

## Central University of Orissa celebrates Matrubhasha Divas (Mother Tongue Day)

Matrubhasha Divas (Mother Tongue Day) was celebrated at the Central University of Orissa, Koraput on 21.02.2017 at its permanent campus, Sunabeda. Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated the programme and delivered the inaugural speech on this occasion. Prof. (Retd.) Baishnab Charan Samal, Former Professor of Odia, Visva-Bharati, West Bengal, eminent Odia writer and Shri. Jitendra Narayan Dash (Dash Benhur), Eminent Odia writer, Bhubaneswar delivered the lecture as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively on this occasion.



Prof. Mohanty in his inaugural address cited the importance of command over language in order to be successful. He advised the students and faculty members to be multilingual but to respect and learn more about their mother tongue. He said "Odia is our mother tongue but we need to be multilingual and not to be enslaved by any particular language. We have to respect our mother tongue". Prof. Mohanty said "Students should break the boundary of streams and read the real, well researched and published literature. Modernity and tradition must go hand by hand for the development of the society". He urged the students to respect the mother tongue and learn more about it but simultaneously to be multilingual as well. He pointed out that we are celebrating the Mother tongue day in the University on the birth day of Sri Maa, the great saint and spiritual collaborator of Sri Aurobindo.

Prof. Samal put light on the need to work for the development of the mother tongue. Sharing his vast experience in the Odia literature he motivates the students to love and respect their mother tongue. He said "Mother tongue day is being celebrated to be united by the respect and affection we have for our mother tongue. Odia is the first language in our country based on which a state



(Odisha) has been united and created. Our mother tongue was almost died in the cities but it is alive in the villages". Prof. Samal is a well known name in the field of Odia literature as he had authored many books and work for the development of Odia literature.

Sh. Dash focused on the use of mother tongue in present days. He cited how and why young generation is detaching themselves from the mother tongue. He advised the students to learn various languages but the core of learning must be for the development of the mother land and mother tongue. He said "Core of our tradition is our mother tongue. The route of culture is laid in the language of the respective region. Race is being established by the language. Although for knowledge and success we must learn various languages but Odia will have to be our core language". Sh. Dash Benhur is a very well known author of children literature whose writing regularly gets published in the different newspapers.



Dr. Alok Baral, Asst. Professor, HoD (I/C) of Dept. of Odia Language and Literature gave vote of thanks. Sushree Subhashree Sampada, Ph.D. Scholar from the department of Odia Language and Literature compared the programme. Prof. Samal and Sh. Dash have an informal interaction session with the students. Students and faculty members of the University were present at a large in this occasion. Among other Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer was present.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi  
Public Relations Officer