

While India has the world's most ancient university, Nalanda, in 5th century, a few modern universities are given here. The year 2017 marks the bicentenary (200 years) of the 'Hindu College', Kolkata, set up as an institution for imparting liberal education in 1817. In 1852, it became a public institution open to all communities. It was renamed Presidency College in 1855. It was made an independent university in 2010.

University of Madras
SET-UP IN: 1857
Established along with Mumbai and Kolkata universities at the same time, it now has six campuses across Chennai

University of Calcutta
SET-UP IN: 1857
The third university established in 1857

Aligarh Muslim University
SET-UP IN: 1875
Established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan as Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College it became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. It is now a central public university

Jadavpur University, Kolkata
SET-UP IN: 1901
Was set up as the National Council of Education (NCE) in Bengal as a Nationalist response to the universities set up by the British as part of the Swadeshi movement. The aim was to impart education – literary, scientific and technical on nationalistic lines exclusively under national control

Oldest Universities in the World

- University of Bologna, Italy
Established in: 1088
- University of Oxford, UK
Established in: 1096-1167
- University of Salamanca, Spain
Established in: 1134
- University of Paris, France
Established in: 1160-1250
- University of Cambridge, UK
Established in: 1209

Famous Presidency Alumni

- Former West Bengal CM: **Buddhabhattacharjee**
- Former Lok Sabha speaker: **Somnath Chatterjee**
- Former state finance minister: **Asim Dasgupta**
- Founder of Ramakrishna Mission: **Swami Vivekananda**
- Author: **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**
- Nationalist leader: **Subhaschandra Bose**
- First President of India: **Dr Rajendra Prasad**
- Scientists: **Satyendranath Bose and Meghnad Saha**
- Film director: **Satyajit Ray**
- Nobel laureate: **Amartya Sen**

Serampore College, Howrah, West Bengal
SET-UP IN: 1818
This is the oldest college in India and was set up by English missionaries William Carey, Joshua Marshman and William Ward

University of Mumbai
SET-UP IN: 1857
The University of Mumbai (known earlier as University of Bombay) is among the first three universities set up by the British – the other two being University of Madras and Calcutta. The main campus is at Kalina, Santacruz

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
SET-UP IN: 1847
Established in the British Empire as India's first engineering college. The Roorkee College was later renamed as The Thomson College of Civil Engineering in 1854. It was given the status of University of the United Province (Uttar Pradesh) in 1948 and in 1949 Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, elevated it to the first engineering university of independent India

Allahabad University
SET-UP IN: 1876
The University of Allahabad is a public central university with its origins in Muir Central College, named after Lt. Governor of North-Western Provinces, Sir William Muir. It later evolved into an university and in 2005 was given the Central University status.

Famous Alumni: Lynn Alton de Silva, Sri Lankan theologian; Roger Adrian Herft, Archbishop of Perth; Hokishe Sema, former Chief Minister of Nagaland and a former Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Famous Alumni: Mukesh Ambani, CMD Reliance Industries; BR Ambedkar, chief architect of Indian constitution; Anil Kakodkar, nuclear scientist

Famous Alumni: Verghese Kurien, social entrepreneur; CV Raman, physicist; Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India

Famous Alumni: Ashutosh Mukherjee, educationist; Jagadish Chandra Bose, scientist; Rabindranath Tagore, Nobel laureate

Famous Alumni: Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-president of India; Zakir Husain, former President of India; Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, former J&K chief minister

Famous Alumni: Subir Raha, former MD, ONGC; Arunabhad Bhattacharya, CMD, SBI; Hemanta Mukherjee, singer

Famous Alumni: Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and VP Singh, also former PM and Govind Ballabh Pant, Indian freedom fighter

Sources: QS, TopUniversities.com, Presi200.com

