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Message from the President

Dear Friends:

We apologize for the delay in publishing the current issue of Utkarsa. It was our intent to announce the next OSA convention venue in this issue, and we were waiting for that confirmation. We are now very pleased to inform you that the 37th Annual OSA Convention will be hosted in the Maryland area during Friday June 30th through Sunday July 2nd, 2006. Mr. Joy Gopal Mohanty has graciously agreed to lead the drive by serving as the Convener. As per OSA bylaws, OSA vice-president, Mr. Dharendra Kar, will be one of the Co-Conveners. In the process of putting the rest of the convention team together, Joy Gopal Babu will seek help from you and your community members, especially in the DC, MD, VA, NY, NJ, PA, and the New England areas. I sincerely wish to thank Joy Gopal Babu and Bigyani Das for their initiatives.

Further details about the hotel and the program will be announced, as they become available. In the meanwhile, please mark your calendars to spend the 2006 July 1st weekend in the Maryland area! I am confident that OSA 2006 will be a great success given the enormous pool of experience and talent in the North Atlantic belt. It is not a mere coincidence that this region has played host to some sixteen of the past 36 OSA conventions!

During this rather prolonged and anxiety-ridden search process for a convention venue, we have also learnt a valuable lesson or two. We need to have a more formal sharing of convention hosting responsibilities across chapters (or groups of chapters) on a rotation basis. It may very well be that from now onwards, OSA National will have to take a more active role in the convention. But we need to clearly define (or redefine) the shared roles (financial and otherwise) between the hosting chapter(s) and OSA National office bearers. We may even need to consider whether we ought to have a convention once every two years, as some other communities do. Most importantly, whatever we do must be mandated by majority vote from all OSAmembers. Your thoughts on these matters would be a good point to start with. Please help by forwarding your suggestions to us at the OSA website,

Contd. On page 2...

Dear Readers,

Wish you a happy new year. This newsletter was scheduled to be published in November/ December 2005. It got slightly delayed since we wanted to include the information on upcoming OSA convention, which was decided recently.

Oriyas in America played a very important role recently in bringing the NIS-BBSR issue to lime light. Kudos to Chitta Baral and other NROs, including OSA-VP Dharendra Kar for spearheading the resistance to this unfair act of the Government of India. We urge all self-respecting Oriyas to raise their voice against such blatant injustice. A squeaky wheel gets the oil, and perhaps Oriyas haven't squeaked enough in the past, at least not in the right forum at right time.

We thank all, who contributed to this issue. Please send your news items and literary articles for the next issue of Utkarsa by March 31. Your comments and views are always welcome at editors@orissasociety.org.

Editors

OSA Secretary's Column

Dear Friends

Namaskar. I wish you Happy New Year. May this New Year bring fulfillment and joy to your family!

This report includes the following major items:

- Activities in the First Six Months
- Planned Activities for the Next Six Months
- Membership Update
- Prabasi Oriya Dibasa Report
- Invitation to OSA 2006 Convention

1. Activities in the First Six Months

New Member Welcome Packet: We have created a new member welcome packet which went through internal review and was finalized. The packet was sent to all new life members.

Framework for OSA 2005 Souvenir Distribution: A framework for OSA 2005 souvenir distribution was made. A version of this framework was used to distribute the rest of the souvenir to OSA membership. Most of OSA members would have received the souvenir by December 31, 2005. If not, please let us know.

We are sorry for the delay in the delivery of the souvenir. OSA officers had limited control on the distribution process as the copies were with the convention committee. However, OSA officers worked with the 2005 convention committee in streamlining the process by making a framework and making constant checking.

OSA Handbook: Before I state anything about OSA handbook, I would like to share with you the following story:

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Contd. On page 3...

Contd. President's message from page 1...

(<http://www.orissasociety.org/NEW/contactus.htm>) or to your respective chapter representatives. It will be easier for us to take firm steps in that direction, after hearing from you.

You may also be interested to learn that on December 25th, 2005, the NRO Cell of Government of Orissa joined with the Non-Resident Oriya Facilitation Centre (NROFC) to celebrate the Second Prabasi Utkaliya Divas followed by a one-day symposium on Orissa Development. Orissa's Chief Minister, Mr. Naveen Pattanaik inaugurated and addressed the symposium. On behalf of OSA, we are thankful to the NROFC and its organizers Mr Sahadeva Sahoo and Dr Dhananda Mishra for doing the spade work which made this possible. Please read the press reports about the event in the current issue. During this symposium, OSA Vice-President, Mr. Dharendra Kar emphasized the importance of bringing back the proposed National Institute of Sciences to Orissa.

Many of you may be familiar with, and perhaps already involved in opposing the outrageous reversal of Indian Central Government's proposal to locate one of the three proposed sites for the Indian Institute of Sciences in Bhubaneswar. Thanks to the unrelenting work by Mr. Chitta Baral, and several others following him, the issue has generated wide media attention and engaged many pro-Orissa intellectuals, administrators, legislators, powerbrokers, and activists from all walks of life. We are still long ways before all this can impact the legislative process and executive order in favor of Orissa. Please take the time to familiarize and update yourself with the issue through the blogsite: <http://iiser.blogspot.com>. You will find numerous ways in which you could contribute. Please contact either Chitta Baral (chitta@gmail.com) or Dharendra Kar (dhirendrakar@hotmail.com) to follow up on your suggestions.

It may serve to remind each other that the collective diaspora from Orissa is stronger than we can imagine!

With best regards,

Niranjan Tripathy

President, Orissa Society of the Americas

Contd. Secretary's report from page 2...

We OSA members sometimes do go through the same situations as Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody went through in the above story. It's not unusual that nobody sent anything for my OSA Handbook proposal. I think everybody thought somebody would be sending and nobody did. Thus my previous timeline did not work.

However, I have not given up. I learnt that when I depend on everybody, everybody would think somebody would take charge and nobody would send me the material. Thus I would not get help from anybody. My next phase of action is to contact individuals directly who could possibly help me in this task.

Framework for OSA Souvenir Distribution from 2006 onwards: We have put a quick framework for OSA 2005 souvenir distribution. However, that is not the end product we want. I have received a few comments on the souvenir distribution framework. These comments are from the members who are usually happy with OSA, they regularly attend OSA conventions and they like to volunteer their time for OSA. I am waiting to receive comments from the members who have complained about OSA souvenir distribution and OSA in general. That would make my report balanced and my document unbiased. I do have my limits for the waiting period though. This limit is set for February 28, 2006.

I hope to receive the thoughts of concerned OSA members on this by the above deadline.

Campaign for NIS (National Institute of Sciences) like Institutions in Orissa: The central government had announced the setting up of four national institutes of Sciences (NIS) at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Pune and Allahabad in December 2003. However, on September 28, 2005, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh announced the setting up of Indian Institutes of Sciences for Education and Research (IISERs) in Pune and Kolkata.

OSA members are actively participating in the campaign against this injustice to Orissa. Please read more on this. The campaign has started by Dr Chita Baral. More report on this is available in OSA main page and also at

<http://iiser.blogspot.com/>

OSA Convention Dilemma:

According to the constitution OSA chapters should send requests to the National Governing Body to

hold the annual convention. This year that did not happen. The convention site for 2006 could not be announced during 2005 convention. We requested many chapters and Oriya groups and did not have the luck for a positive response. Finally, we are moving forward using an unconventional method, by selecting a convener and trying to involve volunteer OSA members throughout USA to help in the process. We thank Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty for saying "Yes" to the challenge. More announcements will be available soon. Please check OSA web page for updates.

2. Planned Activities for the Next Six Months

I believe that I could get support of OSA members to complete the following two projects in the next quarter:

- OSA Handbook
- Effective design for OSA directory

3. Membership Update

We welcome following new members to OSA community.

Life Members

Behera Goutam & Sandhya	MN, USA
Bijay Kumar Yerra & Sonali Das	RI, USA
Das Soumya S. & Swapnila S.	AR, USA
Kar Mahendra and Ullasini	NJ, USA
Mohanty Sunil K and Tamera L.	MN, USA
Nilamadhab & Seema Nanda	IL, USA
Panigrahy Surya and Minakhi Pujari	IL, USA
Patnaik Subrat and Namrata	NJ, USA
Raj Joyesh	OH, USA
Rinaldi Anthony and Manisha (Mona)	OH, USA
Rout Prasanna and Silpika	OH, USA
Sahoo Rajani Kanta &	
Mohapatra Saubhagya Laxmi	SC, USA
Sahu Nivedita	CA, USA
Tripathy Rabi and	
Geetanjali Dash	NJ, USA

Annual Members

Nayak Utkal	OH, USA
Panda Srikant and Anju	IL, USA
Patnaik Anil and Saisree	IL, USA

4. Prabasi Oriya Dibasa Report

"Prabasi Utkala Dibasa" was organized by NROFC (Non-Resident Oriya Facilitation Centre) on December 25, 2005 in Bhubaneswar. OSA was actively involved

in the organization process both remotely and by active participation of OSA Vice President Mr Dharendra Kar together with many veteran OSA members. A complete report is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

5. Invitation to OSA 2006 Convention

You are cordially invited to attend OSA 2006 Convention in Maryland. Although the venue is not yet decided, it would be decided soon.

Please participate and help exchanging the guest and host roles between different events while enjoying the camaraderie. The charm of this convention will be the unconventional method of its arrangement. However, OSA flavor will not be less. If any of you have dreamt of organizing the convention differently, this is your chance to take the lead in some parts of the convention organization and make your dream come true. Are you ready for taking the lead in any of the convention organization process? Please contact OSA National Governing Body or the convener Dr Joy Gopal Mohanty.

I wish you a great New Year.

Sincerely,

Bigyani Das
Secretary, OSA

Letter from the 2006 Convener

Dear Members of Oriya community in North America:

I hope, you all have received an email from OSA executive team about the upcoming 37th OSA annual convention to be held in the Maryland area. It is possible that you did not receive it because your email address is not in our email directory. Therefore, I request you, please write to me personally at jgmohanty@yahoo.com if you have not received an email from osaoriyas@yahogroups.com about it. I will make sure that your email address will be included in the OSA email directory and you will receive future information about our convention. Please note that this year no specific chapter is hosting OSA convention. It is centrally coordinated by OSA executive team with me as the Convener along with the help from OSA members in the neighboring chapters. I thank all the executive members of OSA for selecting me as the Convener and asking me to host the convention in Maryland area. I know, it is a challenging task; but I will try my best along with my team members (some has been selected as appended below and others to follow) to put up a good convention. However, without you, our participants, our convention will not be a success. Therefore, I invite you all through this media to Maryland area during June 30-July 2, 2006 to attend the OSA convention. So please mark your calendar for the coming event and plan to attend. If you have any suggestions or advice, please pass it on to me. We have started searching to find a suitable convention venue, which I hope will be decided by first week of February 2006. Then we will notify in details.

Joy Gopal Mohanty

OSA Convener 2006

Our Team: Nrusingha Mishra - Co-convener (mishranc@verizon.net), OSA vice-president Dharendra Kar - Defacto Co-convener (dhirendrakar@hotmail.com), and Shashadhar Mohapatra – Treasurer (smohapatra318@yahoo.com), Naresh Das – Planning committee coordinator (nareshdas@yahoo.com), Bigyani Das (bigyanidas@yahoo.com) and Julie Acharya-Ray (ankapa67@yahoo.com) – Cultural committee coordinators, Babru Samal (bsamal2@comcast.net) and Abhijit Ray (ankapa67@yahoo.com) - OSA Souvenir Coordinators



Call for Article Submission: OSA Journal 2006

The Orissa Society of the Americas (OSA) will bring out a literary souvenir for the 37th Annual OSA Convention in Maryland. This year, the journal will focus on the theme, "**Our children, Our future !!**" -- how are our children adapting or ignoring Oriya culture in North America - can they be part of OSA after we are gone? The souvenir team encourages you to submit original literary compositions related to this theme. Poetry, plays, stories, travelogues, essays, critical and creative pieces on any other topic of interest to the Oriya community of North America are also invited. **The deadline for submission is April 15, 2006.**

Original articles in both Oriya and English are welcome. Please submit your articles in electronic form either by email or by mailing a diskette/CD containing the article to any one of the following editors.

Dr Babru Samal, 10201 Unicorn Way, Rockville, MD 20850 bsamal2@comcast.net.

Dr. Abhijit Ray, 6819 Old Waterloo Road, Apt #1015, Elkridge, MD 21075, ankapa67@yahoo.com

Contributions meeting the souvenir team's editorial standards will be published. Unaccepted articles will not be returned.

Manuscript Submission Guidelines:

1. Articles in Oriya and English are welcome from all age groups. They could be in any form including but not limited to stories, poems, plays, essays, travel stories, discussions, interviews, paintings, and photographs.
2. All articles, including Oriya articles, must be word-processed and submitted in electronic form. Articles may be submitted through e-mail or by mailing the diskette/CD containing the article.
3. Articles should be preferably related to Orissa, Oriya language and culture. They could also be based on experience of Oriyas living abroad.
4. Only one article per individual will be accepted in one language.
5. Language and contents of all articles should be clean, and in good taste. The editors have the sole authority to decide if an article can be published.
6. Please check grammar and spelling before submitting the manuscript.
7. Please do not number your pages, as the page number will be different in the souvenir.
8. If you need to include any picture, table or diagram, put those inside the text. Please do not attach them separately.
9. Please write a few lines about the author to be put as footnote in the souvenir. You may send the author's photograph if you want it to be published along with the article.
10. Please try to limit the size of your articles to approximately 5 typed pages. (Specification: Font size and Spacing - Oriya: OR-TTSarala 17 single spacing; English: Arial 11 single spacing. Page size - MS-Word's default page size, i.e., 6"x9").

Chapter News

Washington DC

Washington DC chapter celebrated Kumar Purnima on the 29th of October 2005. Since it was a pretty chilly day, the organizers were quite anxious and apprehensive about the attendance. Their level of anxiety went down when the venue looked crowded with people pouring in.

The cultural program theme was much appreciated by the attendees. All the items were intricately woven into a theme in order to represent the events that occurred in a little girl's life in order to portray continuous and sequential occurrences of events. People experienced a judicious blend of dance, music and drama. This Spectacular Evening depicted collective sharing of cultures with a primary focus on Orissa as a state with its own distinctive identity.



Kids singing "Kumar punei Janha Go" Song along with Julie Ray who was the MC. Photo: Courtesy Babru Bahan Samal



Kids performing a Sambalpur folk dance
Photo: Courtesy Babru Bahan Samal

The program started off with the Kumara punei janha song in which the little girl was introduced. This was followed by classical and light music,

odissi dance, Bharat Darshan and Drama.

The children showcased classical, folk and modern dances with perfection and great finesse. Apart from introducing the younger generation into art and culture of their country and region in particular, the organizers initiated interest in adults and involved them to demonstrate the spirit of participation. For instance, the item "Bharat Darshan" which was presented by couples, each couple representing a state and dancing to the tune of that state's song was much appreciated. Additionally, the drama presented by adults was very good in terms of the script as well as role-playing.



Abhijit and Julie representing Bengal in Bharat Darshan.
Photo: Courtesy Babru Bahan Samal

After the cultural program, participants were treated to a sumptuous dinner. The success of this event can be attributed to all those who have pitched in and contributed in terms of ideas, time and effort. Though I would have liked to mention each one's name and thank them, the list is so long that I fear I might miss out a few names accidentally. However, I would like to state here that each one's effort has paid off since the smile and enthusiasm manifested by the audience said it all.

Parameeta Kanungo

Canada

The CanOSA celebrated the Kumara Purnima on the 22nd of October, in the North York Public library in Toronto. Above 200 people attended the programme. This is a record number of people for attendance in any of the Oriya programmes so far in Canada, despite the rough weather outside. People from the Greater Toronto Area, Sudbury, Kingston, London and Buffalo came to celebrate. The programme started with the traditional song of *Kuanra Punei Janha Go*.



The highlights of the programme were an Odissi dance by Sushri Mishra-Kar and a dance drama of Kanchi-Abhijana. Ms. Kar was superb in rendering Jayadeva's song of Dasavatar in the graceful Odissi style. The Kanchi Abhijana was also directed and choreographed by Ms. Kar. The lyrics were by Partha Sarathi Mohapatra and sung by Akshaya Mohanty. For a moment, the immortal voice of Akshaya Mohanty became alive. Ms. Kar and Niranjana Mishra did a wonderful folk dance as well. The plays Krishna Sudama and Kania Dekha were also enjoyable. As Prof. Purohit wrote "*It was melange of great songs, dances, plays and camaraderie, smiles and a splendid ambience. For five hours North York library became a part of Orissa.*"



The programme ended with a sumptuous dinner prepared by the volunteers. It was a moment of happiness and community spirit to witness and enjoy.

Gagan Panigrahi,
Chapter president,
Toronto

New York / New Jersey

America Sings Kumar Punei Jhana go ...

Dhirendra Kar

This beautiful evening of Kumar Purnima celebration at Bridgewater Temple of New Jersey brought together a gigantic community of Odiyas in a show of fraternity feeling and endeavor. The happiness of celebrating the age old Odiya function of Kumar Purnima was doubled by the unprecedented unification of two factions of OSA. These two communities had separated from each other like two warring brothers that had refused to unite for the past two decades. Dreams of unification had stemmed in the minds of several members over these years, but being separated had almost become a habit! This spell was finally broken tonight and it brought together two long lost brothers OSANY and OSANJ under the new name of OSANY-NJ. There were celebrations, cheers and hurrahs for the Odiya community where brothers met brothers, some happy tears were shed and a lot of jubilation followed.

All congregated local Odiyas signed a petition to the Prime Minister of India, expressing their anguish over the decision to relocate a proposed, prime institute of science and technology (branch of IISC) from Bhubaneswar.

The evening showcased a three hour cultural extravaganza that comprised of Odiya songs, sambalpuri and Odissi dances, Odiya dramas and instrumental music followed by a mouth watering Odiya dinner. Odiyas rebuilt Konark, recited Mangalacharan, and danced to the popular tunes of immortal voices from Odissa.

Welcome New Chapter Presidents

Mr. Nilamadhab Nanda	Chicago
Ms. Krishna Senapati	Michigan
Ms. Bijoylaxmi Mishra	New England
Mr. Tapan Padhi	Southwest
Ms. Parameeta Kanungo	Washington, DC
Dr. Surya Mishra	Ozark
Mr. PriyaRanjan Mohapatra	OSANY-NJ

Continuing Chapter Presidents

Mr. Ramnarayan Mohapatra	Florida
Dr. Lipishree Nayak	Maryland-Virginia
Ms. Tanni Mishra	Minnesota Chapter
Mr. Birendra Jena	Ohio Chapter
Mr. Anoop Mishra	Southern Chapter
Mr. Sivabrata Das	South-East Chapter
Dr. Gagan Panigrahi	Canada Chapter

Out-going presidents

Please put your hands together for their time and effort for the Oriya community.

Ms. Ipsita Satapathy	Chicago Chapter
Ms. Rina Mahapatra	Michigan Chapter
Mr. Pradeep Dhal	New England Chapter
Mr. Nageswar Prusty	New Jersey Chapter
Ms. Alpana Das	Washington, DC Chapter
Dr. Jitu Nanda	Ozark Chapter
Mr. Pradip Tripathy	OSANY

Orissa Society of New England

July 23, 2005: The Society organized a picnic at Hopkinton State Park. The event was very well attended. Ample food included barbecue, fruits, and other preparations by members. The dinner consisted of catered Chinese food. The members and children had a great time playing various games, swimming and boating in the lake.

The general body observed a moment of silence in honor of Mrs. Basanta Manjari Das, the news of whose passing saddened many local Oriyas.

The society elected new office bearers as follows:
Bijoy Laxmi Mishra – President
Rita Mohanty – Vice President
Sadhana Mahapatra – Secretary/Treasurer

California

The inaugural ceremony & open house of International Gurukul was held on September 11 at Roundhill studio's new location in El Calmino Real. The function started with children singing prayer 'Ahe Dayamaya biswa Bihari' and an invocation to Lord Ganesh, Mother Earth & all Gurus. Inaugural candle lighted by Dr. Anjalika Pattanaik followed by the song Bande Utlaka Janani.

Approx 40 families attended this ceremony. Many Parents including Anju Apa and Tita Apa shared their experience with 'Chala Ame Odiya Sikhiba' and renewed expectations on the new programs of International Gurukul.

Program details and fee structure are given below. Classes are held every Sunday morning. Registration for class is on full swing. Many parents and children have already enrolled for the program.

Incase you are interested, please register at the earliest by sending an email to chaos3steps@yahoo.com.

If you have any questions/comments then please send an email or talk to some of our core team members:

- Pranab Panda (Pranab.Panda@infineon.com)
- Laxmidhar Mishra (laxmidhar@yahoo.com)
- Samar Moharana (smoharana@yahoo.com)
- Manoj Joshi (mjoshi@tuvox.com)
- Mita Moharana (mita_sahoo@yahoo.com)

Leeta Mohanty – Cultural Secy.

September 24, 2005: We celebrated Ganesh Puja. The Puja was performed by Dr. Bijoy M. Misra. The Puja was followed by prasad distribution and a cultural event that included performances by children as well as adults. The weather cooperated and the attendance was phenomenal. The general body thanked the previous office bearers: Pradeep Dhal, Kailash Bhol, Nityananda Misra, and Julie Swain, for their untiring work to make OSNE a better socio-cultural organization. The event culminated with a dinner consisting of authentic home cooked vegetarian food that was enjoyed by all.

Miscellaneous News and Views

Miss Jr. Teen America, 2005.

Source: www.worldorissa.com/News_Natasha_Miss_Jr_Teen_USA.htm

Natasha Mahapatro from Seattle, Washington has been crowned as Miss Jr. Teen America, 2005. This competition was held in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Natasha is a student of Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.



This is for the first time any Oriya girl has participated in any national level pageant in USA and has won the title. This contest was a part of The Continental Miss Teen America Scholarship Program by the The Continental Miss Teen America Scholarship Program INC.



Natasha is the proud daughter of Nilamadhab (Neel) Mahapatro and Sasmita Mahapatro, and proud sister of Shivani Mahapatro. Mr. Mahapatro is originally from Berhampur, Orissa.

Natasha is also an accomplished dancer and a choreographer. She has performed in many local Indian functions, Orissa Society of Americas Conventions with her elder sister Shivani.

In a message to worldorissa.com Natasha says "I decided to do the pageant because I thought it would be fun, and since it was scholarship they would also look at my grades and the community service I did. It was a truly exciting experience, and all of the community service was so much fun. I got to meet many new people. Many pageant-related people are my role models in life, so I thought why not I try one out. It was a huge surprise when they announced me as the winner,

because all of the girls were all so talented. "

For more information about Miss Jr. teen America visit http://www.missteenamerica.com/JrTeen_Home.htm.



Natasha performing at 2005 OSA convention in CA. She bagged 2nd prize in Subrina Biswal Contest.

