



From the Editor's desk:

The June issue of Utkarsa is a window to the Seattle OSA 2012 convention. In addition to the convention highlights, we have the information on OSA 2012 symposiums, quarterly reports from office bearers, chapter reports and the literary section. Buddhism and Odisha, a must read, is also included in this issue. Enjoy your summer break.

Editors: Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray

(Photo: Silex Spring Geyser at Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming)

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President's Message



Annapurna Pandey

Dear OSA Family,

By the end of June 2012, we, the OSA officials, will be half way in our term. It is the right time to give an account of what we have accomplished and our vision for the remaining time in office.

As you all know, the annual OSA convention is the highlight of OSA activity every year where diasporic Odias dispersed everywhere come together to celebrate our community in the North America. In a couple of weeks I will be welcoming you all to the beautiful city of Seattle for the 43rd OSA convention of the Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA). My heartiest congratulations to each of the OSA members of the Pacific Northwest chapter and the 2012 Convention Organizing Committee for all their hard work, commitment and dedication in organizing what is sure to be a weekend filled with this momentous event packed with exciting and valuable programs, celebrations, and fellow feeling.

The theme of this year's convention is Eka Mana Eka Prana, Eka Pranta Eka Chinha - Bringing Odias Together. Clearly we are on the same wavelength because this is the guiding principle of OSA, and we are not only strengthening our culture and identity in the Americas but we have also been connecting with people back home. Let me share with you an example of this in just the last year: When a massive flood hit Odisha in 2011, OSA was able to organize fundraising throughout the country and, with the participation of the entire community, \$15K was raised for Odisha flood relief activities. (This included the efforts of our youth who organized various cultural programs to raise money for the people in Odisha; it is a clear indication how well connected our children feel with people back home despite being raised 12,000 miles away).

Another example of bringing Odias together is the active leadership of OSA-Odisha Development Committee this last year in strategizing how to revitalize various sectors of higher education in Odisha. OSA organized a workshop on Higher Education opportunities for students in Odisha. Held at Utkal University in Vani Vihar, it was attended by a large number of students, the Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries from the University and members of faculties representing various disciplines. A video produced on the proceeding of this workshop is available at www.orisasociety.org.) We are planning a second workshop at this OSA convention, on July 5th, followed by a workshop in the western region of Odisha to be held in December 2012. Our goal is to provide more educational opportunities for our Odia youth from different regions of Odisha. Education is the engine for the overall growth of the individual and society and we want to ensure that our next generation is well prepared to lead our state in various fields.

We came to the OSA office with a vision of promoting team spirit, transparency and building trust among our fellow Odias. During our tenure, we have opened a direct line of communication between the OSA executives and the governing body through our monthly meetings and our use of OSAnet for sharing our agenda and minutes. As a result, OSAnet has become a valuable medium of communication where members are encouraged to voice their ideas. This has also helped us reach out to the members of our society and has fostered team spirit within our community. It has been gratifying to see the active participation of so many of our fellow Odias – both first and second generation - coming forward to volunteer for the organization. Since OSA is a purely voluntary organization, we cherish the volunteer spirit among our members and hope that this spirit will continue and many more of our fellow Odias will come forward to take our society to greater heights.

Another aspect of our vision has been to transcend various barriers and build bridges across generations, channeling our services for passing our beautiful Odia culture and heritage to our next generation. One way to achieve this goal has been to increase awareness of OSA among the second generation Odias and entuse them to become members of our organization. We have been quite successful in reaching out to our youth and several of them have come forward to become life members of our society. We still have a long way to go, and my sincere appeal to you all is that you ask your successful sons, daughters, son –in-laws and daughter-in-laws to join OSA and make it an even more vibrant organization. My experience has been that if we want to succeed in this society, we have to build bridges and coalitions with like-minded people and make our own culture and contributions visible to the larger society.

It has been an honor to serve you all. Thank you all for your continued support of OSA, and for your trust in us this last year.

With regards,
Annapurna Pandey

Vice President's Message



Kuku Das

Namaskar! I would like to thank the wonderful OSA community for giving me the opportunity to serve you all. One year has already flown by. The Current executive team is working diligently to make OSA visible to all the Odias across the globe. I am privileged to be part of this team who has created the wonderful vision of taking OSA one step closer to all the members.

Our Cultural committee and the "Let's Learn Odia" committee are working on promoting and propagating our beautiful culture and heritage in this land of opportunity. To keep our language alive, many of our members have shown a great deal of interest to help, coordinate, and successfully open Odia Learning Centers in their areas. The Let's Learn Odia Committee is readily available to

support these new establishments by providing the appropriate curriculum to make this process easier.

OSA takes pride in recognizing and honoring many members for their contributions as well as their achievements in different areas of the OSA community. But most of the times, for various reasons, these candidates stay unacknowledged. We believe that it is only possible to realize the existence of these leaders and award their efforts if and only if we know about them. So my humble request to all of you for the future is to please make the extra effort to nominate these extraordinary individuals for the different categories of leadership. It is an honor for OSA to present the 2012 OSA Life Achievement Award to an eminent Indian classical singer of Gwalior Gharana from Odisha, Vidushi Sunanda Patnaik, considered one of the great dames of Hindustani classical music and Sangit Samrat Prafulla Kar, who has regaled audience, fans in Odisha and abroad with his distinctive singing, composition and lyrics for more than four decades.

It is my immense pleasure to welcome you to the 43rd OSA Convention in Seattle, WA. The theme of this year's convention is "Eka Mana Eka Prana, Eka Pranta Eka Chinha - Bringing Odias Together", it itself symbolizes the mission of this forty three year old organization, trying to keep us connected in every aspect in this Diaspora. The OSA 2012 Convention team is working passionately for a common goal of having a quality and entertaining Cultural Program for all Generations with a diversity of traditional and contemporary art form which connects us to our motherland, productive seminars, and a varieties of activities. The opening ceremony will be commenced by the Chief Guest Vidushi Sunanda Patnaik, the Keynote speaker S. J. Malay Mishra, the High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, the Guest of Honor Baijayant Panda, the member of the parliament and many other dignitaries. The convention cultural program will be adhered by many eminent talents such as Trupti Das, Dr. Ratna Roy, Smt. Jyoti Rout, Sri

Devraj Patnaik, Kumari Ellora Patnaik, Adyasha, Das, Susmita Das and Dr.Sangita Gosain with her melodious musical troupe. For complete information on convention program plans, please visit the convention page at www.osa2012.org.

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2012 Convention Organizers for all their enthusiasm and hard work. I will always cherish the memories of our great journey of organizing the 2012 convention. Looking forward to meeting you all in the beautiful city of Seattle!

Kuku Das
Vice President, OSA

Secretary's Report



Leena Mishra

BOG Meeting (April)

Date: 04/06/2012

Agenda:

- Convention Update
- Membership Drive extension
- Stake of Chapter on Membership Dues
- Setting % of membership fee for Odisha Development
- Miscellaneous

Attendance:

No	Name	Title	Organization	Present
1	Annapurna Pandey	President	OSA	Yes
2	Kuku Das	Vice President	OSA	Yes
3	Leena Mishra	Secretary	OSA	No
4	Sushant Satpathy	Treasurer	OSA	Yes
5	Amar Pani	President	Southern Chapter	Yes
6	Sujata Nayak	President	OSA – MD/VA	No
7	Arata Tran Rout	President	OSA - Ohio	No
7	Bigyani Das	Past President	OSA	Yes
8	Debashish Panda	President	OSA – Grand Canyon	No
9	Gatikrishna Tripathy	President	OSA- Washington DC	No
10	Nihar Nanda	President	OSA – New England	No
11	Jhara Das	President	OSA - Chicago	Yes
12	Pitabasa Panda	President	OSA - Michigan	No
13	Prabhat Mohapatra	President	OSA – NYNJ	Yes
14	Radhagobinda Mohanty	President	Ozark - Central	No
15	Sabita Panigrahi	President	OSA - Canada	Yes
16	Priyadarshan Patra	President	OSA – Pacific Northwest	No
17	Bidhu Das	President	OSA - SouthEast	Yes
18	Gopal Mohapatra	President	OSA-Southwest	Yes
19	Subodh Samal	President	OSA - NW Chapter	Yes

Outcome:

- Annapurna Pandey to send the write-up regarding HE workshop and Buddhist University
- Sushant Satpathy to send details regarding CCO CD

BOG Meeting (May)

Date: 05/06/2012

Agenda:

- Convention Update
- Constitution Review
- Miscellaneous

Attendance:

Apart from the chapter representatives the following people were also present to provide the convention update.

No	Name	Title	Organization	Present
	Annapurna Pandey	President	OSA	Yes
2	Kuku Das	Vice President	OSA	Yes
3	Leena Mishra	Secretary	OSA	Yes
4	Sushant Satpathy	Treasurer	OSA	Yes
5	Amar Pani	President	Southern Chapter	Yes
6	Sujata Nayak	President	OSA – MD/VA	No
7	Arata Tran Rout	President	OSA - Ohio	No
7	Bigyani Das	Past President	OSA	Yes
8	Debashish Panda	President	OSA – Grand Canyon	Yes
9	Gatikrishna Tripathy	President	OSA- Washington DC	No
10	Nihar Nanda	President	OSA – New EnglandOSA	No
11	Jhara Das	President	OSA - Chicago	Yes
12	Pitabasa Panda	President	OSA - Michigan	No
13	Prabhat Mohapatra	President	OSA – NYNJ	Yes
14	Radhagobinda Mohanty	President	Ozark - Central	Yes
15	Sabita Panigrahi	President	OSA - Canada	No
16	Priyadarshan Patra	President	OSA – Pacific Northwest	Yes
17	Bidhu Das	President	OSA - SouthEast	Yes
18	Gopal Mohapatra	President	OSA-Southwest	Yes
19	Subodh Samal	President	OSA - NW Chapter	No

Outcome:

- Chicago to confirm OSA Convention 2013

- BOG to review the proposal from Bhagabat Sahu
- BOG members to check if permanent address of OSA can be shifted from Tennessee to Texas

BOG Meeting (June)

Date: 06/03/2012

Agenda:

- Convention Update
- GBM Agenda
- Miscellaneous

Attendance:

No	Name	Title	Organization	Present
1	Annapurna Pandey	President	OSA	Yes
2	Kuku Das	Vice President	OSA	Yes
3	Leena Mishra	Secretary	OSA	Yes
4	Sushant Satpathy	Treasurer	OSA	Yes
5	Amar Pani	President	Southern Chapter	Yes
6	Sujata Nayak	President	OSA – MD/VA	No
7	Arata Tran Rout	President	OSA - Ohio	No
7	Bigyani Das	Past President	OSA	Yes
8	Debashish Panda	President	OSA – Grand Canyon	No
9	Gatikrishna Tripathy	President	OSA- Washington DC	No
10	Nihar Nanda	President	OSA – New EnglandOSA	No
11	Jhara Das	President	OSA - Chicago	Yes
12	Pitabasa Panda	President	OSA - Michigan	No
13	Prabhat Mohapatra	President	OSA – NYNJ	Yes
14	Radhagobinda Mohanty	President	Ozark - Central	No
15	Sabita Panigrahi	President	OSA - Canada	No
16	Priyadarshan Patra	President	OSA – Pacific Northwest	Yes
17	Bidhu Das	President	OSA - SouthEast	No
18	Gopal Mohapatra	President	OSA-Southwest	Yes
19	Subodh Samal	President	OSA - NW Chapter	No

Apart from the chapter representatives the following people were also present to provide the convention update.

No	Name	Title	Organization	Present
1	Amulya Das	Convenor	OSA-2012	Yes
2	Sandip Dasverma	Convention Team Member	OSA-2012	Yes

Outcome:

- Election Commission was setup for the year 2014
- Bigyani Das to discuss with Gopala mohapatra regarding the change of OSA's permanent address.
- BOG to review the proposal from Amulya Nayak

Updates for this Quarter:

- Chicago to host Convention 2013
- Promod Mohapatra is elected as the President of Southern chapter.
- Sampurna Srabani elected as president of OSA-SE chapter

GBM Agenda for 2012

Date Finalized: June 14, 2012

Advanced GBM Agenda

Total Time: 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours

Date: July 6th, 2012 - 11:00 AM (Time may change)

Call to order: 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, 5-7 minutes

Secretary's Report, Reading of 2011 GBM Minutes, New Member Induction: 8-10 minutes

Treasurer's Report: 5-7 minutes

Constitution/Amendments: Discussion: 20-25 minutes

- Fiscal Year to be spelled out
- Fund allocation for OSA & Odisha Development

Election Committee Declaration and Voting: 5-7 minutes

Announcements: Next Year's Convention

Miscellaneous:

Details of Constitution Amendment Proposal

Spell out OSA's Fiscal Year:

Article III should be amended with an additional section "Section 4" as:

Section 4

The Fiscal Year of The Orissa Society of the Americas shall be from July 1st to June 30th.

Article III with this modification will appear as follows:

ARTICLE III: ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1

OSA is incorporated under the laws of the United States and is a non-profit organization.

Section 2

The article of organization of OSA comprises of the Article of Incorporation and the By-Laws as amended from time to time.

Section 3

The organization will have a permanent address and an operating address as determined by the National Executives.

Section 4

The Fiscal Year of The Orissa Society of the Americas shall be from July 1st to June 30th.

Reason for this amendment: Currently the fiscal year is not spelled out in the constitution even though it has been mentioned as a part of annual membership.

Fund allocation for OSA & Odisha Development:

1. IO can be reviewed/approved by the BOG (OSA EC + Chapter Ps) as a new program during the convention (Section 7, New Constitution).

ODF and some other items are approved by BOG what we understand from the telecon and related discussions.

2. Invest Odisha - OSA12 GBM Agenda Item (as being discussed...2013 onwards, announcement during 2012).

3. Invest Odisha as a pre-convention OSA (Business) Symposium on the first day of the 3-day OSA Annual Convention...4-8 hrs...

(1-2 lines need to be crafted as per #3, if we decide to take Invest Odisha beyond EC, BOG, GBM and as a permanent/mandated/self-sustainable program of OSA).

Such brief descripts may strategically fit well with New Constitution's By-Law II: Annual Convention (Section 1-7, possibly as a new section 8 ...)

Example: Section 5: OCC/Odissi+Chandu+Champu, as a convention program in the new constitution and similar pathways.

Treasurer's Report



Sushant Satpathy

Membership Welcome to OSA Family!

Dear Friends,

Please join me in welcoming following new members to OSA Family. I want to thank each one of them for their decision to be part of OSA. We look forward to their involvement with OSA and its activities to carry forward OSA's mission.

Biswajit and Mamata Khandai, CA, Life Member
 Swadesh Dash and Susmita Sahu, IL, Life Member
 Pramod and Maitreyi Satapathy, MI, Life Member
 Samar and Sanghamitra Moharana, CA, Life Member
 Abani Mishra and Lucina Satapathy, OH, Life Member
 Baikunth and Savita Nayak, NJ, Life Member
 Ankita Mohanty, MI, Life Member
 Satya and Subhasmita Sahu, TX, Life Member
 Mohammad Siddiquee and Sayd Diba Farrah, OH, Life Member
 Akash Pandey, CA, Life Member
 Alok Pandey, CA, Life Member
 Sushant and Namrata Patnaik, CA, Benefactor
 Himanshu and Rasmita Baral, CA, Life Member
 Satyabrata and Nishibanya Pradhan, CA, Life Member
 Kunmun Garabadu and Raj Murtinty, CA, 5-Year Member
 Susanta and Anusuya Mohanty, CA, Life Member
 Achyuta and Swapnajali Acharya, CA, Life Member
 Shirish Pal and Sujata Das, CA, Life Member
 Priyabrata Gharai and Seema Kumari, CA, Life Member
 Sukant Nanda and Snigdha Mishra, CA, Life Member
 Kishore Mishra and Suprava Upadhyaya, CA, Life Member
 Debashish Patnaik and Aruna Mohanty, India, Life Member
 Priyadarshi Mishra, India, Life Member
 Deepalie Joshi, TN, Life Member
 Likun Mishra and Kumar Gunaparthi, TN, Life Member
 Prashant Padhy and Dona Mishra, IL, Life Member
 Pramod Mahapatra and Sushree Tripathy, TN, Life Member
 Tushar Mohanty and Rupali Pattnayak, TN, 5-year Member
 Balakrishna Dixit and Nirlipta Daschoudhury, VA, Life Member

Jeetendra Pradhan and Swetapadma Jena, NJ, Life Member (upgrade)
Manoj and Epsita Padhi, TX, Life Member (upgrade)
Thank you for becoming life members!

I want to thank everyone who helped in introducing new members to OSA.

Kind regards,

Sushant Satpathy
Volunteer/ Treasurer, OSA



OSA Convention 2012 Update



The Pacific Northwest Chapter is the proud host of the 43rd Annual Convention of the Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) which will be held in Seattle from **5th – 7th July 2012**. The theme of the convention this year is “*Eka Mana, Eka PrAna, Eka PrAnta, Eka Chinha – Bringing Odias together*”. It promises to bring the young, new, and old generations - from all over the village, we call the World to experience the rich and diverse Odia culture miles away from the epicenter. The **Newport Performance Theater** in Bellevue, WA will be the venue for the evening programs and other competitions.

OSA is a non-political, non-profit and voluntary organization dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the promotion and propagation of Odia culture in North America, and brings together all people interested in Odisha through socio-cultural events and developmental activities.

This year’s convention venue, Seattle, is special not only because of the mesmerizing beauty of the Pacific Northwest but also for its special place as the first great American host city to “bridge” Canada and the USA, the two primary countries of the Odia Diaspora. Moreover, the Port of Seattle recently established its first Indian sister port relationship in Odisha. The annual journal, published in both digital and print media during the convention caters to over 3000 members & families throughout North America as well as many Odishan businesses and leaders abroad.

EVENT INFORMATION

The annual convention, which usually attracts 800-1000 attendees from the North American Diaspora and abroad, showcases Odia culture and heritage by hosting cultural shows & professional artistic performances and competitions, business symposium and thematic, issue-based seminars. It also features Indian icons and leaders, great networking opportunities, and sumptuous ethnic food. The Annual OSA convention promotes cultural diversity and understanding by integrating American and Odia values, provides a platform for American organizations doing business in India, and fosters friendship between the two people.

CULTURAL PROGRAM

The members of the Pacific Northwest chapter are putting together a great infotainment package that will cut across multiple generations and appeal to everyone. The cultural package, ***Ranga Taranga***, includes some enthralling performances from professionals depicting the richness of the Odia culture. Other attractions include Odia drama competition.

Music



The featured artists this year include the legendary **Sunanda Patnaik**, a Sangeet Natak Academy award winner and an iconic Hindustani classical singer. She started singing in 1955 and has done many concerts in India and is known internationally. She is best known for her *tarana*; she sings at a high pace and is considered one of the best contemporary interpreters of Odissi music.



Ms. Trupti Das, who will be making her appearance for first time in North America, is an eminent Odia playback singer. She has received various accolades for her accomplishments and contributions to Odia music. She has sung in multitude of famous Odia movies and *bhajans*. Her melodious voice is all set to enthrall the audience.



For more than four decades now **Praffula Kar** has entertained audiences and fans in Orissa and abroad with his distinctive singing, compositions and lyrics. His position as a performer is pre-eminent, and the compelling power of his music continues to attract a large cross section of the listening public.

Dance



Established in 1975, **Urvasi Dance Company** has practiced and promoted the research and practice of classical Odissi/Orissi dance from India in Seattle and Olympia, Washington, USA. The Classical Odissi dance, as performed by the Urvasi Dance Company, is in the little-known Mahari tradition of Guru Pankaj Charan Das. Led by **Dr. Ratna Roy**, this group will be performing some scintillating Odissi items.

Guru Sri Devraj Patnaik is a prodigious dancer and percussionist. His native talent for dance has been nurtured by the tutelage of Kalashri Chitrlekha Patnaik, Srimati Aruna Mohanty, Padmabibhusan Kelucharan Mohapatra, Padmashri Pankaj Charan Das, and Kalashri Ellora Patnaik. **Kumari Ellora Patnaik** has won international acclaim as a dancer and actor. Many revered Gurus contributed to her training including: Kalashri Chitrlekha Patnaik, Srimati Nandita Patnaik, Padmabibhusan Kelucharan Mohapatra, Padmashri Pankaj Charan Das, and (late) Padmashri Sanjukta Panigrahi. She has been teaching dance and performing professionally since 1980.



FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION

The convention provides a great platform to the next generation to showcase their talents. This includes Subrina Biswal Competition in Performing Arts, Sharada Sashi for Tiny Tots and Odissi,

Champu and Chandda competition. Each event has different categories and a great opportunity for the kids and alike to participate, have fun and learn the Odia tradition.

In addition, there are multiple Youth activities planned to keep them engaged and network with others from the different part of the country. There are city tours, social nights, career discussions and lots of other stuff. The youth of Pacific Northwest chapter is putting together a great package.

SEMINAR

With the objective of making new connections, understanding education and discussing some critical social aspects, the team has organized a series of talks and discussion forums. This will provide the members with an opportunity to get introduced to NGO work and join the force; connect with mentor-mentee through Mentorship panel. Some distinguished speakers include Adyasha Das, Sangita Gossain, Uma Rao, Ankita Mohanty, Surendra Ray and eminent physicians. This year, there is a renewed focus on Women right and they evolution in the modern society. There are multiple seminars led by women session that highlight their growing influence.

OPENING CEREMONY

Our opening ceremony speakers will include Ambassador Malay Mishra, Member of Parliament Jai Panda, eminent local leaders and a video address by Dr. Sam Pitroda.

ORGANIZING TEAM

An event of such a scale can never be successful without the painstaking effort of volunteers who dedicate countless hours. The Odia diaspora of Pacific Northwest Chapter, though small when compared to other areas in the continent, are rallying to ensure it is a memorable experience for the attendees. This year the team is led by

Convener – Mr Amulya Das

Chapter President – Mr Priyadarsan Patra

Co-Convener – Ms. Kuku Das

Co-Convener – Mr Pradeep Sahoo

Co-Convener – Mr Rakesh Patnaik

For more information on the convention, visit www.osa2012.org









Convention Highlights !!!

Dear friends,

Greetings! 2012 OSA convention in Seattle is just around the corner. The most important highlights of this years convention is going to be the First ever symposium on Higher Education opportunities available for students in Odisha followed by the first ever workshop on the Buddhist Heritage workshop on 5th July, 2- 7 PM. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their selfless dedication to the cause of OSA and Odisha. If you are planning to attend the 2012convention, please come a day early to attend these workshops which are planned as stepping stones to improve Higher Education opportunities in Odisha as well as Odias in the USA and learn about the Buddhist treasures and heritage of Odisha.

With regards,
Annapurna Pandey
President, OSA
The details follow:

Symposium Details During Convention 2012

Symposium on Higher Education of Odisha – Challenges & Opportunity

July 5th (2.00 – 4.00 PM)

Coast Hotel & Resort, Seattle, Washington,
US

OSA Annual Convention



First Symposium on Higher Education of Odisha – Challenges & Opportunity - 2012 is hosted in Seattle, Washington on July 5, during Odisha Society of Americas (OSA) annual convention as a part of pre-convention symposium with a primary objective to bring together key stake holders from Odisha higher education sector/universities and US university representatives to:

- Enable networking and foster personal relationship among stake holders for mutual benefit of higher education program in Odisha & US universities
- Establish specific student/faculty exchange program between universities in US & Odisha -undergraduate and graduate programs
- Future visit by US universities to Odisha to attract students for higher studies in US and set up study abroad programs
- MoU & tangible next steps between Odisha & US universities for collaborative research, joint study program etc. for mutual benefit
- Digital infrastructure to support collaborative mechanisms – role of OSA

This event will host key stake holders and decision makers from Universities & Government of Odisha and Universities from North America. Symposium is planned to have panels, deliberations and active interaction between educationist, universities representatives and government delegates.

Invited Speakers/Organizations:

<p>Mr. Malay Mishra (High Commissioner of India to Trinidad & Tobago, Govt. of India): <i>Growth & Plan of Higher Education Development in India - Private/Public/Govt. sector engagement</i></p>	
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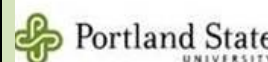
Mr. Baijayant (Jay) Panda (Member of Parliament, Govt. of India): *Why Odisha is a higher education hub for collaboration?*

Prof. Baishnab Tripathy (Vice Chancellor, Ravenshaw University, Odisha): *Higher Education Institutes/Faculty/Student of Odisha - Potential for North America University Collaboration*

Mr. Michael K. McCawley, Director of Admissions & Mr. Jim Moore, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies (University of California, Santa Cruz, CA): *Overview of UC Santacruz undergraduate and graduate programs, ideas for partnerships with Odisha colleges/universities*

Dr. Jeet Joshee (Associate Vice President, International Education, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), CA): *Overview of CSULB undergraduate and graduate programs, collaborative experiences with Indian universities, and ideas for partnerships with Odisha colleges/universities*

Dr. Tugrul Daim (Engineering & Technology Management, Portland State University, Portland, OR): *Collaboration/partnership opportunities with India/Odisha Universities*



For Details Please Visit: <http://www.osa2012.org/>

**First Symposium on Higher Education of
Odisha – Challenge & Opportunity
Place: Coast Hotel & Resort, Seattle,
Washington
Date: July 5th
Program Schedule**

Agenda/Topic	Speaker/Moderator/Coordinators	Time
Registration	Amiya Nayak, Abani Patra, Pranabesh Dash	1.00 - 2.00 PM
Welcome Address	Prof. Abani Patra & Dr. Annapurna Pandey	2.00 - 2.10 PM
Introduction of speaker & panelist		2.10 - 2.15 PM
Growth & Plan of Higher Education Development in India - Private/public sector engagement	Mr. Malaya Mishra <i>High Commissioner of India to Trinidad & Tobago, Govt. of India</i>	2.15 - 2.25 PM
Higher Education Institutes/Faculty/Student of Odisha -	Prof. Baishab Tripathy <i>Vice Chancellor, Ravenshaw University,</i>	2.25 - 2.40 PM

Potential for North America University Collaboration	<i>Odisha</i>	
Why Odisha is a higher education hub for collaboration?	Mr. Baijayant (Jay) Panda <i>Chairman of Indo-US Joint Parliamentary Working Group Member of Parliament, Govt. of India</i>	2.40 - 2.55 PM
Overview of UC Santa Cruz undergraduate and graduate programs, ideas for partnerships with Odisha colleges/universities	Mr. Michael K. McCawley & Mr. Jim Moore <i>Director of Admissions/ Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA</i>	2.55 - 3.05 PM
Overview of CSULB undergraduate and graduate programs, collaborative experiences with Indian universities, and ideas for partnerships with Odisha colleges/universities	Dr. Jeet Joshee <i>Associate Vice President, International Education, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), CA</i>	3.05 - 3.15 PM
Collaboration/partnership opportunities with India/Odisha Universities	Dr. Tugrul Daim <i>Engineering & Technology Management, Portland State University, OR</i>	3.15 - 3.25 PM
Ontario Maharashtra Goa (OMG) Student Exchange Program, Lesson Learnt	Prof. L. Mansinha	3.25 - 3.35 PM
Moderated Panel Discussion - Gap & Opportunity for Cooperation (Undergrad/Grad Program, Digital Infrastructure cooperation etc.) Panelist: <i>Prof. Devdas Chhotray, Prof. Lalu Masinha, Mr. Baiyayant Panda, Michael K. McCawley, Dr. J. Joshee, Dr. Tugrul Daim & others</i>	Prof. Triloki Pandey Moderator <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	3.35 - 3.55 PM
Wrap-up and Summary of Follow-up Actions	Prof. Abani Patra & Prof. Jyostna Patnaik	3.55 - 4.00 PM
Personal Networking & Business Discussion (Snacks)	All	4.00 - 7.15 PM
Dinner	All	8.00 - 9.00 PM

!!!***MUST READ*****!!!**

Symposium on Buddhist Heritage and Buddhist Knowledge Institutions of Odisha

July 5th 2012, Seattle USA. (4:10 PM – 7:00 PM)

Goals of the symposium in order of priority: Strategize to have

- A. Ratnagiri Mahavihara mentioned along with Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila in high school text books in India.
- B. Special exhibitions on Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri at major museums of the world.
- C. Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri listed among UNESCO world heritage sites.
- D. An Indian Institute of Archaeology and Art History funded by the central government in Odisha.
- E. Ratnagiri-Puspagiri International University established in Odisha as a revival of Ratnagiri and Puspagiri Mahavihara along the lines of recent revival of Nalanda International University in Bihar.

Tentative Agenda:

1. Introduction and Welcome: Prof. Chitta Baral (5 minutes)
2. Buddhist Knowledge Institutions of Odisha – Prof. Chitta Baral (15 minutes)
3. Prof. Joanna Williams, Emeritus from Berkeley: 30 minutes
4. Prof. Thomas Donaldson, Emeritus from Cleveland State University: 30 minutes
5. Buddhist archaeology and art history research in Odisha: Saroj Mohapatra (15)
6. Excerpts from interviews with people living near Buddhist sites of Odisha: Dr. Annapurna Pandey (15 minutes)
7. Odisha government initiatives on Odisha's Buddhist sites: Odisha government representative (20 minutes)
8. Panel on strategies and plans to have Ratnagiri mentioned alongside Nalanda in Indian textbooks and other goals. (40 minutes)

(Chair: Prof. Chitta Baral

Participants: Baijayanta Panda, MP on how the political leadership can help on this;
 Jagi Mangat Panda, CEO OTV, on how the Odisha media can help;
 Prof. Lalu Mansinha, on how the NROs and NRIs can help;
 Prof. Joanna Williams, on how the scholars can help;
 Prof. Thomas Donaldson, on how the scholars can help;
 Odisha government representative, on how the government can help;
 Leena/Bimal Mishra: Initial response from Museums and Embassies)



BUDDHISM IN ODISHA: RESEARCH AND FINDINGS!!!

[Click here to access the Presentation](#)

BUDDHISM IN ODISHA

**Interesting Comparisons and
Findings!!!!**

Highlights of OSA Activities (July 2011 – June 2012)

Greetings and welcome to the 43rd OSA convention of the Orissa Society of the Americas in Seattle. Let me share with you some of our accomplishments and the initiatives we have undertaken in the last year:

Flood Relief Drive Raised \$15K

As you all know, more than 2.7 million people in Odisha lost their homes and access to clean drinking water in last summer's severe floods. Led by our treasurer, Sushant Satpathy, OSA initiated a massive fundraising drive that raised \$15K to help with flood relief. Kudos to the OSA volunteers for spearheading and contributing to this project!

OSA Membership Increased by 10+%

In the last year, OSA membership has gone from 800 families to 900 families. We're thrilled to welcome the new members to our OSA community.

Increased Communication via OSAnet and OSA's website

OSAnet has been revitalized to make it easier for OSA members to contribute their ideas and input. Our website is also in the process of becoming more interactive.

We would like to thank our OSAnet moderators Manoj Padhi and Sunil Sabat, and our web administrator Bikas Panda for their exemplary service.

Additional Contributors for *Utkarsa*, OSA's Quarterly Newsletter: Joining *Utkarsa* Editors Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray, who have continued their great work, are two new contributors:

- Dr. Babru Samal is now the Special Editor; he put together a special *Utkarsa* issue focused on "The Immigrant Experience" in March 2012.
- Ankita Mohanty, a young graduate of the University of Michigan, has joined the editorial board of *Utkarsa* as our Youth Editor; she represents the second-generation Odia youth and will bring fresh ideas and new perspectives reflecting her age group.

Please check the newsletter out at <http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/index.htm>.

OSA-Odisha Development Committee and Odisha Higher Education Workshops

The OSA – Odisha Development Committee has been strategizing ways to revitalize various sectors of higher education in Odisha. OSA has already organized one workshop on Higher Education opportunities for students in Odisha; it was held at Utkal University in Vani Vihar. A video of this workshop is available on the [orissasociety.org](http://www.orissasociety.org). We are planning a second workshop at the OSA convention in Seattle and a third workshop in the Western region of Odisha in December 2012.

New Chapter Presidents

There are 15 OSA chapters around the country. Please join me in welcoming the following new local chapter presidents this year:

Mr. Prabhat Mahapatra , President of NYNJ chapter

Mr. Pitabasa Panda , President of Michigan chapter

Mr. Nihar Nanda , President of New England chapter

Mr. Subodh Samal , President of North West chapter

Mrs. Jhara Das, President of Chicago chapter

Mrs. Sujata Nayak, President of the Maryland/ Virginia chapter

Mr. Pramod Mohapatra of Chattanooga (Tennessee), President of the Southern chapter

You will find details on local chapters online at:

<http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/osachapters.htm>

Champu, Chhanda and Odissi initiative (CCO)

OSA has financed the production of a CCO Karaoke 2 CD set that is now available. The CD set includes 10 songs with accompanying karaoke versions. I would like to thank Mrs. Lata Misra for the promotion of CCO.

Changes to the OSA Constitution Are Under Review

There has been some debate regarding loopholes in the present constitution. We have asked a team of Odia leaders and the Board of Governors to look into this and suggest modifications. Once the suggestions have been approved by the BOG, they will be sent to all our members for their feedback. Finally, we will send get it reviewed by an attorney before bringing it to the GBM at the 2012/2013 OSA convention.

2012 OSA Annual Convention – July 5-7 in Seattle

The annual OSA Convention is the highlight of our year. It is OSA's annual showcase event and attracts Odias from all over North Americas, Odisha, and around the world.

The convention team has worked hard to put together a convention to remember.

Here's a sneak peek of what to expect:

- Chief Guest Vidushi Sunanda Patnaik, an eminent Indian classical singer of Gwalior Gharana from Odisha, considered one of the great dames of Hindustani classical music
- Cultural performances by talents such as Prafulla Kar, Trupti Das, Sangita Gosain, Adyasha Das and Susmita Das
- Many choices for the children, youth and the second-generation adult Odias - including mehefil, discussions, the Subrina Biswal competition in Performing Arts, and the Samik Singh Kalinga Entrepreneurship Award competition.
- Keynote speaker Sj. Malay Mishra, the High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago since 2009.

Guest of Honor Baijayant Panda, the member of the parliament and many other dignitaries will also attend.

For complete information on convention program plans, please visit the convention page at www.osa2012.org.

2013 OSA Election Planning

The 2012-2013 OSA election process will kick off during the annual convention. If you are interested in an OSA leadership position, the convention is the time for you to start campaigning.

OSA Awards

The 2012 OSA awards have been managed by OSA Vice President Kuku Das. Mr. Sourjya Khandai has handled the award nominations very well in the role of Award Coordinator.

OSA's Finance

OSA's annual financial report will be provided by the Treasurer in a separate document. OSA is a volunteer-run organization.

OSA Committees

Various committees have been formed in the last year to spearhead specific OSA initiatives. Among them are:

- OSA Language Committee and Cultural Propagation Committee
Kuku Das, the Vice President of OSA heads the Odia Language Committee and Mrs. Gayatri Joshi heads the Cultural Committee. The goal is to promote Odia language and culture and create Odia learning material and media that could impact Odias of various age groups.
- Chapter Relations and Activities Committee
All the fifteen chapters have been very active in various cultural and educational activities. We have introduced a new chapter relations committee led by Leena Mishra, secretary of OSA. She and her committee members are working very hard to achieve better collaboration between chapters and the OSA national. Thanks to Leena Mishra, the South East chapter led by Bidhu Das and the North West chapter led by Subodh Samal have been reenergized and are playing active role in strengthening the OSA community. Kudos to Leena Mishra and her committee for playing an important role in team building.
- OSA Grievance Committee
Our newly instituted Grievance Committee consists of Nick Patnaik, Dr. Panchanan Satpathy and Dr. Anjalika Pattnaik.

Youth committee: Engaging OSA Youth

We are thankful to Kelly Lamphear-Dash who has shown interest in coordinating OSA youth activities. Suchi Pahi and Ankita Mohanty are two-second generation OSA youth volunteers in the committee and will soon start planning for OSA events that the youth would appreciate. If your children would like to be involved, please pass them the message.

Women's Committee

Mamata Mishra, the Women's Committee Chair as well as the organizer of the Women's Forum at the 2011 OSA convention, has kept the conversation going throughout the year. Here are some highlights:

- Ongoing discussions on the OSA Women's Forum yahoo group and the Facebook group. Anyone can join the yahoo group at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/OSAWomenForum/>.
- Two articles published in *Utkarsa*
- The creation of a Q&A document answering questions about domestic violence. This was posted to the yahoo group.
- A local Women's Forum meetup, organized in Houston, focused on communication styles and how to communicate with empathy and assertiveness. Yunuen Perez Vertti, the maker of the film *Aparajita* which was screened at OSA WF 2011, volunteered to film the workshop.
- Two Odia women from the U.S. participated in the Mahila Shanti Sena (MSS) state convention in Odisha; one of these women wrote about her experience in the 2012 OSA journal.
- *Mayara Kahani*, a skit that was presented at OSA WF 11, was very well received and we received more than one request to take the message to a wider audience and present it at the Drama Festival. Prachi Behera of Austin organized it at the Regional Drama Festival at Dallas.

Some OSA officers - current and past - have continued to show interest and support to start a helpline. We will need the support and commitment of local leaders to make this possible. For a full list of committees, their objectives and members, please visit the OSA website – www.orissasociety.org

Drama Festival 2012

Two OSA chapters – Michigan and Texas – hosted drama festival events this spring. Please check the following web page for details:
<http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/dramafestival.htm>

We are looking for new OSA Legal Counsel

Since 2011, Mr. Nick Patnaik has served OSA through pro-bono legal counsel. Now Nick Patnaik has taken a new job, which may not allow him to work as the legal counsel for OSA. We are now looking for a new legal counsel. *Please let us know if you would be interested in providing that service to your community.*

Sincerely,
 OSA National Executives (2011-2013)



CHAPTER NEWS

OSA Southern Chapter Report

Amar Pani

Greetings from OSA-Southern Chapter!

The OSA-Southern Chapter hosted its annual picnic and nightly social gathering on April 26th 2012. Saturday morning at 11:00 AM, members, non-members, family, and friends from places such as Atlanta, Birmingham, Chattanooga, Huntsville, Memphis and Nashville all gathered at David Crocket State Park located near Huntsville, AL and Nashville, TN. To begin the picnic, everyone enjoyed appetizers such as Masala Mudhi, chips & salsa, and a friendly game of Frisbee followed that. At 1:30 PM, lunch was catered by the Indian restaurant Sitar, based in Huntsville. Not to mention, the marvelous BBQ chicken cooked by Biyat, Shooag and Tushar (all Mohantys) and Pradipta Das was a popular choice among the ladies.



At 3:30 PM, Southern Chapter President Amar K. Pani kept the fun rolling by organizing the cultural show. Everyone was given ample time to freshen up, and at 4:00 PM, all persons gathered in the meeting room. The show started with a stunning Ganesh Bhajan & dance performed by the duo Sheya and Riti Mohanty from NJ, followed by a ravishing dance from the twin sisters, Yashi & Yuti. At 7:30 PM, the dinner buffet was opened, courtesy of the park restaurant.

After a long wait, there wasn't a single soul that did not want to hear the guest singer that would be performing that evening; the melodious and harmonious Mrs. Rity Mohanty kicked things off with a beautiful bhajan followed by the Rangabati. After finishing that, the audience coaxed her into an encore. She performed a duet with Mr. Shooga Mohanty and her daughter as well. To give our singer some time to rest, our mini band comprised of Mr. Pramod Mohapatra, her beautiful daughter Babuli and Mr. Tushar Mohanty provided the audience with some enlightened musical extravaganzas. Finally, the show ended the next day with Lord Jaganath Bhajans, performed by the guest singer Mrs. Riti Mohanty at the Jagannath temple of Huntsville, organized by Mrs. Minati Praharaj, Dr. Sarat Praharaj and the temple trustees.

OSA DC Chapter Report

Gatikrishna Tripathy, President

Maushumi Pattanayak, Vice-President

Upendra Kumar Das, Secretary/Treasurer

Annual Raja Picnic

The OSA Washington DC chapter organizes this event normally to kick start the summer season in our area and celebrate the Raja festival. It was celebrated on 10th June at Lake Fairfax Park, Northern Virginia. As we see, most of the time when this kind of event is celebrated; we feel that we are not really that far away from Odisha. The memory of Raja becomes very vibrant and fresh in everyone's mind. At least we get a platform to talk about it and have good time remembering it among ourselves. Simply, it does not end there. It reminds the main activities of Raja i.e., Food, Dressing up and Game. As you would agree, Food and Odias are bonded very tightly. Fortunately, our community is blessed with full of dedicated individuals who are very good in preparing and sharing excellent food items. As usual, we had plenty of food, just to name few, Dahi Bara, Guguni (Ghughuni), Alu Dum, Chicken Tikka Masala, Paneer Tarakari, Biryani, Chicken Kabab, Corn, etc. Kids had lots of fun playing many games, face painting, riding the carousel and boating on the lake. Similarly, guys played their beloved game Cricket. The cricket match was a very high scoring IPL T20 style game. We all enjoyed the game to the fullest even though the temperature on the field was probably in upper nineties.



From my recollection about Raja, what I remember from my childhood until I left Odisha, Raja is a 3-day long much awaited event for all ages. Raja is generally associated with the farmers and is celebrated during the onset of monsoon. Significantly, it is a festival for the unmarried girls; the potential mothers. Girls are forbidden from all kinds of manual work during these three days of [Raja-festival](#). During all these three days, they are seen in the best of dresses and decorations spending time visiting their friends or moving up and down on improvised swings (on the tree trunks mostly). Special songs meant to be sung during these days only, can be heard everywhere. In almost all villages the young guys play Kabaddi (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabaddi>).



Thanks to all of you who were able to join the Washington DC Raja Picnic, 2012. Many of the

attendees of the event were extremely happy about the location and facility that was chosen for the event. As Office bearers, we are very happy that you liked the place and hopeful that you had good time.

Photos for the Raja Picnic is available at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/116799403230193558786/OSAWashingtonDCRajaPicnic2012#>

Saraswati Puja

Saraswati Puja was celebrated in January. We were very happy to see lots of our member coming to Saraswati puja and celebrating together. We would like to thank Mr. Pratap Dash to perform the puja in our own traditional way. Dr. Surendra Ray (Bhaina) offered himself in translating/explaining/narrating puja process specifics that were very helpful to all of us. Meera Mahapatra (Apa) helped in making the puja arrangements. Thanks to Urmila Sahu (Apa) for her continuous support in preparing puja Bhoga items and Rasagulla.

Specially, it was very nice to see many of our elder Odias among the other attendees at the puja. Thanks for coming to the event and showing your support.

Special thanks to the main contributors:

- Mr. Prafulla Nayak and Mrs. Sangita Nayak for the sponsorship.
- Mr. Ashwin Arora for sponsoring food for the event.
- Urmila Sahu (Apa) for her continuous support in preparing puja Bhoga items and Rasagulla.

Thanks to Babru Samal (Bhaina) for sharing Saraswati puja photos:

<http://www.babru.com/spuja12/>

Observation:

While it's totally right and appropriate that we celebrate Raja, Saraswati Puja, and other cultural events to keep up with our tradition and hope to pass on our fading memory to our children, I see today, we often overlook the fact that the ideas/visions behind this kind of community event that our past community organizers/leaders had is lost. The togetherness and having fun memory together is one of the many ideas for building a better community. It is very essential as our community growing so big so fast. Obviously, we all have small get together parties all the time. But this kind of grand community events are crucial for big community like ours to stay connected and united. I would request all the local Odias to be part of it putting away their personal differences if there is any. I urge "You" to stand up for the good of the OSA Washington DC community. As President Washington said: "I have no other view than to promote the public good..."

Community News:

We have 6 children graduating from high school this year with 4 of them having their dance graduations too. The other news is that DC chapter was one of the supporters of the Odissi dance program by Shibani Pattnaik.

