



# MAITREE

*For private circulation only*

**ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA**

CLUB NO.: 16149

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3291

DATE OF CHARTER: AUGUST 24, 1964

**VOLUME LVII**

ISSUE 12

**19**

NOVEMBER

**BIJAYA - DIWALI SPECIAL ISSUE**



Rotary



Rotary Opens  
Opportunities

**COVER STORY**



**ENJOY  
THE  
SPREAD**

**Trying out your "Luck" has never been this easy. "Pots" are so surprising. Gatherings were never this tasty and delicious.**

## November : Rotary Foundation Month

### TOP STORIES

From The RCB Archive | Happy Occasions

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Guest Speaker:PP Rtn Ajoy Kr. Chatterjee

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Cover Story - Editorial | Artwork by Debanshi Joardar

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PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta

IPP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya

Debanshi Joardar

Sneha Mitra

Ranjana Khanna

Rtn Ashish Das

Deblina Chakraborty

PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar

Quiz | Minutes

## November : Rotary Foundation Month



### **THE FOUR-WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO**

- 1. IS IT THE TRUTH ?**
- 2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERN ?**
- 3. WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERN ?**

**FROM THE RCB ARCHIVE**



**PDRR Rtn George's  
visit to Rotary Club of  
Manila, Asia's First  
Rotary Club on  
February, 2019**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**25th November

Vihaan son of Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

29th NovemberArideep son of PP Rtn Anjan Kumar  
Bhowmick1st DecemberRuma wife of Rtn Angshuman  
Bhattacharya1st DecemberSurupa daughter of PP Rtn Pijush  
Ranjan Sengupta1st December

Sneha wife of Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**21st November

Sunanda &amp; PP Rtn Anindya Bose

2nd DecemberNabamita & Rtn Debarshi Dutta  
Gupta2nd December

Sneha &amp; Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

**EDITORIAL REQUEST**

All the members & their extended family are earnestly requested to contribute to Maitree.

Mail it to [sid.ctvs@gmail.com](mailto:sid.ctvs@gmail.com)  
or whatsapp to **98300 30020**.

Please call for any clarifications.

**CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kindly pay your  
Semi-Annual  
Dues.

*Guest Speaker*

Past President Rtn Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee, is a renowned lawyer. He will make a deliberations on "Impact of Covid19 Pandemic in our Judicial Proceedings".

**DO YOU KNOW  
WE ARE ON**

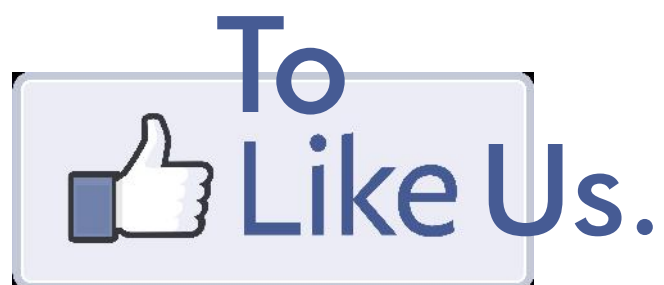
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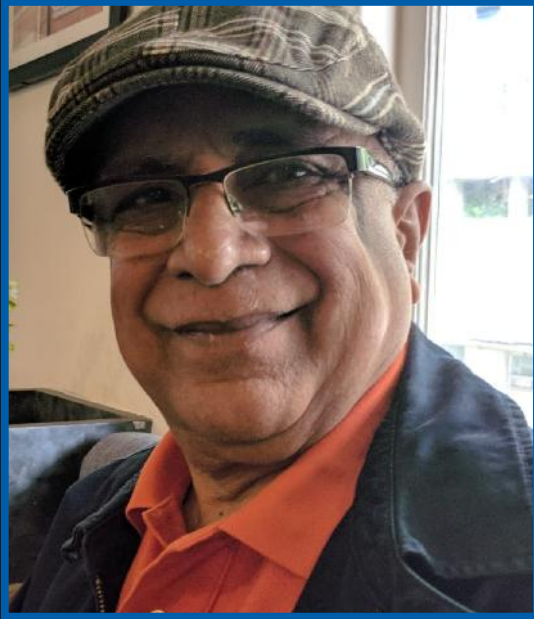


**ROTARY CLUB  
OF BEHALA**

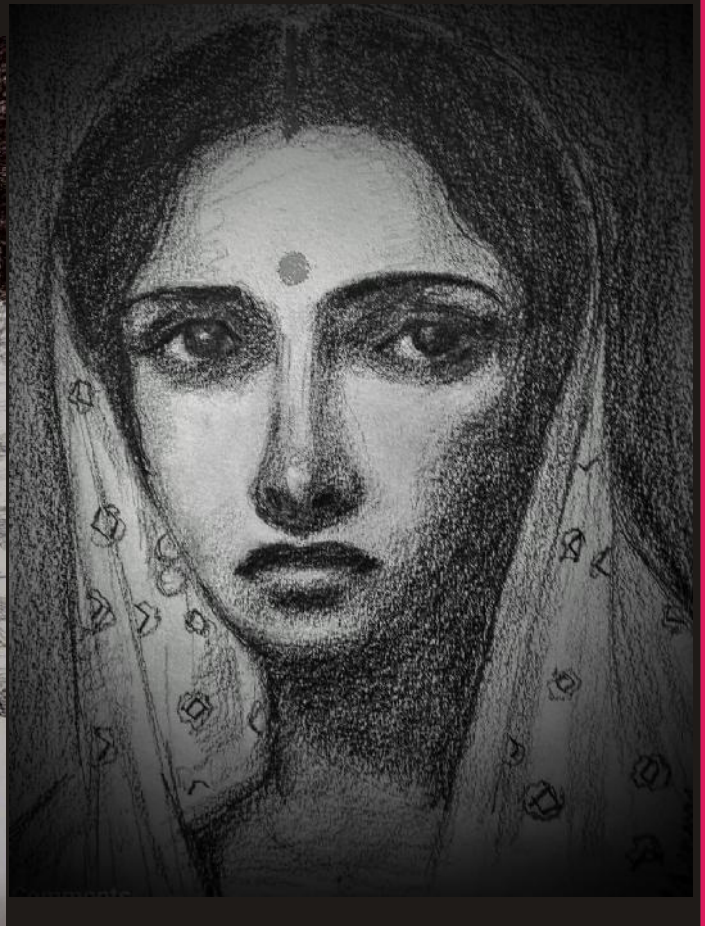
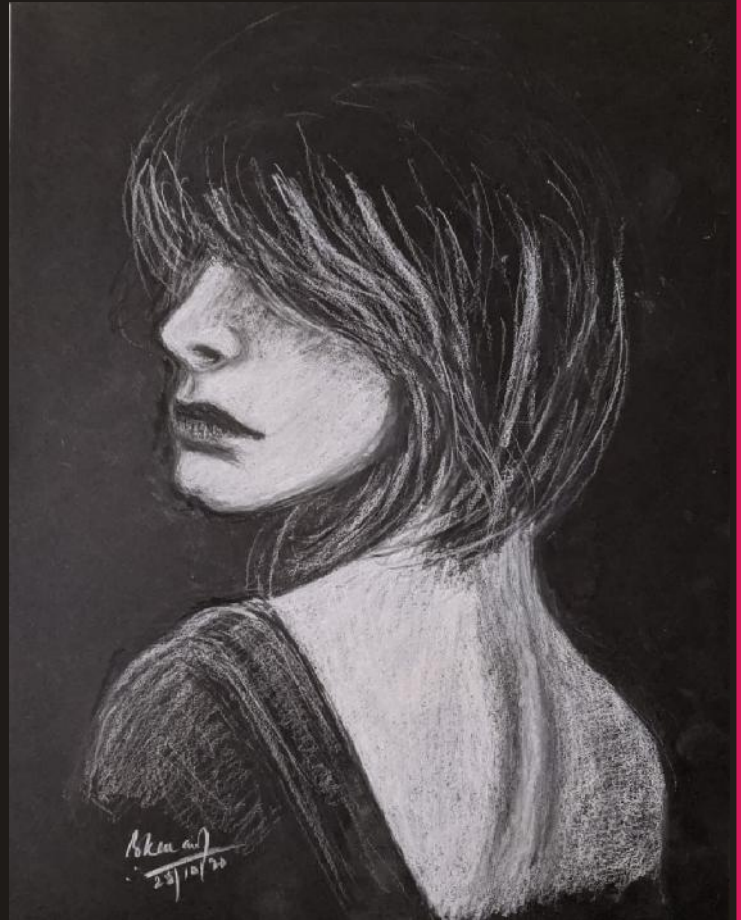
**CLICK HERE:**

[www.facebook.com/rotarybehala](http://www.facebook.com/rotarybehala)





Happy to introduce Dr Bhupendra Kumar Manocha, my classmate and a renowned paediatrician of the city with a passion for sketching and painting. He holds regular exhibitions, all the proceeds going to Institute of Child Health, Kolkata. – Ed.





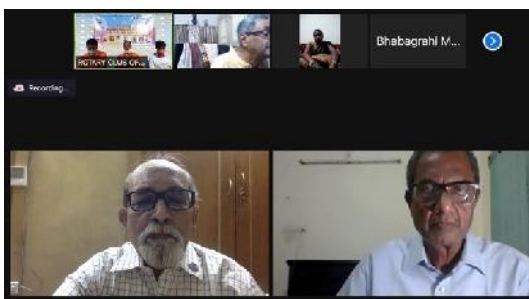
**FAMILY CORNER**

PP Rtn (Dr) Siddhartha Chakraborty was invited as the Chief Speaker in a programme on Organ Donation and Transplantation organised by RC Balasore and RC Puri Sagar of RID 3262 on 11-11-12.

Here he is sharing screen with PP Rtn Bikramaditya Nayak, District Chair, Organ Donation Committee, RID 3262



Club President Elect Rtn Soumojit Mukherjee as a police officer in the web series "Utsav er Pore".





Saharsh Ganguly is a class10 student of South City International School and is now gearing up for ICSE 2021. He loves playing football and is an avid Manchester City fan. Saharsh possesses a very creative mind and loves art , crafts etc... he is very passionate and focussed on any creative artefacts. He creates good crafts structures but also created short cartoon films using his and his cousins voices. Finally Saharsh's best friend is his grandfather PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly with whom he spends his leisure time playing chess, cards and other indoor games.

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## UPCOMING DAYS

### DISTRICT 3291

Next Polio Immunisation day (SNID) is on 22nd November. Like last SNID, there would be no Polio Booth, but the vaccination will be done by Health workers on door to door basis between September 22nd and 28th.

This will be preceded by intensive campaigning with microphone and supply of hand sanitiser, mask, soap and refreshment through Borough or Ward offices of KMC.

### CLUB

Our club will participate in two Joint Programmes of RID 3291 zones 18 & 20

#### 25TH NOVEMBER

Distribution of protection gears like gloves, mask, cap, face shield, disposable aprons and sanitisers to Covid warriors at Institution of Child Health, Park Circus.

#### 28TH NOVEMBER

"Know Your Numbers" camp as a part of Project Positive Health at Kolkata Police Reserve Force Lines, Padmapukur, Khidirpore.  
DG has kindly transformed this to a District Project.

**COVER STORY**

*Editorial*



*Participant*  
**WITHOUT**  
*Participating*



PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty  
 Editor 20-21



A rheumatic heart prevented my participation in outdoor sport during school days, but could not stop me from the grounds. I became the inseparable member of team in the interclass matches – not as a smashing big hitter or a wizard with the ball, but as the scorer – a very important job in school cricket of early sixties – for they needed an honest (!!) fellow quick in mental maths.

Later on I was introduced to the wonderful world of potluck and came across an awesome story. A rather miserly Scot arranged for a potluck dinner for his friends. So there came Italian pasta, German sausage, French wine, Dutch cheese, Swiss chocolate, Iranian kababs, Russian vodka. The poor Indian brought chicken tandoori, and the Scot? He brought his brother!



My turn came few years after joining Rotary. My dinky drawing room would fill to brim with jovial bright Rotaractors, the latecomers cross-legged on floor. There was adda, planning for upcoming projects, dissection of jobs done, little leg-pullings. Bonhomie at its best. Then on to the table – an unimaginable conglomeration of food. From paratha to biryani, fish fry to paneer, potato to cauliflower, assorted items of chicken to cakes – choice aplenty for the cheerful gang. I simply loved those evenings.



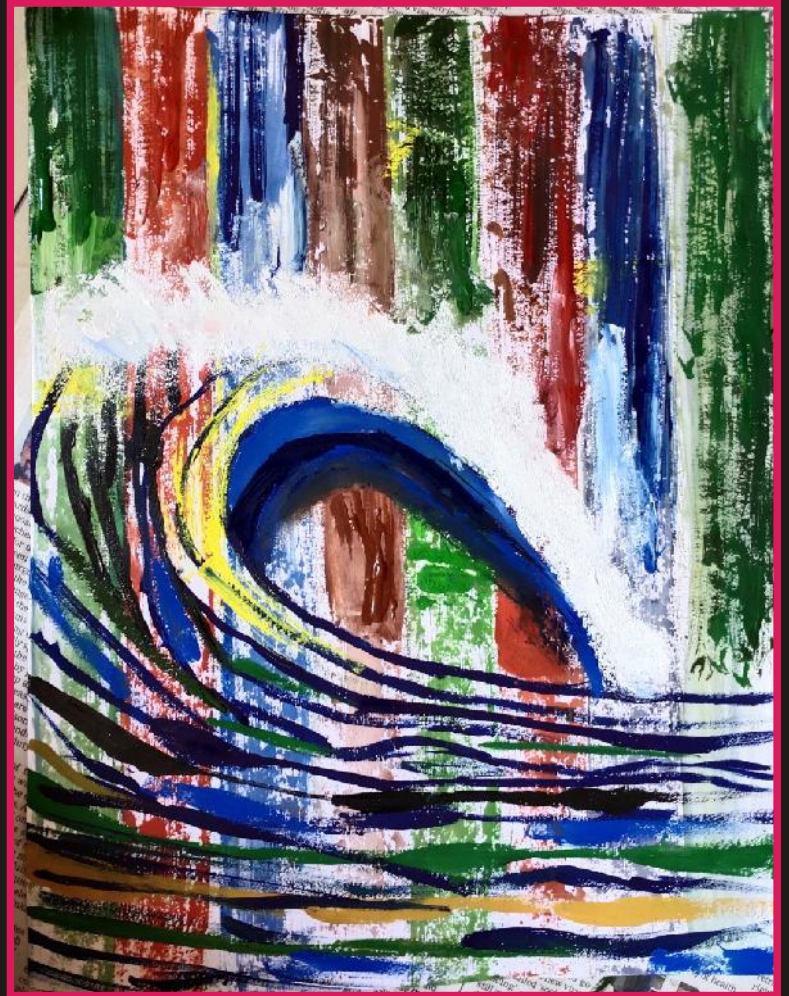
My responsibility, apart from providing the venue, was limited to arranging some formulation of rice (seldom touched) and the sweet dish (devoured gladly). Here again, I provide the venue. Enjoy the platter.



## 'A Valiant Crest'



This particular painting symbolises 'self-determination' for me. In my perspective, the wave stands out because of its boldness. It is interesting to see that the wave instantly juts out in the painting even after it has the same colours as that of the background. This can also be a token of unity of the good over evil. She studies at Modern High School For Girls in class 9.



“

**VACCINES WORK.**  
**THE FIGHT**  
**TO END POLIO**  
**IS PROOF.**

#ENDPOLIO

#VACCINESWORK

”

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK 2020

Rotary  

ENDPOLIO.ORG



# THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS... RI DISTRICT 3291

The 'District Funded Project'(1:1) of distribution of mosquito nets has been successfully completed. Due to huge demand the initial targeted figure was increased more than 3 times and 38 Clubs participated on first come first serve basis. Congratulations to all 38 Clubs for being part of it.

Next 'District Funded Project'(1:1) of Blankets will be launched in December.



PRID YP Das Memorial Golf Tournament of RID 3291 got underway on 7th November at RCGC. There were 23 participants. Kudos to all.

Khoj – the District online hunt for talents in Bengali and Hindi songs in two age groups – of 6-11 yrs and 12-16 years started off with overwhelming response from 200 odd participants. After rounds 1 & 2, 20-odd participants competed in the final round on 13th November in the presence of celebrity judges, DG, District team and the members of the rotary clubs of our district.



Rotary  
District 3291

Community Service Project conforming to RI area of focus, "Disease Prevention and Treatment"

## Suraksha

6ft x 6ft Mosquito nets available from RID 3291 through District Funded Project (1:1 Scheme)

Clubs can avail these high quality mosquito nets of extra large size in this scheme. Minimum booking 50 pieces and maximum booking 100 pieces.

Please send email to [mosquitonet3291@gmail.com](mailto:mosquitonet3291@gmail.com) stating your requirement immediately.

All mosquito nets shall have Rotary Signage









Rotary Opens Opportunities



win prizes worth 5000/- and more



RI President  
Holgar Knaack



DG Sudip  
Mukherjee

Rotary International District 3291 in association with Virtual Sangeet Ashram

» Club Service Project

## KHOJ

Singing Talent Hunt

Event jointly hosted by  
RC Calcutta Harmony & RC Saltlake Silicon Valley

RC Calcutta Centenary & RC Kamarhati & RC Saltlake Downtown



## FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2020



*RIP Holger Knaack*

We all know Rotary's tremendous power to transform our communities and ourselves. However, in every community, people have been left out, and we have not made a strong enough effort to reach them.

The RI Board of Directors is taking action to make Rotary more welcoming and diverse. We formed a task force to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion to help clubs attract new members regardless of gender, race, religion, age, or other factors. This will help us speed up the change we all want and need. The selection of Jennifer E. Jones as Rotary president for 2022-23 — the first woman to lead our organization — is another step in this direction.

At the grassroots level, clubs drive inclusion and diversity. Alia Ali — who serves on the board of directors at the Big West Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organization and is a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards alumna and past president of the Rotaract Club of Surrey-Newton, British Columbia — offers her perspective.

I still remember the relief I felt as a RYLA participant four years ago. I had finally found my people: people who cared as much as I did. All over the world, Rotary has the same heart. We serve our communities and take action where others feel paralyzed by the size and scope of a problem.

Let's continue that spirit, especially when the conversation is difficult. Racism, prejudice, and discrimination take on different forms but exist in every country, in every city, and in every person. How do we root it out?

As a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant, I help organizations create a culture that empowers and attracts everyone using the power of empathy. When we feel with others as if they were ourselves, we cannot hold prejudice in our hearts. When every child reminds you of your own child, when every woman or man reminds you of your mother or brother, you start seeing the world differently.


**We can apply The Four-Way Test through the lens of empathy. Are we building goodwill and friendship with everyone in our area, including women? Are things fair and beneficial to people of all ages? Who has to make choices that you don't have to make?**

**I made a heartbreaking choice between Rotary and my religion when a Rotary convention was held during Ramadan. I wondered : When we ask if this is fair and beneficial to all concerned, did that not include me as a Muslim? Would the convention ever be held over Easter? Only by asking difficult questions can we begin the work of creating a more inclusive and diverse Rotary.**

## FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

**We already connect so many people across the world. Imagine the possibilities when we bring even more people along for the ride. That's the future of Rotary I want to see: one where we are unstoppable in our service, relentless in our kindness, and intentional in the change we want to see.**

Rotary has a big enough heart. If we open our door wider, we might find a lot of interesting people with new voices and new perspectives. We already have a variety of clubs offering different styles, cultures, and opportunities — and those who do not feel welcome in any particular club might be great candidates for new clubs created on different models. It's important that we make sure every new Rotary member is a good fit for their club. **Rotary Opens Opportunities** through diversity.




DESIGNED BY  
**RJ**  
@RCD378

NOVEMBER  
IS THE ROTARY  
FOUNDATION MONTH


**ARCH KLUMPH, RI PRESIDENT 1916-1917**

THE FOUNDATION WAS CREATED IN 1917 BY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S SIXTH PRESIDENT, ARCH C. KLUMPH, AS AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR ROTARY "TO DO GOOD IN THE WORLD." IT HAS GROWN FROM AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$26.50 TO MORE THAN \$1 BILLION. IT HAS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS IN THE WORLD.



Rotary Opens Opportunities

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



## FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY



PDG Dr Saga

“If you want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out.

To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.”

-Mother Teresa

# KEEP GIVING.

*Keep - Doing Good in the World*

Year	Global Grants Awarded	Grant Worth
2013 - 14	868 Grants	Over \$ 47 Million
2019 - 20	1,350 Grants	Over \$ 100 Million

While the number of grants shot up by more than 50 %, and funding by 123 %,

corresponding **Annual Fund**

contributions showed only a 5 % increase.

*We will need to rise to this challenge and work together to meet our funding needs.*

**Your Generosity** today and throughout this year is the **OIL** that keeps our grants burning bright, reaching the ones who need us most.

Trustee Chair **K.R.Ravindran**'s November 2020 , Message.



Rotary Opens Opportunities



November  
Rotary Foundation Month

Visit & Donate  
[www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org)

EPNC PDG Dr Saga  
+919994477725

## KOLKATA, MY CITY, MY HOME



Harsimran Kaur  
 Daughter of PP Rtn Amarjit Singh Thethi

It's been close to 20 years since I left Calcutta, but home will always remain home! You might leave Calcutta, but Calcutta never leaves you.

Growing up in India as a woman is not easy and I feel fortunate that I grew up in a city which treats its women with respect. As we read more and more about the caste crisis in India, discrimination and fanaticism on the rise, Calcutta and its values and principles become even more special. I feel Calcutta is the reason where the spark of intellect, free speech and thinking took root in me, and I will always be grateful to the city and its people.

Giving back and making a difference is something which I have learnt not only from my parents but also from the larger Rotary family. As a child, Rotary was an integral part of our lives: such happy memories of picnics, trips, wonderful lunches followed by paan and everyone singing beautiful Rabindra sangeet. There were intellectual discussions and debates on topics ranging from history and politics to art; I feel I was lucky to experience this community and its larger noble cause of helping others and giving back. Also, so many beautiful friendships were forged over the years, people from different walks of life coming together for the wonderful cause of doing good.

This year has been a tough one for so many of us world over and has been a real test on humanity. During such times, the noble cause of a collective such as Rotary becomes all the more relevant. The world is rethinking its ways of consumerism and



capitalism and how we need to look at sustainable business models and business for good. Businesses should create value not for a handful few but for the larger ecosystems and society. This year, the World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its effort to combat hunger, this only reinstates the critical role which organizations such as Rotary and civil society play in bringing about positive change.

As Pujas nears, this year again I will miss being in Kolkata. I do hope to bring my children next year to see for real the magic of Puja and witness in person all the stories I have told them about the festival. Sending my warm wishes to the Rotary family. May the Goddess bless you with health, happiness and joy! Closing with Tagore's all-time masterpiece on his vision of a new and awakened.

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high  
 Where knowledge is free  
 Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
 By narrow domestic walls  
 Where words come out from the depth of truth  
 Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection  
 Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
 Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit  
 Where the mind is led forward by thee  
 Into ever-widening thought and action  
 Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.



**Rotary Service**

Projects and Initiatives included in the word cloud:

- Solar Lights
- Child Safety
- Friends
- TeamMates
- Rotaract
- Sanitation
- Community Foundation
- Big Red Blowout
- Habitat for Humanity
- Dictionaries
- Mission II Haiti
- Golf Tournament
- UNK
- Selflessness
- Goodwill
- India
- Beer & Brats
- Education
- RYLA
- Salvation Army
- Scholarships
- Vocation
- Interact
- Peace
- Cranes on Parade
- Kearney High
- 3rd Grade
- Spaghetti Feed
- Polio Eradication
- Clean Water
- Childrens Museum
- Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Charity
- Nepal
- Literacy
- MONA
- Yanney Park
- Breakfast
- Crossroads Mission
- Disease Prevention

# DURGA PUJA OF SABARNA ROYCHOWDHURY FAMILY

Mrs Papia Mukherjee



To some extent I consider myself lucky as I was born in a family still holding the heritage of Bengal. Yes, I am talking about Sabarna Roychowdhury family. The Durga puja festival of Sabarna Roychowdhury family is undoubtedly one of the oldest Durga puja festival of Bengal as well as in India.

Before I get into the scenario of Durga puja of Sabarna Roychowdhury family, I will like to highlight the rich history and heritage of this pre-British era family. The Sabarna Roychowdhury family were Zamindars near the Kolkata area

prior to the arrival of the British.

