

## Local, regional and global programs and policies to end poverty

Centurion University actively contributes to policy making and implementation at local, regional, national, and global levels through its integrated framework of education, research, entrepreneurship, and outreach. Centurion University's distinctiveness lies in its bottom-up approach: policies are developed through field evidence and community participation rather than imposed administratively, ensuring sustainable, context-specific poverty alleviation. Our policy and program partners include:

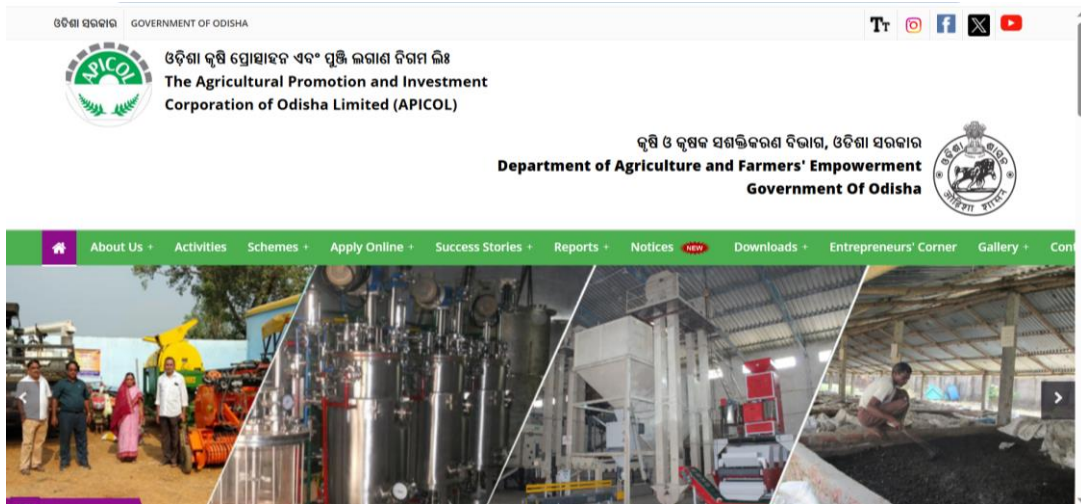
- Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited ([APICOL](#))
- Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) implemented by [Department of Mission Shakti](#)
- [Startup Odisha](#)
- Government of India [Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship](#)
- Government of India [Department of Fisheries - Blue Revolution](#)

By linking policy formulation with on-ground validation, Centurion exemplifies how a higher-education institution can operate simultaneously as a knowledge hub, policy laboratory, and social-development partner—advancing India's and the world's collective mission to end poverty in all its forms.

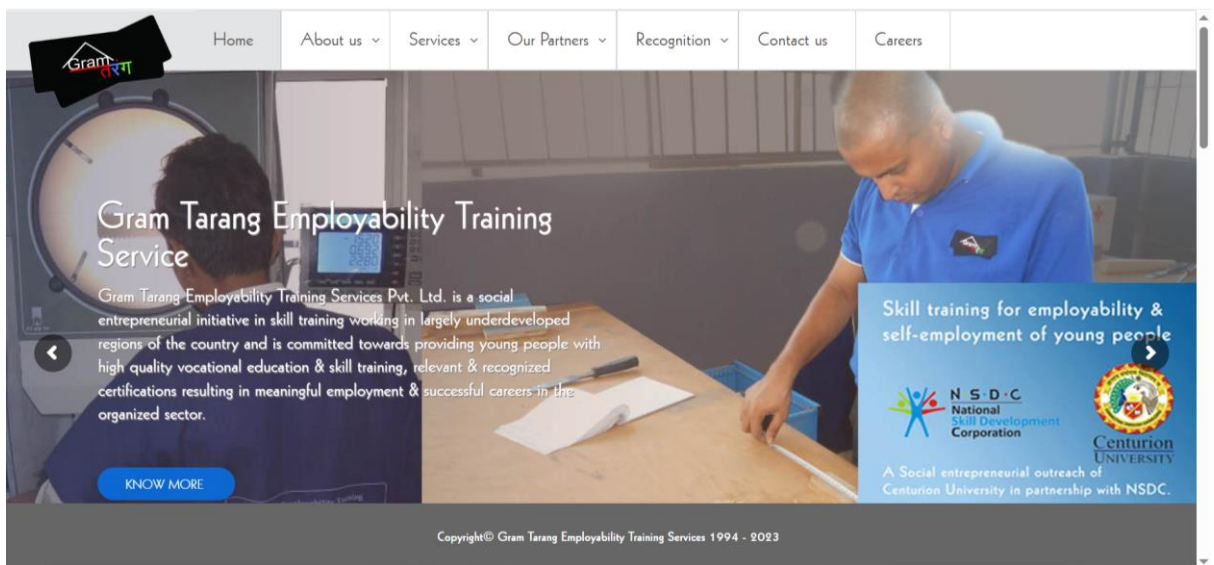
### Local and Regional Policy Engagement