List of the Graduates:

1. **Ashmi Panigrahi** (Dance Graduation: Bharata Natyam)
Parents: Pinaki and Kalpana Panigrahi
2. **Namrata Mohanty** (Dance Graduation: Odissi)
Parents: Sushanta and Geetarani Mohanty
3. **Shashwati Das** (Dance Graduation: Odissi)
Parents: Naresh and Bigyani Das
4. **Shivani Kanungo** (Dance Graduation: Odissi)
Parents: Shivraj and Parameeta Kanungo
5. **Vikash Sahu**
Parents: Debaraj and Urmila Sahu
6. **Tej Pattnaik**
Parents: Bhudip and Munmun Pattnaik

Miscellaneous Announcements:

1. Nomination for Washington DC Chapter Office Bearers 2013-2014

Upcoming Events

See you at the upcoming events:

- 5th to 7th July, OSA Convention 2012 at Seattle
- 22nd September, 2012: in September: Ganesh Puja.
- 3rd November, 2012: Kumar Purnima and Eastern Regional Drama Festival

CANOSA Report

Sabita Panigrahi

Celebration of Bishuba Milana and Queen's Diamond Jubilee

It was a beautiful long weekend Saturday afternoon in Toronto. Odias of all ages in Greater Toronto gathered at the Chinguacousy Secondary School auditorium in Brampton to celebrate Bishuba Milana along with four decades of Odias in Canada under the banner of the Canada Odisha Society of Americas (CANOSA). Concurrently Queen's Diamond Jubilee was also celebrated. The program started in the afternoon and the children were entertained with a magic show. They were treated with balloons of different shapes and colors. Beautiful posters made by children for the occasion were displayed.

The evening cultural program started with National anthem of Canada and India. The children did a wonderful job by singing both countries anthems. It was organized by Sudeshna Pattanaik. The President of the society Mrs. Sabita Panigrahi commenced the celebration by addressing the audience. She emphasised the benefits of multiculturalism under the Queen of Canada. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement. The minister of Government Services of Ontario Mr. Harinder Takhar and Ms D. Charandasi, Consul and Head of Chancery, Consulate General of India in Toronto graced the occasion as chief guest and speaker respectively. Both guests took

the time to thank the volunteers and dedicated members of our community, and thanked them for the contributions they have made to the Odia community, province of Ontario and Canada.



Mrs Chitrallekha Pattanaik was recognized with a plaque for her contribution to Canadian Art through Odissi in the opening ceremony. From (L to R) Sabita Panigrahi (President), Prof Lalu Manasinha, Mrs Chitrallekha Patnaik and Honorable minister Mr Harinder Takhar

Seniors of the community were recognised with plaques for their contribution to the multicultural society of Canada under Her Majesty's reign. They were Prof Sri Gopal Mohanty, Prof. Lalu Manasinha, Prof. Arjun Purohit, Prof Arta Dash, Prof Rabi Kanungo, Prof. J. P. Das, Mr Manaranjan Pattanayak, Mr Pratap Pattanaik and Prof Antaryami Nayak. The recipients were greeted to the stage with the sound of Mridanga and Jhanja which added lots of fun to the atmosphere. The artistic director of Chitrallekha Odissi Dance Creations (CODC), Mrs Chitrallekha Patnaik was specially recognised for her contribution to Canadian Art through Odissi dance. A souvenir was published for the occasion, celebrating the last forty years of Odia activities in Canada. It was inaugurated by the honorable minister. The evening entertainment was full of drama performances and dance. The cultural program started with the opening song Utkal Arati, a poem written by Gagan Panigrahi describing the glory of the state of Odisha. Sabita Panigrahi, Nandita Gantayet, Nibedita Pattanaik, Bijoylaxmi Pal, Rinki Mohapatra and Swapna Patro participated in the song. It was organized by Sabita Panigrahi.



Inauguration of Souvenir published for the occasion during opening ceremony, From (L to R) Sabita Panigrahi (President), Niranjan Mishra (Chief Editor) and Honourable Minister Mr Harinder Takhar

That followed the children drama Ekalavya. It was written by Sumitra Padhi and directed by Nibedita Pattanaik. Young couples walked to the tune of song "I love my Odisha". The ladies proudly displayed Sambalpuri, Bomkai and Pasapalli sarees and the men displayed Pipili work

during the show which generated lots of clapping from the audience. The participants were Abani Pattanayak and Rashmi Das, Amitabh Mohanty and Sudeshna Pattanaik, Prasad Rao and Sarojini Mohanty, Prasant and Debasmita Sahoo, Debashish Nanda and Debashrita Kar, Gopal and Parasmitta Rao. It was organized and choreographed by Rashmi Das. Musical ensemble



Opening song Uttkala Arati was presented by (L to R) Bijoylaxmi Pal, Nandita Gantayet, Sabita Panigrahi, Nibedita Pattanaik, Swapna Patro and Rinki Mohapatra

organized by Pratap Satapathy thrilled the audience. The participants were Ankita Nayak on harmonium, Chandan Pattanaik on tabla, Srujani Das piano, Ronit Nayak on Saxophone and Sudikshya Bisoyi on guitar and picollo. Odia skit "Sahitya Chasha" by Rashmi Das and Abani Pattanayak was hilarious and entertaining. It was written by Nayati Mohanty.

Finally, the invited artists Devraj Patnaik and Ellora Patnaik entertained the audience with their mesmerising performance of Odissi, a classical

dance form of India. The items were Bihari Pallavi and Dasavatara. Medallions were given to the children who participated in the show. It was a wonderful event showcasing the talents of our

Odia community and our culture through spectacular performances of drama, art, song and dance. The program was possible due to the financial support from Bhagaban Panigrahi, Dinabandhu Rath, Hara & Sumitra Padhi, Niranjan & Nalini Mishra, Subhendu & Nandita Gantayet, Anandita Kumar, Satyajit and Nibedita Pattanaik, Sabita and Gagan Panigrahi, Suvendu and Prachi Mishra, Sudeshna Patnaik & Amitabh Mohanty, Manoj Panda and Rinki Mohapatra, Subash and Sabita Bisoyi, Sujata Patnaik and Ashok Das, Pradeep Pradhan, Jyoti Maharana and Canadian Heritage fund. The whole event was organized by Sabita Panigrahi, Niranjan Mishra and Sudeshna Patnaik.



Odissi Item Dashavatar by Ellora and Devraj Patnaik

Participation in OSA Regional Drama Festival in Michigan

CANOSA members participated in the Northern Regional Drama Festival organized by OSA, Michigan. The drama "Sahitya Chasha" was presented and it was well appreciated by everybody. Mr Abani Pattanayak and Rashmi Das performed in the play which was written by Mrs Niyati Mohanty.



Sahitya Chasha, 2012 | Courtesy: Pradeep

OSA NY-NJ Chapter Report

This year, 2012, OSA - New York-New Jersey Chapter members got together at Princeton Country Club arena to celebrate their Annual Picnic on last Saturday, the June 9th.

Record number of families (around four to five hundred people) attended. It was a day full of varieties of fun, food, music, games and togetherness....

The NY-NJ Picnic coordinators had meticulously planned for the event aiming to bring up togetherness and unity for success of the event and make it a memorable day for all participants.

Everyone was optimistic and enthusiastic about making the most fun, irrespective of dark clouds hovering over tall trees around..

In the morning, the preparation was in full swing - sound systems, volley ball, cricket, face painting, sports are all set the stage for the non-stop extravaganza of masti and hangama. Nonetheless, smokes blowing out of bar-be-que grill kept the gastro ... appetites going up and high for deep marinated tandoori chicken, haryali chicken, paneer tikka and vege-delights...

Snacks like Samosa, Aloo Chop, Ghuguni Chat and Ranga-rang Jalebi.... were being served to keep fueling energy. To quench the thirst and digest food there were mango lassi, dahi lassi, soda, water, what not.

Popular Odiya and Hindi songs with full volume making the whole atmosphere in festive mood. Lots of fun and competitions.

Kids with mehendi arts on their palm, face specially painted with beautiful colors of birds, flowers, batman looked thrilling.

Young, old, boys, girls, ladies and gents all were generously involved in various activities all through the day. Children and their mothers were on the swing -and some high energy kids played chupa-chupi across trees.

Kids used to come running toward the food station, picking up a samosa or aloo chop and then running away back to the ground. Adults got together under the trees, bushes or stood closer to the grill picking up soft chicken pieces from the grill one after another. There was no restriction at all in choice or quality of food, everyone was at its best to make its own choices of food, and all spread across the food stations.

There were sports for children, young ones, parents together, ladies and gents and old. There was a big support for this. All participated in playing the swing, doli, ran in 100 meters, 200 meters race, skipping competition.. It was great fun for the children to see their parents on the running track.. They were really excited at seeing the speed and force their parents displayed - the grand parents' looked amazed at the energy their children

displayed even after leaving their child hood behind many years behind. Everyone was excited, they sang, they creamed and they danced to the get the masti ...the fun was at its best. Of course, some families and old friends sat in groups under the tree, near the swing all across the park to share their stories and listen to others'....

Lunch was served around 3PM. A lavish set of lunch meeting the demand of every plate. There was pizza and pasta for the kids, Pakhala and bhajaa for the old and mild ones, kadhai paneer, ghanta, veg biryani for the vegetarians. For non-vegetarians there was Goat Masala at the top of every Odiya's reference. To sweeten the spiced up taste there was Kheer ... Hungry kids and adults alike relished their food, sitting in a group or standing together. Some caring volunteers kept making round to ensure everyone is happy, has enough on its plate. The feedback was very good and everyone liked the food and every item was tastefully prepared by "Hurry Chutney" (a Somerset based Indian Cuisine Restaurant) owned by an Oriya entrepreneur.

The last but not the least were Katki Paana and Ice Cream - many shyied out - they were too full..

There was a fundraising program for our weekly Oriya Radio Program 'Utkal Prabha' (every Sunday from 9 am to 10 am at 1170 AM) through Raffle tickets and selling 'Paana'.

This year, we also had another Raffle ticket for "Kindle Fire" for fund raising. It was a big hit.

Towards the end, the DJ created another rounds of frenzied excitement , a brand new Sambalpuri song (eyh gori tore....) played at the top volume and almost every one danced - young, adults, kids all joined and danced at varied styles at its many repeats... till each one got tired .. and the tired volunteers started packing up and cleaning the venue...

It was around 6.00 PM, guests started making way out back to their homes slowly one by one, as if no one wanted to leave the excitement and call it a day off the event. Everyone was happy, satisfied, mood upbeat and excited with exchanging pleasantries. No one liked the day to pass by so fast.... they all returned with memory full of masti, fun and took promise for more excitements for next year Picnic again.

Here is a personal moment of one of our volunteer:

An elderly couple came closure to me, I folded my hand across -close to my heart in respect, they smiled satisfyingly, took my palms away towards them and patted me and congratulated and thanked all for the unity, excitement, fun and togetherness which they witnessed - they feel proud of their children who have left Odisha since many years, but were able to recreate the spirit of Odisha and Odiya here in America- beyond seven seas.... Finally, let's enjoy moments of the day.

https://picasaweb.google.com/104900642140214186738/OSA_NY_NJ_PAPicnic2012#

The end.



LITERARY SECTION

Udyanara Samparka (Dharabahika)

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*kWḌ[çjaÊLPKPa]/fPmḌḌ
@/Ô^úLc/Ô·Ḍ_LoPÔQ_Ḍ
keḌB[Ôf·XPNòm[eÊZckḌ«P
ḌXLçVeq]/ḌhÔ\$ePNòmÔj
yḌ_LÊÔdḌÜWḌ[eÊZckḌ«P*

cÊàP/ÒkD.B · XP\D«P D QD«PAÒX ÒLDfDkf c QPNmD
DjaÊ L\DaDràD, MD.BaD · P.BaD, N`h` Òj.BWDeÊ at DjcÒ`
[eÊZ ckD«P · DMÒ. WÊfÒkD.BNÒm D bDNOLE Òj Nkfp*
bP/Ò. \DÀ«P SÒZ XD|e DjPHjP. P.Aeç]eD«D [D PheDj*
Ò\$eD.B AZPaDLÊ Ò Q½D QÒm.B\D«P D hFN`S - c`Ò H
bP/Ò. · DM kjc` PV DmçLE Ò\$D_ç LeP SÒZ.B\D«P J
ÒjWDeÊ AccãmD_çç XLDB\D«P D LPRPjc - e]Ê¾P«D · Òe
AccãmD_çç AjP` kquNmD D HÒRDVjkeVPe kjc` PV Dmç
Lcà QD«NcDÒ_ HÒ[/]D - P/çjÒ_ Òd` J[/PbDLÊ aPheDj
ÒkD_ \DH DÒj LVLe aX kjc` PV Dmç Ò]MPRPD · ÊS, e|,
· D_ÒR_ , · ePjJD Nu, JDXD, aD«P, ÒdÒ/[@j_ DjaÊ ÒjB
kjc` PV Dmç LePXecÒe D AD XD|e, _jà ÒdcP/[PÒNDVPH
ÒNDVPH bP.AB. · P; c_ cD_ PÒm [cL\ D hÊZPÒa, c_
cD PÒm MD/e LePÒa_ PD [De cÒ_ @RPÒLcP/P
· ÒXDhN`Oe ckD · D/[JaDaÊ e kDVàAVDLç ÒkaDÒaÒf,*
aXXD|e MD_ De @aÒkfd · DBÜ Òj · JDZ/[ÒDNLeP\úÒm
D dDkDaPÒkD, HÒRDVjkeÒe HjaÊ jÊaP` D D LPRPjc -
· Òe [eÊZaDaÊ _PheDj QDmPmD J/[D*Ê AccãmD_ççÒe*
*Ò_B XD|e MD_ De LcàNcDÒ_ Ò\$ePNÒm DjÊaJ/[ÒjcD_**
jD\N`Oe NmD D

jc` c_ VD Òj.BWPeP cePNmD D ÒdDÜcDÒ_ c] · P.B cD/[Dm*
*ÒkD.B\úÒm, ÒjcD_ * · DM eÊ c]/ÒaD/[m RÒXB_ PANmD D*
LDÒf · ÊZPAD LDkDe LPRPjçjÒD AjP` DÒe, dDkDaP
ÒkD b- Òe jcÒ` VPOLjÒdc eSD LePaDLÊ hPMPOm D
· J[/PbDe c_ VD aP bmmDNÊ_ \umD D ÒLÒ/[jaÊ LA_ D LeP
AjP\umD jPH D ÒkÒm]Ê_ PAVD [SVPfÒkBNmDZP,
]P LE]P_ ÒLÒ/ · eParà_ D Òj · eParà_ jkP/[DfÒ]/B

QDmPaDVH HÒ/[jkS cÒ_ ÒkD \úmD D d]/P JÒLÒ/VH
 `eParà_jDeD `áúaNLE HL/[NLeZ LePaD]PNÒe j\$
 ÒkD.B` DePRP, ÒkOm [DjkP/ _ÊA_ÊA_jcjÒD aP
 Ò/MÒDÒ/D RP D NÜD cD_ *Òe aPÒÒe ÒÒe V²PP,
 ÒjmcÒ\$D_ç D `áúaNè ÒNDVPFHÒLDZe MaejD/[jcÊ]/J, Ò/e
 _C` De ÒkD.B` Ae ÒLDZVPÒe QYD QYç `kqudDDRP/IZL
 bP/Òe, B²AecÒ_Vç cD^ÒcÒe D ÒkOm [DjkP/ AjPRP @yPe/D;
 cZPic_e Qqf/D aYPRP; jaÊL\D LePaDLÊ BcD, jaÊ @_Êba
 LePaDLÊ BcD; ÒkOm jc- LDkPÜ?

ÒjcP/PaPa]/fPdD.BRP LfDLDe cD_ *e SNa; @/Pú QnàDe
 @bP_a_P-c JjÖ` Læe jc`jÊ/[J D NÜD NÜDÒe c/Ò/DLD_ ; jkee
 `j/P NfPcD_ *Òe c/Ò/DLD_ , @/Pú, @bÒDN/cD_ *e QnàDÒe
 c]; LfDLDe cD_ *Ê ^_ÒaD/Ò/aDe cD^Òc ÒkmD c/ JjDcD SPL
 jÖ` Læe A^Ê_PL QPkD aPc] `ePÒaiZ D

jcÖ`/D` Òe Òj.B [eÊZaDaÊ* aPi- Òe kPÜL \DaDràD LÒm D
 ÒLcP/P[eÊZ ckD«P` PmD]/PÒ_aD` D, cD ÒRD` ÒkD.B
 ÒNDVPFHaeD, `PASPÒ/DLD_ Òe LDc LeÊ \úÒm D /D*
 _DÜ ÒjÒ/ÒaÒf \úmD VPLD D]P_e LDc `Òe eD/PÒe
 Òj.BW²PÒj Ò/DLD_ `P` DÒe ÒhD.BdD A«PcjPZDVPH
 `DePÒ]/B D` DMÒÒe ekÊ\D«P SÒZ LfDLDe D eD/PÒe
 ÒXeP` daÖ«jÖN²/jD^_D Le«P D [D*Ê LD_ ÒXeP
 hÊZÊhÊZÊ /PÒ_ NÊZÊNÊZÊ Òk.B` Ò/NDBÒ]/B \PÒm
 ÒjaDj_cD SÊcD SÊ D Òj/[PLPÒaÒf SfM²PA MD.BaDLÊ
 AjP\D«P Òj jÖN²/jD^_LD [D*jD^_De jPwPÒj H
 ÒkDÒV²mc a-ç` DMÒe Ò/MPÒm D Òj.BWÊ /DLÊ Anj-
 Ò/Òm_P SÒÒe, `DW` ÒYBÒm, jÖN²/hPÒM.BÒm D

[eÊZ ckD«P· Ác LePÒdDÜ]/P_ "@mcç B· PÁÒeXPJ Ò½j_çÒe
 LPÒhDò LfDLDò bDÒa NÑ/· ePÒaiZ LePÁúÒm, Òj]/P_
 LÊÁÒX Òj jÒNÑ/NÊ.eÊ [D*Ê Ò· DiÒ· Ê/[Jè cdâÒD]/D
 Ò/Òm, _ÊÁ_DÜÒ/Òm [eÊZ ckD«P D VPLDòÊ [eÊZ ckD«P
 jD SPÁúaD Òj B cZPiVSPbP/Òe]ÊÓM@Ò_I D SNa_e jaÊ
 j\$ f/[D bP/Òe aPÒj LÊÁÒX Òa ÒfÒa ÒfÒ\$ePdDÁ«P Òj B
]ÊÓM]/@/NÑ/LÊ D Òj \ú· D BÜ_c]/P_eD bP/Òe kÒS.B]/P@«P
 PSLÊ D Òj B VPLDò· ePQ· D BÜ_kPÜ Òj LÊÁÒX
 [D*· Ác Ò· JcPLD W DòÊ ^LcLD M D B \úÒm D Òj ^LcLD
 Òj jkP· DòP_DkD«P D aPaDk LeP]Ê BVSPj«D_e S_I
 ÒkD B \úaD jÒré aPÒj· Ác Ò· JcPLD LÊ H· daÒ«
 bÊmP· DòP_DkD«P D

HjaÊ hÊZPmD· Òe d]/PJ· J]/PbD_c_Òe aP [eÊZ ckD«P*· J]/P
 VSPÒLjkD_ÊbÊ[/Pj½PÒkmD, \D· P]ÊÓMLÊjkPaDò J
 · JLDh LePaDò LZ@_ÒLP RPcD^Òc_DkPÜ D jÒNÑ/ bP
 cD^ÒcLÊ Òd SNa_e Ò· hD LeP RP, Òj B jÒNÑ/LÊ LZ
]ÊÓMLÊ bÊmPaDò cD^Òc LeDdD.B· DòPa_P?· J]/PbD_c_Òe
 H.BjaÊ dÊ | P QDmPÁúmD D

""ARD, [eÊZ aDòÊ* Ò· JcPLD LP H?" - · J]/PbD H· Jhò LmD
 j_D[_jDkÊ*Ê D

""Òj HÒa ÁÒcePLDÒe @R_P D [D*_DÜÒmD· DcÊ]/J D
 cPhJ D Òj SÒZ JXP hÑ_ó/[Ò aPhDò]/D D"

""AD [D*_úÑ? jPH aPLZ ÒjcP/P SÒZ LfDLDò?"

""_ÜD, jPH ÒjcP/P LP RP MÒD/PjÒ_ò_ÊkÜ«P D LP Ê
 bm aÑZ D aSD«P JÒeDÒi.B Le«P D"

""[eÊZ aDaÊ*Ê Òj @/Ô^úL c]· P.BaDLÊ c_ DL«P_ DkPÜ
LDkPÜLP?"

""c_DLÒmjPFLZ hÊZ.PÒa ? [D*· D.BÜ [jPFL· aâPLçÒe
aÑZD aÒS.BaD RDXPÒ/Òm D \D· P[eÊZaDaÊ
jÊ^ÊePÒm_ DkPÜ D]"

""cDÒ_jPFLHÒ/acXjDLjP\$D.Bjç LÒm D LDkPÜLP?"

""cP_ÊÒ/Ç AÒN/D* NÊeÊ* jkP/ aPbP_ð jkeLÊ Ò· jDNjDcc
· D.BÜ dDD\úÒm D ÒkÒm Òj.BV D [eÊZaDaÊ* e· jt ÒkmD_ P
D H\ú· D.BÜ· j[P]P_ TNX D QDmPmD D [eÊZaDaÊ aP
HÒ/@^PL c]/PÒ_/PÒ_· P.BÒm ÒdLP R P/P_ ^eP/D*Ê
jc *WDeÊ @mND LePeM DNmD D cP_ÊÒ/B*ÊÒ/MPaD
cDÒ/j/D*Ê cDePaDLÊ ÒNDÒX.BÒm D"

""Òj.BWÊ..."

""\Òe OVZD akÊ/jDÒOD/PL eÊ· ^DeZ LmD D cP_ÊÒ/Ç
ÒNDV PFLÒ· jDNjDcc LePÒ\$eÊ\D«P/D* NÊeÊÒ/a* jkP/
D [eÊZaDaÊ* eDN QYP NmD D /Ê.BÒaD[m c]· P.BjPFL
dD.B Òj cP_ÊÒ/Ç*P/· PV²PÒm· PV²PÒm, NÊeÊÒ/a*Ê aP
dD.B· PV D· PV²P LÒm D Ò· DmPjç AjPmD D LP R P/P_
dD.B Òj kD S/Òe aP ekPÒm D· ÊZP cP_ÊÒ/B* aD· D, cD AjP
aÊTDjÊTD LÒe.B NÒm D Òj.B/P_eÊ cP_ÊÒ/Ç* e· aâPLç
`eDeccD_cjç at D"

· j[PbD c_Òe Òj cP_ÊÒ/Ç*· j[PjkD_ÊbÊ/P S DNj/ÒkmD D
aP QDeÑ_ P S· j[PbDLÊ Sfd&fPÒ/BjÊM_ejÒjDe
NYPaDLÊ QDkPÜ\úmD Òd jPFL, HcP/PbD NÒ D· j[PbDe
SPsDjD aYPmD D Òj· QDePmD, ""[D*· PmDcDÒ_ ÒLÒ/
aX D LZ jaÊ Le«PÒjcDÒ_?"

j_D/_jDkÊ LkPÒm, ""· PmDcDÒ_aX ÒkBNÒmZP D
 aXTP@aDkDÒk.BjDePRP D bmÖe @RP; [DejéDcN
 B&P_P-ec D · Ê@VD ÒjcP/PLPRP · yD · yPLmD_P D
 NN/NBH, LP«Ê ÒjÒ/VD _ÜD LeP_P D Ò/Òa ÖeLXàP
 ½ÊXPJÒM DmPRP D aPScÖ_jc bm QDmPRP D Öe
 NÊSeDZ ÒcAPdD DRP D"

jc "LfDLDecDÒ_aP AjPj_D/_*jkP/ÒdDNO/Òm D ÒjcD_*
 bP/eÊ LPRPÒmDL cD/Dm \DÀ«P D LP«Ê jc^{ax} c_
 /ÊÓM\DH D ÒLDÜ HL @SZD Ah*DÖe jcÖ" c_cDeP
 ajP\D«P D R_cDj /ÖfLÊAÖX [eÊZ aDaÊ* e HcP/P\Öe @ayD
 ÖkD.B\úmD JXD\ekD.B aâXcÖ · Jjec · D.BÜ J@_ÖD_Ö
 jéDyÖ jcéuN^- jcfÖD · D.BÜ_c/Ö · D__LePaDLÊ_PÖ~ààh
 Ö/B\úÖm D LP«Ê [eÊZ aDaÊ LDKDL\D hÊZ«P_P D_P S
 cSàPÖe kPÜ Öj LDcLePÖa D [D*Ê AD LPFHÖLcP/P
 jDkDdÖ LeP · DePa?

· J/PbD LkPmD, ""ÖkÖm A ZcDÒ_d/P H · PA · PB LePaDÖe
 [D*ej=]P@Ö«_P, jPH/VPÖLjÊ^ÊePdDÀÖ«_D!
 A ZcDÒ_aP/_PSLÊ_P-SZLePSDZÊ_DkD«P; AD
 [D*Ê jDkDdÖ LePÖa LZ?"

Öj LfDLDecDÒ_jcÖ "QE · ç ekPÖm D [D · Öe jcÖ" · ÊZP
 HLejç · âDÖ_j_ç ÖM D S PaDÖe mD N PÖm D HcP/PcÖ_ÖkmD
 ÖdcP/PÖjcD_*Ê LPFHÖa/cS hPÖM.BÖ/B RPÖd, jaÊ
 /ÊÓMe_P/D_ÖkmD c/ · PB cD/Dm ÖkaD D

j_D/_ aDaÊ JÒjLfDLDecD_*jkP/N JdÊ\ P/Là bP/Òe Òj
 HÒ/[[_ê- ekPdD.B\ PmD Òd, jc- ÒLcP/ aP/ PNmD
 SDZPÒkmD_ P D kW D/ç ÒL Df Dkfe hv ÒkaDeÊ SDZPmD,
 jÊaJ/, X Lç V eç / Dh* · Ê/ÊeD X D\ e M D_ DeÊ Ò\$eP A j P R P J
 jcÒ " a Ò N J / D e j k P / [D W D e Ê [e Ê Z c k D « P * j e D y Ò a P i - Ò e
 SDZPaDLÊ DLú // P / Òk D B @ Ò · D L e P R « P D · J / P h D a P
 ÒjcD_* bP/Òe j DcPmç Òk D B N m D J j Ê a J / W D e Ê [e Ê Z c k D « P *
 a P i - Ò e h Ê Z P a D L Ê @ Ò · D L e P a j P m D D

(LJchÒ.....)



I Shall Be Back

(Julie Acharya Ray)

Green leaves twist in the breeze
 Lingering to turn golden
 Riches lie unopened
 And treasures that embolden

Words stir in unknown psyches
Waiting to erupt
Wishes blend in here and there
Impatient to be born

The lofty stairs look inviting
Winding up the stories
Many accesses stay tightly locked
Hoarding everlasting mysteries

Roads that haven't been sped upon
By virtue of reticence
Countless minds that haven't convened
Because of rational fences

Those fences will fall
And roads will broaden
Then words will fill oceans
And doors swing open

It's only a few days of crossing
From this land to that
Fulfilling desires of many births
Laying on the prayer mat

I am on that journey now
Only to be back
This is not my very first
Neither will it be my last

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(Photographs: Courtesy Abhijit Ray and Google Images)