

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Prof. N.C. Panda Assumes Charge as Acting Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Odisha

Renowned Sanskrit scholar and academician of international repute, Prof. Narasingha Charan Panda, has taken over the responsibilities as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha (CUO), by virtue of the communication of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India on 30.04.2025 followed by an official order issued by the University Registrar on 01 May 2025.

Prof. Panda, currently the senior-most professor and Dean of all Schools at CUO, will serve in this capacity until a new Vice-Chancellor assumes office or until further order(s), whichever is earlier. His appointment follows the resignation of Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, who stepped down from the post on 30.04.2025. His resignation has been accepted by the Hon'ble President of India. Prof. Tripathi had joined CUO on 26 September 2022.

Upon assuming office, Prof. Panda addressed the university community, stating, "This is a challenging time for the university, and only through collective effort we can move forward." He called for wholehearted support from all teaching, non-teaching staff, students and stakeholders.

Prof. Panda joined CUO as a Professor in the Department of Sanskrit on 23 January 2023. In the CUO he served as Vice-Chancellor I/c., Dean of all Schools, Registrar I/c., Finance Officer I/c. and Director IQAC. Prior to this, he was associated with the Department of Sanskrit & Indological Studies at Panjab University, (Chandigarh) Hoshiarpur, Punjab. His academic journey spans over three decades and includes prestigious international tenures, such as serving as the ICCR Chair Visiting Professor of Sanskrit at Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand and at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius.

He has also worked as a Research Officer at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Varanasi, and edited several scholarly volumes, including *Kalatattvakosa*. An accomplished author and editor, Prof. Panda has published 28 books, 145 Research Papers and edited reputed journals like *Vishveshvaranand*, *Indological Journals* (UGC-CARE listed), and *Thai Prajna*, an international journal of Indology and Culture published by Silpakorn University, Bangkok.

His work has been widely published in esteemed journals both in India and abroad. He serves on the editorial and advisory boards of several academic bodies worldwide. His academic contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the Sanskrita Mahamahopadhyaya Award (2024) and the Bagdevi Samman (2025).

Prof. Panda's appointment is seen as a continuation of CUO's academic mission under experienced and visionary leadership.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer