

Rotary



Behala

RI DISTRICT 3291

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21 OCTOBER 2021

MAITREEE



*The Biggest Economic & Community Development
Boost For Bengal Is Durga Puja.*

OCTOBER : ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Our Leadership 2021-22



Shekhar Mehta
RI President



Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor



Soumjojit Mukherjee
President



Debarshi Dutta Gupta
Secretary

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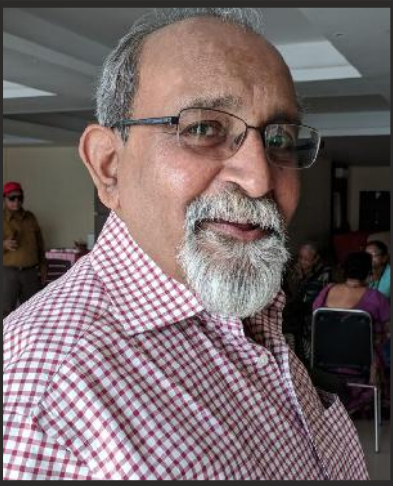


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Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor 21-22

Blood and money have a thing in common – they are meant for circulation.

The community celebrations are important catalysts to affect the financial wheel. Durga Puja is in the vein of Bengalis of all cast and creed – from Kakdwip to Kamchatka, Hetamgunge to Honolulu, wherever there are few Bengalis, there is Puja celebration. From the artisans crafting beautiful idols or creating fantastic pandals of bamboo and cloth, the small eatery operators or the farmhand metamorphosed to the avatar of dhaki – it turns out to be primetime for all. Garments to shoes, ornaments to automobiles, all sectors get a big fillip in this golden season. Flipkart did a business of Rs 600 crores in a span of ten hours two years ago, before the spoilsport of Covid arrived on the scene, and the megastar Amazon had to keep customers waiting for a slot this year.

As the air is filled with fervent prayer of “Rupang dehi, Jayang dehi, Jasho dehi...”, estimated few thousand crores of rupees change hands in these few days – economic

03 Maitree

booster to a large segment of the society.

Rotary, designating October as the month of Economic and Community Development, takes a different approach – taking recourse through Rotary Community Corpses working in nooks and corners. Here goes an abridged version of its note on RCC, and a brief account of our activities through them. And there is an article on RI President-elect Jennifer Jones declaring her plan of 97 million dollars in grant funding for sustainable, member-led projects, 157 million trees to be planted, and 60 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be donated to developing countries.

Down Memory Lane, we look back to some of our activities in our RCCs, and a peep to our Puja parikramas with senior citizens from old age homes and juniors from MentAid – enjoying Puja, a celebration so eloquently described by the noted author and journalist Vir Singhvi in his column, collected from – you guessed it right – WhatsApp!

Enjoy reading. And may you enjoy every moment of your life the coming year, happy and healthy.

Subho Bijaya to all the readers.

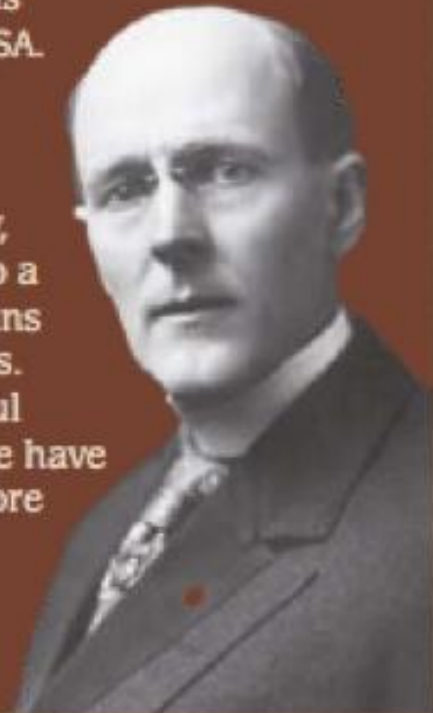
Best wishes from Maitree.



THE LEADER

REMEMBERING PAUL P HARRIS

Paul Harris, the father of Rotary Movement, was born on April 19, 1868 at Racine, Wisconsin, USA. When he passed away on January 27, 1947, he left behind for mankind a rich legacy of fellowship and brotherhood for international understanding and service to humanity. To-day, the seed he sowed in 1905, has blossomed into a large tree having more than 1.2 million Rotarians having 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries. We fondly remember him and pay our respectful homage to him on this auspicious day when we have stepped into another Rotary year to make it more eventful & meaningful.



Paul P. Harris (1868-1947)
Founder of Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

Of the things we think, say or do

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

many many happy returns of the day

21st Oct : President Elect Rtn Bikash Dutta

22nd Oct : Avik son of PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya

23rd Oct : PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya

25th Oct : Subhrodeep son of PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly

29th Oct : Ritika daughter of PP Rtn Anindya Bose

31st Oct : Rtn Ashish Das



Rotary International Supports Covid Vaccination



Help us to help you - Get Vaccinated.

Care for the people around you.

Vaccination is safe and effective, get vaccinated
now.

Wear Mask, Wash Hands, Maintain Safe
Distance.

Rotary India's Covid Vaccination Task Force



A drawing by Anukriti Roy, a student of class VII, and daughter of Rtn Amit Roy.

TODAY

**2606th
Regular Club
Meeting**

**7:00PM
Zoom Virtual**

We Are At

facebook

**CLICK HERE TO
LIKE & FOLLOW**

..... NOTHING LIKE THE PUJA MAGIC

Source:WhatsApp



For a Bombaywallah, Puja is an alien concept. My first experience of how Calcutta shut down during the Puja break came when I was negotiating with Aveek Sarkar for a job at Sunday. For a whole week, I tried in vain to get hold of Aveek. Each time I rang the ABP number, it would ring for two minutes or so till a man would finally pick up, shout 'Pujo' into the receiver and promptly hang up. Later, I discovered – or more correctly, was told – that Puja was Calcutta's answer to Diwali (actually I was told "it is Calcutta's answer to Christmas", but then it was Aveek Sarkar who was choosing the parallels); that something like 40 per cent (or 60 per cent, depending on whose figures you believed) of all retail sales came during that period, and that there were no newspapers for seven days.

Over the next ten years – when I lived in Calcutta, first in New Alipore and, then, in Ballygunge – some things did change. The city did not shut down quite as completely. The newspapers did not fail to appear for a week. (I'm not sure how much the ABP operators bothered to change, though.) But the magic of Puja remained. It is hard to explain to somebody who does not know Calcutta – and believe me I have tried – quite how special the Puja period is.

North Indians try and find parallels in Dushera; Bombaywallahs treat Ganesh Chaturthi as their equivalent; but

somehow, neither approximates the true spirit of Puja. Even now, four years after I've left Calcutta, I still stop and pause each October recalling the smells, sounds and sights of that phase.

In some ways, Puja represents the essence of the Bengali character. The pandals themselves, massive great structures, are typically Bengali. In Bombay we build giant Ganpatis and in Delhi we burn effigies of Ravan but nothing prepares you for the magnitude of the pandals. Built with characteristically Bengali artistry, they encompass themes as varied as the Gulf War to Mother Teresa to Sushmita Sen to houses of cards – depending on what has happened that year.

Next to the pandals are the smells of the food of Calcutta – sizzling fried fish, eggs frying on rotis for kathi kabab rolls, soya sauce stirfrying in huge woks as Bengali-Chinese noodles are tossed madly into the air and these days, even sambhar simmering in pots as dosas solidify on nearby tawas.

And the people! Who can forget the people? Dressed in their finest clothes – five new outfits seems to be a bare minimum for the Puja phase.

Milling around the pandals,

flowing into the streets in such numbers that there are traffic jams at 3 in the morning. Whole extended families packing into minibuses so they can go from pandal to pandal comparing notes. People from other parts of India are sometimes critical of the Bengali character.

Bengalis, they say, spend too much on food; they have too much vanity; they waste their time on artistic pursuits; they take too many days off to celebrate, and so on. In some ways, the critics are right – these are elements of the Bengali temperament. Where I differ with

the critics is this: I think these qualities are wonderful. In a society that shuns aesthetics, in a world that prizes money above everything, and in a country where people are increasingly losing touch with human feelings, what could be more wonderful than a warm, artistic, food-loving, non-materialistic, community?

For those who love Bengalis and Calcutta, Puja captures the essence of everything we adore. Keep your Diwalis. Keep your Dusheras and keep your Pongals. If you want magic, there is nothing to beat Puja in Calcutta.

