

Hindi transcript:

छुट्टियों में... हमारा यहाँ Saturday – Sunday की छुट्टी होती है, obviously, weekend। Saturday की काफी jobs में अभी नहीं होती हैं हमारा यहाँ... न ही schools में होती हैं... second Saturday या last Saturday। यहाँ की तरह हर weekend off नहीं होता, सिर्फ Sunday की छुट्टी होती है। और... second Saturday या last Saturday कुछ offices और कुछ colleges और schools में होती है छुट्टी, हर Saturday को छुट्टी नहीं होती।

और फिर हमारा national holidays... छब्बीस January है – Republic Day – पंद्रह अगस्त है – हमारा Independence Day – और गांधी जयंती है – दस October – तो ये national holidays हैं जो हमारा बड़ा.. अछाकर जयंती, और ये सब... तो इनकी छुट्टियाँ होती हैं। और फिर हमारी... उसकी छुट्टियाँ होती हैं... festivals की। वह again, biasedness हमारा साथ कि भई, दीवाली की दस दिन की, पंद्रह दिन की छुट्टियाँ होती हैं, ईद की एक दिन की छुट्टी होती है और कुछ जगहों पर वह भी नहीं होती। मतलब कई जगहों पर दीवाली* (mistake, probably means ईद) पर schools और institutions exams रख देते हैं तो अगर कोई Muslim teacher है तो उसको invigilate करना होगा, Muslim student है तो वह exam दे रहा होगा न, जो कि गलत है। बिल्कुल consider ही नहीं करते। जब कि ऐसा कभी दीवाली का दिन नहीं आपका मिलेगा, कहीं exam हो रहा या कहीं कोई entrance exam हो रहा है। और बाकी 15 दिनों की छुट्टियाँ दी जाती हैं।

तो मशी university is basically... बनवाई मुसलमानों ने थी, जो कि मैंने पहले बताया, तो उसमें मशी एक हिन्दू friend – अच्छी friend है बहुत – तो कहने लगी – वह पहले D.U. में पढ़ा फिर Masters यहाँ कर रही थी हमारा साथ जामिया में – तो कहती है कि, “ये क्या है, यार, मैं तो नहीं आऊँगी। एक दिन की छुट्टी दी है दीवाली की, दीवाली की दस दिन की क्यों छुट्टी दी है? मैं तो नहीं आऊँगी।” तो मैंने कहा, “यही होता है हमारा साथ। ये तो एक university है, बाकी सारे universities तो तुम लोगों की हैं, और हमारा साथ, हर बच्चा का साथ। सारे schools तुम लोगों का हैं, schools तो हैं ही नहीं हमारा कोई। तो हमारा साथ ये हमेशा होता है। बचपन से होता आ रहा है। तो अभी ये हो रहा है, बर्दाश्त कर लो एक ही बार हो रहा है, न?” I just told her and she understood, like, she was like, “Yeah, I can understand now.” क्योंकि हमारी ईद तो तीन दिन की मनानी चाहिए, न?

लफ़िन हम लागों का एक दिन भी बड़ी मुश्किल सामिलता है। कई बार Entrance exams और वा सब रख दससुहें which is like really, I mean... I don't know how could they do that!

English translation:

With regard to holidays [back home], we have leave on Saturdays and Sundays, obviously. In quite a few places now, people don't have [a break] from their jobs on Saturday [back home] ... neither [do we have a break on Saturdays] in schools ... [only] second Saturday or last Saturday [of the month]. Every weekend is not off like here, only Sundays are holidays. And ... some offices and some colleges and schools have holidays on the second Saturday or the last Saturday [of the month], every Saturday is not a holiday.

And then our national holidays ... there is 26 January – Republic Day – there is 15 August – our Independence Day – and there is Gandhi Jayanti – 2 October – so there are national holidays that are our ... Ambedkar Jayanti ... and all that ... so there are days off for these. And then our ... there are holidays for these ... for festivals. [There is] again: a bias against us [Muslims] that for Diwali there is 10 days-15 days' holiday, for Eid there is a one-day holiday, and there is not even that in some places. I mean in many places, on Diwali* (means Eid) schools and institutions hold exams so if there is a Muslim teacher s/he must go to invigilate, if there is a Muslim student then he is taking the exam, which is wrong. [They] do not consider [this] at all. On the other hand, you will not find an exam or an entrance exam taking place on the day of Diwali. And [for Diwali] there is a 15-day break.

So my university is basically ... Muslims had had it built which I mentioned before. One of my Hindu friends there – she is a very good friend – so she began to say – she had studied in D[elhi] U[niversity] first; then was her doing her Masters with us in Jamia¹ – so she says, “What is this, *yaar*, I am not coming [to university], they have given one day off for Diwali, for Diwali, why have they given two days' leave for Diwali? I am not coming.” So I said, “This is what happens to us. This is one university, all other universities are yours (Hindus'), and with us, with each child of ours (meaning, Muslims). All the schools are yours; we have no schools at all. So this is what happens with us all the time. [This] has been happening [to us] since childhood. So now this is happening, tolerate it, it is happening just once, isn't it? I just told her [this] and she understood, like, she was like, “Yeah, I can understand now.” Because our Eid must be celebrated for three days, right? But we people get one day with great difficulty. They hold entrance exams and all that which is like, really, I mean ... I don't know how could they do that.

¹ The speaker means the Jamia Milia Islamia University in New Delhi.

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