

JOGA Holi Celebration on March 14, 2009

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Note: Holi program was arranged by [JOGA, Jagannatha Organization for Global Awareness](#) at Murugan Temple Auditorium, 6300 Princess Garden Parkway, Lanham, MD 20706

General Overview



The 11th Annual Holi festival organized by JOGA (Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness) and local Oriyas in Washington DC was held on Saturday, March 14, 2008 at Murugan Temple auditorium in Lanham, Maryland. The special attraction this year was the involvement of children from age 2 to adults of age above 60 in a spectacular cultural program and a unique style decoration of the cultural hall. The success of the Holi program is attributed to the dedicated volunteers and the participants who spent weeks in practicing for their performances.

Members of JOGA (<http://www.jogaworld.org>) have been organizing Oriya Holi event for eleven years.

Oriya style Holi celebration was introduced in USA first by this community in 1998. The traditional procession of deities in decorated palanquins (bimaanas) with kirtan adds uniqueness to this event every year. This year it had no exception. The kirtan, bhajans and Arati followed the traditional procession. The creative decorative designs by Sangeeta Dey, Maushumi Patnaik and Sikha Sen added more charm to the event this year.

The group bhajans under the direction of Dr Surendra Ray were presented by local singers Moushumi Patnaik, Nrusingha Mishra, Deepa Das, Bigyani Das, Sipra Roy Choudhury, Leena Mishra, Tapati Dash, Tapasi Panigrahi, Sunanda Holmes, Prabhas Mishra and Manoranjan Sahu with instrumental help from Surendra Ray and Naresh Das. The special Holi welcome song “Chhuin Chhuin Chandarati” by the group added dynamism to the event.

The theme this year was “Anuraga”, i.e., love. The dance items, the children’s music band, Chitramala, songs by Prabhas Mishra as well as the drama “Prajapati Ghasutra Karjyalaya” reflected this theme.

Food coordinated by Sulochana Patnaik, Ila Ojha, Meera Mohapatra and Bandita Mishra was excellent and excellent stage management by Sanjay Sahoo, Raj Patnaik, Prasanna Nayak and Brahmapiya Sen made the event timely. The MCs of the event Dr Pinaki Panigrahi, Dharitri Banerjee, Sasmita Mishra and Anjana Mohanty were very organized and performed perfectly in their roles. The dedicated volunteers not only made the program successful, but enjoyable and memorable. (Note: This is a general overview.

Melana:

The first part of the program was "Melana". The "bimanas" that had arrived for the procession are:

- Lord Madana-Mohana brought by Nrusingha Mishra's family from Germantown, Maryland;
- Radha-Krishna by Shashadhar Mahapatra's family from Silver Spring, Maryland;
- Radha-Madhava brought by Naresh Das's family from Columbia, Maryland;
- Lord Jagannath brought by Joy Gopal Mohanty’s family from Elkridge, Maryland;
- Lord Radha-Krishna brought by Chitaranjan Das’s family from Columbia, Maryland



Sikha Sen had created decorated “Asthaana” for the bimanas to be kept. The bimanas entered the auditorium with kirtan and playing of color. Kirtan lyrics by all the devotees filled the air. The families and friends enjoyed doing the bandapana and putting "abira" on each other. After all the bimanas reached the auditorium stage, devotees came to do Arati and bandApanA.

Registration:

Sulochana Patnaik, Priti Biswal and Satish Mishra were at the registration desk distributing the program schedule and name tags.

Welcome Speech and MCs:

Dharitri Banerjee delivered the welcome speech. She welcomed everybody on behalf of Jagannath Organization for Global awareness, also known as JOGA. She thanked the children and the parents for practicing for weeks and working hard to present team items in the program. She invited everybody to join hands together and make the community strong.



