

ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

RI Club No.16149 | Date of Charter: August 24, 1964
Rotary International District 3291

Rotary



Rotary Opens
Opportunities



MAITREE

RI President: Rtn. Holger Knaack
Dist. Governor: Rtn. Sudip Mukherjee

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Secretary: Rtn. Shuvranshu Mitra

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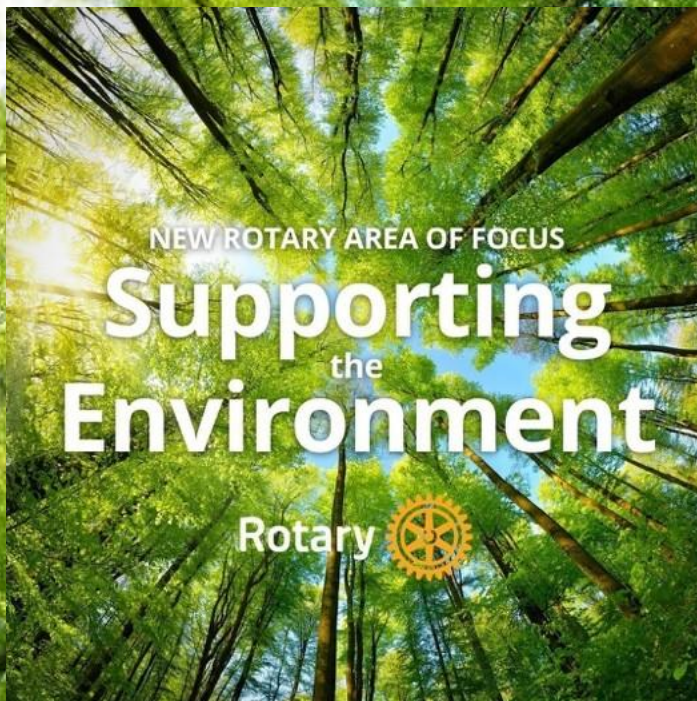
Issue: 02

2569th

Regular Club Meeting

July - New Leadership Month

COVER STORY



Supporting the Environment has become Rotary International's Seventh Area of Focus

TOP STORIES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

22nd July

Koustav, son of PP Rtn
Krishnendu Bhattacharjee

23rd July

PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee

24th July

Manpreet, daughter of PP Rtn
Amamrjit Singh Thethi

27th July

Ann Nandini, wife of Rtn Ashis
Kumar Das

27th July

Debariya, son of Rtn Debarshi
Dutta Gupta

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

24th July

Ann Srimati & PP Rtn Debidas
Ganguly

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is the beginning of the New Rotary Year.
Kindly pay your Semi-Annual Dues.

UPCOMING DAYS

COTS will be held on 30th July on Zoom Platform
@ 7pm onwards. District Trainer PDG Anshuman
Bandopadhyay will address the session.

57th Installation Meeting of our Club will be held
on Zoom platform @ 7 pm on 1st August, 2020.

AN EARNEST REQUEST

All members and their family are requested
to subscribe to regular Maitree.
That will make it more enjoyable.

All members are requested to
mail < sid.ctvs@gmail.com > articles, paintings
or other material for publishing in this platform.

Supporting The Environment **COVER STORY**

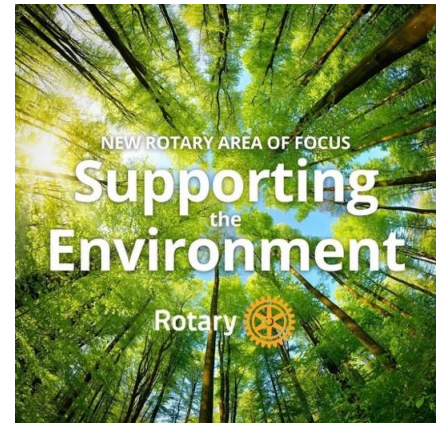
The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus:
Supporting the Environment.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.

More information about this new cause will be announced soon.



Editor's Column



By the time one utters 'Deforestation', another chunk of forest the size of a football field is wiped off.

Every two seconds, round-the-clock.



It all started thousands of years ago, with our predecessors – shifting from nomadic to agricultural societies – finding an easy way to get grounds for crops, housing or cattle. But gradually it has become an epidemic, endangering the earth. There's only about half the number of trees on the planet today that there were when humans first evolved. Forests still cover about 30 percent of the world's land area, but they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Between 1990 and 2016, the world lost 1.3 million square kilometers of

forest - an area larger than South Africa. Not surprising, as 15 billion trees are now being cut down every year across the world.

But why the surge?

The log is rather a byproduct, the main reason in majority of cases being mining and drilling, urbanization, cattle ranching, and – farming. Farming for soya and palm oil in particular. Vast areas of Amazon are being razed to have the field for soya, much in demand for cattle feed to cater to the need of hordes of cattle and poultry to meet the insatiable global demand for cheap meat – give us our daily bacon and egg - and for palm oil, an essential component of a lot of food and personal products ranging from lipsticks to shampoo. Very lucrative business indeed.

The result is devastating.

Globally, 13.4 million people are in jobs in the forest sector, and they are in jeopardy. And so are more than half the world's land-based plants and animals, and three-quarters of all birds. We are fast engulfing their habitat; biodiversity is in danger. And this is just the obvious.



The foliage of trees also acts as a canopy, regulating the temperature by blocking the sun's rays during the day and retaining heat at night. The disruption causes extreme temperature variation.

And they are the 'carbon sink' absorbing carbon dioxide and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity. Tropical trees alone are estimated to provide about 23% of the climate mitigation that's needed to offset climate change, according to the World Resources Institute. In fact, deforestation causes eighty percent of Indonesia's carbon dioxide emissions, making the tropical nation the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Trees also control level of water in the atmosphere. Deforestation causes less water available over the canopy with reduced rainfalls. A 2019 study showed forest areas converted..(contd)



to agricultural lands have higher soil and air temperatures, akin to drought conditions.

Coupled with it are the problems of soil erosion and flooding. Loss of embrace of tree roots causes the top soil to get eroded and washed away, leaving a parched up barren land and settling in rivers and rivulets, increasing chances of flood in adjoining areas.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations says that deforestation is the second leading cause of climate change. But the mass destruction of trees—deforestation—continues, sacrificing the long-term benefits of standing trees for short-term gain.

We get drought. We get flood. We get a heated up earth.

Supporting the environment has become Rotary's seventh area of focus, and Rotary India Environment Mission has a plan of planting 30 crore trees by December 2025 – five crores each year.

Let us join hands.
Rotary has opened opportunities.



OUR LEADERS FOR ROTARY YEAR 2020-21



Rtn Ajay Agarwal
IP District Governor



Rtn Sudip Mukherjee
District Governor



PDG Rtn Anshuman Bandopadhyay
District Trainer



Rtn Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor Elect



Rtn Ajoy Law
District Governor Nominee

FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

Presidential Message
July, 2020
Holger Knaack
President 2020-21



This does not seem like a time for great optimism, but it has to be. Long before Rotary was founded, the world dealt with great crises that tested humankind's ability to progress and endure. In the age of Rotary, the world has faced many more catastrophes; however, we have survived, and every step of the way, Rotary has helped the world heal.

Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth. I revealed the theme of Rotary Opens Opportunities at the International Assembly in San Diego just as the COVID-19 crisis was beginning, but these are words that I have believed for many years.

Rotary is not just a club that you join; it is an invitation to endless opportunities. We believe in creating opportunities for others and for ourselves. We believe that our acts of service, large and small, generate opportunities for people who need our help, and that Rotary opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

Governments and institutions are gaining a greater appreciation for the types of public health partnerships that are critical to our work. People stuck at home, eager for greater connections and hungry to help their communities, are now embracing the values we have promoted since our beginning.

All of this is positive news, but just because there are greater opportunities than ever for Rotary to thrive does not guarantee that we will succeed. The world is changing rapidly — and was doing so even before this crisis. People were starting to move away from regular lunch meetings and toward online gatherings. Friendships were being cultivated and revived in social media relationships even before most of our meetings moved to Zoom and Skype. Younger generations have a strong desire to serve — but have questioned whether they could play a meaningful role in organizations like Rotary or whether they might make a bigger impact forming different types of connections. Now is the time to put everything on the table, test new approaches, and prepare Rotary for the future.

The COVID-19 crisis has forced all of us to adapt. This is good, and our new Action Plan specifically calls on us to improve our ability to adapt. But adaptation is not enough. We need to change, and change dramatically, if we are to face the challenges of this new age and provide the Rotary the world so desperately needs.

This is our great challenge, not just in the next year but into the foreseeable future. It is up to us to remake Rotary for these new times — to wholeheartedly embrace the ideas, energy, and commitment of young people eager to find an outlet for idealism. We must become an organization fully enmeshed in the digital age, not one that simply looks for online ways to keep doing what we have always done.

The world needs Rotary now more than ever. It is up to us to make sure that **Rotary Opens Opportunities** for generations to come.



Club

Few members of our club have the opportunity to serve Rotary beyond club level this year. They are :



IPP Rtn Kaushik
Bhattacharyya :
Co-chair, Eye Care and
Cornea Donation
Projects.



PP Rtn (Dr) Siddhartha
Chakraborty : Asstt
Governor (Admin),
Zone – 18.

Our congratulations to them.

RI District 3291

Our District Governor
Rtn Sudip Mukherjee
has been selected as
the Secretary of the
Governors Council of
Rotary News Trust for
the RY 2020-2021.

Hearty
Congratulations,
Mr. DG.



||
QUIZ
time

We are starting this new feature. There would be 5 questions on Rotary in every issue of Maitree. The answers, along with reference and names of successful friends will be published in next issue.

QUIZ #1

- #1** Service Above Self is the principal motto of Rotary. What is the other motto?
- #2** First Rotary meeting was that of Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905. Who was the first President of the Club?
- #3** Which is the first Rotary Club in Asia? When was it chartered?
- #4** When were ladies allowed to join a Rotary Club?
- #5** We enjoyed Centennial Year in RY 2019-20. Which event was celebrated?

Please send your answers to the Editor over WhatsApp (9830 030 020) within 7 days. Strictly. Happy head-scratching.

