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Parts of Orissa

Dear Friends,

This issue of the OSA newsletter contains the convention report, various other news items from chapters and the BOG and the 2009 OSA election announcement.

With a very successful convention in Toronto, the OSA members have come closer as a family yet again. The organizers showcased their passion for our cultural heritage and convened a wonderful meeting of minds to celebrate and advance our brotherhood – many kudos to them for the untiring effort.

We note with extreme sadness the loss of a great Oriya, Dr. Laxman Mohanty, a true pioneer of computer education in Orissa. With his untimely demise, Orissa lost an ardent advocate of entrepreneurship and self-sustainability.

We thank all, who contributed to this issue. Please send your news items and literary articles for the next issue along with comments and suggestions at osaeditor@orissasociety.org.

Thank you.

Editors

Message from the Secretary

Dear Fellow OSA Members and All Orissans-at-heart Worldwide,

Namaskar! Many of you participated in the recent OSA convention, the auspicious Ratha Jatra and the various summer get-togethers over the summer, usually a hectic time. I would like to quickly update you on some of the interesting and important matters of OSA. First, I would like to thank the volunteers and officials for the fabulous 39th OSA Convention.

Nearly 100 people, eighty-eight of who have signed on the attendance sheet, attended the general body meeting. Resolutions passed by the General Body at Toronto (7/5/2008) are as follows:

We resolve that DOLA and Speak Your Mind Polling mechanisms be the primary vehicle for passing resolutions other than election matters.

OSANet will be primary vehicle as a debate forum for proposals for constitutional amendments.

Three reminders (gap of 1 week) will be sent on OSANet before voting is closed.

If a member does not still vote, it will be taken as abstained.

Email notification about vote & debate will be sent to all registered emails.

OSA website will have a reminder about the motion for the public.

Election commissioners for 2009 election are Purna Mishra, Debendra Mallick and Chitta Baral.

OSA 2009 Convention will be hosted by the NY-NJ Chapter

Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were accepted as well.

We acknowledge the tremendous effort of several individuals in getting or facilitating new members, getting them in our rosters, providing helpful info and related roster handling/

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Secretary's message continued from page-1...

maintenance, etc. I am glad to inform that we have nearly 100 new members in the last 10 months, with nearly a quarter of them being life members. The statistics from the DOLA system as of now are as below:

- 46 Patrons
- 26 Benefactors
- 567 Life members
- 61 Family members for 2008-09
- 13 Single members for 2008-09
- 9 Student Family members for 2008-09
- 10 Student Single members for 2008-09.

We also made a significant effort to make the long-time OSA members reachable by us and update their status and personal details. Initially we did not have electronic mail for over 200 member families. Our treasurer, Mr. Sandip Dasverma, played a crucial role. I am happy to report that this missing number has now decreased to under 100. Electronic access saves everyone cost and time, especially when OSA's volunteered resources are not increasing, if not decreasing. Souvenir and directory distribution is a marathon effort for us as well, but correct address saves us cost and disappointment. We encourage the chapter officials to take advantage of DOLA and bring us to a "truly information age".

Now I would also like to bring your attention to the motion for introducing a new 5-year OSA membership. Since membership categories today are part of the constitution and bylaws, we need an amendment to have this membership category. Therefore, this motion was first introduced informally at OSA GBM on July 5th and then formally on OSAnet just weeks ago. The main part of the motion is as follows

"With the full support of the BOG, we are hereby proposing a motion to add a new type of membership - the 5-year membership - appended to the Bylaw I, Section 2 of OSA constitution. If you recall, we had deliberated and clarified the proactive requirements to be a chapter or national official: the official must be an OSA member during candidacy, during his/her term and at least for a short while after the term. A Life Membership (which is such a

tremendous value vis-a-vis the cost of living here) is perhaps the minimum level of commitment for an official as almost all agree. However, some current chapter officials and members of the community strongly requested us to consider a level less than Life Membership for such potential reasons as financial hardship, or short-stay-in-the-country situations. After much internal deliberation, we introduced this idea of a 5-year at the GBM at Toronto to obtain positive feedback before proceeding towards a constitutional amendment. We would like a period of further deliberation in OSAnet and then we will hold voting through our "Speak Your Mind" electronic polling system for final passing of the resolution. The key attributes of the membership being proposed are:

1. The 5-year membership fee will be \$100 for five years (unless the fees are amended in coming years).
2. Members will have an opportunity in that period to be upgraded to a Life Member paying a difference between the two membership fees. For example a 5-year member will be able to change to Life Member if they pay the difference i.e.\$200 (\$300-\$100) the current Life Membership fee, provided it does not go up.
3. This membership will have all the privileges of Life Membership for those 5 years."

Finally, as always the future of OSA and benefits accruing to its members crucially depends on our volunteerism for OSA activities and programs. The tasks are numerous and challenging, but highly rewarding too. So, please come forward and volunteer your time and skills.

Thanks,

Priyadarsan Patra
Portland 9/13/2008



OSA financial report:
Presented at the General Body Meeting at 2008 OSA convention
Sandip Dasverma, OSA Treasurer

Checking Account in Bank of America

Account Description	Beginning Balance 6/30/2007	Activity Description	Amount	Closing Balance 10/31/2007	FINAL BALANCE	Comments
Bank of America Checking	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	
11/2/2008	\$0.00	Deposit	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	From OSA bank a/c
11/6/2008			\$7,265.00	\$9,265.00	\$9,265.00	6000(OSA Bank a/c From Patra)+1000(OSA Bank a/c From
11/14/2008		Transfer to FD	\$6,765.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Will mature on Aug 3, see FD BOA details
11/20/2008		Paid for convention advance	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	Sent to convenor OSA convention
11/30/2008		Interest from Fixed Deposit from CWB	\$280.76	\$780.76	\$780.76	Interest from CWB
12/26/2008		Deposit	\$4,169.42	\$4,950.18	\$4,950.18	225+219.42+225+3500
1/8/2008		Deposit	\$750.00	\$5,700.18	\$5,700.18	Three Membership deposits
1/8/2008		Transfer to savings a/c	\$5,700.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bank adjustment.
1/14/2008		Deposit	\$376.78	\$376.78	\$376.78	134(L. Bhuyan donation) + 242.78(Darshan - Patron)
3/14/2008		Deposit	\$941.04	\$1,317.82	\$1,317.82	270.93(CWB)+112.89(CWB)+250(LM)+7.22(Darshan)+250(LM)+15(AM)+25(AM)+10(AM-Single)
3/26/2008		Deposit	\$235.00	\$1,552.82	\$1,552.82	Membership check from Canada of \$250 yielded \$235
3/28/2008		Check withdrawal	\$40.00	\$1,512.82	\$1,512.82	Paid for PO Box and Stationary buying
4/2/2008		Transfer from Saving a/c	\$2,100.00	\$3,612.82	\$3,612.82	
4/9/2008		Deposit	\$2,486.95	\$6,099.77	\$6,099.77	\$2000 from SBI plus 2 memberships(250(LM))+236.76(Canada
4/25/2008		Deposit	\$561.17	\$6,660.94	\$6,660.94	Interest from CWB plus membership
4/16/2008		Withdrawal	\$3,500.00	\$3,160.94	\$3,160.94	Sent to the Convenor as it was convention donation from Uma B. Mishra
5/7/2008		Deposit	\$1,161.65	\$4,322.59	\$4,322.59	500(donation)+250(LM)+15(AM)+279.99(CWB)+116.66(CWB)
5/7/2008		Transfer to savings a/c	\$1,722.59	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	
5/9/2008		Deposit	\$2,250.00	\$4,850.00	\$4,850.00	1500+750
5/15/2008		Check withdrawal	\$1,500.00	\$3,350.00	\$3,350.00	Sent to the Convenor as it was convention donation
5/15/2008		Check withdrawal	\$3,250.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	Sent to the Convenor as it was convention donation
5/19/2008		Check withdrawal	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	
5/19/2008		Deposit	\$700.00	\$775.00	\$775.00	200(D)+250(LM)+250(LM)
5/22/2008		debit	\$6.35	\$768.65	\$768.65	CA a/c loss due to exchange rate of Jibanjit Babu
5/30/2008		Deposit	\$612.89	\$1,381.54	\$1,381.54	250(Patron)+250(LM)+112.89(CWB)
As of May 31 balance			\$1,381.54			

Continued on next page...

Fixed deposits in Bank of America

SI No	Opening Date	Investment Number	Amount	Maturity Date	Maturity Amount	Total at Maturity	Comment
1	11/14/2008	Transfer to FD	\$6,765.00	8/3/2008	\$192.92	\$6,957.92	matures on 8/3/2008
2	2/21/2008	22065634	\$5,000.00	6/19/2008	\$51.96	\$5,051.96	Reinvested to 10/17/2008
3	2/21/2008	22065635	\$5,000.00	6/19/2008	\$51.96	\$5,051.96	Reinvested to 10/17/2009
4	2/21/2008	22065637	\$5,000.00	6/19/2008	\$51.96	\$5,051.96	Reinvested to 10/17/2010
5	2/21/2008	22065641	\$5,000.00	6/19/2008	\$51.96	\$5,051.96	Reinvested to 10/17/2011
			\$26,765.00		Total=	\$27,165.76	

Savings account in Bank of America

Account Description	Beginning Balance 11/1/2007	Activity Description	Amount	Closing Balance 10/31/2007	FINAL BALANCE	Comments
Bank of America Business Savings A/C	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	
11/26/2007	\$0.00	Deposit	\$1,005.00	\$1,005.00	\$1,005.00	
11/30/2008		Interest payment	\$0.02	\$1,005.02	\$1,005.02	
12/11/2008		Deposit	\$631.98	\$1,637.00	\$1,637.00	
12/31/2008		Interest payment	\$0.36	\$1,637.36	\$1,637.36	
1/4/2008		Deposit	\$1,659.78	\$3,297.14	\$3,297.14	
1/8/2008		Transfer from Checking	\$5,700.18	\$8,997.32	\$8,997.32	
1/29/2008		Deposit	\$500.00	\$9,497.32	\$9,497.32	2 Lmem
1/31/2008		Interest payment	\$1.88	\$9,499.20	\$9,499.20	
2/5/2008		Deposit	\$10,810.06	\$20,309.26	\$20,309.26	Money from Detroit convention surplus plus Life and Annual Membership
2/20/2008		Deposit	\$275.00	\$20,584.26	\$20,584.26	Membership checks
2/20/2008		Withdrawal	\$20,000.00	\$584.26	\$584.26	Transferred and deposited in BOA Fixed a/c
2/29/2008		Interest payment	\$2.67	\$586.93	\$586.93	
3/31/2008		Interest payment	\$0.15	\$587.08	\$587.08	
4/2/2008		Deposit	\$470.40	\$1,057.48	\$1,057.48	Bank interests from Country wide
4/2/2008		Deposit	\$1,096.00	\$2,153.48	\$2,153.48	Membership checks
4/2/2008		Transfer to Checking	\$2,100.00	\$53.48	\$53.48	
4/30/2008		Interest payment	\$0.01	\$53.49	\$53.49	
5/7/2008		Transfer from Checking	\$1,722.59	\$1,776.08	\$1,776.08	
5/9/2008		Deposit	\$500.00	\$2,276.08	\$2,276.08	two membership deposits
5/31/2008		Interest payment	\$0.45	\$2,276.53	\$2,276.53	
Balance as of May 31	\$2,276.53					

Continued on page 6 (OSA Account Summary)...

Minutes of OSA BOG Meetings:

June 7, 2008

Attendees: Pratap Das, Ashutosh Dutta, Priyadarsan Patra, Sandip Das Verma (OSA Executives) Amit Nayak, Leena Mishra, (Local Chapters) Sikhand Satpathy (Editor)

Moderator: Pratap Das

Minutes: Pratap Das

There was a concern that not too many BOG members are attending the meetings. Some kind of confirmation is needed not to waste other members' time.

Priyadarsan raised a proposal of other local chapter BOG members taking the responsibilities of taking the minutes of the meetings. It was accepted that next meeting would be assigned to a particular local chapter executive. Pratap volunteered to record minutes of this meeting.

Pratap discussed the recent communication from Theodor Stein, an attorney appointed by Kabita Sahoo, to obtain the financial statements of OSA from 2005 to 2008 including copies of the ALL checks for his client. A letter dated May 27, 2008 was sent to Sujit Mohanty, General Counsel of OSA with a demand of a response within 5 days. Sujit Mohanty responded in a timely fashion by the May 2nd rejecting the request and seeking the purposes of such a request. OSA BOG members discussed this request. Pratap also mentioned discussing this matter with both the General Counsel and the OSA auditor Raju Marurveda. According to Mr. Marurveda, IRS has only one requirement for a non-profit organization to have an audit of past three years. OSA has been audited by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the past. The IRS filing of Form 990 for OSA may be public information, but the personal financial data of donors, amount of donations are not public information. Therefore, there was no basis for this request. OSA Executives expressed an wish not to be hassled and interrupted by such unproductive matters, and to devote more resources for other developmental work for the OSA. If needed, or at the request of the General Counsel, OSA will hire a prosecuting attorney in Maryland to stop this

type of queries or interventions from the member's attorney.

BOG discussed with the status of the convention planning. It was realized that Gagan Panigrahi, the Convener should have been invited to brief the BOG. Amit tried to locate Gagan babu, but found Gagan babu to be busy elsewhere. Amit briefed about approximately 125 registrations have been received as of June 7th. 70 registrations are from Canada and 55 registrations are from USA. There are approximately 35 new OSA members have shown interest in attending the convention.

Amit also showed great concern about the poor registrations and requested local chapters such Washington, DC, New York/NJ, Detroit, Chicago, Boston to expedite actions asking their members to attend.

Amit also mentioned about not receiving any communication about Governor's visit. Pratap mentioned about meeting with Sanjay Sinha, Minister, and Community Affairs about the proposed Governor's visit. Indian Embassy has received communication about the Governor's visit to Canada and Washington DC. The embassy has issued a no objection letter.

Sikhanda mentioned about the Texas election status. No action has been taken either during or after sickness of Kabita Sahoo, a member of the election committee. OSA Executives showed their concern of not moving forward. Sandipbabu mentioned about his recent inquiry and advised Sikhand and Tapan to take action. Sandipbabu requested the President to advice the Texas chapter.

Discussions were also made about the recent requirement of Local Chapter Executives to be OSA Life Member and about the recent tele-conference with South East Chapter. An alternate plan of a multiple annual membership up to 5 years was also discussed.

Distribution of OSA Magazine and directory was discussed. Sandip babu referred about his recent study of past 5 publications and the mechanism of distributing them efficiently and economically. Amit talked about his concern of expenses. A non-profit permit in both USA and

Canada to decrease the postal expenses was discussed.

Ashutosh also reported not receiving any results of the 2008 OSA Awardees. He also mentioned about the making of the plaques, design specifications and collection of materials to be engraved.

Sandip babu mentioned about the requirement of announcement of the Election Committee for 2009-2011.

Pratap requested a reception event on the July 3rd evening to meet the OSA special guests at the convention site.

Both Sandipbabu and Pratap suggested conducting the OSA Executive meeting at 10 pm on July 3rd. Amit expressed his concern regarding none of the Canadian members attending such reception or he attending the Executive Body meeting.

There is a special tele-conference meeting scheduled with Gagan babu and Amit on June 10th evening.

Many members left little earlier due to their prior commitments.

The next BOG meeting will be held in August 2008. Leena Mishra of Washington Chapter will be taking the minutes.

Meeting ended 3:25 eastern time.

Continued from page 4...

OSA Account Summary

Country Wide Bank(CWB) - Acct. No.1	\$60,000.00
Country Wide Bank(CWB) - Acct. No.2	\$25,000.00
Bank of America - Savings A/c	\$2,276.53
Bank of America - Checking A/c	\$1,381.54
Fixed deposits	\$26,765.00
Total	\$115,423.07
Received from Previous Admin	\$94,799.91
Increase in deposit	\$20,623.16

OSA AWARDS - 2008

Ashutosh Dutta

Coordinators

OSA awards: Birendra Jena,

Meghna Memorial Award: Lalu Mansinha

2008 Distinguished Oriya Award

Dr. Purna Patnaik



Dr. Purna Panaik was born in Berhampur, Orissa & graduated in Aeronautical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur. Came to UC, Berkeley in 1969 for MS and Ph. D, in Fluid Mechanics. Following two years at NCAR, Boulder, Colorado, he moved to San Diego, California in 1975 and lives there. He participated in an innovative design for the Stars and Stripes Boat, which led to the victorious recapture of America's Cup after its first ever defeat to Australia in 1987. Global Analytics, he started five years back in San Diego, now employs 125 statisticians in Chennai, India. Been an active member & officer of many multi-ethnic, multi-cultural organizations, e.g. Center for World Music(CWM), Ravi Shankar Foundation (Vice President), San Diego Indian American Society (President). He brought eminent world artists, politicians, academicians, social activists, diplomats, and spokespersons on current issues and events to local forums.

Since 1986 Toronto convention, been active in OSA governance, cultural events, panel discussions, OSA award committees, Vice President of OSA, Chief Editor of OSA Souvenir etc. Wife Gopa is a past President of OSA. Daughters (Laboni, Shibani and Shalini), recipients of OSA Kalashri Award, are pioneer Odissi dancers in the USA.

Continued...

Pioneer Award
Dr. Prasanna Pati



Prasanna Pati, born in Sambalpur district in 1924, will be 84 in 2008,. After education in Sambalpur Zila school, Ravenshaw college and Orissa medical college (now SCB medical college,) he sailed to U.S.A in 1952 and received his Psychiatry training in the Warren State Hospital; the UPen and the University of Michigan. In 1958 he joined the Oregon state hospital in Salem as a Psychiatrist. After a long career as a Psychiatrist, he retired in 1986. He is a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He is a author of a short story book, "The adventures and misadventure of Dr. Sonjee," where he adopted the name of the character he played (Dr Sonjee, a psychiatrist,) in a scene in the movie "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." A tiny boy at nine, Dr. Pati saw Mahatma Gandhi on the shoulders of someone. He left Bombay with a single suitcase on a boat, sailing for twenty days weighing 90 pounds, learning how to tie a necktie in Bombay with a borrowed suit. Like the kerosene light that guided his childhood studies, he worked hard to support the cause of Orissa and written to the authorities in Orissa to make it a better place. He lives with her in Salem, Oregon, and has 2 daughters, 2 sons and 3 grand daughters.

Utkalamani Gopabandhu Dash Memorial Award

Toshali Vidyapitha (Dr. Bidyut Das)



Dr. Bidyut Das is founder of the Rtapalli Vidyapitha - a free Oriya language, residential high school in Bhubaneswar being managed by Toshali Vidyapitha. In order to honor his strong feelings against any personal award, OSA is conferring this award to "Toshali Vidyapitha." The school was established in 1997 with sole funding help from the Shraddha Foundation (www.shraddha.org) which was established by him. Dr Das an avid believer in giving the best education to the underprivileged yet talented kids of Orissa has unconditionally spent his time and means in building the school from scratch. In this endeavor he has faced numerous challenges on the way - the shortage of funds, shortage of qualified teachers above all the bureaucracy - but nothing has deterred him from his determination. He thinks "each and every child is endowed with God's gift. Society must provide the requisite love, care and opportunity for them to blossom. We will strive to see them grow by standing on Rta (Satya and Dharma) and Shraddha (love, faith and respect)." Quite a number of students have graduated from the school with flying colors with good ranking at all Orissa level. His personal sacrifices for this school is enormous.

We truly feel he exemplifies Utkalamani's : 'Misu mora deha a desa matire...' Although he doesn't believe in any kind of recognition or award but we feel this should create awareness among all of us that we can make a little difference in the society if we really believe in it. Dr. Das currently works as a scientist and faculty in the City University of New York, and lives in New Jersey with his wife Bijaylaxmi, daughter Jolly and son Kanha.

OSA awards Continued...

Youth Volunteer Award
Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra



Born in Burla, Pradeep Mohapatra had finished his schooling mostly in Puri district. After graduating from REC (now NIT), Rourkela in 1992, he worked at Indian & USA based companies on various capacity in Information Technology industry. He was always culturally & socially active throughout his student & professional career. Currently, he is an active member of a non-profit organization called SAHEET (Society of Arts, Health, Education, Environment and Technology) whose main office located at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. His insatiate passion for social work got him earnestly involved with OSA NYNJ from the year 2003 when OSA convention was held in New Jersey. From that year onward, he is constantly with OSA as a dedicated volunteer. In addition he is an active member/volunteer of a non-profit organization "India Cultural Society- NJ" (Mahatma Gandhi Center & Hindu Temple www.gandhicenter.org) working towards spreading Lord Jagannath Culture. He is also a volunteer of "Red Cross USA". According to Pradeep, every Odiya who is residing outside of Orissa is an unofficially self-appointed ambassador of Orissa. He/she should be aware of his/her behavior, which reflects Orissa's culture to the fellow residences. Hence, Pradeep is quite serious about OSA's present and future, as he believes that OSA is the righteous platform to disseminate Orissa's rich heritage to our descendants.

Kalashree Award
Ipsita & Susant Satpathy, and
Debaki Nandan Chowdhury



Sushant and Ipsita have shown pioneering efforts in promoting Oriya art and culture in the Chicago area. Their accomplishments and selfless service to the cause of the arts is an inspiration. Ipsita, a talented Odissi dancer, founded Utklaa Center for Odissi Dance in Chicago, whose proceeds are used in promoting Odissi dance. She is a past President of OSA, Chicago. Sushant has been very involved in community activities like the Chicago Oriya school, Chicago convention, and propagating Oriya language, music and dance. He is a talented actor and has participated in many community events. Susant and Ipsita live in Naperville, IL with sons, Sreyesh & Devyesh.



Debaki is in US since 1997 and was in San Diego, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Kansas City and Maryland. He is very actively associated with Oriya activities and has participated in all OSA convention since 2000. He has been learning classical vocal Hindusthani music since 1989, and enjoys singing in Temples. He has acted in dramas directed by Debbu Bose. He strives to get our next generation involved in cultural events like drama, music and dance, so that they learn and stay engaged in our rich cultural heritage. He lives in Maryland with his wife Anjana, son Debanjan and daughter Debanshi, and runs a IT consulting company, www.nSoln.com.

OSA awards Continued...

Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence

Ankita Mohanty (2007)

Sanjay Misra (2008)



Ankita Mohanty graduated from Mount Pleasant High School, Ann Arbor, MI in 2007 and is currently enrolled at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, planning to major in either Public health or Psychology. Ankita has been involved in volunteer work and has active interest in social issues particularly concerning women. In 2008 summer, Ankita traveled to Ghana to research and develop public health programs on maternal healthcare for a major hospital. She has worked in the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan on prevention of domestic violence in Gujarati communities in southeast Michigan. She has volunteered for a domestic violence shelter in Minneapolis, MN. Daughter of Mr. Dillip and Mrs. Rita Mohanty, Ankita enjoys integrating many other activities into her college life, such as creative writing, volunteering, and exploring.

Sanjay Misra, born in 1990, graduated from North Penn High School in 2008 at the top of his class. Sanjay as a starting goalkeeper, lead the Eastern Pennsylvania High School Soccer All-Star Team to win the Suburban One National League Championship for the first time in North Penn history. Sanjay has played upright bass for various jazz ensembles, and has played guitar in a rock band called The Gentlemen to raise awareness for cancer and AIDs, and at several community events. He has participated in student government and led his school's 2008 Mock Presidential Convention as its permanent chairman. Sanjay plans to attend Harvard University as an economics major. Honored that he won this award, Sanjay believes, if one puts one's heart and mind to everything one does like Subrina Biswal did, one can achieve incredible things. Sanjay is the youngest son of Sudhanshu and Chandra Misra of North Wales, PA.

Yuva Kala Vikas Award

Mrunali Das



Mrunali Das is the daughter of Naresh and Bigyani Das of Maryland. Apart from her academics and extra-curricular activities at school, Mrunali has strived to be an excellent Odissi dancer and sitar player. Mrunali has represented OSA Washington DC/ Konark Dance School in local Indian events. She has been in math, academic, and literary teams. She has been a member of French Honor Society and Principal's Honor Roll for academic achievements. Mrunali has represented her school in Orchestra competitions in many cities. She is a passionate writer and helps school publications. She has regularly contributed articles to OSA souvenir for many years. Mrunali's poem has been published in Maryland Voices.

Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing

Simantini Mitra Behura (Category A)

Purvasha Patnaik (Category B)



Simantini (left) is 11 years old and attends a school for gifted and talented. She loves reading, swimming, skating, cycling and trains in Odissi, piano and violin. She has completed two 150 miles cycle rides to raise awareness and funds for Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is the first child of Shrabanee Mitra and Somdutt Behura of Houston.

Purvasha (right) is 13 years old and lives in Ottawa, Canada. She learns Odissi, Hindustani classical vocal music and piano, and is an avid reader. She graduated from Mukul Hindi School with the Seth award for outstanding student. She actively participates in Chinmaya Mission activities and fundraising events. She received the Citizenship award for excellence in academic, extra curricular activities and leadership at the school's Grade 8 graduation ceremony.

Invitation to 2009 OSA Convention

Dear Friends

I take this opportunity to cordially invite you to 2009 OSA Convention to be held on 4th & 5th July at New York & New Jersey area

It is your convention. We take the pride to present it in a shape and form that you would like to see it and make these two days a memorable one.

Our volunteers will provide a very unique blend of entertainment, presentations showcasing Odissa, its past, present & future, spectacular workshops featuring international and national keynote speakers and a lovely atmosphere away from home.

We are committed to fulfilling your expectation with creativity, dedication, and make this event a great memory for you to cherish.

We would greatly appreciate any help you can provide in planning, execution, and funding the event of this magnitude.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to osaconvention09@yahoo.com or blog your constructive comments at <http://osaconvention09.blogspot.com>.

We look forward to your support and participation.

Sincerely

Uma Ballava Mishra
Convener

OSA Convention '09

NY-NJ

40TH

OSA Convention

You are invited

3rd & 4th July, 2009

mail: osaconvention09@yahoo.com



NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY

2009 OSA ELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NOMINATION

The Election Committee is soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President Secretary and Treasurer of Orissa Society of Americas for 2009-11. As per the constitution, the positions of President and Vice-President will be in one slate. The position of the Secretary and Treasurer will be in independent slates.

The nominees and the nominators must be permanent members (life, patron or benefactor) of OSA at the time of nomination. In addition, the nominees must be at least 21 years or older as of June 30, 2009. The nomination must include a short introduction of the candidates in less than 300 words. Photocopy of driver's license, or passport, or birth certificate or a notarized statement to the effect that the nominee is 21 years or older as of June 30, 2009 must be attached for the nominee's age verification. All nominations must include the contact information (address, telephone number, and email) of the nominees and the nominator. All nominations must be sent to the election committee (and postmarked by February 2, 2009) at the address below with complete contact information of the nominees (including other additional details) and the nominators.

OSA 2009 Election Committee
7147 E Burnside Trail
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

In addition to sending the nomination by mail, an advance copy can optionally be faxed to (480) 406-6475 or emailed to OSAElection2009@gmail.com by February 2, 2009.

Any correspondence on the election subject will be electronic (via email) only. All emails on this subject must be sent to OSAElection2009@gmail.com.

Election Committee Members

Purna C. Mishra (Chair)

7147 E Burnside Trail
Scottsdale, AZ 85266
(480) 703-4600
purnamishra@hotmail.com

Chitta Baral (Member)

445 S. Lake Mirage Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85233
(480) 539-2550
chitta@gmail.com

Debendra Mallik (Member)

1210 N. Judd Place
Chandler, AZ 85226
(480) 705-4128
dmallik@ieee.org

Election 2009 Calendar

Deadline for the official ballot list to be received from OSA Secretary January 15, 2009

Deadline for the nomination to be received by the election committee February 2, 2009

Election ballots will be sent to voting members on or before March 22, 2009

Ballots must be received by the election committee with postmark no later than April 28, 2009

Ballot will be counted and the election results will be announced on May 9, 2009

OSA Election 2009 Nomination Form

Nominee for President: _____
Membership Status: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Short Introduction:

Nominee for Vice President: _____
Membership Status: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Short Introduction:

Nominee for Secretary: _____
Membership Status: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Short Introduction:

Nominee for Treasurer: _____
Membership Status: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Short Introduction:

Nominator: _____
Membership Status: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Signature: _____

Relevant Articles from OSA constitution

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The ultimate authority of OSA shall be vested in the membership. The members from USA and Canada shall choose the elected officers by mail ballot.

Section 3 (as amended on July 1, 2004)

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years. These four executive officials must be life members or patrons or benefactors of OSA in good standing and must be 21 years of age or over. The Vice President shall be a running mate of the President. A vote for the President shall mean a vote for his/her running mate. The Secretary and Treasurer will be separately elected, but will work as a team with the President for smooth operation of the OSA. The President shall appoint the Editor of the OSA Newsletter.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION

Section 1

All life members and annual members of OSA have the right to vote and participate in the election.

Section 2

All elections are to be conducted by a secret ballot. The election procedures shall be described in the By-Laws.

Section 3

No two members of the Executive Committee at any time shall be from the same immediate family (e.g. Husband & wife, parents & children, siblings) of any Executive Committee member.

Section 4

In case, a current office bearer such as, President, Vice President, or Secretary-Treasurer, decides to run for re-election or for another position, he/she shall give up all his/her election related responsibilities as defined in the By-Laws.

BY - LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE

Section 1

A three member election committee with one as chairman shall be appointed by the Executive

Committee and will be announced to the general body for approval by majority at the annual convention preceding the election year.

Section 2

No member of the Executive Committee is eligible to be a member of the election committee.

Section 3

The Secretary of the OSA shall prepare a list of members who have paid their dues by Dec. 31 of the year preceding the election year. This list along with the list of life members and patrons shall be submitted to the chairman of the election committee by Jan. 15 of the election year.

Section 4

Nominations for the various offices shall be invited by the election committee chairman through the OSA newsletter of September-December quarter, preceding the election year. In case of contests, the names of the candidates shall be announced in a special letter to be sent by the election committee along with the position statement of each contesting candidate.

Section 5

The Secretary of the OSA shall print and supply the ballots to the election committee. All ballots must be sequentially numbered or coded.

Section 6

The ballots shall be mailed in the fourth weekend of March of the election year. The ballot number or code must be noted against the master membership list held by the election committee. For a returned ballot to be valid, it must be postmarked by the date on or before the 4th Monday of April of the election year.

Section 7

The election committee shall open a post office box address to which the ballots shall be mailed to by the voters. The ballots shall be counted in the presence of the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives on the second Saturday of May of the election year. The results of the election shall be announced then and there with a written statement of the results sent to the President of the OSA. All the election materials must be sealed and signed by the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives, and will be preserved by the election committee chairman for a period of six months after the election.

[Continued on page 17...](#)

39th OSA Convention held in Toronto, July 3-5, 2008

A special report
Jibanjit Tripathy

The 39th annual convention of the Orissa Society of the Americas was held in Toronto. CanOSA was the proud host for this convention. Under the leadership of the Convener Dr Gagan Panigrahi, volunteers of CanOSA have done a very commendable job and contributed tremendously for the success of the convention. No words would be enough for their appreciation. OSA completed 39th years of existence and another history was made with another convention.



Soumyashree Kar performing Sahi Nacha of Puri

Reunions of old friends, feasting on sumptuous foods, and arguments about everything under the sun quite as feisty as at the school or, college in Orissa...Only, it was all happening in Canada's Flower city Brampton.

More than 600 Oriyas from North America, India and globally descended on famous Rose Theatre to join in what has been rated as the biggest Oriya cultural show outside of Orissa making it felt like mini-Orissa.

A three-day long cultural extravaganza began here on Thursday afternoon with registration and Mehfil night.

On Friday morning guests were welcome at the entrance with Medha Nacha, a tradition which belongs to Puri. The inaugural ceremony began with the singing of national anthems of India, and Canada followed by Utkal Arati.

The Governor of Orissa- His Excellency Mr. Murlidhar Chandrakante Bhandare, Mr. Kalyan Jena - Chairman, Indian Railway Board and Chairman International Union of Railways, Paris, Mr. Akshya Parija - Chief General Manager, Business Banking National Bank of Om; Satish Mehta, Consul General of India, and joined the convention as guests of Welcoming and introducing the guests convention. Gagan Panigrahi said the annual OSA convention is an opportunity to display and share the pride and rich heritage of the Oriya culture and pass it on to the next generation in North America

In his inaugural address, Governor Bhandare, praised the role of OSA in preserving and propagating Oriya culture in North America and the achievement of Oriyas in different professions. He encouraged the members of OSA to fly higher and higher and act as the ambassadors of Orissa to bring the ancient culture to North America and urged not to forget their nest i.e. mother Orissa. He pointed out that in spite of having natural resources Orissa is a poor state and urged the nonresident Oriyas to give a helping hand in improving the quality of life of Orissans through education.



Opening song, Utkal Arati by Sabita Panograhi, Swetalina Mishra, Swapna Nayak, Nandita Gantayet, Nibedita Pattanaik

With India on an irreversible path of becoming a super power, Indian Railway Board Chairman Mr. Jena said, the Oriya community in India and abroad will help realize the dream of true modern India. Mr. Jena emphasized the role of Indian railway in world economy and national integration of India. He pointed out the recent unprecedented growth of Indian Railway and how it is playing a role in shaping world economy.



Guests at opening ceremony with convenor and OSA officials.

Indian Consul General Mr. Satish Mehta praised the creativity and artistic ability of Oriya people who were responsible for building finest temple in the world and lauded the passion of the expatriate community behind the OSA. He added “The future is very bright for India,” and encouraged patrons to

renew their connections with India.

In their dazzling opening cultural performance with Mahari Dance, Sushree Mishra Kar and her dancers cast a spell on the audience as they captured all nuances of social and cultural life in Orissa along with Kirtan by Washington DC Chapter and participation from other Chapters.

Thereafter, around 20 kids and their group competed against each other for the best artistic talent for the coveted Subrina Biswal Award followed by a Theme dance “I love my Orissa!” based on the Convention theme Orissa: Our Land Our people.



Mahari dance by Sushree Mishra Kar



Jagannath and bhakti movement

Batteries of Odissi performance by world renowned Sujata Mohapatra with Abhinaya (Kede Chhanda) & Pallavi and Manabhanjan depicting Rasa Lila of Krushna and Radha by Sushree Mishra Kar and her group, Niharika Mohanty presenting Abhinaya on Krishna's *tandava* mesmerized the audiences.



Sujata Mohapatra

Washington DC chapter presented "Moments of Life" representing such experiences in a Village Life, where the family cohesiveness exists to a great extent.

Another theme based program "Romance & Love" brought together participants from different chapters of OSA expressing profusely amorous sentiment.

Saturday highlighted with Odissi: North America presented by Ananya Kar & Pallavi Das. It was time for another round of Promod Patnaik Inter-chapter drama competition showcasing some of the best performances. Again CanOSA emerged as the champion with their presentation Nilam second year in a row, first time in the history of OSA. Showcasing Youth was one

programme dedicated in celebration and appreciation of the achievements of our young generation Oriya in the field of Indian Classical Music (Suraj Patnaik), Jazz Music (Pratik Dash) & Opera Music (Siddhartha Mishara).

Saturday evening programme started with another stunning Odissi performance by Ellora Patnaik and Devraj Patnaik. That followed the traditional Tribal Dance by the participants form CanOSA, Jhumar (Mayurbhanj) by Washington DC & Ghumura (Kalahandi) by NY/NJ.



Rasalila - Manabhanjana by Sushree Mishra-Kar and troupe.

Before the closing, audiences were taken aback by the mythological musical drama *Karnarjuna*, based on great epic Mahabharat was presented by the Canada chapter

Apart from the cultural show, Seminars focusing Odisha Development and Education, women's forum, Spirituality & Religion and Health, Wellness and Yoga Therapy, youth activities included Quiz, dance& DJ, Water Sports, Magic shows, Comedy show & OSA Idol, Senior felicitation (Gurujana Sammana). A souvenir was published to mark the occasion.



2008 Pramod Patnaik drama competition winner (CanOSA)

Following Awards were given to talented youths and adults in recognition of their contributions. Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence: Ankita Mohanty (2007) & Sanjay Prayag Misra (2008). Distinguished Oriya Award (2008): Dr. Purna Patnaik,



Ellora and Devraj Patnaik

Utkalmani Gopabandhu Dash Memorial Award (2008): Dr. Bidyut Das (Toshali Vidyapitha), 2008 OSA Pioneer Award: Dr. Prasanna Kumar Pati, 2008 Youth Volunteer Award: Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra, 2008 Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing: (A) Simantini Mitra Behura (B) Purvasha Patnaik. 2008 Yuva Kala Vikash Award: Mrunali Das, 2008 Kalashree Award: Ipsita and Sushant Satpathy, Debaki Nandan Chowdhury.

The Rose Theatre entrance and lobby were decked with watercolour paintings depicting scenes from Odisha. People too were decked in traditional garb and finery of Odisha.

Farewell hugs were exchanged and eyes grew moist after the light and music dimmed at Rose Theatre at the end of the convention.



Geetinatya - Karnarjuna by Canada Chapter

When the last strains of the closing song Rangabati died, those expatriates who came from far and near for this annual event expressed sadness they compared with Vijaya Dasami, the last day of the Durga Puja. Traveling annually to city after city in the US & thrice to Toronto, OSA is growing with the community over the years.



OSA election...Contd. from page 11

Section 8

The President of OSA shall submit the results to the Executive Committee for approval and for a publication in a special Newsletter by May 30th of the election year.

Section 9

The election committee shall adopt prudent ways to insure the secrecy of the voting system.

Section 10

All expenses for the election shall be reimbursed by the Secretary-Treasurer of OSA upon the submission of the expense report. The committee shall caution to keep expense within the budget.

Section 11

Any charge of election irregularity or fraud shall be reported to the President and the members of the Executive Committee for resolution.