Laxmikanta Bandyopadhyay was the founder and he was the man who started this 400 years old Durga puja in the year 1610 prior to the British era. Raja Man Singh gave Laxmikanta Roychowdhury a large land and made him land lord in 1608. The title Roychowdhury has been running since then. Worship of the Gorgeous Durga is the best festival of Bengalis all over the world. The family has been celebrating Durga puja since 1610 in their ancestral home at Barisha.

Today as many as eight Durga pujas are held by different sections of the family. Six of them are in Barisha. They are known as Atchala bari, Borobari, Mejobari, Maher bari, Banaki bari, and Kalikinkar bari. They have an organization which is named Sabarna Roychowdhury Paribar Parishad. This organization preserves the rich history, culture and traditions of the family. There is also a family museum in Barisha.

The Sabarna Roychowdhury family today has expanded and spread



*Atchala Bari*





**Mejo Bari Entrance**

which have expanded into a number of other buildings creating a para on the name of the main house due to expansion of the family. But still the basic bond of a single joint family has not been destroyed due to the western influences.

Family bonding and brotherhood are pillar of a big joint family and these two specialities can still be seen in this 400 years old family. During any festival or social program every member of the family try to



**Mejo Bari**

participate and enjoy every occasion together.



**Mejo Bari Snan Ghat**

The typical image of our Durga. The oldest idol is that of Aatchala. All the eight Durga pratima are being created almost in the same manner. The uniqueness of the pratima is that it has chalchitras divided into three parts and have pictures of the ten different images of Mahashakti known as the Dasamahabidya.



*Mejo Bari Durga Idol*

On one side of the Pratima is the idol of Shiva and on the other side is Rama, as can be noticed. They are also being worshipped. The colour of the Durga is reddish or it can be light golden as mentioned in the Durgabhaktitarangini. The Asura is green in colour depicting the evilness and jealousy in him. In total the image brings hope and prosperity for the worshipers.

Laxmikanta Bandyopadhyay constructed a traditional Chandi Mandap and started first-ever Swaparibare Durga puja celebration of Bengal in 1610, inspired by his wife Bhagawati Devi. For the first time Goddess Durga was being worshiped with Lakshmi, Saraswati, Ganesha and Kartikeya. Today this puja is considered as the oldest Durga Puja in Kolkata and is highly regarded among the masses. The adjacent Radhakanta temple and the twelve Shiva temples are also of traditional architectural pattern and more objects of interest to tourists.

Exclusive rituals, rites and customs are followed during the puja. A special puja called Mashabhaktaboli is offered during Mahasthami and Mahanabami to the presiding power Trilok including the yoginis and the Upadevatas, believing that they too have cooperated with us to perform the Pujo successfully. Sabarna Roychowdhury family also used to follow rituals like Krishna Nabami, Bodhon, Sindurdan on Mahasaptami with Akbari Mohour, Sashti Bhog, Kumari puja etc.

When one thinks of Durga Puja in Kolkata, the very first name that comes to mind is Sabarna Roychowdhury family. This Durga Puja is not only unique but also a fusion of history, heritage and tradition.

# UBUD, BALI, MONKEY FOREST

PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta



Indonesia was always my favorite place to visit and my last count from my old passport confirms that it is surely true. My work took me to Indonesia in excess of 35 times and out of which I had the opportunity to visit Bali about 8 times. Indonesia, a country very rich in culture, language based totally on Sanskrit and in Roman script, very friendly people, food very much to the liking of Indian taste buds, endless white sand beaches, mountains and a very modern country with their original culture very strongly preserved.

Bali, a very popular tourist destination and had so much to offer to one and all. You can spend days together on the white sand beaches, enjoy the modern water sports, go for a trek in the forests, explore the ancient Hindu temples, or sit back and enjoy a mouth watering Balinese cuisine in the backdrop of a dance drama based on Ramayana or Mahabharata.

One of the most interesting places I visited in Bali was the Ubud Monkey Forest. The story goes that after Ram rescued Sita from Ravan some of his Vaner Sena (Monkey Army) chose to stay back in Bali and the Monkeys in Ubud Forest are their descendants.

Ubud Monkey Forest is a very popular tourist spot in Bali. This forest is considered to be very



sacred and is owned by the people of Padanglegal and is governed by the Padanglegal Wenara Wana Foundation. There is a very important Hindu temple inside the forest along with many very ancient Hindu mythological statues along the pathway and the long tailed macaques.

This forest is home to about 700 long-tailed macaques (commonly known as Hanumans). These monkeys are considered to be very sacred and are protected by the Wenara Wana Foundation.

The first time I visited the forest, it was a very memorable one. Part of a group of about 15 tourist, we walked on a narrow walkway towards the interior of the forest. The forest was very dense and dark with streaks of sunlight coming down. After about a walk of 20 minutes we reached a small clearance and were asked to be quiet and still. Soon after a few claps of our guide, to our surprise we saw these huge long fat tailed dark monkeys come forward



and sit in a row, about 20 feet away from us. Believe me they were indeed very big in size and had a very mean look in their stare and were very scary. We were all instructed in advance to keep quiet, not to have any food items in hand and of course no photography at all. After about 15 minutes



these monkeys, about 10 to 12 of them, slowly got up and walked back into the dense forest And disappeared. None of us spoke for quite some time till we were nearly out of the forest.



I understand there has been more development in the forest with visits to the Hindu temple and some other ancient sculptures in the forest. Please make sure it is in your 'must visit' list during your next trip to Bali.

# KOLKATA MAIDAN

IPP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya



My small piece of article starts with a table that is 'nostalgia'. No not the numbers, the colours. Any person living in and around Kolkata and to some extent in entire Bengal, till late 80s, early 90s can relate to these colours...Kolkata Maidan.

Collected from Personal Library, Mohun Bagan E Library and Anandabazar Library.

## Major Trophy Winning History of Kolkata Giants

TROPHY	Mohun Bagan	East Bengal	Md. Sporting
NFL/Ileague	5	3	0
Federation Cup	14	8	2
Super Cup	2	3	0
Durand Cup	16	16	0
Roverse Cup	14	10	6
IFA Shield	20	28	6
CFL	30	39	11
Bardouli Trophy	7	5	7
Sikkim Gold Cup	10	0	2
Nagji Trophy	2	2	4
DCM	1	7	4
Darjeeling Gold Cup	4	4	1
Airlines Gold Cup	8	7	4

Football in Bengal is in many ways an exercise in tracing the history of the region itself," writes sports historian Paul Dimeo in his article, 'Football and politics in Bengal: Colonialism, nationalism, communalism.' Football remains at the heart of the history that defines modern-day Bengal.

As European football took birth and developed in Bengal, there was also a simultaneous effort on the part of the British to keep Indians away from the sport. The idea that Bengalis were not 'sporty' enough to take part in Football was a stereotype that gained currency after the 1857 revolt, when the British in general made every effort to keep the 'natives' at a distance. Further, by the second half of nineteenth century the British were also fascinated by the idea of race as the ideal governing mechanism for colonial rulers. As such, an independent country capable of ruling over others were identified as having 'manly' characteristics, while colonised nations were seen as physically weak. "Bengalis were represented by the British as an example of just such a weak and effeminate people and they were dismissed by the colonisers as possessing the intellect of a Greek and the grit of the rabbit," writes Dimeo, a football historian.

### **A symbol of Bengali Nationalism**

While on one hand, the colonial society in Bengal put down the Bengali as being incapable of playing football, on the other hand, there was a simultaneous development of an idea that Bengalis were in need for adequate physical training. Indeed many among the British considered it to be their imperial duty to 'improve' the Bengali physique and encourage them to indulge in the game for their own sake. Football teams started coming up in eminent institutions like Presidency College, Shibpur Engineering College, St. Xavier's College and La Martiniere College. Alumni from these colleges went on to establish the reputed football clubs in Bengal. Chief among these was the Mohun Bagan established in 1889 by Bhupendra Nath Bose. Mohun Bagan would soon go on to determine Bengali pride in football, its victories against the European teams symbolising desire on the part of the colonised to overrule the colonisers. The football maidan became an ideal site for those among the Bengalis who were reluctant to actively take part in the freedom struggle. They came to view football as a potent nationalist gesture and defeating the British was considered necessary for their emotional satisfaction. "On the football field it was considered to be an act of great courage to shove an elbow or a fist into the face of a Sahib or a soldier, or to kick him under the guise of tackling"

The nationalist fervour attached to football found its strongest outburst when in 1911 Mohun Bagan defeated the East Yorks team 2-1 in the historic final of July 29, 1911. Mohun Bagan's victory was hailed as a blow struck not only for Indian football but also for Indian nationalism. The day following the historic victory, local newspaper, hailed the success of the team in the following words:

**"It fills every Indian with joy and pride to know that rice-eating, malaria-ridden, barefooted Bengalis have got the better of the beef-eating, Herculean, booted John-Bull in the peculiar English sport."**

### **Maidan reflects internal struggle of a nation**

In July 28, 1920 Mohun Bagan was scheduled to clash with Jorabagan in a Coochbehar Cup tie. The latter took the field minus their star halfback Sailesh Bose, who dropped for some unknown reason. Jorabagan Club's Vice- President and Industrialist Suresh Chandra Chaudhuri pleaded for Bose's inclusion with the club authorities but it fell on deaf ears. A visibly annoyed Chaudhuri immediately severed all connections with the club and formed a new one along with Shri Tarit Bhusan Roy, Manmatha Nath Roy Chaudhuri, Bose, Ramesh Chandra (Nasha) Sen and Aurobinda Ghosh.

The foundation of a new football club was laid and christened East Bengal as the founders hailed from that region of Bengal.

Incidentally Manmatha Nath Chaudhuri was the Maharaja of Santosh, now in Bangladesh, after whom the Santosh Trophy is titled. Thereafter the founders debated intensely over the choice of colours for the club jersey. After a long search they opted for a red and golden colour shirt hanging impressively at the Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. Departmental Store at Chowringhee. These colours became permanently associated with the club.

Maidan has come a long way since then. The partition of Bengal fueled another wave of nationalism into Bengal football. The East Bengal Nationalism. Mohun Bagan being there since long, except for the partitioned affected Bengalis, many people from Eastern Bengal were still Mohun Bagan supporters.



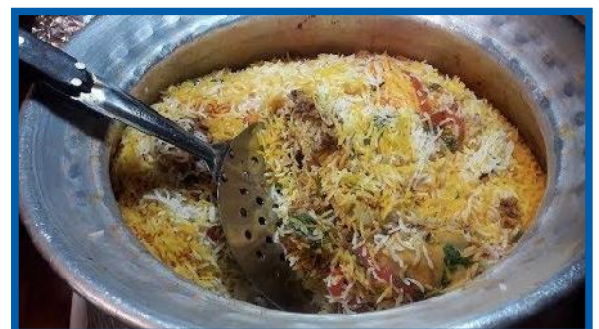
However with the East Bengal nationalism getting into the football field with the club East Bengal, the original residents of West Bengal were by default Mohun Bagan supporters. Football lovers all over India were more akin to Mohun Bagan as a non partisan football club. It is good to mention here that Ulaganathan, the Mohun Bagan winger to have scored the first ever hattrick in IFA Shield has named his

house Mohun Bagan Villa, near Bangalore.

### **A few anecdotes**

#### **Md Sporting sends biryani to Mohun Bagan tent on Sept 10, 1967**

Mohun Bagan beat East Bengal 1-0 in a Calcutta Football League match played at the Eden Gardens, a result that meant Mohammedan



Sporting went on to win the league for only the third time since independence, and collect their first title in 10 years. 3 full earns of biryani arrived at Mohun Bagan tent from Md Sporting tent.



**Bicycle Volley by Shyam Thapa 1978**

Shyam Thapa's back volley in this match is arguably the most famous goal ever scored in a Kolkata derby & one of the most famous goals in Indian football history.

Renowned journalist & writer Moti Nandi compared this goal to crest of a tidal wave. The goal came on 41st minute of the match after a cross

from Subhash Bhowmik.

**PK never took to field against Mohun Bagan**

It is a less known fact that P K Banerjee who never played for the big 3 clubs and after Aryans, he always played for Eastern Railways, never got into the field to play against Mohun Bagan. He was a die-hard Mohun Bagan supporter.



Well, except for once when his dear friend Chuni Goswami was captaining Mohun Bagan, and Chuni was also India Captain. P K believed that he deserved the captaincy of India that year, but it went to Chuni. So, to prove a point to Chuni, he took to field, only one during a CFL match. He scored within 20 mins and came off the field.



**Pele plays in Kolkata Maidan Sept 24, 1977**

Probably the biggest event that Maidan witnessed was the footprints of Pele. It was with an unique effort of Dhiren De that he legend played against Mohun Bagan along with his club New York Cosmos. The match was held at Eden Gardens and ended

in a draw with a controversial spot kick for the visitors. Shyam Thapa and Md Habib scored for Mohun Bagan.



**When a derby turned deadly in Eden Gardens in 1980**

Dilip Palit was a tough left-back for East Bengal who had a lot of physicality in his game. PK Banerjee, however, used him as a right-back in that game, maybe to counter the pace of Bidesh Bose, our left-out. Early in the game, Dilip fouled Bidesh. It was a bad challenge but referee Sudhin Chatterjee didn't book Palit. Then, midway into the second half, Dilip unleashed another rash tackle on Bidesh. It was a bad foul and Bidesh retaliated. There was an on-pitch scuffle between the two, which made things explosive and the reverberations were felt in the crowd. The referee gave marching orders to Bidesh but didn't punish Dilip initially, as far as I can recollect. Then, almost as an afterthought, he red-carded Dilip.

Suddenly, there was commotion in the Ranji stand. It was very noisy as well. I was substituted before the incident and from the Bagan dugout, I saw young fans jumping off the upper tier, hurting themselves badly in the process. From one part of the stadium, the riot spread to the entire stadium, although during the match I didn't have any idea about the seriousness of the whole incident.



Earlier also, some fans clashed during Bagan-East Bengal matches. People threw stones even, but police controlled that. What happened on August 16, 1980 was a disaster. Only in the evening, when we got the news on radio and TV, did the gravity of the situation dawn on us. Sixteen lives had been lost.

There was no segregation between the two sets of fans in that game. No separate enclosures for Bagan and East Bengal supporters, and they sat cheek by jowl in the Ranji stand. The authorities realised afterwards that segregation was necessary, but the damage was already done. Fans rushed towards the exit gates to save their lives and 16 of them were killed in a stampede.

## A TRIP TO BALI

Debanshi Joardar  
Granddaughter of PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar



My summer of 2019 was extremely memorable because of my trip to Bali. My excitement knew no bounds as soon as I touched the Balinese soil. I was awestruck by the serenity and the cleanliness of the place. I was in love with the island when I saw the spectacular mountain scenery from our accommodation. The simplicity of the local people really touched my heart. The culture of Bali is greatly influenced by the Hindu-Buddhist religions. Being a Hindu myself, it was really interesting to see a fusion of Hindu and Balinese customs followed by the people. It was great to

rediscover my religion through the people of the culture of Bali is greatly influenced by the Hindu-Buddhist religions. It was great to rediscover my religion through the people of Bali.

Balinese temples have a very unique build which was formerly unseen by me. The rituals carried out are pretty different. Traditional art like the fire dance is performed as ceremonies in these temples. The best part is the significance of nature. The locals are commonly seen wearing ceremonial attires and headgears. Balinese handicrafts are usually dedicated to



the respectable deities and are made of stone, wood etc.

I had a wonderful experience visiting the beautiful temples, trying out the traditional Balinese cuisine and learning more about the lovely people and culture of this island.



## PHUENTSHOLING : MY MEMOIR

Mrs Sneha Mitra



Closing the book in my hand, I walked to the window and opened the shutters. The room was instantly bathed in warm sunlight. The solitude of the room was shattered by the cacophony on the road. On the other side of the road, an unfinished pandal stands, waiting to be draped in streams of colourful fabric and embellished with lights. In a few days time, the pandal will be in its full glory, adorned with the idol of Maa Durga.

It is that time of the year when Kolkata is smeared with a festive extravaganza. During this time, the entire city throbs with life with hundreds of people thronging the roads, visiting pandals in adoration of the deity. I too shall be a part of this mob, pandal hopping and commemorating the arrival of Maa Durga with my family.

Sometimes I wonder, if I had continued to live in Phuentsholing, I would have never witnessed the grandeur of Durga Puja at its best. Would I have really missed it? I will never know.

From what I remember of my time as a small girl in Phuentsholing, this time of Bishwakarma Puja followed by Durga Puja remains vivid in my mind, as if it were only yesterday. The mornings of Bishwakarma Puja would bring countless vehicles to the banks of Torsa river flowing not far from my home. A wave of happiness would wash over me to see the cars and trucks washed and decked with myriad coloured ribbons and flowers. To me, it meant that Durga Puja had begun. In Phuentsholing, however, there is little to celebrate. I studied in a school situated in Jaigaon and this quaint little border town becomes the epicentre of celebration during Pujas. One might be misled into thinking that the town organised extravagant pandals but that is not the case. There wasn't much fanfare. The sole pandal would be erected beside the police station. My father would take me there every evening during the Pujas. I spent my time bursting crackers, buying toys, running around with friends and then buying something delicious for dinner. Sans the grandiose festive mood of the City of joy, Durga Puja in the small community of Jaigaon held a charm of its own.

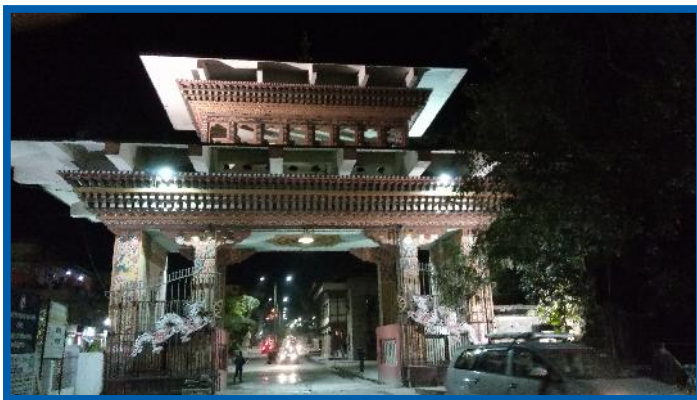
It has been over 20 years since I left Phuentsholing and Jaigaon for good and began my life in Kolkata. But my memories never faded. They remain, like old photographs.

I remember sitting behind my father as we rode on our scooter through the serpentine roads which led to a monastery a few miles up the mountains. We would visit the place in late afternoons. The place is lit up with bright coloured prayer flags dancing in the breeze. The air is imbued with spirituality. The soft clang of bells, soothing to the ears, fills one's heart with peace. The view below is something that one can only have seen in dreams, a breathtaking sight of the entire town of Phuentsholing and Jaigaon. How many times have I been to that place? Countless. The place bewitched me into returning there every time.

The stony shores of Torsa was a favourite spot for picnic during Christmas and New year. I loved dipping my feet into sparkling blue water, icy cold at that time of the year. I often waded the river to reach the marketplace, a shortcut widely used by the people living in Old RICB Colony.

There was not much for recreation. Phuentsholing had only one cinema hall which i may have visited just once with my parents. Life was simple. I believe one did not need much recreation living in the lap of nature. You could spend hours gazing at the mountains on either side. The sight of clouds floating across the mountains, sometimes engulfing them completely, followed by thunder lightening and then rain, would leave me in awe.

The school that I went to was a modest one and could accommodate only about a few hundred students. The campus had only one concrete building and a few thatched roofs scattered around. I had a few close friends who made my school life worthwhile. But all good things must come to an end. Education was the reason I had to leave Phuentsholing and settle in Kolkata. It broke my heart to sever all ties with the place but I was given no choice.



I did revisit recently in the hopes of retracing my steps into childhood. Standing before the Bhutan Gate gave me the bittersweet feeling of finally being at home. But a lot has changed over time. The small market places have been turned into big departmental stores. A good number of cafés and restaurants have come up. The cinema hall has been taken

down and in its place stands a colossal structure of Bhutan transportation.

I went to my school only to find that the school has expanded over the years. My friends have been reduced to mere contacts on Facebook. Torsa, once a ribbon of living turquoise flowing untamed, has now lost her magnificence. Her banks once flaunted a picturesque pebbled shore and her roars reverberated in all directions. Now her voice has been muffled by the hubbub of construction.



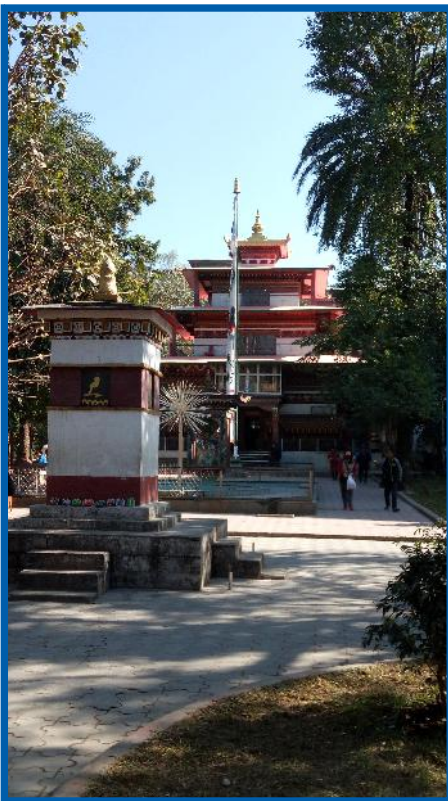
When I stood in front my house, I was overcome by an irresistible urge to run inside but common sense got the better of me. It felt strange to see strangers occupy the flat where I had spent my childhood. The shade of the walls have remained unchanged. The parks have remained the same. Everything

was almost the way I had left it, the serene beauty of the place, the smile of contentment on almost every face that we came across. And yet I knew things will never be the same. The place was no longer my home. I was another tourist just passing by.

We spent a few more days in Thimpu and Paro and then took a flight from Bagdogra. When I was in the flight, I wondered when I shall be able to visit Phuentsholing once more. What transformation will the town have undergone by then, only time will tell. But I will try to return time and again.



My longing for the mountains can only be expressed in one word 'Hiraeth'.



## THE UNSEEN STRUGGLE

Ranjana Khanna



I was quite surprised when I received a call from Siddharth Da with an unexpected request. Dada asked for my contribution to the Bijoya /Diwali Maitree issue for Rotary Behala. It took me down memory lane, at least 20 years back when my late husband Anil Khanna was an active member of this Club and I often received such requests from Siddharth Da during his previous stints as the Club Editor. Rotary Behala has always been close to my heart as Anil and I actively participated in various Club projects. Due to unforeseen personal circumstances Anil left the Club but memories of

the wonderful association is something I will always cherish.

Coming back to the present, we all are facing times none of us could have fathomed in our wildest dreams. Covid 19 has changed our lives forever. Our work culture, life style, education and even our priorities in life have taken a big turn. The pandemic created an unprecedented emergency worldwide and posed a threat to all humanity. The enforced lockdown to flatten the curve of spread of virus was a novel experience for all of us.

Like a coin, the impact of Covid 19 has 2 sides to it. On the one hand people spent more time with their families, and some like Sunanda honed their culinary skills (as she shared in the Puja special issue) on the other, many have not been so fortunate, having lost their bread and butter. Much has been written about the plight of the migrant labourers and for months print as well as electronic media has been full of their stories. Various organizations and concerned citizens did come forward to help the distressed in their hour of need.

This crisis has initiated a new phrase, "New Normal" which encompasses work from home, no or few domestic staff (the plight of all housewives) and online education for students ( a problem for the mothers again!!!!) to name just a few. Children have had to contend with problems of online classes which is definitely a plight for the parents and equally challenging for the teachers. Isn't it an ironical twist of fate that our kids who were at one time restrained from too much screen time on television, computers and mobiles are now dependent on the very same for their education till none of us know when!

Many of you might be thinking Oh God! Not again! Another write up on Covid! But folks, it is not my intention to bore you all. We have heard, read and watched endlessly on television day in and day out about all this. However, during this time of crisis, there is one section of society about which not much has been written – they are people with special needs. For persons with disabilities with compromised immunity, the pandemic and the consequent lockdown brought multiple challenges. They and their families have had to struggle extremely hard to overcome myriad obstacles and cope with diverse and aggravating circumstances on a daily basis.

The Right to Education is for every child and these people are no exception. However, their needs are a little different from many of us who by God's grace are more fortunate. These children like other children also have to attend online classes if they want continuation of studies. But unfortunately most of them come from such impoverished families that possessing smart phones or a computer is a luxury for them. Several beneficiaries from disadvantaged homes are missing online classes due to lack of access to a smart device. We the more fortunate ones should make all efforts to bridge this digital divide. These people are also an integral part of our society and hence they should not be neglected. Not only the students but their parents too need support to lead their lives with dignity and purpose.

There are many organizations such Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy who have been working with such children. Having worked in close proximity with these kids at this organisation first as a volunteer and later as a Vice Principal, I can assure you it is no mean feat. The students and young adults may suffer from neuro-motor disabilities but it does not dampen their spirits.



An example of their creativity –

With assistance, they study, take part in various co-curricular activities and participate in the celebration of festivals and special events with as much enthusiasm and cheer.

[Life On Wheels  
Click to View](#)

Another proof of their unputdownable enthusiasm and fervour-

[World Cerebral Palsy Day 2020  
Click to View](#)

Augmentative and alternative communication systems (AAC) are used by people with speech difficulties or no speech at all. AAC systems are diverse and replace or supplement speech or writing to allow such individuals to make their ideas, wants, or needs known. They celebrate life through poems, writings and art. All they need is access and opportunities and the right of equality.

[AAC Awareness Month, Oct, 2020  
Click to View](#)

Where there is a will, there is a way and people with disability can achieve much success and lead a better quality of life if only the barriers of discrimination and social stigma are removed and all people work together for an inclusive society. Let me share a story with you. In a radio interview, the radio announcer asked his guest, a millionaire, "What made you happiest in life?" The millionaire said I have gone through four stages of happiness in life and finally I understood the meaning of true happiness. The first stage was to accumulate wealth and means. But at this stage I did not get the happiness I wanted. Then came the second stage of collecting valuables and items. But I realised that the effect of these things is also temporary and the lustre of valuable things does not last long.

Then came the third stage of getting big projects. Like buying a football team, buying a tourist resort etc. But even here I did not get the happiness I had imagined. The fourth time a friend of mine asked me to buy a wheelchair for some disabled children.

At his request, I bought some wheelchairs. But the friend insisted I go with him and hand over the wheelchairs to the children. I got ready and went with him. There I gave these chairs to these children with my own hands. I saw the strange glow of happiness on the faces of these children. I saw them all sitting on chairs, moving around and having fun. It was as if they had arrived at a picnic spot.

But I felt real joy when I started to leave and one of the kids grabbed my leg. I gently



tried to free my leg but the child stared at my face and held my legs tightly. I bent down and asked the child if he needed anything else.

The answer the child gave me not only made me happy but also changed my life completely. This child said: **“I want to remember your face so that when I meet you in heaven, I will be able to recognize you and thank you once again.”**

Friends, let us all experience this joy by helping this marginalised section of our society. The need of the hour is not just donating wheelchairs or taking them out for PUJO PARIKRAMAS. Our helping hand has to be extended further by supporting them in their education and finding a place of respect in the society, where they can earn their living and lead a life of self esteem.

Since the new mantra for imparting education is online, the best way to help them would be by providing such devices that will help them achieve their goals. As Hellen Keller said, “alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much.” So why not join hands with organisations like IICP to make our services more meaningful and fruitful?

The festive season has begun. We have celebrated Durga Puja and now Diwali and Christmas are round the corner. On this Diwali, let us defeat the evils of prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. Let us instead celebrate positivity, gratitude and peace and pray for the corona virus to cease its havoc in our lives.



## What Is Rotary?

Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united world wide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build good will and peace in the world.

# ANDAMAN - AN ETERNAL QUEST

Rtn Ashish Kumar Das



With years of eventful life in Andaman Island, had strong inclination to share some of this experience with my fellow Rotarians. Technical background , little practice & command over expressive literary language became deterrent to my such endeavor. But with heartfelt encouragement from our dear Siddhartha (PP Rtn. Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty) made to hold a pen. I may be excused for lack of cohesion in expression).

Andaman- the very name is shrouded with so much of mystery , fantasy, uncanny feelings of unknown places, primitive tribes untouched by

modern civilization, and of course, with the misnomer 'Kalapani' that originated from penal settlement of British Raj. In fact, nature has bestowed it with abundant natural resources. Its lush green and thick forests of quality woods, surrounding deep blue sea, frequent embracing scenarios of mountain and sea, unique flora and fauna, clean golden beaches, pollution free atmosphere and moderate climatic condition throughout the year have made it one of most fascinating tourist destination for Indians and also for foreigners today.



Geographically, it is a bit isolated from mainland India. Its average distance from Indian east coast on an average is 1500 km whereas northern tip of it is 130 km from Myanmar and southern tip about 150 km from the coast of Indonesia. With about 572 islands it is stretched over 1000 miles from North to South, but maximum width of an Island hardly exceeds 50 km.

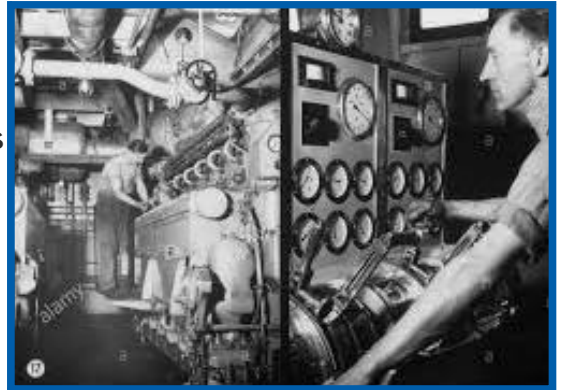
There is some dispute about the origin of the name 'Andaman'. Some says original name was 'HUNDUMAN' - named after Sri Hanumanji ,the great devotee of Lord Rama. It was believed that Sri Hanuman landed here for a while on his way to Sri Lanka from the Himalayas carrying part of a mountain containing lifesaving herbs for Lord Lakshmana. One Chinese writer mentioned it as part of 'An-de-man' mountains.

Comparatively, origin of the name of Nicobar was rather easily established. Around 1050 A.D. during Chola empire in South India this land was found while trading with

Indonesia. They named the place as 'NUKKAVARAN' which meant naked land . After taking over these islands the Britishers named it as Nicobar.

Anyhow my intention is not to speak much about the history & geography of the island. I wanted to share few incidents - some of which were ecstatic, agonizing and thrilling.

It was sometime in the month of December in 1984, when I was sailing as chief engineer on a passenger vessel of state owned The Shipping Corporation of India with my better half and two small daughters and the ship was at a Malaysian Shipyard for dry-docking. A message was received from head office asking for my willingness to join shore management. At that time it was considered prestigious to get chance to join shore management.



Also It was time for me to leave sea career as the children were to start their regular schooling. In the meantime had completed six years of active service as chief engineer and gathered 'hands on' experience on big marine engines ( a 20000 horse power , 4 storey high engine) and various operation like control of power generation plant on ship , refrigeration & air conditioning , pumping , firefighting, fresh water generation from sea water, oil purification systems etc etc. Along with all these got familiar with all related conventions of International Maritime Organization (I.M.O), regulations of which are required for day to day operations of ships.

However, pleasure of getting such offer was diminished as it became known that posting was at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Automatically it came to my mind - why at "Kalapani" and why not at other places in India or abroad where company had offices, what will be the arrangements of education of the children etc. Was consoled when it was known that literacy rate in Andaman was higher than national average and there were missionary schools with CBSC affiliation.

I consented to accept the offer. It was a big decision for me and I had to leave it to time to judge what affect it would have on me, my wife and on upbringing of our daughters.

On enquiring from head office it was known that the post offered to me was created as per request of Andaman & Nicobar Administration. At that time there were five big passenger-cum-cargo vessels ( 1500 passenger and 3000 ton cargo capacity) which were running between mainland ports of Kolkata, Vizag & Chennai to Port Blair. And there were seven inter-island



*An Inter-Island Vessel*

vessels (200 passenger and 500 ton cargo capacity) which used to carry passenger, food grains, medicines & other essential commodities to different islands after receiving those from mainland ships. In short, shipping was the lifeline of the island. Over 50% of the available funds from Central Govt. and other sources were budgeted only for shipping related activities. There was only one flight a week of Indian Airlines those days. Inter-island helicopter services also did not start operating at that time. Complete shipping activities like procurement of ships, manning, operations, maintenances, dry docking, handling passengers, providing catering services etc. etc. were entrusted to the Shipping Corporation of India. Of course, there was a strong Naval Base for any disaster management.

