

Private Circulation Only

Rotary  Behala
RI DISTRICT 3291

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02 DECEMBER 2021

MAITREE



PREVENTION AND CARE

DECEMBER : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT MONTH

TODAY 2609th Regular Club Meeting
6:30PM Zoom Virtual

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

many many happy returns of the day

3rd Dec : Sourav son of PP Rtn Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty

7th Dec : PP Rtn Anindya Bose

11th Dec : Ms. Suvra spouse of PP Rtn Anjan Kumar Bhowmick

12th Dec : Ms. Inderpal spouse of PP Rtn Amarjit Singh Thethi

14th Dec : PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

many many happy returns of the day

2nd Dec : Ms. Nabamita & Secretary Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta

2nd Dec : Ms. Sneha & Shuvranshu Mitra

5th Dec : Ms. Aindrila & IPP Rtn Sugata Majumdar

8th Dec : Ms Madhumita & Rtn (Dr) Atanu Saha

14th Dec : Dr. Sudipta & PP Rtn Dr. Siddhartha Charaborty

14th Dec : Ms. Rachna & PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee

Our Leadership 2021-22



Shekhar Mehta
RI President



Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor



Soumjojit Mukherjee
President



Debarshi Dutta Gupta
Secretary

Editorial Team



Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor



PDRR Shuvratav Mitra
Joint Editor



Shuvranshu Mitra
Design & Execution

EDITOR'S DESK

PP Rtn Siddhartha Chakraborty

Covid...Delta...Omicron...

An RNA virus itself, Covid is proficient in changing its structure – mutations as we call them – a camouflage to deceive the defence mechanisms of our body. The best defence, naturally, would be not to allow its entry as explained so eloquently by one of our NextGen – a Rotaractor herself.

Covid has a mortality rate of around three percent. A century ago, we had to bear onslaught of another dreaded disease that was thirty times more lethal and killed ninety percent of the affected! It was a brilliant clinician with a masters in chemistry who worked in a room in Calcutta (as the city was called then) to come out with a remedy that saved lakhs. We pay our tribute to him.

In this Rotary month of Disease Prevention and Treatment, we plan to

hold a couple of Know Your Numbers Camps and a Health Check-up camp. As we visit our RCC for the purpose, we shall definitely be happy to see the clean toilets with water supply – our ongoing project in the area.

We look back down memory lane to revisit our projects in these areas in the past, and enjoy the memory.

Enjoy the present too.
Enjoy Maitree,

Enjoy Rotary.



The Chemical Clinician



PP Rtn (Dr) Siddhartha Chakraborty

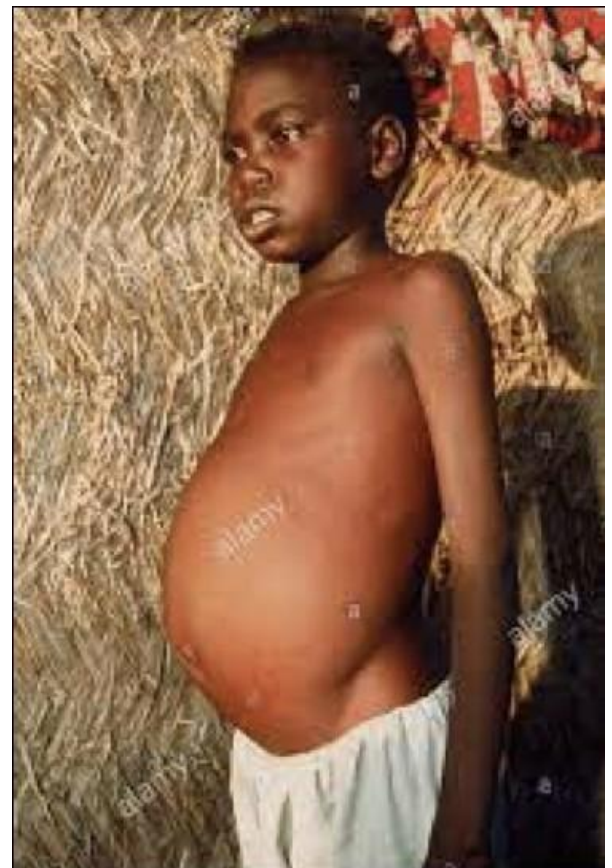


The lantern shed long shadows as the student of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy continued his work in the small room of Campbell Medical School in Calcutta, determined to find a solution to Kala azar that was sweeping his country in this early twentieth century.

The organs are grossly affected, and some free parasites that do not get a new cell come out in the blood stream to be sucked by another sand fly.



The disease is caused by a microscopic parasite *Leishmania donovani* that enter the body through the bites of small sand fly, colonized in the liver, spleen and bone marrow. They multiply within the cells of the organ, ultimately bursting the cells with release of new parasites to attack further tissues.

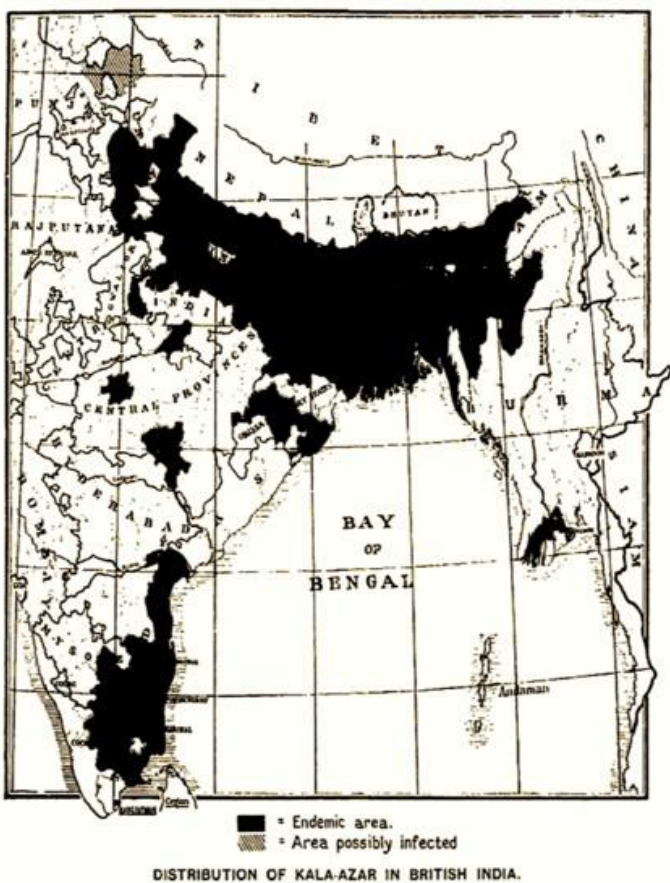


The cycle repeats relentlessly, the liver and spleen are hugely enlarged, patient is febrile with greyish discolouration of face and body, and the mortality was as high as 90% (Please do remember, the mortality of today's nightmare Covid is 2 to 3%.) As the poet said, "khushkhushe kashi, ghushghushe jwar, pet jora pile, pyala tui mar." The greyish tinge indicating imminent danger gave it the name – made official by Sir Leonard Rogers, the then Director, the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine.

As sand flies breed in profusion in warm, humid areas with good subsoil water and dense vegetation, it was rampant in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Madras. It spread along the Gangetic plain and the Brahmaputra valley resulting in a decrease of population by 31.5% in 10 years between 1891 and 1901.

He passed his M.A. degree with First Class in Chemistry from the Presidency College in 1894, cleared his MB from Medical College in 1900 with highest marks in medicine and Surgery, obtained a MD in 1902, and was awarded a PhD by Calcutta University in 1904 for his work on "Studies in Haemolysis". The love affair with RBCs started.

He joined the Provincial Medical Service in September 1899, and after a stint at Dacca Medical School from November 1901 to 1905 as Teacher of Physiology and Materia Medica and Physician, he joined the Campbell Medical School (now known as Nil Ratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital) where he worked as Teacher of Medicine and First Physician till 1923, when he joined Medical College, Calcutta as Additional Physician – one of only two Indian doctors from Provincial Medical Service to be awarded the post reserved for European Indian Medical Service personnel, and retired from Government service in 1927.



Dr Upendranath Brahmachari was determined to find a solution.

He had passed BA degree with honours in Mathematics and Chemistry from Hooghly Mohsin College and enrolled both for higher study in Chemistry and a medical degree (University rules and regulations were different at that time).

But his love for RBCs continued all throughout. Naturally, kala azar destroying them became his focus of attention. For his work beyond the normal call of duty of teaching and treating all patients, at Campbell he was allotted a room, though bereft of electricity, waterline, or even a gas line.

It was a global problem. Reports of the disease from Ceylon, Central China and Mediterranean region showed the predilection for tropical area.

In 1913, Dr Vianna from Brazil reported to have cured the South American form of

of Kala-azar by intra-venous administration of tartar emetic (potassium salt of antimonyl tartrate). Dr Rogers of Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine then reported favourable results with that compound in 10 patients in 1915. Accepted by Government for mass use, soon it was found to have bad effects – presumably from the potassium administered intravenously. Tartar emetic was not available in the country, and had to be imported. Brahmachari imported it and made a sodium salt. Good result initially, but problems arose with the prolonged use needed for complete cure. Then he attempted using pure antimony, devising a special method of laboratory extraction of the metal and designed an apparatus for administering the drug. His novel method was published in October 1916 issue of the noted journal 'The Lancet'.

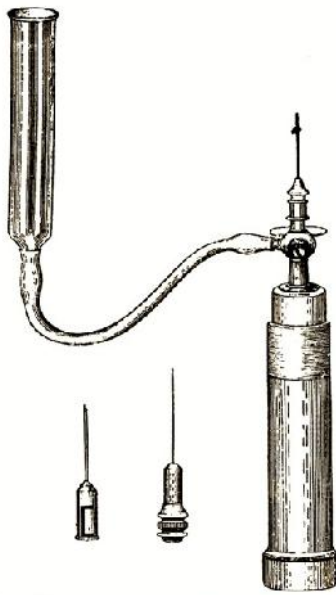


Fig. 27. Special apparatus used in the author's own method of intravenous injection of metallic antimony. (Originals)
(From the author's paper in the Indian Medical Gazette, December, 1915)

But the drug was unstable and had to be prepared afresh through a very tedious process and, was unsuitable for mass treatment.

In 1904 Ehrlich of Germany had reported his success in treating sleeping sickness with atoxyl or sodium salt of para-arsanilic acid. Why not try the method – wondered the chemist in him. After all, Arsenic and Antimony share the same Group 5A in the Periodic Table. He now focussed on developing a less toxic organic antimonial.

Towards the end of 1919 he received a

grant from the Indian Research Fund Association to carry out large number of experiments with various salts, and put together a small team of young enthusiastic organic chemists from Calcutta University to find out the best possible chemical in respect of effectiveness, dosing protocol, and toxicity. Out of dozens of chemicals produced, Urea Stibamine (combination of urea with stibanilic acid) showed outstanding superiority above the rest.

“I recall with joy that memorable night in the Calcutta Campbell Hospital at Sealdah” – he recalled later – “where after a very hard day's work I found at about 10 o'clock in a little room with a smoky dimly burning lantern that the results of my experiments were up to my expectations. But I did not know then that providence had put into my hands a wondrous thing and that this little thing would save the lives of millions of fellowmen...”

The room still remains but the signs of a laboratory in it have completely disappeared. To me it will ever remain a place of pilgrimage where the first light of Urea Stibamine dawned upon my mind.”

The first successful report was published in October 1922 issue of the Indian Journal of Medical Research. In 1923 Major Shortt and Dr Sen from the Pasteur Institute, Shillong reported on the outstanding performance of the drug in Assam.

Next year the sand fly was identified as the transmitting vector by the Indian Kala azar Commission, and in 1925 Major Morrison, Director of Public health, Assam issued a directive detailing use of Urea Stibamine for Kala Azar. In his concluding remarks, he noted that “We find that 185,054 patients suffering from the disease have been treated, of which 166,545 would have undoubtedly died without proper treatment . . . the treatment has converted the death rate of 90% into a recovery rate of same percentage.”

In his annual report of 1933 he states: “... It is no exaggeration to say that approximately 3.25 lacs of valuable lives have been saved to the province in last 10 years”.

In 1932 the Government of India appointed a Kala-azar Commission under chairmanship of Major Shortt. They tested the drug in France, China, Greece and Sudan and declared the drug to be most efficacious.



