

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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CUO observes International Mother Language Day through expression in 19 languages

The Central University of Odisha organized a programme to observe the International Mother Language Day in its campus at Sunabeda on 21 February 2025. The programme was jointly organized by Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Dep't of Odia Language & Literature and Dep't of Hindi. The programme dais featured Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CUO, Prof S K Palita, Dean, School of Bio Diversity and Prof Rathi Kanta Kumbhar, Professor in Economics.

Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CUO emphasized on the significance of the word mother in mother language and said that just as one's own mother and others' mothers should be respected, similarly we should love and respect our own mother language and others' language too. Prof Tripathi outlined a plan for a Bhasha Bhavan, a museum of languages and asked the faculty of languages and agriculture to enumerate the names of the languages as well as the crops. Prof S K Palita explained the historical backdrop in which modern Indian states originated in India after the British rule and how they were language based with special reference to Odisha. Prof Rathi Kanta Kumbhar outlined the importance of education in mother language as laid in the National Education Policy. He gave several examples in Odia language of western Odisha to signify the educational aspect of the language.

The programme started with the state song, *Bande Utkal Janani*, by the students. Dr. Sourav Gupta, Nodal Officer, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, a flagship of the Ministry of Education, Government of India started the proceedings with the Welcome Address and explained that the spirit of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat lies in celebrating the unity of Bharat in its diversity especially in the linguistic diversity. Dr Gupta said that once CUO had only 19 Faculty members but due to the recruitment drive led by Prof Tripathi now the University has 70 odd faculties who together speak 19 languages. Dr Pradosh Kumar Swain, HOD I/c, DOLL explained the historical and political background of the genesis of the International Mother Language Day with reference to the language movement in Bangladesh in his thematical address.

Faculty members of CUO spoke on the significance of mother language, recited poems and sang songs in their own language. In all, presentations in 19 Indian languages & dialects were made including Soura, Desia, Sanskrit, Punjabi, Dogri, Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati, Bangla, Odia, Rajasthani, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Telegu, Marathi, Tamil, Poumai, Haryanni and Sambalpuri. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Chakradhar Padhan, HOD, Hindi Dep't who established the connection between human life and nature with the language. The programme concluded with National Anthem.

Members of the Faculty, staff, research scholars and students of the School of Languages were present on the occasion in huge number.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer