



THE MEGA TIMES

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Rotary International District 3291

committed to



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RI CLUB NO: 63155

President's *message...*



Happy HOLI

Let the colours of holi spread the message of Peace & Happiness

According to Hinduism, King Hiranyakashipu, like many demons, through performance of required meditation was granted a boon by Brahma of five special powers: he could be killed by neither a human being nor an animal, neither indoors nor outdoors, neither at day nor at night, neither by astra (projectile weapons) nor by any shastra (handheld weapons), and neither on land nor in water or air. These boons made Hiranyakashipu to feel invincible and arrogant too. He decreed that only he be worshiped as a god.

His son Prahlad did not accept such attitude of his father and refused to worship his father as a God. This made Hiranyakashipu very angry and he made various attempts to kill Prahlad. Having failed in many attempts, finally, King Hiranyakashipu called upon his sister, Holika

for help who had a special cloak garment that prevented her from being harmed by fire. Hiranyakashipu asked her to sit on a bonfire with Prahlad, by tricking the boy to sit on her lap. However, as the fire roared, the garment flew from Holika and covered Prahlad. Holika burnt to death, Prahlad came out unharmed. Prahlad and the kingdom of human beings were thus set free from the compulsion and fear of Hiranyakashipu, showing the victory of good over evil.

Above story of Holika is known to all. Holi is celebrated as the triumph of a devotee. As the legend depicts that anybody, however strong, cannot harm a true devotee. And, those who dare torture a true devotee of God shall be reduced to ashes, which signifies the triumph of righteousness over non-righteousness.

We the Rotarians are the true devotees of God placed in every human being. Through service to humanity, we Rotarians worship the God and fight the war to blow the triumph against the enemies - poverty, illiteracy, disease, pollution, inequality. Each project we undertake to 'Serve to change Lives' is the victory over the evil enemy - 'dahan of holika'. Let the festival of colour kindle the spark of light within and drive to use that light to illuminate the world.

Friends, it is indeed another occasion to have proud celebration for the members of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mega City. I may take this opportunity to place on record my heartiest congratulation to our beloved Anirudhada on his success to reach the position of Rotary International Director of Zone 6 for 2023-25. We the members of Rotary Calcutta Mega City are sincerely indebted to the Past President of the Club, Rtn Anirudha Roy Chowdhury for his leadership & continued guidance as well as making the place of Rotary Calcutta Mega City in the international Rotary map.

Respectful salute to our leader - beloved Anirudhada (Bubulda).

