

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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**Partition Horrors Remembrance Day observed at CUO**

The Central University of Odisha in association with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts observed the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day at its campus in Sunabeda on 14 August 2025 as per the government guidelines. IGNCA was the funding and nodal agency for this programme in national level. On this occasion an exhibition curated by IGNCA and seminar was organized.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof N C Panda, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor i/c in the presence of Shri Duryodhan Sethy, Registrar i/c & Finance Officer. Dr. Sourav Gupta, Nodal Officer, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, delivered the welcome address by referring to the spirit of the partition horrors and how it remains a scar in the history of the nation. Dr Gupta referred to the line, 'Dada, Ami bachte chai' in Ritwik Ghatak's famous partition based film, *Meghe Dhaka Tara*.

The seminar featured Shri Deepak Kumar Pattnaik, Principal, DAV Government College, Koraput as Chief Speaker and Smt. Usharani Dash, Principal, Women's Degree College, Sunabeda as Guest of Honour. Shri Pattnaik traced the extent of the geographical boundary of undivided Bharat and explained how the British used Divide & Rule to dominate the country which culminated to division of the country. He also outlined the significance of the Radcliffe Line in the division of India and its painful consequences. Smt Usharani Dash described that the history of the freedom struggle has the contribution of several people who are not recognized. She explained that even in present times the foreign powers are trying to divide India and therefore the new generation should be alert. She emphasized that the youth should follow the learnings of the great leaders of the Akhand Bharat.

Prof N C Panda, in his presidential speech, traced the history of Bharat in wider Asian continent where the culture of India was spread in nations like Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia. He further explained that the division left people in states like Bengal and Punjab not only affected lives but language and culture. He explained the social significance of the government's decision to observe the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day to recognize that independence came at a cost of pain and loss of the country and 14<sup>th</sup> August is no less significant than 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Shri Duryodhan Sethy proposed the formal vote of thanks and especially the IGNCA for their support towards the programme. He also thanked the Vice Chancellor, University faculty team and administration for successful organization of the event.

The programme was compeered by Dr. Manoj Kr Singh, Assistant Professor of Hindi. Present in the audience were Prof Rathikanta Kumbhar, Prof Bharat Panda, Dr Phagunath Bhoi, Dr G B Suar, Dr Nabin Pradhan, Dr Gaurav Ranjan, Dr Nupur Pattanayak among others. A large number of faculty, officers and students from across all departments were present.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer