

## **CELEBRATION OF MATRIBHASHA DIWAS AT INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESHWAR**

International Matrubhasha Diwas was celebrated on 21 Feb 23 at the institute. Shri Ratnakar Rout, IAS (Retd.), Former Commissioner-cum-Director to Government of Odisha and Writer graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Shri Rout emphasised the role of mother language in shaping the personality of the individual. He gave a detailed narrative of how International Mother Language Day has been adopted by the United Nations "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world" by its resolution of 2002. Mr. Rout has authored several books in Odiya and English, a copy of which was gifted to the institute.

Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director IIT BBS, in his address illustrated the power of mothertongue using a personal story from his time as a student in Chennai. Once, he was stopped by a traffic policeman for an unintended traffic rule violation. They started speaking in Thamizh to one another. The police officer deduced that the man is Marathi based on the name on his licence. The policeman released him instantly because he was so thrilled that a "north-Indian" had mastered his "south-Indian" mother tongue! Prof. Karmalkar announced that to promote "Matribhasha," the institute would henceforth require the research scholars to submit versions of their thesis abstract in Hindi and mothertongue.

The program was followed by the cultural performances by members of IIT staff and families. Prof. S. R. Samantaray, Head School of Electrical Sciences, gave the Vote of thanks. Dr. Sreetama Mishra, Assistant Professor, School of Humanities, explained the history behind the Mathribhasha Diwas, and anchored the program.