



Platinum Jubilee Celebration

1943-2018 and beyond



Souvenir

Book of Memories



UTKAL UNIVERSITY

Bhubaneswar - 751004

Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Souvenir

(Book of Memories)



Chief Editor
Prof. Sabita Acharya

Editors

Sanjay Acharya

Asim Ranjan Parhi

Subas Chandra Dash

Manidra Kumar Meher

Manoranjan Senapati

UTKAL UNIVERSITY, VANI VIHAR

Bhubaneswar - 751004

2019

SOUVENIR

(BOOK OF MEMORIES)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman: Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik

Members:

Prof. Sabita Acharya, Chairperson, P.G. Council

Prof. Sanjaya Acharya, Head, Department of AIHCA

Prof. Asim Ranjan Parhi, Head, Department of English

Dr. Subash Chandra Dash, Department of Sanskrit

Dr. Manindra Kumar Meher, Head, Department of Odia

Dr. Manoranjan Senapaty, Head, Department of Sanskrit

Shri Deepak Kumar Ram

Published by

Registrar, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751004

Printed at

Creative Cell

N/5-44, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar

2019 On The Occasion Of Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Prof. Ganeshi Lal
Governor, Odisha

ପ୍ରଫେସର ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ
ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



RAJBHAVAN
BHUBANESWAR - 751 008

ରାଜଭବନ
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧ ୦୦୮

December 03, 2019

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Utkal University is holding the closing ceremony of Platinum Jubilee on December 8, 2019. A commemorative souvenir is also being brought out on the occasion.

75 years marks an important milestone in the development of Utkal University and is a truly memorable occasion for all the members of University family. In my capacity as Chancellor, it is my great pleasure to be part of these joyous celebrations.

Over the years, Utkal University has nurtured generations of graduates, who have made a mark in life and become leaders in their professions. In addition, the research and innovation of scholars have won applause and honour.

It is time for rejoicing and also rededicating to meet the emerging challenges and shoulder greater responsibility. With dedicated and concerted efforts, I am confident that Utkal University will continue to move from strength to strength further glorifying its reputation.

I wish Utkal University and publication all success.

Ganeshi Lal
(Ganeshi Lal)

NAVEEN PATNAIK
CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA



STATE SECRETARIAT
BHUBANESWAR



MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the Utkal University is celebrating the completion of its Platinum Jubilee coupled with its Foundation Day from November 23-27, 2019, and bringing out a souvenir in commemoration.

The Utkal University is a pre-eminent university of our country. Its alumni have established themselves in diverse fields serving the Nation in different capacities. I hope the institute will scale new heights in the field of education in coming years. The celebration this year will be more meaningful and inspire the present generation of students to achieve their desired goal.

I wish the celebration all success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Patnaik', written in a cursive style.

धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान
धर्मोद्धारु घुधान
Dharmendra Pradhan



मंत्री
पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस ;
इस्पात मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Minister
Petroleum & Natural Gas ;
Steel
Government of India
New Delhi



Message

I am happy and proud that Utkal University will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of its foundation from 23 to 27 November 2019 in its PG campus, Vani Vihar. I believe it is bringing out a souvenir to mark the occasion.

It is remarkable how the University —through its 75 years long journey—has played a pivotal role in shaping the higher education landscape of Odisha.

Utkal University may be Odisha's oldest University with a strong tradition but at the same time it is lively and forward looking place. As a student of its affiliated college and later as student of the PG campus, a popular slogan of was 'what Vani Vihar thinks today Odisha thinks tomorrow'.

I am sure the University will continue nourishing the talent of Odisha and reach new heights in academic achievements.

Wish the Platinum Jubilee celebration and publication of souvenir a grand success.



(Dharmendra Pradhan)



ଡଃ. ଅରୁଣ କୁମାର ସାହୁ

ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

କୃଷି ଓ କୃଷକ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ, ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ଓ ପ୍ରାଣୀ
ସମ୍ପଦ ବିଭାଗ ଏବଂ ଇଟ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ପୂରକାର୍ଯ୍ୟ : (୦୨୦୧୪) ୧୫୩୬୦୨୦
ପି.ଏ.ଡି.ଏସ୍. : ୨୧୯୯
ଆଦାୟ : (୦୨୦୧୪) ୨୫୩୨୩୨୨

ସଂଖ୍ୟା/ମାତୃସ୍ୱପନପ୍ରାଥମିକଶି.

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ତାରିଖ

ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଉତ୍କଳ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପ୍ରାଚୀନମ୍ନ କୁରୁଛି ଉତ୍ତମ ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଏକ ସ୍ମରଣିକା ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଥିବା ଜାଣି ମୁଁ ବିଶେଷ ଆନନ୍ଦିତ ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷାର ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନର ଇତିହାସରେ ଉତ୍କଳ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପୁରିବିତ । ୧୯୪୩ ମସିହାରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ଏହି ସର୍ବପୁରାତନ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉତ୍ତ୍ରେକ ଓ ବିଭାଗ ବିଭାଗରେ ତା'ର ଅର୍ଥପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅବଦାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିପାରିଛି । ଏହି ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରୁ ଜ୍ଞାନରତ୍ନ ହୋଇ ଅନେକ ମେଧାବୀ ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀ ଆଜି ଭାରତ ତଥା ବିଦେଶରେ ସୁନାମ ଅର୍ଜନ କରିବା ସହ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ଗୌରବ ଆଣିପାରିଛନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରଜାତନ୍ତ୍ରିକ ସେବା, ବିଜ୍ଞାନ, ଶିକ୍ଷା ଆଦି ସମାଜର ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଯୋଗଦାନ ଉତ୍କଳ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱପ୍ରଭାସ ପରିଚିତି ଦେଇଛି । ନିଜ ଅତୀତରେ ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଉଚ୍ଚତମ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଅନେକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଛାଡ଼ି ନିଆଯାଇଛି । ଏହା ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାକୁ ସୁଦୂରପ୍ରସାରୀ କରିପାରିବ । ଉତ୍କଳ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ନୂତନ ପ୍ରାମାଣ କ୍ୟାମ୍ପସ୍ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷାକୁ ପ୍ରାମାଣିକ ଅଭିମୁଖୀ କରିଯାଇ ପାରିବ ଏବଂ ଏହା ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରାମାଣିକ ମେଧାବୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷାର ସୁବିଧା ପାଇପାରିବେ ।

ମୁଁ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଏବଂ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀମାନଙ୍କୁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଇବା ସହ ସମାପନ ଉତ୍ସବ ଓ ସ୍ମରଣିକା ପ୍ରକାଶନର ସର୍ବସମର୍ଥନା ଜାମନା କରୁଛି ।

(ଡଃ. ଅରୁଣ କୁମାର ସାହୁ)

Madhu Sudan Padhi, IAS
Principal Secretary to
the Governor, Odisha



RAJ BHAVAN
Bhubaneswar-751008



November 25, 2019

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Utkal University is observing the completion of Platinum Jubilee Celebration with its Foundation Day from 23rd to 27th November 2019. A souvenir is also being brought out in commemoration of this historic occasion.

Utkal University, called the Mother University in the state rises to its present height bringing cheers and pride to everyone who have been part of this remarkable journey by the University. Over the past seventy five years, Utkal University has served the state and the nation by producing generations of students whose contribution towards the development of the social, economic, political and cultural life of people is well recognized. I send my congratulations and good wishes to the University on the occasion of the Foundation Day and Platinum Jubilee Celebration.

Let the spirit of this great Institution continue to inspire to build it even bigger, on the old foundations with renewed vigour and dedication. The Souvenir would fill hearts with righteous pride and pleasure and will remain an elegant and inspiring monument for future generation of student.

I wish the occasion and publication all success.


(Madhu Sudan Padhi)



NAAC A+

UTKAL UNIVERSITY
VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR – 751004
ODISHA, INDIA



Prof. Soumendra M. Patnaik
VICE CHANCELLOR

FAX : (0674) 2567850
Tel. Off. : (0674) 2567700
Email : vcuu@rediffmail.com

6 December.2019

Message

I am highly delighted to be a part of the closing ceremony of Platinum Jubilee celebration. The journey of Utkal University for last 75 years has been an enduring one with all efforts pooled in to focus on nurturing the University to achieve the status of most preferred University in Odisha. I would like to acknowledge with thanks the contributions of founder members of Utkal University and all the stake holders who had relentlessly contributed towards achieving the academic excellence.

Utkal University called the Mother University in the state rises to its present height bringing cheers and pride to everyone who have been part of this remarkable journey of the University. It was a memorable occasion for all the stake holders. The event, I feel, was very successful and I would like to thank everybody for their kind and unfailing support. Sometimes simplest things mean the most.

I am humbled and grateful to be a part of this Platinum Jubilee and will always treasure this moment for my life time. I am touched beyond words.

Soumendra Mohan Patnaik

Bijay Kumar Patnaik
Convenor, Utkal Alumni



Message

I am indeed delighted that my alma mater, Utkal University, has celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. As one of the oldest Universities of the country, she has given birth to thousands of brilliant scholars and eminent persons who have carved out a distinctive identity for themselves in their respective fields. They are in all parts of India and all over the globe. The Jubilee celebration is an occasion to bind them together and to remind them of the glorious contribution of this great institution to their lives.

A time has now come to give back to our alma mater what we have got from her in more ways than one.

I wish my friends the very best on this occasion and I hope we can make our University one of the best in the country and in the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.K. Patnaik'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

B.K.Patnaik



Looking Ahead: Foundation Day Speech by Vice Chancellor

Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik
Vice Chancellor

Esteemed Chief guests revered Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha.

Guest of Honor Respected Dr. Subroto Bagchi, Chairman Odisha Skill Development Corporation.

Hon'ble Minister Higher Education Dr. Arun Sahoo.

Hon'ble Member of Parliament Dr. Achyut Samant.

Local MLA Shri Susant Kumar Rout.

Chairperson P.G.Council Prof. Sabita Acharya.

Registrar Shri Dayanidhi Nayak.

Chairpersons Different State PSU/CPSU.

Distinguished faculty members, staff and alumni from various corners of India.

Respected Government Officers, Police DG/Commissioner Police/DCP, Media Persons and my dear students the future of Odisha.

Ladies & Gentlemen.

I extend a warm and hearty welcome to you on this fine morning of 23rd Nov auspicious, Margasira ekadasi.

On the occasion of celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of this premier University, which was founded at a very critical juncture of Indian History, 7 years after the formation of the separate province of Orissa and 4 years before Indian Independence.

I have been looking for an Odia word for "Platinum". And have no hesitation in confessing that I have still to find one. But Platinum has a color-"Bluish Grey" and grey is the color of transformation and the idea of transformation constitutes an important component of the: 5T; the Unique mantra of responsive administration, given by our Hon'ble Chief Minister is in fact a formula to understand the elementary structure of contemporary governance applicable to all forms of social, governmental and academic institutions.

Universities are unique institutions: Part family, Part corporations and part government. They are institutions with long history; in the context of western countries, they are the longest unbroken chain after Catholic Church.

Utkal University has attained the distinction of serving the humanity for last 75 glorious years and has always connected – the distant dots.

The new campus at Chandikhole, which became possible due to Blessings of our Revered Chief Minister in last academic year, is focusing on skill based education and competency based learning so as to make rural spaces more attractive for the youth.

In the entire University of Utkal, more specifically at Vani Vihar campus, there is a renewed interest to achieve the "cosmopolitan character" by emerging as an epicenter of higher education in the part of the country.

The newly created Utkal International Office is already in the process of connecting the International scholars, especially the Odia diaspora abroad for creating a strong base for knowledge economy ensuring democratization of knowledge production.

In this neo-liberal economy one of the questions that loom large in our mind is: Why public universities need to be strengthened? # Primarily because the right to education has to be realized even among the poorest youth of the remotest corner of the state country.

