

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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CUO organizes Talk on Indian Knowledge System under *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*

The Central University of Odisha organized a special talk as part of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, titled "Indian Knowledge System: Contribution of Tribal Society" on 18 September 2024. The keynote address was delivered by Shri Girish Kuber, a renowned tribal and forest rights activist associated with Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram. The event was presided over by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi.

Dr. Sourav Gupta, Nodal Officer for Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, opened the program with a welcome address that highlighted the initiative's spirit and the significance of the Indian Knowledge System. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Bharat Kr Panda, Head of the Department of Education and NEP Coordinator, emphasized the importance of understanding Bharatiya Gyan Parampara beyond the term "Indian Knowledge System," shedding light on the essence of Bharatiyatatwa and the tribal lifestyle.

In his keynote address, Shri Girish Kuber touched upon a range of issues related to various socio economic, cultural, spiritual and livelihood of tribal life. He gave example of Agaria tribe of Madhya Pradesh who prepare iron materials and worship Lohasur. Shri Kuber emphasized how the philosophy of collective life-*Samuhikata*, *Saha-astitwa* and Easy Life-*Sahaj Tatwa* leads to synthesis between nature, biodiversity, knowledge and forms the essence of Bharatiya Gyan Sampada. He praised the efforts of CUO Vice Chancellor Prof Chakradhar Tripathi for leading the University towards tribal research.

Prof. Tripathi, the Vice Chancellor in his presidential address emphasized that although there are forces active to break the nationhood of Bharat and western education has left behind a deep hang over in the intellect and academia of our country, the tribal society with its vast repertoire of indigenous knowledge is the backbone of Bharat. He explained that the aim of the Central University of Odisha is to enhance the percentage of local student enrollment in the University and affect a change in the current situation where literacy rate of tribal women is less than 2% in Koraput region. He asserted that the faculty and students of the University should visit the forests and familiarize themselves with tribal culture. The different academic disciplines also should focus on tribal studies like tribal journalism, tribal economics etc. He also said that the University is thinking in the lines of structuring a tribal studies discipline with the help of experts.

The formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Jayanta Kr Nayak, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology. Present among the faculty were Prof. B C Barik, Former V-C, Sambalpur University, Prof. N C Panda, Registrar & Dean of Languages, Dr. P C Misra, HOD, Business Management, Dr. Minati Sahoo, HOD, Economics and Dr Kakoli Banerjee, HOD, Dept. of Forestry, Dr. Sambhu Dayal Agrawal to name a few. Students and research scholars were present in large numbers. The programme was supported by the Dept. of Education, Dept. of Sociology, Dept. of Economics and Dept. of Odia. Dr. Nupur Nupur Pattanaik, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Dr. Debasish Karmakar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sanskrit discharged the duty of stage and venue management.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer