



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

CENTURION UNIVERSITY

4th
Convocation
2016

Report of the
Vice Chancellor

26 November 2016

CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT
PARALAKHEMUNDI, ODISHA.

(Estd. Vide Odisha Act 4 of 2010 & u/s 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956)



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His Excellency, **Dr. S. C. Jamir**, the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and the Visitor of Centurion University of Technology and Management;

Chief Guest of the Convocation, **Mr. Anthony Bohm**, Founding Partner, Pangaea Impact Investments, Australia

Guests of Honor– **Mr. Ram Sarvepalli**, Advisory Leader, Ernst & Young (India),

and **Prof. Ragnhild Lund**, Professor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway,

Distinguished Members of the Governing Board,

President, Vice President, Deputy Vice Chancellor,

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 warmly welcome you all to the 4th Convocation of the Centurion University of Technology and Management.

It is my pleasure to present before you and this distinguished audience batches of students who have successfully completed their course work in different academic domains. On this auspicious occasion, let me take the liberty of sharing with you our approach to education and some of the important activities that we undertook during the last year.

Centurion Approach to Education and Training

From the inception, Centurion University's DNA has been “Shaping lives and empowering communities”. The university has focused on hands on, experience based and practice oriented learning of ideas that make a difference through appropriate and relevant innovation and action research. While promoting Nano, Mini and Micro Enterprises, the University works towards experiences that are quantifiable, sustainable, scalable and replicable.

Centurion University is in the path of redefining the learning platform towards employment and entrepreneurship oriented education through:

- Skill integrated domain linked teaching and learning,
- Industry and community partnerships at different stages of teaching-learning value chain,
- Creating and Co-Creating enterprises, and
- Eco-system approach (community, enterprise, industry and educational institutes).

The University has four constituent campuses and a number of social entrepreneurial outreaches that along with collaborating institutions and networks form its ecosystem. The campuses are located at Paralakhemundi, Bhubaneswar, Rayagada and Bolangir. The Schools include M. S. Swaminathan School of Agriculture, School of Architecture and Planning, School of Basic Sciences, School of Engineering and Technology, School of Management, School of Media and Communication, School of Vocational Education and Training, Institute of Knowledge Societies, School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, and School of Allied Health Sciences and Paramedics. The last two Schools started this year.

Teaching and Quality Assurance

We have implemented Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) with a vision of enhancing potential for employability, entrepreneurship and higher studies. The CBCS system allows cafeteria and interdisciplinary approach with one-fourth theoretical and three-fourth practical courses and having the option of multiple entry and exit for the students.

For developing industry-ready graduates, the University has initiated domain based teaching in different branches of engineering, with industry partnerships.

The University has in place a Career Pathing of students from the School Drop-out to Higher education with entry and exit option. To ensure lifelong learning and smooth movement between academia and industry, Centurion Vocational Qualification Framework (CVQF) existed since 2010-11 in-line with National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) and National Skill Qualification Framework

(NSQF). Hence, it was very easy for the University to align its engineering curricula as per the UGC policy on CBCS to NSQF through integration of Skill Courses.

The University has an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) for ensuring conformance to the quality requirements and continuous improvements. The IQAC periodically reviews progress through academic audit and reports on the quality assurance undertaken by the Departments. It manages students' feedback for ensuring faculty accountability.

Research and Consulting

The University gives utmost importance to context specific knowledge creation, action research and innovation. Its research activities are primarily undertaken by doctoral students and faculty, often in association with industry partners. Between 2011 and 2016, 110 students in Science and Engineering, and 70 students in Management and Social Science have registered in doctoral program. Out of it, 5 candidates have received their degree and another 10 students have submitted their final dissertation.

In 2015-16, the faculty of the University had 165 publications in national and international journals. During the period, 16 patents were published by the faculty.

The University publishes a half yearly journal, 'Centurion Journal of Multidisciplinary Research', approved by RNI, New Delhi to promote in-house and context specific research.

The University has dedicated centers for context specific applied and action research, besides undertaking training, consulting and teaching activities.

The Centurion University Centre for Renewable Energy and Environment (CUCREE) promotes development, acquisition and transfer of appropriate renewable energy systems, entrepreneurs and enterprises for the local area, including proof-of concept models. It works in partnership with Schneider Electric, Harsha Trust, SELCO, ADEME and IIT Mumbai.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Higher Education, Science and Technology, inaugurated the

“Suryamitra Skill Development Programme” on 28th May 2016. The ongoing program develops a network of quality instructor's, trainers and maintains a database as a portal for matching the demand and supply of skilled work force in the state for exploiting solar energy.

Centurion Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre, a Section 8 Company, popularly known as Urban Micro-Business Centre (UMBC) is actively involved in institutionalizing the social disruptive innovation in Bhubaneswar slums. It has become a center for research and learning activities for students of management and engineering from India and abroad. Students and faculty from Centurion University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT) and University of Queensland, Australia, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA, Tata Institute of Social Science and other institutions have used the center for their learning and research.

The entrepreneurship development programme undertaken by the center has resulted in identifying and training 220 potential entrepreneurs from chronically poor families for undertaking nano businesses. Further, it supported 150 women with zero interest loans through established bank linkages.

One of the Kargil Slum Community Member, Ms. Meenakshi Chand, a representative of the socio-economic transformation process initiated by UMBC, presented her life's journey at a global conference at Deakin University, Australia on 25th October 2016.

UMBC received financial support from Government of India; Government of Odisha; Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Government of Australia, Odisha Milk Marketing Federation (OMFED), Mindtree Foundation, Bosch and Union Bank.

Gram Tarang Employability Training Services Pvt. Ltd. (GTET) a social entrepreneurial initiative of the University is active in skill development and vocational education of youth and physically challenged persons, for employment and self-employment, primarily from disadvantaged areas of East & North East India. It brings in industry partnerships for joint skill programs and placements; undertakes Qualification Pack/ National Occupational Standard (NOS) alignment with Sector Skill Councils (SSCs); and implements programs through mobilization, centre Setup, training, placement and post placement support. It mainly works in

Automotive, Manufacturing, Civil construction, Mining, Electrical & Electronics, Apparel & Textiles, Retail & Hospitality, IT & ITeS industries. In 2015-16, GTET trained 20,189 youth all over the country and cumulatively has trained 100,000 youth with employment track record of 84%.

The Gram Tarang Inclusive Development Services Pvt. Ltd. (GTIDS), a social entrepreneurial initiative of the University is active in Financial Inclusion space, i.e. implementation of Government of India's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). It works in 14 states of India in over 26,000 villages as business correspondent for Technology Service Provider (TSP) GENPACT on behalf of 12 Banks as on September 2016. It has opened more than 14 million no-frills accounts through 7,000 Business Correspondents and 250 staff, and disbursed over 1,000 Crores MNREGS & Social Security Pensions to agri-labourers, aged persons, widows, and physically challenged people. GTIDS has mobilized Fixed Deposits to the tune of Rs 2 billion, savings to the tune of Rs. 7 billion and collected over Rs 2 billion NPAs from beneficiaries on behalf of Nationalized Banks. The organization has disbursed more than Rs 1.1 billion Microfinance loans to over 80,000 beneficiaries under Mudra Scheme and has a mandate to disburse over Rs 3 billion in the financial year 2016-17.

Gram Tarang Foods Pvt. Ltd. (GTF) is a Social Entrepreneurship Outreach Entity of Centurion University dedicated to producing high quality extracts (select oils, oleoresins and total extracts) from raw organic spices, herbs, beans and flowers. GTF supports local value addition, local market creation and market linkage for farmers.

Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS) is another Social Entrepreneurial Outreach of the university dedicated for the promotion of sustainable livelihood security of the underprivileged sections of society in North coastal Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha.

The Center for Assessment and Certification undertakes assessment of skill courses and recognition of prior learning in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and other states. The Centre is recognised by the Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship Development (MOSED), Government of India. It works closely with a number of Sector Skill Councils such as Automotive, Telecom, Tourism & Hospitality, Furniture & Fittings, Electronics, Agriculture, Retailers Association, Plumbing and Health.

Some of the important consulting assignments and projects that the University undertook in 2015 include

- Promoting Organic Agriculture, Processing and Marketing in Tribal Dominated South Odisha and North Andhra Pradesh LWE Districts, sponsored by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Government of India.
- Modified Bio-sand Filter for Iron Rich Water Purification, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- Study to Map Disease and Health Care Service in Tribal Regions of Gajapati and Rayagada Districts of Odisha, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- Study of selected Panchayats of Odisha: Representation of Women and Persistence of Masculine Space, sponsored by Centurion University and University of California, Santa Cruz, USA.
- Design and Implementation Support to Urban Local Bodies of Odisha for Livelihood and Infrastructure Development with E&Y, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha.
- Enabling Regional Seed Security in Partnership with Farmers, sponsored by Centurion University and National Seeds Corporation (NSC), Government of India.
- SC/ST Students in Engineering: An Evaluation of Performance, Aspirations, Access and Adaptation, commissioned by World Bank

Collaboration

Centurion University believes in "Ecological Institutional" approach, i.e. becoming the hub of local economic and cultural development. The University in a short span of five years has achieved national and global recognition as the Skill University.

During the year 2015-16, the University has signed memorandums of understanding with University of California, Santa Cruz, USA; Plymouth University, UK; The Open University, UK; Leonardo De Vinci University, Paris, France; Deakin University, Australia; Box Hill Institute, Australia;

Holmesglen Institute (HI), Australia; NSW Technical and Further Education Commission through its Western Institute, (TAFE Western); Sunraysia Institute of TAFE (Technical and Further Education), Australia; and Wendy Brooks Consulting, Australia.

Within India, Centurion signed agreements with Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Tulzapur; Nettu Technical Training Foundation, Bangalore; CSIR Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar; National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Delhi; Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Ahmedabad.

Some of the key industrial partners include Schneider Electric, Marico Innovation Foundation, British Council, Dassault System, National Entrepreneurship Network, Wadhvani Foundation, Heritage Vision Education Trust, RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd., Medical Synergie Pvt. Ltd., Uniparts India Ltd., iCalibrator, iNurture Education Solution, Edureka, Showhow2, Pegasus, ONergy, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co., Ernst & Young LLP, and Odisha Diesel.

The Alumni Association of the University plays a constructive role in the development of the University through its support in curriculum development, guest lecture and placement support.

Achievements

During 2015-16, the University is privileged to receive recognitions from a number of quarters. It has been Accorded Grade-A by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Ministry of HRD, Government of India. Centurion University secured 81st Rank in Engineering by NIRF (National Institute Ranking Framework -2015). The University has been notified under 35AC of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India (enabling the University to generate grants up to Rs. 26.45 crores for skill development and facilitating the benefactor to avail 100% tax benefit). The University has already received income tax exemption under 80G and 12A and registered under FCRA.

Its social outreach UMBC is enlisted by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India in the CSR HUB. Centurion is the first University and MBC is the first Section 8 Company (only one in Slum Segment) for the recognition. The University is approved as an Institute for Training of Trainers (ITOT) by Director General of Employment and Training (DGET), Ministry of Skill Development, GOI.

Centurion University degree has been granted equivalence in Australia and notified under 'Section A' University. It has been granted programs under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Kaushal Kendra Scheme of the UGC.

The University has been privileged to receive letter of Intent (LOI) and Invitation by Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up a University in the state.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's sub-group of 11 Chief Ministers on skill development hosted by NITI AYOOG prominently described CUTM and its model of integrating skill with higher education, ensuring appropriateness and relevance of education. The University received special mention by World Bank, McKinsey, New York Times & Economist in various reports. The UNESCO has published a case study on Centurion Model.

The University has been co-opted by NSDA, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to develop the structure for NSQF implementation. It has been invited as a member of the core committee for the National Vocational University by Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

The Government of Odisha with approval of the Cabinet recommended to Government of India to accord Skill University Status through its letter dated 5th October 2016. Recognising its competence, the Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Odisha has recommended to the Secretary, Defense, Government of India, for offering Centurion University to Produce Components for Defense Equipment.

The University has been invited by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Punjab to setup campuses in their respective states for Skill Development Programs.

Further, in NITI Aayog's 2016 report of "State Forward - Best Practices From Our States", Centurion University - Gram Tarang is noted as the best practice, the only example from Odisha.

The University got its recognition of implementing skill integrated higher education during the visit by the delegation of 20 Members of Parliament (MP) headed by the Hon'ble Minister (2nd visit) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy on 28th January 2016.

The Urban Micro Business Centre (UMBC), in partnership with Government of India and Government of Odisha, Centurion University's innovative entrepreneurship development initiative for slum dwellers, earned the recognition of being "one of the top 5 innovative initiatives in the country" in 2015 for replication in different states from NSDA, MOSDE, Government of India.

British Council showcased Gram Tarang/ Centurion University as a unique Social Enterprise in a Global Context across four continents involving 250 Higher Education Institutes in 2016.

The university won National Innovation Challenge from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MOSDE) for Organic Agriculture Project in 2015.

Centurion University has established a state-of-the-art Allied Health Sciences and Paramedics Learning Laboratory. The laboratory is equipped to offer short, medium and long term programs in Clinical Medical Research, General and Emergency Trauma Care, Optometry and Vision Science, Radiology and Imaging Technology.

An Advanced Testing and Calibration Laboratory has been set up in the Bhubaneswar Campus on 21st April 2016. It houses many instruments like XRF Spectrometer, Roughness checker, Profile Projector, Universal Testing Machine (UTM), etc.

International Conference on Signal Processing, Communication, Power and Embedded System (SCOPE) – 2016, was held from 3rd to 5th of October 2016 at the University's Paralakhemundi Campus with technical support from IEEE Bhubaneswar Sub-Section.

Gram Tarang's Multi Skill Development Centre (MSDC) was inaugurated in Ludhiana on 13th November 2016.

Faculty

The key resource of the University is its faculty and they drive to achieve its goals through activities of different Schools, Centers and Social outreach entities. The University has 124 faculty in Paralakhemundi Campus, 141 in Bhubaneswar campus, 20 in Rayagada campus and 54 in Bolangir campus as on October 2016. Faculty development programs are organized, with both internal and external resource persons, on a regular basis to strengthen their knowledge and skill and making teaching and

learning process more effective. Faculty members attend conferences and outside programs to enhance their competence. During the year, 48 faculty left the University and 42 faculty joined. With the superannuation of Prof. D. Nageswar Rao, Vice Chancellor of the University on 31st July 2016, Prof. Haribandhu Panda was appointed as the Vice Chancellor on 1st August 2016. I take this opportunity to thank Prof. Rao for his contribution as Founding Vice Chancellor in bringing the University to the present level of attainment.

Enabling environment

We ensure that our students get not only high quality education but also get exposed to an ethical environment. Their regular class-room learning is supplemented by experiential learning. The University has an ERP system, which support faculty and students to interact through e-learning systems.

Since most of our students come from an eco-system that is characterized by limited world view, communication skill and motivation level, the University has integrated life skill development with the regular curriculum. Participation in culture, sports and socially responsible activities are mandatory for students and performance is indicated in the Grade sheet.

The University is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty and staff can work together in an environment free of violence, harassment, exploitation and intimidation. This includes all forms of gender related violence, sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. Any form of ragging, gender discrimination and violence is monitored through departmental and University level committees.

The outcome of the combined and relentless effort of faculty and students resulted in 382 offers from 99 companies in 2015-16. 74% of eligible engineering and 79% of eligible management students were placed successfully.

Centurion University is unique to have the School of Vocational Education and Training in the statute. In 2015-16, the University could generate placements for about 15,000 trainees under vocational programme, with 84% placement of eligible trainees. University has established Model Career Counseling Center Sanctioned by the

Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T), Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) in 2015 at its Bhubaneswar and Paralakhemundi Campuses.

The University facilitates study loan from financial institutions and arranges scholarship from both internal and external sources, for needy students.

We are grateful to the Government of India, Government of Australia, other national governments, international and national organisations; Government of Odisha, other state governments and their agencies; international, national and state level companies, academic and research institutions; civil society organisations and well-wishers for their support and trust in our mission, values and strategy.

To the Graduating Students

On behalf of the University and on my own behalf, I heartily congratulate all the students graduating today. Please remember that the society will be watching you for your integrity and commitment to professionalism. Nurture a spirit of inquiry, never underestimate human potential and don't accept something as inevitable. Remember what French Philosopher Tocqueville said, "Inevitable becomes intolerable the moment it is thought that it is not inevitable".

You have successfully cleared many examinations, but success is never final and failure is never fatal. As you travel the rough and exciting terrain ahead, faith and self-confidence coupled with humility, perseverance and hard work will see you through the challenges. You have gone through a rigorous system and you are second to none. Let me conclude with Swami Vivekananda's famous missive, "awake, arise and stop not till the goal is reached". In your success, we see our success. On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I wish you all the best.

Thank you.

Prof. Haribandhu Panda
Vice Chancellor

Prof. Haribandhu Panda, Ph.D

Prof. Haribandhu Panda, Vice Chancellor, Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Odisha, has more than 30 years of national and international experience in academics and industry.

Prior to Joining CUTM, Prof. Panda worked as Director, HDF School of Management, Professor and Member of Board of Governors, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand; Technology Management Specialist at the South East Asia Technology Co., Ltd. (SEATEC), Bangkok; Assistant Chief Design Engineer at the National Thermal Power Corporation, Ltd. (NTPC), Delhi; and Senior Research Associate at the Energy Technology Division of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok.

He is actively associated with a number of Civil Society Organisations in Odisha and outside. His education includes Ph.D. in Management of Technology and M. Eng. in Energy Technology from the AIT; MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), University of Delhi; and B. Eng. (Mechanical) from the NIT, Rourkela. He teaching, research and consulting interests, and publications are in the areas of Strategic Management, Management of Technology, Energy Management and Institution Design and Development.