



Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar



IIT Bhubaneswar celebrated Rastriya Ekta Diwas and 14th day event of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) event 31st October, 2018

IIT Bhubaneswar celebrated **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)** on 31st October 2018 to commemorate 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The event was initiated with a floral ceremonial tribute by the Honourable Director **Prof. R. V. Raja Kumar**, Dean R&D **Prof. R. K. Panda**, Registrar **Mr. Debaraj Rath** and other organising committee members. This was followed by a pledge by the budding engineers of the country where they swore to protect the unity, integrity, and diversity of the Nation. Theme of the event was to make people believe in their unique identity and respect their collective identity. The **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** celebration was followed by organisation of the 14th day celebration of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” programme to showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of the paired union territories **Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli**, for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity of the country, thus fostering a sense of common identity.

Director, Prof. R. V. Raja Kumar addressed the audience, where he emphasised the actions of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the monumental importance and the gruelling groundwork of the efforts put by The Iron Man. He reminded all the students, staff and faculty members how togetherness is important in building a great nation and how everyone can join hands together to work for the development of the society and the country. He also expressed his contentment on the organising team for organising fourteen Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat in a span of 1 year and for the noble effort to bring a vibrant atmosphere and brotherhood culture among the students, staffs and faculty members which will last long.

The “**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**” programme, an idea of a sustained and structured cultural connect between denizens of different regions, was mooted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This program was propounded by Hon’ble Prime Minister to celebrate the cultural diversity through mutual interaction and reciprocity between people of different states and union territories so that a common spirit of understanding resonates throughout the country. All the 36 States and union territories in India have been sixteen paired for an entire year, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc. Under able supervision of Director, Prof. R. V. Raja Kumar, IIT Bhubaneswar planned for conducting informative and cultural events for all 16 paired states/UTs.

In this 14th day event, EBSB team member Dr. Manaswini Behera introduced the audience about the paired union territories. A theme video on statue of unity and informative videos based on the music, dance, handicrafts, literature, festivals, painting, sports, sculpture, flora, fauna, etc., of the paired states were displayed in order to enable audiences learn about different cultural units across varied geographies and to imbibe the innate chord of binding and brotherhood. Students, staffs, faculty and their family members actively participated in

the cultural events with an integrative content relating to the paired states. Spot quiz competition was organized with questions based on the information on the two paired union territories. A photo/sketch gallery was displayed at the venue, which showcased the culture, customs and traditions, art forms, handicrafts, cuisines of either union territories to impress upon the audience about the inter-connectedness between the constituents of various cultures and traditions, which is so vital for the spirit of nation building.

The event was given a complete official media coverage by Doordarshan, Bhubaneswar apart from that full video/photo coverage to the event was given by Cinematic society & Clix society of students' gymkhana. The event was organised successfully by Presidents students Gymkhana Dr. Sankarshan Mohapatro, Faculty advisor Socio Culture Dr. Ankur Gupta and EBSB event Coordinator Dr. Rajesh Roshan Dash and EBSB team members namely Dr. Manaswini Behera, Dr. Meenu Ramadas and Dr. Sourav Sil. The winner of various sketch completions on the theme of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas were awarded by Director and all the performers of the event were felicitated with a token of appreciation by organising committee members.