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## Prof. Sabita Acharya, New VC of Utkal University



Governor and Chancellor of Universities, Odisha Prof. Ganeshi Lal appointed Prof. Sabita Acharya as Vice Chancellor of Utkal University on 23rd Nov 2020 .

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub Section (1) read with Sub-Section (7) of Section 6 of Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020, Chancellor Prof. Ganeshi Lal appointed Vice Chancellor for a period of four years with effect from the date she assume

office as such or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The Utkal University with its glorious past, with its temple-like atmosphere of learning and with its quintessential academic world of excellence occupies a distinct place in the national higher education scenario.

A lady with an adorable personality, Prof. Sabita Acharya took over as its first woman Vice-Chancellor on November 24, 2020.

Possessed with an enviable record of 33 years of teaching experience along with her distinguished and meritorious contribution in the field of research, Prof. Acharya has carved a niche for herself in the anthropological field both in the national and at the international arena. She was a Post-Doctoral Commonwealth Fellow at the Oxford University in 2002 and thereafter she has never looked back.

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## Utkal University Starts Work On Capacity Development Of Staff, Faculty

Utkal University with the objective to boost and bring about reforms in teaching, learning and governance in the university, has started a drive for capacity development of its teaching and non-teaching staff.

The university, in collabo-

ration with Madhusudan Das Regional Academy of Financial Management(MDRAFM) Bhubaneswar had organised a five-day training programme for the ministerial staff of the university on financial and administrative management.

The training batch was

meant to boost the performance in the administrative and financial functions of various sections in the university.

Moreover, a group of 30 Assistant Professors and Associate Professors were attended a five-day faculty development programme at

NIEPA (National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration), New Delhi.

The teaching staff had undergo advanced training on teaching methodology at the programme, aimed to improve their teaching skills and bring about a positive change in the learning environment of their respective departments.

# Students will be the true ambassadors of Utkal University

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Prof. Sabita Acharya has spent most of her life in teaching, research, and administration in different positions at different times. She has been connected with this university for over four decades. She has held various positions in her service career as Chairman, PG Council, Director, College Development Council, Director, School of Women's Studies, Coordinator of International Office, Head of the Department of Anthropology, and Coordinator of UGC Centre for Advanced Study (CAS).

She had joined Oxford University, the UK as Commonwealth Post- Doctoral Fellow in 2002. Her contributions cover all the areas of teaching, research, guidance, consultation, and scholastic activities. She had over 33 years of teaching and research guidance including academic administration experiences. On academic and research work Prof. Acharya visited to different countries like the UK, China, Germany, Brazil, and Poland. 13 students have been awarded PhD under her guidance. She has completed many Research Projects including the UGC Major Research Project, Government of Odisha funded Projects and international collaborative projects. Besides that, Prof Acharya penned over 60 research articles, edited three books, and written one book.

***What is your feeling as the first women Vice-Chancellor of this age-old university?***

It is an empowering feeling, a very challenging assignment indeed. I have studied here, done my research and spent my entire academic career here. I am acquainted with its ecosystem. I always believe that competency and capability should be the supreme consideration and never the gender. Having said that, I am excited about breaking the glass ceiling.

***What are the most important challenges before you after your new assignment?***

There are multiple challenges which need to be addressed. The most important one is to see that the academic activities are conducted properly during this Covid-19 pandemic situation. More priority has to be given to online teaching-learning method. We need to strengthen the digital infrastructure immediately. This is the need of the hour. We shall go for underground cabling, higher bandwidth for robust internet connectivity and setting up a solar power system for boosting power supply backup. We will emphasise on character building and value creation amongst the students so that they become better citizens. They will be the true ambassadors of this institution. I will focus on completion of the university's physical infrastruc-



tures and their proper maintenance and to make it a Clean, Green and Safe Campus.

***What are the plans on your agenda for quality improvement in the varsity's research and academic programmes?***

In order to transform the Utkal University to a university of excellence, we have to utilise the intellectual resources by attracting the best minds through recruitment of teachers, engagement of eminent visiting professors from within Odisha and from throughout the country.

Best minds shall produce best quality students. Focus will be on judicious execution of NEP-2020 and implementation of its components like Institutional Development Plan towards knowledge economy through knowledge creation and innovation. We shall adopt a more student-centric approach honouring student diversity, flexibility and freedom to choose learning programmes. We shall focus on research and quality education, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. We shall make efforts to create local-global connect in internationalisation of higher education. There is a need for introduction of job-oriented courses like Bio Physics, Bio Chemistry, Cyber Security, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Clinical Psychiatry and several others. We shall collaborate with different academic institutions and organisations for the development of Utkal University.

***How are you going to make the campus free from the vicious circle of antisocial nonstudents?***

I shall take all the necessary steps to make the campus free from the interferences of nonstudents. Students are fundamentally good human beings who are here to study and make their careers. If they are engaged in constructive activities of the university, the chances are less likely of nonstudents influencing them.

***What about the restoration of teaching after eight months of the pandemic?***

The online teaching-learning process is on and will continue until normalcy is restored after the pandemic.



## Prof. Padmalaya Mahapatra Recieved Best Speaker Award in International Conference



Prof. Padmalaya Mahapatra was awarded Best Speaker Award in the 2nd South Asia Conference on Multidisciplinary Research 2019 (SAMR'19) at Colombo Srilanka. It was organized by The International Research & Development Institution, Colombo, Srilanka in collaboration with American University of Nigeria and University of Kelaniya, Colombo on 8-9th, November 2019. Prof. Padmalaya Mahapatra of Utkal University had participated as the Key Note Speaker in the said conference.

She had delivered Key Note Speech on 'Gender and Development: A Study of Maternal and Child Healthcare Policies in Odisha'.

Gender discourse within the field of development has come a long way from building a case of 'inclusive' growth which prevents the marginalization of women to questioning the predominant notions of development itself.

The study has reflected the gap between policy formulation and implementation. Prof. Mahapatra has



A Presentation By

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### GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT - A STUDY OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE POLICIES IN ODISHA

a distinguished academic experience of more than 37 years in both teaching and administrative responsibilities including the present capacity of Professor and Head of the Department of Public Administration, Utkal University, Odisha. She is also a present member of Syndicate, Utkal University and Chief Coordinator of RUSA Centre for Public Policy and Governance of the University.

She has authored three books and possesses 70 national and international publications in different jour-

nals of repute and multiple book chapters in edited volumes. Previously, she was an Associate Professor of Mizoram (Central) University and during that tenure, she has represented the Mizoram State as a Delegate to the Punchhi Commission in 2008 to examine the centre-state relations in India.

Prof. Mahapatra has presented more than forty papers and chaired sessions in different national and international conferences including Bangkok, Colombo and Kuala Lumpur.



## Celebrating the Success of University Faculty and their Families

We are delighted to share the incredible news that Anshuman Kamila, son of Prof. Mitali Chinara, Department of Analytical and Applied Economics, has topped the Indian Economic Service (IES) examination of 2019-20. Anshuman's achievement is a testament to his hard work and dedication, as well as the unwavering support of his family and mentors.

Anshuman's success is particularly noteworthy, as he has emerged as the topper among the

32 candidates who have qualified the IES examination. We congratulate Anshuman and his family on this remarkable accomplishment and wish him all the best as he embarks on this new chapter in his professional journey.

We are proud to have Dr. Mitali Chinara, Anshuman's mother, as a member of our faculty, and we take pride in the achievements of our faculty members and their families. Congratulations again to Anshuman and the Kamila family on this outstanding achievement.



# Nothing Like the Sun: Shakespeare @400

In a historic first for Odisha, the Department of English at Utkal University organized the "Nothing Like the Sun: Shakespeare @400" writing contest on November 4th, 2016, to celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of the legendary playwright William Shakespeare.

The contest was exclusively open to the students of the M.A program (2016),

## Utkal Students visit Shakespeare's birthplace



four of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies - *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and *King Lear*. The test aimed to assess the students' understanding of the Shakespearean universe and their ability to engage in a close reading of the plays. It served as a unique opportunity for the students of the M.A program to showcase their literary skills.

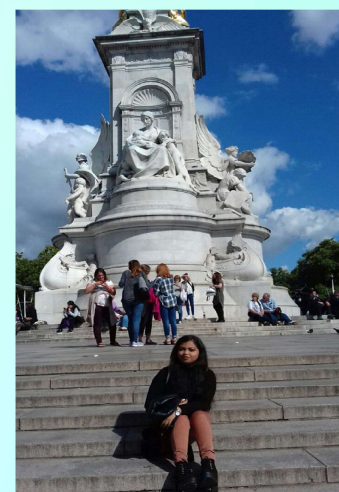
The significance of the contest was underscored by the fact that, for many Indian students of English literature, England and its cultural milieu remain shrouded in mystery due to the geographical and cultural distance. This contest

offered an excellent opportunity for the participants to gain a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's works and connect with the lived experience of his plays.

The winners of the contest, Smita Mohanty (Session 2015-17, Semester III) and Bibhulina Mishra (Session 2016-18, Semester I), were rewarded with a fully sponsored trip to England on September 13th, 2017, to visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, and other important landmarks. This trip was generously sponsored by an anonymous well-wisher of the department who recognized the

importance of nurturing a love for literature and the humanities among students.

For Smita and Bibhulina, the trip proved to be an unforgettable experience that helped them to gain a deeper appreciation for Shakespeare's works and the cultural milieu that inspired them. The trip was an opportunity for them to connect with the history and legacy of one of the greatest playwrights of all time



and to deepen their understanding of the broader cultural context in which his works were produced.



## Nothing Like the Sun: Shakespeare@400

The year 2016 opened with Shakespeare's 400th birthday celebrated across the globe. The year is likely to last all through the year. Shakespeare has not faded behind. Earlier this year the city witnessed a string of literary and cultural events that commemorated the Bard's 400th anniversary. A friend of the department of English with a genuine love of literature and Shakespeare has urged us to take the story forward. So the department together with the reading group ARDS, has decided to celebrate Shakespeare in its own unique way.

Nothing Like the Sun: Shakespeare @ 400 is a special gift from the city's earlier tribute to the Bard.

### What is it?

Nothing Like the Sun: Shakespeare @ 400 is a 2 round writing contest open to the 3rd & 1st semester students of the Department of English, Utkal University. In the preliminary round (which is also the selection round) students would be asked to answer questions based on the four great tragedies of Shakespeare. The exact fee - the maximum number being 10 - who would make it to the final round will submit an essay - word processed (2000 words) Times New Roman, 12 on the topic related to the four great tragedies. The topic will be announced after the declaration of the results of the preliminary round. Essays will be blind reviewed and judged on the basis of originality of thought, engagement with the Shakespearean experience and language, effectiveness of resources, and elegance of style.

### Awards?

None

### So what do the winners get?

For Indian students of English Literature England and its countryside as well as its cityscape remain shrouded in mystery because of geographical and cultural distance. For most of us it remains so throughout our lifetime. Literature is not just imagination but also lived experience. Lived experience is what the winners would walk away with.

Winners of the final round will get the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Shakespeare country, Stratford-upon-Avon, the Bard's birthplace and other landmarks.

But nothing comes out of nothing. Take first then the design and just then the execution, pursue it religiously.

### Important Dates

Preliminary round: 10th Dec 2016

Declaration of the Short List of Essay Writers: 20th Dec 2016

Announcement of the Topic: 24th Dec 2016

Second round: 28th Dec 2016

Announcement of the Names: 11th Nov 2016

The winners head for Shakespeare country in the Spring of 2017

with 3rd and 1st semester students participating in a test consisting of 50 short answer questions based on

## Utkal University observed World Mental Health Day

P.G. Department of Psychology, Utkal University observed World Mental Health Day at the Gandhi Park, on its own campus. Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the programme. Students of Anthropology, Psychology and Zoology presented street play in group related to prevent suicide.

After presenting Street Play by the different group related to suicide, Prof. Patnaik share that only by



happy and relaxation mood, the mental health will be nourished. He hope the programme will certainly nourish the mental health of the stu-

dents. Prof. Bhaswati Patnaik, HoD, Department of Psychology thanks to the students of the department who organize the programme in a wonder

way in a short interval. Observation of the day aims to raise awareness regarding mental health issues and mobilize efforts to support mental health among the students. World mental health day theme for 2019 is suicide prevention She shared that due to vacation, the day was not observed on 10th October. Art and quiz competition was also conducted on the topic and prize distributed at the end by Vice-Chancellor. Culture programme also conducted during the programme.



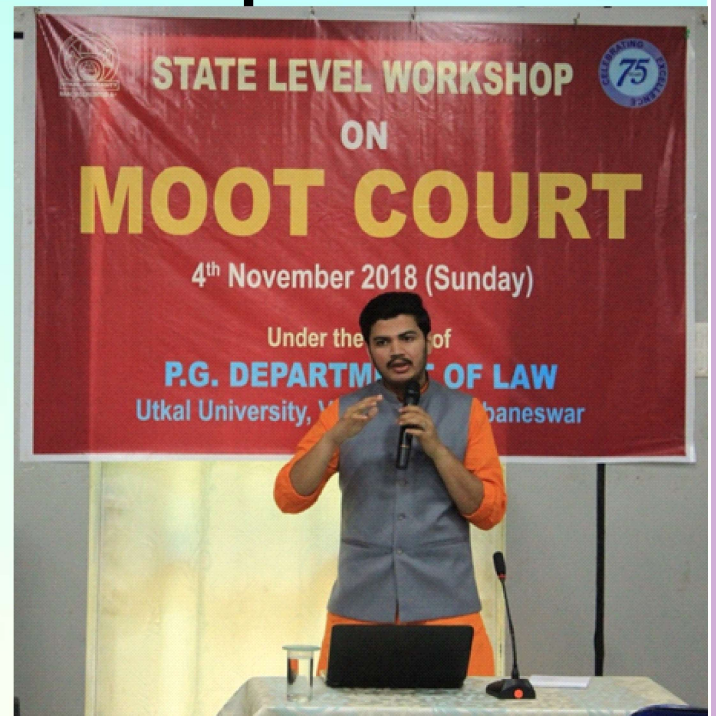
The workshop on Moot Court was organised by the P G Department of Law on 4th November 2018. Mr. Saunak Rajguru, Advocate, Joyti Sagar Associates, New Delhi who is considered as expert in training students for moot court competition was invited to interact with students of UG and PG students.

Moot court is an important part of the course curriculum for both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) law students, as it offers practical skills development, exposure to real-world legal scenarios, networking opportunities, confidence building, and teamwork and collaboration skills development. Moot court plays a fundamental role in the education of both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) law students, and its importance cannot be overstated. It provides students with practical skills development in essential areas, such as legal research, legal writing, oral advocacy, and critical think-

# State Level Workshop on Moot Court

ing. These skills are integral to success in legal practice and cannot be acquired solely through theoretical education. Additionally, moot court competitions simulate real-world legal scenarios, allowing students to gain a deep understanding of legal concepts and principles in practical contexts.

Networking and career opportunities are also a significant benefit of moot court. Students are provided with opportunities to meet and connect with legal practitioners, judges, and other professionals in the legal field, leading to potential internships, job opportunities, and valuable mentorship. Moot court also serves as a platform for students to practice and improve their advocacy skills, building their confidence for success in legal practice. Moreover, moot court competitions often require students to work collaboratively in teams, developing critical teamwork



and collaboration skills, which are essential not only in legal practice but also in other professional contexts.

Moot court is an indispensable component of legal education for UG and PG law students, as it offers practical skills development, exposure to real-world legal scenarios, networking opportuni-

ties, confidence building, and teamwork and collaboration skills development. By providing students with a practical understanding of legal concepts and principles, moot court equips them with the necessary tools for success in legal practice and other professional environments.

## Utkal University Hosts Webinar On Entrepreneurship

Utkal Entrepreneurship and Career Hub (UECH) of Utkal University organized a webinar on decoding the world of start-ups and entrepreneurship. The webinar is a first in a series of webinars that has been planned.

Mr. Ayaskanta Mohanty, Managing Director of the State's leading IT Startup, Tatwa Technologies was the chief speaker of the webinar where he shared his insights explaining various

aspects of entrepreneurship and start-ups. This is a first of a kind webinar that the varsity has initiated.

The world is facing the biggest calamity of this century and it has created a road that's not easy for entrepreneurs to travel.

It is a crucial time for aspiring entrepreneurs to learn how to brace themselves and make the most from learnings of entrepreneur who have seen it all. With this aim the newly set up non-profit voluntary or-

ganization UECH in collaboration with RUSA 2.0 cell organized this webinar.

More than 70 participants attended the 90 minute webinar. Almost 30 participants were budding entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs while the rest of the participants were students of the varsity.

"We need to become job givers and go beyond job seekers," said Mr. Ayaskanta Mohanty commenting on the current employment scenario of

the country. Mr. Mohanty covered various aspects of entrepreneurship. He acknowledged that the start-up eco system in Odisha needs to improve and more supportive.

He also answered many questions posed by the participants.

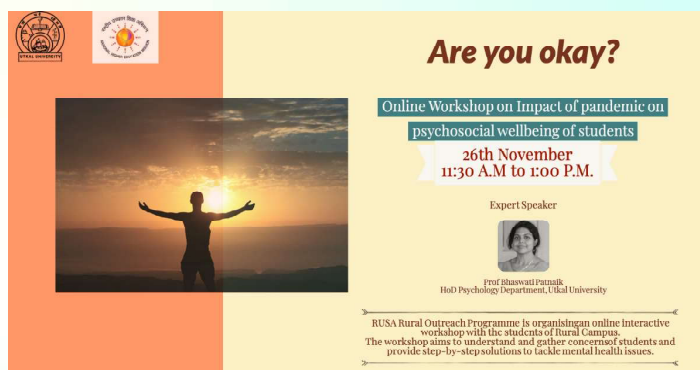
Prof A. Khan, Director, UECH gave the inaugural address and Mr. Manoj Tripathy, Training & Development expert, PMSU, Utkal University moderated the sessions. Prof A. Khan, Director, UECH also extended the vote of thanks.



## Utkal University Kick Starts Series Of Workshops Focusing Mental Health

The Rural Outreach Programme in association with Utkal Entrepreneurship and Career Hub (UECH) of Utkal University organized an online workshop on Impact of the pandemic on psycho-social well-being of students. This workshop is a first in a series of workshops on Mental Health that has been planned.

Dr. Bhaswati Patnaik, HoD, Department was the expert resource person of the webinar where she shared her insights explaining various aspects of mental health issues that have arisen as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. This is a first of a kind workshop



**Are you okay?**

Online Workshop on Impact of pandemic on psychosocial wellbeing of students

26th November  
11:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M.

Expert Speaker  
Prof. Bhaswati Patnaik  
HoD Psychology Department, Utkal University

RUSA Rural Outreach Programme is organising online interactive workshop with the students of Rural Campus. The workshop aims to understand and gather concerns of students and provide step-by-step solutions to tackle mental health issues.

that the varsity has initiated focusing on the students of its rural campus.

The world is facing the biggest calamity of this century and it has created a road that's not easy for anyone to travel. It is a trying time especially for students with educational institutions remaining shut for more than eight

months and with no clarity on the reopening.

They also had to suddenly cope up with the new form of online classes. With an aim to help students combat issues related to mental health, the Rural Outreach programme, set up under RUSA 2.0 who is actively working in the Chandikhol

campus, organised this workshop.

Dr. Bhaswati Patnaik covered various aspects of mental health in the workshop. She also talked about "Right to Life with dignity" and it is a very important part of mental health as today marks the 71st Constitution Day of India. Students & Faculties of the rural campus actively participated in this workshop. Dr. J Dandpat, OSD, New Campus delivered opening remarks and Ms. Sonali Mohapatra, Program Manager, Rural Outreach Programme, Utkal University moderated the sessions. Prof A. Khan, Director, UECH extended the formal vote of thanks.

## Brainstorming session held in Utkal University on Youth Day



About 35 percent of the population in India is Youth and are the future of the nation, said Prof Sabita Acharya, Vice Chancellor Utkal University, on the occasion of National Youth Day. As part of the mandate of the Vice Chancellor Utkal University to focus on strengthening research, a brainstorming session was held with its Research Scholars on youth contribution to nation building on the occasion of National Youth

Day. The session was organised with the Post Doctorate Fellows appointed under RUSA to understand how the research outcomes can impact the society in general and Youth in particular. Chairing the session Dr Abhaya Kumar Nayak said "youth is the future of the nation and education is the foundation for nation building and more such brainstorming sessions need to be organised by Utkal University".

Under the Rastriya Uchha

Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) project Utkal University is working with Youth through its Rural Outreach Programme to ensure the University and the community connect. Stressing on its work, Prof P.K.Hota, Coordinator RUSA said the research scholars themselves are youth and their research should impact the community at large.

More than 20 Post Doctorate Fellows are actively engaged in various research projects to which are focus-

ing on improving the lives of the marginalised communities including youth in the Utkal University adopted villages. The Rural Outreach team is working closely with the PDFs on furthering the research outcomes. The brain storming session was organised by the Youth vertical of the Rural Outreach Programme led by Ms Sonali Mohapatra, Director UECH Prof A.A. Khan, Students and Faculties were present on the occasion.



## International Conference on Rural Development In South Asia At Utkal University

The department of Sociology and Global Centre for Rural Studies, on the eve of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, have organized an International Conference on the theme, interrogating the trends of Rural Development and Social Transformation in South Asia from 2nd to 4th October 2019 in collaboration with Indian Sociological Society and Indian Anthropological Society.

The conference had a special inaugural session on Mahatma and his vision on rural development and social transformation. This marked one of the sixth events of the day launched by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University. The distinguished guests and speakers were welcomed and introduced by the Organizing Secretary of the conference, Dr. Rabindra Garada.

Dr. Garada articulated the reason behind the conference and why a South Asian focus provides better insights into the societies of the region. Their shared history, culture, language and linguistic diversity along with the experience of colonialism make them similar in many ways.

Acknowledging the co-existence of similarity and diversity in the region, he highlighted how the countries in the region have struggled to choose from the western and indigenous development models. This experience in social change, economic development, technology adoption and the engagement with the marginalized communities in South Asia pro-



vides a unique kaleidoscope of lived experience that is relevant for sociologists, anthropologists, economists, policy analysts beyond the region as well.

Prof. Triloki Nath Pandey from The University of California delivered the inaugural address, highlighting the Gandhian ethos practiced in personal life.

He highlighted how Gandhi excelled as an ordinary man and how with an emphasis on physical labor and self-reflection in day-to-day life he attained the extraordinary status of being Mahatma. He presented an elaborate narrative on Gandhi's struggle of being a failure as a barrister to being a successful leader with worldly mundane everyday practices.

Prof. S.K. Chaudhury, from Lucknow University, stressed on re-living Gandhi in the present context. He emphasized that Gandhi's India is village India. India's development is not possible unless and until we follow the Gandhian model of development in village life.

Prof. D.R. Sahu, from Lucknow University, and Secretary, Indian Sociological

Society, spoke on the relevance of Gandhi in bringing a just democratic equal society. He presented Gandhi as a blend of 'Culture of Silence' as well 'Culture of Voice'. He argued on the co-presence and co-existence and co-excellence of Rural India, National India, and Global India.

Prof. Annapurna Pandey, an anthropologist from the University of California, talked about re-defining development within the Gandhian paradigm. Here she emphasized the empowerment of rural women through skill India initiative. In her opinion, the skilling of women is a cornerstone for rural development and the core value of the Gandhian model.

Prof. Nelika Mehrotra, Chairperson, The Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), talked about Gandhi's contribution as a political and economic agent. In this context, she focussed on women's movement from the 1970s.

Prof R. Indira, President of Indian Sociological Society (ISA), in her Presidential address, emphasized the needs of longitudinal studies. Micro studies in the local con-

texts, she argued, will help us to understand the nature of social transformation in rural India.

Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University brought western and eastern anthropological and sociological theories to interrogate development and transformation in the Indian context.

Interpreting Gandhi, he stressed that no learning is possible without employing the 3Hs – Head, Heart, and Hand. Reflecting on the increasing disjuncture between technology and human values, he argued that technological progress may mean having proportionally decreased humane touch.

Dr. M.G. Bage, Head, Department of Sociology delivered the vote of thanks, in which he thanked the international and national experts and scholars, the Indian Sociological Society and Indian Anthropological Association for collaboration, the Vice-Chancellor for being the guiding force and the organizers and student volunteers for their dedication and hard work.



## Utkal University Celebrates 78th Foundation Day

# Digitisation will be a Priority in the Coming Days, Pledged Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor

Established in 1943, the oldest university of the state, Utkal University celebrated its 78th foundation day today. The function was held in the newly inaugurated Dharmapada Convocation hall in the campus. Former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour and released a souvenir named "Utkal Abhidi" that captured the achievements of the varsity till now. Recently appointed Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Sabita Acharya in her first official function addressed the staff, students and resolved to take it to new heights of excellence.

"Utkal University is rising. By becoming the first woman Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sabita Acharya broke the glass ceiling," said Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, congratulating the new VC. "Under her leadership Utkal will attain great heights with a great sense of responsibility towards the state," he further added. The former VC also inaugurated a book "Utkal in Media", an anthology of all media publications in the last 3 years on this occasion.

Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor reiterated her resolve to take the University among the top universities of the country and said, "Let's all take a pledge to continue working for the



development of this magnificent institution." She sought everyone's cooperation and said expansion of digital infrastructure, better equipment for teaching & learning and cleanliness in the campus will remain her focal points.

"Today is the day we should introspect about our goals, achievements and shortcomings and take an oath to make ourselves better and better in the coming days," said Prof. Basant Kumar Mallik, Chairman, P.G. Council while delivering welcome address on the occasion.

Dr. Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar presented a report on the University listing all milestones achieved in the last year. He talked about the various MoUs signed with International Universities

through the International office, new courses offered in the Chandikhol campus, short-term online courses started by HRDC and all the infrastructure additions that were made during the last year. 167 students have qualified UGC-NET. "Covid presented a huge challenge before us, but we have tried our best to keep learning and research afloat. We had to rethink our teaching & learning methods due to the pandemic," said Dr. Nayak in his address.

The new Vice-Chancellor felicitated all the superannuated teachers and employees. Dr. Sushanta K Badamali, Director, Student's Welfare extended formal Vote of Thanks. The function was attended by all teaching, non-teaching staff and students of the university.

## Academic Panel Advises Utkal University to Use Social Media For Brand Building

A state government-appointed committee has advised Utkal University to use social media and public relations tools for proper branding of the premier institution.

The Academic Review Committee was formed by the Higher Education Department to assess the performance of Utkal University. The five-member committee is headed by Odisha State Higher Education Council Vice-Chair-

man Asoka Kumar Das, The Times of India reported. The committee has furnished a report that suggested several measures to the university to improve its quality and ranking. "Branding and public relations is considered as a necessary component in every university.

It is also important for national and international rankings, which determine peer perception. However, at present, all that the university has done is to list its future

intentions. In actuality, there has been no perceptible concrete achievement in terms of documentation, website upgradation, presence on social sites or alumni programmes, except for the mega alumni meet during the 75th year celebrations," the report said. Recommending concrete actions, the report emphasised on the importance of the university having its own social media handles. All activities of the university should be highlighted through social media, it added.



# Utkal University Holds Workshop Based On Oxfam Inequality Report 2020

The Global Centre for Rural Studies, Utkal University organised a one day workshop on Inequality and its impact during Covid-19 today in collaboration with Oxfam India. Oxfam India's latest India supplement, "The Inequality Virus" that was released on the opening day of the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogues, was presented in the workshop by Dr. Pravas Ranjan Mishra, Programme Officer, Oxfam India.

The report has found that the wealth of Indian billionaires increased by 35 percent during the lockdown. In fact the increase in wealth of the top 11 billionaires of India during the pandemic could sustain the NREGS scheme for 10 years or the health ministry for 10 years.

Speaking about the lockdown imposed during the Corona virus outbreak, Dr. Pravas Mishra pointed out that India introduced one of the earliest and most stringent lockdowns in the face of the pandemic.

The enforcement of the lockdown brought the economy to a standstill triggering unemployment, hunger, distress migration and untold



hardship in its wake. The rich were able to escape the pandemic's worst impact, and while the white-collar workers isolated themselves and worked from home, a majority of the not so fortunate Indians lost their livelihood.

Mr. Anil Pradhan Convener Odisha RTE Forum spoke on the educational inequalities that have increased due to the pandemic. He said, "inequalities were always there, the pandemic made them worse and more visible." He further added that only 14 percent students in the state has access to internet thereby cutting their access to online education which remains the primary mode of education in the pandemic. The long disruption

of schooling risked doubling the rate of out of school, especially among the poor. Only 4 percent of rural households had a computer and less than 15 percent rural households had an internet connection in the country.

"Social inequality serves as the basic infrastructure of all inequalities. Students need to understand it and put efforts to dismantle this structure," said Prof. Basant Kumar Mallik, Chairman, PG Council, Utkal University in his keynote address. He talked about Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's last speech where he talked about political equality as enshrined in our constitution cannot coexist with widening social and economical inequity.

The speakers spoke

length about inequalities in the field of economic, education, health, gender and also the rise in violence against women during the lockdown. A technical session was held with the students of the university where they discussed about the inequalities manifest in their lives. Students belonging to rural and tribal communities were nominated from all 35 departments who actively participated in the workshop. Dr. Rashmita Sahoo proposed a formal vote of thanks. Dr. Navaneeta Rath, Coordinator, Global Centre for Rural studies was instrumental in organising this workshop. Dr. Rath informed that more such workshops are in the pipeline.



## Artefacts Discovered by the students of Utkal University at Garhabangara village in Puri

Utkal University students have discovered artefacts, which, experts say, belong to the period of Mauryan emperor Ashoka, at Garhabangara village in Puri district.

Ashoka had ruled most of the Indian subcontinent from 268 BC to 232 BC. The excavated site is located 89km from Bhubaneswar and 17km from Konark. Varsity students Ramakant Pradhan, Kailasha Bhoi, Purna Chandra Gohayata and Susanta Kumar Das, under the guidance of assistant professor Anam Behera of the department of ancient Indian history, culture and archaeology of Utkal University, conducted the excavation on August 26.

Findings of the exploration include stopper, terracotta dog handle that belongs to a pottery, red



slip ware, bed ware, stamped pottery, net sinker, Maratona ware of Myanmar, Chinese porcelain and celadon, earthen hopscotch, ill-fired red ware and a fragmented terracotta wheel ring.

'The location of Dhauli and Sisupalgarh on the upper part of the Kushabhadra, Daya and Bhargavi rivers were well connected with Garhabangara village on the Kushabhadra river mouth and Manikapatans in the Chilika,'

said Behera. 'Such proximity to the Daya and Bhargavi river mouth proves maritime importance of these rivers, for which material from Greece and other parts of the world reached to Sisupalgarh.

These activities date back to the Ashokan era. The discovery of a stopper among the excavated materials further confirms the period of the find,' he said. The excavated site is located between the

Haraparvati temple at the village and the right bank of the Kushabhadra. These sites are 5km from the well-known port site Khalkatapatana on the same river bank near the sea coast,' said Behera.

More excavation will be conducted in the sites under guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India shortly. Earlier, the varsity students had found 4,500-year-old artefacts at various locations in Khurda district and a 1,400-year-old Buddha idol.

The students had, in June, discovered rock shelters in the Khandapada forest range in Nayagarh district. 'We have been conducting a number of excavations in various parts of the state. We are in touch with the ASI and the state archaeology to carry forward research and find out the exact date of the findings,' said Behera.

## Geology Museum of Utkal University Renovated

Renovated Geology Museum of Dept of Geology Utkal University was reopened here in the university campus. The museum features a spectacular array of rare minerals including silicate structures, 375 crystal models, 215 types of rock forming and 145 types of industrial minerals, large stock of plutonic, hypabyssal and volcanic igneous rocks, clastic and non-clastic sedimentary rocks and different varieties of metamorphic rocks.

The museum also displays several types of invertebrate, vertebrate and plant fossils of different geological horizons, Survey of India toposheets, relief maps, imageries and many more articles of importance.

The university officials said Tata Steel as part of CSR initiatives helped to renovate the museum.

## Utkal University Gets a Theme Song

At the 47th convocation ceremony of Utkal University on 16th February 2016, Governor and chancellor SC Jamir unveiled the new theme song of the varsity. For the first time in the institutions history a theme song has been formally dedicated for the University. The song titled – 'Tunga Sikhar Chula' has been formally made the theme At the 47th convocation ceremony of Utkal University on Tuesday, Governor and chancellor SC Jamir unveiled the new theme song of the varsity.

For the first time in the institutions history a theme song has been formally dedicated for the University. The song titled – 'Tunga Sikhar Chula' has been formally made the theme song of the University. The song is a poem written by University's founder member Godavarish Mishra. The song which is 2.36 minutes long is sung by noted singer Mitali Chinnara. Notably, the 47th convocation ceremony of the university was celebrated today. Governor SC Jamir and noted nuclear scientist Srikumar Bannerjee graced the occasion as chief guests.



## Odisha's Utkal University filed 1 patent in 5 years, says Comptroller and Auditor General of India

**Of 49 research projects taken up with government grants of Rs 3 crore, only 8 were completed till Jan 2020**

Although counted among the State's top higher education institutions, Utkal University has been found floundering in facilitating academic research, both in terms of quantity and quality.

The report on Outcomes of Higher Education by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) tabled in the Assembly on Thursday has pointed out that from 2014-15 to 2018-19, although funds were allocated to the university to carry out research projects, it failed in doing so.

In these five years, 49 research projects were taken up in Utkal with government grants of Rs 3.09 cr but only eight could be completed till

January 2020. Stating that the percentage of research works of Utkal remained at only 16 pc, the report said that the research and development cells of the university also did not monitor utilisation of funds allocated for the purpose as a result of which, the reason behind delay could not be ascertained in the audit. Worse, only one patent was published in 2017-18 during the five years period but has not been granted yet.