Warm regards,

Purajit Roy
President



Shekhar Mehta
RI President



Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor



Purajit Roy
President



Ashok Kr Hawalia
Hon Secretary

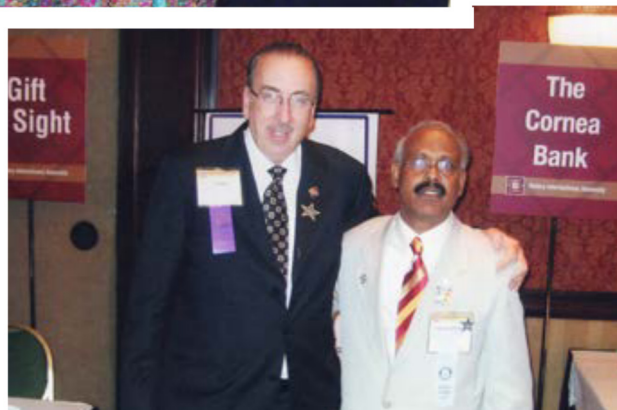
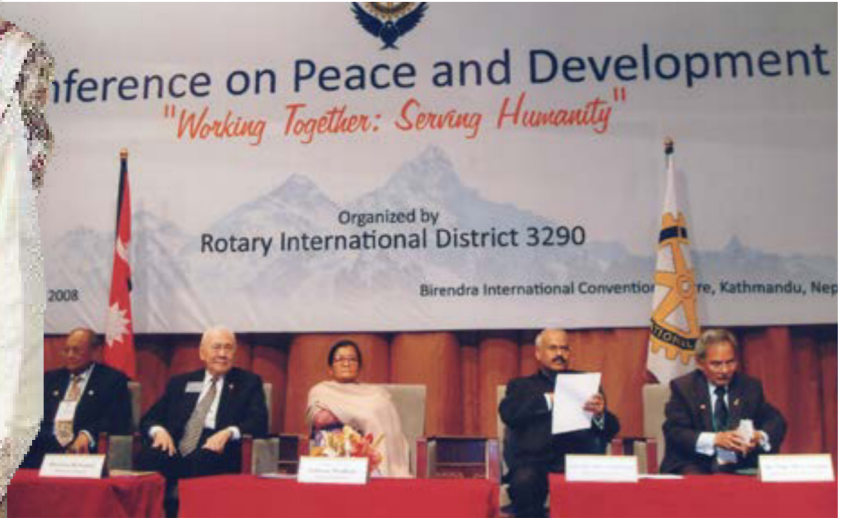
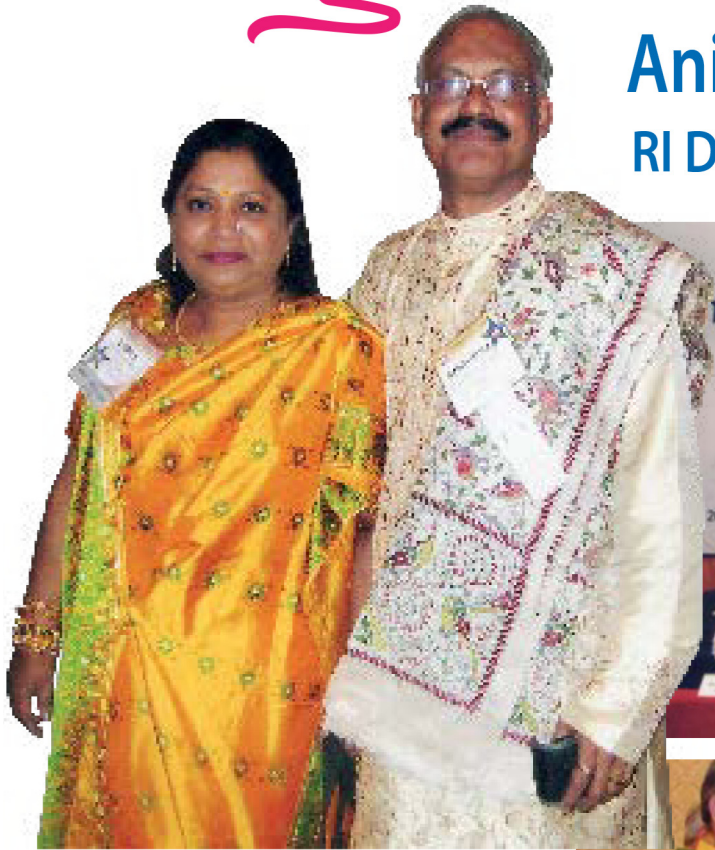


Shveta Gupta
Editor

WE MEET ON EVERY SECOND & FORTH FRIDAY

Congratulations

Anirudha Roy Chowdhury
RI Director, Zone 6, 2023-25



WOMEN IN ROTARY AND INTERNATIONAL

Women's Day

– PDG Shyamashree Sen, RC Calcutta Metro City, RI District 3291



International Women's Day is celebrated across the world on the 8th of March, except for the politically disturbed parts of the world where all men, women and

children are suffering. This day is usually marked as a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Held every year on the same day, International Women's Day is also an opportunity to reflect on, and further the push, towards gender parity.

International Women's Day began in 1908 when 15,000 women took part in a New York City march calling for shorter working hours, better pay and the vote. A year later, the Socialist Party of America marked the anniversary of the march by declaring it the first National Woman's Day. At that time it was only an American celebration but, in 1910, Clara Zetkin addressed the Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen and suggested that they make the event "international". The 100 women in attendance unanimously supported the idea and in 1911 the first International Women's Day was celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, as well as in the United States.

