



**Centurion**  
**UNIVERSITY**

*Shaping Lives...  
Empowering Communities...*

# CENTURION UNIVERSITY

*5th*  
*Convocation*  
*2017*

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Report of the  
**Vice Chancellor**

11 December 2017

**CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT**  
**PARALAKHEMUNDI, ODISHA.**

(Estd. Vide Odisha Act 4 of 2010 & u/s 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956)



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Report of the  
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His Excellency, **Dr. S. C. Jamir**, the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and the Visitor of Centurion University of Technology and Management;

Chief Guest of the Convocation, Hon'ble **Mr. Steven Herbert**, former Minister for Vocational Education and International Education, Government of Victoria, Australia

Guest of Honor, **Professor Ruth Wallace**, Director, Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University, Australia

Distinguished Members of the Governing Board,

President, Vice President, Deputy Vice Chancellor,

Members of the Academic Council, Board of Studies, Pro Vice Chancellors, Directors, Deans, Faculty and Staff of the University, Parents, Distinguished Guests, Representatives of Electronic and Print Media and most importantly our Graduating students, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As Vice Chancellor, I warmly welcome you all to the 5th Convocation of the Centurion University of Technology and Management.

It is my pleasure to present before you and this distinguished audience batches of students who have successfully completed their course work in different academic domains. On this auspicious occasion, let me take the liberty of briefly sharing with you some of the key activities and events of the University during last year.

Centurion University within seven years of its existence has got the distinction of being recognized as the 'Skill University' of the state of Odisha and starting another university by the Name, Centurion University, Andhra Pradesh in the state of Andhra Pradesh. A 200 acre campus in the foothills of Eastern Ghats is under development at Vijayanagaram. Considering its unique achievement of skill integrated higher education and building an ecosystem of sustainable social enterprises both in rural and urban landscape across the country, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has accredited the University with 'A' Grade in 2015 and University Grants Commission awarding its 12A status in 2016.

The Skill Development and Technical Education Department of the Government of Odisha approved, through a competitive bidding process, the establishment of the Institute for the Training of Trainers (ITOT) at its Bhubaneswar Campus with a viability gap funding of Rs 2.9 crore. Having fulfilled all the conditions stipulated under National Employability Enhancement Mission (NEEM) 2017, Centurion University has been recognized as NEEM facilitator. Thus, the University can offer on the job practical training to enhance the employability of a person either pursuing or discontinued his/her graduation/diploma in any technical/non-technical stream.

The University offers 2 Certificate, 11 diploma, 36 undergraduate and 33 postgraduate and doctoral programs through Schools of Agriculture, Applied Sciences, Architecture and Planning, Engineering, Management, Media and Communication, Paramedics and Allied Health Sciences, Pharmacy and Life Sciences and Vocational Education and Training located in four constituent campuses across Odisha, at Paralakhemundi, Bhubaneswar, Rayagada and Bolangir with a student strength of 8965 as on November 2017.

During the year, four new schools such as School of Forensic Sciences, School of Education, School of Open and Distance Education and School of Mining have been started. In 2017, the University launched new courses, such as M.Sc.Ag in Agronomy, Agricultural Extension and communication, Horticulture (Vegetable science), Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Genetics and Plant Breeding; and B. Sc. (Fisheries Science).

The University has established a state-of-the-art Allied Health Sciences and Paramedics Learning Laboratory. The laboratory is equipped to offer short, medium and long term programs in Clinical Medical Research, General and Emergency Trauma Care, Optometry and Vision Science, Radiology and Imaging Technology. School of Agriculture has established biotechnology lab, Biofertiliser and Biopesticide Unit, Mushroom production Centre, Bakery Unit, Dairy and Dairy Processing Units.

## Teaching and Quality Assurance

During the year, the University consolidated its on-going Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) for students with a vision of enhancing potential for employability, entrepreneurship and higher studies. Centurion University emphasises development of six skill sets within each students which include numeracy skill, literacy skill, trade specific technical skill, professional managerial skill, entrepreneurial skill and life skill.

The domain based teaching in different disciplines has been further strengthened with deeper and wider industry partnerships. The students and faculty learn the linkage of Teaching, Training, Production and Productivity by practicing it in the University through their Lived in Experience. Learning records for students and teaching-learning records for faculty are maintained for better learning and its traceability. Student specific action plans for timely graduation and realization of career objective are used as tools for mentoring by the faculty.

The University has an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) for ensuring conformance to the requirements of stakeholders and continuous improvement of various processes. The IQAC periodically reviews progress through audit of academic and supportive processes and reports on the quality assurance undertaken by the Departments.

## Research and Consulting

Considering University's focus on action research that has implications for the socio-economically underprivileged community, it has created Centers of Excellence in Renewable Energy and Environment, Material Science, Organic Agriculture and Value Addition, and Indigenous Knowledge System. These Centers and social enterprises that the University has set up help in solving real life problems faced by the community through development of skilled manpower and appropriate technologies like solar energy operated drip irrigation system, solar fish dryers, solar energy operated sugar cane juice extractors, decentralized clean energy system for villages,

biofertiliser and biopesticide production, ergonomic design of indigenous tools, development of micro-entrepreneurs, and preservation of indigenous knowledge.

Through 'Suryamitra Skill Development Programme' and 'Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Development Program', the Centre for Renewable Energy and Environment could develop more than 150 skilled work force and 10 Clean Energy Entrepreneurs in the state of Odisha for exploiting solar energy in partnership with Ministry of Nonconventional and Renewable Energy, Government of India, Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency, SELCO Foundation, Schneider Electric and Harsha Trust. The University has undertaken repair of distribution transformers in its workshops. It is in the process of developing a cadre of skilled manpower for preventive maintenance of transformers in rural area, thus increasing electric power availability. The Centre is facilitating erection of grid interactive solar power plant of half a Megawatt capacity each in its Bhubaneswar and Paralakhemundi campuses.

The University won National Innovation Challenge from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MOSDE) for Organic Agriculture Project in 2015. The Centre for Organic Agriculture could develop 114 Qualification Packs and training modules and 110 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) for production and marketing of biofertilisers and biopesticides in the state with support from National Skill Development Corporation and a number of non-governmental organisations. Training programmes were conducted at Badigaon, Engarsingi, Berlanda, Patikota, Bagusala villages of Gajapati district to develop CRPs.

The University own the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) award for a four year Partnership Programme, starting 2018, with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Skill Integrated Education.

In a short span of time, between 2011 and 2017, the University could file 17 patents from its action research. The University publishes a half yearly journal, 'Centurion Journal of Multidisciplinary Research',

approved by RNI, New Delhi to promote in-house and context specific research. Between 2011 and 2017, 151 students in Science and Engineering, and 90 students in Management and Social Science have registered in doctoral program. Out of it, 25 candidates have received their PhD and 10 students have submitted their final dissertation. In 2016-17, the faculty of the University had 58 publications in national and international journals.

The University has adopted a concept of 'Adarsh Gram' to promote sustainable livelihood security and quality of life of village communities around its campuses. While the concerned community remains the prime mover in realizing such an objective, the University plays a facilitator's role. Key members of the University community, i.e. students, faculty and staff remain actively engaged in system design, execution, monitoring and evaluation. Each activity under the project is integrated into the teaching and training programs that the University offers. The neighboring villages play the role of field schools for experiment and application of various concepts and processes. The interventions in the villages will meet the requirements of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Patikota village near Paralakhemundi campus is the pilot case in implementation of six dimensions of development such as Education, Health, Livelihood, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Governance.

The University closely work with two civil society organisations, i.e. **Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS)** and Harsha Trust for its action research and to promote sustainable livelihood security of the underprivileged sections of society in North coastal Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha.

**Centurion Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre**, a Section 8 Company promoted by the University, popularly known as Urban Micro-Business Centre (UMBC) has become a center for research and learning activities for students of management and engineering from India and abroad. Till 2017, it trained 370 potential entrepreneurs from chronically poor families for undertaking micro businesses. Further, it supported 35 women with low interest loans

through established bank linkages. The Centre has directly impacted life and livelihood of more than 100 families in Kargil Basti.

**Gram Tarang Employability Training Services Pvt. Ltd. (GTETS)** a social entrepreneurial initiative of the University is active in skill development and vocational education of youth and physically challenged persons, for employment and self-employment, primarily from disadvantaged areas of East & North East India. It brings in industry partnerships for joint skill programs and placements; undertakes actions for alignments with the requirements of Qualification Pack, National Occupational Standard (NOS) and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs); and implements programs through mobilization, centre Setup, training, placement and post placement support. It mainly works in Automotive, Manufacturing, Civil Construction, Mining, Electrical & Electronics, Apparel & Textiles, Retail & Hospitality, Paramedics, IT & ITeS industries.