The university today enjoys an A+ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). However, although NAAC gives the maximum points to any university which has at least 20 patents or more for

accreditation, Utkal University failed to score any grade point based on this criterion. The report stated that adequate opportunities were also not provided to faculty members to attend professional development training programs and only five of the 138 faculty members in the period got international fellowships for advanced study.

As far as collaborating with other universities and industries for research and learning is concerned, Utkal signed only eight national and one international MoUs in five years, which is way less than the NAAC benchmark of at least 30 MoUs in the same period. The only silver lining was that the 138 faculty members pub-

lished 1,984 papers in UGC notified journals - an average of 14 papers per teacher - which helped the university score maximum grade points for NAAC accreditation.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education introduced a new parameter 'research' in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) this year.

Although Utkal university was the only State-run varsity to find a spot in the top-100 ranking, it could not score a rank under the research parameter. Only 5 of 138 faculty members got international fellowships for advanced study. Utkal signed only 8 national and 1 international MoUs in five years.

## UC Berkeley to Lend Tech Support to Utkal University

**500 Companies will Help the University Execute the Skill Development Programmes**

Utkal University will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the US-based University of California, Berkeley, for exchange of ideas and technical support. A three-member team of the foreign university is set to visit India on 2019 January 15. Though the place for inking the pact has not been decided yet, Utkal University authorities said it may take place in New Delhi. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, vice-chancellor of Utkal University, said, "The MoU will help us receive technical advice on skill development and

entrepreneurship from UC Berkeley. They will help us develop ideas to conduct joint projects and work on successful models. They have successfully implemented several models in Africa, America and other countries. They have the expertise to create entrepreneurs and skilled manpower."

Patnaik said entrepreneurship development and wage employment would be the twin themes of their training modules. "We will try to create entrepreneurs and skilled manpower here. The focus will be on traditional

skills such as painting, architecture, appliqué work, sculpting and weaving while creating entrepreneurship models. The trainees will be taught to add value to these traditional vocations," he added.

The university will set up a rural technology park on its second campus in Jajpur district as part of its skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives funded by Centre's Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) programme.

"The MoU with the foreign university will help the technology park create successful training modules.

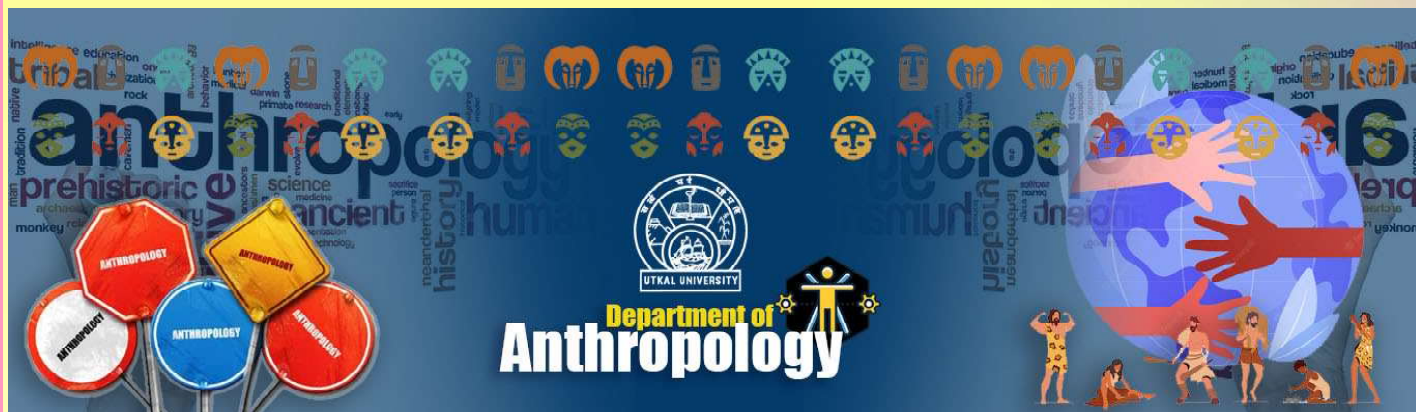
The Centre had recently approved Rs 15 crore under RUSA to carry out skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives of which the technology park is a part. It will help promote and develop indigenous technology.

The park will come up on land measuring 10 acres in the middle of the second campus, spread over 68 acres at Chandikhole. It will be set up soon," said Patnaik.

Fortune 500 companies will help the university execute the skill development programmes, sources said.



# Utkal University's Anthropology Department selected as National Resource Centre



The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has selected the Anthropology Department of Utkal University as National Resource Centre (NRC) in 2018

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has selected the Anthropology Department of Utkal University as National Resource Centre (NRC). It will be tasked to prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new and emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.

The Anthropology Department is one among 75 NRCs selected across the country in the first phase as part of a major and unique initiative of online professional development. As per the programme, about 15 lakh higher education faculties would use the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform Swayam for knowledge update.

Apart from State Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, National Institutes for Technical Teachers

*The Post Graduate Department of Anthropology was established in 1958. It started functioning under the stewardship of Late Professor Dr. Ayinapalli. Aiyappan and witnessed a new phase of its growth with Professor Dr. Lakshman Kumar Mahapatra as its Professor and Head in 1967.*

*In 1978, the Department was selected for Faculty Improvement Programme by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, as one of the three University Departments in the whole country. The Department has the distinction of being the first Anthropology Department in the country to have been awarded the ASHIS grant by the UGC. The Department was accorded Department of Special Assistance status (DSA Programme) by UGC for three successive phases from 1988 to 2007. It has the further distinction of being one of the two Departments in the country to have been accorded the Centre of Advanced Study status by the University Grants Commission. At this moment, the second phase of CAS (UGC-CAS-II) has been accorded to the Department.*

*In 2018 The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) notified Anthropology department as the only centre in Odisha as National Resource Centres (NRC) in Anthropology. The NRCs has prepared 40 online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new and emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.*

Training (NITTTRs), IITs and Open Universities have been notified as NRCs. The resource centres would cover wide range of disciplines including Social Sciences, Humanities, Language Teaching, Commerce, Management, Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Public Policy, Leadership

and Governance, Astronomy and Astrophysics and cutting edge areas of Nano-sciences.

Director of UGC's Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) Prof Jayanta Parida said NRCs would prepare study module for college teachers and help them remain updated about latest developments in their re-

spective fields.

"The technology based online refresher course would provide an enabling opportunity to all in-service teachers, irrespective of their subject and seniority to keep abreast with the latest developments in their respective disciplines," he said.

The NRCs will publish the list of certified faculties by December 31 who will develop the refresher module as per the latest trends by June 15 every year. The training materials will be made available through Swayam to all teachers by October 1 and based on the response, the course can be repeated in the following January.

"A five member experts' committee on each discipline would prepare the module and after thorough review it would be uploaded on the web. The teachers after going through the training materials will appear for a test and a good result would help in their career progression and counted as score of academic performance indicators," Prof Parida added.



## Utkal University student asks a question to P.M. Narendra Modi on promotion of tourism in Odisha

During a video conferencing session, Ankita Kundu, a student of Utkal University, questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how Odisha's tourism could be promoted.

Responding to Kundu's question, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said tourism in Odisha can be promoted through the use of technology. Highlighting the numerous historical places in Odisha, the Prime Minister said During a video conferencing session, Ankita Kundu, a student of Utkal University, questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how Odisha's tourism could be promoted. Responding to Kundu's question, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said tourism in Odisha can be promoted through the use of technology. Highlighting the numerous historical places in



Odisha, the Prime Minister said the question itself points to the fact that how aware the students are about the historical importance of Odisha. "We have been lackadaisical about the growth of tourism in the country. However, technology can help promote the industry to new heights," PM Modi said.

"We all had prepared this question for the Prime Minis-

ter. He really answered it well and understood the importance of tourism and the need to promote the industry in the State," said Ankita Kundu. The Prime Minister laid foundation of a slew of projects worth Rs 3300 crore under the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) through video conferencing during his visit to Srinagar today.

PM Modi laid the founda-

tion of model colleges in various districts of Odisha including Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, Gajapati, Dhenkanal and Kandhamal. The Prime Minister also laid foundation stone for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Hub at Utkal University. As part of the event, PM Modi interacted with students of various educational institutions.

Governor and Chancellor of Universities, Odisha Professor Ganeshi Lal appointed Prof. Kishore Kumar Basa and Prof. Prafulla Kumar Mohanty as Vice-Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University and Khallikote University respectively on 23rd November 2020.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub Section (1) read with Sub-Section (7) of Section 6 of Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020, Chancellor Prof. Lal ap-

### Congratulations... Prof Kishor Kumar Basa Prof Prafulla Kumar Mohanty



pointed Vice Chancellors for a period of four years with effect from the date they assume office as such or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Prof. Kishore Kumar Basa is having 38 years of teaching experience and he was Professor (Retd.) in Anthropology and Tagore National Fellow, University of Culture, Government of India. Prof. Prafulla Kumar Mohanty, former Professor of Zoology, Utkal University is having 35 years teaching experience



# ARIEL: The Varsity Book Club that Encourages Classic Reading

A group of 30 avid readers, comprising research scholars, who mostly did their MA in English, lecturers, students, budding writers etc will meet March 21 at the Utkal University campus to do what they love most to do—read. The third novel of Prof. Dharanidhar Sahu, *The Prince in Disguise* will be read.

Since its inception in 2012, the group has met many times for reading and film viewing. The reading and viewing sessions are followed by animated and intense discussions. Many distinguished writers and critics have also attended these group discussions.

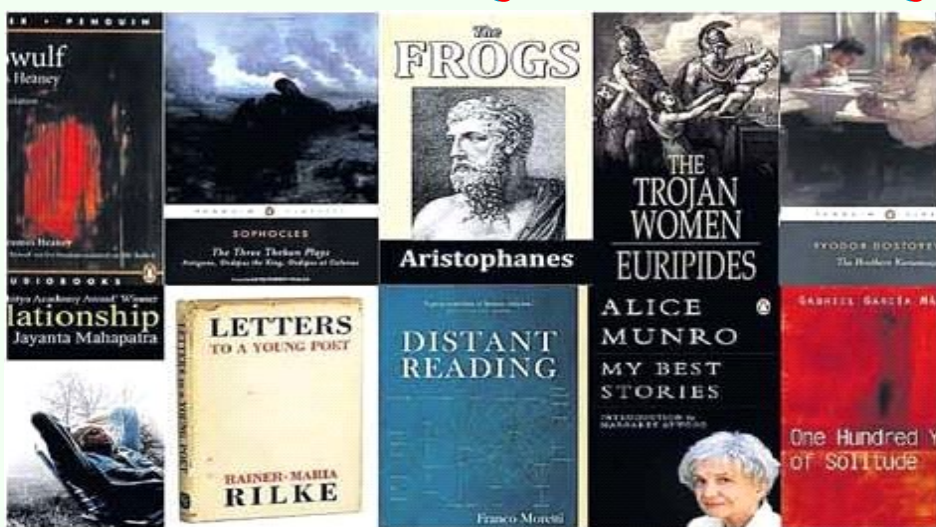
The members of the group said that the main idea behind forming the group was to promote good literature and reading activities among readers.

We select books which are of some topical interest and which are either classics or contemporary classics and should probably be mandatory readings for everybody but are not included in courses of studies. These books have to be part of the reading list of every student; they can't afford to miss these.

The encourage students to take up reading in an intense way we keep on alternating between classics and contemporary books. Occasionally we break the (reading) rhythm to watch a good movie or select the video/audio of an important talk given by a major writer somewhere.

This book club assumes greater significance among readers who love classics because these days most of the young readers confine themselves to reading works of the like Chetan Bhagat or Durjoy Datta.

So far the group has read books like *Beowulf*, *The Three Theban plays*, *The Frogs*, *The Trojan*



*Women*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Letters to a young poet*, *The Bear Came Over the Mountain* among others and has watched films like *The Help*, *The King's Speech*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Vertigo*, *Murder on the Orient Express* among others.

Reading Group—ARIEL (Ardent Readers and Interpreters of English Literature) came into existence when a small group of research scholars, pursuing their MPhil and PhD, came together on 18 November 2012 under the initiative of Prof. Himansu S Mohapatra to form a reading group that would occasionally double up as a film viewing group.

The intention was to read the great books, ancient as well as contemporary, which have shaped mankind but remained out of the curricular space and were paid scant attention to in the all too brief M.A days. Thus began the journey of the Ardent Readers and Interpreters of English Literature, with its acronym ARIEL when the group met for the first time on 12 December 2012 to discuss the Anglo-Saxon epic *Beowulf*, the oldest available long poem in the history of English literature dating back to the 12th century.

The reading group aims to cultivate a love for reading and discussing books outside of the students' syl-

labus. It aims to foster an alternative approach to reading that goes beyond a strictly academic interpretation of literary texts.

The group seeks to promote shared reading experiences and create a comfortable space where students and teachers can engage in personal and informal conversations about books.

Additionally, the group intends to establish a sense of community within the department beyond the students' regular program of study. Lastly, the group will also function as a Film Club and assist the department in organizing lectures by renowned writers and scholars.

Since 2012, ARIEL has been organizing regular book reading sessions at the Department of English. Due to the pandemic, the group has been unable to physically meet at the department but has adapted to the virtual platform and continued its activities. The meetings are recorded with meticulous attention to detail, and the minutes are shared electronically among the group's members.

The primary objective behind this practice is to promote the love for literature through shared reading and ARIEL remains a little beacon of hope in a screen-obsessed world.

