As failure is the pillar of success, one failure could not hinder her ambition. This year with renewed determination, she is attempting for the second time. It is also a pride for all of us that, she has been chosen as the Team leader for the dream Everest Expedition, 2006.

If Miss. Kalpana Das climbs the Mount Everest successfully, she will be the first mountaineer of Orissa as well as the first Civilan Lady of India.

BIJU PATNAIK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN SPORTS & GAMES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR 2005-2006

MISS. SRADHANJALI SAMANTARAY

Sradhanjali Samantaray daughter of Sri Netrananda Samantaray is undisputedly the most known face and name among the sports-women of Orissa. A graduate and employed with Aluminium giant NALCO, Sradhanjali had shown early promise as a versatile athlete excelling in games like Kho-Kho and Athletics in School career. Presently the Captain of Indian Football team, she is now considered as the most complete footballer of the Country. This Football phenomenon's meteoric rise coincided with the emergence of Orissa as a potential force in National Football scene. Gifted with prodigious talent, Sradhanjali was attracted towards Football in early ninties and represented Orissa State team in the 1st Federation Cup Football tournament at Halflong, Assam in 1992. Trained under the watchful eyes of her Coach Sri Nanda Kishore Patnaik himself a former Santosh Trophy player, Sradhanjali went from strength to strength and matured into a skillful and accomplished striker in the National Championship. In spite of a frail frame which defies her enormous talent, Sradhanjali through years of hard work, strong determination, perseverance, dedication and discipline has maintained a spotless track record during last 14 years of active football at National level, the finest hour being Orissa team's winning of Runners Up Trophy in the *Sr.* National Championship and Bronze medal in the National Games during 2002 under her able Captainship.

Her skillful display in National championship paved the way for her to play in the Kolkata League considered one of the toughest in the Country where she was top scorer for two years. She became an automatic choice for inclusion in the Senior Indian team and became first woman footballer from Orissa to represent India in the 11 th Asian Football Championship at China P.R. during Dec-1997.

As a mercurial striker she possessed all the finer skills of Football - flawless dribbling, deceptive body swerve, accurate passes, lethal shots on either foot, uncanny sense of positioning over and above exemplary discipline which makes her a true leader who leads by example. Sradhanjali was elevated to the position of Vice Captain of Indian team in 2003 during the 14th Asian Women Football Championship at Bangkok, Thailand. Within two years, she reached the pinnacle of glory when she was made the CAPTAIN of Indian team for the 15th AFC Championship at Hannoi, Vietnam in June-2005. The coronation of Queen of Football brought unprecedented *joy* to the sports loving people of Orissa but Sradhanjali unmoved by fame and unfazed by the glare and adulation of media and fans continues to remain simple and modest, the true hallmark of greatness.

On this day of March, 2006, Government of Orissa confers the Biju Patnaik Sports Award – Sports Person of the Year on Miss Sradhanjali Samantaray which carries a Cash Award of Rs.1.00 lakh, a Scroll, a Statuette and Blazer with Tie in the name of Legendary Sportsman and Builder of Modern Late Biju Patnaik.

ORISSA REFERENCE ANNUAL - 2005

Name : Sradhanjali Samantaray

Father 's Name : Sri Netrananda Samantaray

Date of Birth : 7th May,1978

Present Address : Plot No-N /4/190, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar Occupation : Employed with NALCO Corporate Office, Bhubaneswar,

SMT. MINATI MOHAPATRA

Minati Mohapatra, now working in Senior Management Cadre in Rourkela Steel Plant has had the rare distinction of becoming the first woman from Orissa to win the Arjun Award in 1980, the most prestigious award of the Country for excellence in sports. As an young 15 yrs. old during early 70's Minati had exhibited her precocious talent in Athletics and Cycling, a relatively lesser known sports discipline at that point of time. After attaining reasonable success in Athletics at the University and State Level, she shifted her focus to cycling. The loss of Athletics was a gain to cycling. Her winning a medal in cycling in 1970 National Games marked the beginning of an illustrious career, which culminated in 1980 when she won the Country's highest sports award. In the intervening years showing great determination, grit and courage, Minati Mohapatra reigned the National Cycling scene as the undisputed National champion from 1972 to 1979. Her irresistible desire to excel and indomitable spirit helped her to win 4 Gold Medals in Track events and 1 Gold in 17.5 kms. Road Race in Indo-Sri Lanka Cycling Meet at Colombo in 1979 that earned for her the sobriquet "Flying Queen". After retiring from active competitive Cycling smt. Mohapatra has devoted her time and experience for promotion of cycling in the State and her expertise has been availed by National Federation from time to time. She was confered with "Biju Patnaik Award" for life time achievement in promotion of Sports & Games.

Name : Smt. Minati Mohapatra
Father's Name : Sri Jagannath Mohapatra

Present Address : Qr. No -A/ 45, Sector-6, Rourkela

Permanent Address : Vill/PO -Charishri, Puri Sadar, Dist- Puri

Present Occupation : Employed with R.S.P. in Sr. Management Cadre

Special Course for Officiating : Diploma Commissaire National De L'UCI

Other Awards won : 1975 - Mohan Kumar Mangalam Award - RSP

1980 - Arjun Award - Government of India 1981 - Kharabela Award - SCS Club, Cuttack

1991 - Prajatantra Award - P.P.S

SRI ARUN KUMAR DAS

Sri Arun Kumar Das S/o-Late Ghanshyam Das presently working as a Senior Coach in Athletics in the Department of Sports & Youth Services has a distinguished career in Coaching having trained large numbers of athletes of National and International repute. Sri Das became a Coach not by accident but by choice as he himself was an outstanding athlete and wanted to pursue a career that he loved dearly. A teetotaler by habit and devoutly religious Sri Das was more of a pragmatist than a theorist and possessed an uncanny sense of institution which helped him to spot the latent talent of an athlete very early and then nurture him/her to become champion athletes. In a coaching career spanning three decades, Sri Das has had the rare distinction of producing quite a few international athletes like

Olympian Anuradha Biswal- National record holder, Susama Behera in Javelin, Long distance runner Anil Ku. Minz, ace Sprinter Farooq Alli, and Quarter Miler Baiju Marandi who have been trained by him in Sports Hostel and Centre of Excellence. During various coaching assignments, Sri Das has coached Asian Games silver medallist Pranati Mishra, National Gold medallist High Jumper Usha Mishra (Now Lesslie), SAF Game Gold Medalist Siba Singh, International Long Jumper Hemanta Patel and many more. In addition to this, scores of National medallists have been trained under his wing at different point of time; the latest being Buddhu Ramsingh, the National Gold Medalist in Long Jump and Tripple Jump in sub-Jr. age group. Sri Das is often described as a "Coach with mid as touch", as he produces prospective medallist with religious regularity and that certainly bears testimony to his hard work and commitment to the profession for which he has been rightly rewarded with the State's highest Award "Biju Patnaik Outstanding Coach Award."

MISS PRAVATI BEHERA

D/o - Bijay Behera, Vill - Patalipanka, Mahakalpara, Dist - Kendrapara

Pravati Behera, a nineteen year old girl from Kendrapara District has shown exemplary courage and valour by saving the lives of ten young boys from the clutch of sure death when the boat carrying the boys to a friendly Cricket match got unsteady and started sinking in the river. Already a proud recipient of ORISSA BRAVERY AWARD and Godfrey Phillips Gold Award, Miss Behera's nomination for Biju Patnaik Bravery Award -2005 was an unanimous choice as the most deserving candidate. Her act of bravery in rescuing 10 drowning boys from the river Mahanadi has been extensively covered both in print and electronic media in Orissa where she has been described as the epitome of "guts, grit and determination", the rare traits which transform the ordinary to extraordinary.

The State Government in the Department of Sports & Youth Services and State Youth Welfare Board bestows the highest Bravery Award of the State in the name of Legendary Statesman Late Biju Patnaik on Miss Pravati Behera for her great act of courage which carries a cash award of Rs.10,000/-, a Silver Medal and a Scroll.

MISS DEBASHREE PATNAIK

D/o- Ullash Chandra Patnaik , D-4/45, Mayapuri Appartment, 280-Nageswar Tangi, Vivekananda Marg, Bhubaneswar-751002

Debashree Patnaik hailing from a western Orissa cultural family has proved her mettle at a very tender age in the performing art of Odissi Dance. Carefully nurtured at Guru Gangadhar Pradhan's Orissa Dance Academy under the able tutelage and discerning guidance of Guru Yudhistir Nayak, Debashree matured into a skillful performer. With an excellent academic career having Graduated with 1st Class (Hons.) in Physics from 0.U.A.T, Debashree's penchant for perfection, discipline and hardwork coupled with her family support and guidance finally brought-out a promising dancer in her. Besides, being a talented dancer she has also exhibited her histrionics by way of featuring in many Door Darshan Serials and Documentary Films. Numerous awards and citations have come to her in appreciation of her dance recitals at important venues. Some of the Debashree's noteworthy performances are mentioned below

The National Literal & Cultural Festival-1999, Bangalore. The National Choreography Festival-2000, Delhi. The National Youth Festival-2005, Hyderabad The Jayadev Festival- 2005, Delhi

The 44th Kal Ke Kalakar Sammelan -2005, Mumbai The Konark Dance & Music Festival -2004, Konark The Puri Beach Festival -2002, Puri