In 2016-17, GTET trained 29,208 youth all over the country. It has cumulatively trained 102353 youth with employment track record of 87% to its credit. GTET established a Multi Skill Development Centre (MSDC) in Ludhiana on November 2016 to train the youth of Punjab. Two incubatees of the Centurion University working in GTETS received the trade certificate for production of E-Autorickshaw from Odisha State Transport Authority after the approval from International Centre for Automotive Technology, Mannesar, Haryana.

**The Gram Tarang Inclusive Development Services Pvt. Ltd. (GTIDS)**, another social entrepreneurial initiative of the University is active in Financial Inclusion space. It works in 15 states of India in over 26,000 villages as business correspondent for Technology Service Provider (TSP) Atyati & TCS on behalf of 14 Banks as on October 2017. GTIDS opened more than 1.6 Crore no-frills accounts, including 71 Lakh accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana through 8050 Banking Correspondents and 250 staff, and disbursed over 1500 Crores under MNREGS & Social Security Pensions to the agri-labourers, old-age people, widows and physically challenged people. GTIDS mobilized Fixed Deposits of about Rs 200 Crores, savings of

approximately Rs 1400 Crores and collected over Rs 200 Crores NPAs from the beneficiaries on behalf of Partner Banks. GTIDS disbursed more than Rs 200 Crore Microfinance loans to over 120,000 beneficiaries under Mudra Scheme & has a mandate to disburse over Rs 400 Crores in financial year 2017-18.

Gram Tarang Foods Pvt. Ltd. (GTF), another Social Enterprise of Centurion University dedicated to producing high quality spice extracts supports local value addition, local market creation and market linkage for farmers. The faculty and students of the University have been successful in designing, fabricating, erecting, testing and commissioning of high pressure stainless steel heat exchangers used in the plant.

**The Center for Assessment and Certification**, another social enterprise of the University undertakes assessment of skill courses and recognition of prior learning in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and other states. The Centre is recognised by the Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship Development (MOSED), Government of India. It works closely with a number of Sector Skill Councils such as Automotive, Telecom, Tourism & Hospitality, Furniture & Fittings, Electronics, Agriculture, Retailers Association, Plumbing and Health.

### **Collaboration**

Centurion University believes in “Ecological Institutional” approach, i.e. becoming the hub of local economic and cultural development. The University in a short span of five years has achieved national and global recognition as the Skill University.

Students and faculty from many foreign Universities and Institutions undertake teaching, training and research programs at the Centurion University. We are happy to mention that two groups of students from Australia First Nation (aborigines) visited Centurion University in October and November and got engaged in classroom training, action learning labs, social enterprises and cultural excursions. This visit was the result of the collaboration between Centurion University, Wadeye Northern Territory and TAFE New South Wales and supported by the

Australian Government through their Outward Bound Mobility Programme. Their feedback is gratifying, and I quote

*With the exposure and experience at Centurion University and the direct involvement of Prof Mukti Mishra as the mentor partner in Wadeye, we now have hope for a future where our children and youth can break the cycle of generational welfare dependency. The visit has resurrected the latent energy to think 'positive, productive and progressive'.*

Deakin University, Australia is in the process of securing funds under New Colombo Plan to address the Challenges Centurion University is facing in its mission of shaping lives of students and empowering communities.

During the year 2016-17, the University has signed memorandums of understanding with National Small Industries Corporation, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Git India Bangalore, Dedicated Agri Services Private Limited, Mumbai, Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Illumine Knowledge Resources Pvt. Ltd., Moto Corp. and Unity Technologies Aps to further academia-industry linkages.

Centurion University's linkage with its Alumni Association has been further strengthened by closely integrating it with the curriculum development, class room teaching, student internship and placement support.

### **Conferences and Seminars**

During the year, at the Paralakhemundi Campus of the University a number of conferences were organised. These include:

- Sixth International Conference on Gerontological Issues and Higher Education
- Ninth International Conference on Hydro-Grain Technology (Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Livelihood Improvement) was organized in collaboration with the International Institute of Bengal Basin (IIBB), California, USA

- National conference on Zero Effect and Zero Defect for MSME sector was organised in collaboration with the Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Quality Council of India.
- Kissan Mela cum Exhibition - 2017 was held by the School of Agriculture at its Paralakhemundi Campus on 8th March, 2017 in collaboration with CARE India. More than 1000 farmers with their spouses participated in the fair and got exposed to different farmer friendly sustainable agriculture technologies and package of practices.

