

Annual Report – Azim Premji University 04-December-2025

Note: This report pertains to the Academic Year July 2024 to June 2025 and, where relevant, updated information up to November 2025 is given.

Introduction

Azim Premji University is a not-for-profit private 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. 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 programs, 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, postgraduate, diploma and certificate 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 University offers a range of short programs in critical areas like early childhood education, inclusive education, disability, assessment, educational leadership, social sector leadership, and local democracy, for professionals working in the social sector, including many government bodies.

Research at the University is designed for direct contribution to matters of policy and practice, through focussed work on areas like the Indian economy and climate change. This is in addition to 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 neighbouring panchayats with initiatives focusing on panchayat libraries, youth engagement, economic opportunities for self-help groups and farmers, and solid waste management.

Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

1. Campus:

The state-of-the-art campus in Bengaluru is built with all modern classroom and laboratory facilities and extensive features for sustainability like water conservation, energy efficiency, solar, and biodiverse landscaping. It has residential facilities for students, members of our University and guests.

Construction of the second phase that includes a second hostel, employee residences, campus commons and school is in progress.

There are around 2400 students using the University Hostel -1. The hostel equipped with advanced security features, including biometric access, over 500 CCTV cameras, smoke detectors, and fire hydrants, ensuring a safe and secure environment.

In the last year, there has been extensive landscaping work around the campus. More than 1100 plants have been added during the year.

2. Academic Programs:

- a. Our Master's programs in Education, Development, and Economics admitted fresh batches in the Academic Year 2025-26.
- b. The second batch of the 4-year Undergraduate programme was also admitted. The programme is a unique inter-disciplinary curriculum with the possibility of students doing an 'Occupational Track' in addition to the subject Majors in areas relevant to our social purpose. We have nine occupational tracks including Biodiversity and Conservation, Music Education, Data, Democracy and Development, Design for Communities, Media and Journalism, Sports and Fitness and Technology for Social Good.
- c. In addition to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes, the following credited diploma and certificate programmes are offered
 - i. Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education
 - ii. Postgraduate Diploma in Inclusive Education
 - iii. Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching Children with Learning Disabilities
 - iv. Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership
 - v. Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Assessment
 - vi. Certificate in Foundations in Educational Theory and Practice
 - vii. Certificate in Test Development
 - viii. Certificate in School Leadership
 - ix. Certificate Programme in Research Design and Primary Data Collection
 - x. Certificate Programme in Quantitative Analysis & Data Visualization

- xi. Certificate Programme on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Development Practice
 - xii. Certificate in Designing Formative Assessments
 - xiii. Certificate in Designing Competency based Summative Assessments
 - xiv. Certificate in Planning and Using Large-Scale Assessments
- d. We added the following programmes in the Academic Year 2025 – 26:
- i. Bachelor of Science in Psychology – Started in July 2025
 - ii. Master of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education - Started in July 2025
 - iii. Masters in Climate Change and Sustainability – Started in July 2025
 - iv. Executive MBA in Development Management – To be started in January 2026

All the required approvals are in place.

- e. We received approval for our application to transition to the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) from the current B.Sc. B.Ed. programme. This involved detailed information submission and a rigorous inspection of our infrastructure and capabilities. The ITEP programme will be starting from Academic Year 2026-27.
- f. We will be launching an undergraduate programme in Media and Communication from Academic Year 2026-27.
- g. We are continually evolving our academic processes to align with the best-in-class practices and the NEP 2020 requirements. An Academic Office has been set up for maintaining and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning at the University.

3. Student numbers:

- a. In the Academic Year 2024 - 25 (starting July 2024), the University admitted 422 students to the Postgraduate programmes (M.A. in Development, M.A. in Education, M.A. in Economics) and 438 students to the Undergraduate programmes (B.A. in Economics, History, English, Philosophy, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Social Science, and B.Sc. in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science & Sustainability, Information Sciences, Physics, Mathematics and BSc B.Ed.).
- b. In the Academic Year 2025-26 (starting July 2025), we admitted 459 students in the postgraduate programmes and 684 students in the undergraduate programmes.

4. Student support:

- a. 62% of our students are on financial assistance for tuition and accommodation and 30% on food assistance.

- b. The Academic Resource Centre (ARC) supports students in foundational 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: The University started a dedicated initiative to provide a teaching and learning environment suitable for all our students. The University provides reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. The accommodations include availability of course content in multiple formats, extra time for examinations or extended deadlines. Students with physical disabilities are provided with audio / visual support to have a seamless learning experience. The campus is designed to be barrier free with safe access to students with locomotor disabilities.
- d. Anti-Discrimination: We have an Anti-Discrimination Policy to protect the dignity of and provide equal opportunities to all students. The Anti-Discrimination Cell, which is responsible for implementing the policy, has conducted multiple awareness sessions and events.
- e. Mental Health Policy: A Mental Health policy is in place to support students who need assistance on mental health concerns. The Karnataka High Court in one of its recent judgements has referred to this policy and directed other educational institutions to formulate a similar policy.

5. Placements:

In 2025, more than 200 social sector and research organizations participated in campus placements at the University. Among the types of organizations who hire our graduates, not-for-profits remain the highest and schools are the second highest. 80% of the students who registered for placements got placed.

6. Convocation:

The convocation for the 2024 graduating batch was held on campus on August 4th, 2024. 200 undergraduate and 364 postgraduate students received their degrees.

The convocation for the 2025 graduating batch was held on campus on October 25th, 2025. 240 undergraduate and 464 postgraduate students received their degrees.

7. Continuing Education:

The focus on continuing education in the domains of education and development continues. Some key points from the year are:

- a. From February to September 2025, nearly 5,100 permanent faculty members from more than 400 government colleges across Karnataka visited our

campus for in-person professional development orientation sessions. More than 100 University faculty members contributed to this exercise. Participant feedback has been extremely positive, with many attendees expressing interest to engage in discussions on their respective disciplines with our faculty members.

