

*Editors: Sridhar Rana & Julie Acharya Ray*

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### From the Editor's desk:

Welcome to the December 2010 issue of Utkarsa. In this edition you will find a glimpse of Odia life, Odia activities across North Americas. Little bud fashioned with traditional Odissi costumes dances to the tune of chirping birds; humble soul beats the tiredness acting to Odia novels and dramas; a selfless volunteer proudly strives to propagate Odia language in this part of the world. Also, you will find a call for OSA 2011 election, reports from office bearers, current status of OSA as well as Chapter Reports. We bid good bye to 2010 with heavy hearts for departed souls.

With hopes that 2011 will energize us, will bring us prosperity in health and strength of character, we wish you a Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Editors,  
Sridhar Rana  
Julie Acharya Ray  
29 December 2010



**UTKARSA**

**A Quarterly OSA Newsletter**

*A reflection of Odia life, Odia voice in North Americas*





## President's Message

ପ୍ରିୟ ଓସା ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ

ଶୁଭ ନୂଆବର୍ଷ ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅନେକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ । ନୂଆବର୍ଷ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ, ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ପରିବାର ଓ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସୁଖପ୍ରଦ ଓ ଶୁଭପ୍ରଦ ହେଉ ।

ପ୍ରତିଥର ଭଳି ପୁଣି ଏ ଖୁସିର ରତ୍ନ, ନୂଆବର୍ଷର ନବ୍ୟରୂପ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଆମମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଜଣାଇଛି । ଏ ସମୟ ଖୁସିର ସମୟ, ପ୍ରଶଂସାର ସମୟ, ପ୍ରିୟ, ପରିଜନ ମେଳରେ ସମୟ ବିତାଇ ଇଶ୍ଵରଙ୍କ ସୃଷ୍ଟିର ଦୁର୍ଲଭ ଉପହାର 'ସଂପର୍କ' କୁ ଅନୁଭବ କରିବାର ସମୟ । ଆଧୁନିକ ଯୁଗର ଚଳଚଞ୍ଚଳତା ଓ ଦ୍ରୁତ ସହିତ ଆହୁରି କେତେକ ପରାକ୍ରମୀ ଶକ୍ତି ମିଶି ମଣିଷ ମଣିଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଦୂରତା ବଢାଇ ଚାଲିଛି । ତେବେ ସମୟର ଏ ଶୁଭବେଳାରେ ସେ ସବୁ ଦୁଃଖ ଶକ୍ତି ଉପରେ ବିଜୟ ହାସଲ କରି, ସବୁ ଭେଦଭାବକୁ ଦୂର କରି ସ୍ନେହ ସଂପର୍କକୁ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ କରିବାପାଇଁ ସ୍ଵତଃ ଏକ ଇଚ୍ଛାଶକ୍ତି ପ୍ରବଳ ହୋଇଯାଏ । କିଛି ସମୟ ପାଇଁ ଜୀବନର ଦୁଃଖ, ଦ୍ରୁତ ଭୁଲି ହୋଇଯାଏ ଓ ମାନବିକତାର ଆଲୋକରେ ଅନ୍ତର ଉଦ୍ଭାସିତ ହୋଇଯାଏ ।

ସମୟର ଏ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନର ବେଳା ଆମକୁ ନିଜକୁ, ନିଜର ପରିବେଶକୁ, ନିଜର ସମସ୍ତ ସଂପର୍କ ଓ କ୍ରିୟାକଳାପକୁ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଚେତନା ଦିଏ । “ସବୁ କାମ ମୁଁ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ କଲି ତ? ମୋର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସଂପାଦନ କରିବାରେ ମୁଁ କିଛି ଅବହେଳା କରିନି ତ? ମୋର ମାନବିକତାର ଧର୍ମକୁ ମୁଁ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ ପାଳନ କରିଛି ତ?”

ଓସାର ସଂପର୍କରେ ଆମେମାନେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ । ଓସାର ଅବଦାନ ଆମ ଜୀବନକୁ ସରସ, ସୁନ୍ଦର କରିବା ସହିତ ଆମକୁ ନୂଆଦେଶରେ ଏକ ନୂଆ



ପରିବାରର ଅନୁଭୂତି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଛି । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏ ନୂଆବର୍ଷରେ ଆମେମାନେ ପୁଣିଥରେ ଶପଥ ନେବା, ଆମର ଓସା ପରିବାରର ସଂପର୍କକୁ ଆହୁରି ସୁନ୍ଦର, ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଓ ସ୍ନେହଶୀଳ କରି ରଖିବା, ଓସାର ସମ୍ମାନ ରଖିବା ପାଇଁ ସଦା ସଜାଗ ଓ ସକ୍ରିୟ ରହିବା ଓ ସମସ୍ତ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସହଯୋଗ କରିବା ।

ଆମମାନଙ୍କର ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ଓସା ପ୍ରାର୍ତ୍ତ୍ୟ ଓ ସମ୍ମାନର ଉଜ୍ଜ୍ଵଳ ଆଲୋକରେ ଚିର ଉଦ୍ଭାସିତ ହୋଇ ରହୁ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଦେବତା ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କର ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦରେ କିଛି ଆଲୌକିକ ଘଟଣା ଘଟି ଓସାକୁ ସାରା ବିଶ୍ଵସମାଜରେ ଗୌରବାନ୍ୱିତ କରାଇ । ଏହାହିଁ ଓସା ପାଇଁ ମୋର ନୂଆବର୍ଷର କାମନା ।

ପୁଣିଥରେ ନୂଆବର୍ଷ ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ  
ପ୍ରେସିଡେଣ୍ଟ, ଓସା



## President's Message: Keeping up with our Emblazoned Legacy

Like every year, the festive season is upon us. This is a time for joy, a time for reflections and a time for family reunion. I and my family wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. May this New Year be filled with joy, peace and hope for you, your family and friends!

Even though every year this transition of time occurs for everybody, the moment has its own significance for our soul searching, "Did I do what I planned to do one year before? Did I accomplish what I planned to accomplish one year before? Did everything happen the way I had envisioned it should happen?"

As we think about OSA, we also think about the above three questions. For OSA, the year brought prestige, dignity and emblazonment. As a flagship organization outside India, never before has our contribution been so important to our members and the state of Odisha. Although OSA had several challenges and may have future challenges, I am optimistic that OSA will contribute to offer high quality services to its members in a supportive member-friendly environment. We are working together, enjoying together and moving forward together. OSA is a prestigious institution and it will stay as a prestigious, dignified institution for years to come. For the foregoing reasons and many more, I am humbled and honored to serve you, the members of this great organization as the President.

In this hectic modern world in which we live, there are unfortunately so many forces that separate us. OSA and OSA members are not immune from these divisive forces. Let us hope that during this holiday season our OSA family reunites and works together for establishing a dignified Odia identity in the global world.

In 2011, OSA will have its annual convention in Dallas, Texas during July 1st-4th and OSA biannual election will take place. Please go through the announcements published in this newsletter and refer to OSA web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org> for staying updated with your organizational events.



As we enter the New Year I request all of you to reflect on the many gifts your organization OSA gives to its members and Odia communities. That is the timeless relationship OSA has with you and Odia communities in Americas. Please keep up with our **Emblazoned Legacy**.

May this New Year create an illuminated path with emblazoning, enriching and enlightening colors for OSA by eliminating all obstacles, all darkness and all evil and bringing goodwill and gratitude in all!

Have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Bigyani Das  
President, OSA



## Secretary's report - Events in Orissa Dec 2010

I was privileged to attend the Dhuli Festival held in Bhubaneswar, from December 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Please check my report on Dhuli Mahostv for more details. Also I attended Invest Bhubaneswar-Odisha Symposium and Prabasi Odia Dibasa held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010. These two events were hosted at the Crown hotel in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. The honorable chief minister of Orissa, Naveen Pattnaik, inaugurated this event. Dignitaries such as Debi Prasad Mishra, Higher Education Minister, Orissa; Ramesh Ch. Majhi, Minister of State, Science & Technology, Orissa; Surya Narayan Patro, Minister of State [Revenue](#) and Disaster Management; Prafulla Ghadai, minister of finance; Asoka Panda, MLA of Bhubaneswar among other state officials also graced the occasion. Dr. Bigyani Das, the president of OSA and I the general secretary, attended the symposium on 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a great experience to listen to the development and investment plans presented by entrepreneurs from USA and some other countries. The highlight of the symposium was to listen to the success stories of homegrown successful entrepreneurs, mainly Nihar Samantara CEO of Ignis (<http://www.ignistech.com>), Achyut Samanta of KIIT and KISS, and Sarat Kumar Sahoo of Ruchi Masala.

OSA life member Purna Mohanty of CA was one of the co-organizers of the symposium. Several OSA members including Dharendra Kar, Naresh Das, Ashutosh Dutta, Debashish Nanda, Sipra Raichoudhury also attended the event on December 19<sup>th</sup> and had the opportunity to discuss the current Odisha development status in different sectors with various entrepreneurs.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> seventh Prabasi Oriya Dibasa was organized by the Non-resident Odia facilitation centre (NROFC). It was held at the Crown hotel. Several OSA life members such as Prof. Sri Gopal Mohanty and his wife, Dharendra Kar, Debashis Nanda among others were present on this occasion. On behalf of the OSA executive committee, I extended an invitation to all the attendees to come and participate in the forthcoming 2011 OSA convention in Dallas, Texas.



It was heartening to see an overwhelming enthusiasm among the attendees for participating in the forthcoming OSA convention in July 2011. Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to learn first hand about what is happening back at home in our state of Orissa. I would like to express my gratitude and heartfelt thank you to the president NROFC, Sri Sahadev Sahoo and Prof. C. R. Das, secretary, NROFC, for giving me this opportunity and inviting me to participate in the Odiya Pravasi Dibas this year. What a wonderful way for me to bid farewell to the year 2010!



## Fundraising Appeal: Be Generous and donate to OSA

Dear Friends

Namaskar!

We wish you all a very pleasant and joyful holiday season.

We request you to be generous and donate to "OSA Development" fund. Please write a check (\$50 or more is expected, but any amount will be appreciated) and send to

Dr Akhileswar Patel  
Treasurer, OSA  
49 Cannon Rd  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
USA

Your donations are tax-deductible.

OSA organization went through a challenging period because of the hostilities created by a few individuals including a non-member Mr Agni Jandhyala who was misguided by Maryland-Virginia chapter members. You can read more about Mr Jandhyala at

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/plaintiff\\_agni\\_jandhyala.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/plaintiff_agni_jandhyala.htm)

<http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/DepositionAgniJandhyala.pdf>



This is a critical period for OSA. At the same time this is an opportunity for you to express your patriotism, your generosity and your great humane spirit. Opportunity does not always knock your door. Please be kind and generous and save this great institution from current and any future hostilities.

Sincerely,  
OSA National Officers



## Update on OSA Legal Status

The hearing of the En Banc review filed by the plaintiffs Amit Nayak and Agni Jandhyala took place on December 10, 2010 in the circuit court of Montgomery County, Maryland. The final verdict was in favor of OSA and the case is closed. OSA attorney Ms Linda Dorney writes the following:

“I have great news. We attended and argued the en banc review today and the 3 judge panel unanimously upheld Judge Thompson’s decision to grant judgment to OSA and the individual defendants. The Court will enter an Order attaching its decision in the next week or so, which we will forward. Specifically, the Court determined that there was no abuse of discretion in denying the Motion to Strike Amended Answer and that Judge Thompson properly applied the law to allow the organization to invoke the business judgment rule as a defense in this case. Additionally, the Court found that the burden of proof that was imposed on the Plaintiffs was clear and convincing evidence of wrong doing and that the 2007 lawsuit had no bearing on the lawsuit filed related to the 2009 election. Finally, the Judges commented that they did not believe that Agni actually had standing to bring the appeal as he wasn’t a member during the 2009 election. Additionally, under Maryland Rule of Civil Procedure 2-551(h), the Plaintiffs are precluded seeking further review. Please let me know if you have any questions.”

Members may refer to the following web page for the information.

<http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/inquiry/inquiryDetail.js?caseId=316120V&loc=68&detailLoc=MCCI>



To know more about Mr Agni Jandhyala and the questions OSA still has on his involvement in this case through Maryland-Virginia chapter, please check

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/plaintiff\\_agni\\_jandhyala.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/plaintiff_agni_jandhyala.htm)

The malicious legal case has cost OSA about \$60,000 in financial loss. Once the final bill is received from the attorneys, OSA will publish all the bills for its member’s knowledge.

Sincerely,

OSA National Officers

# 42<sup>nd</sup> OSA Convention Update



## OSA 2011 Convention

### Convener

Tapan Padhi  
[tpadhi@yahoo.com](mailto:tpadhi@yahoo.com)  
469-544-4295

### Co-Conveners

Dabasis Nanda  
[dabaisnanda@hotmail.com](mailto:dabaisnanda@hotmail.com)  
214-923-4128

### Pradoop Mohapatra (OSA)

[pdjpradoop@gmail.com](mailto:pdjpradoop@gmail.com)  
908-684-9506

## OSA SW Officers

### President

Dr Gopal Mohapatra  
[gkmohapatra@gmail.com](mailto:gkmohapatra@gmail.com)  
713-614-9950

### Vice President

Prashant Ranabijuli  
[ranabijuli@gmail.com](mailto:ranabijuli@gmail.com)  
512-917-4715

## OSA Officers

### President

Dr Bigyani Das

### Vice President

Pradoop Mohapatra

### Secretary

Dr Annapurna Pandey

### Treasurer

Dr Akhilaswar Patel

The OSA is a nonprofit  
501(c)(3) organization.

Tax ID # 62-1105102.

Contributions payable to:

OSA Convention 2011  
8605 Orchard Hill Dr,  
Plano, TX 75025.

Please visit [www.osa11.org](http://www.osa11.org)

December 25, 2010

Greetings,

Warm welcome to you from the members of the Southwest Chapter of the Orissa Society of the Americas! We take great pleasure in inviting you to attend the 42nd Annual OSA Convention in Plano, Texas from Friday, July 1st through Monday, July 4th 2011. The convention will take place in Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center. This facility will house all our convention activities, including cultural programs, dining, seminars, workshops, executive meetings and organized sports, under one roof at negotiated room rate of \$89 per night.

As the largest gathering of people of Orissa origin outside the state of Orissa, we have come to expect a lot from OSA conventions. Keeping in view of its enormous importance, our 2011 convention preparation is in full swing. Please visit the web site [www.osa11.org](http://www.osa11.org) to get more details. We are planning a wholesome experience for you - with a southwestern taste in a grand Texas style. You will see a few events probably for the first time in the history of OSA. Yes, we will have cultural programs to entertain you, seminars/discussions to enlighten you, delicious food to satisfy you and a great ambiance to meet friends and new faces. This time, the organizing committee will make sure that all your expectations are not just met, but exceeded.

In order to achieve all this, creative southwestern minds are already in work. While we can give a lot of time and energy and some money to hold this event for you, we would like to reach out to each of you and members in your chapter to contribute as a tax deductible donation towards this magnificent event. Any amount will go a long way. We have already started the process in our chapter and receiving pledges. However this would not be enough. Our goal is to raise more through donations to meet the budget. In order to reach this goal and be successful in making your experience enjoyable, we need your support.

Please consider giving whatever amount you can and consider early registering besides encouraging your chapter members/friends to donate and register for the convention. If you know generous givers and business sponsors, please put us in contact with them.

We are looking forward to getting your help in spreading the message about OSA 2011 Convention for early registration, donations and sponsorships. For additional information and updates, we invite you to explore our convention website [www.osa11.org](http://www.osa11.org) and contact us with your feedback or questions.

With best regards,

**Tapan Padhi**  
Convener

**Dr. Gopal Mohapatra**  
President, OSA Southwest Chapter



## Highlights of Current and Future OSA Activities

### Convention 2011

OSA 2011 convention will take place at Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center, Texas from July 1<sup>st</sup>-July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please save the dates. We request members not to schedule any conflicting events such as marriage, thread ceremony, graduation ceremony with this important OSA yearly event.

Please plan to attend with your friends, family and community members. Please plan ahead of time to participate in cultural activities in groups, seminar discussions and spending quality time with friends from all over USA, Canada, Orissa and other countries.

Please check <http://www.osa11.org>

### Election 2011

OSA 2011 Election information is available from OSA web and is also published in this newsletter. Check <http://www.orissasociety.org>.

It was also communicated to you through your personal email, OSA newsletter Utkarsa September issue and announcement made by both the executives and the election committee in OSAnet.

The last announcement was made by the election committee on November 13<sup>th</sup> in OSAnet. If you are not a member of OSAnet, please follow the procedure described in

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/communication\\_ethics\\_and\\_osanet.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/communication_ethics_and_osanet.htm) to become a member of OSAnet.

Please disseminate this information to members in your community as many times as possible, taking as many opportunities as possible and using as many mediums as possible.

We specifically request chapter presidents and community volunteers to make announcements during local events and through their local email network.

Please participate in this election as nominators, nominees, supporters, voters and anyway you can by following the principles of humanity, nobility and sincerity. Please do not take your personal, professional stress on the organization and its volunteers.

[**Note:** If you have changed your address or if you know somebody that has changed his/her address recently, please update using DOLA (or sending us emails or calling us) and let us know. If you are separated from your spouse, OSA constitution grants individual life membership to both spouses (**BY - LAW I – MEMBERSHIP: 3**). Please let us know if any change of address has occurred because of such status change. Unless you inform, OSA will not be responsible if you miss any document or information. Thank you! ]



### Drama Festival 2011

Drama festival 2011 will be coordinated by the drama festival committee consisting of Dr Brajendra Panda, Dr Sri Gopal Mohanty and Sandip K. Dasverma. Announcements will soon be available through OSAnet and OSA web page.

### OSA Awards 2011

OSA award committee under the supervision of OSA Vice President Pradeep Mohapatra is working to coordinate OSA 2011 awards. The announcement will be soon available through OSAnet and OSA web page.

### Learn Odia Movement

Kuku Das, convener of the successful OSA 2010 convention will lead in our “Learn Odia Movement” task. Please read her article in this issue. You will soon receive more information on the task plan through OSAnet and OSA web page.

### Name Change: The Odisha Society of the Americas

OSA 2008 constitution review committee headed by Surya Mishra had recommended the name change to “The Odisha Society of the Americas”. Now that it has been officially approved in Indian Parliament (Lokasabha), we are planning to make the necessary name change. Members will soon receive the constitution review documents with the name change.

### Upcoming Issues of OSA Newsletter Utkarsa (March and June 2011)

The two-year term of the current OSA administration will end after OSA convention in July 2011. We will have two issues of Utkarsa publication before our term ends. We request members to participate and contribute articles on OSA history, OSA vision, travel experience, book review, movie review, medicinal remedies for physical and mental health problems, social and family well being, fiction, stories, poems, unique creative cooking tricks etc to make these publications masterpieces. Please send your articles to OSA editors Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray early.

Chapter representatives are requested to send their chapter reports.



### New Permanent Membership & Convention Package (Great Benefits)

OSA BOG members have voted for a combined new membership and convention 2011 registration package. Anybody that becomes a permanent member of OSA between November 17<sup>th</sup> and June 2011 will get

1. \$50 off in their OSA 2011 convention registration fee
2. OSA 2010 convention video (\$20 value)
3. OSA 2010 souvenir (only a few copies of souvenir are available, and will be sent to new permanent members on first come first serve basis) (\$10 value)

Apart from that any new member that has joined before December 31<sup>st</sup> would become eligible to vote in the upcoming 2011 OSA election.

### Recruiting New Members

Friends, without your help, OSA cannot grow. Please recruit new members and help OSA grow. Please let your non-member friends become aware of the above benefits.

Each one, please reach one.

**OSA veterans**, please encourage your grown-up children to become a part of OSA. They can invite their friends to join, form a focused group and work together to accomplish something great. Every year you give them same type of gifts. Why not this year you give them the gift of OSA membership? Something different, something new and I am sure this gift will be appreciated. If you have newly married son or daughter, integrate them with the community by your OSA membership gift.

**All OSA members** please invite your friends to join. Share with them the great experience you have as a member and how they can get that experience once they become a part of it.

**OSA chapter presidents**, please make an effort to at least recruit 5-10 new permanent members from your local community. Membership procedure is described at

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/membership\\_main.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/membership_main.htm)

**[Please note that Recruiting means encouraging non-members, making necessary announcements during events, sharing with them positive experience, providing them the membership form, and directing them to OSA web page and membership procedure document. Recruiting does not mean collecting arbitrary amount of money in cash without giving receipt, without informing OSA National and misguiding non-members to harass and go against OSA. The story of Mr Agni Jandhyala's OSA National membership through Maryland/Virginia chapter members Shreekanta Nayak and Anadi Naik must not be repeated. Read the following document and know the story:**



<http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/DepositionAgniJandhyala.pdf>

All of you are ambassadors of OSA. Please help OSA grow the best way possible.

### **NROFC and Other Events in December 2010 in Bhubaneswar, Orissa**

OSA president Dr Bigyani Das and secretary Dr Annapurna Pandey have attended some events of interest in Orissa during December 2010. The reports of these events are published in this newsletter. Please read for your information and/or pleasure.

### **OSA Roadmap Project**

We have not received any communication yet on “a better roadmap for OSA” for next 10, 20 years. Even if we are given challenges, we must look beyond those challenges. I remember a story “Gachha lagAibA kAhApAin”, i.e., “For whom should we sow the seed?” It is true that some of us may not be alive after 10, 20 years. Yet, if our ideas, our thoughts and our vision can bring greater good for the community, for another person in future, our life would be considered successful.

Please share your thoughts considering the whole OSA from a systemic point of you. Thank you!

### **Condolences**

While the year 2010 brought much good news for OSA, we also mourned the passing away of some OSA members and professional artists that had become a part of OSA. The passing away of Bimal Mohanty, Samik Singh, Guru Gangadhar Pradhan, Singer Sikandar Alam and Bhajan Samrat Bhikari Bal had been very hard on OSA. We send our deepest condolences to the affected family members for their great loss. Specifically it was very painful to get the news of the sudden death of the young and bright Samik Singh. No words can be enough to express the feelings and our messages to the parents of Samik, Dr Sujay and Geeta Singh. Samik was not only a blessing to OSA, but also to Orissa where he has made investments for the prosperity of the land.

Our love and prayer go out to you. May Lord Jagannath be with you during this difficult time and give you the patience!



# 2011 OSA Election 2nd-Announcement

By 2011 OSA Election Committee

Dear OSA Members:

This is a gentle reminder that the OSA Election Committee is soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of Orissa Society of Americas for 2011-13. As per the constitution, the positions of President and Vice-President will be candidates on the same slate. A vote for a presidential candidate will imply a vote for his/her running mate. The position of the Secretary and Treasurer may be from independent slates.

The nominees, the nominators and seconders must be permanent members (life, patron or benefactor) of OSA at the time of nomination. In addition, the nominees must be at least 21 years or older as of June 30, 2011. The nomination must include a short introduction of the candidates in less than 300 words. Photocopy of driver's license, or passport, or birth certificate or a notarized statement to the effect that the nominee is 21 years or older as of June 30, 2011 must be attached for the nominee's age verification.

All nominations must include the contact information (address, telephone number, and email) of the nominees and the nominator. All nominations must be sent to the election committee, postmarked by February 14, 2011 at the address below with complete and correct contact information of the nominees (including other additional details) and the of nominators. Incorrect contact information may lead to the rejection of the nomination. If the candidates wish to include their position statement with the ballot they may include it with the nomination form in a separate sheet. Please note you must nominate a candidate for President and Vice President simultaneously. Nominations for secretary and treasurer may be independent.

**OSA 2011 Election**  
**PO Box 330**  
**Getzville, NY 14068**

The Nomination Form is attached and can also be found at <http://www.orissasociety.org/>. Any correspondence on the election subject will be electronic (via email) only. All emails on this subject must be sent to [OSA.Election2011@gmail.com](mailto:OSA.Election2011@gmail.com).

## Election 2011 Calendar

Deadline for the official ballot list including all members eligible to vote to be received from OSA Secretary January 15, 2011

All nominations must be sent to the election committee postmarked by **February 14, 2011**

Election ballots will be sent to eligible members on or before **March 27, 2011**

Ballots must be received by the election committee with postmark no later than **April 25, 2011**

Ballot will be counted and the election results will be announced on **May 14, 2011**

With this letter we are also requesting the Chapter Presidents and members of the Board of Governors of OSA to disseminate the election announcement as widely as possible. We would like to request the California OSAnet members to distribute the announcement to California Oriya Community (Calnet).



Please contact the OSA Secretary Dr. Annapurna Pandey at [Adpandey101@gmail.com](mailto:Adpandey101@gmail.com) to update member address.

We are also including below the election information from the OSA constitution.

Sincerely,  
**2011 OSA Election Committee**

## **Relevant Articles from OSA constitution**

### **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**By 2011 OSA Election Committee**

#### **Section 1**

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

#### **Section 3 (as amended on July 1, 2004)**

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

### **ARTICLE VI: ELECTION**

#### **Section 1**

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

#### **Section 2**

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

#### **Section 3**

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

#### **Section 4**

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

### **BY-LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE**

#### **Section 1**

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



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

## **Section 2**

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

## **Section 3**

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

## **Section 4**

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

## **Section 5**

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

## **Section 6**

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

## **Section 7**

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

## **Section 8**

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

## **Section 9**

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

## **Section 10**

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

## **Section 11**

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



### OSA Election 2011 Nomination Form

Nominee for President: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Short Introduction:

Nominee for Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Short Introduction:

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Drama Festival News Updates

You must be reading on 2010 OSA Regional Drama Festival which started in South West at Dallas with gusto, moved to East at Boston then to North East at Toronto with high tempo and finally finished in North at Chicago as a Grand Finale. The successful culminations of the Festival over last two years owe a great deal to all of you, your predecessors and, without question, to your community volunteers. On behalf of OSA, I along with my fellow coordinators express our sincere thanks to you and everyone involved in the Festival.

Now we look forward to 2011. Planning has begun. The number of festivals went up from 3 in 2009 to 4 in 2010. In the coming series, we are hoping to see half a dozen festivals to energize and entertain kaLa-premi Odias living in USA and Canada. Here is our tentative wish list.

1. North-Eastern region festival (Canada, MI, OH, ...)
2. Eastern region festival (NY, NJ, PA, MD, VA, New England, ...)
3. Northern region festival (MN, IL, WI, IN, ...)
4. South-west region festival (TX, AR, ...)
5. Southern region festival (AL, TN, GA, SC, NC, ...)
6. Western region festival (CA, AZ, NV, ...)

Please note that the division is not rigid and any group may participate in a festival that suits its convenience.

If your chapter belongs to one of the above regions, we solicit your help and adoption of one of the festivals by your chapter & in selecting a coordinator who will be our contact person. Although non-OSA members are welcomed to participate in the festivals, the coordinators should be OSA life-members.

To chapter presidents who do not belong to any of the above six regions:

If you have enough drama enthusiasts in your chapter and are interested in organizing a festival, please let us know as well. From our experience, cities where there are at least 50-60 Odia families live, are better for holding the festivals for two primary reasons: increased number of spectators and enough hosts to accommodate out of town visitors.

Please also note that, although we would like to hold the festival around March-April (Odisha Divasa), we certainly can accommodate other times (to synchronize with local events such as Kumar Purnima, Diwalee, etc.).

We look forward to your active cooperation and getting the names and contact information of coordinators from you.

Regards,  
The National Coordinators  
Brajendra Panda, Chair  
Sandip Dasverma  
SriGopal Mohanty

# Chapter Reports



## KY Oriya Group News Report

By Dipti Samantaray

### About KY Oriya Group

Kentucky Oriya group is active with a large number of participants from Lexington, Richmond, Florence and Louisville. We have been celebrating different festivals with great excitement and enthusiasm. We have at least ten families living nearby, and around.



### Saraswati Pooja

The KY Oriya group started its event with Maa Saraswati pooja on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010. The pooja was a great success with different activities including aradhana, prasad sevan and entertainment programs. Members offered rasi ladu, bundi, chuda ghasa along with other fruits to Maa Saraswati and take her blessings. Most of the members who joined the event were from Lexington, Richmond and Florence, KY. The pooja was a huge success with excellent coordination done by Dipti and Chandan Samantaray.

### Holi –Rang De

The next event was Holi, which all of the oriya members celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 with a grand success. Everybody played Holi with abhir and colors. There was a colorful ceremony of Range De... music and followed by snacks. All people enjoyed in a great excitement with excellent coordination by Mrs. Sarat kumari and Prof. Amiya Mohanty.



### Raja-sankranti

The major event of this year celebration was Rajasankranti, 2010, participated by several Oriya families and guests. The party was started with typical oriya dishes like podapitha, dahibara and aludam. After that, all the girls and women applied mehendi on their hand and the men took the charge of cooking, especially goat meat curry. Everybody enjoyed the typical Raja lunch with bhata and mansa tarkari with many more side items. Mansa tarkari was delicious that was cooked by Nihar, Devi and Shounak. Kids performed dances and played games. All the participants enjoyed playing cards and ate Pan. The event was mind blowing. All of this was coordinated by Geeta and Surajit Amrit.





### President Dr. Kalam's visit

H. E. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the 11<sup>th</sup> president of India spent two weeks in state of Kentucky in April 2010 in teaching and lecturing in several Schools, Colleges and Universities. He visited University of Kentucky on 12<sup>th</sup> April and Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY on Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>, where Dr. Amiya K. Mohanty is an Emeritus and adjunct Professor of Sociology. Professor Mohanty, his wife Sarat kumari, his daughter Sucheta (Meena) and Son-in-law Chris were very much involved in his reception. When President Kalam came to know that Mohanty

family were originally from Orissa state, he came and told them that Orissa was his most favorite place where he served for twenty years from 1980 to the year 2000. It was indeed a great pleasure for every member of Mohanty family to hear this from president Kalam. President Kalam gave an excellent speech titled "Energy Independence-Alternative Energy for 2010 and beyond". This lecture was very well attended by University faculty, students and the public.



### Independence Day Celebration

KY Oriya groups also celebrated the Independence Day of India on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 in the residence of Dr.& Mrs. Amiya K. Mohanty, in Richmond, KY. Celebration started with flag hosting, followed by American and Indian National Anthems. Children were briefly told about India's freedom fight and the importance of Indian's Independence Day. The celebration ended with a delicious dinner.



### Ganesha Pooja

Lexington Oriya group celebrated the Ganesha Chaturthi in the premise of University of Kentucky, community hall on 11<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010. Pooja started with a huge gathering and prayer, Arati, and Prasad sevan. There were also brief discussions about Lord Ganesha, who is considered to be lord of wisdom, compassion and who blesses the devotees to solve their problems and clear their hurdles. Pooja was conducted by Sitakanta Pattanaik (Pintu) with all slokas and matras. Pooja was followed by bhajan and entertainment. Elsa, the daughter of Dipti and Chandan

Samantaray performed bollywood dance on the music of barso re megha from "Guru" movie, while Ellora and Sneha daughters of Geeta and Surajit Amrit, danced on the tune of "Salam Namaste". All success in the event was due to the supervision and arrangement of Saraswati and Nihar Nayak. We also welcomed the new Oriya family Tapan, Devjani and their sons Aniket and Avinav to KY oriya group.

### Durga pooja

Durga Maa aradhana was placed in 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010. People of all corners of Kentucky joined the Pooja. We had a great gathering and prayer for Maa Durga, followed by Prasad and recreation. The sweet little girl Sneha daughter of Geeta and Surajit Amrit, performed a magic show that appreciated by all with great surprise and laugh.

### Diwali Dhamaka

We celebrated Happy diwali during the month of November 2010 at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Amiya Mohanty. Diwali is the symbol of light and peace. All together we prayed god. The party was a great success with delicious dishes and entertainment program. Kids performed dances in the tune of bollywood musics. Music was arranged and performed by Deepak and supported by his wife Chinmayi and daughter Amrita. Finally the program concluded with fireworks.



### Christmas Party and Farewell to Dr. Nihar Nayak & Family

Finally, we celebrated Christmas party on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010 with a great pleasure. We had Christmas gift exchange and delicious dishes. In the recreation, Vijay son of Meena and Chris, played violin with Christmas tune, and was heart touching.

At the end, the group bid farewell to Dr. Nihar Nayak and family who were in Lexington for more than 8 years. The Nihar family has been very friendly and did help many oriyas when they came for the first time to Lexington. The group expressed their sorrow because Nihar, Lita and Amaan will be missed very much. At the same time everyone wished Nihar's family a great success in their future career and life in India.



### Condolence for Padmashree Guru Gangadhar Pradhan

About five years ago in 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, Padmashree late Guru Gangadhar and his dance group presented a sensational odissi dance in the BTCC (Bharatitya Temple and Cultural Center) in Lexington. Their performance was a smashing success. The hall had standing room only. The message about his sudden death was transmitted to the group in the general body meeting of the BTCC by Dr. Amiya Mohanty. Many members in the general body express their deep sorrow and appreciation for Guru Gangadhar's choreography and management. The general body group expresses their deep condolence by two minutes standing silence.





# CANOSA Report 2010 Winter

Reported by Sabita Panigrahi

## Kumar Utsava in Toronto

The Odia community in Toronto area has been observing Kumar Utsava for some forty years, celebrating the rich culture of Odisha on stage, by presenting Odissi dance and music, and also creative and original skits and plays. This year's Kumar Utsava, presented on Saturday, October 23, 2010, by the Canada Odisha Society of the Americas, was the largest ever, reflecting the growing Odia community in the Toronto area, and coming from Toronto, southern Ontario and as far away as Buffalo, NY.



The event was organized by Rashmi Das, Sabita Panigrahi, Swapna Patra, Sunanda Mohanty and Nandita Gantayet. The emcees of the event were Asish Patnaik, Sudeshna Patnaik, Amitabh Mohanty, Rashmi Das, Aniket Maharana, Anukriti Maharana, Sarojini Mohanty, Abani Pattanayak, Neha Das and Rohan Garnaik.



The program started with 'Kumara Punei Janha Go' dance participated by young girls Sailaxmi Sahoo, Shivangi Senapati, Sanvi Rao, Aditi Patnaik, Alisha Mohanty, Prachi Satpathy, Arpita Gantayet, Nikita Gantayet, Ineka Panigrahi and Aashna Kapur and choreographed by Nandita Gantayet. The age range was from 2 years old to 22 years old.

No Odisha gathering would be complete without an Odissi dance. Shiva Stutee Mangalacharan was presented by Ineka Panigrahi and Somyashree Kar; choreographed by Sushree Mishra Kar.



The unofficial theme of this Kumar Utsava was cooperation and collaboration, apparent from two children's plays on stage.



The first was entitled Rama Sugriva Milana (the bonds of friendship between Rama and Sugriva). The young and very young including toddlers, were dressed up as *banara sena*, complete with monkey suits with tails and dangerous looking maces. Participants were Srujani Das, Valmik Rao, Aman Patra, Ronit Nayak, Rajaram Sahu, Sarthak Das, Simran Dhal, Paras Pujari, Satwik Pattanaik, Shriyans Dash, Aroon Singha, Ayush Patra, Aayan Pattanayak, Rishab Nayak, Unjal Pradhan, Binjal Pradhan, Shreeja Pattanaik, Sarojini Mohanty and directed by Prafulla Pujapanda and Swpna Patra. A

second stage skit was the old fable of the Hare and the Tortoise, retold by Rashmi Das and Asish Patnaik with a

theme of collaboration, not competition. There were three races: the tortoise wins the first, the hare wins the second, then they both cooperate and both win together the third race. Participants were Anukriti Maharana & Aniket Maharana.



A beautiful dance through the tune of 'Mora Mana Udi Jaye' was presented by Sangeeta Senapati, Sarojini Mohanty, Debasmita Sahoo, Manasi Bhuyan and Sudeshna Patnaik. It was choreographed by Nandita Gantayet.

One of the best shows of the night was the dance fusion 'Padhare padha chhanda' and Aa Baula'. Performers were Arpita Gantayet, Nikita Gantayet and Ineka Panigrahi. It was choreographed by the Gantayet family the



sisters Arpita and Nikita, and mother Nandita.

The last item of the evening was a comedy drama 'E jugare se juga'. Three storytellers (Debashish Das, Anshuman Mishra and Jaydeep Patra) accidentally cross paths with some characters from an old age epic. What is their experience? Do those characters still look the same? Are those with evil intentions still evil? Will good again conquer over evil with same approach? It was a light-hearted modern skit, all fun for the 'actors', and

directed by everyone on stage. Participants were Anshuman Mishra, Parasmitta Rao, Bishwanath Dey, Bibhu Mahapatra, Subendu Mishra, Arun Patra, Gopal Rao and Manoj Panda.



The sponsors for the event were Nilmani Nayak, Srimant and Sunanda Mohanty, Abani and Rashmi Pattanayak, Niranjan and Nalini Mishra, Sujata and Asok Das, Hara and Sumitra Padhi, Bhagban Panigrahi, Alok Patnaik, Sradhananda and Rita Mishra, Sabita and Gagan Panigrahi, Sudeshna and Amitabh Mohanty.

CANOSA event is never complete without prize distribution.

Sradhananda Mishra distributed the prizes to children participants.

The stage performance ended with a crowded stage with everyone dancing away to the beat of the music, in free form and in free spirits. In keeping with Odia tradition, the evening ended with an excellent dinner coordinated by Sujata Patnaik and Sudeshna Patnaik. The event clearly showed the dedication and cooperation among participants, volunteers and organizers.





# OHIO Chapter News

By Arata Rout



The OSA Ohio chapter celebrated Kumar Purnima on 23 October, 2010 at Lazelle Woods Community Center in Columbus, Ohio. Many families from Ohio and Kentucky attended the event.

It was a three-hour non-stop entertainment accompanied by snacks/refreshments and ending with a nice dinner.



The highlight of the evening were performances by two different drama teams, dance programs by the kids, a Sambalpuri dance by Columbus ladies, and ended with Rangabati dance by Srikant and Snigdha Mishra.



Although you could not tell how nice it was from the outside, the venue was actually very cozy with an open style seating. The organizers had also rented the music and light system.



The program was opened by Dr. Duryodhan Mangaraj who lit the lamp near the beautiful murti of Lord Jagannath. The inauguration speech was delivered by the Chapter president, Mr. Arata Rout. The cultural program was hosted by Mrs. Liza Bhuyan and Mr. Saswat Mohapatra. Refreshments and dinner were arranged by the Chapter general secretary, Ms. Lipi Mohanty. The entire Columbus team had worked hard to make this an enjoyable event.

The opening song, **Bande Utkal Janani** was sung by the children from Columbus: Abha Panda, Anchit Rout,



Anshuman Misra, Archita Rout, Avinash Swain, Devin Das, Gracie Mohapatra, Madhur Bhuyan, Prateek Parida, Pratul Parida, Ronak Tripathy, Sarthak Mohanty, Shweta Mohapatra, and Shobhit Pradhan.



This was followed by the invocation song **Sarbesang No Janani** sung by the Cleveland team. The performers were Arpita Basa, Abhipsa Basa, Anjan Basa, Basant Mohapatra, Deepti Sahoo, Madhusmita Mohapatra, Madhusmita Nayak, Rabi Sahoo, Sanjeeb Nayak, Soubhagya Parija, and Sreela Parija.

The Sambalpuri dance **Ame Samalapuria Phula** was performed by Geetanjali Mishra, Mamata Das, Neelam Mohanty, Prativa Swami and Seema Pradhan and choreographed by Shilpa Soni.

Snigdha Mishra presented a vocal recital.



This was followed by dance performances by Madhur Bhuyan, who danced to “Megha Barasila Tupur Tupur”, Shweta Mohapatra, who performed an Odissi dance choreographed by Mrs. Shilpa Soni, and Archita Rout who presented a filmy dance, “Nua Odhani”.

The first part of the evening’s program concluded with a play by the Cleveland drama team - **Emiti Bhi Hue**. Story: Birendra Jena; Direction: Basant Mohapatra; Special Effects: Anjan Basa, Sanjeeb Nayak and Sanjit Bhanja; Cast: Basant Mohapatra, Birendra Jena, Deepti Sahoo, Madhusmita Nayak, Sanjeeb Nayak, Soubhagya Parija, Shreela Parija and Rabi Sahoo.



During the intermission and snacks, Mr. Arata Rout convened the Chapter meeting. Dr. Amiya Mohanty from Kentucky said a few words about Odissi Guru Gangadhar Pradhan and Singer Sikander Alam. All members observed a moment of silence in remembrance of these departed souls.



The second half of the evening's program started with a Folk Dance – **Jai Phoola** by Abhipsa and Anwesa Basa and Kuchipudi Dance - **Shree Krishna Leela** by Marissa Mohapatra.

This was followed by the second drama of the evening, **Pua Kanduchi** by the Columbus drama team. Story: Dr. Narayan Sahoo; Direction: Mrs Sucheta Pradhan and Mr. Saswata Mohapatra; Cast: Ajit Swain, Geetanjali



Mishra, Kaumudi Mohanty, Prativa Swami, Pravas Parida and Seema Pradhan.

The last children's program was an Odissi dance by Anushka Maharana.

The cultural program ended with Snigdha and Srikant Mishra dancing to **Rangabati**.

The evening ended with a nice dinner.

## OSANE Chapter News

### Running a Marathon for a Cause

By

Rita Mohanty

“If you can dream it, you can do it,” said my beloved mentor Dr. Ken Gilleo. Of course he was referring to technology at the time. I took his advice literally and applied it to my everyday living. After all, what kind of life would we have, without hopes and dreams?

I had a dream of running a marathon but the time never seemed to be right. I had the usual excuse; too busy doing \_\_\_\_ (you can fill in the blank). Being an unconventional (most of my friends lovingly refer to me as “crazy”) individual, I decide to pursue my dream last year. Needless to say, I needed some help to make it happen. A young neighbor of mine (actually she was my daughter’s friend) told me about an amazing organization called “TeamAIDAsha (TAA)”. TAA is a joint program runs by the Boston/MIT chapters of “Association for India’s Development (AID)” and “Asha for Education”, two non-profit groups working on projects related to educational and social development issues among the underprivileged children and families in India. It is run by an amazing group of volunteers, dedicated to helping others. They were going to make a marathon runner out of me, but there was a catch. They asked me to bring the same hopes and dreams to some deserving children and families in the poorest parts of India. What a bargain to have my dream come true by helping underprivileged people.



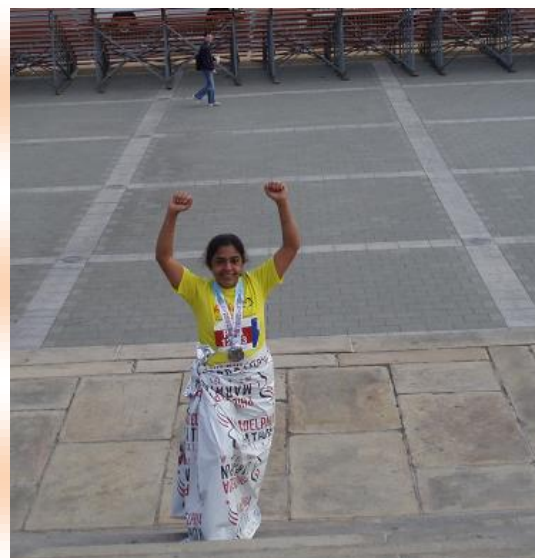
On a Saturday morning in April 2009, I met the TAA group and the coach (who was an accomplished marathoner himself) on the campus of MIT. I saw a group of young, energetic, fun-loving people bubbling with enthusiasm. Some of them had no clue (like me) as to what to expect while the others were experienced runners. I knew that they can help me to run a marathon, but I needed more than their help. I needed a real reason to stay with the program. There, my son Anup came to my rescue. He agreed to train and run with me. What a treat to run side by side with my son. Officially, we became a “mother-son team” to run Chicago marathon! How awesome is that? We met every Saturday for the next five months to train for the big event. The training was quite challenging as we had to drive 80 miles each way to meet our team every Saturday. Both of us kept up with it through the cold days of April to the hot days of August. By September, we were amazed at the progress we had made. We were ready to run a marathon!



On October 11, 2009, Anup and I lined up at the Chicago Marathon starting line, along with the other 40,000 runners (yes, by now we were bonafide runners) on one of the coldest days in Chicago marathon history. Needless to say, I was really worried about Anup—that's mother in me. But once the starting gun sounded, everyone was for themselves. The energy among the runners was out of this world. A few hours later I could see the big banner that said "Finish Line." "I am there. I can't believe I just ran 26.2 miles," I thought to myself. The last few yards to the finish line was truly a thrill of a life time. As I ran across the finish line, the emotion and sense of accomplishment was over whelming. Right at the same instance the need to find Anup was also overwhelming. I didn't have a clue to his where about. As I scan the crowd worriedly looking for Anup, I saw his smiling face across the fence waiting for me. He had finished hours before I did! The first thing he told me was "good job Mom" (he is a man of few words). Yes, we were very proud of each other. We had experienced something together that very few will ever experience. My son and I just ran Chicago Marathon. Nothing in your life can prepare you to anticipate that experience. We not only ran a marathon, but as a mother-son team, we raised more than \$11,000.00 to contribute to the hopes and dreams of an unknown child in India who can dream to govern the country one day. How cool is that?

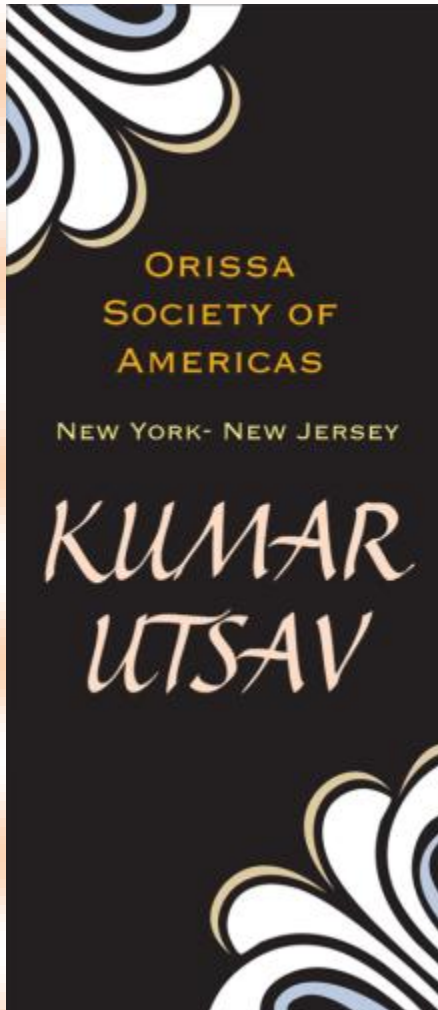


If you thought that would be the end of the story, you would be wrong. Like many of my teammates, one marathon wouldn't be enough for me. In 2010 I not only wanted to run a marathon, but I also wanted to do something special right after crossing the finish line. I found just the right place to do it. It was Philadelphia Marathon, with the added bonus of climbing the steps of the famous Art Museum like in the movie Rocky The training started again in April (this time without Anup) leading up to the final day in November 21, 2010. I can honestly say, training wasn't always easy with work, family, travel etc. but thinking about those poor children and families in India always kept me going. I had not only a commitment to those children but to my sponsors as well. The generosity of my sponsors was no less the second time around. I was ready for my big day again. I ran the marathon among 22,000 runners on a picture perfect day in Philadelphia. Crossing the finish line was no less an experience the second time around. The only thing that was missing from the thrill was my son and running partner Anup. Don't be surprised if you saw the mother-son team in a marathon race near you.



## OSA NY – NJ Chapter News

By **Lalatendu Mohanty,**  
**President OSA NY-NJ**



NYNJ celebrated Kumar Utsav'2010 on 13<sup>th</sup> November at Woodland School, Monroe. More than 300 people attended the celebration. The evening had a unique combination of food, dance & socializing.

The evening started with *sankha Dhawni* & vedic recitation by 5-year old Barenya Das immediately followed by a tribute to Late Sikandar Alam. Mr. Saridindu & Mrs. Lata Mishra offered *sradhanjali* to Late Mr. Alam and elaborated his contribution to odiya music & his personal association with Orissa Society. It is worth to mention that Mr. Alam has been closely associated with New York Chapter very for a long time and his voice can be heard in 2009 Convention theme song.

