

Public Access to Cultural and Heritage Spaces

Centurion University, Bhubaneswar, has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing public access to its buildings and facilities. Recent initiatives focus on cultural heritage, community engagement, and rural development, making the campus a hub for learning, innovation, and social inclusion.

1. Public Access to Campus Buildings

- **Culturally Significant Buildings**
- **Heritage Sites & Monuments:** The University provides both free and paid access to culturally significant buildings, monuments, and natural heritage landscapes. In 2024, the university recorded approximately 1,200 footfalls across its heritage sites and culturally significant campus buildings, with all visits provided free of charge. The university organized more than 10 cultural events throughout the year at these venues, facilitating meaningful engagement with the institution's architectural and historical heritage. While visits occur year-round, peak visitation was observed in January. The visitor profile was diverse, comprising primarily students, along with eminent personalities including ministers, IAS officers, advocates, judges, and community members. In 2025 (current year), the university continues to maintain this inclusive approach, with ongoing cultural programming and sustained public access to heritage sites. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse audiences can engage with these spaces, promoting cultural awareness, heritage preservation, and strengthening the university's ties with both the academic community and distinguished stakeholders.



Fig. 1 Making of traditional work supported by Centurion University initiatives

- **Temple as a Community Hub:** The campus temple is a focal point for spiritual and cultural activities. Major annual events, such as the illumination of the temple with one lakh lights, attract participation from both the university and surrounding villages, fostering a sense of unity. In 2024, this signature event drew approximately 1,000 villagers who gathered alongside university members to witness the temple illuminated with more than 1 lakh (100,000) lights, creating a spectacular display that strengthened community bonds and celebrated shared cultural heritage. This annual tradition exemplifies the university's commitment to serving as a cultural anchor for the broader

regional community, transcending institutional boundaries to create inclusive spaces for collective celebration and spiritual engagement.



Fig. 2 shows the all faith sanctum sanctorum

Educational Demonstrations

- **Project Demonstrations:** ITI students regularly conduct electrical project demonstrations for visitors, showcasing the university's commitment to practical learning and public engagement.



Fig. 3 shows project demonstration under Pradhan Mantri Vikas Yojana by PMKVY centre

- **Heritage Club Activities:** Through a partnership with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), the Heritage Club organizes competitions and excursions, further opening campus facilities to the public and promoting cultural appreciation. In 2024, the Heritage Club successfully conducted multiple cultural competitions including a painting competition, song competition, and treasure hunt, with more than 30 students actively participating across these events. The club also organized one heritage excursion, providing participants with experiential learning opportunities to explore and appreciate cultural sites. These activities utilized campus spaces as venues for creative expression and cultural engagement, while the collaboration with INTACH ensured that these initiatives aligned with national standards for heritage education and cultural preservation. This programming makes the university's facilities accessible and meaningful to broader audiences while nurturing cultural awareness among students and community members.



Fig. 4 shows the art work done by Centurion University students under faculty guidance.

2. Community and Rural Engagement

- **Strengthening Social Ties:** These collaborations enrich the campus atmosphere and strengthen the relationship between the university and the local community.



Fig. 5 shows Rural Technology Park (J C Kumarappa Technology Park and Innovation Center) inauguration.

Rural Technology Park (J C Kumarappa Technology Park and Innovation Center)

- **Public Access to Innovation:** The Rural Technology Park (JCK-TP-IC), affiliated with Centurion University, is designed to drive sustainable rural development. It is accessible to local artisans, students, and entrepreneurs, serving as a platform for skill development and technological advancement.



Fig. 6 shows the demonstration by PMKVY centre

- **Skill-Based Training:** The center offers 35 training programs, reaching 165 artisans, which are open to the public and aimed at enhancing technical skills and promoting self-reliance.



Fig. 7 Skill based training initiatives in Centurion University.



Fig. 8 shows public access and community engagement milestones for the year 2024.

3. Recent Works and Improvements

- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Recent works include improved signage, accessible pathways, and enhanced lighting, making buildings more navigable and welcoming to visitors.



Fig. 9 shows the interior of the HCOV vehicle upgraded per state of the art standards

- **Community Health Initiatives:** The university's commitment extends to health and wellness programs that utilize public spaces for outreach and education.