- b. 205 short programmes and workshops, engaging 9,658 practitioners across a wide range of themes, including Early Childhood Education, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, English Language, Educational Assessments, and School Pedagogy were also completed.
- c. State-wide work deepened in all the North-eastern states where we have been working with a range of stakeholders like District Institutes of Education & Training (DIET) faculty / State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)/ senior education functionaries, Examination Board officials and resource groups of teachers.
- d. Our work with school examination boards expanded, focusing on the design of competency-based assessments. We are currently collaborating with both central and state examination boards.
- e. We responded to requests from multiple state governments for support in curriculum development and textbook preparation. This included the development of State Curriculum Frameworks (SCFs) in Nagaland, Manipur, and Meghalaya, as well as Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) curricula in Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim.
- f. In Odisha and Karnataka, the English Language Enrichment course was rolled out across the state with government teachers to strengthen their English language proficiency.
- g. Capacity building programmes were conducted with 634 teachers from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- h. Nearly 600 professionals participated in short programmes across a range of thematic areas, including Local Democracy (theory, policy, and practice), the Forest Rights Act (delivered across nine batches in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha), and Karnataka NREGA training for Civil Society Organizations (two batches conducted in Karnataka).
- i. We renewed our MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (APSWREIS) to support capacity development for teachers and head teachers across all 190 social welfare schools.
- j. We have renewed our MoU with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to offer a range of credited professional development programmes for CBSE teachers and academic officers. It includes joint work on developing learning frameworks, training materials, and high-quality question papers, assessment reforms and policy advocacy aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.
- k. We signed an MoU with the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture to design and deliver short programmes in sustainable agriculture.

8. Key Events on Campus:

- a. As part of our Nature Festivals series, we organized Mountains of Life in November 2024, which travelled across multiple locations and eight venues, engaging more than 33,000 visitors. The exhibits were presented in English, Kannada, and Hindi. In October 2025, Coasts and Oceans of Life was inaugurated at the Bengaluru campus on 27th October 2025 and concluded on 8th November 2025, attracting over 16,000 visitors, the majority of whom were school children. The festival will now travel to various locations across the country for the remainder of the year.
- b. Kannada initiative
 - i. On the occasion of Karnataka Rajyotsava, we hosted Kannada Habba on our campus to promote the state's indigenous arts and cultural traditions, including literature, language, folklore, customs, cuisine, and heritage. This year's celebration featured a musical evening that showcased Karnataka's creative spirit through spoken word and music. The event also included an exhibition paying tribute to the enduring legacy of the Vachana movement, which transformed everyday language into poetry and poetry into a way of life.
 - ii. UR Ananthamurthy's video lecture series 'Sahitya Sahavasa' and online translations repository 'Anuvada Sampada' were launched.
 - iii. The children's literature festival Kathavana held its 14th annual event; more than 1500 school students attended the event and participated in various workshops.
 - iv. Two podcast series: Noorakke Nooru Karnataka and Nakshatragalu have been received very well on various platforms including Azim Premji University radio.
 - v. Two new programs – Samskruti Sambhrama - diverse monthly programmes at Indian Institute of World Culture, and Krishna to Kaveri – a cultural festival celebrating the diversity of Karnataka were launched.
 - vi. A unique set of portraits of renowned litterateurs and achievers collated from the personal collections of relatives of writers / artists has also been taken across locations as part of photo exhibitions.
- c. Community Engagement Initiative
 - i. Currently, we engage with 9 Gram Panchayats around campus consisting of 40 villages and 23 wards, with a population of 1.9 lakh.
 - ii. The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit and Health & Wellness Committee, in collaboration with the Red Cross Society and Rotary, Sarjapura organised a Blood Donation Camp at Azim Premji University
 - iii. The NSS unit of our University organised a plantation drive in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations, Karnataka on our campus as part of the Plant4Mother campaign.
 - iv. The NSS Unit, in collaboration with the Karnataka State NSS Cell, organized a state-level event to share best practices in community engagement initiatives undertaken by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Karnataka. The event highlighted impactful efforts by NSS

units in areas such as health, education, gender, environment, and rural development, and served as a platform for institutions to exchange ideas, learn from innovative approaches, and strengthen inter-institutional collaboration across the state.

- d. We conducted Student Council elections in September. This year saw a shift towards digital campaigning and the introduction of an online voting system, reducing paper usage while improving the efficiency and accessibility of the electoral process.
- e. We hosted the Resolution Rally, an intercollegiate, policy-based debate competition, with participation from 20 teams across the region.
- f. We hosted our first-ever three-day invitational intercollegiate sports tournament on campus, featuring six sports and participation from 20 external Universities. We also hosted the Regional College Ultimate Championship (RCUC) – the Southern Regional Championship – with 7 participating teams, where our team won the finals.

9. Research

- a. We have awarded 20 health grants to external organizations to support research in public health. In addition, 38 internal grants—both small and large—have been provided to University members. Faculty have also secured 15 prestigious grants from government bodies and other external organizations.
- b. The third editions of the *Annual Research Conclave* and the *Students Research Conclave* were held on campus, showcasing the research contributions of our faculty and students. Across both events, more than 54 papers and 140 posters were presented.
- c. Faculty from our Bengaluru campus published 114 articles and book chapters.

10. Support to our Bhopal and Ranchi campuses

With more than twelve years of experience managing a University in Bengaluru, our administrative processes are coordinated across multiple locations with localized support. Core functional operations in Finance, Procurement, IT, and People Development are uniformly implemented and consistently replicated across all campuses. Academic processes are also similar across all campuses.