A Memorable Event

Nikita Gantayet and Arpita Gantayet

A lifetime of memories...that is one of the greatest treasures this years OSA convention has given us. The memories began with the practices and preparations months before and ended only with our departure on the last day. The 2008 OSA convention in Toronto was a three-day event filled with fun and entertainment. It was a time to meet friends and family and catch up with happenings over the past year. For us two sisters, what added to the excitement was our participation in several dances over the course of the event. These dances gave us an opportunity to live, love, laugh and learn both on stage and during the practices.

The venue of the convention, the Rose Theatre in Brampton, was a beautiful location. Its beauty was further enhanced by the exhibition of various decorative forms of Oriya art and culture. The first day of the event started with the opening ceremony. In the dressing room, we were thoroughly excited and at the same time nervous to go on stage and perform. However, as we stepped on stage in our gorgeous Odissi costumes and faced the audience, all our fears and reservations vanished. The prayer dance paid our due respects to Lord Jagannath and was a huge success. This was followed by the Subrina Biswal Award Competition, which took place that afternoon with several interesting dance, drama and singing performances. When the 'Chamma Chamma' dance performance was appreciated by the audience, I (Nikita) felt elated☺.

How often is it that a youth group performs on stage announcing to the world that they love their Orissa? History was created when we performed our theme dance 'I Love My Orissa' based on the central idea of the convention - Our land, Our people. The deafening applause from the audience must surely have reached even Orissa!! Bringing alive yester years Oriya love and romance with the songs "Piroti Mora' and 'Manisa Marini' was one of the highlights of the evening program. After the sumptuous dinner, it was time to step into the evening Mehfil and DJ dance which continued well into the next day, with everyone enjoying and no-one willing to leave. The DJ dance was undisputedly the most enthralling of all the youth activities. After grabbing a few winks of sleep, it was time again for action in the fast lane.

It was all smiles and high fives as Canada bagged the first prize in the Drama competition for the second year in a row. In between those stellar Odissi performances by Ellora, Debraj, Sushree Aunty, and Sujata, which left the audience astounded, we brought in a different side of our Orissa by performing a tribal dance. The veteran CanOSA actors didn't hold back anything when they performed the epic drama Karnarjun- be it costumes, props, dialogues and the convincing acting of the period drama. This performance brought the house down and got a standing ovation by the audience. The curtains finally came down with the Rangabati music where people of all ages danced in full vigor.

Back at the Holiday Inn, the festivities continued and culminated in the grand finale with the OSA idol competition. It was a dream come true for me (Arpita) when I was declared the winner. In the ensuing celebration, everyone let their hair down and rocked the dance floor. This, for us, was one of the most enjoyable moments of the convention. As the time came to leave, we bid each other farewell with heavy hearts promising to meet again next year and to keep in touch.

The convention turned out to be perfect in every possible way. Delicious food, great location, enthralling performances, and the amazing opportunities for socializing....it was just perfect. The 39th OSA convention was an event filled with masti, masala, entertainment, humor, devotion, talent and dedication with the final product being a success. Although the event is over, the memories will linger on...

OSA NY/NJ Chapter News

Biswajit Mohapatra

Saraswati Puja 2008

In February 2007 OSA NY/NJ observed Goddess Saraswati Puja at Bridgewater Temple Auditorium. About 75 families attended this function. Mr. Pitambar Sarangi performed the puja. He also explained the process and importance of the puja to the attainees. A small cultural event was also organized after the Puja and a lot of local kids participated in singing Bhajans and Odissi Dance under the guidance of local senior artists. The organizers were very happy to see many new members at this event.

Annual Picnic 2008

The OSA NY/NJ Annual Oriya Picnic was organized at Schooley's Mountain Park in June 2008. The weather was at its best and everyone who was present that day enjoyed the most. There were lots of choices of food starting from Oriya style Dahibara, Aloodam to the Bar-b-que followed by a delicious lunch. Around 100 families participated in this annual event, and most of them enjoyed participating in various games (Kids race, Ladies' 100 meter race, Mens' 200 meter Race, Three legged race, Cricket & Volleyball to name a few). After the lunch was served, people enjoyed dancing to super hit Ollywood and Bollywood tracks.



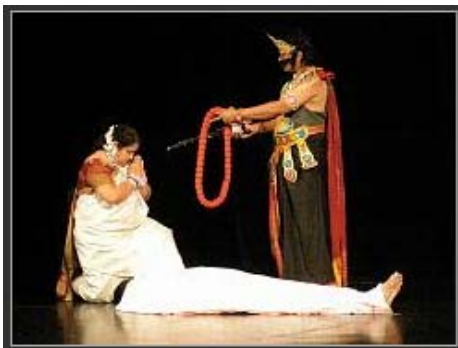
While elders loved to consume Lassi and watermelon to beat the heat Kids preferred cotton candy and Ice pops. Many parents who had come from India were astonished to see the Oriya gathering and the enthusiasm of people on the picnic day.

NYNJ Chapter Participation at 2008 OSA Convention

NY/NJ Chapter had a strong presence at 2008 Convention. Kids did a phenomenon job in depicting Global Warming Awareness in a dance form that fetched the top Sabrina Biswal award. NY-NJ Chapter's presentation of Adibasi Dance, Sambalpuri Dance & Drama got lot of admiration.



Hats off to two of our dear ones, who received a standing ovation from the crowd for their Daskathia performance describing the importance of our mother tongue.



Our participation in "Romance & Love" theme and the way we stole the concluding ceremony with rangabati dance was mind bugging. Our instant participation inside the theatre as well as in Malefic added true colors to all the shows.

Ganesh Puja

With Lord Ganesh's blessings and OSANYNJ members overwhelming co-operation, Ganesh Puja (2008) was successfully completed at Balaji Auditorium, Bridgewater, NJ on 06Sep08. Around 70 families attended. The puja started with homam, coconut breaking, aarati, pushpanjali, vidyarambha / khadichuan,



and was followed by cultural program on devotional themes by our young kids. Around 10 kids started the knowledge acquisition process by doing vidyarambha / khadichuan in front of Lord Ganesh.

Future Events 2008

The preparation for Kumar Purnima is going on full swing. This is the Annual showcase of culturally enriched members and their kids.

The chapter's various ventures like KalaNiketan, promoting Odissi among kids is growing in popularity and is attracting many students. Sunday Oriya weekly Program "Utkala Prabha" around the tri-state area has gained lot of popularity.

*Preparation for **40th Convention in 2009** at New York/New Jersey area is moving ahead. The organizers are soliciting active participation from all chapters from the beginning in order to present a great moment during the convention. Please send your suggestions and participation details to osaconvention09@yahoo.com*



CANOSA News

Jibanjit Tripathy

Panorama India's Independence Day Gala Event 2008:

Members of CanOSA participated in the recently held India's Independence Day Gala Event in Downtown Toronto on Sunday August 10th. Children dressed up in Odissi costumes and Kurta Pajama represented Orissa on a well-decorated float that was leading the parade.

In Cultural programme CanOSA & Nriyanjali Kala Academy presented "Mangala Charana-Panchdev Vandana" in Odissi (Directed by Sushree Mishra Kar) & Theme Song and Dance "We love you Odisha!" based on Orissa: Our Land, Our People". (Choreography – Soman Panigrahi, Arpita Gantayet, Nikita Gantayet). The event was organized by Panorama India – The umbrella organization of all Indo-Canadian Socio Cultural Organization in Greater Toronto Area conducts several programs time to time.



NEW OFFICE BEARERS AT CanOSA: Following to the convention a new set of office bearers took office for 2008-2010. Jibanjit Tripathy as President, Rabindra Nath Sabat as Secretary, Smaran Das as Treasurer, Gagan Panigrahi, Suvendu Gantayet as Directors and Amit Nayak as Director & ex-officio. The new board sincerely thanks the outgoing executives & directors Amit Nayak, Suvendu Mishra, Rajesh Nayak, Hara Narayan Padhi, Sujata Das, Nibedita Pattanayak, Prafulla Pujapanda, Lalu Mansinha & Gagan Panigrahi for their hard work and new initiatives.

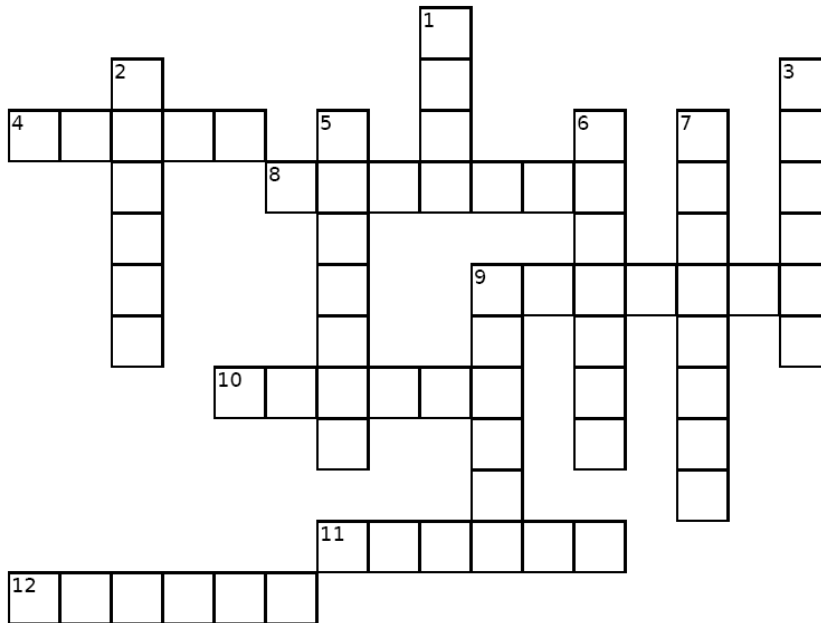
TIME TO SAY THANKS: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON PICNIC

On Saturday July 26th at the Wildwood Park, in Mississauga, a Volunteer appreciation Luncheon Picnic was organized, in appreciation of the tireless, late night hard work of dedicated volunteers who collectively made 39th OSA convention a grand success. Sumptuous Snacks & foods were ordered to serve for around 130 volunteers who attended the luncheon picnic daring rain momentarily. Convener Dr. Gagan Panigrahi and co-convener Amit Nayak thanked everyone for their contribution. Everyone celebrated the CanOSA's winning the Promod Patnaik Inter-chapter drama competition second year in a row, first time in OSA history.



Parts of Orissa

Try to think about what you know about Orissa and fill out this puzzle as best as you can. If you're stuck on a question, be sure to ask your parents!

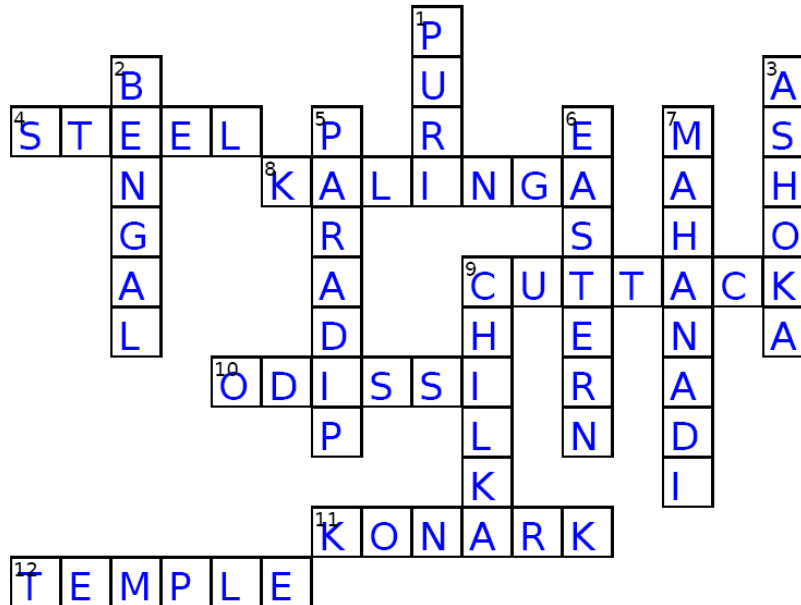


- Across**
- 4 Rourkela had the first integrated _____ plant in the Public Sector in India.
- 8 The old name for "Orissa."
- 9 Old capital of Orissa that has been a city for more than a thousand years
- 10 The classical dance of Orissa that can be traced back 2000 years.
- 11 The Temple that took 1200 artisans, 12 years to build, and a 12 year old boy to finish in the 1200's A.D.
- 12 Bhubaneswar is known as the _____ City.

- Down**
- 1 The Jagannath Temple is located in _____.
- 2 You can find this kind of tiger in Orissa (hint: in Jungle Book).
- 3 Indian emperor who invaded Orissa and converted to Buddhism.
- 5 Iron ore is exported from this port.
- 6 Orissa is in the _____ part of India.
- 7 The longest river in Orissa.
- 9 The largest salt water lake in India.

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Send your suggestions and comments to: osaeditor@orissasociety.org. OSA website is: <http://www.orissasociety.org>