



# **SAMBALPUR UNIVERSITY**

(Accredited with Grade "A" by NAAC)

## **ANNUAL REPORT-2025**



**59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebration**  
**01<sup>st</sup> January, 2026**

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

Chief Guest Prof. Dipak Kumar Sahoo, Vice Chancellor of VSSUT, Burla;

Esteemed Guest of Honour, Prof. Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, Dean & Principal of VIMSAR, Burla;

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 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Sambalpur University and present the Annual Report for 2025.

Established in 1967, with its foundation stone laid by Dr. Zakir Hussain, the then President of India, Sambalpur University is located at Jyoti Vihar, Burla, and has long served as a major centre of higher education, research, and cultural advancement in western Odisha. Since its inception, the University has upheld the ideals of academic excellence, intellectual freedom, inclusivity, and social responsibility. The year 2025 marked an important phase in its journey, with notable progress in academic consolidation, research expansion, community engagement, infrastructural development, and alignment with national educational priorities. The University remains dedicated to knowledge creation, dissemination, and community service while advancing National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 goals, inclusive growth, digital transformation, sustainability, and indigenous knowledge systems. This Annual Report highlights the University's academic progress, research achievements, student accomplishments, extension activities, governance initiatives, and institutional development during 2025.

The year 2025 began with the celebration of the 58<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on January 5, 2025, during which the University upheld its rich traditions by conferring the prestigious Gangadhar National Award for Poetry 2023 on eminent Odia poet Pratibha Satpathy, recognising her creativity and contribution to Indian

literature. On this occasion, the University also felicitated faculty members, officers, and employees who retired during 2025, acknowledging their dedicated service to the institution.

For over 59 years, Sambalpur University has served as a catalyst for social transformation in western Odisha. Its commitment to academic excellence is reflected in its NAAC accreditation with an 'A' Grade and a CGPA of 3.10 in the third cycle. As an affiliating University, it supervises 139 colleges across six districts-Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Bargarh, and Boudh along with the Athmallik subdivision of Angul district, collectively catering to more than 80,000 students. This vast jurisdiction highlights the University's pivotal role in shaping the educational and social landscape of the region. Offering high-quality education across diverse disciplines such as Pure and Applied Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, and various professional programmes, Sambalpur University continues to hold a distinguished position in Odisha and across India.

At its Jyoti Vihar campus, Sambalpur University functions through 26 postgraduate departments offering programmes across 42 disciplines, with curricula aligned to international academic standards and regional developmental needs. The University continues to diversify its academic portfolio with programmes such as Executive MBA, M.Sc. Bioinformatics, M.Sc. Applied Chemistry, M.Sc. Nutrition and Dietetics, Integrated B.Ed.–M.Ed., M.A. Sanskrit, M.A. Commerce, M.A. Social Work, and M.Tech. Environmental Science & Engineering, among others. Its constituent Lajpat Rai Law College offers a three-year LL.B., a five-year integrated BBA-LLB, a PG Diploma in IRPM, and since 2019, a two-year LLM programme. The Sambalpur University Institute of Information Technology (SUIIT) remains a premier centre for technical education, providing a strong platform for advanced learning and research in Information Technology and Engineering.

During the year under review, Sambalpur University continued to advance its academic mission as a centre for knowledge creation and dissemination, addressing regional priorities while contributing to global academic discourse. Upholding its commitment to academic excellence, the University

recognised outstanding faculty contributions through the Best Teacher Award. This year, the honour was conferred upon Dr. Prabira Kumar from SUIIT in the category of Science and Technology, and Dr. Rohit Kumar Mishra from the Department of Business Administration in the category of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The University, through the P.G. Council, extends financial assistance to faculty members for participation in national and international conferences, thereby promoting academic exposure and professional growth. In addition, scholarships such as the Swami Sivananda Memorial Scholarship and the Karunakar Supkar Scholarship have been instituted to support and encourage deserving students of the University.

Two faculty members of the University, Dr. Prabira Kumar Sethy and Dr. Hirak Chakrabarty, were selected as Young Scientist & Technologist Leaders under the age categories below 45 years and above 45 years respectively, for the Emerging Science, Technology & Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025, organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Furthermore, Dr. Sethy was selected as a delegate to present his innovative work, "Krishisahayak" an approach to support farmers, at the Young Scientist Conclave (YSC) during the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025, scheduled to be held at Panchkula, Haryana, from December 6 to 9, 2025, organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

### **Academic Structure and Teaching-Learning Process**

In 2025, Sambalpur University functioned through a strong academic framework comprising Postgraduate Teaching Departments, research centres, affiliated colleges, and constituent institutions. The University offered postgraduate, doctoral, and research programmes across the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, applied sciences, and technology. All programmes operated under the semester system, ensuring continuous evaluation through internal assessments, semester-end examinations, and research-based learning components.

The teaching departments maintained high academic standards through curriculum enrichment, integration of recent disciplinary developments, and adoption of learner-centric pedagogical approaches. Faculty members emphasized interactive classroom teaching, seminars, project work, field studies, laboratory training, and the use of digital learning resources to enhance conceptual clarity and analytical skills among students. Interdisciplinary perspectives were systematically integrated into the curricula, reflecting the University's commitment to holistic education in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

### **Research Culture and Sponsored Projects**

Research continued to remain central to the academic ethos of Sambalpur University in 2025. The University's research ecosystem spans natural sciences, computational and environmental studies, humanities, social sciences, law, and interdisciplinary fields, with a strong regional focus alongside national and international collaborations. Departments offer structured research programmes up to Ph.D. and post-doctoral levels, supported by competitive funding, quality publications, and research partnerships.

During the year, the University attracted significant external funding from national and state agencies, further strengthening its position as an emerging research-intensive institution. A major highlight was the sanction of Rs.100 crore under the PM-USHA (MERU Grant) by the Ministry of Education, Government of India; Rs.13.11 crore under the ANRF-PAIR Project of the Department of Science & Technology in collaboration with NIT Rourkela; and a sustained grant of ?60 lakh from the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha to support both the Centres of Excellence. In addition, several departments secured extramural funding from agencies such as ICMR, DBT, Ministry of AYUSH, DST, SPCB, NABARD, ICSSR, MRIP, ANRF, CSIR, and various industries. A total of 14 major research projects, amounting to Rs.8,20,94,358, were sanctioned during the year. Sambalpur University also sponsored 18 faculty research projects from its own resources, each with a grant of Rs.50,000, to promote a vibrant research culture on campus. Currently,

133 research scholars are pursuing research under prestigious fellowships including UGC-NET-JRF, DST-INSPIRE, CSIR-NET-JRF, ICSSR, CCRAS-PDF, OURIIP, SURF, and MRIP. The University also strengthened collaborative research through MoUs with reputed national and international institutions.

The Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics distinguished itself through exceptional research productivity and funding achievements. It managed seven ongoing projects worth more than Rs. 7.5 crore, funded by ICMR, DBT, Ministry of AYUSH, NABARD, SPCB, and the Department of Higher Education, Odisha, while five projects worth nearly Rs. 2 crore were successfully completed. Research focused on molecular biology, bioinformatics, drug discovery, herbal therapeutics, and translational biomedical research.

A major highlight of 2025 was the continued growth of the Centre of Excellence in Natural Products and Therapeutics, supported by the Government of Odisha. Functioning as a hub of interdisciplinary research, the Centre worked on scientific validation of traditional medicinal knowledge and development of plant-based therapeutics. Equipped with advanced facilities and supported by multi-agency funding, the Centre progressed toward innovation and commercialization, with several herbal formulations undergoing pre-clinical evaluation, some are submitted for patents, and some transferred to University-incubated startups for commercialization. The Centre also contributed significantly to capacity building by organizing a one-month National Internship Training Programme on Natural Products Development and Pre-clinical Trials (May-June 2025), which attracted 143 participants from 27 Universities across India, thereby enhancing national research networking and student training.

The Centre of Excellence for Regional Development and Tribal Studies (COE-RDTS) continued to strengthen its role as a leading interdisciplinary research hub addressing regional and tribal development issues of Western Odisha by undertaking policy-relevant research on socio-economic vulnerability, migration, cultural sustainability, and inclusive development. The centre has contributed scholarly outputs and evidence-based insights for governance and planning. Significant contributions are preparation of Tribal Atlas on Endangered

Tribes of Western Odisha, Identification and documentation of extinct paddies among Paudi Bhuyan of Sundergarh district, documentation of multidimensional vulnerability index among Paudi Bhuyan tribe and documentation of cycle of violence, death and human cost of internal migration in Western Odisha. The centre also organized National Summer Internship Programme on Sustainable Tribal Development, hosting academic interactions, workshops, and discussions on regional culture and indigenous knowledge systems. Further, the centre is providing consultancy and advisory support to government and non-government agencies, thereby enhancing academic visibility, community engagement, and the university's overall research and outreach profile during the year.

### **Social Science Research and Policy Engagement**

Sambalpur University's Humanities and Social Science departments such as Economics, Political Science, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Social Work, English, Odia, Home Science, and Business Administration remain deeply engaged in multidisciplinary research addressing significant regional and national issues. Many departments undertook sponsored research projects focusing on tribal development, conflict resolution, migration dynamics, and socio-economic challenges relevant to Odisha's communities.

The Department of Anthropology continued its strong legacy in ethnographic and applied research, particularly in tribal studies, health anthropology, and social development. It also hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Anthropology in collaboration with the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health, providing a major national platform for scholarly discussions on contemporary issues related to health, society, and culture, and strengthening the University's visibility in social science research.

In 2025, the Department of Economics of Sambalpur University demonstrated significant academic and scholarly achievements by strengthening its teaching, research, and outreach activities, highlighted by excellent student performance including the award of a University Gold Medal in Economics by Ankika Choudhury at the 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation. The department has organized a national-level seminar focusing on development challenges and opportunities in

Odisha. The faculty and research scholars are focusing on policy-oriented research areas such as regional development, public finance, labour markets, and socio-economic issues of the state.

The Department of History at Sambalpur University marked notable academic success and scholarly recognition, with Swetasini Pradhan from the department winning the University Gold Medal for securing the first position in the MA History examination at the 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation, reflecting high student performance and academic excellence. The department continued to uphold its strong tradition of rigorous teaching and research rooted in its rich museum, archives, and manuscript collections, and remained engaged in advancing historical scholarship and research activities that highlight the cultural and historical heritage of the region.

Department of English achieved academic distinction with Rahul Kumar Debata being awarded the University Gold Medal for securing the first position in First Class in the M.A English examination at the 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation, reflecting high academic excellence among its postgraduate students. The department continued to uphold its strong tradition of quality teaching and literary scholarship within the university's postgraduate programmes. The department also conducted a National Seminar in the theme of "Interdisciplinarity in Literary Studies" by inviting eminent figures.

The Department of Odia earned academic distinction with Hemalata Barik being awarded the University Gold Medal for securing the first position in First Class in the MA Odia examination at the 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation. The department showcase excellence in postgraduate studies highlighting the department's commitment to fostering deep engagement with Odia language and literature while contributing to the preservation and promotion of the region's linguistic and cultural heritage. The faculties were honored with several awards and recognition by different agencies.

Department of Business Administration marked important progress in its postgraduate management education with multiple specialisations and contributing to the development of skilled managers equipped for evolving business

challenges. The university also moved forward with plans to expand integrated management education courses by including a five-year integrated MBA programme in line with the National Education Policy. The department has conducted 02 management development programs and 01 workshop.

Department of Home Science committed to excellence in postgraduate education and its role in advancing scholarship in areas related to human development, nutrition, and family sciences. The department has conducted several extension works and awareness programmes.

The P.G. Department of Law, Sambalpur University, successfully completed the 2025 calendar year, marking it as a period of significant academic achievement, impactful community engagement, and strong research output. The Department solidified its position as a centre for constitutional scholarship, successfully organising a two-day National Seminar on the Indian Constitution and conducting a highly effective legal awareness camp on the Forest Rights Act in Tabloi Village. The Department conducted Weekly Lecture Series on every Saturday, providing a platform for continuous learning, featuring eminent speakers on diverse and contemporary subjects. The commitment to research training was evident in the achievements during the year.

Department of Library and Information Science achieved a key academic milestone with one of its postgraduate student Jharana Patel being awarded the University Gold Medal for securing the highest position in the Master of Library & Information Science examination at the 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation, highlighting the department's commitment to high academic standards and excellence in professional education. In addition, the department continued its legacy of strong teaching and research in library and information science, preparing students for leadership roles in library management and information services while contributing to scholarship in the field. The department in collaboration with UGC-MMTTC conducted a Refresher Course in which 65 participants from different parts of the country participated.

Department of Sociology achieved a significant academic milestone with Akankshya Debata being awarded the University Gold Medal for securing

the first position in First Class in the M.A Sociology examination at the 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation, reflecting the department's strong commitment to academic excellence in sociological studies and the high performance of its postgraduate students.

Research outputs from these departments were widely disseminated through national and international publications, contributing to policy-relevant academic discourse. Notably, the study titled "Sustainable Livelihood of Sambalpuri Handloom Weavers: A Study of Western Odisha" examined the economic realities and systemic challenges faced by traditional artisan communities. This work received recognition from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for its strong policy relevance in strengthening livelihoods and safeguarding indigenous craft economies.

### **Science, Technology, and Interdisciplinary Research**

Sambalpur University's Science, Technology, and Interdisciplinary Research ecosystem is robust and expanding by:

- Strong foundational science research in life sciences, biotechnology, physics, chemistry, and environmental studies.
- Technology-driven innovation through SUIIT and other engineering domains.
- Interdisciplinary centres linking science with health, society, and regional development.
- Collaboration, infrastructure investment, and research culture that encourages real-world problem solving and academic excellence.

School of Chemistry at Sambalpur University continued to build a robust research portfolio, particularly in energy-related materials chemistry and advanced functional materials. The department's publications in indexed journals demonstrate both scientific quality and relevance, contributing to the university's broader research profile in science and technology. The department regularly organizes endowment lectures and seminars featuring eminent scientists, which contribute to research exposure and academic dialogue within the department. Faculty

members in chemistry have collaborative research ties with premier Indian research institutions such as IISc, IITs, BARC, IMMT, and NITs.

The School of Life Sciences maintained active research projects in areas such as: vermicomposting of hydrophytes, algal biology, biochemistry, rice physiology, medical microbiology and others. The Faculty members in Life Sciences have delivered several talks in various conferences and collaborated with various leading institutes for research. These collaborations help in knowledge exchange, joint research projects, and exposure to high-end scientific work.

Ongoing work of Dept. of Physics spans Nuclear Physics, Particle Physics, Electronics, Solid State Physics, and Astro-Particle Physics, indicating a broad research spectrum with both theoretical and experimental dimensions. The Department maintains collaborative research interactions with premier institutes (IOP, IITs, NITs), enhancing research quality and exposure.

Environmental Science Department has historically attracted funding from multiple national and industry partners (UGC, MRIP, UNEP/GEF, OPGC, OSPPC, NTPC, MCL, ICMR, DST, etc.) for projects involving ecology, pollution assessment, solid waste management, environmental biotechnology, and field-based environmental studies.

The Department of Earth Sciences achieved notable research outcomes during the year. Faculty members published research papers in high-impact international journals, addressing issues such as groundwater contamination, climate change, environmental geochemistry, urbanization, and remote sensing. The department maintained a strong emphasis on field-based research, laboratory analysis, and the application of geospatial technologies.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Sambalpur University contributed to high-quality theoretical research in differential and dynamic systems, data sciences, laying ground work for further publications and graduate research engagement. These outputs reflect both the department's theoretical strengths and participation in broader analytical research communities.

The Department of Computer Science and Applications demonstrated active engagement with cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The department organized national-level seminars and workshops on emerging trends in computer science, data science, and decision-making systems. Faculty members also participated in advanced training programmes on quantum computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and Internet of Things technologies, thereby enhancing their academic competence and ensuring curriculum relevance.

Researchers from the Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, working through the Centre of Excellence in Natural Products and Therapeutics, developed various polyherbal formulation for the management of diabetes, kidney diseases, cardiovascular diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, insomnia, prostate hyperplasia, filariasis, using medicinal plants from the Gandhamardhan Hills. These formulations have secured published patent and the team is advancing toward a product patent. This demonstrates the University's capacity to translate basic research into protected innovations. The department especially through the COE-NPT supports research internships and hands-on training for students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These programs build early research skills in areas such as phytochemical analysis and experimental biology, preparing students for future research careers.

At the Sambalpur University Institute of Information Technology (SUIIT), research projects like the "AquaSense Wireless Sensor Network" for real-time water quality and quantity monitoring are active, supported by ITRA Government of India funding (~Rs.49 lakh). This bridges mathematics, electronics, and computing for societal benefit. The institute has conducted several workshops/ seminars during the year. The faculties of SUIIT have immensely contributed in research by research grants from different funding agencies, publishing research articles in national and international journals of repute and by collaborating with several research institutes and industries.

### **Seminars and Conferences in Sambalpur University**

One of the distinguished traditions of Sambalpur University is its consistent organisation of seminars, symposiums, and workshops. Various departments hosted numerous academic events during the year, featuring eminent

scholars and experts from across the country as resource persons. Faculty members of the University also actively participated in national and international conferences as speakers and delegates.

The Department of English organised a National Seminar on “Interdisciplinarity in Literary Studies” on 21-22 February 2025, while the Department of Hindi conducted a National Seminar on “Hindi Sahitya Mein Vividh Vimarshon” on 13-14 February 2025. The P.G. Department of History hosted an ICHR-sponsored National Seminar on “Odisha’s Past Reimagined: New Historical Perspectives and Unexplored Dimensions” on 8-9 February 2025. The Department of Home Science organised a National Seminar on “Community Initiatives for Sustainable Development: Role of Stakeholders” on 7 March 2025. The Department of Law conducted a two-day National Seminar on “75 Years of Indian Constitution: Reminiscence and Reflections” on 22-23 February 2025. The School of Life Sciences organised a National Seminar on “Advanced Research in Life Sciences and its Implications in Human Welfare” from 22-23 September 2025. The Department of Mathematics held a National Conference titled “Number Theory and Lie Algebra (NSNTLA-2025)” on 27-28 February 2025.

The Department of Business Administration organised several capacity-building programmes, including a Management Development Programme for MCL Executives on New Criminal Law (20.08.2024-24.05.2024), a Two-Day Workshop on SPSS Modeler (28-29 January 2025), and a Two-Day Management Fest ‘BizMind’ (14-15 November 2025). The Department of Statistics conducted a Two-Day National Workshop on “AI-Driven Data Analytics Using R Programming (ADDARP-2025)” on 19-20 February 2025.

SUIIT organised multiple advanced training and academic programmes, including a One-Week Online AICTE-sponsored FDP on “Advances in Deep Learning for Medical Imaging and Disease Diagnosis (DL-MIDD 2025)” from 14-19 September 2025, and a Two-Week Faculty Development Programme on “Application of Artificial Intelligence in Computer Science, Electronics, and Electrical Engineering” from 24 February to 7 March 2025. With support from

ANRF, SUIIT is also organising an International Workshop on “Revolutionizing Diagnostic Imaging: The Impact of AI and Machine Learning on Image Analysis” scheduled from 14-15 February 2026.

Notably, Dr. Kshirasindhu Barik, Curator, represented the University as a delegate at the World Archaeological Congress (WAC-10) in Darwin, Australia, from 22-27 June 2025, where he presented his research paper titled “Rock Art, Red Ochre and Microlithic Tradition of Bargarh Upland, Western Odisha, India.”

### **Publications and Knowledge Dissemination**

During 2025, Sambalpur University recorded a remarkable increase in scholarly output across disciplines, with an approximate net growth of 716 indexed publications from 2024 to 2025. Faculty members published extensively in reputed national and international journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, along with contributions to book chapters, edited volumes, and conference proceedings. Many faculty members also served as editors, reviewers, and members of editorial boards, thereby strengthening the wider academic ecosystem.

Research dissemination was further enhanced through invited lectures, keynote addresses, and active participation in national and international conferences. These activities significantly elevated the University's academic visibility and promoted strong collaborative research networks.

### **Student Achievements and Academic Outcomes**

Students of Sambalpur University demonstrated outstanding academic performance and strong research aptitude during the year. During the year, 59 scholars were registered for Ph.D. and one for D.Litt., while in 2025 a total of 91 Ph.D., three D.Litt., and one D.Sc. degrees were awarded. Research scholars also earned recognition through Best Poster Awards at the IIT Roorkee, Odisha Research Conclave and other conferences, highlighting the quality and originality of their work.

The Examination Section conducted PG examinations for 2,200 students across 42 subjects, while the University managed a large volume of academic assessments covering 147,739 undergraduate and 2,500 postgraduate students across 38 disciplines.

Student placements also showed significant improvement across departments. The Department of Food Science, Technology, and Nutrition achieved 100% placement, with graduates successfully placed as dieticians, nutritionists, food safety supervisors, academicians, and professionals in healthcare and food industries. The department's emphasis on skill development, internships, and industry exposure contributed greatly to this success.

SUIIT students also excelled at national platforms. Sri Piyush Kumar (B.Tech., ECE) ranked among the top 10 ideas under AICTE ATAL Incubation Centre (L.E.A.D.). Sri Chintamani Mohanta and team reached the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon (SIH 2025), while Sri Jagdish Sahu (B.Tech., ECE) and his team were selected among the Top Five Teams at the Student Global Summit 2025.

Students of the Master in Performing Arts Department brought exceptional national recognition to the University by winning 15 prestigious awards and emerging as All-India Champions in Theatre, Dance, and Drama at the All-India Drama Competition, Bhagalpur, Bihar, on 22 December 2025. The University won Best Production (Sreshth Natak), while Dr. Chandrakanta Mahananda received Best Director and the Ranga Shree Rashtriya Samman. Individual achievements included: Best Actress - Swapna Patnaik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Actor - Sebak Meher, Best Character Actress & Best Make-up Team - Shantipriya Swain, Best Music - Narsingh Meher, along with multiple supporting awards. In Dance, Shantipriya Swain secured 1<sup>st</sup> in Classical Solo, Baisakhi Mahapatra 3<sup>rd</sup> in Classical Solo, Swapna Patnaik 2<sup>nd</sup> in Folk Solo, and the trio of Shantipriya, Swapna, and Baisakhi achieved 1<sup>st</sup> in Group Folk Dance, bringing immense pride to Sambalpur University.

## **Extension Activities and Community Engagement**

Community outreach and extension activities remained an integral component of Sambalpur University's mission in 2025. Several departments undertook initiatives aimed at translating academic knowledge into societal benefit. Training programmes were organised for farmers and farmer-producer organisations on plant tissue culture techniques, promoting sustainable agriculture and livelihood enhancement. Tissue culture plants were also distributed to support local cultivation efforts. Capacity-building programmes were conducted for women self-help groups, particularly in value-added food production from locally available resources such as Mahua flowers, by the Department of Food Science, Technology and Nutrition. These initiatives strengthened the University's engagement with rural and tribal communities and contributed to inclusive development. Nutrition awareness programmes were also organised in schools and communities during National Nutrition Week, focusing on health education and dietary practices.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Bureau of Sambalpur University actively carried out extensive outreach and community service activities throughout 2025. Major initiatives included seven Special Camps under a Mega Plantation Drive, during which 6,250 saplings were planted to promote environmental sustainability. Thirty-one blood donation camps were organised, collecting nearly 2,250 units of blood, along with two Free Mega Health Camps benefiting rural and underserved communities.

