

Indian Universities and Related Facts

Universities, institutes of education, and training centers have played a pivotal role in the evolution of education in India by serving as foundational pillars for knowledge creation, capacity building, and socio-economic development. From the establishment of traditional universities like Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras in 1857 to modern central and state universities, these institutions have expanded access to higher education and promoted research, innovation, and inclusive learning. Open universities like IGNOU have revolutionized distance learning, making education accessible to marginalized and working populations. Specialized institutes such as NIEPA, IIPA, and NCTE have shaped policy-making and teacher education, while premier training academies like LBSNAA, SVPNPA, and NACIN have strengthened administrative, civil service, and governance capacities across the country. Together, these institutions not only enhance academic excellence and skill development but also contribute significantly to national integration, democratic participation, and global competitiveness of the Indian education system.

Ancient & Early Medieval Universities

University	Established	Location (Modern-Day)	Known For (Specialization)
Takshashila (Taxila)	c. 6th century BCE	Rawalpindi district, Pakistan	Vedic sciences, medicine (Ayurveda), surgery, grammar, logic, philosophy
Nalanda	~427 CE (Kumaragupta I)	Nalanda, Bihar, India	Mahayana Buddhism, arts, medicine, logic, astronomy; an early residential university
Pushpagiri	c. 2nd–3rd century BCE	Cuttack/Jajpur, Odisha	Buddhist studies, Vedas, medicine; founded possibly by Emperor Ashoka
Somapura (Sompura) Mahavihara	8th century CE	Paharpur, Bangladesh	Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu teachings; one of the largest monastic universities
Odantapuri	7th century CE	Bihar Sharif, Bihar, India	Buddhist philosophy, Sanskrit, medicine; second oldest Mahavihara after Nalanda
Vikramashila	Late 8th century CE	Bhagalpur, Bihar, India	Focus on Tantric Buddhism, logic, grammar; rival of Nalanda
Valabhi	6th century CE	Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India	Buddhist philosophy, law, economics, medicine; secular curriculum
Jagaddala	11th century CE	North Bengal (Bangladesh)	Vajrayana Buddhism, grammar, literature, translations
Mithila	c. 12th century CE	Mithila region, Bihar	Hindu philosophy, Nyaya logic, Mimamsa, grammar; home of Navya-Nyaya
Sharada Peeth	~6th–12th century CE	Kashmir (now in Pakistan)	Temple-based learning in philosophy, linguistics, mathematics

Universities Established in Pre-Independence India

University Name	Year of Establishment	Place	Historical Importance
University of Calcutta	1857	Kolkata (then Calcutta), WB	First modern university in India; modeled after the University of London; focused on Western-style education.
University of Bombay (now Mumbai)	1857	Mumbai (then Bombay), MH	Among the first three universities; promoted British-style higher education in western India.
University of Madras	1857	Chennai (then Madras), TN	Third of the triad of 1857 universities; laid the foundation of modern higher education in South India.
Aligarh Muslim University (as MAO College in 1875, university in 1920)	1920	Aligarh, UP	Originated as Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College; aimed to modernize Muslim education; founded by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
Banaras Hindu University (BHU)	1916	Varanasi (then Benares), UP	Founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya; one of the largest residential universities in Asia; focused on blending Indian education with modern sciences.
University of Mysore	1916	Mysuru, Karnataka	First university in Karnataka and the sixth in India; first university established by a princely state (Mysore).
University of Punjab (Lahore)	1882	Lahore (now in Pakistan)	One of the oldest universities in British India; now in Pakistan post-partition; had wide influence in northern India.
Osmania University	1918	Hyderabad, Telangana	Established by the Nizam of Hyderabad; first Indian university to use Urdu as the medium of instruction.
Andhra University	1926	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Focused on the educational needs of Andhra region; prominent in South Indian academic development.
Patna University	1917	Patna, Bihar	Seventh oldest university in India; served the educational needs of Bihar and Odisha region.
University of Lucknow	1921	Lucknow, UP	Founded with the support of Raja Sir Mohammad Ali Mohammad Khan and others; center of political and literary movements.

University Name	Year of Establishment	Place	Historical Importance
Nagpur University (now RTMNU)	1923	Nagpur, Maharashtra	One of the prominent universities in Central India during British rule.
Annamalai University	1929	Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu	First private university in India; known for supporting Tamil language and culture; founded by Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar.
Jamia Millia Islamia	1920	Aligarh → Delhi (moved in 1925)	Founded during the Non-Cooperation Movement; emphasized nationalist education, later became a central university.
Visva-Bharati University	1921	Santiniketan, West Bengal	Founded by Rabindranath Tagore; emphasized a blend of Indian traditions with global education values.

- **The three earliest universities (Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras)** were established by an Act of the British Parliament in 1857.
- These universities primarily acted as **examining bodies** in the beginning and later took up teaching responsibilities.
- **Many other institutions started as colleges** and were granted university status later (e.g., MAO College to AMU).
- **Universities like Jamia Millia and Visva-Bharati** emerged from the nationalistic and cultural revival during the freedom struggle.

Indian Universities Established in Post-Independence Period (UGC NET Oriented)

University Name	Year of Establishment	Place	Importance (UGC NET Focus)
University of Delhi (DU)	1922 (<i>But developed post-1947</i>)	Delhi	Expanded significantly post-independence; one of India's largest & most prestigious central universities
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)	1969	New Delhi	Known for research excellence and interdisciplinary studies; named after India's first PM
Hyderabad Central University (HCU)	1974	Hyderabad, Telangana	Leading central university in southern India; strong in science, humanities, and social sciences
North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU)	1973	Shillong, Meghalaya	Established for development of higher education in the North-East region
Pondicherry University	1985	Puducherry	Central university serving southern UTs; known for integrated programs

University Name	Year of Establishment	Place	Importance (UGC NET Focus)
IGNOU (<i>Indira Gandhi National Open University</i>)	1985	New Delhi	World's largest open university; provides distance and online education across India
Nalanda University (revived)	2010	Rajgir, Bihar	International university with focus on ancient Nalanda legacy; supported by East Asian Summit countries
South Asian University (SAU)	2010	New Delhi	International university established by SAARC nations; promotes regional cooperation
Central University of Gujarat	2009	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	One of the 12 new Central Universities set up to promote equity and access to education
Tezpur University	1994	Tezpur, Assam	A central university promoting technical and scientific education in NE India
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	1996	Lucknow, UP	Central university named after Dr. Ambedkar; focuses on inclusive and interdisciplinary education
Maulana Azad National Urdu University	1998	Hyderabad, Telangana	Promotes Urdu language and higher education for minorities
English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU)	2007	Hyderabad, Telangana	Specialized in teaching of English and foreign languages; only one of its kind in South Asia
Indian Maritime University	2008	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	National-level university for maritime education and training
Rajiv Gandhi University	1984 (<i>as Arunachal University, renamed in 2005</i>)	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	First and only central university in Arunachal Pradesh; serves tribal and hilly regions
Jamia Hamdard University	1989	New Delhi	Known for pharmacy, Unani medicine, and health sciences
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPIU)	1998	New Delhi	State-level university with focus on professional education and affiliating role

- **Jawaharlal Nehru University (1969):** Frequently asked in NET exams due to its interdisciplinary and political history.
- **IGNOU (1985):** Major focus area in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and MOOCs (like SWAYAM).
- **Central Universities Act, 2009:** Led to the creation of **12 new Central Universities** in states with none.
- **Specialized Universities:** EFLU, Maritime University, Jamia Hamdard reflect thematic specialization.

