

## Annexure-III

ORISSA ACT 20 OF 1966

### THE UTKAL UNIVERSITY ACT, 1966

( As amended upto 1976 )

AN ACT TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW  
RELATING TO THE UTKAL UNIVERSITY

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Orissa in the Seventeenth Year of the Republic of India, as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Utkal University Act, 1966.

Short title,  
extent and  
commence-  
ment.

(2) It shall extend to the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar <sup>1</sup> [ ] and the district of Dhenkanal except the subdivision of Athmallik of the State of Orissa.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint in that behalf.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires :— Definitions

(a) “Academic Council” means the Academic Council of the University ;

(b) “affiliated institution” means any institution affiliated to the University whether in whole or in part ;

(c) “college” means an institution admitted to the University in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Statutes <sup>2</sup> [ and includes a college managed by the University ], but does not include a school, whether it is an independent institution or forms part of a college as defined herein ;

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1. The “comma” and the word “Angul” were omitted by Section 3(i) of Orissa Act 23 of 1967. The Orissa University Laws (Amendment) Act, 1967.

2. In clause (c) of Section 2 after the word “Statutes” the words and comma were inserted by Section 2 (A) (i) of Orissa Act 27 of 1976. The Orissa University Laws (Amendment) Act, 1976.

# 1. UTKAL UNIVERSITY

## INTRODUCTION

Utkal University, established in the year 1943, is the seventeenth oldest University in India. Its present campus at Vani Vihar is located on a sprawling 399.9 acre area in the heart of Bhubaneswar beside the National Highway No.5, connecting Kolkata and Chennai. The foundation stone of the campus was laid by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, on 1st January 1958, and the campus was inaugurated by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, on 2nd January 1963. A teaching-cum-affiliating university, Utkal University at present has twenty-seven Post-Graduate Departments located in its campus for studies and research in the disciplines of Science, Humanities, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Law and Commerce. The total number of students in the P. G. Departments of the campus at Vani Vihar is about 5,000. Utkal University is the largest affiliating university in the country having 381 affiliated general colleges including 16 Autonomous Colleges, 100 Professional Colleges, 9 Law Colleges and 7 Medical Colleges, which include 2 Homeopathic, 1 Ayurvedic, 2 Dental and 2 Allopathic Medical Colleges.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Prior to 1936, when Odisha was made into a separate province, all the colleges in the region were under the jurisdiction of either Patna University or Andhra University. Subsequently, the government of Odisha, headed by Shri Biswanath Dash, the then Prime Minister; appointed a committee on 2nd March 1938 with Pandit Nilakantha Das as its Chairman to examine the possibility of establishing a separate university in Odisha. Then, during the premiership of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati, who played a pioneering role in the establishment of the University, the recommendations of this committee were made available. Pandit Godavarish Mishra, the then Minister of Education, introduced the Utkal University Bill, which was passed by the Odisha Legislative Assembly on 30th June 1943. On receiving the Governor's assent on 2nd August 1943, the Utkal University Act, 1943 came into force, clearing the way for the foundation of Utkal University on 27th November 1943. The University started functioning from this date in room no. 15 of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. The Utkal University Act, 1943 did not specify clearly the territorial jurisdiction of the University. However, its jurisdiction was extended to include the states of Odisha by an agreement between the rulers of these princely states and the Government. According to the agreement, adequate representation of the princely states in the administrative and academic bodies of the University was ensured. The Utkal University Act, 1943 was amended in 1947 defining the territorial jurisdiction of the University, which was extended to the whole state in 1950. Dr. Pranakrushna Parija, the then Principal of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University, and Mr. V. V. John, the then Assistant Professor of English, Ravenshaw College was its first Registrar.

The University, to start with, functioned mainly as an affiliating body. But soon afterwards, in 1949, it took over the management of the under-graduate Department of Law from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and established its first constituent college known as Madhusudan Law College, Cuttack. In 1956, the second phase of expansion began with the opening of the Post-Graduate Department of Geology in Ravenshaw College Campus and an Engineering College at Burla, Sambalpur. The Research Centre of Rural Economics and Sociology was also started in the same year with a generous grant from the Ford Foundation. In 1957, Post-Graduate Departments of

Philosophy and Sanskrit were established in the premises of the Burdwan House in Cuttack. The same year, the University office was shifted to the Circuit House in Cuttack. The University in the initial phases provided new facilities for post-graduate studies only in those subjects which were not taught at Ravenshaw College at that time. In 1958, the Post-Graduate Departments of Psychology, Statistics, Political Science and Anthropology were set up. While the first three Departments were housed in the premises of Ravenshaw College, the Department of Anthropology was accommodated in a rented house in Bhubaneswar. The University took over the Post-Graduate Department of History from Ravenshaw College in 1959. Post-Graduate studies in Zoology and Commerce were introduced in 1960 and 1962 respectively. The Research Centre of Rural Economics and Sociology introduced Post-Graduate courses in Applied Economics in the year 1963 was subsequently renamed the Department of Analytical and Applied Economics.

