SAMBALPUR UNIVERSITY
Jyoti Vihar, Burla, Sambalpur
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SAMBALPUR UNIVERSITY
JYOTI VIHAR
ODISHA

ANNUAL REPORT - 2024

58th Foundation Day Celebration
05th January 2025

Esteemed President of the gathering and Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Professor Bidhu Bhusan Mishra;

Chief Guest Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Honorable Minister of Education, Government of India;

Esteemed Guest of Honour, Professor Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Sambalpur;

Respected Gangadhar National Awardee for Poetry, 2023 the eminent Oriya poet Dr .Pratibha Satpathy;

Distinguished dignitaries on the dais, guests, members of the Syndicate and Academic Council, senior citizens of Sambalpur and Burla, retired professors and employees, faculty members, staff, students, representatives of the administration, members of the press and electronic media, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my privilege to stand before you on this auspicious occasion of the 58th Foundation Day of Sambalpur University and present the Annual Report for 2024.

The year 2024 began with the celebration of the 57th Foundation Day on January 10, 2023, during which the university upheld its nationalist traditions by honouring the noted Assamese poet Anis Uz Zaman with the prestigious Gangadhar National Award for Poetry 2022. This recognition celebrated his creativity and contributions to Indian poetry. The occasion also included the felicitation of faculty members, officers, and other employees who retired in 2023, acknowledging their dedication and service to the institution.

Established in 1967, with its foundation stone laid by Dr. Zakir Hussain, the then President of India, Sambalpur University has been a trailblazer in higher education. Offering quality education across a wide spectrum of disciplines, including Humanities, Social Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences, and professional courses, the university has earned a place of prominence in Odisha and India.

For over 57 years, Sambalpur University has been a driving force for social change in the western region of Odisha. Its commitment to academic excellence has been validated by the NAAC accreditation of an A Grade with a CGPA of 3.10 in its third cycle. As an affiliating university, it oversees 137 colleges spread across six districts of Odisha, namely Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Bargarh, Boudh, and the Athmallik subdivision of Angul district. This vast jurisdiction supports the education of over 80,000 students, underscoring the university's critical role in shaping the region's academic and social landscape.

The university operates through 26 postgraduate departments offering programs in 42 disciplines, with curricula designed to meet international academic standards and

the evolving needs of the region.Sambalpur University continues to expand its academic portfolio with courses in Executive MBA, M.Sc. Biotechnology, M.Sc. Bioinformatics, Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed., and M.A. Environmental Science and Engineering Technology, among others. The university's constituent Lajpat Rai Law College offers a three-year LL.B. course, a five-year integrated BBA-LLB program, a PG Diploma in IRPM, and since 2019, a two-year LLM program. So far 914 students have been admitted through CPET and SUET conducted by DHE Odisha and Sambalpur University respectively for the session 2024-2025.

The Sambalpur University Institute of Information Technology (SUIIT) stands as a cornerstone of technical education within the university, offering a rich platform for quality learning and research in the fields of Information Technology and Engineering. During the 2024-25 academic session, the institute admitted 304 students across nine diverse programs through the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE).

Aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, the university has introduced two-credit Add-on Courses in Entrepreneurship Development and Environmental Studies and Disaster Management, along with a three-credit Interdisciplinary Course for all students. Students are also encouraged to explore MOOC/SWAYAM courses as part of their academic journey. Research activities have been integrated into postgraduate programs through compulsory project work. This year the University has completely implemented the National Education Policy 2020 at the UG level in its affiliated colleges.

Sambalpur University continues to play a pivotal role in advancing academic excellence by recognising its teachers' notable contributions to education through the Best Teacher Award. This year the award was conferred uponProf. Binita Nayak from the School of Life Sciences, for Science and Technology, and Prof. T. Paltasingh from the Department of Sociology for Humanities and Social Sciences.

The University through the P.G. Council provides financial assistance to faculty members for attending national and international conferences. Scholarships such as the Swami Sivananda Memorial Scholarship and KarunakarSupkar Scholarship have been instituted to support deserving students of the University.

The shortage of staff has been one of the major concerns of the University. However, this year 84 teachers have been engaged as guest faculty and contractual assistant professors to ensure the continuity of academic programs.

Sambalpur University has also made significant strides in fostering research excellence through two Centres of Excellence: The Centre for Natural Products and Therapeutics and the Centre for Regional Development and Tribal Studies. Funded by a World Bank grant of ₹ 27.70 crores, these centres are engaged in cutting-edge research

projects. These initiatives focus on areas such as developing novel treatments for pathogens, exploring the functional applications of the Mahua flower, studying ethnomedicine, analysing migration trends, and creating a multi-vulnerability index to comprehensively address regional challenges.

The University has further strengthened its academic ecosystem by forging research collaborations with nationally and internationally reputed institutions. The Department of Anthropology has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Technology Institute of Mexico and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Goethe University, Germany. Similarly, the Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics (BT&BI) has partnered with organizations such as the Department of Pharmacy, GGU Bilaspur, the Central Ayurvedic Institute, CCRAS, Ministry of Ayush, the CSIR-NBRI in Lucknow, and the Sthapana Charitable Trust, Bhubaneswar.

The School of Physics has also made remarkable progress in advancing its research initiatives. It has established collaborations with renowned institutions such as the Institute of Physics (Bhubaneswar), ICAR (New Delhi), Jadavpur University (Kolkata), Central University (Kokrajhar, Assam), TIFR (Chandigarh), UFMS (Campo Grande, Brazil), NIT (Rourkela), CGCRI (Kolkata), University of Zabol (Iran), and the University of Kolkata (West Bengal).

Recognizing the value of research and publication, Sambalpur University has introduced incentives for its faculty members to encourage scholarly output. Faculty are awarded ₹ 3,000 for publishing a single article in Scopus or Web of Science Indexed Journals, ₹ 5,000 for two publications, and ₹ 10,000 for three or more publications.Faculty and researchers collectively published more than 132 papers in reputed national and international journals, showcasing their academic rigour and innovation.

The Career Counselling Cell has been providing guidance and support to students aspiring for jobs. The Cell organised ten programmes in which more than 400 students participated. The Cell has signed two MoUs for quality training programmes. More than 40 companies have shown interest in the students of the University.

Regular alumni meetings are held across various postgraduate departments, fostering a strong connection between the university and its alumni.The alumni community actively supports the university in numerous ways, including donations and contributions aimed at enhancing student opportunities. Notable alumni and well-wishers have generously contributed funds to institute scholarships and fellowships, promoting academic excellence and financial support for deserving students. Alumni from the Department of Chemistry, for instance, have instituted awards to recognize and encourage outstanding performance among students and researchers.

As part of its modernization efforts, the university has adopted an e-office system, reflecting its commitment to transitioning towards paperless administration and enhancing operational efficiency.

The academic atmosphere of Sambalpur University was very vibrant during 2024 on several fronts. Extra-mural lectures, various national and international seminars, Department seminars, invited talks, quality research publications and academic collaborations have been the highlights of the academic activities. Many National and International Workshops/Webinars were organized by different P.G. Departments of Sambalpur University and its constituent college in 2024. The School of Chemistry organized endowment lectures such as "Prof SripatiPani Memorial Endowment Lecture,"and "Prof. G. B. Behera Endowment Lecture" with eminent speakers likeProf. Partha Sarathi Mukherjee, the S. S. Bhatnagar Prize recipient, from IISc Bangalore and Prof. Amitava Das,J. C. Bose, National Fellow (2017) from IISER-Kolkata. The School also organized the *Nobel Prize* Seminar in January 2023 where six speakers discussed Nobel Prize-winning works of six different subjects.The School of Physics organized a two-day National Seminar in March 2024 on "Recent Developments in the Frontiers of Physics." The Department of Environmental Sciences conducted two Seminars and Workshops. It also set up the Centre for Environmental Science and Technology. Department of Computer Science organized a two-day National workshop on "Machine Learning." Department of Odia organized two National Seminars. The Department of Social Work organized an International Conference on "Sustainable Governance," an exposure visit to the multi-cropping NABARD Project, and two workshops on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment, and Child Rights. The Department of Law organizeda two-day National Seminar on "Changing Contours of Criminal Law in India: And Challenges, Social Outreach Programme near Hirakud Dam, and a Special lecture on "Tribal Rights." The students of the Department visited the Supreme Court of India, NHRC, ILI and Parliament of India. Department of Library and Information Science conducted the sponsored National Conference on 'Sustainable Libraries: Uniting Opportunities for Learning and Access, and 'International Open Access Week.' L.R. Law College organized a two-day national seminar on "Tracing Human Rights in Diversifying Society.' P.G. Department of Home Science conducted a National Seminar on "Community Enrichment: The Need of the Hour – 2024" and a Departmental Seminar on "Nourishment through Breastfeeding" The Department of Earth Science organised two workshops titled "Application of Geospatial Technology in Field Research" and "National Aquifer Mapping and Management, Ground Water Conservation." The Department of Sociology conducted a two-day International Conference on "Region, Identities and Citizenship Claims." The Economics Department hosted the 56th Annual Conference of the Odisha Economic Association in February 2024.

