

Prof. Ami Upadhyay - Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University: Redefining Inclusive and Digital Education in India

At the Radiant Gujarat event hosted by Times Now, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) was honored for its transformative impact in the field of education and institutional leadership. Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Ami Upadhyay, BAOU has emerged as a beacon of innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence—not only in Gujarat, but across India.

and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its very first cycle, BAOU stands as the only state university in Gujarat and the only Open University in India to achieve this distinction. Ranked 3rd among Indian open universities by NIRF 2024 and recognized as a Category I Graded Autonomy status by the UGC, NCVET recognition as an Awarding Body (Dual), BAOU's credentials underscore its academic stature and commitment to quality education.



At the heart of BAOU's achievements are its pioneering learner-centric initiatives. With 300+ Learner Support Centres and 8 Regional Centres spread across Gujarat—including remote districts like Kachchh—the University ensures accessibility at every level. The innovative "Exam on Demand" initiative allows learners the flexibility to appear for exams as per their convenience, exemplifying BAOU's commitment to open, inclusive education.

in Institutional Social Responsibility" Award at the 11th FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards. Prof. Ami Upadhyay has been honored with several prestigious awards, such as Award for Research Project under the Special Call for Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Sciences by ICSSR, Ministry of Education, The Honorary Fellowship by the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, Grant to establish Centre of Culinary and Performing Arts by IKS Division, Ministry of Education, The Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, prestigious award by State Government of Gujarat.

this, is a digital library and repository of over 7,000 video lectures, enabling self-paced, on-demand education supported by a robust Learning Management System (LMS). educational and developmental needs of under-represented groups. Offering free education to transgenders, jail inmates, and children of Indian Army martyrs, BAOU is a true champion of equitable education.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Ahmedabad has been honored with the "Excellence Leveraging the power of digital platforms, BAOU has created a vast educational ecosystem. Its platforms—Omkar, Omkar-e, Swadhyay TV, Swadhyay Radio, and Hello BAOU community radio, State of Art "Chaitanya" studio—deliver multimedia learning to students across geographies and demographics. Complementing to

The university is also a national leader in the implementation of NEP 2020, offering admission per course in line with the new framework and introducing programs focused on Indian knowledge systems, such as MA in IKS and MA in Hindu Studies. BAOU is also actively contributing to the promotion of Indian languages and regional literature, with its faculty translating 17 out of the 25 books launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam.

International collaborations with institutions in Russia, Mozambique and Mongolia reflect BAOU's growing global footprint, while its ambitious plans to launch information centres worldwide and online courses in Gujarati for the Indian diaspora underscore its forward-thinking vision.

BAOU's institutional social responsibility initiatives are equally impactful. Through its "Gargi" Centre for the Holistic Development of Woman, "Atri" Centre for Equal Opportunities and Inclusive Education (CEOIE) and Extension Activity Cell, the university addresses

The Radiant Gujarat award recognizes BAOU's unique blend of academic rigor, social commitment, and technological innovation. In a time when education must evolve to meet the needs of a diverse and digital world, BAOU leads by example—empowering learners, transforming lives, and setting new standards for inclusive higher education in India.



Accredited with an exceptional A++ grade by the National Assessment

