

Fake degree racket busted, NIM branches sealed

TNN | Dec 25, 2008, 04:28 IST



VADODARA: In a day-long operation, the city police on Tuesday busted a major fake degree racket run by a private education institute and arrested a former student leader involved in the scam.

Lokseva Foundation Trust-run National Institute of Management, which claims to be an ISO certified institute,

sold degree certificates and marksheets at a price, said police officials, who seized 356 fake degree certificates and 637 marksheets from the institute's Alkapuri branch. Around 100 fake documents were recovered from Karelibaug branch of the institute. Officials say the institute could have issued over 2,000 fake certificates till date.

Police unearthed the scam through a decoy, who posed as Patel Bipinchandra Ambubhai, a class VII passout wireman. Patel managed to get a master's degree in mechanical engineering without appearing in any exam but paying Rs 30,000 fees.

"We came to know about the scam six months ago. When we sent our decoy to procure a degree, he was asked to shell out money and collect any kind of degree that he wanted," deputy commissioner of police (north zone) Gagandeep Gambhir, who conducted the raids, told TOI.

The decoy paid Rs 30,000 in instalments and demanded a degree of year 2003, which was granted to him without appearing in any exam. "Our decoy managed to get a degree certificate with A' grade."

Police arrested ABVP leader Kaushal Dave, who was earlier faculty representative at MSU's commerce faculty. Dave, who worked as an assistant manager at the institute, had earlier contested for MSU Students Union vice-president's post, which he lost. The city police are also looking for Ashraf Khan, who was heading the institute.

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Police also questioned two clients' who had come to collect their degrees without appearing for exams.

While the centre started only a year ago, it issued tailor-made' degree certificates dating back to 1999

for a huge sum. The seized degrees include those for MBA, hotel management and engineering courses.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Fake-degree-racket-busted-NIM-branches-sealed/articleshow/3883582.cms>