

MAITREEE



Organ Donation Day is observed every year on 13th of August. Organ Donation is donating a donor's organs like heart, liver, kidneys, intestines, lungs, and pancreas, after the donor dies, for the purpose of transplanting them into another person who is in need of an organ.

SEPTEMBER : BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH

Our Leadership 2021-22



Shekhar Mehta
RI President



Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor



Soumjojit Mukherjee
President



Debarshi Dutta Gupta
Secretary

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PP Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty

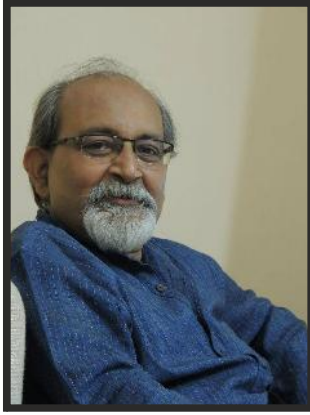
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EDITOR'S PEN

Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor 21-22

Rotary is changing the colour of the city!

On 15th of August, as we celebrated Rotary Day of Service dedicated to ladies, the city turned pink with coloured banners and billboards. And now, on 20th, it turned green as we celebrated 'Hariyali' - a mega tree plantation programme towards the new Area of Focus of environment, with us as a co-host. So, in 'Down Memory Lane' we look back to some of our past projects on the issue - planting trees around.

We also look back to the colourful journey of 58 years by our club, with a report on the joyful celebration of the Charter Day on 24th of August.

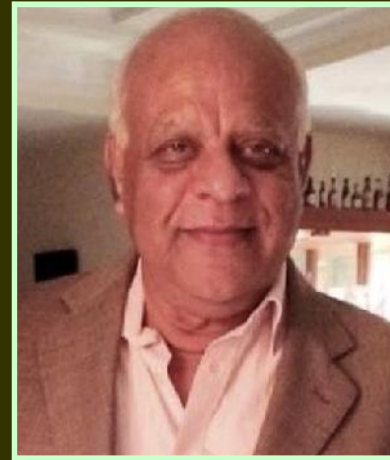
Only a few days later, we were Support Ambassador Club to an International Webinar on Organ Donation on 28th - a very interesting and informative session on a very important issue today.

Who knew one of our Past RI Vice Presidents was a member of the historic surgical team performing the first successful heart transplantation in the world? She shared her experience with the friends in Rotary. Here is a reprint.

Enjoy Maitree. Enjoy Rotary.

03 Maitree

Today's Speaker



Mr. Ron Mukherjee, Mr Mukherjee is the head of India Axslogic. With over 30yrs spent with Citi Group. Ron has substantial credit risk and business management experience gained in U.S, Canada, Europe and Asia.

After retiring from Citi group as senior vice President and chief risk officer, Ron was involved in many start up ventures. He was the global head of Analytics at Quaetezo Risk management services, a comprehensive Analytics and Risk management services provider.

Ron is a chemical Engineer with a master in business administration from St.Johns university in New York USA.

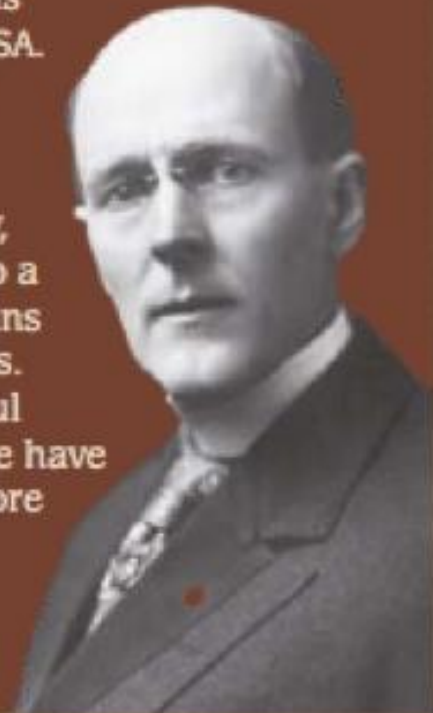
He started his career with Citi group as a management associate in New York and held senior management positions in O & T credit operation and risk management in various countries across the globe.

