

THE ACADEMIC INSIGHTS

INSPIRING MINDS

TOMORROW-READY
How Universities Are
Preparing Students for
the Workforce

THE DRIVING FORCE
R & D - The Pillar
of Modern
Universities

**UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION SPECIAL**

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024
FULL LIST INSIDE

Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri ►
Dr. Nirmalanandanatha
Mahaswamiji,
Chancellor - ACU

**Sri Adichunchanagiri
Shikshana Trust®**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT



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Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust®

EMPOWERING GENERATIONS

Education serves as the foundation of societal progress, shaping individuals and communities for a brighter future. Institutions that dedicate themselves to knowledge dissemination, social upliftment, and holistic development play a critical role in nation-building. In this pursuit, organizations that go beyond conventional education and integrate value-based learning, innovation, and inclusivity stand out as true pioneers.

In recognition of its unwavering commitment to transforming education and empowering communities, the Academic Insights Education Excellence Awards proudly confers the Lifetime Achievement in Educational Advancement award to Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust®. For over five decades, the Trust has been a guiding force in providing accessible, high-quality education across multiple disciplines, uplifting the underprivileged, and fostering a culture of research, ethics, and holistic development.

A Legacy of Learning and Service

Founded by Sri Sri Sri Ramanandanatha Swamigalu, the Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust® was established as an extension of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, located in Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka. Guided by its core principle, "Sa Vidya Ya Vimukthaye" (Knowledge that Liberates), the Trust has not only imparted academic education but also instilled values of compassion, discipline, and societal responsibility among students. With its multi-disciplinary approach, the Trust encompasses general education, medical sciences, engineering, management, architecture, and social sciences, ensuring holistic development.

Bridging Education and Social Upliftment

The Trust has made remarkable contributions toward inclusive education by establishing state-run schools in Kannada and English mediums, bringing learning opportunities to remote and economically disadvantaged regions. Recognizing the



Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji: A Visionary Leader

At the helm of these transformative initiatives is Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, the 72nd Pontiff of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, the Chancellor of Adichunchanagiri University, and the President of Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust®. A distinguished academician, Mahaswamiji holds a Master's Degree in Engineering from IIT Chennai (Gold Medalist) and a Doctorate in Philosophy (Natha Philosophy) from Gulbarga University. His lifelong dedication to education, service, and spiritual growth has earned him Honorary Doctorates from the University of Mysore and Rajiv Gandhi University.

Despite his humble beginnings in a small village, Mahaswamiji displayed exceptional brilliance from a young age. His passion for social service led him to volunteer at the JSB Blind School in Ramanagara, an experience that inspired his ascetic journey. He later extended his influence beyond the Math, conducting Civil Engineering classes, emphasizing not just technical expertise but also ethical and sustainable construction practices.

challenges faced by visually impaired students, the Trust launched the Balagangadharanatha Swamiji Blind Residential School, a 20-acre campus in Archakarahalli, Ramanagara. The institution not only imparts education but also provides skill training, ensuring that students gain independence and meaningful employment.

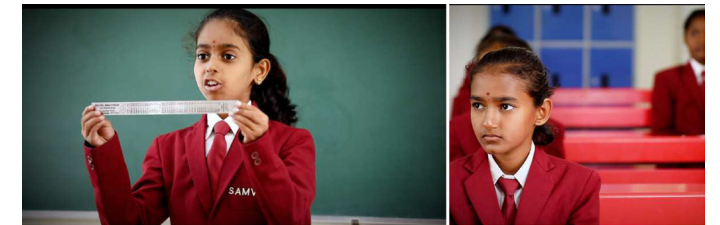
For Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) seeking to stay connected with India's cultural heritage, the Trust has established central and international schools that blend global pedagogy with traditional Indian values. Additionally, to remove financial barriers, the Trust operates free hostels across rural and urban areas, ensuring that students from underprivileged backgrounds receive quality education, free food, and accommodation. At Sri Kshetra Adichunchanagiri, over 6,000 students benefit from these initiatives, fostering both academic excellence and personal growth.

Higher Education: Advancing Knowledge and Innovation

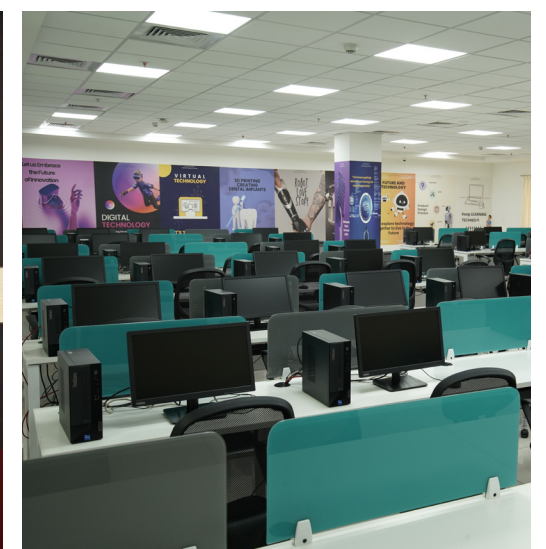
To cater to the evolving demands of modern education, the Trust has established four engineering colleges, offering undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs in fields like Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Metaphysical Sciences. Moreover, recognizing the importance of healthcare education, the Trust has founded medical, nursing, pharmacy, and ayurvedic colleges, producing highly skilled professionals in these domains. A key milestone was the establishment of Adichunchanagiri University (ACU) in 2018, recognized as a multi-disciplinary private university, further strengthening the Trust's impact in higher education.

Pioneering SAMVIT: Nurturing Future Leaders

A landmark initiative under the Trust is Sri Adichunchanagiri Math Vijnatham Institute for Talented (SAMVIT), envisioned by Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji. Established in 2023, this free residential school in Nandi Village provides a nurturing environment for underprivileged yet exceptionally talented students. Spanning six acres, the institution is equipped with energy-efficient infrastructure, a 200-meter running track, badminton and tennis courts, and a rigorous academic framework that fosters holistic development. SAMVIT stands as a testament to the Trust's unwavering commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders through knowledge and values.



Lifetime Achievement in Educational Advancement award presented to Dr. M. A. Shekar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, ACU (R) & Dr. N. Shivaram Reddy, Chief Administrative Officer, Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust® (L)





Transforming Lives Through Advanced and Accessible Healthcare

Building on its commitment to holistic education and societal welfare, the Adichunchanagiri Trust has also made remarkable strides in the field of healthcare. Adichunchanagiri Hospital & Research Centre (AH & RC), established in 1990 under the visionary leadership of His Holiness Padmabhushana Puraskrutha Sri Sri Sri Dr. Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji, stands as a beacon of healthcare excellence. Affiliated with Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), the hospital is committed to providing quality medical care, particularly to underserved rural communities.

With 1500 beds and a multi-specialty approach, AH & RC offers cutting-edge medical services in Neurosurgery, Urology, Cardiology, Oncology, Nephrology, and Plastic Surgery. Equipped with a state-of-the-art Central Operation Theatre complex featuring 13 operation theaters and a 120-bed ICU, the hospital ensures critical and emergency care with round-the-clock medical attention. Its advanced Central Laboratory, Blood Bank, and Forensic department further enhance diagnostic and emergency response capabilities.

Beyond medical treatment, AH & RC extends compassionate care through free medical aid, including medicines, and ensures nourishment for General Ward patients by providing free food. With world-class facilities such as a CATH Lab, MRI, CT Scan, Digital X-Ray, and more, AH & RC continues to transform lives, embodying its mission of accessible and quality healthcare for all.

Integrating Tradition, Technology, and Research

Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust® seamlessly blends ancient wisdom with modern innovation, driving cutting-edge research and technological advancements. Initiatives like DigiMed integrate digital tools into medical education, while the AI & Robotics program, developed in collaboration with Adichunchanagiri University, equips students for the evolving digital era.

Furthermore, the Trust has established Centers of Excellence, including:

- ACU-Centre for Research and Innovation (ACU-CRI) – Spearheading studies that combine modern and traditional knowledge systems.
- Adichunchanagiri Institute for Molecular Medicine (AIMM) – Advancing biomedical research through holistic healing methodologies.
- Center for Molecular Pharmaceutics and Advanced Therapeutics (CMPAT) – Merging pharmaceutical sciences with age-old medicinal wisdom.



Dr. C. K. Subbaraya
Registrar - ACU



Dr. Shivakumar
Chief of Hospital, AH & RC



Dr. Ravi K. S.
Deputy Chief of Hospital |
Professor, Dept. of ENT, AH & RC



Dr. B. Ramesh
Dean, Academics & Accreditation
ACU



Dr. Prashantha Kalappa
Dean, Research & Natural Sciences
ACU

A Legacy of Excellence and Impact

With over 500,000 alumni, 20,000+ faculty members, and an annual graduation of 25,000+ students, Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust® has created an unparalleled educational ecosystem. Its legacy is built on a foundation of service, knowledge, and empowerment, shaping India's future one student at a time.

By honoring the Trust with the Lifetime Achievement in Educational Advancement award, The Academic Insights acknowledges its profound impact on education and society. As it continues its visionary journey, the Trust remains a benchmark entity for holistic and inclusive education, inspiring generations to come.



Dr. Nagaraj
Registrar (Evaluation)
ACU



Dr. M. G. Shivaramu
Dean, Health Sciences (Medical) |
Principal, AIMS - ACU



Prof. Dr. M. Shankar
Director - IQAC, ACU



Dr. Shwetha H. N.
Principal,
Adichunchanagiri School of Natural Sciences



Prof. Rohith N. R.
Principal,
BGS First Grade College



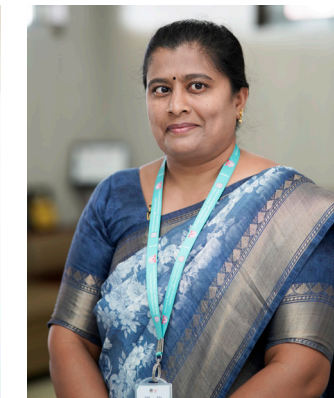
Dr. A. T. Shivaramu
Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences |
Principal, BGSC - ACU



Dr. Bharathi D. R.
Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy |
Principal & Professor, SACCP - ACU



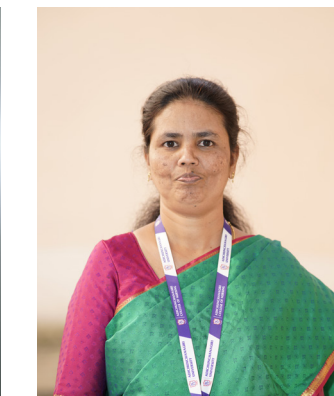
Dr. B. N. Shobha,
Dean, Faculty of Engineering,
Management & Technology |
Principal, BGSIT - ACU



Dr. Komala H.K.
Principal,
BGS Institute of Nursing Sciences



Dr. Shobith Rangappa
Director, AIMM - ACU



Prof. Victoria Sarvand
Principal, Adichunchanagiri
College of Nursing

Adichunchanagiri University

ACCREDITED WITH NAAC A+

Nestled amidst the verdant landscapes of Karnataka, Adichunchanagiri University (ACU) is more than just an institution of higher learning—it is a movement that has redefined education as a force for societal transformation. Established in 2018 under the aegis of the Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust®, ACU stands as a beacon of knowledge, service, and innovation. Rooted in the vision of its revered founder, Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji, the university was conceived not merely as a center for academic excellence but as an institution dedicated to uplifting communities through holistic education and impactful initiatives.

A Legacy of Accessible Education and Holistic Learning

The roots of ACU's mission trace back to 1973, when the Trust first established schools and colleges in rural Karnataka to ensure equitable access to education. What began as a noble effort to bridge societal gaps evolved into a full-fledged multidisciplinary university, driven by the leadership of Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, the 72nd Pontiff of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math. Under his stewardship, ACU has remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering students, particularly those from underserved communities, with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Spread across a sprawling 67-acre campus at BG Nagara, the university offers a serene yet technologically advanced environment for academic and personal growth. Strategically located near Bangalore on National Highway No. 75, ACU harmonizes modern infrastructure with a lush, green landscape that fosters intellectual curiosity, innovation, and collaboration.

ACU's academic prowess is reflected in its NAAC A+ accreditation, a testament to its commitment to quality education. With a diverse portfolio of 72+ programs and 1,522+ courses, the university offers 850 interdisciplinary options and 150+ value-

added courses, enhancing students' employability and innovation skills.

Revolutionizing Healthcare with Compassion and Innovation

ACU's dedication to community welfare is most evident in its transformative healthcare initiatives, led by the Adichunchanagiri Hospital & Research Center (AHRC). The Free Food Initiative has provided over 2,400 free meals daily since 2018, impacting more than 57,600 individuals each year with an investment of ₹57 lakhs annually. Healthcare accessibility is further bolstered through SANKALP, a program that has facilitated over 963 cleft surgeries and 139 post-burn contracture surgeries since 2006, investing ₹14 lakhs annually to restore lives and dignity.

Beyond specialized treatments, ACU's commitment to rural healthcare is evident in the 1,256+ health camps it has organized since 2018, benefiting 36,000 patients across Karnataka. These include free eye camps for 4,729 individuals and comprehensive antenatal care programs for women, ensuring holistic well-being for the underprivileged.

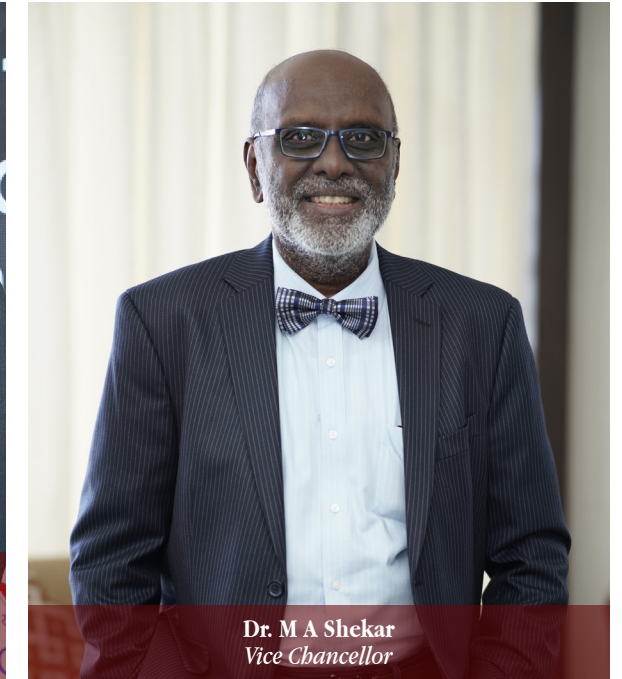
Uplifting Rural Communities Through Sustainable Development

ACU's impact extends far beyond its campus, reaching deep into Karnataka's rural heartlands through village and school adoption programs. The Village Adoption Program has transformed Brahmadevarahalli into a model village by introducing RO water plants, enhanced healthcare facilities, and digital literacy programs, demonstrating the university's commitment to sustainable rural development.

Through its School Adoption Program, ACU has revolutionized 14 schools, equipping them with smart classrooms, sanitation facilities, art supplies, sports equipment, and environmental initiatives. With an investment of ₹60 lakhs since 2018, these efforts have significantly elevated the quality of primary education in rural areas, earning recognition from state officials and national policymakers.



Community Impact University of the Year 2024 award presented to Dr. C. K. Subbaraya, Registrar, ACU (R) & Dr. M. G. Shivaramu, Dean - Health Sciences (Medical), ACU | Principal, Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences (L)



Dr. M. A. Shekar
Vice Chancellor

A Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

As a guardian of environmental stewardship, ACU has played a pivotal role in Karnataka's green revolution, having planted over 5 crore saplings in collaboration with the state government. Its eco-conscious campus operates on 700 kW of solar energy, utilizes biogas plants, and fosters biodiversity with over 4,585 trees, providing a habitat for 36 bird species, four butterfly species, and six snake species.

The university's green initiatives do not merely remain within its campus but extend to community-driven sustainability programs, inspiring students and local residents to embrace eco-friendly practices.

Empowering Students Through Experiential Learning and Community Engagement

ACU integrates social responsibility into its curriculum, ensuring students actively engage in community welfare. Through outreach programs, students participate in health camps, sustainable agriculture projects, and digital literacy drives, gaining hands-on experience that shapes them into responsible citizens.

Extracurricular activities further strengthen ACU's mission, with 1,350 students enrolled in 13 NSS units, driving initiatives such as cleanliness campaigns, health camps, and tree plantations. The annual BGS Walkathon, with over 12,000 participants, promotes heart health awareness, while students contribute directly to free healthcare services, surgeries, and rural upliftment projects, making real-world impact a core part of their education.

Building Strong Collaborations for Greater Impact

ACU's philosophy of collaborative progress has led to impactful partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and global organizations. The university has successfully facilitated artificial limb fitment camps in association with the Karnataka Marwari

Youth Federation, while environmental programs have been executed in partnership with Vanasamvardhane Sangha.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ACU received crucial donations from Kuduremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. to procure oxygen generators, exemplifying how academia and industry can unite for societal welfare. Its flagship healthcare initiative, SANKALP, has garnered international recognition, with organizations like Rotary and Rotaplast International USA playing a vital role in its execution.

Visionary Leadership Driving Excellence

At the helm of ACU's transformative journey is Dr. M. A. Shekar, a distinguished medical professional specializing in diabetes and endocrinology. As the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shekar's leadership has been instrumental in steering ACU's academic and research vision, blending medical expertise with strategic educational reform.

His extensive contributions, spanning roles such as Director of Medical Education, Dean at Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, and Director of Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology & Research, have established him as a respected figure in the field. His accolades, including the Dr. B. C. Roy Award and Lifetime Achievement recognition by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India, underscore his unwavering dedication to academia and healthcare.

A Model University for the Future

Adichunchanagiri University's unwavering commitment to education, healthcare, sustainability, and community service has earned it the rightful title of Community Impact University of the Year 2024. As it continues to set benchmarks in academic excellence and social responsibility, ACU stands as a shining example of how universities can be powerful catalysts for positive change in society.

