

2025 OSA Nomination-Based Award Winners

- ❖ **Distinguished Odia Award 2025:** DR. ASHUTOSH DUTTA (Laurel, Maryland)
- ❖ **Arun Das Memorial Kalashree Award 2025:** DR. GOPAL MOHAPATRA (Houston, Texas)
- ❖ **Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award 2025:** MRS MAMATA MISRA (Austin, Texas)
- ❖ **Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence 2025:** MR. ARNAV TRIPATHY (Dallas, Texas)
- ❖ **Youth Volunteer Award 2025:** MS. MANASWEE MISHRA (Woodstock, Maryland)
- ❖ **Youth Kala Vikas Award 2025:** one invalid nomination received

Congratulations to all the 2025 OSA Award winners!

The OSA Awards Committee thanks OSA VP and OSA EC for entrusting us with the responsibility of managing the OSA Awards 2024 and 2025 nomination & judging process. We are humbled by the talents and accomplishments of all the OSA members nominated over these two years and wish them continued success in their endeavors. We hope the abridgement of the winners' achievements and contributions inspires all readers and motivates Odias in North America and beyond to advance their own capabilities and interests.

We recognize and thank all the nominators for discerning the distinction of the nominees and sending in their nominations for the different award categories. It takes magnanimity to recognize the contributions of fellow OSA members and dedicate time to recommending them for an award. We appreciate your effort and hope you will not only continue to do so but also motivate others in our community to follow your example and put forward worthy OSA members and youth for subsequent OSA Award nominations.

OSA award winners in each category are selected by the combined evaluation of 3 - 5 OSA member judges from across the States. Our gratitude and appreciation to all the uncredited judges, who commit to this task and to remain anonymous throughout the process and thereafter. The uncredited judges sign up to scan through pages of nomination materials, resumes and recommendation letters to unbiasedly share their evaluations based on OSA Award guidelines. This is not a straightforward task considering the multiple varied accomplished candidate profiles.

OSA Awards Committee 2024, 2025

Lead - Prachee Behera, Akshay Ray, Deepak Sahoo

Distinguished Odia Award 2025

DR. ASHUTOSH DUTTA nominated by Dr. Sukant K. Mohapatra



Dr. Ashutosh Dutta from Cuttack, Odisha has been in the USA since 1987. He is an alumnus of NIT, Rourkela with a MS in Comp Science from NJIT, NJ and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University, NY. Dr. Dutta is currently Chief 5G Strategist and Lawrence Hafstad fellow at John Hopkins University/Applied Physics Lab, Maryland. He also serves as the Director of Doctor of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, where most recently, he served as the Chair for Electrical and Computer Engineering for Professional Program. During his 37 years of service, Dr. Dutta has held leadership positions in AT&T Labs, Bell Communications Research, startups, and Columbia University.

Dr. Dutta's professional leadership in 5G areas has resulted in the development and deployment of 5G mobile networks around the world. Dr. Dutta is a Fellow of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a Distinguished Member of Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), and has several other leadership positions in IEEE/ACM including Chairs of Future Networks, Connecting the Unconnected, IEEE Princeton / Central Jersey Section and ACM Baltimore Chapter. Dr. Dutta has been conferred with multiple awards and recognition for seminal contribution in technology and leadership:

- ❖ 2009 IEEE MGA Leadership award
- ❖ IEEE-USA's 2010 Professional Leadership Award
- ❖ 2022 IEEE-USA George F. McClure Citation of Honor
- ❖ 2022 IEEE North American Region Exceptional Service Award
- ❖ Distinguished and Star Alumnus award from NIT, Rourkela
- ❖ Authored more than 120 technical papers and has 31 issued patents
- ❖ Co-authored book, "Mobility Protocols and Handover Optimization: Design, Evaluation and Application" published by IEEE and John & Wiley