The NSS Bureau also prioritised youth leadership and civic engagement by organising seven District-Level Youth Leadership Training Programmes and a District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, from which ten students were selected for state-level participation. Health and safety initiatives included a Mass Drug Administration Programme for eliminating lymphatic filariasis and a Disaster Management Programme.

Additionally, a University-Level Pre-Republic Day Selection Camp and a placement drive for NSS volunteers were conducted. Numerous awareness programmes were organised on environmental protection, drug de-addiction,

road safety, cyber security, HIV/AIDS, vigilance awareness, national integration, and yoga. NSS volunteers also represented the University in National Integration Camps and a State-Level Mountaineering Camp, further enhancing the University's visibility, social responsibility, and community engagement.

### **Placement Activities**

The Placement Cell organised several placement initiatives during the year. A Job Fair was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for final-year and pass-out students from PG Departments, Constituent Colleges, and Affiliated Colleges, with participation from over 600 students and confirmation of 250 job offers through a collaborating agency under the PM-USHA (MERU Grant) Scheme of the Government of India. More than 100 students also participated in a Job Fair organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the Board of Practical Training at GM University on 16-17 January 2025.

Campus recruitment drives by Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank resulted in the selection of 10 students from the Department of Business Administration in February 2025. Additionally, 30 students were selected for a one-month summer internship with the Outlook Group in Marketing, HR, and Business Analytics. Students from the Department of Chemistry and MSW also received placement offers from Jindal Steel, TRL Krosaki, and other nearby industries and NGOs.

Further strengthening industry linkage, the University signed a MoU with CII, New Delhi, for establishing an E2E Lounge at Sambalpur University.

### **Training, Interaction, and Entrepreneurship Programs**

Several training and developmental programmes were organised to enhance students' skills and exposure. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated at Sambalpur University in January 2025, and 150 girl students participated in a Skill Development Programme in collaboration with the Naandi Foundation in July 2025. An awareness programme on SBI PO and other banking examinations was conducted by senior SBI officials for students of the Department of Business Administration, and nearly 40 MBA students (Batch 2024-26) successfully

completed an HR Certification Programme in collaboration with Gryt HR. An industry interaction session was also held with Dr. Shambhu Jha, GM (Innovation Cell), MCL, focusing on skills and career development.

Furthermore, a Start-up and Innovation Programme was organised by the Placement Cell and Sambalpur University Startup Forum in September 2025, which received 100 innovative ideas from PG departments and affiliated institutions. Of these, 18 ideas were shortlisted and presented before a jury, and the top five ideas were forwarded to the Department of Higher Education for the state-level competition. Two start-up companies such as Orchid Herbal pvt. Ltd. and WinDNA Life Science pvt. Ltd have been incubated under SUSF. Both the private limited companies have developed several polyherbal products/ formulations and medicated herbal green teas which are available in commercial platform.

## **Library and Learning Resources**

The Prof. Bhubaneswar Behera Central Library continues to serve as the academic nerve centre of Sambalpur University. In 2025, the library further enhanced its collection of print and electronic resources, providing access to over 1.5 lakh books and thousands of e-journals through national consortia. It subscribes to multiple online databases and offers research tools such as plagiarism detection software and statistical analysis packages.

Fully automated with KOHA and RFID technology, the library ensures efficient circulation and user services. The digital library, equipped with high-speed internet and 60 computers connected via a 1 Gbps line, supports online learning and research. Special facilities, including KIBO devices, are provided for visually impaired users, reflecting the University's commitment to inclusivity.

The library's extensive resources include 9,000 full-text e-journals, access to 16 major e-databases such as IEEE-ASPP, ScienceDirect, and JSTOR, Turnitin for plagiarism checks, SPSS for statistical analysis, 3,300 theses, 13,000 back volumes, and over 100 print magazines and journals. Together, these facilities make the library an invaluable asset for students and faculty alike.

## **Affiliated Colleges and Academic Governance**

The College Development Council (CDC) played a pivotal role in academic governance and quality assurance across the University's affiliated colleges. During the year, the University oversaw academic and administrative matters for a wide network of affiliated institutions, many of which had achieved NAAC accreditation. The Council constituted local enquiry and expert committees for affiliation-related matters and organized academic events, including the Chancellor's Debate Competition.

Under the PM-USHA scheme, the University conducted a Principal Meet focusing on accreditation, implementation of the National Education Policy, and digital resource sharing, contributing to capacity building and quality enhancement in affiliated colleges.

The CDC also launched a unique programme, SAMBALPUR VISWAVIDYALAYA PRATIVA ANWESAN-2025, featuring singing, dancing (Odissi and Sambalpuri), and drama competitions for students from affiliated colleges, with active participation from the University's Departments.

## **Infrastructure Development and Digital Initiatives**

Sambalpur University received an approximate grant of Rs. 68 crore under the PM-USHA (MERU Grant)-2025 for the development of infrastructure, academic buildings, hostels, skilling and incubation centres, and Centres of Excellence. Additionally, the State Government approved Rs. 47.25 crore for various University infrastructure projects.

In 2025, the University undertook multiple infrastructure and digital modernization initiatives. Computer systems were upgraded, surveillance and security systems were strengthened, and campus-wide internet connectivity was enhanced. Smart classroom facilities were improved to support blended learning and digital pedagogy, and the University website was regularly updated for better accessibility and information dissemination.

Administrative processes were streamlined through digital platforms such as the Samarth portal, facilitating payroll management, leave processing, and academic administration.

## **Collaborations and Institutional Linkages**

Sambalpur University expanded its academic collaborations at national and international levels. The University maintained Memoranda of Understanding with reputed foreign institutions, facilitating academic exchange, joint research, and faculty interaction. National collaborations with premier research institutions strengthened interdisciplinary research and academic networking. Notable collaborators include the National Technology Institute of Mexico and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Goethe University, Germany with the PG Department of Anthropology, and partnerships with GGU Bilaspur, the Central Ayurvedic Institute (CCRAS, Ministry of Ayush), CSIR-NBRI Lucknow, and Sthapana Charitable Trust, Bhubaneswar with the Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics (BT&BI).

During the 2024-25 academic session, the University achieved remarkable success in sports at international, national, and state levels. Internationally, Mr. Ehsaas Hota represented the University and the Indian Universities Team in Taekwondo at the World University Games 2024-25 in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany. At the national level, Ms. Mary Mukta Soreng competed in women's athletics and Mr. Aditya Kumar Sahu in men's weightlifting at the 5th Khelo India University Games. The Men's Hockey Team emerged East Zone champions in the AIU Hockey Tournament, while the Women's Team secured second place in the East Zone and competed at the All India level.

At the Odisha State Level Inter University Games 2024-25, Sambalpur University excelled, winning championships in men's football, men's and women's hockey, men's and women's cricket, and multiple badminton events. The University also dominated the State Athletics Championships with 20 gold, 25 silver, and 9 bronze medals, claiming the men's, women's, and overall titles. Students also achieved individual accolades in taekwondo, athletics, BCCI Vizzy Trophy selection, and Khelo India qualification. During the 2025-26 sports session, the Men's Badminton Team secured 4th place in the East Zone and qualified for the All India Inter-University Badminton Championship and the Khelo India University Games for the first time.

The year 2025 has been a testament to Sambalpur University's unwavering commitment to academic and research excellence, community engagement, and inclusive growth. As a beacon of knowledge and progress, the University continues to inspire and provide leadership in the sphere of higher education in Odisha.

I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all faculty members, staff, students, and stakeholders for their collective efforts and valuable contributions to the University's continued growth and development. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your patient attention, and I extend my warm wishes to all for a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 2026.

Thank you.

**Registrar**



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