He was also responsible for setting up card business in India & Korea. Ron was actively involved in M & A Activities.

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

2nd Sept : Ms Urmi spouse of PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta

9th Sept : Rikhia daughter of Rtn Ashish Kumar Das

10th Sept : Debkumar son of PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar

10th Sept : Ms.Oindrila spouse of IPP Rtn Sugata Mazumdar

12th Sept : PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya

13th Sept : Paromita daughter of PP Rtn Prabir Roy



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

We Are People of Action

TODAY

2602nd
Regular Club
Meeting

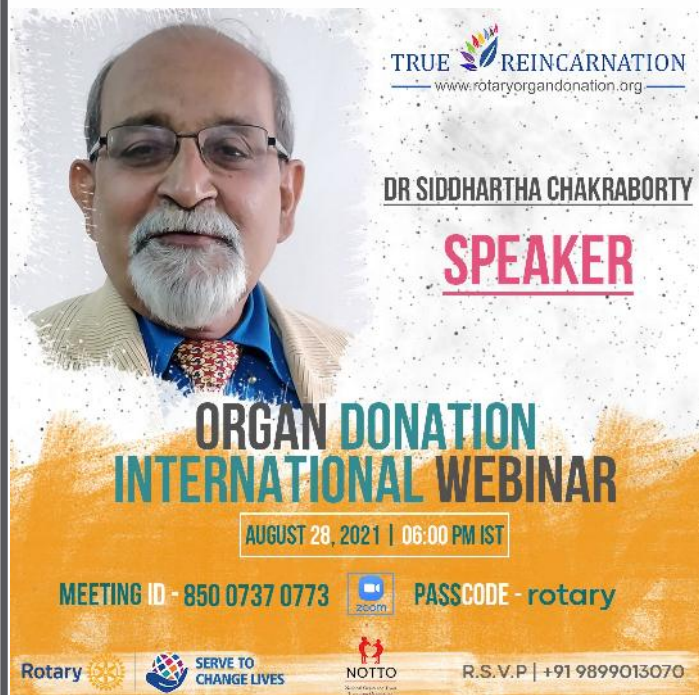
6:45PM
Zoom Virtual

We Are At

facebook

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LIKE & FOLLOW**

'Protect The Warriors' – a group of doctors fighting against Covid –felicitated ten senior medical teachers who served people during the Covid pandemic. The programme was held on 26th August, and covered by TOI. PP Rtn (Dr) Siddhartha Chakraborty was honoured to be one of them.



He was also the Rotarian speaking at the International Webinar on Organ Donation held on 28th August, organised by rotaryorgandonation.org with initiation of RID 3011, with more than 300 participants from all across the globe.

FAMILY COMES FIRST

PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta is back from a long family-cum-business trip to USA.

Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee has become a regular figure in television serials. After Police files and Mithai, he is now also a regular in Mon Phagun of Star Jalsa. We wish him a bright career in artistic world.



PP Kaushik Bhattacharyya's beautiful bengal experience at Bankura/Purulia border was bliss.

Family means:

(noun) a group of one or more parents and their children living together as a unit.

(noun) all the descendants of a common ancestor.

(adj) designed to be suitable for children as well as adults.

Rotary Club of Behala – a journey of 58 years

PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty

Formation

In the month of August 1963, the then District Governor Rtn Hemen Ganguly of RI district 325 appointed Past President Rtn Mihir Roy of RC Calcutta South West as his special representative for extension of Rotary club of Behala. Rtn Mihir Roy commenced survey of Behala area on November 1963 and thereafter the survey report was sent to DG.

In December, 1963 President Rtn. Dr Ranjan Banerjee of RC Calcutta South West formed an extension committee with Rtn Mihir Roy as chairman and Rtn Ashoke Roy and Rtn H S Sinha as members to go into details for the formation of Rotary club of Behala.

RC Calcutta South West released the territory of the proposed Rotary Club of Behala on 13th February, 1964. A month later DG Rtn Hemen Ganguly gave permission to organize the said club with the territorial limit of former South Suburban Municipality with a population of about 2 Lakhs.

On April 1, 1964 the organizational meeting was held at the residence of Rtn. Sailendra Nath Roy, where the prospective members were explained the objects of Rotary, its obligations and privileges. In that meeting the office bearers were selected, constitution and by-laws were adopted.

The inaugural meeting of the provisional Rotary club of Behala



ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

was held on April 11, 1964. A total of 37 members were present and they were the initial members.

The Charter dated August 24, 1964 was presented on Saturday September 26, 1964 by the then district Governor Rtn C.R. Bose of RI District 325.

Rtn Sailendra Nath Roy was Charter President and the famous cricketer Rtn Premangshu Chatterjee was the Charter Secretary. Charise W Pettengill was the incumbent RI President with the RI Theme of 'Live Rotary'.

Venue and frequency of the regular meetings

Initial meetings were held at the residence of Charter President Rtn Sailendra Nath Roy. Then it shifted to Vivekananda College, Behala. The venue was changed to New Alipore Association Hall where it continued to meet on every Thursday till June or July 1976, when Park Hotel became the location for some time before settling on Grand Hotel for meetings over evening tea.

Till now, Grand Hotel hosted our meetings over the longest period of time, but the club needed to venture for a new location. After few months of 1992 at Calcutta Management Association behind AC Market on Theatre Road, Auditorium of Birla Planetarium could be arranged. This was the regular venue till 2015, when the authorities decided to renovate the complex in a major way.

Malik Guest House on Harish Mukherjee Road became the new venue till the Covid epidemic forced the club to go online in 2020.

The club strictly follows the Club Constitution as decided by Rotary International from time to time. For many long years it was the evening of every Thursday till 2016 when, with this flexibility being allowed, the club decided to meet in the evening of 1st, 3rd, and 5th (if any) Thursdays every month.

Club members contesting to become District Governor

PP Rtn Atin Mitter contested for the coveted post for the 1980-81 session, but could not muster 50% of polls. But in 1981-82 session it was our PP Rtn Shyamal Datta who became the District Governor.

Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program and our club

Our club participated in this unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity over many years. We hosted visiting teams from abroad regularly, the last opportunity being in 2006.

Similarly, Late PP Rtn Atin Mittir, Late PP Rtn Ajit Chatterjee and PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sengupta had been selected by respective DGs to lead the team, the last named



**ROTARY CLUB
OF BEHALA**

having visited RID 6460 (Illinois, USA) in April - May 1992, with 5 youngsters.

Incumbent Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee had been member of a District GSE team visiting Brazil in 2012.

Regular Club Bulletin

Initially it was simply "The Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Behala". Subsequently it was named "Maitree" or friendship. It was traditionally a two-page printed sheet, with occasional special issues. Since the start of Covid pandemic, it has become an online issue and made a shift transition from a bulletin to a magazine.

Club Mascot and Club Logo

In the initial period of the club, Peacock was selected as the mascot of the club. The club logo was designed by Rtn Avijit Dev in 2005, with some small modification by PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya in 2016.

The Club and Rotary Community Corps

Majority of projects undertaken by

the club were conducted through RCCs.

The club had a number of RCCs in its journey.

1. RCC Rasapunja. It was a very old RCC 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 the RCC and the 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 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 construction of 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



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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 already been completed.

Some services undertaken by the club

Vocational Service

1. Training of youth in own organisation by Rtn Susanta Kr Das and Rtn JV Rangarao

2. Vocational Awards to a couple of deserving personalities every year.

3. Career counselling for senior students of local schools, including a specially designed booklet for distribution.

4. A seminar at Rotary Sadan in 2007 discussing 'Sea as a career.'

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

Club Service

1. Organising District Conference – The club organised the District Conference in 1989, with our own PP Rtn Shyamal Datta at the helm as DG. The venue was Calcutta Blind School on Diamond Harbour Road, Behala and many club leaders of the time carried out specific responsibilities. Conference Chairman was Late PP Rtn Bhaskar Bhattacharjee, Secretary was PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sengupta, and PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar was Chair, House of Friendship.

