

NADIA SHIBPUR SAI SADGURU SAMITY



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A 75-year-old leprosy patient, Kamalabala Joardar, offers a rasgolla to chief medical officer (health) Arijit Chakraborty at Sibpur village in Nadia on Friday. PHOTO: Palash Debnath

Ostracised leprosy patient rehabilitated

BY SUBHASISH CHAUDHURI

NAKASHIPARA

Jan. 30: A 75-year-old woman, Kamalabala Joardar of Sibpur village, made a new beginning in her life on Friday. Once ostracised by her neighbours for being a leprosy patient, the elderly woman was virtually rehabilitated back in normal life after three years of silent struggle.

To mark the occasion and to make awareness against the misconception about the disease, the members of Sibpur

Saiguru Samity arranged a special programme where she fed rasogollas to the villagers with her own hands. Chief medical officer (health) Nadia, Arijit Chakraborty was personally present on the occasion and ate a rasgolla from her hand.

The aim was to convey a message that leprosy does not spread through such contact.

Trouble had began for Kamalabala, a grandmother of two children in 2006 when she was detected with leprosy at its last stage.

"It was the beginning of the dark days," Kamalabala said. The locals becoming wary of the disease virtually left her in oblivion.

However, the Sibpur Saiguru Samity came to her rescue. They secretly took her to Krishnanagar and admitted her in a hospital where she received treatment and was completely cured of her disease.

Dr Chakraborty said, "The club has done a great job." Kamalabala now hopes that people would behave with her normally.

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