Dr. Dutta's first significant contribution to the Odia community during his PhD at Columbia was the formation of ORNET (First Odia Network in Cyber-space) that he co-conceived during 1990. He has delivered invited talks and keynotes in the emerging 5G and 6G areas at various higher educational institutions in Odisha. Dr. Dutta has also served as a visiting faculty and Industry Advisory board member at NIST University, Odisha. He has collaborated with the faculty to design various 5G related courses for NIST students. He has actively raised funds for cyclone relief in Odisha multiple times. Dr. Dutta has been serving in the Industry Advisory Board of Siksha "O" Anusandhan. As an IEEE leader he has helped set up IEEE student branches at NIT Rourkela.

Dr. Dutta served as President of the OSA NY Chapter during 1992-1994 and Co-Convener for the 1994 Silver Jubilee OSA Convention at Pomona, NJ. He made significant contributions in his role as Vice-President of OSA during 2007-2009. He has attended 17 OSA conventions, contributed to various OSA activities at the local and national level, including serving in the Higher Education Committee, Sponsorship Committee, Advisory committee, Speakers Committee, Awards committee and Grievance Committee. Dr. Ashutosh Dutta continues to serve as an advisor on various OSA committees at the chapter level.

Arun Das Memorial Kalashree Award 2025

DR. GOPAL MOHAPATRA nominated by Prof Anil K Patnaik



Dr. Gopal Mohapatra is a geophysicist by profession and currently a senior technical advisor in Hess Corporation. He is a graduate of IIT Kharagpur and has a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He lives with his family in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Mohapatra became a life member of the OSA in 1996 and is currently an OSA benefactor. He served as the President of the OSA Southwest Chapter and as an OSA Governing Board member from 2010 to 2014. He served on OSA's Constitution Amendment Committee (2009-2011), the Dispute Management Committee for the 2012 Seattle Convention, the OSA Grievance Committee (2019-2021) and led the committee from 2021 to 2023. Dr. Mohapatra co-convened the 2021 OSA Convention in Houston, which was revival of in-person convention during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also served as a member of the OSA Advisory Committee for the 2023-2025 term. Dr. Mohapatra received the Distinguished Young Odia Award at the 2001 Chicago OSA Convention. He also received the OSA Distinguished Service award at the 2021 OSA Convention for his efforts to successfully organize that Convention at the newly established Orissa Culture Center (OCC) in Houston, overcoming numerous challenges posed by the pandemic.

Dr. Mohapatra has been a key figure in the Houston Odia drama group, serving as writer, director, and actor for the OSA-Southwest Chapter. Under his directorship, the Chapter won the prestigious Pramode Patnaik Drama Competition in 1998 and 2010. He played an instrumental role in establishing the OSA-SW Regional Drama Festival (RDF) and served as the RDF coordinator for Houston until 2019. He wrote, directed, and acted in numerous plays for the Houston team, leading them to win the Best Drama award at the inaugural RDF, followed by multiple other awards in subsequent years. He has organized and sponsored the RDF in Houston several times.

Since 1997, Dr Mohapatra has been sponsoring and organizing performances of many renowned Odissi Gurus such as Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra, and dancers, prominent Odia singers including young and emerging talents from Odisha such as singer Subhradeep Sahoo. Dr. Mohapatra has been graciously hosting visiting artists at their home. He is a founding member and current President of the unique Orissa Culture Center (OCC) in Houston. OCC serves as a home to the culture of Odisha in North America and provides a vital platform for many artists from Odisha. Dr Mohapatra has promoted and sponsored Odisha's art and artists, both in North America and in Odisha personally and through organizations. He served in the board of Indo-America Association (IAA), Houston for many years promoting cultural artforms from India. Some of his sponsored projects are Gotipua dance project by Late Guru Gangadhar Pradhan at Konarka Natya Mandap, SEEDS Pala preservation project (2008-2015), Gita Gobinda project (SEEDS), and annual Pala conferences in rural Odisha.

Dr Mohapatra has shown commendable leadership in inspiring young members of the community into Odia culture and social services through his mentorship.

Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award 2025



MRS MAMATA MISRA nominated by Mr. Prashanta Ranabijuli

Mrs. Mamata Misra has lived in Austin, Texas since 1974 with her family. She has a Masters in Computer Science from the University of Texas, Austin. She worked as a software architect at IBM and Intel. Now, she teaches Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and other mindfulness classes. She was trained to teach MBSR by the UMASS Center For Mindfulness, Mindfulness Center at Brown University, and East Coast Mindfulness.

Working against family violence for 12 years, she helped build an organization SAHELI, now Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA). Through SAHELI, she aided while maintaining confidentiality to South Asian survivors of domestic violence. She helped over 200 families, including some Odia survivors in different ways, including peer counseling, arranging emergency shelter, housing, job search, paperwork, teaching them to drive, language interpretation, accompanying them to legal proceedings, immigration offices for work permits or adjustment of status under the Violence Against Women Act and sometimes to criminal court hearings. She also helped survivors in North America long distance over the years, providing phone counseling and connecting them with their local resources. She helped two Austin American families who adopted girls from orphanages in Odisha, to understand Odia/Indian cultures and customs and to communicate with the girls in spoken Odia. She led awareness campaigns on domestic violence and initiated programs that engaged college students. Her work in SAHELI has led to AFSSA being a 30+ year organization with state funding. Her work has earned her numerous recognitions:

- ❖ The Jordan Award, from the Austin Community Foundation
- ❖ Woman of the Year, from the YWCA
- ❖ Business in Ethics Finalist from the Samaritan Center and St. Edward's University
- ❖ Humanitarian Award from the Network of Asian American Organizations
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year from SafePlace
- ❖ Founding Sister Award from Saheli

Mrs. Misra serves on the Board of Pratham USA, Austin Chapter, enabling child literacy in India. She visited Pratham programs in Odisha in 2012 (Read India programs in 10-12 villages in Salepur and Jajpur area) and 2015 (Second Chance program for high school dropouts in Polasara in Ganjam district) and raised awareness about Pratham's work in the US, organizing fundraisers and managing online summer readathons. She has been active in local education-related initiatives, including serving in the Immigration Task Force of the City of Austin and the Travis County Adult Literacy Council.

Mrs. Mishra is one of the founding members and current President of the board of SEEDS (Sustainable Education and Economic Development Society), a non-profit dedicated to grassroots development in Odisha. As a long-standing patron of SEEDS, she has supported education, economic independence, and healthcare for girls and women in Odisha. Under her leadership SEEDS is currently providing nursing training to 150 girls in hospitals across Odisha. As President, she has also enhanced the organization's programs, online presence, and social media outreach.

Mrs. Mamata Mishra is big promoter of Odissi and other Indian cultural activities helping host many artist performances in Austin over three decades. She played a key role in organizing OSA Women's Forums at several OSA conventions, creating space for meaningful dialogue and empowerment. She had helped create a directory of helpful numbers for South Asians to call for assistance in different states in the US for the OSA website. She has been involved in OSA and OSA Southwest Chapter and Conventions in various roles. She continues to be an active volunteer in various OSA, local Odia, Indian communities.

Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence 2025



MR. ARNAV TRIPATHY

nominated by Mrs. Smaranika Rout

Mr. Arnav Tripathy describes himself as an inquisitive senior at Coppell High School with a strong academic background, excellent analytical skills, demonstrated commitment, and passion for a research-oriented career in computer science. He is on his way to the University of Texas at Austin where he plans to use computer science to advance real-world issues through international projects and research.

Arnav volunteered in Florida Odia Community and has been an active student volunteer in OSA SW Chapter events since past 3 years. Arnav volunteered for an organization (SANTI) helping impoverished mothers and children in Odisha. He raised awareness and helped raise \$2000+ for SANTI childcare. He is in the Next-Gen/Youth Planning Team for the upcoming 56th OSA Convention, in Dallas. He intends to continue volunteering at food banks or other community service projects throughout the Austin area. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/arnav-tripathy-b899a6268>

Awards & Recognitions:

- Finalist National Merit Scholarship Program (Qualified with NMSC Selection Index Score of 228/228, PSAT/NMSQT score of 1520/1520)
- State winner in Florida State level competition for FBLA (Orlando, March 2023); FBLA National participant in Atlanta and placed in top 30.
- State winner and National participant in Policy Debate; State winner in NCFL (National Catholic Forensics League) in 2021 and 2022; NCFL national participant in 2021 at Washington D.C.
- AP Scholar with Distinction in 2023 and 2024
- Principal Honor Roll and Gold Lunch Recipient
- Member of National Honor Society at Coppell High School
- Spelling Bee: South Asian Spelling Bee National Qualifier in 2020, NSF Regional Spelling Bee Champion in 2016, 2017
- President's Award in Middle School 2021

Experience & Research Work:

- App Developer Intern with Technosphere
- Research Paper: Convergence of Nanotechnology and Machine Learning: The State of the Art, Challenges, and Perspectives. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. 18 November 2024
- Intern at University of Texas at Dallas – Data s and Algorithm
- Summer Intern at Morsani College of Medicine, USF, Florida
- Internship with NanoFlorida
- Assistant Project Manager with SANTI (Community Service)
- Volunteer at Feeding Tampa Bay & Teachers Help in Montessori School
- Captain and Founder of Science UIL Club at Coppell High School
- Officer in STEM Squared Club at Coppell High School
- Member of iLead (Coppell ISD Student Leadership Program)
- Captain of Policy Debate team in Strawberry Crest High School, FL
- Captain of FBLA team in Strawberry Crest High School, FL

Youth Volunteer Award 2025

MS. MANASWEE MISHRA

nominated by Dr. Bigyani Das



Ms. Manaswee Mishra is a Biomedical Engineering major student at Penn State University. She volunteers her talents, time and energy to multiple OSA activities since she was in elementary school. She performed in many OSA events and Conventions presenting Odissi and other folk and fusion dances, drama and participated in Odia Vocabulary and Speech, Champu, Chhanda and Odissi singing.

Manaswee has also taken on more technical responsibilities, including stage management, audiovisual coordination, and liaison work with venues and event management companies to raise the standard of cultural events within OSA. She played a pivotal role in mobilizing youth by helping establish a youth group within OSA which led to the smooth execution of the youth events and the increased participation of young members. As part of the core leadership team of this youth group, she was instrumental in developing a roadmap and implementing processes that empowered the youth team to self-manage effectively.

Manaswee also volunteers in JOGA, a local organization in Maryland, which fosters religious and educational activities. She has been actively involved in THON, Penn State's student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. For THON she contributed to various fundraising and awareness initiatives before taking on bigger responsibilities like participating in dancer support, planning THON Weekend logistics, and collaborating with other student organizations to coordinate joint events. Manaswee shows long-standing dedication to service and community, driven by the belief in making a tangible impact on the lives of Four Diamonds families.

Leadership Roles:

- South Asian Student Association: Events Director (Fall 2024), Freshman Liaison (Fall 2021)
- The Odisha Society of the Americas (OSA) Youth - Cultural Coordinator June 2020 - Dec. 2023
- Penn State JaDhoom - Captain (2022-2023) Sept. 2021 - May 2023
- National Honor Society Executive Board (2020-2021), Class Council (2019-2021), Speech and Debate Captain (2021), Bollywood Dance Team Captain (2018-2021)

Honors and Awards:

- The OSA Yuva Kala Vikas Award (Youth Cultural Excellence Award) Fall 2020
- Wilkes University's Colonel Emerging Leader Award Summer 2020
- Other Honors - National Honors Society, Tri-M Music Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society
