

Samartha Bharat Parva 2019-20

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Saprem Namaskar

Every year 25th December to 12th January we celebrate the Samartha Bharat Parva. Swami Vivekananda had started his celebrated meditation on the mid-sea Rock on 25th December 1892. After his meditation on 25, 26 and 27th of December, he rose with a mission of awakening India to her destined role. Swamiji envisaged India to raise herself and become capable of guiding the humanity in spirituality. To commemorate the meditation of Swamiji on Bharatmata, his mission of awakening India, to remind ourselves the work that we have to do and to begin it with oneself like Swamiji Himself, we celebrate Samartha Bharat Parva. 25th December is the beginning of Swamiji's Bharat Chintan to 12 January - His birth anniversary and also the National Youth Day.

This time our year-long, country wide Sampark work 'Vivekananda Shila Smarak: Ek Bharat Vijayi Bharat' is to take the vision of Swamiji getting expressed through the saga of Vivekananda Rock Memorial and also His message as well the Kendra work. We had decided four phases where all the Karyakartas would take up the Sampark with intensity. The second period is from 25th December to 12 January. Thus during Samartha Bharat Parva we should focus on Sampark.

We can celebrate Vivekananda Jayanti on grand scale as this is the 50th year of Vivekananda Rock Memorial. For that we can do the following things to consolidate our Sampark and to take it to the second stage of Sampark, that is contacting again those persons who had shown interest to involve them is our work. Our Sampark so to say is with two types of categories Vishesh Sampark i.e. those people who may become our well wishers but may not be active karyakartas and other shreni people who would become Karyakartas of Vivekananda Kendra. So we have to associate the persons from both the categories who have shown interest in the work of Vivekananda Kendra.

- 1. Form a Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebration Committee, in which some of the new acquaintances of Vishesh Sampark (that is the first category) can be involved.*
- 2. Those persons whom we felt could be associated with our work, (that is the second category) can be actively involved in the organizing of the program. For the sake of the program, the association would start like our meeting them again, calling them to be part of organizing team, meetings of Organizing team, planning of the Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebration, etc.*
- 3. The people who have given e-mail, phoneno., address during Sampark Karya, we are to invite them for the program.*
- 4. Make the program grand and impressive so that those who come feel happy and would want to associate with Kendra.*
- 5. When these persons come for program , see that they are properly welcomed and talked to. We should even make out who all came and then further note it down in the Sampark Excel sheet that they attended the program.*
- 6. If our Nagar team including the Sampark Toli is strong and already actively involved in Sampark Karya, then the few karyakartas of Nagar and also the Pravasi Karyakartas of Vibhag can think of starting a Sampark in the proposed new Nagar or Karya sthan during*

Samartha Bharat Parva 2019-20

Samartha Bharat Parva and if response is good then even to celebrate Swami Vivekananda Jayanti in that place.

I could interact with some of the Karyakartas who are involved in the Sampark. The experience of all is very good. We learn many things from the society. The people are thrilled when they know the history of how Vivekananda Rock Memorial was constructed. Sometimes they have few good suggestions also for us. Thus Sampark work is going to strengthen us as Karyakartas and the work of Vivekananda Kendra.

Though we have got the legacy of Sampark skills we are yet to claim it by our own actions. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was great in Sampark. His personality radiated devotion, spirituality. Any person with little bit of yearning for Ishwara would get attracted to him and would be influenced to do Sadhana. But how would they know about Sri Ramakrishna who was staying in the temple garden of Dakshneshwar? Thus compassionate Thakur in order to reach out to such souls would go even uninvited to the places in Calcutta wherever there was Satsang or Pooja or people had gathered for discussions etc. like Brahmo samaj. Many persons in Calcutta came to know about Thakur only in such gatherings and then they started frequenting Dakshineswar. A person like Sri Ramakrishna who was spirituality incarnate also did Sampark to further his work. This is the legacy that we have got.

