



**High Commission of the Republic of The Gambia
New Delhi, India**

HCG/ND/029/(PART VII – 239)

28th July 2022

**To the kind attention of H.E. Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha
Government of India**

Dear Excellency,

I had the privilege to visit Centurion University school of Agriculture situated in Paralakhemundi in Odisha from the 14th - 16th June 2022 and was highly impressed by the model of higher education being utilised by the university to enhance skill development and vocational training. The approach to education through hands-on learning is both exciting and results oriented.

My visit followed a formal invitation by Centurion University, but I also had the opportunity to inspect the Food Testing Laboratory as recommended by the MEA and found the product to be satisfactory. The Government of the Gambia is in dire need of a Food Testing Laboratory and has approached the Indian Government for assistance in this regard.

I had the opportunity to be taken on a conducted tour of the campus and witnessed the technology put in place in the different laboratories to facilitate research and development. I have noticed that students are taught not only to graduate with qualifications but also inculcated with entrepreneurial skills to be self-employed. The decision to choose a rural setting to establish an agricultural university is a positive departure from what holds in many countries where such institutions are found in the metropolises.

I am indeed grateful to The Vice Chancellor Prof. Supriya Pattananyak and her team for the great hospitality accorded to us. The visit has been a good experience and gave us the opportunity to see young people apply both conventional and modern methods of learning in agriculture to enhance crop yield and quality.

At the Campus at Bhubaneswar I had a fruitful discussion with the students and faculty. I was impressed with the School of Paramedics and allied health services and found the students very passionate and committed to their training.

At the School of Maritime Studies I was fortunate to interact with a few African students, and they expressed their satisfaction with the course structures and learning environment. The classroom structures and auditorium depicts an institution that operates with the highest level

of standard. I had the opportunity to experience a life simulation of vessels at sea, and it was quite exciting. I am grateful to the faculty for the time accorded to us.

I am grateful to discussions held with the President and Founder of Centurion University of Technology and Management in Bhubaneswar, Professor Mukti Kanta Mishra at his office. Our discussions over a cup of coffee revealed that he is the catalyst in the growth and success of Centurion University. His approach to education that seeks to bring relevance through the creation of requisite hands-on skills is enviable.

I have told him my willingness to create collaboration between Centurion and universities in the Gambia to transfer this model of education. The Gambia High Commission will explore all areas of collaboration in faculty training and student exchange programs as well as curriculum development.

I finally want to thank the entire management of Centurion University for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us. My visit coincided with the commencement of the monsoon season and it was an opportunity to see the beauty of rural India with its marvellous historical buildings.

I look forward to have a formal Memorandum of Understanding between Centurion University and the Gambia High Commission India on possible areas of partnership so that this successful model of education can be replicated in The Gambia



H.E. Mr. Mustapha Jawara
High Commissioner of the Republic
of The Gambia in India

