



OSA Newsletter

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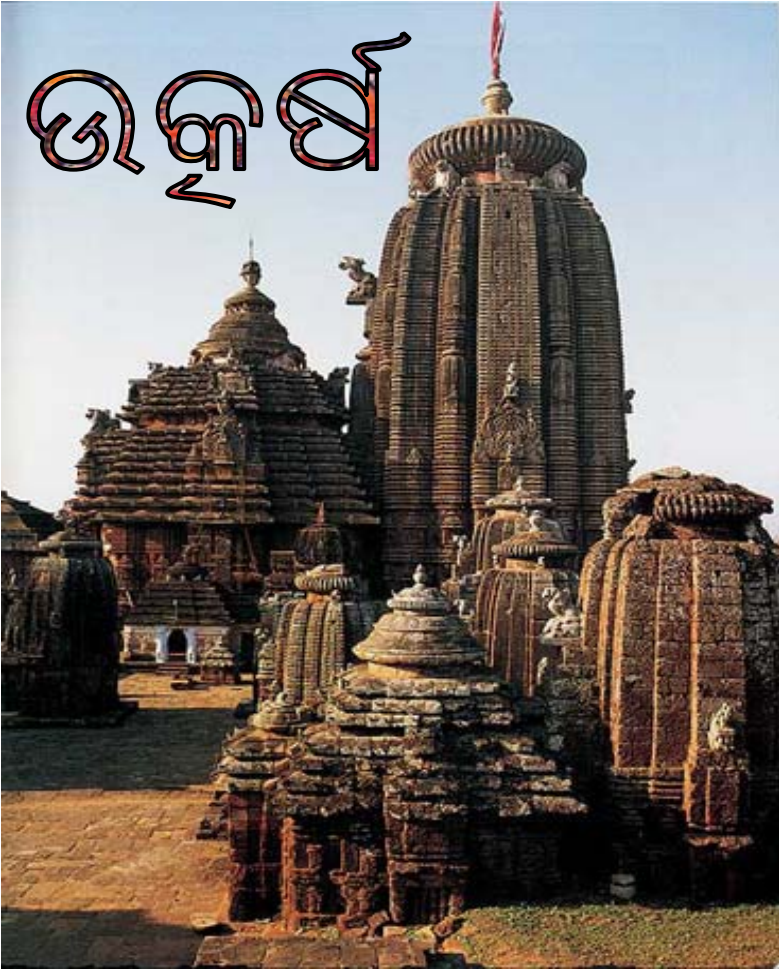
ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସମାଜର ତ୍ରେମାସିକ ପତ୍ରିକା

Issue No. 4 - <http://www.orissasociety.org>

Editor: Dr Bigyani Das

ପ୍ରିୟ ବନ୍ଧୁଗଣ,

ନମସ୍କାର । ଓସାର ତ୍ରେମାସିକ ମୁଖପତ୍ର ଉତ୍କର୍ଷର ସମ୍ପାଦିକା ଭାବେ ଓସାର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତା ମାନଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଯଦିଓ ଏହି ସଂଖ୍ୟାଟି ଉତ୍କର୍ଷର ଚତୁର୍ଥ ସଂଖ୍ୟା, ଓସାର ସଭ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ସଂଯୋଗ ସ୍ଥାପନ କରିବାର ଏ ଆମର ପ୍ରଥମ ଅବକାଶ । ଆଶା ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ, ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ମନୋପଯୋଗୀ ହୋଇପାରିବ । ଉତ୍କର୍ଷର ପୂର୍ବତନ ଓ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମସ୍ତ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ଓସାର ଗୃହପୁଷ୍ପରେ ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ କରି ରଖାଯିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି । ଓସାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟସୂଚୀ ଓ ଓସା ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ତ ସମ୍ବାଦ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଓସାର ଗୃହପୁଷ୍ପକୁ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ କରିବାକୁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ । ଆମେରିକା ଭୂମିରେ ବସନ୍ତର ଏ ଆଗମନୀ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନକୁ ମଧୁମଳୟର କ୍ଷଣରେ ରସାଣିତ କରିଦେଉ; ଏଇହିଁ କାମନା । - ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ



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

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- OSA Officers:**
- Dr. Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan (President)
 - Dr. Nivedita Mohanty (Vice President)
 - Mr. Hari Arjun Patro (Secretary/Treasurer)
 - Dr. Bigyani Das (Editor)

Working Together is Success (Editorial)

Bigyani Das

Friends, greetings and welcome to the first printed version of OSA Newsletter, Utkarsa. Although this is the fourth issue of Utkarsa, this is our first opportunity to build direct relationship with the OSA members through this printed version. All the issues of Utkarsa are (will be) available electronically from the OSA web page at <http://www.orissasociety.org/publication.html>. Please refer this page for newsletter related publication updates.

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success. Henry Ford once said this. When we visit Konark Temple of Orissa, Taj Mahal of Uttar Pradesh or Khajuraho of Madhya Pradesh, we see the proof of success stories. The artistic excellence is transformed into great monuments because people have worked together by complementing each other's expertise.



Friends, we all have come together as members of OSA to carry out the mission of OSA, to enhance the awareness of Orissa and Oriya traditions in North America through cultural promotion, social events and developmental activities. Most of us have stayed together and created a bond with OSA by becoming life members to support the activities of OSA. However, to carry out the missions of OSA successfully we all have to work together. Even if we differ on the exact procedures on carrying out this mission, we have to explore our common interests to move forward.

Working together does not mean to compromise personal ethics and working principles. The image of our society is reflected through our personal working principles. It is thus very important that we maintain high work ethics and transparency in all OSA related business.

Have you ever tried to lift a pan full of water in one hand? It is hard and difficult. But when both hands are used to do the same job, the work becomes easier. In the same manner, if we wish to bring success to OSA missions, more hands are needed to share the load and make the job easier.

In our dynamic and busy schedules we have very less time to devote for OSA. Unless we use this time

effectively, we cannot make any contribution. To make any positive contribution to OSA, our 90% of time should be spent on our own actions and the rest 10% can be spent on judging other's actions.

