

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

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The Court of Directors of the East India Company sent a despatch in July, 1854 to the Governor-General of India in Council, suggesting the establishment of the Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. In pursuance of that despatch, the University of Calcutta was founded on JANUARY 24, 1857.

The University adopted in the first instance, the pattern of the University of London and gradually introduced modifications in its constitution Calcutta University Act.

The University of Calcutta was established by an Act of the Legislative Council (Act No II of 1857) of the then British India. A supplementary Act empowering the University to confer some additional degrees was passed in 1860. Another Act was passed in 1884 by which the University was authorised to confer honorary Degree of Law.

The University Act of 1904 empowered the University to make necessary arrangements for the instruction of students, and though most of the teaching continued to be imparted in the affiliated colleges, teaching in some of the higher branches began to be organised under the University management.

The Calcutta University Act, 1951, which came into operation from March, 1954 brought about important changes in the constitution and character of the University. The Act provided for Postgraduate teaching in some of the affiliated colleges along with the University Colleges.

The Calcutta University Act, 1966 was passed with a view to providing for the reorganisation of the University that came into force on September 18, 1968. The University is now being governed by the Calcutta University Act, 1979 as amended up to 31 May, 2006.

The Act provided for the reconstitution of the University to enable it to function more efficiently in the fields of teaching, training and research in various branches of learning and courses of study and extending higher education to meet the growing needs of the society and to make the constitution of various authorities and bodies of the University more democratic.