

ଚିରନ୍ତନ ପତ୍ରିକା



ଓଁ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ

Chirantana Newsletter



ତ୍ରୟୋଦଶ ସଂଖ୍ୟା, ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୦୪, 13th Issue, August 2004 <http://www.iogaworld.org>

ସର୍ବଭୂତେଷୁ ଯେନୈକଂ ଭାବମବ୍ୟୟମୀକ୍ଷତେ
ଅବିଭକ୍ତଂ ବିଭକ୍ତେଷୁ ତତ୍ଜ୍ଞାନଂ ବିଚ୍ଛି ସାଞ୍ଜ୍ଞିକମ୍ ।

ଏହି ଶ୍ଳୋକଟି ଭଗବଦ୍ ଗୀତାର ଅକ୍ଷୟଶ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟରେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ଶ୍ଳୋକଟିର ସାରମର୍ମ ହେଲା: ଯେଉଁ ଜ୍ଞାନ ସାହାଯ୍ୟରେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଅବସ୍ଥିତିରେ ଏକ ଅବିଭକ୍ତ ବା ଅଖଣ୍ଡ ଦିବ୍ୟ ପ୍ରକୃତି ହିଁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟ ହୁଏ, ଯେଉଁ ଜ୍ଞାନ ସାହାଯ୍ୟରେ ସମସ୍ତପ୍ରକାର ବିଭିନ୍ନତାରେ ଏକତା ବା ଏକତା ଭାବ ହିଁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟ ହୁଏ, ସେହି ଜ୍ଞାନ ସାଞ୍ଜ୍ଞିକ ଜ୍ଞାନ ଅଟେ ।

That knowledge, by which one undivided imperishable spiritual reality is seen within all diverse living entities, is in the mode of goodness.

Celebrating Seventh Anniversary:

Congratulations to all the devotees, for your esteem sincerity and devotion for which we celebrate the **Seventh Anniversary** of the bhajan program in this auspicious month of August.

During these seven years, we are challenged many times with other responsibilities, unfavorable weather conditions, parties and other attractions, official deadlines, children's activities etc., but we had tried to do our duty and kept the commitment. The bhajan mandali appreciates the help received from the Baltimore Temple priests for the continuity of this program.

CHIRANTANA is a biannual religious newsletter published in the month of February and August. You can view this newsletter at our above JOGA webpage. We invite your active participation by sending the religious and educational articles to obhajan@yahoo.com by the end of January and July to be published in the February and August issues respectively.

What's New?

Summer Fun: During April 2004 we initiated the discussion of organizing a summer camp for children. However, because of limited response, we thought of organizing a picnic to spend a day with the nature. The summer picnic was organized in the Centennial Park of Columbia on August 8th within a very short notice to engage children as well as their uncles, aunts and parents. Everybody enjoyed the beautiful summer day in the

park with delicious food contributed by all the participants, boat ride, volleyball, badminton and various other games.



Pictures of everyone enjoying picnic

September is Children's Month:

We celebrate September as the Children's month. For this year's activity every child should reflect on a thought from the Shastra or sing a prayer (one stanza) of his/her favorite God/Goddess. September is also the month of Guru Dibasa (Teacher's Day – September 5) and Ganesh Puja (September 18). Children might want to take up a research task on these celebrations and make up their own stories to tell on the significance of a teacher in life or on the significance of Ganesh Puja. Do you have other ideas like organizing workshop etc., to make this program successful? Please share.

What's Inside:

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 - Runujhunu Runujhunu Baje Nupura:
 - JOGA News :
 - Congratulations to Amaresh and Bikash
 - Thanks to the Sponsors
- Debaki Nandan Chowdhury
 Nrusingha Mishra
 Bigyani Das
 D. Kar and H.Biswal

ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ଅଷ୍ଟକମ୍ (Sri Krishna Astakam)

September 6th is Janmastami, Lord Sri Krishna's appearance day (birthday). Sri Krishna is regarded as the 8th avatar or 'incarnation' of Vishnu. The life of Sri Krishna is the most stirring saga of one of the greatest saviors and of 'Dharma'. His life is filled with numerous dangers and adventures with all the demonic adversaries- Pootana, Shakata, Agha, Dhenuka, Bakaa, Keshi, Kansa, Shishupala, Jarasandha etc. over which he ultimately gained victory. We present a few lines from Sri Krishna Astakam for His praise below.

ବାସୁଦେବମ୍ ସୁତମ୍ ଦେବମ୍ କାସ୍ୟ ଚାଣୁର ମର୍ଦ୍ଦନମ୍
ଦେବକୀ ପରମାନନ୍ଦମ୍ କୃଷ୍ଣ ବନ୍ଦେ ଜଗତ୍‌ଗୁରୁମ୍ ।
ଅତସୀ ପୁଷ୍ପ ସଂକାଶମ୍ ହାରନ୍ଦୁପୁର ଶୋଭିତମ୍
ରତ୍ନ କଙ୍କଣା କେୟୁରମ୍ କୃଷ୍ଣ ବନ୍ଦେ ଜଗତ୍‌ଗୁରୁମ୍ ।
କୁଚିଲୀଳକ ସଂଯୁକ୍ତମ୍ ପୁଷ୍ପଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ନିଭାନନମ୍
ବିଲାସୀ କୁଣ୍ଡଳ ଧରମ୍ ଦେବମ୍ କୃଷ୍ଣ ବନ୍ଦେ ଜଗତ୍‌ଗୁରୁମ୍ ।



**Vasudevasutam devam kamsa caanura mardanam
Devaki paramanandam Krsnam vande jagadgurum
Atasi puspa samkaasam haaranupura sobhitam
Ratna kankana keyuram Krsnam vande jagadgurum
Kutlilaka samyuktam purna candra nibhaananam
Vilasat kundala dharam devam Krsnam vande jagadgurum**

Translation:

I salute Lord Krishna, the Universal spiritual Teacher, who is the son of Devaki and Vasudeva, who always gives mental happiness to his mother Devaki and who kills the demons Kamsa and Chanura. I salute Lord Krishna, the Universal Guru [Teacher] of Truth, who is equal to the flax flower and who is wearing jewels around his neck, who is wearing bracelets on his two arms. I salute Lord Krishna, whose hair always curls like ringlets around His face, who wears earrings and whose face is equal to the full moon.

What do our children say?

Reflecting on the Oriya thought:

Sampada beLe sarbe sakha
Bipade na dianti dekhA

Bagmi Das, Columbia, MD: This is not always true. Superficial people might throw out titles such as “friend” to random people. However, others hold that word sacred and only accept people as friends when they have complete faith in someone. In that case, friends are always by your side. Others are just fair-weather friends and therefore undeserving of your attention. When someone walks beside you through light and dark, they are officially initiated as your friend.

What is your most memorable experience of bhajan program in these seven years?

Bagmi Das: My most memorable experience in the past seven years at the bhajan program would have to be the Holi program when we did the Odialand play. We were finally able to do a play that we had some say in and it was entertaining. Chandu and Landu, played by Satish and Sidharth, were able to play a part similar to their nature and I enjoyed my Raikant Patnaik role. I think the audience also shared in my amusement during that first scene, in which I overenthusiastically greeted guests to the Odialand and asked them to come attend my Jagganatha seminar. Everyone was pleased by the play because it was very inexpensive regarding props, simple when it came to costuming, yet hilarious when it came to content. I hope to perform that play at another event, hopefully at an OSA convention.

POEMS/STORIES/ESSAYS:

ULTIMATE FATHER

Debaki Nandan Chowdhury, Germantown, MD

Every human being faces ups and downs in their life. When we get good time we brood over it. For the Bad time we curse God. Everyone might have experienced it, but we remain so busy in our day to activities, we hardly get time to analyze it. Recently I was analyzing that.

One of my friends passed away at the age of 35, due to liver cancer. It was detected at the last minute. My friend's wife was praying all God and Goddesses. Finally, after 3 months, my friend passed away. Then, I noticed my friend's wife gave up worshipping God. Her argument was, when God did not listen to her, why should she worship God?

Some saintly person was visiting the same friend's mother. The old lady was very much in sorrow due to her son's death. In the process of consoling, the person said to the Old Lady “Whatever God Does, He Does for Something Good”. Couple of months before the son's death the old lady had a surgery. She was upset temporarily and said “Why God is so generous to me? He is bent upon doing good things to me.” After a few days, I saw the old lady back to worshipping God again. She had a grumbling with God for some time, but again went back to her old belief.

I heard from other sources that the saintly person, who was consoling the old lady, had a family tragedy and his son-in-law had passed away couple of months prior to my friend's death. When everyone in the family was crying, he was worshipping God. No one other than him knows, whether he was asking

God to give him strength to face it or asking for solution or accepting the deeds in God's creation.

The same things happen in our daily life. These days I work on Projects and remain away from family during the weekdays. I get back on weekends. At times, I try to correct the mistakes of my son, who is going to be 6 in couple of months. In the process of correcting, if I shout, he gets upset and will ask me to go back to Denver or California based on my project location. After sometime, when he gets normal he will ask me not to go away. My daughter is now year and half. When I get into the house, if I get in without greeting her, she would cry until I beg excuse and sit with her for around 30 minutes. Recently, I was asking her not to go to the staircase. But she was still going there. Then I went closer to her, with the running Vacuum cleaner in hand. She immediately came running towards me. Later I realized, she was afraid of the sound of the vacuum cleaner. As the sound was coming closer, she wanted to come closer to her father, on whom she has all faith and reliance. Though the father is holding the Vacuum cleaner, her goal was to somehow reach the father. When the sound came just to her front, instead of going back, she paused for a moment and closed her eyes. After the sound stopped, she came running to the father.

This interesting phenomenon happens in our everyday life. We call God for some requirement. If that is fulfilled, if time permits, we thank him or at times we forget it. If the desire does not get fulfilled, we doubt his existence. Until, we are in trouble, we do not think of him. When I analyzed my daughter's complete faith on her father, I felt, when we repose that type of confidence on God; we can feel that we sitting on God, our Ultimate Father's Lap.

IN MEMORIUM: LESSONS OF RAMAYAN

By Nrusingha Charan Mishra, Germantown, Maryland

In my lonely moments, I turn inwards and try to capture them in my vision. In some of those rare moments, their words of inspiration keep ringing in my ears that were pronounced long time ago. I remember those words that lifted my spirits. "Knowledge is real power and education brings prosperity and growth. Material wealth that one possesses can be stolen, whereas knowledge and education remain as hidden treasure, can never be stolen away under any circumstances." These were the words emanating from the lips of my parents while I was a young teen-ager 17 years old and was trying to start my college education.

My parents were great devotees of Lord Rama. Their lives were guided from the lessons of Ramayan. Ramayan was recited every evening except Thursday in those summer days, I clearly remember with live characters playing on the stage. The season started in June during the Raja festival time and ended in July/ August time frame. My mother and myself looked forward to the summer evening drama and music events. When the demon king Ravana stole away Sita Devi from the forest of Panchabati, this scene was enacted live characters on the stage. Sita Devi was praying everybody that she came across to protect from the force. I remember the verse in Oriya, "He Bana Giri He Lata Giri, Mo Kanta Gale Mruga Mari", meaning, "Oh, Lord of the forest, my husband has gone for the

deer hunting and I am being taken away by this demon. Please protect me." All the creatures from the forest, trees and vines listened to the prayer. Then came along the brave bird Jatayu in front of the chariot of the demon king Ravana and posed a sever resistance to his move. There was a heavy fight between Ravana and the bird Jatayu. Eventually Ravana overpowered the bird and ruthlessly cut the wings throwing by the way side. Jatayu kept himself alive by will power, determination and devotion for Rama. Jatayu is the first messenger who gave the vivid description to Rama about Sita being forcibly taken by Ravana. This is a piece from Ramayana that my mother narrated to me one summer evening during my elementary school days.

Another piece that my mother recounted me, is the liberation of Ahalya, which remained a stone under the curse of her husband Gautam for ages. It was Lord Rama who placed His Lotus feet on the stone while crossing the river and freed Ahalya from the curse. Lord Rama, born of a warrior king, was one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu, came to earth to destroy the evil forces. He was a symbol of power, grace and compassion. All the events as narrated in Ramayan bear testimony to this statement. Wherever Lord Rama has gone he has displayed respect, dignity, magnanimity, love and kindness to all. He has spread joys to everybody around Him taking the pain to Himself. He wandered 14 years in the forests while searching for His own wife Sita Devi while preparing to fight against the demon king Ravana.

In my small home I was very fortunate to have been nurtured by my parents with blessings from Lord Rama. Blessings came directly in the form of parental care, guidance and protection until I was strong enough to get out to the real world. Their words of wisdom, stories in the evening are with me as treasured gifts. I take this opportunity to pay my tribute to the departed souls of my parents today at the sacred premises of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Temple at Baltimore, Maryland, USA

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ବିଜାନୀ ଦାସ, କଲମ୍ପିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

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ପ୍ରବେଶି ସଭିଙ୍କ ବାସେ, ଚୋରି କରେ ଲହୁଣି ସେ
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JOGA NEWS

Dhirendra Kar and Hemant Biswal

We at Jagannath Organization for Global Awareness (JOGA) have completed refresher course for ten circles (which covers half the state, since there are 20 circles). It would not have been possible to achieve this milestone in our effort to improve the quality of Science education in our state, but for all of your help, support and best wishes. The details of the program are available at our website, www.jogaworld.org.

Here is the information about recent activities.

1. Teacher's Refresher Course in Keonjhar Circle
2. Mobile Science Class
3. Science Laboratory in Schools
4. JOGA Board of Directors Election

1. Teacher's refresher course in Keonjhar circle was held at Police high school, Keonjhar during 27th, 28th and 29th May 2004. Organiser was Mr. Keshab Ch. Barik, C.I. of Schools Keonjhar. Details of the topic taught and resource person names are available at joga webpage.



Picture shown here is the inaugural program of the course. Total number of participants were 95 (including 20 women teachers).

During the refresher course we showed video of different subjects through multimedia projector and all the teachers appreciated this type of presentation. Evaluation test was conducted and three prizes were given; First-Rs.500/-, Second-300/-, and third-200/- based on the teacher's performance. Valedictory function was presided by Dr. Niranjan Barik, Reader in Pol.Sc. from Ravenshaw college on behalf of JOGA. We thank Dr. Devi Mishra, AL President, Orissa Foundation for his generous donation of \$1000.00 and Dr. Kailash Sahu, MD for \$300.00 donation for the refresher course.

We request everyone to consider supporting JOGA educational projects with at least \$100.00 donation annually. JOGA is a non-profit tax-exempt organization and hence all the donations are tax deductible.

2. We have plans to teach science through multimedia presentation. The subjects include basic sciences like physics, chemistry, biology as well as applied sciences like computer basics, environmental science etc., by going to different schools. The plan is to go to various schools and present these subjects through video/multimedia followed by discussion. A

nominal fee will be charged for each school. We hope students will be highly benefited by this type of presentation. If you are interested to organize such classes in your school, please contact one of us.

3. We are also planning to establish science laboratory in various schools, which not only will be used by the students of the schools, but also as well act as the central facility to train teachers and students of other schools. Initially we intend to provide \$1000.00 for each laboratory and will support additional funding based on the performance. We have identified and received sponsorship for two schools, one school each in Bhadrak and Cuttack districts. We also invite additional sponsorship from our patrons.

4. New JOGA board of directors will be elected for the next three years term of 2004-2007. We invite you to volunteer and join the board of directors and also serve on JOGA's executive board to make the organization to fulfill its mission. If you are interested to join JOGA's board please write to jogaworld@yahoo.com.

Congratulations:

Des Moines, Iowa was the venue of the Jr. Olympics and Jr. Nationals Table Tennis (Ping Pong) competitions from July 30 to August 1, 2004. The Sahu brothers from Germantown, MD were quite successful in this tournament. Our hearty congratulations to both them. Both Amresh and Vikash attend bhajan program regularly with their parents Dr. Debaraj and Mrs. Urmila Sahu.



Amresh Sahu (Age 12) was seeded first in his age group and won the first place trophy in the Jr. National singles event. He also won the silver medal in doubles and the gold medal in the team event.

Vikash Sahu (Age 9) won the second place trophy in his age group in the Jr. National singles event. He also won the gold medal in the doubles.

Food For thought:

“Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.”

- Will Durant

Thank You:

Thanks to all the families for their participation and contribution for the success of the bhajan program. Our special thanks to Mahasakti prabhu and his family for their support. Our heartfelt thanks to the following families for sponsoring feasts on different months:

Prasad Sponsors:

Chittaranjan and Namita Das, PA
Naresh and Bigyani Das, MD
Prasanna and Babita Nayak, MD
Bimal and Leena Mishra, MD