



# **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-UTKAL UNIVERSITY**

**Regn. No: 216/18202000024 of 2020-2021**

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## **PRESS BRIEFING**

The Alumni Association-Utkal University launched “Single use plastic free Vani Vihar” campaign at the premises of the University on 30.01.2021 in collaboration with the Utkal University Authority on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation and the votary of cleanliness and hygiene.

For this purpose, a brief function was organised at Ahimsa Sthal in the Vani Vihar premises on the said date. At the commencement of the function, Sri B.K Patnaik the president of the Alumni Association & former Chief Secretary of the Govt. of Odisha and Prof. Sabita Acharya, the Vice Chancellor of the University paid their respect to Gandhijee by garlanding his statue at Ahimsa Sthal along with other dignitaries viz. Prof. Ashok Das, General Secretary and former Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Basant Kumar Mallick, The Chairman P.G. Council, Sri Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar, Utkal University, Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), BMC, Bhubaneswar.

Thereafter, Sri Asoka Das, General Secretary of the Association while welcoming the participants gave a brief note on the objectives of the campaign. Sri Das stated that the ill effect of plastic pollution in general and from the use of single use plastic in particular on environment and human body as well as other animals and marine life is stupendous. Keeping in view of its dreaded effect, the Govt. of Odisha has banned the use of single use plastic in the BMC area, Bhubaneswar and in all urban local bodies. Thus, it is our bounden duty to co-operate in this endeavour of the Govt. and take all possible steps not to use the single use plastic.

Prof Sabita Acharya, the Vice Chancellor of the University expressed her apperception for the Alumni Association for conceiving this campaign and make the University as its partner in this endeavour. She assured all her helps and co-operation in making this campaign successful.

Sri B.K Patanik, President of the Alumni Association, in his address stated that this would be an ongoing campaign in the campus with an object of freeing it of single use plastic involving all the stake holders i.e. shopkeepers, Students, Hostellers, staff and residents of the University spearheaded by the Alumni Association in league with the University Authorities.

It is a heartening fact that we are embarking upon the campaign coinciding the centenary celebration of Gandhijee’s first visit to Odisha i.e. 1921. He further stated that it is hoped that the campaign of our Alumni Association for single use plastic free campus will set an example for other educational Institutions to follow.

Smt. Anidita Das, noted singer compered the programme and also sang theme song of the University and Ram dhun.

The Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation) of BMC, Bhubaneswar spoke in detail the provision of single use plastic ban and arrangements made for the disposal of single use plastic. He further requested to observe the provisions of single use plastic ban in the interest of environment and our own health.

Sri Basant Kumar Mallick, Chairman, P.G. Council also addressed the audience.

Sri R.N Prusty, Jt. Secretary of the Alumni Association administered the clean green oath to the participants and proposed vote of thanks. The function was followed by a procession of students, shopkeepers, alumni and public in the campus with slogans and placards to create awareness and sensitize all the stake holders against the use of single use plastic while cleaning the campus of single use plastic debris.

Amongst other noted alumni Sri Debendra Kumar Das its Vice President , Sri Dilip Bisoi, its Treasurer, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Rath, Adv. Parbir Das, Ajya Kumar Mohapatra, Tanmaya Swain, Rajesh Raj Swain, Sangram Keshari Patra, Sangram Das, Gadadhar Rath, Dr. Birakishore Das, Akshaya Parida, Santosh Sethy, Laxmidhar Chand, were present in the meeting and contributed substantially for its success.

Asoka Kumar Das

General Secretary