Bhajan

The group bhajans under the direction of Dr Surendra Ray were presented by local singers Moushumi Patnaik, Nrusingha Mishra, Deepa Das, Bigyani Das, Sipra Roy Choudhury, Leena Mishra, Tapati



Dash, Tapasi Panigrahi, Sunanda Holmes, Prabhas Mishra and Manoranjan Sahu with instrumental help from Surendra Ray and Naresh Das. The special Holi welcome song “Chhuin Chhuin Chandarati” by the group added dynamism to the event.

The music for the special Holi song was produced by Debaki Nandan Chowdhury. Deepa Parija and Surendra Ray were the coordinators of the program.

Order of Songs:

- 1) Pashyati Dishy Dishy
- 2) Shyama Sama Kamaniya
- 3) Duti Kahibu Go,
- 4) Sanginire –
- 5) *Holi Dhamaka Welcome Song Chhuin Chhuin Chandarati*

Decoration and Stage Management



The decorations by Sangeeta Dey, Maushumi Patnaik, Prasanna Nayak and Lalit Behera added extra charm to the event. The special decorative items were hand crafted by Sangeeta Dey.



Stage management, lights and sounds were taken care of by Sanjay Sahoo, Raj Patnaik, Prasanna Nayak and Brahmapiya Sen.

The items were presented in timely manner with excellent by the experienced and efficient sound controller Sanjay Sahoo and Raj Patnaik. and organizing capability of Prassana Nayak and Brahmapiya Sen.

Cultural Program:

Dharitri Banerjee, the Master of Ceremony for the cultural program welcomed the audience and gave



a brief overview of the program. The Co-MCs of the event were Pinaki Panigrahi, Sasmita Mishra and Anjana Mohanty.

Apart from bhajan, there were 16 more items involving more than 50 children. All the items

were well practiced and of high quality. The special “Jamuna Tu Au Ja-ana” for this occasion was taught by Jayantee Paine Ganguly, the director of the Konark Dance School, VA. The dance by children as little as 2 years old coordinated by Tapasi Panigrahi was a memorable event. The costume design was very attractive.

The coordinators of the cultural program were **Manaswini Sahoo, Alpana Das, Sangeeta Dey and Bigyani Das**

The program details are given below.



2. *Dashabatara (Odissi): Namrata Mohanty (Director: Chitra Krishnamurty, Nrityalaya)*

3. *Youngest Children Performance: (Director: Tapasi Panigrahi)*

Rishit Rath, Ritwik Hota, Raunak Hota, Ritisha Dixit, Ritwik Behera, Rasesh Behera, Ishaan Samantray, Anisha, Ajeetesh Ojha, Aryan Sahoo, Adyansh Das, Sulagna Dash, Suchismita Ojha



4. *Desh Rangila: (Director: Mrs Ravati Kumar)*

Abhinaya Natya Sala Students: Veronica Kapoor, Shreya Khadke, Jessica Mehta, Asmi Panigrahi, and Nisha Sinha

5. *Jamuna Ku Au Ja Na (Odissi): Mrunali Das,*

Shashwati Das (Director: Jayantee Paine Ganguly, Konark Dance School)



In this song, a milk maiden, holding a pot on her head, who is Sri Radha's friend, comes looking for her. When she finds Radha, she warns her:

Don't go in the direction of the river Jamuna because Sri Krishna will be purposely waiting there, on the path to the river, for you. Krishna will play his pranks and torment you. So, don't go.

He will be there playing his flute and then he will look at you with his typical slanted glances which will pierce through your heart. You won't be able to escape him then.

He will display his charm with his beautiful looks, wearing his peacock feather on his hair, then he will start dancing in his sweet, infectious way to attract you. Krishna will captivate and capture you and he won't let you go to get water. So, you'd better not go that way. Come, come with me instead.

6. Bollywood Dance by Virginia Children
(Director: Shibani Kanungo): Soumya Pattanayak, Mehul Behera, Rishiraj Kanungo, Akash Raju, Amartya Mohan Banerjee, Lonika Behera, Adishree Nayak, Disha Das



7. Malli Mala (Odissi): Nazanin Baygani

Choreographed by : Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra
Singer: Sangeeta Goswain
Music: Pandit Bhubaneswar Mishra
Poem: Upendra Bhanja (kabi shamrat)

As Radha is walking along in the forest, she imagines seeing Krishna sitting and he seems sad. She offers to make a garland of Malli (jasmine flower) to give to him. As it gets hot she prepares sandal-wood as an ointment to apply on his body to take away the heat. As the sweat falls she offers to wipe the sweat with her clothes. When he gets upset with her she would decorate the *pana* and will offer it to him. She will offer garland for his neck and massage his legs so only he will love her and if he does not love her back she will give praise to Lord Shiva. Upendra, the poet says that the women are gathering with Krishna and touching his feet. We all bow down to his feet.



8. Children's Music Band: Divya B. Das, Devashis B. Das (vocal), Asmi Panigrahi (Violin), Atman Panigrahi (Tabla), Mrunali Das (Sitar) (Director: Alpana Das)

Poet: Banamali Das
Taught by: Guru Binod Panda (From India)

Devashis (Dev) is 11 years old, a sixth grade student at White Oaks elementary, Divya, 12 is a seventh grade student at Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, Virginia. They are learning Hindustani classical music at India International School, Fairfax, under the tutelage of Mr. Humayan Khan and Odissi classical from Guru Binod Panda from Orissa, India. Today they will present an Odissi classical song “Na ja Jamuna re...” Atman Panigrahi will be on Tabla, Asmi Panigrahi will be on Violin, and Mrunali Das on Sitar will accompany them.

About the accompaniments: Atman has been learning Tabla from Mr. Kishore Dighe in Silver Spring for last four years. Asmi has been learning western violin for several years. She learnt Indian violin from Mr. Ramesh Chandra Das when he visited the US a few years ago and from Mr. Baidhar Rout when she visited India two years ago during the summer break.

Mrunali is learning Sitar from Guru Nabaghana Shyam Singh of Nrityarangam. Mrunali also got training from Jyotindra Mishra of Orissa.

9. Talent Show: (violin): Amartya Mohan Banerjee



10. Talent Show: Debanjan and Debanshi Chowdhury

11. Dance by Virginia Kids: (Director: Supriya Pattanayak): Ashita Sahu, Shreya Tripathy, Satwik Bisoi, Ipsita Das, Neha Pattanayak, Lin Sahu, Sonakshi Rout



12. Dance by Columbia Children

(Director: Sangeeta Dey): Renae Sen, Harshita Balla, Yash Balla, Anmol Dash, Ishaan Dey,

Raghav Joshi, Sudip Behera, Yatin



13. Bollywood Dance (Medley): Rajashree Mishra, Bagmi Das, Shashwati Das

14. Bollywood Dance: Supriya Pattanayak

15. Ollywood Music: Prabhas Mishra



Prabhas Mishra is a Diplomat in the Indian Embassy, and has been working with Ministry of External Affairs for about 20 years now. He has served in the Indian Embassys in Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong earlier, before coming to Washington DC about 2 years back. He was singing with Late Akshaya Mohanty for a longtime and was an accredited artist fo All India Radio. He has performed on several prestigious TV programmes in Vietnam and Hong Kong in their local languages and Hindi/Oriya.

16. Ollywood Chitramala:

Love starts by accident and then some misunderstandings brings the thought of “but” means “Kintu”. Misunderstandings are resolved and parents arrange the marriage. Then the stories of separation and reunion make the life more colorful.



The chitramala consists of 1-2 minutes of 5 Oriya movie songs with the above story line. The performers were: Biswa and Rosy Mohapatra (Gori Dekhili Kali Dekhili), Sujit Das (Manare Kintu Rakhi Bhala PAanA), Bigyani Das, Meera

Mohapatra (Shuna Samuduni Mora), Sipra Roychoudhury (Megha Barasila Tupuru Tupuru), Kedar and Trupti Nanda (Pirati Tora Duru Juhara).

Drama: Prajapati Ghatasutra Kariyalaya (MC: Jhinu Chhotray)

This drama was about the marriage match-making office headed by Mr Bajarangi (Nrusingha Mishra)

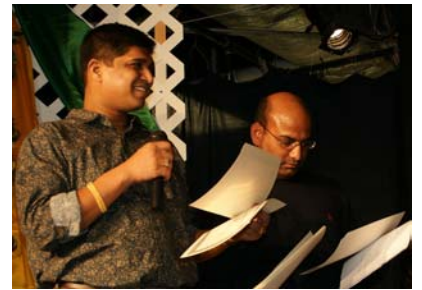


and his nephew Nabaghana (Pratap Dash). People having marriage problems seek help of the office and the office first refuses to help them. However, considering income loss, they change their mind and are ready to adopt any means to have a successful business. They make odd matches between a deaf girl Kalyani (Sipra Roy Choudhury) and a very old man Santanu in sixties (Sujit Das), and between a transgender person Rasika (Bagmi Das) and a middle-aged lady Laxmi with 4 children (Meera Mohapatra).

The relatives of the married couples become furious (Sabitri – Kalyani's Mother: Bigyani Das; Debabrta – Santanu's Son: Biswa Mohapatra; Rasika's Father: Kedar Nanda; Woman Leader: Rosy Mohapatra) and are trying to take revenge on Bajarangi and Nabaghana. Their assistant Sundari (Tapati Dash) becomes defensive and argues with the families. Finally everybody realizes their mistakes and the drama ends.

The drama was written and directed by Pratap Dash, coordinated by Debaki Nandan Chowdhury. The concept was created by Bigyani Das and Jhinu Chhotray.

Certificates and Recognition:



Certificates and trophies were presented to all the children participants of the cultural program. Dr Joy

Gopal Mohanty and Hemant Biswal were in charge of awards. Raj Patnaik was in charge of coordinating Eassay Competition among high school students. Mishra distributed the certificates to the children.

Only three children (Supriya Patnaik, Rajashree Mishra and Mrunali Das) had sent essay entries and they received certificates.

Recognition of Dr Surendra Nath Ray

Dr Surendra Nath Ray was recognized for his year of contribution to Odia culture through his musical talent. His devotion for the cause of preserving the tradition of Odia music is beyond words. He drives from his work on Fridays to be with the music group and leaves after the practices are over by



midnight. He has been a great supporter of JOGA activities for all these years. JOGA recognized him with "JOGA Sanskruti" award appreciating his years of service.

Dinner (Prasad) and Snacks (Bhoga):

The major part of the program, food, was managed by Sulochana Patnaik, Ila Ojha and Bandita Mishra as coordinators. The food was prepared by Suprava Dash of Baltimore. Other bhoga and Prasad materials were contributed by *Bandita Mishra, Meera Mohapatra, Ila Ojha, Pratap Dash, Bandita Nayak, Sukanti Ray, Hemangini Behera, Sikha Sen.*

Volunteers for dinner distribution included Namita Das, Sujata Dalai and Nita Mohanty.



Memories: Video Recording and Photographs

Credits for most of the pictures in this report go to Dr Babru Samal and Raj Patnaik. Many others have taken pictures as well as made video recordings that will be available later. The following link includes more pictures.

<http://www.babru.com/holi09>
<http://www.rajpatnaik.com>
<http://picasaweb.google.com/Sritapa/Holi09#>



Video recording of the program was done by Anshuman Das. Some of the videos are available in YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EmA5N6IXEU>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBXis2zORR4>

Cleaning:

Everybody who stayed till the end participated in the clean up.

Holi Sponsors:

Balabhadra Sponsors: *Anonymous Donor, MD*
Subhadra Sponsors: *Nrusingha and Bandita Mishra, MD*
Jagannath Sponsors: *Hemant and Priti Biswal, VA*
Nilambar and Anu Biswal, MD

Author: *This report is prepared by Dr Bigyani Das on March 29, 2009 with available information. For any mistakes, additions, suggestions or comments, please contact Bigyani Das at obhajan@yahoo.com or bigyanidas@yahoo.com.*