Around this time, a movement for the creation of regional universities started in different parts of Orissa. In response to this, the government of Odisha appointed the State University Committee in 1962 with Dr. P. Parija, the then Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, as the Chairman. On the recommendation of the Committee, two more universities were created, one at Sambalpur and another at Berhampur. The Utkal University Act, 1943 was suitably amended in response to the new situation. The two new Universities at Sambalpur and Berhampur came into existence with effect from 1st January 1967, the date from which the new Utkal University Act came into force. The jurisdiction of Utkal University, which had earlier covered the whole of Orissa, was redefined in the new legislation.

After the establishment of the above two universities, the management of the Evening Colleges at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur and Berhampur were taken over by the State Government. The Engineering College at Burla was handed over to Sambalpur University. Utkal University opened a few other Post-Graduate Departments such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Oriya and English during the years 1966-69 in its new campus at Vani Vihar. The Department of Sociology and Labour Welfare was set up in 1970, which in 1974 was split into the Department of Sociology and the Department of Labour Welfare (now re-named as the Department of Personnel Management and Industrial Relations). The Department of Geography was opened in 1970.

The Post-Graduate Department of Law (LL.M.) was started in the year 1973. The Department of Geology, which was functioning earlier in Ravenshaw College, was shifted to Vani Vihar in 1977. The Departments of Library and Information Science and Business Administration were opened in 1981 and 1984 respectively. A Computer Center was established initially with an IBM - 1130 computer donated by the University Grants Commission in 1970, which has subsequently been replaced by an WIPRO-LANDMARK system at a cost of Rs. 16 lakh provided later by the UGC. The Computer Center, while facilitating research work undertaken by various departments of the University earlier, offered a Post- B.Sc. Diploma Course (DCA) in Computer Application from 1983 to 1997. In 1990, the University opened the Department of Computer Science and Applications. Since the separation of the Computer Centre from the Department of Computer Science and Applications in 1998, the Centre is functioning under the direct administrative control of the P.G. Council. The Computer Centre, Academic Staff College and Jubilee building have been constructed separately for smooth functioning. During late nineties new buildings were constructed for the Department of Pharmacy, Integrated MCA, Population Research Centre and the Department of Womens' Studies. In 1996, Departments of Ancient Indian History,

Culture and Archaeology & Public Administration were carved out of History and Political Science Departments respectively. A new Biotechnology Department started functioning from 2002 in the P.G. Department of Zoology and now has its own infrastructure.

At present, the University has twenty-seven Post-Graduate teaching and research departments in the campus. The University has also offered 17 Self-financing courses, besides three constituent institutions: Directorate of Distance and Continuing Education, University Law College at Vani Vihar and M.S. Law College at Cuttack.

Fourteen P.G. Departments of the University have been granted Departmental Research Support/Centre of Advance Studies status by the University Grants Commission. During the XIth Plan period the University Grants Commission has accorded, Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE) status, to five colleges under the University which entitles them to receive significant funding support from the Commission.

In 1998, two more universities - North Odisha University and Fakir Mohan University-came into being to meet regional needs and facilitate further development of higher education. Utkal University has now jurisdiction over 9 districts, namely Angul, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh and Puri. Thus, the University exercises territorial jurisdiction over an area measuring 24,973 sq. kilometers and caters to the for higher education needs of a population of more than 120 lakh.

In 2006, the then Ravenshaw College was converted to a unitary University and in 2015, the first Women's University, Ramadevi Women's University was established. All Women's Colleges under Utkal University were transferred to this Women's University.

In the year 2003, Utkal University received first accreditation from NAAC, as B++ University. With remarkable progress Utkal University got 'A+' status from NAAC in 2016.

The University reaches another milestone in 2018 as it completes seventy five years of its existence. In this Platinum Jubilee year it is set to redraw the academic map with future-oriented courses for the second campus, inaugurated on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2017, and the revamping of courses in the main campus. The infrastructure has got a significant boost by the establishment of a state-of-the-art sports complex, a hostel each for men and women and a high-performance computer centre.

The university has been accorded autonomous status by UGC and has been placed among 25 best institutes of India, as a Category-I university, for maintaining its high academic standards.