



PROF. ACHYUTA SAMANTA

Founder and Mentor KIIT & KISS Foundation India, UK & USA
Former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha

- Born in 1965, obtained Master's Degree in Chemistry in 1987 from Utkal University, Doctorate Degree in Social Sciences and started teaching at the age of 22. He has 35 years of teaching experience and counting.
- Youngest Chancellor of any Indian University, as chronicled by the **Limca Book of Records**.
- Founder Chancellor of **KISS Deemed to be University** (the first Tribal University in the world) and the first person to be a Chancellor of any Tribal University in the world.
- He was a former Member of Parliament, serving in the Rajya Sabha from 2018 to 2019 and in the Lok Sabha from 2019 to 2024.
- Served as a member of three Apex Educational bodies of India, University Grants Commission (UGC) for two consecutive terms (2008–11 & 2011–14), Executive Committee of **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**, and **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)**.
- Served as a member of several other Government of India bodies like **NCTE, ISTE, ISCA, COIR BOARD, CAPART**, etc., besides being a member of the **Academic Council of Central University of Assam and Odisha**.
- Former Principal Advisor to the Department of Education, Govt. of Manipur, nominated by the Governor of Manipur.
- Served as the **General President of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA)** in 2017–18 and President of the XXXIX World Congress of Poets (2018–19).
- Former President of the Volleyball Federation of India and currently **Chief Patron**.
- Designated President (India) of Democracy Without Borders. He also founded Parliamentarians for Indigenous People.
- Honoured with the **National Award for the Welfare of Children** in 2016 by Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India in 2017.
- Conferred with the **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022** by the Government of India for his contribution to sports and encouraging sports personnel.
- Art of Giving, his initiative, has been awarded the MacJannet Prize in 2021.
- Awarded the **Sandipani Maharshi Samman** in 2020 by Sandipani Vidya Niketan, Gujarat.
- Awarded Personality of the Year 2019 by **FICCI Higher Education Awards**.
- Conferred with the **Green Activist Award** by the Indian Federation of Green Energy.
- Conferred with the Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar (Lifetime Achievement Award) at the 4th National Teachers' Congress by MIT World Peace University, Pune in 2020.
- Awarded with the FIVB Grand Cross, the highest award by Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).
- Conferred with **75+ Honoris Causa Doctorate** Awards from prestigious universities across the globe.
- Received 6 National and International Fellowships - **ISTE, CSI, ICA & APACH, IFE**.
- Conferred with the Golden Gavel by the **World Academy of Arts and Culture (WAAC)** recognised by UNESCO.
- Decorated with the **Gusi Peace Prize International, Manila (Asia's Peace Prize)**.
- Received the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, the Highest Civilian Award with a One Million Dollar Cash Prize from the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Conferred with the highest civilian awards from Mongolia and Bahrain besides over 50 national and international awards and over 200 state honours and accolades.
- Founder of **KIIT Deemed to be University** (www.kiit.ac.in), ranked as one of the top universities in India, and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (**KISS - Deemed to be University**) (www.kiss.ac.in), Bhubaneswar.
- Prof. Samanta started KIIT and KISS with only Rs. 5000/- (100 USD) in a two-room rented house. KIIT has now grown into one of the most promising universities with global acclaim, having 40,000 students from India and abroad.
- KISS has become the largest residential tribal institute in the world, providing free education from kindergarten to post-graduation and a home for 80,000 tribal children (30,000 students in KISS Bhubaneswar, 40,000 alumni, 10,000 in 10 satellite centres in 10 districts of Odisha).
- Recipient of the UNESCO **International Literacy Prize 2022**.
- KIIT and KISS have been chronicled in the Limca Book of Records on four counts. They have also created five **Guinness World Records**.
- Contributed to social upliftment, spiritualism, and sports by creating unparalleled sports infrastructure and promoting sportspersons and sports.
- Transformed the remote village of Kalarabanka, Cuttack into a Smart Village and the entire Manpur Panchayat into a Model Panchayat (cluster of villages).
- Working to establish 20 branches of KISS in different districts of Odisha and another 20 branches across the country. He has also established KISS-Delhi in 2013 for the underprivileged sections of society and two branches of KISS in Bangladesh.
- Providing employment to around 20,000 people directly and over two hundred thousand indirectly, creating 200 successful entrepreneurs across the country.
- Authored the biography "**My Mother, My Hero**" about his mother.
- Prof. Samanta has been working relentlessly to achieve Zero Poverty, Zero Hunger, and Zero Illiteracy since 1987.



