

**Annual Report – Azim Premji University,  
22-December-2023**

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***Note: This pertains to the Academic Year July 2022 to June 2023 and where relevant updated information of December 2023 is given.***

**A. Azim Premji University**

1. Azim Premji University is a not-for-profit University, established under the Azim Premji University Act, 2010 of Government of Karnataka, offering postgraduate and undergraduate programmes focused on Education and other domains of human development e.g. Livelihoods, Governance and Policy, Public Health, and Sustainability. University has close linkages with the Field institutes and this strong ground connect helps the University to learn from and contribute to the field in several areas of education, human development, student engagement and research.
2. The University launched the following new programs in 2023.
  - a. B.Sc. Environmental Sciences
  - b. B.Sc. Chemistry
  - c. B.A. Social Sciences
  - d. We also decided to stop offering the M.A. Public Policy programme (starting 2023) and the Master’s in law (LL.M.) programme from 2024. We plan to offer redesigned versions of these programmes over the next few years.
3. In the 2022 academic year admissions, the University admitted 377 students to the Postgraduate programmes (M.A. in Development, M.A. in Education, M.A. in Public Policy & Governance LL.M. in Law and Development, MA Economics) and 271 students to the Undergraduate programme (B.A. in Economics, History, English, Philosophy and B.Sc. in Biology, Physics, Mathematics)
  - a. We started implementation of the ‘Salesforce’ tool for admission process automation.
  - b. 60% of students were from small towns and rural areas.
  - c. 67% of students in the Postgraduate programmes and 49% in the Undergraduate programmes were awarded scholarships.
4. In the admissions cycle for 2023 (Completed in August 2023) 442 students joined the Undergraduate programs and 397 joined the Postgraduate programs, an overall increase of 30% from 2022.
5. The convocation for the 2022 Undergraduate graduating batch was done in person on August 27, 2022, and for the Postgraduate batch on November 13, 2022. The convocation

for the 2023 Undergraduate graduating batch was held on August 5, 2023, and for the Postgraduate batch on September 10, 2023.

6. The focus on Continuing Education in the domains of education and development and professional development continues.
  - a. The University programs reached more than 2 lakh practitioners through online, blended and in person modes.
  - b. Some of the key new areas of work done were -
    - i. Launched the ‘Test Development’ program for Board examination paper setters of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) with the objective of helping them set better Board examination questions.
    - ii. The above work also extended to Board examinations in Karnataka, Tripura, and Assam.
    - iii. Extensive work on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in the north-eastern states, especially, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya.
    - iv. Education leadership programs for all Block, District and State education officers of Tamil Nadu.
    - v. Supporting Telangana in implementing English medium in government schools by rolling out the online English Language Enrichment Course on a large scale with almost one lakh teachers.
7. Research and Events
  - a. We held the “Rivers of Life” festival on campus during November 2-16. The event was primarily aimed at school children and over 10,000 children from schools across Bangalore and nearby locations attended. Later, a subset of the event was also held at Kalburgi. We also decided to host the “Forests of Life” festival in November 2023.
  - b. The Centre for Sustainable Employment work focused on the impact of Covid on employment. Two key reports were released.
    - a. The impact of Covid 19 on the Urban poor
    - b. Employment guarantee during Covid – The role of MNERGA
    - c. Research work for the third report on ‘State of Working India – 2023’ (*report released in November 2023*).
  - c. The Centre for climate change launched the following new programs.
    - a. ‘Nature writing for Children’ series with popular writers doing nature writing workshops for children.
    - b. Climate Data Journalism Workshop - A program for Journalists to improve their understanding for better reporting of climate change.
    - c. Let us talk Climate Change – A public lecture series on climate change.
  - d. The Centre for Local Democracy started offering a certificate course in Local Democracy, for practitioners who work with Gram Panchayats.
  - e. We also co-hosted the India Land and Development Conference 2022 (ILDC-2022)

- f. Exhibition of Azim Premji School Books Archive was done at Jaipur, Bhopal, and Bangalore

## **B. Prospects – Azim Premji University**

1. In terms of programmes, the University plans to launch Master’s programs in a 1-year format (recently allowed by the UGC). Potential areas being considered are Early Childhood Education, Educational Leadership, Technology for the social sector, Environment and Climate Change, and social sector leadership.
2. Construction of Phase 2 of the Bangalore campus (12 Lakh SFT) will begin in January 2024. This will provide sufficient infrastructure to scale up student numbers in line with our operating plans.
3. The University is proposing to apply for a NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) certification by October 2024. Successful certification offers the scope for more autonomy in aspects like program choices, duration, mode of offering like fully online etc.

## **C. Additional Information**

1. The sponsoring body of the University (Azim Premji Foundation for Development) has set up another University @ Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh and is planning on setting up a third university at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
2. Bhopal
  - a. The University completed construction of the 1.8 lakh SFT academic and hostel blocks.
  - b. All required audits (Infrastructure and Academic) were completed by the M.P. government appointed committees and necessary approvals given to start programs.
  - c. The University successfully launched both postgraduate and undergraduate degree programs starting August 2023.
    - I. Master of Public Health
    - II. M.A. Education
    - III. B.Sc. Biology and BA History
  - d. The design of the Phase 2 of the campus is completed and the tendering process is currently on going and construction is expected to begin by Jan 2024. All approvals are in place.

### 3. Ranchi

- a. The Jharkhand Assembly passed the Azim Premji University bill in May 2022. The Government identified a land parcel of about 150 acres and the process for lease agreement signing is underway.
- b. Work on the Master plan of the building is underway.