

Annual Report – Azim Premji University, Bhopal 28-August-2025

Note: This report pertains to the Academic Year July 2024 to June 2025.

Introduction

Azim Premji University is a not-for-profit private University, established under the Madhya Pradesh Niji Vishwa Vidyalaya (Sthapana Avam Sanchalan) Dwitiya Sanshodhan Adhinyam, 2022, offering postgraduate and undergraduate programmes focused on education and other domains of human development. Azim Premji Foundation, the sponsoring body of the University, works across the country in school education, public health, livelihood and other domains of human development. This strong ground connect helps to enrich the University's teaching programmes, research and student engagement.

Goals of the University

Azim Premji University has an explicit purpose to contribute to capacity development and research for the social sector and to be an exemplar higher education institution – with high quality and inclusive practices.

The University offers undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes in important areas of human development and social action, such as education, development and climate change. The University's student body is very diverse, from across 29 states and varied socio-economic backgrounds.

The research programmes are designed for direct contribution to matters of policy and practice, through dedicated research centres on Employment, Climate Change and Local Democracy (Panchayats) as well as individual faculty research. From time to time, the University also funds external research in specific topics of interest.

The University produces a large collection of teaching-learning material for free public use. These include magazines in school subjects, development case studies, online textbooks, and translations of higher education material.

The University also supports neighboring panchayats through initiatives focused on youth engagement, women's empowerment, and improving access to education.

Azim Premji University, Bhopal

1. Campus:

Our campus is located in Kahnasaiya on the outskirts of Bhopal. Spread over 50 acres, when completed, the campus will have approximately 3 million sq ft of constructed space.

The construction will be phased and spread over a five to seven-year period.

The local architecture of Madhya Pradesh influences the campus design, borrowing design elements from Sanchi, Mandu and other historical sites of the state.

It will be a fully sustainable campus with extensive facilities for rainwater harvesting, water treatment, local species-based landscaping, and sustainable design elements, like solar power generation, in the future.

We offer residential facilities for students, members of our University and guests.

The campus will be a state-of-the-art facility with extensive facilities for academics, sports, art, crafts and other activities.

2. Academic Programmes:

- a. The first batch of the 4-year Undergraduate programmes (in line with the National Education Policy, 2020) joined in August 2023. We have designed a unique inter- disciplinary curriculum with the possibility of students doing an 'Occupational Minor' (in addition to the subject Majors) in areas relevant to our social purpose. We have three occupational tracks including Climate Studies, Data and Democracy, Sports and Fitness.
- b. We added three new programmes, B.A. (Economics), B.A. (English) and B.A.

(Social Science) as part of the Undergraduate studies starting July 2024. All required approvals are in place.

- c. The UGC had announced a new NHEQF (National Higher Education Qualification framework) and a curricular framework for UG and PG programmes. We have aligned all our programmes to these frameworks. All our Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes are aligned with the NHEQF credit requirements. The necessary changes in the curriculum and programme structures are already in place.

3. Student numbers:

- a. In the 2023-24 academic year (starting August 2023), the University admitted 124 students to the Postgraduate programmes (M.A. in Education and Master of Public Health) and 72 students to the Undergraduate programmes (B.A. History and B.Sc. in Biology).
- b. In the 2023-24 academic year (starting July 2024), the University admitted 132 students to the Postgraduate programmes (M.A. in Education and Master of Public Health) and 146 students to the Undergraduate programmes (B.A. History, Economics, English and Social Science and B.Sc. in Biology).

4. Student support:

- a. Bridge Programme: We launched an intensive 6 months to 1 year training programme to help enrol students from disadvantaged communities. The bridge programmes are now being offered at Hosapete (Karnataka), Dhar (Madhya Pradesh) and Gumla (Jharkhand). This will be expanded ten more locations in the coming years.
- b. The Academic Resource Centre (ARC) supports students in foundational and advanced academic learning, and addresses learning challenges faced by students from diverse educational and social backgrounds. The Centre offers courses in English and Mathematics and in other areas like academic reading and writing, data analysis, time management, note taking, and concept mapping. The ARC is staffed with dedicated resources.
- c. Disability and Inclusion: We started a dedicated initiative to provide a teaching and learning environment suitable for all our students. We provide

reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities .

The academic accommodations include adjustments within the learning spaces, within and outside the classroom, availability of course content in multiple formats and in assessment design. The campus is designed to be barrier free with safe access to students with motor skills disabilities.

- d. Student Grievance Redressal: We have set up the Student Grievance Redressal Committee to address student grievances regarding non-compliance to our stated policies and timelines.
- e. Anti-Discrimination: We have formulated an Anti-Discrimination Policy to protect the dignity of and provide equal opportunities to those belonging to marginalised groups. The Anti-Discrimination Cell which is responsible for implementing the policy has conducted multiple awareness sessions and events to the students and members.
- f. Mental Health Policy: The University has developed a comprehensive Mental Health Policy to support students in need of assistance and care related to mental health concerns. The University fully complies with the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on promoting mental well-being and ensuring a supportive campus environment.

5. Placements:

In 2025, several social sector and research organizations participated in the campus placement drive at the University. Among the recruiting organizations, not-for-profit institutions constituted the largest share, followed by schools. A total of 74 students were successfully placed — 37 male and 37 female graduates. The median average salary of placed students was ₹4,20,000 per annum.

6. Convocation:

The convocation for the 2023-25 graduating batch was held on September 27, 2025, for the postgraduate programmes. 109 postgraduate students received their degrees.

7. Events on Campus:

- a. As part of our Nature Festivals series, we hosted the “Forests of Life” festival on campus in January 2023. The event was primarily for school children to help them get awareness and understanding about our Forests. The event was a huge success with thousands of school children from Bhopal and nearby cities attending. Sections of the exhibits were also sent to Yadagiri, Kalaburagi and Dhamtari for exhibition. A similar engagement with school children is planned, with a focus on “Mountains of Life” held in November 2024.
- b. The second edition of the ‘Annual Research Conclave’ and ‘Students Research Conclave’ on campus showcasing research work of our faculty and students. There were over 150 posters, 50 papers presented in these conferences We intend to continue this in the future.
- c. The University organized its annual sports and cultural fest, Battle of Ice, in 2024. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff, making it a resounding success filled with energy, creativity, and collaboration.
- d. We launched two significant initiatives on campus for the first time. One of these was the Constitutional Quiz, which witnessed participation from over 350 students representing schools and colleges from Bhopal and nearby cities. Encouraged by its success, we plan to make this an annual event in the coming years.
- e. We witnessed a significant expansion in our community engagement initiatives across the panchayats surrounding the University campus. The work focuses on strengthening women’s collectives, engaging youth, and enabling access to various government entitlements for local communities. Many students and several members of the University are actively involved in these initiatives.