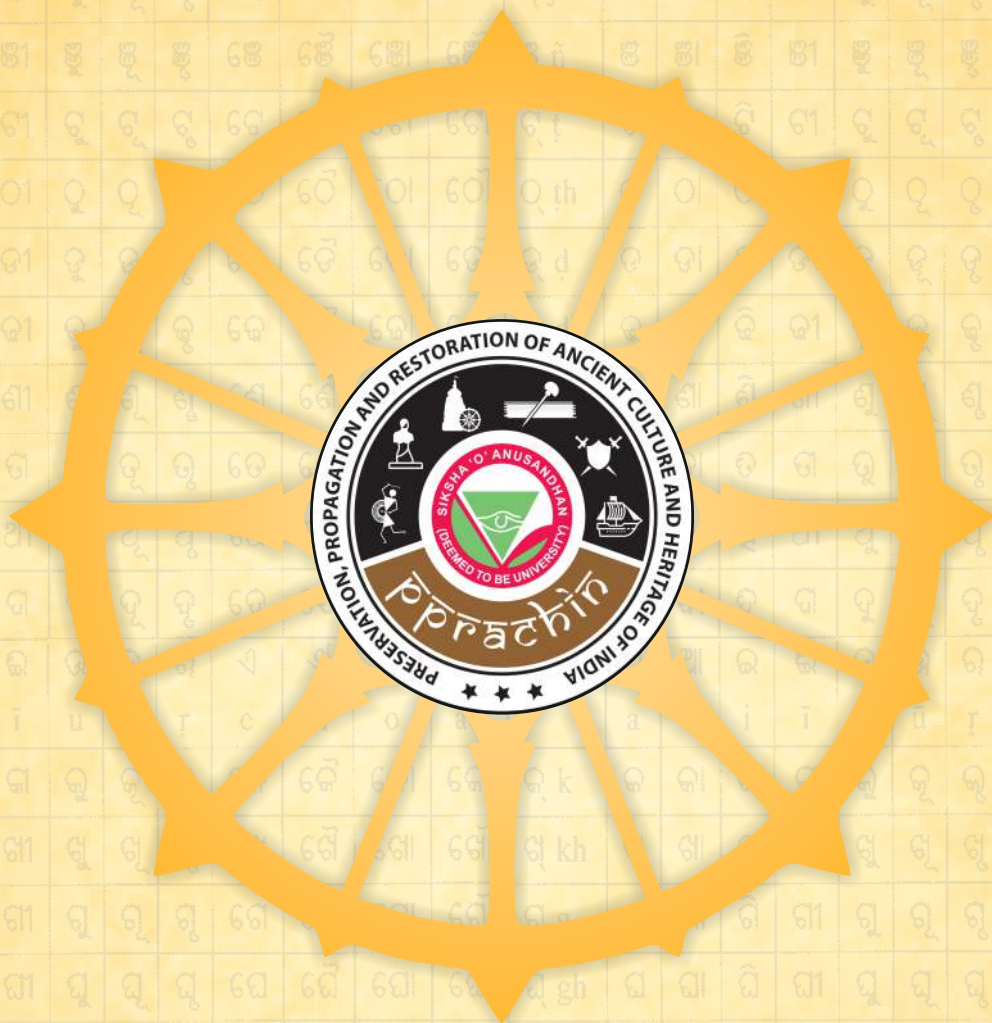


PPRACHIN

SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of
Ancient Culture and Heritage of India



Siksha 'O' Anusandhan
(Deemed to be University)
Bhubaneswar





SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN

(Deemed to be University declared u/s.3 of the UGC Act.,1956)

Accredited (3rd cycle) by NAAC with A++ Grade

3 Decades of Rich Legacy

NIRF Rankings-2025

National Institutional Ranking Framework

15th in University Category
22nd in Engineering Category
15th in Medical Category
09th in Dental Category
10th in Law Category



2025

64 in QS Southern Asia University Ranking
278 in QS Asia University Ranking
1201- 1400 in QS World University Ranking
Institution of Happiness
Recognized by QS I-Guage



2025

801-1000 in THE World University Ranking
501- 600 in Engineering Technology
601- 800 in Computer Science
801-1000 in Health Sciences
201-300 in World Reputation Ranking

Statutory Approvals



Accreditations & Recognitions



MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



SOA HOSPITALS

- IMS AND SUM HOSPITAL
Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar
- IMS AND SUM HOSPITAL
Phulnakhara, Bhubaneswar
- IMS AND SUM HOSPITAL
Sitalapalli, Brahmapur
- SUM ULTIMATE MEDICARE
Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar
- 18 Research Centres in niche Areas
- Atal Incubation Centre
- Over 400 foreign Students from 30 countries

41 Professors of SOA figure among the Top 2% Scientists of the World as listed by Stanford University, USA

Startup & Incubation Centre



Empowering students for a brighter future



★ **ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**
(Institute of Technical Education & Research)

★ **MEDICAL SCIENCES**
(IMS AND SUM HOSPITAL, Kalinga Nagar)
(IMS AND SUM HOSPITAL, Phulnakhara)
(IMS AND SUM HOSPITAL, Sitalapalli, Brahmapur)

★ **DENTAL SCIENCES**
(Institute of Dental Sciences)

★ **MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**
(Institute of Business and Computer Studies)

★ **PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES & BIOTECHNOLOGY**
(School of Pharmaceutical Sciences), Kalinga Nagar
(Centre for Biotechnology)
(School of Pharmaceutical Sciences-II), Phulnakhara

★ **NURSING**
(SUM Nursing College, Kalinga Nagar)
(SUM Nursing College, Phulnakhara)

★ **HOSPITALITY & TOURISM MANAGEMENT**
(School of Hotel Management)

★ **LEGAL STUDIES**
(SOA National Institute of Law)

★ **AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**
(Institute of Agricultural Sciences)

★ **VETERINARY SCIENCE & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**
(Institute of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry)



Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak
Founder President
Siksha 'O' Anusandhan
Bhubaneswar

A visionary teacher, Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak is the Founder President of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, a Deemed to be University, which has emerged as one of the top ranked universities of the country.

Hailing from a remote village in coastal Odisha, Prof. (Dr.) Nayak did his B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Regional Engineering College (presently NIT), Rourkela and M.Tech in Computer Science from IIT, Kharagpur. A brilliant and passionate teacher, he worked as a faculty in the College of Engineering and Technology under Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar for a few years. But his dream was to set up an institution of excellence to impart quality professional education to students of Odisha.

Prof. (Dr.) Nayak, who did his doctorate from the OUAT, soon quit his job to chase his dream by establishing Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) in 1995.

The Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) was launched by SOA in 1996. It had a modest beginning but has since grown to be one of the best engineering colleges in the east.

Prof. (Dr.) Nayak subsequently set up several other institutions imparting education in management, hospitality and tourism management, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences, dental sciences and medical sciences. It was on July 17, 2007 that the University Grants Commission (UGC) conferred on SOA the status of a Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act.

Three more institutions imparting education in legal studies, agricultural sciences and veterinary sciences and animal husbandry have come up under SOA since then.

Ranked 14th in the country by NIRF in 2024, the university was re-accredited with A++ by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2022.

Prof. (Dr.) Nayak also runs a media house which publishes The Prameya, the largest circulated vernacular daily in the state, and runs News7, an Odia television news channel.



SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN (Deemed to be University)

Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, popularly known by its acronym 'SOA', is one of the most preferred and one of the largest multidisciplinary, research-driven and extension-oriented higher educational eco systems in India. Founded by Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, a visionary leader, SOA reflects his bold dream of creating a global education hub. His conviction, clarity of purpose, and belief in education transformed an idea into a thriving institution, exemplifying inspirational and transformational leadership.

Located in Bhubaneswar, SOA has been delivering professional education across diverse disciplines for over 18 years. SOA was ranked 15th in the country by NIRF in 2025. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), which described SOA as socially inclusive, re-accredited it with the highest grade of A++ in 2022.

Around 18,000 students from India and 30 other countries, have been pursuing courses in SOA in engineering and technology, medical sciences, dental sciences, management sciences, hospitality and tourism management, humanities and social sciences, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences, biotechnology, legal studies, agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences and animal husbandry. The Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, faculty of medicine of SOA, has emerged as one of the most trusted hospitals in Odisha and neighbouring states.

SOA has been globally ranked by QS and THE. The Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), the faculty of engineering and technology, was ranked 22nd in the country by NIRF in 2025 while the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, faculty of medical sciences, was ranked 15th in the country the same year. The SOA National Institute of Law, the faculty of Legal Studies was ranked 10th and Institute of Dental Sciences, the faculty of Dental Sciences was ranked 9th in the country by NIRF.

To promote a culture of research, innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculties, SOA has established 18 research centres in 27 thrust areas and an Atal Incubation Centre to promote world-class incubation. Forty one of SOA's researchers were listed among the world's top 2% scientists by Stanford University in 2025.





PPRACHIN

*(SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation,
and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India)*

PPRACHIN is the brainchild of Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, founder of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan. His visionary leadership has fostered an exceptional ecosystem for quality academics, research and healthcare in Odisha. A distinguished academician, educationist and institution builder, Prof. (Dr.) Nayak has been instrumental in creating innovative platforms that integrate professional education with cultural and societal values. His unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation and holistic development has laid the foundation for centres like PPRACHIN, ensuring that India's heritage and traditions are preserved, studied and celebrated for future generations.

In its pursuit of world-class professional education, SOA established a unique dedicated research centre for the preservation, propagation and restoration of India's heritage and culture, Now known as SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN). Founded on July 17 2019, it works to safeguard, reinterpret and celebrate the country's timeless traditions.

SOA recognizes that while science and technology drive modern progress, they must be enriched by the fragrance of art, culture and literature. At its philosophical core, PPRACHIN is committed to preserving and promoting India's invaluable heritage. Through rigorous research, critical scholarship, digitization and global dissemination, the Centre addresses challenges in conservation while highlighting the enduring wisdom embedded in cultural memory.



THRUST AREAS

PPRACHIN focuses on the following key areas to fulfill its mission and vision:

- Tribal Culture & Oral Traditions – Research, documentation, and preservation of indigenous knowledge, folklore and performances.
- Indian Knowledge System (IKS) – Reviving and reinterpreting ancient wisdom across philosophy, science, arts and agriculture.
- Digitization & Archives – Creating digital repositories of books, journals, manuscripts, palm-leaf texts and rare cultural materials.
- Scholarship & Publications – Producing critical editions, translations and research studies on India's heritage.
- Workshops & Cultural Festivals – Organizing platforms for dialogue, creativity and global cultural exchange.

By emphasizing the role of culture across science, technology, agriculture and all aspects of human development, PPRACHIN affirms that true progress is not only technological but is also deeply rooted in the arts, humanities and cultural inheritance.

MISSION

PPRACHIN strives to preserve, promote, and make India's cultural heritage accessible while fostering research and creativity:

- Preserve and promote India's literary and cultural heritage with focus on Odisha.
- Conduct research and document tribal culture, indigenous traditions and oral histories.
- Study and disseminate the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) connecting ancient wisdom with contemporary thought.
- Digitize and critically study manuscripts, art, literature and folklore.
- Organize workshops, lectures and festivals to nurture scholarship and creativity.

VISION

PPRACHIN aspires to be a national and international hub, blending tradition with innovation:

- Become a centre of excellence in cultural and literary studies globally.
- Highlight tribal culture and the Indian Knowledge System on international platforms.
- Integrate preservation with innovation through digital technologies and modern scholarship.
- Promote interdisciplinary research, cultural exchange and creative engagement.
- Inspire future generations by keeping culture a living force of identity and continuity.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

SOA, through PPRACHIN, offers specialized Ph.D. programmes that integrate research, heritage and innovation. These are:

1. **Ph.D. in Anthropology & Tribal Studies**
2. **Ph.D. in Yoga**
3. **Ph.D. in Culture Studies**

Ph.D. in Anthropology & Tribal Studies

This program offers in-depth research on India's tribal communities—their languages, folklore, social structures and cultural practices. As Odisha alone has 62 tribes accounting for 9% of tribal population nationally and 22.5% in the state, the focus is on documenting and preserving endangered traditions, art, music and rituals. Scholars safeguard indigenous knowledge systems protecting India's intangible heritage for future generations.



