



Centurion
UNIVERSITY
*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*



12th

Convocation Ceremony

2024 **DECEMBER**
7 | SEVENTH

**REPORT OF THE
VICE CHANCELLOR**

**CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
ODISHA**

(ESTD. VIDE ODISHA ACT 4 OF 2010 & u/s 2 (F) OF UGC ACT, 1956)





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12TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY 2024

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His Excellency, **Sri. Raghubar Das**, the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and the Visitor of Centurion University of Technology and Management;

Chief Guest, Hon'ble Justice Sri. Sandeep Mehta, Judge Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

Guest of Honour, Dr. Sreedhar Panicker Somnath, Secretary and Chairman, Space Commission, Department of Space and Chairman ISRO

Distinguished Members of the Governing Board;

President, Vice President, Honorary Provost, Registrar;

Members of the Academic Council, Board of Studies, Pro Vice Chancellor, Directors, Deans, Faculty and Staff of the University, Parents, Distinguished Guests, Representatives of Electronic and Print Media and most importantly our Graduating students, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As Vice Chancellor, I extend a warm welcome to you all to the 12th Convocation of the Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha.

On this most glorious and auspicious day, I would like to share briefly the trajectory of the University. At the outset, I would like to affirm Centurion Universities commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the National Education Policy 2020. The University's SDG rankings in the Times Higher Education (THE) Social Impact Ranking has seen a great leap from the previous years under the mentorship of Western Sydney University (WSU, World No 1 for two years consecutively). The University has ranked 3rd in India in No Poverty (SDG 1, globally 94th), 2nd in Zero Hunger (SDG 2, globally 35th), 9th in Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), 2nd in Life Below Water (SDG 14, globally 88th), 8th in Life on Land (SDG 15) and 3rd in

Partnership for the goals (SDG 17). Further, it was a proud moment for us when two participants from our University, Disha Darshini and Ajay Sethi, after qualifying at the National skills represented India at the World Skills competitions in France in the categories of Health and Social Care and CNC Turning.

Centurion University serves students, mainly, from Odisha and neighbouring states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh through its six campuses located at Paralakhemundi, Bhubaneswar, Rayagada, Bolangir, Chhatrapur and Balasore (Gopalpur). Focused on tribal, under-privileged and rural areas, the aim is to empower students with quality education for their employability and self-reliance, higher studies and entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to reducing inequality in society. Today Centurion University has a fairly good student diversity with international students, though this is only the start.

The Centurion University has several social outreach enterprises under the umbrella brand, “Gram Tarang” to train economically weak and tribal students, to provide work integrated skill training and apprenticeship, enable financial inclusion, manufacture drones and provide services using drones, extract oils and oleoresins from various spices and provide cutting edge technology solutions. Presently, there is also a focus on industry relevant and future skills (as aligned with the Govt of India and Govt of Odisha's vision) such as Dassault tools, AWS, Unity, Speed breeding, Tissue culture, etc. The focus of the University is to create knowledge economy, employability and entrepreneurship through skill integrated higher education system and product-oriented outcome. The University's research program is facilitated through 24 research centres, 11 Centers of Excellence and 30 Live Labs. The faculty have published 685 articles in national and international journals, 159 books and book chapters, and 69 conference proceedings; further over 111 patents and copyrights have been published. The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship has provided support to 64

incubated companies and 26 startups which also figure on the MSME platform of the Government of Odisha.

The degree, diploma and certificate courses of the University are designed to educate students about developing sustainable solutions to real life problems for a better future. The classroom teaching is augmented by hands-on, action learning and relevant field work. At present, the University offers 84 Certificate, 26 Advanced Certificate, 30 Diploma courses, 36 under-graduate and 24 post-graduate and doctoral programs with a student strength of 13161 as on November 2024. In addition, we have had four batches of Indigenous Australian students who have completed a six month certificate program.

A Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) has been established at Paralakhemundi campus with support from Government of India to provide a range of services and for the conduct of high end research. The Faculty of Centurion University in close collaboration with an Australian industry partner has designed its own Vanilla Dome and will enter into production for export of the same. Since the establishment of the RPTO, the University has completed Remote Pilot Certification of over 150 candidates during the last year. The University has set up a new state-of-the-art laboratory i.e. Genetic Engineering and Genomics lab to carry out cutting edge research like gene editing and gene sequencing.

The University works closely with local communities and Institutions. In collaborating closely with the Nandankanan Zoological Park; faculty and students have developed some IoT-enabled Automation Solutions: a **Timer-Based Food Dispenser Prototype**: A prototype developed to automate food dispensing for animals based on scheduled timings; **IoT-Based Smart Dustbin Prototype**: A smart dustbin designed to enhance waste management and promote cleanliness; and, **IoT-Based Environment Monitoring System and Automatic Water Sprinkler Prototype**: A system

developed to monitor environmental conditions and activate water sprinklers automatically as required.

In working towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the University tries to ensure the sustainability of biodiversity of the campuses through establishing the pollinators paradise and conducting regular surveys of flora and fauna.

The School of Management actively provides training and consulting to various organizations, including delivering a Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management to Odisha Finance Service (OFS) probationers, training to banking professionals from Banking, Finance and Insurance Nepal (BFIN), and several Skill Training programs to different stakeholders. The School of Management has conducted several international exchange programs with several Australian Universities.

We believe in inclusiveness of population from all sectors. Thus, the under privileged students are supported through various scholarships. Few new courses are developed to train and empower the disadvantaged communities from remote tribal areas, which in turn facilitate the basic health care to the population living in remote areas. With support of LTI Mindtree, a Healthcare on Wheels has been commissioned to provide healthcare services to remote areas of the state. The University in collaboration with Essilor has facilitated comprehensive eye screening and distribution of free prescription glasses for underprivileged community benefitting 14,000 individuals in the previous year. The University is facilitating Digital Eye Mitra training program in collaboration with Essilor and BABLE as their assessment partner. The University in collaboration with LTI Mindtree provides Skill Development Training Program in OT and Phlebotomy sector for students from rural communities. The University in collaboration with GAIL facilitates Satellite Telemedicine Consultation service at all its Campuses for people residing in its peripheral community. The University has established

the J C Kumarappa Rural Technology Park which through an MoU with Kouzina Kitchen aims to train and engage about 500 school dropouts. At present, the University has 102 active MoUs which are regularly reviewed.

Krishi Mela in collaboration with Krishi Jagaran has become an annual affair attended by over 5000 farmers. Rural Haats are organised on a regular basis. Farmers' training is organized to educate them about new, affordable and sustainable pathways of agriculture and aquaculture, which leads to self-reliance and economic upliftment of farmers. 10 past alumni of Agricultural Engineering have cleared OPSC examination.

The Centurion University creates awareness, shapes and sensitizes the young minds for a responsible behavior, inclusiveness and innovation. Thus, students undertake various social responsibility activities. The students conducted several awareness campaigns in the form of street plays, flash mobs, marches and displays on various social issues. Community visits to Childrens homes, Old age homes, Blind schools, Shelters for the mentally ill, etc are regularly organised such that students learn respect and empathy. Further, the University organised four mega blood donation drives, where 630 donors voluntarily donated blood. Other significant days observed are the World Radiology Day, World Fisheries day, Engineers' Day, GIS Day, Vigilance Awareness Week, Forensic Science Day, National Sports Day, Teachers' Day, National Unity Day and International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction among many others.

This 12th convocation celebrates the graduation of total 2714 students including 37 PhD awards, 731 post graduates, 1409 under graduates and 537 Diploma. 48 students are recipients of merit certificates and 18 of Gold medals (1 of who is from ITI). This year, one new medal has been instituted, a commemorative gold medal in the name of Mr. Peter Renwick for the overall best graduate in Management. The Pro-Vost research awards for students will also be awarded today.

The University celebrates the achievements of students, where students get every opportunity to showcase live projects on cutting edge technologies like AR/VR, IoT, Multispectral/ Hyperspectral imaging, VLSI, Renewable energy, EV, and BIM technology. The University hosted an AICTE sponsored Hackathon of 25 teams from various institutions.

The university is very conscious about educating women to address gender equality, fulfil the national agenda of “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” and to cultivate the future generation through educated women for sustainable future. This is illustrated by the total female students graduating as a percentage of total students, which is approximately 29%, however 93% of the female students have passed as a percentage of total female students, whereas it is 82% in the case of male students. Of the total gold medallists, 63% are women. Women, at 51%, have fared better as toppers in various disciplines. We continue to provide scholarships to female students pursuing programs where they are under-represented. Overall, our efforts are being rewarded and hopefully we shall be able to ensure equality in near future.

The placements are the most awaited results by the students and the university. This year, a total of 190 companies offered 2007 jobs to our students. Of this, 1334 were unique placement offers. It is with great joy and pride that I would like to inform the audience that 10 past students of Agriculture Engineering have qualified the Odisha Public Service Commission examination, 98 students have been further selected for higher studies to other agricultural universities (ICARJRF).

As you embark on your journey beyond the university, remember that you are the torchbearers of the values and principles instilled by your family and our institution. You are fortunate to have received a quality education enriched with practical experience and advanced technologies, equipping you for meaningful work that fosters

economic growth and sustainability for your families. However, let us not forget the countless children who remain deprived of education and opportunities.

I urge each of you to extend your skills and support to the underprivileged and disadvantaged, especially women and children, wherever life takes you. Uphold the proud tradition of Centurion University by reaching out to those in need. In doing so, you will not only find fulfillment in your own life but also bring honor to your families.

At the same time, strive to challenge the status quo and aim for excellence in everything you do. Through even the smallest efforts, you can contribute to building a sustainable future. Remember, every single drop adds to the ocean of change. Together, let us create a society that thrives on inclusion, equity, and sustainability.

With this I add an endnote, as we navigate this rapidly evolving world filled with challenges, Centurion University remains steadfast in its commitment to turning adversities into opportunities. By fostering fresh ideas, innovative perspectives, and a deep sense of social responsibility, we aim to contribute meaningfully to a sustainable future.

Congratulations and best wishes to the graduates and thank you all for your support.

Dr. Supriya Pattanayak

Vice Chancellor

Dr. Supriya Pattanayak

Vice Chancellor, Centurion University. Ph.D in Social Sciences, RMIT University, VIC, Australia, MPhil Psychiatric Social Work, National Institute of Mental Health and NeuroSciences, Bangalore, India, MA Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India, BA, Mysore University, Mysore, India.

Dr. Pattanayak comes with over 25 years of experience both in the development sector and academia like Department for International Development (DFID) India; Deakin University, VIC, Australia, Policy and Strategic Planning Unit, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha; Center for Youth and Social Development, Odisha; RMIT University, Australia; MahilaSamakhya, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India; Voluntary Health Association (Delhi); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, New Delhi and Institute of Applied Language Sciences, Mysore.