Brief Information about Prof. Achyuta Samanta

- Prof. Achyuta Samanta (www.achyutasamanta.com) was born to Late Neelima Rani Samanta and Late Shri Anadi Charan Samanta. Unlike most children blessed with endless care, comfort, and compassionate nurture in the lap of their parents, Achyuta Samanta's childhood was filled with hardship and struggle. He was four when his father died in a tragic train accident. He failed to understand the loss of the family's breadwinner at such a tender age.
- **In such dark circumstances, all the seven siblings started struggling to survive along with their widowed mother in Kalarabanka, a remote village in Odisha without anything in anybody's hand or any backing. At four, Achyuta Samanta started struggling for his survival.** As he grew up to understand the difficulties, he assisted his mother in household chores and other menial jobs to augment income for the family. His upbringing in the midst of nature and hardships took place in a remote village with no amenities, not even basic, before forty-five years. He grew up in a thatched house just like a cowshed left by his deceased father.
- **His mother had to face unending struggles.** Because of her commitment and determination, she did odd menial jobs to manage two square meals a day for her children. Sometimes, they did not have food for the night. The siblings managed to study and get a formal education besides helping their mother to supplement the family income with honesty and determination. Achyuta Samanta completed his Intermediate with distinction despite financial distress. **He obtained graduation and Post Graduation Degree in Chemistry and was engaged in private tuitions and mentoring for funding his education and helping his siblings.**
- The same person whose childhood unfolded miseries, created Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) www.kiit.ac.in and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) www.kiss.ac.in in 1992-1993 with 100 USD (Rs.5000/-). While KIIT has become one of the most acclaimed and recognized Indian Universities that provides Professional Education to 40,000 students from India and abroad, KISS has become world's largest tribal educational institution. It is a home to 40000 poorest of the poor tribal children who are given free education from Kindergarten to Post graduation along with other avenues of Comprehensive Development. KISS has huge alumni of 40,000 students with a decent profession and livelihood besides creating a wave of change in their communities through satellite centers of KISS in 10 districts of Odisha. **KISS is the first exclusive Tribal University in the world.**
- **The whole world, policy makers, educationists, economists talk about 'poverty alleviation through Education' as a solution to address the global problems that exist today. This cardinal principle has been the very foundation of KIIT and KISS. It was envisioned, implemented, executed and achieved by Achyuta Samanta in true sense for the last 25 years.**
- He initiated KIIT and KISS when there was not adequate awareness about professional Education in Odisha. Tribal Education in an innovative model was not even thought of. It was a gray area where every stakeholder failed or did not muster up the courage to initiate the first step. Achyuta Samanta founded these two institutions during that period despite such a dismal scenario. **His initiatives have become a pride of Odisha, India and the world today.**
- He strongly believes that his cause is not only about providing opportunities and arranging certain facilities for the deprived but beyond it, by enabling the complete transformation of children. The students have excelled in academics and co-curricular activities.
- His contribution not only confines to Academics and Education but also permeates to Rural Development, Women Empowerment, Social Service, Low-Cost Health Care Facilities, Art, Literature, Media, Culture, Entertainment and Spiritualism. **Despite his spectacular success and achievements, he leads a simple and dedicated life in a two room rented house as a bachelor dedicating himself to the service of humanity with patience and passion as his strength and humility, simplicity, modesty and transparency as his assets.**