Utkal University has always received the Blessings of Hon'ble Chief Minister – in terms of New campus, digital library, central instrumentation centre, language blocks ... And more recently the much awaited boundary wall project and modernization of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Auditorium.... RUSA; World Bank and many more.

Utkal will enter into a highly competitive process for getting assistance under RUSA – 3.0 (beginning early next year 2020)

While making a perspective plan for 15 years, Utkal realized that it takes us to 2035, at the door step of celebrating 100 years (Satabarshiki) of Odisha's political existence.

We are fortunate that at this critical juncture of Odisha's history presence has showered Blessings on all of at this historic Biju Patnaik Sports Complex.

With your blessings Sir! Utkal University will strive to produce the future citizens of Odisha and taking inspirations from its intellectual heritage of Satyabadi, it would continue to play its role as "Manisha Tiari Karakhana".

Vande Mataram

Vande Utkal Janani

Report of the Registrar for the Foundation Day – 27.11.2019

His Excellency Professor Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha and Chancellor, Utkal University

Hon'ble justice Shree Dipak Misra, former Chief Justice of India,

Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

Chairperson, P.G. Council,

Respected Syndicate Members

Director, Students Welfare

All the Teachers, Officers, Employees, Winners of medals and prizes, Distinguished invitees & Guests, Members of the Print and Electronic Media, Students & Alumni, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a pleasure and honour on my part to present the achievement report of the University before this august gathering.

In my report I will focus particularly on four major areas in which University has excelled those are:

(1) Reforms, (2) Research, (3) Faculty/Student achievements (4) Special Achievements.

To begin with, Sir, the **Alumni Website** which was inaugurated by your honour on this very day last year in 2018, helped us in bringing together, more than 6000 alumni of the university culminating in the **mega Alumni Meet on 24th November 2019**.

During this academic year, Sir, the university organized its **49th convocation** where **674 students** were awarded D. Litt and Doctoral degrees for the years **2016-17 & 2017-18**.

1. Reforms: The University took significant steps in bringing about examination and academic reforms this year.

The university shifted to digital evaluation through OMR for its P.G, M. Phil & Ph. D entrance examinations to ensure transparency in higher education. The university, also for the first time conducted its M. Phil & Ph. D entrance examinations on the national level with centers in Delhi, Hyderabad and Guwahati.

As part of its Academic Reforms, the university not only introduced courses in the German and Japanese languages, it also launched the M. Ed and B. Ed programmes and Masters in Hindi this year.

At its 2nd Campus in Chandikhole, the B.Sc. programme in Nursing has been introduced along with new courses on Rural Management, Masters in Public Health etc.

Furthering its digital initiative, under the Odisha Right to Public Service Act, in collaboration with CMGI, the university has made the process of procuring Migration Certificate & CLC, online and has also taken steps for the publication of results within 45 days.

2. Research:

Utkal University is committed to basic long-term research in frontier areas. To that end we have set up centers of excellence in Climate change & public health, public policy and governance, North-east India studies, unorganized labour, Language, literature & culture, High energy physics & Advanced Chemistry with funding from RUSA and World Bank.

An International Cell has been made functional with World Bank funding in order to promote cooperation, research and educational exchanges with universities across the globe, Utkal University has signed MoUs with the Universities of California, Miami, Boston and the North-Eastern University.

2 Institutional Chair Professors in association with the Reserve Bank of India and the Govt. of India funded Chair Professor in memory of Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara have been set up.

Utkal University has entered into a collaborative study of manuscripts discovered in China with Sarala Das Chair

Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

As part of its Platinum Jubilee Lecture series, the University organized 10 lectures delivered by internationally renowned scholars and academicians.

3. Faculty/Student achievements:

During this year the various P.G departments of the University organized 7 International seminars, 26 National seminars and 5 national workshops.

Teacher Training Programmes funded by World Bank -Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity were organized by the College Development Council to train undergraduate teachers in the newly implemented CBCS syllabus.

Principal's Conference was also organized to enhance the preparedness of our affiliated colleges for NAAC accreditation.

40 of our teachers have participated and presented papers in National level conferences. 6 of our teachers participated in International seminars, workshops and leadership programmes in Greece, Australia, Srilanka, Thailand, Italy, and USA. During this period our teachers have published 15 books and more than 80 papers in peer reviewed journals of national and international repute. 8 major projects and 4 minor projects supported by UGC, ICSSR, DST, DBT, Govt. of Odisha are undertaken.

4. Our students are our assets. University organized a centralized Induction programme for all the fresher's. 188 students of different departments have qualified for the Junior Research Fellowship & UGC-NET. More than 40 students of different science departments qualified GATE and other exams. Our students have received International fellowships to pursue PhD outside India. Several students have also been selected by Indian Academy of Science for higher studies.

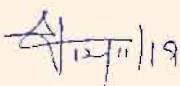
5. The UGC-HRDC center at the University organized 9 Refresher Courses, 3 Orientation programmes and 1 short-term course where 587 teachers from various universities and colleges participated. An Induction Training Programme, was organized for the 120 newly recruited teachers by the Govt. of Odisha, HRDC also successfully launched an Online Refresher Course in Anthropology, under ARPIT on Swayam.

6. Last but not least, the University commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2019 with the inaugural of the Ahimsa Sthal and the Gandhi Memorial Park in the university premises. A diploma course on Peace Studies was also launched on this occasion.

We are optimistic about the future and sensitive to the challenges ahead. I thank the Hon'ble Chancellor for his continued support for our university. I place on record our gratitude and thank all of you for the patient hearing.

Thank you one and all.

Bande Utkal Janani



(Shri Dayanidhi Nayak)

Registrar

English



CONTENTS

My Vani Vihar	Asoka Kumar Das
Serving my Alma Mater	Kunja Bihari Panda
Mera VaniVihar Mahan	Ranjan Kumar Bal
Utkal University at the Beginning	Basanta Kumar Panda
A Home Away From Home	Manoranjan Nayak
Botany Department: An Integral Part of Utkal University	Shiba Prasad Rath
Alumni and their Alma Mater	Damodar Pradhani
Vani Vihar- An Everlasting Memory	Harekrushna Mahanta
Vani Vihar As I See It	Sanjib Kumar Das
Reminiscing on Completion of 75 Years	Soumya Mishra
Vani Vihar: The <i>Sanctum Sanctorum</i> to Which I Will Remain Ever Indebted –	Chinmoy Kumar Sahoo
History of Sanskrit Department of Utkal University	Kshitish Bhuyan
Utkal University of Our Times	Chandra Sekhar Biswal
My Alma Mater...Where It All Began	Subhashree Priyadarshini
My Reflections on my Alma Mater	Jitendra Das
A Beginner at Utkal University	Madhumita Nayak
Odisha – A Fascinating Cultural Destination	Chitta Ranjan Mallia
Thank You Vani Vihar	Pramod Kumar Das
Vani Vihar: I Owe You	Mamun Mousum Nayak
A Foundation Day Gift-	Sumita Chakraborty
Utkrushta Utkal	Asim Ranjan Parhi



My Vani Vihar Part I

Asoka Kumar Das

My first acquaintance with Vani Vihar was on the first Monday of July, 1971. I had just passed from BJB College with Physics Honours and got admitted in to the M.Sc. course in Physics at Utkal University. It was very difficult to get a seat, particularly in Physics. Unlike the present time, there was no entrance test. Professor B. B. Deo had decided that the admission to physics will be on the basis of entire career instead of performance in Bachelor's examination alone. So, there I was, standing in front of the notice board in the first floor of the physics building, checking my name and patting myself on the back for securing a place at Vani Vihar.

Vani Vihar was the ultimate higher education destination for all of us for whom a good education was the "be all and end all" of our life. Life at Vani Vihar was tough. I was a day scholar. I used to cycle to the physics department at 8.30 am every day. Each Class used to be anywhere from one and half to two hours. Two to three classes in the morning and practicals in the afternoon. The building housed the part I students, part II students, research scholars and faculty. Everybody was mortally frightened of Professor Deo. He was reputed and also seen as being totally devoted to physics and nothing else. As classes started and gained momentum, there was the issue of text books. Professor Deo had solved it very effectively by creating a lending library. It was truly a boon for students like me who could ill afford to buy them. In our batch we were four from BJB College, two were from SCS college Puri, some from Ravenshaw and others from spread all over the state. All of them were absolute top class students and graduated to great thinkers. Some of them became the top bankers of the nation starting from the Apex bank itself. Some became great physics teachers building foundations of new learning. A few like me got in to research as a profession.

Prof. Deo was a great stickler for seminars and students compulsorily attended. We listened to many Visiting dignitaries, eminent researchers, and faculty and research scholars from the Department during my time. Prof Deo would often lead the discussions. In the beginning we understood very little of what was being discussed and perhaps Prof. Deo perceived this. I remember him saying and I quote, "I know you people may not be able to understand much at this stage. My advice would be to continue attending and listening. No one understands "Bhagvad Gita" in its first reading. But at the fourth or fifth, realization would happen and life would be interesting" I could never forget this. Learning physics from Professor Deo, was a great pleasure and fulfilling experience. In later life, I met many accomplished physics teachers who influenced me greatly. But Prof. Deo was the first and therefore special.

I used to spend a lot of time at the Parija Library. The iconic Parija library with its unique structure was first established in 1946 and shifted to Vani Vihar during 1962. Endowed with more than two lakh books, 5800 ancient manuscripts it houses a number of rare books, reports and manuscripts. Parija library was in its prime those days. I used to go up to the third floor where old copies of old physics journals were stacked and read up to evening when it was time to go home. Libraries have often played the most important role in shaping my life. It is a great pity that Parija Library has been allowed to decay to the state as it is in today. I cannot imagine, how a group of absolutely top intellectuals can allow this iconic library that defined the oldest university of the state to reduce to such a pitiable state. When I visited it again I was simply furious and the fury remains even today.

During the breaks, I used to visit either the boys hostels or the small Bhaina Canteen near the Water Tank and partake of whatever meals were available. Hostel is another institution that has been allowed to become bad. It used to be much better in those days. As luck would have it, I left Vani Vihar after 3 months of studying for Part II for the officer's training school at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The parting from Prof Deo was tumultuous to start with followed by emotively affectionate advice. Life followed a different trajectory as physics became my profession and



I must admit that the grounding at Vani Vihar was always a critical factor in shaping my life. Due to God's infinite grace, I came back to Vani Vihar forty two years later but, that is another story to be told separately.

As a common day scholar student of average intelligence, I focused on learning and enjoying the company of vastly superior multifaceted talents of my batch mates and our seniors. But the imprint of the university was strong and the emotional connection I felt was always defined by two words alone "My Vani Vihar". Hence the story.

My Vani Vihar Part II

It was a rare luck and chance of colossal proportions when I landed back in My Vani Vihar Campus on June 20, 2014 to work there. The story of my career completing a full circle where a young boy trying to learn some physics as a passion gets a window of opportunity to learn and apply physics in a national perspective for more than four decades and then returns to his mother university with a different window of opportunity to contribute towards its development. I, in fact, took voluntary retirement to come back. Anyone familiar with the scenario would agree that the probability of this happening was miniscule but, it happened and here was I sitting in a chair occupied by some of Odisha's most eminent Children and staying in a house where these great men left their footprints. It was greatly humbling and incredibly frightening.

Vani Vihar of 2014 was somehow a greatly misunderstood place. Particularly, the students, they used to be portrayed as violent, unruly and indifferent to serious learning; the faculties were also portrayed badly. A number of people occupying important positions privately expressed their great surprise at my return and advised me to go away in all good faith. Not that I was not tempted. However, the good sense of some of my senior professor colleagues at Vani Vihar and my family (wife and very brave daughter)s prevailed and I started work. Three facts were immediately apparent to me. One, the university's focus must be the students and their grievances must be addressed forthwith. 99% of students in Vani Vihar are studious, talented and eager to learn. But they must have proper and adequate Classrooms, library, laboratory, faculty, hostel facilities, basic amenities like canteen, water, electricity, WiFi, sports facilities and it is wrong to attribute motive to them if these are not delivered. Second most important stake holders were the faculty and the realization that they are working for the best and Heritage University of the state. They must be strengthened with new young blood and respected for their knowledge, applauded for their contribution in research and inspired to work to raise the level of Vani Vihar to a University of National and international Substance. Third aspect had to deal with the public and Government at large who perhaps love their mother university so intensely that their perceptions are easily swayed. Therefore Vani Vihar needed to develop a brand value and show some measurable level of excellence that could put it on the rising path. We worked on these three aspects as a team. We could recruit about 80+ faculty, many of them young, in a smooth and transparent manner. We drastically improved infrastructure both through maintenance and new construction. Of particular mention are the new hostels, library, academic buildings, BARC outreach centre, Second rural Campus at Chandikhole, a grand sports stadium, HRDC, Central instrumentation centre etc. We initiated new research incentivisation schemes, research conclaves, concept of living laboratories, e-library, regular academic audits and preparation for a NAAC Accreditation that was long pending. We were the first to initiate Choice based credit system in Undergraduate stream. The ultimate result was a NAAC CGPA of 3.53 that in today's nomenclature translates to A++. This was Vani Vihar's return to glory and the sight of students, faculty and staff dancing with perceptible pride was something of a beauty to behold. Today, it stands as a Grade I autonomous University.

I must put on record great amount of gratitude and thanks to the "We" that I have kept on referring to in this story. Firstly the state Government, Honorable Ministers, Secretaries, Higher education Department and particularly



the Honourable Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik who on his first visit to Vani Vihar student Union Function provided financial assistance to the tune of about Rupees 100 Crore for the transformation. Support to the concepts like Central Instrumentation Centre, Rural outreach centre, rural campus were provided by him perhaps unique to Odisha. The other partner in “we” were the faculty and staff, particularly the senior professors formed a team that was unassailable. Vani Vihar faculty always has had fantastic bench strength and they displayed it with great determination. The third partner in “we” was the students. Once their grievances were addressed they were of great support. The final partner in “we” were the affiliated Colleges, alumni, members of public, press and retired staff who stunned the NAAC team by appearing before them and expressed their love “their Vani Vihar” unequivocally. Finally I must thank “Lord Jagannath” who stayed the entire path with us and pushed us in the right way at all times. I ended my tenure with Vani Vihar on the last day of July 2017 and now eager as an alumnus to contribute. It may be interesting to note that the Vani Vihar model of research incentivisation is being replicated across the state.

On the Occasion of 75th year, we all are happy to see so much enthusiasm and good wishes all around us. It makes me proud. Utkal University will always stay in our minds as our mother. Let us work towards and pray for its continued good health and glory at all times. Jai Jagannath.

Physics, Batch of 1971-73
asokadas@gmail.com



Serving My Alma Mater – A Dream Come True

Kunja Bihari Panda^{*}(1983)

Goutam Buddha said:

“It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons, heaven or hell.”

The question here is how to achieve this stupendous feat. It could be possible by attaining a state of wisdom which has its origin in knowledge. The crux of the philosophy entirely depends on how one is enriching oneself through knowledge. Obviously, education comes to play its role.

We are at crossroads when the question of shouldering the responsibility of steering a state or a nation to its ultimate destination arises. Opportunity has come for all of us after a lapse of 75 years to introspect and choose the future course collectively. Unity is perhaps the need of the hour. We are, therefore, supposed to consolidate our efforts so as to reach new heights in terms of accomplishing the objective.

The joy of being a part and parcel of this grand get-together is unbounded and unspeakable. It is all due to the grace of the Almighty that I could be one among the privileged class. I use this opportunity to outline below some of my reflections about my Alma Mater, lest I should not find a better occasion in future.

Utkal University was then in the limelight so far as higher education was concerned. Influenced so much by its name and fame, I abandoned pursuing my higher studies in a royal subject like Physics elsewhere and switched over to Statistics on the contrary for my Post Graduation even amidst uncertainties surrounding my future. To my good luck, it clicked when I got recognition for my standout performance in the final M.Sc. Examination. Needless to mention, Statistics laid the foundation of my future endeavours and I have never looked back since my Vani Vihar days.

Life took a turn, when I was through the selection committee constituted by the Utkal University for the purpose of appointing 'Reader in Statistics' way back in 2010. Hoping against hope, I could live up to my expectations of serving my Alma Mater, though at the fag end of my career in academics. It is apt to mention here that I had spent about 20 years of my prime time outside the University system serving Under Graduate Colleges - both Govt. Aided and Govt. I enjoyed a brief sojourn of two years span having served the Directorate of Higher Education against an administrative post. I had the pride and privilege of serving the premier College of the state - the B.J.B. Autonomous College for as long as 13 years in two spells. It was all possible because of the fact that I was carrying along my journey the brand names of Utkal University and Delhi University as well. I may state that, in 1995, I had accomplished my Ph. D. Degree from University of Delhi.

I added a feather to my cap, when I successfully contested the prestigious post of Secretary, Utkal University Teachers' Association (UUTA) for the year 2018. To register an entry into the democratic space of intellectuals is as good as a milestone. We, the elected representatives, might have achieved little in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of all stakeholders in general and teaching fraternity in particular from home-front, our contribution to higher education was no less significant when viewed from the standpoint of entire state. The much sought after **Seventh UGC Scales of Pay** got implemented.

There is no gainsaying about the fact that Utkal University, in its 76 years of history, has rendered invaluable services in the larger interest of mankind having given birth to noted academicians, administrators, agriculturalists, enterprisers, industrialists, social workers, statesmen and the like. They have been, in turn, contributing untiringly to the growth and development of the entire globe, spreading across it the spiritual message of paramount importance



'*Basudheibakutumbakam*'. It is rightly imparting education which, according to Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is a liberating force, and in our age it is also a democratising force, cutting across barriers of caste and class, and smoothing out inequalities imposed by births and other circumstances. In fitness of things, Utkal University holds her head high insofar as the duties and functions of a University are defined.

As my thoughts are drawing to a close, my heart is choked with emotions and I am reminded of my role as an alumnus and a teacher of a great University. I cannot but take a solemn pledge on this auspicious occasion to keep my Alma Mater close to my chest until I breathe my last. I would prefer to stop by invoking Mahatma Gandhi :-

**“Study as if you were to live forever
Live as if you were to die tomorrow”.**

Bande Utkal Viswavidyalaya

**The author is currently Professor and Head of Statistics Department, Utkal University.*



Mera Vani Vihar Mahan

Ranjan Kumar Bal

Background: I have spent many nostalgic moments at Vani Vihar (VV), both as a student and as a teacher. I feel very proud of my Alma Mater which gave me my identity and a lot of rewards. I was sad, as I did not do my P.G. from VV, which I did from Ravenshaw College (now, University). But my desire was fulfilled when I did my M.Phil. and Ph.D. from VV and also enjoyed 35 years of my life at VV. I found that I got my I.Sc., B.Com (H), M.Com. and all my higher degrees from Utkal University (UU) only with three gold medals. I also secured record marks in M.Com. Whatever I achieved in my life, it is only due to my alma mater, UU.

VV Gave Life to Millions of Dreams: Since 1943, millions of students have realised their dreams in UU. To be a teacher was not in my dream. Therefore, I rejected the offer from Bhadrak College. I was leaving RBI to join NABARD, but VV came in between and I joined. It's only due to my University, I realised my dreams; viz., President, Indian Accounting Association; member for formulation of Higher Education Policy of Government of Odisha; got awards like, Outstanding Researcher from IAA Research Foundation, Kolkata, and Most Inspiring Personality (Academics) from Interview Times. I'm also doing my dream activities now, in Learning Community (for poor commerce students, etc.); MAN Trust (for autistic children, etc.); and 'Art of Living' (for schools in tribal areas, etc.). Only VV gave me and many others wings to fulfil our dreams.

Beautiful, Meaningful and Happy Days: It was 31st March 1983, I joined VV and my life changed. I also joined the Department of Business Administration as its first faculty member and did its first Ph.D. Both Commerce and MBA shaped my journey of life. I was very fortunate to handle various responsibilities, viz. Chairman, P.G. Council; Vice Chancellor (I/C); Comptroller of Finance (I/C); Director, DDCE; Director, IQAC; Coordinator, NAAC and RUSA; Director, UGC-Academic Staff College and HRDC. A number of historic and memorable events took place during my life at VV. I was the Advisor, Students Union, when our Hon'ble CM declared Rs. 100 crore for VV. I was the Chairman, when our University got 'A+' and entered the list of best ten state Universities in India and got Rs. 100 crore of RUSA funds. VV reformed my body, mind and soul. Really, I am grateful and indebted to VV.

A Tribute to our Leaders: We have to recognise and appreciate the contributions of all our present and past stakeholders on the eve of Platinum Jubilee celebration. The present VC and his team are doing praiseworthy initiatives. While performing their duties, many VCs, Chairpersons, Registrars, CoFs, CoEs, DOs, etc. got diabetes and high blood pressure due to stress and anxiety. I salute them and their families.

Everything's not OK? That's Fine: There are some bitter truths about VV and some people call my University in different names. A lot of fake news goes around. I have also faced problems. I have gone to the High Court for the first time in my life in a contempt case, and I was fortunate as the judge was a commerce student. But as Chairman, I have seen the outputs of teachers and students for two years, which are world class. Lights are green now; it's time to move on with passion, humility, tolerance and love.

Our Road Ahead: UU can earn world-wide trust and respect if we maintain a conducive education ecosystem for achieving excellence in teaching, research, consultancy, extension and spiritual activities with accountable governance. We have to nurture the knowledge and skills of the students, and build the capacity of the teachers in a future-ready learning and eco-friendly environment. VV needs a climate and culture of innovation for fostering professional development and entrepreneurship. Alumni and other stakeholders have to play their role. UU needs quality infrastructure: physical, digital, intellectual and emotional. Our Alma Mater desires us to do all these! The ball is in our court. God bless our UU and all of us!

Former Chairman
P.G. Council, Utkal university

Utkal University At The Beginning

Prof. Basanta Kumar Panda

The history of Utkal University is an invaluable chronicle of the social and intellectual progress of the state of Odisha. It was fortunate that the circumstances favoured the birth of the University when the province of Odisha was formed in 1936. The popular desire for a university was widely expressed and the Utkal University Act was passed by the Odisha Legislature on 30th June 1943. The University was inaugurated on 2nd August 1943 and it started functioning from 27th November 1943. Prior to the establishment of the University, the teaching institutions of the province were under the jurisdiction of two Universities: Patna and Andhra Universities. The University got the territorial jurisdiction over the entire state of Odisha. The preservation and progress of the common culture of the Odia nation as a whole was assured by the creation of the Utkal University.

The University started functioning with its office at Cuttack. Consequent upon the decision to build the campus at Bhubaneswar, the University had drawn up a development plan during 3rd plan period with the approval of the State Govt. The character of the University, which started as an affiliating body, had changed and it had undertaken post-graduate teaching in various subjects.

Some of the significant features of the University at the beginning must be mentioned.

Improvement of Odia Literature: The University had a fund, which was augmented by the state Govt. for the encouragement of Odia Literature. Works of literary merit which could not find ready market, were supported by this scheme. This had helped in publishing some works in Odia which perhaps would never have seen the light of the day.

Jnan Vijnan Parisad: Soon after the inception the University constituted a research body named Jnan Vijnan Parisad with an objective of promoting original study and research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge under its auspices in all branches. Research schemes were invited from scholars working in constituent colleges and learned societies to provide grants.

Odia Encyclopaedia: In 1956 the University decided to compile an Encyclopaedia in Odia language to cater to the needs of the people. Intended to serve both the general reader and the scholar alike, this project was meant to publish in several volumes concerning the entire gamut of knowledge. A shorter version of it was published in 4 volumes ably compiled by Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh to meet the demands of Odia readers a book of reference on most topics not merely daily interest but of lasting value as well.

History of Odisha: Another work of importance, which the University had undertaken, is the compilation of an authoritative history of Odisha from source materials. The work was aiming at an authentic representation of Odisha history in the light of new facts and findings. Two volumes were published written by Dr. N.K. Sahu and Dr. Prabhat Mukharjee. The work was left in the half way.

Prachi Valley Project: As per the decision of the State Museum the University had undertaken the work of exploration and excavation of Prachi Valley in the year 1956-57. First phase exploration was completed under the supervision of Prof. Ghanasyam Dash and a report with rich historical data had been published. The second phase was not done. It was the idea that Prachi valley excavation may provide some missing links between the ancient and medieval periods for rebuilding the history.

Paribhasha Project: The University had launched upon a scheme of preparing and standardising a vocabulary in Odia, which would form a true foundation for compiling and writing of books in Odia in all subjects. The Paribhasha committees had been set up for different branches of knowledge.

These were some of the works initiated at the beginning phase of the establishment of the University. People who are at the helm of the affairs were thinking that the progressiveness of Odisha will be judged by the greatness of its University and its contribution to the extension and dissemination of knowledge. Now, after three fourth of a century we should think in the same way and work in the same spirit to revive the old works and rebuild our University, the abode of our knowledge and the symbol of our national glory.

panda.bk@rediffmail.com



A Home Away From Home

Manoranjan Nayak

It was the first time that I had stayed away from home. I was initially very homesick. But later the stay at the Utkal University Campus became so wonderful that I never felt I was away from home. This is because of quality friends at the campus. It was a new challenge and learning experience. I cherish the great moments spent on the campus. We have all remained in touch with each other for many years. We feel the freshness of our association even now. My stay at Utkal University was wonderful and memorable. It is really a great honour for me to have been a student of the Department of Botany.

From the first day, when I got admission to University, I have received the support and cooperation of my HOD Prof. Ramachandra Mohanty sir in the process of learning. I remember Prof. Manoranjan Kar sir referring to me as 'Maitra' meaning 'friend' in Odia which motivated me to work hard in the field of Biochemistry. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra sir's Taxonomy classes guided me to be a better student in the field of Taxonomy. Prof. Shanti Lata Sahoo madam's word "Always be happy whatever you get" still makes me happy and nostalgic. Madam Dr. Ritarani Das's support, help and cooperation to study hard and her direct support by providing books and proper guidance in study will always remind me of the University life.

Always all my teachers Prof. S.P Rath, Prof. S.P Adhikari, Prof. H.K Patra, Prof. P.K Chand and Dr. PK Swain guided me to be successful in life. It made the university a home away from home for me.

While leaving the Campus, I felt I was leaving my home and all my friends at the Utkal University. It was a very emotional moment in my life. Words fail me when I try to express my deep sense of gratitude towards everything while I was in the campus.

Jai Hind. Jai Utkal University.

C2/6, SBI Quarters, Gunjan, Vapi, Gujarat
Alumni From Dept. Of Botany 2005-2007

Botany Department: An Integral Part of Utkal University

Shiba Prasad Rath

The department of Botany was established on 7th July under Utkal University in a small room of the University Administrative Building (Presently, to Official Chamber of CDC). It was the year when Utkal University just completed its Silver Jubilee and the Nation was observing the Birth Centenary of the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi. Incidentally, now, while the University is observing its Platinum Jubilee, the Botany Department is observing its Golden Jubilee and the nation is observing the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The departments of English and Odia were also opened in the University in the same year (1969) along with Botany. As the first batch of students of the Department, the 12 of us (that is the strength) along with me took admission on 9th July and there were only three Faculty members- Dr. Bidyadhar Padhy, as Professor and Dr. Dinabandhu Mishra and Dr. Satyanarayan Patnaik as the two other faculty members. After admission, we understood that the Department would be housed in Regional College of Education, Bhubaneswar (now known as RIE) as the University does not have its own building. However the students would stay in the hostels located in the campus. At that time there were only 3 hostels in the campus, viz., Gents Hostel No. I (Gopabandu Chhatrabas), Gents Hostel No. II (Madhusudhan Chhatrabas) and Ladies Hostel No. I (Kuntala Kumari Chhatri Nibas). We had to go to Regional College of Education in the morning and come back in the evening by foot since there was no straight direct road and a drain was there in between. We, all 12 students, 3 Faculty members, two laboratory assistants, two laboratory attendants, one storekeeper, one office assistant and one sweeper spent our two years so happily that we cherish those days even today. After the completion of our studentship, the department was shifted to the campus as the new Departmental building was completed.

Now the Department has spent 50 years and the students have come and gone over the years. Almost 2300 or more students have left the Department by now as its Alumni. The students of this department have always been brilliant and outstanding which is evident from their achievements in every walk of life. One can see that some of the alumni have excelled in All India Civil Services, Forest and other National Competitions and also in State competitive Services. Many of the Alumni have served at most of the Nationalized Banks besides serving as teachers or Principals of Colleges. Now most of them have retired at the top and brought glory for the department. Most of the students have gone to foreign countries either for jobs or for research. One of our Alumni retired as Secretary of the Government of India and another one as Additional Chief Secretary as well as Chairman, NABARD. Few have also retired as Principal Chief Conservator of Forest. The most significant achievement of the Alumni of this department is that five of them have adorned chair of the Vice-Chancellor of different Universities.

Not only has the department always enrolled brilliant students but also brilliant teachers who are the chief reason behind the department's success. Now on this occasion of Platinum Jubilee, I must say that this department is the first to have an Alumni Association since 1974 and regularly conducting its annual function uninterruptedly. I hope and believe that if all the departments will concentrate on their achievements, the University will be glorified further and we shall have an excellent centenary with our head high.

Former Vice-Chancellor
North Orissa University



Alumni and their Alma mater

Sri Damodar Pradhani

Alumni are emotionally committed to the success of their alma mater. Generally they nurture the culture of pride and loyalty in their institutions. There are both intrinsic and extrinsic motivations towards the institution where they have studied in the past. In the last few years we have seen the formation of various alumni associations. It is a good sign but it seldom serves any noble purpose. In developed countries the services of the alumni is a great asset for their universities and in a sense facilitates their already developed educational system. Almost two decades back, one of my friends who studied in an American University got a call from his alma mater to contribute some gift to the university and responding to that call he reluctantly paid 100 dollar as a gift to the university. To his utter surprise they left a voice message the next day thanking him with the suggestion that the gift be used to support the needy scholars and improve the quality of education. The reluctant relationship blossomed and every year after that my friend created a small endowment in his alma mater to support a needy student.

The issues involved in this example are that the alumni engagement and corporate support in higher education are very important for colleges and universities that are looking forward. The alumni can lower the cost of education and transform the educational experience for students. Most US universities now focus engaging alumni both to raise fund and to improve the educational experience for students. At the University of Texas at Austin, the alumni association called Texas Exes gave 3.45 Billion dollar in scholarship to 641 students on 2015-16. This does not include alumni support to individual colleges of the campus. We frequently hear of capital campaigns from numerous universities to raise large amount of funds to support scholarship, faculty, and research and so on. These funds are required to attract bright students and advance knowledge, innovation and teaching. Indian colleges must have to think in similar pattern to advance opportunities and knowledge.

The cost of attending higher education institutions in India is moving in the direction of U.S Universities and it is not an anodyne for the Indian students. They are scared of the fact that fruition may or may not come to them. Despite public outcry tuition fees continue to increase each year. The Indian government subsidized higher education in government institutions to the tune of 90 percent in the 1990s but has recently asked various institutions to become self-reliant. This is leading to dramatic increase in tuition fees in premier institutions resisting veering approach of the civil society. Educational loan programme is not the solution. Before the situation gets bad to worse we must explore ways to contain the cost of education and proactively engage alumni to avoid societal costs.

Alumni bring context and practical relevance to what is being taught in the class room. An incoming student is more likely to be influenced by a recent pass out scholar than a professor on the relevance of topics to his or her career. Mid career alumni can reinforce the aspects of schooling that impact their day to day life. Often they can relate to the students better than the faculty does. In the late 60s and 70s the toppers of various branches like Political Science, History etc. in Utkal University, Vanivihar, were given the opportunities to teach their young students who yielded a better result in UPSC examinations. The services of alumni can be better utilized in the present context also.

The universities are in ferment in our country now. They do not hesitate to give anti national slogan. The political parties target universities and young students for their political interest which leads to violence, especially communal violence. Debate and dissent have always been part of its ethos but never violence. The great leaders of our country, once upon a time were alumni of various universities. They have successfully confronted the problems of their time. There is no question of violence in democracy. The present ferment in our top ranking universities can very well be settled with the help of prominent alumni who are now in the political arena. Their influence and efficiency cannot be ignored which is very much essential in the present time.



Innovation is the key to progress and prosperity. It converts knowledge into social good and economic wealth. A nation that performs high innovation has among other factors, a buoyant and supportive financial sector to leverage such innovations. Educational institutions have a critical role to play in nurturing innovations in society. Leader of the higher education sector must establish a connection between their institutes and the grass root innovations in their hinterland and also set up innovation clubs. Our esteemed President of India put emphasis on the role played by the leaders of higher education in this regard. If the alumni come forward and the innovation clubs put their experience in an organized manner that can help our students to sense the unmet needs of the common man and ultimately they will celebrate innovation. The alumni must ignite young minds, encourage them to pursue their curiosity and help them discover the fascination of creating something new. A serious burden lies with the alumni which they have to shoulder in forming knowledge club as innovation club in their respective alma mater.

In the process of recruitment the alumni are a great resource as they are the brand ambassadors and advocates for students. Colleges that have a deeper engagement with alumni also have an easier time placing their students. Engaging the alumni early will help students find internships and firms can identify promising talent. Furthermore, alumni can help with model interviews to prepare students to do well in the process of searching for jobs.

The executives who represent corporations bring credibility and act as brand ambassadors. In the United States it is a matter of pride for executives to be part of universities and various programmes. Corporations have equal responsibility or even more than the government that benefits them and ultimately to the society. Corporations know their need for talent and skills better than the govt. They play a significant role in developing talent and they have to invest for the future. The alumni play a vital role in nurturing talent for the corporations. In trying to develop rich entrepreneurial eco systems, many institutions are following a playbook established years ago by Stanford University and MIT which involves academic courses, practical experience and an extended alumni advisory network. The university also conducts internship programme so that students can spend time at young companies. The university wants to help students, faculty and alumni become more entrepreneurial in business, government and non-profit work. In the industrial sector advanced knowledge is very much essential for development of skills and for solving various types of problems. They engage their employees to learn in specialized classes. The knowledge group consisting of alumni is of utmost importance to update them with innovative skills it is a continuous process. The industrial output intends to satisfy the demand of the market which is possible though practical knowledge and academic rigour to the students that supplement the learning process. In the changing scenario of knowledge, society and innovations there is a visible difference the alumni can make for the country which can never be undermined in the present day society. The universities and research centers in India need to prepare students for the ongoing century and thereafter. They have to utilize their alumni actively in a systematic manner.

Former Special Secretary to Govt. Of Odisha
Higher Education Department



Vani Vihar - An Everlasting Memory

Harekrushna Mahanta

No doubt, it becomes a great moment for anyone when an opportunity comes to talk or write about the institution in which one has undergone their higher studies. We know about Oxbridge talents and we take their names with the greatest esteems that got the privilege to enter the red bricks campus at Oxford and Cambridge Universities especially during pre independence era. And here in Odisha, Utkal University has tremendous impact on the educational environment of this state beside the Bay of Bengal on the eastern part of India.

Back in November 27, 1943 Utkal University was established when India was still under British rule. It then became the 17th University of India. Pandit Nilakantha Das, Maharaja Krishna Chandra Bhanjdeo and Pt. Gadavaish Mishra played the key role in the establishment of this University at Vanivihar on a sprawling 400 acres of land in the heart of Bhubaneswar. Dr Rajendra Prasad laid down the foundation on 1st January, 1958 at Vanivihar. The Philosopher President of India Dr S. Radhakrishnan inaugurated this campus on 2nd January, 1963. Dr Pranakrushna Parija became its first Vice Chancellor in whose memory we have the Parija Library that became the synonym of Utkal University.

Before more than three decades I happened to be an English Department Student in this university. During our time, we locate the university at Vani Vihar from the Parija Library that becomes visible from a distance. This big building was a memorable one as there are scarcely any libraries as big as this. It was the tallest after the famous 9 storied official building and IDCOL Tower.

Hostel life seemed very memorable as each one was preparing for their lives. Indeed the foundation of a poet and writer has been fixed in this campus. I started writing from Gopabandhu Hostel. My meditation and chakravedan yoga also bloomed from here. Now, I recall what Goldie Morales, an American Poet once said: "Are the poets, at heart, in search of a philosophy? Or, is philosophy in the end, nothing but poetry? Vyas, Valmiki, Aurobindo, Tagore, Wordsworth, Emerson, T. S. Eliot all were great poets with their distinct ideology and philosophy. Thus, from those campus leaders, scientists, artists, industrialists, administrators were created.

Now a days, in this materialistic age so many universities have been established. But we find no original talent and genius. They depend on information through Internet Google and Mobile Phones. Humanity, Spirituality, Sublimity and Sincerity have been extinct. No respect for elders. They aim only to be wealthy, to get jobs, to own cars and so on. So, we lament on this educational system that does not produce the likes of Gopabandhu Das or Nabakrushna Choudhary anymore. The real goal of education has been lost somewhere.

Going back to our university days, so many memories haunt me. Town bus, canteen, election, functions, speeches, poetry recitations, library, love and frustrations, elections, telephone from hostels amongst girls and boys; hostel television, hostel life, room cooking and so on. But let us contribute our best to make this university one of the best.

IWA Editor, Eternity
Dhaulti Square, Bhubaneswar -2
(Formerly, PG Department of English 1986 batch).



Vani Vihar As I See It

Sanjib Kumar Das,


The day 2nd of August Year 1979. PG classes for the first year (5th year as was the session being named then) of Political Science for the session 1979-80 commenced with a short introduction by Dr. Satya Naryan Rath, the then Professor and Head of the Department. We were 176 students, both boys and girls coming from different colleges of Odisha. To the total sanctioned strength of 160, another ten percent of women students were admitted to the class that year. Amidst the huge gathering of that proportion, all of us were excited to pursue our post graduation career looking forward to a brighter future ahead. I was fortunate of being part of this combo congregation, representing along with other friends, my alma mater, Bhadrak College. From the initial day of an august beginning to a wintry December of 1981 signalling the conclusion of the four semester based two year post graduation courses, host of incidents go past my memory lane even today, illuminating the unforgettable reminiscences.

I was not new to the campus as I had the opportunity to visit the premises of the University some three four months back prior to admission to take stock of my BA Honours results. But then, a feeling of numbness seemed to cripple my active and energetic legs simply for fear of facing the seniors and teachers as well, as I was accustomed to an altogether different study atmosphere at Bhadrak College, the lush green prolific site standing on the banks of perennial Salandi, then dubbed as the 'Shantiniketan of Orissa'. From the day of orientation session as days passed, we started befriending each other, both in the department and outside of it. We were accommodated in hostels towards later part of that year (1979) since the seniors were yet to vacate the accommodation owing to their last semester tests. Therefore, as soon as we were enrolled into the hostels, we got time to interact more about the place, where family and colleges passed out from. And here started the journey for a career for us, coming from different backgrounds, individual dreams writ large on face.

What enthralled us was the past glory of the department brought to the fore by its previous alumni and teachers, excellence shown by other departments bringing laurels to the university, and most importantly, the fact that majority of the students qualifying in the Civil Services examination hailed from our department. Hence, the rush for admissions being considered then purely on mark basis. The guiding force behind the success of the department was the legendary teacher Prof. Dr. Sree Ramachandra Dash, who was the corner-stone of inspiration and goal-setter, we were told as we ventured into the portals of the university. It is he who had taken all pains to steer the name of the department to greater heights. There were talks of luminaries excelling in literature, politics, entrepreneurship et al. These inculcated in us a sense of devotion and encouragement as though we were ignited to follow the finger-prints of our ancestors. Our unquenchable spirit remained unstoppable throughout.

Hostel life during these two years was very cordial as if it was a home away from home. Lunch and dinner were being served on scheduled timings. In the first hostel now rechristened Gopabandhu Chhatrabas, the timing for dinner was half past nine. The strength of this hostel being in hundreds, the manager was very responsive to preparing food in time and taking due care of the quality. Or else, he had the fear of facing the wrath of the boarders. We had the smell of readiness of the meals as the trays would give out an alarm by their falling sound and we would run for taking hot meals. When for some unavoidable reasons the hostel canteen remained closed, we would run to the Glass Canteen and canteen No. 1 that were providing homely food.



For the pursuit of knowledge, we fell in love with the Parija Library, the ideal one in any university campus in the state then. This apart, symposia centrally organized by the University and departments from time to time gave us the opportunity to explore more and more. Some of my friends were voracious readers, who would have the copy of the



book's first edition. Shri Kshyamanidhi Mishra, a senior bank officer who falls in this category would tell us the synopsis of the book after going through it and thereby inspiring us to read and subscribe. An opportunity to share it was never denied by the buddy. In other words, the thirst for knowledge was recharging our literary battery every moment, and we used to feel contented. Another friend of mine who would make the literary and intellectual discussions lively by his wit and inimitable style of presenting issues to a coterie of genuine listeners is Shri Asit Mohan Nayak, who has retired as a senior officer from the Commercial Taxes Department, Govt. of Odisha. Even to these days, Asit still carries with him that responsibility of harping on any subject, particularly the current national and international issues admirably well. As part of unique teacher-student bonding, we were guided by a team of devoted teachers from the department including Prof. Sharada Rath; Prof. Benudhar Pradhan who headed the Gandhian Study Circle then; Prof. B.C.Das, a prominent author; Prof. Prakash Chandra Sarangi who recently served as Vice-Chancellor of Ravenshaw University; and Prof. Surya Narayan Mishra, an eminent political analyst of our time. My heartfelt gratitude are due to them too.

We were bound by a time schedule of attending class lectures on all academic days, apart from the seminars in the department. However, during end term semester examinations, we were habituated to a slot of midnight book exercise, some friends even in the hostel used to remain awake till early morning, who, we used to call 'nocturnal talents', and in fact, they proved their mettle afterwards. Those luminaries from my department who have made a mark in their work fields and proud to us in the department include Shri Prasanna Kumar Dash, Member, CDBT; Prof. Srikanta Kumar Mohapatra, Vice-Chancellor, Odisha State Open University; Shri Birupakshya Mishra; Executive Director, Corporation Bank; Prof. Srinivas Pathi, Head of Public Administration, Mizoram Central University; and Smt. Jayanti Panda, a well-known literary figure writing under the pen-name 'Jayantika', to name a few from amongst others who have also excelled in education, banking, insurance sectors, state govt. establishments and central and state public sector units. From my sister department History, close friends of mine Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD, NALCO (retiring on 30th Nov.2019), a well-known personality in aluminum industry; and Shri Sahdev Sahoo, a prominent Odia writer of our time have made us proud by their valuable contributions. I would be failing in my duty as a friend and that way doing an injustice if I forget to mention the name of Shri Akshaya Kumar Behera of Psychology Department who relentlessly started his literary career in a big way from Vani Vihar. He is now a known personality in Odia literary world. "Katha Katha Kabita Kabita" an anthology of prose, poetry and critical analysis of literature in the global perspective is being edited by him. This work of his has earned international acclaim. My good wishes are due to them all. I also extend my good wishes on this occasion to all other friends from my department and from other departments too, who might have excelled in their respective fields, and about whom I have no proper information. Besides, the prolific campus provided us the opportunity to witness some top national sporting events. The elegant central auditorium was the venue to listen to and interact with eminent writers, jurists, politicians and statesmen of all hues. The events have not only survived in memory lanes but have provided food stuffs to live and to know what life is, which would not have been possible otherwise.

Two incidents in the campus life will be afresh in memory for all time to come. One relates to the disturbance created by the non-students on a Holi day that put all the activities in the campus to a grinding halt. However, timely action by the then VC Prof. Bidyadhar Mishra brought everything back to normal although the students had peacefully staged a dharna in front of his office for the whole day. There we had noticed sincerity and love for students by the teachers and all functionaries of the university including Chairman, PG Council. In another incident, the strike by the Students Union protesting the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi became so violent that a state run bus was put on flame by the striking students that forced the authorities to declare sine die and we were asked to vacate hostels immediately. It so happened that we ran out of the hostel rooms with our casual wears and chappal as police had cordoned off from all sides. Some of us luckily managed to move towards VSS Nagar only to take shelter in a stranger's house.



The entire study tenure passed off so rapidly in the midst of preparation for exams and professional assignments, we could not catch hold of time. It was when we said goodbye to each other to see some other day then we realized we had grown up and attained maturity. Today on the Platinum Jubilee celebration day when once again we meet after a gap of more than three decades, we feel as if those days have surfaced before us. We may or may not be part of our alma mater's centenary celebrations, but hope the young generation of today would put their best to earn a name for this oldest university of the state making it one of the pioneer institutes of the country.

Retired Chief Manager,
MMTC Limited,
A Govt. of India Enterprise.
(POLITICAL SCIENCE, BATCH 1979-81)



Reminiscing on Completion of 75 Years

Dr. Soumya Mishra, IPS

Vani Vihar marked the culmination of my academic career. After graduating from Ravenshaw College's prestigious and coveted Sociology department, where only the top scorers could get admission, it seemed only natural for me to enter the portals of the Sociology department of Vani Vihar, Utkal University.

The first thing that struck me about Vani Vihar was its openness, not just in its sprawling huge campus, but in its academic atmosphere. The relationship between the faculty and students, between the seniors and juniors, and also between the students of the same and other departments was indeed mature and cordial. Two years of Post Graduation filled with classes, seminars, thesis writing, animated discussions on various ideologies from left to right of the spectrum, passed all too quickly.

It was during the last days of Post Graduation, I casually sat for UGC fellowship examination because I did not want to waste the Rs. 10/- that my good friend Ms. Reena Dash had spent on buying the form. To my good luck, I got selected for the UGC fellowship and in the absence of M.Phil in the department, I went straight for PhD degree under the guidance of my revered professor Dr. Rita Ray. Thus I continued my journey in Sociology department for another four years even after my Post Graduation classmates had left.

I received my PhD degree just a week before I qualified for Civil Service. Infact, when I went to Mussoorie, to do my Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, among the 300 odd Civil Servants present there, from IAS, IPS, IFS and other services, I was the only one to have a PhD degree. I thus had prefix attached to my name first before I had IPS suffix! And this proud feather in my cap I owe greatly to Utkal University. Sociology was also one of my subjects in Civil Service and I bow down to Sociology department and my Alma Mater Utkal University for shaping my success.

This success also catapulted me onto the hallowed echelons of Odisha history by making me the first lady IPS officer of Odisha. And later in life, as a Police Officer, while trying to maintain law & order in caste conflicts, or in communally sensitive areas, during social upheavals or political agitations, I have found that knowledge gained in Sociology in this University has actually come to my rescue in understanding and tackling complicated situations.

Apart from academics, the University has certainly helped us in forging meaningful relationships. In addition to campus friendships, students of Cuttack coming by the two famous Student Special Buses had our own close-knit group. Despite the scrambling and jostling for seats in the buses, we managed to develop strong bonds with each other, which started from our bus stop groups to the bus as a whole. Some of these bonds have continued through the decades and have enriched our lives. Memorable events were the bus picnic and rasagulla eating competitions enroute at Pahala, where the record then was 25 rasagullas at one go. Sweet are also the memories from our Sociology department picnic to Kapilas and Saptasajya; memories which got rekindled recently when Ms Meera Pani posted the pictures in our UU Sociology Alumni whatsapp group.