A person's best attitude is gratitude. We should be grateful that OSA founders have created this organization for us; which provides us a venue to come together and contribute for the enhancement of our culture, language and the heritage. Our duty is not to criticize them for what they were not able to achieve, but to congratulate them for what they achieved and at the same time focus on what we can achieve. It is not the time to ask the question why something was not done in the past, but to ask the question how something can be done now and in the future professionally and efficiently.

So friends, let us explore our common interests on which we can minimize our differences and maximize our productivity to work together and bring success to the missions of OSA. Please remember – Working Together is Success.

Announcements

Our OSA Theme: Working together is success

Member Opinion: Do you have suggestions for the betterment of OSA? Please contact OSA National Officers.

Errors in the Newsletter: There might be errors in the contents of this newsletter. If you trace any error, please let us know at bigyanidas@orissasociety.org. Thanks.

Errors in OSA Directory: We have found many errors in OSA 2003 directory. At places spouse names are added to unmarried people. Some people have some other people's residential addresses. The errors might be due to various reasons. Members are therefore requested to check their information in OSA 2003 directory and report any discrepancy to OSA secretary/treasurer and the membership committee.

Are you in OSA mailing list? OSA announcements are regularly made electronically using the OSA mailing list created by Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty. If you are a member and you don't get any announcements electronically, please contact Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty (jgmohanty@yahoo.com). If you know some members who do not get OSA announcements through email, please inform them to contact Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty.

Taking Decisions

Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan
April 1, 2004



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present the first printed version of our newsletter, Utkarsha. As usual, Bigyani has done a commendable job in putting the issue together. The newsletter contains the 2004 OSA convention package with registration information. I invite you to attend the convention, to be held at Dallas on the weekend of July 4. The convention organizers are working hard to make your visit the most memorable one. Please visit their web page at <http://www.osa2004.org/>.

The newsletter calls for nominations for various OSA awards to be presented during the convention. In addition to existing awards, the OSA Board of Governors (BOG) has approved two new awards starting this year. They are (1) Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award for development work in Orissa and (2) Yuva Kala Vikash Award for high-school students for promotion of Oriya arts, dance, music, and culture. We also invite high-school students to participate in the existing Young Oriya Award, which will recognize their voluntary services in North America. I thank the OSA Award committee consisting of Niranjana Mishra and Birendra Jena for developing the guidelines for these awards. A detailed description of the awards and nomination procedure are available at the OSA web page, <http://orissasociety.org/>. To view, click on left menu => awards.

As you may notice in the preliminary agenda, we have a long list of items for discussion in the upcoming General Body Meeting (GBM) during the convention. The financial situation of OSA will be an item for prime discussion in the GBM. OSA doesn't have enough income (besides life membership fees) even to print and mail newsletters to the members. We need to develop a sound policy on how to invest or spend the membership fees so that the expectation of the members can be met. Also, the constitution committee, consisting of Sitakantha Dash and Amiya Mohanty, has received a number of good suggestions for amending the

constitution. It is preparing a detailed proposal for constitutional amendments. We will first obtain approval of the OSA Board of Governors (BOG), and then mail it to you much ahead of the GBM. The current version of the OSA constitution, by-laws, and amendments, are available on the OSA web page <http://www.orissasociety.org/>, on the left menu => constitution.

We have raised a number of issues in this newsletter for your consideration. I like to receive your comments on these issues, and look forward to meeting you at Dallas.



Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan
OSA President
lbhuyan@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Chapter Events: Michigan chapter will celebrate Basant Utsav on April 25th. New Jersey chapter will celebrate Bisuva Sankranti on April 24. Check chapter news for chapter related information.

Oriya Festivals in April, May and June: Bisuba Sankranti (April 13), Chandana Purnima (May 4), Savitri Brata (May 18), Raja Sankranti (June 15).

Teachers Refresher Course in May, 2004: During the first week of May, 2004, Teachers Refresher Course will be organized in the Keonjhar district of Orissa by Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness (JOGA). For more information, visit <http://www.jogaworld.org>.

OSA Convention 2004: OSA Convention will be held in Dallas, Texas from July 2-4, 2004. Please check the convention web page at <http://www.osa2004.org>.

Utkarsa will be published quarterly. Current issue: No 4 - April 2004 Publication.

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

Note: Next issue of Utkarsa will be published in June 2004. Articles for this publication should reach the editorial staff before June 5, 2004.

CHAPTER NEWS



CANADA CHAPTER *(Reported by Hara Padhi)*

Members of 'Canosa' celebrated 'Kumar Utsav' in Nov 2003 at Toronto, with a shared perception of commitment to Oriya culture and values. The cultural programs presented by adults and children alike, were not only entertaining but also informative.

To begin well the program started with a devotional Aarti, to Lord Jaganath the almighty and was followed by many dance and dramas. The children presented a fabulous drama called "Narakaasura Sanghara", pinpointing victory of good over evil and the adults created an impression with a stage show called "Dwanda" or (dilemma) faced by new immigrants in an alien land. A tribal group dance, a series of Odissi dances, group singing by a few talented tint tots, film melodies from popular movies sung by enthusiastic singers, all made "Kumar Utsav" celebration a meaning success. The entertainment was followed by a good dinner.

The arrangement would not have been credible without the direct involvement of member volunteers whose input as producers, directors, and organizers on stage and off stage are commendable.

We look forward to many more such "get togethers", to strengthen the bond between the members of the Oriya community and create a sense of social responsibility, up warding our cultural values as reported by new members. Here is some good news for our community. Two of our young community members Loreeta Patnaik & Shovan Sahu got married on December 2003. This year five new young Oriya members are added to our community. Trankanta & Samilani Dhala blessed with a baby girl. Ranjan & Anjali Pradhan blessed with a girl (2nd daughter). Ramesh & Padmashree Baral blessed with a baby boy. Abhijoy & Itishree Misra blessed with a baby boy (2nd son). Prasad & Sarojini Rao blessed with a baby boy. Congratulations to everyone.



CHICAGO CHAPTER: *(Reported by Mrs. Ipsita Satpathy, President)*

The last few months have been very interesting for the Chicago Chapter. We had our new office bearers take office in September. The new team is working towards involving the younger generation in all activities and reaching out to other communities in the Chicago area to increase awareness of Orissa's rich cultural heritage. We are a growing community of 65-70 families in this area.

On October 10th 2003, we celebrated Kumar Purnima. This event was well attended by about 30 families from the Greater Chicago area. The children and adults presented a fabulous cultural program. A scrumptious feast arranged by Mrs.

Priyambada Nayak, Mrs. Anu Khandai, Mrs. Ajanta Jena and Mrs. Ratna Mishra followed it.

On November 8th, we had an Odissi Dance recital by Mr. and Mrs. Manoranjan Pradhan at Anderson Theater. The Chicago community was wowed by their impressive performance.

On November 15th we celebrated Deepavali. Mrs. Tiki Behera and Mrs. Timi Khuntia arranged the food. About 30 families attended it. The decorations consisted of cards and posters of "Subha Deepavali" written in Oriya by the students of the Chicago Oriya School.

On November 21st we had the honor to host the Governor of Orissa, His Excellency Mr. M. M. Rajendran. We had the opportunity to discuss with him the chief matter of interest to us, our involvement in Orissa and how we can contribute to the community. There was an informal discussion regarding involvement in the education and entrepreneurship front. The program started with a welcome address by the President, OSA to welcome the Governor and his family and the new Consulate General to the Indian Consulate, Chicago and his family. There was a short cultural program with two of our children Ankita Khandai and Suraj Pattnaik presenting an Odissi item and a Hindustani classical item respectively. Mr. Ashok Mishra presented a beautiful song about Orissa. This was followed by a reception.

On January 31st we celebrated Saraswati Puja at Chinmaya Mission, Chicago. Resident Swami Sharananandaji who hails from Orissa conducted the auspicious Puja. After the Puja there was cultural program with bhajans and shlokas by Simron Sahu, Suraj Pattnaik, Shivansh Padhy, Mrs. Sujata Pattnaik, Mrs. Donna Padhy, Mr. Radhagobinda Mohanty and Mrs. Chhabi Mohanty. Jyoti Mishra and Ankita Khandai performed Odissi dance. They are senior students of Mrs. Ipsita Satpathy. The students from the Chicago Oriya School performed a dance drama "Kanchi Abhijan" directed by Mrs. Ipsita Satpathy. Food coordinators Mrs. Bibina Mohanty, Mrs. Sujata Pattnaik and Mrs. Bharati Khuntia arranged the excellent food.

The Chicago Chapter in association with SANDYP has been responsible in building of a multi-purpose shelter project in Patasara, Jagatsingpur. Honorable Chief Minister of Orissa, Mr. Naveen Pattnaik inaugurated this on Feb 21st, 2004. Our community is proud to be instrumental in initiating and successfully completing the project under Mrs. Minakhi Panigrahy (President, OSA Chicago 2001-2003). A few other developmental projects that were initiated with other organizations in Orissa by the Chicago chapter are in various stages of completion.

Forthcoming events:

This year's summer picnic is being planned for sometime in August. To give the ladies in our community a break from

cooking delicious Oriya food, the men have stepped forward to arrange the food for the picnic and the next Puja.



MICHIGAN CHAPTER (Reported by Rina Mahapatra, President)

MI_OSA celebrated Saraswati Puja at TROY, Michigan. It was a huge success. We had a gathering of about 50 families. Our Puja was performed by Jogesh Panda. Krishna Senapati helped Jogesh with all puja Samagri. The decoration was done by Smriti Panda. We had "Khadi Chuan" for some children. We had some story telling, coloring book, word puzzle about Ma Saraswati for our children. Lot of our members volunteered for food; which was delicious as usual. Participation of most of our members made this event successful and fun. I am attaching couple of pictures from our Saraswati Puja with this report.



We are planning BASANTA UTSAV on April 25th at WESTLAND, Michigan. We are planning to have lot of games and fun. Thanking you - Rina Mahapatra, President, MI-OSA.



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER (Reported by Nageswar Prusty, President and Sameer Mishra, Cultural Secretary)

OSA New Jersey chapter observed Saraswati Puja on 31st January 2004 at Dr Mohan Rao Kintali's residence. OSA New Jersey chapter has been performing Saraswati Puja celebration at his residence for last nineteen years. Dr Akhileswar Patel performed the Puja. OSA NJ family members and children chanted slokas, sang Bhajans. Tentative dates for the upcoming functions (Bisuva Milan, Picnic, Ganesh Puja and Kumar Purnima) for the whole year was decided after Puja. OSA NJ is planning to observe Bisuva Sankranti on 24th April 2004.



NEW YORK CHAPTER (Reported by Pradip Tripathy, OSANY Management Team Representative)

SARASWATI PUJA, 2004: A bird's eye view: On the auspicious day of Basant Panchami, Jan 25, 2004, OSANY organized Saraswati Puja, which was marked by a large congregation, a plethora of cultural activities and overall, a highly spirited group environment. After a new set of volunteers took charge of OSANY in Oct. 2003, Saraswati Puja, 2004 has been the first event conducted by this new

group. Being held in a traditional temple venue (Ved Mandir, NJ), OSANY experienced a huge gathering of 141 adults and 79 kids belonging to 75 families. Abiding by the temple rules, the decoration was simple but well done to give the feeling of a traditional puja environment like back home in Orissa. Sri Pitambar Sarangi performed the puja, which emphasized devotion to the Goddess Saraswati, the true essence of the day.

The OSANY cultural team pulled together some well organized set of activities which included crayon painting, essay writing for the children, a quiz competition open to all, Bhajans for adults, a children's skit, and several other group and individual dances and musical performances by the kids.

As the organization was expecting a good number of attendees, given the wide varieties of choices, almost everybody appreciated the catered food and arrangements. The food management team did a praise worthy job managing such a big number of attendees within the constraints of a small lunchroom. The hot tea that was omnipresent right from the beginning to the end of the day when the weather outside was frigid and hostile did wonders to the spirit. With this kind of exuberant support from the members, OSANY hopes to have several such successful events going forward this year. For details visit: www.osany.org.

Oriya News and Music on the air waves: Utkal Prabha was inaugurated on Feb 21st, 2004. It is aired every Saturday at 11:00 AM on EBC Radio Channel **1680AM**. This is definitely not the first time we have had an Oriya Radio program amidst our community here but this hopefully will provide a new flavor to entertainment and enlighten the young and the not so young alike. The program hopes to play both old and nostalgic tunes as well as the latest new Oriya tunes and film songs (along with Oriya Bhajans for all occasions). Listeners will get to hear weekly news updates and interesting facts and figures about our homeland that they may have missed or forgotten. We plan to interview distinguished Oriya guests on the Radio program as often as opportunity presents itself. The broadcasts are going to be primarily in Oriya with a smattering of English (for the benefit of the young generation) with the phone lines open to suggestions and questions from the listeners. Utkal Prabha is being supported and guided by a team of young people including the two compeer's for the show (Aruna and Prachi as they are known on the radio show) as well as some benevolent sponsors.

This program can be heard from anywhere through web site www.ebcmusic.com. OSANY hopes to have the support of an enthusiastic group of listeners and sponsors to make this an effective Oriya socio-cultural medium. More Details at: www.osany.org. For Program specific emails: utkalprabha@osany.org.

OSANY Eye Camp event in Orissa: With the support of the good people at **Sri Borda Eye Institute and Research center, Bhubaneswar**" OSANY recently conducted the first Eye Camp of the year at the Village Mangalpur, Kusupanga, in Dhenkanal district, Orissa. The camp was open to all people

of nearby villages. 110 people from 10 villages attended the screening and checkup camp.

Cataract surgery was successfully performed for 19 people (10 male and 9 female). Laser eye surgery techniques were used for these operations resulting in no stitches and infections. All the medicines and lenses needed for distributed free of cost to all the treated patients. Patient details, photographs, letter from Hospital are available on our web site www.osany.org.

Mainly the poor and the needy people benefited from this project. As a pilot project the intention was to workout the details of how to go about setting up these Eye Camps.

OSANY is now in a position to:

1. Help organize and conduct an eye camp at your preferred location/village anywhere in Orissa, with a donation of \$500 or more (All expenses for Unlimited screening and 40 surgeries).
2. You can also donate \$20 (all expenses included) for one person one eye cataract operation (Laser based). OSANY will provide the details of the patient(s) benefited from your kind

donation. We encourage you to contribute generously towards this project. For details email: info@osany.org.



OHIO CHAPTER (*Reported by Birendra Jena, President*)

Upcoming Events:

Ratha Yatra: Sunday July 11, 2004.

Bahuda Yatra: July 18, 2004.

Venue: Shiva Vishnu Temple, 7733 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio. (www.shivavishnutemple.org)

For past several years the celebration of Ratha Yatra of Lord Jagannath has become a major attraction at Shiva Vishnu temple. For more information please contact Birendra Jena [jena-1@att.worldnet.net, (330) 494-2618].

Summer Picnic: August 21, 2004.

Venue: Alum Creek State Park (near Columbus).

For more information please contact Saswat Mohapatra [s_mohapatra@yahoo.com, (614) 763-6868] or Birendra Jena [jena-1@att.worldnet.net, (330) 594-2618].

Orissa Educational Activities – An Update and Appeal

Sukant K. Mohapatra and Rabi N. Mahapatra

The FFE Story By Sandip K. Dasverma, FFE Coordinator

Foundation For Excellence (FFE) is known by its acronym more widely than it's full name. FFE was started by Er. Prabhu Goel of Silicon Valley, CA from his own money. Later Mr. Kanwal Rekhi and many others have joined FFE it's board of Directors and donor list. Following are the quick facts about FFE.

Mission: *To transform the lives of academically brilliant and financially needy students in India.*

Program: Providing scholarships for studies in high school, diploma, college, professional and post-graduate courses to students who meet academic excellence and family income criteria. Scholarships are awarded on annual basis; renewal is based on student's continued academic excellence and financial need.

Process: US based volunteers (coordinators) identify volunteers in India (facilitators). Facilitators identify eligible students and assist them in submitting applications. Scholarship checks sent to facilitators for distribution to approved students.

Scholarship Amounts: Ranges from \$100 to \$125 per year per student for high school studies to \$450 to \$500 per year per student for engineering, technology, medical and health science studies. Over a 6-year period, around \$2,000 is provided to each eligible student.

Accomplishments: Since inception in 1994 to date, 11,500 scholarships have been awarded to 6,500 students for \$2.25 million. 40% were awarded to girl students. More than 1,000 students have completed their education with FFE's aid.

FFE Activities in Orissa:

- **Scholarships Awarded (1998 – 2004) to Students in Orissa:** Since 1998 to 2004, total amount of scholarship awarded to student in Orissa is \$67,000. To date 17 students from Orissa have completed their Engineering, Medical or B.V.Sc and AH studies with FFE scholarships.
- **This Year (2003-2004) Accomplishments:** To this date 160 scholarships worth Rs. 1,208,780.00 have been sanctioned to FFE scholars from Orissa, which includes 47 renewals. Count is expected to go up to 164. Oriya community of Bay Area has significantly helped in this regard with 17 out of 24 total coordinators from Orissa and raising nearly \$4000 this year. A special initiative taken this year has resulted in practically 250% increase in scholars and tripling of coordinators and facilitators each.
- **Number of Coordinators from Orissa:** 24
- **Number of Facilitators in Orissa:** Currently there are 64 facilitators from Orissa. 13 districts: Jharsugda, Bargarh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Nuapada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Kandhamal, Boudh, Gajapati, Keonjhar and

Deogarh do not have any facilitators. People volunteering as facilitators, specifically from un-represented districts will be highly appreciated.

Sri Purna Mohanty of Bay Area has contributed significantly with time and effort to bring this to fruition. Sujata Das and her husband V. Nagbhusan, needs special mention though there are many others who have silently contributed, their might and mite. In India, Sri Subhas Chandra Choudhury has been the super facilitator and star organizer but for whose help and dedication these FFE efforts of this scale would not have been possible. Dr. Swadhin Pattanayak, Director, Math Institute, BBSR and his wife Dr. Sumitra Patel, deserve special thanks for their help and support. Efforts of Sri Sadashiv Mohanty, Sri Iswar Rout, Ms. Nita Das, Ms. Mamta Sahoo and others have been commendable. Sri Manaswi Sahoo deserves special mention for his commendable work in spreading FFE message in Western Orissa. Sri N. K. Sahoo of Boston has shown exemplary initiative and enthusiasm, which needs special mention. Many others have helped in various ways but have not been mentioned here for want of space.

Donate to FFE: *Sponsor the education of an academically bright and financially needy student. Donate any amount in lump sum or recurring payments, by check or credit card. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with the provisions of the IRS, USA.*

Volunteer: *Join FFE's team to build and enhance FFE's visibility in the community. Make an impact on FFE's future direction and growth. Help in scholarship program implementation, marketing, and community outreach and fund raising activities.*

For information, please contact:

Suresh Seshan, Executive Director, 1850 Warburton Ave., Suite 201, Santa Clara, CA 95050-4111.

Tel: (408) 985 2001; Fax: (408) 985 2003; Or. S. K. Dasverma 509-371-1286; Website: www.ffe.org

An Effort for Establishment of an IIT in Orissa

In the backdrop of OSA development seminar organized on December 24, 2003 at Bhubaneswar, a few NROs and OSA volunteers met Dr. Damaodar Acharya, Vice Chancellor, Biju Patnaik Technological University, Rourkela and Orissa government officials in an effort to potentially establish an IIT in Orissa. This is in response to Govt. of India's recent announcement for establishment of five IITs in the country. Since govt. of India is tentatively planning to upgrade existing institutes to IIT, following institutes in Orissa are proposed for upgrading to IIT: College of Engineering Technology (CET), Bhubaneswar, University College of Engineering (UCE), Burla, and National Institute of Technology (NIT – formerly REC), Rourkela for govt. of India consideration. The effort is currently led and coordinated by Prof. Damodar Acharya with active support from NRO community members. Many of the NRO community members from academics and industries (particularly from North America) have pledged their support including providing letter of commitment on proposal for establishment of an IIT in our home state of Orissa.

IT Olympiad – Organized by Orissa Information Technology Society (OITS)

In an effort to spread and popularize information technology (IT) in Orissa, in addition to many other activities, Orissa Information Technology Society (OITS) conducts annual IT Olympiad for senior (MCA, BE, B.Sc.(Eng) and B.Sc.(hons)) and junior (upto class XII) level students in Orissa. This year IT Olympiad was held on 7th September 2003 with participation of students from all over Orissa. The IT Olympiad prize distribution function was held on 18th January 2004 with Bikramjit Maitra, Head, Infosys Centre at Bhubaneswar, as chief guest. For additional detail information 2003 IT Olympiad please visit <http://www.oits.org/olympiad/results03.html>, at OITS cyber home.

Many NROs are active members/supporters of OITS. In December 2003, OSA contributed about \$900 for OITS activities. Funds were primarily raised through personal contribution of non-resident Oriyas in North America. OITS cyber home is at: www.oits.org.

An Appeal to Adopt a School in Orissa

Adopt Your Alma Mater and Make it Your Dream School: The school system in Orissa is presently not in a good state. Due to lack of infrastructure and resource, the quality of education, and the achievement of the students in the state are going down. The separation of community from the schools over the last decades has been one of the main reasons for the present state of affairs. The Government of Orissa also realized that it does not have resources needed to develop the desired quality education. Therefore, Orissa Government has notified the School Adoption Program in 2001, under which, Individuals and Corporate can take-up various types of works in the schools viz., Laboratory, Library, Computer Center or develop the School as a whole by signing an agreement with the Director of Education.

All the Non-Resident Oriyas are requested to adopt their Alma Mater, the school in which they studied and set-up an IT / Computer Center in that school. This would bridge the digital divide and also make an impact in changing the mindset of the Teachers, Local Community and Students. The details on adopt a school program and contact information can be found at education committee page of OSA website: www.orissasociety.org.

World Links Can Support Your Dream School: World Links is a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington DC, with operations in 26 developing countries across the world. World Links, which started as an initiative of the President of the World Bank in 1997, is today a global learning network linking thousands of teachers and students on the Internet. The core "value-added" of World Links is its training program, designed to help teachers and students learn to use information and communication technologies (particularly the Internet) to improve teaching and learning. The World Links program continues to support teachers for three to four years building on the skill levels learnt and adapted in classroom teaching. World Links is also recognized as one of the most innovative and successful education programs assisting developing countries in bridging the "digital divide".

World Links India operations began in 2002 in 32 schools in two states. Today World Links operates in 105 schools spread in four states viz; Andhra, Karnataka, Delhi and Mumbai. All of World Links schools are the underserved government schools in rural districts. For additional detail and contact information, please visit education committee page of OSA website: www.orissasociety.org or www.worldlinksindia.org.

**Minutes of the Annual Symposium of the
Orissa Society of the Americas held on
24th December, 2003 at Hotel Swosti
Plaza, Bhubaneswar**

Dr Dhanada Mishra, Local organizer

OSA organized a symposium on Orissa's Development on December 24, 2003 at Swosti Hotel, Bhubaneswar. The chief minister Naveen Patnaik was the chief guest. Following is the minutes of the symposium. The complete report of the symposium is available at <http://www.orissasociety.org>.

1. The OSA Symposium, the first EVER annual symposium organised in Orissa by NROs was held on December 24th, Hotel Swosti Plaza, Bhubaneswar and inaugurated and addressed by the Chief Minister.

2. The intention to create awareness among our Oriya friends in Orissa and abroad that the Non-Resident Oriyas (NROs) are concerned about their motherland has been successful in a large measure. Some NROs are already involved in a number of development projects in Orissa and others are ready and willing to take up similar development projects in the state.

3. The Government of Orissa can assist and guide the NROs in planning and implementing many of these projects with or without financial aids from the government.

4. The Symposium proposed to involve the government officials as suggested by the Chief Minister's Office as guides and coordinators in the projects they take up in Orissa.

5. NROs would like to involve local press, NGOs and others, who can contribute to this symposium.

6. Though many points have been thrown up during the discussion the NROs would continue to receive the comments from everybody interested in Orissa's development including the government contacts and prepare tentative recommendations. Although OSA cannot direct any NRO to do particular projects, NROs hopes to collect lots of information from future symposia that will help them to plan their Orissa development projects in a better way.

7. The OSA requests the Chief Minister, as he has assured in his inaugural speech at the first ever Annual Symposium here, to create a Cell, or if possible a Department, that would work hand in hand with NROs in the Orissa Development Projects. This NRO Cell/Department should be able to directly report to the Chief Minister. The NROs will not be able to make frequent visits to Orissa to monitor the projects they take up and it would be the responsibility of the local NGOs and returning NROs to oversee the projects. To achieve this noble goal the synergistic efforts and cooperation of many are required.

8. This NRO Department, in collaboration with OSA, will conduct OSA Symposium (Oriya Pravasi Divas) every year in Orissa in which the development projects, plans and programs will be discussed openly. In these symposiums the NROs and local organizers will be recognized for their efforts in Orissa development.

9. The Cell/Department should be empowered to deal with proposals of the NROs under a single window system and facilitate implementation of any development project proposed by any NRO and cleared by the OSA. No time overrun should be tolerated.

10. Orissa Government should extend the opportunities to NROs to adopt schools, colleges and such others for

their development. OSA is making some sincere efforts thanks to the initiative of some NROs to take up the Orissa Development Project in a big way. But to achieve this, it needs the cooperation of the government as well as like-minded people in the state. The NROs will not be able to make frequent visits to Orissa to monitor the projects they take up and it will be the responsibility of the local NGOs and returning NROs to oversee the projects. To achieve this noble goal the synergistic efforts and cooperation of many are required.

The following list of issues was discussed with the Chief Secretary (CS) and the Chief Minister (CM):

1. Creation of an NRO Cell
2. Office and staff for NRO cell
3. Briefs (jobs) for NRO Cell
4. Specific immediate tasks/goals: e.g., IIT for Orissa - enlist NRO support enlist NRO support for promoting exports, tourism etc. policy level participation by prominent NROs, NRO day celebrations - recognition of achievements by NROs, Assisting in NRO investment related issues, returnee migrant's problems, dealing with corruption and harrasment etc.
5. Other Miscellaneous items

The NRO cell is already in existence with Mr. Tuhin K. Pandey, Spl. Secy (GA) as our point of contact. His email address is gadmin@ori.nic.in. He will be happy to help with any queries, problems etc. until the NRO center or equivalent comes in to being. I found him to be a thoughtful, motivated and committed officer under whose responsibility this initiative should do well.

Grassroots Asia (Activities in Orissa)

Debra A. Pennington, President, Treasurer, Executive Director

Grassroots Asia is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization that currently focused most of its efforts on Orissa. 100% of all donations go directly to the projects and there are no administrative fees. Debbie Pennington, founder and President, visits Orissa twice a year and both creates new projects as well as selects grassroots projects for development. Anyone who would like more information may contact her at 970.923.1700 or info@GrassrootsAsia.org. For more information on the organization you can also visit the website at www.GrassrootsAsia.org.

Currently Grassroots Asia has 100% of its budget in Orissa projects for the poor, mostly focused on basic care and education for children and the extremely

impoverished. Grassroots Asia is all volunteer and supports those doing selfless service work in Orissa. Following are some of the projects:

- Sradha Bhaban Rescue Home for Trafficked Children in Bhubaneswar will be launched in May 2004
- Hariharananda Balashrama in Pattamundai for orphans, the Suddhananda Vidyalyaya and the Integral Learning Center in Ichhapur (near Jagatsinghpur)
- Emergency Relief
- Medical and Dental Services
- India's "Sponsor-A-Cow Campaign"
- Small Business Loans & Grants

For description of the above projects please visit the site <http://www.grassrootsasia.org/projects.html>. Debbie can be reached at: Debbie Pennington; Grassroots Asia; P.O. Box 6750; Snowmass Village, CO 81615; Tel: 970.923.1700; email: info@grassrootsasia.org

CALL FOR NOMINATION FOR OSA AWARDS

Nominations are invited for the following awards to be distributed during the OSA convention during the July 4 weekend at Dallas, Texas.



1. **Distinguished Oriya Award**
2. **Kalashree Award**
3. **Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award (New)**
4. **Subrina Biswal Award**
5. **Yuva Kala Vikash Award (New)**
6. **Youth Volunteer Award**

Distinguished Oriya Award, Kalashree Award, and Subrina Biswal Award are the existing in OSA for a number of years. The title of Young Oriya Award has been changed to Youth Volunteer Award and the eligibility has been extended to between 15-35 years to include young OSA members who are involved in volunteer work in North American society. Two more new awards have been created starting this year. They are: Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das Award to recognize an OSA member for his outstanding contribution to Orissa in humanitarian and community service; and Yuva Kala Vikash Award to recognize a youth for his/her contribution to promotion of Oriya culture, literature, arts, music, dance etc in North America. The nominee for the second award must be a High School student/ graduating High School student.

Congratulations to Biplab Panda, Atlanta, Georgia

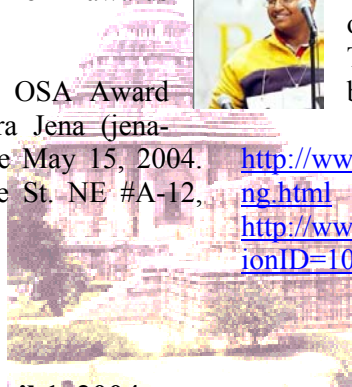
Further information and details regarding the nomination process are contained in <http://www.orissasociety.org/>. Click on awards menu.



Congratulations to Biplab for winning the Georgia spelling bee contest. Biplab is the son of Dillip and Smita panda of Atlanta, Georgia. The complete article on Biplab's victory can be found at the following sites:

Please send your nomination to the OSA Award Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Birendra Jena (jena-1@att.net) Tel: (330) 494-2618 before May 15, 2004. His postal address is 175 Applegrove St. NE #A-12, North Canton, OH 44720.

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/0304/20spelling.html>
<http://www.gae.org/releases.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=109&DocumentID=798>



Secretary/Treasurer's Report, April 1, 2004 Hari Arjun Patro

Income:

Opening Balance	\$534.00
Donation Received	\$199.23
OSA Fees from NJ 2003 Convention	\$2453.00
NJ 2003 Convention Annual Membership	\$1140.00
Other Annual Membership	\$50.00
Total	\$4,376.64

Expense:

Paid to IPAP, Washington DC	\$1000.00
Hosting Server	\$100.00
Mailing to OSA Journal	\$430.65
Cash Advance for Dallas OSA convention 2004	\$1000.00
Total	\$2,530.65

Projected Expenses Before July 4, 2004:

Travel cost for OSA Chief Guest for 2004 convention:	\$500.00
Newsletter Printing and Postage:	\$1000.00
OSA Awards	\$500.00

Life Membership Collection since July 2003:

Benefactor:	\$1600.00
Patron	\$3500.00
Life	\$7995.21
Total	\$13,095.21

For Kids

April is a special month for Orissa as Orissa got its identity on this day. Below is the song in the honor of mother Orissa, which was identified as Utkala before. The transliterated version is provided for the children.

Note: Kids, please ask your parents to understand the meaning of words used in this song.

Bande Utkala Janani

Bande UtkaLa JananI, Bande Utkala JananI,
 Bande Utkala jananI
 chAru hAsyamayI, chAru lAsyamayI,
 jananI, jananI, jananI |pada|

puta payodhi bidhouta sarIra
 tALa tamALa susobhita tira
 subhra taTinI kuLa sikara samIra
 jananI, jananI, jananI |1|

ghana ghana banabhumi rAjita ange
 niLa bhudara mALA sAje tarange
 kaLa kaLa mukharita chAru bihange
 jananI, jananI, jananI
 bande utkaLa jananI |2|

sundara sALi sosobhita khYetra
 gyAna bigyAna pradarsita netra
 jogi rushigaNa uTaja pabitra
 jananI, jananI, jananI |3|

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR GENERAL BODY MEETING OSA CONVENTION 2004

(a) OSA Organizational Issues:

1. President's Report – Activities and Future plans
2. Creation of position of Secretary to handle membership, Convention, and NRO cell
3. Distribution of duties to Vice President, such as awards and culture
4. OSA membership requirement for chapter presidents, information update, and distribution of souvenirs
5. ?

(b) OSA Financial Issues

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Increasing fees for patrons to \$600
3. E-mail approval from Executive council for expense over \$500
4. OSA Budget – Expected income, expense, benefit to members
5. OSA Fixed deposit and investment
6. Tax-free status for chapters
7. ?

(c) Orissa Activities

1. OSA Symposium on Orissa Development, Dec 2005
2. Organization of the NRO Cell
3. ?

April Special

April is a special month in Orissa's history. To commemorate this special month we have a special column "Mu Utkaliya" or Utkala pride, in which two of our OSA life members express themselves through Oriya poetry why they are proud of being Utkaliya. We also have another column on Hori Memories (Horira Smrutire). Hori is a colorful festival of India which is celebrated in March. Oriya community in Washington DC celebrated Holi on March 6th. Michigan Oriya community is celebrating this festival of color as Basant Utsav on April 25, 2004. Thus, I hope the above two columns will be enjoyed by our OSA members.

ହୋରିର ସ୍ମୃତିରେ

ମାରନା ମାରନା ରଙ୍ଗ ଅବିର ଶ୍ୟାମନାଗର
ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, କଲମ୍ବିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ
(ରାଗ - କାଫି)

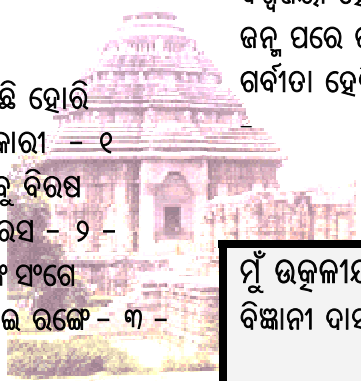


ମାରନା ମାରନା ରଙ୍ଗ ଅବିର, ଶ୍ୟାମନାଗର
ପିନ୍ଧାବାସ ଯାଏ ଭିଜି ସେ ଅବିର ରଙ୍ଗେ ମୋର ।ପଦା

ଲୀଳାନିଧି ତୁମେ ସିନା, କରୁଛ କେତେ ବାହାନା
ପ୍ରେମ ରଙ୍ଗେ ରଙ୍ଗାଇଛ ଏ ସାରା ଗୋପନଗର ।୧।
ବଡ଼ଶୀ ପରାୟ ଠାଣି, ମନମାନ ନିଏ କିଣି
ସେ ଶୋଭନ ଦରହାସ କରିଲା କିବା ମନ୍ତ୍ର ।୨।
ମୋହନ ମୁରତି ଛଇ, ଫଗୁ ରଙ୍ଗେ ମହକଇ
ଆଖି ରହିଯାଏ ଲାଖି ଦେଖି ସେ ବେଶମଞ୍ଜୁଳ ।୩।
ଅବିର ବୋଲା ଶ୍ରୀଅଙ୍ଗ, ସୁଷମ ଠାଣି ତିଭଙ୍ଗ
ଅଙ୍ଗେ ଅଙ୍ଗେ ରଙ୍ଗ ଭରେ ମଧୁର ମୁରଲୀ ସ୍ଵର ।୪।

**ଆସିଛି ହୋରି
ଶାନ୍ତିଲତା ମିଶ୍ର, ରୋଚେଞ୍ଚର**

ହସ ଖୁସି ନେଇ ସାଥରେ, ବରଷକ ପରେ ଆସିଛି ହୋରି
ନାଲି, ନେଲି, ସବୁଜ ରଙ୍ଗେ, ସଜାଇ ଦିଅ ପିତକାରୀ - ୧ -
ରଙ୍ଗି ଯାଉ ମନ ସବୁରି, ଧୋଇ ହୋଇ ଯାଉ ସବୁ ବିରଷ
ହଜାର ରଙ୍ଗରେ ରଙ୍ଗିଯାଉ ଏ ଜୀବନ ହୋଇ ସରସ - ୨ -
ଖେଳୁ ଥିଲେ କୃଷ୍ଣ ଯେପରି ରାଧା, ଗୋପାଳନାଙ୍କ ସଂଗେ
ସେହିପରି ଆସ ଖେଳିବା ମନ ସାଥେ ମନ ମିଳାଇ ରଙ୍ଗେ - ୩ -
(ଏ ଦୂର ଦେଶରେ)
ଏକତ୍ରତ କରି ରଖିଛି ଆମକୁ ଏଇ ପର୍ବ ପର୍ବାଣୀ
ବାଦ୍ ଦେଇ ଦେଲେ ଏ ସବୁ ମୂଲ୍ୟ ହୀନ ଜୀବନର ସରଣୀ - ୪ -
ତାଲ ସଜାଇବା ରଙ୍ଗରେ ଘର ଦ୍ଵାର ଆଉ ବାଟ, ଅଗଣା
ଆଜି ଏ ହୋରିର ଖୁସିରେ ପରସ୍ପରେ ଦେଇ ଶୁଭକାମନା



ମୁଁ ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ



**ହେ ମୋର ଉତ୍କଳ
ଶାନ୍ତି ଲତା ମିଶ୍ର, ରୋଚେଞ୍ଚର**

ତୋ ପରି ବୀରା ରମଣୀର, ସନ୍ତାନ ହେବକୁ ମନ ବ୍ୟାକୁଳ
ତତେ ପ୍ରଣମୁଛି ଲକ୍ଷେ ଯୋଜନ ଦୂରତାରୁ, ହେ ମୋର ଉତ୍କଳ - ୧ -
କେତେ ଜନ୍ମ ତପସ୍ୟାରୁ ପାଇଲି ତୋ କୋଳେ ସ୍ଥାନ
ଜନ୍ମ ଜନ୍ମନ୍ତରେ ତୋ ପଦ ସେବା କରିବାକୁ ମୋ ମନ - ୨ -
ତୋର ସେ ଅନିନ୍ଦ୍ୟ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସବୁରି ମନ ମୁଗ୍ଧ କରଇ
ତୋର ସେ କରୁଣା ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ଦର୍ଶନେ ପାପ ସବୁ ଦୂର ହୁଅଇ - ୩ -
କେତେ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସାଇତି ରଖିଛୁ ତୋ ସନ୍ତାନମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ
ଚିଲିକା ଠାରୁ କପିଳାସ ଯାଏ ପ୍ରସରି ଯାଇଛି ତୋ କୃପାନଳ - ୪ -
ବୀରିପଦା ଠାରୁ ବାରଙ୍ଗ କେତେ ସେ ସୁନେଲି ରଙ୍ଗେ ଭରା

ତୋର ସେ ସ୍ନେହର ପରଶେ ସବୁ ତ ଦିଶେ ଶ୍ୟାମଳା - ୫ -
ଦେ ମା ଭରି ଶୁଭାଶିଷ ତୋ ଅଗଣିତ ସନ୍ତାନ ଗଣେ
ବିଶ୍ଵଜୟୀ ହୋଇ ତୋ କୋଳେ ସର୍ବେ ଫେରନ୍ତୁ ହରଷ ମନେ - ୬ -
ଜନ୍ମ ପରେ ଜନ୍ମ ନେଲେ ବି ତୋ ଘର ହେଉ ମୋର ନିଳୟ
ଗର୍ବୀତା ହେବି, ସୌଭାଗ୍ୟ ମଣିବି ହେବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଜଣେ ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ - ୭

**ମୁଁ ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ
ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, କଲମ୍ପିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ**



ମୁଁ ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ, ନୀଳାଚଳ ନେତ, କୋଣାରକ ବୃତ୍ତା
ମୁଁ ନନ୍ଦିଘୋଷ, ଧଉଳି ପାହାଡ଼, କପିଳାସ ବେଢା । ୧।
ମୁଁ ବାରବାଟୀ, ଶୌର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟର ସମୁଦ୍ଵଳ କୀର୍ତ୍ତି
ମୁଁ ରତ୍ନଗିରି, ମଣ୍ଡିତ ମୋ ଦେହେ ରତ୍ନ କଳାକୃତି । ୨।
ମୁଁ ଉପଇନ୍ଦ୍ର, କାବ୍ୟ କବିତାର ଅଳଙ୍କାର ଛନ୍ଦ
ମୁଁ ଦେବଦାସୀ, ନୂପୁରରେ ମୋର ପାଶପୁଞ୍ଜ ଗନ୍ଧ । ୩।
ମୁଁ ତାରକସି, ଦିବ୍ୟ ରୁପଛଟା, ଅମଳିନ ଜ୍ୟୋତି
ମୁଁ ପଟ୍ଟଚିତ୍ର, ଅମିତ ରଙ୍ଗର ଚିତ୍ରିତ ଆକୃତି । ୪।
ମୁଁ ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ, ପତି ତନ୍ତ୍ରୀରେ ମୋ ପ୍ରଗତିର ଆଶ
ମୁଁ ଧର୍ମପଦ, ଜାତି ହିତେ ଦିଏଁ ସାଗରରେ ଝାସ । ୫।
ମୁଁ ଚାରୁଛବି, ମରାଳମାଳିନୀ, ନିଳାମ୍ବୁ ତିଲିକା
ମୁଁ ବିନ୍ଦ୍ୟଗିରି, ସପନନଗରୀ, ଦେବେନ୍ଦ୍ର ବାଟିକା । ୬।
ମୁଁ ରସାନନ୍ଦ, ଆନନ୍ଦବଜାର, ସାମ୍ୟ, ମୈତ୍ରୀ ଭାବ
ମୁଁ ବତଦାଣ୍ଡ, ବିଶ୍ଵଚେତନାର ବିପୁଳ ବିଭବ । ୭।
ମୁଁ ଚିରଞ୍ଜୀବି, ଯୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ଗାରିମାର ଅଲିଭା ସ୍ଵାରକୀ
ମୁଁ ସଞ୍ଜୀବନୀ, ବିଶ୍ଵ ଇତିହାସେ ଅମର ମୋ ଲିପି । ୮।
ମୁଁ ପୁଣ୍ୟଆତ୍ମା, ମୁଁ ଜୟଦେବ, ମୁଁ ଗୀତଗୋବିନ୍ଦ
ମୁଁ ପୁଣ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣ, ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଚିନ୍ତନ, ଉତ୍କଳ ଦାୟଦ । ୯।
ମୁଁ ମହାନତା, ମହାନଦୀ, ମହାପ୍ରସାଦ ମୋ ଚିତ୍ତ
ମୁଁ ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ, ଉତ୍କର୍ଷତା ମୋର କର୍ମ, ଧର୍ମ, ମାନ । ୧୦।

ଯୋତାକୁ ଯୋତା ସରି ନୁହେଁ Union is Strength

Working Together is Success