

NADIA SHIBPUR SAI SADGURU SAMITY



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NEWS FROM NADIA

GRAND MOM TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE!

Nakashipara, Jan. 29: For 75-year-old Kamalabala Joardar of Sibpur village in Nakashipara, the dark days seem to be over. The elderly woman who was once ostracized for being a leprosy patient, has been waiting eagerly for the sun rise on January 30 when she would make a new beginning of her life. In a unique way to eradicate the ill notions about leprosy, Kamalabala would nosh Rasogolla to her near and dears on that day, when the nation would also observe the day for awareness of the disease. Kamalabala is grateful to the members of Sibpur Sai Sadguru Samity (SSS), a social organization, who have come up to make it a land mark affair.

Life changed for this old woman during 2006 when she was detected leprosy. It was the beginning of the dark days. Doctors had even no hope of her life as it was too late to be cured. Trouble increased for her as the villagers raised their suspicion leaving her in virtual oblivion. However, the members of SSS come up to rescue her. They secretly took her to Krishnanagar and admitted her under MTD programme in a hospital there. Dr. Arijit Bose fought a brave battle to get her cured for over a year. However, he expressed doubts about her survival even after she recuperated. Because, her economic condition was not good enough to fetch the required food, which was most important to her. This time also the members of SSS come up to help her. Amit Kumar Biswas of SSS said: "It was a fight for us not only against the poverty, but at the same time against the illiteracy of the people about the disease."

The battle was won after two years in 2009. Today Kamalabala is absolutely cured of leprosy. "Nevertheless, there still remain prejudices among a certain section of people which we must eradicate by dolloping Rasogolla into our mouth from her hand so that people can understand that leprosy does not spread through such contact", Mr. Biswas added. Kamalabala who is immensely thankful also hopeful people around her in the locality would behave and mingle with her normally.