So our alma mater Utkal University, Vani Vihar has completed 75 years of excellent academic journey, honing and shaping the lives and career of thousands of its students. The initiative of the organisers to bring together all alumni from the nook and corner of the world to celebrate our University's progress is extremely laudable. However, there is a threatening dark cloud hovering somewhere in the horizon. Many promising students are now looking to foreign shores for higher studies. Corporate Universities are luring good brains with multiple inducements. In this scenario, our mother University also has to change and adapt fast to our modern, statistically-based, technology-driven times. We, the alumni, must all come together and devise implementable strategies to assist our University in improving its international rankings and in occupying its rightful place in the academic world. I wish Utkal University many more successful returns of the year and I wish all her students past, present and future, the very best!

Vani Vihar: The Sanctum Sanctorum to which I will remain ever Indebted

Chinmoy Kumar Sahoo

From the very beginning of my student days I always had the desire to lead from the front. The journey for it began with my election as Cultural Secretary of the Students' Union of Stewart Science College, Cuttack in 2001 and thereafter I continued to remain active in student politics. Having completed my 1st PG, MSc in Geology (2005 batch) from Vanivihar, I had ample job opportunities. I got a call from SCMS Cochin, one of the premier business schools of South India located in the state of Kerala. I left Vani Vihar and took admission for the PGDM course in SCMS Cochin, Kerala.

Soon I realised that I had not been cut out for that purpose. They say, "Kerala is God's own country", but certainly it was not my country! My country, my life, my soul was my "Utkal"! The presiding deity of knowledge ever echoed in reverberation with the divine words, "Come back my child, you are cut out to serve the sacred soil of Utkal."

I came back. My coming back was a shock to everyone including my parents, relatives and well-wishers. Whenever I felt low, I spoke my heart out in front of the iconic statue of the Goddess of the knowledge in Vani Vihar, and my pain used to disappear! Each time I touched Her feet I got an answer, "I have called you and I would mould you into the person that you are best suited for!

Years passed by, and in this transition when everybody was successfully attaining their respective goals, I was always under constant pressure from family members. My well wishers were extremely anxious about my future prospects. But I had always led my life on my own terms and my inner conviction was that one day I would definitely lead the student community of Utkal University for which Maa had brought me back. Nothing could distract me as I was firm with my conviction. Though I was in active politics I was not in any of the position in Vani Vihar.

Finally the new academic session started with the notification for the PG entrance exam. I applied for the PMIR Department for my 2nd PG. Many people discouraged me as it was the most sought after department and thousands of students desired to crack this prestigious exam. The rest of the applicants had other options, but for me, it was a kind of "perform or perish" situation. I sat for the exam. It went well.

The D-Day (Deciding day) arrived! It was a day of anxiety and curiosity both for my detractors and admirers. All eyes were on the notice board! There was murmuring and whispering all across Vani Vihar, "What would be the fate of Chinmoy Sahoo!" When Maa had already weaved the destiny of her child, no other negative forces had any option left with them! My name glittered in the 9th rank of the merit list. With this my academic goal was achieved. Students' union election of the state was declared. Notifications were out. As my name was on the air for the presidential candidature, my well wishers, my supporters conducted an internal pre-poll survey. Students from all 27 departments said in unison that this time we have decided to do something different for someone who has been relentlessly working for the interest of the student community of Vani Vihar for the past so many years. This time Utkal University Students' Union will have an "unopposed" president. And there will be only one nomination filed.

A new chapter witnessed light of the day! Students from across the departments unanimously approached me saying, "You are the only choice we have who can lead the university towards a better tomorrow." Unprecedented in the history of Utkal University, people from each and every walk of life from the university campus formed a human chain to make me the first ever "unopposed" president of Utkal University Students' Union. I had a strong belief that "Hard work, resilience and perseverance can never set you back. If you think, you can, you can and if you can, yours is the world!"

Life is incomplete without a true companion. Maa has been kind enough to bless me with the most precious gift of my life, my wife, Mamun Mousumi who too studied in Vani Vihar. Undeniably Goddess Vani (Saraswati) has given me a new lease of life. I promise that I would never let her down. Whatever today I am, only because of the values and principles that I have inculcated during the formative years of my life under the aegis of my Maa, my alma mater Vani Vihar. The rest of my life would certainly be a reflection of those values for life in resonance with ethics, acumen and integrity. Therefore, the journey continues. Maa has given us enough and now it's the time to give back!

Chairperson, OSIC



History of Sanskrit Department of Utkal University

Kshitish Bhuyan

Introduction:

Man possesses an inquisitive mind. It has been a difficult effort for the part of a man to satisfy this inquisitive mind through the age. In a certain point of time man felt the need of a University, he wanted to store all acquired knowledge and propagate it. So he established a university and made it a centre of knowledge. It is rightly described in the words of Wilson and Tauber as conservation of knowledge and ideas, teaching, research, publication, extension service and interpretation keeping these objectives in view, every state started establishing Universities in their respective territories. The province of Orissa came into being in the year 1936. Realising the necessity of having a University the Utkal University was established in 1943 which became the 17th University of the country.

Origin and growth of the University:


Utkal University is the first University to be established in Orissa. It was founded in 1943. There was no University in Orissa when it was made a separate province in 1936 and the colleges within had to get affiliated either to Patna or Andhra University. The new government of Orissa, headed by Sri Biswanath Das, decided to bring them under a new University in the newly created province. Perceiving the need of a University a University committee was appointed on 2nd March 1938 under the chairmanship of Pandit Nilakantha Das. It examined the possibility of the matter and presented a favorable recommendation. Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati, then Prime Minister of Orissa, acted a key role in the formation of the University. Pandit Godavarish Mishra, the Education Minister at the time, introduced the Utkal University Bill on 30th June 1943 in the Orissa Legislative Assembly. It subsequently became an Act in August 1943 clearing the way for the establishment of Utkal University.

The University started its journey on 27th November 1943 in a room at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. It had its jurisdiction over what were then the Orissa Province as well as the group of princely states. With the inclusion of the latter with Orissa in 1950, the University's jurisdiction was over the fully integrated Province. Professor Pran Krushna Parija got the credit of becoming the first Vice-Chancellor and Professor V.V. John the first Registrar.

Utkal University got its Jurisdiction restricted with the establishment of two new Universities, Sambalpur and Berhampur on 1st January 1967. Inception of North Orissa and F.M. University has reduced it further. At present its jurisdiction broadens over an area of about 40,000 sq kilometers comprising nine districts Angul, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagragh and Puri. It assists a population of sum 120 Lakhs.

Originally the University was an affiliating and examining body. Gradually over the years, it has been developed into a teaching-cum-affiliating University with a campus of its own at Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar. The offices and the teaching departments moved to Vanivihar campus in July 1962. It was inaugurated by the president of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on 2nd January 1963. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first president of the Indian Republic had laid the foundation stone of the University on 1st January 1958. The University celebrated a yearlong Golden Jubilee in 1992-93.

At present the University has 316 colleges affiliated to it. This includes the general Degree Colleges and some Professional Colleges. Two of the latter category are constituent Colleges of the University. They are Madhusudan Law College, Cuttack and University Law College, Bhubaneswar. It is perhaps one of the largest Universities in the world in terms of the number of Colleges under its jurisdiction and the geographical area it covers. There are 27 Post-Graduate



Departments within the campus. The University has the following faculties Arts, Commerce, Education, Engineering, Law, Management, Medicine and Science. In addition to this the University has one directorate of distance and continuing education and academic staff council and a number of research centers such as the population research center and school of women studies. Besides this it has nearly 1.5 lakhs students on the role. Utkal University also offers self financing courses.

A brief history of the department of Sanskrit

The Post-Graduate Department of Sanskrit started in the year 1957 with an objective of imparting quality education in the field of Sanskrit and is one of the oldest Departments of the University. It has already celebrated its golden Jubilee Anniversary in the year 2006-2007. At present the Department of Sanskrit offers M.A, M.Phil, Ph.D and D.Litt. Programmes. The Department has regularly updated its syllabus to meet the challenges of changing times. In the year 2000 semester system and in 2013 choice Based Credit System was introduced for the same. P.G. Diploma in Yoga Therapy (PGDYT) as UGC innovative programme and Master degree in Human Consciousness and Yogic Science (MDHCYS) as self-financing course were introduced since 1998 & 2006 respectively.

Late Prof. Prahlad Pradhan, a renowned grammarian and a prominent scholar in Pali and Chinese Language was first Professor & Head of the Department who has contributed a lot to the above fields & adorned the chair of first Vice-Chancellor of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri. Successively, five Professors of the Department have become vice-chancellors of different Universities of Odisha. Many Faculty members have received the prestigious President's award & Shastrachudamani Sammana in appreciation of their dedicated service for the cause of Sanskrit learning and research.

Taking the challenges of modern society, the Department has produced many Scholars holding significant positions in different institutions in India & abroad.

Historical background of sanskrit department :

The Post-Graduate Department of Sanskrit is one of the oldest creations of the University. It emerged as an independent Department in September 1957 under the leadership of Prof. Artavallabha Mohanty. Later, the following faculty members embellished the Department with a few students.

1. Prof. Prahalad Pradhan - Professor and Head
2. Dr. Anam Charan Swain - Reader
3. Mrs. Savitri Rout - Lecturer
4. Sri Sadananda Ramanuja Das, Lecturer :

By the continuous efforts of faculty members the Department generated momentum, as a result of that students from every corner of Orissa and the neighboring states came to the University to pursue their studies. The Department gained excellence with the work 'Abhidhama Kosa Bhasya' of Prof. Pradhan who is awarded with a lot of ovations from all quarters. Beside that the Research insight of Prof. Anam Charan Swain and fundamental contribution of Prof. K.C. Acharya to Prakrit Vyakarana' through his critical edition of Prakrta Sarvasva could acclaim name. The remarkable achievement of the students of this Department by occupying positions in other Universities made this center familiar all over the country.

In the area of Veda, Vyakarana, Prakrit Language, Orissan Sanskrit studies, Epics & Puranas, Classical Literature including Poetics and researches in various other areas are executed. This is the premier teaching and research center for Sanskrit not only experts in teaching and research but also in creative writing and propagation and protection of Sanskrit which is the real glory of India.



After that many scholars from various parts of Odisha, joined as teaching staff in the Department of Sanskrit. Obviously they are the proud of our department. Most of the eminent Professors have been retired after working very hard and contributing to Sanskrit literature. They have dedicated their valuable time in field of research in Sanskrit language for the welfare of the students. The teaching faculty members have contributed a lot in academic and research areas of their respective branches. They are - Late Prof. Anam Charan Swain, Late Prof. Krushna Chandra Acharya, Prof. Alekha Chandra Sarangi, Prof. Raghunath Panda, Prof. Prafulla Kumar Mishra, Prof. Gopal Krushna Dash, Prof. Radhamadhab Dash, Prof. Prativa Manjari Rath and Dr. Dinabandhu Tripathy.

At present, Dr. Subash Chandra Dash, Dr. Braja Sundar Mishra, Dr. Manoranjan Senapati, Dr. Niranjan Sabar and Mr. Dharmendra Das are performing their duties as faculty members of Sanskrit Department.

Lecturer in Sanskrit
Ballavidevi Mahila Junir Mahavidyalaya
Natakai, Nischintakoili, Cuttack.

Utkal University of Our Times

Sri Chandra Sekhar Biswal

From 2G to 4G, Core 2 Duo to i7, non wifi campus to wifi campus Utkal University has changed a lot. From being a tea abstainer to tea addict and knowing the art of earning for a cup of tea had become possible for me only because of my Alma mater, The Utkal University.

My association with Utkal University is since 2009; after being dropout from Kendrapara Autonomous College (B.Sc. - Physics), I joined the 5 Year Integrated M.C.A Course here. Ten years back, Android was not at all popular, we were still chatting over SMS, 3G technology had just launched, Orkut was ruling the social media, Facebook had just opened, WhatsApp was not invented, FoxPro-MS access were the popular combination for software development framework and the yellow application form was there for PG admissions during that time. During those days University's internet speed was hardly 100MBPS, which we were using only at University Computer Center during working hours. Those days we use Dial up connections to connect internet from Mobile Phones to computers/laptops. We never get liberty of using uninterrupted, unlimited internet at that time as internet was much expensive then.

