

# UTKARSA - OSA NEWSLETTER

*Editors: Sridhar Rana & Julie Acharya Ray*

## *From the editor's desk*

Dear Members,

With the excitement of the convention in your minds, it is our pleasure to bring you the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of Utkarsa in the 41<sup>st</sup> year of OSA. After a smooth, pleasant and memorable childhood, several times life starts popping up fair and unfair events in our grown-up lives. Likewise adult OSA is finding itself in many un-chartered territories. During email exchanges between members, jargon words like Constitution, by-laws, members' right, election, vote-buying, corruption, OSA cleaning etc, has puzzled its members to think "are we in an Olympic game?" or, "is it a small group of youth, with limited resources, playing in a village field with intentions of building a better community?"

It is well understood that five people will have five different opinions on an issue but, can anybody disagree on the following facts?

- OSA is facing these issues in its adulthood, not in its infancy or childhood. Therefore OSA is mature enough (or better equipped towards maturity) to handle these issues.
- For successful completion of any project, you need a mix of people, mix of ideas and contributions from different generations. OSA has a nice blend of it.
- Having the word "Orissa" in its name, is so magnanimous that anyone will find it difficult to substitute it with another set-up. It is always easy to start a new institute, new program, new fellowship, new award but it takes courage, effort, determination and leadership to maintain one. But it is worth pursuing to maintain one because that is how you build history.

Humor is infectious. The sound of roaring laughter is far more contagious than any cough, snuffle, or sneeze. When laughter is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness and intimacy. On the other hand, grumpy face, high-handedness and foxy thinking make one more and more isolated. Well, this medicine may be a lighter one for the illness that OSA is suffering from but it is worth a try. What is your contemplation on this? Have you had a chance to reflect on a possible therapy for OSA's adult maladies?

Share your thoughts and book your place in "Letters to Editors" section in the next issue of Utkarsa.

Happy Convention 2010!

OSA Editors.  
30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010



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## Executives Briefing Room



*OSA President*

### “I am OSA” – President’s Message

OSA 2010 annual convention is right around the corner. This year’s event will feature many distinguished guests including Prashanta Nanda, Devdas Chhotray, Ira Mohanty etc from Orissa, excellent cultural shows, various seminars and competitions and the first-ever OSA documentary production. This annual convention is designed to highlight the diverse skills and interests that have made our organizational success possible. It is my great pleasure to invite you all to attend the convention and become a part of this historical milestone.

OSA is an amazing place. Every year many new members join with a common and profound sense of commitment to the mission of OSA. We propagate Oriya culture and language, we explore creativity, we contribute to Orissa’s development, we engage in spreading Oriya identity and we provide a home outside the home to our members. We strive to understand how our second generation Oriya children balance their multiple identities as proud citizens of their country and as carriers of the heritage of the country of their parents and grandparents. We also strive to

understand how our members adapt to the changes in traditions and system of a new country.

As our organization grows, the diversity and heterogeneity take control over the homogeneity that was the basis for the foundation of the organization 40 years back. OSA has adapted to this change in its evolutionary journey. However, recent challenge of a few members in the court without seeking internal remedy and causing the financial damage to the society is considered too much for any non-profit volunteer organization to sustain in this manner. It is thus important that the members of OSA create the sense of “Future OSA” and develop policies to sustain the organization for hundreds of years. While OSA needs to make “Diversity and Inclusion” as the integral parts of its mission to ensure fairness and equity in all the decision making process, it has to formalize its ethic policy and other policies to strengthen the society’s base.

Friends, let us embrace this identity “I am OSA” and use our diversity as our asset to build OSA as a strong and vibrant organization with visible presence in the globe. Promotion and propagation of Oriya culture is our objective, contributing to Orissa, the land of our heritage is our duty and providing a stage for the cultural expression and exploration to North American Oriyas is our promise. Let us all do our duties as the ambassadors of this historical society and create “Moments” with our objectives, duties and promises.

Annual Convention is OSA’s birthday celebration event. Giving gift is one of the five love languages (Words of affirmation, Acts of Service, Quality time together, Physical touch, Gifts – “The **Five Love Languages**” by Gary Chapman). What is your gift for OSA for its birthday?

I hope to see you at the convention and the General Body Meeting.

Bigyani Das  
President, OSA

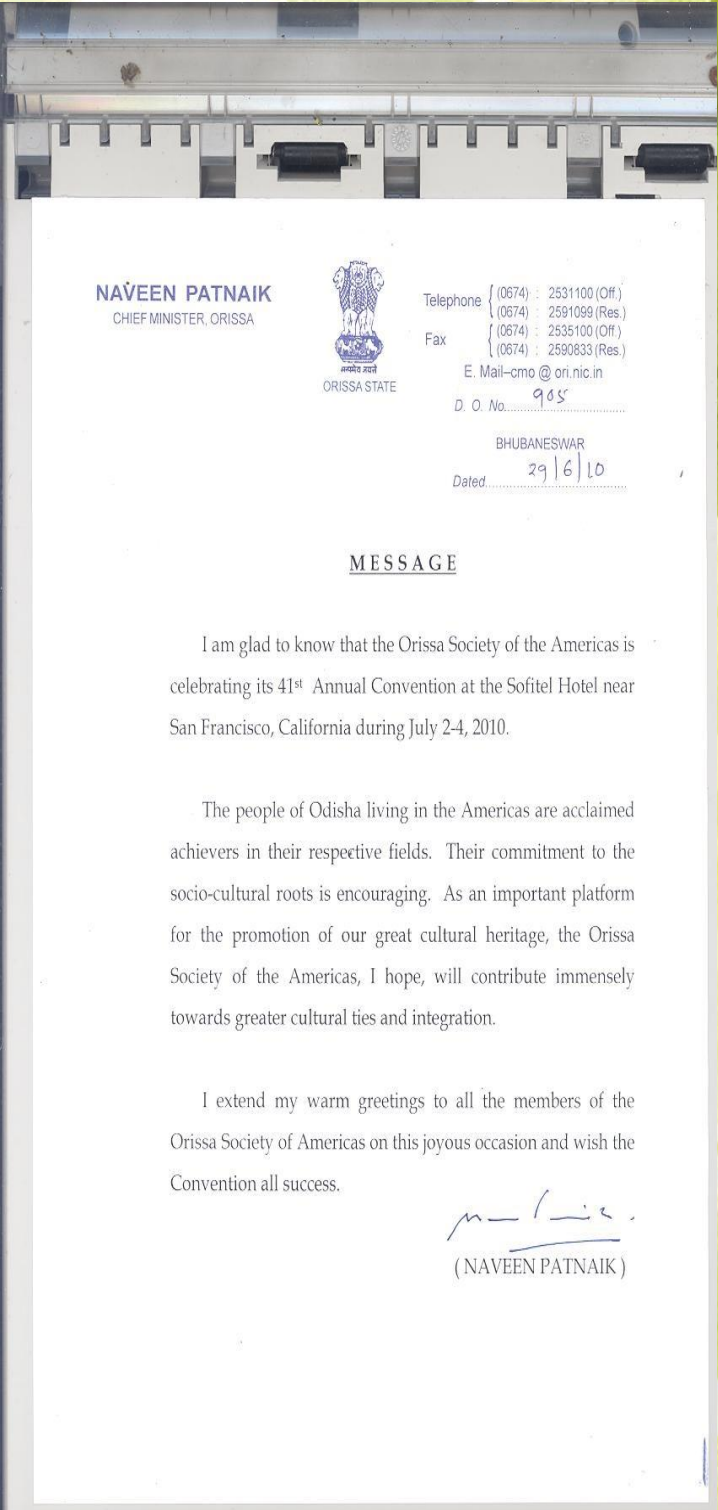
### ପ୍ରିୟ ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ

ଓସାର ଜନ୍ମଦିନ ନିକଟତର ହୋଇଆସୁଛି । ଜନ୍ମଦିନରେ ପୂଜା, ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ, ମଙ୍ଗଳ କାମନା ଓ ଉପହାର ପ୍ରଦାନ ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ବିଧି । ବେଳେବେଳେ ଆମକୁ ଏମିତି ସବୁ ଉପହାର ମିଳିଥାଏ, ଯାହାର କିଛି ଉପାଦେୟତା ନଥାଏ । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଓସା ଜୀବନର ଏମିତି ଏକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ଏହାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟନିବାହୀ ଭାବେ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓସାପାଇଁ ଉପଯୋଗ୍ୟ ଓ ଉପାଦେୟ ଉପହାରର ତାଲିକା ଦେଉଛି । ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସ୍ନେହ, ମଙ୍ଗଳକାମନା ଓ ନିଷ୍ଠା କାମ୍ୟ । ତେବେ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଅର୍ଥ ହିଁ ଓସାପାଇଁ ସର୍ବପ୍ରଧାନ ଉପହାର ଭାବେ ଲୋଡା । ଦୁଇଜଣ ସଭ୍ୟ ନିଜ ସମାଜ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ କୋର୍ଟକେସ୍ କରି ଏହାର ଆର୍ଥିକ ମେରୁଦଣ୍ଡ ଉପରେ କୁଠାରଘାତ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଆର୍ଥିକ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛଳତା ଫେରାଇଆଣିବା ପାଇଁ ଓସାର ସମସ୍ତ କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାମାନଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ବିନମ୍ର ନିବେଦନ କରୁଛି; ଯେତିକି ବି ସମ୍ଭବ, ଅର୍ଥଦାନ କରି ଓସାକୁ ଏ ହାସ୍ୟାଞ୍ଜବ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରୁ ବଞ୍ଚାନ୍ତୁ । ଯଦି ପ୍ରତି ଓସା ସଭ୍ୟ ପରିବାର ଦିନକୁ ମାତ୍ର ଗୋଟିଏ ଡଲାର ଓସାପାଇଁ ଦାନରୂପେ ରଖେ, ତେବେ ଓସାର ଆର୍ଥିକ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛଳତା ଖୁବ୍ ଶୀଘ୍ର ଫେରିଆସିବ । “ଯୋଡାକୁ ଘୋଡା ସରି ନୁହେଁ ।” ଆମର ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ଉଦ୍ୟମ ନିକଟରେ କୌଣସି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହୋଇ ରହିବନାହିଁ । ଓସା ଠାକୁର ନୁହେଁ କି ଆପଣମାନେ ଧର୍ମ କରିବାର ପ୍ରୟାସ ରଖି ଏହାକୁ ଦାନ କରିବେ । ତଥାପି ଓସା ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସୃଷ୍ଟି । ଆପଣ ହିଁ ଓସା । ଆପଣ ହିଁ ଓସାର ଅଙ୍ଗପ୍ରାଣ । ନିଜ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ପ୍ରତି ଅନ୍ତତଃ ସ୍ନେହ ରଖି ତ ଆପଣମାନେ ଉପହାର ଦେଇପାରିବେ ?

ଜନ୍ମଦିନ ଭଳି ଏକ ପବିତ୍ର ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନେ ଓସାର ସୁଖ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଓ ଦୀର୍ଘଜୀବନ କାମନା କରି ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

କନ୍ଓେନ୍ସନ୍ରେ ଭେଟିବାର କାମନା କରି ରହିଲି ।

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ  
ପ୍ରେସିଡେଣ୍ଟ, ଓସା



## Appeal to Members: Help and Save OSA

Dear Members and Friends of OSA

We make you this appeal to help OSA and save OSA in this critical juncture of its life. We hope you are receiving updated information on OSA and its struggle to combat lawsuit terrorism inflicted by a few of its own members. An extended version of our appeal including our journey through this terror path is included below.

OSA won the case on May 26th. In the process it has suffered a lot of financial damage. Please check the following lawsuit information page to know more about the claims and final judgment.

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/osa\\_legal\\_information\\_gateway.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/osa_legal_information_gateway.htm)

As a respectable member of OSA, we sincerely request you to donate generously to OSA Defense Fund. OSA BOG members discussed the strategy on June 6th, 2010 and majority of the members have approved to use various methods for fundraising.

Many members have asked various questions on the utilization of the funds raised for the purpose. Please check the following web page to get answers to your questions.

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/osafaq\\_fundraising.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/osafaq_fundraising.htm)

For getting updated information of the fundraising status, follow the following link.

<http://www.orissasociety.org/DOLA/Pledge/>



Dr. Akhileswar Patel  
*OSA Treasurer*

Your donation is tax deductible. Please write your check to "The Orissa Society of the Americas" and send to

Dr Akhileswar Patel  
*Treasurer*  
*The Orissa Society of the Americas*  
*49 Cannon Road*  
*Old Bridge, NJ 08857*  
*USA*

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

OSA National Executives, 2009-2011

### Appeal in Detail

Dear Members and Friends of OSA,

When we went through the last election, our slate had lofty plans and vision for OSA. We were honored to be elected by a wide margin of votes and the overwhelming support from the rank and file was our strength. We had plans to ride on this popular support to help build the OSA that we all would be proud to be associated with.

However our excitement to build OSA was short lived. Around June 19, 2009 we were served legal documents challenging our election and alleging massive fraud and irregularities. We tried to negotiate as the majority of the Plaintiffs are also our fellow dear members of OSA. Our volunteer OSA attorney Sujit Babu (Sujit Mohanty, Esq) talked to the plaintiff's attorneys to come up with an acceptable compromise to sort through the allegations. However the Plaintiffs had only one demand and that is to admit the irregularities and agree for a new election. The plaintiffs included 2007-2009 OSA executives, 2009 Election Committee members, and both me (then as President Elect) and Pradeep Mohapatra, my running mate (then Vice President Elect), as defendants. In addition they also included OSA as a defendant that made the case more sensitive and complicated.

The Plaintiffs hard stance "their way or highway" forced the past OSA executive team to approach a volunteer OSA member to represent OSA in the court. Again OSA did not want to spend the money as in our simplistic view we thought we would go before the judge with the help of our volunteer attorney. The judge asked the Plaintiffs to present their allegations before the OSA GBM. The majority of Plaintiffs did not attend the GBM even though one of the Plaintiffs was present at the convention and the supporters of the Plaintiffs spoke for 50 minutes. At the end the OSA members again delivered their judgment 126/5. One hundred and twenty six members voted for the motion that the election was fair and there were no irregularities and only five members sided with the Plaintiffs against the motion. We were elated with the overwhelming support and started making plans to ride on this popular support and help build OSA that we all would be proud to be associated with.

However our excitement to build OSA was again short lived. Unfortunately the plaintiffs were not ready for the second show of massive OSA support for the 2009 election. The Plaintiffs decided to ignore the voice of members of OSA and go for a full trial unless we agree to another election and admit irregularities that were not there. Our volunteer attorney did not want to volunteer her time for a full trial as that could be overwhelming.



We discussed the alternatives with our Board of Governors. We all faced with one predicament. We knew if we agree to their unreasonable demands in future no member would ever agree to volunteer time for either conducting an election or contesting an election. This was not acceptable and the BOG authorized us to hire an outside attorney as we had no other choice left.

Unfortunately defending the honor of our people and OSA as an institution was not cheap. The Plaintiffs made it costlier by hiring additional attorneys and asking multiple defendants for depositions even though their other attorneys had agreed earlier to depose certain defendants only. We as defendants had no choice other than submitting to their whims and arbitrary decisions. The plaintiffs asked each of the defendants to be at the trial even though they did not call anyone except Sandip Dasverma to the witness stand. The Plaintiffs goal was to cause extreme hardships and subject unnecessary cost to break both OSA and the defendants.

We spent close to 6 months conferencing in several times a week, preparing thousand pages of documents and compromise with our professional and personal commitments.

Now the judge after hearing the arguments, cross examinations, reviewing the interrogatories and depositions delivered the historic judgment by disagreeing with all claims made by the Plaintiffs and agreeing with defendants that no irregularities were made and thus he ratified the election as fair.

When we the defendants agreed to volunteer our time, we agreed to stand up to the commitment and responsibilities that come with the office which we did. Now we are approaching you to meet one of the commitments we have made and that is to raise the money OSA spent on defending against the unjust and unnecessary lawsuit. Also we want to leave an additional amount for future so that OSA does not have to mortgage her future again.

We have a plan to raise \$60,000. We have one year left. We will like to hear your ideas about raising this amount. Please be vocal and share your ideas through OSAnet and also at the 2010 convention. We will come up with multiple alternatives to raise this money. In the mean time we want to follow on our old gold OSA tradition of approaching the OSA members and asking them to help OSA by pledging whatever money they could afford. In the past we the OSA members had contributed to very well deserving causes during the unfortunate 1999 cyclone and the Kargil episode. Your pledge will send a very strong message for future that we need not run to court and bankrupt our OSA to settle our differences. We could all use our BOG office as neutral arbitrator to sort out our differences. After all, the BOG meetings have been regularized, made inclusive and strengthened since 2007.

If we do not stand up now, no well meaning OSA member would ever volunteer either for the elected office or to conduct any OSA related activities. We have the confidence that you will rise to the situation and will make your voice heard loud and clear.

Please send your pledge and check to OSA treasurer at the following address. OSA past secretary Priyadarsan Patra has agreed to develop an internet based pledge monitoring system and you will see the details on detailed status of our fundraising soon. Your donation will be tax free.

Thanks and Regards,

Bigyani Das & OSA Executive team

**PS: Please write your check payable to**

The Orissa Society of the Americas  
and send to  
Dr Akhileswar Patel  
Treasurer, The Orissa Society of the Americas  
49 Cannon Road  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857 USA  
(In the memo write: Defense Fund)



Annapurna Pandey  
OSA Secretary

### **BOG Meeting, June 6, 2010**

**Time:** 8:30 PM – 11:10 PM

**Attendance:** Bigyani Das (BD), Pradeep Mohapatra (PM), Arata Rout, (AR), Pratap Das (PD), Amar Pani (APA), Debasish Panda (DP), Sikha Sen, Bidhu Das (BDSE), Lalatendu Mohanty (LM), Nishikant Sahoo (NS), Akhileswar Patel (APT), Priyadarsan Patra (PP-Immediate Past Secretary), Sandip Dasverma (SD - Immediate Past Treasurer)

#### **Discussion Points**

- GBM Meeting plan during the convention
- OSA Legal Status
- Fundraising Plan
- Future OSA
- Membership
- Annual Report
- Proxy
- Souvenir Distribution
- Misc.

#### **GBM Meeting plan during the convention**

BD asked BOG members to send representatives to the BOG meeting during the convention if the members do not plan to attend physically. All the members agreed to send their representatives or authorize OSA National executives to take decisions for them.