Odisha is a state that has the third-largest population of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India with these officially designated as among the most disadvantaged socio-economic communities in India. Centurion University's internal governance mandates that every school and outreach centre act as a policy laboratory—testing, demonstrating, and scaling models that inform government programmes. At the local and regional levels, Centurion collaborates closely with government departments, panchayat institutions, and local enterprises to co-design and implement livelihood, healthcare, and education policies including:

- Agricultural and Fisheries Extension  
Centurion University's Utkal Krishi Mela and Centurion Agri-Clinic serve as living policy platforms where farmers, extension officers, and policymakers interact. Recommendations emerging from these events—on soil testing, sustainable inputs, value addition, and credit access—are adopted by regional agencies such as Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (APICOL) and Odisha Livelihood Mission. Similarly, training in aquaculture and recirculatory systems (RAS) through the School of Fisheries aligns with the state's Blue Revolution goals, demonstrating Centurion's influence on fisheries policy.



- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy**  
Through the Centre for Innovators and Entrepreneurs (CIE) and Gram Tarang, Centurion University supports micro-enterprises, facilitating access to seed funding and incubation in rural districts.  
<https://gramtarang.org.in/>



- **Healthcare and Livelihood Protection**  
Through Healthcare on Wheels and the Veterinary Ambulatory Clinic, Centurion University provides preventive and emergency medical services to tribal and below-poverty-line households. The operational data generated—disease prevalence, healthcare gaps, and cost analyses—are shared with district health and animal-husbandry authorities, informing local planning and subsidy allocations.
- **Community Consultation and Data for Governance**  
Centurion University conducts household and livelihood surveys in Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput districts, generating socio-economic datasets that feed into local planning documents and the District Human Development Reports (DHDRs).

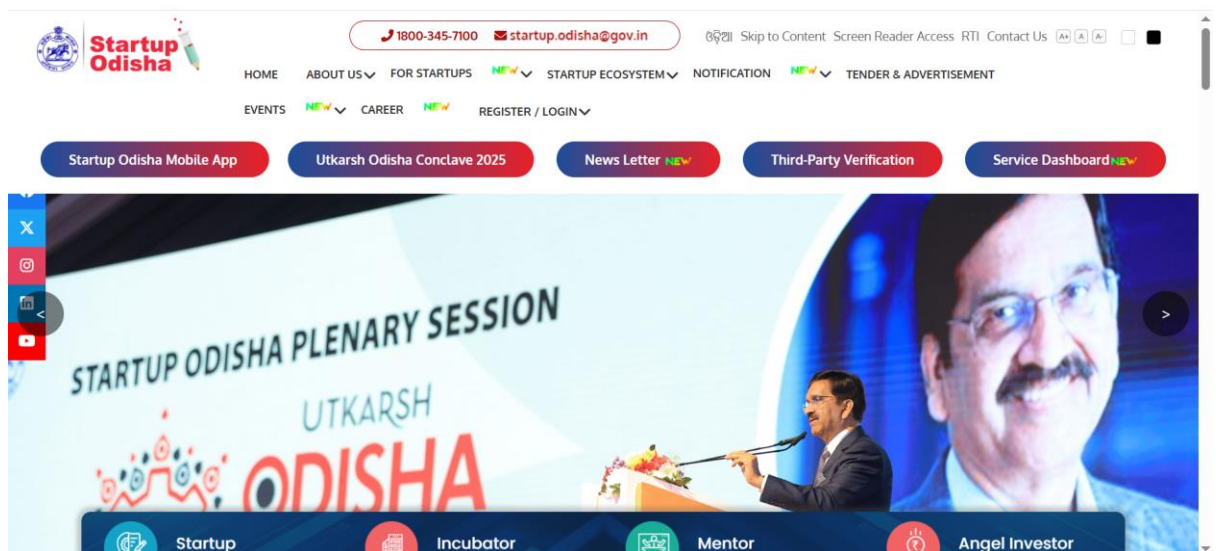
## National Policy Collaboration and Advocacy

At the national level, Centurion University functions as an implementing partner, knowledge generator, and advocacy actor in India's poverty-reduction ecosystem.

- Evidence-Based Research and Policy Dissemination

The Research Policy (2024) mandates *applied research* and *policy advocacy*. Faculty research on inclusive education, health equity, agri-value chains, and rural entrepreneurship is published in Scopus-indexed journals and shared with ministries and NITI Aayog working groups. Centurion's research outputs have informed discussions on skill-integration in higher education, women's entrepreneurship, and sustainable rural development—topics reflected in recent Skill India and Startup Odisha strategies.

See Startup Odisha <https://startupodisha.gov.in/>



- National Campaign Participation

Centurion partners with national initiatives such as the International Day of Yoga (Ministry of AYUSH), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Digital India, linking wellness, sanitation, and digital inclusion to poverty alleviation.

- Policy Implementation through National Schemes

Centurion University operationalizes Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS), the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme, and the Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme. The University's *Financial Aid Cell* compiles annual reports on beneficiary profiles and disbursement efficiency that are submitted to state and central agencies, contributing to continuous improvement of these policies.

- Recognition and Policy Advisory Interface

The University's receipt of awards such as the Prakriti Mitra Puraskar acknowledges its contribution to sustainability and positions it for inclusion in advisory panels on environmental and rural policy.

### **Global and Cross-Border Policy Engagement to end poverty**

Centurion University extends its poverty-reduction model internationally through **strategic knowledge partnerships**. These collaborations strengthen Centurion's role as a global knowledge hub, fostering **research exchange, faculty collaboration, and capacity-building** programs that drive inclusive development. Key knowledge transfer and capacity-building partnerships that inform policy abroad:

- Gabon Agri-SEZ Project (“Gajapati to Gabon”)

Endorsed by India's Ministry of Education and Skill Development, this initiative exports Centurion University's agri-entrepreneurship model to Africa, demonstrating its role in shaping international agricultural and food-security policy. The engagement involves 30 farmers and 20 students from Odisha's Gajapati district who will act as agri-technical and technical consultants. Implemented by AOM Group with Centurion University as the technical partner, the initiative aims to boost Gabon's food security and self-sufficiency.

- International Academic Collaborations

Memoranda of Understanding with 30 global universities and development organizations facilitate policy research exchanges on climate-resilient agriculture, healthcare, and digital inclusion. Centurion University faculty contribute to international SDG dialogues, reinforcing the university's presence in global poverty-eradication discussions through international forums viz conferences, trainings, seminars and quality publications..

- International Research & Academic Collaborations (2024)

Centurion University extends its poverty-reduction model internationally via knowledge partnerships. To strengthen Centurion University's role as a global knowledge partner through collaborative research, faculty exchange, and capacity-building programs, while simultaneously advancing financial inclusion and entrepreneurship among urban and peri-urban communities. This dual framework bridges academic knowledge with social innovation—addressing both global academic integration and local poverty alleviation.