At the year of 2012, I was the 3rd year student, that time the chairman P.G Council, Prof. P.K. Sarkar decided to introduce the online admission for all PG, Self-financing courses. 5 computer science courses (MCA, IMCA, M.Tech-CS, M.Sc-CS) were running at university that time, Prof. Sarkar wanted to get the Online Admission software developed indigenously from the students only. After meeting many student groups, he liked my idea for the online admission system. I formed a four membered team with my batch mates and juniors and finally the idea got approved from the P.G council.

We had 1 month time period for getting the software ready for Online Admission and live it on the website. We worked extremely hard, spent many sleepless nights at University Computer Center, researched, learned and implemented many new things to the software & finally the software got ready and everyone at University highly appreciated it.

Hosting a web based application over the internet which will have high volume traffic to it was not easy for us and that time University website was just a static one and hosted in a shared server. Getting dedicated cloud server in just 2-3 day time was a bigger challenge for us. As it has to be followed by a long official procedure. It was indeed a hard task. Prof. Pratap K Rath, the real time problem solver, he was the PIC of Computer center that time; he suggested me to use any Intel Xeon Physical server to host the Admission software. Hurrahh! We got a solution. Quickly we learned Linux server setup & administration and finished with setting up the in-house datacenter for hosting the e-Admission Software, and from then Utkal goes online for the admission.

During the entire admission process, we got involved in various works like, attending applicant's phone calls, emails, give tech support to the applicants as well as the clerical staffs & faculty members, real time bug fixing in the software etc. From paper to paperless; it was a way difficult for us in educating and making people used to for using the software. But slowly everyone understood the importance of the software and started using it.

It was the first ever such attempt in Odisha and in Utkal University. The former Honorable Chancellor M.C Bhandare had felicitated us at the 70th Foundation day of UU. The same software was used by Varsity authority for admission purpose till 2016.-2017 Academic year.

Developing the first ever software for Utkal University gave me enough scope, courage and potential to setup my own startup from the student career at the year 2012-13. Scope for startup in Odisha during that time was almost negligible. Slowly I started getting clients from national as well as the international marketplace.



There is a saying, "students of Utkal University can adopt & manage themselves in any kind of situations of life". Utkal not only gives us the education, but also gives scope to implement it. Utkal is the best place to learn about Life skills, struggles, happiness and lot more.

I'm very proud for being a part of the Platinum Jubilee celebration of my alma mater. Thank you for not letting me hold myself back for the fear of failure. Thank you for the people, the campus you offered to help me grow. Never did I feel alone or unimportant to you. I was never just an account number on a computer screen or a number in classroom. I had value and you recognized that in me.

(Dept. of Integrated MCA, 2009-2014)
E: chandras@4usoftwaresolutions.com
M: 9337194300

My alma mater....where it all began...

Subhashree Priyadarsini

'Satyam param dhimahi ' the Sanskrit verse points at the motto and glory of Utkal University. It is also known as Vani Vihar and the enchanting figure of Goddess Saraswati holding a veena in her hand in front of the university justifies its name. It is the oldest university of Odisha and 17th oldest university of India located at Bhubaneswar, the temple city. Dr. Rajendra Prasad the 1st president of India laid down the foundation on the present campus on the 1st January 1958. At present the university has twenty seven post graduate and research departments located inside the campus.

Amongst twenty seven post graduate teaching departments, I got admitted into PG Department of Sanskrit of 2006 batch and it was a matter of glory and joy for me to be a part of the historic university. The inscrutable Shastras are easily acquired from my teachers. Our Sanskrit department always inspired the students to seek the highest truth. Many friends came in my post graduate life and the sweet memories with them made everyone an integral part for rest of my life. The unique traditional saree show of the annual function always makes me remember those beautiful days. Along with this many cultural festivals and competitions made the inner talent of the students blossom and created a bond of unity and affection within us. The departmental picnics and study tours were a store of joy for all. I spent a lot of time at Parija library which was an ocean of knowledge and motivation.

Two years of hostel life in Ramadevi Chhatrinivas was very memorable for me. This is a period which teaches every student how to adjust to every situation being away from the family.

Presently I am working as research scholar in PG department of Sanskrit. This is a great platform to explore the glorious heritage and culture of our country. There is a quotation in Sanskrit 'Na hi bandhya saraswati', that is proved by this university because it is the mother of political leaders, administrators and different service holders and I am also blessed to have a teaching profession in the same field.

It is a joint responsibility of all alumni to involve themselves in the developmental work

of this university. Every student must have a firm resolution according to one's capability in all-round progress of the university because our university is our pride.

Ph.D. research scholar
PG Department of Sanskrit,
Utkal University



My Reflections on my Alma Mater

Jitendra Das

Refreshing the memory
About the classroom activities
On the Utkal University campus
For a graduate course
In Library and Information Science
Dated back to 1984,
An admixture of nostalgic
And reminiscent memories
Now flooding back in waves
Impelling my whole being
With new impetus
To write a poem in the quiet
Of the early morning
For a trip down memory lane.

Central Canteen, Glass Canteen,
With a bunch of students,
The usual sight at breakfast,
Lunch break, tea break
Still stand sentinel over the concrete path
Emptying onto the main entrance
Welcoming you to the heart of the campus
Teeming with greenery
Since my Alma Mater came into being
Dated back to 1943.

Pairs of mature students
Sinking into the chairs
Opposite to each other
Savoring dosa, samosa, allochops,
Readymade pastry on par with
Some students sipping hot steaming tea,
Lemon tea, iced tea with obvious relish,
Followed by a group of teaching staff
Deep in exchange of words
In slow, measured cadences.

Someone's eyes fastened
On gossip columns;
Someone else's resting
On agony column or small ads;
Someone buying a readymade meal
Made the spot pulsate with life
Relieving the monotony of non-stop classes.

Students with requisition slips,
Queuing up in Parija Library
In pregnant silence for issue
Of text and reference books
Overtaken by mobile phones, internet chat,
Social networking websites these days.

Those were the glory days
On my Alma Mater campus.

Department of Library & Information Science
1984 Batch

A beginner at Utkal University

Madhumita Nayak

Having come from a reputed institution of the state, Rama Devi Women's university from where I did my BA Honours, Utkal University was a leap towards a higher academic life. Not just academic, but a step closer to my dreams. Three years of my undergraduate studies got me involved in a community that always pushed and inspired me to succeed. My teachers made sure we got everything at its best whatever source it came from. But the thirst of knowledge is unquenchable. And I always looked for more. And getting into Utkal University was satisfying on this front.

I joined Utkal University in the year 2016 as a postgraduate student at the department of English where subsequently I did my PhD course work. It is always a pleasure and honour when you get to add the name of Utkal University in the education qualification box of your CV. It won't be an exaggeration if one sees Utkal University as a sort of revitalizing entity for our city.

There is no doubt that a university is an excellent centre for education. It not only gives one a chance to sharpen personal skills in the desired field but also teaches to work efficiently in a team. Everyday at Utkal gives a new learning experience. This institution has taught me some of the fundamental things about life. But out of all those things I would always remember what it taught me about the unpredictable aspects of life. The author of *The Confessions of a Misfit* writes, "in fiction: we find the predictable boring. In real life: we find the unpredictable terrifying", come to think of it life is just like the oil in a lamp. The unpredictability of life is beyond one's comprehensive power. It is truly difficult to deal with such unpredictable situations if one lacks the art of acceptance. The institution has helped me to understand my limitations and be all accepting meanwhile motivating me to rise above those limitations. With acceptance comes the power of responsibility and a kick to extend those boundaries and create some new boundaries of greater length. There is a perfect blend of joy and hardships.

I have also acquired important life skills. You learn from different lectures, you try to cope up with the surprisingly strenuous syllabus, and you have the opportunity to learn from some great research minds. Now when I reflect upon certain statements I find all of them true. For example Academia never lets you go free. But learning never ends. Learning in Utkal University was not only about text books but also came with a rewarding experience of developing my co-curricular skills.

Getting into this institution gave me an opportunity to be the artist I always wanted to be. The aesthetic site of the campus was surely an add on. The relics of old Bhubaneswar with the touch of the present day smart city is prominent. The entry to university is a sort of bliss as you see the divine consort of Brahma, goddess Saraswati sitting in command over knowledge and enlightenment smiling in grace. Just like the strings of her Veena, the university stands for light, knowledge and truth. It takes us back to the days of Adikabi Sarala Dasa and our Odia language. As one moves ahead one is sure to find temples of various gods and goddesses within the campus which capture the essence of the temple city (Bhubaneswar). Every now and then one is sure to come across "Sahitya Sammelana" in one of this temple premise acquainting one with an experience that is spiritual. The occasional touch of east wind stimulates such kind of a feel. Wind plays an important part in the university life. The wind notifies the arrival of different seasons in the campus. The evening in Utkal University is therapeutic. Autumn can be distinctly felt in this part of the city. The mellowness, the sapphire tints, the crispy music of dried leaves and rising smoke from some early evening bonfires are treats to soul and heart. What could be more gratifying than finding the soil for my passion and research interest to grow! I developed the love for my language and culture from this very place, where my department kept promoting the multicultural and multilingual research and studies. The university kept the flame alive in me and I am still driven by it. Amidst all these



fascinating things stands the storehouse of learning, the “Parija Library”, with its ever sung glory and magnificence. The chief objective of every library is to meet the academic needs but our library has a story of its own. Who knows how many stories got its string from her bosom. It is a song of knowledge and enlightenment. Her silent presence makes one feel warm and less lonely. It has always been a constant companion. It will never be wrong if one finds the miniature of Bhubaneswar inside our university campus.

The university has been tremendously developing along with the smart city. Technological development has opened many gateways for students to work smoothly and effectively. Classroom technologies are proving to be a great help for both students and teachers by contributing immensely towards the research projects and activities. So far the students' daily experiences and general study engagement using individual assessment is concerned the university is dynamic in its nature.

Our teachers are enterprising, sincere and rich in potential. One would find many learned and dynamic names associated with this university. After all Utkal University is the pride of our state. Utkal University is far from the scary political issues that have dampened many other institutions in the contemporary world that has made our academic life smooth. Utkal is a treasure in terms of education, research, culture, and language.

Pursuing PhD at Dept. of English

Utkal University at a Glance

Dr. Manoranjan Senapaty

Utkal University, popularly known as Vani Vihar, is the abode of Goddess of learning is established in 1943 with an intention of imparting the higher educational systems and research oriented programmes in the highest order. Our ancient scriptures declare that Sā Vidyā Yā Vimuktaye means knowledge makes one feel free and Utkal University stands in it. The term Utkal is the ancient name of Odisha which signifies the explosion or beautification of art (Kalāy āh Utkarṣatvāt Utkal iti). And consequently Utkal University is merged in this category of developing the art of different category. Once upon a time it was the only University under whom all most all colleges of Odisha were affiliated. The gravity and vanity of Utkal University is its beautiful surroundings that are enriched with different types of trees and plants. When somebody enters into the campus he never leaves the campus unless and until passing some time in its beautiful atmosphere.

Generally, it so happens that when somebody hears the name of Utkal University in his college life, he starts dreaming how can he enter into this University for his higher study. Since time immemorial we cannot predict how many scholars this University has produced who are working around the globe. But as far as my knowledge is concerned it is assured that if somebody has engaged himself in study during his study duration, he has always been blessed by the Goddess of learning. For this I may be concrete example for this purpose as I left Utkal University in 1996 to pursue my doctoral degree and worked in out of Odisha. But I felt that I am blessed by Goddess Saraswati when I was offered the job here to serve the same University where I had my post graduation. Certainly we can tell it as the love and affection of our mother University that dragged me to serve here.

