUPTA**, director of a well-known coaching institute

# 'Teachers, principals agents for coaching institutes'

### When did the coaching industry start growing?

There has been an exponential growth in the last 12 years. The awareness has grown and so has competition. For competitive exams, students rely more on coaching institutes.

### Why has the scenario changed?

Earlier, students rarely used to migrate for education. These days, we have nearly 70% of the students from nearby districts, cities and states. Indore has turned into an education hub. Also, schools have not fared well in providing education. Government policies are

**MOST OF THE INSTITUTEs CONCENTRATE ON ONLY A HANDFUL OF PROMISING STUDENTS FOR NAME AND FAME**

responsible for that to a large extent. With the use of virtual learning facility, the education system can still be changed and the students from rural areas will not have to migrate to cities for expensive classes.

### Do you think failure of schools is the main reason for the mushrooming of coaching institutes?

### rooming of coaching institutes?

Yes, teachers and principals of well-known schools have become the agents for coaching institutes and they take percentages from the coaching institutes for sending their students to these classes. This culture has spread so widely that parents have become helpless and they are left with no choice but to send their children for extra classes.

### What do you think is an appropriate solution?

I think coaching classes should not be promoted as they are spreading like cancer. When I started my classes, the

aim was not to commercialise it, but to ensure that the students in the city get admission into quality medical and engineering colleges for which we provide training. We have our ideology in place and we don't take more than two batches.

### Has coaching become a money making business?

Most of the institutes concentrate on only a handful of promising students for name and fame. Rest of them would only pay fees and would remain the neglected lot. This kind of education has become mental, physical and financial harassment.

## INTERVIEW

**SB SINGH**, joint director, school education

# 'Coaching centres are a threat to education system'

### Is there any regulation on coaching institutes?

No, there is no regulation on these institutes. They pay service tax and they are registered with the civic body.

### Has there been any discussion or any thought about bringing any such regulation for the quality of education they provide and for the fees that they charge?

No, there isn't any talk about such a regulation.

### Are these institutes a threat to school education system?

Yes, these definitely are a

threat to the education system which works on the overall development of the child. The school curriculum is designed in a fashion that no extra burden is added on students. These coaching institutes are flouting all the guidelines of the Human Rights Commission and they are putting additional pressure on the students.

### What is the role played by parents in promoting the culture of coaching institutes?

Parents are also responsible for the growing culture of



coaching institutes. The students enroll themselves in schools and in most of the

schools, they mark false attendance just because the students take their lessons at the coaching classes. This is a sad state.

### What do you think should be done to make the situation better?

The belief in the school education system would be reinstated only if schools and coaching institutes understand their roles better. Instead of just doing business, they should work towards providing proper education to all the students.

# nation

## quotemartial

...of course, it (being the President) has the other side of the picture that perhaps I have become an antique piece in the theatre of the Indian economic activities....**PRANAB MUKHHERJEE**, President



tooningin

JAYANTO



shortstories

# No licence, yet London varsity admitted Indians

**CHEATING STUDENTS** London Metropolitan University forced to refund fees collected illegally

**ht EXCLUSIVE**

**Charu Sodan Kasturi**  
charu.kasturi@industantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The London Metropolitan University (LMU) continued to "recruit" Indian students for over a month after the UK authorities first suspended its licence to admit students from outside the European Union, even though it could not have admitted them.

It also continued to collect fees from international students it had awarded admissions for the 2012-13 academic year, though they cannot legally enter

the UK. The university is now refunding the fees.

Documents accessed by HT reveal that the LMU, through its authorised agents in India, continued to court Indian students to pick courses at the university till the UK Border Agency (UKBA) finally scrapped the licence end-August.

But the UKBA — the agency that decides which universities can admit foreign students — had first suspended LMU's licence on July 16 indefinitely, pending an audit. The LMU has 15 authorised agents across the country.

"Yes, we continued recruiting students till the licence was finally

**We recruited students till licence was revoked as we were confident that suspension will be lifted.**

**SABARINATH VIJAYAKUMAR**

ly revoked," Sabarinath Vijayakumar, the India representative of LMU confirmed to HT. "But this was because we were confident that the suspension would be lifted."

Vijayakumar also confirmed that they continued accepting fees. While the licence was suspended, however, the LMU could not have legally admitted any of the Indian students its agents

continued to lure. The LMU has challenged the UKBA order in court and has opened a hotline to help worried students.

"Very simply, we were being fooled," said Rajesh Trivedi, a student advised by a Mumbai agent authorised by LMU, to seek admission to the university.

The university admitted about 700 Indian students last year — across both its Spring and Fall admission windows. But the number dropped to 350 this year, Vijayakumar said, because of strict new visa rules that no longer allow students to automatically stay back in the UK and work for a year after completing their studies.

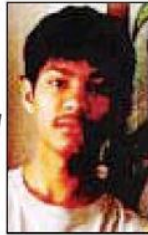
### HOW THE LMU SAGA UNFOLDED



- 700** students had taken admission in the London varsity
- 350** Number of Indian students dropped to due to visa norms
- July 16:** UKBA suspends LMU license to admit foreign student
- July 31:** LMU stops direct recruitment in India via its Chennai office. Continues recruitment through 15 agents.
- Aug 29:** UKBA revokes its license. It stops recruiting Indians.
- Sept 4:** LMU goes to court challenging the UKBA.

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