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Mentally-ill Sundargarh man reunited with family after 25 years



ROURKELA: A man of Sundargarh district, who had gone missing 25 years ago and whose final rites had also been conducted, got reunited with his parents and other members of the family. The incident came to the fore recently.

Khageswar Singh, now 45, went missing in 1998 soon after he failed his matric exams and went into depression. His family members had searched for him frantically and even filed a missing person's report in Birmiritrapur police station. When he did not return, his family even performed his last rites.

But 25 years later, Khageswar, accompanied by social worker Sunil Das of Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation of Mumbai, an NGO, which deals with mentally-ill destitutes, landed up on the Singhs' doorstep in Riu village

under Kuanumunda block of Sundargarh district.

Das said Khageswar had been picked up from the streets of Visakhapatnam by police in October 22 and admitted to Visakhapatnam Mental Hospital. After about two months of treatment in the hospital, the NGO was informed that Khageswar had recovered and was ready to go home.

When social workers quizzed him about his name and address, he could recollect everyone and every incident. Das and Khageswar then boarded a train from Mumbai to Rourkela and on January 26, Das took Khageswar to his village.

On seeing his father Dambrudhar (83), Khageswar ran towards him shouting "Bapa (father), Bapa". Khageswar, after spotting his mother, also hugged her.

"He had been missing since last 25 years. We had thought he must have died. Needless to say, the family, especially our elderly parents, are delighted to have him back," said Binod Singh, elder brother of Khageswar.

The psychiatrist, who treated Khageswar in Shradha Foundation, said though Khageswar is now mentally fit, he is suffering from chronic kidney disease, schizophrenia and hypertension.