International Women's Day remained a stand-alone event until 1975, when the United Nations marked the day and organised celebrations. In 1996 the UN began issuing a theme for each year's celebration, the first of which was "Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future". Today colleges and institutions across the world celebrate the International Women's Day. Looking at the increasing focus on climate change in the political and public sphere,

70% of 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women. In urban areas, **40% of the poorest households are headed by women.**

Women predominate in the world's food production (50-80%) yet they own less than **10% of the land.**

80% of the displaced by climate related disasters and changes around the world are **women and girls.**

Climate change may lead to more gender based violence, increase in **child marriages and worsening of sexual and reproductive health.**

reinforced by COP26, International Women's Day 2022 is recognizing and celebrating the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading change for a more sustainable and climate-resilient future for all. Despite evidence on the vital correlation between gender, social equity and climate change; historically, climate change scientists, researchers, and policymakers have struggled with how to make the connection. Without gender equality today, a sustainable and equal future, remains beyond our reach.

Women and girls play a central role in addressing, mitigating, and solving the climate crisis. They possess unique knowledge and experience, particularly at the local level, in areas such as agriculture, conservation and the management of natural resources. Women are more likely to consider their families and communities in decision-making processes, allowing for more holistic and effective climate action. Their inclusion in decision-making processes, as well as including the gender

lens into climate and environmental policies, is critical to effective climate action.

On the other hand, women are recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources which climate change threatens the most.

Based on these studies, United Nations has declared the theme of 2022 International Women's Day as "**Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow**".

In the meantime the International Women's Day Official Website states:

- Imagine a gender equal world.
- A world, free of bias, stereo-types, and discrimination.
- A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
- A world, where difference is valued and celebrated.
- Together we can forge women's equality.
- Collectively we can all #BreaktheBias"

Following last year's Covid pandemic impacted edition, the 111th International Women's Day was marked with the symbol of crossed arms. Bias, whether deliberate or unconscious, makes it difficult for women to move ahead. However, being aware that bias exists isn't enough. Action is needed to level the playing field. This is why this year's focus is about actively calling out gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping each time you see it.

Let us look at gender bias in Rotary. Isn't it true that when Rotary had its first meeting on 23rd February 1905, the founding fathers did not consider women fit enough to be members of this organisation? This went on for more than for more than 80 years? Let us have a look.

The 1989 Council on Legislation vote to admit women into Rotary clubs worldwide is a watershed moment in the history of Rotary. "My fellow delegates, I would like to remind you that the world of 1989 is very different to the world of 1905. I sincerely believe that Rotary has to adapt itself to a changing world," said Frank J. Devlyn, RI president in 2000-01. By June 1990, the number of women Rotarians had skyrocketed to over 20,000. The number of women members worldwide reached 195,000 in July 2010 (about 16% of Rotarians) and surpassed 277,000 in July 2020 (about 23%). Our timeline highlights historic milestones and senior leadership firsts that have helped build greater diversity in Rotary. These leaders and all our women members are making positive change in communities around the world. Today the top priority for Rotary is growing and diversifying our membership to make sure we reflect the communities we serve. We know that our capacity to increase our impact and expand our reach is larger when more people unite with us, which is why we value diversity, equity and inclusion. Rotary celebrates and welcomes the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, colour, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. A top priority for Rotary is growing and diversifying our membership to make sure we reflect the communities we serve. We know that our capacity to increase our impact and expand our reach is larger when more people unite with us, which is why we value diversity, equity and inclusion. Rotary celebrates and welcomes the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Timeline of Women in Rotary

1950. An enactment to delete the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is proposed by a Rotary club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 Rotary Convention.

1964. The Council on Legislation agenda contained an enactment proposed by a Rotary club in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to permit the admission of women into Rotary clubs. Delegates voted that it be withdrawn. Two other proposals to allow women to be eligible for honorary membership were also withdrawn.

1972. As more women begin reaching higher positions in their professions, more clubs begin lobbying for female members. A U.S. Rotary club proposes admitting women into Rotary at the 1972 Council on Legislation.

1977. Three separate proposals to admit women into membership were submitted to the Council on Legislation for consideration at the 1977 Rotary Convention. A Brazilian club made a different proposal to admit women as honorary members.

The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, USA, admitted women as members in violation of the RI Constitution and Standard Rotary Club Constitution. This violation led to the club's membership in Rotary International to be terminated in March 1978.

1980. The RI Board of Directors and Rotary clubs in India, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States propose an enactment to remove from the RI and club constitutions and bylaws all references to members as "male persons."

1983-86. In a lawsuit filed by the Duarte club, the California Superior Court in 1983 rules in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reverses the lower court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. The California Supreme Court refuses to hear the case, and it is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

1987. On 4 May, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Rotary issues a policy statement that any Rotary club in the United States can admit qualified women into membership.

The Rotary Club of Marin Sunrise, California (formerly Larkspur Landing), is chartered on 28 May. It becomes the first club after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to have women as charter members.

Sylvia Whitlock, of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, becomes the first female Rotary club president.

1988. In November, the RI Board of Directors issues a policy statement recognizing the right of Rotary clubs in Canada to admit female members based on a Canadian law similar to that upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

1989. At its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation voted to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. Women are welcomed into Rotary clubs around the world.

1999. As of June, there are about 20,200 female Rotarians worldwide. The Rotarian magazine ran a feature on "Women in Rotary".

1995. In July, eight women became district governors, the first elected to this role: Mimi Altman, Gilda Chirafisi, Janet W. Holland, Reba F. Lovrien, Virginia B. Nordby, Donna J. Rapp, Anne Robertson, and Olive P. Scott.

2005. Carolyn E. Jones began her term as the first woman appointed as trustee of The Rotary Foundation.

2008. Catherine Noyer-Riveau began her term as the first woman elected to the RI Board of Directors.

2012. Elizabeth S. Demaray began her term as RI treasurer, the first woman to serve in this position.

2013. Anne L. Matthews begins her term as the first woman to serve as RI vice president.

2019. Brenda Marie Cressey began her term as the first woman to serve as vice-chair of The Rotary Foundation. In April-June 2019 she served as chair of the Foundation, the first woman appointed to this role.

2020. In October, Jennifer E. Jones became president-nominee, the first woman to be nominated to be Rotary International President. Her term as president will begin 1 July 2022.

Pranic Healing – a brief introduction

– **Shweta Laddha Mohta**

A pranic healer and instructor serving since last six years



Pranic Healing is the ability to heal someone without a drug or touch. It utilizes life force energy or prana to help body heal itself. It is study of Energy Body and Chakras. Pranic Healing is practiced in more than 120 countries in more than 20 courses. Centers of Pranic Healing are situated in 17 states of India.

Founder of Pranic Healing is Grand Master Choa Kok Sui, a Chemical Engineer by profession. He is the founder of MCKS Arhatic Yoga Ashram, Institute of Inner Studies and World Pranic Healing Foundation.

Pranic healing deals in, primarily, Physical Health, Emotional Health, Mental Health, Business, Home, Relationship and Spirituality. A miraculous technique in the world of energy is scanning where the Healer assesses the aura and each chakra. This indicates the state of energy in each chakra and also provides a direction for the treatment. Sometimes, the Patient may share a limited amount of information about the problem. Scanning can help healers delve deeper into the problem. Scanning can help in taking decisions and find what is best for the patient.

In Business, Pranic healing can help start-ups to boost their business and sales. By taking the services, you can improve overall implementation of plans and labour relation. Through the usage of meditation techniques, individuals can calm their mind and magnify their productivity. Pranic healing can also help corporates and businesses obtain their blocked money.

At our Home, Pranic Healing can help smoothen the relation between the people in the house. Besides it can also help you shield your house from gloomy thoughts of outsiders.

In the Health front, with Pranic Healing, ailments as simple as fever and as complex as paralysis can be treated successfully. Moreover, one may also find the root of the cause via special technique of scanning. This will help you take necessary actions early and get better results.

Most emotions cannot be cured via medicines and drugs, but Pranic Healing can. Emotions like anger, anxiety, fear, stress and concentration need special

attention and after taking the services of Pranic Healing, Patients are found to have stated that the intensity of negative emotions in them decreased drastically and they have lived in peace for a long period of time.

The services of Pranic healing are available from a healer effective at affordable price. The skill may also be learnt yourself with the help of the available Kit. Thus everyone – a Homemaker, a Student, a Businessman/Entrepreneur, a Salaried Employee can be Pranic Healer.

Shweta Laddha Mohta was also the Guest Speaker at the 703rd Regular Meeting of the Club

**Happy
Birthday!**



*Gour C Chaudhuri
1st March*

*Tapas Chakraborty
15th March*

*Chandan Sarkar
24th March*

**Anniversary
Wishes**



*Tushar Kanti Mondal
& Malabika
10th March*

*Ashok Kumar Hawelia
& Bimla
10th March*