

Public Access to Museums and Galleries

Centurion University, Bhubaneswar, has taken significant strides in promoting public access to its museums and cultural spaces. These efforts are designed to foster cultural awareness, education, and community engagement, especially among local and underprivileged groups. This report highlights recent initiatives and their impact.

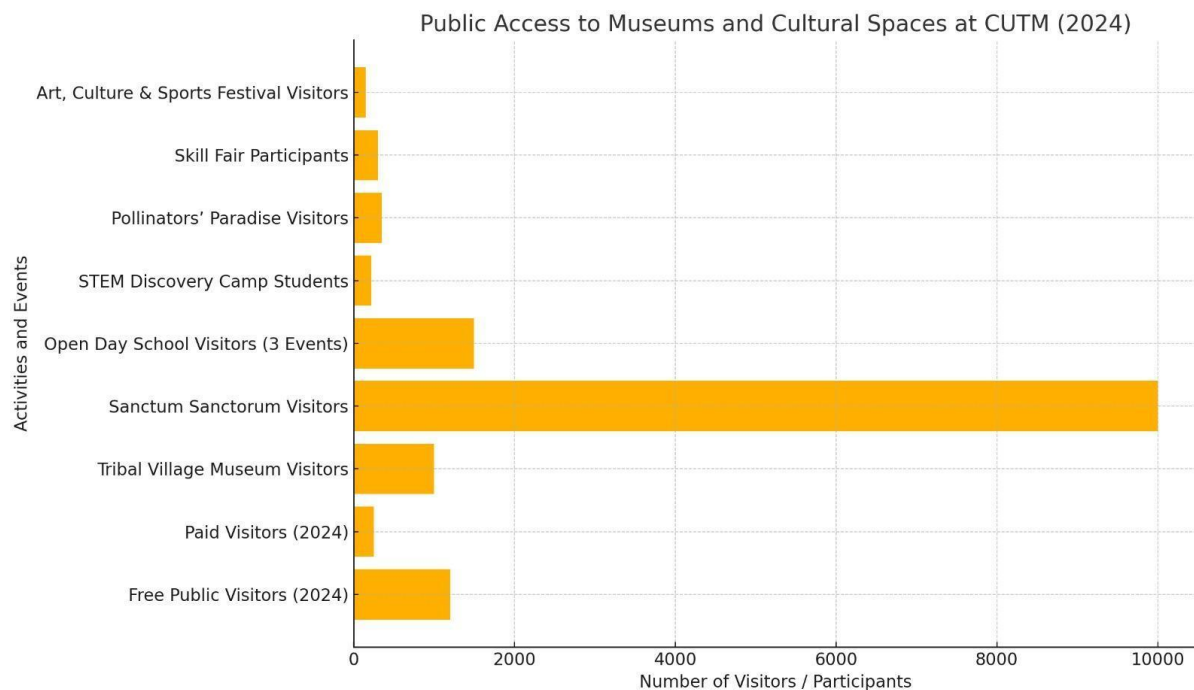


Fig. 1 shows the number of participants in various categories under the public access and community engagement in Centurion University (x axis- number of participants; y axis- categories under the initiative)

1. Open Access System

- **Free Public Access:** The university offers free access to its museums, exhibition spaces, galleries, and collections of artworks and artefacts. This inclusive policy ensures that the broader community can explore and appreciate a diverse range of cultural and historical exhibits. In 2024 around 1200 visitors had visited the campus and the temples, galleries, experience centre and the collections of artworks.



Fig. 2 shows Hon'ble President explaining the Waste to wealth system of the University.

- **Paid Access for Special Experiences:** For those seeking deeper engagement, the university provides paid options for specialized exhibitions, guided tours, and exclusive collections. These options cater to schools, researchers, and cultural enthusiasts. In 2024, around 250 visitors had taken paid access to visit the pollinators paradise, the experience centres, labs and taken guided tours of the campus.



Fig. 2 shows free public access initiatives in Centurion University.