Wearing Your Rotary Pin

- When you wear your pin people you know and work with will see that you are proud to be a Rotarian. They may even ask you about Rotary. You might tell them that Rotary is a group of people who pool their resources and use their talents to serve their communities. That Rotarians' dedication to serve is best expressed in our motto: Service Above Self.
-

Rotary

District 3291



DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

This section features some of most rewarding and memorable moments of Rotary Behala and its partners



Construction work in progress, RCC Rasapunja. 2004



Water for toilets, RCC Chandanpiri, 2019



On way to RCC Nawabad, Nalgora with a member of GSE Team, 2006



Puja Parikrama with inmates of Shanti Niwas and MentAid, 2006



Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines being handed over, RCC Chandanpiri 2021



Scholarship to girl students of the area surrounding Chandanpiri, RCC Chandanpiri 2021

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

This section features some of most rewarding and memorable moments of Rotary Behala and its partners



At RCC Unnayan, Tapuriaghata. 1st July 2018



Team to Chandanpiri for Bulbul Relief work. 2019



Sewing Machine Training Programme, RCC Nawabad at Nalgora. 2006-07



Heavy Duty Water filter, RCC Chandanpiri. 2019



Handing over a wheelchair at RCC Unnayan, Tapuriaghata. 2018

In our endeavors to empower our RCC's over the years member contribution and zeal to work has worked in our favor. We wish to keep on with our new RCC's.



RI President-elect Jennifer Jones, right, announces Rotary's \$97 million pledge for sustainable projects during the Global Citizen Live event on 25 September in Paris, France. She's joined on stage with British actress Carmen Ejogo.
Credit: Getty Images for Global Citizen

RI President-elect Jennifer Jones announces Rotary's \$97 million pledge for sustainable projects during Global Citizen Live

Rotary International President-elect Jennifer Jones took the stage at the Global Citizen Live concert on 25 September in Paris, France, and pledged \$97 million in grant funding from the organization next year for sustainable, Rotary club-led projects.

Global Citizen Live, a 24-hour broadcast with events and performances across six continents, aimed to unite people to take action to defend the planet, end the COVID 19 pandemic, defeat poverty, provide education for all children, and promote equity and justice for all. Some of the world's top artists, celebrities, activists, and government leaders participated in this year's event to raise awareness and support in cities including Paris; Lagos, Nigeria; London, UK; Los Angeles, USA; New York City, USA; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Seoul, Korea; and Sydney,

The star-studded Global Event Rallied People To Take Action On Some Of The World's Most Urgent Problems

by Ryan Hyland

Australia.

In Paris, where Jones pledged Rotary's support, thousands of people gathered at the iconic Champ de Mars near the Eiffel Tower to see performances from Eton John, Ed Sheeran, Black Eyed Peas, Christine and the Queens, Doja Cat, Angelique Kidjo, and more. Other leaders pledging support included European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, French president Emmanuel Macron, and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

“Every day millions of girls walk miles to fetch clean water, and millions of boys are on the streets instead of going to school. Every day moms and dads struggle to find ways to feed their children,” Jones said from the main stage in Paris. “And everyday, members of Rotary and Global Citizen start our days knowing that we can make a difference.”

“This year we're putting a special focus on empowering girls worldwide, opening doors for young women to build brighter futures,” Jones said. “Today Rotary is committed to helping end poverty globally and protecting the planet by pledging \$97 million in grant funding during 2022 for sustainable, member-led projects.”

She added: “We stand together with Global Citizen as people of purpose, people of action.”

Rotary has worked with Global Citizen for a more than decade, primarily regarding the effort to eradicate polio worldwide. At the 2012 Global Citizen event in New York City, Rotary General Secretary John Hewko and celebrity ambassador Archie Panjabi announced Rotary's \$ 75 million commitment to polio eradication. Rotary and Global Citizen have also connected at

Rotary International Conventions, the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meetings, polio advocacy events, and polio funding announcements.

In total, more than \$ 1.1 billion in commitments, 157 million trees to be planted, and 60 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be donated to developing countries were announced in conjunction with the 25 September event.

The Club & Rotary Community Corps

Rotary Club of Behala distinguishes itself with a variety of projects, quite a number having been conducted through RCCs.

The club had a number of RCCs in its journey.

1. RCC Rasapunja. It was a RCC with a long association with the club, where special projects included annual health check-up camps, weekly medical camp with a Homeopath doctor, a sewing training centre for ladies, and construction of a building for a vocational training centre. As they became self-sufficient and with urbanisation of the locality, in 2006 the club decided to let them grow independently.

2. RCC Nawabad at Nalgora, South 24 Pgs. This was an area without electricity, connected to the motorable road by a long narrow dirt track. The RCC was established in 2006 and the club arranged solar lamps, solar torches for students, few van-rickshaws for vocation, a sewing training centre for ladies, and constructed a building for the primary school-cum-vocational

training centre. In 2017 the elected members of the RCC wanted to pursue a course not commensurate with Rotary ideas, and the club withdrew its support.

3. RCC Unnayan at Tapuriaghata off EM Bypass was established in 2017. The club had some one-time projects, but no long-term project could be initiated. In 2019 the club decided to withdraw its support.

4. RCC Sri Ramkrishna Ashrama at Chandanpiri, South 24 pgs. Paperwork for this RCC started in 2018, and the Charter was received in 2019. A heavy duty RO water filter was installed at their premises housing a primary school and orphanage, and through them has been distributed more than 1,000 fruit tree saplings, annual stipend of Rs one lakh for 25 girl students (courtesy Gouri Gupta Trust), and there is the ongoing project of Water for Toilets with support from EIRWT, 35 units having been completed already. Two sanitary napkin vending machines also have been installed.

Unfortunately, it is one of the areas that has to withstand fury of

cyclones recurrently. There were the cyclone Bulbul in 2019, followed by Amphan in 2020 and Yaas in 2021. In each of these disasters, the club reached the affected region quickly with dry food, shelter and clothes, followed by repeated visits with lime, bleaching powder and other essentials.

For its role in Disaster Relief, our Club has received special recognition from RID 3291 for consecutive two years.

Some services undertaken by the club

Vocational Service

Sewing Training Centres at RCC at Rasapunja and Nalgora, and at a Ladies' Cooperative of Self-help groups at Rasapunja.

Community Service (Medical)

1. Health Check-up Camps

Health check-up camps at the RCC or at other sites as per local requirement has been a regular programme since long. A spectrum of consultants in various streams voluntarily join our effort.

2. Sanitary Napkin Vending machine

Personal hygiene of ladies is of paramount importance as it has a direct relation to the dreaded cervical cancer. Our club has installed few Sanitary Napkin Vending machines at girls' schools

and a cooperative of Self-Help groups.

Community Service (Non-Medical)

1. Water and Sanitation

Water purifiers, including heavy duty RO model, have been installed at various RCCs and different schools over the years.

Water for Toilet is an ongoing flagship project undertaken with matching grant from Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust.

2. Environment

Plantation of fruit bearing trees, mainly through RCCs, is a regular project. In recent years the club has been sponsoring plantation of more than one thousand trees annually.

Disaster Management

The Club has a RCC at Chandanpiri of Sundarbans. Unfortunately, it is one of the areas that has to withstand fury of cyclones recurrently. There were the cyclones Fani and Bulbul in 2019, followed by Amphan in 2000 and Yaas in 2021.

The club has been one of the first to reach the affected region quickly with dry food, shelter and clothes, followed by repeated visits with lime, bleaching powder and other essentials.

It has received special recognition in this field for consecutive two years.



ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS

(Abridged from www.rotary.org)

A Rotary Community Corps (RCC) is a group of non-Rotarians who share our commitment to changing the world through service projects.

RCC members plan and carry out projects in their communities and support local Rotary club projects. Sponsored by a Rotary club, an RCC leverages Rotary's network, brand, and mentorship by partnering with clubs to plan and implement service projects. RCCs increase Rotary's impact and expand its reach by bringing the knowledge and talents of local people to strengthen their community through sustainable projects.

There are more than 11,000 corps in 105 countries and 257 districts. RCCs are active everywhere Rotary is present: in urban and rural areas, and in both developed and developing countries.

Program Goals

- Promote sustainable solutions to community needs
- Support community members in addressing community needs while recognizing their unique ability to identify pressing concerns and appropriate solutions
- Develop partnerships between Rotarians and non-Rotarians in a joint effort to strengthen the community

What are the benefits?

By joining or organizing an RCC, you can make a tremendous impact

in your community. RCCs empower community members to take the lead in addressing their needs. Projects are more sustainable and have greater impact when community members are involved in their design, implementation, and long-term oversight. Through RCCs, clubs diversify participation in their service activities and help develop new leaders in the community.

RCCs can be created to address an identified need in the short-term through a service project or to address various local needs through ongoing service projects.

How do I form an RCC as a community volunteer?

You can form an RCC anywhere community members are interested in working with Rotary. Here are some guidelines:

- Work with other local residents to identify the community's greatest needs using the specific assessment form.
- Work with a local Rotary club to outline how to work together.
- Recruit RCC members. Start with a core group of members. Community organizations and nongovernmental agencies are good places to recruit.

How does my Rotary club sponsor an RCC?

By sponsoring an RCC, your club gives more people a chance to take action to solve your community's problems. Here are the steps to start an RCC:

1. Create awareness for the RCC program within your club.
2. Assess the need for, and feasibility of, establishing an RCC.
3. Review Rotary's policies for RCCs (Chapter 5 of the Rotary Code of Policies, RCC Constitution and Bylaws)
4. Guide the process of forming an RCC once the club(s) has agreed to sponsor one.
5. Identify and recruit at least 10 community members for your RCC.
6. Register your RCC by sending a completed organization form to Rotary International.
7. Celebrate once your RCC certificate arrives. Organize an event to recognize the partnership between the RCC and your club.
8. Help your RCC develop a brand in conformity with Rotary's visual guidelines. Here are some resources that will help your RCC to develop a strong brand:

- Review Rotary's Voice and Visual Identity guidelines (My Rotary login is required)
- Create your RCC's logo by using the template on Rotary's Brand Center.
- Work with Rotary's licensed vendors to purchase customized merchandise or supplies.

How to sustain a successful RCC?

Support and mentorship from the sponsoring club is the key to an RCC's success. Rotary clubs provide ongoing guidance to their sponsored RCC and share service-

related resources and tools with the corps. The primary club sponsor is responsible for ensuring that the RCC's activities are aligned with RI's policies and procedures. Sponsor clubs are encouraged to invite RCC members to their meetings and events.

Sponsor Rotary clubs appoint at least one RCC advisor or an RCC committee whose is responsible for participating in the RCC's meetings and activities, advising on administrative matters, mentoring the RCC leadership and members, keeping the sponsor club informed about the RCC's activities, and identifying opportunities for the club and RCC to partner on service projects.

Sponsor clubs must update the contact information of their RCC advisor and RCC president annually using this online form. Visit Rotary Club Central to review a list of RCCs sponsored by your club (Reports > Service > List of Rotary Community Corps)

How to promote RCC?

Publicize an RCC's accomplishments through your club and district communication channels. Share success stories from your sponsored RCC's activities with Rotary International by emailing us at rotary.service@rotary.org

- Promote your RCC's projects on Rotary Showcase.
- Read stories about RCCs on our Rotary Service in Action Blog.

District governors are encouraged to appoint a district community service committee to promote RCCs and other service-related resources to Rotary clubs.

MINUTES OF THE 2605th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD AT ZOOM VIRTUAL PLATFORM ON 07th OCTOBER, 2021.

Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee welcomed all and called the meeting to order.

The meeting started with National Anthem played online.

Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee started on the reporting of two events held last week.

On request from the Chair, PP Rtn Siddhartha Chakraborty reported on the visit to RCC Sri Ramkrishna Ashrama, Chandanpiri on 2nd October. There were handing over stipends to 22 girl students (courtesy Gouri Gupta Trust and PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta – their 5th annual contribution to the cause), handing over 2 sanitary napkin vending machines (courtesy Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals Ltd and PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury), gifting a good quality football to the kids of the orphanage run by the RCC, and some discussions with members of the RCC on their requirements.

PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya then reported on the programme at our Adult Education Centre at Krishnarampur of Nepalgunge on 3rd October. Forty educational kits comprising of a school bag, pencils, notebook, slate, chalk etc (courtesy Rtn Amit Roy) were distributed to kids, our new member Rtn Amit Roy was handed over the induction kit and pinned with a Rotary pin, and a cheque towards remuneration of the teaches of the centre for six months handed over.

President Soumjojit then detailed the proposed visit to the Thakurpukur centre of Free To Be Kids at 10 AM on 10th October to distribute new clothes to the children over there.

There has been a request for gift of a sanitary napkin vending machine at Navin Chandra High School of Dhosa Chandannagar in the Joynagar area. It has been decided to visit the area in November.

An excursion to Purulia may be organised in February 2022.

The Bijaya-Diwali get-together of the Club may be held physically on 7th or 14th November. PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee is working on it, and relevant information will be posted in our official WhatsApp group.

Club Secretary Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta conducted club business.

Next RCM will be held online on 21st October.

The minutes of 2605th RCM of the club as published in Maitree of the day was confirmed.

Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee terminated the meeting after thanks from and to the chair.

Total Members : 34
Members Present : 08