Similarly, Bhubaneswar campus organised

- Third Chandrabhaga Poetry Festival
- International conference on Religion in Digital Asia
- Commonwealth of Learning Canada Course Writers' Workshop on Media and Communication

### Faculty

The key resource of the University is its faculty and they are the key drivers to realize University's mission. The University has 142 faculty in Paralakhemundi Campus, 140 in Bhubaneswar campus, 28 in Rayagada campus and 64 in Bolangir campus as on November – 2017. During the year, 54 faculty left and 67 joined the University. Prof. Anita Patra joined as new Registrar of the University in 2017. Faculty development programs are organized, with both internal and external resource persons, on a regular basis to strengthen their knowledge and skill and making teaching and learning process more effective.

### Enabling environment

Centurion University strives for integrated, inclusive and aspirational model of human development. Thus, the University ensures that the students get not only high quality education but also get exposed to an ethical environment. Their regular class-room learning is supplemented by experiential learning. It has an ERP system, which support faculty and students to interact through e-learning systems.

Since most of the students of the Centurion University come from an eco-system that is characterized by limited world view, communication skill and motivation level, the University has integrated life skill development with the regular curriculum. Participation in culture, sports and socially responsible activities are mandatory for students and performance is indicated in the Grade sheet. To enhance teaching-learning effectiveness, bright and enthusiastic students are encouraged to undertake peer teaching. The University is planning to offer "Student Teacher Domain" where students will teach courses to their juniors and to those having back paper. The process is expected to give interested students a platform to experience teaching and motivation for a career in teaching.

Two students of 3rd year Computer Science Engineering, Mr. Chaduvula Prasanth and Mr. Anni Viswa Chandan of Parlakhemundi campus have made us proud with their start up 'Teeny Hopper Solutions Pvt. Ltd.', an aggregator of all aggregators. The Company can receive orders from anywhere and at anytime with a simple SMS or Email and the product or service is delivered at the doorstep. The objective is to improve the market access and last mile supply chain.

The University is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty and staff can work together in an environment free of violence, harassment, exploitation and intimidation. This includes all forms of gender related violence, sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. Any form of ragging, gender discrimination and violence is monitored through departmental and University level committees.

The outcome of the combined and relentless effort of faculty and students resulted in 288 offers from 73 companies in 2016-17. 50% of eligible engineering and 75% of eligible management students were placed successfully. 17 students of the School of Agriculture qualified in Junior Research Fellowship examination in June 2017.

The University facilitates study loan from financial institutions and arranges scholarship from both internal and external sources, for needy students.

We are grateful to the Government of India, Government of Australia, other national governments, international and national organisations; Government of Odisha, other state governments and their agencies; international, national and state level companies, academic and research institutions; civil society organisations, individual donors and well-wishers for their support and trust in our mission, values and strategy.

### **To the Graduating Students**

On behalf of the University and on my own behalf, I heartily congratulate all the students graduating today. Please remember that the degree you will be receiving today comes more with responsibility, than privileges. In a technology driven interconnected world, we have the opportunity to wipe out the tears from every eye. We can make the world a fair and dignified place for all, if only each of us practice the virtues of humility, integrity and perseverance. I pray God for you that through your action, you will bring glory to yourself, your family and all of us. You have successfully cleared many examinations and will not fail in the tests of life that lies ahead for you. On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I wish you all the best.

**Thank you.**

### **Prof. Haribandhu Panda, Ph.D**

Prof. Haribandhu Panda, Vice Chancellor, Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Odisha, has more than 30 years of national and international experience in academics and industry.

Prior to Joining CUTM, Prof. Panda worked as Director, HDF School of Management, Professor and Member of Board of Governors, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand; Technology Management Specialist at the South East Asia Technology Co., Ltd. (SEATEC), Bangkok; Assistant Chief Design Engineer at the National Thermal Power Corporation, Ltd. (NTPC), Delhi; and Senior Research Associate at the Energy Technology Division of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok.

He is actively associated with a number of Civil Society Organisations in Odisha and outside. His education includes Ph.D. in Management of Technology and M. Eng. in Energy Technology from the AIT; MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), University of Delhi; and B. Eng. (Mechanical) from the NIT, Rourkela. He teaching, research and consulting interests, and publications are in the areas of Strategic Management, Management of Technology, Energy Management and Institution Design and Development.