

The **Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani)** is a private [deemed university](#) in [Pilani, Rajasthan](#), India.^[11] It focuses primarily on higher education and research in engineering and sciences.^[12] BITS Pilani was one of the first six institutes in India to be declared [Institution of Eminence](#).^[13] According to 2012 data, BITS Pilani has an acceptance rate (on-campus) of 1.47%, making it one of the most exclusive [technical universities](#) in the world.^{[14][15]}

The institute was established in its present form in 1964.^[16] During this period, the institute's transformation from a regional engineering college to a national university was backed by [G.D. Birla](#). The university has expanded its campuses from Pilani to [Dubai](#), [Goa](#), [Hyderabad](#) and [Mumbai](#).^[17] After expansion to a campus in Dubai, it has become the first international deemed university, spearheading research in science and engineering with four established campuses and fifteen academic departments. Backed by the [Aditya Birla Group](#), the institute secures extramural research funds from industries and various government agencies.^{[18][19]}

Admissions to on-campus programs are solely merit-based and assessed by the entrance examinations conducted by BITS.^[20] It is one of the few institutions in India that do not have any [reservation](#) policies in their admission criteria.

History

Inception



Aerial view, BITS Pilani (1978)



Aerial image of the Pilani campus with the newly inaugurated Rotunda (2014)

Founded in 1929, the Birla Education Trust established an intermediate college,^[21] followed by the addition of Science and Pharmacy colleges in 1943 and 1950 respectively.^[22] The Birla College of Engineering, offering degree programs in electrical and mechanical engineering was started in 1946.^[23] The master's program in electronics was introduced in 1955.^[24] In 1964, the Birla Colleges of Science, Engineering and Pharmacy were incorporated to form the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS).

Reacting to early criticism about the project, contemporary advisor Thomas Drew said:

In my judgment to attempt to develop an American institution in India would be like trying to graft apples on a pine tree. We have not been asked to make such an attempt. We were asked to help devise in India an Indian technological school to produce graduates with the know-how to produce knowledge pertinent for India.... In many respects, they consider us immature, rude, hypocritical barbarians who in certain respects happened to hit it lucky. To be viable in India an institution must be framed with Indian values in mind.^[25]

BITS Pilani became a [deemed university](#) established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 by notification No. F.12-23/63.U-2 of 18 June 1964.^{[26][27]} In its formative years, the Institute tied up with the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT), Boston, USA.^{[26][28]} It adopted a semester system, modular structure of courses, continuous and internal evaluation, letter grading and the likes. It also created linkages with the industries which yielded structured "Practice Schools" as an integral component of education.^[26]

The Institute board provided direction in developing a curriculum, selecting equipment, upgrading the library and recruiting (and training) an Indian faculty. To quicken the pace of reform he convinced [C. R. Mitra](#) to be the new director of the institute. Mitra advocated a "practice school" internship program as a requirement for faculty and students.^[29] The Practice School Program is still a requirement for students in BITS.



Clock tower, BITS Pilani

According to American historians Robert Kargon and Stuart Leslie:

BITS offered an opportunity to build a leading technological university in India responsive to India's goals, to produce practising engineers who will be in a position to graduate and to build industries in India, under Indian conditions. With its emphasis on the Practice School and ties to Indian industry, it helped educate Indian industrialists along with Indian engineers who would remain in India, in contrast to many other engineering colleges in India, most of whose graduates would leave the country after obtaining their basic engineering education. The Ford Foundation Evaluators...proudly noted that the Indian government, despite having given no direct financial support, was looking to BITS to provide a model for future development in education in engineering and science in India.^[25]

Like [Berkeley](#), BITS Pilani has also experienced student activism. BITS Pilani had to be shut down multiple times because of student strikes in 1973, 1980, 1985 and 2017.^{[30][31]}

Multi-campus expansion



Pilani



[Goa](#)



[Hyderabad](#)



Mumbai

Campuses within India: Pilani, Goa, Hyderabad, Mumbai

In 1999, enrollment expanded from 2,500 to 4,000^[32] and campuses were founded in [Dubai](#) (2000) and [Goa](#) (2004). Upon invitation by the [Government of Andhra Pradesh](#), BITS Pilani acquired 200 acres (81 ha) of land from the [Andhra Pradesh](#) government through the [Hyderabad Urban Development Authority](#) for a new constituent campus in 2006. The land is located in Jawaharnagar, Shameerpet Mandal in the Rangareddy district.^[33] The BITS Pilani Hyderabad campus opened in 2008; the school also has a virtual university^[34] and an extension center in [Bangalore](#).^[35] BITS School of Management (BITSoM) was established in January 2021 and offers a 2-year full-time residential MBA. BITSoM has its interim campus in Hiranandani Knowledge Park, Powai, Mumbai while the 63-acre permanent campus is being set up in [Kalyan](#) within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.^[36] In March 2023, BITS Pilani entered into legal education with the establishment of BITS Law School (BITS LAW) in the Mumbai campus.^[37] In February 2024, BITS entered the field of design education by setting up BITS Design School (BITSDES) in the Mumbai campus.^{[38][39]}

Chancellor and academic head

BITS Pilani has a tradition of long-serving chancellors. Its founder, G.D. Birla, was chancellor from the college's inception until his death in 1983.^[32] He was followed by his son, [Krishna Kumar Birla](#), who was

chancellor until his death in 2008.^[40] Currently, [Kumar Mangalam Birla](#) is chancellor and Shobhana Bhartia is pro-chancellor.^[41]

The first academic head of the institution was J. C. Stracliff (Principal) for a period of 3 years during 1946–1949.^[42] V. Lakshminarayan became Principal of Birla Engineering College in 1949 and Director of BITS Pilani in 1964 when it was established (serving until 1969).^[43] He was succeeded by the third and fourth academic heads (BITS Pilani Directors) C.R. Mitra (1969–1989)^[44] and S. Venkateswaran (1989–2006). L.K. Maheshwari was the fifth academic head, serving as Director as well as Vice Chancellor, the latter terminology denoting the overall head of multiple campuses (each of which now has a Director). The current directors of the campuses are Sudhirkumar Barai, Suman Kundu, Soumyo Mukherji, and Srinivasan Madapusi for Pilani, Goa, Hyderabad, and Dubai campuses, respectively.^{[45][46][47][48]}

In April 2016, Chancellor KM Birla announced that Souvik Bhattacharya of [IIT Kharagpur](#) was selected to take over as the new Vice chancellor of BITS Pilani. He took over in June 2016 to become the 6th academic head of the institute.^[49] Ranendra N. Saha served as the Acting Vice Chancellor from 13 June 2021 to 30 September 2021 after the expiration of Bhattacharya's term. The latter was re-appointed as the Vice Chancellor from 1 October 2021 for a period of five years.^[50] On 10 March 2023, [V. Ramgopal Rao](#) took over the Vice Chancellor's office from the outgoing Bhattacharya, becoming the seventh academic head of the institute.^{[51][52]}

Campuses

Main Campus - Pilani

Spread across 328 acres (1,330,000 m²), the main campus in Pilani is positioned 200 kilometres (120 mi) west of Delhi and 220 kilometres (140 mi) north of Jaipur.^[53] The campus has 11,245 square metres (121,040 sq ft) of classrooms and 7,069 square metres (76,090 sq ft) of laboratories.



G.D. Birla Memorial



Birla Science Centre, BITS Pilani

The Pilani campus has India's first technological museum, the Birla Museum. Built in 1954, it showcases technological achievements.^{[54][55]} BITS has a 2,535-square-metre (27,290 sq ft) auditorium decorated with paintings by students from the department of art and decoration.^[56]



[Saraswati](#) temple, BITS Pilani

BITS has a [Sharda Peeth](#) dedicated to the goddess [Saraswati](#), Sharda Peeth, built by G. D. Birla. The white marble temple is built on a 7-foot (2.1 m)-high foundation, with 70 pillars for support. It covers an area of 25,000 square feet (2,300 m²).^[57]

Residential and dining facilities

The institute has fourteen hostels in total. Each hostel is referred as a "Bhawan", the [Sanskrit](#) word for hostel. Twelve of them – [Krishna](#) Bhawan, [Vishwakarma](#) Bhawan, [Rana Pratap](#) Bhawan, [Bhagirath](#) Bhawan, [Ashok](#) Bhawan, [Gandhi](#) Bhawan, [Shankar](#) Bhawan, [Vyas](#) Bhawan, [Ram](#) Bhawan, [Budh](#) Bhawan, [Malviya](#) Bhawan, [CV Raman](#) Bhawan and [Srinivasa Ramanujan](#) Bhawan are for male students. [Meera](#) Bhawan is the only hostel for female students. The institute also has one more hostel for parents and guests^[58] The hostels are named after saints, scientists, and historical and religious figures.

Every two hostels share a mess hall except Meera Bhawan, Srinivasa Ramanujan Bhawan and Sir C V Raman Bhawan which have their own mess halls. All dining areas are student-managed.^[59] Students may also eat at a "Redi" (a small kiosk near every hostel), Institute Canteen (IC), the All-Night Canteen (ANC), Food Ministry (FM), and the Student Activity Centre (SAC) cafeteria (TOTT, Mr. Idli, 301 °F, Looters, and Da Cloud Cafe). The ANC is also student-managed.^[60] Moreover, there is a small area inside campus called "Connaught" which has many restaurants, cafes, etc.^[61] and has shops for general daily needs as well.

Vision 2020, Mission 2012

In 2010 the institute launched a renewal project, "Vision 2020, Mission 2012,"^[62] to identify and implement measures establishing BITS Pilani as one of India's top three research-led universities by 2015 and among the leading 25 technical universities in Asia by 2020. As a part of this initiative, [Kumar Mangalam Birla](#) visited the Pilani campus on 13 November 2011 with pro-chancellor Shobhana Bhartia and other members of the board of governors. At this meeting, Birla announced a Rs. 600 crore fund for renovation and construction of new academic buildings and student hostels on the Pilani campus. The project was planned for completion in 2014.^[63]

Goa Campus

Main article: [Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani – Goa Campus](#)

Hyderabad Campus

Main article: [Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus](#)

Dubai Campus

Main article: [Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani – Dubai Campus](#)

Academics

Academic programmes (On-campus)

Integrated first degrees

BITS Pilani offers four-year integrated [first-degree](#) programs in engineering and pharmacy, and integrated Master of Science programs in science and technology.^[64] The Dual-Degree program allows students to pursue two degrees, namely a Master's in Science (M.Sc.) and a Bachelor's in Engineering (B.E.) simultaneously for a time duration of five-years. The dual-degree program is part of the first-degree programs and is offered to students on the basis of BITSAT scores.^[65]

Higher degrees

BITS Pilani offers two-year [higher-degree](#) programs in engineering, pharmacy and business administration.^[66] The Master of Engineering (M.E.) program is offered to students on the basis of [GATE](#) scores and BITS HD exam scores.^[67]

Admission

Pilani, Goa and Hyderabad campuses

Before 2005, admissions were based on the candidates' score in the 12th board examination. BITS had been moderating marks from various school boards since 1982.

Since 2005, admission to first-degree in BITS has been offered on the basis of the student's performance in the all-India entrance examination, the Birla Institute of Technology and Science Admission Test (BITSAT).^[68] BITSAT, for which applications are submitted in December, is conducted online in May and June in cities all over India. The exam tests the candidate's knowledge, reasoning and analytical abilities in [physics](#), [chemistry](#), mathematics, [English](#) and [logical reasoning](#), and is based on higher secondary curricula in India and abroad. A 2012 news report showed that [BITSAT](#) had become more competitive than the [IIT-JEE](#), in terms of the ratio of the number of aspirants to the number of seats available.^[68]

Admission to on-campus higher degrees such as Master's in Engineering (M.E.) is done on the basis of [GATE](#) scores and BITS HD (Higher Degree) examination scores.^[67]

For foreign students, BITS has a separate admission scheme called International Student Admissions (ISA) category. To gauge the merit of these ISA students, BITS accepts the [SAT](#) and [SAT Subject Tests](#) in chemistry, physics, and Math 2C.^[69]

Dubai campus

Admission to [Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani – Dubai Campus](#) is based on scores in the 12th standard qualifying exam along with BITSAT. Although the BITS Pilani-Dubai campus was established

for the educational requirements of the [Gulf Cooperation Council](#) countries, admission is open to students of all nationalities.^[70]

Distance learning programmes (WILP)

BITS Pilani also offers online [distance learning](#) programmes such as *Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP)* in which students can get a B.Tech., M.Tech., Diploma, as well as Certificate programs while working in the industry.^[71]

Academic and industrial collaborations

BITS Pilani collaborates extensively with industries and government organizations, including the [DST](#), [ICMR](#), [DBT](#), [ISRO](#), [DRDO](#) and [DAE](#).^{[18][72]} The institute actively promotes innovation and supports ventures by faculty, students, and alumni through its incubation programs.^{[19][73]} BITS is a partner in developing the JournalServer^[74] open-access digital library, Project [IPV6](#)^[75] and the MIT iCampus^[76] initiative. BITS Pilani has signed key MoUs with institutions such as the [Tata Institute of Fundamental Research](#) (TIFR) and [IIT Bombay](#) for joint research and specialized courses.^{[77][78]} Internationally, BITS Pilani has signed MoUs with the [University at Buffalo](#), [Iowa State University](#) and [Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology](#) (RMIT) for dual degree programmes and research initiatives.^{[79][80][81]}

Rankings

University and college rankings	
General – international	
QS (World) (2025) ^[82]	800-850
QS (Asia) (2023) ^[83]	175
Times (World) (2023) ^[84]	801–1000
Times (Asia) (2022) ^[85]	251–300
Times (Emerging) (2022) ^[86]	301–350
General – India	
NIRF (Overall) (2024) ^[87]	23
NIRF (Research) (2024) ^[88]	26
NIRF (Universities) (2024) ^[89]	19
Engineering – India	

NIRF (2024) ^[90]	20
Private colleges:	
Outlook India (2022) ^[91]	2
Pharmacy – India	
NIRF (2024) ^[92]	3

Internationally, BITS Pilani was ranked 801-850 band in the [QS World University Rankings](#) for 2025^[93] and 171 in Asia.^[83] It was ranked 601–800 in the world by the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#) for 2025,^[84] 251–300 in Asia in 2025^[85] and 301–350 among emerging economies.^[86]

In India, BITS Pilani was ranked 23 overall in 2024 by the [National Institutional Ranking Framework](#) (NIRF),^[94] 19 among universities,^[95] 20 in the engineering ranking^[96] and 3 in India in the pharmacy ranking.^[97] It was ranked 7th among engineering colleges by [India Today](#) in 2024 and second among private engineering colleges by [Outlook India](#) in 2024.^[91]

The Department of Management was ranked 10 among private management schools in India by [Outlook India](#) in 2020.

Student life

Events

OASIS

Main article: [Oasis \(festival\)](#)

[Oasis](#) is the annual [cultural festival](#) of the BITS, Pilani. It hosts a variety of events in various categories like dance, drama, literature, comedy, fashion and music.^[98]

BOSM

Main article: [BOSM \(festival\)](#)

[BOSM](#) (BITS-Pilani Open Sports Meet) is the annual sports competition at the Pilani campus. BITS-Pilani invites colleges throughout India to participate in events including carrom board, hockey, [cricket](#), basketball, football, volleyball, [track and field](#), badminton, tennis, table tennis, squash and weightlifting. Since its 2010 silver jubilee (25th) anniversary, BOSM has invited a team from Moratuwa University in Sri Lanka.^[99]

APOGEE

APOGEE (A Professions Oriented Gathering over Educational Experiences) is an international annual technical festival at the Pilani campus.^[100] Since its inception in 1983, APOGEE has hosted students and researchers from across the country. The guest lecture series of the fest, Think Again Conclave has received eminent speakers in the past which include [A.P.J. Abdul Kalam](#), [Richard Stallman](#), [Jimmy](#)

[Wales](#), [Kailash Satyarthi](#), [Walter Lewin](#) and [A. S. Kiran Kumar](#).^[101] Other events include the [Paper Presentation](#) Event, which is one of the oldest research paper presentation platforms in the country, and Project Presentation, which exhibits over 550 projects in various fields of [science](#) and [engineering](#).

Spark

BITS Spark programme was launched in 2012. The programme promotes entrepreneurship courses and workshops, offers mentorship, and provides angel funds.^[102]

Notable alumni

Main article: [List of BITS Pilani alumni](#)

- [Sanjay Mehrotra](#), co-founder of [Sandisk](#) and CEO of [Micron Technology](#)^[103]
- [Preetish Nijhawan](#), co-founder of [Akamai Technologies](#)^[104]
- [Baba Kalyani](#), businessman and chairman of [Bharat Forge](#)^[105]
- [Sabeer Bhatia](#), co-founder of [Hotmail](#), first free [web-based email](#) service^[106]
- Sriharsha Majety, co-founder and CEO of [Swiggy](#)
- Abhinav Asthana, co-founder of [Postman](#)^[107]
- Hari Menon, co-founder and CEO of [BigBasket](#)^[108]
- Shubh Malhotra, co-founder of [Mobile Premier League](#)^[109]
- Phanindra Sama, co-founder of [RedBus](#)^[110]
- [Revathi Advaiti](#), CEO of [Flex](#)^[111]
- [Rakesh Kapoor](#), former CEO of [Reckitt Benckiser](#)^[112]
- [Sunil Duggal](#), former CEO of [Dabur](#)^[113]
- Kiran Deshpande, former CEO of [Tech Mahindra](#)^[114]
- [Goverdhan Mehta](#), [Padma Shri](#) Awardee, ex-Director of [IISc Bangalore](#) and ex-Vice Chancellor of [University of Hyderabad](#)^[115]
- [S. P. Kothari](#), [Padma Shri](#) Awardee, Dean of [MIT Sloan School of Management](#)^[116]
- [Milind Tambe](#), Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science at [Harvard University](#)^[117]
- [Autar Kaw](#), Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the [University of South Florida](#)^[118]
- [Arun K. Somani](#), department chair and Senior Associate Dean in Engineering, [Iowa State University](#)^[119]
- [Narendra Ahuja](#), Founding Director of [IIIT Hyderabad](#) (1999–2002) and Donald B. Willett Professor Emeritus in Engineering at the [University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign](#)^[120]

- [Govindan Rangarajan](#), mathematician, Director & Professor Dept. of Mathematics, [Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore](#)^[121]
- [Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose](#), 22nd [Governor of West Bengal](#)
- [Prithviraj Chavan](#), former [Chief Minister of Maharashtra](#); former Union Minister for Science and Technology, Govt. of India^[122]
- [Anu Hasan](#), Tamil actress and TV show host^[123]
- [Kaniha](#), Malayalam/Tamil movie actress and TV show host^[124]
- Awais Ahmed and Kshitij Khandelwal, founders of [Pixxel](#)

Ghanshyam Das Birla (10 April 1894 – 11 June 1983) was an Indian businessman and member of the [Birla Family](#).

Birla family history

Ghanshyam Das Birla was born on 10 April 1894 at [Pilani](#) town in Jhunjhunu district, in the region known as [Rajputana](#), as a member of the [Marwari Rajasthani](#) community.^[1] His father was [Raja Baldevdas Birla](#). In 1884, Baldeo Das Birla went to [Bombay](#) in search of new avenues of trade. He established his firm Shiv Narian Baldeo Das in Bombay in 1884 and Baldeo Das Jugal Kishore in 1897 in [Calcutta](#). The firms started business in silver, cotton, grain and other commodities. He was succeeded by 4 sons, Jugal Kishore, Rameshwar Das, Ghanshyam Das and Braj Mohan. Ghanshyam Das was the most successful of the four brothers.

Business of Birla family

G. D. Birla inherited the [family business](#) and moved to further diversify them into other areas. Of these, at least three contemporary family business groups existing in India today can trace their ancestry to him. Of these businesses, he wanted to turn the moneylending business into manufacturing. So he left for [Calcutta](#) in [Bengal Presidency](#), the world's largest [jute](#) producing region. There, he began "independently as a jute broker".^[2] In 1918, he established Birla Jute Mills, much to the consternation of established European merchants, whom the biased policies of the British government favoured other than the local [Bengali](#) merchants. He had to scale a number of obstacles as the British and Scottish merchants tried to shut his business by unethical and monopolistic methods,^[citation needed] but he was able to persevere. When [World War I](#) resulted in supply problems throughout the British Empire, Birla's business skyrocketed.



G. D. Birla with [Vallabhbhai Patel](#), and Patel's daughter in the background, at Birla's residence, 1946. The statue is of Raja Baldeo Das Birla in Rajasthani turban

With an investment of ₹5 million ^[citation needed] in 1919, the Birla Brothers Limited was formed. A mill was set up in [Gwalior](#) in the same year.

In 1926, he was elected to the [Central Legislative Assembly](#) of [British India](#).^[1] He became the founding president of [Harijan Sevak Sangh](#) founded by [Mahatma Gandhi](#) in Delhi in 1932.^[3]

In the 1940s, he ventured into the territory of cars and established [Hindustan Motors](#). After independence, Birla invested in tea and textiles through a series of acquisitions of erstwhile European companies. He also expanded and diversified into cement, chemicals, rayon and steel tubes. Ghanshyam Das Birla during the [Quit India Movement](#) of 1942, had conceived the idea of organising a commercial bank with Indian capital and management, and the United Commercial Bank Limited was incorporated to give shape to that idea. [UCO Bank](#), formerly United Commercial Bank, established in 1943 in Kolkata, is one of the oldest and major commercial bank of India.

