

# CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### **Central University of Odisha Celebrates Vasant Panchami with Saraswati Puja, Kanya Puja, and Vriksha Ropana**

On the auspicious occasion of *Vasant Panchami*, the Central University of Odisha reverberated with prayers and festivities as it celebrated Saraswati Puja, Kanya Puja, and Vriksha Ropana on February 14, 2024 in its campus at Sunabeda. The Department of Sanskrit and Department of Hindi orchestrated the Saraswati Puja with great fervor in the Academic Block – III.

Led by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, alongside esteemed members including Prof. N. C. Panda, Registrar and Finance Officer (I/c.); Consultant-Academic & Administration, Prof. V. C. Jha, Dean of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, Prof. S. K. Palita, and In charge Director of Rajbhasha Cell Prof. Hemraj Meena, faculty, staff, and students came together to offer their prayers to Vidyadatri Maa Saraswati.

In the subsequent segment of the event, the *Kanya Pujana* and *Vriksha Ropana* ceremonies unfolded in the seminar Hall of Academic Block – III and near Girls' hostel respectively. Prof. N. C. Panda, along with Prof. V. C. Jha, Prof. Hemraj Meena, and other professors and teachers, paid homage to *Siddhidatri*, the 9th avatar of Goddess Durga. The Kanya Pujana ritual saw the worship of seven young girls under the age of nine, accompanied by *Hawan* and chanting of *Shlokas*.

The Vriksha Ropana ceremony commenced near the Girls' Hostel, with the planting of a Peepal tree symbolizing the University's commitment to global reforestation efforts. By fostering initiatives like tree plantation, the University aims to instill a sense of environmental responsibility among its students, fostering a greener planet for future generations.

The event, meticulously coordinated by Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Convener of the Cultural Committee, witnessed an overwhelming participation of faculty, staff, and students, reflecting their deep-rooted enthusiasm.

Earlier in the day, the Department of Mathematics organized a tree plantation program in memory of the late student Sandhyarani Das. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi planted a tree in front of the Academic Block in honor of late Sandhyarani Das, symbolizing the University's enduring commitment to commemorate her legacy.

In a solemn ceremony echoing unity and reverence, the University Community, under the leadership of Prof. Tripathi, paid the highest tribute in homage to the martyrs of Pulwama. The event, held within the university premises, served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers in defense of the nation.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer