

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASE, DATE:03.07.2025

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to Visit Central University of Odisha on July 5

The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, is set to host a momentous event on Saturday, 05 July 2025, with the visit of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. During the visit, Shri Pradhan will lay the foundation stone for a major infrastructure development project and inaugurate several newly constructed facilities including the Academic Building, Health Centre, Vice-Chancellor's residence, Officers' Quarters, and Staff Quarters.

Marking a significant milestone in the academic collaboration landscape of Odisha, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will also be signed among six prominent centrally funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the state—Central University of Odisha, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIM Sambalpur, NIT Rourkela, IISER Berhampur, and National Sanskrit University, Puri. This initiative is aligned with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aiming to foster multidisciplinary education, research collaboration, and inclusive development across the region.

The MoU outlines objectives such as:

- Promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and learning.
- Facilitating resource sharing, credit transfer, faculty and student exchange, and joint initiatives.
- Empowering tribal and local communities through innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.
- Enhancing digital education, entrepreneurship, and Indian knowledge systems.
- Building institutional capacities and raising the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER).

A host of dignitaries from both the central and state governments are expected to attend the programme, including:

- Shri Nityananda Gond, Cabinet Minister (SSEPD, ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, School & Mass Education, Odisha)
- Shri Gokulananda Mallik, Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Fisheries & Animal Resources Dev., MSME, Odisha
- Shri Suryabanshi Suraj, Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Odia Language, Higher Education, Sports, Odisha
- Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Hon'ble MP, Koraput
- Shri Balabhadra Majhi, Hon'ble MP, Nawarangpur
- Hon'ble MLAs from across undivided Koraput District, including Shri Rama Chandra Kadam, Shri Raghuram Machha, Shri Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Shri Pabitra Sounta, Shri Rupu Bhatra, Shri Gouri Shankar Majhi, Shri Manohar Randhari, Shri Narasing Bhatra, Shri Narasinga Madkami, Shri Kadraka

Appalaswamy, Shri Satyajeet Gomango, Shri Nilamadhab Hikaka, and Shri Mangu Khilla

- Sh. Vineet Joshi, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Chairman, UGC
- Sh. S.K. Barnwal, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoE, Govt. of India

This visit is expected to significantly boost the visibility and academic engagement of the Central University of Odisha and further strengthen the educational ecosystem of the region.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer