

Movement for A BHU-type Central University in Puri: Concept Note

The goal of this movement is to establish a BHU-type Central University in Puri.

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.

Why BHU type Central University: 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.

Why in Puri:

- 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.
- No government can ignore a genuine demand by the people for a knowledge institution in Puri, the abode of Lord Jagannath.
- 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.

But Odisha has been already given a central university in Koraput!: Since 2009, when CUO Koraput was established, Bihar has been given SIX centrally funded universities in Gaya, Motihari, Kishanganj (a center of Aligarh Muslim University), Nalanda, Pusa and Vikramshila. Surely, Odisha's desire for a BHU type central university in the abode of Lord Jagannath is reasonable and appropriate.

Some steps that have been taken:

- Web page: <http://www.cupuri.orissalinks.com/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralUnivPuri/>
- Letters to PM: Various people and organizations such as, Mukti Mandap Pandit Sabha and Mumbai Odia Samaj have signed Letters to PM.
- Pledge Text: Text has been created and some pledges have been collected.
- Media Coverage and rallies: A few rallies and media coverage has happened.

What next? How do we go about establishing a BHU-type Central University in Puri:

- A broad based inclusive movement (supported by all political parties of Odisha) led by people of Puri and supported by rest of Odisha (and beyond) is needed.
- Letters needs to be sent to CM of Odisha and PM and HRD Minister of India.
- A pledge drive to collect pledges from people promising a contribution towards the establishment of this university. (This will be a modern version of Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya's effort to collect funds for BHU.)