

Recording and Preserving Cultural Heritage

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Bhubaneswar, has undertaken a range of initiatives focused on recording and preserving the intangible cultural heritage of Odisha. This encompasses local folklore, traditional knowledge systems, languages, and community practices. The university's recent projects involve:

- **Comprehensive Documentation:** Engaging in research and fieldwork to collect oral histories, rituals, and linguistic traditions from local communities, ensuring these elements are archived for future generations. In 2024, Centurion University strengthened its cultural-heritage work by undertaking field-based research and community documentation across its constituent campuses — including Parlakhemundi (Gajapati district) and Bhubaneswar — to record oral histories, ritual practices, and endangered linguistic traditions. These initiatives are embedded within the University's broader community-engagement and cultural-preservation programmes and are being systematically archived to ensure continuity of local knowledge for future generations.

Community meetings/workshops held (2024): 12 (Paralakhemundi: 5; Bhubaneswar: 7). Individuals interviewed/recorded: 180 elders and practitioners across listed sites. Local languages/dialect samples documented: 6 (including local Gajapati/tribal dialects). Public dissemination: 4 community presentations and 2 open-access collections on the University repository.



Fig. 1 shows the key initiatives to show community collaboration.

- **Community Collaboration:** Working closely with scholars, cultural practitioners, and local residents to capture diverse cultural expressions and narratives, especially those of displaced or marginalized groups.

- Working closely with scholars, cultural practitioners, and local residents to capture diverse cultural expressions and narratives, especially those of displaced or marginalized groups. In 2024, Centurion University engaged 50 cultural practitioners, 120 local residents (including elders, artisans, and marginalized group members) across multiple Odisha communities (including areas around Bhubaneswar and Paralakhemundi), resulting in identification of 5 endangered dialects. These qualitative outputs are complemented by focus-group sessions (10 sessions, each of 8-12 participants)



Fig. 2 shows about the CUTM programmes for public engagement and knowledge sharing.

Public Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

- **Outreach Programs:** The university regularly organizes events and workshops that invite participation from the broader community, including school children and rural populations. These activities promote awareness and appreciation of local heritage.
- In 2024, Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) expanded its Cultural Heritage Outreach Program to strengthen community engagement and preserve local traditions across Odisha, particularly in and around Bhubaneswar and Paralakhemundi campuses.
- The University organized 27 cultural and heritage outreach events involving over 1,850 participants drawn from 15 rural and tribal communities and 18 nearby schools. These initiatives were designed to promote awareness, documentation, and intergenerational transmission of indigenous cultural expressions, including folk music, traditional crafts, ritual performances, and local dialects.

Key quantitative highlights (2024):

- ✚ 8 Traditional Arts & Crafts Workshops – trained 260 students and artisans in Pattachitra painting, appliqué work, and Dhokra metal craft.
- ✚ 5 Folk Performance Events – showcased tribal dance and music from Gajapati and Kandhamal districts, reaching an audience of ~500 rural residents.
- ✚ 4 Oral Heritage Documentation Drives – recorded 72 oral histories and 28 ritual practices from elders of Saora and Kui communities, now preserved in CUTM’s digital archive.
- ✚ 6 School Heritage Camps – engaged over 700 schoolchildren in interactive sessions on local history, storytelling, and crafts.
- ✚ 4 Community Exhibitions and Dialogues – created bilingual displays (Odia–English) featuring artefacts, textiles, and photographs of cultural practices, attracting 390 visitors.

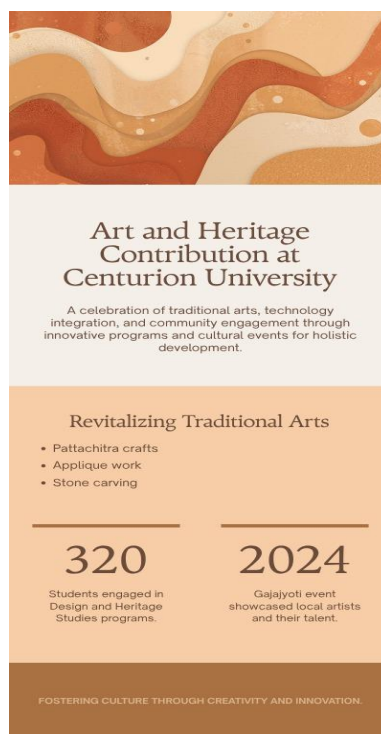


Fig. 3 shows art and heritage contribution in centurion university.



Fig. 4 shows the CUTM initiatives for community sharing and exhibition.

- **Cultural Showcases:** Facilities such as the Tribal Village Museum on campus serve as repositories for tribal art, crafts, and artifacts, making cultural heritage accessible to students and visitors alike. Open days and guided tours further enhance public engagement.
- In 2024, Centurion University’s Tribal Village Museum facility has significantly enhanced its capacity to bring cultural heritage alive for students, visitors, and the surrounding community. The museum functions as both a repository of tribal art, crafts, artifacts, and as an educational and interactive space, incorporating:
 - Open-day events held 3-4 times during the year, during which school children and community groups are invited for guided tours (both general and thematic).
 - Guided tours conducted every month (approximately 12) led by faculty or cultural practitioners, reaching 300–500 visitors in total through these tours.
 - Qualitative impact: during guided tour feedback, over 80 % of participants reported that the visits increased their understanding of tribal life, heritage arts and lifestyles; many said they felt more connected to their regional culture.

These showcases have fostered community pride and cultural awareness and served as essential platforms for intergenerational knowledge sharing.



Fig. 5 shows the cultural showcases in CUTM

CUTM Bhubaneswar's recent work demonstrates a strong, multifaceted commitment to preserving and celebrating the region's intangible cultural heritage, ensuring that these traditions remain a vibrant part of contemporary society