



## Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar



### **IIT Bhubaneswar organised the 16<sup>th</sup> event of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, depicting the culture of paired Union Territories Andaman Nicobar & Lakshadweep**

IIT Bhubaneswar has organised the 16<sup>th</sup> and the scheduled last event of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) initiative on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 to promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between paired **Union Territories (UT) Andaman Nicobar & Lakshadweep**, for enabling people to comprehend and admire the diversity of the nation, thus nurturing a sense of common identity.

India is a unique nation, whose fabric has been woven by diverse linguistic, cultural and religious threads, held together into a composite national identity by a rich history of cultural development, coupled with a rousing freedom struggle that was built around the tenets of non-violence and justice. The spirit of mutual understanding amidst a shared history has enabled a special unity in diversity, which stands out as a tall flame of nationhood that needs to be nourished and cherished into the future.

The “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB)” programme, is 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. Hon’ble Prime Minister propounded that cultural diversity is a joy that ought to be celebrated through mutual interaction & reciprocity between people of different states and union territories so that a common spirit of understanding resonates throughout the country.

All the 36 States/ 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 geared up fully responding to directive of MHRD and planned to organise all 16 informative and cultural events of EBSB for the 16 pair of states and UTs for this integrative initiative to celebrate the unity in diversity of our Nation and to sustain and toughen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of from different parts of our country.

The commencement of the series of events was inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and all the 16 event for all the 36 states/UTs in 16 pairs have been organised in a spirited way throughout the year as per premeditated schedule at IIT Bhubaneswar and the concluding 16<sup>th</sup> event has organised on 31<sup>st</sup> march 2019 in a grand way.

In this last event, Director Prof. R.V. Rajakumar delivered his motivational and inspiring address on the significance and objective of EBSB events and role of the IIT Bhubaneswar in taking forward the concept and how to create a common national identity amongst the staff and students from diversified regions, cultures and societies. He appreciated the efforts of the EBSB organising team members and congratulated them for successfully organising all the scheduled 16 events. He has expressed his pleasure for the overwhelming and energetic participation from campus residents and students in all the 16 events.

In this event many students, faculty, staffs and their family members enthusiastically performed cultural activities on an integrative content relating to the paired UTs. More than 40 performers from various cultural society of students' Gymkhana, faculties and family members of faculties and staffs performed on the music, song, culture of the paired states.

Informative videos were displayed based on the music, dance, handicrafts, literature, festivals, painting, sports, sculpture, flora, fauna, etc., of the paired states in order to enable audiences learn about different cultural units across varied geographies and to imbibe the innate chord of binding and brotherhood. Also to showcase the culture, customs and traditions, art forms, handicrafts, cuisines of either state to impress upon the discerning audience about the inter-connectedness between the constituents of various cultures and traditions, which is so vital for the spirit of nation building, a photo gallery were displayed at the venue. The event was given a complete official media coverage by Doordarshan, Bhubaneswar, apart from that full photo and video coverage to the event was given by Clix and Cinematic society of students' gymkhana.

Director Prof. R.V. Rajakumar congratulated and awarded all the performers of the event with a memento as token of appreciation for their exciting performances, in the presence of Prof. R.K. Panda, Prof. R.G. Shastri and EBSB organising team members namely Dr. Rajesh Roshan Dash, Dr. Manaswini Behera, Dr. Sankarshan Mohaatro, Dr. Ankur Gupta, Dr. Yogesh G. Bhumkar and Dr. Tabrez A. Khan.