2. Club Drama – The club organised two dramas as fund raising event. The first one was held at Rabindra Sadan to help Late PP Rtn Saroj Gupta establish his dream project of 'Cancer Centre Welfare Home & Research Institute' at Thakurpukur (now renamed as 'Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute'), based on a story written by himself.

The next drama was 'Military Sinduk' performed at Sarat Sadan, Behala in 2006 to raise fund for construction of a building for Primary School-cum-Vocational training Centre at RCC Nawabad at Nalgora, 24 Pgs (S).

3. Club Picnic – With a very good bonhomie among members and their families, the club organised regular family picnic every year. The ongoing pandemic situation, however, has restricted this activity.

4. Club Excursions – Till date, the only international excursion by the club members was to Singapore and Bangkok. But tours have been organised to Hazaribagh, Puri, Bhitari Kanika, Shantiniketan, Lataguri, and Jhargram with



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members and families enjoying the trips.

Community Service (Medical)

1. Eye Camp – Prior to the May 2002 Government order banning cataract surgery outside well organised hospitals, the club held cataract surgery camps at the St Joseph School building (within Oxford Mission campus in Behala) in the week of X-mas every year where around 50 patients were operated upon on a Sunday, stayed there for a week, and released after examination by the surgeon next Sunday. Eminent ophthalmologists like Dr Anutosh Dutta or Dr I S Roy voluntarily performed the surgeries.

Since 2002, the club has been joining hands with local social clubs or NGOs of Behala to organise cataract screening camps, the selected patients being referred to Rotary Eye Hospital at Budge Budge for the purpose. The spectacles for the patients are also provided by the club.

2. School Health Programme – The club visited the local schools

and arranged for health check-up of the young patients, including eye sight and dental check-up.

3. 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.

4. Know Your Number Camps – These are specialised health check-up camps, conceived by RI in 2020, where Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and BMI (calculated from height and weight) are checked and the patients are counselled. The club organised and took part in two of them.

5. Child Heart Surgery – Prior to initiation of Sishu Sathi scheme by Government of West Bengal, having cardiac surgery for the kids was a dream to the common people. Rotary came up with the project for Child Heart Surgery, and our club has sponsored cardiac surgery for 11 children over the years.

6. 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.

7. Covid Care Centre – As the second wave of Covid 19 ravaged the city, hospital beds or oxygen cylinders became scarce. Atma Foundation joined hands with authorities of Don Bosco School at Park Circus to run a Covid Care Centre. Our club, the generous members and their families contributed more than five lakh



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rupees to run the centre.

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.

3. Literacy – Ours is one of the clubs with a Standing Committee on Literacy.

a) Janakalyan Vidyapith Primary School and Barisha Bastuhara Free Primary School were two Primary Schools of Behala adopted for 2006-07, with the club sponsoring books, teaching materials, school uniform, water filters and mid-day meal to all the students daily

throughout the year.

b) The club had a long association with St Joseph Primary School of Behala. The club donated infrastructure like desk, benches, blackboards, library with books and few computers loaded with special software for teaching the kids. The Club also renovated the building with construction of modern toilets. Bulk of the work there was through CSR courtesy PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury.

c) In 2019 the club took up projects at Baidyapara High School, Behala. It was part of the District Pilot Project related to e-learning, and is continuing with our support. Separate modern toilets for girls and boys were constructed by the Club in 2020.

d) A computer centre, complete with 5 computers with special teaching software and other accessories has been commissioned at Free To Be Kids Adult Education Centre, Thakurpukur.

4. Care of Senior Citizens

a) 'Shanti Niwas' and 'Apon Ghar' are two old-age homes of Behala where the club organised many projects over the years including medical check-up, distribution of new garments during Puja festivals and organising fireworks on Kalipuja nights.

'Puja Parikrama' had been a regular programme with Rotaractors joining up as volunteers. The inmates of these two old-age homes, along with mentally challenged students of the organisation 'Ment-Aid' were ushered through many Puja pandals of the city, and lunch were arranged for them.



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5. 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.

International Service

1. Global Grands

The club conducted two projects with International Matching Grants - precursor of today's Global Grant.

a) Gift of a Braille Computer to Calcutta Blind School, Behala

b) Gift of an ambulance cum medical

van to Balananda Hospital, Behala. In this project our partner was Top of the Lake Rotary Club of Mooresville, North Carolina (RID 7680).

2. Polio Eradication

In the initial period, the club conducted Polio vaccination camps, including campaigning and delivery of oral Polio drops, at times transporting the chilled vaccine boxes from distribution centre. Later, as the Government and Municipal Corporation took charge of everything, we were allotted a big booth at Anjuman High School on Biren Roy Road West where we assembled on Polio Days to encourage the youngsters and the parents.

Currently the club routinely takes part in spreading awareness in six wards of Behala and encouraging the health workers involved.

Youth Service

1. Youth festival

The club organised two Youth Festivals at the grounds of Calcutta Blind School, Behala in 1984 and 1985. These were huge affairs, and had tremendous impact among the youngsters.



ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

2. Rotaract Club – Rotaract Club of Behala was sponsored by the Club on 19th March 1993 and had its own ups and downs. It was adjudged the Best Rotaract Club of the District in 2008–09, 2010–11, and 2011–12. Rtr Shuvratav Mitra went on to become the DRR of RID 3291 for the 2013–14 session.

3. Interact Club – The Club has sponsored two interact clubs in DAV Public School and Bridge International School.

Rotary
People of Action



International Webinar On Organ Donation

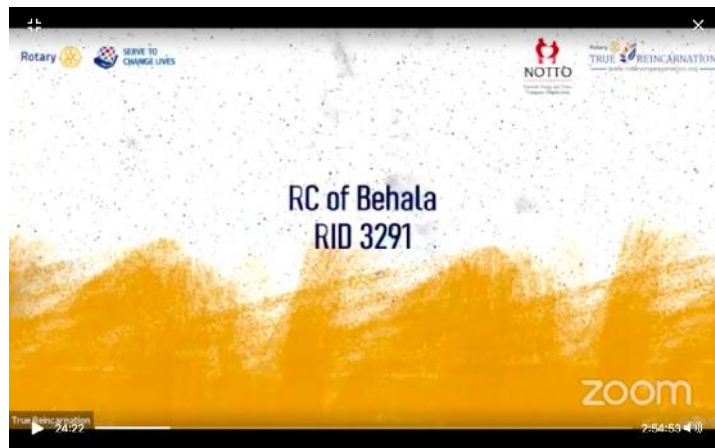
Organised by rotaryorgandonation.org



Initiative of RID 3011 (Delhi) Ambassador Clubs : 5 Rotary Clubs from RID 3011 & 3291 and Rotary Friends in Kindness Support

Ambassador Clubs : 37 Rotary Clubs, including RC Behala
Co-host Clubs : 75 Rotary Clubs
Associated : Many Rotaract and Interact Clubs.

Guest of Honour : Rtn (Dr) Bharat Pandya, RI Director, 2019-21



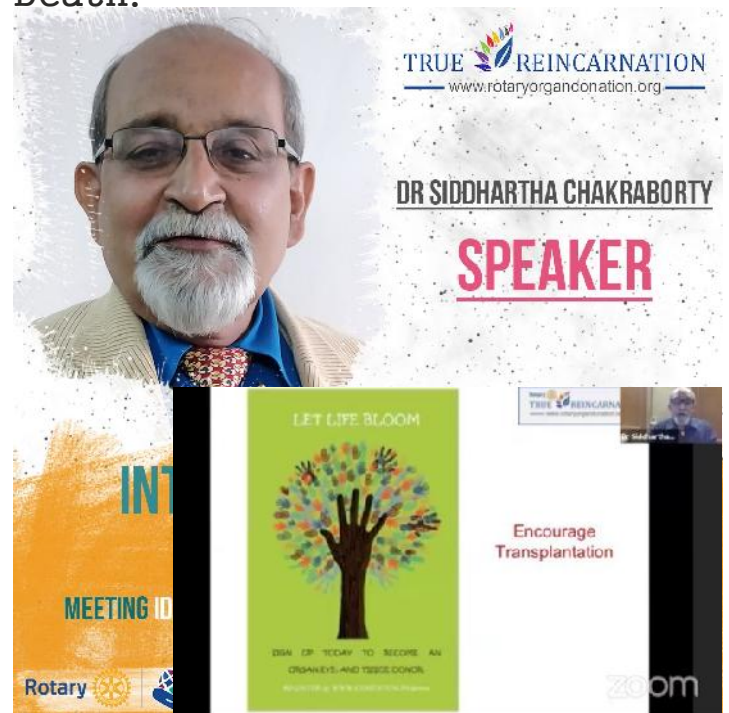
The programme was inaugurated by Rtn (Dr) Bharat Pandya. Chairman of the Webinar PP Rtn Sanjeev



Verma welcomed all.

There was a powerpoint acknowledgment of the Ambassador and Supporting Ambassador Clubs.

PP Rtn Siddhartha Chakraborty then spoke on history of organ donation and transplantation, with a passing discussion on Brain Death.



Dr Vasanthi Ramesh, Director, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, Govt of India discussed the legal aspects of transplantation, role of NOTTO & ROTTO, and importance of involving dignitaries in propagating awareness.

Heart Recipient- family interv



Rotary  TRUE REINCARNATION
www.rotaryreincarnation.org



Ms Pallavi Kumar from Mohan Foundation talked on Brain Death with real life examples and talked on eye donation.



PDG (Dr) Subramanian then chaired a panel discussion with IPRID Rtn (Dr) Bharat Pandya, Dr Sandeep Guleria (Renal Transplant Surgeon) and Dr Neerav Goyal (Liver Transplant Surgeon). Rtn Bharat Pandya talked on importance of lifestyle modification to reduce the huge burden of wait-listed patients awaiting transplants. Dr Guleria concurred, informing that out of around 1.5 lakh in the country in



need of a renal transplant, only 10,000 are lucky enough to get it. He also talked on long-term benefit of renal transplant vis-à-vis dialysis. Dr Goyal informed that paediatric liver transplant – a technological challenge in babies few months old – are also being performed in our country.

PP Rtn Partha Sarathi Sarkar of RC Calcutta Jadavpur – himself a recipient of renal transplantation – talked of the agony of being informed of the need, of being duped by dubious middlemen, of the terrible mental agony of his wife who had to run the family, and the final joy of life with a kidney donated by wife of his friend.



Mr Naval Kishore Aggarwal told about his pain, coming back home every few months from his office in Dubai for medical check-up and treatment, ultimately having to get admitted for transplant,

facing cancelled surgery and returning to room five times . . . losing all hopes . . . when, finally, a cadaver liver could be found, giving him a new lease of life.



Then came Rtn Anil Srivasta, the ebullient person who donated a kidney for his brother and since then has made Organ Donation his mission in life. He has already travelled to more than a hundred countries to spread the message.



IPDG and DGE of RID 3011 addressed the gathering, followed by PP Rtn Rima Chakraborty, Co-Chair of the webinar.



PDG Rtn Shab Elawar of Las Vegas Won Club, RID 5300 congratulated the organisers and suggested



formation of a Rotary Action Group on Organ Donation.



PP Rtn Sudip De, Co-Chair of the webinar, placed the formal vote of thanks.



The webinar was attended by more than 300 persons from clubs across the globe including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Singapore, Ghana, Nigeria, Argentina, Brazil.

