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## **MESSAGE**

I am extremely glad to know that Odisha State Open University (OSOU), Sambalpur is launching its official website ([www.osou.ac.in](http://www.osou.ac.in)) to reach out the people of Odisha and outside the State.

The State Government has decided to boost skill development education through a new State Open University (OSQU). In Odisha, nearly five lakh students at various levels are dropping out from the educational institutions and these dropouts can be targeted for skill development certificate, diploma and degree with employability skills to be more employable.

At present, the five State Universities running Distance Education Courses are not imparting Skill Development Courses. Annually, 14,000 students are enrolled in these five universities, Utkal, Berhampur, Sambalpur, North Odisha and Fakir Mohan University.

Hence, OSOU will work out modalities for recognition and standardisation of the skill development education in the State. The website, no doubt, will be a great advantage for the aspiring students of the State as well as the entire nation for dissemination of valuable information.

My best wishes for the launching ceremony of the new website.

  
(Dr Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy)