

Outreach education for the wider community on SDGs

Odisha is a state that has third-largest population of **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in India with these officially designated as among the most disadvantaged socio-economic communities in India. CUTM is deeply committed to transformative community engagement with all these rural and urban communities, championing education for the SDGs through dynamic outreach educational activities that empower alumni, local residents, and underserved populations. In 2024, CUTM amplified its commitment to fostering education for sustainable development by spearheading impactful initiatives including:

- Hands-on agricultural training programs for 180 rural Odisha farmers including mushroom cultivation techniques; irrigation and water efficiency delivered by the M.S Swaminathan School of Agriculture;
- An ongoing “One plant one person” arboriculture drive supported by approximately 1,100 first year agriculture, fisheries and veterinary Parlakhemundi campus students and their families;
- IoT-enabled sustainable resource workshops and installations at Nandankanan Zoological Park delivered by School of Engineering and Technology
- health check-up and free dental and camps delivered by School of Paramedics and Allied Health Sciences in collaboration with health organizations;
- vibrant alumni engagement events with over 230 alumni and their families and
- teacher training workshops with 150 participants in Kanpur delivered by School of Management.

All these initiatives promote lifelong learning, health equity, climate resilience, sustainable resource management and economic empowerment. By integrating experiential and lifelong learning, community-driven solutions, and strategic partnerships, Centurion University is not only enriching the lives of diverse community members but also setting a global standard for inclusive education and sustainable progress.

Outreach Educational Activities

Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Training:-

Centurion University is providing hands-on and ongoing extension training in sustainable agricultural

practices such as Organic Farming, Dairy Farming, Fishery, water efficient irrigation techniques and climate-resilient crop management. Each year over more than 250 farmers participate in these programs teaching sustainable farming practices that boost crop yields, improve food security, and promote healthy nutrition. Climate action education focuses on organic farming, water-efficient irrigation, and climate-resilient techniques, helping farmers adapt to climate change. By equipping farmers with skills to enhance productivity and income they also learn the skills to foster sustainable livelihoods.



❖ **The OLEM Farmers Training on Mushroom Cultivation**

The OLEM Farmers Training on Mushroom Cultivation is conducted annually by the M.S Swaminathan School of Agriculture in Paralakhemundi. In 2024 training aimed to equip 179 farmers with skills for self-employment and income generation through mushroom farming, with a targeted focus on vulnerable groups including women farmers, marginalized communities, and displaced individuals from rural areas seeking alternative livelihoods. By prioritizing these underserved participants, the program addressed barriers to economic inclusion and promoted equitable access to sustainable agriculture education.

❖ **One Plant One Person Plantation Drive Parlakhemundi Campus**

This unique initiative of the ARBORICULTURE programme has been initiated in M.S. Swaminathan School of Agriculture, Paralakhemundi. Each first year student (approximately 1,110 each year) at the campus is responsible for nurturing their assigned sapling throughout their four-year academic journey. The program is extended by partnering with local residents for joint planting events and environmental awareness workshops. Community members, including families from nearby villages, are invited to adopt saplings and participate in guided sessions on arboriculture benefits, such as enhancing air quality, biodiversity, and climate resilience. This collaborative approach instills a sense of shared responsibility

towards the environment, directly linking student-led efforts to broader community education fostering green cover expansion and ecological awareness among external participants.



❖ Alumni Meet-2024

In 2024, Centurion University conducted major Alumni Meets at its Paralakhemundi and Bhubaneswar campuses, engaging over 230 alumni and their families. These events functioned as impactful outreach educational activities, aiming to foster institutional collaboration and lifelong learning among the alumni community. The meets included interactive sessions focused on mentoring current students, enhancing placement and entrepreneurship opportunities, and supporting underprivileged learners. Alumni were also encouraged to contribute to research, social initiatives, and industry-institute linkages through structured talks, workshops, and partnerships. This initiative extended the university's educational mission beyond

enrolled students.



❖ IoT-enabled sustainable resource projects in Nandankanan Zoological Park

Centurion University extended its outreach through IoT-enabled educational projects through School of Engineering and Technology at Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar including the development and demonstration of smart dustbins, automated food dispensers for wildlife, and intelligent water sprinklers. These initiatives served as hands-on learning platforms for local residents and park visitors, teaching practical applications of IoT technology for environmental conservation and waste management. Community workshops highlighted how such innovations reduce resource waste and enhancing biodiversity protection, empowering participants with skills to implement similar low-cost solutions in their neighborhoods. The park has on average 10,000 visitors per day.

❖ Healthcare Outreach:-

Centurion University, in partnership with the Community Diagnostic Center and Hi-Tech Dental College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar, took a significant step towards promoting oral health with a “Free Dental Camp” held on 21st February 2024 for 255 peoples.



This Free Health Dental Camp initiative primarily addresses SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by offering essential dental services and educating the wider community on preventive oral health practices. It also promotes SDG 4: Quality Education, as participants gain valuable knowledge on maintaining oral hygiene as part of holistic health education. Furthermore, the camp supports SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized populations have access to free healthcare services, thus reducing health disparities. Through this collaboration, the camp highlights SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, demonstrating the impact of cross-sectoral partnerships between educational and healthcare institutions to promote community well-being.

❖ Free Health, Vision Check-up and Drug Distribution on September,2024

In a powerful display of its unwavering commitment to community wellness and outreach, Centurion University proudly hosted a Free Health, Vision Check-up, and Drug Distribution Camp at Kantia Grama Panchayat with 356 participants. Designed to serve the healthcare needs of underserved rural communities, the initiative focused on early diagnosis, preventive care, and health awareness. The camp offered comprehensive medical screenings, expert-led eye check-ups by professional optometrists, and the free distribution of essential medicines. Spearheaded by a team of compassionate doctors, skilled paramedics, and spirited student volunteers, the program ensured that quality healthcare reached every corner of the village.



Centurion University conducts outreach programme for teachers in Kanpur on Jan,2024.

CUTM organized a dedicated outreach program for educators in Kanpur in January 2024 to strengthen awareness and implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The initiative engaged approximately 150 teachers, principals, and institutional heads, empowering them to integrate hands-on, industry-aligned pedagogy into their curricula. The program aimed to promote NEP's vision of skill-based education and introduced Centurion University's innovative "learning through doing" model. Faculty from the university demonstrated functional skill labs, including maker spaces, AR/VR setups, renewable energy labs, and farm-based education systems. Workshops on curriculum design, employability skills, and early-stage vocational integration were conducted, alongside strategy discussions on aligning academic practices with NEP directives. The event encouraged open dialogue on implementation challenges and future collaboration, resulting in increased interest among participating institutions to replicate CUTM's model. The outreach laid the foundation for long-term partnerships in faculty training and curriculum enhancement, reinforcing Centurion University's role in advancing inclusive and practice-oriented education.

