

Partnering with NGOs through volunteering, research, and education for SDGs

Centurion University of Technology and Management actively advances Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) through strong collaborations with NGOs to address key sustainability challenges. In 2024, Centurion University strengthened its impact by engaging students, driving research, and developing educational resources in partnership with organizations such as Lions Club, SCB Medical College, Young Indians (Yi), Apollo Hospitals, and LTIMindtree CSR. These partnerships led to impactful initiatives like blood donation camps, plantation drives, anti-drug campaigns, and the “Karjayakaram” Skill Development Program, supporting SDG 3, 4, 13, and 15. Through its Governance & Sustainable Societies Centre and collaborations with SVNIRTAR and NTNU (Norway), CENTURION UNIVERSITY promotes policy-oriented research, gender equity, sustainable entrepreneurship, and inclusive health systems—empowering communities and advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Student Volunteering Programmes

In 2024, Centurion University of Technology and Management actively collaborated with various NGOs and community organizations to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through structured student volunteering programmes. Through partnerships with Lions Club and SCB Medical College, the university conducted its 29th Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp, directly contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being). Environmental volunteering was promoted via a large-scale plantation drive with KusumatiChhanaghara High School and CENTURION UNIVERSITY’s Green Brigade, aligning with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Students also engaged in community outreach at Aadruta Children’s Home, supporting social inclusion and education under SDGs 1, 4, and 10. Collaborative health awareness events such as the World Hepatitis Day Walkathon with Apollo Hospitals and anti-drug awareness campaigns with Young Indians (Yi), Kalinga Hospitals, and Salaam Jeevan Trust exemplified CENTURION UNIVERSITY’s ongoing commitment to SDG-focused student engagement. These initiatives reflect the university’s institutional commitment to integrating civic responsibility and sustainability into student life.

❖ **Awareness Campaign and Road Show in observance of 5th National Electrical Safety Week (NESW) 2024 on 02.07.2024**

Centurion University of Technology and Management observed the 5th National Electrical Safety Week (NESW) on 2nd July 2024 through a comprehensive awareness campaign and road show. The event was

graced by Mr. Suresh Chandra Maharana, Engineer In-Chief and Chief Electrical Inspector (Retd.), Government of Odisha, as the Guest Speaker. The main objective was promoting electrical safety awareness through road shows and expert lectures. Over 50 Centurion University students actively volunteered as key participants, leading the road show by distributing safety pamphlets, demonstrating safe electrical practices using mock setups, and engaging passersby in interactive quizzes on hazard prevention. This hands-on volunteering not only amplified public awareness but also equipped students with practical skills in community education, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by fostering safer urban environments.



❖ **Mega Plantation Drive for Vana Mahotsav on 06.07.2024**

To commemorate Vana Mahotsav 2024, Centurion University organized a Mega Plantation Drive on 6th July 2024, both inside and outside the university campus. As part of its community outreach, selected student volunteers and staff members visited KusumatiChhanaghara High School, where they collaboratively planted 15 saplings with the school's students and faculty, supported by the university's

Green Brigade. High school students pledged to nurture the plants, and the effort was appreciated by the school authorities..



❖ **Students Entrepreneurship Bootcamp by Young Indians (Yi) on 12.07.2024**

In collaboration with Young Indians (Yi), a youth-focused NGO under the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Centurion University facilitated student volunteering through participation in the Student Entrepreneurship Bootcamp on 12th July 2024 at O-Hub, Patia, Bhubaneswar, in partnership with Startup Odisha, Government of Odisha. This volunteering initiative empowered 35 Centurion University students to actively contribute to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) by co-facilitating workshop sessions on business ideation, pitching sustainable ventures, and market analysis



❖ **A Dialogue with Yuva "Awareness and Prevention of Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse" on 25.07.2024**

Centurion University, in collaboration with Young Indians (Yi) of the Confederation of Indian Industry

(CII)—a prominent NGO focused on youth empowerment—and Kalinga Hospitals Limited (KHL), organized a panel discussion titled “A Dialogue with Yuva – Awareness and Prevention of Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Abuse” on 25th July 2024 at the Aryabhata Auditorium, Bhubaneswar campus. This student volunteering program enabled 120 Centurion University students to actively tackle SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by volunteering as event coordinators, moderators for breakout discussions, and facilitators for post-panel pledge drives against substance abuse. The session aimed to address the psychological, social, and legal dimensions of substance abuse among youth and explore pathways for prevention and rehabilitation.

The event featured a high-profile panel including Dr. Lagnajit Dash (Psychiatrist, Care & SUM Hospitals), Dr. Muhammad Imran Ali (Founder, Salaam Jeevan Trust), Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak (PVC, Administration, Centurion University), Dr. Nilanjana Mukherjee (MD, KHL), Mr. Sanjeev Satpathy (Addl. Superintendent of Police), and Dr. Nidhi Garg (Counselor & Psychologist), with Mr. Arvind Das (Corporate Coach) as the moderator. Panelists discussed the triggers of addiction, societal impacts, available support systems, and legal consequences of drug use. Students actively engaged in Q&A, and the panel responded with real-life insights and actionable advice, leading to student-initiated follow-up awareness skits performed in local schools.



