

Kavita S.J.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 4221 OF 2024

Shantanu Das

...Petitioner

*Versus*

University of Mumbai & Anr.,

...Respondents

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Mr. Sankalan Das i/b Ms. Pranali Kakade for Petitioner.

Mr. Vikram N. Walawalkar for Respondent No.1 – University.

Mr. Amar Mishra, AGP for Respondent No.2 – State.

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CORAM : R.I. CHAGLA AND  
ADVAIT M. SETHNA, JJ.

DATED : 4<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2026.

ORDER :

1. By this Writ Petition, the Petitioner is seeking a direction to Respondent No.1 to confer Degree of “D.Sc.” for the thesis No.2768 which was re-submitted on 15th March, 2026 bearing Reference No.R640 in Electrical Engineering on the Petitioner. In the alternative, the prayer sought is to direct the Respondent No.1 to consider and take decision on the said Submission bearing No.R640 made by the Petitioner on its own merits as per the Ordinance 778

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within such time as this Court may deem fit and proper.

2. Mr. Walawalkar, learned Counsel appearing for the Respondent No.1 – University has tendered an Affidavit-in-Reply on behalf of Respondent No.1 – University dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. The said Affidavit-in-Reply is taken on record.

3. In the said Affidavit it is stated that the Research and Recognition Committee (RRC) for the Board of Studies in Electrical Engineering was constituted on three prior occasions for considering Submission bearing No.R640 made by the Petitioner. The appointing Committee on the first occasion had expressed its inability as one of the Committee members had not responded. Thereafter, one of the Committee members on subsequent occasion had also expressed his inability to evaluate the publication/works submitted by the Petitioner. The Committee appointed on third occasion had not evaluated the publication submitted by the Petitioner for approval of D.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering.

4. Mr. Walawalkar has accordingly stated on instructions that the Committee will be re-constituted and decision will be taken on the publication submitted by the Petitioner for the approval of

D.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering within a period of six months from today.

5. Considering that the Committee has been constituted on three prior occasions, we consider it appropriate to direct the Respondent No.1 – University to re-constitute the Committee and take decision on the publication submitted by the Petitioner for approval of D.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering within a period of three months from today.

6. The Supreme Court in *University of Calcutta and others Vs. Dr. Amiya Kumar Chakraborty*<sup>1</sup>, has held that the conferment of the degree by the University is a matter of privilege and no right flows to any party merely because he submitted a thesis. The Syndicate in considering whether to confer a degree is to take a decision on the report made by each of the experts of the Committee to be appointed as per the relevant rules of the University.

7. The alternate prayer sought for in the Writ Petition is granted in the above terms. The Writ Petition is accordingly disposed of.

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<sup>1</sup> (2000) 10 SCC 39

8. The Writ Petition shall be placed for compliance on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2026.

[ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J.]

[R.I. CHAGLA, J.]