

Dr. Sarata Kumar Jena

Assistant Professor, M.A, Ph.D, D.Litt, LL.B.

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Dr. Sarat Kumar Jena is a distinguished academic, researcher, and writer, widely regarded for his contributions to the study and promotion of Odia language, literature, and culture. He holds a prominent position as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Odia, Visva-Bharati. His academic qualifications include a Ph.D., D.Litt., LL.B., and M.A., all from Berhampur University, Odisha, reflecting a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to his scholarship.

Dr. Jena's expertise encompasses modern Odia literature, performing arts, and literary editing, which forms the backbone of his teaching and research. Joining Visva-Bharati in 2009, he has played a significant role in advancing Odia studies and fostering cultural awareness. As a mentor, he has guided 12 doctoral theses & 12 M.Phil. theses on diverse topics, such as the portrayal of women in Post-1980 Odia poetry, tribal representations in contemporary Odia short stories, Women identity in the short stories of Pratibha Ray, A Critical Study of Gender Diversity in Odia Fiction, and effect of globalization in Odia novel etc. His guidance has enriched the academic landscape by encouraging critical discourse and exploration of Odia literature's evolving dimensions. A key aspect of Dr. Jena's academic engagement is his dedication to preserving and documenting cultural heritage. Notable among his research projects is a study on the animal mask dance traditions of South Odisha, funded by the UGC. This work underscores his commitment to bridging the gap between traditional cultural practices and modern scholarship.

Dr. Jena is also a prolific writer and editor, with a body of work that reflects his deep engagement with literature and culture. His scholarly contributions include 6 criticism books like "Alochanara Adibhumi", "kabitaras Canvas". "kabitaras Karnama", "Odia Upanyasare Nari-Nayak", "Nari O Naribada Prasanga" & "Bimugdha galpa Bimarsha", 3 Poetry Collection Book, 1 Short story Book, 1 children book and 22 edited books enriching the discourse on Odia literature and cultural identity. As the editor Dr. Jena has edited 8 different journals and magazines. Beyond this, Dr. Jena has contributed more than two hundred articles, features and research papers to different journals and magazines. He is a widely read author and commentator of the contemporary Odia literature.

All his efforts have been widely recognized through prestigious awards such as the Kalinga Youth Award (2017), the Kathakalika Youth award (2018), the Kabisurjya Baladev Ratha Samman (2018), and the Surendra Gabesana Akademi Samman (2021). These accolades underscore his role as a cultural ambassador and advocate for Odia language and arts.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Jena is actively involved in literary and cultural organizations. He serves as the General Secretary of the Kalinga Sahitya Samaj and is a member of the Odisha Sahitya Akademi, contributing to the promotion and preservation of Odia literary heritage on

broader platforms. This is not the end; Dr. Jena is an auditioned voice of All India Radio and has presented a series of programs on Akash Vani.

Through his work at Visva-Bharati University and beyond, Dr. Sarata Kumar Jena has become a vital figure in the study of Odia literature and culture. His efforts not only honour the traditions of his native Odisha but also create a lasting impact on the global understanding of regional Indian literature. His multifaceted career stands as a testament to the enduring relevance and richness of Odia literary traditions in contemporary academia.

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