Ad of Urea Stibamine in a medical journal

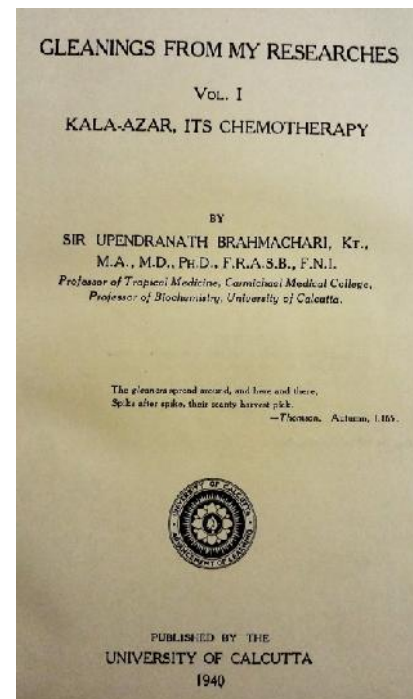
Urea Stibamine was not a patented drug. Brahmachari described the constitution, properties and method of preparation of this compound in the Journal and Proceedings, Asiatic Society of Bengal (New Series, vol. xvi, 1920) and Indian Journal of Medical Research (No. 2, October 1922) and it was an open knowledge – well, theoretically. It was very difficult to produce the drug with same efficacy as his, and his own organisation – Brahmachari Research Institute established in 1924 at the sprawling premises of his residence on Cornwallis Street – remained the sole manufacturer till 1967 as newer less toxic pentavalent antimony compounds emerged



A patient of Dermal Leishmaniasis before & after treatment

Discovery of the drug was not the end of road for Brahmachari. In 1922 itself he reported a new disease – Dermal Leishmaniasis, a skin disease caused by this organism that appears after apparent cure from the disease. He also worked in the field of malaria.

After retirement from the Government service Brahmachari joined the Carmichael Medical School (now the R G Kar Medical College) as Professor of Tropical Diseases. He also served the National Medical Institute (precursor to Calcutta National Medical College) as In-charge of its Tropical Disease Ward. He also was Hony. Professor with the Dept of Biochemistry at the University College of Science, Kolkata. As one of his students Prof Asima Chatterjee recalled, “Brahmachari was a genius but a maverick; a rebel,” and was fondly nicknamed 'Thakurda' or Grandpa by them.

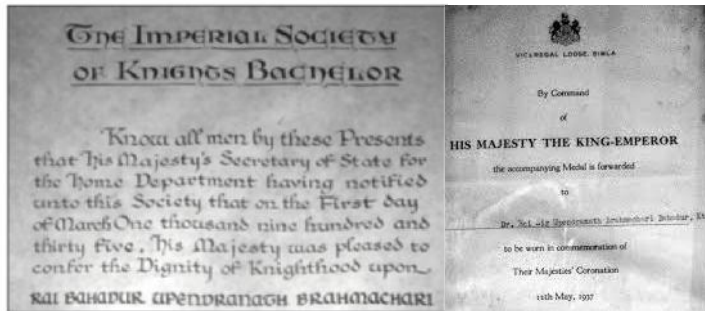


Brahmachari was actively connected in various spheres in the University of Calcutta for nearly 40 years. He was a member of the Senate, Syndicate and also the Dean of the Faculty of the Medicine (1938) and Dean of Faculty of Science (1938–40). Two volumes of his “Gleanings from my Researches” was published by the University.

He was Chairman of the Bengal Branch of Indian Red Cross Society and was instrumental in establishing the first Blood Bank of Asia in 1941 at All India

Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, and was the Chairman of the Blood Transfusion Service of Bengal. He was also President of St. John Ambulance Association of Bengal, and of Asiatic Society for two terms. He was a member of the Sanitary Board of Bengal, and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum.

A wealthy man with a philanthropic mindset, he was a revered person in the society and was associated with a number of scientific and literary organisations of Kolkata. There was hardly any hospital in the country that did not receive free gift of Urea Stibamine from him. He also freely supplied the drug to the Kala Azar Commission during 7 years of its existence. Many scientific organisations received sponsorship from him.



In 1924 the Government conferred on him the title of Rai Bahadur.