Charter Day

PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya

It was the 58th Charter Night celebration of RC Behala. A Rotary Club that has come long way since 1964.

The evening started with informal fellowship @7:00pm. Along with club members, guests/dignitaries from District joined us to celebrate. We were happy and delighted to have an impressive presence of guests – PDGs: Angshuman Bandopadhyay, Uttam Ganguli, Rajani Mukerji, Jhulan Basu.

Rtns: Sibabrata Roy, Aniruddha Guha, Tapas Bhattacharya, Dr Krishnendu Gupta, Rima Chakraborty, Arpita Chatterjee, Dr Manindra Roy & others.

Inner Wheel Club of Behala: Mrs Amita Chatterjee (President), Srimati Ganguly, Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta, Indrani Chatterjee, Sunanda Bose, Rachna Mukherjee, Dr Sudipta Chakraborty.

The formal programme started with cake cutting by our veteran and beloved Guli da! No, the Covid situation wasn't a deterrent. A lovely cake was available at Rtn. Debidas Ganguly's residence and he along with Srimati Ganguly did the honours.

Then came up the welcome song by Rtn Arpita Chatterjee of RC New Ballygunge, which set the mood of a musical evening.

Our beloved Rtn. Rajani Mukherjee was supposed to share some



some interesting stories but he slipped out and instead, Mrs Rtn Ballari Mukherjee of RC Calcutta Majestic delighted the web crowd with her song – a Tagore song which just enthralled the gathering.

The President took up the responsibility to set the crowd on fire and he came up with a collage of Bollywood popular songs.

Then came up the poet, Mrs Ruma Bhattacharya, w/o Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya. Her outstation presence and week wi-fi connection wasn't an issue...a pre-recorded recitation of her self-composed Bengali poetry was amazing. The evening became worth the gathering around the screens.

It was the turn of Rtn Shuvratav Mitra to awe the crowd with his English song. It was amazing and we wanted more.

A relief from music was provided by Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya with a few humour pieces in cosmopolitan language. That included a self-composed rhyme in English.

The much-awaited duet came to live with PP Rtn Sugata and Oindrila Mazumdar performing Hindi number and again, dil mangey more!

How can food be far behind when Rtn Prasunjit is present! He, with his natural flamboyance conducted a quiz on Kolkata food. It was fun and informative. Mrs Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta, Rtn Ajoy Chatterjee and Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya were enthusiastic participants in providing answers.

Well, the best were left...the star couple, Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty and Dr Sudipta Chakraborty presented a vocal theatre that blew off everyone with laughter...like always.

Then came the final performance of Dr Bikramjit Mukherjee, ex member of the club. He was entertaining as usual with his Bollywood numbers.

Well, the programme report remains unfinished without the mention of Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee, who was the binding agent for the entire evening. With his bursts of short humours, small




bouts of songs and impeccable comparing, the evening turned out to be one of the best Charter evenings, in spite being VIRTUAL.

More colours were added to the evening by the spouses Sharmistha Bhattacharjee, Papia Mukherjee, Anuradha Joardar and Sikha Bhattachaya.


An impressive 36 participants witnessed the charter evening of RC Behala.

SEPTEMBER IS
BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself."
 John Dewey

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved



DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

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



Club President Rtn Dipak Kr Mitra planting a sapling in presence of DGN Rtn Ravi Prakash Sehgal, Rtn Deshapriya Ghosh Dastidar and Rtn Bhupendra Nath Roy. 1998



At a Primary School in the area of Chandanpuri. September 2019.

PP Amarjit Singh Thethi planting sapling at RCC Sri Ramkrishna Ashrama, Chandanpuri. September 2019.



Green Expedition. August 2020



Tree Plantation. September 2020

At Free To Be Kids Independence Day, 2020



What it's like to... Scrub in on the world's first heart transplant

In December 1967, I was completing my nurse's training at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. At that time, Christiaan Barnard was leading a team that hoped to perform the first successful human heart transplant at that hospital. There was a race between teams, because it was such a huge medical achievement. I was on "backup rotation" one night when I was called into the OR. It was just a coincidence that I happened to be on duty.