### **Initiatives and Achievements:**

- International Research Engagement: Active participation of Centurion University faculty and researchers in global academic forums, including the AYUSH International Conference (2024) and collaborative publications with CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group), resulted in 19 faculty authors contributing to 22 peer-reviewed papers accepted across multidisciplinary domains.

- **Cross-Border Academic Exchange:** Faculty and research scholars engaged in international lectures, benchmarking exercises, and digital knowledge-sharing sessions with partner universities such as Durban University of Technology (South Africa), Kathmandu University (Nepal), IBN Tofail University (Morocco), and Western Sydney University (Australia).
- **Collaborative Capacity Building:** Visiting scholars and partner university experts delivered joint digital guest lectures and research methodology workshops, fostering shared learning, innovation, and institutional visibility in the global academic community.

### Outcomes:

- Strengthened cross-institutional collaboration and research visibility in the global SDG domain.
- Development of international co-authorship networks linking sustainability, health, and poverty-reduction research.
- Expansion of Centurion University’s academic footprint through participation in global conferences and peer-reviewed publications.

Partner Country / Institution	Focus Area	Participants (2024)	Outcome
<b>Gabon Govt. &amp; Centurion University Agri-SEZ Model</b>	Agro-skills & Micro-enterprise	27 trainees	Model replicated in Libreville
<b>Deakin University (Australia)</b>	Social Innovation	8 students + 2 faculty	Joint publication 2024
<b>SAARC Collaboration</b>	Rural Livelihoods	5 fellows	Policy exchange initiated

### Collaborative Capacity Building

- Visiting scholars and partner university experts **delivered joint digital guest lectures and research methodology workshops**, fostering shared learning, innovation, and institutional visibility. Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy International conference collaboration -

## Outcomes & Impact

- Enhanced **cross-institutional collaboration** and global **research visibility**.
- Development of **international co-authorship networks** linking sustainability, health, and poverty-reduction research.
- Expansion of Centurion University's **academic footprint** through participation in international conferences and peer-reviewed publications.

## Internal Policy Innovation and Institutional Model

Within its own ecosystem, Centurion University enacts policies that mirror state and national social-protection goals:

- Living-Wage and Welfare Policy—guaranteeing EPF, subsidized housing, meals, and healthcare for staff.
- Inclusive Admission Policy—reserving more than 50 % of seats for economically disadvantaged categories.
- Scholarship Governance Policy—administering ₹ 1.43 crore in annual aid across 4920 students, ensuring that over 80 % of recipients come from households earning below ₹ 1 lakh per year.

These internal frameworks position Centurion University as a replicable policy model for inclusive university governance. Furthermore Centurion University's Equal Opportunity Policy (2024), Poverty Reduction Policy (2024), Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy (2024), and Research Policy (2024) collectively articulate a multi-tiered framework for promoting inclusion, economic empowerment, and community partnership. These policies explicitly identify *Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)*, women, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and persons with disabilities as priority stakeholders and commit the institution to active participation in policy formulation, evidence-based advocacy, and program implementation that advance SDG 1 – No Poverty. The University Senate and Board of Management monitor compliance and review the Poverty Reduction Policy annually, ensuring measurable contributions to local and national poverty-alleviation frameworks. The University's formal policies provide the institutional legitimacy to influence poverty-eradication agendas, while its community engagement offers empirical evidence that guides public decision-making.

## Table 1. Alignment with National and Global Development Agendas

Centurion University's policies directly map to key SDG 1 targets:

<b>UN Target</b>	<b>Centurion University Policy/Programme</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>1.4</b> – Ensure equal rights to economic resources and basic services	Equal Opportunity Policy (2024); Poverty Reduction Policy (2024)	Free/subsidized education, healthcare, and financial inclusion
<b>1.5</b> – Build resilience of the poor	Disaster Management Training; Livelihood diversification through agri-entrepreneurship	Reduced vulnerability to shocks
<b>1.b</b> – Create pro-poor policy frameworks	Research Policy (2024); participation in Start-up Odisha and Agri-SEZ initiatives	Institutional advocacy and innovation policy alignment