

To: Naveen Patnaik  
Chief Minister of Odisha

Dear Esteemed Chief Minister:

We would like your active support in our effort to pursue with the PM of India for establishing a central university in Puri (Odisha) on the line of BHU (Banaras Hindu University) with all the modern disciplines as well as cross-cutting disciplines that interface with traditional Indian knowledge, arts, culture and heritage.

Sir: We have written to the Prime Minister about this and we would like your strong support. (Our letter to the PM is attached.)

Sir: Puri the abode of Lord Jagannath, is a special place in India and has a history of being a center of knowledge. Puri has fallen behind Varanasi (which has the central university BHU, an IIT and much more) and Tirupati (which has an IIT, an IISER and much more) as a center of knowledge and Puri is in no way inferior to them.

Sir: Although a central university was established in Odisha (in Koraput) in 2009, since then Bihar has been given SIX centrally funded universities in Gaya, Motihari, Kishanganj (a center of Aligarh Muslim University), Nalanda, Pusa and Vikramshila. Surely, our desire for a BHU type central university in Odisha, in the abode of Lord Jagannath is reasonable and appropriate.

By a BHU-type Central University we mean a Central University (fully funded by the Central government) that has wide ranging disciplines (as in BHU) and that is well recognized (like BHU) in the country and the world. BHU with a student body of 20,000 has a wide array of disciplines such as various languages, social sciences, philosophy, mathematics, sciences, law, medicine, engineering (IT-BHU became an IIT), education, commerce, visual arts, performing arts, Sanskrit, agriculture and management. Such a university does not exist in Odisha. Moreover, a BHU-type central university in Puri will complete the knowledge infrastructure of the greater capital area of Odisha, which has IIT, NISER, AIIMS, etc. with a Central University being the only missing piece.

Hence, we request you to strongly pursue with the central government for a BHU type Central University in Puri.

sincerely,