

Awadh celebrates Orissa Day



(Top) Artistes staging an ethnic dance. (Above) Eminent Oriya writer Manoj Das being honoured at the programme.

NOT EVERYDAY Lucknow, the city of Nawabs, gets a chance to welcome Orissa, land of the famous Jagganath temple and beautiful virgin beaches. Orissa was established on 1 April 1936; therefore, this day is celebrated as Utkal Divas.

In a cultural evening organized by Oriya Samaj Lucknow and Cultural Department Lucknow at Lal Bahadur Shastri Ganna Sansthan Auditorium the spirit of Orissa was brought alive. The Chief Guest of the evening,

Manoj Das, highly acclaimed Oriya writer introduced by G.B.Pattanaik, president of Oriya Samaj. AK Awasthi, Secretary Culture and Tourism Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, emphasized on the need of promotion of art and culture. They dwelled on the subject of unique identity of Orissa and its "binding" spirit. The mesmerizing performance by Leena Nanda, a versatile artist and dancer enthralled the audience. Her

two very captivating performances "Mangalacharan" and "Pallavi" established a devotional communication, dedicated to Devi Durga, Lord Jagganath and Radha Krishna. A performance choreographed by Ranjan Kumar Sahu who presented Sambalpuri folk dance- "Dalkhai", where women folks pray to Goddess Durga for well-being and long life for their brother was enchanting. It was followed by "Dhaap" and "Rangavati" where the use of mystic symbolism was evident. A rangoli making competition and exhibition of "Patta-Chitra" was also organised. The paintings or "Patta-Chitra" showcased "Raas-Leela" of Radha and Krishna and ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu.

The display showcased the talent of the craftsmen of the state. Orissa day celebrations showcased that India is truly a symbol of unity and diversity and it encompasses the whole world within itself.

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