

4.1.1: Facilities at Institution Headquarters, Regional Centres and Learner Support Centres

The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) has a jurisdiction over the State of Maharashtra which has area of 307,713 square kilometre is the second most populous state in India. To cater to the developmental needs of the state the University strives to keep updated with productive resources at its headquarters (HQ) in Nashik and eight Regional Centres (RCs) and requires its Learner Support Centres (LSCs) to match the advancements in technology to meet or exceed the aspirations of the masses.

The HQ is very close to Gangapur dam, offering it unique backdrop of overlooking to the backwaters of the dam. The University runs a Krishi Vigyan Kendra which has distinction of being the first being operated by an Open University in India. The 150 acres of the land has been lavishly interspersed with trees providing fruits, oxygen and opportunities of experimenting on farm maintenance. The university has planted mango in 14 acres, Coconut in 3.5 acres, Jackfruits in 3 acres, Guava, Aonla, Litchi in 2 acres each, sapota in 2.2 acres, grapes in 1.5 acres, cashew nut, custard apple in one acre each and Jamun and other varieties in 4 acre of land. The University also has facilities for poultry, poly-houses and other farm related facilities.

The sprawling campus has a sports arena where cricket, football, basket ball, athletics competitions are conducted. There are 16 major buildings in the campus with total built-up area of 29767 sq meters. [https://ycmou.ac.in/at_headquarter] Administrative Building houses offices of Hon Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Finance Officer, and other offices and has a total carpet area of 5274 square meters. The Academic building (with built-up area of 4312 sq meter) has Offices of Directors of eight Schools of Studies and Academic Services Division with around 10 rooms for each school including directorate, offices of faculties, store room, and meeting hall.

The Examination Building with built-up area 4147 sq meter is the nerve centre for examination activities of around seven lakh students, with millions of answer scripts being processed per year using such modern concepts like onscreen evaluation through the internet cloud, distribution of confidential question papers through SRPD, etc. The University could, thanks to such resources, successfully meet the challenges of conducting online examinations during the Covid-19 pandemic. The university has entered into agreement with National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) and Central Securities Depository Ltd (CSDL) to lodge, verify and authenticate students academic achievement through National Academic Depository (NAD).

The design of Library and Resource Centre (measuring 4762 sq meter) is highly appreciated for its environment friendly architecture. It has 54732 printed books, 52 periodicals, 2947 CDs, 296 audio cassettes, 277 video cassettes, 512 Ph.D. theses, 4649

M.Phil dissertations, subscribes to EBSCO online journal as well databases of Art and Archetch Complete (supporting 362 resources) Hospitality and Tourism Complete (261 resources) and Business Source Complete (1061 resources).

The university has established a museum to inspire the young generation to the life and work of Hon'ble Yashwantrao Chavan, in whose fond memory the university has been established. The Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial displays rare artefacts including replicas the birth place and other personal belongings of the great soul.

A state of the art Yash International Convention centre with xxx rooms with air conditioning, cafeteria, Gymnasium, presidential suit overlooking the sprawling Gangapur Dam reservoir is used to conduct conferences and seminars at national and international levels.

A separate building for Audio Video Centre (AVC) includes facilities like video studio, audio studio, web radio which transmits educational programs 24/7, preview theatre, non-linear editing setup, light systems and teleprompter. Educational video are distributed through YouTube as well as on YCMOU portal.

Store for SLM cater to the need of around five lakh students and dispatches millions of volumes of printed SLM through around 2000 LSCs under 08 RCs. The University encourages use of electronically distributed SLM which are available freely through its portal.

The University's KVK houses a laboratory facility which gives services to farmers for soil testing with capacity of 1500 per year. It also produces bio-agents like Trichoderma, Verticilium, Baveria, Pacilomyces, Namoria with a production capacity 3 ton per year.

There are three Seminar halls (first floor of Academic, both floors of Agriculture Building), 01 convention hall (Yash International Convention Centre) , 08 Meeting Rooms, one amphitheatre (LARC) and one Auditoriums, equipped with state of the art ICT equipments like hot spots, DLP projectors, large LED TVs, Video conferencing systems (hardware based and software based) audio conferencing system with chairman control.

The University has used automation since its inception to enhance its productivity and serve the clientele better. There are at present xxx computers at the HQ and RCs. The 1 GBPS bandwidth made available by Government of India through National Knowledge Network (NKN) is distributed to xxx nodes with CyberROM firewall to safeguard against unauthorised websites. Admission process is automated with payment gateway for collection of fees and uploading of supporting documents. Physical infrastructure for Onscreen evaluation is maintained at the HQ and at various evaluation

points at the RCs. The various processes of the Finance Office like budgeting, payment, investment, payrolls, etc have also been computerised.

All rooms at the headquarters Classrooms in Study Centres at HQ and RC and almost all at the LSC are ICT enabled. All the LSCs are required to have different rest rooms for Ladies and Gents students and staff. The infrastructure facilities required to meet the laboratory components for the science courses are mandatory at the LSCs. A full-fledged branch of Central Bank of India with ATM and a post office serve to the communication and financial needs of the University. All the RCs are in the hearts of towns at locations close to infrastructure facilities like bus, railways, bank, universities etc. E-Surveillance system with high-resolution cameras along with day/night facility, infra-red sensing, motion sensing etc have also been installed to meet any security challenges.

The Government of Maharashtra has set up a Pre-IAS training centre for the members of deprived sections of society at the University HQ. The university provides the residential and library facilities to these trainees. The University has also built Guest House for experts coming for University work. Another guest house (called "Godawari") serves the residential need of trainees of KVK.