## Utkal University celebrates International Women's Day by celebrating women on the campus

Conforming with the current year's theme for International Women's Day campaign – "An equal world is an enabled world", Utkal University celebrated the day with a novel initiative to enable a gender equal campus. The School of Women's Studies organised this year's celebration which was presided by the honourable Vice Chancellor, Soumendra Mohan Pattnaik.

Celebrating women's achievement is a key to uplift them and enable equality in this world. With this goal the University recognised all the women employees starting from Class IV employees to Professors as achievers. All the women staff were felicitated and applauded for their achievements. With this the University has started a mission to make the campus inclusive for women to thrive.

Dr. Navaneeta Rath, Director, Women's Studies gave the welcome address, introduce all the guests and gave a brief report of the activities of the school. Talking about women empowerment, Chief Guest of the occasion Prof Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice-Chancellor, Sambalpur University said, "Vanity should begin from home. Our men should be sensitised first to appreciate women and respect them." Guest of honour, Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director, Public Health, Regional Medi-



cal Research Centre; addressed the present members and said, "We must respect each other's humanity and focus on equity rather than equality. Equity identifies who are at advantage and needs empowerment the most."

Chief Speaker of the ceremony Prof. Nilika Mehrotra, Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University in her address spoke on the importance of technology and the social media space. She said, "Women are pushed to the corner in a very structured manner. Women are trying twice as hard to prove themselves."

Social media can be a democratic space and a space for solidarity." Chief Guest, Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Pro-Vice Chancellor & Chairperson, KIIT in her address touched upon the need to establish a society which will have equal

opportunity. Lastly the honourable Vice-Chancellor, Soumendra Mohan Pattnaik expressed his heartfelt thanks and respect to all the women present and said, "Women's day should be celebrated throughout the year and not just one day."

He spoke passionately on the patriarchal system of our society and said, "The process of exclusion is too deep in our societies and we shouldn't fall in the trap of ghettoisation."

Winners of the University debate competition spoke on women empowerment and were felicitated along with the winners of various competitions organised on the eve of International Women's Day. Ms. Nirlipta Jagadev Mohapatra expressed heartfelt thanks to all the esteemed guests and participants during Vote of Thanks and wrapped the event.

## Utkal University Focuses on Sustainable Technology & Entrepreneurship in Webinar

Utkal Entrepreneurship and Career Hub (UECH) of Utkal University in collaboration with RUSA have started a series of webinars as a part of the University's online teaching initiative starting last week. The second in the series, today's webinar focused on "Sustainable technologies for livelihoods and health". Prof. Saroj Nayak, Dean (Faculty & Planning), IIT Bhubaneswar joined as the chief speaker to enlighten the students on the topic.

Speaking on the current Corona crisis, Prof. Nayak said things are going to be different for a while. Close to 1.1 billion people around the world will lose jobs. 2 billion will see hunger up close if we don't address the crisis right now. But along with challenges crisis also presents opportunities to change our ways.

The way out of this crisis is to have a sustainable, decentralized and scalable approach. Speaking on the topic Prof. Nayak said, "Technology doesn't necessarily have to

go against nature." He cited the International Energy Agency's finding that transforming energy systems will deliver 2.4 percent more GDP growth.

Prof. Soumendra Mohan Pattnaik, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University in his keynote address said Post-Covid era will pose many challenges to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Prof. Sabita Acharya, Chairperson, PG Council, Utkal University during her opening remarks said, "Livelihood is going to be the biggest issue post Covid 19. Giving a push to the national economy is the need of the hour." The occasion also marked the last working day of the professor. The Vice Chancellor acknowledged that under her leadership the PG Council has reached new heights and wished her well for the next chapter of her life.

Prof. A Khan, Director, UECH moderated the sessions. Prof. Prabodh Hota, Heads of many departments and close to 150 students of the university attended the webinar.



# For the first time Utkal University has moved into the list of top 100 universities of India

For the first time, a Government University of Odisha, UTKAL UNIVERSITY, has moved into the list of Top-100 universities of India; by securing 96th rank as per the latest NIRF ranking.

"Latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking is out. By securing 96th rank, Utkal University gets into the Top-100 universities of India for the first time" Tweets Higher Education Minister Dr. Arun Kumar Sahoo.

It should be noted that Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', today released "India Rankings 2020" of Institutions of Higher Educa-



tion in various categories on the basis of their performance on five broad categories of parameters. The Minister released India Rankings 2020 virtually in 10 categories in the presence of Minister of State for HRD, Shri Sanjay Dhotre. Additional Secretary (Higher Education), Shri Rakesh Ranjan, MHRD; Chairman UGC, Prof. D. P. Singh; Chairman, AICTE Anil

Sahasrabudhe; Chairman NBA, Prof. K.K. Aggarwal; Member Secretary NBA, Dr. Anil Kumar Nassa, and representatives of Higher Education Institutions witnessed the release through video conferencing. This is the fifth consecutive edition of India Rankings of the institutions of higher education in India. In 2020, an addition to nine rankings ie one domain "Den-

tal" has been introduced for the first time bringing the total tally to 10 categories / subject domains.

IIT Madras retains 1st Position in Overall Ranking as well as in Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops the University list IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management Category and AIIMS occupies the top slot in Medical category for third consecutive year. Miranda College retains 1st position amongst colleges for third consecutive year. Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi secures 1st position in "Dental" category, dental institutions included for first time in India Rankings 2020

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## Dept. of History Celebrates Diamond Jubilee

The Department of History of Utkal University, on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee Session is organizing an All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy sponsored Online Faculty Development Program on Leadership & Excellence from 07th Sept to 11th Sept 2020.

The primary objective of this FDP is to maintain and enhance faculty effectiveness by inculcating dynamism along with leadership qualities. It will also develop commitment, ethical approach towards work and instill a sense of responsibility towards the institution. Prof Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, Vice Chancellor is the Direc-

tor and Prof Mrs Jayanti Dora, Faculty, Department of History, Utkal University is the Coordinator of the program. A combined inauguration of 38 online FDP was held on 07.09.2020, at 11.00am wherein, the Chief Guest was Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE who delivered an enlightened speech. Prof Rajive Kumar, Member Secretary, AICTE and Prof M.P. Pooina, Vice -Chairman, AICTE also graced the occasion and delivered inspirational speeches.

The FDP meeting of the Utkal University, Professor Basanta Kumar Mallik presided over the meeting and Director Research and Development, Utkal University, Prof Nigamananda Das was the

Guest of Honour of the occasion. The Chief speaker of the meeting was Sri Ranjan Kumar Sahoo, the Senior Faculty of Art and Living Trust.

Prof Jayanti Dora delivered the welcome address and introduced the theme. Sri Kausik Sahoo and Ms Adyasha Mishra of Art of Living also were present in the panel of speakers.

Ajit Kumar Sahoo, Ramesh Chandra Mahanta and Manoj Tripathy, Training and Capacity Development Expert, PMSU RUSA supported for the organization of the program. About 100+ faculties and research scholars participated across the country from different Universities and Technical Institutions with great enthusiasm.