2005 Dr. Hemanta Senapati Awards for Top Orissa High School Students*

Sitakantha Dash

Dr. Hemanta Senapati Trust/Orissa Society of Americas will honor the holders of 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions at the 2005 Orissa High School Certificate Examination. The Trust Fund has been created with the funds from Dr. Senapati's family members and close friends and the award money is funded from the interest of the trust fund. This year's presentation will be at a special ceremony to be held in conjunction with 2nd Pravasi Utkaliya Divas to be held on Dec 25, 2005 at Swosti Plaza Hotel, Bhubaneswar.

Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik will present the plaques and cash awards of Rs.50,000, Rs.30,000 and Rs.20,000 to these top three students. This award is being presented every year to the top High School students.

Trustee Dr. S.K.Dash and NROFC President Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo will organize this event in Bhubaneswar. If you are planning a trip to Orissa in December, please try to attend this event on Dec 25, 2005 at Swosti Plaza Hotel, Bhubaneswar. For details please contact Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo at sahadevas@yahoo.com or Dr.S.K.Dash at dash@uaslabs.com.

* This article was submitted before the event. Details of Pravasi Utkala Divasa can be found on page 12.

Factsheet on NIS & Proposed Agenda for the Future Course of Action by Agamee Odisha

Supriti Mishra

(Contributed by Chitta Baral)

Two years ago, a group of Pune-based scientists first mooted the idea of a new-age centre for science education and research to stop the brain drain to disciplines like management and for that matter to foreign countries. On 9th December 2003, the then HRD minister Professor M. M. Joshi, in an address to the Consultative Committee of the Parliament, announced about the Union Government's decision to establish four National Institutes of Sciences (NIS) at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Pune and Allahabad. On 10th December, 2003, Press information Bureau, Government of India under a press release corroborated the declaration by the Ministry of HRD. Subsequently, an UGC document released on Jan 2004 declaring about the steps initiated by the UGC to establish four National Institutes of Sciences at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Pune and Allahabad.

As a part of this initiative the Chairman, UGC, had written a letter to the then Vice Chancellor, Utkal University along with other VCs. Even a sub-committee was constituted with the VCs as members who had met at New Delhi in August 2003 to discuss on this matter. It was a go-ahead signal from the UGC based on which the then VC, Utkal University, had met the Hon'ble Chief Minister and impressed on him for the setting up of NIS at Bhubaneswar. The CM had also taken great interest and instructed the district authorities to cooperate in allocating the land for the purpose. Informally the location was decided to be Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar.

Quite contrary to these steps and declarations by the previous Government at the Centre, recently on September 28, 2005, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh has announced the setting up of an Indian Institute of Science for Education and Research (IISER) at Pune and Kolkata, respectively. The aim of the National Institute of Sciences that Professor Joshi had announced in December 2003 is the same as the proposed IISERs. Thus, NIS and IISER, though they differ in their names, both refer to the same concept.

Orissa, as you know, does not have any central university, or any institute of national repute like IIT, IIM, IIIT or ISI, etc. It also does not have any reputed autonomous science and technology institution funded by Government of India. Orissa has often been a victim of negligible educational investment from the Central Government. It was deprived of an IIT just after Independence. It took almost a decade to declare REC, Rourkela, as a NIT. Where as the state of West Bengal where one of the IISERs is proposed has an IIT in Kharagpur, a central University in Shanti Niketan, two additional institutes of national importance - an IIM and an Indian Statistical institute (ISI), and three autonomous science and technology institutions, all

in Kolkata. Similarly, the state of Maharashtra where the other IISER is proposed, has the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in Pune, an IIT in Mumbai, and three other autonomous science and technology institutions. In recent years, Bhubaneswar has come up as a major information technology hub for software industry. Software majors like Infosys and Satyam have set up their facilities. However, when all other major IT cities have either an IIT or IIIT in the city or close by, Bhubaneswar in particular and Orissa in general, does not boast of such facilities either.

Now, this issue needs to be looked at from the perspective of whether, Orissa has the ability to nurture and flourish institutes of high standard like an NIS or IISER. Orissa government and the people of Orissa have helped create several top notch institutions like the Institute of Physics, the Xavier's Institute of Management and the Institute of Life Sciences, all in Bhubaneswar. The Institute of Physics at Bhubaneswar, is an autonomous research institution funded jointly by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Government of Orissa and established in 1972. Research at Institute of Physics is top notch by international standards. Its alumni have gone on to many good institutions all over the world. Many of its faculty and students have preferred it over an IIT. The Xavier's Institute of Management owes its origin to a Social Contract between the Government of Orissa and the OJS (Orissa Jesuit Society). It was established in 1987, and ranks among the top business schools in India. This year's Outlook magazine ranks it 8 in the country among various business schools, including the IIMs. It has faculty with PhDs from top business schools such as University of Massachusetts, and Stern School of Business, NYU, New York. It also has a fellows program which is equivalent to PhDs. The Institute of Life Sciences, an initiative by the Govt. of Orissa, Department of Science and Technology, started a decade back. On August 2, 2002 it came under the administrative and financial control of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. The researchers of this institute often publish in international journals. To reiterate, the above three institutions had been created by the foresightedness of the Government of Orissa, and are now premier research institutions, albeit with limited focus, but boasting of world class research and teaching. Besides these three, there are several other research institutions in and around Bhubaneswar that do very good and useful research. This includes the Regional Research laboratory (RRL) in Bhubaneswar, the Regional medical research center (RMRC) in Bhubaneswar, the Central Rice research institute (CRRRI) in Cuttack, the Central Institute of Fresh Water Aquaculture (CIFA) in Bhubaneswar, and the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research in Olatpur. In addition,

two institutions, the Institute of Material Sciences and the Institute of Mathematics and Application have been established by the Government of Orissa and are in their beginning stage. The above illustrates, how Bhubaneswar and Orissa have established and nurtured top notch research and educational institutions. Thus one can extrapolate and conclude that with high probability an NIS/IISER in Bhubaneswar will be very successful and well nurtured.

On the other hand, Orissa being the most backward state in India, often the need for a research institution, which can help develop proper growth strategies linking the development needs of the state with that of the available resources, has been mooted. This calls for a scientific approach and the need for an institute that envisages offering education and teaching in basic science totally integrated with the state-of-the-art research simultaneously working for developing facilities contributing to the upgradation of local needs. Setting up of an NIS/IISER in Bhubaneswar/Orissa will fulfill the long standing demand of a central government funded institute in the state and can act as a change agent in the development of the state.

Our Indian system of proportional representation makes smaller states like Orissa susceptible to injustice and neglect by the Centre. That is where, we expect statesmen like Dr. Manmohan Singh, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and Mr. Arjun Singh to lead and make sure that resources are fairly distributed, and interest of economically backward states like Orissa are protected. In a recent address, the hon'ble Prime Minister has referred to regional imbalance in case of educational institutions and has urged the state governments to strongly deal with such issues. We certainly look forward to such a balanced outlook even in setting up of NIS/IISER in Orissa.

In fact, since the issue refers to a previously taken decision, we would expect the Central Government to oblige Orissa with simply implementing the past decision. According to newspaper reports, the Chief Minister of Orissa, has written to the Prime Minister on this issue. He has also talked to Mr. Arjun Singh who seems to be positive on this issue.

However, early this week newspapers have reported that the "Chief Minister Naveen Patanaik has urged Union Human resource Minister Arjun Singh to expedite the establishment of the Regional Centre of Studies in Integrated Sciences (RCSIS) in Bhubaneswar under National Institute of science framework". We, however, do not quite agree with this demand. Rather we would urge upon both the State and the Central Government to retain and implement their previous decision of setting up of NIS/IISER in Orissa.

The issue of relocating NIS/ IISER from Orissa has perturbed many Oriyas, both within and outside the state

(including a number of Non-resident Oriyas). Prominent newspapers have been continuously raising this issue in the media. Oriyas outside have initiated many debates and signature campaigns. Thousand and thousands of signatures (both physical and electronic) are being sent to the Prime Minister and Sonia Gandhi. NROs are writing open letters to Prime Minister, Planning Commission, Smt. Sonia Gandhi (UPA Chairperson) and the Minister of HRD, Mr. Arjun Singh pointing at the grave injustice done to Orissa by not setting up the NIS here. A PIL has already been filed in the Orissa High Court on the above issue. Agamee Orissa has taken up this issue since early October (immediately after the Central Government's decision to set up IISERs at Pune & Kolkata). Since then, we have been coordinating with various other forums who have been fighting for this cause and evolving joint strategies to carry forward our demand for implementation of Government's own decision to set up an NIS at BBSR. Periodical discussions with academicians, politicians, intellectuals, media and students are taking place on this issue to evolve the future plan of action. Today's convention is an outcome of such discussions. There are also some laudable voluntary efforts from various persons like –

(i) Mr. Sahadev Sahu, Ex-Chief Secretary, Govt. of Orissa, to stage a hunger strike on the issue.

(ii) Prof.R.K.Nayak (hon'ble Member, Rajya Sabha) and

(iii) Prof. Digambar Mishra (Prof.,University of Alabama) volunteering to coordinate an audience with the Prime Minister, of a small group of delegates representing the broader civil society, on behalf of Agamee Orissa.

An important objective of today's convention is to decide on the future plan of action or set the agenda for our future course of action. Some suggestions are outlined below:

1. Silent rally by intellectuals to the Governor House
2. Hunger strike by two/three senior members in front of the Governor's House
3. A peace rally by students
4. A selected/limited number of delegates meeting the Prime Minister on the issue (subject to our getting an approval for the appointment for the said purpose)
5. Appeal to hon'ble Members of Parliament and legislative assembly for strongly lobbying for the cause
6. Appeal to the media – both print & electronic, for wide publicity of the issue, and ensuing debates and discussions on the issue

We would like to call upon the House to give their suggestions on the proposed agenda, suggest any other course of action, and decide on the dates for the various events.

*The presentation draws from the material placed in the blogspot by Prof. Chitta Baral on the issue of NIS and some of my thoughts.



2nd Prabasi Utkal Divas & Orissa Development Symposium

NROFC
Non-Resident Oriya Facilitation Center

PRESS RELEASE

NROFC Bureau: NROFC (Non-Resident Oriya Facilitation Centre) in cooperation with the NRO Cell of Government of Orissa had celebrated 2nd Prabasi Utkaliya Divas and thereby organised a whole day symposium on "Orissa Development" on 25th Dec '05 (Sunday) at Swosti Plaza, Bhubaneswar.

While inaugurating the Symposium, Mr. Naveen Pattanaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa said that NROFC had done a great job by taking all NROs under one umbrella. He said "I am proud that some academics among you have set up technical colleges in Orissa, a great number have been visiting Orissa's colleges and Universities to enhance the quality of education. A lot of you are taking up social uplift work in rural areas of the State. A good number of call centers and software development centers have been set up by you, one of them the STI (Systems Technology International) has grown to employ almost a hundred professionals. I am proud that one biotech firm IMGEX has grown within two years to have an export of more than ten million rupees. Two days more and the President of India will be inaugurating its technical lab, which I understand is slated to go into stem cell research and production next year. Orissa is proud of the largest FDI, not only in India but in the whole world. That is POSCO. We have many hurdles but with your cooperation and cooperation of the people of Orissa I am sure we will overcome them. Having watchful eyes from a distance you feel pain when Orissa is deprived of its share of central projects of excellence like National Institute of Science. I am proud of your feelings for your home State. Let me assure you all here that I am not a silent spectator."

Dr Damodar Rout praised NROs for enriching the land wherever they have gone and asked them to spare no pains to aid State's efforts at raising the standards of Oriyas and adding to the State's GDP through industries and education. Shri Debashis Nayak, Minister I&PR, Sports & Youth Affairs emphasized on developing proper linkages between the NROs and their home State.

Mr. Dharendra Kar, Vice-President OSA in his speech requested the press to emphasize positive side of the State's development and resource utilization rather than focusing on individual faults. He clarified that NROFC is a facilitating organization to aid NROs' works in Orissa and help remove the hurdles in their enterprises in Orissa. As such NROFC is not an NGO to compete with other NGOs but an effort to coordinate activities of NROs in Orissa. Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo, Ex-Chief Secy, and President NROFC, the man behind the Symposium wished that the foreign remittances the NROs make to their kinsmen could better be invested in enterprises owned and operated by/through their kins, as that would be a value added growth for the State. He further wished "If only the State could tap the knowledge of the NROs!".



A Souvenir was released by the Chief Minister, Mr. Naveen Pattanaik.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by technical sessions in which NROs took active part. Discussions ranged from means to promote Oriya culture to industrialization, to academic development, excellence in technical education including Biotechnology and Bioinformatics and to empowerment of the rural population in the State. Lively discussions were followed by organisational structuring of the NROFC. The evening was a fabulous cultural programme hosted by the Department of Culture. NROFC and all attendees were thankful to the hosts who are arranged the whole show including tea, lunch and dinner.



Six year old lost her life to a tragic road accident in flint, MI.

Source: http://www.worldorissa.com/News_MI_road_accident_Nov_5_2005.htm

Nov 5, 2005. Flint, MI:

It was a colorful day for Oriyas in Michigan, USA. The Orissa Society of The Americas, Michigan Chapter had celebrated it's annual Kumar Purnima function at a gathering of more than 64 families with around 200 people including children and guests at Avondale Middle School, Rochester Hills. They had practiced for more than a month and the function was superb from all account. The evening was filled with cultural programs of all catagory. There were songs, dances, dramas, pala, daskathia and many other programs as well as professional photographer, good catered food and many more to give an evening of fun and enjoyment to all present. The day was so perfect for all till a tragic accident happened to one family on their way back home.

Mr. Santosh Mahapatra and Mrs. Lipi Mahapatra of Lansing, Michigan, USA lost their only child to this tragic accident, which happened on I-69 in flint. Meghna herself had performed in a dance with her friend Raveena, which was choreographed by the local Odissi dancer Mrs. Manashi Mishra. It was a beautiful dance but unfortunately the last one by her. Meghna had always participated in Oriya Society functions. This time her father Mr. Mahapatra, who had just finished his Ph.D in Finance from Michigan State University, Lansing had a faculty interview to attend early this week. Therefore he was not even planning to come to the function. Meghna insisted to come as she was participating in the dance.

Severely injured Meghna passed away soon after she reached the Hurly hospital in Flint. Meghna was six years old and was in first grade. Both the parents are out of danger but have under gone major orthopedic surgeries as they were severely injured in their hands and legs. They are still in Hospital. The whole MI Oriya community was shocked at this news and is grieving at the passing away of little Meghna.

Dr. Prafulla K. Pati, a towering personality and a legendry teacher of English from Orissa, passed away recently at the Kalinga Hospital in Bhubaneswar due to complications following a fall. He was in his late eighties. He was cremated in Sambalpur, his native place.

Dr. Prafulla K. Pati, in his long and distinguished career of public service held many important positions, such as Head of the Department and Professor of English at Ravenshaw college, Cuttack, Member, Orissa Public Service Commission, and Vice Chancellor of the Sambalpur University. His book, "The Evolution of literary criticism in the West and in India" is a mark of his deep scholarship in English literature. Dr. Pati was passionately devoted to teaching, and mentored many to be strong and committed academicians.

He is survived by his wife Snehalata Pati and four sons - Ishwar, Rajkishore, Himanshu and Asis. Rajkishore Pati is a resident of Wisconsin. His younger brother Dr. Prasanna Pati lives in Oregon.



Sukla (Dula) Misra-Graver
Oct. 11, 1945 – Jan. 8, 2006

Dula Misra-Graver passed away on Sunday January 8 at 7:00 p.m. peacefully, surrounded by her children, husband, family, and friends. Memorial services were held in Austin, Texas on January 10, in Bhubaneswar, India on January 19, and in San Antonio, Texas on January 29. Dula lived in Canada and the USA since 1966 and was known to many Oriyas in North America. Perhaps she will be remembered most for her wit and humor, her zest for life, and her unique ability to treat anyone as her family. She will be greatly missed.

ମଲେ ବି ଶନିବାର ଦିନ ମର

ଡାକ୍ତର କବି ପ୍ରସାଦ ମିଶ୍ର, ହୃଦ୍‌ରୋଗ ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ

ଆମେରିକାରେ ବହୁବର୍ଷ ସ୍ନାତକୋତ୍ତର ଶିକ୍ଷା, ଗବେଷଣାରେ କଟାଇ ହୃଦ୍‌ରୋଗ ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ ହେଲି । ପରେ ବି ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଏବଂ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ଭାଗନେବା ପାଇଁ, ତଥା ଆମର ପିଲାମାନେ ଆମେରିକାରେ ରହୁଥିବାରୁ ଆମେରିକା ବହୁଥର (ପ୍ରାୟ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ) ଯାଇଛି । ଆମେରିକାର ୫୦ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ୩୫ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟ ବୁଲିସାରିଛି ବା ଦେଖିସାରିଛି । ଏପରିକି ବହୁ ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ନ ଦେଖିଥିବା ତାଙ୍କର ୪୯ତମ ଏବଂ ୫୦ତମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ‘ଆଲାସ୍କା’ ଏବଂ ‘ହାୱାଇ’ ଦ୍ୱୀପ ମଧ୍ୟ ଦେଖିବାର ସୁଯୋଗ ପାଇଛି । ତେଣୁ ଆମେରିକା ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କର ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ ଲେଖିବାକୁ ଇଚ୍ଛା ହେଲା । ଏହା ମୋର ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ବିଚାର ଓ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରୁ ଲେଖୁଛି । ସମସ୍ତେ ହୁଏତ ମୋ ସଙ୍ଗର ଏ ବିଷୟରେ ଏକମତ ନ ହୋଇ ପାରନ୍ତି ।

ଏହା ନିଃସନ୍ଦେହ ଯେ ଆମେରିକା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଧନଶାଳୀ ଦେଶ । ମହୁ, ଘିଅ ଏବଂ ସୁନାର ଦେଶ କହିଲେ ଚଳେ । ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସଂପଦ ଏତେ ଅଧିକ ଯେ କିଛି ଅଭାବ ନାହିଁ । ପେଟୋଲ୍, କୁହ୍, ସୁନା କୁହ୍, ଖଣିଜ ସଂପଦ ବା କୌଣସି ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ୍ ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ ପଦାର୍ଥ କୁହ୍, ଏତେ ପ୍ରଚୁର ପରିମାଣରେ ଅଛି ଯେ ଆସନ୍ତା ଶହ ଶହ ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ତାଙ୍କର ଏ ସବୁ ପଦାର୍ଥରେ କିଛି ଅଭାବ ପଡ଼ିବ ନାହିଁ । ଏଇଟା ଆମେରିକାପାଇଁ ଇଶ୍ଵରଦତ୍ତ ସୌଭାଗ୍ୟ କହିଲେ ହେବ ।

ଖାଲି ସେତିକି ନୁହେଁ, ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ବି ଆମେରିକାରେ ଅନେକ ଏବଂ ଅସାଧାରଣ ସ୍ଥାନସବୁ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ମିଳେ । ଆମ ମାନଙ୍କର ଧାରଣା ନ ଥାଏ ଯେ ଆମେରିକା ଆକାରରେ ଭାରତଠାରୁ ଦୁଇଗୁଣରୁ ଅଧିକ ବଡ଼ । ବିରାଟ ଆୟତନର ଏହି ଦେଶରେ ବହୁତ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ବୈଚିତ୍ର୍ୟର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନସ୍ଥଳୀ ଭରି ରହିଛି । ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ କିଛିକିଛି ଦେଖିଲେ ବି ସବୁ ଦର୍ଶନୀୟ ସ୍ଥାନ, ଏବଂ ରାଜ୍ୟାଂଶ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ବହୁବର୍ଷ ଲାଗିବ । ଅବଶ୍ୟ ଆମ ଭାରତବର୍ଷରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ଐତିହାସିକ ବୈଭବ, ଜାତୀୟ ଗୌରବ ଏବଂ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଧର୍ମ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି ପୀଠ, ମନ୍ଦିର ଆଦି ବହୁ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଏବଂ ବୈଚିତ୍ର୍ୟର ସମନ୍ୱୟରେ ଜୀବନ୍ତ ରହିଛନ୍ତି । ଆମେରିକାର ଐତିହାସିକ ବୈଭବ ଭାରତ ତୁଳନାରେ କିଛି ନୁହେଁ କହିଲେ ଚଳେ । ଭାରତର ହଜାର ହଜାର ବର୍ଷର ଇତିହାସ ତୁଳନାରେ ଆମେରିକାର ଇତିହାସ ମାତ୍ର ଅଢ଼େଇଶହ ବର୍ଷର । କିନ୍ତୁ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ, ଭୌଗୋଳିକ, ବୈଜ୍ଞାନିକ ଏବଂ ଆଧୁନିକ ସଭ୍ୟତା, ତଥା ବୈଷୟିକ ଚମତ୍କାରିତା ବିଷୟରେ ଆମେରିକା ନିଶ୍ଚିତଭାବେ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ଏବଂ ବିଭବଶାଳୀ । ନ ଦେଖିଲେ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ

କରିହେବ ନାହିଁ । ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଅଭିଯାନ, କଲମ୍ପିଆ ଏବଂ ଡିସ୍କଭରୀର ଯାତା, ବୈଜ୍ଞାନିକ ପ୍ରଗତିର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନାଗାର, ଡିସ୍‌ନି ୱାଲ୍‌ଡ୍, ଯୁନିଭର୍ସାଲ୍ ଷ୍ଟୁଡିଓ, aquarium ଆଦି ଆମୋଦପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ତଥା ତଥ୍ୟ-ଶିକ୍ଷାମୂଳକ ସ୍ଥାନ ସବୁ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ । ତା ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ Grand Canyon, Mammoth Caves, Yellow Stone, Red Wood park, Death Valley, Petrified Forest, Niagara Falls, Yesomite National Park, The Old Faithful, Lake Tahoe ଏବଂ ସର୍ବୋପରି ଭୂସ୍ପର୍ଶ ଆଲାସ୍କାର ଅଲୈକିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଏ ଦେଶକୁ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଏବଂ ଭୌଗୋଳିକ ସଂପଦରେ ଯେ ବିଭବଶାଳୀ କରିଦେଇଛି, ଏଥିରେ ସନ୍ଦେହ ନାହିଁ । ତା’ ଛଡ଼ା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଅରଣ୍ୟ, ଉଦ୍ୟାନ, park ଏବଂ Las Vegas ଭଳି ସର୍ବୋତ୍କୃଷ୍ଟ ସହର ସବୁ ସଂଗଠନ ଏବଂ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ କରି ଏ ଦେଶ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି - ଏଥିରେ ମତଭେଦ ନାହିଁ ।

ଦୁଃଖର କଥା ଏ ସବୁ ଥାଇ ମଧ୍ୟ, ଏତେ ବିଭବ, ସଂପଦରେ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଆମେରିକା ସତେ ଯେପରି ମାନବିକତା, ମଣିଷର କଳା, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ହୃଦୟସ୍ପର୍ଶୀ ବିଭବରେ ଦରିଦ୍ର ହୋଇଯାଇଛି ବୋଲି ମନେହୁଏ । ଏ ଦେଶରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଏକ ଏକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିକୈନ୍ଦ୍ରିକ, ବସ୍ତୁବାଦୀ, ଅନ୍ତରାତ୍ମାବିହୀନ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଚାଳିତ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥପର କୃତ୍ରିମ ମାନବରେ (Robot) ପରିଣତ ହେଲାଭଳି ମନେହୁଅନ୍ତି । ସମସ୍ତେ ଯେପରି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟହୀନ, ଆଦର୍ଶରହିତ, ଜୀବନର ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧରେ ଅପରିଚିତ ରହି ନିଜ ନିଜ ଧନ୍ଦାରେ, ବୃତ୍ତିରେ, କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଚିରନ୍ତନ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ରହୁଛନ୍ତି । ଯେପରିକି ଜୀବନରେ ଧନ, ମାନ, ପଦବୀ, ବୈଷୟିକ ବିଭବ, ସଂପଦ ଛଡ଼ା ଆଉ କିଛି କଳାମୟ, ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମ, ସୁନ୍ଦର ବିଷୟ ନାହିଁ । ସାର ଜୀବନଟା ଯେପରି କେବଳ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟହୀନ ଧାଇଁବାରେ ହିଁ କରୁଛି । ‘କାହିଁକି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟହୀନ ଭାବରେ ଧାଇଁଛ ?’ ଏ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ପଚାରିବାକୁ ବା ଭାବିବାକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ସମୟ ନାହିଁ । ସମସ୍ତେ ନିଜ ନିଜ ଧନ୍ଦାରେ, କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଏବଂ ବୃତ୍ତିଗତ ଜୀବନରେ ନିଜର ସ୍ଥିରତା, ଉନ୍ନତି, ପଦବୀ ପାଇଁ ଯେପରି ଚିରନ୍ତନ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ରହୁଛନ୍ତି । କାହିଁକି ? ତା’ର ଉତ୍ତର ନାହିଁ ବା ଭାବିବାକୁ ସମୟ ନାହିଁ ।

ସମସ୍ତେ ସୋମବାରଠାରୁ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର ଯାଏ ଅତ୍ୟଧିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ରହି ଶନିବାରକୁ ଚାହିଁ ରହିଥାନ୍ତି । ସାମାଜିକ ଉତ୍ସବ, ବିବାହ, ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପର୍ବ ପର୍ବାଣିର ପାଳନ, ବୁଲ୍‌ବୁଲି ସବୁ ଶନିବାର ଓ ରବିବାରରେ ହିଁ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ । ଭାରତୀୟମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହା ଏକ ହାସ୍ୟୋଦ୍ଦୀପକ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ପରିଣତ ହୋଇଛି । ଏ ବର୍ଷ ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଜୁଲାଇ ୮

ତାରିଖ ଶୁକ୍ରବାରଦିନ ପଡ଼ିଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ୩୦ରେ ପାଳନ ହେଲା ଶନିବାର ବା ରବିବାର ଦିନ (ଭିନ୍ନ ଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥାନରେ) । ଆମର ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ପନ୍ଦର ସୋମବାରଦିନ ପଡ଼ୁଥିବାରୁ ପାଳନ ହେଲା କେଉଁଠି ଶନିବାର ତ ଅନ୍ୟ କେଉଁଠି ରବିବାର ଦିନ । କେତେକ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ସଫାହକ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ବା ପରେ ଶନିବାର ବା ରବିବାର ଦିନ ପାଳିତ ହେଲା । ବିଚରା ଗଣେଷ, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ, ରାମ, କୃଷ୍ଣ ଆଦି ଦେବଦେବୀ ମଧ୍ୟ ତାଙ୍କର ଜନ୍ମଦିନରେ ପୂଜିତ ନ ହୋଇ ନିକଟତମ ଶନିବାର ବା ରବିବାର ଦିନ ପୂଜା ପାଆନ୍ତି । ଯାହାହେଉ, ଯେଉଁ ଉତ୍ସବ ବା ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ହେଉ ସବୁ ଶନିବାର ବା ରବିବାରହିଁ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ । ନଚେତ୍ କେହି ଆସିବେ ନାହିଁ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ମୋର ଘନିଷ୍ଠ ରସିକ ବନ୍ଧୁ (ରଜତବାରୁ) କହିଲେ ଯେ 'ଆଜ୍ଞା, ଆମେରିକାରେ ମରିବାକୁ ଗଲେ ବି ସେମାନେ କହିବେ - ଦୟାକରି ଶନିବାର ଦିନ ମରନ୍ତୁ । ନଚେତ୍ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଶବଦାହ ପାଇଁ କେହି ଆସିବେ ନାହିଁ ।' କଥାଟି ଶୁଣି ହସ ଲାଗିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏଇଟା ନିତାନ୍ତ ସତ ।

ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ କଥା । ଶନିବାର, ରବିବାର କ'ଣ ବିଶ୍ରାମ ଅଛି ? ଚାକର ବାକର, ପୁଜାରୀ, ଡ୍ରାଇଭର୍ ତ ନାହାନ୍ତି । ଘର କାମ, ବଜାର ସଉଦା କିଣାକିଣି କିଏ କରିବ ? ସବୁ ନିଜେ ନିଜେ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼େ । ରକ୍ଷାରକ୍ଷିଠାରୁ ଘରସଫା, ବଜାର ସଉଦା କରିବାଠାରୁ ପାଇଖାନା, ଗଧୁଆଘର ସଫା କରିବ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ; ଘରସଜାଠାରୁ ଗାଡ଼ିସଫା କରିବା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସବୁକାମ ନିଜହାତରେ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼େ । ଅର୍ଡର୍ ନେବାପାଇଁ କେହି ନାହାନ୍ତି । ସ୍ୱାମୀ, ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ପରସ୍ପର ସାହାଯ୍ୟ, ସହଯୋଗ ନ କଲେ ଜୀବନ ଦୁର୍ବହ । ତେଣୁ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ରକ୍ଷାରକ୍ଷି କଲେ ସ୍ୱାମୀ ପରସା ପରସି କରନ୍ତି । ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଖାଇବା ଟେବୁଲ୍ ପୋଛିଲେ, ସ୍ୱାମୀ ବାସନ ସଫା କରନ୍ତି । ମେହେନ୍ଦରଠାରୁ ଡ୍ରାଇଭର, ଚାକରଠାରୁ ପୁଜାରୀ ସବୁକାମ ନିଜେ ନିଜେ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼େ । ଅବଶ୍ୟ ସବୁ କାମ ପାଇଁ ଯନ୍ତ୍ର, ସ୍ୱୟଂଚାଳିତ ସରଞ୍ଚମର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି । ଭାବିଲେ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରିହୁଏ ନାହିଁ ଯେ ଯାନ୍ତ୍ରିକ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଏତେଦୂର ଆଗେଇ ଯାଇଛି । ଏଥର ପ୍ରଥମଥର ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱୟଂଚାଳିତ ଘରସଫା ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ଯାହା ନିଜେ ନିଜେ ଘରସଫାକରି ନିଜ ବ୍ୟାଟେରୀକୁ ନିଜେନିଜେ ଚାର୍ଜ ମଧ୍ୟ କରେଇପାରେ (ଏହାକୁ **Roomba** ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ବୋଲି କହନ୍ତି) ଦେଖିଲି । ସେହିପରି ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ୮ଟାରେ ଭାତ ରନ୍ଧାହେବା ଦରକାର ଜାଣିଥିଲେ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଟି ଖଞ୍ଜି ଦେଇଗଲେ ସେଇଟି ଆପେଆପେ ଭାତରାନ୍ଧିବା ଆରମ୍ଭକରି ଠିକ୍ ଆଠୋଟା ବେଳକୁ ଗରମକରି ରଖେ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଘରେ ସମୟାନୁଯାୟୀ ପରିଚାଳିତ **microwave** ରନ୍ଧାଯନ୍ତ୍ର ଠାରୁ ସମୟାଧୀନ ବାସନମଜା ଯନ୍ତ୍ର, ଲୁଗାସଫା ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ରହିଛି କହିଲେ ଅତ୍ୟୁକ୍ତି ହେବନାହିଁ । ଏଥର ଲେଖକ ଏକ ନୂଆ ପ୍ରକାରର କାର୍ ମଧ୍ୟ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ପାଇଲା । ଆଖ୍ୟାୟି ଲାଗିଲା ବିଜ୍ଞାନର କରାମତି ଦେଖି । ଏହି ପ୍ରକାର କାର୍ରେ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରପାତି ଛଡା ଏକ ବିଚିତ୍ର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଅଛି । କାର୍ରେ ଖଞ୍ଜି ଯାଇଥିବା କଂପ୍ୟୁଟରକୁ ବୋତାମଟିପି କାର୍ରେ ଥିବା ମାନଚିତ୍ରକୁ ଦେଖାଇଲେ ଅଥବା କଥାରେ କହି ଜଣାଇଲେ ଯେଉଁ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଯିବା କଥା କାର୍ରେ

ଥିବା ମାନଚିତ୍ରରେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ କେଉଁ ରାସ୍ତାରେ କିପରି ଯିବ, କେତେ ସମୟ ଲାଗିବ, ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଚିତ୍ରରେ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟଭାବରେ ଦିଗ୍‌ଦର୍ଶନସହ ଚାଳକ ସାମ୍ନାରେ ଥିବା କଂପ୍ୟୁଟର ପରଦାରେ ଦିଶିବ । ଲେଖକ ଏ ଭଳି ଏକ କାର୍ରେ ବସି ଗଲାବେଳେ ଭାବୁଥିଲା ଯେ ଏ ଭଳି କଂପ୍ୟୁଟର କଟକ ସହରର ୫୨ ବଜାର / ୫୩ ଗଳିରେ କାମ କରିପାରିବ କି ନାହିଁ ? ବୋଧହୁଏ କଂପ୍ୟୁଟର ସହ ଚାଳକଙ୍କ ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଖରାପ ହୋଇଯିବ । ଆମେରିକାରେ ସିନା କାମ କରୁଛି, କଟକରେ ପାଗଳ ହୋଇଯିବ ।

ସତରେ କହିବାକୁ ଗଲେ ଏସବୁ ଫଳରେ ଆମେରିକାରେ କେତେକ ସକାରାତ୍ମକ, ଉତ୍ତମ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧିଶୀଳ ବିଷୟ ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଘଟୁଛି । ଜୀବନରେ ଅସନ୍ତୋଷ ଏବଂ ଅପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣତା ଅନୁଭବ କରି ଅଧିକାଂଶ ଭାରତୀୟ ଏବଂ ଆମେରିକା ଅଧିବାସୀ ଏବେ ଧର୍ମ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି ତଥା ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା ପ୍ରତି ବିଶେଷ ଆକୃଷ୍ଟ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଭାରତୋତ୍ତର ଆମେରିକାବାସୀଙ୍କର ୨ୟ ଏବଂ ତୃତୀୟ ପିଢ଼ୀର ଲୋକମାନେ, ପିଲାମାନେ ନିଜ ଦେଶ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି ତଥା ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଚିନ୍ତାଧାରାର ପ୍ରସାର କରିବାରେ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟିତ ଏବଂ ଅନେକକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସଫଳଭାବରେ ନିୟୋଜିତ । କେବଳ କଳା, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ସିନେମା ବା ଧର୍ମଭାବନାରେ ନୁହେଁ ବରଂ ସରୁକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଭାରତୀୟତା ଏବଂ ଜାତୀୟତାକୁ ପ୍ରଚାର ଏବଂ ପ୍ରସାର କରିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ସେହିପରି ଅସଂଖ୍ୟ ନିରାଶ, ବସ୍ତ୍ରବାଦୀ ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ଭାରତୀୟ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ପ୍ରାଚ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ଧର୍ମ ପ୍ରତି ବିଶେଷ ଆଗ୍ରହ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଯାହା ସ୍ୱାମୀ ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଉନବିଂଶ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀର ଶେଷଭାଗରେ ଆରମ୍ଭହେଲା ତାହା ପରେ ସ୍ୱାମୀ ଯୋଗାନନ୍ଦ, ଚିନ୍ମୟାନନ୍ଦ, ଚିଦାନନ୍ଦ, ସକ୍ତିଦାନନ୍ଦ ଏବଂ ଆଧୁନିକ ଯୁଗରେ ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣଗୁଣ୍ଡୀ, ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ରବିଶଙ୍କର ଆଦି ଯୋଗୀ, ସାଧକ, ସନ୍ଥ ମାନଙ୍କଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଶେଷ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରସାରିତ, ଗୃହୀତ ଏବଂ ଲୋକପ୍ରିୟ ହୋଇଗଲା । କେବଳ ହିନ୍ଦୁଧର୍ମ ବା ସନାତନ ଧର୍ମ ନୁହେଁ ବରଂ ବେଦାନ୍ତ ଦର୍ଶନ, ବୌଦ୍ଧ ଦର୍ଶନ, ଜୈନ ବିଚାରଧାରା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସାଧୁ, ସନ୍ଥଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରଚାରିତ ହୋଇ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗୁଣୀ ସାଧନା ପ୍ରତି ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରୁଛି । ପୂଜ୍ୟ ଦଲାଲମାମାଙ୍କ ଭଳି ବହୁ ବୌଦ୍ଧ ମହାତ୍ମା, ସାଧୁ, ସନ୍ଥ ଏଠାକୁ ଆସି ବୈଜ୍ଞାନିକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରୁ ତଥା ଆଧୁନିକ, ମାନବିକ ବିଚାରଧାରା ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଚିନ୍ତାଧାରାକୁ ପ୍ରତିପାଦିତ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ବେଦାନ୍ତ ଦର୍ଶନର ଅଭେଦ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣ ମଧ୍ୟ ଲୋକପ୍ରିୟ ହୋଇଛି । ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିୟାନ ମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଉଦାରମନା ଭାବରେ, ମାନବିକ ଧର୍ମପ୍ରଚାର ଏବଂ ଶାନ୍ତି, ପ୍ରେମ, ଦୟା, ସହଯୋଗିତାର ଶୁଭବାଣୀ ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଏ ସବୁ ଯେ ସମାଜ ପିଠରେ ଶୁଭଙ୍କର ଏବଂ ସୁଖଦାୟକ, ଏଥିରେ ସନ୍ଦେହ ନାହିଁ ।

ଜଗତୀକରଣ ଏବଂ ଉଦାରଭାବର ପ୍ରସାର ଫଳରେ ଆମର ପୃଥିବୀ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ରରୁ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ରତର ହୋଇଯାଉଛି । 'ବସୁଧୈବ କୁଟୁମ୍ବକମ୍' ଏବେ ବାସ୍ତବତାରେ ପରିଣତ ହେଉଛି । ସେ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଶୁଭଙ୍କର ବିଚାରଧାରାରେ ଆଧାରିତ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା, ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ,

ସଂସ୍ଥା ଗଢ଼ି ଉଠୁଛି । ସୁଦୂର ଏସିଆ ଏବଂ ଆଫ୍ରିକାରେ ଘଟୁଥିବା ମାନବିକ, ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ତଥା ଦୈନିକ ବିପତ୍ତିରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଅନେକ ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ଏବଂ ଆନୁଷ୍ଠାନିକଭାବରେ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ମହନୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆମେରିକା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଆମେରିକାବାସୀଙ୍କର ଉଦାର, ମାନବପ୍ରେମୀ, ହୃଦୟବାନ୍ ମନୋଭାବ ଏ ସବୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକ ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ଏବଂ ସହାୟକ ।

ଦୁଃଖର କଥା ଆମେରିକାରେ ମନୋଭାବ ବଦଳୁଥିବା ଜଣାପଡୁଥିବା ବେଳେ ଆମେ ଭାରତୀୟ ତଥା ଚୀନ, ଜାପାନ

ଅଧିବାସୀମାନେ ଆମେରିକାର ବସ୍ତୁବାଦୀ ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟବସାୟବାଦୀ ସଭ୍ୟତାର ଅନୁକରଣ (ହନୁକରଣ) କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆମର ଯୁବପିଢ଼ୀ ବସ୍ତୁବାଦରେ ପ୍ରବଳ ଭାବରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଜୀବନଦର୍ଶନ ଏବଂ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧରେ ହାନି ଘଟୁଛି । ଭଗବାନ୍ ଆମକୁ ସୁବୁଦ୍ଧି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ । ସଦ୍‌ବିଚାର ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ । ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଭାରତୀୟ ହେଉଁ ବା ଆମେରିକାବାସୀ ହେଉଁ, ଆମ ଜୀବନରେ ଦର୍ଶନ, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା, ପ୍ରେମ, ଦୟା, ସହାନୁଭୂତିର ଏବଂ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧର ଚିନ୍ତା ଏବଂ ଭାବନା ପ୍ରକଟିତ ହେଉ । ବିଜ୍ଞାନ, ଦର୍ଶନ, ମାନବିକତା, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ସମନ୍ୱୟ ଘଟୁ । ଆମର ଜୀବନ ଶୁଭଙ୍କର ଏବଂ ସୁଖମୟ ହେଉ ।



ଓଲଟା ସବୁକିଛି ଏଇଠି

ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀଧର ମିଶ୍ର (କାଲିପର୍ବଣିଆ)

ଆଜ୍ଞା କୁହନ୍ତୁ ତ ଏଇ କଥା କେତେ ଦୂର ସତ । ବିମାନ ବନ୍ଦରରୁ ବାହାରିବା ପରେ ଯାଇ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବସିଲି । ବସିଲି ଓଲଟା ପଟେ । ତାପରେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଲା, ପୁଣି ଓଲଟା ପଟେ । ଘଣ୍ଟା ଦେଖିଲି, ଭାବିଲି ବୋଧେ ସକାଳ ହେବ, କିନ୍ତୁ ହେଲା ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା । ଘରକୁ ଯିବା ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଦେଖିଲି ଏଠି ପେଟ୍ରୋଲ ଶସ୍ତା ବରଂ ଡିଜେଲ ମହଙ୍ଗା । ଘରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ଘରର ଦୁଆର, ଲାଇଟ୍ ସୁଇଚ୍, ଆଲମାରି ହାଣ୍ଡେଲ୍, ଏପରି ବହୁତ ଯାଗାରେ ଦୁନ୍ନ ରେ ପଡ଼ିଲି । ଖରା ଦିନ ରାତି, ତଥାପି ଘୋଡ଼ି ହେଲି କମ୍ପକ ।

ଧିରେ ଧିରେ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଲୋକ ମାନଙ୍କ ସହ ମିଶିବା ପରେ ବହୁତ କିଛି ଜାଣିବାକୁ ପାଇଲି, ତାହାର ସାରାଂଶ ମୁଁ ସଂକ୍ଷେପରେ କହୁଛି ।

- ରାସ୍ତାରେ ପାରି ଚାଲିବାରେ ଅଗ୍ରାଧିକାର କାହାର? ପାଦ ଚଲା ବାଟୋଇଲ ନା ଗାଡ଼ି ଚଲାଉଥିବା ଲୋକର ?
- ଗରିବ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ଖାଦ୍ୟର ଅଭାବ ନାହିଁ, ବରଂ ଏଠି ଗରିବ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଅପଯ୍ୟାପ୍ତ ।
- ଶିକ୍ଷକଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ତର ଭୟ ନାହିଁ, ବରଂ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଜଣେ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ବନ୍ଧୁ, ଏବଂ ଶିକ୍ଷକଙ୍କର ନାମ ଧରି ଡାକିବା ଅତି ସାଧାରଣ କଥା ।
- ଦାନ୍ତ ଘସା ଓ ଗାଧୁଆ, ସକାଳୁ ଉଠିବା ପର ବଦଳରେ ହୁଏ ରାତିରେ ଶୋଇବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ।
- ଆଜ୍ଞା କହିଲେ, ସାନ ଛୁଆଟିକୁ ଆପଣ ଧରିବେ କିପରି? ଛୁଆର ମୁହଁ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଆଡ଼କୁ କରି ଧରିବେ, ନା ବାହାର ପଟକୁ ଧରିବେ?
- ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କରୁ ରୁଣ : ଆପଣ ତାଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ ଦୈନିକ ବଦଳରେ ସେମାନେ ଦୈନିକେ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ !
- ମାସିକ ଦରମା ପର ମାସରେ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୁଏ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଏଠି (କ୍ଲେଡିଟ୍ କାର୍ଡ ଦ୍ୱାରା) ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୁଏ ପୂର୍ବ ମାସରେ ।
- ଏଠି ଖରା ଦିନେ ଥୁଣ୍ଡ ଗଛ ବଦଳରେ ଦେଖିବେ ଶୀତ ଦିନେ ଥୁଣ୍ଡ ଗଛ ।
- ଜମି କିଣିବେ ବଞ୍ଚିବା ପାଇଁ ନା ମରିବା ପାଇଁ ? ଆଜ୍ଞା ବଞ୍ଚି ଥାଉ ଥାଉ ଶୁଣାନ ରେ ଯାଗା ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ନହେଲେ ଶେଷରେ ଶୁଣାନରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଯାଗା ମିଳିବ ନାହିଁ

ଏହା ପର ବାକ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ବୋଧେ ନ କହିଲେ ଭଲ । ଯଥା: ପୁରୁଷଲୋକଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ମାନେ ଅଧିକ ସିଗାରେଟ୍ ଟାଣନ୍ତି । ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସମାଜରେ ଧର୍ମ ପତ୍ନିଙ୍କ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଅଧର୍ମ ପତ୍ନିଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ବେଶି । ଏବଂ ଅଧିକାଂଶ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ବିବାହ ପରେ ଶିଶୁ ବଦଳରେ ହୁଏ ପ୍ରଥମେ ଶିଶୁ ପରେ ବିବାହ । ଅଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିବାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ .. ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ ସେକଥା ।



ଧୀର ପାଣି

ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ, କଲମ୍ବିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡ

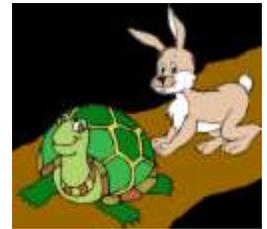
“ଏତେ ତରତର ହୋଇ କାହିଁକି ଚାଲୁଛୁ ? ପଡ଼ିଯିବୁ ଯେ !”

“ଏତେ ତରତର ହୋଇ କାହିଁକି ଖାଉଛୁ ? ତଣ୍ଡିରେ ମାଛକଖ୍ମ ଲାଗିଯିବ ଯେ !”

“ଏତେ ତରତର ହୋଇ କାହିଁକି କଥା କହୁଛୁ ? ମୁଁ କିଛି ବି ବୁଝିପାରିଲିନି । ଆଉଥରେ କହ !”

ଜେଜେମା ଏମିତି ବାରମ୍ବାର ତାଗିଦା କରୁଥିଲା । ତରତର ହୋଇ ଚାଲୁଚାଲୁ କେତେଥର ଯେ ସୁଧା ଝୁଙ୍କିକରି ପଡ଼ିଛି, ତାର ଠିକଣା ନାହିଁ । ତରତର ହୋଇ ଖାଉଖାଉ କେତେଥର ଯେ ସୁଧାର ତଣ୍ଡିରେ ମାଛକଖ୍ମ ଲାଗିଛି ଓ ତାର ଅବସ୍ଥା ଅସମ୍ଭାଳ ହୋଇଛି, ତାକୁ ଗଣିହେବନି । ତରତର କଥା କହିବା ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ପାଇଁ ସୁଧା ବେଳେବେଳେ ଭୁଲ୍‌ବୁଝାମଣାର ଶୀକାର ହୋଇଛି ।

ଠେକୁଆ ଓ କଇଁଚ ଗପ କହି ଜେଜେମା ସୁଧାକୁ ବାରମ୍ବାର ବୁଝାଇଛନ୍ତି । “ଧୀର ପାଣି ପଥର କାଟେ । ତରତର ହୋଇ କାମକଲେ କାମରେ ଭୁଲ୍ ରହିଯିବ ।” ଜେଜେମା ତା ମନରୁ ବି ସୁଧା ପାଇଁ କାହାଣୀ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରି ତାକୁ ବୁଝାଇବାର ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିଛନ୍ତି ।



ସୁଧା ଜେଜେମା’ର କଥା ଶୁଣିଥିଲା ଓ କୌଣସି ଭୁଲ୍‌ର ଯେମିତି ପୁନରାବୃତ୍ତି ନହୁଏ, ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିଥିଲା । ହେଲେ ସେଇ ଏକା କାରଣ, ତା’ର ଚକ୍ଷୁ ପ୍ରକୃତି ପାଇଁ କେତେ ସବୁ ନୂଆ ଭୁଲ୍ ହୋଇଯାଉଥିଲା ।

ତେବେ ଏ ସବୁ ତା’ର ପିଲାଦିନର କଥା । ଆମେରିକା ଦେଶକୁ ଆସିବା ପରେପରେ ଏ ଦେଶର ଚଳଚକ୍ଷୁକ ସମାଜରେ ରହି ତା’ର ଚକ୍ଷୁକତା ଆହୁରି ବଢ଼ିଗଲା । ଏ ଦେଶରେ ସବୁ ସଉକ ପାଇଁ ଅପରିମିତ ସୁଯୋଗ ରହିଛି; ବୟସକୁ ପଛରେ ପକାଇ ଚାଲିଶି ବର୍ଷରେ ବି ମଣିଷ ଏଠି ନାଚ ଶିଖିବା ଆରମ୍ଭ କରୁଛି; ଷାଠିଏ ବର୍ଷରେ କଲେଜରେ ଯାଇ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ୁଛି ଓ ସତରୀ ବର୍ଷରେ ନୂଆ ବାହାହୋଇ ସଂସାର କରୁଛି । ସୁଧା ବି ବୟସକୁ ପଛରେ ପକାଇ ସଉକ ଦିଗରେ ମନ ବଳାଇଲା । ଚାକିରି, ସଂସାର, ସଉକ ଓ ସମାଜ ସୁଧାର ଜୀବନକୁ ଏମିତି ବାନ୍ଧିଦେଲା ଯେ ତରତର ହେବା ବିନା ତା’ର ଉପାୟ ନଥିଲା । ଏମିତି ବି ବେଳେବେଳେ ସେ ଭାବୁଥିଲା ଯେ ତା’କୁ ନିଦ ନହୁଅନ୍ତା କି! ସେ ତେବେ ଦିନରାତି ବବିଶ ଘଣ୍ଟା ସବୁ ସମୟକୁ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିପାରନ୍ତା ଓ ଜୀବନର ସମସ୍ତ ଆକାଂକ୍ଷା ପୂରଣ କରିପାରନ୍ତା । ତେବେ ଫେଟ୍‌ସ୍ପୋରୀ ମାସ ଚଉଦ ତାରଖ ଦିନ ତା’ର ଏ ଭାବନାରେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଆସିଲା ।

ସେଇଟା ଥିଲା “ଭାଲେଣ୍ଟାଇନ୍‌ସ୍ ଡେ” । ସୁବ୍ରତ ଓ ସୁଧା ଠିକ୍ କରିଥିଲେ ସେଦିନ ସାଙ୍ଗ ହୋଇ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ ଖାଇବାକୁ ଯିବେ ବୋଲି । ଏମିତି ତ ସୋମବାରଠାରୁ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନିଜନିଜର ଅଫିସ୍‌କାମରେ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ରହୁଥିଲେ । ବାକି ଶନିବାର, ରବିବାର ଦିନଗୁଡ଼ିକ ବି ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ନାଚ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ଗୀତ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଓ ସ୍କୁଲ୍ ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ବିତି ଯାଉଥିଲା । ତେବେ “ଭାଲେଣ୍ଟାଇନ୍‌ସ୍ ଡେ” ଦିନଟିକୁ ସେମାନେ ପରସ୍ପର ପାଇଁ ରିଜର୍ଭ୍ କରିରଖିଲେ ।

ସେତେବେଳକୁ ସକାଳ ଆଠଟା ପଇଁଚାଳିଶ । ବଡ଼ଝିଅ ଦୁଇଜଣ “ହାପି ଭାଲେଣ୍ଟାଇନ୍‌ସ୍ ଡେ” ଜଣାଇ ସକାଳ ସାତଟାରୁ ସ୍କୁଲ୍‌କୁ ଯାଇସାରିଥାନ୍ତି । ସୁବ୍ରତ “ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ପ୍ୟାଲେସ୍” ରେଷ୍ଟୁରାଣ୍ଟରେ ବାରଟା ବେଳକୁ ଭେଟିବାକୁ କହି ଆଠଟାରେ ତାଙ୍କ ଅଫିସ୍‌କୁ ଗଲେ । ସାନଝିଅ ସୋନି ନଅଟାରେ ସ୍କୁଲ୍ ଯାଏ । ସୋନି ସ୍କୁଲ୍‌ଗଲା ପରେ ସୁଧା ଅଫିସ୍ ଯାଏ । ସୋନିର ସ୍କୁଲ୍ ସମୟ ହୋଇଆସୁଥିଲା । ସିଏ ପାଟି କଲା, “ମାମା ମତେ ଶୀଘ୍ର ଦୁଇ ଡଲାର୍ ଦେଲ, ମୁଁ ଆଜି ସ୍କୁଲ୍‌ରେ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ ଖାଇବି ।” ସୁଧା ଅଫିସ୍ ଯିବାକୁ ତରତର ହେଉଥିଲା । ଆଖିପିଛୁଳାକେ ତଳୁ ଉପରମହଲାକୁ ଦଉଡ଼ିଗଲା ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଭିତରୁ ଦୁଇଡଲାର୍ ଧରି ସୋନିକୁ ଦେବାକୁ ସିତିରେ ଆସୁଥିଲା । ତଳେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ହଠାତ୍ ତାର ଗୋଡ ଖସିଗଲା ଓ ସେ କବାଟ ପାଖରେ ପଡ଼ିଗଲା । ଏମିତି ତ ତରତର ହୋଇ କେତେଥର ପଡେ ସେ । ଏ ସେମିତି କିଛି ନୁଆକଥା ନୁହେଁ

। ଯଦିଓ ସୁଧା ଏମିତି ଭାବୁଥିଲା, କିନ୍ତୁ ଅବସ୍ଥା ସାଂଘାତିକ ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଲା । ପଡ଼ିଥିବା ଜାଗାରୁ ଉଠିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରୁନୁହେଁ ସେ ଜାଣିଲା ଯେ ଏ ପଡ଼ିବା ଏତେ ସହଜ ନୁହେଁ । ସୋନି ପଚାରିଲା, “ଆର୍ ଯୁ ଓକେ ?”

ସୁଧା ଉଠିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କଲା, କିନ୍ତୁ ଅକଥନୀୟ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା । ତାହାଣପଟ ଅକ୍ଷୟରୁ ଜଂଘ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଭୀଷଣ ଦରଜ । କଞ୍ଚରେ ଘୋଷରି ହୋଇ ଲିଭିଲୁମ୍ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଗଲା । ଫେନ୍ ଓ ଆଇସ୍‌ପ୍ୟାକ୍ ଧରାଇଦେଇ ସୋନି ସ୍ଥୁଲ୍ ଗଲା । ଆଇସ୍‌ପ୍ୟାକ୍ ଲଗାଇ ସୁଧା ଭାବୁଥିଲା ପରମ ମିନିଟ୍ ପରେ ସବୁ ଠିକ୍ ହୋଇଯିବ । ପରମ ମିନିଟ୍ ଗଲା, କୋଡିଏ ମିନିଟ୍ ଗଲା, ତିରିଶ ମିନିଟ୍ ଗଲା । ତାର ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା କମେକମେ ବଢୁଥିଲା । ଆଉ ଭଲହେବାର ଆଶା ନରଖି ସିଏ ଅଫିସ୍‌କୁ ଡାକି ନିଜର ଅବସ୍ଥା ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଖବରଦେଲା ଓ ସେ ଦିନଟା ପାଇଁ ଛୁଟିନେବ ବୋଲି ଜଣାଇଦେଲା । ସୁବ୍ରତଙ୍କୁ ଡାକି ଶୀଘ୍ର ଘରକୁ ଆସିବାକୁ କହିଲା ।

ସେତେବେଳକୁ ଦିନ ଦଶଟା । ବାହାରଟା କଅଁଳିଆ ଖରାରେ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଦିଶୁଥିଲା ଯଦିଓ, ଝିପିଝିପି ହୋଇ ବର୍ଷା ପଡୁଥିଲା । ସୁବ୍ରତ ଘରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ୯୧୧ ଡାକିଲେ । ଦଶମିନିଟ୍ ଭିତରେ ପାରାମେଡିକାଲ୍ ପହଞ୍ଚିଗଲେ । ଷ୍ଟେଟରରେ ଶୁଆଇ ସେମାନେ ସୁଧାକୁ ଆମ୍ବୁଲାନସ୍ ଭିତରେ ଭର୍ତ୍ତିକଲେ ଓ ତାର ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣାର ଇତିହାସ ସଂଗ୍ରହକରି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଟିପାଖାତାରେ ଲେଖିରଖିଲେ ।

ଦିନ ସାଢ଼େ ଦଶଟା ବେଳକୁ ସୁଧା ଯାଇ “ହାଡ଼୍‌ଜାଟ୍ କାଉଣ୍ଟି ଜେନେରାଲ୍ ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ୍” ରେ ଭର୍ତ୍ତିହେଲା । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଡାକ୍ତର ଓ ନର୍ସ ସବୁ ଆସି ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିବରଣୀ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କଲେ । ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ପାଇଁ ଔଷଧ ଦେଲେ; ତେବେ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ବଢୁଥିଲା ସିନା, କମୁନଥିଲା । ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ସାଢ଼େ ଏଗାରଟା ବେଳକୁ ସେମାନେ ସୁଧାକୁ ଏକସ୍ତରେ ରୁମ୍‌କୁ ନେଇଗଲେ । ସେ ଯେହେତୁ ଉଠିପାରୁନଥିଲା, ଚାରିଜଣ ଟେକନିସିଆନ୍ ତାକୁ ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ୍ ଚାଦରରେ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରି ଏକସ୍ତରେ ଟେବୁଲ୍ ଉପରେ ଶୁଆଇଦେଲେ । ଏକସ୍ତରେ ସରିବାପରେ ପୁଣି ସେମିତି ଫୁଲ୍, ଫଲ୍‌କୁ ତୋଳି ଅକ୍ସିରେ ପୁରେଇବା ଭଳି, ତାକୁ ଏକସ୍ତରେ ଟେବୁଲ୍ ଉପରୁ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରି ଷ୍ଟେଟର ଉପରେ ଶୁଆଇଦେଲେ । ସୁଧାକୁ ବଡ଼ ଅସହାୟ ଲାଗୁଥିଲା । ଶରୀରରେ ପ୍ରବଳ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ଥିଲା । ଯଦି ସେ ଏମିତି ପଛୁହୋଇଯାଏ, ତେବେ ତାର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ କଣ ହେବ ଓ ତାର ସଂସାର କେମିତି ଚଳିବ, ସେ ନେଇ ଚିନ୍ତିତ ଥିଲା । ତେବେ ମନେମନେ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କୁ ଡାକୁଥିଲା ଓ ଗଜଭକ୍ତାରଣ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଚାହିଁଲେ କିଛି ଯେ ଦୁନିଆରେ ଅସମ୍ଭବ ନୁହେଁ, ସେଇ ବିଶ୍ୱାସରେ ପୁଣି ପୂର୍ବାବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଫେରିଆସିବାର ଭରସା ରଖିଥିଲା ।

ପ୍ରାୟ ସାଢ଼େବାରଟା ବେଳକୁ ତାର ଏକସ୍ତରେ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ଆସିଗଲା । ସବୁକିଛି ଠିକ୍‌ଥିଲା ଓ ହାତ ଭାଙ୍ଗିନଥିଲା । ଡାକ୍ତର ସ୍ଥିତ୍ ତାକୁ ଡିସ୍‌ଚାର୍ଜ୍ କରି ଘରକୁ ଯିବାକୁ କହିଲେ ।

“କିନ୍ତୁ ମତେ ତେବେ ଏତେ କଷ୍ଟ କାହିଁକି ହେଉଛି ? ମୁଁ ଉଠିବି କେମିତି ?”

“ତମେ ତିନିତିନିଟା ପିଲା ଜନ୍ମ କରିଛ । ସେ କଷ୍ଟ ତୁଳନାରେ ଏ କଷ୍ଟ କିଛି ନୁହେଁ । ଏବେ ମୋ କଥା ଶୁଣ ଓ ମୁଁ ଯାହା କହୁଛି ତାହା କର ।”

ଡକ୍ଟର ସ୍ଥିତ୍ କଖରେ କି ସମ୍ବେଦନା ଶକ୍ତିଥିଲା କେଜାଣି, ସୁଧା ମନରେ ଦୃଢ଼ତା ଆସିଲା ଓ ସେ ତାଙ୍କର ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରି ରହିଲା । ସେ ତାର ଡାହାଣ ପଟରେ ଠିଆ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ସୁଧା ଚିତ୍ ହୋଇ ଶୋଇ ରହିଥିଲା ।

“ଏବେ ମୋ ଆତକୁ ବୁଲି ଡାହାଣ ପାଦ ତଳେ ରଖ ।”

“ମରିଗଲି ଲୋ ମା ।” ତଥାପି ସୁଧା ଡାହାଣପାଦ ତଳେ ରଖିଲା ।

“ଏବେ ସିଧା ଠିଆ ହୁଅ ।”

“ହେ ଭଗବାନ ।” ସେ କାନ୍ଦିଲା ଯଦିଓ, ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ କଥା ମାନି ସିଧା ଠିଆ ହେଲା ।

“ଏବେ ମୋ ଆତକୁ ଚାଲିଚାଲି ଆସ ।”

ଡାକ୍ତର ସୁଧା ପାଖରୁ ଚାରି ପାଞ୍ଚ ଫୁଟ୍ ଦୂରକୁ ଘୁଞ୍ଚିଯାଇ ତାକୁ ଏ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶଦେଲେ । ସୁବ୍ରତ ଏ ସବୁ ନୀରବରେ ଦେଖୁଥିଲେ ଓ ହସୁଥିଲେ । ସୁଧାଭଳି ଦୃଢ଼ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିତ୍ୱର ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଜଣକ, ସିଏ ଘରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସବୁବେଳେ କେବଳ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଦେଉଥାଏ, ସେ ଯେ ଆଜି ରୁପ୍‌ରାପ୍ ଆଉ ଜଣକର ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ପାଳନ କରୁଛି, ତାହା ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ଦେଖିବାର ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଥିଲା ସୁବ୍ରତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ । ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ କଥା ମାନି ସୁଧା ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ଚାଲିବାକୁ ଦୃଢ଼ନିଶ୍ଚୟ କଲା ଓ ଚାଲିଚାଲି ତାଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଗଲା ।

“ଏବେ ତମେ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସୁସ୍ଥ ।”

ସୁବ୍ରତ ଓ ସୁଧା ଘରକୁ ଫେରିଲେ । ସୁଧାକୁ ଅନେକ କଷ୍ଟ ହେଉଥିଲା ଓ କାର୍ ଭିତରେ ବି ସେ ଠିକ୍‌ଭାବେ ବସିପାରୁନଥିଲା । ଏମିତିକି ଗ୍ୟାରେଜ୍‌ରୁ ଘର ଭିତର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆସିବାକୁ ତାକୁ ପାଞ୍ଚମିନିଟ୍ ଲାଗିଲା । ପ୍ୟାମିଲିରୁମ୍ ସୋଫାରେ ବସି ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନେବାକୁ ବି କଷ୍ଟ ହେଉଥିଲା । ଯେତେତୁ ସେମାନେ ରେଷ୍ଟରାଣ୍ଟ୍ରେ ଖାଇବାର ଯୋଜନା କରିଥିଲେ, ଘରେ କିଛି ଖାଦ୍ୟ ସେମିତି ନଥିଲା । ସୁବ୍ରତ ଭାତ ରାନ୍ଧିଲେ ଓ ଭେଣ୍ଟି ଭାଜିଲେ । ନିଜେ ଖାଇ ଓ ସୁଧାକୁ ଖାଇବାକୁ ଦେଇ ସେ ଅପିସ୍ ଗଲେ ।

ପ୍ରାୟ ତିନିଟା ବେଳକୁ ତାର ବଡ଼ ଦୁଇଝିଅ ସ୍କୁଲରୁ ଫେରିଲେ ଓ ସୁଧାର ଅବସ୍ଥା ଦେଖି ତାର ଯତ୍ନ ନେବାକୁ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଲେ । ମଝିଆଁ ଝିଅ ବିନୁ “ରାଇସ୍” ସୂତ୍ର ବିଷୟରେ ସ୍କୁଲରେ ପଢ଼ିଥିଲା । ତେଣୁ ସିଏ “ଆର୍ ଫର୍ ରେଷ୍ଟ୍, ଆଇ ଫର୍ ଆଇସ୍, ସି ଫର୍ କମ୍ପ୍ରେସ୍, ଇ ଫର୍ ଏଲିଭେଟ୍” ବୁଝାଇ ତା’ ପାଇଁ ଉପରୁ ତକିଆ, ରେଜେଇ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ନେଇଆସିଲା ।

ସୁଧାକୁ ପୂର୍ବାବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଫେରିଆସିବାକୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ଗୋଟିଏ ମାସ ଲାଗିଯାଇଥିଲା । ତେବେ ସେଦିନ “ଭାଲେଣ୍ଟାଇନ୍ସ ଡେ”ରେ ସେ ତା’ ଜେଜେମାକୁ ବହୁତ ମନେ ପକାଇଥିଲା ଓ ତା’ର “ଧୀର ପାଣି ପଥର କାଟେ” ତତ୍ତ୍ଵ ଉପରେ ଚିନ୍ତା କରିଥିଲା । ଘରକୁ ଫେରି ପ୍ୟାମିଲି ରୁମ୍‌ର ସୋଫା ଉପରେ ଶୋଇ ସେଇ ତତ୍ତ୍ଵ ଉପରେ ସେ ଅଧିକ ଭାବିଲା । ଶାରୀରିକ ଯତ୍ନଶୀଳ ଯଦିଓ ପାଇଥିଲା ସେ, ତେବେ ଯତ୍ନଶୀଳ ସହିତ ସୁବ୍ରତ ଓ ତା’ର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ସ୍ନେହ ଓ ଯତ୍ନକୁ ଧୀରେ ଧୀରେ ଅନୁଭବ କରିବାର ସୁଯୋଗ ମଧ୍ୟ ପାଇଥିଲା । ଗୋଟିଏ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତର ଚଞ୍ଚଳତା ପାଇଁ ଯେ ଏତେ ବଡ଼ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଘଟିଗଲା, ଏଇ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଭଗବାନ ତାକୁ ଧୀର, ସ୍ଥିର ରହିବାକୁ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦେଲେ ବୋଲି ସେ ହୃଦୟଙ୍ଗମ କଲା । ଧୀରେଧୀରେ ଚାଲିଲେ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣାର ସମ୍ଭାବନା କମ୍ ରହିବ । ଧୀରେଧୀରେ ଖାଇଲେ ଖାଦ୍ୟର ସ୍ଵାଦ ଭଲଭାବେ ଆସ୍ଵାଦନ କରିବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଭଲଭାବେ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ହଜମ ହେବ । ଧୀରେଧୀରେ କଥା କହିଲେ ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ ଭଲଭାବେ ବୁଝିପାରିବେ ଓ ଭୁଲ୍‌ବୁଝାମଣା କମିଯିବ । ଏ ସବୁ ତତ୍ତ୍ଵ ଯଦିଓ ସେ ଜାଣିଥିଲା, ତେବେ ତାକୁ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବାକୁ ଭୁଲିଯାଇଥିଲା । ସେଦିନର ସେ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ତା’ ମନରେ ସେ ତତ୍ତ୍ଵମାନଙ୍କୁ ପୁଣି ଉଦ୍ଧାରିତ କରିଦେଲା । ସେଦିନ ସେ ବୁଝିଲା ଯେ ଜୀବନ ଘୋଡ଼ାଘୋଡ଼ି ନୁହେଁ; ଏ ଜୀବନ ଏକ ବିସ୍ତୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ, ଯାହାକୁ ଚଞ୍ଚଳତା ଭାବ ନେଇ ଅନୁଭବ କରିହେବନି । ଇଶ୍ଵରଙ୍କର ଏ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଉପହାରକୁ କେବଳ ଧୀରେଧୀରେ ହିଁ ଅନୁଭବ କରିହେବ ।

(ତକ୍ତର ବିଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଦାସ କଲମ୍‌ନିଆ, ମେରୀଲାଣ୍ଡରେ ରହନ୍ତି । ଅବସର ସମୟରେ ସେ ବାସ୍ତବ ଜୀବନ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ଗଳ୍ପ ଓ କବିତା ଲେଖିବାକୁ ଭଲ ପାଆନ୍ତି ।)



Sustainable Economic and Educational and Development Society (SEEDS)

SEEDS has been active in developmental activities in Orissa since early 90s. It has worked with local NGOs for sustainable, equitable and decentralized projects in education and economic development areas. SEEDS currently has following four thrust project areas:

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