The faculty members have brought creditto the University with their findings.Department of Home Science has been granted a patent ona “therapeutic bakery product.” Prof. Monalisha Pattnaik of the Department of Statisticshas to her credit a patent for “Smart Banking Finances Device. Dr. Naku Hansdah of the Odia Department was felicitated by the Department of Santali, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal. Dr. Rashmi Paramanik of the Department of Sociology was honoured with Bharat Shiksha Gourav Puraskar. Dr. H. Chakraborty of the Chemistry Department has been selected to receive the CRSI Bronze Medal for the year 2025.

During 2024 the faculty members have published many articles and research papers in various reputed journals and Edited Books along with some books.More than 132 research articles have been published by the faculty members of the university.

The Department of English has created an online archive of the previous issues of its peer-reviewedjournal *Sambalpur Studies in Literatures and Cultures* regularly.

In 2024, Four D.Litt. and 87 PhDs in different disciplines in Science, Arts, Engineering, Management and Education were awarded by the University. This year 106 scholars have been registered for PhD and two for Post Doctoral Degrees. The Examination Section conducted PG Examinations for 2200 students in 42 subjects. In academics, the university conducted numerous undergraduate and postgraduate examinations, catering to a student strength of 147,739 at the undergraduate level and 2,500 at the postgraduate level across 38 departments. During the year 2024, Sambalpur University organized two Convocations. The students who graduated in 2023 received their degrees at the 33rd Convocation, held on April 8, 2024. Similarly, those who graduated in 2024 were awarded their degrees at the 34th Convocation, held on October 4, 2024.

The Prof. Bhubaneswar Behera Central Library, established in 1970, remains a cornerstone of academic and research excellence. Spread over 27,450 square feet, this three-storied facility offers a range of modern amenities, including a large air-conditioned reading room and RFID-enabled automation for seamless borrowing and returning of books. The library provides digital access with 60 computers connected to a 1 Gbps internet line, along with dedicated sections for visually impaired users, equipped with KIBO devices. Its extensive collection includes 1.5 lakh books, 9,000 full-text e-journals, and access to 16 major e-databases such as IEEE-ASPP, Science Direct, and JSTOR. Additional services include Turnitin for plagiarism checks, SPSS for statistical analysis, and an impressive archive of 3,300 theses and 13,000 back volumes. These resources, combined with over 100 print magazines and journals, make the library an invaluable asset for students and faculty.

The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Center (MMTTC) erstwhile UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Sambalpur University, since its inception in 2000, has

been imparting state-of-the-art knowledge to teachers, through its Refresher Courses, Orientation Programmes and other special programmes. The HRDC has been recognized as the National Resource Center (NRC) for Tribal Studies. It has included various innovative modules like classes on Yoga, Value Education, IT, Seminar Presentations, Project Work and Award of certificates of merit to best participants. During 2024, it has organized twoFaculty Induction Programmes, seven Refresher Courses and other Short-Term Courses and Workshops.

The Research and Development Cell of the university looks after the research projects funded through different national, international, and industrial funding agencies as well as the research fellowships from DST, DBT, CSIR, ICMR, UGC, ICSSR, OURIIP, DST (GOO) etc. A total of 8research projects sanctioned to the University from different funding agencies are running under R&DC. The total cost of these projects amounts to Rs. 1,75,62,182/-. The PG Department of Environmental Science is working on two projects funded by MCL and CMPDI amounting to Rs. 17.40 Lakh. Dr Bharathi Karri has an ICSSR Minor Research Project on “Bio-cultural Factors influencing Maternal and Child Health among Chuktia Bhunjia, a particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group of Western Odisha.”More than97 students have received fellowships from different funding agencies like CSIR, UGC, ICSSR, DST (Inspire), and DST (Odisha). Presently 44 UGC NET (JRF), 05 CSIR, 01 ICSSR, 14 DST (Inspire), 08 OURIIP, 03 BPRF and 17 SURF (Sambalpur University Research Fellowship.) It may be noted that the University provides fellowships to 20 research scholars every year with an amount of Rs. 10000/- per month. The fellows/Scholars are working in different P.G. Departments.The RDC has established a Central Instrumentation Facility with sophisticated research instruments.

The special cell for SC/ST is taking timely steps for the welfare of the SC, ST, OBC and MANF students of the P.G. Departments. The Cell caters to students receiving scholarships under several schemes such as post-matric scholarships, Medhabruti Scholarships and National Scholarships.

The NSS cell of the University has undertaken several programmes during the year 2024. Twentynine units conducted mega plantation camps, 11 NSS units did blood donation camps and collected 620 blood units. A total of 11550 saplings have been planted by the NSS units of the University Units and made 30000 seed balls. The cell observed Women’s Day, No Tobacco, Van Mahotsav Week, International Yoga Day, NSS Day, and Vigilance Awareness Week, and organized a Pre-republic Day Selection Camp.Nine volunteers from Sambalpur University were selected to participate in the Pre-RD camp for East Zone held at Guwahati University, Assam. Md. MasuadAlam, NSS Volunteer from NSCB College, Sambalpur and Sri Naresh Samal from Deogarh College have been selected to receive NSS Awards 2023-24.

Apart from research in Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, the University also emphasizes sports and cultural activities. The School of Performing Arts of the University celebrated World Theatre Day in collaboration with SWARA, Samabalpur. It organized a National Theatre Festival, "Sree Ranga Samagam" on 12-15 December 2024 in association with "The Sree Cultural Association, Sambalpur." The students and teachers of the department are the most sought-after artists who are invited to perform cultural programmes throughout the state, and they perform to mark each important event of the University.

In a bid to foster environmental consciousness, the University has set up an Eco Club in 2022. Departments of Environment Science, MPA, Economics, and Education have conducted programmes under its banner to create awareness.PG Department of English has formed a Literary Club open to all members of the University providing an opportunity for all literary enthusiasts.

The students of the MPA Department bagged second and third prizes in folk dance and folk Orchestras in the Interuniversity East Zone AIU National Youth Festival 2024 held at Berhampur University, and went on to win third prizes in both the events in the 37 Interuniversity National Youth Festival held at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, Punjab.

Sambalpur University in its nationalist and patriotic tradition celebrates the national days with great fervor. This year the University celebrated Constitution Day on the 26th of November. The celebration and the essay and debate competitions on the occasion were coordinated by Prof. Aloka Patel. Department of Law organised a Seminar talk to mark the occasion.

Sambalpur University showcased remarkable achievements in sports during 2024, with notable successes at national and state levels. Highlights include gold medals in men's relay athletics and women's hockey at the Khelo India University Games, alongside exceptional performances in swimming, where Sonia Patel secured one gold, two silver, and one bronze. The university also excelled in men's football and badminton, claiming championships, and in women's hockey at the Odisha State Games. As the overall champion in the Odisha Inter-University Athletics Championship, Sambalpur University reaffirmed its dominance. Further strengthening its position as a sports hub, it hosted the East Zone Inter-University Badminton (Women) Tournament on its campus from October 22–25, 2024, and co-hosted the East Zone Inter-University Hockey (Men and Women) Tournaments at the Birsa Munda International Stadium in Rourkela in collaboration with the Municipal College, Rourkela. In the bilateral Series between Indian and Australian Universities held from 27th November to 05th December 2024, Sujal Kumar Singh was selected asthe right batsman. Dr Abinash Kar, PEO, Sambalpur Universitywas the Manager of the Indian Universities Team. Further, our students Sujal KumarSingh & Shresth Singh played for the East Zone Team in the BCCI VIZZY Trophy. Dr Kar was the manager of the East Zone Team.

The University Health Centre caters to the medical requirements of the students, teachers, University staff, and patients from the neighbouring regions. Having been successful in vaccination programmes for COVID-19, the University this year has contributed to the elimination of Tuberculosis under the Nation Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) by adopting 30 numbers of TB patients. Sambalpur University has registered itself under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan to provide support to patients with TB undergoing treatment.

For the first time, Sambalpur University has been granted ₹ 100 crores under the PM-USHA scheme to enhance higher education. The funds will be utilized to improve curriculum design, teachers' training, infrastructure development, accreditation processes, and employability initiatives. This initiative emphasizes ensuring equity, access, and excellence in education by bridging gaps and providing inclusive opportunities for all. With a focus on modernizing academic standards, fostering skill development, and creating a learner-centric environment, the university aims to equip students with the tools needed for global competitiveness. The grant marks a significant step toward transforming Sambalpur University into a center of academic excellence.

In 2024Boards of Studies on different subjects (UG, PG and Professional) were constituted for the session 2024-25. The Controller of Examinations Office has also constituted the Regulation Amending Committee and Multidisciplinary Board of Studies. The meeting of the Academic Council was held on 13.11.2024. Implementation of NEP-2020 for undergraduate courses from the session 2024-25 is one of the remarkable achievements of this session.

The year 2024 has been a testament to Sambalpur University's unwavering commitment to academic and research excellence, community development, and inclusive growth. As a beacon of knowledge and progress, the University continues to inspire and lead in the realm of higher education in Odisha.

I express our sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone for contributing to the growth of the University. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the patient hearing. I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2025.

Thank you,

REGISTRAR