You have to understand, with a surgery like that, the room is crowded with people: the surgeons, their assistants, the anesthetists, the folks operating the heart-lung machine that keeps the patient alive. My job was just to do whatever needed to be done. I counted the cotton swabs used during the surgery, to make sure none were left in the patient. I fetched water. The surgeons would lean toward me and say, "Please mop my brow," because they were perspiring.

In the moment, you understand that you're doing something most unusual, but you're so involved with the process that you're just making sure you're watching and filling in wherever you can. I knew the man receiving the heart and his family; he had been on the ward for a long time and he was clearly dying. He would have been gone in 24 or 48 hours. And here was this young woman who had been in a car accident and donated her heart.



Dean Rohrs
Rotary Club of
Langley Central
British Columbia
Past RI Vice President

Because of the surgical draping and the number of people leaning over the patient, I had no sightline into the chest cavity. But I did see everything that went in and came out. I saw the needles the surgeons were using to sew tissue together and tie off the bleeders. I saw the suctioning and the cauterization. And I saw the new heart itself go in. It was very different back then in how they did harvesting, and far more dramatic. They had to carry the new heart from one surgical theater to the other. I saw it being brought into the OR and lifted into the patient. Of course there was drama, because you are putting something into somebody's chest that could give life but came from somebody who gave life. When I saw the new heart itself, I don't remember thinking anything other than, "Oh my God, that's somebody's heart."

Our surgery wasn't the first attempted heart transplant. There had been one earlier, but the patient didn't survive the procedure. Our patient survived for 18 days and was able to talk to his family. It wasn't his heart that gave out; he died of pneumonia, partly because the immunosuppressant drugs weren't as effective back then. Still,



because our patient survived, that surgery became international news. Nobody on that team could have anticipated how big the reaction would be. It was instantly a world-famous event.

I was only 25 when it all happened — that's 50 years ago now, good grief! Sometimes I feel a little embarrassed when people make a big deal out of it, because I was so peripheral. But that surgery did shape the course of medical history. And I have to give Professor Barnard credit. He was not always an easy man to work with,

but it took a lot of courage to do what he did, because many people said back then that you can't touch the heart. It was culturally and religiously unacceptable. That surgery changed the way people thought about the heart, and it changed the way we treat heart disease to this day.

As told to Steve Almond.

[S o u r c e : <https://www.rotary.org/en/what-it%E2%80%99s-scrub-world%E2%80%99s-first-heart-transplant>]

MINUTES OF THE 2601st RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD AT ZOOM VIRTUAL PLATFORM ON 19th AUGUST, 2021.

Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee being unable to make it, the meeting was chaired by PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar.

PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar welcomed all and called the meeting to order.

The meeting started with National Anthem.

Some projects were discussed :

1. Planned visit to RCC Chandanpiri had to be cancelled as the local area was having torrential rain.

2. Further projects at the location will be discussed in next RCM.

3. The District Project of 'Hariyali' – the tree plantation programme – will be held near Metro Cash & Carry on EM Bypass on 20th . We being one of the co-host clubs, Club President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee with one volunteer will attend the event.

4. Rakshabandhan Celebration will be held at Nepalgunge campus of Free To Be Kids on 22nd August . All members were requested to attend.

5. There will be an online International webinar on Organ Donation on 28th August, and we are

one of the Support Ambassador Clubs. All members are requested to attend the same.

Our Club Membership Chair PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar reported on the Membership Development Seminar where he proposed a financial discount to new young members like Ex-Rotaractors which got approval by the DG.

Dates of some online meetings were decided:

Charter day on 24th August

Board meeting on 30th August

Next RCM on 2nd September

Club Secretary Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta conducted club business.

The minutes of 2600th RCM of the club as published in Maitree of the day was confirmed.

President of the meeting PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar terminated the meeting after thanks from and to the chair.

Total Members : 34
Members Present : 08

