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Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Donates One Year's Salary to Utkal University

Union Petroleum and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has donated his one year's salary to chancellor of universities and Governor of Odisha Prof Ganeshi Lal. The minister made the donation for development of infrastructure and welfare of the students and faculty of the Utkal University.

Himself a former student of the prestigious university, Pradhan had mooted a proposal for setting up an alumni donation fund to be used for the development of the university while attending an alumni meet in 2019.

In a tweet, the Governor congratulated the Union Minister for his gesture of benevolence towards his alma mater by donating a year's salary.

Odisha Government nominates six members to the Syndicate of Utkal University

The Odisha government has nominated six members to the syndicate of Utkal University in the city following the approval of the Governor who is the chancellor of universities.

The nominated members are former executive director (R&D Business Development) of Nalco Bijay Kumar Satpathy; Head of the Department of History, Utkal University Prof Jayanti Dora; former chairman of the Utkal University PG Council Prof Samsan Maharana; Head of the Department of Personnel Management and Industrial Relations (PMIR) Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathy; Head of the Department of MBA Prof Bidhu Bhusan Mishra and Prof Pushpanjali Jena of the Department of Library and Information Science.

The tenure of the nominated syndicate members will be either four years or till their retirement whichever is earlier, according to a Higher Education department release.

Founded in 1943, Utkal University has played a significant role in establishing a meaningful link among Odisha's society, politics, industry and civil society. The mother University has always manifested reasons to rejoice be it for its achievement or its genesis of phenomenal research, the potential of students or the enthusiasm of staff members. Making things transparent at all levels is the need of the hour which only can further transform the University into an inclusive institution.



'Vani' in Sanskrit means 'word' or 'knowledge' and 'Vihara' means "abode". 'Vani' is also another nemesis of *Maa Saraswati*, the Hindu Goddess of Learning. Utkal University, which is popularly known as Vani Vihar, literally means the abode of learning.

'Vani Pranjya' is an innovative mouthpiece of the University and it constantly strives to showcase all the excellence of Vani Vihar to the outside world. It also carries forward the success stories of meritorious students on the campus who have transformed their lives during their stay inside this glorious institution.

The journal reflects the images of human joy, celebration and real life experiences on the campus. It assures to provide a unique platform for all literature loving and enthusiastic students, literary educators and research scholars to showcase their latent creative talents. In addition, it will be considered as a practical laboratory manifestation for students of Journalism and Mass Communication.

'Vani Pranjya' will certainly play a major role in bringing out the unexplored spirit of the teachers, staff and students; I am confident about it. For them, 'Vani Pranjya' will be the voice of Vani Vihar and they all must carry forward its legacy for the coming time. Let us all unite together for its success and I wish 'Vani Pranjya' to be the torch of learning forward in the conscious of all.

Prof. Sabita Acharya
Editor-in-Chief
Vani Prajna

Utkal University Organises Virtual Seminar on Menstrual Hygiene Day

The School of Women's Studies, Utkal University organised a virtual seminar on Women's Health and Hygiene: A Pathway for Development on the occasion of Women Hygiene Day.

The seminar was supported by the Rural Outreach Programme, RUSA. Renowned gynecologist Dr. Sujata Kar graced the event as the chief speaker. Dr. Jaya Singh Kshatri, Public Health Specialist, ICMR-RMRC Bhubaneswar, and Mrs. Tapasi Praharaj, National Secretary of AIDWA & Social Activist was the distinguished speaker on the occasion. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sabita Acharya presided over the seminar and said, "Health has a direct correlation with the GDP of any country. A healthier population means a prosperous country. Menstrual health and hygiene are a major part of women's health and can't be ignored. We must talk about it." Menstrual health remains



a taboo subject in our society. The issues around menstrual health and hygiene are less talked about and provisions for ensuring a woman's menstrual health such as sanitary napkins are not easily everywhere in rural India. Dr. Jaya Singh Kshatri spoke greatly on the topic and said there is a need to create more and more awareness on the topic everywhere.

He suggested collaborative approach to researchers, academicians, and service providers can significantly improve women's health and hy-

giene. Dr. Sujata Kar spoke about the delicate and complicated anatomy of reproductive organs of women and talked about how much traditional menstrual practices adversely affect a woman's health.

Each one of us, irrespective of our profession, should become the ambassadors of better female reproductive health and create awareness among each other.

Mrs. Tapasi Praharaj put the spotlight on facilities available in the community and their correlation with hygiene in the

community.

The lack of water facilities and toilets can impact our health in a significant manner. She spoke about the current status and implementation of Govt schemes for toilet and water provisions in rural India. "Women's health and hygiene should be taken up as a movement rather than a mere campaign. There should be budgetary allocation specifically for Women's health and hygiene," added Mrs. Praharaj.

The seminar was attended by students, teachers, educationists, researchers, and NGOs in great numbers. Prof. Jayanti Dora, Director, School of Women's Studies coordinated the event. Prof. P. K. Hota, Coordinator, RUSA gave the welcome address and Ms. Liza Swain, Programme Manager – Gender, Rural Outreach Programme proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

Congratulations... Prof. Santosh Kumar Tripathy

Governor and Chancellor of Universities, Prof. Ganeshi Lal has appointed Prof. Santosh Kumar Tripathy as Vice-Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University in Odisha's Balasore district. He has been appointed to the post for a period of four years with effect from the date he assumes office or until further orders whichever is earlier, an official notification said.

An alumnus of Swami Vivekananda Memorial College and a native of Kaduapada in Jagatsinghpur district, Tripathy was the Director of the College Development Council; Dean, Faculty of Business Studies and Professor, Personnel Management & Industrial Relations, Utkal University. He has more than 30 years of teaching



experience. He has authored 10 books and successfully guided 17 Ph.D. and 40 M.Phil. scholars. Tripathy won University Gold Medal in the postgraduate examination from Utkal University in 1984. He is also a recipient of the NIPM Award in 1985 and the UGC Research Award.