Fig. 10 shows HCOW vehicle

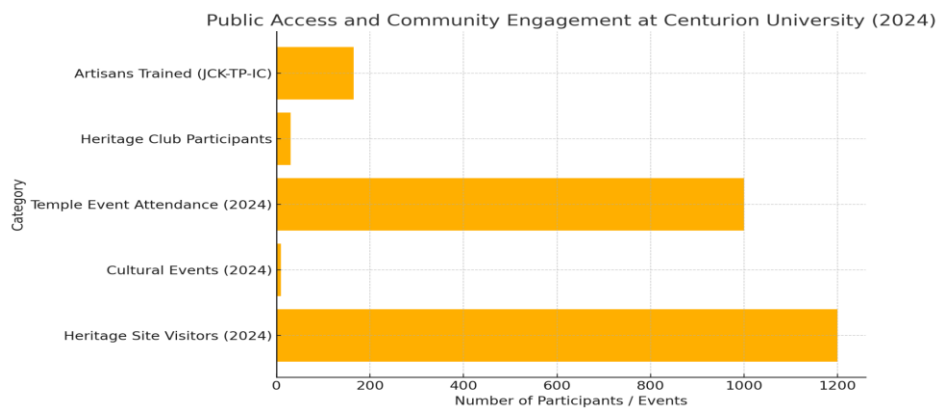


Fig. 11 shows the number of participants in various categories under the public access and community engagement in Centurion University (x axis- number of participants; y axis- categories under the initiative)

The campus is equipped with ramps, elevators, wheelchair-accessible entrances, and wide corridors, ensuring barrier-free movement throughout academic buildings, hostels, and public spaces. Wheelchairs and electric vehicles are available for those with mobility challenges, while accessible washrooms, clear signage with universal symbols, and tactile paths further enhance navigation and comfort for individuals with disabilities. The university also provides assistive technologies, scribe and sign language support, and counseling services, creating a supportive environment that goes beyond physical infrastructure to include academic and emotional assistance.

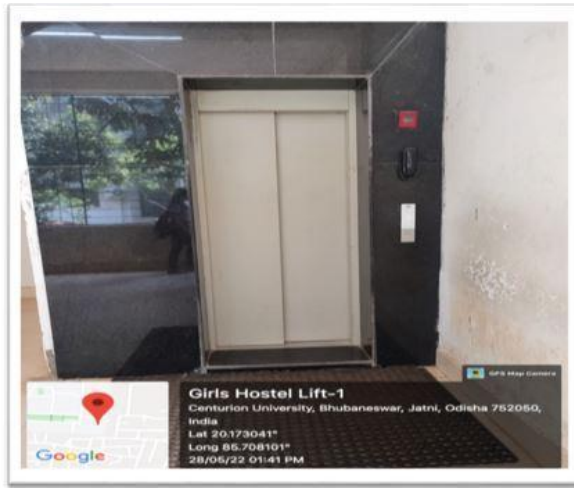


Fig. 12 The disabled friendly initiatives by Centurion University in 2024.



Fig. 13 shows demonstrations under PMKVY training.

Through these comprehensive initiatives, Centurion University, Bhubaneswar, ensures that its campus buildings and facilities are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming. The university's efforts not only support cultural heritage and lifelong learning but also promote community health, environmental stewardship, and social cohesion.

Conclusion

Centurion University, Bhubaneswar, has established itself as a model for inclusive campus development through its multifaceted approach to public access. The university's commitment is evident in its provision of free access to culturally significant buildings and heritage sites, which welcomed approximately 1,200 visitors in 2024 through more than 10 cultural events, attracting a diverse audience ranging from students to distinguished government officials and community members. The campus temple serves as a vital community hub, with its annual illumination ceremony drawing around 1,000 villagers in 2024, fostering unity and celebrating shared cultural heritage. Educational engagement is further strengthened through initiatives such as ITI student project demonstrations and Heritage Club activities conducted in partnership with INTACH, which included multiple competitions and heritage excursions involving over 30 student participants in 2024. The Rural Technology Park (JCK-TP-IC) extends this accessibility beyond the campus, offering 35 training programs that reached 165 local artisans, promoting skill development and rural innovation. Complementing these programs, the university has invested in comprehensive infrastructure improvements, including accessible pathways, enhanced signage, ramps, elevators, wheelchair-accessible facilities, and assistive technologies across all major buildings. These efforts are reinforced by community health initiatives that utilize public spaces for outreach and education. Through this integrated approach encompassing cultural preservation, educational engagement, rural development, and universal accessibility, Centurion University not only enriches its educational environment but also strengthens social cohesion, promotes sustainable growth, and serves as a vital cultural and educational anchor for the broader regional community.