Write-up & Photo Credit
Rtn Shuvranshu

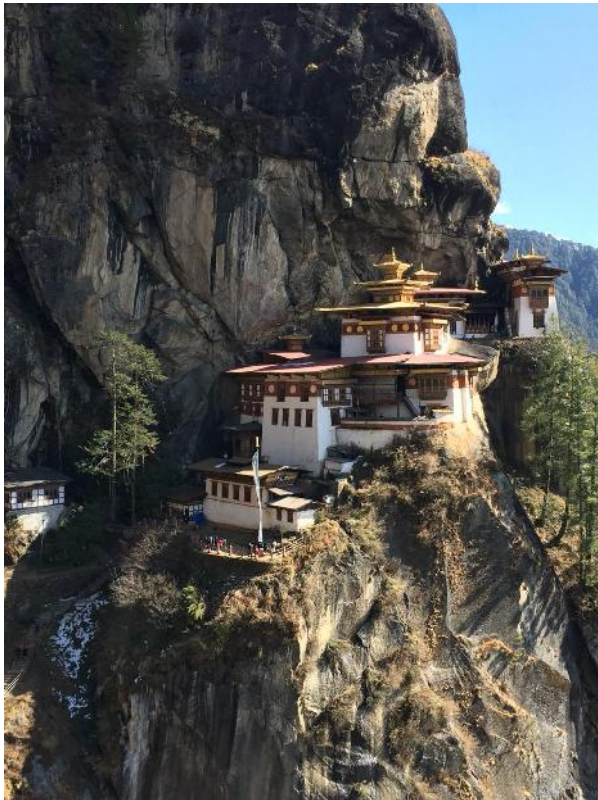
FAMILY CORNER



Bhutan Gate
Jaigaon - Phuntsholing border



International Airport - Paro



The Kingdom of Bhutan, a small country in south asia. I had the opportunity to visit one of the happiest and cleanest country in the world.

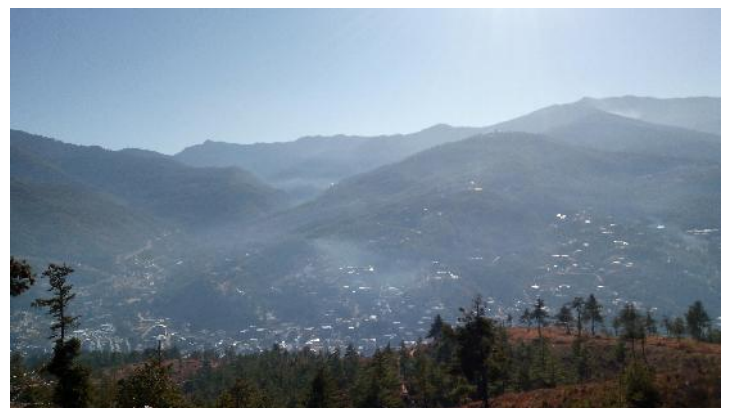


I happen to visit Phuntsholing, Thimphu & Paro. The land is well preserved by the locals. Myself & Sneha (wife) will cherish our beautiful moments forever. My wife was lucky to spent her childhood at Phuntsholing. Jaigaon of West Bengal, India is the border town with Phuntsholing. Paro has the only International Airport in Bhutan. Indian's don't require Passport or visa to enter Bhutan. Here are some of my captured memories.

Tiger's Nest or Taktsang Monastery - Paro



Buddha Dordenma Statue - Thimphu



Thimphu from Buddha Dordenma Statue Hill

MINUTES OF THE 2568th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 2ND JULY, 2020.

Club President Sugata Mazumdar welcomed all members.

Meeting started with National Anthem played on screen.

Club President initiated discussion on our ongoing Amphan Relief Project. The following were resolved :

- a) Presently we have Rs 56,000/- received as donations for work at RCC Chandanpiri. It will be spent there.
- b) Two big tree/ fruit tree will be gifted to each family. Total number will be decided on receiving quotation from nurseries.
- c) As there is a local need, bleach, lime, carbolic acid etc will be supplied to the RCC.

Enquiries to be made with District leadership about availability of tree plants through Rotary India Environment Mission. If available, trees may be planted in collaboration with our erstwhile RCC at Tapuriaghata.

The following were resolved regarding Vocational Service :

- a) District projects of cycle rickshaw and sewing machine may be implemented with 1:1 grant from District.
- b) At least one suitable person should be honored with a Vocational Excellence Award, once physical meetings become a reality.

The club accounts for RY 2019-2020 are already with our chartered accountant. They would be requested to speed up the audit.

The soft copy of bill for the Semiannual Dues will be sent to members shortly. Hard copy will be sent to members willing to receive so.

Club Secretary Shuvranshu updated about the current status of our club website.

Club Editor PP Siddhartha requested all members to contribute for regular issues of Maitree.

Club Secretary Shuvranshu conducted club business.

The minutes of the 2567th RCM held on 26.06.20 as published in Maitree was confirmed.

Club President Sugata announced that next RCM will be held on 16th July at 730 pm.

Meeting terminated with vote of thanks from and to the Chair.

Meeting Attendance :

Total members : 32. Members present : 19.