Utkal University Hosts Round Table Conference On Quality Journalism Education

A Round Table Conference on Quality Journalism Education, Media Ethics, and Social Justice was hosted by the Department of Sociology, Utkal University, in collaboration with UNESCO and WJEC was held on 1st December 2021. The programme started with Dr. Tanaya Mohanty, the Host introducing the theme and the guest for the first session. Prof. Sabita Acharya, vice-chancellor, Utkal University inaugurated the Round table discussion and released the Book "Media Ethics and Social Justice", edited by Dr. Tanaya Mohanty and published by Elite Press.

Prof. Navaneeta Rath



moderated the first session of the Round Table. The prominent speakers in the first session of the conference were Prof. Maitrayee Chaudhuri, Prof. Basant Kumar Mallik, Prof. Mrinal Chatterjee, Mr. Rajaram Satpathy, Mr. Sandeep Mishra, and Jayanti Buruda.

The programme was live-streamed on Youtube in the Sociology Department channel. Similarly in the 2nd session Prof. Sunetra Sen Narayan, Ms. Kasturi Ray, Dr. Pranta Pratik Patnaik, and Dr. Bidu Bhusan Dash gave their deliberations. The programme was successfully

convened by Dr. Tanaya Mohanty, Department of Sociology. Prof. Navaneeta Rath and Prof. Bhaswati Pattnaik moderated the programme. While HOD Sociology Dr. Rabindra Garada gave the Vote of Thanks after the first session and Mrs. Sasmita Soren introduced the guests of the second session to the forum. The programme was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sabita Acharya and Dr. Abhay Kumar Nayak gave the valedictory address. Other Faculties Dr. Roma Ranu Dash, Mr. Manas Dakua students have managed the programme

Utkal University Society to Keep Watch on Spendings

The premier Utkal University will form a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to get funds under the Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme of the Centre and monitor its spending in a meaningful way. Utkal is among 10 state universities across the country to receive Rs 100 crore as RUSA fund to promote excellence on the condition that the money is spent by March 2020. To manage the fund and fast-track work of the universities, the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) has asked these institutions to form campus companies.

The state government has already granted permission to Utkal University to form the SPV. After getting the go-ahead from the higher education department, the university can form its company or society to carry out its works," said Partha Sarathi Mishra, additional secretary of the higher education department.

Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, said the MHRD has recently told them to form the SPV. "Our SPV will be registered under the society act. We do not have much time to go through the process of registering it as a company. Later we can convert it into a company," he added.

Besides monitoring expenditure and quality of work, this SPV will also carry out infrastructure development and other RUSA fund related expansion works, including research. The accounts of the SPV will be audited by a central audit agency. Patnaik said the registration is underway. "After getting the registration papers, the university will submit details about the SPV to the MHRD by May 31. The name of the society is Utkal Entrepreneurship and Career Hub. Besides other works, we will focus on entrepreneurship and career development of students, which is the need of the hour," he added.

It will have nine members with the vice-chancellor being its chairman. The registrar of the university will be the member secretary of the independent body, while top officials from the higher education and skill development departments will be chosen as members. The director of a national institute and an educationist or social worker will also be nominated as ex-officio members of the society.

Besides, the university will be mentored by US universities like UC Berkley and Northeastern University. A Fortune 500 company will help Utkal execute the skill development programmes.

Utkal University Organises Pre-Convocation Award Giving Ceremony to Award Degrees and Gold Medals to Scholars of the 2018-19 Session

'Knowledge Should be the Driving Force for All Times'

Utkal University organized a pre-convocation award-giving ceremony today for the academic session 2018-19. Prof. Sudhakar Panda, Director, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest and awarded the degrees.

The ceremony was held in the new Convocation Hall of Utkal University. Due to the pandemic situation, the convocation ceremony was not held last year. Hence, a pre-convocation ceremony was decided to be held to distribute awards for the pass-out students of 2019. A total of 127 Ph.D. degrees, 2 DLitt, and 100 Gold Medals were awarded during the function.

Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University presided over the ceremony. Dr. Basant Kumar Mallik, Chairman, Post Graduate Council gave the welcome address, and Dr. Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar, Utkal University presented the University report at the ceremony.

Congratulating the University and its students, Prof. Sudhakar Panda said, the first university of the state, Utkal University has significantly contributed to the field of education and research climate of the



state. He urged the students to cultivate the courage to do the right thing, develop an analytical mindset, and emphasized that bigger responsibilities await the i.e; the responsibility to lay a solid foundation for the next generation to thrive. "A degree should not be treated as a paper to land a job and secure a handsome salary. Knowledge should be the driving force at all times," said Prof. Panda. Imagination is a powerful thing and he urged the scholars and gold medalists to use their imagination for nation-building.

Prof. Sabita Acharya began her address by paying tribute to all the great personalities, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, Utkala Gouraba Madhusudan Das, and many more who were instrumental in creating Odisha as an independent province and establishing the

identity of Odias on the auspicious occasion of Utkal Divas. Utkal University was formed seven years after the formation of Odisha as a separate province. "Currently, in her 78th year, Utkal has always aimed towards building morally and socially responsible citizens for the country," She spoke about the various milestones achieved by the university including securing 100 Cr funding through RUSA, various MoUs signed with many international universities through the International Office.

Speaking about the research scenario at the university, she spoke about the 11 Centres of Excellence established under RUSA and World Bank's OHEPEE project.

Last year Utkal had secured the 96th rank and found a spot in the top 100 universities of the country in the

NIRF ranking system. "We are aiming to place Utkal in the top 30 universities of the country and working tirelessly towards it," said Prof. Acharya.

While giving the welcome address, Prof. Basant Kumar Mallik remembered the Founding Fathers of Odisha. He said, "Odisha was a dream and we should all take a vow to make it into reality and take the state to greater heights."

