

Orissa Society of the Americas **Utkarsa**
bringing Oriyas together

OSANewsletter

ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସମାଜର ତୈମାସିକ ପତ୍ରିକା

<http://www.orissasociety.org>
Editor: Dr Bigyani Das



Welcome to OSA Newsletter Utkarsa page. Learn about activities and highlights of The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA). Utkarsa means excellence or superiority. The name Utkala for Orissa was used because of the superior artistic skills of Oriyas.

The mission of The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) is to provide a mutually supportive environment for the better interaction of Oriya immigrants of North American countries, and to enhance the awareness of Orissa and Oriya traditions in North America through cultural promotion, social events, and developmental activities.

President: Dr Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan
Vice President: Dr Nivedita Mohanty
Secretary/Treasurer: Hari Arjun Patro
Editor: Dr Bigyani Das

Current Issue: No: 5 - August 2004



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ପ୍ରିୟ ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ,

ନମସ୍କାର । ଓପାର ତ୍ରିମାସିକ ମୁଖପତ୍ର ଉତ୍କର୍ଷର ଚୁହପୁଷ୍ପକୁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ସାଦର ସ୍ୱାଗତ । ଯିଏ ଯାହାକୁ ଅତି ସ୍ନେହ କରେ, ତା'କୁ ହିଁ ସବୁବେଳେ ପରଖୁଥାଏ । ସେ ପରଖିବାର ମୂଳରେ ଥାଏ ଭଲପାଇଥିବା ପଦାର୍ଥଟିକୁ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଚୂଟିଶୂନ୍ୟ କରାଇ ଅସାମାନ୍ୟ ରୂପରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ କରାଇବାର ଆଶାଂକ୍ଷ । ଉତ୍କର୍ଷର ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଟିକୁ ଅନନ୍ୟ ରୂପ ଦେଇ ଏକ ପତ୍ରିକା ଆକାରରେ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ କରିବାକୁ ଆମେମାନେ ଆଶା ପୋଷଣ କରିଛୁ । ତେବେ, ଏ କେବଳ ଏକ ପ୍ରକ୍ଷାବନା । ଆପଣ ମାନଙ୍କର ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସହଯୋଗ ଉପରେ ଏ ପ୍ରକ୍ଷାବଚିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା ଓ ସଫଳତା ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣରୂପେ ନିର୍ଭର କରେ । ବିଶେଷତଃ ପ୍ରକାଶନ ଓ ବଙ୍କନ ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହଯୋଗ ନିତାନ୍ତ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଓପାର ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ଆର୍ଥିକ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ସେ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚଭାର ବହନ କରିବାକୁ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣରୂପେ ସକ୍ଷମ ନୁହେଁ । ଏ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନଟିକୁ ସାକାର କରାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ଯଦି ଆପଣମାନେ ଭବିତ ମନେକରନ୍ତି, ତେବେ ଓପାର ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଶ୍ରୀ ହରିଅର୍ଜୁନ ପାତ୍ରଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧର ମାତ୍ର ପହିଲା ଚାରିଶ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରିବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ । ଆମେମାନେ ସେହି ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ନିଜକୁ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ପ୍ରକାଶନ ପାଇଁ ଠିକ୍‌ଭାବେ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିପାରିବୁ । ଆଶା ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଯେ ସହୃଦୟ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ମାନେ ଉତ୍କର୍ଷକୁ ନୂଆରୂପ ଦେବାର ଏ ଅପୂର୍ବ ସୁଯୋଗ ନେଇ ଓପା ଇତିହାସରେ ଏକ ନୂଆ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବାରେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ସୂତ୍ରଧର ହେବେ ।

ଗ୍ରାସ ଦେଶର ଏଥେନସ୍ ସହରରେ ଗୋଟିଗୋଟି ଅର୍ଥ ବ୍ୟୟରେ ଅଲିମ୍ପିକ୍ ଜାତୀୟ ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗିତାର ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ସେ ସମସ୍ତ ଅର୍ଥ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅନୁକୃତ ଦେଶର ଉନ୍ନତିରେ ବିନିଯୋଗ କରାଯାଇପାରନ୍ତା । କିନ୍ତୁ ମଣିଷର ମୌଳିକ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ସହିତ ଜାତୀୟ, ଜଳା ଓ ସାହିତ୍ୟର ପରିପ୍ରକାଶର ମଧ୍ୟ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି । ଏସବୁ ପୃଷ୍ଠିକୋଣରୁ ବିଚାର କରି ଦେଖିଲେ ଓପାର ବାର୍ଷିକ ପ୍ରକାଶନ ସହିତ ଏକ ଶାତକାଳୀନ ପ୍ରକାଶନୀୟ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଅନୁଭବ କରିହୁଏ । ଯଦିଓ ଚୁହପୁଷ୍ପରେ ଓପା ମୁଖପତ୍ରଟିର ପ୍ରକାଶନୀ ଅତି ସହଜ ଓ ଶକ୍ତା, ତଥାପି ମୁଦ୍ରିତ ପ୍ରକାଶନୀଟିର ଏକ ବିଶେଷ ଭୂମିକା ରହିଛି । ତେବେ ଏ ସବୁ ମୋ ମନର ଭାବନା । ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠ ସଭ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ମତାମତ ହିଁ ଆମମାନଙ୍କର ଗ୍ରହଣୀୟ ହେବ ।

ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ - ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ସମ୍ପାଦକ

Dear Friends

It is our great pleasure to welcome you all to the homepage of Utkarsa, OSA's quarterly newsletter. We constantly check on things that we love most. The basic goal of this checking is to make it faultless and present it with perfection. Some of the Utkarsa lovers have a desire to present Utkarsa with the perfect grace in the printed souvenir form. However, this is just a proposal. The successful implementation of this proposal completely depends on your help and support. Specifically, the printing and distribution of Utkarsa will not be possible without your financial help. The current financial state of OSA will not be able to bear the total expense. If you feel this is a worthy cause to contribute, please contact Hari Arjun Patro, OSA's treasurer before October 1, 2004. Accordingly, we would prepare ourselves for the next issue of Utkarsa. We hope generous members would avail this opportunity and support us in bringing out the best look in Utkarsa.

Olympics games were arranged in Athens, Greece in expense of millions and millions of dollars. This money could have been spent on improving the conditions of millions of people in under-developed countries. However, arts, literature and sports do have their own special importance comparable to the basic necessities such as food, cloths and shelter. Accordingly, we do feel for the need of a winter OSA publication in the printed form along with its annual souvenir publication in summer. Although Utkarsa publication in electronic newsletter form is cheaper and easier, however, printed version does have its own merit. The above are just our thoughts. We will accept the views of the majority.

Thanks - Bigyani Das, Editor

OSA Theme of the Quarter: Let Us Dream Together

Member Opinion: Do you have a question? Do you have suggestions? Do you have any comments/concerns on the functioning of OSA? Please contact OSA National Officers. Thank you.

Join OSA: Be a part of OSA and help this foundation.

OSA Newsletter Distribution: We plan to bring out the best look in Utkarsa's winter issue and distribute to all OSA members by US mail. However, to bear the expense, we need support (tan-physical, man-mental, dhan-monetary) from members. *We would appreciate your monetary contribution for this cause. If you like Utkarsa and would like to support its wide distribution, please send your contribution to OSA treasurer Hari Arjun Patro and write "Utkarsa" in memo.*

Errors in the Newsletter: Nobody is perfect. There might be errors in the contents of this newsletter. If you trace any error, please let us know at bigyanidas@orissasociety.org. Thanks.

Errors in OSA 2004 Directory: Irrespective of our best attempts, OSA 2004 directory still has many errors. We are in the process of making corrections. We need the cooperation of members in this regard.

If you have moved, please send your updated address to the OSA membership committee or OSA treasurer Hari Arjun Patro. Thank you.

Are you in OSA mailing list? It has come to our attention that some members do not get any OSA announcements. If you are a member and you don't get any announcements, please contact Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty (jgmohanty@yahoo.com). If you know some members who do not get OSA announcements through email, please inform them to contact Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Chapter Events: Washington DC chapter will celebrate Ganesh Puja on September 19. Check chapter news for chapter related information.

Oriya Festivals in August, September, and October: Raksha Bandhan (August 30), Guru Dibas (September 5), Janmastami (September 6), Ganesh Puja (September 18), Dashahara (October 23), Kumar Purnima (October 28).

OSA Convention 2004 Photos: OSA Convention 2004 photos are available at <http://www.osa2004.org>.

OSA Convention 2005: OSA Convention will be held in Anaheim, California, during July 4th weekend. The information will be soon available. Stay tuned.

Utkarsa will be published quarterly. Current issue: No 5 - August 2004 Publication.

Note: This site is best viewed in Internet Explorer and Netscape 6.0 or above. Browser settings may also affect the display.

Questions, comments, corrections, suggestions: bigyanidas@orissasociety.org

Note: Next issue of Utkarsa will be published on December 15, 2004. Articles for this publication should reach the editorial staff before December 1, 2004.

Acknowledgements: Review comments and suggestions of Dr Sikhanda Satapathy, Dr Sitakantha Dash, Dr Birendra Jena, Dr Rabi N. Mahapatra and Mrs Mamata Misra are appreciated. Thanks to all the contributors for this issue (the authors as well as people in the background who provided pictures and encouragement) without which this issue would not have become possible in its present form. Special thanks to Tapan Padhi for providing seminar related information.



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A Dream That We Dream Together

Editorial - Bigyani Das

[Note: All the issues of Utkarsa are (will be) available electronically from the OSA web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org/publications/public.html>.

Please refer this page for newsletter related publication updates.]

Friends

Greetings and Happy New Year wishes to you all. No kidding. In OSA calendar, New Year starts after OSA convention during July 4th weekend. The 36th year of OSA and the 2nd year of the current presidency started last month. We welcome you all to an exciting year ahead with our first issue of Utkarsa.

As OSA is moving forward toward its golden anniversary in fifteen years, this is the time we should train ourselves for winning the gold medal for our community's goals. A dream that I dream or any other person dreams as an individual, would always stay as a dream. However, a dream that we

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dream together will become a reality without any doubt.

I as an individual member of OSA have a dream that reflects OSA's image with the words **Optimism, Supportiveness and Assertiveness.**

The name of OSA should be used with **optimism** since it symbolizes togetherness, and gives hope that as immigrants we are not alone.

OSA members should be optimistic about the society and its future. Many life members of OSA have not received OSA souvenir for years. I had asked some of my life member friends, "Why did not you contact the President or any of the current office bearers?" The answer was, "Do they listen?" We contacted several times and there was no response." Although the above experience can create pessimism in the minds of members, I would suggest everybody to try again. People are different and the leaders would definitely change over the years, who would listen to the concerns of the members and take action. We as members do have the control in selecting our leaders and helping our leaders perform their duties. Our rights and duties go side by side. When we claim for our rights, we should also consider if we are doing our duties properly. If all of us become aware of this simple rule of our rights and duties, and be optimistic, then we together can bring optimism to the missions of the society.

I associate the second letter with **Supportiveness.** OSA exists to support its members to interact and preserve the cultural heritage by the association of each other. This support can be rendered two-ways. OSA as an organization can facilitate and clear obstacles for the mutual support between members to flow smoothly. This support should be rendered with sincerity, honesty and dignity. A person, who receives support at the time of need, should not forget to do his/her duty of supporting another person in need. OSA can also support new initiatives such as developments in Orissa as well as establishments of Oriya identity in USA and



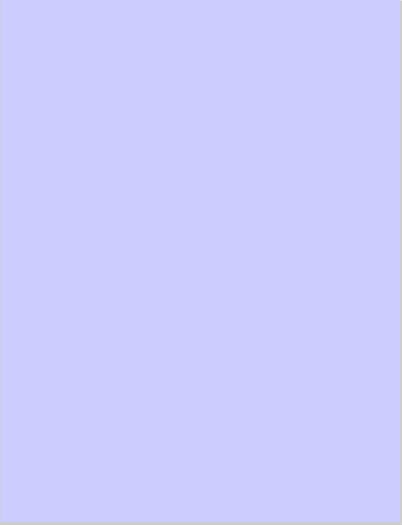
Canada. On the other hand, the members should provide their sincere support to the OSA office bearers for performing their jobs well.

For an example, OSA has initiated NRO day in Bhubaneswar, Orissa to support its members to take the opportunity and establish association with the like minded people in Orissa to contribute towards Orissa's development. If OSA members do not use the opportunity, the President cannot do anything alone.

OSA should be reflected by **Assertiveness**. When all the members are aware of the rules and are able to interpret the rules correctly, assertiveness would dominate OSA affairs. According to OSA constitution, when the children are more than 18 years old, they cannot be considered as OSA members with the family member definition. They can choose to be student members or individual members. Thus, they are not eligible for any OSA awards under the guidelines of the present constitution. Unless we add amendments to the constitution, we have to obey the constitution. Period. The award committee this year had the biggest challenge of dealing with the eligibility of nominators and nominees. I request every OSA member to go through the constitution guidelines and nomination guidelines (available at www.orissasociety.org page) while nominating members for awards or being considered as a nominee for awards.

It is also mentioned in the constitution that the chapter president should be a life member, patron or benefactor of OSA. A chapter's president cannot be an executive member of OSA for more than 2 terms (4 years in total). However, the above rules are not taken into consideration in many chapters and thus the national office bearers do have a challenge of approaching them to state these simple rules. OSA is a member based, voluntary organization and thus to win gold medal in our institution's mission, we have to minimize our conflicts. This can only become possible if everybody follows the constitution and understands the boundaries of rights and duties.

The above will stay as a **MERE DREAM** and centuries



would pass without any result if it is just my dream; an individual member's dream. However, if some of you are dreaming the same dream and we are dreaming together, then be assured; **THIS DREAM WILL BE A REALITY VERY SOON.**

Sincerely,

Bigyani Das

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Creating Success Stories

Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, President, OSA

August 16, 2004

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the second year during my OSA presidency. It was good to see some of you during the 35th Annual Convention at Dallas, TX. I also missed many of you who could not attend the convention.

The convention was a great success. I would like to thank the Convener Dr. Niranjan Tripathy and his team of dedicated volunteers for their enthusiasm, time and effort in hosting the convention. We enjoyed the occasion thoroughly.



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For the benefit of those who could not attend the General Body meeting on July 4, 2004, I like to briefly outline the OSA progress report for last year in this letter.

(1) We have added a large number of new life members, patrons and benefactors last year. We started with \$530 in OSA account, but ended up with about \$18,000 in one year mainly due to our membership drive. This is in addition to \$65,000, which is being currently held under fixed deposit.

(2) We have published electronic newsletters regularly bringing news about our chapters and other OSA matters during the last year. This is solely due to the vision and hard work of our newsletter editor Dr. Bigyani Das. I am so thankful to her for her dedication to this job.

(3) An Annual Symposium on Orissa Development was held in Bhubaneswar Swosti Plaza hotel in December 2003 to highlight various contributions made by the OSA members to the development activities in the state of Orissa. The meeting was inaugurated by the Chief Minister and was attended by many OSA members, NGO representatives, local volunteers,

and government officials.

(4) An NRO cell in the General Administration department of Orissa government has been established under the supervision of Mr. Pandey (Sp. Secy. - GA). An NRO Facilitation Center (NROFC) is being registered as a non-profit society following the Public-Private-People Partnership (PPPP) model. Mr. Sahadev Sahoo and Dr. Dhanada Mishra have been appointed as OSA coordinators to the NRO cell and NROFC. I thank them for their effort and time. Mr. Sahoo attended the Dallas convention and presented a brief report on these activities. A letter from Dhanada is contained in this newsletter for further information. The NROFC is under the process of being officially registered at present. The first meeting and official election will be held in December 2004 at Bhubaneswar.

(5) The OSA Educational committee has been very active past year. It has gathered useful information on scholarships and adopt-a-school program, collected funds for CIT and NIT, and participated in proposal writing for an IIT in Orissa. Thanks to Drs. Rabi Mahapatra and Sukant Mohapatra for their leadership.

(6) We have created two new OSA awards “Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Award for Orissa Development” and “Yuva Kalashree Award” starting this year. We received a number of nominations for all OSA awards. The OSA Awards committee consisting of Niranjana Mishra and Birendra Jena has worked hard in handling these award nominations and creating the new awards. I congratulate all the awardees and thank the Awards committee for its effort.

(7) Finally, based on valuable suggestions from OSA members, we proposed many constitutional amendments that were approved in the General Body Meeting this year. These amendments are listed in this newsletter for your reference. I thank Drs Sitakantha Dash and Amiya Mohanty for all their hard work in this regard.

Regarding plans for next year, we will continue various activities

that we initiated last year. An election will be held for the new OSA office bearers in April/May 2005. Next year, the OSA convention will be held in Southern California with Mr. Kirtan Behera as the Convener. We expect a very large gathering. Please stay tuned to the news that would come out from the convention committee in the next few months. The NRO cell of the Orissa Government and NROFC are planning to organize a “Prabasi Oriya Dibasa” around December 18, 2005 at Bhubaneswar. You will hear more about the function soon. If you are visiting Orissa this year, please plan to attend.

Sincerely,

Laxminarayan Bhuyan

OSA President

lbhuyan@hotmail.com

Convention Expense Report - by Tapan Padhi, Co-Convener

High Level Income Expenses - OSA Convention 2004

Income:

Registration	~\$15K
Food Collection	~\$14K
Sponsors/Advertisement	~\$19K

Total	\$48,000
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Expense:

Stage Expense	~\$7K
Youth	~\$1.5K
Souvenir/Directory	~\$6.5K
Registration Related	~\$7K
Food	~13.5K
Artist, Guest, Hotel	~13.5K
Total	\$49,100

NB: The convention committee members are expecting to receive the difference amount of \$1000/- from those members who have volunteered to contribute for the convention.

Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) General Body Meeting: Minutes

**July 4, 2004: Hilton DFW Executive Conference
Center
Dallas/ Fort Worth, Texas
Time: 10:45 AM-1:30 PM**

Present on podium: Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan (LNB), President, Hari Arjun Patro (HAP), Secretary-Treasurer, Bigyani Das (BD), Editor of Newsletter (recording), Nick Patnaik (NP), Immediate Past President.

Abbreviations:

(OSA) Orissa Society of the Americas

(GBM) General Body Meeting

(Q/C) question / comment

Meeting commenced: 10:45 AM

Although all the executive members were present in the meeting hall at 10:00 AM, because of the show of the documentary on Fakir Mohan Senapati, members could not arrive on time. Thus the starting time was delayed. (Learning: Every member has a role on making OSA events successful and timely).

Introduction

(LNB) President Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan greeted the audience and introduced his team members including the members of various coordination committees. He then gave a brief review of the activities that OSA is involved under his presidency. The activities include the membership growth, constitution amendments, NRO day, next year's election committee, OSA 2005 convention in California.

Financial Statement

(HAP) presentation of financial statement

Secretary/Treasurer Hari Arjun Patro presented financial statement. The OSA operating account now stands at \$18,xxx as opposed to \$544 when the present office bearers assumed charge last year. He also stated that at present OSA's fixed deposit fund has \$65,530.14.

General Body Meeting (GBM) Rules:

(1) It was decided at the beginning that only four speakers will be allowed to speak on each item under discussion. Following the discussion, a resolution will be proposed and seconded, followed by a vote. If a resolution fails, more discussion can be held to amend the resolution. This process helped keep the timing in the GBM.

(2) There was discussion regarding continuation of the OSA operations at the time of transition in office bearers. It was unanimously agreed that the outgoing office bearers are required to hand over all OSA documents in the General Body meeting following the election. However, since this provision has been put as an amendment of the constitution, the resolution becomes moot. Motions

All the constitutional amendments, proposed by the OSA constitution committee, were approved unanimously (or almost unanimously) item by item. Here are some highlights of the approved amendments.

1. Motions

Secretary Position Created

The duties and responsibilities of Secretary as posted to all the members were discussed. Secretary's position and duties were approved unanimously. It was the consensus of the general body that the secretary should be elected separately.

Modified Duties of the Treasurer

The treasurer should supervise the OSA fund. A three-member committee chaired by the treasurer and with two

more members selected by the president should look after the fund.

How the Patron and Beneficiary fees should be used?

The amount for life membership from the patron and beneficiary fees should be deposited in the OSA fund and the rest may be available for OSA's expense.

Modified Duties of the Vice President

Vice President should act as one of the Co-convenor for the conventions to facilitate the involvement of the National OSA executive members in the convention hosted by the chapters. Vice President should also look after OSA awards.

2. Next Year's Election Committee

The election committee members were nominated from the floor. Several names were proposed and finally the following names were finalized.

Chairman: Raj Kishore Pati, Wisconsin

Members: Pradeep Nayak, Chicago

Brajendra Panda, Arkansas

3. Yuva Kala-Vikash Award

The President proposed that Yuva Kala-Vikash award should carry a cash amount of \$500.00. Generous OSA members are invited to support this award through OSA.

This was approved unanimously.

4. Request for OSA Support for 2004 Convention

Acting upon a request by the OSA Convention 2004 organizers to support expenses towards printing and mailing of the OSA souvenir and directory, the OSA BOG recommended to the General Body that \$5,000 from OSA funds be given to the OSA 2004 convention if needed.

This was approved in the GBM unanimously.

Announcements

1. Pravasi Oriya Divas in December 2005 in Bhubaneswar, (Sahadev Sahu)
2. OSA 2005 Convention during July 4th weekend in Southern California

Miscellaneous

1. **Arati Nanda from Houston, Texas** read the following: The consensus of the 35th annual convention of OSA held in Dallas, Texas on the Independence Day of America is that it whole heartedly condemns the system of dowry in Orissa. The convention hereby urges the assembled members of the oriya community to help eliminate this harmful system from Orissa. The first step is to implement it in the education system of Orissa to enlighten the coming generation.

2. **Nihar Samantra from Bangalore, India:** We have an Oriya association in Bangalore and we engage the Oriya community through various cultural and developmental activities. I am suggesting that we should globally integrate all Oriya associations and have a World Orissa Association umbrella which can overview and extract the common themes for Oriyas to come closer. We have organized IT road show and we have raised worth \$100,000 for different causes such as Cyclone and Flood

etc.

3. Jyotsna Mishra, Alabama: Seminars in OSA are as important as cultural programs. However, because of the timings the afternoon seminars had low attendance. The program should be planned with the vision to facilitate attendance in seminars. The other problem was that the seminars were not widely circulated before and many convention attendees were not aware of the seminars.

4. Sahadev Sahoo, Orissa: Orissa NRO cell is effective. Oriyas who want to contribute to the development of Orissa can now get guidance and assistance from the Orissa Government. The NRO cell should work with public/private partnership. It should have its own governing body with President and Secretary Positions. We are also planning for NRO day in Bhubaneswar, Orissa in December 2005. All the Oriyas are invited to attend.

Closing Remarks: Thanks to Niranjan Tripathy and 2004 Convention Organizers for a great job and true volunteer spirit (Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan).

Meeting adjourned: 13:15 PM

Progress on NRO Cell and NRO Facilitation Center (NROFC) By Dr. Dhanada Mishra, Bhubaneswar, June 22, 2004

Dear All;

We had a meeting with the CM - who was kind enough to entertain our request for an appointment at a very short

notice in light of Mr. Sahadev Sahu's impending departure for Dallas. The following were discussed and decided:

1. We appraised the CM about the discussions held so far between myself, Mr. Sahadev Sahu, Mr. Pandey (Sp. Secy. - GA) and OSA representatives regarding the proposed structure of the NRO Center.
2. As per the suggestion of Mr. Pandey being the Officer in charge of the NRO Cell, the NRO Facilitation Center (NROFC) will be registered as a non-profit society following the Public-Private-People Partnership (PPPP) model followed in other states such as Gujurat.
3. As per the draft bye-laws framed by Mr. Sahadev Sahu, The CM verbally agreed that three senior government officers (Secretary - Industry, Secretary - IT as well as Spl. Secretary - GA) will be on the executive board representing the government.
4. The other members of the Executive Board as proposed by the draft byelaws may be appointed/nominated temporarily in order to register the society and elections may be held at the time of the Annual Orissa Development Symposium in December.
5. Mr. Pandey has volunteered to coordinate with IPICOL and Industries department to organise for infrastructure in form of office space and personnel to get the NROFC going initially. It is expected that the NROFC will raise its own resources subsequently from various activities, sources, schemes such as the UNIDO project etc. Some seed money also may be made available by the government.
6. The executive committee will meet every three months and will review activities and pro-actively set the agenda

for the center. These activities can be reviewed and directions for the year can be set at the annual general body meeting to be conveniently co-hosted along side the Orissa Development Symposium. The center will organise the Orissa Development Symposium from this year onwards.

Finally I must say that the meeting was very cordial and the government is very supportive of our ideas and proposals. It is up to us now as to how quickly we can move things on the ground. I suggest that OSA take the opportunity to discuss the proposed bylaws thoroughly at its convention and discuss with Mr. Sahadev Sahu all relevant issues so that the society can be registered and start functioning shortly after his return.

Regards,
Dhanada

OSA Awardees

1. Distinguished Oriya Award

Recipient: Dr. Jagannath Prasad Das, Alberta, Canada

Presentation: plaque, Certificate of Honor

Orissa Society of Americas: Certificate of Honor

The Distinguished Oriya Award for the year 2004 is presented to Dr. Jagannath Prasad Das in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment in his area of expertise and service to the people of Orissa.

Plaque:

Orissa Society of Americas honors Dr. Jagannath Prasad

Das by presenting him with the 2004 Distinguished Oriya Award, its highest award. Dr. Das has been acclaimed as one of the world's foremost cognitive psychologists and has made significant contributions to cognitive psychology research. He has also authored several books that have been translated into a number of international languages. His efforts in raising awareness of learning disability and other intellectual problems among the people of Orissa and his salutary work to boost learning efficiency of the underprivileged children of Bhubaneswar is also duly recognized.



DAS, Jagannath Prasad, M.A., Ph.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; university professor emeritus; b.Puri, India, 20 Jan. 1931; s. Sri Biswanath and Nilomoni (Mohanty) D.; came to Canada 1968; e. Utkal Univ. B.A. 1951; Patna Univ. M.A. (Gold Medallist) 1953; Univ. of London, Inst. of Psychiatry, Ph.D. 1957; m. Gita, d. R.C. Dasmohapatra, Jamirapalgarh, India 1955; children: Satya, Sheela; UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, UNIV. OF ALBERTA; former Dir., Developmental Disabilities Centre now named the J.P.Das Developmental Disabilities Centre, Univ. of Alberta; began teaching in India; subsequently at George Peabody Coll. and Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles before present position; rec'd Kennedy Foundation Fellowship 1963-64; Nuffield Fellowship 1972; Harris Award of International Reading Assoc.; University Rsch. Prize 1987; Fellow, Am. Psychol. Assn.; Am. Psychol. Soc.; Cdn. Psychol. Assn.; Royal Soc. of Canada 1999; author The Working Mind 1998; Das-Naglieri Cog. Assmt. System 1997; Cognitive Planning 1996; Assessment of Cognitive Processes 1994; Theory and Research in Learning Disabilities 1982;

Intelligence and Learning 1981; Simultaneous and Successive Cognitive Processes 1979; Mental Retardation for Special Educators 1978; Verbal Conditioning and Behavior 1969; Manasika Byadhi (Mental Illness) 1962; Samaja (Soc.) 1956; also numerous scient. articles in learned and prof. journs.; his books and tests translated into Finnish, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean; Home: 11724-38a Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6J 0L9; Office: Univ. of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E5

J.P. Das

Research Professor

JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre

Education Building 6-123

University of Alberta

Edmonton Canada T5G2E5

FAX 780 492 1318

Phone: 780 492 4439

Website: <http://www.quasar.ualberta.ca/ddc/INDEX.html>

2. Kalashree Award

Recipients: 1. Mr. Arun Das; 2. Mrs. Banalata Misra

Presentation: Plaque, Certificate of Honor.

Recipient No. 1. Mr. Arun Das

Orissa Society of Americas - Certificate of Honor

The Kalashree Award for the year 2004 is presented to Mr. Arun Das in recognition of his contribution for the promotion of Oriya art and culture in North America.

Plaque:

In recognition of his demonstrated artistic talents as a painter, graphic designer, art director etc. and his efforts in promoting Oriya art and culture in North America, the Orissa Society of Americas honors Mr. Arun Das by presenting him with the 2004 Kalashree Award. His continued service to OSA in organizing cultural events at annual conventions and designing of OSA logo is also duly recognized.

Recipient No. 2. Ms Banalata Mishra

Orissa Society of Americas - Certificate of Honor

The Kalashree Award for the year 2004 is presented to Mrs. Banalata Misra in recognition of her contribution for the promotion of Oriya art and culture in North America.



Plaque:

In recognition of her pioneering efforts in promoting Oriya art and culture in North America through vocal performance, radio programs, sponsoring artists from

Orissa and organizing cultural events, the Orissa Society of Americas honors Mrs. Banalata Misra by presenting her with the 2004 Kalashree Award. Her continued service to OSA in organizing cultural events at annual conventions is also duly recognized.

3. Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award

Recipient: Mrs. Jayashree.(Ranu) Mahanti

Presentation: Plaque with a picture of Gopabandhu Das, Certificate of Honor.

Orissa Society of Americas - Certificate of Honor

The Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award for the year 2004 is presented to Mrs. Jayashree (Ranu) Mahanti in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Orissa in areas of humanitarian and community services.

Plaque:

The Orissa Society of Americas honors Mrs. Jayashree (Ranu) Mahanti by presenting her with the 2004 Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award in recognition of her outstanding dedicated volunteer service to the underprivileged people of Orissa. For past nine years, Mrs. Mahanti has been involved in several humanitarian projects such as child welfare, healthcare, vocational education to women etc. in various parts of Orissa. She has also been involved in fundraising efforts in North America to finance these projects. Her accomplishments and exemplary selfless service to humanity will be an inspiration for others to take up voluntary work in Orissa.

4. Subrina Biswal Memorial Award for High School

Graduates

Recipient: Mr. Abhisek Chandan Khandai

Presentation: Certificate of Honor., A onetime scholarship of \$1000.

Orissa Society of Americas -
Certificate of Honor

The Subrina Biswal Memorial Award for the year 2004 is presented to Mr. Abhisek Chandan Khandai in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment as a graduating High School Student.



5. Youth Volunteer Award

Recipient: Mr. Dhirendra Kar

Presentation: Plaque, Certificate of Honor.

Orissa Society of Americas -
Certificate of Honor

The Youth Volunteer Award for the year 2004 is presented to Mr. Dhirendra Kar in recognition of his outstanding voluntary service.



Plaque:

The Orissa Society of Americas honors Mr. Dhirendra Kar by presenting the 2004 Youth Volunteer Award in recognition of his outstanding voluntary service. Since his

childhood, Mr. Kar has been actively involved in various community activity events both in Orissa and United States. Most notable is his involvement during the devastating supercyclone of 1999 in which Mr. Kar not only did raise funds, he also was involved in rescue and cleanup operations in the cyclone affected area. His efforts in improving science education in high schools of Orissa are also duly recognized.

6. Yuva Kalavikash Award

Recipient: Miss Priyanka Patnaik

Presentation: Plaque, Certificate of Honor.

Orissa Society of Americas - Certificate of Honor

The Yuva Kalavikash Award for the year 2004 is presented to Miss Priyanka Patnaik in recognition of her outstanding contribution for promoting Oriya art, literature and culture.

Plaque:

The Orissa Society of Americas honors Miss Priyanka Patnaik by presenting her the 2004 Yuva Kalavikash Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to promote Oriya art and culture in North America. Miss Patnaik is a talented artiste and has been promoting Oriya art and culture since her childhood through Odissi dance performances, vocal recitals and artwork. She has also represented Oriya culture in various multicultural community events in Canada.





[NEXT](#)



Utkarsa

[OSA Publications](#)

[Utkarsa August 2003 \(Past Issue\)](#)

[Utkarsa October 2003 \(Past Issue\)](#)

[Utkarsa January 2004 \(Past Issue\)](#)

[Utkarsa March-April 2004 \(Past Issue\)](#)

[Utkarsa August 2004 \(Current Issue\)](#)

[A Dream That We Dream Together \(Editorial\)](#)

[Creating Success Stories \(President's Message\)](#)

[Convention Expense Report](#)

[OSA Awardees](#)

[GBM 2004 Minutes](#)

[NRO Divas in Bhubaneswar](#)

[Accepted Amendments](#)

SEMINARS in OSA 2004 Convention



Several seminars were organized during OSA 2004 convention. Prof. Rabi Narayan Mahapatra had a well planned agenda and schedule for all of the following seminars.

- Spiritual Discourse by Swamiji & Bhajan, Saturday and Sunday, 7:00 am – 8:00 am, Earnings Room
- Economic Development Seminar, Saturday 8:00 am – 9:45 am, Dividends Room
- Kabita Patha, Saturday 8:00 am – 9:45 am, Earnings Room

[OSA Convention
2004](#)

[\(Stories/Report\)](#)

[Chapter News](#)

[OSA 2004 Seminar
Report](#)

[Oriya Poetry
Reading](#)

[Articles \(Poems,
Rakhi Special -
Seneha Suruja\)](#)

[Announcements
\(Congratulations,
News, Obituaries\)](#)

[August-September
2004 Special \(For
Kids\)](#)

- Youth Professional Seminar, Saturday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Mergers Room
- Biotech Seminar, Saturday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm, Dividends Room
- Parenting Challenges; Saturday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Equity Room
- Bhanja Sahitya Alochana by Dr. Kabi Mishra, Sunday 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Earnings Room
- Documentary Film Screening on Fakir Mohan Senapati, Sunday 8:00 am – 9:45 am, Dividends Room
- Oriya Volunteers of North America, Sunday 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Dividends Room
- Health and Physical Therapy Seminar, Sunday 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Mergers Room

Many seminars were organized as planned. However, because of the parallel sessions, some of the seminars had very low attendance and some could not be held. We have the reports available for some of these seminars.

I would bring your attention to [Mrs Mamata Misra's comments](#) about the reasons why some seminars do not become successful as planned.

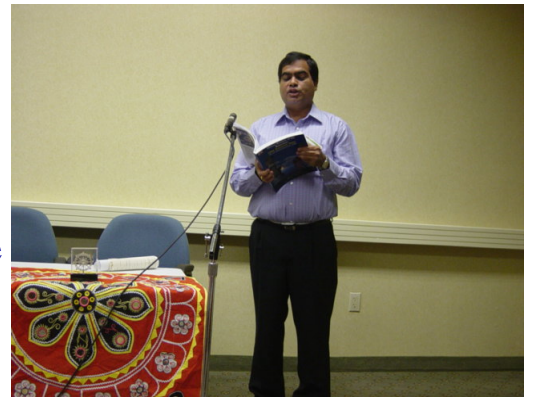
Odia Poetry Reading (Kabita Patha)

Odia Poetry Reading was held in Earnings room on Saturday at 8:00 AM. The table was decorated with Oriya symbols, sambalpuri sarees, filigree items and pipili handicraft work. Dr Arati Nanda delivered the welcome speech. In her speech she expressed her dream about publishing a complete Oriya magazine from USA. Eminent poet Amarendra Khatua was introduced by Dr Bigyani Das to give the keynote address.



The poetry reading started with Gangadhar Meher's "Matrubhumi", read by Dharendra Kar. IFS Amarendra Khatua read his poem on Orissa. Arati Nanda, Sikhanda Satapathy and Bigyani Das took turns in introducing different poets. All the poems were touchy and inspiring.

Kalpanamayee Dash's "Maa", Sumitra Padhi's "Kharabela", and Barun Pani's "Panthasala" were full of feelings that had transformed into words. Bigyani Das's "Abiskara" and Arati Nanda's "Jagare Utkaliya" were full of Oriya feelings. Digambar Mishra's romantic short poems "Cuttack" and "Prema" were very enjoyable.



After the adult's poetry reading, gifts were presented to the key-note speaker Amarendra Khatua. The children's poetry reading started after that. Ananya Mishra's "Night", Bagmi Das's "Choices", Mrunali Das's "What My Mind Says", Rohini Rege's "Dia, The Shining Lamp" and Renuka Rege's "Discovery" gave the audience an opportunity to explore the sentiments of young minds. The children were presented with certificates by Amarendra Khatua. Finally Dr Sikhanda Satapathy thanked the participants for their contribution in making the poetry reading session the most enjoyable one.





IS ORISSA READY TO RIDE THE BIOTECH WAVE?

You have already heard about it – IT has put India on the global map and has brought prosperity to its metropolises. A lesser known fact is that biotechnology, popularly known as biotech, is the next major technology that will significantly impact our lives in the twenty-first century. Biotech has wide ranging applications in diverse sectors including healthcare, food and agriculture, renewable energy sources, and others. Orissa being endowed with a rich natural source of biomass provides an ideal environment for biotech research as well as commercial ventures. Examples of such biotech applications include utilizing low value feedstock such as agricultural waste, municipal waste and sugarcane to create value added chemicals such as biodegradable plastics and vitamins. Unlike IT that directly benefits a small group of highly skilled workers, the biotech sector is likely to benefit a wide spectrum of people from research scientists working in research labs and business managers managing biotech firms to agricultural workers living in rural Orissa. While other Indian states such as Karnataka and Gujarat have already joined the biotech bandwagon, not much activity is noticed in this sector in Orissa. If you are interested in finding out more about biotech and how Orissa can prosper by riding the biotech wave this seminar is right for you. We

have three expert panelists who will explore the prospects and problems of biotech related investment in Orissa. The objective of this seminar is to stimulate discussion among the NRO community and pave the way for investment in the biotech sector in Orissa.

Dr. Ranjan Patnaik, a talented young scientist, provided a general introduction to biotech and why Orissa is a good destination for biotech related investment. Then Dr. Sujay Singh, an outstanding researcher and entrepreneur, discussed the prospects of biotech related ventures in Orissa and problems faced by NRO entrepreneurs in this sector. Shri Sahadeva Sahoo, a veteran administrator and educationist, discussed his vision of the future of biotech in Orissa and how the NRO center in Bhubaneswar can help entrepreneurs.

About The Panelists

Dr. Ranjan Patnaik leads the fermentation technology group in the Central Research & Development (CR&D) division of DuPont. He has worked in the biotechnology sector for the last 15 years in various capacities in companies such as Genentech, Energy Biosystems, Maxygen, and Codexis. Dr. Patnaik's research in the areas of metabolic engineering, bioprocess development for commodity chemical production, and renewable feedstock utilization has led to numerous publications, citations, and seminars in international conferences. He was an invited participant to the Frontiers of Engineering Symposium 2000 (FOE) and Japan-American Frontiers of Engineering Symposium 2002 (JAFOE), hosted by the US National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and Japan Science & Technology Agency. U.S. Frontiers of Engineering meeting brings together 100 of the nation's outstanding young engineers (ages 30-45) from industry, academia, and government to discuss pioneering technical and leading-edge research in various engineering fields and industry sectors. Dr. Patnaik holds a Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University, College Station and a B.Tech degree from IIT, Kanpur, both in Chemical Engineering. He currently resides in Newark, Delaware with his wife Madhu and daughter Natasha.

Shri Sahadeva Sahoo holds the position of the Chancellor of Supreme University, Raipur. Immediately following his postgraduation he was a lecturer in International Affairs in the Benares Hindu University and a Pradhyapak in Public Administration in the Viswabharati (University), Santiniketan. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1964 and held various key positions under the Governments of Orissa and India, including Chief Secretary to the Government of Orissa and Chairman of

the state's Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation Ltd. (IPICOL). On voluntary retirement from the I.A.S., he became the Vice Chancellor of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) from November 2000 to October 2003, during which he was instrumental in setting up its Post Graduate course in Biotechnology along with its biotech research unit. During this time he was conferred by the President of India a rare honor of Honorary Colonel Commandant of NCC.

Shri Sahoo is a prolific author with 40 books to his credit on diverse topics which include current affairs, statecraft, travelogue, popular science, poetry, short stories, intelligence tests and children's stories. He is also a regular contributor to various newspapers and journals in Orissa. He is one of the few most sought-after persons in literary and cultural circles in Orissa. He has to his credit several literary awards including the Orissa Sahitya Academy award and the Sarala Samman. He is an internationally known philatelist and is now the President of the Philatelic Congress of India, the apex body of stamp collectors in India. He has been invited as India's National Commissioner for the International Stamp Exhibition, WASHINGTON 2006. He also serves as the joint coordinator of the Non Resident Oriya center in Bhubaneswar.

Dr. Sujay K. Singh is the President and CEO of IMGEX Corporation based in San Diego, California. He has over 25 years experience in designing and conducting biomedical research, and has authored numerous publications in this area. He is a graduate of the Berhampur University, Orissa, where he received an M.Sc. in Zoology. He conducted his doctoral research in the laboratory of Dr. Jan Klein at the Max-Planck Institute of Immunogenetics of the University of Tuebingen, Germany. Following his graduation with a Ph.D. in immunogenetics, Dr. Singh continued his studies in molecular biology and immunology as a post-doctoral fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, as a Research Instructor at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, as a visiting scientist at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Germany, and as an Assistant Professor at the Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

In 1992, Dr. Singh joined PharMingen in San Diego, CA, as Director of Cell Biology, where he directed teams conducting research and development of novel reagents. In 1997, he formed IMGEX Corporation (www.ingenex.com), with a goal to develop and commercialize necessary reagents, including a battery of specialty

antibodies, which are used by researchers in the growing field of functional genomics. Under his guidance IMGENEX has grown into a company with active research programs in immunology and genomics, and has commercialized over 700 novel research reagents.

In October 2001, Dr. Singh founded IMGENEX India (pvt) Ltd in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. It is the first biotechnology company in Orissa to develop products, which are used in the emerging fields of genomics and proteomics. At the end of 2004, IMGENEX India will relocate to a state-of-the-art 20,000-sqft facility located in Infocity, Bhubaneswar. IMGENEX India scientists will use the latest technology to produce monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, synthetic peptides, and recombinant proteins, which will be sold worldwide to facilitate genomics and proteomics research. Using local talents and recruiting scientists from other parts of India, IMGENEX India aspires to be a world-class biotechnology company.

The Health & Physical Therapy Seminar

Dear Ms. Das,

The health & Physical therapy seminar was held on Sunday, July 4, 2004 in Equity room 2. There were a total of three speakers in this seminar. I was the first speakers in Health & Physical therapy seminar at OSA convention this year. I am a practicing Occupational Therapist In Imperial, CA. I spoke on the topic ' Therapeutic Exercise and Women's Health. I made an effort to create some general awareness about role of therapeutic exercise in some common women related health conditions like Pregnancy & postpartum period, Osteoporosis in menopausal women, Urinary incontinence, Arthritis and last but not the least Low Back Pain. I also discussed about specific exercises suggested for those health conditions. Besides exercises other form of treatments administered by therapists to manage pain, provision of various kinds of braces, positioning devices and assisting equipments to help patients carryout their daily activities were discussed. The conclusion was therapeutic exercise not only helps us during disease conditions; but also helps us maintaining our general health. I hope the above information regarding my speech will meet your requirement.

The second speaker Swapnila Das, A practicing Psychologist spoke on

childhood & adolescent emotional disorder. She discussed about Autistic behaviour, ADHD, learning disorders, anxiety disorders etc.; their causes and remedies. Third speaker Pradipta ku. Sahu discussed elaborately about various workplace related hand injury/ disorders which included Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Tennis Elbow, DeQuervan's disease, Thumb basal joint Arthritis etc. He also preventive & Therapeutic management of all those conditions. Mr. Sahu is a practicing Occupational Therapist & a certified hand therapist in Texarkana ,TX. At the last moment a visitor from Orissa Mr. P.C. Mishra was allowed some time to speak about medicinal &therapeutic effect of "RUDRAKSHA". He has done some independent studies about it in Orissa. We had some Q/A sessions after each discussion. The number of participating audience was low as there were other seminars especially DR. Kabi Prasad Mishra's speech on Upendra Bhanja was going on at the same time. All the credit goes to Mr. Kailash Sahu who made an effort to gather all of us for this seminar at OSA convention. He introduced all the speakers of this seminar. He himself is a practicing Occupational Therapist in the state of Oklahoma. We hope for better audience participation in such seminars in future.

Thank you.

Priyadarsini Sathpathy

Seminar on Parenting in a Western Land With Eastern Values: A Peer Discussion - Report by Mamata Misra

Dear Bigyani

I did not get the chance to meet you at the convention. So this is my chance to tell you that I have seen and appreciated the nice work you do with the newsletter. The seminar that I was supposed to facilitate did not happen due to lack of attendance. I waited and could have facilitated if a few people (3 or more) had come but nobody came. Therefore I do not

have anything to report.

In case you are wondering why:

1. The time of the seminar was 3-4 pm. The cultural program before it (which was supposed to end at 2:45) ran until 3:45 and the next cultural program was supposed to start at 4:30.
2. Our seminar was for parents. But most parents were too busy getting their children ready for one program or another. They barely had time to stop for tea in between.
3. At conventions most people are there to meet friends and catch up or perform at a program. Seminars are usually of low priority.
4. Two other seminars were scheduled at the same time and the halls where they were scheduled were near the main hall and more visible. So those who were looking for a seminar to go to would naturally stop at the first available one rather than search the program guide for one to choose. There was a program board but nobody seemed to check. Our hall was a little far; no one would accidentally see it unless they were going to a restroom nearby.
5. Some people who have attended my seminars at previous conventions asked me later if I was doing one this year and when I told them that I tried but no one came, they felt disappointed and wished they knew. Even though some folks asked me to try again the next day, I really did not see an empty slot and did not think it was possible.

OSA convention organizers try to squeeze 4 days worth of programs into 2 days and it does not work well. The only convention I have attended where seminars were given importance, and logistics were taken into account well, was one at Monterey a few years ago. I suggest all future organizers to take into account the best practices. In fact, OSA should try to compile a best practices manual for convention organizers if such a thing does not exist since most organizers do not have previous experience in organizing a convention. This manual could be made available on the OSA website.

While my interactive workshop did not happen, several others did and I hope you get good reports to include in your newsletter. If mine had happened I was ready with outline, handouts, and evaluation sheets and

I would have told you if and how participants liked it. Sorry.

Mamata Misra

A Documentary on Fakir Mohan Senapati

Anwesan, meaning search, is a film on the life and works of Vyasa Kabi Phakeer Mohan Senapati (1843-1918). It comes under the category of docu-drama: comprising both documentation and dramatization. The film has won the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's Annual Doordarshan Award in November 2003 as the best docu-drama of the year.

The Oriya people owe their Oriya identity in a large measure to Phakeer Mohan Senapati. He was not only a literary genius but a visionary activist whose well-orchestrated efforts saved the Oriya language from extinction.

It took me six long years to research the topic while simultaneously running from pillar to post in search of funds for the film. I am happy that the project eventually could see the light of the day. Anwesan (the Search) is my way of paying a tribute to this quintessential man Phakeer Mohan Senapati.

I have intentionally chosen a young sutradhar (protagonist) in my film to tell the tale of our rich literary and cultural legacy to the younger generation through someone they can relate to. The onus lies on all of us, and specifically the younger generation, to preserve this heritage and carry it further.

- Monica Das, documentary director and prime mover of the film project.

The film ANWESAN features:

- Dramatization of short story Rebati
- Clippings from the film Chhaman Atha Guntha
- Enactment of Boudhavatara Kabya by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra

- Dramatization of Patent Medicine through puppetry
- Recreation of incidents from Phakeer Mohan's life
- Interviews with celebrities Sachi Rautray, Sitakanta Mohapatra, Akshay Mohanty, Pratibha Ray, Jatin Das (artist), Parbati Ghosh, Namwar Singh, Sisir Das, Asamese writer Indira Goswami, Professor Shweder, and many other eminent personalities.

Bhanja Sahitya Discussion

Upendra Bhanja belonged to late 17th and early 18th century and was no doubt one of the brightest stars in the literary firmament of Orissa. Though, he lived only 40 years, he wrote more than 70 masterpieces and hundreds of songs, bhajans, etc. within this short span of life. Each of his literary works was not only a masterpiece but also comparable to the best ones in Sanskrit and other languages of India.

His range of creative work and the versatility he demonstrated in all his works had no parallel in other prakritic language or even the tradition of classical Sanskrit. Late Bichhanda Charan Patnaik used to say very emphatically that there was not a poet in India comparable to Bhanja nor will there be one in future. It sounds like an over exaggerated superlative assessment of a patriotic Oriya, of Upendra Bhanja, but, in fact, it is almost true if you make a deep study of all his works. His creativity had the magnitude of the Himalayas with unfathomable and immeasurable dimensions in various facets of literary activity. His was an ornamental style of contemporary India and was same as followed by giants like Kalidasa, Magha etc. in the rich Sanskrit tradition. However, he excelled all of them in range and degree of his versatility in this style. Let me give some examples which will illustrate the above statement.

He wrote 3 Ramayanas, the biggest of which was Baidehisha Bilasa, which was his magnum opus. This book was written with all lines, number of cantos, starting with the letter "Ba". This book is of such high standard that it has enabled dozens of students doing Ph.D. in Oriya, on this book alone. It was certainly a masterpiece among the Ramayanas of India. He wrote another Ramayana called Abana Rasa Taranga, which is written without attaching any vowels to letters (ban*). This implied that he had to write the Ramayana without using Rama, Sita, Hanuman, and Ravana etc. Isn't it asking for the impossible!! However, he did with remarkable success. None in the world has achieved this feat.

He is perhaps the only poet in the world who declared that he is left with

no word that he has not used. In his own words, he had "crossed the ocean of vocabulary". In fact, he has used highly Sanskritized and extremely colloquial Oriya words in such harmony in many of his works that it is unimaginable for anyone else to comprehend such majestic creations and dexterity in composing the words.

He has written numerous poems with unbelievable alliterations and various manipulative styles. It can be achieved only by some rare genius, who has total mastery and complete knowledge of the language and vocabulary. To give one example, which has no parallel in world history, he wrote what I call a 3-in-1 style, a complete canto of many stanzas. If you read the poem as such, it gives the description of the rainy season. Then, if you drop the 1st letters of each line, it becomes the description of the winter season, in a different raga. Then, if you drop the 1st 2 letters of each line, it describes the summer season, in another raga. Has anyone in the world achieved this impossible feat.

He is perhaps the only one who wrote a dictionary in poem in a completely different style and design than the routine ones. In this dictionary he gave the meanings of the words arranged alphabetically, sorted by the last character of the word, instead of the first character. It also gave a lot of synonyms of the uncommon words used in Oriya.

He wrote innumerable musical compositions and bhajans, most of which are today recited by singers and dancers in programs in Odissi tradition and school.

He is perhaps the only Oriya poet in that era who refused to write even one stanza in Sanskrit though he was a master of the language. This is the height of his self-respect and pride in his mother tongue i.e. Oriya. In fact, he wrote, in many of his kavyaas, that in Oriya he would excel the styles and range of the classical Sanskrit works. Indeed, he achieved this with a success that has no parallel in the entire literary world of Oriya language.

Thus, Upendra Bhanja was not only the greatest poet of Orissa, the like of which is unlikely to happen again. He was "A KING AMONG THE POETS AND A POET AMONG THE KINGS" in the history of Orissa. We must salute to this genius, not only on this occasion but for many millennia to come.

Oriya Volunteers of North

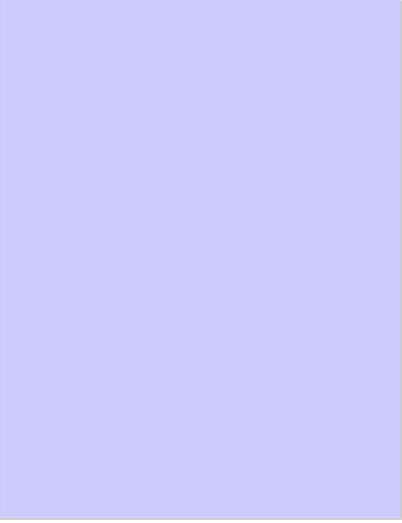
America

Tapasi Misra, San Antonio, Texas

The Volunteers of North America seminar was conceived as a first step towards creating a network and support group for North American Oriyas who are passionate about service and volunteering. The idea was to celebrate the concept of service, recognize individual volunteers and empower them in their efforts to serve their fellow human beings. We were especially interested in people volunteering in local Indian and mainstream American communities. We were looking for men and women who helped out anywhere, in any capacity, from a few hours to long and regular commitments. Given the importance of the topic and the need to not only initiate it in this year's convention but also to sustain it in subsequent conventions, we wanted to get the youth to champion and spearhead this seminar now and in the future.

The seminar drew a group of dedicated volunteers who engaged in extensive discussions for about an hour and half. We talked about various aspects of volunteering, individual objectives, and effects of our service efforts on ourselves, our families, and on our community. The moderator, Sarita Misra, guided the group in an informal and interactive setting. The attendees spoke about their volunteering experiences from working with hospice and terminally ill patients to abused women and underdeveloped children. Sarita Misra related her experiences working with AmeriCorps in rural Orissa. Likun Mishra and Somdutt Behura stressed on the life lessons they learn and the fulfillment they derive from their service efforts. Sukanya Misra talked about the need for little emotional detachment to remain focused and effective. Mamata Misra shared her experiences helping battered women while Devi Misra emphasized the need for North American Oriyas to recognize and deal with the harsh reality of spousal abuse within our own society. Sanjib Mahapatra suggested the need to be more supportive of each other in our service efforts. Jyotsna Dash – a 12 year old from Copperas Cove, Texas - enlightened us about the community outreach activities of girl scouts and added that they do much more than just sell cookies! Tapasi Misra talked about the support group, Swagat, that she has founded in San Antonio to help new Indian immigrants and students in crisis situations.

At the end of the session Chitra Rath announced that she's considering creating and leading a group of volunteers from the local Oriya/Indian



community. Mamata Misra and Sarita Misra distributed handouts about the various volunteering avenues and opportunities. It was a short hour and a half of lively interaction, exchange of information and soul searching. Some of us continued our conversation and discussion in the corridors, lobby, elevators... into the night!

With their faith in the concept of volunteering reconfirmed, every single attendee felt that this seminar should become a regular feature of all OSA conventions, hopefully as a part of youth activities.

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OSA 2004 Convention

OSA 2004 convention was held in Dallas, Texas. The convener Dr Niranjan Tripathy has done a very commendable job. His leadership and tireless work during the convention contributed a lot for the success of the convention. No words would be enough for his appreciation. OSA completed 35 years of existence and another history was made with another convention. Many people created their own stories of convention while being part of the history. Here are the reports.



- [35th OSA Convention held in Dallas, July 2-4, 2004 - by Dr Sitakantha Dash](#)
- [CELEBRATING THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS - by Dr Digambar Mishra](#)
- [The 35th annual OSA convention - A Report by Tapan Padhi, Co-Convener](#)

35th OSA Convention held in Dallas, July 2-4, 2004

Dr Sitakantha Dash, Minnesota

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[**August-September
2004 Special \(For
Kids\)**](#)

35th Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) Convention was a great success and it brought 160 Oriya families and about 600 Oriyas to Dallas, Texas during the weekend of July 2-4, 2004.

Hilton DFW Executive Conference Center was the venue. It was a wonderful facility and the room rate was very reasonable. All functions – seminars, cultural programs, dining took place in the same hotel.



Invest Orissa Symposium was organized on July 2 as a preconvention event. Dr. Rabi Mohapatra, Professor at Texas A&M organized the symposium. Topics included Business Prospects in Orissa, Business Challenges in Orissa, Business Risks in Orissa and Financial Issues and others.

The evening ended with classical music by famous Indrajit Banerjee on sitar, Gouri Shankar on tabla, and mehfil.

Before the inaugural function on July 3 at 10 AM, Mangalika, Spiritual Discourse, Kabita Patha, and Economic Development Seminars were organized.



The inaugural function highlighted Dr. Kabi Misra, the expert on Bhanja Sahitya and Jagannath Culture, Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo, former Chief Secretary of Orissa, current Vice Chancellor of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology and NRO Cell Coordinator, Mr. Patitapaban Pradhan, MP and Mr. Amarendra Khatua, Minister at Ambassador at Large. Dr. Kabi Misra spoke on our rich Oriya culture and encouraged all NROs to contribute to Orissa for its development.



Southwest Chapter members provided the inaugural cultural program – Bridges: connecting Cultures, Generations and Traditions.

Distinguished Oriya award was presented to Jagannath Das (Canada), Kalashree awards to Lata Misra and Arun Das, Gopabandhu Award for Orissa Development to Ranu Mohanty.

The major event of Saturday was Guru Kelucharan Memorial Ceremony. Dr. Purna Patnaik gave the introduction. A confluence of Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Odissi and Kuchipudi produced by Meenakshi Seshadri and Alliance of Classical Indian Dancers of North Texas was presented. It was an outstanding program by a non-Oriya group.

Our top Odissi dancer and student of late Kelucharan Mohapatra, Nandita Behera from California presented Odissi dance – Abhinaya as a tribute to her Guru. Dr. S.K.Dash takes pride for initiating this event with the convention committee.

The afternoon seminars included workshop on parenting challenges, biotech and youth professional.

Dr. Subas Mohapatra arranged Subirna Biswal Award competition. This award has been established by OSA in the name of late Subrina Biswal, daughter of Dr. Nilambar Biswal and Mrs. Anu Biswal. The annual cash award of \$1000.00 has been made possible by the

generous contribution of Dr. Sitakantha Dash and the Biswal family.

After dinner, featured artists Mr. Prafulla Kar, Priyambada Mishra, Patnaik Sisters, Sanjukta Mishra and others provided the cultural program. Mamuni Tripathy and Prachi Mishra provided outstanding Kathak dance.

Mehfil continued up to 3 AM and it was most enjoyable.

Sunday morning program started with Mangalika, Spiritual Discourse by Swamiji on Sanatana Dharma.

The touching story of late Fakir Mohan Senapati as a documentary was presented by Mrs. Monica Das. Orissa Society of Americas under the leadership of the then OSA President Dr. S.K.Dash, Dr. Nitin Joshi and local leader Rabindra Das has spent years of time and money to establish Fakir Mohan Senapati University in Balasore.

General Body Meeting started at 10 AM under the president ship of Dr. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, the OSA President and ended at 12.30 PM. The amendments to OSA constitution proposed by Dr. S.K.Dash and Dr. Amiya Mohanty



were passed. The major amendments are: Separation of OSA Secretary and Treasurer position to OSA Secretary and OSA Treasurer. OSA Secretary, besides handling OSA minutes, will coordinate with NRO Cell in Orissa. OSA Treasurer along with two other members appointed by the OSA President will manage OSA investments. The Treasurer will also supervise convention finances.

The Vice President will act as co-convener and will be in charge of OSA awards.

The chapter president and his/her representatives must be OSA members in good standing. Failure to report funds raised in the name of OSA violates the IRS rules and regulations, and is subject to IRS

action.

An Election Committee was appointed which is headed by Mr. Raju Pati (Wisconsin).

President Bhuyan announced the establishment of NRO Cell by Orissa Chief Minister. Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo will be the coordinator. NRO Cell will conduct among other things – Utkal Divas and OSA Symposium.

The next year's convention will be hosted by the California Oriya group in Disneyland area. Mrs. and Mr. Kirtan Behera, Mrs. and Dr. Purna Patnaik, Mrs. and Mr. Prasanna Panda and others made the announcement on behalf of California Oriya group.



After lunch Dr. Kabi Misra spoke on Bhanja Sahitya. He not only revealed his expertise on the subject but also made it very interesting and entertaining. Everyone enjoyed his presentation and are looking forward to his next presentation in near future.

The other seminar of Sunday afternoon included Volunteering in North America, Health and Physical Therapy.

A tribute was given to Jitendra Haripal of Rangabati fame and a short documentary was presented. Sambalpuri song by Sanjukta Mishra and Sambalpuri dance by Krishnaveni and group were presented.

Pramod Patnaik Inter-Chapter competition took place in Texas Grand Auditorium area. Participants were from Michigan, California, Washington DC, Dallas, Houston and Ozark chapters.

Chha Dokana – an authentic oriya short drama presented by Dr. Brajendra Panda and his group from Ozark got the first prize.



After dinner, cultural program started with songs by Sanjukta Mishra, Prafulla Kar, Debaki Nandan Choudhury and others, and dance by Lara Mishra.

Lata Mishra and Manoranjan Pattnayak presented Patent Medicine, the famous drama by late Fakir Mohan Senapati. It was a great performance by these great artists.



Mehfil continued to 3.30 AM with a group dance headed by convener Dr. Niranjana Tripathy.

The souvenir is a master piece. The 2004 OSA Directory has updated names and addresses of OSA members.

The dinner/lunch for Saturday and Sunday were very good.

The success was due to the combined efforts of the Southern Chapter members and others under the leadership of Dr. Niranjana Tripathy, Convener, Mr. Tapan Padhi, Co-Convener, Mrs. Swati Tripathy, Cultural Committee, Dr. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, President, Mr. Hari Arjuna Patro, Secretary-Treasurer and Bigyani Das, Editor.

CELEBRATING THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS

By Dr Digambar Mishra Birmingham, Alabama

First, it is with great pleasure that I wish to extend my deep appreciation to the organizers of the 35th OSA Convention in Dallas, Texas. We indeed are grateful to Dr. Niranjana Tripathy, the convener, for providing an outstanding leadership. The production quality of the souvenir and the address directory is excellent. The persons in charge deserve our congratulations. The warmth and hospitality of all the members from the South-West Chapter were fabulous. Undoubtedly, the distinguished OSA President, Dr. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan, and the



OSA Secretary, Mr. Hari A. Patro, have tried their best to take our esteemed organization to a higher plateau. The Editor-in Chief, Dr. Bigyani Das, must be complimented for being very innovative in naming the OSA Newsletter as Utkarsa. Dr. Nivedita Mohanty, the Vice President, is widely acknowledged to be a dignified team player.

Chester Barnard, long time and eminent American business executive, has held in his classic book " The Functions of the Executive," that the only objective test of efficiency survival. It is an important thought that should be widely pondered relative to our dear OSA. Other tests of efficiency are largely if not wholly subjective, reflecting special values of individuals or groups. One person may regard that the OSA is most efficient because it saves most membership dues in the bank. A charge of inefficiency often refers to not keeping most of the membership dues in bank. It nearly always means that efficiency is being considered in terms of some special criteria not identical with the individual values. Suffice to say that the OSA has survived for thirty-five years and is doing all right.

The editor has been very gracious to ask me to record my experiences at the Convention. I know there are shortcomings as well as advantages of being strictly an observer. I learned long ago the important differences between the views of an observer and the views of those informed by their intimate involvement with the officials running an organization. Let me just record a few things that I observed at the Convention.

1. The 35th Convention was heavily attended by young folks, especially the computer professionals. Almost all of them saw the OSA president and his advisors as their gurus in high tech. Seminars in computer and high-tech areas were naturally preferred over the issues - social, political, economic - that traditionally received importance beginning with the Nashville convention in 1989. In that convention, I was in charge of holding seminars and, together, we offered quality seminars for youth, women, high-tech personnel, and seniors. I believe this tradition continued until the 2002 Convention (hosted by the Maryland-Virginia Chapter). Regretfully, the organizers rejected the proposal to have a seminar for women. All of them were very disrespectful to women. The 2003 Convention in New Jersey (hosted by OSANY) tried its best to hold all seminars but the allocated time slots had serious conflicts. The Dallas Convention just did not pay any attention to the women's seminar at all. However, other seminars were held simultaneously that deprived many folks to miss one or the other.

We humbly submit that, in future, the organizers should show respect to Oriya women by having them organize a seminar at a time slot that will not have cultural programs or other sessions. It is appropriate, perhaps very urgent, that we organize three seminars - youth, women, and general - neatly and with dignity. Traditionally, these three have

been organized by the OSA officials, of course, in cooperation with the host chapter.

2. A number of changes were proposed in form of amendments to the existing OSA Constitution at the general body meeting. As a matter of fact, all amendments were ratified by a handful of members present and voting. Since some of the amendments, including the one to have a three-member committee headed by the newly created Treasurer (the other two to be appointed by the president) are of far reaching consequences, they should have been sent by mail to all voting members. While we do not want to overly legalistic, the "Quorum" issue can not be ignored.

Moreover, it is unwise not to have the president and the immediate past president as members of this very important committee. My suggestions were rejected.

3. It appears the president is very reluctant to spend money in critical areas at the Convention for fear of criticism. He must be complimented for raising nearly \$12,000 within a year. I feel good that we finally voted to give \$5,000 to the host chapter to supplement the cost of the Souvenir.

I would like to suggest that the elected officials continue vigorous campaign to recruit members in different categories and spend a reasonable amount in the hospitality area -coffee, tea, soft drinks, and snacks- to serve those who spend a lot of money to celebrate the Oriya pride at the annual convention. It does not make much sense to save all the money for the future.

I know I was heavily criticized by a handful of my fellow members for spending money to bring invitees from Orissa during my tenure. I respectfully heard them but I had an ambition to raise the stature of the organization. Well, if you raise money you can seek a mandate to spend some of it.

Finally, I must end with a positive note by thanking those of us who make it a point to attend the OSA conventions regularly. Many of us are graying and our regular attendance might be affected sooner or later. Therefore, I would like to appeal to our younger friends to get passionately involved with the OSA and become a part of the community celebration at the convention each year. We must love our

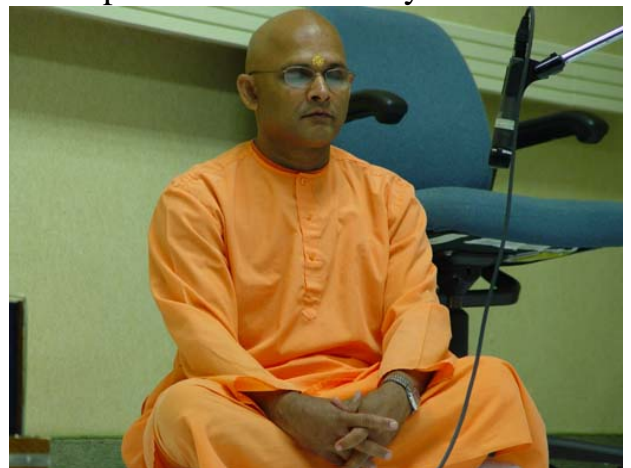
dear OSA.

The 35th annual OSA convention - A Report by Tapan Padhi, Co- Convener

The 35th annual OSA convention was held in Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Dallas during July 2 – July 4. OSA South West Chapter presented three days of fun filled cultural program and activities with emphasis on Oriya ancestral pride and Oriya culture, conducted seminar/symposiums of critical importance to growth of Orissa and above all served delicious Oriya food to all attendees. Information about this year OSA Convention in Dallas can be found in website: www.osa2004.org.

On Friday July 2, many Oriya entrepreneurs, potential investors, industry representatives, and Orissa/India government representatives attended “Invest Orissa Symposium”. The focus of the symposium was to recognize Bhubaneswar, as an attractive venue for IT related investment. Professor Rabi Mohapatra of Texas A&M University chaired the program, Mr Ashok Khuntia and Mr. Tapan Padhi coordinated the program arrangements and representatives from Infosys, Satyam , NRI Entrepreneurs conducted discussion panels. Issues, constraints and practical viewpoints of experienced Entrepreneurs about investing in Orissa were identified and discussed. Veteran Oriya diplomats Mr. Sahadev Sahoo and Mr. Amrendra Khatua provided valuable inputs.

Early morning Bhajan Session and spiritual discourses by Swami Shranananda of Chicago provided the pious beginning of the convention each day. The activities for the day followed packed with many planned seminars, poetry reading sessions conducted by Mrs Arati Pati and Mrs Bigyani Das and various cultural programs.



Inaugural program started on Saturday, July 3, 10 AM. Dr. Niranjan Tripathy – Convener, formally inaugurated the convention by welcoming the attendees and invited guests. Dr. Laxminarayan Bhuyan – President presided the meeting. Mr. Hari Arjun Patro – Secretary/Treasurer presented the OSA report and distributed the awards. Invited Guests Dr. Kabi Prasad Mishra, Mr. Amarendra Khatua and Mr Patitapaban Pradhan gave the keynote speech. Mr Tapan Padhi – Co-Convener gave the vote of thanks.



Inaugural cultural program set the tone of the convention by astounding performance by participants from Southwest Chapter. The theme of the convention “BRIDGES”, symbolic cultural link between older generation and new generation, was scripted by Shri Gurukrushna Goswami and musically composed by renowned Oriya music director Shri Shantanu Mohapatra. Variations on this theme were played through collaborative efforts between the host and other chapters. “BARA MASA TERA PARBA” (Twelve months and thirteen Festivals), a dance and song medley performed by local members and their families, was the highlight of the inaugural program.



A special session was dedicated to paying tribute to the life and achievements of Padma Bibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, with

Odissi dance by Nandita Behera and Patnaik Sisters, live Odissi song, slide show, posters and prayers. The highly impressive “Ganesha Vandana” was choreographed by Meenakshi Seshadri and was performed by Indian classical dance teachers and students of DFW metropolis.



A special screening session was conducted for a critically acclaimed film on Fakir Mohan Senapati. Director-producer Ms Monica Das, Professor of Economics in Delhi University who also happens to be the great grand daughter of Fakir Mohan Senapati, presented this Door Darshan Award winning documentary film. Born in Balasore, Vyasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati (1843-1918) has considerable repute as poet, scholar, and social reformer and is regarded as the father of original Oriya fiction.

Dr. Devi Mishra conducted the Orissa Economic development seminar. Dr. Ranjan Patnaik, provided a general introduction to Biotech Seminar and why Orissa is a good destination for biotech related investment. Dr. Sujay K. Singh discussed the prospects of biotech related ventures in Orissa. Shri Sahadeva Sahoo, a veteran administrator and educationist, discussed his vision of the NRO center and future of biotech in Orissa. Mr. Kailash Sahoo coordinated the seminar on Health and Physical Therapy. Mrs. Mamata Misra and Mrs. Tapasi Misra conducted discussions on volunteering in North America. Dr. K P Misra known for his brilliant oratory on diverse subjects ranging from science, arts, and culture to spirituality gave lecture on Bhanja Sahitya during a special session.

The most interesting part in the cultural activities was the Subrina Biswal Competition for the special talent among the youngsters. This year, talented Oriya kids from US and Canada displayed artistic talent on musical instruments such as violin, guitar and tabla (percussion), and performed on stage Odissi, Bharat Natyam, Smabalpuri dance etc. much to the amusement of audience.

The first prize in the Promod Patnaik inter chapter cultural competition was won by Arkansas Team for their drama on “ Dhusa Bhai Cha Dokan”. The hilarious drama was well performed by Dr. Brajendra Panda, Souma Das, Sudhansu Panda and others. Local Dallas chapter presented a political satire drama directed by Sanjay Mishra. NY, Michigan, Houston chapter members presented very impressive plays.

Dr. Swati Tripathy coordinated excellent cultural program during the convention making sure that the attendees have a lasting impression of the Convention. With diligent effort of Santanu Das, Sandip Mohapatra, Subhendu Rath and Sanjay Mishra and other volunteers, the cultural programs were conducted smoothly.



Special and unique this time to OSA attendees was the delicious Oriya food comprising of Pakhala, Kankada Jhola etc. arranged by Mr. Mukesh Sahoo and his team. Mr Omkar Rath worked tirelessly for fund raising and helped setting up various vendor stalls during Convention. Registration was well coordinated by Mr. Dharendra Behera, Mr. Laxmikant Das and Mr. Lokanath Patro. Highlight of the registration packet the Video CD created by Dr. Niranjan Tripathy and Debasish Nanda, was a tribute to renowned Oriya music directors and singers who had performed in USA in various cities.

The OSA directory and Journal edited by Dr. Sikhanda Satapathy and Mr Tapas Sahoo captured the attention and imagination of each and every attendee. Mr Santanu Das designed the killer web site

www.osa2004.org and performed the audiovisual coordination throughout the cultural show. Mr Raj Patro coordinated all Youth activities and arranged for games, DJ and BBQ dinner for the youngsters. Extended after-hour session of Mehfil were coordinated by Subhendu Rath and Sukant Mohapatra where the professionals and the amateurs came together to display and discover their cultural talents. For some, it was the perfect time to catch up with old friends.

Renowned musician, composer and singer who created waves in his time with famous songs of Oriya film "Mamata", our dear, none other than Shri Prafulla Kar was the "esteemed invited Artist from Orissa". He mesmerized the audience with his newly composed Oriya songs and impressive tune. Young artist Mr. Srinivasa from California shared the podium with Shri Prafulla Kar and displayed his versatility by singing various popular Oriya songs. It was a daunting task for cultural coordinators to provide Shri Parafulla Kar enough time on the stage. At the end, everything ended well and the attendees whole-heartedly applauded and appreciated the effort of Shri Kar, who accepted the invitation in a short notice and entertained the Oriya music lovers during the convention.

Convention of such magnitude was highly successful due to countless hours of dedication, hard work and planning by many volunteers who contributed all their effort under the inspired guidance and help from OSA Secretary Mr Hari Arjun Patro, Convener Dr Niranjan Tripathy and Co-convener Mr. Tapan Padhi. The financial help from Diamond Sponsor Mr Surya Sahoo and Mrs. Kabita Sahoo provided the initial impetus for the grand planning of the Convention. The challenges for the organizers were meticulously met by making sure that all program schedule and responsibility are well assigned, by keeping the comfort of the guests as the top priority and by making the availability of volunteers for attendees to help any time and above all starting the program always in time. After this fun filled three days of OSA Convention, every attendee had one remark in common about the convention - "awesome".

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Poems

Two poems were missed from the OSA Souvenir 2004. OSA Souvenir committee apologizes for the mistake. We are thus publishing the missed articles in this issue of Utkarsa. We also plan to include the poems in the printed version of Utkarsa. The bonus poem "Seneha Suruja" is written specifically for Raksha Bandhan.

- [The Most Beautiful Sight \(Swadha Rath\)](#)
- [To You, My Mother \(Nirbachita Dash\)](#)
- [Seneha Suruja \(Bigyani Das\)](#)

The Most Beautiful Sight

Swadha Rath

I opened the drapes of my hotel window
Behind the mountains I could see your glow
Little by little the bright orange
I could see peep out of the mountain range

I could not believe my eyes
This was indeed the most beautiful sight!

The snow-capped mountains miles away
Your beauty took my breath away
I stood there hypnotized by the sight
With pounding heart and transfixed eyes

Unable to move from your enchanting hold
I watched you emerge like a pot of gold
A perfect circle of bright yellow
Your wonderful glare enhanced the snow

Right before my very eyes
You rose into the clear blue skies
I could not gaze you in the eye
Your dazzle was about to make me blind

As evening came you changed again

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From yellow to orange to bright red
You went back to your hiding place
Leaving us all in sublime darkness

The mountains on the opposite side
Kept you hidden throughout the night?

I sat there wondering where you were
Why I could not see your flare
I was sure you moved during the night
You always appeared on the opposite side

Help me open my heart's window
I want to see you wherever you go
With open or with closed eyes
In darkness or in bright daylight

Swadha and her husband, Pradeep, were long time residents of Houston, Texas. They now live in Las Vegas, Nevada. Swadha is the daughter of famous writers Durga Madhab Misra and Shoilarani Misra. This poem was written during one of her assignments in Portland, Oregon when she witnessed the beautiful and unforgettable sunrise at 5:00 AM – it truly was a spiritual moment.
swadharath@hotmail.com

To you, my mother

Nirbachita Dash

Thinking of you in thousand words,
not one to describe you in your entirety.
The night and its obscure depths,
resides within your somber eyes.
Yet there are tales to tell,
Of the vagaries of life, an unbidden guest.
Echoes of a distant dream,

resounding in every shard of broken emotions.

But faith was ever so strong,
a life force indomitable in you.
And when hope burst in flames,
the fiery flames never scorched you.
You gathered the ashes in your hands,
and let life roll by.
Braiding love in every twist & turn,
of the frayed fabric of our lives.
Far from you, I carry your presence
soaked in each bit of my existence.
Longing to grasp the hand,
that lead me always.

Nirbachita Dash lives in Shakopee, Minnesota with her husband Sudipta Tripathy, and loves to read and write poetry.

Seneha Suruja

ସେନେହ ସୁରୁଜ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ଦାସ

ହୃଦୟର ବସିତାରେ
ସୁନ୍ଦର ଫୁଲଟିଏ ଫୁଟିଛି;
ରଙ୍ଗର ମୁରୁଜ ପକାଇ
ଆନନ୍ଦର ମହକ ଛୁଟାଇ
ମମତାର ନୁପୁର ପିନ୍ଧି
ପବନର ତାଳେ ତାଳେ
ମନଖୋଲା ଶୀତ ଗାଲ
ତୁସି ତୁସି ନାଚୁଛି ।

ଫୁଲଟି ଅତି ସୁନ୍ଦର ଭାବେ ବଢ଼ିଛି;
ପ୍ରତି ପାଖୁତାରେ ତାର
ଅସୁମାରୀ ଆଶା,
ଅଗଣିତ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ;
ଭାଇର ସେନେହ ସୁରୁଜ
ସେ ଫୁଲରେ ଉପାପ ଭରିଛି,
ଆଶୀର୍ଷର ସଞ୍ଜିବନୀ ଜଳ
ଭାଇ ତାର ସତନେ ସିଞ୍ଚିଛି ।

ଆଜି ଏ ରାକ୍ଷୀର ଦିନରେ
ଗୁଢ଼ିଛି ମୁଁ ମାଳାଟିଏ
ସେଇ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଫୁଲର ପାଖୁତାରେ
ବାନ୍ଧିଦେବି ସେ ମାଳାକୁ

ମୋ ସ୍ନେହର ତୋରି କରି
ଭାଇର ହାତରେ;
ବାନ୍ଧିଦେବି ଭାବନା,
ଆଶା ଓ ହୃଦୟର ଗୁଠି କଥା
ମାଗିନେବି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମରଙ୍ଗଠାରୁ ଆଶୀର୍ଷୀତ
ମୋ ଭାଇର ପୁଖ ପାଇଁ, ଶାନ୍ତି ପାଇଁ
ହିତ ପାଇଁ, ସମନର ସାର୍ଥକତା ପାଇଁ ।

ଭାଇ ସେ, ଭଉଣୀର ମାନ
ସଙ୍ଗଟର ସାଥୀ, ସାହସ, ଭରସା
ଅଜ୍ଞାରରେ ପଥ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶକ
ଭାଇ ପାଖେ ଜାନ୍ଧିବାରେ
ସଂଜାତ ନ ଥାଏ;

ଭୁଲି ଗଲେ
ଶୋଚନା ନ ଥାଏ;
ଭାଇ ସେ, ଅତୁରଙ୍ଗ ବନ୍ଧୁ,
କ୍ଷମାଶୀଳ, ସ୍ନେହଶୀଳ,
ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମରଙ୍ଗ ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ଉପହାର;

ଭଉଣୀଟି ଜେବଳ
ଆଶୀର୍ଷୀତ ତାହେଁ,
ସ୍ନେହ ତାହେଁ,
ତାହେଁ ଚିର ବନ୍ଧୁତାର ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି
ପ୍ରତିଦିନ, ପ୍ରତି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ
ଜାମନା ଓ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ତାର
ଭାଇର ପୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ମଙ୍ଗଳ ।



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What do our guests say?

Thanks to you, Budhi and all other friends for all your love, affection and wonderful hospitality. I was sincerely overwhelmed with the kind of warm response I received from a cross section of wonderful and well-informed people of Orissa and other NRIs of USA, everywhere. Our best wishes to all of you in OSA.

Dr. Kabi Misra's letter to Dr Sitakantha Dash

Announcements (NRO Day in December, 2004):

Dear all

Today I applied for reservation of Jayadev Bhawan and also requested CM to be the chief Guest on Dec 18. I think both will come out 'yes' within a day or two. CM has it seems approved nomination of three secretaries to be on Board of NROFC. A small room in IPICOL building which I think should be inaugurated by CM on Dec 18 through a web camera placed at Jaydev Bhawan.

Sahadeva Sahoo, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Congratulations:

[OSA 2004 Seminar Report](#)

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Congratulations to Swati Mishra, Richmond, VA.

Swati graduated from High School and will be attending The College of William and Mary in this Fall. Swati is the daughter of Drs Munmaya and Bidyu Mishra of Richmond, VA.

Congratulations to Meghamala Sahu (Joly), Silver Spring, MD for tying the knot with Vipul N. Shah on July 8, 2004.



The marriage lasted for two days with Mangana celebration on July 7th and Bibaha on July 8th. The mangana was celebrated with traditional puja, installation of mangana-handi, during the day and a grand party during the evening. The friends and family members cheered, and sang, children danced and everybody enjoyed the celebration.

Congratulations to the parents Dr Saura and Jharana Sahu.

NEWS

Flag hoisting by Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist as Rajashree Shaw, Dr. Krishan Batra, Satya Shaw (Event Chairman), Dr. Akshay Desai, Dr. Pawan Rattan(FIA President), Dr. Ramappa and Dr. Emandi looked on.

India's Independence Day Celebration

Tampa, FL-August 23, 2004-Federation of Indian Associations of Tampa Bay organized the 58th India's Independence Day celebration on Saturday, August 21,2004 at the India Cultural Center.The chief Guest Mr. Charlie Crist, Florida Attorney General was welcomed by Mrs.Rajashree Shaw with floral garlands.The event began with Flag hoisting by Mr.Charlie Crist , followed by children singing the national anthems of U.S. and India.The Bollywood Orchestra played patriotic songs. Shri Satya Shaw, Chairman of the event welcomed the guests, and invited Presidents of 24 associations to the dias and requested the chief guest to light the lamp on the dias and invited Ms. Amritha Sastry to begin the program with a Prayer dance.Mr.Shaw in his speech said that, India, the largest democracy and US, the oldest democracy, were natural allies and their relationship is growing stronger, and he reminded the audience that India is our "Janmabhumi" and the US is our "Karmabhoomi" and we need to maintain a proper balance between the two..He

then requested Dr.Pawan Rattan, President of FIA to address the audience.Dr.Rattan requested the audience to observe a moment of silence for the victims of Hurricane Charley.He then encouraged the youth to get involved in the political process. Dr.Rattan also thanked Mr.Chandra Patel (FIA Founding President) for uniting the Tampa Bay Indian Community.He then invited Dr.Akshay Desai to introduce the Chief Guest.Mr.Crist spoke about growing Indo-US relations and how terrorism had affected the people of both countries. He also denounced and condemned cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. This was followed by the presentaion of Bharat Seva award to Dr.Atul Chokshi for his outstanding work in providing free medical services to the poor people in India. Because Dr. Chokshi and the presenter Mr. Chandra Patel were unable to attend , the award was presented by Andy Rugani and Kirit Desai and accepted by Dr. Saurabh Chokshi. Dr. Akshay Desai was presented Distinguished Achievement Award for being appointed as one of only 14 commissioners by President Bush on commission for Asian American Pacific Islander.

Dr. Shyam Mahapatra gave vote of thanks to the event sponsorees and specially thanked Himmatlal Parikh, Ashok Mehta, Kanti Bakarania, Swapna Shah, Raghuram Shetty, Jyothi Venkatachalam and Gopa Rautray. The Highlights of the cultural program were performances by over hundred children and a

musical concert by Bollywood Orchestra. Dr. Sonal Shah was the Master of ceremonies. More than 1,800 people attended the program.

The entertainment was sponsored by Mr. Satya Shaw, CPA. Food was provided by Mr. Raxit Shah, and dinner was co-ordinated by Rashmi and Ram Jakhotia.

Bottled water was provided by Ekal Vidyalaya.

Obituaries

Jnyana-Pitha Award Winner Sachidananda Routray, Cuttack, Orissa

Sachi Routray (88), one of the pioneers of progressive writing in India who was honored with the Jnanpith Award in 1988 passed away at Cuttack on August 21, 2004. He died of a protracted illness in a nursing home where he was shifted to after his condition deteriorated a few days ago. Acclaimed as one of the pioneers of modern Oriya poetry, Routray received the Padmashree in 1962 and the Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1965. Born at Gurunjanga near Khurda, Sachi started writing at the age of 11. The British banned two of his patriotic poems between 1939-43.