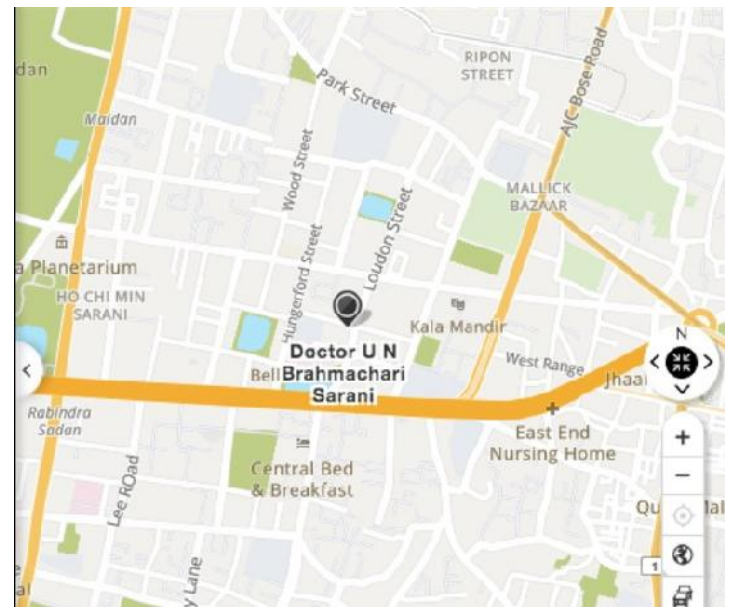
A knighthood followed ten years later.

He had been nominated to Nobel prize in 1929, and then in 1942, but could not make it to the final list. He was Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, of Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Hony Fellow, International Faculty of Science, Fellow, National Institute of Sciences of India (Later renamed Indian National Science Academy).

The eminent physicist Megh Nath Saha tried relentlessly from 1940 for Brahmachari to be awarded Fellowship of the Royal Society, London. After exchange of many letters the proposal was finally turned down in 1944, one of the points raised being " He is of course now an old man practically 69, so he is not likely to make any further contribution to science".

As if to make his detractors right, Rai Bahadur Sir Upendra Nath Brahmachari breathed his last on 6th February 1946.

Today, that workroom of Brahmachari in N R S Medical College & Hospital is preserved in the old block renamed after him, and the terminal one Km of Loudon Street in central business district of



Kolkata has been named after this great medical scientist with an outstanding contribution to tropical therapeutics.

Our tribute to him.

Acknowledgement :

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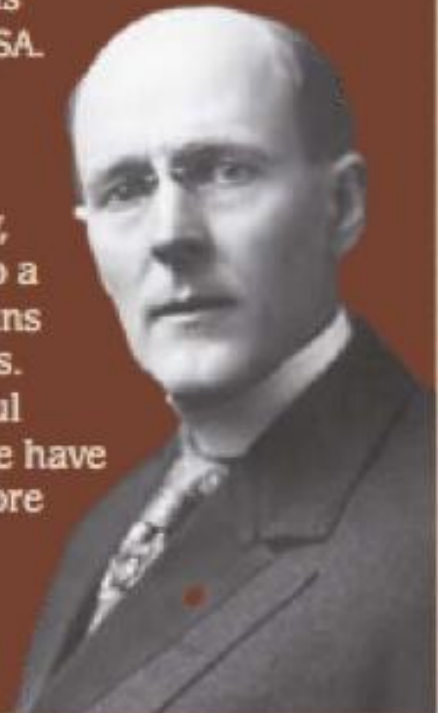
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THE LEADER

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?

COVID 19

- A MONSTER IN THE FORM OF A VIRUS



Rtr. Sanandi Das

Everyone was living a normal and a free life until a deadly pandemic took over the world by storm in the year 2020. Ever since the inception of this pandemic due to the outburst of a deadly and a highly transmissible virus called COVID-19, things took a 360-degree turn and drastically changed people's lives.

Little did we know that we have to face a horrifying and a challenging situation like this where everything will be put at halt? Who could've imagined that the aftermath of this virus would turn out to be this gruesome?! The simple joy and freedom of living in a world where people used to get out of their houses without any fear of catching a virus or wearing masks or social distancing have sadly become a dream now.

This virus claimed many innocent lives, caused massive destruction in several ways be it millions losing their jobs overnight, suffering of the world economy, all the educational institutions and many big corporate firms and businesses coming to a shut down situation and there are many other innumerable reasons to how COVID 19 affected the entire world.

The basic joy of livelihood and freedom was lost somewhere but still, everybody fought the situation bravely, fought the pandemic and did not give up. Several doctors, nurses, policemen, delivery boys and others who went out of their

houses by taking the risk just to ensure people's safety are the frontline heroes. A lot of office-work, classes and meetings started happening online and now it has become an integral part of our lives, as the pandemic is still yet to be over.

There are certain precautionary measures that are extremely crucial for everybody to follow in order to keep the virus away from us and prevent ourselves from getting affected by it such as washing our hands with soap frequently, wearing a mask (covering your mouth and nose both), maintaining social distancing and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Another very important measure is to build our immune system. If our immune system is strong enough to fight COVID-19, then it can harm us in no ways. Regular consumption of fruits, green vegetables, chyawanprash, green tea helps in boosting our immune system. Also, in my opinion, these measures should be followed even after the virus is gone for maintaining a good amount of hygiene and to also ensure a fearless future for the upcoming generations.

In conclusion, if we keep on following the necessary protocols then the chain of the virus will break and soon one day will come when the whole world shall be free of this monster called coronavirus and everyone shall get back to their normal lives like we did before the pandemic.

DAYS WE ARE WAITING FOR

4th December

Health Check-up Camp at RCC Sri Ramkrishna Ashram,
Chandanpiri.

Peerless Hospital, Kolkata will be our partner in service.

5th December

Donation of four sewing machines at Adult Education Centre,
Krishnarampur of Nilgunge area.

Free To Be Kids Charitable Trust will be partnering with us.

11th December

Participating in Joint Zonal 'Know Your Numbers' Camp at
Reserve Force Police Lines, Kolkata Police,
at Padmapukur, Kidderpore.



Drawing by Rajveer son of President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee
11 Maitree

MINUTES OF THE 2608th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD AT ZOOM VIRTUAL PLATFORM ON 25th NOVEMBER, 2021.

· Club President Rtn Soummojit Mukherjee welcomed all and called the online meeting to order.

· The meeting started with National Anthem played online.

· Club President Rtn Soummojit Mukherjee started off with proposed two Know Your Number camps to be held jointly by clubs in Zones 20 and 22 of RID 3291 in association with Kolkata Police.

· On request from the Chair, PP Rtn (Dr) Siddhartha Chakraborty detailed on the camps. The first camp will be held on 1st December 2021 at the auditorium of Combat Force, Kolkata Police at Police Training School from 10 to 2, and the second one at Kolkata Police Reserve Force Lines at Khidirpur on 11th at the same timeframe. Peerless Hospital, Kolkata will be our partner in service on both occasions. Keeping in view the requirement for volunteers and the present situation, each club has been requested to depute not more than two members.

· President Soummojit expressed his eagerness to join the camps.

· He informed that there will be a Health Check-up Camp at RCC Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, Chandanpiri on 4th December in association with Peerless Hospital, Kolkata.

· On Sunday the 5th December there will be donation of four sewing machines to some needy ladies of our Adult Education Centre at Krishnarampur of Nilgunge area.

· President Soummojit reported receipt of a mail informing unpaid dues of Rotaract Club of Behala for an amount of Rs 4,000/-. Club members discussed and decided that our Club will pay the amount if requested by the Rotaractors.

· An organisation is arranging medical service at a nominal charge of Rs 11/- only at Tipu Sultan Mosque. One of

the organisers will be requested to describe their project at our next RCM.

· A two-member Nomination Committee consisting of PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar (Chairman) and PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly has been unanimously formed for nominating the office bearers of the Club for Rotary Year 2022-23. The Chairman informed that the relevant dates will be posted in our official WhatsApp page shortly.

· Club Secretary Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta conducted club business.

· The 5th Board Meeting of the Club will be held online on 30th November evening.

· Next RCM will be held online in the evening of 2nd December.

· The minutes of 2607th RCM of the club as published in Maitree of the day was confirmed.

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

Total Members : 34
Members Logged In : 11

we are on
facebook

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to follow us

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

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



Health Check-up Camp Janakalyan Vidyapith Primary School
27th January 2007



Know Your Numbers Camp at Kolkata Police Reserve Force, Padmapukur, Kidderpore
28th November 2020



At a Health Check-up Camp

Water for toilets RCC Chandanpiri –
30th June 2019