Utkal University is unique and extra ordinary in imparting the educational value. Here we don't have any discrimination in term of sharing the educational importance. Another important factor of this University is it accommodates the maximum students those are flourished from the rural sector where as perhaps it is rare in other Universities. The parents of a particular student feel proud when he comes to know that his son or daughter got a seat in to carry on his higher study in Utkal University. The the then Utkal University and now, there is hell and heaven differences. Now we can notice a huge development in connection to the academic, infrastructure, logistics and other allied belongings. Generally teachers, employees and students feel thankful and proud when they get a chance to enter into this institution. There is a shadow of love and affection in the campus among the employees and students. Previously very few departments were in the campus but now we can notice nearly thirty departments are functioning in the campus. And more over to serve better to the rural sector, Utkal University has functioned its New Campus near Chandikhole before one year where around five courses have been started.

Another interesting fact is no variety of trees is left out in this campus those are found in the country. There is no lack of seasonal fruits and flowers in the campus. When we look the other side in connection to the hostels, our boarders used to reside happily in hostels. Staying in hostels in Vani Vihar is very much interesting. There is a homely atmosphere in the hostels of Utkal University. The boarders never feel that they are away from their parents. Utkal University is capable of accommodating nearly three thousand students in around fourteen hostels and more over each hostel is named after the great souls of our state. So when question arises about the nation builders of our state, easily it can be recalled and replied. Let's serve together for the better interest of Utkal University.

Reader and Head
P.G. Department of Sanskrit
Utkal University, Vani Vihar



Thank You Vani Vihar

Dr Pramod Kumar Das

Dear Vani Vihar
Thank You
For your care
Which I must share.

Thank You
For giving me an opportunity
For giving me liberty
For making me bright
By providing sufficient light.

Thank you
For your patience, benevolence
For you elegance, eminence and excellence
For giving me a chance
To grow, to glow and to flow
In the stream of life.

Thank you
For giving me an opportunity
To adorn my study
To mingle with my buddy
To learn
To be part of healthy academic community
That was so sweet of you
So nice of you
So cordial of you.

I pray Lord Jagannath
To keep you fit and fine.
To bless you
So that you continue to shine.

MA English (2003-05)
PG Department of English
Utkal University
Bhubaneswar

Vani Vihar: I Owe You

Mamun Mousumi Nayak

Oh my alma mater, revered Vani vihar
You were never there
in my wildest dreams.
With gloom and despair
Did I step into your province.
Leaving Vellore was not just leaving VIT,
But burying a dream deep inside
Of being a Scientist.
But yes, I was in awe of you
As you have produced my Father;
The like of whom in this life
I won't meet again,
And whose selfless devotion
and Integrity
Is never in the realm of the mundane.
I still remember the day
When we first met,
On the day of my PMIR and Zoology
Entrance Test.
I was awestruck by your gasp evoking beauty:
With the leaf laden branches against the blue skies,
The vivid colours of Jaruls,
Amaltas and Bougenvilles
with the scarlet Gulmohar
adding allure to the lush green canopies.
Later I was into Zoology,
But PMIR became my identity
Perhaps stuck there was my finality.

From the clusters of genes DNA and chromosomes,
I was to enter into the world of Business.
To bridge that gap I reached the sanctum of Parija Library.
My eyes were closed for a while with utmost peace.
Somewhere in the recesses of mind,
I could hear the pearls of wisdom of my Father
coursing through my veins to the alleys of my soul.
Speechless I was, mind numbed;
Tears flowed freely in a divine calm.
Took a deep breath and the saga continued....
Fresh in the memory, the sublime dawn of the autumns
Where the intoxicating fragrance of Saptaparni
near the Auditorium and
the carpet of the fragile Night queen
With orangey heart and stem in the wintry morning
Made my days even stunning.
You gave me friends for life
Mate for the soul and
Sowed the seeds of dreams again
to be a lifelong Learner ;
What could have I asked for more!
Today amidst these jubilations galore,
I silently bow down with profound veneration
For teaching me Moderation through your Serenity,
For teaching me Forbearance through your Generosity ,
And character through your Purity;
Oh my alma mater revered Vani vihar,
I now know you are and will be there in me till Eternity.

(2008-2010 PMIR)
Faculty, Dept .Of Bus.Administration
Utkal University
Vanivihar



Utkrushta Utkal

Asim Ranjan Parhi

I had entered Vani Vihar with a sense of awe in my eyes and wonder in my thought sometime in 1986 when my brother was doing his Master of Arts here. At home my father would talk about Madhusudan, Gopabandhu, Nilakantha, Godavarisha and such legendary names who championed the cause of a people, a state, a culture with a glorious past. Utkal University has been part of the same intellectual and cultural movement.

After graduating from Ravenshaw College I entered again, with more confidence, and tremendous curiosity usually apparent in those days among students coming from villages staying all through in college hostels.

The name 'Utkal' associated with the university gave me my first principle of learning; that the vision of a university cannot be dissociated from that of the state.

The grace of Saraswati, the seat of my stay and learning named 'Vani Vihar' certainly set my goal of never confusing with India's evolved tradition of Vidya as a gift of the goddess and its learning to be a worship with that of a misled Marxist perception of it as a super structure. I was fascinated and determined; I ought to trace my roots and engage in the enchanting lyricism of the dhoti-clad Upendra Bhanja on Vani Vihar's left, the captivating fictional marvel of Fakir Mohan on its right and see through my little access to western literature exploring its contextual relevance.

Utkal University's aim of higher education thus flashed in a second, its educationists are seers. They were appropriately called Pandits since they stood for light, removal of the avidya of ignorance, poverty, gender and caste stereotypes. Nilakantha Das's erudition and scholarship dazzled like a star in Vani Vihar's radiant sky. Godavarisha Mishra's invocation 'Tunga Sikhari Chula...' mesmerised as a sudden monsoon drizzle. Destinations disappeared. The journey beckoned with a decent poise and receptive magic. A student at Vani's Vihar got its mission.

The establishment of this university few years after our statehood and little before independence of the country certainly placed it at a pedestal synonymous with both struggle and victory that form a rich cultural heritage of civilizations. Ours is not a university founded thus on an imported ideological luxury at the expense a state and country's rich history and culture. This university sings of heroism and adversity of its people, laments the loss of its warriors and legendary figures. It was not set up to count its glory by the number of public servants it produced but watching out whether its degree holders genuinely understood the values it had set before establishing itself, the aspirations of its architects who sealed a dream for their loving state and its rich diversity. Needless to say, today just as it was yesterday, Utkal has been standing tall for its neutral ideological affiliation unlike many others (some use the term elite for those) that are grounded in an intolerant, monopolized, cynical world view. The graceful Barada with her veena on play in no way dampens the egalitarian, secular values of learning appropriated and misleadingly championed by some of the products of those hollowed institutions.

Vani Vihar set up by its Basisthas is their gifted Nandini; a ceaseless flow of seasons of love and humanity, knowledge devoid of affiliation, with a vigour like that of its seasons, at once enticing yet culminating in calm repose, thrilling yet never uprooting us of our core essence.

An alumnus, MA (1989-91), MPhil (1993) and PhD (2004)
Member of Faculty, Department of English, Utkal University



My 40 Years of Journey

Sabita Acharya

Today I am the Academic Head (Chairperson, PG Council) with additional charge as Director, College Development Council and Director, International Office of Utkal University. Never ever I thought when I entered this Citadel of Higher Learning in the year 1979 in the Department of Anthropology that I could come this long way. A direct relation for 40 years when I look back. Be it with my teachers, my friends, my seniors and juniors, my colleagues, my students, researchers and academicians within and outside Utkal University and many more with whom I have had unforgettable relationships. Incredible, isn't it!!! If I go down my memory lane in details, I am sure my experience may exceed a couple of big volumes of books, but I decide to limit to share my slice of experience to a couple of pages.

Like many others my first semester at university was different. It was a major step up from SCS College, Puri – bringing new friends and new experiences. My experience had been a mix of both positive times and challenges which I had already anticipated before starting. During my university years, I had the chance to taste-test different curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programmes, learn from experts in diverse fields and explore my passions to tailor my academic and career paths. Although I had Zoology Honours in my graduation but I had decided to switch over to Anthropology in Post Graduation as I could sense that this was becoming an emerging academic and research area. Although I had the privilege to learn from different academic experts, but the four teachers, whose teachings were par excellent and did the lasting mark. They were Prof. K.C. Tripathy, Late Prof. N.K Behura, under whose guidance I did my Ph.D. later on and Prof. P.K.Nayak and Prof. K.K. Mishra. In true sense they were the mentors for the students. Those days the teacher student's relationship was at a very high level.

Besides academics I used to concentrate on my other interest, i.e. sports and games. I was the State Level athlete and I became athletic champion of Vani Vihar on two consecutive years. During out time less number of students were participating in athletic meet in Vani Vihar.

Utkal University not only encouraged me to be academically strong but also caused me to be a better person in life. The total period of my associationship at Utkal University will remain as the best time for me.

As part of the curriculum, the students of Anthropology undertake field studies for about a month every academic year particularly in tribal areas. In 1980 we had gone to Mayurbhanj, where I had the chance to come very close to the tigress "KHAIRI". I never thought I could sit and touch the big cat, who was living with her human foster parents, great environmentalist Late Shri Saroj Raj Choudhury and his wife. It was a very memorable incidence to me.

I had a great time during my hostel stay, and with my friends during university days. I adapted very fast to the hostel life and had made new friends from different departments and the relationship still growing and the bond becoming stronger day by day. We regularly meet at different places in Bhubaneswar and cherish our nice moments of those days.

After passing out my post graduation in Anthropology, I immediately got myself to doing M.Phil and at that moment I had decided to make academics as my career. I was the UGC Research Fellow and for Ph.D. work and in 1991 I was awarded Ph.D by this University. From 1987 onwards I have been involved in Teaching, Research and Academic Administration of this great university. I am indebted to Utkal University for its contribution in my life. I could be able to join Oxford University, UK in 2002 as Commonwealth Post-Doctoral Fellow. Besides that I have visited many Universities of U.K, Germany, China, Brazil and Poland on academic work.

It has been very satisfying career for me so far, although there were some glitches and challenges in my way. I always try to contribute to the development of the university in best possible manner. Whatever I am now, it is possible only because of my Utkal University.

In a few months from now, by the next year 2020 I will superannuate from the University services but my 40 years of relationships will remain with me as the most valuable treasure throughout my life.



A Foundation Day Gift

Oh! Abode of my heart
On this blessed day
When thou hath chosen
To bless your creations
With THY DIVINE PRESENCE
This little heart rejoices in glee.

Little birdies in their nest
Sing songs in praise of thee
Tears of joy from heaven
Come to wash Thy Feet and
Nature in her bounty
Showers gifts beholding her !

What shall I give, O dear abode !
As a gift for Thee?
Some curds, some butter
Would you like of me?
But the World is waiting
With these gifts for Thee .

Alas ! may be my dear abode
i've nothing worthy enough of Thee,
But here's a petty gift,
a humble gift indeed --
This little heart of mine
i offer unto Thee .

Sumita Chakraborty
Department of English
1985-1987

ALUMNI MEET- 1979
DEPT. OF ANALYTICAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS
UTKAL UNIVERSITY, VANI VIHAR



Seen in the picture are: (1) Prof. Dr Sadasiv Misra, Ex. VC of Utkal University and formerly president of Indian Economics Association delivering his speech. (2) Dr V. K. R. V. Rao (2nd from left), founder of Delhi School of Economics, Delhi & ISEC, Bangalore and former Cabinet Minister (Industry) in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet. (3) Prof. Dr Baidyanath Mishra (HOD). (4) Kulamani Mishra (1979 batch passout) Convener of Alumni Meet 1979.

ALUMNI MEET- 1979



Seen in the picture are: Dr V. K. R. V. Rao (Chief Guest) lighting the candles as Prof. Dr Baidyanath Mishra (HOD) and Kulamani Mishra (Convener) look on.