## OSA Legal Status

BD updated the legal status. Members voiced their opinion strongly for taking any and all preventive measures against any such extremist action against the organization. Members also suggested that proper conflict resolution mechanism should be put into effect and any other inexpensive procedure such as arbitration should be attempted.

## Fundraising Plan

Several fundraising methods were discussed and were accepted by the BOG members present in the meeting. They are:

1. Ask for donations
2. Increase membership fee (Annual: \$40, Life: \$400)
3. Introduce new membership scale such as Trustee Membership (\$3000)
4. Website Advertisement with company banner
5. Put a big box during the convention with appeal letter for donation collection

## How the money should be spent

1. Replenish the expense that has already occurred for the lawsuit
2. Save in the Defense Fund for the future
3. Any preventive measures (although not discussed exactly on what preventive measures, it may include training of OSA executives in non-profit law and providing insurance for the organization and its volunteers)

## Future OSA

All BOG members agreed for a lawsuit-free future OSA. All voiced strongly to take any action for preventing any future lawsuits. Taking insurance, using strict disciplinary measures against members who use extreme measures, using effective conflict resolution mechanism etc. are some of the steps that OSA should take as soon as possible.

## Membership

Non-OSA members who attend the convention have to pay OSA membership fee. That does not make them members unless they fill up the membership fee and put their signature. This was raised by Lalatendu Mohanty. All BOG members agreed. Sandip Dasverma also pointed out that according to the constitution all annual members will only be accepted by July 31<sup>st</sup>. All BOG members agreed. Members must follow the procedure of membership. OSA chapters may collect the check and membership fee to submit to OSA treasurer within a month of receiving such material. Chapters that claim not using OSA EIN and do not submit annual financial report are not authorized to collect any money for OSA or OSA membership.

Chapters were informed to send their membership information to OSA secretary by June 30, 2010 in proper format.

## Proxy

BD asked everybody to circulate proxy information among the local members. All chapter presidents agreed to do that. Anybody that do not send proxy will be considered to be present in the GBM through OSA executives.

## Souvenir Distribution

The issue was raised for souvenir distribution that is a massive task considering that many OSA permanent members do not attend the convention. There was no conclusive discussion except that send the packet to the chapter representatives or a community representative and every member should make an attempt to collect.

## Miscellaneous

There was miscellaneous discussion on meeting protocol, drama festival etc.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 PM. BD thanked everybody and requested everybody to attend the convention and send their chapter information so that OSA web can have the information clearly for everybody's knowledge.

## Advanced GBM Agenda

Total Time: 1 hour 30minutes to 2 hours  
Date: July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 11:30AM

- Call to order by Sgt-At-Arms: 2-3 minutes
- Good OSA Member Pledge: 2-3 minutes
- President's Remarks: 7-10 minutes
- Parliamentarian Announcement: 2-3 minutes
- Member Recognition Awards: Vice President, 2-4 minutes
- Secretary's Report, Reading of 2009 GBM Minutes, New Member Induction: 5-7 minutes
- Treasurer's Report: 5-7 minutes
- New Constitution/Amendments: Discussion: 10-15 minutes
- New Constitution/Amendments: Voting: 3-5 minutes
- OSA Legal Issues: Discussion: 8-10 minutes
- OSA Legal Issues: Voting: 3-5 minutes
- Election Committee Declaration and Voting: 3-5 minutes
- OSA Archive: Presentation by Archive Committee: 8-10 minutes
- OSA Communication: OSAnet is to be considered as a virtual GBM and polls can be conducted by members or executives. The results of the polls will be mandatory with immediate effect. – Suggested by Deva Narayan Pattanayak to be implemented by August 1, 2010- Voting – 4-5 minutes
- Cultural: Request that OSA makes it a mandate to organize a cultural segment completely dedicated to Odia classical music style such as Odissi, Chhanda, and Champu to increase interest among the new generation Oriya children in their cultural heritage. – Lata Mishra – Voting – 4-5 minutes
- Announcements: Next Year's Convention etc
- Miscellaneous

## REQUEST FORM TO INCLUDE AN AGENDA ITEM IN THE OSA GENERAL BODY MEETING, 2010

Submitted by:  
Lata Misra

Date Sent: June 3, 2010

Copies to:

Dr. Bigyani Das, President, OSA  
Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra, Vice President, OSA  
Dr. Annapurna Pandey, Secretary, OSA  
Dr. Akhileswar Patel, Treasurer, OSA

### A. Proposer:

Lata Misra  
14 Champlain Way  
Franklin Park, NJ 08823  
Tel: (732) 398-3292  
E-mail: [Lata.misra.us@gmail.com](mailto:Lata.misra.us@gmail.com)  
Member Type: Patron  
Member since: 1972

### B: Item Type

Cultural

### C. Description

I request that OSA makes it a mandate to organize a cultural segment completely dedicated to Odia classical music style such as Odissi, Chhanda, and Champu to increase interest among the new generation Oriya children in their cultural heritage. I request OSA National Executives to discuss this in the GBM of 2010 and bring a mandatory resolution. I make a commitment to sponsor such programs and award fee for any such competitions held for the purpose.

### D. Methodology

1. OSA Cultural Committee members will be in charge of this segment.
2. OSA Convention cultural committee coordinator will assign a 1 hour segment for this purpose during the OSA Convention.



**REQUEST FORM TO INCLUDE AN AGENDA  
ITEM IN THE OSA GENERAL BODY MEETING,  
2010**

3. Invitations for participation will be sent to all OSA children between the ages of 8 (Eight) and 20 (Twenty) through the Convention web page.
4. The intending participants shall contact the OSA cultural committee for their participation by May 1st of the respective year.
5. A panel of judges will be selected by the OSA cultural committee to judge the performance and select three winners.
6. The winners will be selected on the spot and the award will be presented at the spot after all the performances.

**E. Call for Action**

I request that the above is implemented by August 1, 2010

Submitted by:  
Lata Misra

**A. Proposer (Name and Contact Info)**

Name: Deva Narayan Pattanayak  
Address 19123 Brookhaven Dr  
Tel:4082572909  
Email:dmgadia@gmail.com  
Member Type:Life  
Member since: Many years

**B. Item type (Choose one or add another item category)**

Communication

**C. Description**

OSAnet is to be considered as a virtual GBM and polls can be conducted by members or executives. The results of the polls will be mandatory with immediate effect.

**D. Methodology**

Discussions will be restricted to 15 minutes followed by a vote of members present. A simple majority is needed to pass the motion. Discussions will precede in OSAnet.

**E. Call for Action**

I request that the above is implemented by August 1, 2010.

Submitted by:  
Deva Narayan Pattanayak

## New Members (Induction and Mentoring)

Until now, everybody who pays the membership dues becomes a member of OSA. There is neither voting-in policy, nor the formal induction procedure. Although it is alright to have the informal procedure for new membership, however, a formal induction ceremony might help in increasing OSA patriotism among the new members and may be able to build a stronger relationship between new and old members. Thus, the following formal induction procedure may be adopted for future use. The secretary may invite all the new members to come to the front and perform this induction ceremony in the beginning of the GBM.

### Pledge of the Inductee

I .....(your name)..... in the presence of fellow members of the Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA), make this firm obligation

- to respect the organization
- to respect the members of the society
- to build open, friendly relationships with my fellow members
- to evaluate the organization and fellow members in a positive, constructive manner
- to actively participate in the society's activities
- to volunteer to serve the society when called upon
- to bring new members so that they can also gain the benefit of OSA membership
- to work towards propagating Oriya cultural heritage

### Pledge of other members

- We, the members of the Orissa Society of the Americas, pledge
- to support you in your quest for social interaction
- to provide you a positive, helpful cultural surrounding to grow

- to maintain a friendly, supportive atmosphere
- to give you the opportunities to help others
- to make your OSA membership a rewarding and fulfilling experience

### All

Repeat Good OSA member pledge

## Good OSA Member Pledge

The vision and mission goals of OSA emphasize in fostering friendship and social togetherness among its membership. We urge all the members to strengthen these goals by becoming good OSA citizens and providing better examples for the second generation children to motivate them to belong to the organization and support the organization. In this regard we request all the OSA members to pledge the following to themselves in the spirit of enhancing our nurturing relationship.

I pledge myself to uphold  
The highest purposes of ***The Orissa Society of the Americas***  
of which I have been a member;  
I will uphold the dignity and respect of the organization  
And will protect its values;  
I will be true to the principles for which it stands  
And will maintain and encourage  
High standards of friendship, fellowship, service  
Leadership and character;

## Constitutional Amendment Items

Here are some of the major constitutional amendments suggested by some members and BOG.

1. Membership Fee Increase for Life Members (\$300 to \$400) and Annual Members (\$10 to \$25 for single and \$25 to \$40 for Family)
2. New Member Category: Trustee Member - \$3000
3. Voting Member versus Non-Voting Member (Should student members vote?)
4. Convention Hosting: Chapters versus Communities
5. Quorum: Minimum Number Requirement
6. Sending ballots to international members
7. Souvenir Issue (printing and distribution) and member maintenance fee for non-attending OSA members of Annual Convention equivalent to \$15 OSA fee at the convention
8. Joint OSA Secretary and Joint OSA Treasurer Positions: Should be Elected or Selected
9. More Vice Presidents: For Public Relation, Communication (Elected or Selected)
10. Chapters that use OSA EIN and that do not use OSA EIN
11. Disciplinary Action: Members and Chapters
12. Immunity from Lawsuits: Defending the Society, Member should be disqualified by default
13. Election of Chapter Officers with National Election
14. OSA Ombudsman
15. Income from Life membership

### OSA 2009 GBM

**Resolution 2:** If any chapter raises funds for OSA through either annual memberships, or donations for OSA activities, OSA shall send a yearly "rebate" of 25% of that amount to that chapter to sustain & support the chapter.

**Resolution 3:** It is hereby recommended that OSA adopt the following process for mediating any disputes that may arise with respect to its constitution or by-laws through an amendment of OSA by-laws: A complaining member must file a complaint with the OSA's Executive Committee outlining in detail the nature of the complaint. Within 30 days of the filing of the complaint, a 3 member Mediation Committee shall be convened by the Executive Committee. The Mediation Committee shall consist of one member selected by the Complainant, one member selected by the Executive Committee, then these 2 members shall select a third member of the Mediation Committee and choose the committee Chair among the three. The Mediation Committee shall hear the complaint and issue a written decision of its findings within 60 days of the convening of the Mediation Committee. If the Mediation Committee could not be formed or either party is not satisfied with the findings/decision of the Mediation Committee, any party may proceed on the matter to a court having proper jurisdiction. The complaining member losing the proceedings which they bring in court shall pay the legal costs, including but not limited to the attorney costs, of the prevailing party.

## Our Health



### TRIPHALA

By Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, CEO, Best Nutrition Inc, Hayward, California

- Latin name:** *Terminalia bellirica, Terminalia chebula, Emblica officinalis*
- English name:** Bellirica Myrobalan, Chebulic Myrobalan, and Indian Gooseberry
- Sanskrit/Indian name:** Triphala (Bibhitaki, Haritaki and Amalaki)

**Medicinal parts used:** Fruits

**Triphala** is an Ayurvedic herbal rasayana formula consisting of equal parts of three myrobalans, taken without seed; Amalaki (*Emblica officinalis*), Bibhitaki (*Terminalia bellirica*), and Haritaki (*Terminalia chebula*), with potential anti-cancer properties. These herbs have a well esteemed place in Ayurveda.

The word *triphala* means literally “three fruits”.

#### Therapeutic use:

- Triphala is used to promote appetite and digestion, increase the number of red blood cells, and aid in removal of undesirable fat in the body.
- When dissolved in the mouth, Triphala is used to clear congestion and headaches.
- Other claimed benefits include helping maintain normal blood sugar levels, as well as improvement in skin tone and colour.
- Triphala is also helpful in liver disorders, acts as an expectorant and corrects Diverticulitis.



### TRIKATU

By Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, CEO, Biotechayur.com Bestnutrition.com

- Latin name:** *Piper longum, Piper nigrum, Zingiber officinalis*
- English names:** Indian Long Pepper, Black Pepper and Ginger
- Sanskrit name:** Trikatu (Pippali, Maricha and Sunthi)

**Medicinal parts used:** Fruits, roots

**Trikatu** is an ancient formula made up of the three herbal stimulants known as Pippali, Maricha, and Sunthi in equal amounts. Trikatu is basically a Sanskrit word that means “three spices”. It is the main stimulant compound used by Ayurvedic doctors since years. Containing fruits of black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), Indian long pepper (*Piper longum*) and the rhizomes of ginger (*Zingiber officinalis*), it is a common combination used stimulating and maintaining the digestive and respiratory systems as being natural appetizer, it is best for indigestion.

Trikatu is an herbal compound that is considered as potent carminative as it provides a natural and safe support system for gastric function associated with gaseous distension.

#### Therapeutic use:

- Trikatu is a safe digestive stimulant and equally best expectorant.
- Other properties of trikatu include antiallergenic, carminative, anti-flatulent, and it acts as a natural antihistamine.
- Trikatu also promotes absorption of nutrients by the gastrointestinal tract.
- It is useful in dyspepsia.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, an ayurvedic physician, author, entrepreneur, industrialist, based in California, USA. He is the President, CEO of Best Nutrition Products Inc. in Hayward, California. He is also the founder, CEO of Biotechayur, Pvt, Ltd, Balasore, Odisha, India.

# ଗଂଗା ଶିଉଳୀ

## ମନଆଇନା

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

ମନଆଇନାରେ ଜଳଜଳ କରି ଦିଶିଯାଉଛି  
ବନ୍ଧୁତା, ସ୍ନେହ, ହସଖୁସି, ଗପସପ  
ବାରମ୍ବାର ନିମନ୍ତଣ  
ସମ୍ପର୍କ ସ୍ତୂପ ନିର୍ମାଣ  
ଉପହାର ଦିଆନିଆ  
ଖିଆପିଆ, ମେଳଜୋଳ  
ସଙ୍ଗତ ଗାୟନ ।

ସମୟ ଚକ୍ର ପୁଣି ଏତେ ନିଦାରୁଣ  
ବନ୍ଧୁ ସାଜେ ପ୍ରତିବାଦୀ  
ଭାବନାର ରଙ୍ଗ କଳା  
ହୃଦ, ମନ, କଳୁଷିତ  
କର୍ଷା ଅଗ୍ନି ଜାଳିଦିଏ,  
କରେ ଛାରଖାର  
ବନ୍ଧୁତାର ମାନ ।

ଏଇତ ଜୀବନ, ଦୁନିଆର ଚିତ୍ର  
ମିଛ, ମାୟା ସମ୍ପର୍କର  
ସତ୍ୟ ପରିଚୟ  
କିଏ ମିତ୍ର, କିଏ ଶତ୍ରୁ  
କିଏ ଭୁଲ୍, କିଏ ଠିକ୍  
ସବୁ ସତେ ଅଭିନୟ  
ଅଦୃଶ୍ୟ ନିୟମ ।

ମନଆଇନାରେ ଦେଖୁଛି ନିଜକୁ ଆଜି  
ପଚାରୁଛି ନାନା ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ  
କିଏ ମୁଁ କେଉଁଠୁ ଆସିଲି  
କେଉଁ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ, ଅଭିଳାଷ  
କେଉଁ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ, କେଉଁ ଚିନ୍ତା  
କେଉଁ ସୁଖ ପାଇଁ ମୋର ଏ ଭୂମିକା  
ଦୃନ୍ଦର ଜୀବନ ।

ଘୁରୁଛି ମୁଁ ନିତିଦିନ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ଭଉଁରୀରେ  
ଆଇନାରେ ଦିଶେ ଖାଲି  
ଚକାମୁହଁ, ଚକାଆଖି  
ସେ ହିଁ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ, ସେ ହିଁ ଉତ୍ତର  
ସେ ହିଁ ସୁଖ, ସେ ହିଁ ଦୁଃଖ  
ସେଇ ଶୂନ୍ୟ, ସେଇ ପରିପୁର୍ଣ୍ଣ  
ସେଇ ସତ୍ୟ, ସେଇ ଚିରନ୍ତନ ।

ଶରଣ ନେଇଛି ମୁଁ ସେ ଅଭୟ ଚରଣେ  
ସେ ପରା ମୋ ମନର ଆଇନା  
ଭୟ ନାହିଁ, ଭୀତି ନାହିଁ  
ଶଙ୍କା ନାହିଁ, ଷୋଭ ନାହିଁ  
ସେ ଯେ ମୋର ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରକ, କର୍ତ୍ତା  
ମୁଁ ତାଙ୍କ ଖେଳଣା  
ଅଭିନେତ୍ରୀ ମୁଁ  
ଅଭିନୟ କରିବା ମୋ ଧର୍ମ ।

## COMMUNITY ROUND UP - CHAPTER NEWS

### A report on 2<sup>nd</sup> OSA Regional Odia Drama Festival, Eastern Region

By Nishikanta Sahoo  
Orissa Society of New England

**Orissa Society Of New England(OSNE)** has celebrated "Utkal Divas" and hosted "2<sup>nd</sup> OSA Regional Odia Drama Festival" in Andover, MA on 10th April, 2010 at Chinmay Mission auditorium. This is the first OSA inter chapter event jointly organized by OSNE and OSA in New England region. This has opened a new horizon for strengthening inter-chapter relationship between OSNE and OSA NY/NJ chapter to work together for a common cause.

The entire process and planning for the drama festival has started few months back with constant encouragements and support by OSA national executives, OSA national drama coordinators, and OSNE executives.

The cultural program started with Welcome speech by OSNE president regarding "Utkal Divas Celebration" and "2nd OSA Regional Odia Drama Festival", also the "1st Regional Odia Drama Festival" in New England chapter. The program is inaugurated by OSA treasurer Dr. Akhileshwar Patel by lighting the candle followed by Odia Bhajan of Late Lalmohan Pattanayak's "Keun naama Dhari" by OSNE kids. Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra's "Bande Utkal Janani" by OSNE artists started Utkal Divas celebration with audio-visuals in the background depicting the life, and rich culture of Orissa. Then there were speeches by OSA vice president Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra and NY/NJ chapter president Mr. Lalatendu Mohanty.

Non-Odia students of Noopur Dance Academy presented Odissi dance.