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August-September Special (For Kids)

In August and September, several important and auspicious days are celebrated in Orissa as well as in other parts of India. Although some of the celebrations differ in the rules of rituals, the tradition is founded on the same belief. We describe some of these festivals below. The children might explore more on these festivals by either asking questions to their parents or researching through books/internet. These festivals are:

- [Gahma Purnima, Raksha Bandhan \(August 30\) - Khudurukuni Osa and Jhulana Jatra](#)
- [Guru Divas \(September 5\)](#)
- [Janmastami \(September 6\)](#)
- [Ganesh Puja \(September 18\)](#)

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What to do?

Sisters - Tie a thread around your brother's right hand wrist. Arrange a plate with some vermilion powder (sindur), turmeric powder (haldi), sweets and a lamp (Deepa). Offer the sweets to the Lord. Then tie the rakhi, put "haldi" and "sindur" on your brother's forehead, do "bandapana" to your brother, and finally feed him sweets.

Brothers - Extend your hand when your sister ties the rakhi. In your mind make a promise that you will always protect her, support her and help her. Make her happy by offering your help, or giving some present, money etc.

The word "raksha means protection and "bandhan" means bond. Thus "rakhsha bandhan" is the bond of love that is expressed by the sister when she ties the silken thread around her brother's right hand wrist, and prays God for the blessings for the well being of her brother.

In exchange, her brother extends his wrist with a promise of his protection over her. Raksha bandhan is thus the story of the affection between a brother and his sister.

In Orissa, on Raksha Bandhan day, priests tie rakhis on their patrons and in return receive offerings from them. It's also observed as the sacred thread changing ceremony or "Abhiseka" when the old "paitA" is replaced by a new one.



If you have a sister, you are very lucky. You have somebody who prays for you, who feels for you and who wishes your prosperity, happiness and success. If you have a brother, you are also lucky. You have somebody with whom you can always share your secrets, and never repent. You can cry loudly in front of him without being ashamed and you can always count on him as a good friend. If you do not have a brother, you are not alone; you have the God. Buy a silken thread and tie around Lord's wrist. He will be behind you. If you do not have a sister, also consider the Lord as your well wisher, who desires your success and prosperity. Celebrate Raksha Bandhan with happiness and cheer.

Khudurukuni Osa: In Orissa, traditionally Rakhi Purnima is celebrated as Gahma Purnima. (Raksha Bandhan as it is understood is the tradition adopted from North India). From the Sunday before this Purnima, "Khudurukuni Osa" (Bhalukuni Osa) starts. That means, this year Khudurukuni Osa should start on Sunday, August 29th. Khudurukuni Osa is observed by the unmarried girls for a month on Sundays. Khudurukuni is considered as Mother Mangala (Durga, Parvati). The girls do the puja for the well being of their brothers. from the morning they collect flowers and engage themselves in making garlands and decorating the place of worship. The puja is performed in the evening by reading the book about "Ta-apoi", the luckiest sister of seven brothers who was tortured by the six sister-in-laws in her brother's absence and prayed Mother Mangala for her brothers' safe return.

Usually seven to twenty families can arrange Khudurukuni puja in one place. The other festival that is celebrated for brothers in Orissa is "Bhai Jountia" in Western Orissa during October.

Jhulana Purnima: Vaishnavas celebrate this day as Jhulana Purnima or the Swing festival which is observed in most of the Vishnu temples. It begins from the tenth day of the bright fort-night and culminates on the Purnima day. The images of Radha and Krishna are placed on beautifully decorated swings and nights are spent with singing and dancing in front of the deities. This festival is celebrated in Puri as an important festival of Lord Jagannath. The festival in the temple was first initiated by the Gajapati King Dibyasingha Dev-II (1793-1798).

(Thanks to Birendra Babu, Dr Birendra Jena for making suggestions which motivated the writings for the above two paragraphs)

Guru Dibas – Teacher's Day **(September 5)**

What to do?

Do you have a favorite teacher? Then go and express your appreciation for that teacher. Write a "Thank You" letter to the teacher, or help him/her in getting ready for the semester. In India we make

garlands for the teachers. Here you may do that if you have some Indian teachers.

Why do we celebrate?

In India, we celebrate September 5, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birthday as Teacher's day (Guru Dibas). This day is reserved to express our gratitude and appreciation for our teachers.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was born on September 5, 1888 in Tirutani. He was a great teacher of his time and held professorships in Eastern Religion and Ethics at Oxford. He was also Chancellor of Delhi University and Vice Chancellorship of Banaras Hindu University. Radhakrishnan was appointed Indian Ambassador to the USSR in 1949. He then became the Vice President of India in 1952 and was finally elected as President of India in 1962.

The importance of a good teacher in life cannot be ignored. In ancient days students spent years in the teacher's house to learn. If the guru gives his grace, of course we will attain to God! Education is life. This is essential for the development of individuals as well as for the development of a nation. A teacher is thus a significant figure in the society. The teachers play vital roles in contributing to the development of moral, ethical, spiritual and social values in the minds of the children. There is undiluted respect for teachers or Gurus in Indian tradition. Guru is the one who dispels the darkness of ignorance and illuminates the mind with the lamp of knowledge.

There are four types of teachers; Pita Guru, Mata Guru, Siksha Guru and Diksha Guru. Father and Mother as teachers have unique identity. Diksha Guru is only one. Siksha Gurus are many. They are the teachers who teach us in schools, colleges, universities etc. There are also other teachers who teach us different skills such as music, dance, cooking, driving and they should also be respected for their contribution to our lives.

The significance of the word "guru" is inexpressible. What the guru is cannot be understood by words or explanations. Therefore in our guru pranam we say:

Om akhanda mandalakaram byaptam jena
characharam

Tatpadam darshitam jena tasmai shree gurabe
namoh

Guru bramha guru vishnu gururdeva maheshwaram
Gurureba param bramhan tasmai shri gurube
namoh

Agyana timirandhashya gyananjana shalakaya
Chakshurunmilitam jena tasmai shri gurabe namoh.

Translation:

He whose presence occupies the infinite universe,
Salutations to my guru for revealing this truth.

The guru embodies Bramha, he is Bishnu, he is
Maheswara

He is the ultimate Bramhan, Salutation to Shri
Guru.

He removes the dark blindness of ignorance, with the light of knowledge,
Salutation to the Guru. Who has opened my eyes.

Meaning:

I offer my respectful obeisances unto my spiritual master, who with the torchlight of knowledge has opened my eyes, which were blinded by the darkness of ignorance. What is the word guru? The word guru means he who in the midst of great darkness shows us light; he who removes the darkness; he who lights the lamp of wisdom in us; he who makes us see within ourselves the light of Parabrahma, Paramatma; he is the guru.

Janmastami (September 6)

What to do?

If you can do fasting, that would be better. Otherwise, just eat vegetarian food. Go to a temple and recite the following stanzas from "Sri Krishna Astakam". There are other "slokas" that you may recite in Lord Krishna's praise. If you have Gods in your house, you can recite in front of Lord Krishna's statue in your house too.

Vasudevasutam devam kamsa caanura mardanam
Devaki paramanandam Krsnam vande jagadgurum
Atasi puspa samkaasam haaranupura sobhitam
Ratna kankana keyuram Krsnam vande jagadgurum
Kutilalaka samyuktam purna candra nibhaananam
Vilasat kundala dharam devam Krsnam vande

jagadgurum

Translation:

I salute Lord Krishna, the Universal spiritual Teacher, who is the son of Devaki and Vasudeva, who always gives mental happiness to his mother Devaki and who kills the demons Kamsa and

Chanura. I salute Lord Krishna, the Universal Guru [Teacher] of Truth, who is equal to the flax flower and who is wearing jewels around his neck, who is wearing bracelets on his two arms. I salute Lord Krishna, whose hair always curls like ringlets around His face, who wears earrings and whose face is equal to the full moon.



Ganesh Puja (September 18)

What to do?

Join the puja celebration if your family makes the puja arrangement or go to the temple to perform the puja. Recite the slokas for Lord Ganesh that are discussed below. Organize some of your favorite books and keep it near the puja place for Lord Ganesh's blessings. Eat vegetarian food.

Ganesh Puja is the birthday of Lord Ganesh. This falls on the 4th day of Bhadrava Shuklapaksha of the Hindu calendar. Ganeshji is the God of learning and good fortune. Ganesh is worshiped all over

India. He is addressed as the "Remover of Obstacles" (Bighnaraja). In sanskrit "gana" means "multitude" and "Isa" means "Lord". Thus Ganesha literally means the "Lord of all beings". Ganesh is also known as "Gajanana" (elephant faced – Gaja: Elephant, Ananan: face).

The four arms of Ganesh represent mind, intellect, ego and consciousness. The axe in his hand symbolizes the destruction of all desires and attachments. The rope in his other hand is meant to pull the seeker out of the worldly attachments and bind in the everlasting bliss.



In Maharashtra, Ganesh is worshiped with glamour for about 7-10 days. Ganesh puja is the largest festival in Maharashtra. Huge figures of Ganesh are paraded in grand procession accompanied by songs of devotion and drumming.

In Orissa, Ganesh is mostly worshiped in educational institutions on this day. Festivities include gorgeous clothing and decoration of the God. There are entertainment programs and invocational songs lasting from 3-5 days.

In Odissi dance, Ganesha Mangalacharan dance is presented with the following sloka for Lord

Ganesha

Mushikavaahana modaka hastha,
Chaamara karna vilambitha sutra,
Vaamana rupa maheshwara putra,
Vighna vinaayaka paada namasthe

MEANING: "O Lord Vinayaka! the remover of all obstacles, the son of Lord Shiva, with a form which is very short, with mouse as Thy vehicle, with sweet pudding in hand, with wide ears and long hanging trunk, I prostrate at Thy lotus-like Feet!"

Some Ganesh slokas used in Oriya Ganesh Puja

om, shukLAmbara dharam biSnum shshIbarnam
chaturbhujam
prasanna-badanam dhyAet sarbabighnopa-
shANtaye

Meaning: I meditate upon the deity Lord Bighneswar for the removal of all obstacles; the Lord who is all pervading and wears a white garment, who has bright complexion like full moon, who has four hands, and who has ever-smiling face.

namo Ganesha bighnesha
giriJA nandana prabho
mama bighna binAshAya
GaNAdhipataye namah

Meaning: I salute Lord Ganesh, who is the

remover of all obstacles, who is is son of Girija (Parvati, the daughter of the mountain). Please take away my obstacles, I salute you the Lord of the mass.

vakratuNDa mahAkAya sUryakoTisamaprabha
nirvighnaM kuru me deva sarvakAryeshhu sarvadA
||

Meaning: O Ganapati, One with a curved trunk, a large body, and a brilliance equal to a crore (10 million) suns! O God, please make all my undertakings free from obstacles always.

ekadantam mahAkAyam lambodara gajAnanam
bighna nAshakaram debam heramam
praNamAmyaham ||

AUM sarvasthuulatanuM gajendravadanaM
lambodaraM sundaraM
praspandaM
madagandhalubdhamadhupavyaalolagaNDasthalam
.

dantaaghaatavidaaritaarirudhiraiH
sinduurashobhaakaraM
vande shailasutaasutaM gaNapatiM sidhipradaM
kaamadaM

Here is a bhajan for Lord Ganesh in Hindi:

Jai Gañesh Jai Gañesh Jai Gañesh Devã
Mātã Jãki Pãrvati Pitã Mahãdevã
Ek dant deyãvant chãr bhujãdãri
Mãthe par tilak sohe moos ki sawãri

Pān chaḍhe phool chaḍhe aur chaḍhe mevā
Laḍḍuon kā bhog lage sant karen sewā, Jai
Gañesh...

Andhe ko ānkh det koḍhin ko kāyā
Bhānjhan ko putra det nirdhan ko māyā
Soor shām sharañ āye saphal keeje sewā
Mātā Jāki Pārvati Pitā Mahādevā, Jai Gañesh...

Jai Ganaraya Shree Ganaraya
Mangala Moorti Moraya
Siddhi Vinayaka Mangala Data
Asta Vinayaka Mangala Dayaka
Mangala Moorti Moraya
Sindoora Vadana Pankaja Charana
Ganapathi Paapa Moraya
Mangala Moorti Moraya