Young kids reenacted Shankar Mahadevan's Ganesh Vandana "Sarba bighna binasana" under the guidance of Riti Mohanty followed by a Ganesh Shivam – a conglomeration of renowned sloka of Lord Ganesha to overcome all obstacles, and sloka of Lord shiva to overcome all sufferings- by the students of Shree Nriya Pragyan along with their guru Soumya Sarita. This was the very first stage performance since they started learning Odissi. Their efforts and willingness to learn was remarkable.



Little Susrita Harapriya Maharana danced on odiya song *Niti Sapane Asuchi* sweetly depicting Radha's love for her lover Krishna. Many little kids remarkably depicted the story of a newlywed (with an *apathua* Wife) with Sikandar Alam's classic song *Dura Bideshare*. Another superb musical act with pretty colorful costume by a group of small kids as tiny birds tweeting to the song "Bubul Pakhi Maina Tia" really brought grace to the occasion.



A memorable Tribute was given to Late Guru Gangadhara Pradhan by Bani Ray and many local odissi artists while dedicating the dance adaptation of the great epic -





Ramayan. Twenty selective dancers admirably enacted this masterpiece with performance of new dimension. These dancers have been performing this colorful dance across New Jersey while popularizing odissi in this Diwali season. It was a massive undertaking by these dancers whose efforts definitely highlighted the event.

A touching Sradhanjali was also given to Bhajan Samrat Bhikari Bala in this event. Other memorable items included the promise to “Zhanda Ucha Rahe Hamara” by young kids, Bollywood performance on Methi Methi Bole, superb Kareoke by evolving stars and comic drama on Konark Tourist. Jai Ho was a big hit with all kids enjoying to the fullest nicely choreographed by one of our youngest dancer who few years back brought her rhythmic dance “Megha Barasila Tupuru Tupuru” as a child.

The Medley of Sridevi & Jitendra songs was a mesmerizing with audiences tapping their feet. The evening cultural ended with a dance on oldest sambalpuri folk song Rasarkeli by beautiful women of our community which was choreographed by Guru Durga Charan Ranbir. Stage craft added a stunning outlook to all performances.

For many years, the chapter has been trying its best to preserve and promote our culture by inspiring the children from our community to participate. This year the attempt was to take this across other cultures.



All enjoyed the evening the same way all the participants and the organizers did. It was a great challenge to organize in school to accommodate the growing members and the arrangements definitely reached up to its expectation.

Please visit <http://osanynj.orissasociety.org> to see photographs that captures some signature moments and <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=osanynjpa1#g/u> that captured some of the moves.

## Washington DC Chapter News

By Gatikrishna Tripathy, President OSA DC  
Maushumi Pattanayak, Vice-President OSA DC

The OSA DC chapter celebrated Kumar Purnima at Murugan Temple on 24th October, 2010. The Chanda Puja was well organized and attended by many local odiyas. This event as always draws lots of attention from parents and kids as well for their annual talent display.



It was a fun filled event for all ages starting from kids ages 2 and up. Big thanks to all organizers, parents and also to our Kids for keeping our culture intact so far away in Washington DC. The cultural program was filled with various classical dances of India like Odissi and Kathak. There were musical pieces and Bollywood remixes.



The OSA DC chapter election result for the term 2010-2012 was declared by Mr. Prakash Sahu and Mr. Pradeep Behera. Thanks to both Mr. Prakash Sahu and Mr. Pradeep Behera for their time, effort and taking the responsibility to perform the election process. The new office bearers are Mr. Gatikrishna Tripathy, President, Ms. Maushumi Pattanayak, Vice-President and Mr. Upendra Kumar Das, Treasurer/Secretary. Many thanks to our out-going office bearers (Mrs Sikha Sen President, Mrs Alpana Das Vice-President and Mr. Gatikrishna Tripathy Treasurer/Secretary) for their hard work & involvement in our community activities keeping us united as one Odiya family.



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Kumar Purnima Puja pictures are available at the following web site. Our hats off to Babru (Bhaina) Samal for his relentless effort treasuring our local events precious moments.

<http://www.babru.com/kpurnima10/>



The OSA DC telephone directory copies were distributed. OSA National Souvenir

copies were distributed to OSA National members that were present for the puja event. OSA National members residing in Maryland, Virginia area may contact Mr. Gatikrishna Tripathy to receive your copies.



OSA DC will celebrate Saraswati Puja on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 and will distribute the local OSA DC telephone directory copies.

# OSA Chicago News

By KANAK HOTA,  
Communications in Charge

## Chicago Celebrates Diwali and Midwest Drama Festival

As never before and in a rare endeavor, this year's OSA Chicago Diwali celebration combined with Midwest Regional Drama festival at the Fair Lady Production Inc. 1665 Quincy Ave, Naperville



showcased the artistic talents of the chapter members and their kids in a spectacular way. The three hour-long cultural extravaganza, interspersed with sparkling humor, scintillating wit and soul stirring music and dance did not have a single moment of dreariness. We thank our office-bearers president



Ashok Parida, vice-president Ashok Sahoo and secretary/treasurer Debasish Panda, regional drama coordinator Gyana Ranjan Patnaik and event chair Rosalin Samantray for their single-minded dedication in making the event a grand success. The MCs, Salil Mishra and Dr. Subhashree Joshi deserve our appreciation for orchestrating the colorful items in delectable fashion which was great for its style, presentation and grace.





Event Chair Rosalin Samantray deserves accolade in making the show well structured and perfectly synchronized, and her tireless efforts in making the cross-pollination of our cultural identity in the package is praiseworthy. She wrapped devotional chanting, modern dance medley, classical dances in the form of Bharatnayam and Odissi, Beatles and western contemporary songs and the dramas by the Chapters as dazzling pieces of our diverse identity. If Sarita Parida's "Aayee Dhoom Diwali" set the mood for dance and music, the hilariously comedic short plays mocked at the limitations of us as human beings blinded by egoism, personal ambition and hypocrisy. Manoj Mahapatra's play *Jaha Hale Hau* is densely satirical. It presents the plight of a director played by Rosy who fails to bring together a bunch of self-absorbed egocentric individuals fighting hard to prove themselves as better actors than the rest. The play made Prashant grunt, Jhara swing as a tasty item girl, and Bob, Manoj, Gyana rock in dark



glasses to a racy number. Madhu Khuntia with his ten heads as Ravana was hilarious, Gokul Mishra for his arrogant walks as a scriptwriter and Ratna Mishra for a long spicy dialogue with friend Jhara over the phone kept everybody engaged.

Rightly, the event started with rich tributes to Guru Gangadhar Pradhan, doyen of Odissi dance in India, and Dr. Bani Dasmahapatra, mother of Chhabi Mahanty, who left this mortal world for their heavenly abodes.



Milwaukee Chapter's *Uchit Charcha* targets the plight of a semi-educated power-hungry politician on a visit to Chicago. The comedy arises from the answers he gives to the press and the reaction of people who are his audience. Two worldviews –the politician back home who believes that dollars grow on trees and the self-made immigrant who does not want to part with his hard earned dollars, created the fun for the viewers. Rajkishore Pati as the screwed/shrewd politician joined by Manas and Sikha Patnaik on the stage gave us a lot to laugh and reflect.

The comedy in *Gosein Mahatma* by Swapnalata Mahapatra from Detroit openly attacks the institution of priesthood that preys on the faith of common man. Their cast Subhasish Mohanty, Akshyay Ray, Debasish Acharya, Sangram Basantia, Swapnalata Mishra were wonderful in their acting.

Chicago kids brought the house down by their scintillating performances: Shivansh's chanting mesmerized everybody and Pallavi, Payal, Sabrina, Shivangi, Shivank, Samyak, and Ayush ", were excellent in "Aayee Dhoom Diwali. Ashley Sahu and Shimron Sahoo gave the audience a treat in Bharatnatyam, while Lisa Mishra's rendition of English song was outstanding Akash Dash gave a treat of his guitar prowess and vocal cord to the packed house. The ever-smiling Trisha Mahapatra performed a stunning Odissi dance, which enthralled the viewers in attendance. The combinations added variety, glamour and spark to the entertainment on a platter.

We are thankful to our volunteers who have worked behind the glare with dedication for the success of the show. Dr. Minakhi Panigrahy and Debashish Panda missed a large part of the event as they were working at the help desk/reception, Bharati Khuntia, heading the food team with Usha Dash, Ipsita Satapathy, Sunita Patnaik, Rupa Mahapatra, Kiti Kamath, and others, handled the serving very well. Saurya Khandai as tech. support, Sujata Patnaik and Srikant Panda in stage set up, Sunita Dash, Sarita Parida and Kiti Kamath in auditorium decoration worked hard for proper presentation of the show. Rajendra Supkar and Sunil Mishra took great shots of the entire show, which you would be receiving for your visual feast. President Ashok Parida must be thanked for the selection of the venue with all the amenities and overall conduct of the program. Little Simron deserves all our encouragement for coming out with a nice homemade brochure. Last but not the least we are grateful to all our chapter members and guests from all over the place for turning in large numbers for the great show.

Lastly, please excuse me if I have left any names who have worked for the success of the show. I appreciate and thank the unsung heroes for their untiring efforts.

CHICAGO, YOU CAN DO IT IN STYLE!!!

## A review of the Regional Drama Performances

By Kanak Hota, Chicago Chapter

### Detroit: *Gosein Mahatma*



Hindu devotees who have visited some of the most popular temples in India might have had numerous experiences of greedy temple priests, or *Pandas*, demanding more money. They are never satisfied with the normal token amount. Some priests are always on the look out to cheat innocent devotees. And fights between *pandas* over sharing money are very common. Being a Brahmin myself and in defense of the breed let me narrate a story about the greed of the Hindu priests. It is believed that they are greedy due to a curse of Devi Sita.

"The story/legend has it that Lord Ram, his brothers and Devi Sita came to the banks of the Phalguni River in Gaya to perform the sacred rites of his father, King Dasarath.



While the brothers were bathing in the river, Sita, sitting on the banks, was playing with the sand. Suddenly King Dasarath's hungry spirit appeared and demanded food from Sita. Sita asked him to wait till his sons return so that he could be fed with the traditional *pinda* (rice roll). When Dasarath refused to wait and demanded *pinda* made of sand with which she was playing; reluctantly Sita rolled some wet mud and fed her father -in-law.

There were five witnesses to this act – an *Akshaya* tree, the river Phalguni, a cow, a *tulsi* plant and a *Brahmin*. Soon Ram returned and after the *pujas* served rice for his father's spirit only to find that it did not appear as it had already been satisfied with Sita's sand rolled *pindas*. Sita told Ram the reason of Dasarath's non-appearance. Unconvinced, Lord Ram demanded a witness.

Among the five who had seen Dasarath appear and take the *pinda* only the Akshaya tree bore witness and the others lied trying to take Ram's side. Enraged, Sita cursed the other four: the Phalguni river henceforth would have no water at Gaya; the Cow would no longer be worshipped from the front; there would be no more *Tulsi* plants at Gaya and the Gaya *Brahmins* would never be satisfied, they would always be hungry and crave for more. She then blessed the *Akshaya* tree saying that all who come to Gaya would perform the *Pinda Dana* at the *Akshaya* tree too".



Now back to the review – Detroit did a great show! The story narration is excellent and truly captured the greed/compulsions of the priests in a Hindu temple - Swapnalata Mishra did a wonderful job in writing and directing the play. However, in my opinion, the younger priest was more ebullient than required and did a little over acting. The elder priest was excellent and truly represents the yester year *goseins*. Swapnalata's intonation and actions were brilliant and she looked like a consummate artist from the movie world. The poor farmer was a bit of a letdown and could have been handled differently; but the inadequacy was compensated by an effective and none too flashy performance by Akshyay Ray as the pathetic son of a dead father.

## Milwaukee: *Ucheet Charcha*

Milwaukee's drama *Ucheet Charcha*, written and directed by Raj Kishore Pati is about an out-dated politician from Orissa who is on a visit to the US to attend OSA convention. The story line is good but a little clichéd. Raj Kishore babu could have kept the news of the minister's firing as the last breaking news instead of the same popping out in the middle. The dismissal news made the afterward story redundant as there seemed no reason for the organizers to continue with their conversation going when the guest himself ceased to be a VIP. Action wise, Raj Kishore babu looked and breathed like a minister/politician. Shreyash Patnaik was excellent as the attendant receiving the minister and the audience on the stage, comprising Sikha Patnaik and others were good even though the questions they asked required more novelty. But kudos to the team as



those are the total number of Oriya residents in Milwaukee and everybody had to perform to make a drama look like a drama. They had to hire people from the audience, literally, to fill the stage as question asking characters.

Both the plays depict two important facets of life we live in - politics and religion - in a comical but effective way. We are not happy with either yet succumb to both.



## Our memorable journey to Trinidad

By

Annapurna Pandey and Triloki N Pandey  
University of California, Santa Cruz 95064

The WAVES eighth international conference on Vedic Knowledge for Civilizational Harmony brought us to Trinidad and Tobago. The conference was held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August, 10. It gave us a unique opportunity to experience cultural diversity in a pluralistic society of Trinidad. Indians arrived in Trinidad as indentured laborers in 1840s and this system continued until early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were mostly from Eastern UP and Bihar but there were also some who came from Madras as well as from Punjab and North West provinces which are now in Pakistan.

This conference also brought us face to face with a galaxy of international scholars representing Anthropology, Astronomy, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Ecological and environmental sciences, Economics, Indology,



Physics and medical sciences, among other disciplines from different parts of the world. It was wonderful to see how these scholars were trying to interpret their disciplinary insights about human wellbeing from the perspective provided by the Vedas and other Hindu scriptures. One of the distinctive features of this conference was its unique organizational structure devoted to three tracks: firstly, scholarly knowledge production; secondly, its value and implication for daily practice and organizing political activism; and thirdly, the relevance of Vedic knowledge and practices for the modern youth.





We were impressed by the quality of papers presented by scholars from various parts of the world. They really took it upon themselves to integrate their ideas about civilizational harmony and peace in a very thoughtful and reflective way. The keynote speeches delivered by various international scholars provoked a lively discussion among all the participants. One of the highlights of this conference was the welcoming speeches and



enthusiastic participation of the Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Malay Mishra. His participation in various sessions of the conference was widely appreciated. The presence of ambassador Bhandari provided another voice representing the government of India's takes on various roles of Indian diaspora in retaining Indian culture and promoting Indian traditions.

It was first time in the history of the WAVES that its biennial conference was held outside the United States. We observed

first hand that there could not have been a better venue to organize this conference than in Trinidad and Tobago, which is known for its vibrant multiethnic society. In the population of Trinidad and Tobago, there are about forty two percent people of Indian origin, forty percent of African origin and the rest representing other parts of the world such as Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Another highlight of the conference was the representation of a multitude of Hindu organizations such as Saraswati Mandiram, Sanatan Dharma Mahasabha, and National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC), among others. We were spell



bound by the speech of Sat Maharaj, general secretary of the Sanatan Dharma Mahasabha, which was created by an act of the parliament in 1952. He informed the audience that what has sustained the Indians who came as indentured laborers between 1845 and 1917 has been the bhakti approach in experiencing their religion, coupled with the recitation of Ramayana and other puranic texts and the

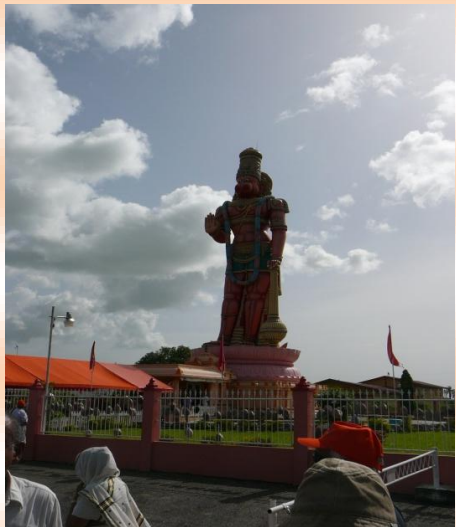
performances of

Yajnas, kathas, and other rituals. A living example to illustrate this was provided by Pundit Dr. Rampersad Parasram who brought Sant Tulsi Das alive in his recitation of various dohas from Ramayana.



One of the lessons we learned from the speeches of the local luminaries was the dynamism of the Trinidad experience in multiculturalism. It has been based on the cooperation between Hindus and Muslims in the performance of their feasts and festivals. Hindus and Muslims have lived side by side,

their places of worship have existed in the same vicinity and they have freely participated in each other's religious celebrations and cultural performances. This has been a key feature of communal harmony in Trinidad.



The conference introduced us to several local luminaries who participated in various activities sponsored by WAVES. We were so touched by the warm hospitality provided by the Hindu community. The temples run by Santana Dharma Mahasabha and served by young and old members of Saraswati Mandiram and other Hindu organizations prepared all the meals served to the delegates.

After the conference ended on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, we extended our stay by three days and visited with several prominent members of the community. We enjoyed the hospitality of NCIC headed by Mr. Sharma who was honored by the President of India two years ago for promoting the interests of Overseas Indians. In our interviews and informal discussions with Dr. Ramdath Ramkissoon, Chairman, Saraswati Mandiram; Pundit Parasram; former Prime Minister, Basdeo Panday; Dr.

Visham Bhimull; Kenrick Seegobin, among others, we learned how they are finding meaning in their lives. Dr. Ramkissoon who is in his eighties, after retiring from his medical practice, is teaching Latin, Sanskrit and Hindi to the community members regularly. He had learned these languages early in his life he is giving back that knowledge to the members of his community. Similarly, Pundit Parasram, after retiring as Chief Medical Officer at age sixty, has begun a new journey in life. Following his father and grandfather, he has become a priest, singer and promoter of Vedic knowledge in daily life. He also runs a school to teach Hindi and Sanskrit to the younger members of his extended family and other members of the community.

Mr. Panday, with forty-five years of involvement in the local and National politics of Trinidad, has started to look at his rich life from an insider's perspective. After making history by becoming the first Prime Minister of Indian origin, he has started to write his own history. Visham Bhimull, the young doctor, gets as much pride and pleasure from his medical practice as he does from his involvement in various cultural activities of the community. He has started a Batchit club to promote conversation in Bhojpuri, and is busy



searching the roots and the meanings of the Bhojpuri and Hindi words he learned from his Nana and Nani (maternal grand parents) who played an important role in bringing him up since both his parents were working full time. Visham says, " like the mango tree, I am from India but my roots are in the soil of Trinidad." Being a third generation Indian, he takes equal pride in being an Indian as well as a Trinidadian. Ken, our tour guide, after leading a busy life of a banker and businessman has become a certified tour guide at the age sixty-two. He has now started to share the pride he feels in his culture and heritage and freely shares it with visitors to his land. These lives, metaphors of their culture, exemplify the exhortation of High Commissioner Mishra who said that knowledge should have relevance to the needs of contemporary society.



# “ ଚାଲ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା ”

କୁକୁ ଦାଶ

“ଉଚ୍ଚ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ଯେବେ ଅଛି ଆଶା  
ଉଚ୍ଚ କର ତେବେ ନିଜ ମାତୃଭାଷା”

ଏହି ପୁଣ୍ୟୋକ୍ତିକୁ ମୂଳମନ୍ତ୍ର କରି ୨୦୦୦ ମସିହାରେ ଯୁକ୍ତରାଜ୍ୟ ଆମେରିକାର କାଲିଫର୍ଣ୍ଣିଆ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ସାକ୍ଷାତ୍ କାରା ସହରରେ ଜନ୍ମ ନେଇଥିଲା ଗୋଟିଏ ଅଭିଯାନ । ତା’ ର ନାମ ଥିଲା “ ଚାଲ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା ” । ଏହାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଥିଲା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ପ୍ରଚାର । ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମାଟିର ସମୃଦ୍ଧିଶାଳୀ ଐତିହ୍ୟକୁ ଏବଂ ଆମର ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ପରମ୍ପରାକୁ ବଜାୟ ରଖିବା ଥିଲା ଏକମାତ୍ର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ।



ସାତୋଟି ପିଲା ତଥା ତାଙ୍କର ଉତ୍ସାହୀ ପିତାମାତାଙ୍କୁ ଧରି ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିବା ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମଟି ଆଜି ଦୀର୍ଘ ଦଶବର୍ଷରେ ପଦାର୍ପଣ କରିଛି । ଏଠାରେ ବର୍ଷ, ସଂଖ୍ୟା ପରିଚୟ ସହିତ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଗୀତ, ନୃତ୍ୟ ଓ ନାଟକ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା ପାଇଁ ଉତ୍ସାହୀତ କରାହୋଇଥାଏ । ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷାକୁ ସରଳ ଓ ସାବଲୀଳ ଭାବରେ ପିଲାମାନେ ଯେପରି ବୁଝି ପାରିବେ, ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଏଠାରେ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି ଗୋଟିଏ ସହଜ ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ । ଏଠାରେ

ଗଣେଶ ପୂଜା, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ପୂଜା, କୁମାର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ପାଳନ କରି ପିଲାମାନେ ନିଜ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ପରିଚୟ ପାଆନ୍ତି । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ସଙ୍ଗେତ କରୁଥିଲେ ନିଜ ଭାଷା କହିବା ପାଇଁ, ଏବେ ସେମାନେ ନିଜକୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ କହିବାରେ ଗର୍ବ ଅନୁଭବ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ବିଦେଶରେ ରହି ପିଲାମାନେ ଆଜି ବେଶୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି । ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା ସହିତ ତାହାର ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ, ଗୀତ ଏବଂ କଳା କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସେମାନେ ଖୁବ୍ ସଚେତନ ।

କାଳକ୍ରମେ “ ଚାଲ ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶିଖିବା ” କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମଟି ଇଞ୍ଜରନାସନାଲ ଗୁରୁକୁଳ ବୋଲି ଏକ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନକୁ ପ୍ରସାରୀତ ହୋଇ ତାହାର ଏକ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅଂଶ ହୋଇଛି । “ଏକତାରେ ଶକ୍ତି” ହେଉଛି ଏହାର ନୀତି ।

ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଜରିଆରେ କେତେ ପରିବାରଙ୍କୁ ଆପଣେଇ ନେଇଛି ଆଜି ଗୁରୁକୁଳ । ଏଠାରେ ପରିବାରର ସମସ୍ତ ସଦସ୍ୟଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ କିଛି ନା କିଛି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ରହିଛି । ଏଠାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ, ବଙ୍ଗଳା, ହିନ୍ଦୀଭାଷା ଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ଯୋଗାଭ୍ୟାସ, ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ, ସଙ୍ଗୀତ,ଆଧୁନିକନୃତ୍ୟ, ବ୍ୟାୟାମ ଏବଂ ଆହୁରି ଅନେକ ପ୍ରକାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି । ଏହା ଆଜି କେବଳ ଗୋଟିଏ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ନୁହେଁ, ଗୋଟିଏ କୁଟୁମ୍ବରେ ପରିଣତ ହୋଇଛି ।



ଦରକାର ପଡ଼ିଲେ ପରସ୍ପରକୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ, ସହାନୁଭୂତି ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତ ସହଯୋଗ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଗୁରୁକୁଳର ସଭ୍ୟମାନେ । ସଂପର୍କର ସୁତାଖିଅରେ ବାନ୍ଧି ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି ଅନେକ ପରିବାର । ଚାରିଆଡ଼େ ବନ୍ଧୁତ୍ଵର ବାହୁ ପ୍ରସାର କରିଛି ଇଞ୍ଜରନ୍ୟାସନାଲ୍ ଗୁରୁକୁଳ । ଆଜି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସମାଜରେ ଇଞ୍ଜରନ୍ୟାସନାଲ୍ ଗୁରୁକୁଳ ଗୋଟିଏ ପରିଚିତ ନାଆଁ । ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାନିୟ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ତରଫରୁ ଆୟୋଜିତ ହୋଇଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାର ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗିତାରେ ଭାଗ ନେଇ ଗୁରୁକୁଳର

ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ଆଜି ପ୍ରଶଂସିତ । କିଛିବର୍ଷ ଧରି ଇଞ୍ଜରନ୍ୟାସନାଲ୍ ଗୁରୁକୁଳ ତରଫରୁ ଆୟୋଜିତ ହେଉଛି ବାର୍ଷିକ ଅନ୍ତରାଞ୍ଜୟ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ସମାରୋହ । ନିଜ ମାତୃଭୂମିର କଳା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ବିଶ୍ଵ ଦରବାରରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଗୁରୁକୁଳ ଚଳାଇଛି ପ୍ରାଣପଣେ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟ ।

ଏହିପରି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅନ୍ତରାଞ୍ଜୟ ସ୍ତରରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହୋଇ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ପ୍ରସାର ହେଉ, ଏହାହିଁ ଗୁରୁକୁଳର ସୁନେଲି ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ ଏବଂ ଏକାନ୍ତ କାମ୍ୟ ।



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# Spotlight on Odisha

## Dhuli Mahotsav 2010: An unforgettable journey in Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Annapurna Pandey  
Santa Cruz California

I was wondering, when did I watch a full-fledged Chhau dance from my beloved state of Orissa? The theme was Abhimanyu Chakrabyuha. The occasion was dhuli mahotsav that started on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010. In the background, the majestic Dhuli Shanti stupa and the magnificent temple next to it, fully lighted, were dazzling. A crescent moon was hanging in the sky as the canopy over the stage. What a sight! The intoxicating drum beating along with flute, sahanai and other musical instruments kept the five thousand or more audience spellbound. The environment was truly festive. Watching Chhau dance, the pride of Mayurbhanj district, Goti pua, Orissi in its pure form, under the open sky with the great Shanti stupa watching over it, is the highlight of my trip to my home. Mo Akhi pabitra hei gala.

Dhuli Mahotsav started in the year 2003 at Shanti Vihar, foothills of Dhuli, by the founder director of Orissa Dance Academy ( ODA), Late S. J. Guru Gangadhar Pradhan. I can see why Guru Gangadhar Pradhan must have envisioned such a Mahotsav. The main objective behind it is to keep the Oriya culture and its splendid heritage expressed through diverse dance and music traditions in different parts of the state alive, and reach out to the people in this post industrial high tech world. The effort is to make Oriyas aware of their rich, vibrant culture and tradition, to popularize the slowly dying expressive cultures all over the state, recognize the great minds behind it and make we Oriyas proud of our identity. The name "Mahotsav" is truly fitting for the occasion. It reminded me of my childhood growing up in Cuttack. During Ram Navami time, our sahi (neighborhood) used to organize weeklong jatra. It would start after dinner and will continue till the morning. The theme would be Ramayana in its many splendors. I remember the jatra was the highlight of my summer vacation those days. After watching live Ramayana on the stage, my friends and I will come home, have a hearty pakhala meal and sleep till midday. Of course the occasion, the whole ambiance in Dhuli theme and Mahotsav is different. But it makes me so nostalgic!

From the Bhubaneswar airport, I went straight to the Mahotsav and missed the beginning. The program started with a felicitation of S. J. Banamali Moharana, the great exponent of Orissi Mardala and the founder of Mardala Academy in Bhubaneswar, who has kept the interest and art of Mardala alive in the state as well as national and international dance circle. As we all know, Orissi dance would not be performed without being accompanied by Mardala instrument.

Guru Ramahari Das, the great Orissi singer, professor in the dept of Orissi Vocal music at Utkal University, enchanted the audience with the theme song for the Mahotsav. He is truly a legendary singer and promoter of Orissi songs and music. I will never forget the occasion of listening to him in 1999 when he had accompanied Kabita Diwedi, the Orissi dancer on the stage in Delhi. I do not remember the dance but I vividly remember the thrilling voice of Guru Ramahari Das.

Ms. Aditi Mangaldas and group, the Drishtikon dance foundation from New Delhi presented a beautiful rendition of Kathak dance. It was followed by a spell bound performance of Orissa Dance Academy (ODA), founded by Sri Guru Gangadhar Pradhan in 1975. Now Aruna Mohanty, one of the familiar and truly amazing Orissi dancers and choreographers of the country, leads this organization. The item, Krupanidhana is a tribute to the late Akashay Mohanty, the great singer of the state and a legend in the field of Oriya music and literature. Two of his songs, “ Nilachala Rasika Mani” and “Adha gadha Diayankara” with soul searching music were played out so beautifully by more than twenty artists mostly dominated by male dancers. The theme, utmost devotion to Lord Jagannath, was reflected in playing out all the festivals surrounding Lord Jagannath, the icon of Oriya identity. Watching the festivals relating to my beloved Jagannath, such as Chandana (sandalwood paste festival), Jhulana (swing festival) and ratha Jatra (car festival), I was transported to another realm. The music, dance and the accompanying orchestra simply are indescribable in words. One has to watch it to experience the feeling and emotion for Lord Jagannath. I became each character like the devadasi, the maluni (garland maker), the carriers of the Ratha (chariot) among others in identifying with my soul Prbhu Jagannath. I feel so blessed to be part of this occasion!

Next item was chhau dance from Mayurbhanj. It started with a solo performance of Nataraj, Lord Shiva, the cosmic dancer who is known as the destroyer of the universe in order to recreate it. He is said to be the originator of all dance forms. This performance by the Chhau dancer, Uttar Sahi, truly played out all the emotions and sentiments of the cosmic dancer who carries the burden of the Universe. It was followed by an amazing dance drama, the chakrabyuha created by Guru Dronacharya, depicting a scene from Mahabharata. The most difficult scene is when Abhimanyu, the young son of Arjuna, gets in to the chakrabyuha and fights with all the elders, Drona, Bhishma and the Kaurava brothers (his grandparents and uncles) fearlessly; but he does not know how to get out of it. Ultimately he gets killed in the hands of his own elders. One asks the eternal question, what is right and what is wrong? Who decides it and how is it justified? The dance drama was flawless. The vigor, style, emotions and the music were just out of the world! I had never watched a chhau style dance drama. It is a rare treat.

The evening ended with awards, recognitions and accolade. Aruna Mohanty (the president of Orissa dance Academy) has organized the whole show so beautifully! My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to her for not only organizing such a mega program but most selflessly committed to promoting the dance cultures of Orissa in the state and also all over the country. Jai Jagannath!

## **NRO and Odisha Symposium on Education and Culture on December 12, 2010**

**Annapurna Pandey  
Santa Cruz California**

The joint “NRO and Odisha Symposium on Education and Culture” was organized by Debendra Nath Mishra, the coordinator of Orissa-America Resource Center in collaboration with Hemant Senapati Memorial Trust at The Crown Hotel, Bhubaneswar on December 12, 2010 at 1:00 PM. Every year the trust awards students that top in high school examination. The trust is headed by Dr Sitakantha Dash, MN. OSA president Dr Bigyani Das presided over the meeting. The event started with bhajans and



followed by a patriotic song by legendary singer Subhas Dash. This was followed by two patriotic dances presented by the students of Sovaniya Sikhyashram. Guruma Arundhati Debi of Sovaniya Sikhyashram graced the occasion as the chief speaker and presented a motivational speech on how to maintain a good character while pursuing good works for the society, state and the country. She emphasized on values that one must use to brand his/her unique identity in today's complex world. For more on Sovaniya Sikhyashrama refer to <http://iipmsovaniya.org/about.htm>.

Dr Purna Patnaik, a long-time OSA member who has been instrumental in showcasing Odia cultural talents from Odisha in USA and Canada for years was the Guest of Honor and spoke detailing his involvement and experience in this great activity.

The event was attended by the President of the Board of Secondary Education Prof. Satyakam Mishra, many dignitaries, students, teachers, college faculty members together with family members and relatives of Dr Hemant Senapati.

The event was sponsored by Dr Sitakantha Dash, a past president and benefactor of OSA.

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Regards

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## Letters to the Editor

**From: Bijoy Misra, Boston, MA**

Thank you for putting together the newsletter which is well done. You are diligent and do put efforts. Certainly good work is gone into the layout, error checking and the composition. I admire the organization of yours and who might have helped. Some minor spelling errors remain, but over all it's a great organizational job.

I was shocked to see the Bigyani's rattling at the end. The "poem" has no literature value and is pure propaganda. By cursing anyone we don't make literature, by reflecting on our own life we do. It was unfortunate that such private material got distributed as public literature. You may create a section like "letters" where people may state their views of whining or accusations. It did see your qualifier as "musings" in that section, but the editorial scrutiny should be tighter. I don't read Utkarsa regularly but I did think of writing for this newsletter. After I saw the piece, I am glad that I refrained from proceeding.

### **And we reply...**

A culture, language and Literature are protected by creativity and contribution. Respect to one another fosters the medium for creativity. Downplaying anybody does not benefit anybody and does not go anywhere.



## OBITUARY

### **Bimal Krushna Mahanti**

**By Sri Gopal Mohanty**

After his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT, Kharagpur, he came to Cornell University and received MS degree in Industrial Engineering in 1959. He was warm, hospitable and a great conversationalist on many topics. My impression of him sustained our relationship for all future years. Bimu Bhai moved to the States in 1968 as an employee of IBM. After I moved to India from 1996-98, I moved back to Canada in 1968. We used to visit each other frequently. Just soon after his arrival was the formation of OSA. He joined OSA founders like K. M. Das, Amiya Patnaik, Duryodhan Mangaraj, Birendra Patnaik, Kalpataru Kanungo and others in those formative years of OSA.

Before moving to Germany, he taught at Burla Engineering College and IIT, Bombay. But he excelled in IBM moving to high ranking posts during his career at IBM USA (1968-78, 1984 -91) and IBM Belgium/France (1978-83).

Although he acquired many American and European friends and always lived in style with high taste, Bimal Mahanti was a typical Odia in his heart and moved in Odia circle at every opportunity he would get. In OSA 1984 Souvenir, K.M.Das wrote on him: Mr. Bimal K. Mohanty of IBM fame has been the founding president of the Jagannath Society of New York and helped the first Odissi dance program by Dr. Minati Mishra in New York.

Bimal Mahanti had a bright academic career, was fluent in Odia, English, German and Hindi and an avid reader of literature, philosophy, history, science, engineering, geography and other topics. While he was full of appreciation of brilliant minds and admired the company of intellectuals, he was equally comfortable in any social circle being a master joke and story teller. Despite his short stature (5'3"), he stood tall in any conversation gathering and dominated the scene. He had the ability to converse in any subject whether it is a serious topic or a mundane matter. He had a flare to explore new avenues. Once he decided to memorize Bhagabat Gita and he did it. He could quote lines with explanation in reference to an appropriate topic. If he was in a great mood he would entertain his guests with his culinary arts.

Bimal Mahanti is survived by his wife Sanjukta and two sons Jay and Jeet.

We will miss him. May his soul leave in peace.

## Guru Gangadhar Pradhan - the dancer-organizer (1948 – 2010)

By Bijoy Misra

"Tomorrow, when this old bloke is dead and gone, there will be thousands of Gangadhar Pradhans to replicate his dreams of preserving and propagating the Orissan art across the seven seas. And this blessed soul will shed tears of joy from above, remaining indebted to Lord Jagannath for daring him to dream." - Gangadhar on himself

In seeking to discover my own roots, I have often asked myself what qualities most Oriya people would share. My study of Orissan literature, history and legends persuades me that the Oriya at home is basically a farmer who is deeply interested in art. Farming and artistic commitments are found in many cultures, in Orissa, favored by prosperity, the art became lyrical. Gangadhar Pradhan was an icon of this Oriya identity, embodied its robustness in his every gesture.

I met Ganga (Gangasir to many) in 1984, while he was accompanying the late dancer Padmasri Sanjukta Panigrahi. I had not even heard of him before, and his appearance without our familiar Kelusir bothered me. The event was in Sanders Theater, a premier venue for public and academic events at Harvard. Our recently formed Orissa Society of New England co-sponsored the event, along with Cultural Survival, which leads in work to preserve ethnic identity in remote places all over the earth. The 1200-seat theater was full to capacity. In the very first few moments of the recital, I realized why Ganga was there -- to synchronize with Sanjukta's magnificently fast foot work. I was a recent immigrant and had joined Harvard just a year before. The whole scene, the drummer and the dancer were mesmerizing. In the background, Sanjukta's husband Raghunath started singing. The speed of the percussion was indescribable, the voice was meant only to explain the dance. No one in the audience had ever witnessed such magnificent body movements performed to the exact beat of percussion. Harvard was already blessed with Indrani Rehman's residence in campus and Kelusir's visit in 1976, but the Sanjukta-Ganga combination was an act to behold, hailed by thunderous applause. A new art form was entering the conservative Boston arts community!

Kelusir accompanied the dancer Sharon Lowen in her US tour in 1986, and I, with other Oriya friends, caught up with him in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. This was Sharon's first tour after her passionate adoption of Odissi. With her expressive eyes, she was very effective in exhibiting various gestures. In the final segment Kelusir performed to the song "Ahe nila saila." I had never before seen such toned muscles, exquisite hand movements, facial and eye expressions and masculine ecstasy on stage. I never learned how much Gotipuas exercised, I had never understood to what extent our dance is community-based -- how it is an art of the soil. Kelusir single-handedly had brought Orissa to the international stage through his pure devotion. We were grateful. We felicitated Kelusir in New York. From him I came to know of Ganga's Gotipua connection and the dance training. Privately he humbly admitted that Ganga had been his competitor in taking away the task of accompanying Sanjukta. We were trying to find students for Kelusir in Cuttack families and his words were a call from the heart!

In the summer of 1986, when OSA convention was held in Toronto, a wholly different Odissi composition was

presented by the local Chitrlekha Dance Academy. Its composite choreography was designed for a group performance and its Odissi was transformed into a ballet, a spectacular sensory experience, with multiple movements, sometimes in unison, sometimes individualized. The teacher Chitrlekha (Chhotray/Patnaik) was a good friend of ours and her whole family was committed to dancing. I came to know that the spirit behind the choreography was our mardala-player Gangasir. Three years later in 1989, I met Ganga again in Boston, when he was accompanying Sharon Lowen. Though I admired their work, throughout the performance I thought about my childhood associate Kelusir. The event was organized by the local Philips Academy, a prep school. There was no other Oriya in the audience. The enthusiasm of our Society had waned through the typical rivalries that haunt us.

Gangasir became a frequent visitor to the US through the auspices of the Center for World Music, aided by the efforts of our friends Gopa and Purna Patnaik in San Diego. As a family they have dedicated themselves to the cause of Odissi and Ganga helped substantially through his visits, enthusiasm and resources. Ganga also visited Toronto, helping Chitrlekha in her ventures in choreography and in training her students. Thanks to their diligent application and sensitive performance, the children in both these families have turned out to be widely acclaimed dancers. Particularly I should mention of Devraj Patnaik, the young son of Chitrlekha, who has adopted Odissi as a passion and is credited with many artistic compositions performed in Canada and the US. Manoranjan Pradhan, a student of Gangadhar, has been a leading performer and resident teacher for many institutions in the US. Odissi training for young male dancers is a contribution by Gangadhar.

Staying abroad, we miss a lot of activities with which we were intimately involved back in Orissa. This includes the launching of new art institutions and the presentation of new art forms. I had heard of Konarka Natya Mandap, but until the great hurricane of 1999 I had no idea of its pre-eminence in the Orissan cultural scene. Somnath Behura of Houston was in touch with the festival and requested that we support it since its infrastructure was severely affected by the cyclone. Amidst our usual aid for relief, farming and habitation, this was the only institution whose infrastructure rehabilitation we supported. I visited Orissa in December 1999, making rounds to check the utilization of OSA funding. On this trip, I met Ganga at his dance school in a nondescript road in Bhubaneswar. In that 20 ft by 20 ft room, there were about thirty young girls lined up in a matrix, and Ganga's group teaching was in full swing. Ganga described his pride in organizing the school, his face glowing with joy and with a humble Bhaina (elder brother) in every sentence. I hugged him and told him how immensely proud I was. I had seen young children in Kala Vikash Kendra decades ago. Now I saw a creative transformation. There was mirth, enthusiasm and light. Our little dancer Sonali from Michigan was also in the line-up. Dozens of Sanjuktas were being prepared by a vigorous teacher!

I continued to follow happenings at Konarka with interest and caught up with Ganga in 2008 at Bhubaneswar. I heard of his new initiative at Dhauli. I heard of Debibabu's (Debi Prasad Misra in Huntsville, AL) support to Ganga's initiatives and was delighted to know of these developments. On Sunday the Oct 10th, I was in phone with Bhubaneswar when I learned that his life was hanging by a thread. He apparently passed away the next hour. In the media I saw his son's grief, and I once again felt how little we do for our artists and our talents. Ganga had become just another patient in a big hospital, and his physicians hardly knew what a treasure he was for the State and her people. He was not a politician, but a man of the soil, a farmer turned artist. He didn't succeed in getting special care for his art!



Like a farmer, Gangadhar thought the seeds he sowed would germinate and luxuriate. They must. He moulded many worthy teachers and dancers, who can continue to carry the torch with grace and dignity. It's our duty to keep his dream alive, not just among individuals who love his art but also in institutions which can help firmly establish Odissi in the place he envisioned. Kelusir took Odissi to the corners of the world, Gangadhar brought the world to the land where Odissi was born. His vision was to celebrate, to learn and to dance, creating vibrations of good will! He got Orissa drumming! Let him shed tears of joy from his abode with the Lord!

Peace!

## Samik Singh

By Devanarayan Pattanayak

I am very sad to hear about the untimely passing away of Samik. He was only 33 years old. In that few years he has accomplished what others living twice that long do not come close to.

He graduated from UC, SanDiego in 1999. For the past ten years he was the CEO of Protein Lounge. I copy from the company's self description here. "Protein Lounge is a leader in the field of system biology. We have developed many interactive web-based databases and software to help the life-scientists understand the complexity of systems biology. Systems biology efforts focus on understanding cellular networks, protein interactions involved in cell signaling, mechanisms of cell survival and apoptosis leading to development or identification of drug candidates against a variety of diseases. In the post-genomic era, one of the major concerns for life-science researchers is the organization of gene/protein data. Protein Lounge has met this concern by organizing all necessary data about genes/proteins into one portal."

Samik indeed was a pioneer. Looking at his smiling portrait, I am sure he lived a full, fulfilled and enjoyable life. He would have accomplished much more and contributed to the emerging field of Biology. Odia community lost a bright rising star and America a young talented chief executive officer. May his soul rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences to his parents. May God be with them in this difficult time.

By Nirode Mohanty

The sudden demise of Samik Singh has cast a deep shock, sorrow and sadness in the entire Southern California Odias and beyond. Samik, a bright, talented, well mannered, modest young boy, is not just Sujay and Gita's baby, but baby to all of us for his affectionate attitude and respect. We loved him so much dearly and tenderly. He represented the future of the Odia youths. In the 2005 OSA Convention at Newport Beach, California, the whole family pioneered and presented a great forum for entrepreneurs and industrial development schemes for Odisha. He is a role model of all children of his age and below. They attend all Odia ceremonies at Los Angeles/ Orange County driving more than one hundred miles from San Diego. His loss is a loss to the entire community. We share with Sujay and Geeta the loss of their only child's death. What a miserable, unbearable tragedy. God bless Sujay and Geeta. Our prayers are with them.

By Sandip Dasverma

The accidental death of Samik is a great shock for all of us since we knew him as a kid. I knew Samik when he was growing up in South California. I heard him presenting a seminar in OSA convention few years back, about his own enterprise. I am speechless.

Our community has lost one of our bright young stars. It is indeed a very sad story. This is an irreparable loss.

Our deepest condolences to Sujay babu & Gita for this accidental passing away of their only son, Samik. No words of consolation can console them.

By Amiya Nayak

Samik's young death is shocking and very sad news we got through Oriya e-network postings and San Diego e-news reports. Our deepest condolences and prayers for Samik, his parents and the Singh Families in San Diego and Odisha/India.

Samik (Age 33) was a molecular biology graduate (UCSD) and bio-entrepreneur in the BT-IT area (just like his parents). Just few days before the IB-Palo Alto conference/OSA2010 CA convention, we had a brief meeting in San Diego with Samik's parents, and that evening he (Samik) was supposed to join in along with his parents, but he got busy with some other engagements. Also, Sujay Babu was mentioning about his plans to attend the IB-Palo Alto/OSA meetings.

Let OSA offer a silence condolence for Samik (Singh Family) at the appropriate time.

# ନୂଆବର୍ଷ ୨୦୧୧

## ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଡେଟନ୍, ମେଘାଲୀଶୁ

ମନରେ ବହୁଛି ପଲ୍ଲୁ  
ନୂଆ ଆଶା, ନୂଆ ଆକାଂକ୍ଷାର  
ନୂଆ ବର୍ଷ, ନୂଆ ଶିହରଣ  
ଜୀବନରେ ଯୁକ୍ତ ଅଭିଜ୍ଞତା  
ଆଉ ଏକ ଅଧିକ ବର୍ଷର  
ନୂତନର ସନ୍ଧାନରେ  
ତୀବ୍ର ଇଚ୍ଛା, ଉଦ୍‌ଦୀପନା  
ଅଜଣାକୁ ଜାଣିବାର  
ଆବେଗ ଅସୀମ  
ଅଭିଜ୍ଞ ମନରେ ଜାଗେ  
ଅଭିଳାଷ ନଭଞ୍ଜୁମ୍ବୀ  
ବିଜୟ ଓ ସଫଳତା  
ଆଲୌକିକ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ କାମ୍ୟ ।୧।

ଜଣାଶୁଣା ରାସ୍ତାଟିକୁ ସମସ୍ତେ ଜାଣନ୍ତି  
ସମସ୍ତେ ଲୋଡ଼ନ୍ତି  
କେତେ ଯୋଜନା, ମାପରୂପ୍  
ଯାତ୍ରାପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି  
ବଡ଼ ଘର, ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦା, ସମ୍ମାନ  
ବଡ଼ ପଦ, ଅର୍ଥର ଆଧିକ୍ୟ  
ପ୍ରତିବେଶୀଠାରୁ ଆଧିକ୍ୟରେ  
ମାପିଯାନ୍ତି ନିଜ ସଫଳତା  
ବଡ଼ପଣ, ଖୁସି, ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ।୨।

ସୀମିତ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟରେ ବହୁ ନଥାଏ ମାଦକ  
ସୀମିତ ଚିନ୍ତନ ମନ ବାନ୍ଧିଦିଏ  
ନିର୍ବାପିତ କରିଦିଏ  
ଉତ୍ସାହର ଅଗ୍ନି  
ସଂକୀର୍ଣ୍ଣତାର ଶିକୁଳିରେ  
ଆବନ୍ଧ ରହିଯାଏ  
ସବୁ ଶକ୍ତି, ସଫଳତା,

ଇଚ୍ଛା ଓ କାମନା  
ବୃଥା ରାଗ, ଈର୍ଷା ଓ ଦ୍ଵେଷରେ  
ହୁଏ ନିତି ମନ ଛଟପଟ  
ନିର୍ଭୟତା, ନିର୍ମମତା, ପଶୁକର୍ମ  
ଓ ଘୃଣ୍ୟତାର ନରକ ଭିତରେ ।୩।

ଏ ନୂଆବର୍ଷରେ ତେଣୁ  
ବହୁ ତୁମ ପାଇଁ,  
ମୋ ପାଇଁ, ଓସା ପାଇଁ  
ଚାହୁଁଛି ମୁଁ  
ଉଚ୍ଚାଦର୍ଶ, ଉଚ୍ଚାଭିଳାଷ  
ପ୍ରସାରିତ କର୍ମକ୍ଷେତ୍ର  
ଅସୀମ ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା  
ନିର୍ଭୟ, ଦୃଢ଼ ନିଷ୍ଠା  
ନଭଞ୍ଜୁମ୍ବୀ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ  
ଶ୍ରମ, କଷ୍ଟ କରି  
ପାହାଚ ପାହାଚ ଚଢ଼ି  
ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଛୁଇଁବାର  
ଅନେକ ମାଦକ ।୪।

ନୂଆବର୍ଷ ତୁମ ପାଇଁ  
ଶୁଭପ୍ରଦ, ସୁଖପ୍ରଦ ହେଉ  
ଉଚ୍ଚତାରେ ପୁଣି ହେଉ  
ତୁମ ଅଭିଳାଷ  
ଶ୍ରୀ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ କୃପା  
ସଦାହୁ ତୁମ ସାଥେ  
ଶୁଭ କର୍ମପାଇଁ,  
ନିଜପାଇଁ, ଅନ୍ୟପାଇଁ  
ହସ, ଖୁସି, ମଜଲ ପ୍ରୟାସେ  
ଏ ଶୁଭବାସରେ ତାହା  
ମୋ ହୃଦ ସନ୍ଦେଶ ।୫।