

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT
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CUO Celebrates 17th Foundation Day

Live in harmony with nature and work towards a sustainable future: Prof. Basant Kumar Panda

The Central University of Odisha (CUO) celebrated its 17th Foundation Day on 29 August 2025 at its campus, Sunabeda. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor I/c of the university, Prof. Narasingha Charan Panda inaugurated the event by unfurling the University flag with the presence of the dignitaries Prof. Basant Kumar Panda, Retd. Professor and former Director, Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia, Govt. of India and Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur; faculty, staff and students of the University.

The Foundation Day meeting was held in the campus chaired by the Vice Chancellor I/c Prof. N.C. Panda, Chief Guest Prof. Basant Kumar Panda, Guest of Honour Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, the Executive Director of NALCO Shri Niranjan Samal and Registrar I/c of the University Dr. Rakesh Kumar Lenka on the dais.

Prof. Panda, VC I/c of the University congratulated the varsity community and said that during the previous couple of years the University has marched forward with faculty recruitment and infrastructural development. He focused on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) which enables us to respect our parents, teachers and people around us. He also said that we should keep our mind positive and optimistic so that our university would grow in a positive direction. With the huge funding by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, the University will grow with the addition of developmental structures including international guest house, auditorium, hostel building, academic blocks, hospital and market complex. The shape of the University will be changed within a few years, he hoped.

Delivering the Foundation Lecture, Prof. Basant Kumar Panda said that we should look ahead with renewed determination for the growth of the University. The natural beauty of Koraput inspires us to live in harmony with nature. The teachers and students should work for a sustainable future, which is the key to success. The implementation of NEP-2020 promises a future ready University, he said. We should dedicate ourselves to making the University not just a centre of academic excellence, but also a symbol of harmony between human and nature, tradition and modernity and collective welfare, he said. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Chakrawal encouraged faculty members to focus on teaching students beyond the syllabus. He also lauded the good work carried out in the University. He cited the example of his own University and its transformation. Shri Samal congratulated the University community and assured all types of help to be provided by NALCO for the development of the University community. Dr. Lenka delivered the welcome address, and the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. Bharat Kumar Panda.

On this occasion; *CUO at a Glance*, *CUO Newsletter*, *University Magazine 'Deomali'*, *Amrit Vidya*, and *Buddhist Stupa In India and Southeast Asia* written by Prof. N. C. Panda, and several books such as *Gomutra: The Liquid Gold* by the Dept. of Dairy Science, *Agricultural Resources in Koraput* by Dept. of Agriculture, *Sabari magazine* by Dept. of Odia language and Literature, *Bharat Ki Sanskritik Virasat: Divya Kumbh-Bhavya Kumb* by Dept. of Hindi were released by the dignitaries.

The Programme was anchored by Dr. Alok Baral with the overall coordination of Prof. Rathikant Kumbhar and Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Pradhan. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were eminent Bhoodan activist Shri Krushna Singh, General Manager of Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Col. Manmohan Goyal, CRPF Commandant Shri Anil Kumar, director of COATS Prof. P.C. Mohapatra, Prof. Jagabandhu Samal, Principal of DAV Govt. College, Koraput Dr. Dipak Kumar Patnaik, Principal, Semiliguda College Dr. Jhansi Singh, Principal Sunabeda Women's College Dr. Usharani Dash, faculty members, staff, students and research scholars of the University. During the evening a cultural program was organized.

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