

## HINDU GYMKHANA FIXED DEPOSITS SCAM

# Gymkhana right in suspending members: Court

Five club members, including a former joint secretary, were suspended in a Rs three-crore fraud

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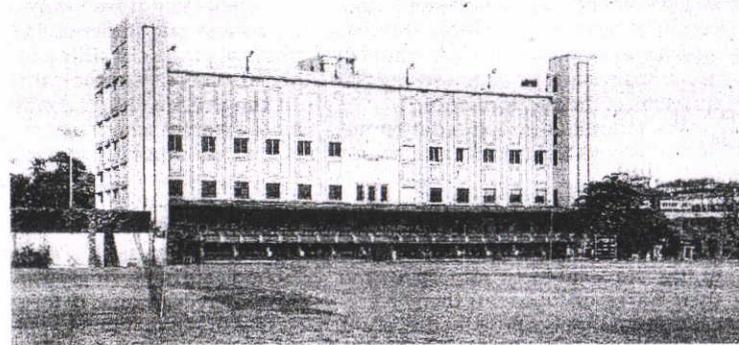
A city civil court has upheld the decision of the P J Hindu Gymkhana to suspend five of its members in an alleged fixed deposits scam. Judge Ajay Nathani, while hearing a suit and an application filed by one of the accused, Sagar Shah, a former joint secretary of the Marine Lines-located gymkhana, said that the managing committee had not erred in suspending the memberships.

The five members were suspended on March 27, on the basis of a forensic audit of the accounts for the period October 2013 to January 2015. According to the complaint, the accused deposited Rs 3 crore in a particular

branch of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ) after they were allegedly promised returns higher than other banks.

The scam came to light in June last year after which the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing arrested a manager with the concerned bank, besides Mohammad Fasiuddin, owner of Sheesha Lounge in Andheri, and his colleagues Anil Pawar and Roy Joseph. The Hindu Gymkhana would deposit money in a nationalised bank in south Mumbai, but the managing committee for the period 2012-2014, with Shah as joint secretary, decided to deposit Rs 3 crore with SBBJ, which have now been frozen due to the scam.

Shah and his colleagues have been alleged to have received Rs 7 lakh as kickbacks for depositing the money with the concerned bank.



The P J Hindu Gymkhana at Marine Lines

The present managing committee issued notices to Shah and others asking for an explanation and later, citing evidence based on the audit, suspended their memberships.

In his application, Shah termed

the move as a vendetta and said that the committee was not empowered to suspend him.

He said the procedure was not adhered to, and the managing committee had in fact exonerated him and an-

other member just days before issuing the final notice.

Shah and four members allegedly received Rs 7 lakh for depositing the money with a nationalised bank

He also said that the committee had pasted the suspension orders on the notice board, amounted to defamation, and sought an apology and Rs 50 lakh in damages.

Advocate Vivek Kantawala, appearing for the gymkhana, disputed the clean chit letter issued to Shah, saying that it appeared to be a forged document.