Ph.D. in Yoga

The program offers a scholarly exploration of Yoga integrating scientific, philosophical and practical perspectives. Scholars study its origins, evolution and modern relevance while emphasizing holistic well-being through the harmony of body, mind and spirit. Beyond health, it highlights Yoga's cultural significance as an ancient Indian discipline with global resonance promoting both individual transformation and collective wellness.



Ph.D. in Culture Studies

This program fosters interdisciplinary research on literature, art, traditions and social practices. Scholars critically engage with cultural continuity and transformation, exploring historical roots and contemporary relevance. From editing ancient manuscripts to studying evolving traditions, the program deepens understanding of India's cultural legacy while contributing to its preservation, reinterpretation and global appreciation.



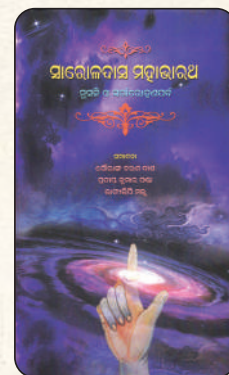
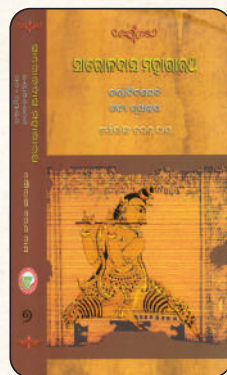
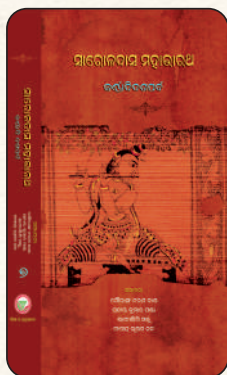
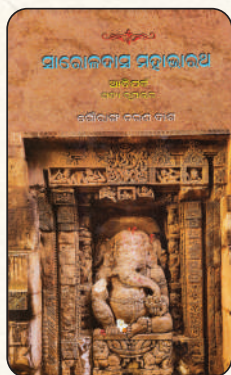
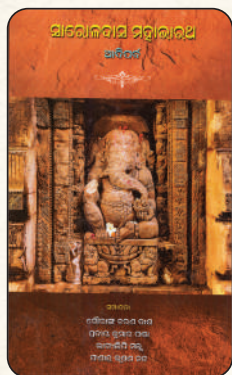
Currently, under PPRACHIN, thirty researchers are engaged in advanced studies: six in Anthropology and Tribal Studies, nine in Yoga, and fifteen in Ancient and Medieval Literature, Language and Culture. This vibrant community of scholars ensures a multidisciplinary approach, combining rigorous research methodologies with a deep commitment to preserving and promoting India's invaluable cultural and intellectual traditions.

DIGITIZATION

Digitization of written materials is one of PPRACHIN's flagship initiatives dedicated to preserving Odisha's vast literary and cultural heritage. For long, systematic digitization in the state was minimal, apart from pioneering efforts by Srujanika in 2006. Recognizing the urgency, PPRACHIN took over the initiative, significantly expanding its scope. Manuscripts, books, and journals—no matter how carefully preserved—are vulnerable to deterioration, signifying the loss of irretrievable fragments of cultural identity. With Odia literature boasting printed works since 1809, systematic digitization is indispensable for its survival. Since May 2021, PPRACHIN has digitized over seven lakh pages and 4,500 books, a milestone made possible by scholars, contributors and volunteers. Mechanical digitization being central to safeguarding Odisha's literary memory, ensuring accessibility to researchers worldwide and transmitting heritage to future generations. PPRACHIN's digital preservation efforts thus stand as a vital bridge between Odisha's cultural past and its sustainable future.



EDITING AND PUBLICATION



A major initiative of PPRACHIN is the meticulous editing and publication of ancient and medieval texts, with special focus on a critical edition of Saroladas's Mahabharatha. Saroladas, a 15th-century poet who was inspired by divine vision, is revered as the father of Odia literature and an enduring cultural icon. His works—the Mahabharatha, Bichitraramayana and Chandipurana—offer invaluable insights into Odisha's political, social, cultural and religious milieu. Under PPRACHIN, the Mahabharatha is being published in stages, with Adi Parva and Karnadisasa Parva already released. Alongside, a digital version is being created, supplemented with a vocabulary corpus, dictionary, encyclopedia and English translation to enhance global accessibility. A prose version is also underway to reach broader readership. Through such endeavors, PPRACHIN combines traditional scholarship with modern tools to ensure Saroladas's legacy remains alive, studied and celebrated across cultures and generations.

EPIGRAPHICAL RESEARCH

Epigraphical research forms another major initiative of PPRACHIN. It focuses on the collection, transcription, editing, linguistic analysis and English translation of Odia inscriptions on stone and copper plates. A landmark achievement in this field includes publication of *Prachina Odia Abhilekha* compiling inscriptions from the 13th to 18th century, providing authentic primary sources for historical and cultural reconstruction.

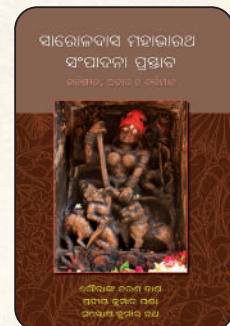
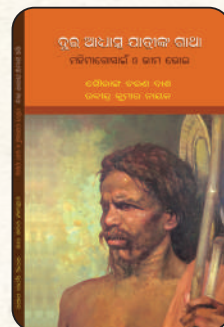
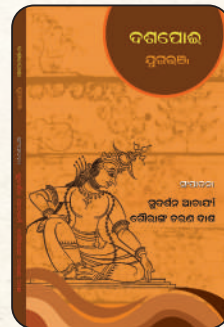
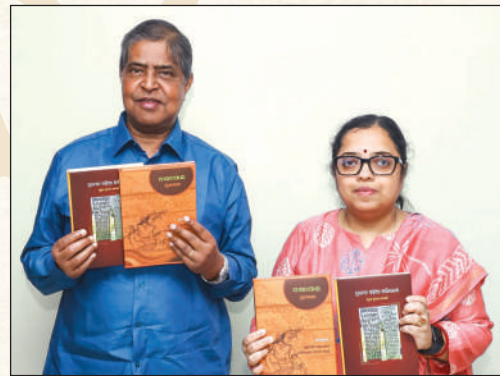
Other notable publications:

- *Saroladas Mahabharatha Samapadana Prastava*— Relevance of editing Saroladas's Mahabharatha.
- *The Saga of Two Spiritual Travelers* – Research on Mahima Gosain and Bhima Bhoi.
- *A Study of Charyapada* – Analysis of ancient Buddhist mystical songs.
- *Dasapoi* by Yugabhanja.

Forthcoming work:

- *Charyagiti Kosha* – A dictionary and critical discussion of Charyapada.

Beyond inscriptions, PPRACHIN undertakes research in folklore, folk songs, performing arts, music, dance and tribal life, using anthropological and ethnographic approaches to ensure holistic cultural preservation.



RESEARCH PROJECT

Under Vision Viksit Bharat@2047, the Centre has undertaken a research project titled “Community-Based Ecotourism and Sustainable Livelihood Securities through Entrepreneurship Development in tribal-dominated districts of Eastern India.” Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi, it explores how ecotourism can foster entrepreneurship, enhance income, conserve indigenous culture and resources and empower tribal communities through sustainable livelihood.



LIBRARY

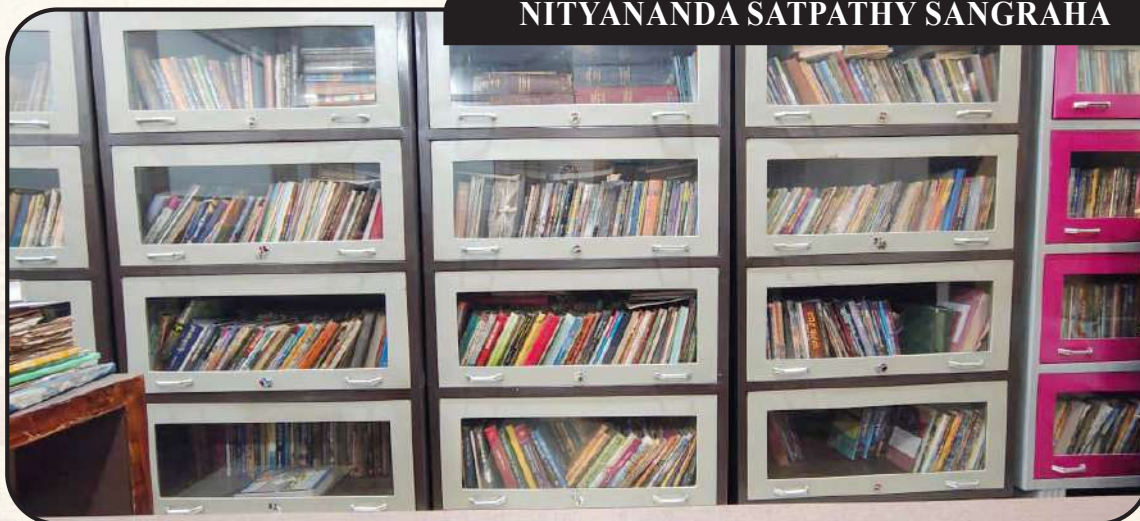
SUDARSHAN ACHARYA SANGRAHA



PPRACHIN boasts a rich library of over 10,000 books and journals making it a vital resource for scholars and researchers. A distinguished part of this collection comes from the personal libraries of two eminent scholars—Prof. Sudarshan Acharya and Prof. Nityananda Satpathy—containing rare works from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Beyond printed books, the library treasures a remarkable collection of rare palm-leaf manuscripts, including the writings of great masters like Balaram Das, Upendra Bhanja and other medieval poets. Together, these resources preserve Odisha's literary legacy while serving as a foundation for further research and cultural exploration.

NITYANANDA SATPATHY SANGRAHA



CULTURAL ENGAGEMENTS

PPRACHIN has been at the forefront of academic and cultural initiatives that foster research, scholarship and the preservation of India's diverse literary and linguistic traditions with a strong focus on Odia language and culture. Eminent linguists, writers and cultural thinkers of national and international repute actively participate in discourses presenting papers and delivering lectures that highlight both regional heritage and pan-Indian literary dialogues.

Regular lectures, symposia and workshops sustain the spirit of dialogue between tradition and modernity.

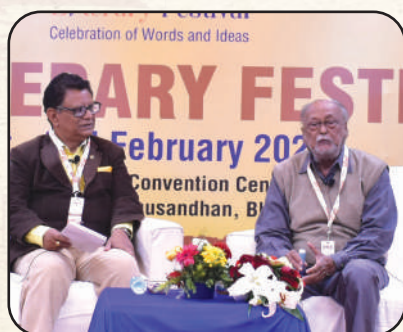
From this dynamic ecosystem emerged the SOA Literary Festival, PPRACHIN's flagship celebration of literature, arts and cultural exchange, bringing together voices from across India.

The SOA Literary Festival



The SOA Literary Festival was launched to create a vibrant platform for literary and cultural dialogue, bringing together writers, thinkers and artists from across India and abroad. It celebrates literature in all its forms, fosters interdisciplinary exchange and inspires intellectual engagement, cultural awareness and creativity.

The Festival has rapidly become a premier national platform for literary and cultural discourse. Its inaugural edition (1–2 February 2020) themed “*Literature and other Arts*,” brought together more than 100 writers, thinkers and artists from India across 26 sessions to explore literature's interplay with visual, performative and auditory arts. Panel discussions, workshops and performances celebrated plurality, creating a vibrant space where creativity thrived in dialogue and synthesis.





Building on this foundation, the second edition (24–26 November 2023) expanded the scope with the theme *“Indian Culture, Society and Literature: Prospects and Challenges”*. With 60 sessions and around 250 speakers from across India, it created a crucial platform to deliberate on cultural continuities, social realities and challenges of identity, diversity, gender, migration and globalization. These discussions reaffirmed literature as both a mirror of society and a catalyst for transformation.

The forthcoming third edition of the SOA Literary Festival (29–30 November 2025), themed *“Culture, Creativity and Artificial Intelligence,”* will explore the intersection of human imagination and technology. Featuring more than 150 writers from across India and 30 engaging sessions, the festival will celebrate the convergence of literature, culture and AI, highlighting innovation, experimentation and the boundless possibilities that emerge when creativity meets artificial intelligence.

Across its editions, the SOA Literary Festival has emerged as a celebration of imagination, creativity and critical dialogue—bringing together writers, scholars and artists from across India to affirm how literature and culture continue to inspire, challenge and shape human expression in a rapidly changing world.



SOA Sahitya Samman

The SOA Literary Festival proudly instituted the SOA Sahitya Samman to honour outstanding literary contributions. In its inaugural edition, the award was conferred on two distinguished writers—eminent Odia story writer Tarunkanti Mishra and noted Santali author Kalicharan Hembram.



The second edition became a landmark in Odia literary history when eleven eminent Odia writers from diverse genres of literature, all born between 1928 and 1937, were felicitated together on one platform. This unprecedented recognition celebrated Odisha's literary heritage in a manner never witnessed before.

Eleven of Odisha's towering literary and intellectual figures were honoured during the Festival:

1. **Achyutananda Pati (1927)**- Eminent Story Writer
2. **Satakadi Hota (1929)**- Eminent Story Writer, Novelist and Editor
3. **Debi Prasanna Pattanayak (1931)**- Eminent Linguist and Literary Critic
4. **Santanu Kumar Acharya (1933)**- Eminent Novelist and Story Writer
5. **Ramakanta Rath (1934)**- Eminent Poet and Story Writer
6. **Srinivas Udgata (1935)**- Eminent Translator and Poet
7. **Jagannath Prasad Das (1936)**- Eminent Poet, Story Writer, Playwright and Artist
8. **Dasarathi Das (1936)**- Eminent Literary Critic and Essayist
9. **Anant Mahapatra (1936)**- Eminent thespian and renaissance man of Odia theatre
10. **Sitakant Mahapatra (1937)**- Eminent Poet, Literary Critic and Translator
11. **Bibhuti Patnaik (1937)**- Eminent Novelist, Story Writer and Columnist

Each awardee was presented with a citation, an uttariya, a statuette of Goddess Saraswati and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000. The ceremony stood as a rare and first-of-its-kind tribute bringing together stalwarts of Odia literature on a single stage.





Achyutananda Pati



Satakadi Hota



Debi Prasanna Pattanayak



Santanu Kumar Acharya



Ramakanta Rath



Srinivas Udgata



Dasarathi Das



Anant Mahapatra



Sitakant Mahapatra



Bibhuti Patnaik

From the third edition onwards, the **SOA Sahitya Samman** is being conferred annually on an eminent Indian writer from any language recognized by the Constitution of India. This milestone signifies the award's expansion from Odisha to the national stage, embodying inclusivity, cultural pride and literary excellence. Today, it stands among India's most prestigious literary honours, celebrating voices that enrich, inspire and shape the country's literary consciousness.

Additionally, a special award will be conferred on a promising young Odia writer, inspiring the next generation to carry forward the enduring torch of literature.

Women Achievers of Odisha (WAO) Award

The Women Achievers of Odisha (WAO) Award, instituted in 2021 by Summa Real Media Pvt. Ltd. and PPRACHIN, SOA, celebrates inspiring women who create meaningful change through dedication and resilience. Many awardees come from rural Odisha, working silently without recognition or resources, yet embodying courage, perseverance and social responsibility. Through platforms like Prameya, News7 and PPRACHIN, SOA, their stories are brought to light, honoring their contributions and inspiring countless others. The WAO Award is more than recognition—it is a tribute to the strength of women and reflects PPRACHIN's philosophy of "Giving Back to Society."



National Tribal Writers' Meet

In collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, PPRACHIN organized a National Tribal Writers' Meet on 9-10 August 2023 in Bhubaneswar, on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The two-day program brought together writers representing 49 tribal languages across the country, and it included panel discussions, poetry and short story readings, talks and performances, focusing on contemporary and culturally relevant themes.



World's First Odia Language Conference



In collaboration with the Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, Government of Odisha, PPRACHIN conducted a two-day seminar on the eve of World's First Odia Language Conference on 4-5 February 2024. The seminar featured 10 sessions during which over 40 scholars presented papers and engaged in discussions on various aspects of Odia language and culture, fostering critical dialogue and scholarly engagement.

On this occasion, eminent novelist, story writer and columnist Bibhuti Pattnaik was felicitated by SOA with a Uttariya, citation and a cash award of ₹1,00,000 in recognition of his lifetime contribution to Odia literature.

Lecture Series

To nurture critical thought and dialogue, PPRACHIN organizes a lecture series on literature and cultural issues. Distinguished scholars and experts share their research, offering fresh insights into classical, modern, and interdisciplinary themes. Notable lectures include Prof. B.N. Pattnaik on Jagannath Das's Mahabharata (18 March 2025) and Prof. J. Dash on Anthropology of Literature (29 April 2025). These sessions engage students, researchers and the wider community, enriching perspectives and fostering sustained intellectual curiosity.



WORKSHOPS

Research Methodology Workshop

Further strengthening research capabilities, PPRACHIN, in collaboration with ICSSR, New Delhi organized a ten-day course on research methodology in Social Sciences from 6-15 January 2025. The program was attended by over 40 research scholars from across India and guided by more than 15 internationally reputed experts significantly enhancing participants' skills in contemporary research practices.



Text Editing Workshop



In the field of manuscript preservation, PPRACHIN conducted a five-day workshop on Pothi Sampadana from 23-28 April 2025, training 15 participants from three universities in the techniques and skills required for editing palm leaf manuscripts. This hands-on initiative plays a vital role in safeguarding Odisha's textual heritage and imparting practical expertise in traditional scholarship.

Through its thoughtfully curated seminars, workshops, and lecture series, PPRACHIN has nurtured enduring spaces of interdisciplinary dialogue, cultural celebration, and literary innovation, strengthening its mission to preserve and promote India's vast literary and artistic traditions.



PPRACHIN is not just an institution but a living bridge—

between ancient and the modern,
between memory and technology,
between wisdom and innovation.

It embodies continuity and renewal, ensuring that Odia and Indian cultural heritage does not merely survive but thrives, inspires and evolves for generations to come.

FACULTY MEMBERS

PPRACHIN is guided by distinguished faculty members whose expertise spans literature, culture, and history. Dedicated to both teaching and research, they mentor young scholars while advancing knowledge in their fields. Their commitment ensures PPRACHIN remains a vibrant hub of learning and innovation where tradition and modern scholarship continually enrich one another.



Prof. (Dr.) Gayatribala Panda

Professor & Head, PPRACHIN, SOA University

Prof. (Dr.) Gayatribala Panda is a distinguished Odia poet, fiction writer, literary critic, columnist, academician and editor. A prolific author of 35 books, she received the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2022 for her poetry collection '*Dayanadi*' (River Daya) and was the inaugural recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in 2011 for '*Gaan*' (The Village).

Beginning her literary journey at the age of six, she was honored with the State Youth Award for Poetry in 1999–2000 and, in 2012, was recognized among India's ten best young writers by The Indian Express (Eye Magazine). In 2015, she participated in the prestigious Writers-in-Residence program at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Prof. Panda has received over 40 national and state literary accolades, including the Times Power Women–Odisha Award (2021, 2023), IIMC Alumni of the Year Award (2023), The New Indian Express Devi Award (2023) and Femina Achievers Odisha Award (2025). Felicitated by more than 50 institutions and having participated in over 75 literary forums globally, her works—widely translated into Indian languages—explore culture, identity and social consciousness.

A recipient of two Gold Medals, Prof. (Dr.) Gayatribala Panda topped in M.A. (Library and Information Science) from Utkal University. She was awarded another gold medal by the Public Relation Society of India (East Region) for achieving the top rank in Journalism and Mass Communication from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal.

Currently, she serves as Professor and Head of PPRACHIN (SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation, and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India) promoting literary research and safeguarding India's rich cultural heritage.



Prof. Jagannath Dash

Department of Anthropology & Tribal Studies

Prof. Jagannath Dash, Ph.D. (Anthropology, Utkal University), is an eminent scholar of tribal cultures, prehistoric art, and Jagannath tradition. Widely published and internationally recognized, he has presented his research work across Asia-Pacific countries. Former Head of Anthropology, Utkal University, he now serves as Emeritus Professor at the Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, SOA University.



Dr. Nihar Ranjan Mishra

Department of Anthropology & Tribal Studies

A University Gold Medalist in M.A. Anthropology, Dr. Mishra received his academic training at the University of Hyderabad. Having specialised in Natural Resource Management, Displacement, Tribal, and Agrarian Studies, he has over 70 publications, authored monographs and edited a book on displacement. With teaching, research, and administrative experience at NIT Rourkela, NIRD Hyderabad and CSD New Delhi, he has guided seven PhD scholars, led 14 projects, as PI/Co-PI and presented papers widely at national and international conferences. He is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies, SOA University.



Prof. Radha Madhab Dash

Department of Yoga

Prof. Dash is the former faculty of Sanskrit at Utkal University (33+ years) and former Vice-Chancellor of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishva-vidyalaya (2016–2019). He was also visiting Professor, ICCR Chair, Silpakorn University, Bangkok (2005–2008). He specializes in Sanskrit grammar, Vedic/Classical literature, linguistics, culture and Yoga. He has guided 15 Ph.D. and 59 M.Phil. scholars, published six books, 80 papers and received the Kalidas Award (2017). He now serves as Professor at the Department of Yoga, SOA University.



Prof. Gouranga Charan Dash

Department of Culture Studies

Prof. Gouranga Charan Dash is the former Head, Department of Odia at Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. He is a noted writer, critic, and cultural historian with over thirty publications to his credit across fiction, story collection, lexicography, criticism and text-editing. An authority on puppet play and a global name in Ravanachhaya, shadow theatre, he is presently engaged in preparing a critical edition of Sarala Das's Mahabharata with SOA University and now serves as Professor at the Department of Culture Studies, SOA University.



Prof. Pradipta Kumar Panda

Department of Culture Studies

Prof. Pradipta Kumar Panda, eminent Odia scholar and editor, retired as Professor of Odia at Rama Devi Women's University. Author of critical works on Odia literature and editor of medieval saint-poets' texts, he has guided numerous researchers. Currently, he co-edits Sarala Das's Mahabharata and spearheads re-editing projects on Achyutananda's voluminous writings. He now serves as Professor at the Department of Culture Studies, SOA University.



Prof. Santosh Kumar Rath

Department of Culture Studies

Prof. Santosh Kumar Rath, linguist and literary critic, has authored fifteen books and over fifty research papers on Odia language, literature, and culture. With a teaching career spanning 36 years, he served as Bhima Bhoi Research Chair Professor at Gangadhar Meher University and continues to contribute significantly to Odia linguistic and literary studies. He now serves as Professor at the Department of Culture Studies, SOA University.

TEAM MEMBERS



Jeeban Kumar Panda



Sambit Pattanaik



Bibhuti Prasad Sahoo



Manasi Patra

CENTRE ACTIVITIES



NATIONAL TRIBAL WRITERS' MEET



WORLD'S FIRST ODISIA LANGUAGE CONFERENCE



WOMEN ACHIEVERS OF ODISHA (WAO)



SOA LITERARY FESTIVAL 1ST EDITION



SOA LITERARY FESTIVAL 1ST EDITION



SOA LITERARY FESTIVAL 2ND EDITION



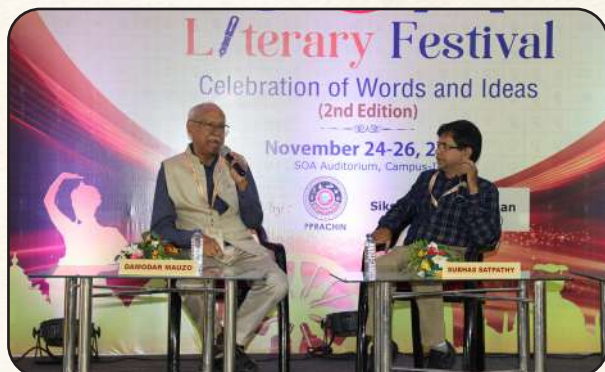
















PHOTO GALLERY

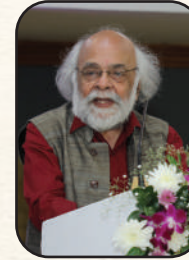
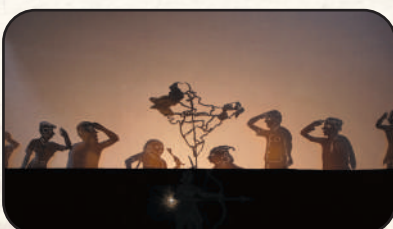


PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY



IN THEIR WORDS ...

Eminent writers and thinkers praised the SOA Literary Festival for its vision, excellence, and warm hospitality. They highlighted its unique ability to unite India aesthetically, celebrate cultural ethos, and create everlasting memories.

- “The inspiring vision of Prof.(Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, along with the thoughtful curation of the SOA Literary Festival and the extraordinary dedication of Dr. Gayatribala Panda and her team, deeply moved me.”- *Ashis Nandy (Indian political psychologist, social theorist, futurist and critic)*
- “A literary event par excellence, memorable for its warmth, efficiency, and spirit of togetherness.” - *Sitanshu Yashaschandra (Celebrated Gujarati poet, Saraswati Samman & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “Heartiest congratulations on a wonderful festival that left everyone delighted and overwhelmed. Sorry to have missed it—sending love and best wishes.” - *J. P. Das (Indian writer, poet, painter, playwright and novelist, Saraswati Samman & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “I will never forget the warm welcome at SOA Literary Festival 2023.”- *Sharan Kumar Limbale (Eminent Marathi Dalit writer, poet and literary critic & Saraswati Samman Awardee)*
- “SOA Literary Festival stands out as the widest and finest ever in Odisha, marked by depth, diversity, and warmth. Congratulations, Gayatribala, for your dedicated planning and flawless execution.” - *Rajendra Kishore Panda (Renowned Odia poet, novelist & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “A wonderful festival with great organization—truly commendable.” -*Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay (Eminent diplomat—writer, IFS Officer & Author)*
- “Congratulations and best wishes for future editions.” -*Namita Gokhale (Celebrated novelist, Festival director of Jaipur Literature Festival & Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “Guided by Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak’s inspiring vision, SOA delivered a marvelous literary festival. With Gayatribala’s dedicated leadership and the SOA team’s support, it was a grand success.”- *Dr. K.S. Rao (Distinguished Telugu scholar, Critic, Translator & Secretary, Kendra Sahitya Akademi)*
- “Varied sessions, superb hospitality, and warm friendships made this literary feast a great experience.” - *Paul Zacharia (Renowned Malayalam author, journalist & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “I was charmed to see Gayatribala everywhere, managing with acumen and grace, like Adya Shakti herself.” - *Anamika (Eminent Hindi poet, & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “This brilliant festival aesthetically united India in Bhubaneswar—made possible by Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, a true seer.” -*Subodh Sarkar (Bengali poet, writer and editor & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “SOA has emerged as one of the top destinations for writers and poets—everyone loved the festival.” -*Ashwani Kumar (Noted poet—academic, Senior Indian English poet)*
- “Seamless organization, meticulous planning, and warm hospitality made the festival truly commendable.” - *Preeti Shenoy (Celebrated novelist, Bestselling Indian author)*
- “Excellent work-A refreshing experience of panels, poetry, and friendships at SOALitFest. Congratulations Dr. Gayatribala Panda and kudos to the entire team for this remarkable success.” - *Thamizhachi Thangapandian (Tamil poet, lyricist, orator, politician and writer, now member of Lok Sabha)*
- “World-class hospitality—thank you SOA team.” -*H. S. Shivprakash (Renowned Kannada poet, Theatre person, Playwright & Scholar)*

- “Perfect arrangements and tireless dedication ensured flawless success.” -*Ashok Maheshwari (Distinguished publisher–writer, Chairman, Rajkamal Prakashan)*
- “Thank you for the warm welcome, hospitality, and excellent coordination.” -*Dr. Vanita (Punjabi poet, academic, translator, literary critic & Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “Mesmerizingly well curated and touching in its recognition of Odia literary stalwarts.” -*Ramesh K. Mittal (Distinguished publisher–writer, Literary Activist & President of The Federation of Indian Publishers)*
- “A festival with the potential to reach great heights—special thanks to the volunteers.” -*A. J. Thomas (Renowned Malayalam poet, Editor & Translator)*
- “A wonderful Lit Fest—best wishes for future endeavours.” -*Anant Vijay (Journalist, Distinguished Hindi critic, National Film Awardee)*
 - “A great festival with thought-provoking sessions and important participants.” -*Kumar Anupam (Noted Hindi poet, Young literary voice & Deputy Secretary, Kendra Sahitya Akademi)*
- “A very successful and well-organized festival with warm hospitality.” -*Suresh Rituparna (Director of K.K. Birla Foundation, eminent Hindi poet and retd. Professor from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)*
- “An enriching stay at Bhubaneswar with a warm and wonderful festival.” -*Amandeep Sandhu (Noted Punjabi novelist, Author of Partition narratives)*
- “Gayatribala, you are a real gem—the festival shone with your vision and grace.” -*Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee (Eminent literary critic, Translator & Editor)*
- “A true celebration of words and ideas, marked by seriousness and affectionate hospitality.” -*Kuldeep Kumar (Celebrated journalist–poet, Cultural Commentator)*
- “A very nice university, a very nice program—everything was conducted smoothly.” -*Hoshang Merchant (Eminent gay poet, Pioneer of queer literature in India)*
- “A wonderful and enriching experience, marked by kindness and warm hospitality.” -*Anju Ranjan (Distinguished Hindi writer, Diplomat, IFS & Author)*
- “Impeccably curated with unmatched professionalism and personal touch—an unforgettable experience.” -*Paramita Satpathy (Eminent Odia writer, Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “A grand and meaningful event—heartfelt congratulations.” -*Prof. Jitendra Srivastav (Distinguished Hindi academic, Scholar & Critic)*
- “A great success—the festival was amazing.” -*Nilim Kumar (Eminent Assamese poet)*
- “A most satisfying and refined festival experience—I remain grateful.” -*Udayan Vajpayee (Eminent Hindi poet, Critic & Translator)*
- “Grateful for the inclusion of transgender poets and writers—this festival was a beautiful and successful event.” -*Dr. Sanjan Simon (Prominent transgender writer, Voice of inclusivity)*
- “A huge literary event with stalwarts—thank you for the wonderful hospitality.” -*Dr. M. A. Alwar (Renowned Kannada writer, Sahitya Akademi Awardee)*
- “A huge success with excellent planning and arrangements—thank you for inviting me.” -*Prabal Basu (Renowned Bengali poet, State Akademi Awardee)*
- “A magnificent festival where care, comfort, and the pleasant support of students deeply moved us.” -*Dr. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta (Renowned Assamese critic, Academic & Author)*

Orissa TODAY

LITTERATEURS HONOURED AS THE 2ND SOA LIT-FEST COMES TO AN END

Bhubaneswar, (TNS): The three-day 2nd SOA Literary Festival concluded on Sunday with a grand ceremony. Prof. Arto Griffiths, President of the Society for Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (SPRACHIN), said the festival was a bridge between the past and the future. He said the festival was a bridge between the past and the future. He said the festival was a bridge between the past and the future.

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SOA Literary Festival

Celebration of Words and Ideas

2nd SOA Lit-Fest kicks off with call for inclusive society

HANS NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

The three-day 2nd SOA Literary Festival, organised by Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, commenced on Saturday here, off to an exhilarating start on Friday.

The Lit-Fest, which is drawn around the theme 'Writers are conscience keepers of common man', was inaugurated by Prof. Arto Griffiths, President of the Society for Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (SPRACHIN).

The Statesman 03

Bhubaneswar, Thursday, August 23, 2023

Indigenous lang & culture facing extinction: Sahitya Akademi Secy

Prof. Pradyumn Kumar Padhi, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, said that indigenous languages and cultures are facing extinction. He said that the government should take steps to preserve and promote these languages and cultures.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS 25/11/2023

Writers are conscience keepers of common man: Madhav Kaushik

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

Writers are spokesmen and conscience keepers of the common man whose struggle and challenges never end, said eminent author and Sahitya Akademi president Madhav Kaushik.

Addressing the 2nd SOA Literary Festival of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University here as chief guest, Kaushik said, writers are often regarded as conscience keepers of the common man. "It is the writer who feels the pain and agony of people around him and reflects it through his/her writings and literary works," he said.

Kaushik further said the challenges in the lives of writers never end. "As the society progresses and adapts to change, the challenges for writers also increase," he said.

The theme of the festival was 'Indian Culture, Society and Literature: Prospects and Challenges'. In her address, noted Odia writer Pratibha Ray said the Indian culture had been a source of pride and inspiration.

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The Statesman 03

Bhubaneswar, Thursday, August 23, 2023

Workshop on ancient text editing at SOA concludes

Prof. Pradyumn Kumar Padhi, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, said that the workshop on ancient text editing at SOA has concluded. He said that the workshop was a success and that the participants have gained valuable knowledge and experience.

Orissa TODAY

15/02/2021

'Sahitya Akademi' has a role to play in the development of Odia literature

Prof. Arto Griffiths, President of the Society for Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (SPRACHIN), said that the Sahitya Akademi has a role to play in the development of Odia literature. He said that the Akademi should take steps to promote and preserve Odia literature.

Orissa TODAY

15/02/2021

10-DAY WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY BEGINS AT SOA

Prof. Arto Griffiths, President of the Society for Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (SPRACHIN), said that the 10-day workshop on research methodology at SOA has begun. He said that the workshop is a valuable opportunity for students and researchers to learn about research methodology.

The Statesman 03

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Orissa TODAY

08 Feb. 2024 - BHUBANESWAR - Page 3

EMINENT RESEARCHER OF MAHABHARAT VISITS SOA

Bhubaneswar, (TNS): Prof. Arto Griffiths, a Professor of Southeast Asian History and eminent researcher, on Wednesday visited the SOA Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN) here to acquaint himself with the work being done at the centre.

Prof. Griffiths showed keen interest about the publication of critical edition of the Mahabharat. He is conducting research on the Mahabharat for the last 20 years and is a member of the International Commission for the Study of the Mahabharat.

Orissa TODAY

08 Feb. 2024 - BHUBANESWAR - Page 3

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Orissa TODAY

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AROUND ODISHA

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Siksha 'O' Anusandhan

(Deemed to be University)

Campus-II, K-8, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751003