2. Key Features and Recent Initiatives

a. The Tribal Village Museum

- **Showcasing Local Heritage:** The Tribal Village Museum at Centurion University highlights the rich cultural heritage of Odisha's tribal communities. It features

traditional crafts, artefacts, and displays that narrate the unique lifestyles and histories of these groups. In 2024 around 1000 visitors had visited the tribal village museum.



Fig. 3 Local tribal artifacts been showcased in the University Museum

- **Educational Resource:** The museum serves as a learning platform for students and visitors, promoting awareness and appreciation of tribal cultures.



Fig. 4 shows Tribal dance being performed at the University to preserve the same



Fig. 5 shows Making of tribal handmade home and personal decors

b. The Sanctum Sanctorum

- **Interfaith Space:** The university houses a sanctum sanctorum with idols from various faiths, fostering spiritual reflection and interfaith understanding. This space is open to all, reinforcing the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion. In 2024 around 10,000 visitors had visited the sanctum sanctorum and eminent dignitaries had offered puja to the lord and other religions.



Fig. 6 shows the all faith sanctum sanctorum.

c. Community Engagement: Open Days

- **Open Days for Children:** Centurion University organizes Open Day events, inviting children from nearby schools, especially from rural and tribal backgrounds, to explore the campus and its museums. These events are held three times a year, this amounts to around 1500 school children from around the city with more than 5 schools participating in the visit.

First Open Day (February 2024)

Schools Participated: 6 (from Gajapati and Ganjam districts). Visitors: ~480 students plus 50 teachers. Visits to the Pollinator Paradise, Herbal Garden, and Engineering Skill Labs. Students also participated in clay modelling and science quiz competitions.

Second Open Day (July 2024)

Schools Participated: 7 (mix of rural, tribal, and urban schools). Visitors: 520 students and 60 teachers. Hands-on workshops in Renewable Energy, Robotics, and 3D Printing. Cultural exchange sessions where students performed folk songs and dances.

Third Open Day (November 2024)

Schools Participated: 5 (from Berhampur, Vizianagaram, and nearby rural areas). Visitors: 510 students and 55 teachers. Campus museum tours, guided biodiversity walks, sports competitions, and interactive career counselling sessions



Fig. 7 shows campus tour and interactive sessions with tiny tots.

- **Campus Tours and Interactive Workshops:** Visiting students participate in guided tours, workshops on STEM, skill development, art, and culture, and career counselling

sessions. They also engage in sports and extracurricular activities, making the learning experience holistic and enjoyable. In 2024, around 1000 visitors had visited the pollinators paradise, the experience centres, and taken guided tours of the campus.

STEM Discovery Camp (March 2024)

- A 3-day camp for high school students focusing on robotics, drone technology, and basic coding. 220 students from 12 local schools. Students assembled basic drone kits and tested them at the Skill Lab. Feedback showed 85% students expressed interest in pursuing higher studies in STEM fields.

Pollinators' Paradise Guided Tours (Throughout 2024)

- Guided biodiversity walks conducted in the university's pollinator gardens and herbal patches. 350 visitors (students + teachers). Visitors learned about 120+ species of native plants and the role of butterflies and bees in pollination. Local school eco-clubs adopted similar practices in their own campuses.

Skill Development & Career Counselling Fair (August 2024)

- One-day event with workshops on entrepreneurship, vocational skills (carpentry, solar installation, tailoring), and interactive career guidance. 300 students (from ITIs, polytechnics, and higher secondary schools). 100 students enrolled in short-term training programs at Centurion University post-event.

Art, Culture, and Sports Festival for Visiting Schools (November 2024)

- Visiting students participated in painting competitions, folk dance workshops, and friendly sports matches with Centurion University students. 130 students + 20 teachers. Enhanced cultural exchange and promoted holistic learning.



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



Fig. 9 shows the guests with our vintage Electric car around the campus.

3. Impact and Outcomes

- Inspiring Future Generations:** The Open Day events and museum visits have inspired many students to consider higher education, particularly in science, technology, and vocational fields. In 2024 we have had around 5000 admissions based on the guided tours. In 2025 it has crossed 8000 admissions because of the public access to the campus.



Fig. 10 shows outreach activities to include tiny tots into Centurion University.

- **Community Integration:** By opening its museums and galleries to the public, Centurion University strengthens its ties with the local community, especially tribal villages, and promotes cultural exchange.
- **Enhanced Learning:** Exposure to advanced facilities, hands-on workshops, and cultural exhibits broadens students' perspectives and motivates them to pursue academic and career goals.



Fig. 11 shows Hands-on training in our engineering workshop.

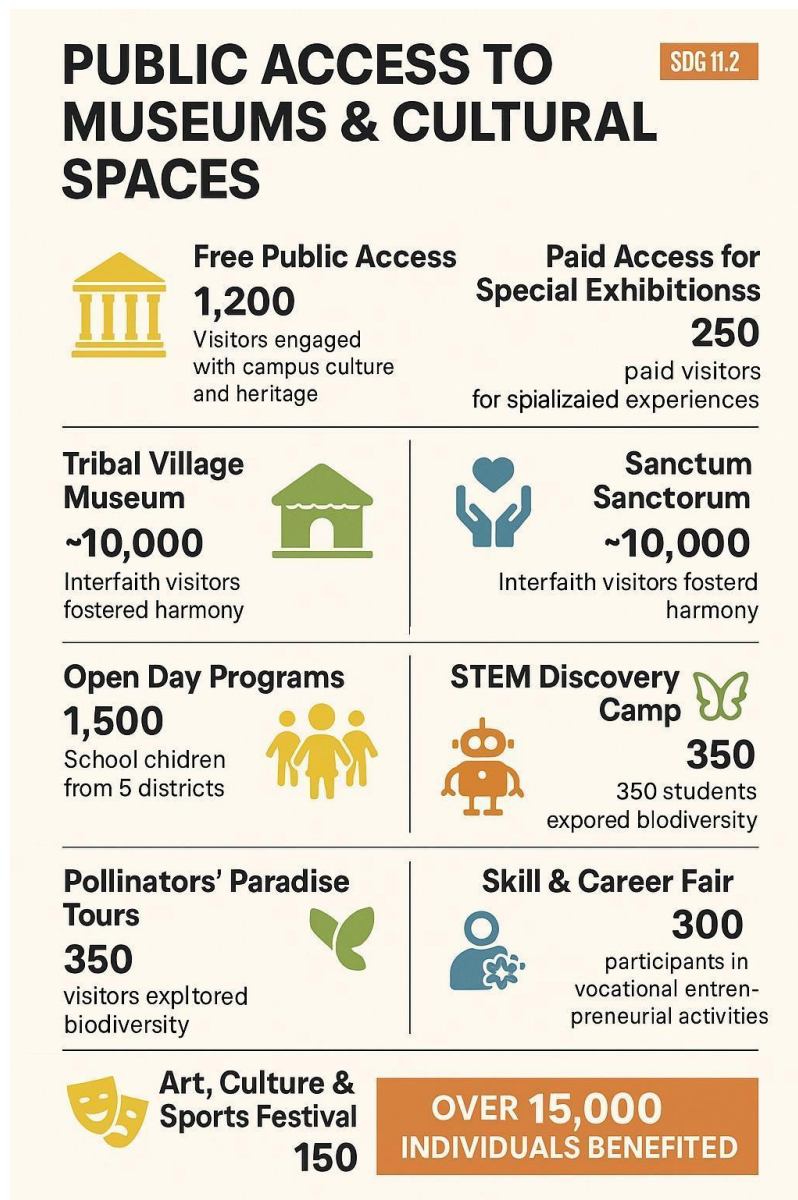


Fig. 12 shows the footfall as regards the public access to museum and cultural spaces.

Conclusion

Centurion University's commitment to public access in its museums and cultural spaces exemplifies its dedication to education, cultural enrichment, and community engagement. The university's initiatives have made significant contributions to promoting cultural heritage, inspiring youth, and fostering a sense of inclusivity in Odisha.

In summary, Centurion University's ideology for public access to museums are structured to foster **cultural enrichment, inclusivity, and sustainable community development**, directly contributing to the targets of SDG 11.