s7th July, 1981 is a memorable day in the Orissan history. On that day, the Hera Panchami according to Hindu Calendar. Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya was established in the holy land of Lord Jagannath, fulfilling the long aspirations of the Sanskrit lovers of the State. The credit of establishing this premier institution of Sanskrit learning goes to the then Chief Minister of Odisha Prajñana Vachaspati Sj. Janaki Ballabha Pattanayak, an eminent scholar of Sanskrit, who laid down the foundation stone at 9 A.M on 7.7.1981 at a spot of Mouza Balukhand. The inaugural function was observed ceremoniously at 10.00 A.M in the S.C.S. College premises amidst chanting of Vedic hymns, observance of scriptural rites, ringing of bells and blowing of conchshells. Sj. Gangadhar Mohapatra, the then Minister of Education and Youth services welcomed the gathering. Sj. C.M. Poonacha, the then Governor and Chancellor of Universities of Orissa delivered the inaugural speech and Sj. J.B. Pattanayak was the Chief Speaker of the function. Prof. Prahalad Pradhan, the founder Vice Chancellor of the Vishwavidyalaya proposed the vote of thanks. Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, named after the premier Deity of the eastern region Lord Jagannath, is the third sanskrit university of the country next to Sampurnananda Sanskrit University of Benaras and Kameswar Singh Sanskrit University of Darabanga. The Vishvavidyalaya office started functioning on 14th August 1981 in the annexe to the Raj Bhaban, Puri with its founder Kulapati Prof. Prahalad Pradhan and founder kulasachiva Prof. Trilochan Mishra with establishment of the Vishvavidyalaya, provision was made through an ordinance for the appointment of the university statutory bodies, such as Adhisad (Syndicate), the Samsad (Senate) and the Vidya Parishad (Academic Council) through the nomination by the Kuladhipati (Chancellor). The first Adhisad had 12 members, the first Samsad has 62 members and the first Vidya Parishad had 40 members. Post Graudate classes in six departments, namely Sahitya, Vyakarana, Dharmashastra, Sarvdarshan, Nyaya and Advaita Vedanta were inaugurated in rented building with 12 rooms. With the creation of Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, 142 Sanskrit institutions of the state including 5 Mahavidyalayas and 137 Vidyalayas, Pathasalas and Tools offering Prathama, Madhyama, Upashastri, Shastri and Acharya courses came under this Vishvavidyalaya.

The academic arena has registered a spectacular growth in the Vishvavidyalaya. Its establishment has helped to revive the glorious ancient traditions of Orissa in the field of Sanskrit language. Literature and heritage learning. Right from its inception, the Vishvavidyalaya has dedicated itself to the cause of reserving and promoting studeies and research in Sanskrit.