



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर
Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar

Press Release

**IIT Bhubaneswar celebrates Utkal Diwas
with a tribute to Odisha's history, heritage & language**

Bhubaneswar, 2nd April 2026: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar has celebrated Utkal Diwas in a grand manner. Shri Tarun Kanti Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Former Chief Secretary of Odisha and an eminent Odia Writer graced the occasion as the chief guest. Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar and Shri Bamadev Acharya, Registrar of the Institute, were also present.

Prof. Karmalkar delivered a part of his speech in Odia, though his mother tongue is not Odia. He described his experience in Odisha during more than three years of his stay in Odisha. He stated that the day “marks not merely the formation of a state, but reflects a cultural identity, linguistic unity, and collective aspirations of the people of Odisha.” He highlighted that the institute is “actively engaged in preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage” of the state through cultural initiatives, research on indigenous knowledge systems, and support for local arts and entrepreneurship. Reaffirming its vision, he noted that IIT Bhubaneswar aims to align research and innovation with regional priorities and emerge as “a beacon of transformative impact” for Odisha and the nation.

In his address to the gathering, Chief Guest Shri Tarun Kanti Mishra delved into the importance of language and preservation of linguistic diversity for the existence of a community and a nation, as a whole. He cited several examples from across the world and mentioned how various languages have evolved and how they have contributed towards the growth of mankind. He emphasized the critical importance of preserving languages as carriers of culture, identity, and thought. Highlighting examples of endangered languages across the world, he cautioned against the gradual loss of linguistic heritage and stressed that “each language has a duty—it communicates our thoughts and also protects them.” He urged the younger generation to take pride in their roots, noting that there is “no conflict between learning global languages and loving one’s mother tongue.” Encouraging students to value their linguistic heritage, he appealed, “Love your mother tongue, love your language,” underscoring that it remains central to identity and continuity.

At the outset, Registrar Shri Bamadev Acharya delivered the welcome address and cherished the rich legacy and heritage of the land of Odisha. Citing examples from ancient literature and the work of the great literary figures of Odisha, he highlighted the richness of Odia as a language. He urged everyone to respect their mother language to contribute towards the strong future of our motherland.

A vibrant cultural programme by the members of the Institute showcased the spirit of the occasion and enthralled the audience.