Philanthropy



Birla on a 1984 stamp of India



The statue of Ghanshyam Das Birla at [Golders Green](#)

[Crematorium](#)

Envisioning infrastructural development in his hometown, Birla founded the [Birla Engineering College](#) (rechristened as [Birla Institute of Technology and Science](#) in 1964) in [Pilani](#) and the [Technological Institute of Textile & Sciences](#) in [Bhiwani](#) among other educational institutions in 1943. Now Pilani also houses Birla Public School, a famous residential public school named after Birla's family and a number of polytechnic colleges. The town of [Pilani](#) and the local population enjoy a highly symbiotic relationship with these institutions, thereby stepping towards realising Birla's dream. TIT&S also evolved as the Center of Excellence in Textile based education and training. Moreover, G.D. Birla Memorial School, [Ranikhet](#), a premier residential school has also been established in his honour by his son [B.K. Birla](#) and The Birla School in [Kalyan](#), India was founded by his efforts with the collaboration of Kalyan Citizens' Education Society (KCES).

In 1957, he was awarded [India's](#) second-highest civilian honour, the [Padma Vibhushan](#) by the [Government of India](#).

Birla was a [vegetarian](#).^[4] He died in London on 11 June 1983 at the age of 89. There is a memorial to him in [Golders Green Crematorium](#), Hoop Lane, [London](#). It comprises a large statue overlooking the gardens with an inscription.

Relationship with Mahatma Gandhi

Birla was a close associate and a steady supporter of [Mahatma Gandhi](#), whom he met for the first time in 1916. Gandhi stayed at Birla's home in [New Delhi](#) during the last four months of his life.

Role during the Bengal famine

The [Bengal famine of 1943](#) was a devastating event that resulted in the deaths of an estimated 2-3 million people in the Bengal region of British India (present-day Bangladesh and West Bengal). The famine was caused by a complex interplay of factors, including wartime policies, economic mismanagement, and food distribution failures, rather than a significant crop shortage.

During this crisis, prominent industrialists like GD Birla played a controversial role. According to Janam Mukherjee's *Hungry Bengal*,^[5] Birla and other industrialists like Benthall and [Nalini Ranjan Sarkar](#) actively purchased large quantities of rice from rural Bengal at inflated prices. This ensured a steady food supply for their industrial interests in Calcutta, even as millions in rural areas faced starvation. These actions contributed to escalating food prices and exacerbated the food scarcity in rural areas. The industrialists' close ties to the colonial government, with Sarkar holding the Food portfolio and Benthall controlling war transport, allowed them to prioritize feeding industrial Calcutta at the expense of the rural population. Birla reportedly used the profits generated during this crisis to purchase British industrial interests in India following independence, further consolidating his economic influence in the post-colonial era. This stark contrast between the industrialists' actions and Gandhi's public stance on fasting for the "privations of the poor millions" highlights the complex and often conflicting interests at play during this tragic period in Bengal's history.

Legacy

G. D. Birla had remarried after the death of his first wife. He had three sons, Lakshmi Nivas (son of his first wife Durga Devi), [Krishna Kumar](#) and [Basant Kumar](#), (both sons of his second wife Mahadevi Birla). [Kumar Mangalam Birla](#) is his great grandson. Lakshmi Nivas was technically adopted by his older brother Jugal Kishor.

Writings by Ghanshyam Das Birla

His writings are mainly collections of memoirs, letters, essays and lectures.

- डायरी के कुछ पन्ने (Diary Ke Kuch Panne or Some pages of diary), 1940
- रुपए की कहानी (Rupaye Ki Kahani or Story of Rupee), 1948
- बापू (Bapu), 1941
- कुछ देखा कुछ सुना (Kuch Dekha Kuch Suna or Saw Something Heard Something), 1966
- जमनालाल बजाज ([Jamnalal Bajaj](#))
- ध्रुवोपाख्यान, 1960
- रूप और स्वरूप : चार विचार-प्रेरक निबंध, 1960

- Paths to Prosperity, 1950
- In the Shadow of the Mahatma: a personal memoir (Calcutta, 1953)

Kumar Mangalam Birla (born 14 June 1967) is an Indian billionaire businessman. He is the chairman of the [Aditya Birla Group](#), one of the largest [conglomerates](#) in India. He is the chancellor of the [Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani](#)^[1] and former chairman of [Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad](#).^[2] In 2023, Birla received the [Padma Bhushan](#), the third highest civilian honour in India.^[3]

As of December 2024, [Forbes](#) estimated his net worth at US\$23.1 billion.^[4]

Born to [Aditya Vikram Birla](#), the eldest of two children, he took over as chairman of the Aditya Birla Group in 1995, at the age of 28, following the death of his father.^{[5][6]} During Birla's tenure as chairman, the group's annual turnover increased from US\$2 billion in 1995 to US\$66 billion as of March 2024,^[7] with operations in 40 countries.^[8]

Early life and education

A fourth generation member of the [Birla Family](#) from Pilani, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, Birla was born in Kolkata and grew up in a joint family in Mumbai with his parents [Aditya Vikram Birla](#) and [Rajashree Birla](#) and younger sister Vasavadatta Birla.^{[9][10]} He did his high school from [Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics](#) and a bachelor's degree from [H.R. College of Commerce and Economics](#) of the [University of Mumbai](#). He later studied at [London Business School](#) and obtained [Master of Business Administration](#) from [University of London](#) in 1992. He is also an honorary fellow at LBS.^[11] He is a [chartered accountant](#) from [Institute of Chartered Accountants of India](#) (ICAI).^[11]

Family and children

In January 2023, Birla's children, [Ananya Birla](#) and [Aryaman Vikram Birla](#), were appointed as Directors of [Grasim Industries](#), [Hindalco Industries](#), and Aditya Birla Management Corporation Private Limited (ABMCPL), and joined the board of [Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited](#) (ABFRL).^[12]

Career

1995–2015

In 1995, Birla took over the family business and consolidated all the group companies under the brand – Aditya Birla Group (ABG).^[13] Birla acquired [Indian Aluminum Company](#) (INDAL) in 2000.^[14] In 2003, Hindalco Industries acquired Nifty Copper Mines in Australia, while the Aditya Birla Group acquired the Mount Gordon Copper mines in Australia.^{[15][16]} In 2004, Birla acquired a majority stake in L&T Cement, which was later renamed UltraTech Cement.^[17] In the same year, Hindalco Industries announced a merger with all the businesses of Indian Aluminium Company (Indal).^[18]

In 2007, Hindalco acquired Atlanta-based Novelis Inc, which was the world's leading producer of aluminium rolled products.^[19] In 2012, Birla's Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd acquired Future Group's Pantaloon Retail Limited in India.^[20] In 2013, Aditya Birla Chemicals acquired the chlor-alkali and phosphoric acid divisions of Solaris Chemtech Industries in India.^[21]

Birla's name surfaced in [Indian coal allocation scandal](#), pertaining to the allocation of coal blocks between 2004 and 2009.^[22] In 2014, CBI filed closure report against Birla.^[23] Since 2015, the Aditya Birla

Group consolidated its branded apparel business under its lifestyle retail firm Pantaloons Fashion and Retail India Ltd and renamed it as Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail, creating India's largest branded clothing company by revenue and number of sales outlets.^[24]

2016–present

By 2016, Birla launched a new logo for the [Aditya Birla Group](#).^[25] In June 2017, [UltraTech Cement](#), chaired by Birla, completed the acquisition of Jaiprakash Associates' six cement plants along with five grinding units.^[26] In the same year, Birla revived [Applause Entertainment](#), a media, content and IP creation studio with a focus on creating premium digital drama series.^[27]

In 2018, the Aditya Birla Group-owned [Idea Cellular](#) merged with [Vodafone India](#) to create India's then largest telecom service provider, [Vodafone Idea](#). Also in 2018, UltraTech Cement acquired the cement business of Century Textiles, while [Binani Cement](#) became a wholly-owned subsidiary of UltraTech Cement.^[28]^[29] In 2018, Novelis entered into an agreement to acquire Aleris Corporation. The deal was closed for \$2.8 billion in 2020.^[30]

In 2021, Grasim Industries entered the paints business with an investment of ₹10,000 crore, paid over three years.^[31]^[32] In August 2021, Birla stepped down as the non-executive chairman of Vodafone Idea.^[33]^[34]



Birla receiving the ET Business Leader of the Year Award from Finance Minister [Nirmala Sitharaman](#)

Under Birla's chairmanship, [UltraTech Cement](#) announced plans to expand its grey cement production capacity to 200 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) with an investment of ₹32,400 crore.^[35] In November 2023, he oversaw the acquisition of [Kesoram Industries'](#) cement assets for ₹7,600 crore.^[36] By the end of 2023, UltraTech had increased its production capacity by 18.7 MTPA, with an additional 35.5 MTPA in a planned manner across 16 locations.^[35] In April 2024, two new greenfield projects were commissioned, adding 5.4 MTPA in [Chhattisgarh](#) and [Tamil Nadu](#).^[37] By April 2024, UltraTech's total grey cement manufacturing capacity had reached 151.6 MTPA.^[37]

In July 2024, Aditya Birla Group launched its jewellery brand Indriya with an investment of ₹5,000 crore.^[38]^[39]

Board memberships and affiliations

- Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

- Chancellor, [BITS, Pilani, Hyderabad, Goa](#) and [Dubai](#).^[40]
- Chairman, Governing Council, The [BITS School of Management](#) (BITSoM).^[41]
- Chairman, Board of Governors, BITS Law School, Mumbai (BITSLAW).^[42]
- Member, Asia Pacific Advisory Board, London Business School (LBS).
- Chairman, Rhodes India Scholarship Committee for Oxford University, England.
- Director, G. D. Birla Medical Research and Education Foundation.^[43]
- Former Chairman, [Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad](#).
- Former Chairman, [IIT Delhi](#).^[44]
- Former Director, Central Board of Directors, Reserve Bank of India.^[45]
- Former Chairman, Advisory Committee, Ministry of Company Affairs.
- Former Chairman, [Securities and Exchange Board of India](#) (SEBI) Committee on Corporate Governance.
- Former Chairman, Board of Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- Former Chairman, SEBI's Committee on Insider Trading.^[46]
- Former Convener, PM's Task Force on Administrative and Legal Simplifications.
- Former Member, Prime Minister of India's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry.^[43]

Honors and awards

Year	Name	Awarding Organisation	Ref.
2001	Outstanding Business Man of the Year	National HRD Network	^[47]
2003	The Business Leader of the Year	The Economic Times	^[48]
2003	Business Man of the Year	Business India	^[citation needed]
2004	Young Global Leader	World Economic Forum (Davos)	
2004	Doctor of Literature (Honoris causa)	Banaras Hindu University	^[49]
2005	Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year – India	Ernst & Young	
2007	Global Indian Leader of the Year	NDTV	^[50]

2008	JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award	AIMA	[51]
2008	Doctor of Literature	SRM University	[52]
2011	GQ Business Leader of the Year	Condé Nast India Pvt. Ltd.	[53]
2012	Entrepreneur of the Year	Forbes India Leadership Award (FILA)	[54]
2012	Most Inspiring Leader	NDTV	[55]
2012	Business Leader for Taking India Abroad	CNBCTV18	[56]
2012	Global Business Leader Award	NASSCOM	[57]
2012	Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)	Visvesvaraya Technological University	[58]
2013	The Business Leader of the Year	The Economic Times	[59]
2013	Positioned the fourth Most Powerful CEO	Economic Times' Corporate India's Definitive Power posting of 100 CEOs	[60]
2014	Inducted as an Honorary Member	Rotary Club of Mumbai	[61]
2016	CEO of the Year	International Advertising Association	[62]
2017	Outstanding Businessman of the Year	CNBC-TV18 – IBLA	[63]
2017	The GIL Visionary Leadership Award	Frost & Sullivan	[64]
2019	Global Asian Award	ABLF	[65]
2021	Global Entrepreneur of the Year' in business transformation	The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)	[66]
2023	Padma Bhushan	Government of India	[67]
2023	Business Leader of the Decade Award	All India Management Association (AIMA)	[68]
2024	ET Business Leader of the Year Award	The Economic Times	[69]

Philanthropy

The Aditya Birla Scholarship Programme was founded in 1999 by Kumar Mangalam Birla in memory of his father, Aditya Vikram Birla, to provide financial support to students in engineering, management, and law.^{[70][71]}

In 2006, Kumar Mangalam Birla established the Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital in Pune, Maharashtra.^[72]

As per the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021, Kumar Mangalam Birla and his family ranked fourth on the philanthropy list with donations mostly to the healthcare sector.^[73] In 2020, the Aditya Birla Group contributed ₹500 crore towards COVID relief measures, including ₹400 crore to the [PM CARES Fund](#).^[74]

Birla created a £15 million endowed scholarship programme to support 10 full-time MBA candidates every year at the London Business School. The BK Birla Scholars Programme, named after Birla's late grandfather Basant Kumar Birla, is the largest endowed scholarship gift to a European business school.^[75]

The Birla family has built schools and temples around the India, including [BITS Pilani](#) and [Birla Mandirs](#).^{[76][77]}