OSNE junior artists presented a dance drama, **Kanchi Abhijaan** directed by Mrs Jayashree Mohapatra. This is the famous story of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Manik, and Puri Gajapati Maharaja Purussottam Dev in 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Arya Mohanty(Jagannatha), Sneha Mohapatra(Balabhadra), Shruti Nanda(Manika), Ananya Pani(Gajapati), Sanskriti Tripathy(Mantri), Megha Panigrahi(Narrator), Neha Panigrahi(Kanchi Rajajema), Amisha Pani(Sakhi 1), Priyanka Nanda(Sakhi 2) were the respective characters for this dance drama.



**Bande Utkala Janani – by OSA NE**



**Keun Naama Dhari – by OSA NE Kids**



**Kanchi Abhiyan – by OSA NE Junior Artist**

NY/NJ team presented the drama on [Dasanana@2010: Naka Kata Upakhyan](#), directed by Mrs. Ranjita Mishra (Mahapatra). This is a replay of Ramayana episode with the flavor of 21st century technological innovations. Mr. Priya Ranjan Mahapatra (Ravan), Mr. Lalatendu Mohanty (Meghanad), Mr. Pradip Tripathy (Surpanakha), Mr. Pradeep Mahapatra (Maricha) were the characters of this drama.

OSNE senior artists presented the drama "**Dinu Kaka Thika Kahuthile**". The synopsis is as follows: Krushnachandra aka Kusuni works in Kolkata and sends money every month to his family who live in a small village. His dream was to build a house in his village. He returns after 5 years and sees how his hard earned money is utilized....the story takes turn - and after that it is all about money and relationship.... Mrs. Jayashree Mohapatra (Sabitri Devi), Mr. Satyabrata Mishra (Kusuni), Mr. Sushil Mohapatra (Dinu Kaka), Mr. Sanjeeb Swain (Kusuni's son), Mrs. Kalpana Panigrahi (Kusuni's daughter), Mrs. Mamata Sahoo (Pheriwali) and Mr. Arun Mohanty (Pheriwala) were the characters of this drama.

A plaque, as a token of appreciation, was presented to NY/NJ president Mr. Lalatendu Mohanty for NY/NJ chapter members for their active support and participation in strengthening the inter-chapter relationship.

Two senior most OSNE members Mr. Nityanand Mishra and Dr. Bijoy Mishra were invited to present gifts to junior artists on behalf of OSNE to encourage the young talent.

OSNE drama coordinator Dr. Arun Mohanty gave vote of thanks.

The cultural program ended with Odia Medley by OSNE artists Mr. Sanjeev/Julie Swain followed by Mrs. Ranjita Mahapatra's Odia devotional music recital.

There was a photo session for NY/NJ members and OSNE members to capture these wonderful moments.

Billboard presentation in the dining area showcased the OSNE past activities and fliers of organizations promoting education, and culture related to Orissa. Vegetarian dinner was served and people got opportunity for social networking among Odia Diasporas.



Dasanana@2010: NAKA KatA UpAkhyAn



OSA NY NJ Team



Dinu Kaka Thika Kahuthile

There were around 50 Odia families in addition to guests from NY/NJ and other guests for this 6+ hour event in the evening.

OSNE is thankful to OSA NY/NJ president for making NY/NJ chapter to be part of the program, its valued members for their support, and its dedicated and committed participants for making the event meaningful and attractive by their participation by driving all the way from NY/NJ.

OSNE is thankful to OSA Vice President and OSA Treasurer for their esteem presence in this OSA/OSNE event and making a difference.

OSNE would like to extend special thanks to OSA, its national executives, BOG members, valuable members for supporting and sponsoring this inter-chapter event. OSNE would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Brajendra Panda, OSA National Drama Coordinator, Dr. Sri Gopal Mohanty, Mr. Sandeep Dasverma for their vision, direction, encouragement, and making it a reality for the second time in OSA history.

The program of this scale is possible only because of its all dedicated and committed volunteers, motivated artists, generous donors, organizers, active supporters, and valuable members. A simple thank you is not good enough to recognize their contribution and sacrifice for success of this program for our community. They made the drama festival a reality. More pictures and videos are available @ <http://osane.orissasociety.org/2010-drama-festival/>

We wish all the best for this year's remaining OSA Regional Odia Drama Festivals in other regions.

Long Live OSA!!!

Sincerely

- Nishikanta Sahoo, President
  - Geetanjali Pani, Vice President
  - Dr. Arun Mohanty, Cultural Secretary and 2010 Drama Coordinator
  - Sujata Dhal, Treasurer
  - Jayashree Mohapatra, Cultural Outreach Chair
  - Subrat Pani, Education Coordinator
  - Dillip Behera, 2010 Drama Coordinator
- On Behalf Of Orissa Society Of New England





## Chapter Report for CANOSA

By Sabita Panigrahi  
President CANOSA  
Toronto

### Participation of CANOSA members in Republic Day Celebration organized by Panorama India

The year started with the participation of CANOSA members in the Republic Day Celebration organized by Panorama India at the Pearson Convention Centre. The participants were Ineka Panigrahi, Sasmita Tripathy, Madhusmita Patra, Swetalina Mishra, Lipsa Mohanty and Bibhu Mahapatra who presented a dance piece choreographed by Sasmita Tripathy. It was an incredible performance that has added a whole new dimension to Odias' image among Indian community. In the art competition, our young artist Yuvraj Tripathy was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the children's drawing competition.

### Sahitya Pathachakra

The Canada-Odisha Society of the Americas (CANOSA) celebrated the fourth Sahitya Patha Chakra featuring a tribute to poet Kuntala Kumari Sabat, an illustrious poet of Odisha and a series of recitations of Odia poems by local writers. It was a midday event on April 10. The first session was the tribute to the poet, her life and works that spanned only 38 years (1901-1938).

Children of the community presented recitations from the poet's anthology of poems. It was followed by a group song that made an impressive musical presentation from the poet's writing: "chhota bada" (great and the small).

Various speakers spoke on the life and works of the poet. They touched upon the multifaceted talents of the poet including her protest against child marriage, the caste system, untouchability, discrimination against women, patriotism, metaphysical ideology in poems like "shelAli prati".

It was followed by "kabiA pAtha" recitation of Odia poems as an integral part of the traditional Sahitya Patha Chakra. Interestingly all the poems were original compositions of the writers. "Variety is the sauce of life"; so were the contents, style, rhythm and scale of each presentation. Surprisingly many were newcomers to the Odia community in Toronto, and the quality of presentation was simply superb.



It was a wonderful setting; two hours of literary forum from light to serious thoughts and discussions made an impressive impact on the audience. Dr. Parasara Mishra, the co-ordinator of the event, very diligently organized the study circle, participants presented high quality poems and reviews and more than anything, the great appreciation shown by the audience made us feel that CANOSA has very successfully hosted a low-cost high quality event.

It made us feel that we are not away from home; we can and we will continue to be authentic Odia in a distant land as we are in. Perhaps distance lends enchantment to view.

### Bisuba Milana Celebration



The Bisuba Milana was organized by CANOSA on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Mississauga. The program started with a children's folk dance. Then a beautiful drama 'Sakhi Gopala' was presented by young artists.



Invited artist Enakshi Das Sinha presented an Odissi performance. For this purpose, financial assistance was provided by the Ontario Arts Council. For the first time, CANOSA witnessed Chhau dance in Mayurbhanj style presented by Madhusmita Patra.



### New CANOSA Board

The new CANOSA board and executives were elected after an election. On the eve of Bishuba Milana celebration, the outgoing president Mr. Jibanjit Tripathy welcomed the new executives (Sabita Panigrahi, Alok Patnaik, Sujata Patnaik and Hara Narayan Padhi) and new board (Nilamani Nayak, Niranjana Mishra, Sudeshna Patnaik and Lalu Mansinha). He thanked the past executives and board for their service to the community.

### NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY CHAPTER NEWS

Lalatendu Mohanty  
President, OSA NY – NJ

#### OSA NYNJ Celebrated Saraswati Puja



New York & New Jersey Chapter observed Saraswati Puja at Venkateswar Temple, Bridgewater on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. Many families from local Oriya community joined and participated in Puja. Pitambar Sarangi conducted the puja. Children & adults sang various devotional songs followed by Prasad lunch.



#### Puri Gajapati visits New York Area



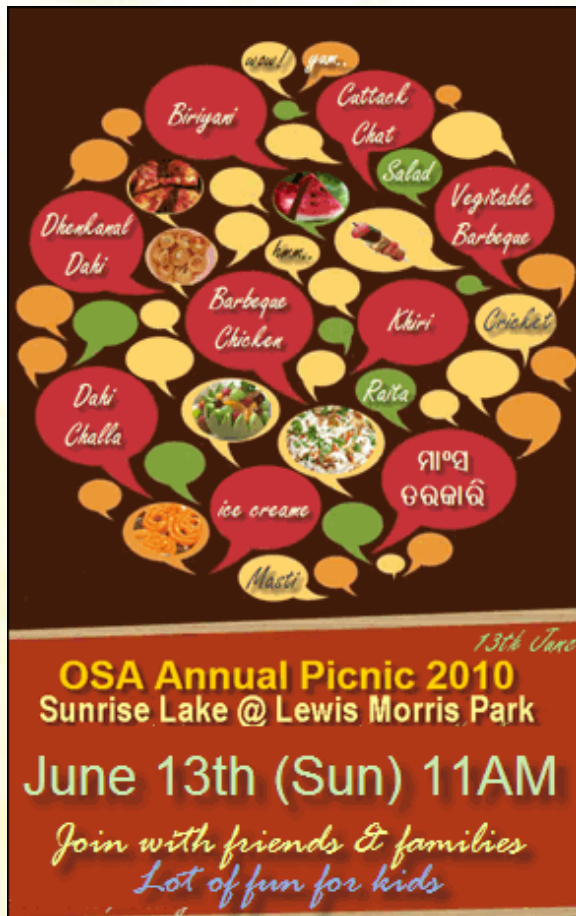
From Left to Right:  
Puri Gajapati Maharaj Divyasingh Deva  
Sri Uma Ballava Mishra, OSA Convener 2009  
Sri Lalatendu Mohanty, President, OSA NY NJ

Recently, Puri Gajapati Maharaj Divyasingh Deva visited Wayne, New Jersey upon invitation from Hindu Temple & Mahatma Gandhi Center. Many Jagannath devotees assembled at the temple to listen his religious discourse on "Tradition of Lord Jagannath". Local children performed various Cultural



programs honoring the Gajapati. Famous dancers including Bani Ray & Pallavi Das also show cased their artistic talent on this occasion.

### Annual Picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup>



New York & New Jersey Chapter will be having its annual picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Sunset Lake, Lewis Morris Park at Morristown, New Jersey. In addition to the picnic in odia style, many fun activities including Lake, Boat Ride, Beach, Fishing, Water plays are planned. Volunteers from the chapter are working hard to entertain the largest gathering of local odia community on this day. All odia community living in tri-state area, are invited to attend with family to enjoy a complete day of fun.

### 2009 Convention Book released

2009 Convention Book released. Please visit <http://www.mypublisher.com/?e=OHm3Q8zJl3Tax7JlahyJ6OJB8bprZgEk&showForm=true> to view the book. You may be able to order a book for yourself from this site. Please lookout for discount coupons before you order.



### 2009 Convention DVD

Few more copies of 6-set DVD sets are still available. If you are interested to get a copy, please write to [lmohanty@yahoo.com](mailto:lmohanty@yahoo.com).



### Ganesh Puja Celebration on September 11<sup>th</sup>

New York & New Jersey Chapter will observe Ganesh Puja on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 at Veda Mandir, Miltown, New Jersey.

## **Our Heartfelt Congratulations goes to... This year's Award Winners**

- ❖ **Pratap Das, Poolsville, MD (Distinguished Oriya Award winner)**
- ❖ **Chitta Baral, Gilbert, AZ (Gopabandhu Award winner)**
- ❖ **Jayashree Mahapatra, Winchester, MA (Kalashri Award winner)**
- ❖ **Atasi Gantayat Raina (Youth Volunteer Award winner)**
- ❖ **Dev Raj Praharaj, Huntsville, AL (Subrina Biswal Memorial Award winner for Academic Excellence)**
- ❖ **Rutwik Das (Junior Meghna Memorial Award winner for Creative Writing - For the Poem "Beauty". Age:9, Grade:4)**
- ❖ **Ayesha Misra (Senior Meghna Memorial Award winner for Creative Writing - For the essay "Where do I belong?". Age: 16)**

*There was no nominations for Youth Kala Vikash Award  
OSA Award co-ordinator: Manoi Mohanatra*