Dr. Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar, Utkal University, in his address paid tribute to the first Vice-Chancellor of Utkal, Dr. Parnakrushna Parija, whose birthday also falls on the Utkal Divas. Dr. Sarat Kumar Majhi, Controller of Examinations assisted Dr. Panda in conferring the awards and proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Utkal University Organises Seminar Commemorating 100 Years of Gandhiji's Visit to Odisha

Mahatma Gandhi is the Only Global Icon of India

Post Graduate Department of History, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar in association with Odisha History Congress organised a seminar on 'On the Path of Gandhi' to commemorate the centenary of Gandhiji's arrival in Odisha on Wednesday. Renowned author and recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award, Dash Benahur graced the seminar as chief guest and spoke about the history and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to the state. Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor also attended the programme.

"Mahatma Gandhi is the only global icon of India," said Dash Benahur in his address to the students. He spoke about the time when



Gandhi was assassinated, United Nations flag was lowered to half-mast to show its respect, a tradition usually reserved for heads of states. Gandhi was an ordinary citizen but was and still is the most revered Indian icon across the globe.

"The first time Mahatma Gandhi visited Odisha was on 23rd March, 1921. It was also Dola Purnima, a festival of colours and renewal.

His visit in a sense renewed Odisha," added Dash Benahur. His first visit gave a tremendous impetus to the freedom movement in Orissa. It once again stimulated the people's zeal and enthusiasm for the cause of the national movement.

Benahur also expressed his sadness on the current political scenarios where people were seen recreating scenes of Gandhi's murder and hailing

the man who killed the father of our nation. Mahatma Gandhi visited Odisha eight times between 1921 to 1946. Dash Benahur talked about these visits at great length and urged students to cultivate the habit of reading. He suggested many books on Gandhi, such as the autobiography of Gandhi, Little known facts about Gandhi, and Hind Swaraj among many others.

Prof. Sabita Acharya in her address spoke about how Gandhi saw Odisha as the Khadi Hub of the country. He witnessed the poverty in Odisha during his visits and visualised the state as the perfect platform for the Khadi movement which would help the people economically as well. "Today we live in a free country where human rights exists. It became possible because Gandhi fought against hatred, castes and oppression," said Prof. Acharya.

Prof. Nigamananda Das, Director, College Development Council was invited as the Guest of Honour in the seminar. As a professor and student of chemistry, he spoke about conserving the environment and Gandhiji's views on science.

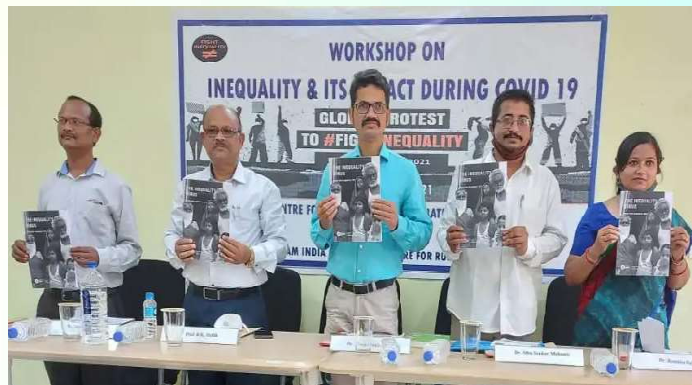
Prof. Basant Kumar Mallik, Chairperson, PG Council and Head of the Dept of History gave the welcome address and Dr. Subash Chandra Barik, General Secretary, Odisha History Congress proposed the formal vote of thanks. Retd.

The Vice-Chancellor felicitated professor and author Dr. Somarani Chand on the occasion.

Workshop on Inequality and its Impact During Covid-19

The Global Centre for Rural Studies, Utkal University organised a one day workshop on Inequality and its impact during Covid-19 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. Mr. Anil Pradhan Convener Odisha RTE Forum spoke on the educational inequalities that have increased due to the pandemic "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. 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 us that more such workshops are in the pipeline.

Utkal University Can Play Mentor's Role for Other Odisha Universities, Says Union Education Minister



There should be a concerted effort to take Utkal University to the international level. The university has already left a mark at national level for its education system and research, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at the 79th Foundation Day celebration of the varsity on Saturday.

Utkal University helped hundreds of students to realize their dreams and aspirations. It also helped building the foundation of a social activist like me in the initial period and built up my confidence, Pradhan said while addressing at the event.

Having contribution of stalwarts like Krushnachandra Gajapati Narayan Deb, Pandit Godavarish Mishra, Pandit Nilakantha Das and Pandit Biswanath Das in its formation the varsity transformed into a laboratory that builds great minds who run the State.

Pradhan said he took pride in attending the foundation day ceremony of Utkal University on an auspicious day like

'Prathamastami'.

While launching the website of the Centre for Innovation and Incubation (CII)



on the occasion, Pradhan said the same will act as a catalyst in creating vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem in Odisha

The Centre for Innovation and Incubation (CII) at Utkal University will handhold young entrepreneurs and start-ups and act as a catalyst in creating a vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem in Odisha, said Union Edu-

cation Minister Dharmendra Pradhan while launching its website. He also informed that the Department of Biotechnology, Utkal University has identified and developed a polyconal anti-Transferrin antibody. The indigenously developed product has a wide range of applications in treating blood, tissue and iron related physiological dysfunctions. Speaking at the 79th foundation day celebration of Utkal University, here, Pradhan said the university has made its mark at na-

tional level for its education system and research. There should be a united effort to take it to international level, he added. Pradhan laid stress on learning and teaching mother tongue and local dialects to retain the culture of a state. "English is a global trade language and all should learn it, but mother tongue should be given priority," said Pradhan adding

that Utkal University should be the mentor university for promoting local dialects. Stating that Odisha has emerged as the knowledge hub in the country, he said the NAC A+ certification should help Utkal University play the role of a mentor for other universities in the state. Speaking on the National Education Policy 2020, Pradhan said it offers an opportunity to promote multi-disciplinary education and research and create job opportunities. The func-