Swami Vivekananda also was a person who did effective Sampark. First as a Parivrajak he did Sampark with common man and also with Shakti Kendras like Scholars and kings of the country. Later in the West, the fulcrum of his work, is seen in the full chatusutri of Loksampark, Loksamgraha, Lokasamskar and Lokvyvastha. He met the people of different temperament, from that whosoever came to him again and again he trained them in Vedanta and Yoga. Later He formed the Vedanta Societies to continue the work. Similarly in India again He formed teams at various places and also founded Ramakrishna Mission. This is the legacy that we have got.

Eknathji was very adept in sampark. Even when he was Sangh Adhkari he had no inhibitions of going and meeting people of different persuasions. The whole of Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra is the result of Sampark skill of Eknathji. Before starting Vivekananda Kendra he met so many persons and discussed with them, that Vivekananda Kendra was welcomed everywhere as many felt it is result of their suggestions and input to Sri Eknathji. Thus, he involved many in the founding of Vivekananda Kendra. This is the legacy that we have got.

To be more effective in Sampark we should have open mind, large heart and should fill ourselves with higher thoughts. Initially, we may have difficulty in organizing the Sampark work but we should not mind these obstacles or the mistakes that may happen due to inexperience. Swami Vivekananda says, "It is thought which is the propelling force in us. Fill the mind with the highest thoughts, hear them day after day, think them month after month. Never mind failures; they are quite natural, they are the beauty of life, these failures. What would life be without them? It would not be worth having if it were not for struggles. Where would be the poetry of life? Never mind the struggles, the mistakes."(P 152, CWSV-II)

Samartha Bharat Parva 2019-20

Generally for Samartha Bharat Parva we take to the youth and general public the success stories of India in the past and present. This year in Samarth Bharat Parva we take the success story of Vivekananda Rock Memorial to the people. It is an example to show that India has the capacity to rise again after any difficult situations and challenges. As Swamiji said, "It is the same India which has withstood the shocks of centuries, of hundreds of foreign invasions, of hundreds of upheavals of manners and customs. It is the same land which stands firmer than any rock in the world, with its undying vigour, indestructible life. Its life is of the same nature of the soul, without beginning and without end, immortal, and we are the children of such a country."(P 285, CWSV –III)

The inner strength of India needs to be experienced and manifested then no challenge would deter us. If we are doubtful, we are cribbing and cursing the obstacles we cannot as a nation raise ourselves. Let us not blame others but develop our national strength. Swamiji says, "The weak have no place here, in this life or in any other life. Weakness leads to slavery. Weakness leads to all kinds of misery, physical and mental. Weakness is death. There are hundreds of thousands of microbes surrounding us, but they cannot harm us unless we become weak, until the body is ready and predisposed to receive them. There may be a million microbes of misery floating about us. Never mind! They dare not approach us, they have no power to get a hold on us, until the mind is weakened. This is the great fact: strength is life, weakness is death. Strength is felicity, life eternal immortal; weakness is constant strain and misery; weakness is death." (P 3, CWSV –II) The whole purpose of Samarth Bharat Parva is to strengthen the mind. More we connect with others, more we know the strengths of our society, more we work with determination and the negativity around or the negative forces become ineffective.

The culmination of Samarth Bharat Parva is Swami Vivekananda Jayanti which we should celebrate in a befitting manner. It is also a National Youth Day. So it is an occasion also to give call to the youth of India to come forward for making India great. At least some time of their life may be 2 years, 3 years they should sacrifice for the country. Such sacrifice alone would make India Samartha. Swamiji also looked forward to such youth. He said, "My hope of the future lies in the youths of character – intelligent, renouncing all for the service of others, and obedient – who can sacrifice their lives in working out my ideas and thereby do good to themselves and the country at large. Otherwise, boys of the common run are coming in groups and will come. Dullness is written on their faces – their hearts devoid of energy, their bodies feeble and unfit for work, and minds devoid of courage. What work will be done by these?" (P-230, CWSV-VII) Let us not be the youth of common run but let us be such youths in whom Swamiji had all his hopes. With this appeal we have to go the youth of our society.

With warm regards

Yours Sincerely
Nivedita