❖ Participation @ Walkathon by Apollo Hospitals on World Hepatitis Day (28.07.2024)

To observe World Hepatitis Day on 28th July 2024, Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar organized a Walkathon under the theme “Eliminate Hepatitis: It’s Time for Action.” A total of 72 participants from Centurion University joined the event, including Prof. Sunil Kumar Jha, Director of the School of Paramedics and Allied Health Sciences (SoPAHS), who participated as a guest.

The pre-walk briefing was led by Dr. Alok Srivatsa (COO & DMS, Apollo Hospitals), highlighting the importance of early detection, vaccination, and public awareness. Dignitaries such as Smt. Sulochana Das (Mayor, Bhubaneswar), Ms. Anu Choudhury (Oollywood Actress), Dr. Sushant Sethi (Senior Gastroenterologist), and Prof. Sunil Kumar Jha addressed the gathering on hepatitis prevention, healthy lifestyles, and vaccination strategies.



❖ Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on 24th August 2024

In partnership with Lions Club of Bhubaneswar—a dedicated NGO for community health initiatives—and SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack, Centurion University successfully conducted its 29th Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on 24th August 2024 at the Bhubaneswar campus to directly tackle SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being) by addressing blood shortages in local healthcare systems. Over 355 students played pivotal volunteering roles, including donor registration, awareness mobilization through campus drives, and post-donation care support, resulting in a record 322 units of blood donated.



❖ Visit to Aadruta Children's Home on 15.08.2024

As part of its ongoing student volunteering and community engagement initiatives to tackle SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Centurion University organized a compassionate outreach programme titled “Joy of Giving” on the occasion of Independence Day, in collaboration with Aadruta Children's Home—an NGO dedicated to supporting orphaned and abandoned children in Bhubaneswar. On this day, 46 students volunteered by organizing interactive storytelling sessions on life skills and sustainability, facilitating educational games to promote SDG awareness, and distributing learning kits alongside snacks, tiffin packets, biscuits, cakes, and a financial donation for the home's daily needs. The home, which houses over 200 parentless and abandoned children at Kantabada, Mendhasala, Bhubaneswar, warmly welcomed the team with energetic dance performances. During their visit, students interacted with the children and staff, learning about the children's talents, aspirations, and achievements. The initiative served not just as a gesture of kindness but also as a learning experience for students, strengthening their sense of social responsibility, empathy, and inclusion. The staff at Aadruta Children's Home appreciated the university's thoughtful contribution toward child welfare and inclusive development.



A. Research Programmes

Governance & Sustainable Societies Centre

Established in 2018, the Governance & Sustainable Societies Centre at Centurion University is a hub for community-engaged, policy-relevant research focused on NGO collaborations to advance the SDGs. The Centre has built long-standing partnerships with leading NGOs such as BREDS (Building Rural Economy and Development Society), SACAL (Social Action for Community Alternatives Learning), Harsha Trust, Sabuja Biplab, and Swabhiman. These NGOs provide grassroots insights, field access, and co-design expertise for participatory research. In 2024, NGOs were explicitly involved in two key collaborative projects under this Centre, with BREDS and SACAL contributing community mobilizers for surveys and Harsha Trust facilitating SHG (Self-Help Group) interviews:

B. Development of Educational Resources

❖ Centurion University and LTIMindtree CSR Join Forces to Launch “Karjayakaram” Skill Development Program

Centurion University of Technology and Management, in collaboration with LTIMindtree CSR—a corporate initiative partnering with NGOs like local skill development trusts—has launched the

“Karjayakaram” Skill Development Program to transform skill development in Odisha while fostering cross-sectoral SDG dialogues with government bodies (e.g., Skill Development Department, Government of Odisha) and NGOs (e.g., youth employability forums). This initiative tackles SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by equipping over 1,000 students with industry-relevant skills, starting with training 60 students as industrial sewing machine operators and CNC operators in its first phase. The goal of this program is to improve adolescent employability and self-reliance by offering training and skills that are relevant to the industry. The initiative creates customized curricula, instructional materials, and useful resources to equip students with the skills they need to succeed in the modern workforce by utilizing Centurion University's academic knowledge and LTIMindtree's corporate resources. Cross-sectoral dialogues, including quarterly roundtables with NGO partners and government officials, ensure the resources address local SDG gaps like inclusive vocational training.



The launch event, held on July 31, 2024, featured key figures like Jitender Ghangas from LTIMindtree and Prof. Supriya Pattanayak, the Vice Chancellor of Centurion University. Both emphasized the program’s significance in enhancing employability and supporting local economic development through collaborative SDG-aligned resource development.