List of Open Universities in India (For UGC NET Exam Preparation)

University Name	Year of Establishment	Place (Headquarters)	Importance / UGC NET Relevance
Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	1985	New Delhi	World's largest open university; offers distance education nationwide and abroad; manages SWAYAM & MOOCs
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU)	1982	Hyderabad, Telangana	First open university in India; originally Andhra Pradesh Open University
Nalanda Open University (NOU)	1987	Patna, Bihar	Caters to learners of Bihar and Jharkhand; promotes distance learning in eastern India
Karnataka State Open University (KSOU)	1996	Mysuru, Karnataka	Focuses on open and distance learning in Karnataka; UGC-DEB recognized
Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)	1997	Kolkata, West Bengal	Premier open university in eastern India; named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU)	1989	Nashik, Maharashtra	Known for vocational and agricultural education via open learning
Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University (MPBOU)	1991	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Named after Raja Bhoj; offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs
Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU)	2002	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Supports adult education and lifelong learning; recognized for inclusive educational practices
Uttarakhand Open University (UOU)	2005	Haldwani, Uttarakhand	Promotes access to higher education in hilly and remote areas of Uttarakhand
Pandit Sundarlal Sharma Open University (PSSOU)	2005	Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh	Regional open university catering to central India
Vardhman Mahaveer Open University (VMOU) (formerly Kota Open University)	1987	Kota, Rajasthan	Major ODL institution in North-West India; named after Jain Tirthankara Mahavira
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU)	2006	Guwahati, Assam	First open university in NE India; named after Assamese scholar Krishna Kanta Handiqui

University Name	Year of Establishment	Place (Headquarters)	Importance / UGC NET Relevance
U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU)	1999	Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh	Provides higher education opportunities to rural and disadvantaged sections in UP
Odisha State Open University (OSOU)	2015	Sambalpur, Odisha	Newest among state open universities; caters to educational needs of Odisha
Himachal Pradesh University – ICDEOL (Distance Mode)	1971 (ICDEOL)	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	One of the oldest institutes for distance education; not a full open university but relevant for UGC NET awareness

List of Major Academic and Civil Services Training Institutions in India

Institution Name	Year of Establishment	Place	Importance / UGC NET Relevance
Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)	1959	Mussoorie, Uttarakhand	Premier training institute for IAS officers ; conducts Foundation Course and Phase I & II training
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)	1948	Hyderabad, Telangana	Trains Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers; named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT)	1959	Nagpur, Maharashtra	Trains officers of Indian Revenue Service (IRS-IT) ; under CBDT
National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN)	1955 (as CEGAT)	Faridabad, Haryana (HQ)	Trains IRS-Customs & GST officers; under CBIC; also has regional campuses
Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy (RAKNPA)	1977	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	Apex training institute for Indian Postal Service ; under Department of Posts
Indian Railways Institute of Civil Engineering (IRICEN)	1959	Pune, Maharashtra	Trains officers of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE)
Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management (IRITM)	1974	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Trains officers of Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS)
Indian Railways Institute of Electrical Engineering (IRIEEN)	1988	Nasik, Maharashtra	Trains officers of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers
Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)	1965	New Delhi (HQ), other regional centers	Premier institute for mass communication and journalism training ; under Ministry of I&B

Institution Name	Year of Establishment	Place	Importance / UGC NET Relevance
Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)	1954	New Delhi	Provides training and policy research for civil servants, public administrators , and academicians
Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM)	1948	New Delhi	Trains Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and other central government employees
National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW)	1977	New Delhi	Trains health professionals and administrators under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)	1962	New Delhi	Apex resource center for educational planning and administration; UNESCO-recognized
National Judicial Academy (NJA)	1993	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Trains judges and judicial officers ; under the Supreme Court of India
National Defence College (NDC)	1960	New Delhi	Highest training for senior officers of the Armed Forces and Civil Services in strategic and security affairs
Foreign Service Institute (FSI) (now <i>Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service</i>)	1986	New Delhi	Trains Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers; renamed in honor of Sushma Swaraj
National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) (Now <i>ARFMI</i>)	1993	Faridabad, Haryana	Trains Group A officers of Finance & Accounts services ; renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute (AJNIFM)
Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD)	1983	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Training and research in rural development and banking ; under NABARD
National Academy of Audit and Accounts (NAAA)	1950	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	Trains Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) officers

Relevant Highlights

- **LBSNAA** = IAS
- **SVPNPA** = IPS
- **NACIN & NADT** = IRS
- **IIPA & NIEPA** = Administrative/educational policy-making institutions
- **IIMC & NJA** = For media and judiciary respectively
- **NIFM (AJNIFM)** = Financial administration training

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