

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2014

4 April 2014 - Ram-Vijay, Ankiya Bhaona by the tea community at Rajgarh, Dibrugarh district

Ram-Vijay *bhaona*, directed by Dr K D Goswami and assisted by Achintya Mahanta, Arundhriti Mahanta and Govinda Mahanta was successfully staged at Karma Bhawan, Rajgarh of Dibrugarh district on 4 April 2014 by the artists from the tea community from Rajgarh and its neighbouring areas. The preparation for this workshop started from 6 March 2014 through a workshop which was held daily for 4 hours and around 50 persons participated. The people from the greater Rajgarh area were very happy because though *bhaon's* were being performed it was in Assamese language and now for the first time in recent memories a *bhaona* in *Brajawali* language i.e., in its original form was performed. The response from the local people was very encouraging.

2 June 2014 - *Shardhagya* – A Tribute to Dr Jaganath Mahanta, Sattriya exponent and practitioner

Shardhagya, a special programme was organized on 2 June at 6.30 pm at Rabindra Bhawan to pay tribute to Dr Jaganath Mahanta, the maestro of Sattriya dance who not only laid the grammatical foundation of the dance form but also contributed immensely to its explication and spread all over the country.

The programme started with the lighting of the inaugural lamp together by Dr Kesavananda Deva Goswami, Sjt Arun Sharma, Sjt Hare Krishna Deka and Smt Anjana Mahanta, wife of Late Dr Jaganath Mahanta. This was followed by Ram Bandana by Meenakshi Medhi, Sattriya dancer and a student of Dr Mahanta.

After the performance a presentation on the Life and Work of Dr Jaganath Mahanta was made by Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, Managing Trustee of Srimanta Foundation. Sjt Mahanta with the help of a power point presentation gave a detailed sketch of the maestro's life right from his childhood days, his upbringing in the Sattra, to his formal education, his interest in Sattriya dance and music and thereafter his research work and then how he presented our traditional dance forms in a modern perspective amongst experts. It was a commentary which kept the audience spell bound till the end.

The best part of this *Shardhagya* Programme was *Nrityanjali* : an ovation based on the maestro's compositions by respective students for their Guru, Dr Jaganath Mahanta. The following were their offerings

- a) Ku. Meenakshi Medi – *Ram Bandana*
- b) Dr Mallika Kandali – *prananath nakara bansito.....*
- c) Dr Prithilekha Choudhury – *manini mai.....*
- d) Smt. Sitarani Hazarika – *ae xokhi kotonu koyolu.....*
- e) Ku. Srijani Bhaswa Mahanta – *xoi boney bonomali.....*
- f) Ku Monashree Pathak & Smt. Jollymoni Saikia – feud between *Sashi & Satyabhama*

The Guest of Honour for that evening was Dr Arshiya Sethi, noted Dance Exponent and Scholar from Delhi also spoke on the occasion and paid her tribute to Dr Mahanta whom she had been knowing since 2002.

At the end of the programme Smt Anjana Mahanta on behalf of their family members spoke and expressed her gratitude to the organizers and thanks to everyone for coming to the *Shardhyagya* Programme.

2 to 11 July 2014 - Workshop on Mask-Making

Srimanta Foundation was involved and had partly sponsored a Workshop on Mask Making which was organized by Satkara, a society for propagating Sattriya Culture for the children of Snehalaya at their Dhirenpara Branch at Guwahati from 2 to 11 July. The Resource Person (*Adhyapok*) for the training was Shri Hem Ch Goswami from Majuli and his assistant Shri Hemen Gayan. There were a total of 23 participants who participated in this workshop.

9 & 10 Aug 2014 – Screening ‘Yugadrashta – the Visionary’

Srimanta Foundation in association with local collaborators at three different places did a special screening of Srijoni Production’s ‘Yugadrashta – the Visionary’, a short film on the life and times of Srimat Pitambor Deva Goswami. This film written and directed by Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta in his debut as a Director has achieved many a national and international award, the coveted of which is the Rajat Kamal of the 61st NFA for Best Music Direction. But the significant aspect more than the awards is the subject of the film which has been a work of research and commitment for the Director as well as his team at Srijoni Production to take across to people at large. This film which is a tribute to a great son of Assam, Pitambar Dev Goswamai (1885-1962) who dreamt and worked for a society of justice and equality as envisaged by Mahapurasha Srimanta Sankaradeva has been a work of *xewa* (service) towards our society.

This film was screened in the places mentioned below and it was well received and was followed by active interactions of the audience with Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta and Smt Swapnali Mahanta, the Writer & Director and Producer of the film respectively.

Date	Time	Venue	Local Collaborator
9 Aug.	5.30 pm	Ranghar Auditorium, Dibrugarh University Campus	Dibrugarh University
10 Aug.	11.00 am	Sivasagar Natya Mandir, Sivasagar	Sivasagar Natya Samaj
10 Aug.	6.30 pm	Dr M.C.Das Memorial Auditorium, Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat	Jyoti Cine Club, Jorhat

14 Nov 2014 – Screening ‘Yugadrashta – the Visionary’

The film ‘Yugadrashta – the Visionary’ was screened at the Department of Mass Communication, Tezpur University and was followed by an Interactive session about it.

Regular Classes under Jengraimukh Sanskritik Mission.

Besides the above programmes, there have been regular classes throughout the year at four places viz., Jengraimukh, Jambut Chuk, Naya Bazar. Classes are imparted in the areas of *Mati-Akhora*, *Gayan-Bayan* and *Bor-geet*. There is also cross-cultural learning where non-Mising children (*mipaks*) from Phuloni are learning *Selloya*, *Aionitom*, the folk performances of the Mising community. These classes are being implemented through teachers who are paid honorarium.