

## **Pedestrian Priority on Campus and collaboration with Local Authorities on Planning and Redevelopment**

Centurion University is committed to building a sustainable, healthy, and inclusive environment through a series of forward-thinking initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact and improving community infrastructure.

To curtail carbon emissions and promote eco-friendly transportation, the University has prioritized the use of electric vehicles and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure:

- **Electric Vehicles:** With a fleet of ten e-vehicles operating on campus, the University supports clean, emission-free transportation, contributing to improved air quality and environmental sustainability.



Fig. 1 shows electric vehicle made by Centurion University.

- **Pedestrian Pathways and Cycling:** Beautifully designed walkways link different parts of the campus, encouraging walking and cycling. Vehicle access is limited within the premises, and bicycle use is actively promoted to reduce congestion and pollution.



Fig. 2 shows the pedestrian pathway in Centurion University.

- **Campus Revamp (2019):** In response to initial challenges like traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, and insufficient open spaces, the University launched a comprehensive redesign in 2019. This included:
  - Creating expansive, well-lit pedestrian routes and green social spaces.
  - Implementing traffic control measures such as low-speed zones, designated drop-off points, and traffic calming strategies.

- Building infrastructure including elevated walkways, ramps, and bridges to ensure accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities.



Fig. 3 shows campus revamp.

### Measurable Impact

- **Improved Safety:** A focus on pedestrian-first design has significantly increased on-campus safety, reducing accidents and enhancing the sense of security.
- **Enhanced Mobility and Wellness:** Walkable spaces have improved campus connectivity while promoting healthier lifestyles through increased physical activity and social engagement.
- **Sustainability Leadership:** These sustainable mobility practices make Centurion University a model for green campus planning and wellness-focused infrastructure in higher education.

Together, these initiatives reflect Centurion University’s vision of creating not just a greener campus but also a thriving, equitable community



Fig. 4 shows the initiatives under sustainable practices and promotion of sustainable commuting in Centurion University in 2024.

#### **11.4.6 Collaboration with Local Authorities in Planning and Development**

Centurion University actively collaborates with local authorities in Bhubaneswar and Paralakhemundi to address urban planning and development challenges, ensuring that campus expansion and community growth are inclusive and sustainable.

##### **Key Initiatives (2024):**

- **Affordable Housing Access:** Centurion University partnered with municipal authorities and developers to ensure over 420 students and 135 employees residing on campus or in nearby housing benefited from subsidized rents (25–40 % below market rates). Local residents in surrounding areas were consulted to expand affordable housing initiatives.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** Joint planning meetings with local authorities addressed traffic management, pedestrian safety, and green space integration, ensuring new developments considered both campus needs and the broader community.
- **Community Benefits:** Approximately 1,200 local residents reported improved access to amenities, walking paths, and recreational green spaces through combined university and municipal efforts.

##### **Impact (2024):**

- Local collaboration enabled better integration of campus and city planning, supporting SDG 11 by promoting inclusive, safe, and sustainable urban development.
- Surveys indicated 85 % of nearby residents felt improved connectivity and access to facilities, highlighting successful community engagement.

#### **11.4.7 Pedestrian Priority and Sustainable Mobility on Campus**

Centurion University prioritizes pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and sustainable campus mobility, reducing environmental impact while enhancing safety and well-being.

##### **Key Measures (2024):**

- **Electric Vehicle Fleet:** Ten campus e-vehicles provide emission-free transport for staff and students, reducing on-campus carbon emissions. In 2024, over 6,500 trips were logged, replacing an estimated 4,800 conventional vehicle trips.
- **Pedestrian Pathways and Cycling:**
  - Well-lit, accessible walkways and cycling lanes link all major campus areas.
  - Vehicle access is restricted in core zones, encouraging walking and cycling.

- Elevated walkways, ramps, and bridges ensure accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities.
- **Safety and Usage Statistics (2024):**
  - Pedestrian-first infrastructure contributed to a 35 % reduction in minor traffic incidents compared to 2023.
  - Average pedestrian usage increased to 4,200 trips/day, with cycling trips reaching 1,100/day, demonstrating widespread adoption of sustainable mobility.
- **Campus Revamp Measures:** Low-speed zones, designated drop-off points, and traffic calming strategies continue to reduce congestion while enhancing campus connectivity.

### **Impact (2024):**

- Improved safety and reduced congestion support healthier, more inclusive campus movement.
- Sustainable mobility practices reinforce Centurion University's role as a model green campus, demonstrating practical integration of SDG 11 targets.
- Pedestrian-priority spaces encourage physical activity and social interaction, contributing to overall student and staff wellness.