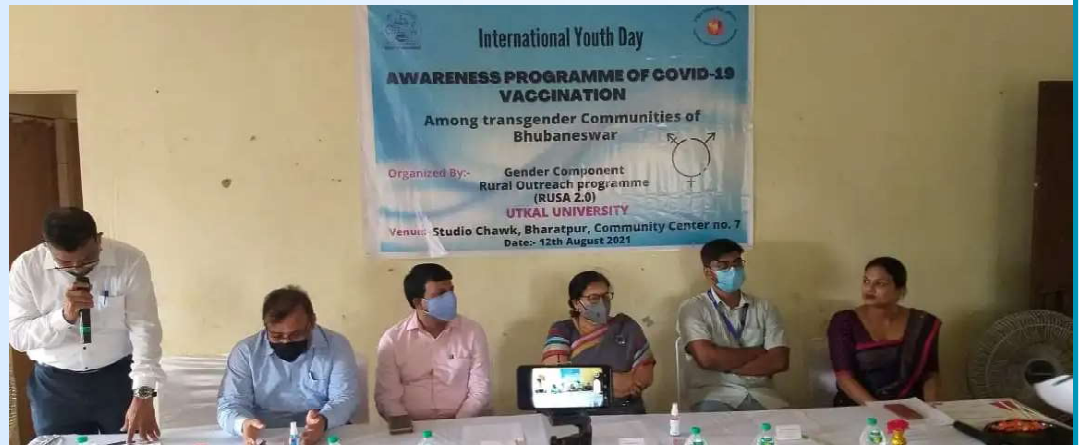
tion was chaired by vice-chancellor of Utkal University Sabita Acharya. Writer and culture specialist Dr Rajat Kumar Kar was present, among others. While seven students of the university were awarded gold medals for the academic year 2020 and five for 2021, two students were presented trophies on the occasion.

Utkal University Organises Covid-19 Vaccine Awareness Programme for Transgender Community of Bhubaneswar

As per the 2011 census, there are 4.87 lakh transgender individuals in India. But according to recent government data, only 25,468 (5.22 percent) individuals have been vaccinated. Several reasons have together made it harder for India's transgender community to get vaccinated. There is vaccine hesitancy among the trans community. Lack of information, awareness, and support is part of the reason.

Another important factor behind vaccine hesitancy in the trans community is the complications of sex reassignment surgeries and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) that many of them go through.

Utkal University, through its Rural Outreach Programme's Gender component, established under RUSA 2.0, organised an awareness programme on Covid 19 vaccine acceptance among the



transgender community of Bhubaneswar on Thursday. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, prof. Sabita Acharya inaugurated the workshop and Public Health Specialist, Dr. Jayasingh Kshetry from ICMR-RMRC joined the programme as the guest speaker. Ms. Aisha Panda, community leader, Bharatpur Transgender community mobilised the community to make the workshop a success.

"Utkal University aspires to take the learnings

and wisdom it has beyond the boundaries of the university and this programme is a small part of that endeavor," said Prof. Acharya in her address. She urged the participants to practice covid appropriate behaviour, such as wearing masks and handwashing as these simple things will protect us from any future waves of Covid-19.

"Lockdowns have harshly impacted on livelihood and earnings of people. Lockdowns are not long-term solutions, vaccines are," said Dr. Kshetry. He explained the vaccines in detail.

The delivery mechanisms, side effects, common misconceptions regarding the vaccine were discussed in detail. He answered many queries of the trans community members and was able to dispel many myths surrounding the vaccine. Trans community leader Ms. Aisha Panda said, "Transgenders are a neglected community. Many of us have lost our livelihood during the pandemic. There is a general lack of awareness around vaccines and its side effects, especially as many members of our community are on HRT. We are thankful to Utkal University for organising such a workshop during this time."

Shri Surendra Sahoo, Comptroller of Finance, Utkal University emphasized the importance of inclusion of all communities to achieve integral well-being of the society. Dr. P. K. Hota, Coordinator, RUSA 2.0 delivered the welcome address and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the transgender community for participating in the workshop.

Prof. A. A. Khan, Executive Director, UECH facilitated the workshop, and Ms. Liza Swain, Programme Manager – Gender proposed the formal Vote of Thank

Utkal University Takes Part in Mo College Launch Ceremony

More than 110 teaching and non-teaching staff and close to 200 students of Utkal University took part in the launch of "Mo College" programme. LED screens were set in the New Administrative Block to witness the launch ceremony that was being live streamed. Chief Minister, Sri Naveen Patnaik launched the programme via video conferencing and the launch ceremony was live-streamed through Youtube, Facebook, and other social media sites.

This is a wonderful initiative that provides an opportunity to reconnect with the vast network of our alumni. The best thing is this initiative will give a boost to the alumni connect component of NEP 2020. Such programmes will hugely benefit the students and educational institutions," said Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of the university. Prof. Kunja Bihari

Panda, Coordinator of Mo College Abhijan, Utkal University coordinated and organised the event in the campus. When asked about the programme, he said, "it is a welcoming initiative.

After the success of Mo School campaign, Mo College is being launched. Everyone has a unique attachment towards their alma mater. This programme will provide the opportunity to reconnect with their colleges and universities and such associations will benefit not only the present students and educational institutions but also society as a whole."

Earlier in February this year, Sri Akash Dasnayak, Chairperson, Mo College had visited the Vice-chancellor of Utkal University and had a discussion regarding the programme.

E-office Launched in Utkal University

Prof Sabita Acharya, Vice Chancellor launched the E-Office at Utkal University on Wednesday. Utkal University is the third University of Odisha, under the Higher Education Department to implement E-Office. Prof Acharya, expressed pleasure for the implementation of eOffice while launching eE-Office. She said that E-Office being a very effective tool for Transparency, Efficiency & Accountability, Utkal University can achieve a new height. Chairperson PG Council Prof Basant Kumar Mallik, offered the vote of thanks. The University officials thanked Saswat Mishra, Principal Secretary, Higher Education and Surendra Kumar, Principal, GA & PG Department for taking decisions for this Digital University Initiative.

It was decided by the Government of Odisha in last June that E-Office will be implemented in all the Government Universities under the Higher Education Department.



In his Welcome Address, Dr Abhaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar, Utkal University informed that as of today, eOffice has been implemented in 148 Government Offices.

E-Office has been proved to be very useful to operate office remotely, especially during this pandemic period.

"It is a proud moment that Ravenshaw is the first University of the state, under the Higher Education Department.

E-Office is being implemented under the 5Ts initiative of the Government. With the implementation of eOffice all the 5Ts, i.e. Transparency, Technology Teamwork, Time and Transformation can be

achieved. Under the 5Ts Initiative of the GA(AR) & PG Department, E-Office is being implemented by the Center for Modernizing Government Initiative (CMGI) & NIC, Odisha." Kabita Roy Das, SIIO, NIC eOffice gave a detailed Overview of eOffice. Roy told that the eOffice is a Mission Mode Project under the National E-Governance Plan initiated in 2009. eOffice is developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and being implemented through the Center for Modernizing Government Initiative (CMGI), under the GA & PG Department of Odisha Government. Talking about the advantages of eOffice for a Digital Utkal University Pinaki Mohanty, Project

Coordinator, CMGI told that eOffice is a very effective tool to ensure Transparency, Efficiency, Effectiveness & Accountability. Mohanty also told that E-Office is a very convenient system for the employees, which will reduce the workload as well as ensure the efficiency of employees.

Surendra Kumar Sahoo, Comptroller of Finance, Dr. Sharat Kumar Majhi, Controller of Examinations Utkal University, Bhubaneswar & Technical Director, NIC B. Satpathy were coordinating the implementation process of E-Office. Officer in Charge and Digitization Dr. Himasnu Sekhar Rout has offered formal vote of thanks.

Utkal University Hosts Online Program to Boost Students' Employability

In line with the Vice-Chancellor's vision of adopting a student-centric approach and introduction of job-oriented curriculum, Utkal University organised a six-day Students' Employability Enhancement Programme.

Addressing the valedictory session of the programme on Tuesday, the VC, Professor Sabita Acharya, said, "Preparing our students for future job search and improving their



sense of self awareness is needed in the current scenario. Apart from such trainings, we are also working on collaborating with different academic institutions and organisations to introduce job-oriented courses

like Bio Physics, Bio Chemistry, Cyber Security, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Clinical Psychiatry and several others for the development of our University."

The online programme

that began on December 22, covered topics like communication and interpersonal skills, organisation and negotiation skills, quantitative aptitude and reasoning, team building, and relevant life skills. Over 150 students attended the online training programme.

It was organised by Utkal Entrepreneurship & Career Hub established under RUSA 2.0 and Placement Cell of the University

Utkal University Starts Webinar Series on Coping with the Multifaceted Challenges of COVID-19 in the Wake of Second Wave

Utkal University started off with the Webinar Series on Coping with the Multifaceted Challenges of COVID-19 for its different stakeholders in the wake of the second wave of the pandemic. The Programme is being supported by World Bank – Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence and Equity (WB-OHEPEE), Utkal University.

The first webinar in the series was organized today, i.e., 13 May 2021 on the theme Students' Mental Health and COVID-19, looking at the academic anxiety and uncertainty related to the education and future career of the student community.

More than one hundred fifty students registered for the event. Their queries and problems were addressed in this interactive webinar by the invited Resource Person Prof SPK Jena, a Clinical Psychologist from University of Delhi. Prof Jena suggested different activities and shared ideas for addressing the issues of stress, anxiety and depression among students.

In the inaugural session, Prof Sabita Acharya, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University assured the student community by requesting them to remain calm and not panic at this hour

of crisis. She said that the University stands by them always in case of any problem in their academic related concerns as well as matters related to the well being of the students.

She said that more such interactive webinars are in the pipeline which will address different issues arising owing to pandemic and the webinar series will cater to the needs of the students, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders of the University.

Prof Nigamananda Das, Coordinator, WB-OHEPEE Programme, Utkal University gave the opening remarks by emphasizing the urgency of addressing the mental health concerns of students and other stakeholders of the University. He said that as a part of social responsibility, our university should support the capacity building of its community at the time of pandemic by promoting such webinars.

The coordinator of the Webinar Series, Prof Bhaswati Patnaik, Department of Psychology, Utkal University, emphasized that Utkal University has been spearheading the task of reaching out to different communities since the first wave of the pandemic last year and will continue to do so.

Utkal University Joins Hands with OSDMA & ODRAF to Educate Students on State-Specific Disasters

Utkal University, as a part of its Disaster Management awareness programme, has joined hands with Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) & Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) to release an illustrative booklet meant to educate the students at the elementary level regarding State-Specific Disasters on the occasion of "World Drowning Prevention Day".

The booklet is developed by the University under the RUSA 2.0 project.

Very few people are aware that lightning, whirlwind, tornado, heavy rain, sunstroke, boat accident, drowning, and snakebite



are the natural calamities that occur in day-to-day life. The state government of Odisha had declared these 8 natural calamities as State Specific Disasters on April 1st 2015.

Drowning is one of the major calamities that people of all age groups especially children face in day-to-day life due to unawareness and negligence. This book was designed to make it interest-

ing for students to read it along with giving them valuable information on drowning. The book will be distributed among students of rural areas of Odisha. "As a part of Utkal's community linkage and Rural Outreach programme, the varsity plans to impart water safety and safe rescue skills to the students of the elementary stage with the help of OSDMA and

ODRAF," said Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University.

Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra, Executive Director, OSDMA; Shri Sunil Kumar Sahoo, Deputy General Manager, OSDMA; Prof. Basant Kumar Mallik, Chairman, P.G. Council, Utkal University; Dr. Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar, and Shri. Surendra Kumar Sahoo, CoF of Utkal University, graced the programme as the Guest of Honour and addressed the participants. Dr. Swapna Prabhu moderated the sessions and Ms. Ananya Pattanayak, Programme Manager, Rural Outreach Programme proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

Education Makes Students Disciplined and Well Organised: Vice President

Education is the first step for a successful life. Education shapes a life. Education makes students disciplined and well organised, said Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu at the Convocation ceremony of Utkal University on Saturday in Bhubaneswar of Odisha.

The vice president urged students not to run behind jobs, rather to become job provider. Discipline and hard work is the mantra of success. Utkal University is one of the most glorious Universities, he also said.

Praising the rich culture and heritage of Odisha he also mentioned the glorious history of ancient Odisha



when they were doing maritime trade with the East Asian countries. The simple lifestyle of the tribal people of Odisha is a thing to be admired. About 23 per cent of the population

of the State are tribal. He asked for the prioritisation of the development and welfare of the tribals communities. Organised amid abundance of Covid restrictions, the Vice

President awarded honourable Doctorate Degree on behalf of Utkal University to five eminent persons for excellence in their respective fields on this occasion. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu, Orissa High Court Justice Kumari Sanju Panda, Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Ajit Kumar Mohanty were given the prestigious Doctorate Degree. He also gave away Ph.D. degrees to 41 persons and Gold medals to 90 people.

On this occasion Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal and Higher Education Minister Dr. Arun Kumar Sahoo were present.

Vice President graces Convocation Ceremony of Utkal University in Odisha

The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu today called upon the youth to take inspiration from India's glorious past and imbibe the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. He also asked the universities and educational institutions to equip the students with 21st century skills so that they can emerge as job creators.

Addressing the 50th convocation of Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha today, the Vice President reminded the students and faculty of India's glorious tradition of international education. Citing the examples of ancient Indian institutions such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vallabhi and Vikramashila, he emphasised the need to bring back this great Indian tradition to create well-

- Vice President calls upon the youth to imbibe the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation
- Emphasizes the need to bring back the great Indian tradition of holistic education
- Aim of the education is to build character and create well-rounded individuals – Vice President
- 'Approach tribals with respect and sensitivity' – Vice President to policy makers
- Says, we have a lot to learn from the tribal communities
- Shri Naidu calls for making disaster management integral part of school education
- Youth should fight against social evils like gender discrimination, casteism, communalism, and corruption- Shri Naidu
- Addresses 50th convocation of Utkal University in Bhubaneswar; confers Honoris Causa on five eminent personalities

rounded and innovative individuals who can transform the country both socially and economically. "The aim of

education is not only cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded

individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills", he underscored.

Mentioning that Odisha is home to 62 different tribal communities that constitute 23% of the state's total population, Shri Naidu called for according priority to their development and welfare. Stressing that we should approach the tribals with respect and sensitivity, he said that a paternalistic attitude towards tribals is wrong. "Truth is that we have a lot to learn from the tribal communities who live a simple life in harmony with nature", he added.

In this regard, the Vice President also cited a study by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRI) that revealed the tribal population in Odisha

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actively contribute to policy formation for their development and well-being.

Drawing attention to the regular occurrence of natural disasters like cyclones, floods and droughts in the State, Shri Naidu called for making disaster management an integral part of the education from early days. This would prepare us better to face any such calamity in future, he opined.

Talking about the rich culture and history of Odisha, the Vice President said that the great land of Kalinga taught the lesson of peace to Emperor Ashoka and the kings who ruled over this land were instrumental in building cross-cultural links with South East Asia. Noting the glorious maritime traditions of Kalinga, he lauded the daring sea-faring merchants of Kalinga who established trade links with various countries including Srilanka, Java, Sumatra, Bali and Burma. Praising the skills and entrepreneurship of Kalinga's boatmen and traders, the Vice President wanted the younger generation to take inspiration from them and strive to build a happy and prosperous India.

In his address, Shri Naidu also mentioned Odisha's Bhaumakara dynasty that had a long succession of women rulers in the 9th -10th century. Calling it a shining example of women empowerment, he urged the younger generation to read about such stories and pledge to fight against gender discrimination as well as other social evils like casteism, communalism and corruption.

Calling the students as the next generation of leaders, lawyers, academicians and administrators, the Vice President told them that their future is intertwined with the future of this country and advised them to be disciplined, honest and hard working to succeed in any field. He also asked the students to be sensitive to the needs of the excluded. Terming the youth as the key for change, he wanted them to fight hunger, disease, ignorance and every other evil that retard Nation's growth. Stating that the day of convocation marks an important day in a student's life, the Vice President asked them to nurture their personal competencies such as— passion, perseverance, tenacity and an open mind to learn— for a successful and fulfilling life ahead. He congratulated the pass-



population in Odisha was largely untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic mainly because of the unique customary practices and traditions of tribes such as walking in rows (instead of groups) and eating (immunity-boosting) natural food.

He suggested that such positive aspects of tribal communities should be highlighted and included in the school curriculum. He also wanted the institutions like Utkal University to take up research on issues faced by tribals and

Full Text of the Speech of Vice President of India



ing out students and wanted them to “become creators of the future”. Calling Utkal University as the educational lodestone of Odisha, the Vice President appreciated it for maintaining high educational standards.

On this occasion, the Vice President presented the Honoris Causa conferred by Utkal University on five eminent personalities, namely - Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Orissa High Court, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Advisor, Government of Odisha.

Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and the Chancellor of the University, Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Odisha, Dr. Arun Kumar Sahoo, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University, Prof. Sabita Acharya, Registrar, Utkal University, Dr. Avaya Kumar Nayak, professors, staff, parents, students and others were present during the event.

“It gives me immense pleasure to be here on the occasion of the 50th convocation of Utkal University in this beautiful temple-city of Bhubaneswar.

I am glad to know that Utkal University is the mother university of the state of Odisha and the 17th university of undivided India. With its 27 post graduate departments, 8 centers of excellence and an International Cell, the University is truly the educational lodestone of Odisha. I compliment Utkal University on being accredited with A+ Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in India in 2016. That itself is a reflection of its high educational standards and its uncompromising adherence to excellence.

Dear Students,

Needless to say, the day of convocation marks an important day in your lives—yet, this milestone is the beginning of a journey. To get to this point was an important achievement in itself to which I commend you. The personal competencies that got you here—passion, perse-

verance, tenacity, an open mind to learn—will be important to you throughout your lives. Nurture them. These attributes will guide you throughout your lives. Many of you will be moving out of the sheltered confines of a university and entering the real world replete with its own set of challenges and issues. The transition process will not be easy, but I am sure that with the value system and training you have gained from this university, you will be able to face the world with confidence. New Education Policy focuses primarily on instilling in our students this ability to “face the world with confidence”. The aim of education is not only cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills.

Dear friends,

We must not forget that India has had a glorious tradition of international education. The ancient Indian universities Takshashila, Nalanda, Vallabhi, and Vikramashila had thousands of students from India and other parts of the world studying in vibrant multidisciplinary environments. We should bring back this great Indian tradition to create well-rounded



and innovative individuals who will have the distinctive ability to transform the country both socially and economically.

Odisha has a rich and inspiring history. This great land of Kalinga taught the lesson of peace to Emperor Ashoka who began to follow the policy of conquest through dharma (Dharma-Vijaya).

The kings of Odisha played an important role in building cross-cultural links with South East Asia and the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism there. The Kalinga Empire was also known for its glorious maritime traditions. Such was their dominance over the sea that Kalidasa in his famous work Raghuvamsa referred to the King of Kalinga as the ‘Lord of the Seas’. The daring ocean-faring merchants of Kalinga established trade links with Sri Lanka, Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Bali, and Burma. The presence of the large number of coins and artifacts including Roman objects in excavations points to a flourishing trading society in ancient Odisha.

Even today, the people here celebrate a festival - ‘Bali



Yatra' in the memory of their maritime ancestors whose skills and entrepreneurship made Kalinga a prosperous empire of its time.

Dear students,

I want you to take inspiration from their stories and imbibe the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. Our universities and educational institutions also have an important role in this. They should equip the students with requisite skills so that they can emerge as job creators, not mere job seekers.

I also want to remind you of Odisha's Bhaumakara dynasty that had a long succession of women rulers in the 9th-10th century. Bhaumakara queens defied patriarchal norms and ruled successfully for some 200 years.

These are the shining examples that should make every Indian proud. I urge upon the younger generation to read about such stories and pledge to fight against gender discrimination. In fact, our youth should be at the forefront of fighting all social evils like casteism, communalism, corruption and violence.

Odisha is also special in the way that it has a sizable tribal population. The State is home to 62 different tribal communities that constitute 23% of the state's total population and 9.17% of the total tribal population of the country. Therefore, the development and welfare of these tribal communities should be our priority.

Here, I would emphasise that we should approach the tribals with respect and sensitivity. A paternalistic attitude is wrong. Truth is that we have a lot to learn from the tribal communities who live a simple life in harmony with nature. A study by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRI) revealed that the tribal population in Odisha was largely untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unique customary practices and traditions of tribals have been credited for keeping the infection at bay. The study notes that by habit, the tribals walk mostly in rows, instead of in groups; and while walking, they maintain a reasonable distance from one another. Such safe distancing and hygiene norms, rooted in the tribal culture coupled with the natural food have helped them stay safe during pandemic. I suggest that universities should focus on these

positive aspects of tribal communities and include them in their curriculum. I would also like institutions like Utkal University to take up research on issues faced by tribals and actively contribute to policy formation for their development and well-being. Another topic that I find very important for states like Odisha is—disaster management. You have seen regular occurrence of cyclones, floods and droughts in the state. Therefore, it is imperative to make disaster management an integral part of our education from early days. This would prepare us better to face any such calamity in future. I hope Utkal University will take a lead in this regard.

Dear students,

You are our next generation of academicians, researchers, managers, civil servants, lawyers and leaders. You must remember that your future is intertwined with the future of this country and this is not mere rhetoric. You should never forget that discipline, honesty and hard work are the key to success in any field, including public life. You must be sensitive to the needs of the excluded.



We have great economic potential and can improve the human development index on all counts. We can fight hunger, disease, ignorance and every other evil that retard our growth. And youth is the key to change. It is social awareness and sensitivity that can usher in the change we dream of. I wish you the best in your lives. I urge you to embrace the challenges and get ahead of change. Find your purpose and take your share in shaping the new world. Become creators of the future. You can do it and my best wishes are with you. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Orissa High Court, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Advisor, Government of Odisha for being conferred Honoris Causa from this prestigious university. I once again congratulate the recipients of the degrees, doctoral degrees and the Gold Medalists. I also extend my best wishes to the faculty members, teaching and non-teaching staff, and the family members and guardians of the graduating students on this momentous day.

Thank you.
Jai Hind!

Utkal University Committed to Promote Research

The practice of research and innovation has been widely accepted as the most essential component of a developing nation's repertoire of higher education. While research contributes to creation and application of new knowledge, innovation not only incites deeper understanding but also parallel thinking regarding value creation out of the research. Cross-boundary research at the intersection of various disciplines led to major scientific and societal breakthroughs. Thus, many of today's complex problems ranging from poverty to pandemic are addressed using a multidisciplinary approach.

Since 2016, Utkal University has organized four Research

■ Research Scholar's Conclave on 30th April 2016

■ Research Scholar's Conclave 'Bisleshawn' on 5th January, 2019

■ Research Scholar's Conclave on 26th November, 2019

■ Odisha Research Conclave – 2021 in collaboration with Odisha Higher Education Council, Govt. of Odisha on 13th -14th November, 2021

■ Research Scholar's Conclave on 22nd December, 2021

Scholar's Conclave involving faculty members and researchers of various levels and academic disciplines within the University, as well as from other Universities or Institutions to promote a shared vision and understanding for better solution to scientific and social needs. Research scholars from all the University Departments and other research institutes like ILS, NISER, OUAT, CIFA, Odisha Space Application Centre participated in these events. The conclave

provides a suitable forum and platform for the research scholars to discuss on their interdisciplinary research activities. This further solicits a flow of information in horizontal, vertical and cross-disciplinary directions. The mandate of this conclave is to provide a common platform for idea generation and refinement in both fundamental and translational research. The excellent young research minds are also felicitated and awarded after being evaluated by a panel of experts.



Odisha governor and chancellor of state universities Ganeshi Lal on Saturday inaugurated the Odisha Research Conclave-2021 here organized by the Utkal University in association with the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) and the higher education department. The governor encouraged the researchers

to excel in their respective fields and reach new heights. He highlighted the significance of working in silence. He went around seeing the posters and interacted with the researchers and presenters. He discussed their projects in detail and encouraged them to continue their work diligently.

In his keynote address,

Odisha Research Conclave -2021

Researchers to Excel & Reach New Heights: Chancellor

Ajit Kumar Mohanty, director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), said that research and innovations are the primary imperatives for India. He also expressed that research institutes in India should have an open-ended scheme to allow researchers to patent their research, products and technology as a method of incentivization.

Asoka Kumar Das, vice-chairman of OSHEC, discussed various schemes including the Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan (OURIIP) introduced by the state government in order to establish an

equilibrium among the research ecosystem and research output. The research scholars, who have received funding from OURIIP, presented their research models in poster format. The objective of this format is to increase the exposure of the researchers with interdisciplinary studies. Research scholars of other schemes will present their findings on the second day.

Subject experts, who have reviewed posters, will judge the best poster presentation in each category. Conclave could not be organised last year due to Covid-19 pandemic

Campaign Launched to Make Utkal University Campus Plastic-Free

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Alumni Association of Utkal University today launched an awareness campaign and mass cleaning activity against single-use plastic to make the university campus clean, green and plastic-free, on the occasion of Saheed Diwas – the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The campaign was flagged off by B K Patnaik, former Chief Secretary, Government of

such as students, faculty members, shopkeepers, staff and residents of the university spearheaded by the alumni association in association with university authorities and BMC,” said Mr Patnaik.

The BMC, under its ‘Mu Safaiwala’ campaign, has conducted mass cleaning by engaging its Safaikarmis and mechanical sweepers cleaned up the entire campus.

On the occasion, the Civic Body has donated 10 large



plastic bags.

Assuring all possible support and assistance from BMC to the university authorities to make the campus clean and plastic-free, Sahoo said: “Utkal University is the oldest university

ping complexes in the institution's premises and replace them with environment friendly substitutes. They must encourage their friends to adopt habits and practices towards cleaner and plastic-free campus.”



Odisha and the President of Utkal University Alumni Association in presence of Suvendu Sahoo, Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), BMC, along with several dignitaries at Ahimsa Sthal in the varsity campus today morning with a mass pledge to keep the university campus clean and free of plastic waste.

“This campaign would be an ongoing programme in the campus with the object of freeing it of single-use plastic involving all stakeholders

dustbins, and cloth bags to the university authority which will be put up at different places on the campus of the varsity.

The Civic Body has distributed leaflets, and pamphlets to make students aware of single use plastic such as water bottles, bags, cup, plates, jugs, plastic straws, and a certain type of sachets or pencil boxes and asked them to abolish plastic from their routine life on the campus. Students were also given jute bags to use in their daily life instead of

of Odisha and has a great reputation in shaping students' career and future.

This university has produced many famous personalities and successful people from different fields such as ministers, bureaucrats, scientists, journalists, sports stars and film stars and will continue producing many more in the future.”

He asked students and staff to join hands to end plastic pollution. “Students should refrain from the use of plastic on their campuses, canteens, hostels and shop-

Among other officials who were present at the event are Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, Prof. Ashok Das, General Secretary and former Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, Prof. Basant Kumar Mallick, Chairman, PG Council, Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar, Utkal University, Dilip Kumar Bisoi, senior journalist and Information Commissioner, Government of Odisha and several officer bearers of Alumni Association.

Utkal University Slashes Hostel Fee

Considering the demands of the students, the authorities of Utkal University here on Monday announced a reduction in the hostel fee. PG Council Chairman Prof Basant Kumar Mallick said that the monthly hostel fee has been reduced by about 59 per cent.

The students will now pay Rs 1,210 instead of Rs 2,950. Notably, the students were demanding hostel fee waiver for the last two days and had gheraoed the office of the PG Council Chairman.

After an hour-long meeting, the PG Council announced the reduction in the hostel fee. The students had contended that as they had vacated the hostel due to the COVID-19 pandemic and had not used electricity and water for the last 10 months.

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Utkal University Appreciates Faculty Members for Receiving Awards/Recognition in their Respective fields.

Patents/ Product Development

01. Prof. Jagneswar Dandapat

Biotechnology

02. Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Sarangi

Computer Science & Application

03. Dr. Jyotsnarani Pradhan

Biotechnology

04. Dr. Debasish Pradhan

UDPS

05. Dr. Mrutyunjay Panda

CST

Awards & Recognitions

06. Prof. Nigamananda Das

Chemistry

07. Prof. Swapna Mahapatra

Physics

08. Prof. Anath Bandhu Das

Botany

09. Prof. Pradeep Kumar Chand

Botany

10. Prof. Jagneswar Dandapat

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25. Dr. Ajay Kumar Behera

Chemistry

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Sanskrit

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Agri MBA

28. Dr. Rudra Narayan Mohapatra

Odia