

**UTKARSA OSA NEWSLETTER****March Issue Volume 42****2011*****From the Editor's desk...***

*Welcome to the March 2011 issue of Utkarsa. It is the year of the OSA elections. Know a candidate, support the office and cast your valuable vote. OSA 2011 is a few months away. Learn about the convention, the guest list and the assortment of events that the Dallas Oriyas are going to serve you. This issue brings to you chapter reports, Odia stories, poetry, discussions on the education system and a glimpse of beautiful art work. We hope to pass onto you the color and vigor of yet another spring.*

***Editors: Sridhar Rana and Julie Acharya Ray***



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



ପ୍ରିୟ ଓସା ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ

ନମସ୍କାର ।

ଆଗାମୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଓ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତିର ମାନ, ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦା ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ଓ ଦେଶ, ବିଦେଶରେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତିର ଗୌରବ ବଢ଼ାଇବା ପ୍ରତିଟି ଓଡ଼ିଆର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଆମେ ଏପ୍ରକାର ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ନାମର ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱ ବଢ଼ାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଶପଥ ନେବା ।

ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଭଳି ପୁଣି ବସନ୍ତ ଆସିଛି । ବସନ୍ତ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟର ଉଜ୍ଜ୍ୱଳ ଆଭାସ ସବୁରି ମନରେ ନୂଆ ଆଶାର ରଙ୍ଗ ମହକ ବିଛାଡ଼ି ଦେଉଛି ସତେକି? ସବୁଆଡ଼େ ତପ୍ତରତା, ଚଞ୍ଚଳତା, ମାଦକତା, ସ୍ୱପ୍ନର ବିସ୍ତାର ବଗିଚା । ଆଉ ତିନିମାସ ପରେ ଓସା କନଭେନ୍ସନ୍; ଆମେରିକାର ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପ୍ରାଣରେ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ଯାଉଛି ଖୁସିର ଲହରୀ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାରୁ କେତେ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଗଣ୍ୟମାନ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଆସିବେ । ଆମେରିକା ଓ କାନାଡା ଦେଶର କେତେ କେଉଁଆଡୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆମାନେ ସବୁ ଆସିଥିବେ; ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ହସ, ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ରସ ଓ ନୃତ୍ୟକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ତାଳରେ ଦୁଲୁକି ଉଠିବ ମାରିଅଟ୍ ହୋଟେଲ୍, ଅଜଣା ମଣିଷମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆପଣାପଣରେ ବାନ୍ଧିଦେବ କେଉଁ ସମ୍ବେଦନା ହୃଦୟ । ଜୀବନକୁ ଉଦ୍‌ଭାସିତ କରିବ ଆନନ୍ଦର ଦୀପ୍ତିକା । ପ୍ରତୀକ୍ଷାରତ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ପ୍ରାଣ ଦିନ ଗଣୁଛି । ଆଉ ତିନିଟା ମାସ ତା' ଚାହୁଁତାହୁଁ ଦିନ କେମିତି ଚାଲିଯିବ ।

ଜୀବନଟା ଏମିତି ସିନା । ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ମଧ୍ୟରେ କେତେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ । ଜାପାନ ଭଳି ପ୍ରଭାବଶାଳୀ ଓ ପ୍ରାଚୁର୍ଯ୍ୟମୟ ଦେଶର ଭୂକମ୍ପ ଓ ଭୂକମ୍ପ ଜନିତ ପ୍ରଳୟ କଥା ଚିନ୍ତାକରିବା ମାତ୍ରେ ଦେହ ଶୀତେଇ ଉଠୁଛି । ପ୍ରତି ସେକେଣ୍ଡରେ ମଣିଷ ଜୀବନରେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନର ଆଶଙ୍କା । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ପ୍ରତି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ ଓ ପ୍ରତି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତର ଉତ୍ତମ ଉପଯୋଗ କରିପାରିଲେ ଏ ଜୀବନଟା ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥକ ହେଲା ବୋଲି ପ୍ରତୀତ ହେବ । ଓସାର ଏ ଯେଉଁ ସମାରୋହ ଆସୁଛି, ହୁଏତ ସେ ସମାରୋହ ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବାକୁ ଆଉଥରେ ସୁଯୋଗ ଆସିବନି । ତେବେ କାହିଁକି ଆମେ ଏ ବର୍ଷର ସମାରୋହରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ କରି ନିଜ ଜୀବନରେ କିଛିଟା ଖୁସିର ସ୍ପର୍ଶ ସୌଧ ଗଢ଼ିବାନି ?

ମୋର ପ୍ରିୟ ଓସା ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ, ଓସା ୨୦୧୧ କନଭେନ୍ସନ୍ ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ରହିଲା । ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ମେଳରେ ମୁଁ ୨୦୦୯ରେ ଓସାର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ନେଇଥିଲି ଓ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ମେଳରେ ମୁଁ ୨୦୧୧ରେ ହସିହସି ଓସାର ବନ୍ଧନରୁ ମୁକୁଳି ମୁକ୍ତ ଆକାଶର ପକ୍ଷୀ ହୋଇ ଉଡ଼ିବୁଲିବି; ତେବେ ବିଦାୟ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷରେ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଅର୍ପଣ କରିବାର ସୁଯୋଗରୁ ମତେ ବଞ୍ଚିତ କରିବେନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ଆଶା କରୁଛି ।

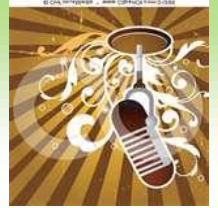
ଯେମିତି ଓସାପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଦେଖିଥିଲି ମୁଁ, ସେମିତି ଠିକ୍‌ଭାବେ ହୋଇପାରିଲା ନାହିଁ । ତଥାପି ମୁଁ ଖୁସି ଯେ ଓସାର ସମ୍ମାନ ରକ୍ଷା କରିପାରିଛି । ଚଳାପଥରେ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ ଆସିଥିଲା ବହୁତ, ତେବେ ସେ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ ପାଇଁ ହିଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ହୃଦୟକୁ ମୁଁ ବୁଝିବାର ସୁଯୋଗ ପାଇଲି ଓ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ସ୍ନେହର ପ୍ରଭାବକୁ ପରଖି ପାରିଲି । ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ବିଶ୍ୱାସର ବଳରେ ହିଁ ସବୁ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି, ଓସାକୁ ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତ୍ତିତ କରୁଥିବା ଆସୁରିକ ବାଦୀ ଶକ୍ତି କବଳରୁ ମୁକ୍ତ କରି ମୁଁ ବିଜୟ ତିଳକ ପିନ୍ଧାଇ ପାରିଲି । ଓସାପ୍ରତି

ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ଏ ସ୍ନେହ ସଦା ଅମ୍ଳାନ ହୋଇ ରହିଥାଇ ଓ ଓସାର ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ଗୌରବ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆମମାନଙ୍କର ଏ ବନ୍ଧୁତା ସବୁଦିନ ପାଇଁ ଦୃଢ଼ ଓ ଅକ୍ଷୁଣ୍ଣ ହୋଇ ରହୁ ।

ତୁଲାଇ ଧରୁ ଧ ଚାରିଖ ଭିତରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ କିଛିଟା ବିଶେଷ ମୁଦୁର୍ତ୍ତ ବିତାଇ ସ୍ମୃତି ଫରୁଆରେ ସଜାଇ ରଖିବାର ଅଭୀପ୍ସା ନେଇ ରହିଲି ।

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ପ୍ରେସିଡେଣ୍ଟ, ଓସା

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Newsletter/osa\\_march\\_2011\\_address\\_mp3.mp3](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Newsletter/osa_march_2011_address_mp3.mp3)



**Dear Friends,**

I wish the membership a happy and enchanting spring. Enchantment is added to this newsletter by our dedicated editors Julie Acharya Ray and Sridhar Rana. On behalf of OSA executives I thank the editors for their hard work and support.

Odias have always put emphasis on excellence and hence the name “Utkala”, which means “The state of artistic excellence”, is associated with the past history of Odisha. On the upcoming occasion of “Odisha Dibasa”, i.e., “Odisha Day”, I wish you all a dignified happy life with all the causes for your happiness and dignity. “Odisha Day” is celebrated on 1st April in Odisha in the memory of the formation of the state as a separate province on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1936.

I take this opportunity to welcome OSA’s new Secretary Pitambar Sarangi from New Jersey through this newsletter. Dr Annapurna Pandey resigned as the Secretary of OSA on February 12, 2011 to participate in OSA 2011 election. Pitambar Sarangi took charge from February 19, 2011.

It is perhaps a good time to reflect upon the current happenings in OSA and the significant role of each individual member as we approach the annual convention and the transition to a new administration. Our administration went through a rigorous testing period, yet we could accomplish many things that we had listed in our goal. A major work that remains to do is to restore its financial health that was affected by the unfortunate judgment made by a losing candidate in 2009 election.

### **OSA Annual Convention: July 1-4, 2011**

The annual convention is the only grand event in OSA although there are many local OSA events in chapter level and regional drama festival that brings a few communities together. The conventions are becoming better each year and are able to draw Odias from all around United States and Canada as well as around the globe including Odisha. This year’s convention will be no exception. Jharana Das, the cultural icon of Odisha whose talent in radio, TV and movies has been enthralling the Odias from 1960s will be the chief guest. Dr Sitakanta Mohapatra, a literary icon of Odisha who has been awarded Padma Bibhusan this year will be the Chief Speaker. Several cultural talents like Sniti Mishra, Prashanta Muduli, Chitta Jena, and Santanu Mohapatra’s group will be entertaining the audience with their mystical voice and instruments. That’s not all. There are many choices for the children, youth and the second generation adult Odias, mehefil, discussions, Subrina Biswal competition in Performing Arts, Kalinga Entrepreneurship Award competition and many other opportunities. On behalf of OSA administration I invite all of you to plan to attend the convention. For complete information on convention program plans, please visit the convention page at <http://www.osa11.org> and note the deadlines to participate in various activities.

**Transition to New Administration in July, 2011**

This year's annual convention will also be the transition time in OSA administration. The election process has already started with candidate announcements. New officials will be taking charge and we all must do our part of the duty in making this transition smooth. I request all OSA members to participate in the election. You have all the independence in making your own judgment doing your own research and analysis and voting for the right candidate of your choice instead of going the wrong way of focusing and attacking the other candidate.

OSA 2009 transition was very hard on OSA and the General Body Meeting (GBM) was hijacked by the malicious melodrama created by the losing candidate in the election. Losing the election in a voluntary non-profit organization for unpaid voluntary positions is not a loss at all. In fact the candidate that does not get opportunity to serve OSA can actually gain his time back to devote in many positive activities starting from own personal and professional development to other community activities. Opportunities are unlimited for a doer.

On behalf of the OSA-loving membership and the administration, I request all the contesting candidates to make this promise to OSA membership that they would never become a plaintiff against the organization if they lose in the election. Our organization deserves members that can keep this promise and leaders of OSA must set this example to members. If OSA is not able to provide the medium to explore your interests, please forge a new path. I quote Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail".

Let us hope therefore that we will be entering this new OSA year in July in a more optimistic mood and that we will experience increased interest in exploration and development projects in OSA instead of considering OSA election as the only goal in our life.

**OSA's Financial Health Restoration**

The financial damage that OSA suffered to restore its dignity can easily be replenished if each member shares a little of this responsibility. Only \$100 from each family can easily raise \$50,000 for the organization. I sincerely request every member to support in this effort. Even if the current time is hard for you in managing your finances, please make a pledge that you will make this donation during any time within six months that is convenient and affordable for you. Thank you for your generous heart.

**New Constitution and Request for your Continuous Support**

The new constitution draft is ready and is published as part of this newsletter. We will send you the printed version in US mail for your vote. OSA is a collective creation. Collective responsibility sharing and collaborative work only will glow its future. We request your vote for the new constitution.

I thank you all for your continuous support for OSA and our administration. Our team values your fellowship and friendship. Your love for OSA and trust on our leadership has given us the power to sail through the difficult days to restore the honor of our organization. We hope to receive your continuous support for our envisioned future for OSA to bring everlasting glow of honor, happiness, merriment and good fortune to our organization.

I can't wait to welcome you at the OSA 2011 convention. See you in Plano, TX!

Bigyani Das,  
President, OSA

## **MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends,

Like previous years, this year OSA is inviting its members to nominate the deserving candidates for OSA awards in various categories. The deadline for sending the nominations for OSA awards is April 20th, 2011.

Following are the Award categories. Please find below details of award/nomination process guidelines.

- 1) **Distinguished Oriya Award**
- 2) **Utkalamani Gopabandhu Dash Memorial Award**
- 3) **Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence (Competition)**
- 4) **Kalashree Award**
- 5) **Youth Volunteer Award**
- 6) **Yuva Kala Vikas Award**
- 7) **Meghna Memorial Awards for Creative Writing (Competition)**
- 8) **Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award (Competition)**

Every year OSA recognizes its members for their talent, service and contribution to OSA community and Odia Community in general. Your continuing support makes these activities possible and successful. For more information regarding OSA Awards please write to [osaawards@orissasociety.org](mailto:osaawards@orissasociety.org).

Due Regards  
Pradeep Mohapatra  
Vice President, OSA  
On behalf of the OSA Executives

### **OSA AWARDS (Nomination deadline: April 20<sup>th</sup> 2011)**



1. **Distinguished Oriya Award**
2. **Kalashree Award**
3. **Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award**
4. **Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence**
5. **Youth Volunteer Award**
6. **Yuva Kala Vikash Award**
7. **Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing**
8. **Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award**

#### **Section 1: General Guidelines**

- If no suitable candidate is found in a particular year for a particular category, no award may be given.

- In the event of a tie, or if the awards committee decide that more than one person deserve the award, the number of awards may be increased to two in any given year.
- The nominator of an award must be a *member of OSA* at the time of nomination.
- **Self-nominations are not accepted** except for Subrina Biswal Academic Excellence Award.
- Nominator will include references who should be willing provide supporting information regarding a nominee if contacted by the selection committee. Referees should be familiar with relevant contributions/accomplishments of a nominee in the specific award category. The contact information of the referees (telephone no., email address etc.) must be provided in the nomination form. Referees should be prepared to provide verbal or written recommendations when requested.
- With the exception of Subrina Biswal award, no member of the national executive and award committee including family members may be nominated for any award to maintain transparency of the award process.
- Nominators are encouraged to include any relevant documentary evidence of a nominee's contribution/recognition along with the nomination form.
- One person may not be nominated for more than one award category in a single year. One person cannot win the same award again but one person may win different awards over multiple years,
- Please see below for any specific guidelines for individual awards in addition to these general guidelines.

#### **Nomination Submission:**

- Nominations for all awards (except for Meghna Memorial Award and Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Award) should be sent to Award Coordinators at [osaawards@orissasociety.org](mailto:osaawards@orissasociety.org)
- Awards requiring documentary proofs such as recommendation letters for Subrina Biswal Memorial Award must be mailed by US/Canada post to-Mr. **Saurjya Kanta Khandai, 2423 Angela Lane, Aurora, IL 60502, USA.**
- Nominations for Meghna Memorial Award & Kalinga Youth Entrepreneurship Awards should be sent to specific contacts mentioned in those award sections below.

#### **General Process of Selection:**

- A three-member selection panel appointed by the award committee on behalf of the Executive Committee will select the recipient for each award.
- The decision of the awards committee is final.
- The Award will be presented in the form a plaque in a special OSA meeting or in the Annual convention.
- Schedule permitting, a biographical sketch of the recipient will be featured in next issue of the OSA Annual Souvenir.

#### **General Time Line:**

- Last date for nomination: April 20th (post-marked/ electronic)
- Judging process: May 1 through June 10 (*may vary for some awards*)
- Announcement of result: June 15 (*may vary for some awards*)
- Award presentation will be made during the OSA Convention

### ***Section 2: Award Details***

#### **1. DISTINGUISHED ORIYA AWARD:**

The Distinguished Oriya award is the highest award presented by the Orissa Society of the Americas, a non-profit organization operating in North America to preserve and promote the culture, heritage, and customs of Oriya speaking people.

**Criteria for Recognition:**

Selection is based on contribution in one or more of the following areas:

The nominee must have

- Proficiency in professional disciplines with outstanding accomplishments in arts, theatre, literature, science, technology, medicine and /or similar fields.
- Rendered public service with innovative application of resources to enhance literacy, health, education, hygiene, child care, community service and similar other humanitarian and philanthropic service with direct contribution to Orissa, the land and its people.
- Proficiency in and outstanding contribution to Oriya Art, Culture, Heritage and Literature
- Leadership to bring forth social justice in Orissa.
- Entrepreneurial skills to cultivate resources in order to provide economic stimuli and opportunities for employment and economic growth in Orissa
- Patriotic idealism to uphold the honor and dignity of Oriya people.
- Acts of heroism directly contributing to the cause of Orissa and its people.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- The nominee must be a member of the OSA with good standing or have, in case of nominees from overseas, must have contributed to the OSA in a tangible and visible manner.
- The nominator must be a member of the OSA with good standing.

**Submission Requirements:**

Nominator should submit

- Nomination form
- Names of 3 referees

**2. KALASHREE AWARD**

The Kalashree Award is an honor in recognition of an individual's continued service to Oriya art, literature, music, dance, and similar cultural and heritage-based activities in North America.

The Award will be presented in form a plaque in a special OSA meeting or in the Annual convention.

**Criteria for Selection:**

Selection will be based on contributions in one or more of the following areas:

The nominee:

- As a promoter of Oriya art and culture, must have outstanding record of cultural activities such as promotion of Oriya language and literature, hosting of events featuring Oriya cultural programs including visiting artists.
- As a performing artist, must have demonstrated high quality artistic productions, training, and choreography in areas such as Odissi Dance, Odissi Music, Folk dance and music of Orissa, and similar other traditional art of Orissa including production of Oriya films, Oriya dramas, (and, if in any other language, must feature Oriya culture and heritage), hosting of conventions promoting Oriya artists and artistic endeavors.
- As an established author, must have demonstrated high quality authorship in areas such as novels, stories, poetry and such other literary activities in Oriya.
- Only activities and/ or accomplishments performed in North America will constitute grounds for consideration



**Eligibility Requirements:**

- The nominee must be an OSA Member at the time of nomination.
- The person should have several years of active participation in cultural activities of the OSA.
- The person must be, during the year of the Award, living in North America.

**Submission Requirements:**

Nominator should submit

- Nomination form
- Names of 3 referees. One of the referees must be from the Chapter to which the nominee belongs, so that he/she can report on the role of the individual in the Chapter's cultural and literary activities.

**3. UTKALAMANI GOPABANDHU DAS MEMORIAL AWARD**

The Award is presented to an individual in recognition of his/ her outstanding contribution to Orissa in areas of humanitarian and community service. The recipient demonstrates a role model to the Non-resident Oriya community for his / her philanthropic accomplishments, dedication and selfless service to humanity.

**Criteria for Selection:**

The nominee must have made outstanding contribution to the land and people of Orissa in areas such as, but not limited to,

- Social work
- Addressing and resolving women's issues and rehabilitation
- Improving economic well-being of disadvantaged persons
- Relief operation
- Community service, community health,
- Relief of poverty
- Advancement of education at various levels and in various sectors
- Advancement in services in the Health Sector
- Similar other philanthropic endeavors in Orissa.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Nominee must be a member of the OSA with good standing.

**Nomination Process:**

Nominator should submit

- Nomination form
- Names of 3 referees

**4. SUBRINA BISWAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Every year, the Orissa Society of the Americas, in joint sponsorship with Dr. Nilambar and Annapurna Biswal and Dr. Sitakantha Dash, presents the Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence to honor an outstanding high school graduate selected from OSA families. Recipients are selected based on their academic achievements, extra-curricular activities including community service and personal qualities. This award which provides the recipient with one-time scholarship of US \$1000.00 was initiated in 1990 by members of OSA in the loving memory of Subrina, daughter of Dr. Nilambar and Annapurna Biswal of Maryland.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

The nominee must be a graduating high school senior from any School in the USA or Canada.

**Criteria for Selection:**

Assessment will be made on all of the following criteria:

- Academic achievements.
- Extra-curricular activities including community service
- Personal qualities demonstrated by career goal and objectives in life

**Submission Requirements:**

- High School transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation including one from a teacher of the school attended.
- A curriculum vitae identifying academic achievements and extra-curricular activities including community service
- A short essay by the applicant highlighting career goal and objectives in life.

**5. YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD**

Award to recognize a youth (16-40 years of age) for community service in North America, Orissa, for service to OSA or Chapter, organizational leadership, volunteer work etc. Presentation of these awards will generate interest in other youth to participate in community events.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be between 16 to 40 years of age,
- Must be an OSA member or belong to an OSA member family.
- Must be resident in North America

**Submission Requirements:**

Nominator should submit

- Nomination form
- Names of 3 referees. One of the referees must be from the Chapter to which the nominee belongs.

**6. YUVA KALA VIKASHA AWARD**

Award to recognize a youth for outstanding contribution in promotion of Oriya culture, literature, arts, music, dance etc in North America. Presentation of these awards will generate interest in other youth to participate in Oriya culture and OSA events.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be a High School student/ graduating High School student
- Must belong to an OSA member family
- Must be resident in North America.

**Submission Requirements:**

Nominator should submit

- Nomination form
- Names of 3 referees. One of the referees must be from the Chapter to which the nominee belongs.

## 7. MEGHNA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING

After the sad demise of Meghna Mahapatra, daughter of Santosh and Lipika Mahapatra, in a tragic road accident on 5th November 2005, members of the Michigan Chapter of the Orissa Society of the Americas have set up the Meghna Memorial Fund, managed by the Meghna Memorial Trust. This was made possible through generous contributions from many people, including Meghna's parents. To commemorate Meghna and pay tribute to her creative spirit, it was deemed appropriate to institute the "Meghna Memorial Award for Creative Writing". The Meghna Memorial Award was started in 2007.

There are two awards:

- The Junior Award is for Children of ages between 7 and 12; &
- The Senior award is for children of ages between 13 and 18.

The winner in each group will be recognised at the OSA Convention, receive a certificate, a check for \$150, and a copy of the Souvenir issue in which his/her article is published.

### Criteria for Selection

- A panel of judges will look at all the writings by children in the Junior and Senior age groups will be judged for exceptional creativity and quality of writing. The formats and styles are wide open. Examples are poems, short stories, letters home from a trip, or just the child/youth's view of the adult world.
- Each contribution should not be more than four printed pages. Both Oriya and English writings are welcome.

### Eligibility

All children of Oriya origin residing in North America (USA and Canada) in the age group of 7 to 18 are eligible to participate. The parents or children need not be members of OSA at the time of nomination.

### Nomination Process

- Writings can be sent in by children or their parents. All articles submitted to the Souvenir will automatically be considered for the award.
- Please submit articles by email to Mr. Sura P Rath at [sura.rath@unt.edu](mailto:sura.rath@unt.edu) or by mail to Sura P. Rath, Director University College, Professor of English and Chair, Department of Languages and Communication, University of North Texas at Dallas, 7300 University Hills Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75241-4605

## 8. KALINGA YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

Idea Submission (Phase I) (**due date: 31st March, 2011**)

The Business Idea Competition is phase I of the entrepreneurship competition. There is no format restriction and no prior business plan writing experience is required. Submit a 1-page business concept describing your business idea, its market potential and how you plan to bring it to market.

### Eligibility

The competition is only open to high school and college going youth. There is no restriction to number of members in a team. Please note that applicants should only apply if they plan to attend the 42nd OSA Convention.

**Prize Amounts**

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners of the youth entrepreneurship competition.

First Prize: \$1,000

Second Prize: \$600

Third Prize: \$400

**Useful links**

1. [http://www.mahalo.com/How\\_to\\_Write\\_a\\_Business\\_Plan](http://www.mahalo.com/How_to_Write_a_Business_Plan)

2. <http://www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/index.html>

**Submission**

The idea submission is to be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word (preferred) or Adobe PDF format to RanjanKumarDash@GMail.com. The email or a cover page should contain the business name, contact person's name, e-mail and telephone number.

**Sponsorship**

Exciting promotional opportunities on offer in return for a little commitment from sponsors! Put your sponsorship \$\$ to work. Please reach RanjanKumarDash@GMail.com.

For full details please visit

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Awards/Enterprenuership\\_Compentition\\_2011\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Awards/Enterprenuership_Compentition_2011_Flyer.pdf)

OSA Awards:

The deadline to send your nomination for awards is April 20, 2011. The award coordinators are:

Saurjya Kanta Khandai (Chair)

Minakhi Pujari

Rosalin Samantray

Please check for more at

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

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Awards/OSA\\_Awards\\_Guideline\\_2011.htm](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Awards/OSA_Awards_Guideline_2011.htm)

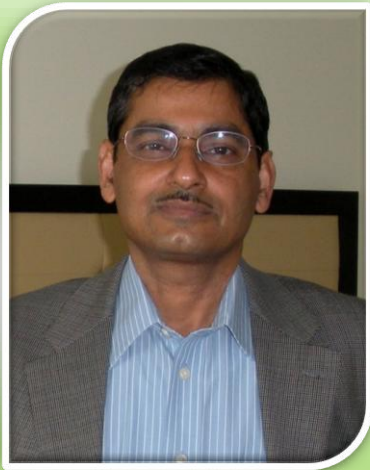
All correspondence on OSA awards can be made by directly contacting the award committee at

[osaawards@orissasociety.org](mailto:osaawards@orissasociety.org).

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY**

### **Pitambar Sarangi**

### **BOG Meeting, January 30, 2011**



#### **Members Present**

Gatikrishna Tripathy, Anadi Naik, Gopal Mohapatra, Debasis Panda, Lalatendu Mohanty, Amar Pani, Bidhu Das, Bigyani Das, Pradeep Mohapatra, Annapurna Pandey, Akhileswar Patel.

This was a special meeting for addressing members questions regarding Maryland Virginia chapter. Members had asked:

1. Provide the names and complete contact information of those 100 families from whom they had collected money in 2008 for membership in OSA.

Anadi Naik said he would not give the names since none of them actually gave money to the chapter. Those 100 members had verbally agreed that if they could vote in the election they would become members and give the money. Treasurer of MD/VA chapter had sent the check without having the money (In Anadi Naik's words: The check was cut without having money in the bank). Because \$2500 check that was cut in such a manner was not deposited by OSA National, the people who had verbally committed to become members did not pay any money or become members.

When asked why Agni Jandhyala's name was not sent since according to Agni and the chapter's treasurer Mr Shreekanta Nayak's testimony in the court Agni had already paid money for his membership, Mr Anadi Naik said that he would not say anything since that was already in the court records.

Refer

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/handwriting\\_skn.pdf](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/handwriting_skn.pdf)

(Trial Transcript: Agni Jandhyala: 136-147 and Shreekanata Nayak: 160-166, Agni dismissed: 166-168)

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/trial\\_transcript\\_07262010.pdf](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/trial_transcript_07262010.pdf)

2. Provide the financial transactions from 2008 July until December 31, 2010 of the unauthorized chapter account maintained by the chapter in Bank of America (account number 3933664387).

Anadi Naik said there were no transactions. After the BOG members insisted that even if there were no transactions, there is no harm in giving bank statements. Anadi Naik replied that he does not get the statements, but his chapter's treasurer gets all those statements and OSA Treasurer Akhileswar Patel must get it from his chapter's treasurer. After a long discussion whether OSA National's treasurer should directly contact the treasurer to get this or it should be the President of the chapter who should get it from his chapter's treasurer, finally it was decided that OSA treasurer will communicate their chapter's treasurer through Anadi Naik and

Anadi Naik will facilitate the communication getting the bank records of all the transactions through his treasurer by March 15, 2011.

Anadi Naik raised a question whether Akhileswar Patel has the authority to ask for transactions for 2008 when he was not the treasurer. Since the complaint is related to 2008-2009 transactions that have created a plaintiff Agni Jandhyala Akhileswar Patel will discuss with OSA CPA Raj to find out more on federal rules in such cases.

OSA Treasurer will request the Chapters President to provide Annual Financial documents of the chapter effective from 2011 (including 2010 statements to be submitted in 2011). The Chapter President may designate their Chapter Treasurer to report this information. The Chapter President is ultimately responsible in making sure that information reaches the OSA Treasurer in time.

Some recollections from Debasis: OSA Treasurer to request the Bank account(s) information, year-end statements and any 1099-INT received for the said accounts, from each of the Chapters' treasurer and President. Each chapter has to provide this information by end of March'11 (4 weeks time to furnish the information). This will help with getting the inventory of all the existing active and inactive bank accounts that use OSA Tax ID.

3. In the event, due to any reason, the Treasurers of any chapter fails or refuses to comply with this request, the President of the said chapter shall help to get this information to OSA Treasurer.

4. There was some discussion on the way MD-VA chapter raised a check for \$2500 without having actual funds. Mr. Anadi Naik took the position that this action was done with goodwill and is perfectly valid since no actual money was transacted. However, many BOG members raised concerns on such actions by the chapter and hence see a need on clear accounting guidelines and principles.

5. OSA BOG shall look into ways to improve the accounting transparency from all the OSA Chapters. Due to time constraint in this meeting, it was discussed to have a meeting specifically on this topic at a later date.

## **BOG Meeting, March 6, 2011**

**Meeting Start Time: 8:30 PM End Time: 11:30 PM**

### **Members Present**

Bigyani Das, Pradeep Mohapatra, Pitambar Sarangi, Akhileswar Patel, Lalatendu Mohanty  
Gatikrishna Tripathy, Amar Pani, Anadi Naik, Nishikant Sahoo, Debashis Panda, Gopal Mohapatra  
Sabita Panigrahi

### **Agenda**

1. Introduction and Welcome to Pitambar Sarangi - Bigyani Das
2. BOG Standards & Pledge of Allegiance to OSA - Bigyani Das
3. OSA Convention 2011 & QA - Gopal Mohapatra
4. Chapter Accounting, DOs & DO NOTs, Disciplinary Action: Akhileswar Patel & Debashish Panda & QA
5. OSA Awards & QA, Pushpalaxmi Trust Award: Pradeep Mohapatra
6. Utkarsa March Issue, OSA Communication & OSAnet: Bigyani Das and Lalatendu Mohanty
7. Chapter Status: Chapter Presidents

8. Miscellaneous Discussion.
9. Adjourn

### Discussion Items

- Voting rights of New Secretary in OSA matters

Mr. Anadi Naik mentioned that the newly appointed secretary should not have voting rights in OSA matters. OSA president cited the provision in constitution regarding the appointment, rights and responsibilities of the secretary. She mentioned that the appointment of the secretary is ratified by the BOG with the understanding that he has the same rights as the outgoing secretary. Other members of the BOG agreed with the president. President also mentioned that she had verbal communication with the OSA general counsel on this matter. Mr. Anadi Naik requested for a written communication from the OSA general counsel in this matter.

- OSA Convention 2011

Mr. Gopal Mohapatra presented the progress in the preparation for the upcoming convention. He requested regional chapters to help in raising funds either directly or by providing names of potential donors to the fund raising committee.

Mr. Mohapatra brought up the issue on providing insurance coverage for the invited guests from Odisha attending the convention. He is in touch with various travel agents on this matter and no definite arrangements have been made so far.

- OSA Awards Events

Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra mentioned that the last date for submitting nomination of awardees has been extended. He explained the procedure adopted in selecting judges for various OSA awards.

Mr. Naik proposed that children of OSA executives (both elected and nominated) should not participate in OSA Awards events because of conflicts of interest. Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra, Vice president of OSA, mentioned that OSA executives are not directly involved in selection process of judges for these events hence it does not constitute any conflict of interest. Mr. Naik requested for voting on the issue but attending members unanimously decided not to vote and postpone the voting for the next BOG meeting.

Mr. Amar Pani mentioned that judges selected for various OSA Award events should have expertise in those fields.

Members suggested that an archive of all past award winning articles/items should be kept for future references.

- **Chapter Accounting**

Mr. Akhileswar Patel requested all chapter presidents to submit the dividends/interest (form 1099) earned in chapter accounts for tax filing purposes.

Mr. Debasis Panda came up with proposals for member behavior and disciplinary actions.

Ms. Bigyani Das requested all chapters to send the details of events, if any, for the upcoming publication of Utkarsa

Chapter presidents presented details of the functions/events observed in their chapters and also mentioned about the upcoming events.

**TREASURER'S REPORT****Akhileswar Patel****OSA CHAPTERS ACCOUNTS  
INFORMATION, 2010**

PRESIDENT	Email	Phone	EXPENSE	BALANCE	USED OSA EIN ?	BANK STATEMENT	COMMENT
Ashok Parida	<a href="mailto:bobparida@hotmail.com">bobparida@hotmail.com</a>	630 851 2235	5047.44	0	yes	no	Expenses for Saraswati Puja, Ganesh Puja, Regional Drama and Picnic
Debasis Panda	<a href="mailto:dpanda@cox.net">dpanda@cox.net</a>	480 963 5914	884	1450.29	yes	yes	Hall Rental and Misc.
Anadi Naik	<a href="mailto:acnaik@aol.com">acnaik@aol.com</a>	410 489 5887	0	2288.92	no	yes	No account activity for 2010.
Pushpita Bhuyan Ray	<a href="mailto:Pushpitabhuyan@gmail.com">Pushpitabhuyan@gmail.com</a>	248 528 1953	3037.54	6950.28	yes	no	Expenses for Saraswati and Ganesh Puja, Picnic, Kumar Purnima and Basant Utsav
Sarat Mohapatra	<a href="mailto:saja0702@yahoo.com">saja0702@yahoo.com</a>	651 739 0426	0	0	yes	no	Spoke over phone. No account on OSA. Have account on Jagannath Society and it is active
Nishikant Sahoo	<a href="mailto:nsahoo@yahoo.com">nsahoo@yahoo.com</a>	603 888 2095	3608.57	8823.72	yes	yes	Expenses for Saraswati and Ganesh Pooja, Regional Drama Festival, Picnic and Misc
Lalatendu Mohanty	<a href="mailto:lmohanty@yahoo.com">lmohanty@yahoo.com</a>	908 672 1292	11702.86	25355.89	yes	yes	Expenses for Saraswati and Ganesh Puja,



								Kumar Poornima, Picnic and Misc
Arata Rout	<a href="mailto:Arat.Rout@gmail.com">Arat.Rout@gmail.com</a>	615 855 3720	2868.98	1.52	no	no		Spoke over phone. Opening Account with OSA EIN soon. Maintain Account event to event and try to balance
Surya Misra	<a href="mailto:bablootiki@aol.com">bablootiki@aol.com</a>	636 273 3789				no		Left several messages. Yet to receive a call.
Bidhu Das	<a href="mailto:bidhudas2003@yahoo.com">bidhudas2003@yahoo.com</a>	919 367 2844	100	3186.64	yes	no		Bank Statement is being sent soon.
Amar K Pani	<a href="mailto:amarkpani@gmail.com">amarkpani@gmail.com</a>	901 372 0555	0	3299.48	yes	yes		
Gopal Mohapatra	<a href="mailto:gkmohapatra@gmail.com">gkmohapatra@gmail.com</a>	281 807 6787	0	0	no	no		Have open an account for OSA Convention 2011 with OSA EIN. Income \$10,100.00 includes OSA contribution of \$10,000.00. Expense \$2169.70
Gatikrishna Tripathy	<a href="mailto:gatikrishnat@gmail.com">gatikrishnat@gmail.com</a>	703 579 6583	6488	11400.72	yes	no		Expenses for Saraswati and Ganesh Puja and Kumar Poornima, Raja Picnic, Misc
		<b>OSA Account Statement Ending on 02/28/2011</b>						
	<b>Account Number</b>					<b>Statement Balance</b>		
		-8728				6,663.40		
		-8618				695.28		
		8599				25,504.42		
		-8609				61,586.70		
				<b>Total</b>		<b>94,586.70</b>		

		2009 OSA Convention					
	<b>Income</b>			<b>Expense</b>		<b>OSA Received</b>	
	140,181.00			140,181		13,379.00	<i>Includes OSA advance of \$5000.00</i>
		<b>2010 OSA Convention</b>					
	146,765.00			139,086.94		11,971.00	Includes OSA Advance of \$6000.00
							\$7,678.00 is designated for
							ODISA Development by OSA CAL
Akhileswar Patel							
Treasurer, OSA.							

# CHAPTER REPORTS



## NY-NJ Chapter



**Reported by: Lalatendu Mohanty**

Maa Saraswati Puja was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February at the Community Hall of Venkateswar Temple, Bridgewater as planned. Close to two hundred of people from Odia Community participated in the Puja. The atmosphere was filled with devotion. Pitambar Sarangi conducted the puja and explained the formalities to all the kids in simple terms as well as translated many of the slokas in plain English. He along with Ritu Mohapatra & Hemanta Panda explained the importance of Maa Saraswati in our culture and why she is considered the goddess of knowledge and arts. All kids participated in a small quiz on Maa

Saraswati, while some participated either in chanting slokas or painting Maa Saraswati pictures. Many little kids started their first writing practice with auspicious Khadi Chuan. performed the



Many devotees brought fruits & Prasad for the occasion. Lunch Prasad was served at the end. It was a great social gathering with crowds from all parts of the tri-state area, both young and old, enjoyed each other's company.

## Utkal Prabha Celebrates Seven Memorable years



Utkal Prabha, an Odia Radio Program at 1170AM (in New Jersey) and at [www.ebcmusic.com](http://www.ebcmusic.com) via internet has been broadcasting odia music, culture, interviews, and many other topics of interest to local odias throughout the tri-state area for last SEVEN years. This is an hour

long program broadcasted from 9 to 10 AM every Sunday. For last few years, it has also brought life interviews of the candidates running for OSA Elections, messages from Conveners of OSA Conventions, live conversations and Q & A sessions with many eminent personalities of odisha and of odia origin.

This weekly Odia radio program is facilitated by New York & New Jersey Chapter. It is broadcasted every Sunday 9AM to 10AM through EBC radio, 1170AM Frequency. Also it can be reached through internet [www.ebcmusic.com](http://www.ebcmusic.com) <Press "Listen live EBC Radio"> RED color bar at the top of the page. It will be broadcasting interviews of Presidential candidates on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.

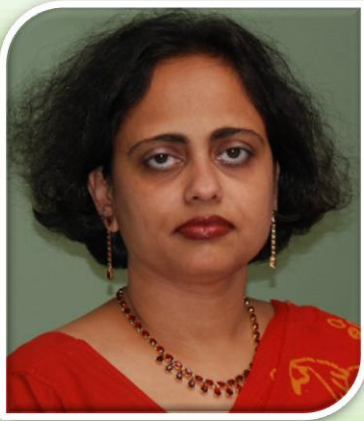
### OSA NY-NJ Annual Picnic on June 11<sup>th</sup>



OSA NY/NJ Chapter Annual picnic is organizing their Annual Picnic on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This will be day of full family fun with many activities for all ages, not to mention the varieties of foods. All odia community in this area are welcome to join. Additional information will be mailed to all community members soon.

## CANOSA Chapter

**Reported by: Sabita Panigrahi**  
**Volunteer Service Award recipients**



We congratulate the following volunteers of CANOSA for receiving 2011 Volunteer Service Award from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in Youth and Adult categories.

The recipients are Nikita Gantayet (Youth), Rohan Garnaik (Youth), Parasar Mishra, Bhagban Panigrahi, Srimant Mohanty, Madhumita Das and Sanghamitra Das.

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration gives the award to the volunteers through the organization to encourage volunteerism. For details

please see the link.

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citizenship/honours/vsa.shtml>

The CANOSA board thanks the Volunteer Service Award Selection Committee: Rabindra Sabat, Manas Singha and Asish Patnaik for their sincerity in gathering nominations, selecting recipients and sending the names to the CANOSA board.



dance.

### **Presence of CANOSA at India Republic Day Celebration**

Indeed, it was great to see a remarkably large presence of Odia community members participating in the Indian Republic Day celebration held in Toronto; organized by Panorama India with the support of the Consulate General of India. We thank Arpita Gantayet, Nikita Gantayet and Ineka Panigrahi for preparing the dance within a short period of time. Even though all of them were back from India just a couple of days before the event, their enthusiastic spirit led them to represent CANOSA excellently by performing a beautiful Odia

### **Upcoming events**

CANOSA is going to conduct its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sahitya Patha Chakra on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. The first half of this event will be devoted to the life and literary work of Padmashree Sachidananda Routray (1916-2004), popularly known as Sachi Routray. The second half of the programme will be devoted to oDiA kabitA pATha (oDiA Poetry Reading Session) in which local oDiA poets will have the opportunity to recite their own poems or poems written by other authors. This year we have introduced a new and exciting component to our Sahitya Pathchakra which will be about oDiA Lokokti and Dhaga DhamALi.



## Washington DC Chapter

**Reported by: Gatikrishna Tripathy, President**



The Saraswati Puja of Washington DC chapter was celebrated at Hindu Temple on February 12, 2011. The puja was well attended by most Odiya Washingtonians. It was a nice start to the first event of the year. The involvement of children in the puja activities, listening to the bhajans, sharing the taste of homemade food and catching up with some chit-chatting gave the pleasure of togetherness. Also we are very happy to acknowledge that the dedication and hard work of each one of us made this event so successful. I am sure we have the knack to succeed and deliver the best for ourselves and others we love so dearly.



Saraswati Puja pictures are available at the web site: [www.babru.com/spuja11](http://www.babru.com/spuja11).



The Washington DC chapter will host the Regional Drama Festival for 2011. The activities for regional drama festival 2011 have started. We are planning to have Ganesh Puja and Regional Drama Festival together in the 1st or 2nd week of September. We encourage all the eastern region local chapters to participate, make this event very memorable and keep the drama festival spirit in a high note. Final details of the event will follow shortly.

We have started planning for our annual Raja picnic which will be held in mid June.

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## OSA Southern Chapter

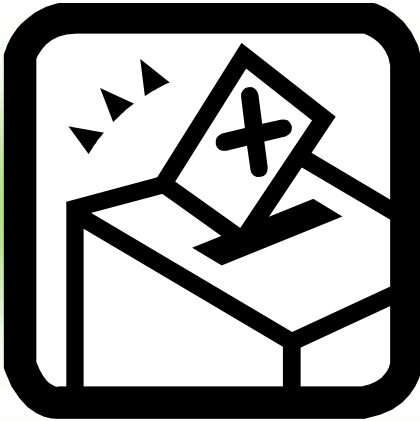


### **Reported by Amar K Pani**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of October is an auspicious day for all Indians; it is the birthday of Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi. The great Southern Chapter hosted its annual picnic and nightly social gathering. At 11:00 AM Saturday morning, members, non-members, family, and friends from places such as Birmingham, Huntsville, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville gathered at Natchez Trace State Park in Tennessee, located between Memphis and Nashville. To begin the picnic, everyone enjoyed appetizers such as: Jhal mudhi, Dhai bara, and Aludom, and a friendly game of cricket followed. From 12:00 until 2:00 PM, everyone was entertained by Mr. Prabir Dash who conducted a quiz related to Odissa's history and culture. At 2:00 PM, lunch was catered by the Indian restaurant Mayuri, based in Memphis and the marvelous BBQ chicken cooked by Mr. Pradipta Das and Mrs. Annapurna Parija which was a popular choice among the guests.

At 3:30 PM, Southern Chapter President Dr. Amar K. Pani kept the fun rolling by organizing a game of musical chairs for all the ladies. After a long and tiring game, Minnie Praharaj came out on top, and Julie Mahapatra came in a close in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Following musical chairs, it was time to head to the hotel located inside the park. Everyone was given ample time to freshen up, and at 6:00 PM people gathered in the meeting room. The show started with a stunning Odissi dance performed by Anjali Mahapatra (daughter of Dr. Divyajiban & Usha Mahapatra), followed by a ravishing dance from the twin sisters, Yuti and Yashi (daughters of Mr. Pradipta Das & Manaswini Nayak). The dances ended with another great performance from Ritika Senapati (daughter of Manoj and Smrity Senapati). At 8:30 PM, the dinner buffet was unleashed, courtesy of the hotel restaurant.

After a fulfilling meal, there wasn't a single soul that did not want to hear the guest singer who performed that evening. The melodious and harmonious Dr. Julie Acharaya Ray kicked things off with a Jaganath bhajan. After finishing that, the audience coaxed her into an encore. She also performed a duet with her older sister. To give our singer some time to rest, Dr. Panchanan Satpathy and Amar K. Pani intermittently provided the audience with jokes and Dr Devi Mishra sang some of everyone's old favorite Talat Mahmood songs. Finally, the show ended with a devotional duet, performed by the guest singer and Amar K. Pani. All the participants were awarded with consolation prizes. Finally, the mega show concluded with sweet Chena poda, courtesy of Dr. Jayasri Shiva Pani.



## OSA ELECTION 2011

### **BIODATA AND VISION OF CANDIDATES**

#### **Amar K Pani (for President) & Anjali Julie Joshi (for Vice President)**

Dear fellow members of Orissa Society of Americas (OSA):

I am **Amar K. Pani**, would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for OSA President in the forthcoming election. I am an Odia from the Ganjam district in Odisha. After graduating from Khallikote College & Bhanja Bihar, I moved to Canada to pursue further studies. I earned a M.Sc. degree in Physiology & Toxicology from Laurentian University, ON and a Ph.D. in Neurochemistry from University of Montreal/McGill University, Canada. Following my terminal degree, I pursued my postdoctoral studies at the School of Medicine at Dalhousie University, Canada; I was also a visiting fellow at the NIH and Research Associate at the School of Medicine of Texas Tech University, TX. Currently, I am working as a Senior Scientist at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. Here, I am involved in two research projects related to neurological diseases. I am a speaker, author, and an expert in the field of personal development. I am fluent in multiple languages, which include Odia, Hindi, English, and French. I am married to Dr. Jayasri Shiva Pani from Bhubaneswar, and I have two boys: Alex Amar Pani and Adam Amar Pani.



I would like to express my intention to run for OSA vice-president in the upcoming election. My name is **Anjalie Julie Joshi** and I am the eldest daughter of Ajoya and Jyoshna Joshi of Columbia, TN. Born in Cuttack; Odia culture has been a huge part of my life. (In fact, Odia was my first language and I remember despising pre-school because the other kids did not speak my language!) Since then, I have maintained my fluency in Odia and thus have kept in much closer contact with my family back home. I travel to Odisha about every two years to visit and enjoy my stay every time. I have just completed my internal medicine residency at the Medical College of Georgia and have recently begun work as a cardiac hospitalist at St. Thomas Heart





Hospital in Nashville. I graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2002 with a B.S. in neuroscience and molecular biology, went on to do some graduate work in the same subjects at the University of Memphis, and then got my M.D. from the University of Tennessee in 2007. With finally finishing school and residency, buying my first home and joining the real workforce, my desire to go back to my roots has intensified immensely. I organized all of the youth activities for the OSA convention in Nashville 2000 and truly enjoyed that experience. Now that the opportunity has arisen, I am especially excited about serving an organization so dear to my heart. I feel that over the years, OSA is losing its younger members and is becoming a dinosaur that our parents created. My intentions, in short, are to help bridge the gap between my parents' generation and the new youth generation to help OSA's future viability.

### Agenda

Our mission is to focus only on two key issues of OSA organization; **Effective Communication and Membership.**

**Effective communication** is a choice. Everyone communicates, but learning how to communicate efficiently requires skill. I strongly believe that communication is the core competency in leadership, team dynamics and relationships. One of the most persisting issues I hear about among our OSA members is lack of interaction. Mastering communication skills can improve our professional image and expand our authority. Our ability to navigate through difficult situations, build consensus, and manage change can create powerful results for our organization. "I've been to a lot of workshops, seminars and OSA conventions; this is the first one that made sense to me!" "Knowing how to read others will improve our ability to work effectively." and "Knowing our strengths and weaknesses", we can establish solid relationships among all members. I have a natural flair for communicating and a strong sense of confidence. To me the effective communication begins and ends with knowledge..



**Membership** is the lifeblood of any association, and our OSA is no exception. As such, one of the most important tasks a president can undertake is recruiting new members, especially first and second generation. Having said that these are the questions we would ask: Why does our OSA want to recruit new members? What is the number of members we need to recruit? How do we develop marketing plans that are data-driven? How to have quantifiable membership that can be tracked? What does the member personally gain from OSA membership? We must fully ensure that the rights of all members and the vision of OSA as an organization will be protected. I believe a true leader puts practicality first, authority second.



Please support me to be your next President. I thank you in advance for your support. Let's have a fair and peaceful election.

## Dr Annapurna Pandey (for President) & Kuku Das (for Vice President)



I cherish my Gadajatia (Narsinghpur being the birthplace of my late father, Haladhar Biswal) identity. I grew up in Cuttack where my father was a celebrated teacher at the Secondary Board High School. I fondly remember my father's words: "Nobody can ever steal your education from you". I completed my undergraduate education at Ravenshaw College and earned both my Master's and PhD in Sociology at JNU in New Delhi. After an eight-year stint teaching at Ravenshaw, my destiny took me to Cambridge University in England for a post-doctoral fellowship in Social Anthropology. In 1989, I joined my husband in Santa Cruz, California where the next seven years were spent in raising our two boys, Alok and Akash. Since 1995, I have been teaching anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. I enjoy my research specializing in the study of gender, politics, and religion in South Asia. My research has led me to present papers in many national and international conferences, seminars, workshops and symposia, and has helped me publish

extensively.

I proudly wear three hats: devoted mother and wife; serious academic; and deeply committed Odisha community member. I do take great pride in my Odia identity, culture and community, of which I have always been an energetic participant and advocate. I have been honored to be able to promote Odia culture and heritage through many Odissi dance programs and benefit concerts in Santa Cruz. My association with the University has also given me the privilege of creating forums for Odia youths to showcase their talent within the local community, and to expose American students to the rich heritage and culture of Odisha.

Being a long-time member of OSA, I have served OSA in many roles:

- Vice President (1997-1999)
- Secretary (2009-2011)
- Seminar Organizer at the OSA (2005)
- Women's Forum Coordinator (multiple times)
- Seminar speaker (multiple times)
- Convention Organizer (2010)

It would be an honor to serve the OSA community as president in 2011- 2013.

### **Our Vision for OSA**

We are committed to promoting and celebrating Odisha culture, actively engaging our membership, and providing a forum for fellowship to our community.

Our vision for leading OSA is five-fold:

#### **1. Strengthen communication between local and regional**

Our team is committed to inclusive communication and our focus will be on participation. Through a wide variety of methods (including surveys, published reports, increased use of OSAnet), we will give everyone in the community a voice for expressing what they feel that OSA should focus on to better serve our community.

#### **2. Engage our young people**

As a mother of two young adult sons, and as someone who has always identified with young people, I strongly believe that the younger members of our community have an enormous amount to contribute to our community if they are engaged. That is one of the reasons why I am so delighted to have such a young and energetic team!

Together we will ensure the involvement of second generation Odiyas in OSA activities. We will work for the promotion of our language and culture among young people, as Kuku Das and her team has already been actively doing in the Bay Area. We will also institute an OSA scholarship for young people interested in studying different aspects of Odisha.

### 3. Develop a member's database

We are blessed to have so many people with so many talents in our community. We will develop database so that we can better track the resources our community has within our membership.

### 4. More cultural events

To bring the national organization and the local communities together and to foster stronger inter-chapter relations, we will boost the number of cultural events - drama festivals, inter-regional cultural programs, youth camps, and Odia language camps, and others.

### 5. Supporting members of our community in need

We will make sure that all of our community members have the support that they need. We will revitalize 1-800-OSA-HELP so that any person who needs help has a place that they can always go for it. As we look ahead to the coming year of OSA, let's remember the inspiring words, "It is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one." We look forward to a year ahead of unity for the OSA community.



#### (Kuku Das)

Dear Friends,

As a vice presidential candidate for the upcoming OSA Election, let me take the privilege of introducing myself to our OSA community. I am Kuku Das and I live in Santa Clara, California with my husband Bibek Das and our two children. I hold a Masters degree in literature (English) from Utkal University. Being a teacher by profession, I have taught at a prestigious private school in Northern California for more than a decade. Currently I am working as the director of International Gurukul.

I came to United States in January 1992 and have been involved with the Odia community thereafter. I've been very passionate about my mother tongue, the Odia language. Starting from my elementary school till now, I participated in odia debate, song, drama, folk dance and other cultural activities and took many leadership positions. I co-founded a program called "Chala Ame Odia Sikhiba" or "Let's Learn Odia" in the year 2000 which runs very successfully in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. The main purpose of this program is that "It's our responsibility to give our children the foundation of the Odia language now, so that when they will grow up, they would never regret that they're unable to speak, read or write his/her own language". Keeping in mind to bring the Odia culture and language to the mainstream, this program eventually expanded to an organization called International Gurukul, a center of Excellence in learning and Human Development. I have also developed the Odia language curriculum in three steps for the Odia Language class at iGurukul which helps in the learning of Odia in an interesting way for both children and adults. I've organized several Odia summer camps in the Bay Area, where participants got the opportunity to indulge in Odia food, language, cultural trivia and cultural program. It's a pleasure to see the little one grew up to be the teenager and taking responsibility in leading local puja and other celebrations. It's an immense pleasure to hear people say, "iGurukul is a wonderful platform for all of us", "by getting the kids learn such songs, Not only they learn Odia language: this also helps them shape their identity, personality, and character" and, "It is heartening to know that there are some brave souls who will fight all odds to pass on our language and culture to our younger generations". Nothing will be a better reward and motivation for me to continue my journey of keeping our language and culture alive in this land of opportunity. I have always had the passion of writing in Odia and my Odia poems and articles have been published in several magazines. I have

written, directed and acted in numerous plays for kids and adults. At iGurukul I've coordinated a drama and theatre club which produces several Odia plays, well appreciated by the audiences. Event management, costume designing, and stage decoration are also my hobby. I'm a known face for stage decoration and costume designing at the events in the community and also with other dance gurus. I'm an active and sincere volunteer of Bay Area Odia community and an event manager for several events which were conducted flawlessly. I was the cultural coordinator for OSA Convention in the years of 1998 and 2005 in California. I was the convener of the 41st OSA convention that took place in the bay area in the year 2010. Our great aim was to motivate and inspired many volunteers from the second generation to participate which made OSA convention 2010 one of the most successful conventions in history of OSA. I have received several awards including the OSA Service Leadership Award. I'm currently volunteering to coordinate OSA educational movement 'Let's learn Odia' at the national level.

I believe in President Kennedy's famous quote - "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country". With my passion, dedication and keeping 'synergy and empowerment' as my mantra, I take pride in spreading the Odia language and culture in this Diaspora. I've shown continuous effort and determination of building the bridge between both the generations. I have the vision of passing our beautiful Odia culture and heritage to our next generation and inspire them to take pride in their roots and identity. I've sincere regards for the founders and the leaders of the OSA organization and my vision is to take OSA to the next level. My salute to those veterans and elites who founded this beautiful organization 41 years ago with a great vision of preserving our language, culture, and heritage in a foreign land. Now it's our duty to move forward together to empower and enlighten this organization with unlimited positive thoughts and energy. Let's take the responsibility of keeping our vibrant Odia culture alive for our future generation and give them the sense of belongingness.

My humble request to all of you is to elect us with a large number of votes. By electing Dr. Annapurna Pandey, a very prominent and experienced leader at OSA as the president and me as the vice president, OSA will be in good hands. We have proven to be the people of hard work and accomplishments, not the people of just promises or dreams. With our great vision, dedication and experience, we will bring a brighter future to this noble organization.

**My vision of My OSA:**

**Making OSA a trustworthy place** where each member will be motivated to move forward together to empower and enlighten OSA organization with unlimited positive thoughts and energy.

**Youth Oriented Programs:** Creating youth oriented programs and motivating our second generations to actively participate in decision making and inspire them to take pride in their own roots and identity.

**Odia Literacy:** To expand the "Let's Learn Odia" program on the national level, providing basic education in Odia literacy and culture through summer camps, stage plays and dance dramas in Odia language.

**Strong and Transparent organization:** To create such an organization, OSAnet will be a resourceful medium of communication, where members will be encouraged to voice constructive opinions.

**Accomplishing tasks:** Continuous and determined effort for building the bridge between both the generations and channelize my services for passing our beautiful Odia culture and heritage to our next generation.

With Best Regards,  
Kuku Das  
Life Member, OSA

## Leena Mishra (for Secretary)



### **My vision of My OSA:**

- Building OSA a trustworthy organization where people can voice their constructive opinion through effective communication with the Odias in the Diaspora,
- Motivating the talented people to be involved in OSA as a Leader and training the prospective OSA leaders by keeping them involved in the OSA process, rules and regulations,
- Improving the inter chapter relationship and integration through cultural and intellectual activities,
- Sustaining our culture and heritage, supporting the society we live in and reinforcing the future generation with meaningful values of our life.

She studied Computer Science and excelled to get a scholarship to study further and eventually got placement in the Duncan Goenka group of companies, Bakelite Hylam Ltd, Hyderabad. After marriage She came to USA with her husband Bimal Mishra. She did her Masters in Software Engineering from the University of Maryland. Since 1995 She has been working as software professional. She acquired many technical certifications including PMP from PMI which helped her to establish as a Senior Software Professional. Currently She is working as a Software Architect for Lockheed Martin, Maryland. She loves to participate in community activities including cultural programs. Her passion for social work got her involved in the Washing DC Chapter of The Orissa Society of the Americas. She was actively involved in organizing the OSA events including OSA seminars and cultural programs in the chapter as well as in OSA Conventions. She has served as a Chapter President of Washington DC from the year 2006 to 2008. She organized programs for the artists who came from Odisha to USA. She believes in the heritage and culture of Odisha. Leena believes through proactive and creative leadership and effective communication the society empowers its members and together we can make a difference.

## Sushant Satpathy (for Treasurer)



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve OSA community in the role of treasurer for 2011-13. Also, I will take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Sushant Satpathy and I live in Naperville, IL with my wife Ipsita and sons Sreyesh and Devyesh. I was born in Rourkela and did my schooling in Rourkela, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. I am NIT alum and have done my MBA (Finance) from University of Illinois. I am fortunate to be part of wonderful Chicago Odia community and it is my extended family away from home. I have been associated with OSA for last 14 years and have served my local chapter as a member-

volunteer. I am also an active member of a not for profit educational organization, NSF that provides scholarships to bright but underprivileged students in India including Odisha. I have actively promoted Odia language and culture in the Greater Chicago area over these years and have been recognized by OSA with Kalashree Award.

**My future role:**

I see my role as OSA treasurer to bring transparency to all financial transactions and publish those details for general membership. I would do my part for smooth working of OSA at the same time be an independent voice in all matters including finance. I will follow the generally accepted accounting principle (GAAP) to maintain financial records. I will provide the guidance to chapters to do the same. I will always welcome all comments, suggestions and criticisms and do my best to improve upon the areas I am responsible for. Moreover, my belief 'belonging to a community requires commitment to common good' will be the guiding principle for all my actions besides OSA Constitution and its by-laws.

**My beliefs:**

- Belonging to a community requires commitment to common good. To be part of the community is to invite, inspire, mobilize, and guide ourselves and others to make positive differences in our community. As a community we need to utilize the resources available, create new opportunities and make decisions based on established ethical standards.
- Open and transparent communication with all members of OSA. I believe in inherent goodness in everyone and welcome the ideas, suggestions of all. It is my desire to elevate debate on various issues to a higher level for a positive outcome.
- Strong and vibrant chapters make OSA stronger. Every single member's help is needed to reach OSA's goal of providing a social and cultural platform to all non-resident Odias in this continent. We need to reach out to non-members with the knowledge that today's non-members are tomorrow's members.
- Pride in Odia heritage and culture. OSA can only grow by engaging second generation Odias and welcoming first generation Odias to its fold. OSA as an organization can instill pride in each one of us for our great heritage and culture. With the help of chapters and our members we can accomplish this.

Warm Regards,

Sushant Satpathy  
Naperville, IL

## Highlights of OSA 2011 from Team Dallas



# DALLAS, TX

# OSA 2011

Dear Friends,

We invite you to make the Dallas OSA Convention a part of your family vacation plan. You may log on to [www.osa11.org](http://www.osa11.org) to find out if your friends have already registered, or urge them to, if they have not. A thousand visitors are expected. Our featured guests are distinguished individuals and celebrities from all walks of life. We hope that our event line up – which is getting more exciting by the day - will inspire you make Dallas your July 4th destination.

- Keynote speaker: Eminent scholar and Padma Vibhusan, Dr. Sitakanta Mohapatra
- Chief guest: Radio and film icon Ms. Jharana Das
- Spiritual Guru: Sri Chandrabhanu Satapathy
- Honoree: Celebrated Oriya music director, Shri Santanu Mohapatra

- Honoree: Noted singer, Shri Chitta Jena
- Live Fusion Band: Ms. Sniti Mishra, of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa fame with an all American ensemble
- Live Orchestra: Shri Prashant Muduli performing stunning rendition of Akshaya Mohanty songs with his band, and Ms. Anindita Das
- Daskathia performances for the first time in North America by award winning folk artists Shri Ramahari Padhi and Shri Rabinarayan Satapathy
- One of a kind Odissi performance by Shri Nityananda Das of Orissa, who mesmerizingly dances with one leg (having tragically lost his right leg in an accident) with his group.
- A spectacular inauguration program themed on the idea "Akshaya amara aama gouraba", presented by OSA SW chapter members
- Youth Programs: catering to the second generation including Oriya matrimonial forum and exchange
- Invest Bhubaneswar Business Symposium: Attended by high level delegation from Orissa including entrepreneurs, business houses and Government executives
- Seminars and Workshops: Serving a wide range of interest and constituencies such as Orissa development, youth and women's' issues, spirituality, health, various alumni association
- Invitations have been extended to the following dignitaries, expecting favorable response from some: CM Shri Naveen Pattnaik, Ambassador Ron Kirk, Ambassador Meera Shankar, MP Shri Pyari Mohan Mohapatra.

For more information, please visit [www.osa2011.org](http://www.osa2011.org). As always, we strive to make our website the ultimate guide for potential visitors to Dallas OSA Convention. We hope that it will spur you to visit the actual physical site - The Dallas/ Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center – during the July 4th weekend.

With best regards,

<b>Tapan Padhi</b>	<b>Debasis Nanda</b>	<b>Pradeep Mohapatra</b>	<b>Gopal Mohapatra</b>
Convener	Co-Convener	Co-Convener	President, OSA-SW

### **From OSA Registration Desk: OSA Convention Package**

Dear Friends,

As a long standing tradition, OSA has been holding the annual convention every year in different locations across the Americas (Canada and US) and this year the honor has been accorded to Dallas TX. The OSA Convention 2011 organizing committee has been working hard to make your stay and participation both enjoyable and memorable.

As with any event of such magnitude, the OSA Convention 2011 also involves a lot of cost and effort in terms of man hours. The volunteers of the organizing committee are putting in the man hours and also a lot of families from the South West chapter have contributed towards the convention as hosts of this event. We are still short of the target revenue and hence need your kind gesture and patronage.

Your patronage can be in the form of charitable donations, sponsorship for different activities (refer to the attached sponsorship package) or advertisement through the OSA Convention Souvenir or the Member Directory for 2011 (rates are mentioned in the attached sponsorship package).

*PLEASE NOTE: Advertisement pages are limited and hence is treated on a first-come-first-serve basis. So*



*please block your advertisements as soon as possible.*

Visit the OSA 2011 website at [www.osa11.org](http://www.osa11.org) for details about the events, registration, online donations or payments and for updates.

If making payment via check, the check should be payable to "**OSA Convention 2011**", and you may mail the check to:

Mr. Loknath Patro  
8605 Orchard Hill Dr,  
Plano TX 75025

For questions regarding advertising or sponsorship, please contact:

Mr. Sribachha Panda  
at 415-728-3184 or [sbkpanda@yahoo.com](mailto:sbkpanda@yahoo.com)

Kindly register before the 10th of March to avail the Super Early Bird specials. You may register online at [www.osa11.org](http://www.osa11.org). The Dallas convention will be an ideal forum for our youth to celebrate our glory, adopt our culture and learn to carry on the baton for future. Needless to say, our convention will be a great way to meet & greet your friends from yester years and make new friends and an excellent forum to promote our Odia culture.

Looking you forward to meeting you all in Dallas.

Best Regards,  
Mr. Sribachha Panda (on behalf of OSA Convention 2011 Organizing Team)



42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
**OSA**  
CONVENTION 2011  
1-4 July, 2011

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FORM**

This Rate applies before May-01-11



**The Orissa Society of the Americas**

Convention Venue:  
**Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center**  
7120 Dallas Parkway, Plano, Texas 75024 USA  
Phone: 1-972-473-6444 Fax: 1-972-473-6440

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

**Personal Information**

Name (First, Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ First Name, Last Name  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Child(ren) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Information**

[TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE = CONVENTION REGISTRATION + FOOD + OSA MEMBERSHIP (IF NON-MEMBER) + OSA FEE (\$15)]  
 Super Early Bird Discount: \$20\*, \$15\*\* | Early Bird Discount: \$10\*, \$5\*\* | Guest Registration Fees: \$25\*, \$30\*\*, \$40

Additional Guest(s) Registration (Additional attendee including visiting parents, friends and relatives)

**Food Registration**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult (above 13 years) \_\_\_\_\_ Child (4-13 years) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday Food - Veg \_\_\_\_\_ Non-veg \_\_\_\_\_ Veg \_\_\_\_\_ Non-veg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday Food - Veg \_\_\_\_\_ Non-veg \_\_\_\_\_ Veg \_\_\_\_\_ Non-veg \_\_\_\_\_  
[Adult - \$35 | Child(4-13yrs) - \$15 | Free for children under 4 years]

**Convention Registration Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OSA Membership Fees**

[Receive \$50 discount towards OSA membership. a) if you become a Life Member, Patron or Benefactor before June 15th 2011 and b) if you register along with Convention Registration. You must be an OSA Member to register for Convention 2011]

**OSA Fees** (\$15 collected by OSA, per registrant)

**Total Registration Fees:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel & Transportation**

Number of Rooms you will book: Jul 01 \_\_\_\_\_ Jul 02 \_\_\_\_\_ Jul 03 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you need Transport from DFW Airport? \_\_\_\_\_

Payment will be mailed by this date:

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**For Convention Official use only:**

Print and mail this Registration form along with your Payment.  
 Please make your check payable to "OSA2011" and mail it to:  
**Loknath Patro, 8605 Orchard Hill Dr, Plano, TX 75025**  
 FOR ANY CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT: [Registration@OSA11.org](mailto:Registration@OSA11.org)



## OSA Drama Festival

**By: Sri Gopal Mohanty**

When do you think men put lipstick in their lips and rouge in their cheeks? They volunteer themselves to put it on. Are they mAichiA or heroes? OSA Drama Festival does the magical transformation - call them actors whether mAichiA or heroes.

On rehearsal days, it all becomes family business coming together with their kids. Sometimes a father or mother acts while holding the child – a multifaceted loyalty blending together by OSA Drama Festival.

They all know they have to do their best on the stage and remarkably so they do, be it in creating an illusion of reality or involving the audience in the movement of the play. Players of all forms - actors, writers, directors, stage managers, costume designers and what not find Drama Festival a bonding mechanism in their community as well as in the neighbouring communities.

Whether they are engineers or lawyers or simply star gazers, they love to surrender to the tyranny of transformation because of the harmonization they want to share that assuages their mind and soul. Their longing is reinforced by The Drama Festival.

Drama and stage create the absurdity of reality and seduction by pretence. We the actors and audience momentarily wait for the curtain to rise and get lost. The Drama Festival provides an alluring mechanism to achieve it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Drama, nAtaka or abhinaya – aren't we seeing them at Conventions and Chapter functions? You see and you don't – these are often buried in umpteen numbers of activities. A 'drama' takes a back seat so that in reality it is adorned in the costume of a 'skit' on the stage. So with your support, just two years back we proclaimed, "Here comes Drama Festival, nATaka meLA, abhinaya mahotsaba". Enjoy and celebrate drama spectacular!

OSA Conventions, Chapter activities and Drama Festivals – are they on a line, do they connect themselves? Until recently, OSA through its Conventions and Chapters through their activities were connected, but the connected lines have been hazy enough to leave an impression of disconnectedness. The appearance of Drama

Festival on the scene has been refreshing. It attempts to connect Chapters to OSA by interconnecting Chapters to form regions. The hazy lines are becoming clearer.

\*\*\*\*\*

OSA Regional Drama Festival started in 2009 with the objective of improving the spirit of congeniality among members of communities in regions by reviving earlier half-a-day Convention structure, providing opportunity for inter-chapter socialization and sharing of ideas at a closer level and facilitating for an expression of drama enthusiasts and lovers

As the name suggests, it is a festival meant to be a delightful occasion to meet, mix and enjoy. To ensure the atmosphere of congeniality, no competition is encouraged whereas organizing it in an innovative manner finds ample scope to compete among regions. The structural flexibility has been a key to its success.

Actually OSA Drama Festival is a Festival of Festivals, consisting of a garland of Regional Festivals. In 2009, there had been Northern, Eastern and Southern Regional Festivals. Last year the number has increased to four: South Western (same as Southern), Eastern, Northern and North Western.

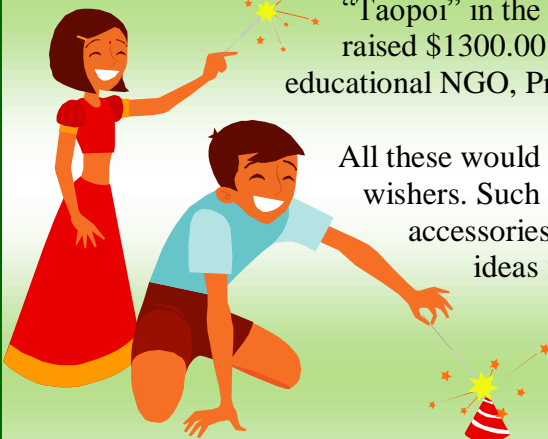
( An incomplete episode)

## CHATASHALEE

By: Smita Sahoo, CA



Having begun with only four children in 2005, Chatashalee, the Odiya school in Southern California, has grown to a student body of 20 children (the enrollment is on the rise) representing families from various parts of the state of Odisha. Chatashalee had a humble beginning in my garage. To-day we use a rental facility in the city of Artesia for our class room. Chatashalee started with a vision of connecting Odiya children in Southern California to their family's roots in Orissa. To fulfill this vision, Chatashalee has offered Odiya language classes and has taught Oriya plays, songs and folk dances, and floor arts from Odisha. Chatashalee children have been introduced to the lives of important Indian leaders and the philosophy behind Indian festivals such as Holi, Dewali, Kumar Purnima, and Raja, to name but a few. Children have presented cultural programs during Odiya festivals celebrated in Southern California and also presented the famous Odiya play, "Taopoi" in the 2010 annual meeting of OSA in North California. Chatashalee families raised \$1300.00 in 2010 to support educational programs in Odisha run by the educational NGO, Pratham.



All these would not have possible without continuous support from the parents and well wishers. Such an effort needs financial resources, educational materials, and other accessories for future growth of the program. Chatashalee welcomes innovative ideas for planned growth in the coming years.

## OSA NEW MEMBERS

### Welcome New Members

Member	Middle Name	Last Name	Spouse	State	Member Type	Date of Joining	Member Strength
Seema		Jena		NJ	Annual Single	10-Sep-10	Editing
Durga	P	Parida	Mamata	GA	5-year Member	10-Sep-10	
Debasis		Nanda	Manaswini	TX	Life Member	26-Sep-10	Management
Siddhartha		Nayak	Anuranjita	MO	Annual Family	30-Sep-10	
Upendra	Kumar	Das	Madhabi	VA	Life Member	15-Oct-10	
Suwendu	Kumar	Dash	Asha	WA	Life Member	28-Oct-10	Dancing, Painting
Manoj		Gouda	Aliva	WA	Life Member	28-Oct-10	
Salil	Kumar	Mishra	Kanak	IL	Life Member	4-Jan-11	Writers, Classical Dance
Anil	Kumar	Patnaik	Dipali	OH	5-year Member	6-Jan-11	Singing
Bidhu	B	Mohanty	Manjari	VA	Life Member	16-Jan-11	
Anjalie	Julie	Joshi		TN	Life Member	15-Feb-11	Youth Program Involvement
Dillip		Patra	Subhashree	TX	Life Member	6-Mar-11	Volunteer
R	Ranjan	Routray	Chetana	TX	Life Member	6-Mar-11	Volunteer
Saroj	Kumar	Mohapatra	Manisha	NJ	Life Member	6-Mar-11	Orissan Studies, Archaeology, Culture, Art, History, Architecture,
Hiranmoy		Mishra	Saswati	TX	Life Member	10-Mar-11	VOLUNTEER

### **Dear New Members of OSA**

We welcome and thank you all the new members of OSA.

New members bring new ideas, new thoughts and freshness to any organization. We thank you for considering OSA to join even though you had the option to join other organizations, create your own organization or not

join this organization. We hope you have gone through our web site at <http://www.orissasociety.org> and done some research on our organization and are motivated by the objectives and the activities by this establishment. While you might have done that, it is our job to provide you an “OSA Primer” explaining you some of the main points which you might have skipped.

### **OSA Primer**

1. OSA is a membership based voluntary socio-cultural organization managed by unpaid volunteers. Please go through OSA web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/aboutus.htm> to know about OSA.

2. OSA is governed by its constitution and by-laws. Please go through OSA constitution and by-laws by clicking at

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

Currently the constitution review has been completed and a new draft will be sent to the members for voting.

Until that approval process, some of the rules and regulations put in the new constitution draft will be followed during the transition time as they have been approved by the BOG.

3. OSA is run by the Board of Governors that consists of 4 elected officials President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and the presidents of 14 local chapters dispersed over USA and Canada. As an OSA member you can join any local chapter of your choice (choose one) by contacting chapter officials and going through the formalities that the respective chapter might have. Please check the following web page for more:

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

4. The objectives of OSA are:

1. To form a non-political and non-profit organization of all persons interested in Orissa.
2. To promote interest and activities in the understanding of the Oriya culture.
3. To facilitate the exchange of information between Orissa and the United States/Canada.

5. Although not mentioned explicitly in the constitution, every member of OSA is a member at will, in voluntary basis. Neither OSA nor its voluntary officials will be responsible for any individual's expectations and experience with OSA.

6. Once you join, your membership fee will not be refunded although you have the right to resign at any time and your resignation will be accepted.

7. Following member ethics, OSA issues must not be discussed in any other forums except OSA approved communication medium (currently OSAnet). All members of OSAnet must abide by the rules of OSAnet.

8. Annual and 5-year members have limited member benefits.

- Annual and 5-year members are not eligible for any official position
- Annual and 5-year members are not eligible to be a nominator for official positions/awards
- Annual and 5-year members are not eligible to be a member of any committee (a few committees may be exceptions)
- Annual and 5-year members are not eligible to receive annual souvenir/directory unless they attend the convention

9. Following member ethics, a member should not legally challenge the parent organization; a member should not threaten the organization or another member with lawsuit abuse, verbal abuse and uncivil remarks.

10. A member must not participate in any political activity identifying himself/herself as an OSA member or using any OSA medium.

More information is available from OSA web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org>.

Some of you have joined as annual and 5-year members. We invite you to become a permanent member of OSA and receive full benefits of membership. Currently \$50.00 convention registration discount is available to new permanent members of OSA. Other permanent members can upgrade their membership at any time by paying the deductible. However, it is your choice.

We might have missed some important information. We would like to assign an older member as mentor to help you in your OSA journey. If you have any difficulty with OSA, you can discuss with your mentor and get help.

Thank you again for your interest in OSA.

Sincerely,  
OSA National Executives 2009-2011

### Some Important Information on OSA Communication, OSA Chapters and OSA BOG:

#### OSAnet for OSA Communication

Currently OSAnet is used for OSA related communication by OSA members. All the members should take the advantage of subscribing to OSAnet as this is one of the mediums through which all OSA related information is shared. All OSAnet subscribers are requested to follow OSAnet guidelines and help each other to have an enjoyable and educational experience through the network. The guidelines are available at [http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/communication\\_ethics\\_and\\_osanet.htm#OSAnet Guide Lines](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/communication_ethics_and_osanet.htm#OSAnet_Guide_Lines)

Some members have raised questions on effectiveness of OSAnet communication and whether the messages should be moderated or not. If all the members adhere to the rules, then no moderation is needed. However, the judgment is left to the moderators to decide and judge how to maintain the decorum of the communication medium. The current executives believe that *obscenity, hatred, anti-organizational statements, slander and libel must not be permitted in the name of freedom of expression. The first fundamental right does limit the freedom of expression in these categories.*

#### Status of California Chapter

We have announced before that many OSA members of California have put their signature to form an OSA chapter in California. However, we are waiting to reach consensus on a few issues. We are working with the signatories to reach a consensus and move forward.

#### Status of Ozark and Minnesota/Northwest chapters

According to current OSA constitution, 4 years maximum total term limit is imposed on chapter presidents. Surya Mishra, a long time OSA member has served Ozark chapter for more than 4 years and needs help now in transferring that responsibility. We request Ozark chapter members to work with Surya Babu and elect a new chapter president that can represent the chapter in BOG.



Currently we do not have any representatives for Minnesota/Northwest chapter. We have contacted members of Minnesota several times and requested some OSA members to take the responsibility. We expect to hear from them soon.

### **Status of Maryland Virginia Chapter**

Some members have questioned whether Maryland Virginia chapter is legitimate and whether it has the required membership. Maryland Virginia chapter has not provided any valid membership list irrespective of our several requests.

In 2009 the chapter claimed that it had sent money from 100 members to then Treasurer Mr Sandip Dasverma and those 100 members were denied membership.

[http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/handwriting\\_skn.pdf](http://www.orissasociety.org/osaftp01/Legal/handwriting_skn.pdf)

This became a major point in the 2009 legal case against OSA and a non-member Mr Agni Jandhyala filed the case that he was denied membership in OSA. Some members had asked to get information about those 100 members and verify that they were returned their membership fee. When asked to provide those member names, the chapter president Mr Anadi Naik informed that those members did not exist and nobody gave any money. Mr. Anadi Naik also denied to providing any chapter accounting report related to the transactions with respect to those 100 members. One may read more on this from BOG meeting minutes published in this newsletter.

### **Know the BOG Members**

BOG or the Board of Governors is the decision making body in OSA. Our members may contact them any time, specifically their chapter representatives to get answers about any questions they might have on OSA and OSA operation.

### **OSA Board of Governors**

President	Dr Bigyani Das	<a href="mailto:bigyanidas_osa@yahoo.com">bigyanidas_osa@yahoo.com</a>	410-531-7445
Vice President	Pradeep Mohapatra	<a href="mailto:pagela@yahoo.com">pagela@yahoo.com</a>	908-684-9506
Secretary	<b>Dr Annapurna Pandey*</b> Pitambar Sarangi	<a href="mailto:Adpandey101@gmail.com">Adpandey101@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:pitambar_sarangi@yahoo.com">pitambar_sarangi@yahoo.com</a>	831-427-1232 732-360-1762
Treasurer	Dr Akhileswar Patel	<a href="mailto:Akhileswar.Patel@gmail.com">Akhileswar.Patel@gmail.com</a>	973-517-5406
Past President	Pratap Das	<a href="mailto:pratapas1@gmail.com">pratapas1@gmail.com</a>	301-972-8059

\*Dr Annapurna Pandey resigned on February 12<sup>th</sup> and Mr Pitambar Sarangi took charge on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chapter Presidents/Representatives**

<b>Chapter Name</b>	<b>Chapter Head</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	Ashok Parida	<a href="mailto:bobparida@hotmail.com">bobparida@hotmail.com</a>	(630) 851-2235
<b>Grand Canyon Chapter</b>	Debasis Panda	<a href="mailto:dpanda@cox.net">dpanda@cox.net</a>	(480) 963-5914

<b><u>Maryland - Virginia</u></b>	Anadi Naik	<a href="mailto:acnaik@aol.com">acnaik@aol.com</a>	410-489-5887
<b><u>Michigan</u></b>	Pushpita Bhuyan (Ray)	<a href="mailto:pushpitabhuyan@gmail.com">pushpitabhuyan@gmail.com</a>	(248) 528-1953
<b><u>Minnesota/Northwest</u></b>	Sarat Mohapatra (Representative: No Vote)	<a href="mailto:saja0702@yahoo.com">saja0702@yahoo.com</a>	651-739-0426
<b><u>New England</u></b>	Nishikant Sahoo	<a href="mailto:nsahoo@yahoo.com">nsahoo@yahoo.com</a>	603 888 2095
<b><u>NewYork-NewJersey</u></b>	Lalatendu Mohanty	<a href="mailto:lmohanty@yahoo.com">lmohanty@yahoo.com</a>	908 672 1292
<b><u>Ohio</u></b>	Arata Tran Rout	<a href="mailto:Arata.Rout@gmail.com">Arata.Rout@gmail.com</a>	614 855 3720
<b><u>Ozark (central)</u></b>	Surya Misra Term Exceeded: No Vote	<a href="mailto:bablootiki@aol.com">bablootiki@aol.com</a>	636-273-3789
<b><u>South East</u></b>	Bidhu Das	<a href="mailto:bidhudas2003@yahoo.com">bidhudas2003@yahoo.com</a>	919-367-2844
<b><u>Southern</u></b>	Amar k. Pani	<a href="mailto:amarkpani@gmail.com">amarkpani@gmail.com</a>	901 372-0555
<b><u>South-West</u></b>	Gopal Mohapatra	<a href="mailto:gkmohapatra@gmail.com">gkmohapatra@gmail.com</a>	281 807 6787
<b><u>Washington, DC</u></b>	Gatikrishna Tripathy	<a href="mailto:gatikrishnat@gmail.com">gatikrishnat@gmail.com</a>	703-579-6583
<b><u>Canada</u></b>	Sabita Panigrahi	<a href="mailto:sabitapanigrahi@rogers.com">sabitapanigrahi@rogers.com</a>	416 223-2756

## OSA Constitution New Draft

Dear Members

Please find the new constitution document. We thank the past constitution review committee members led by Surya Mishra, past and current BOG members and many members for their input. Please go through and vote to accept the new constitution. Please vote and send to Mr Pitambar Sarangi (8 Schindler Dr. South, Old Bridge, NJ, 08857) postmarked by May 10, 2011. You can also email your vote to [pitambar\\_sarangi@yahoo.com](mailto:pitambar_sarangi@yahoo.com) with a copy to OSA president at [president@orissasociety.org](mailto:president@orissasociety.org).

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>PREAMBLE</b>		
<b>VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES</b>		
<b><u>ARTICLES</u></b>		
<b>ARTICLE I: NAME</b>		
<b>ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES</b>		
<b>ARTICLE III: ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION</b>		
<b>ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP</b>		
<b>ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b>		
<b>ARTICLE VI: ELECTION</b>		
<b>ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS</b>		
<b>ARTICLE VIII: LOCAL CHAPTERS</b>		
<b>ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS AND RULES OF BUSINESS</b>		
<b><u>BY-LAWS</u></b>		
<b>BY - LAW I - MEMBERSHIP</b>		
<b>BY - LAW II: ANNUAL CONVENTION</b>		
<b>BY - LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE</b>		
<b>BY - LAW IV: DISCIPLINARY ACTION</b>		
<b>BY-LAW V: GRIEVANCE HEARING PROCESS</b>		
<b>BY-LAW VI: OSA AWARD</b>		
<b>BY-LAW VII: OSA COMMUNICATION</b>		
<b>BY-LAW VIII: UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES</b>		
<b>BY-LAW IX: OSA STANDARDS, POLICY AND RULES OF BUSINESS</b>		
<b>BY_ LAW X: VOTING RULES</b>		
<b>BY-LAW XI: OSA JURISDICTION</b>		
<b>BY-LAW XII: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b>		
<b>I have read the constitution new draft and have judged to cast my votes accordingly.</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Member Status:</b>		

# OSA Constitution and By-Law Document March 26, 2011

## PREAMBLE:

### VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES:

## ARTICLES

ARTICLE I: NAME

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE III: ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

ARTICLE VIII: LOCAL CHAPTERS

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS AND RULES OF BUSINESS

## BY-LAWS

BY - LAW I - MEMBERSHIP

BY - LAW II: ANNUAL CONVENTION

BY - LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE

BY - LAW IV: DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BY-LAW V: GRIEVANCE HEARING PROCESS

BY-LAW VI: OSA AWARD

BY-LAW VII: OSA COMMUNICATION

BY-LAW VIII: UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

BY-LAW IX: OSA STANDARDS, POLICY AND RULES OF BUSINESS

BY\_LAW X: VOTING RULES

BY-LAW XI: OSA JURISDICTION

BY-LAW XII: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

## PREAMBLE:

*The Odisha Society of the Americas (OSA) is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the promotion and propagation of Odia culture in Americas by bringing together all the people interested in Odisha through socio-cultural events, and developmental activities.*

## VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES

**Vision:** OSA will be the essential resource for the Odia Americans in the United States and Canada for social and cultural engagement, education and exploration that promote their overall well being and enrich the American society with Odia American contribution.

### **Mission Goals:**

The mission goals of The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) are:

1. To provide a mutually supportive environment for the better interaction of Oriya immigrants of United States of America and Canada through socio-cultural growth, friendship and fellowship;

2. To enhance the awareness of Odisha and Odia traditions in North America through cultural promotion, social events, and educational activities;
3. To enrich the American society with Odia American contribution
4. To foster constructive citizenship on the part of Odia Americans in the nation
5. To facilitate the exchange of information between Odisha and the United States/Canada
6. To improve the overall well being of Odia Americans in United States of America and Canada
7. To facilitate/collaborate in humanitarian activities

**Core Values:**

In performing its mission, OSA adheres to these core values:

1. Integrity and Ethical Conduct
2. Dedication to excellence
3. Service to the member
4. Respect for the individual
5. Respect the dignity and culture of all people

**ARTICLES****ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of the organization shall be The **Odisha** Society of the Americas, Inc., here after abbreviated OSA.

**ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the society shall be:

1. To form a non-political and non-profit organization of all persons interested in Odisha.
2. **To serve Odia community across Americas and broaden the visibility of Odia culture in diverse communities throughout the world.**
3. To promote interest and activities in the understanding of the Odia culture and **rich Odia heritage through cultural, social, educational and developmental activities.**
4. To facilitate the exchange of information between Odisha and the United States/Canada.
5. **To facilitate/collaborate in humanitarian activities**

**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 compromise 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 determined by the National Executives.

**ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP****Section 1**

Membership in the OSA shall be open to all persons interested in Odisha. The membership dues and categories shall be described in the By-Laws.

**Section 2**

Annual membership dues shall be payable by July 30th of each year.

**ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS****Section 1**

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

## Section 2

(a) The Office bearers of OSA shall be an elected President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The executive committee of OSA shall consist of the following:

1. President (Chairperson of the committee)
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Editor of OSA (Non-Voting)
6. Joint Secretary
7. Joint Treasurer
8. Public Relations Officer

OSA will have a Board of Governors (hereafter referred to as Board or BOG) to serve as the custodian of the Society. The Board will be responsible for making policy decisions to be implemented by the Executive Committee (as defined below). The membership of the Board will consist of:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer.
5. Presidents/Coordinators of the various chapters formed with the approval of the Board.
6. Immediate Past President

(b) The President of OSA shall serve as the chairperson of the Board and the Secretary as the Secretary of the Board.

(c) The Board should meet at least twice every fiscal year. Each member of the Board must participate in at least one of the meetings. The meetings can be held through a conference call.

(d) Fifty percent of the membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of its meetings.

(e) Approval by the board must carry at least a simple majority of votes of its membership, but at least a two thirds majority will be required to override the action of the Executive Committee or dissolve the committee.

(f) The Board will be responsible for the implementation of the policies in case of dissolution of the Executive Committee.

(g) The tenure of continuous membership on the Board will be limited to a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms. **In case of special circumstances when a current officer or a Board member runs for the position of the President, waiver to this rule will be accepted.**

## Section 3

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years. These four executive officials must be life members or patrons or benefactors (**i.e., permanent members**) of OSA in good standing **at least for one year before the nomination date** and must be 21 years of age or over. **These officials must be residents of USA or Canada.** The Vice President shall be a running mate of the President. A vote for the President shall mean a vote for his/her running mate. The Secretary and Treasurer will be separately elected, but will work as a team with the President for smooth operation of the OSA. The President shall appoint the Editor of the OSA Newsletter, **Public Relation Officer and other joint officials.**

## Section 4: Powers and functions of the President:

1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the OSA. He/she shall announce the members of the Board of Governors at the time of assuming office in the annual convention. The Board of Governors shall assume office for a term of two years. The other elected office bearers also shall take office at the annual convention following the election for a term of two years.
2. The President, in consultation with the Board of Governors, shall present a plan of activities along with a proposed budget at the annual convention. In the event of resignation, inaction or negligence of duties by any member of the Board of Governors, the President shall call for re-election or re-nomination for such position within a period of one month.
3. The President shall appoint members to the following standing committees: Advisory/Planning, Odisha Development, Education, Cultural, and others to conduct various functions.
4. If the President fails to perform his/her duties to the satisfaction of the members of the OSA, he/she shall be removed by a vote of no-confidence. A no-confidence motion may be moved by a petition signed by at least 20% of the total membership as per the annual membership list published in July-September Newsletter of the Calendar year or from the current roster. This petition shall be submitted to the Secretary who shall circulate the same among the members of the Board of Governors within 10 days and among the membership within 30 days from the date of receipt of the petition. The Secretary will collect the votes from the membership within 30 days from the date of receipt of the petition. The Secretary will collect the votes from the membership by mail ballot, within 21 days from the date of remittal, and will announce the outcome, in writing, to the Vice President and to the Board of Governors within 7 days of the deadline date of the receipt of the votes. The President will be removed from office by a 2/3 majority of votes of no-confidence. In case of the removal of the President by a vote of no-confidence, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President for the rest of the term and shall appoint a Vice President subject to confirmation by the Board of Governors.

**Section 5: Powers and Functions of Vice President**

The Vice President shall derive his/her duties from the President and succeed him/her in case of his/her incapacity, resignation, or death. He/she will function in the following capacities.

1. He/she will serve as the Co-Convener of the Annual OSA conventions and work with the host chapter President/Convener for making detailed arrangements. He/she will act as the official representative of the OSA President/Governing Board to the annual conventions.
2. He/she will manage the nomination of OSA awards; appoint judges, and distribution of awards in consultation with the OSA President.
3. He/she may act in any other capacity, as delegated by the OSA President.
4. In case of his/her resignation or death, the President shall nominate a successor to the Vice President whose appointment will be approved by the Executive Board with a simple majority vote, for the remainder of the term.

**Section 6: Powers and Functions of the Secretary**

- a. The Secretary shall assume office along with the President and Vice President, and shall serve as the Secretary of the OSA Board of Governors.

- b. The Secretary shall record the minutes and be the custodian of the minutes of the Executive Board and the General Body. He/She shall maintain permanent records of these meetings in good order and will hand over them to the next Secretary after his/her term expires.
- c. The Secretary together with the Treasurer shall be responsible for fund raising, membership drive, and for compilation of a list of paid members. This list of new members shall be published in the first issue (July-September) of the Newsletter for every fiscal year.
- d. He/she will coordinate various development activities in Odisha by the OSA members, provide administrative help through public and privately established non-profit organizations such as, but not limited to, the NRO Cell/Center, established by the Government of Odisha.
- e. The Secretary shall be removed by the same way as the President. However, a no confidence motion in this case shall be presented to the President for further action.
- f. In case of the removal of the Secretary by a no confidence motion or in his/her resignation or death, the President shall nominate a successor whose appointment will be approved by the Executive Board with a simple majority vote, for the remainder of the term.

**Section 7: Powers and functions of the Treasurer**

1. The Treasurer shall assume office along with the President and Vice President, and shall serve as the Treasurer of the OSA Board of Governors.
2. The operating budget of OSA shall be within limits of available revenue during the year, and must be prepared in consultation with the President. The revenue will include annual membership fees, OSA fees collected at the convention, fees collected from converting life members to patrons and benefactors, and funds raised by other means. **50% of the fees** for life membership cannot be included in the annual budget. This money must be invested for long-term benefit of OSA (such as fixed deposit), as decided by the finance committee, explained below.
3. The Treasurer will serve as the Chairman of the OSA Finance committee, which will plan and operate all the OSA investments. The committee will consist of the Treasurer and two other life members/patrons/benefactors, appointed by the President. These two committee members must not be members of the current OSA Board of Governors. Any long-term investment or fixed deposit will be held in the name of OSA and can be operated with signatures from any two of the three members of the finance committee. Any earning from investment/fixed deposit can be included in the operating budget of OSA.
4. The Treasurer shall supervise annual OSA convention and/or symposium fund collections and expenses, and report them to the General Body in the following year.
5. The Treasurer will present the complete financial report of the past year in the Annual General Body meeting of the OSA during the convention. The financial records shall be audited at the end of every two financial years ending in an election year. **The auditors can be chosen from the membership and be approved in the GBM or external to the community.**
6. The Treasurer along with the Secretary shall be responsible for fund-raising, membership recruitment, and for compilation of a list of paid members. This list shall be published in the first issue (July-September) of the Newsletter for every fiscal year.



7.The office bearer's travel expenses. Any one item of expenditure beyond \$300 must be approved by the President. Any amount **over \$500** on a single non-budgeted item must be approved by a majority of the Governing Board. The approval from the Governing Board will be sought through e-mail. In case of no response within two weeks from a Board member, it will be assumed that the particular member has approved the request. The same rule will apply for donations by various OSA members to charitable/educational/developmental organizations in Odisha. Such collections and expenditures must be reflected as regular income/expenditure items in OSA account. Any OSA operational expenditure over \$10,000 shall require an approval from the General Body. **Under unforeseen circumstances, any OSA expenditure over \$10,000 shall require an approval from the BOG.**

8.The Treasurer shall be removed by the same way as the President. However, a no-confidence motion in this case shall be presented to the President for further action.

9.In case of the removal of the Treasurer by the no-confidence motion, or his/her resignation or death, the President shall nominate a successor whose appointment will be approved by the Board of Governors with a simple majority vote, for the remainder of the term.

**Section 8: Powers and Functions of the Editor/Editors**

The Editor is responsible to publish the OSA Newsletter at the end of each quarter. He/she is also responsible for the contents of the newsletter. Each Newsletter shall include, among other items, the President and Secretary's notes, local chapter activities, non-political Odisha news, and a section on the youth and women.

**Section 9: Powers and functions of the Joint Secretary**

The joint secretary will be appointed by the President and be voted in the GBM. The joint secretary will derive duties from the secretary and assist in member recruitment, preparation of meeting minutes, maintenance of records and any other work.

**Section 10: Powers and functions of the Joint Treasurer**

The joint treasurer will be appointed by the President and be voted in the GBM. The joint treasurer will derive duties from the Treasurer and assist in member recruitment, preparation of budget, financial reports, maintenance of member records and any other work.

**Section 11: Powers and functions of the Public Relations Officer**

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) will be appointed by the President and be voted in the GBM. The PRO will derive duties from the Vice President. The duty will also include leading/assisting in member communication, web page maintenance, preparation of public relation material, making public communications and other activities to promote the society.

**ARTICLE VI: ELECTION**

**Section 1**

All life members and **regular annual members of OSA residing in USA and Canada** have the right to vote and participate in the election.

**Section 2**

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

**Section 3**

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

**Section 4**

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

## **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

There shall be at least one general body meeting within one calendar year. The President of OSA shall be responsible for organizing such meetings with the help of the Board of Governors and the organizing chapter.

### **Section 2**

The Board of Governors shall meet at least twice a year to discuss the past activities, future plans, and the budget. The meetings can be held through conference call.

### **Section 3**

(a) Fifty members in good standing will constitute quorum for the General Body meeting. The resolutions passed in the General Body meeting will be mailed electronically to members not present personally at the meeting for their approval within 30 days. A lack of response by the date specified in this circular will be taken as a vote in favor of the resolution(s).

(b) It will be the responsibility of the Secretary to maintain proper records of the resolutions obtained.

(c) The President will appoint a Parliamentarian for the General Body meeting. The interpretation of the OSA Constitution and by-laws by the Parliamentarian will be binding.

### **Section 4**

The President shall conduct the meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside over the meetings. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, an Board of Governors member appointed by the President shall conduct the meetings.

## **ARTICLE VIII: LOCAL CHAPTERS**

### **Section 1**

To form a new chapter, a minimum of 15 families, with signatures of at least 20 local OSA members with **continuous membership** in the local community or OSA National for at least the past two years, must submit a written request to the Board of Governors through the Executive Committee. The decision of the Board shall be conveyed in writing. A sub-chapter may be formed by any group of reasonable size and this will require the written approval of only the Executive Committee. However, only the President/Coordinator of a chapter approved by the Board can serve as a member of the Board. The President/Coordinator of a sub-chapter is not eligible for Board membership.

### **Section 2**

A petition to form a chapter must be made to the Secretary of OSA for approval by the Board of Governors at least two months prior to the targeted date of its establishment.

### **Section 3**

The President of a chapter or an elected representative shall become a member of the OSA Board for a term of two years. A notification to that effect shall be submitted to the Secretary of OSA on or before the June 30th of the OSA election year. The chapter President or his representative to OSA Board must be a life member or patron or benefactor member (i.e., **permanent member**) of OSA in good standing. The President/Coordinator of a Chapter is eligible to continue on the Board for a second two-year term if reelected by the chapter, but no more than two consecutive two-year terms. A notification to that effect shall be submitted to the Secretary of OSA on or before the June 30th of the OSA election year.

### **Section 4**

The President of a chapter shall provide a membership list of the chapter to the Secretary of OSA at the beginning of each fiscal year.

**Section 5**

Any donation and membership dues collected by a chapter in the name of OSA shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the OSA. A chapter shall, however, be free to raise its own membership fees and other donations for local activities.

**Section 6**

All local chapters must open chapter account with OSA EIN number to conduct business of the local chapter. Local chapters raising funds in the name of OSA shall follow the OSA rules and be accountable for the IRS audit. A copy of the annual financial report shall be submitted to the Secretary and Treasurer of OSA at the end of each fiscal year. Failure to report such financial transactions violates the IRS rules and regulations, and is subject to IRS action and expulsion from chapter status. CanOSA will be exempt from this rule as it is a chapter in Canada, however, CanOSA must provide annual chapter activity report.

**Section 7**

At anytime if the chapter falls short of 15 local family members of OSA National in the vicinity of the chapter's operating area, the chapter will stay under probation and the so called chapter president will lose the seat in the BOG until the member requirement is satisfied. The chapter can be reinstated with a fresh application with the signatures of 20 individual members and consent of 15 OSA member families.

**Section 8**

A single person must not serve in the position of chapter president for more than 4 years in total in a span of 10 years.

**Section 9**

Anybody that has been acted against the organization either propagating defamatory language or filing lawsuit or becoming witness against the organization cannot represent in any official positions of a chapter.

**Section 10**

A chapter must maintain the minimum requirement to remain as a chapter in good standing. The minimum requirements will be described in the chapter standard document.

**ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS AND RULES OF BUSINESS****Section 1**

Any proposed amendments to the OSA constitution or By-Laws shall be proposed by a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the total membership or by the Board of Governors. The petition must be circulated to the general membership at least 30 days prior to the annual general body meeting or the proposed effective date for implementation.

**Section 2**

Any amendment to the OSA constitution and By-Laws shall need the approval of two-thirds majority present in the General Body meeting, or two-thirds majority of members through mail ballot. A lack of response within the date specified in the mail ballot will be considered as a vote in favor of the amendment(s). A minimum of 30 days from the date of mailing must be given for the response for postal mail voting and a minimum of 15 days from the date of mailing must be given for the response through electronic voting. The mail ballot can be initiated only by approval from the majority of the BOG.

**Section 3**

The business of the OSA shall be conducted in accordance with the rules contained in the latest edition of 'Robert's Rules of Order' provided these do not contradict the By-Laws and the Rules of Business of the OSA.

**Section 4**

On any question involving the constitution the By-Laws, or the Rules of Business, the decision of the Board of Governors will be final.

**BY-LAWS****BY - LAW I - MEMBERSHIP****Section 1**

Any person eighteen years of age or more interested in the stated objectives of the OSA shall be eligible for membership. Membership in OSA involves submission of an application for formal approval by the Executive Council. OSA reserves the right to verify the information provided and the qualifications for membership of any applicant. Such verification may include requesting additional supporting documentation from some or all of the applicants for membership by going through the Membership Verification Committee.

## Section 2

Membership in the OSA shall be of the following types:

1. SINGLE PERSON of eighteen years of age or more by paying annual dues of \$20.00.
2. FAMILY (husband, wife, and children below 18) by paying annual dues of \$40.00.
3. LIFE MEMBER: A single person or family paying \$300.00. In case of marriage of the single member the spouse shall be granted life membership. In case of divorce, both spouses shall be accorded individual life memberships.
4. FIVE-YEAR MEMBER: A person or family who contributes \$100 or more to OSA
5. PATRON: A person who contributes \$600 or more to OSA
6. BENEFACTOR: A person or family contributing a lump sum of \$1,000 or more to OSA.
7. LEGACY MEMBER: A person or family who contributes \$3000 or more to OSA
8. HONORARY MEMBER: Persons selected to this status by the Board of Governors.
9. SUPPORTING MEMBER: Persons, families or organizations by contributing at least \$100 a year

## Section 3

Honorary or supporting members are not eligible to vote or seek office of the OSA.

## Section 4

Membership dues in any category may be changed by the Board of Governors with approval of the general body by a majority vote. However, to encourage membership drive, the Executive Committee may temporarily reduce the amount for any category of membership through written notification to the general membership. The period over which this reduction will be valid must be specified in the notification and the reduction cannot be repeated within the normal tenure of a particular Executive Council. The membership fees cannot be reduced to less than 65% of the prevailing schedule.

## Section 5

The fiscal year of the OSA shall be July 1 to June 30th.

## Section 6

Resignation from membership will be accepted from any member at any time by submitting an application to BOG through the Secretary of OSA and through regular mail with signature or through electronic mail from a valid ID registered with OSA. The format of the application will be available by the BOG.

## Section 7. Membership Verification Committee

a) **Composition.** There shall be a Membership Verification Committee ("MVC") comprised of the Secretary, a member of the Board of Governors and two other members not then currently sitting on or standing for election to any position on the Board of Governors or Executive Committee, nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The nomination of these two additional members shall be completed within thirty (30) days of taking office.

b) **Verification Procedure.** i) No later than the last day of each calendar month, the Treasurer shall forward copies of all membership applications and payments received within the preceding calendar month to the MVC.

ii) The MVC shall review each application to determine

1. whether the applicant has provided sufficient information in their application to enable the MVC to make a determination that the applicant is eligible for membership in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation of OSA and these Bylaws; and 2. whether the proper membership fee has been paid.

iii) The MVC shall complete the application review process within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the application from the Treasurer.

The MVC shall have the right to require any applicant to provide such additional documentation as the MVC shall, in its sole discretion, determine to be necessary to enable the MVC to verify the applicant's eligibility. Such documentation may include, but shall not be limited to: a) photo identification, b) proof of age, c) a current utility bill for address verification. If the MVC requests such additional documentation from an applicant, the time limit set forth in subparagraph (iii) above shall be extended by an additional fifteen (15) days. If the applicant fails to provide the requested documentation within the additional fifteen (15) days, the MVC shall reject the application.

iv) Notwithstanding the rejection of any applicant's application, the membership application fee paid with such application shall be non-refundable and applied to cover OSA's membership verification costs.

### **Section 8. Revocation**

a) **Substantial Violation.** Membership of any member may be revoked for substantial violation of the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of OSA. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it shall be a violation of the Bylaws of OSA for any member to knowingly or intentionally engage in conduct which is intended to compete with or cause harm to OSA or which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee in its sole discretion, is likely to substantially injure the reputation of OSA. Any member of the Board of Governors or a minimum of 25 members in good standing of OSA may submit a petition outlining the charges to the Chairperson of the OSA Board of Governors by registered/certified mail, return receipt requested or by electronic mail addressed to the President and Secretary. The Board of Governors shall investigate the charges and if, in the opinion of a majority of the Board of Governors, there is probable cause to believe that a basis for revocation of membership may exist, the Board of Governors shall place the petition for removal on the agenda for hearing at a BOG meeting specially called for such purpose and shall provide the affected member with written and electronic notice of the petition and the hearing date so that such member may have an opportunity to be heard in opposition to the petition. If no quorum is present, the hearing on the petition shall be continued to the next regular meeting of the Board of Governors or a special meeting called for such purpose at which a quorum is present and voting. The Secretary shall notify the affected member of the date, time and place of the continued hearing. After the hearing at which a quorum is present, the Board of Governors shall decide by two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting whether to revoke the membership under question. The President shall notify the affected member of the action of the Board of Governors both electronically and in writing. The decision of the Board of Governors shall be final and binding.

b) **Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude.** Conviction of a member for any criminal offense involving moral turpitude shall constitute reason for automatic revocation of membership. The President shall notify the affected member of the revocation both electronically and in writing.

## **BY - LAW II: ANNUAL CONVENTION**

### **Section 1**

The site of the annual convention shall be selected by the Executive Committee and Board of Governors a year in advance for smooth planning. The host chapter **or the host community** shall be responsible for all aspects of the convention. The President or coordinator (in the absence of a president) of the chapter **or the community leader** must send a written request. to the President of the OSA at least one year before the proposed date of the convention with the written approval of the majority of the members of the host chapter, to hold the convention.

### **Section 2**

The convention shall not be viewed as a fund raising method on the part of the local chapter. The Treasurer shall supervise annual OSA convention and/or symposium fund collections and expenses, and report them to the General Body in the following year. The accounts of the convention shall be prepared by the President or his/her representative of the host chapter and will be handed over to the OSA Treasurer for reporting to the General Body. If the host chapter for a Convention does not meet its obligations to provide financial statements, a list of new members and all monies due to the national organization within six months of the end of the Convention, said chapter shall not be permitted to host another Convention for a period of 10 years from such date that the host chapter meets the foregoing obligations.

**Section 3:**

The OSA Vice President shall function as Co-convenor of the convention and shall coordinate all the OSA activities including planning, convention opening ceremony, invitation of the OSA guests, and OSA award distributions in consultation with the OSA President and the convention organizers.

**Section 4:**

The Convener will ensure printing and distribution of copies of the OSA souvenir and directory to all the attending OSA members and to those life members/patrons/benefactors, who did not attend the convention. **The printed copies of the souvenir and directory will be available to registered members of the convention only. All others will receive the electronic copies that will be available for download.**

**Section 5:**

OSA makes it a mandate for the convention organizing committee 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 Odia children in their cultural heritage during the convention.

**Section 6:**

**Convention guidelines approved by the BOG will be used for convention planning and programming.**

**BY - LAW III: ELECTION PROCEDURE****Section 1**

A three member election committee with one as chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Committee or BOG and will be announced to the general body for approval by majority at the annual convention preceding the election year.

**Section 2**

No member of the Board of Governors is eligible to be a member of the election committee.

**Section 3**

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

**Section 4**

Nominations for the various offices shall be invited by the election committee chairman through the OSA newsletter of September-December quarter, preceding the election year. In case of contests, the names of the candidates shall be announced in a special letter to be sent by the election committee along with the position statement of each contesting candidate accompanied with the ballots. **All communications from the election committee regarding nomination will be electronic. The format of invitation for nomination will be determined by the Election Committee.**

**Section 5**

**The Election Committee of OSA** shall print and supply the ballots. All ballots must be sequentially numbered or coded.

**Section 6**

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

**Section 7**

The election committee shall open a post office box address to which the ballots shall be mailed to by the voters. The ballots shall be counted in the presence of the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives on the second Saturday of May of the election year. The results of the election shall be announced then and there with a written statement of the results sent to the President of the OSA. All the election materials must be sealed and signed by the election committee members and the candidates or their representatives, and will be preserved by the election committee chairman for a period of six months after the election. **The election committee may adopt electronic voting procedure with the approval of the BOG members. In that case, the voting and counting methods/rules must be approved by the BOG and disseminated to the members electronically by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year.**

**Section 8**

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

**Section 9**

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

**Section 10**

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

**Section 11**

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

**Section 12**

In case of any unforeseen circumstances during the conductance of election, the rulings by BOG will be final.

**BY - LAW IV: DISCIPLINARY ACTION****Section 1**

Disciplinary action shall be taken by 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Governors against any member for gross misconduct.

**Section 2**

Disciplinary action shall be taken by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Governors against any chapter for gross misconduct. In such cases, the respective chapter president will be excluded from voting.

**Section 3**

Gross misconduct include (but not limited to) engagement in anti-organizational activities such as filing lawsuits against the organization, using provocative statements against the organization, disseminating wrong information about the organizational procedure, collecting money in the name of OSA without reporting, using derogatory language about the organization and defaming other members without substantiating with facts and causing harm to the organizational objectives.

**Section 4**

Any member that takes legal action against the organization will be immediately expelled from the membership. If it is a family membership this will affect the family unless the spouse has an individual membership with OSA.

**Section 5**

The proposal for disciplinary action may be filed by Executive Committee, BOG, other committees or members through the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee must consult BOG and BOG can approve with 2/3 majority vote. The decision of the BOG will be final.

**Section 6**

A chapter with low membership must remain under probation until the membership strength is attained.

**Section 7: Removal of Officers, and Board of Governors.**

**Business Judgment Rule.** If the Board of Governors in its judgment finds that the best interests of the corporation will be served, it may remove any officer, or BOG member of the corporation. If, in the opinion of a majority of the Board of Governors, there is probable cause to believe that a basis for removal from office of any officer, officeholder, or BOG member may exist, the Board of Governors shall place a resolution for removal on the agenda for hearing at a meeting

specially called for such purpose and shall provide the affected member with written or electronic notice of the hearing so that such officer, or BOG member may have an opportunity to be heard in opposition to the resolution. If no quorum is present, the hearing on the resolution shall be continued to the next regular meeting of the Board of Governors or a special meeting called for such purpose at which a quorum is present and voting. The Secretary shall notify the affected member of the date, time and place of the continued hearing as soon as practicable. Notice by electronic mail shall be deemed sufficient notice. After the hearing at which a quorum is present, the Board of Governors shall decide by a three-fourths majority of affirmative vote of all the members (including those not in attendance at the meeting, whose vote may be obtained in writing or by e-mail within 72 hours of the meeting) of the Board of Governors whether to remove the officer, or the BOG member. The BOG Chairperson or BOG Secretary shall notify the affected member of the action of the Board of Governors. The decision of the Board of Governors shall be final and binding.

**BY-LAW V: Grievance Hearing Process**

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 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.

**If the Mediation Committee could not be formed, then the General Body would constitute the final authority to hear the case and issue the judgment. If any member files a legal case by not going through the mediation committee or the General Body, then that member will immediately be expelled from membership.**

**BY-LAW VI: OSA Award**

OSA award will be coordinated by the Vice President of the Society in consultation with the award committee formed by the Vice President for the purpose. The award procedure must be documented and approved by the Executive Committee and the BOG.

**BY-LAW VII: OSA Communication**

Unless otherwise mentioned all communications in OSA will be electronic. In special cases with electronic disability for any member, paper communication may be made with requests from the respective member to the Secretary of OSA. OSA communication medium for discussion and other purposes must be determined by the BOG at any time and can change by putting a notice on the OSA web 30 days before such changes.

**BY-LAW VIII: Unforeseen Circumstances**

In unforeseen circumstances the decision of the BOG will be final.

**BY-LAW IX: OSA Standards, Policy and Rules of Business**

At any time, interpretation of the BOG regarding OSA standards, policy and rules of business in organizational affairs will be final. The standard documents for member ethics, convention programming, forms and procedural documents, organizational position statements on issues must be prepared by the BOG through respective committees or a standard committee.

**BY\_LAW X: Voting Rules**



**Section 1: BOG Voting Rule**

The approval from the Governing Board and the members will be sought through e-mail. In case of no response within two weeks from a Board member, it will be assumed that the particular member has approved the request.

**Section 2: For General Membership**

The approval from the General Membership may be needed from time to time through e-mail or paper mail. In case of no response within the designated time, it will be assumed that the particular member has approved the request. The minimum designated time will be 15 days.

**BY-LAW XI: OSA JURISDICTION**

By default OSA Jurisdiction will be the state of its General Counsel or the legal advisor that would be announced by the BOG. In absence of a General Counsel or a legal advisor, the Jurisdiction will be declared by the BOG.

**BY-LAW XII: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING**

Finance, Accounting, Banking, Investments, Audits and Annual Expenses Reports - The Treasurer in consultation with the OSA EC, and its Chapters and the respective officers of the society will be responsible for maintaining the information related to the finance, accounting, banking, investments, fund raising, day-to-day expenses and annual expense reporting of the organization. The individual Chapters need to provide a yearly expense report (1/2-1 page only) to The OSA Treasurer, by May 30 of each year. Similarly, the OSA accounting should be maintained by the treasurer (1-2 page only) during the year and to be finalized by May 30 of each year. The OSA's annual expense report in the form of a Balance Sheet (1 page only) will be finalized during May 30 of each year and published in the OSA Journal (July of each year), OSA website, and OSA Communication medium for the members' review. At the end of the term (once in 2 years) of the EC, the financial information of OSA should be transferred to the next elected treasurer by August 15. Similar processes should be followed by the respective chapters.

**BY-LAW XIII: OSA ASSETS**

No part of the earnings of the OSA shall go to the personal benefit of any member, office bearer or private individual. Should the OSA disband, after paying or making provisions for payments of all the liabilities of the OSA, the remaining funds and assets of the OSA shall go to such charitable organizations as have objectives similar to this society, chosen by the majority vote of the general body at a special meeting called for that purpose. OSA assets (such as: the name(s), constitution, organization documents, symbol/logo/trademarks, domain names [www.orissasociety.org](http://www.orissasociety.org) and [www.odishasociety.org](http://www.odishasociety.org), discussion group name [OSAnet@yahoo.com](mailto:OSAnet@yahoo.com), annual convention legacy, funds (OSA and its chapters) and related organizational values and information do not belong to any members, office bearers, coordinators, volunteers or private individuals, rather the OSA assets are owned by the OSA organization.

**Notes**

1. The items marked in red are suggested items either by members, BOG or the constitution review committee
2. The name change of the society to "The Odisha Society of the Americas" will be effective after July 2011. Currently it will be used as The Orissa Society of the Americas

**Nomenclature:**

OSA: "The Orissa Society of the Americas" or "The Odisha Society of the Americas"

BOG: Board of Governors

GBM: General Body Meeting

# OSALOGY

**By: Amiya Nayak**



OSALOGY (also crafted as - OSALogy, Osalogy, osalogy, OSA.logy) is conceptualized as the study of OSA – an interesting, intriguing and complex topic related to The Odisha Society of the Americas, Inc.

OSA is a 42 year old socio-cultural voluntary society organization in the Americas, started in 1969 by the early Odia immigrants from Odisha, India. Being a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt public charity, OSA should follow its constitution and constitutional governance system for the effective management of its programs and internal organizational affairs.

OSA's legacies have been the annual convention, souvenir/directory publications, along with its chapters' activities across north america, particularly by offering odisha/odia socio-cultural experiences, memories & services. OSA information/communication systems are the website ([www.odishasociety.org](http://www.odishasociety.org)), OSAnet e-groups site (osanet@yahoogroups.com),

DOLA-OSA (Directory of Odias Living Abroad), and Utkarsa e-journal. The OSA logo expresses deep meaning to the Odisha cultural heritages of the community organization in the Americas. Recently, OSA has experienced the new constitution review/drafting process and a change in its name (from Orissa to Odisha). OSA is an immigrant Odia-American social innovation, cultural brand, community identity, social network and an evolving social entrepreneurship model for the Americas and Odisha. Let the OSA story and legend continue within the Americas, and internationally.

The two law-suits by OSA's own members for and against OSA and some of its own members/volunteers have created milestones in OSA history, surprised and disrupted the society, caused financial losses, created controversies and induced reforms. We hope that the OSA Genesis/History/Archives Writing Team has been tracking the OSAnet postings by the members on OSA organizational affairs.

OSA has been periodically experiencing OSA Politics, co-founders' syndrome, donors' interferences, members grievances and its own chapters non-compliances. OSA has been embedded within OSA related cult, politics, egos and emotions. It seems although the co-founders had initiated the OSA, various members helped in building the OSA during the last 4 decades. However, during the last 4 years OSA has gone through dramatic changes, organizationally. The time has come to re-organize into a New and Future OSA Organization, constitutionally and operationally, particularly to improve the OSA National-Chapter relationships. Compliance mechanisms between OSA chapters and national may help in the government legal maintenance of the 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status of the organization. A constitutional imbalance and/or constitutional conflict may create organizational controversies and tensions between osa national and its own chapters, despite the goodness of the members and their voluntary services for the OSA.

It seems OSA as a community-based socio-cultural organization has not been Pluralistic and/or some of the OSA members and also some of the ECs/BOGs/Committees have not appreciated Pluralism into OSA. The OSA may have been going through Pluralistic Ignorance. While the Old OSA has typically promoted a partisan approach, the New and Future OSA should strongly consider to promote multi-partisan approach (not even bi-partisan), for the benefit of the society organization and its members and societal values and long term vision and missions. The 42 year old OSA still needs a change, not just a cosmetic change through its constitution, organizational structure and operations, but a dramatic change, possibly through constructive destruction through its own constitution and constituents and organizational operations, national-chapter relationships and members empowerments. OSA may consider to use Pluralistic and Groupthink attributes for the better of the society organization.

While the chapters and conventions have become operationally independent entities within the OSA Organization (albeit linked constitutionally), OSAnet seems to develop itself as a new type of e-forum for critical discussions and to close the gaps through internet based information exchanges and communications.

Areas where OSA may refocus are: Member's Empowerment, Trust, Transparency, Accountability, Compliance, Community Identity, Impact, and Value to the members and prospective members. An emerging area for OSA can be creating an OSA Think Tank to foster effective partnership with Odisha State Government to help through consultative process for development, using OSA members knowledge, information, professional resources and networks.

The OSA Constitution, considered to be a neutral document has 5 major Constituents and Stake-Holders within the constitutional governance system as follows:

1. Members/Memberships (the foundation and backbone of the organization)
2. Executive Committee (EC)
3. Board of Governors (BOG)
4. Chapters - Chapter Presidents/ECs/Representatives
5. Allied Parties, Organizational Activities & related Info - Federal/State Government regulatory compliance for 501c3 non-profit tax-exempt status maintenance. Volunteers, Committees, Nominees, Election, Website, OSAnet becoming a critical/powerful/effective constituent, Ombudsmen, Americas, Odisha Development Symposia, Programs (Convention-Souvenir/Directory, Chapters' socio-cultural, Sponsorships, New Generation Youth Entrepreneurships, Drama Festivals, other programs).

It is important that the respective constituents within OSA review and follow the constitution while conducting certain critical organizational affairs. If the respective constituents do not work in tandem with each other through friendships, trust and open communications in support of the OSA society organization, and its larger memberships and its vision/mission/values/activities, the organization may continually face challenges to create any impacts, and may be organizationally dis/mis-functional, despite the good-faith volunteering services of the members.

If just growth in the memberships, chapters, conventions, socio-cultural, and developmentals are considered OSA's successes, then OSAs' foci may be the described areas. A practicable constitution along with simplified processes may enhance the critical and controversial areas of the organization such as: election, accounting, reporting, and national-chapter relationships. For an effective constitutional governance the EC-BOG-Chapters-Members will need coordinations to avoid organizational controversies and complexities for mandating any decisions and executing any changes and amendments.

OSA, a great odisha society organization in the north americas, need to be further changed into a new type organization for its members. OSA has been swinging between and among social-cultural-(USA/Canada) and developmental (Odisha), three major themes, while the organization has very limited financial resources raised by the volunteer members and donated by the donors. OSA has had a deep bench of volunteers and hope the organization will offer a platform for new type of volunteer members and leaders those can create and manage change with the OSA for the benefits of the organization and its members. However, the members, volunteers, executive committee, nominators & nominees should keep OSA organization interests above the personal individualistic interests.

Based on the organizational resources (members, volunteers, donors, times) it may be good for the OSA to create and sustain suitable balances between and among the social-cultural-developmental activities, as per the organization's vision and missions.

Congratulations and best wishes for the OSA-2011 convention (Dallas, TX) and to the organizers, hosts, and volunteers. OSA community should look at the future and move forward together along with the organization and its members.

Through this article and idea of Osalogy, I extend my thanks to the OSA, the organization & its constituents, esteemed members, volunteers and prospective members.

Amiya Nayak & Family are patron-life members of OSA. Amiya is developing the complex new concept - OSalogy, based on his volunteering services experiences during OSA-Ozark Chapter Formation, OSA Souvenir Article Contributions, OSA new constitution drafting, OSAnet postings and review of the OSA organization.

# Spotlight on Odisha

## Jagannath Temple Inauguration and Prana Pratistha in Odisha

By: Sashadhar Mohapatra (MD)



Greetings Dear Friends, Devotees, Well Wishers!

I am sending this invitation not only to Odias in Odisha and abroad, but to anybody who has a keen desire to witness something both architecturally and spiritually beautiful to visit the newly inaugurated Jagannath Temple in our village of Narigan, Jajpur District (previously reported in



the OSA journals). Building a temple is a daunting task, no doubt. The foundation started on August 12, 2005. With our baby steps, we had to walk a long way to reach the destination and we did it. A journey of thousand miles begins with a small step, is not it?



The artists who invested countless man-hours are sons of Bhadrak, Odisha. Muralidhar Giri, from Jagannathpur, Bhadrak, has been our chief architect. He looks like an ordinary person, yet he is our 'Dharmapada' of yesteryears. These artists have no scholarly degrees, yet they have created miracles (see pictures). Tears came to my eyes when I visited my little village in East Jajpur and saw the temples emulating the designs of our holy Jagannath Temple in Puri.

The three-day inauguration started on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the day of

Saraswati Puja. The deities were installed the following day. There were small temples for mother Laxmi, Radha & Krishna, Bimala, Ganesh, Lord Siva, and Patitapaban. The Rajguru of Puri and about ten other priests from Biraja Mandali participated in the installation function. On our last day, we served (lunch) prasad for an estimated 13,500 people and were visited by some 50,000 over the entire day! Here is a brief description of the events that took place:

**Day 1:** KalasAdhibAs, kalas shovajAtrA, surjya puja, brahma baran, mandalAdipuja, vaisnab Agni samskar and beginning of yagna, mahasAna of the bigrahas and chakshyudAna, prabachan on





performed by Mr. Arjun Samal and his talented group.

**Day 3:** Surjya puja, bigraha nagar parikrama, rajopachar puja, installation of chakradhwajas, darshan of all the deities and purnahuti by Swami Prajnananda Saraswati of Kriya Yoga. Mrs. Pramila Mallick, Minister for Women and Child Development was our invited guest that evening. The bhajans were performed by a talented group from

Bhubaneswar.

Here is an invitation from my family and community to all of you: when you plan to visit Odisha next time, please come and visit our Narigan temples with your families and friends. If you are willing to sacrifice your time to enjoy a country (village) life, enjoy a minute of peace and tranquility being far from the hustles and bustles of city life, and above all to receive Lord's blessings, then be our guests! Free

accommodation will be provided in our house and, and of course, prasad will be served in the village setting.

Nowadays, communication to our village is not very bad. See the concrete roads in the pictures. Vehicles can directly go to my village (no

joke!). It takes about 2.5 hours by car from Cuttack to our village. Here are the directions: Cuttack----Jajpur Town----Mangalpur----Narigan.

We will be glad to receive any words of wisdom, ideas, and advice from you. I am an amateur on this mission; I assure you that we will

accept your feedback with humble thanks.

Jagannath kathAmruta. The invited speaker was Dr. Raghunath Panda, Prof. and HOD of Sanskrit, Utkal University, Vani Vihar. The invited guest was Mr. Gautam Roy, Zilla Parisad Chairman of Jajpur. Odissi dance was performed by artists of Odisha Dance Academy.

**Day 2:** Surjya puja, bigraha prAna pratistha, Yagna, mandalAdi puja, singhAsana pratistha and mandir pratistha. The invited speaker was Dr. Shantanu Acharya who spoke on Jagannath Sanskruti. The bhajans for Lord Jagannath were



May Lord Jagannath bless you, your friends and families!

For further questions, comments and suggestions please contact:

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# ଗଂଗା ବିଭିନୀ



**ART AND LITERATURE**





## Gagan Panigrahi

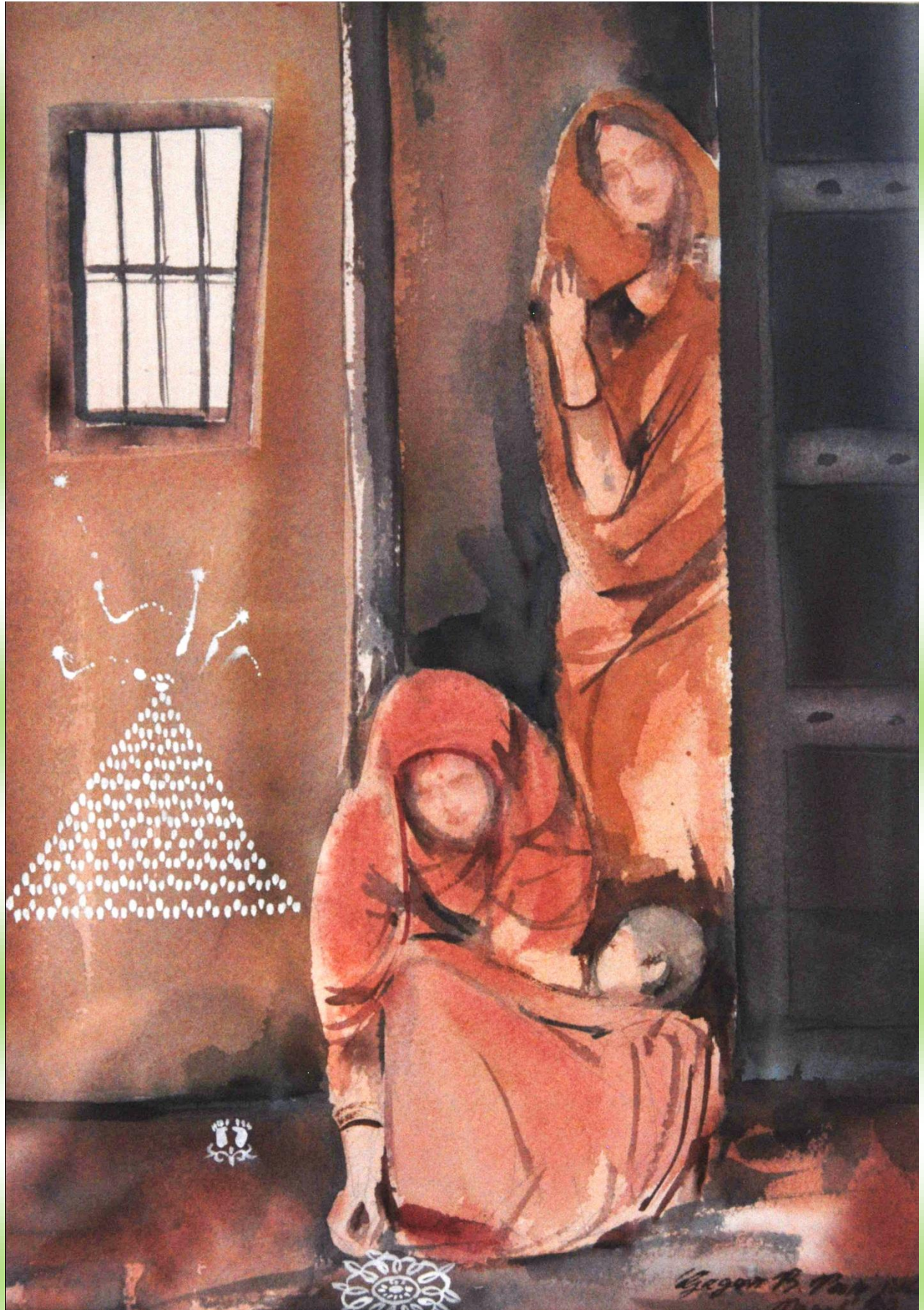
### ତୁଳୀକାର

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 ଛବି ଆଜି ହାତେ ରଙ୍ଗାଇବା ପାଇଁ  
 ବିବିଧ ରଙ୍ଗ ମୁଁ ଢାଳେ ।  
 ଯେତେବେଳେ ଢାଳେ ରଙ୍ଗ ହଳଦିଆ  
 ଦିଶେ ମୋତେ ତୁମ ଶାଢ଼ୀ,  
 ଓଠ ତୁମ ଦେଖେଁ ରଙ୍ଗ ଦିଏ ଯେବେ  
 ଗୋଲାପ ଫୁଲର କଢ଼ି ।  
 ଧଳା ରଙ୍ଗେ ମୋତେ ଦେଖାଯାଏ ତୁମ  
 ମଲି ଫୁଲ ପରି ଦାନ୍ତ,  
 ନୀଳ ନୟନା ଗୋ ନୀଳ କଇଁ ପରି  
 ନୟନ ତୁମ ଶୋଭିତ  
 ଚଂପା ଫୁଲ ରଙ୍ଗ ଲାଗେ ସତେ ଅବା  
 ଗୋରା ଗୋରା ତୁମ ଦେହ,  
 କାଉ କୋଇଲିର କଳା ରଙ୍ଗ ପରା  
 ତୁମ କୃଷ୍ଣ କେଶ ପ୍ରାୟ ।  
 ଫୁଲ ବଗିଚାରେ ରଙ୍ଗ ଢାଳେ ଯେବେ  
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 ତା'ରେ ଦେଖି ମୁଁ ଗୋ ଅନୁଭବ କରେ  
 ତୁମେ ଅଛ ମୋର ପାଶେ ।

**ଗଗନ ପାଣିଗ୍ରାହି**









## WAKE UP AMERICA

### Prajesh Nandini Dash

Many Americans are shocked to know that when it comes to science and Mathematics, U.S lags behind many countries in the world. Yet, America has the world's best universities which educates the finest national and international brains and receives the maximum number of Nobel prizes compared to all the countries in the world. But according to many studies our children's scores are closer to some third world countries and far below many industrialized countries of the world. At the ordinary level it feels like a puzzle. The parents, students, teachers, school board members, public, local and federal government officials and all the citizens of this country are acting as if they are surprised but the truth

is that each one of us has participated in making it happen. The truth is China, India and other countries are competing every minute to achieve and maintain a higher global education standard while the inventor of all new ideas finds itself lost in the crowd. America looks lost when it comes to our education system.

American Institutes for Research in the article dated Jan 27, 2011<sup>1</sup> shows there is actually a steady decline, not a sudden drop in student performance as the students progress through the school. The paper "International Test Scores"<sup>2</sup> reveals that "our fourth graders are doing poorly, middle school students worse and high school students are unable to compete." This paper has discussed many important criteria and solutions including curricula, textbooks and teachers etc. Apart from the technical changes needed for the above mentioned topics, there needs to be fundamental change to the education system.

Every American parent needs to realize that their child is a global citizen and is in a tough global competition. America's geographical borders are simply a boundary much like the fence around the house. The child's financial future is tied to the children of other countries of their age. They have to fight on many fronts, and finally be able to settle for a much less financial compensation and benefits compared to their previous generations, solely because companies can get the jobs done cheaper and with more qualified people outside the United States. So to put it bluntly other countries are preparing their younger generation to rightfully grab American jobs.

"The United states came in 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> on most subjects. We can quibble, or we can face the brutal truth that we are being out-educated" says U.S Education secretary Arne Duncan<sup>3</sup>. Such outcomes are sad to fathom as starting from our Supreme Court justices to several elected officials come from Ivy League schools while majority of third world politicians do not have even a college degree. Yet their plan with much less budget, less humanitarian conditions, with scarcity of natural resources (clean air and water), have created intellectuals and skilled workers for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The question is how and why?

#### **Standardized tests in 8th, 10th, 12th grade in every subject:**

China and India strategically emphasize on competitive examinations. In order to cater to a massive population with limited school seats, each school has an entrance examination and admission is based on merit. In India, the entire state schools' 12<sup>th</sup> grade final exam is a standardized test and the schedule for the test gets published before the school year starts. The state school board prepares the test independently and every school in the state sits for the same paper on the same day. Two months before the test every student is assigned a code number which he /she mentions on the test paper; never their name. The student writes the code number on every answer sheet, the papers get swapped between schools within the state, and are graded by different school

teachers. The test results are declared, where the code numbers gets published on the school bulletin board and major news papers. So the public, the school, as well as the student know where they rank in the state. They have good, better and bad schools too. The final responsibly lies on the teachers who have prepared their students to rank the top in the state.

This process is equivalent to all the advanced placement tests in United States, but very few schools offer this program. So the majority of American high school students lack the basic standard. Standardized tests in every subjects starting from middle school will create a scale to measure the performance. Each school in the same county differs in a variety of aspects, starting from science, computer lab facilities, teaching techniques to class sizes. Our school system is based on the parent's affordability to live in a higher valued real estate area. The county tax collected from them assures a good school for their children. But the scores of other students from a poor school district need to improve to at least meet the basic education standards of the world. The world is now edging towards a student's ability to produce results based on proficiency in repetitiveness. It sounds primitive. But it's true.

### **Teachers of American Schools**

The American school teacher's problem is like playing a game with a double edged sword. The teachers association wants to act like an automobile company's labor union and Americans do not know how to take care of their teachers. If every job claims its worth, nobility is really priceless, and in this case it literally is. The financial compensations, benefits for teachers vary from state to state and even county to county in the same state. We expect our yesterday's kindergartners to become tomorrow's doctors, engineers and scientists by rewarding far less money to the people who are making it happen! We also fail in teaching our children how to respect the souls who have taken the burden of building our future. Even today if a professor walks into a classroom in any college in India the entire class stands up. This happens starting from primary through graduate school in India. One can argue this has nothing to with test scores, but it implies a symbolic gesture to a person whose profession deserves respect.

The other truth is that the teachers have no authority over the students. This is a country where alcohol, drugs and guns are accessible at home, in street corners and local Wal-Mart's for young adults and majority live in a single parent home most often without a father figure. The principal and teachers need a lot more legal power to control the class room and to be able to take disciplinary actions without adverse repercussions. In this country the teachers in general have not gained the full trust of the parents. A phone call to a parent from a school teacher in India today, has the same or more weight as a police officer arresting a criminal. It is only because parents have learned to respect teaching and understand a teacher's role in a society.

The other side of the sword deals with fewer qualified, less trained, less skilled and mostly unmotivated teachers. Teaching is not an assembly line job. As we all know there is no proven formula to raise a good child, so also there is no formula to raise a great student. It is a combination of various things which makes a child a good citizen. Teachers need to be willing to work extra hours by giving tutorial classes. The school budget should be assigned to accommodate tutorial classes starting from middle school in every subject. This sounds like a school in two sessions. And that is exactly what happens in India. Both school and college teachers provide affordable tuition sessions before after school for six days a week and 80% of India's student attend those classes. They believe in giving an opportunity to understand and practice a subject to perfection. Since the curriculum is fixed for the entire state in every subject, it is a race for the students, teachers and schools to win the competition.

Our sincere attempt to "no child left behind" has taken a down turn to be interpreted as "America's education is being left behind". We need programs for a total transformation of the education system. We owe it to our future generations.

1. American Institutes for Research Issues a Policy Brief on Structuring Full-Day Kindergarten Programs to Maximize Reading Achievement  
[http://www.air.org/news/index.cfm?fa=viewContent&content\\_id=1130](http://www.air.org/news/index.cfm?fa=viewContent&content_id=1130)
2. International Test Scores, Poor U.S Test Results Tied to Weak Curriculum  
<http://4brevard.com/choice/international-test-scores.htm>
3. The New York Times, Education  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/07/education/07education.html>



## **DR. ARABINDO MOHANTY on Care on Colors of Holi**

**Green** colour is obtained from copper sulphate -which may cause allergies in eye or even temporary blindness.

**Purple** is obtained from chromium iodide - which may cause bronchial asthma or other forms of allergy.

**Silver** is obtained from aluminum bromide - a known carcinogenic.

**Black** is obtained from lead oxide - may cause renal failures or learning disability.

**Red** is obtained from mercury sulphite - may cause skin cancer or Minamata disease (mental retardation, paralysis, impaired vision...)

**Shiny** Colours are a result of powdered glass being added to the colours.

Besides, many water colours have an alkaline base capable of causing severe injuries. Colours in the form of pastes have toxic compounds mixed in a base of engine oil or other inferior quality oil, capable of causing skin allergy, temporary blindness.

Further, when washed, these colours containing toxic chemicals enter the river, thereby soil and water pollution.

Even the way we play Holi is becoming dangerous. Throwing water filled balloons has become rampant, which is very harmful. People should realise, what is fun for them could cause injury to the eyes and ears to the other person, specially when thrown from a distance and with force.

People must realise that the colours have been added to Holi to make the festival more joyous and enjoyable and not to cause inconvenience to others. So, next time you play with colours use good quality or natural colours and play according to the convenience of others.

### **Synthetic colors**

As the spring-blossoming trees that once supplied the colors used to celebrate Holi have become rarer, chemically produced industrial dyes have been used to take their place in almost all of urban India. In 2001, a fact sheet was published by the groups Toxics link and Vatavaran based in Delhi on the chemical dyes used in the festival. They found safety issues with all three forms in which the Holi colors are produced: pastes, dry colors and water colors.

Their investigation found some toxic chemicals with some potentially severe health impacts. The black powders were found to contain lead oxide which can result in renal failure. Two colors were found to be carcinogenic: silver, with aluminium bromide, and red, with mercury sulphide. The prussian blue used in the blue powder has been associated with contact dermatitis, while the copper sulphate in the green has been documented to cause eye allergies, puffiness of the eyes, or temporary blindness.

The colorant used in the dry colors, also called gulals, was found to be toxic, with heavy metals causing asthma, skin diseases and temporary blindness. Both of the commonly used bases—*asbestos* or *silica*—are associated with health issues.

They reported that the wet colors might lead to skin discoloration and dermatitis due to their use of color concentrate *gentian violet*.

Lack of control over the quality and content of these colours is a problem, as they are frequently sold by vendors who do not know their origin.

The report galvanized a number of groups into promoting more natural celebrations of Holi. Development Alternatives, Delhi and Kalpavriksh, Pune, The CLEAN India campaign and Society for Child Development, through its Avacayam Cooperative Campaign have both launched campaigns to help children learn to make their own colours for Holi from safer, natural ingredients. Meanwhile, some commercial companies such as the National Botanical Research Institute have begun to market "herbal" dyes, though these are substantially more expensive than the dangerous alternatives. However, it may be noted that many parts of rural India have always resorted to natural colours (and other parts of festivities more than colours) due to availability reasons.

### **Environmental impact**

An alleged environmental issue related to the celebration of Holi is the traditional *Holika Dahan* bonfire, which is believed to contribute to deforestation. A local tabloid had a view published that 30,000 bonfires each burning approximately 100 kg of wood are lit in one season. Several methods of preventing this consumption of wood have been proposed, including the replacement of wood with waste material or lighting of a single fire per community, rather than multiple smaller fires. However, the idea of lighting waste material antagonizes large sections of a certain community who take it as a Western attack to their cultures and traditions citing several examples of similar festivities elsewhere. There is also concern about the large scale wastage of water and water-pollution due to synthetic colors during Holi celebration.

### **Influence on popular culture**

In the music video for their song "**The Catalyst**", American rock band Linkin Park incorporated scenes of band members throwing powdered color at one another. The video's director, band turntablist Joe Hahn, identifies Holi as a direct influence on the visual style of the video. Hahn states that "The irony of making the video was that the inspiration for the colors came from the Color Festival in India called Holi." Mr Hahn further elaborates



on the religious significance of the colors, "People collect these pigments throughout the year to release them in this festival as a celebration of life and tribute to Vishnu."

Rituals from the celebration of Holi are not Linkin Park's only allusion to Hinduism. The song "**The Catalyst**" is the first single from the band's fourth studio album, *A Thousand Suns*. The title of the album references when J. Robert Oppenheimer famously recalled the Bhagavad Gita after watching the detonation of the first nuclear weapon: "If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst into the sky, that would be like the splendor of the Mighty One— I am become Death, the shatterer of Worlds."

The holi festival was featured as a RoadBlock challenge in the popular CBS reality television show: *The Amazing Race 13*, episode 7.

The Ke\$ha music video for the song "Take It Off" features powdered colored dyes similar to those used to celebrate Holi.

### **Herbal Holi**

**"Scars I bear,**

**Till date make me scared,**

**Colours I shared,**

**Have made me visually impaired"**

Little did ten-year old Deepak know that the colours of joy splashed by his friends would turn his life colourless. His world collapsed when even after several operations his doctors could not restore his vision. Come Holi, the Hindu festival of colours, and many people confine themselves, even lock themselves up to run away from the scourge of synthetic colours. Most holi colours available in the market contain oxidized metals or industrial dyes mixed with engine oil, which are dangerous for the skin. The black colour, for instance, is made of lead oxide, green from copper sulphate, silver from aluminium bromide and red from mercury sulphite. These chemicals can cause allergy, temporary blindness, renal failure, skin cancer and even paralysis. It can even prove fatal. The dangerous side-effects of holi colours can ruin the spirit of the festival.

But, now with herbal colours there is hope that holi will be played in a healthy manner. These eco-friendly powders and pastes are natural extracts from flowers, vegetables and minerals. Colours can be made from petals of rose, marigold, hibiscus and bougainvillea, sandalwood, henna, tesu, turmeric, multani mitti, spinach and indigo, to name a few.

Would you like to create your very own eco-friendly holi colours at home? Here are some handy home preparations:

### **Red colour:**

#### **Rose petals**

· Take some red roses and separate its petals. If petals are wet than spread them on some newspaper or on tissue paper. Remember, all petals dry easily if exposed to direct sunlight. Once the rose petals are completely dried than you can keep them in an airtight bottle. Make sure that you grind these petals soon and do not keep them for a long time. Make it into a powder, which you can use as gulal (red colour).

**"Colour me red,**



**Tears I will not shed,**

**Since roses are spread"**

You can even make rose water from this by soaking these petals overnight in water. Do not soak it more than this else it will start rotting. Rose water can be used on day-to-day basis too by mixing in bathing water or can be sprayed as a deodorant. It is also soothing for the eyes.

### **Orange colour:**

#### **Henna or Mehndi leaves**

· Take dried or fresh mehndi leaves and grind them to get a powder. Mix it with water to make it into the paste. Don't be surprised if you get a Thank you note from your friend for colouring his hair in a natural way.

**"No one will shun,**

**From this colour of warmth and fun,**

**So now you can pour orange in tons."**

Mix rose water with sandalwood powder and add a little turmeric. This will not only colour your skin but also liven your tired face.

**Yellow colour:**

**Marigold flowers**

Soak 25 marigold flowers in one litre of water. Boil it till it exudes a fragrance. Leave it overnight. You will get rich wet yellow colour.

**"Chemicals are out,**

**Flowers are in,**

**Yellow Marigold will glow on your skin."**

By drying the petals of yellow chrysanthemum, various shades of yellow can be prepared in powder and liquid form, the former by grinding, the latter by adding water.

**Green colour:**

**Gulmohar leaves, spinach, coriander, mint**

These leaves need to be dried first. Coriander leaves, mint and spinach dries even if kept in a refrigerator properly wrapped in a newspaper or in airtight bags. Once they are dried they can be ground in a mixer to get a fine powder.

**"What powder, what cream,**

**Colour my face with natural green"**

These colours are safe and do not have any side-effects. So, bid farewell to synthetic, unhygienic colours and play holi with a renewed zest with herbal colours.

***Happy Holi. Herbal Holi!***

## **Learn How to Make Natural Holi Colors at Home...**

### **New Delhi | India**

Harmful chemical colors are the perils of Holi. Have you ever wondered how to make the festival of colors natural and healthy for our environment and ourselves? Did you know that Holi can be fun and harmless if you play with environment-friendly natural colors. These are not only cheap but can also be made easily at home.

### **Our World of Colors**

Explore the fascinating world of natural colors. Experiment with different flowers, fruits and vegetables (like black grapes, dried fruits of amla / gooseberry), leaves (eucalyptus), plants (arandi / castor). Encourage the use of eco-friendly natural colors and motivate our friends to do so.

### **Learn How to Make Natural Holi Colors at Home**

#### **Save Your Skin from Chemical Colors**

Most Holi colors sold in the market are oxidized metals or industrial dyes mixed with engine oil. Sample this: Green comes from Copper Sulphate, purple is Chromium Iodide, silver is Aluminum Bromide, black is Lead Oxide and shiny colors are result of powdered glass being added to the colors. All these are toxic and can result in anything from skin allergies, eye irritation, blindness and much more. When washed, they enter the rivers and the soil and increase pollution.

### **Chemical Colors, Compositions and Health Effects**



- Lead Oxide** (Black): Renal failure, Learning disability
- Copper Sulphate** (Green): Eye allergy, Temporary blindness
- Chromium Iodide** (Purple): Bronchial asthma, allergies
- Aluminium Bromide** (Silver): Carcinogenic
- Mercury Sulphite** (Red): Skin cancer, Minamata

### **Play Holi the Vedic Way**

By using safe, natural colors we not only save our skins but also help save our environment and conserve our biodiversity. When these colors percolate into the soil and water they do not add toxicity to our blue planet, and cause no harm to the myriad life forms that live in the soil and water. Thereby, we also popularize the diverse plants and trees that give us these colors, and live life the Vedic way, our ancient and most precious heritage.

Here're all the recipes that'll make your Holi naturally colorful! Learn how to get reds, greens, blues, saffrons, yellows and magentas from fruits, vegetables, flowers and cereals... all at home.

### **Ravishing Reds**

**Dry:** Red Sandalwood Powder / Raktachandan / Lalchandan (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) has a beautiful red color, which is beneficial for the skin and is used for face packs, etc. This can be used instead of Red gulal. Dry red hibiscus flowers in the shade and powder it to make a lovely red color. To increase the bulk add any flour to it, in proportion to the vibrancy of the color you want to obtain. Sinduria (Annato) has a water chestnut shaped fruit, which contains lovely brick color red seeds. These yield both dry and wet colors.

**Wet:** Put two teaspoons of Red Sandalwood powder in five litres of water and boil. Dilute with 20 litres of water. Peels of Red Pomegranate boiled in water give red.

Mix a pinch of lime powder (the one that we eat with our paan / betel leaves) in half a cup of water and add 2 table spoon of haldi (turmeric) powder in it. Mix it thoroughly. Use only after diluting with 10 litres of water.

Buras (*Rhododendron arboreum*) known as Burans in the Garhwal hills and Brand in the Kumaon hills of India gives a lovely red color when soaked in water overnight. The Palita Madar / Pangri / Indian Coral tree (*Erythrina indica*), found commonly in coastal regions, have large red flowers. Soak the flowers in water overnight.

Boil wood of Madder Tree in water for a deep red. Red color can also be obtained from juice of tomatoes and carrots. This can be diluted with sufficient quantity of water to remove the stickiness.

### **Garden Greens**

**Dry:** Use mehendi / henna powder (not mixed with amla) separately or mix with equal quantity of any flour to attain a lovely green shade. Dry mehendi will not leave color on your face as it can be easily brushed off. Only mehendi mixed in water might leave a slight color on your face. Many people like smearing other person's hair with colors. How about doing it with mehendi powder and saving a trip to the parlor? Dry and finely powder the leaves of Gulmohur tree for a green. Crush the tender leaves of the Wheat plant to obtain a natural safe green Holi color.

**Wet:** Mix two teaspoons of mehendi in one litre of water. Stir well. Green color can also be obtained by mixing a fine paste of leaves like spinach / palak, coriander / dhaniya, mint / pudina, etc. in water.

### **Marvelous Magentas**

**Wet:** Slice or grate one Beet root. Soak in 1 litre of water for a wonderful magenta. Leave overnight for a deeper shade. Dilute with water. Boil the peels of 10-15 onions in half litre of water for an orangish-pink color. Remove the peels before using to remove the smell.

### **Sparkling Saffrons**

**Wet:** The Flame of the Forest (*Butea monosperma*), known as Tesu, Palash or Dhak in Indian languages, is the source of the wonderful, traditional color for Holi. The flowers are soaked overnight in water and can also be boiled to obtain a fragrant yellowish orange colored water. Legends say Lord Krishna used to play Holi with Tesu flowers, which also have some medicinal properties. Boil flowers petals of Semul / Silk Cotton, a red variety of *Bombax ceiba*) in water. Both Tesu and Semul bloom during February-March.

Collect and dry the stalks of Harashringar / Parijatak (*Nyctanthes arbontristis*) flowers during the early winter season. Soak them in water to get a pleasant orange color.

Mix a pinch of sandalwood powder in 1 litre of water for an instant, beautiful and fragrant saffron color.

Soak a few stalks of Saffron / Kesar in 2 table spoons of water. Leave for few hours and grind to make a fine paste. Dilute with water for desired color strength. Though expensive, it is excellent for the skin.

### **Dazzling Yellows**

**Dry:** Mix two teaspoons of haldi / turmeric powder with double the quantity of besan (gram flour). Haldi and besan are extremely healthy for our skin, and are also used widely as a ubtan while taking bath. You can use the ordinary haldi or "kasturi" haldi which is very fragrant and has enhanced therapeutic effects. Besan can be substituted by wheat / rice / arrowroot flour or talcum powder.

Flowers like Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*), Marigold / Gainda (*Tagetes erecta*), and Yellow Chrysanthemums yield different shades of yellow. Dry the petals of these floweres in shade and crush them to obtain a fine powder. Take appropriate quantity of the powder and mix it with besan or use separately.

Dry the rind of the Bael fruit (*Aegle marmelos*) and grind to obtain a yellow colored powder.

**Wet:** Add one teaspoon of haldi to two litres of water and stir well. This can be boiled to increase the concentration of color and further diluted. Soak 50 marigold flowers in 2 litres of water. Boil and leave overnight.

### **Bright Blues**

**Dry:** Jacaranda flowers can be dried in the shade and ground to obtain a beautiful blue powder. The flowers bloom in summers. The blue Hibiscus (found in Kerala) can be dried and powdered.

**Wet:** Crush berries of the Indigo tree and add to water for desired color strength. In some Indigo species the leaves when boiled in water yield a rich blue.

The colorful festival of Holi is celebrated on Phalgun Purnima which comes in February end or early March. Holi festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of 'good' over 'bad'. The colorful festival bridges the social gap and renews sweet relationships. On this day, people hug and wish each other 'Happy Holi'. But unfortunately, in modern times Holi does not stand for all things beautiful. Like various other festivals, Holi

too has become ruthlessly commercialized, boisterous and yet another source of environmental degradation. To de-pollute Holi and make it in sync with nature, as it is supposed to be, several social and environmental groups are proposing a return to more organic ways of celebrating Holi.

The aim of this articles is to generate awareness amongst people about the various harmful effects around Holi celebrations and encourage people to celebrate an eco friendly Holi Organically!

**Please read on to know about the three main environmental concerns around Holi :**

- A. Harmful Effects of Chemical Colours
- B. The Holi Bonfire
- C. Watery Holi

**A. Harmful Effects of Chemical Colours:** In earlier times when festival celebrations were not so much commercialized Holi colors were prepared from the flowers of trees that blossomed during spring, such as the Indian Coral Tree (parijat) and the Flame of the Forest (Tesu), both of which have bright red flowers. These and several other blossoms provided the raw material from which the brilliant shades of Holi colors were made. Most of these trees also had medicinal properties and Holi colors prepared from them were actually beneficial to the skin.

Over the years, with the disappearance of trees in urban areas and greater stress for higher profits these organic colors came to be replaced by industrial dyes manufactured through chemical processes.

Around in 2001, two Delhi based environmental groups called *Toxics Link* and *Vatavaran*, did a study on all the three available categories of colors available in the market – pastes, dry colors and water colors. The study revealed that all of these three forms of chemical Holi colors are hazardous.

**a) Harmful Chemicals in Holi Paste type colors**

According to their researched fact sheet on Holi, the pastes contain very toxic chemicals that can have severe health effects. Please check the table below to know about the chemical used in various Holi colors and their harmful effects on human body.

Color	Chemical	Health Effects
Black	Lead oxide	Renal Failure
Green	Copper Sulphate	Eye Allergy, Puffiness and temporary blindness
Silver	Aluminium Bromide	Carcinogenic
Blue	Prussian Blue	Contract Dermatitis
Red	Mercury Sulphite	Highly toxic can cause skin cancer

(Source: Vatavaran)

**b) Harmful Chemicals in Gulal**

The dry colors, commonly known as gulals, have two components – a colourant that is toxic and a base which could be either asbestos or silica, both of which cause health problems. Heavy metals contained in the colourants can cause asthma, skin diseases and adversely affect the eyes.

**c) Harms of Wet Holi Colors**

Wet colors, mostly use Gentian violet as a colour concentrate which can cause skin dis-colouration and dermatitis.

These days, Holi colors are sold loosely, on the roads, by small traders who often do not know the source. Sometimes, the colors come in boxes that specifically say ‘For industrial use only’. These colors can have an adverse effect and can cause several skin related problems.

**Ways to Combat harmful effects Make your own Holi colors**

**i) Make Organic Colors in our Homes:**

Holi festival lovers will be glad to know that it is possible to make simple organic colors in one’s own kitchen. Here are some very simple recipes to make organic colors:

Color	Method of Preparation
Yellow	1) Mix turmeric (haldi) powder with chick pea flour (besan)

	2) Boil Marigold or Tesu flowers in water
Yellow liquid color	Soak peels of pomegranate (Anar) overnight.
Deep Pink	Slice a beetroot and soak in water
Orange – red paste	Henna leaves (mehndi) can be dried, powdered and mixed with water.

### ii) Purchase Organic Holi Colors

For those who do not have the time to make their own colors, there is the choice of buying organic Holi colors. Several groups are now producing and promoting such colours, although it is important to verify the ingredients of the colors and ensure you know enough about the source.

In Indore **Organic Sansar, M.S.B. IIB, 105, New Siyaganj, Ph. No. 0731-2530220** is promoting such colors.

### B. The Holi Bonfire:

The burning of fuel wood to create the bonfire for Holika Dahan presents another serious environmental problem. According to the facts of various studies done reveal that each bonfire uses around 100 kg of wood, and considering that approximately 30,000 bonfires are lit in the state just for one season, this leads to wastage of a staggering amount of wood.

Various Groups are now advocating one symbolic community fire, rather than several smaller bonfires across the city as a way to reduce wood consumption. Others are also suggesting that these fires be lit using waste material rather than wood.

### C. Watery Holi:

In the current situation, when most cities in India are facing acute water scarcity, the wasteful use of water during Holi, is also being questioned. It is common for people to douse each other with buckets of water during Holi, and children often resort to throwing water balloons at each other. The idea of a dry Holi seems alien at first, especially as the climate becomes warmer around Holi, and the water provides welcome relief from the heat. However, considering that in some urban areas, citizens can go without water for several days, it seems wasteful to use so much water simply for a celebration.

### Environmental Consciousness amongst People

The awareness about the environmental impacts of celebrating Holi is being brought to light by various NGOs. And gradually, more and more Indians are choosing to turn to a more organic and less wasteful way of playing Holi.



## **THREE POEMS**

**By: Rosalin Samantray**

### **A Plea for the unprivileged children**

Think like a father  
Their sufferings your heart will not be able to bear

Think like a mother  
You will hear their whispers even if they are not near

Think even better  
You can't find Him on the surface, dive deeper  
The line of yours or mine will soon disappear

Don't just be a thinker  
Walk little further and help a needy stranger  
Support His little angels to save their future.

### **Mother's day poem**

I breath in this world today because you took the pain;  
I am a part of you is my greatest gain;  
You give me the strength so anything I can sustain.

I feel the distance no matter how hard I maintain;  
The drops that fell on you are my tears, not the rain;  
I came so far away, I wonder what I want to attain.

But anywhere I live with me your love will always remain;  
You taught me to be humane for His blessings to obtain;  
Love is God at the end what I realize I have to retain.

### **A prayer**

I pray to You here and I pray to you there,  
Are you the same God here but a different Lord there;

You gave me the intellect so carefully I select,  
In one hand I must share what my other hand could collect;

Intense is my faith when you are in my every breath,  
Each hurdle melts like ice when I embrace it with strength;

Questions few I dare to ask, difficult becomes the task,  
Yet I prefer to stand alone in my path without wearing a mask.



## ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ସଂପର୍କ

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, ଡେପୁଟି, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟି ବାହାରକୁ ବଡ଼ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ଦିଶୁଥିଲା । ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ଚତୁର୍ପାର୍ଶ୍ଵରେ ଶୋଭା ପାଉଥିଲା ସଦ୍ୟ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତିତ ରଙ୍ଗଭରା କୃଷ୍ଣରୂପା ଫୁଲଗଛ ସବୁ । ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ଫାଟକଟିଏ ଥିଲା ଓ ଫାଟକର ଦୁଇପାର୍ଶ୍ଵରେ ଲଗାହୋଇଥିଲା ଗୋଲାପଗଛ । ଫାଟକଟିରେ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଅକ୍ଷରରେ “ସ୍ଵାଗତମ୍” ଲେଖାହୋଇଥିଲା ଓ ଦୁଇପାର୍ଶ୍ଵରେ ଦୁଇଟି ଲାସ୍ୟମୟୀ ନାରୀମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ସ୍ଥାପିତ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଯୋଡ଼ହସ୍ତରେ ‘ନମସ୍କାର’ ଢଳରେ ଠିଆ ହୋଇରହିଥିଲେ ।



ପ୍ରତିଭା ଆଗେଇଲା ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ଆଡ଼େ । ଏ କମନୀୟ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିକୁ ଦେଖିବାର ଓ ଏହାର ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିବାର ପ୍ରବଳ ଆଗ୍ରହ ତାର । ତେବେ ଫାଟକ ଖୋଲି ପଶୁପଶୁ ଧକ୍କା ଲାଗିଲା ଯେମିତି । ଏ କଣ?



ବାହାରକୁ ଏତେ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଦେଖା ଯାଉଥିବା ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିର ଭିତରଟା ଏତିକି ଅସନା, ନାନା ଅଳିଆ, ଆବର୍ଜନା ଭର୍ତ୍ତି । ସ୍ଥାନେ ସ୍ଥାନେ ବିଛୁଆତି ଓ ଅନାବନା ଗଛ ସବୁ ବଢ଼ି ପୁଲଗଛ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଲୁଚାଇଦେଇଛନ୍ତି । ଘାସ ଯେମିତିକି କଟା ହୋଇନି ଆଦିମ କାଳରୁ । ଇଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ନା ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ?

ହଠାତ୍ ହିସ୍‌ହିସ୍ ଶବ୍ଦ କରି ଗୋଟ ପାଖରେ କଣ ଗୋଟିଏ ସିରିସିରି ହୋଇ ଚାଲିଯିବା ଭଳି ଲାଗିଲା । ସାପ ନୁହେଁ ତ? ଡରିଗଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । “ଆସ୍ତ୍ରିକ, ଆସ୍ତ୍ରିକ” ସ୍ଵରଣ କରି ସେଇଠି ଠିଆ ହୋଇ ରହିଲା । ତେଜା, ପତଳା ହୋଇ ଲୋକ ଜଣେ ତା’ ପାଖକୁ ଆଗେଇ ଆସି ବାଟ ଓଗାଳି କହିଲେ, “ତମେ ଆଗକୁ ଯିବାର ସାହସ କରନି ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା ପଚାରିଲା, “କାହିଁକି? ମୋର ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିବାର ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ ଜାଣିବାର ପ୍ରବଳ ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା ।”

“କଣ ପାଇଁ ତୁମର ଏ ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା ?” – ସେ ବୃକ୍ଷ ଜଣକ ପଚାରିଲେ ।

“ଆପଣ କଣ ଏ ବଗିଚାର ଜଗୁଆଳି ?” – ପ୍ରତିଭା ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କଲା ।

“ମତେ ଏମିତି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ପଚାରିବାର ଆକ୍ଷର୍କ୍ଷା ଆଜି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ କେହି କରିନାହାନ୍ତି । ଜାଣିଛ ଏମିତି ଆକ୍ଷର୍କ୍ଷାର ପରିଣାମ ?” – ସେ ବୃକ୍ଷବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଜଣକ ପ୍ରବଳ ରାଗରେ ରକ୍ତମୁଖା ହୋଇଗଲେ ସତେକି!

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଡରିଗଲା । ତାପରେ ଭାବିଲା, ସିଏ ତ କିଛି ଭୁଲ୍ କରିନି । ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା ଆସିଲେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରିବାଟା କଣ ଭୁଲ୍ ? ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ନ ପଚାରି ସିଏ ଯାହା କହିଲା ସବୁ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିନେବା କଣ ଠିକ୍ ? ସିଏ ତ ବିଜ୍ଞାନର ଛାତ୍ରୀ । ଯେ କୌଣସି ବିଷୟରେ ପ୍ରକୃତ ଜ୍ଞାନ ଅର୍ଜନ କରିବାକୁ ହେଲେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ସେ ବିଷୟରେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ପଚାରିବା ହେଲା ଗବେଷଣାର ସୂତ୍ର ।

ବୃକ୍ଷ ଜଣକୁ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ଆଗେଇବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା ।

ବୃକ୍ଷଜଣକ ହିସ୍‌ହିସ୍ ଶବ୍ଦକରି ବକ୍‌ବକ୍ ହୋଇ କଣ ସବୁ ଗାଳିଦେବାରେ ଲାଗିଲେ ।

ହଠାତ୍ ଶୁଭିଲା ସୁନ୍ଦରର କୋଳାହଳ ଓ ହସ । କାନପାଟିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ଜଣେ ବାଳିକାର ସ୍ଵର ।

“ମା, ମୁଁ ଦୀପା ମାଉସୀ ସହିତ ଚିଡ଼ିଆଖାନା ଯିବି ।”

“ଯା, ହେଲେ ମାଉସୀକୁ ହଇରାଣ କରିବୁ ନାହିଁ । ଇଆତେ ସିଆତେ ଚାଲିଯିବୁନି ।” – ନାରୀ କଣ୍ଠର ସ୍ଵର ।

ସେ ନାରୀ ଜଣକ ପୁଣି କହିବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲେ, “ଆଛା ଦୀପା, ତୁ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ଚିଡ଼ିଆଖାନା ଯାଉଛୁ ଯଦି ଯା, ହେଲେ ଶୀଘ୍ର ଫେରି ଆସିବୁ । ଆଉ ହୁଁ, ଆମଘରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଆସି ରାତିଭୋଜନ କରିବ ।”

“ତମ ହାତରକ୍ଷା ଜହ୍ନିଆକୁ ପୋଷ୍ଟ ତରକାରୀ ମିଳିବ ତ?”

“ତୁ କହିଲୁଣି ଯଦି, ତୋ ପାଇଁ କରିବି ଷ୍ଟେଶାଲ୍ ।”

ତାପରେ ପୁଣି ହସର ସ୍ଵର ଭାସିଆସିଲା । ସ୍ନେହ, ମମତା ଓ ଆପଣାପଣର ଏ କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା ଶୁଣି ପ୍ରତିଭା ତନ୍ମୟ ହୋଇଗଲା ଓ ସେ ଦିଗକୁ ଯିବାକୁ ଚରତର ହେଲା । ଦୁଇପାଦ ଆଗେଇଛି କି ନାହିଁ, ଆଗରେ କିଏ ଜଣେ ଆସି ଆବିର୍ଭୂତ ହେଲା । ବାଘ ଭଳିଆ ଚେହେରା, ସେଥିରେ ପୁଣି ପିନ୍ଧିଥିଲା ପିଙ୍କା ବାଘରଙ୍ଗ ଲୁଙ୍ଗିଏ । ଘୋଡେଇ ହୋଇଥାଏ ଗୋଟିଏ ଅସନା କଳାରଙ୍ଗର ଚାଦର । ମୁହଁରେ ଦାଢି ବଢି ଲମ୍ବିଥାଏ ପେଟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ । ସେ ଲୋକଟି ପଚାରିଲା, “ତମେ କିଏ, କାହିଁକି ଆଗକୁ ଯାଉଛ ?”

“ମୁଁ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟି ବୁଲି ଦେଖିବାକୁ ଓ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିବାକୁ ଚାହେଁ ।” – ପ୍ରତିଭା ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଲା ।  
 “ମୁଁ ହିଁ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକ । କହ କଣ କହିବୁ ମତେ ।” – ସେ ବାଘ ଭଳି ଦିଶୁଥିବା ମଣିଷଟି କହିଲା ।

ପ୍ରତିଭାର ବିଶ୍ଵାସ ହେଲାନି । ଯଦିଓ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିରେ ସିଏ ଜଙ୍ଗଲର ପରିବେଶ ଦେଖୁଥିଲା, ତଥାପି ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକ ଭାବେ ଏମିତି ଏକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିକୁ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିପାରିଲାନି ତା ମନ ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା ପଚାରିଲା – “ଆପଣଙ୍କ ନାଁ କଣ ? ଆପଣ ମାଲିକ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରମାଣ କଣ?”

ଗର୍ଜନ କରି କହିଲା ସେ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି – “ମୋ ନାଁ ଜାଣିବାକୁ ଇଚ୍ଛା ତ, ତେବେ ଶୁଣ, ମୁଁ ହେଲି ନରସିଂହ ଦେବ । ମୁଁ ଯେ ତୋ ସାମନାରେ ଠିଆ ହୋଇ ତତେ ଏ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରୁଛି, ତୁ ସେଇଥିରୁ ବୁଝିପାରୁନାହିଁ; ମୋ ମାଲିକ ହେବାର ପ୍ରମାଣ ଖୋଜୁଛୁ ? ପ୍ରମାଣ ଅତିଶୀଘ୍ର ମିଳିଯିବ ।”

ଏମିତି କହି କଣ ଗୋଟିଏ ବିକଟାଳ ଶବ୍ଦ କଲା ସେ ନରସିଂହ ନାମଧାରୀ ମଣିଷଟା । ସାଙ୍ଗେସାଙ୍ଗେ ପାଞ୍ଚ ଜଣ ଅସୁର ଭଳି ଦିଶୁଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଆସି ହାଜର ହୋଇଗଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଥାଏ ଆଉ ଜଣେ ପୃଥୁଳକାୟୀ ନାରୀ । ସେମାନେ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଶି ବିକଟାଳ ଶବ୍ଦ କରି “ତମେ ଆଉ ଆଗେଇ ପାରିବନି” କହି ଗର୍ଜନ କରିବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲେ ।

ତରିଗଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ସେଇଠି ଠିଆ ହୋଇ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ମରଣ କରିବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲା । “କୁମ୍ଭୀରକୁ ମାରି ଗଜକୁ ରଖିଥିଲ ପ୍ରଭୁ, ହିରଣ୍ୟକଶିପୁକୁ ମାରି ପ୍ରହଲ୍ଲାଦକୁ ରାଜପଦ ଦେଇଛ; ଏ ମଣିଷ ରୂପୀ ଜନ୍ତୁମାନଙ୍କ କବଳରୁ ରକ୍ଷାକର ପ୍ରଭୁ ।”

ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ସତେ ଯେମିତି ଶୁଣିପାରିଲେ । କିଛି ଦୂରରେ ଦୃଶ୍ୟମାନ ହେଲେ ଜଣେ ସୌମ୍ୟ, ସୁଦର୍ଶନ ପୁରୁଷ ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଜଣେ ସୁଶ୍ରୀ ରମଣୀ, ହୁଏତ ତାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀ । ସେମାନେ ବଗିଚାର ପୁଲଗଛମାନଙ୍କୁ ତନତନ କରି ଦେଖୁଥିଲେ ଓ ସେ ଗଛମାନଙ୍କ ଚାରିପଟେ ବଢିଥିବା ଘାସକୁ କେମିତି କାଟି ସଫାକରିବେ, ସେ ନେଇ ଆଲୋଚନା କରୁଥିଲେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖିବାମାତ୍ରେ ନରସିଂହ ଓ ତାଙ୍କର ଅନୁଚରମାନେ ହଠାତ୍ ଉଭାନ ହୋଇଗଲେ । ବଗିଚାର ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ପାର୍ଶ୍ଵଟି ଯେମିତି ଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ ପରିଣତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି, ଅନ୍ଧାର, ଆବର୍ଜନା, ବିଛୁଆତି ଏବଂ ଅନାବନା ଗଛରେ ଭରା । ସେଇଦିଗକୁ ଦଉଡି ପଳାଇଗଲେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଓ ନିମିଷକ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଦ୍ଧାନ ହୋଇଗଲେ ।

ପ୍ରତିଭା ସେ ସୌମ୍ୟ ପୁରୁଷ ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିବାର ପ୍ରୟାସରେ ସେଇଦିଗରେ ଆଗେଇଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ସେ ଦୁଇଜଣ ଗଲେ କୁଆଡ଼େ ? ଏଇନେ ତ କିଛିଦୂରରେ କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା କରୁଥିଲେ ! ଏମିତି ଭାବୁଛି ତ, ସେ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଭିତରୁ ଶବ୍ଦ ହେଲା, “ତମେ ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ପାଦ ବି ଆଗେଇବାର ଦୁଃସାହସ କରନାହିଁ ।”

ଭୟ ପାଇଲା ପ୍ରତିଭା । ତଥାପି ତାର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ, “ତର କାହାକୁ, ଭୟ କାହାକୁ? ଠାକୁର ଅଛନ୍ତି ଚଉବାହାକୁ ।” ସେଇ ବିଶ୍ୱାସରେ ସାହସ ବାନ୍ଧି ପଚାରିଲା, “ଆପଣ କିଏ କହୁଛନ୍ତି, କେଉଁଠି ଅଛନ୍ତି; ମୁଁ ତ ଦେଖିପାରୁନାହିଁ ।”

“ଦେଖି ନ ପାରିଲେ କଣ ହେଲା? ମୋର ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱକୁ ଅସ୍ୱୀକାର କରନାହିଁ । ସେ ଯେଉଁ ନରସିଂହ ଓ ତାର ଅନୁଚରମାନଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିଲୁ, ସେମାନେ ସମସ୍ତେ ମୋର କ୍ରୀତଦାସ । ସେଇଥିରୁ ମୋର ଶକ୍ତିକୁ ବୁଝ ଓ ଏଠାରୁ ଯଥାଶୀଘ୍ର ପ୍ରସ୍ଥାନ କର ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଜମା ବି ଡରିଲାନି । ଯେଉଁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସାମନାକୁ ଆସି କଥା କହିବାକୁ ଡରୁଛି, ସେ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ନିଜର ଦୁର୍ବଳ । ତାକୁ କାହିଁକି ସିଏ ଡରିବ? ତାପରେ ଜଣାପଡ଼ୁଛି କିଛି ଦୂରରେ ବହୁତ ଭଲ, ସ୍ନେହୀ ଲୋକମାନେ ସବୁ ମେଳ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି । ସେମାନଙ୍କର ହସ, କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା ସବୁ ଶୁଭୁଥାଏ । ପବନରେ ସେ ଦିଗରୁ ଉଭୟ ଫୁଲର ସୁଗନ୍ଧ ଓ ଖାଦ୍ୟର ବାସ୍ନା ଆସୁଥାଏ ।

ସେ ଅଦୃଶ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ପୁଣି କହିଚାଲିଲା, “ତୁ ମତେ ଅବଜ୍ଞା କରି ଆହ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣା କରି ଆଗୋଉଛୁ । ଜାଣିଛୁ ଏହାର ପରିଣାମ ?”

ତଥାପି ପ୍ରତିଭା ଆଗେଇବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲା । ସେ ଅଦୃଶ୍ୟ ମଣିଷଟି ପୁଣି ବିକଟାଳ ଶବ୍ଦ କରି ଅସଭ୍ୟ ଭାଷାରେ ଗାଳିଦେବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲା । ସେ ଗାଳି ସହିତ ମିଶିଯାଇଥିଲା ସର୍ପ ଭଳି ଦିଶୁଥିବା ବୃକ୍ଷଙ୍କର ହିସ୍‌ହିସ୍ ଶବ୍ଦ, ବାଘ ଭଳି ଦିଶୁଥିବା ନରସିଂହ ଦେବର ବିକଟାଳ ରଡ଼ି ଓ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଅନୁଚର ମାନଙ୍କର କିଲିକିଲା ରାବ ।

ଏ କଣ? ପ୍ରତିଭା ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ କୁମାର । ସେମାନେ କଲେଜରେ ଏକାସାଙ୍ଗରେ ପଢୁଥିଲେ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ପଚାରିଲେ, “ପ୍ରତିଭା ତମେ ଏଠି ? ତମକୁ ଏଠି ଭେଟିବାର କଳ୍ପନା ବି କରିନଥିଲି ।”

“ମୁଁ ବି ତ ତମକୁ ଏଠି ଭେଟିବାର ଆଶା କରିନଥିଲି । ତମେ କଣ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକ ?”

“ନା! ନା! ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ମାଲିକ ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିବାହକ ହେଲେ ମୋର ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ନିରାକାର ଦାଶ । ସିଏ ଯେହେତୁ ବୃକ୍ଷ ହେଲେଣି, ସବୁ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ସମ୍ଭାଳି ପାରୁନାହାନ୍ତି । ତମେ ଦେଖୁଛ ତ ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିର ଗୋଟିଏ ପଟ କେମିତି ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ହୋଇଗଲାଣି । ସେଠି ଜଙ୍ଗଲର ଜନ୍ମ ବି ସବୁ ଆସି ରହିଲେଣି । ରାତିରେ ସେପଟେ ଯିବାକୁ ସାହସ ହୁଏନି । ମୋ

ଶୁଣୁର ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଜଣେ ଦକ୍ଷ ଉତ୍ତରାଧିକାରୀ ଚାହୁଁଛନ୍ତି, ଯିଏ କି ଏ ଜଙ୍ଗଲକୁ ସମ୍ପାଦନ କରି ଏ ବଗିଚାକୁ ଶତକଡ଼ା ଶହେ ଭାଗ ପୁଲ, ଫଳ ଭରା ଉଦ୍ୟାନରେ ପରିଣତ କରାଇପାରିବ । ସେପଟେ କେତେ ସବୁ ପୁଲଗଛ ଲାଗିଥିଲା, କିନ୍ତୁ ଅନାବନା ଅରମା ଗଛ ସବୁ ମାଟି, ସେ ଭଲଗଛ ସବୁ ନଷ୍ଟ କରିଦେଲେ ।”

“ମୁଁ ତମ ଶୁଣୁରଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିପାରିବି ?”

“ନିଶ୍ଚୟ । ମୁଁ ତ ସେଇ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଦେବାକୁ ହିଁ ଯାଉଥିଲି । ତାପରେ ଏ ସତ୍ୟ ସାରା ଏଠି ମେଳା ଚାଲିଛି । ଆମ ପରିବାର ଲୋକ, ବନ୍ଧୁବାନ୍ଧବ ଓ ସାଙ୍ଗସାଥୀ ଲୋକ ସମସ୍ତେ ବି ଅଛନ୍ତି ।”

“ତାହେଲେ ତ ତମ ଶୁଣୁର ବଡ଼ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ଥିବେ । ଆଉ ତେବେ କେବେ ଆସିବି ।”

“ନା! ନା, ସେମିତି ଭାବନା । ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ମୋ ଶୁଣୁର ତମ ଭଳି ଜଣେ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦବିଜ୍ଞାନୀଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିଲେ ବହୁତ ଖୁସି ହେବେ । କାରଣ ଏ ଅନାବନା ଗଛ ଓ ପୁଲଗଛର ସଂପର୍କକୁ ନେଇ ତାଙ୍କର ଅନେକ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ । ପୁଲଗଛ ମାନଙ୍କୁ କେମିତି ଅନାବନା ଗଛମାନଙ୍କର କୁପ୍ରଭାବରୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିହେବ, ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟକୁ କେମିତି ସବୁବେଳେ ଅକ୍ଷୁଣ୍ଣ ରଖିହେବ, ସେ ନେଇ ତାଙ୍କର କେତେ ଯେ ଚିନ୍ତା । ତମେ ତ ଏ ବିଷୟରେ ନିପୁଣ ।”

ପ୍ରତିଭା ବହୁତ ଖୁସି ହେଲା । ଆଜି ସିଏ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିପାରିବ । “ଏ ମନ ଚାହୁଁଥାଏ ଯାହା, କାଳେ ପ୍ରାପତ ହୁଏ ତାହା ।” ତାର ବହୁବର୍ଷର ଗବେଷଣା ପରେ ସିଏ ବୁଝିଛି କେମିତି ଅନାବନା ଗଛର ବୃଦ୍ଧିକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରି ସୁନ୍ଦର ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟିଏ କରିହେବ; ପ୍ରତି ଗଛର ରକ୍ଷଣାବେକ୍ଷଣ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ସେ ଜାଣିଛି ଓ ସେ ଗଛଟିକୁ କେମିତି ପରିବେଶରେ ରଖିଲେ ତାର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବୃଦ୍ଧିପାଇବ, ସେ ବୁଝିଛି । ଆଜି ସେ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଦେବ ତାଙ୍କୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ପାଇଁ । ଉଦ୍ୟାନଟି ପରିଷ୍କାର ହୋଇଗଲେ ଆଉ ନା ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଥିବ, ନା ଥିବେ ଜଙ୍ଗଲର ସେ ଭୟଙ୍କର ଜୀବଜନ୍ତୁ ମାନେ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ କୁମାର ଆଗେ ଆଗେ ବାଟ କଢାଇ ନେଉଥିଲେ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ ଠିକ୍‌ରାସ୍ତା ଜାଣିଥିଲେ । ସେ ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଏତେ ଆବର୍ଜନା ନଥିଲା । ପୁଲର ବାସନାରେ ଭରିଯାଉଥିଲା ପ୍ରତିଭାର ସମଗ୍ର ନାସାରତ୍ନ । କେମିତି ଏକ ନୂଆ ଆକର୍ଷଣ! ନୂଆ ପ୍ରେରଣା । ଏମିତି ମନେ ହେଉଥିଲା କି ପ୍ରତିଭା ସହିତ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ସଂପର୍କ ବହୁତ ଗଭୀର; ହୁଏତ ସେ ଦିନେ ଏ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ତତ୍ତ୍ୱାବଧାରକ ହେବ ।

କାହିଁକି ଏ ଅନୁଭୂତି?

ପ୍ରତିଭା ଶ୍ରୀଜୟ କୁମାରଙ୍କ ପଛେପଛେ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରି ଚାଲୁଥିଲା ! .....କ୍ରମଶଃ