As requirement of various islands were known to the A & N administration, the Harbour master, who was their employee, used to make sailing schedule of those seven inter-island vessels. But on number of occasions, ship's officers - employees of Shipping Corporation of India - did not stick to such schedule citing technical issues. As there was no competent technical person to evaluate these issues, the Harbour master had no option but to cancel scheduled sailing and wait clearance from ship's officers.

This was going on for quite a long time, but as cases of disturbance in passenger movement & supplies of essential commodities took an alarming proportion, A & N administration approached Shipping Corporation & Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India for posting of an engineer superintendent at Port Blair who could liaison with A & N administration directly for all shipping related matters and also to effectively control unscheduled immobilization of ships.

These were the reasons for creating such a post and by chance the offer came to me.

Arrived Port Blair in March 1985 and joined the local office of Shipping Corporation. Arranged to make courtesy call to lieutenant Governor, Chief Secretary & Secretary Shipping of A & N administration, and also to the only M.P. Sri Manoranjan Bhakta by taking due appointment. Had warm response from all of them, specially from Sri Bhakta who expressed hope for better and regular shipping services for the people of Islands. Also visited all inter-island ships to meet ship's officers, the harbor master of A&N administration and also office of ship's crew union.

Pending allotment of government quarters, I was accommodated in the government guest house which was located at a beautiful place on hill top overlooking part of sea through which ships enter Port Blair harbor and the Ross island, the capital island of British Raj.

Within seven days of my joining encountered the first incident. An Inter-island ship arrived on one evening and after a short port stay of one day it was to sail back in the morning. Sailing programs were announced on Port Blair radio as it was normally done. At around 3 p.m. on the day of port stay the master and the chief engineer of the ship called on my office and stated that their sailing of next day morning has to be

cancelled as they require some time to investigate and find solution to defective engine jacket cooling water temperature control system. In the meantime I received a call from the Harbour master who expressed his concern if sailing is cancelled. By talking to them and analyzing the situation gauged the situation to be quite touchy and appeared to have been more sensitive after my arrival. On one side the ship's officers who are running the ships are our employees whose active cooperation and sincere efforts will be required for sustained shipping services during my tenure in Port Blair and on the other hand not giving importance of A&N Administration's requirement will render my posting ineffective. It was also seen that the crew and crew union leaders were also supporting ship's officers to postpone sailing.

The matter could be easily solved administratively. I knew the defect was very small to deter a chief engineer from sailing. The defect actually could be rectified and vessel could be ordered to sail on time. Ship's officers and crew are duty bound to sail anytime. On asking the chief engineer found out that he has made no investigation to find the cause of the defect since so many hours after arrival. This lapse could be recorded in his service record with natural consequences. But I did not toe that line, and wanted to know from the master and chief engineer the exact reason of their resentment. It was only then they came out clean, saying that the Harbor master was programming the ships so frequently that they were fatigued and there was none in the island to listen to them. This was the moment I captured and assured them that I shall draw a monthly schedule in consultation with Harbor master so that they get adequate time for maintenance and rest. Also boosted morale of chief engineer saying that he should be proud to sail without any technical issues with the expertise he was having. I shall be with him for any critical breakdown, but he should not come to me without carrying out due investigation by himself.

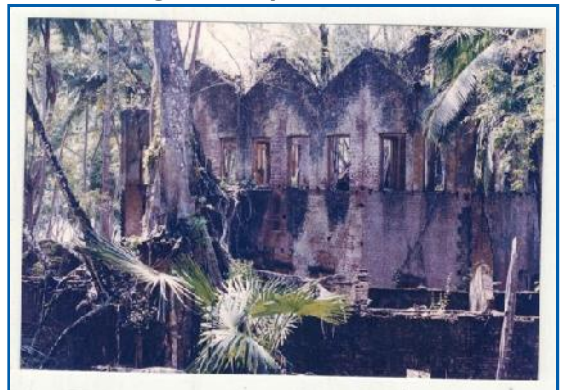
Things worked very well. Matters could be dealt with both administratively and culturally. Rules and laws will be there but when the people do it with pleasure a sense of fulfillment prevails. This incident changed shipping scenario in the Island and my complete tenure of 17 years passed peacefully along with effective services to the people of the island.



*Remnants of British era, Ross Island*

being posted in Andaman was totally vanished and life turned towards fulfillment. I was in deep love with the land. Parting with Andaman on transfer to Head office at Mumbai was painful. However, these memories are like precious treasure to me and will be cherished for long.

Diversified events faced during my long tenure, association with people of various professions and statute brought sea change in myself. Never noticed when the initial sadness of



# WHY I LOVE HORROR MOVIES

Deblina Chakravorty



My tryst with horror began when I was about 8 years old. Back then we had a VCR. I remember Dad would bring video cassettes and my sister and I would binge watch movies on days we didn't have school. This one time, Dad brought home the video cassettes of the movies *Hatari* and *Poltergeist*. *Hatari* was done at one go. It was *Poltergeist* which stirred up my love for horror. My sister and I watched the movie and genuinely felt scared. We imagined we were the siblings shown in the film – who go through various incidents of horror. We relived the tale at night when Dad

would tuck us in to sleep and we would plead him to tell us the story of *Poltergeist* again and again till we fell asleep. *Poltergeist* formed the foundation of what would be a lifelong love for the genre.

We still didn't have cable television back then in the early nineties. My family would be hooked to Doordarshan for the better part of the day watching news, Friday films, musical countdown shows and daily soaps. Once they aired a Horror Retrospective where a handful of Bengali horror movies were to be screened. I watched every single of them. They weren't well-known films but they managed to entice me into their fold of fright. Titles like *Jighangsha*, *Chupi Chupi Ashe* and *Hana Bari*, the scenes, some dialogues – they're planted in my memory even today.

Then, of course, came the era of *The Exorcist*! I was fascinated by the entire 'possession' factor and watched mesmerized as Regan McNeil hurled expletives at Father Damien Karras, her face contorted and strange marks appearing in her belly. The scene where Regan climbs the stairs like a spider haunts me to this day! *The Exorcist* was followed by the *Evil Dead* series and *Omen*. Parallely, I would devour crass absurdities in the Ramsay Brothers' movies like *Saamri*, *Purana Mandir*, *Tekhana* and *Do Gaz Zameen Ke Niche*.

My tryst with horror from a very young age got me wondering – what makes for a good horror movie? This question begs another question – why do we love horror? Horror is like a purge. It kind of works the same way Greek tragedies work. Horror is putting a finger at human flaw(s) Hamartia – and the greatest of them is – misinterpretation of what the senses convey. The flaw is a result of Hubris or excessive

pride in the human understanding of the world around us without giving credence to the fact that there might be another (or many) world(s) the presence of which are completely unknown to us. It is only made known through ghostly happenings, exposing the flaw leading to the purge of emotions in our minds. We all love getting scared. If for nothing, at least for the adrenaline rush.

Coming back to the question of what makes for a good horror movie. I feel it is the fact that the audience is scared but CANNOT PIN POINT the SOURCE of FEAR. This is what makes a horror movie topnotch. This criteria is fulfilled in many recently made horror movies, also some from Bollywood. Example: Pari and Tumbadd. This quality is also present in some Netflix horror movies I watched recently which were Veronica and The Firstborn. Movies which can keep the eerie feeling palpable throughout the story by not identifying the cause or source of fear are good horror movies. To a certain extent, The Shining happens to achieve that. As for Poltergeist and The Exorcist, these movies aren't technically horror but a kind of a religious bigotry ending with the moral: If you aren't religious, may the Devil get you.

Horror movies have been a conduit for silent proselytizing into a more accepted faith, case in point: Christianity. Take the example of movies like The Exorcist and all the subsequent movies dealing with exorcism the underlying case is the fact that all of them hint at the profundity of 'being' with a religion. In such movies, people who are mostly 'possessed' by the demon are at loggerheads with faith or they don't go to church and are mostly disbelievers in Christendom. In The Exorcist, Father Damien had underlying doubts with regards to his calling as a priest. This dichotomy in thought and action kills him in the end. The demon possessing Regan thought of Damien as an appropriate vessel and this kills Father Damien – he jumps off to his death, knowing that there was no fighting this force.

Speaking of Regan, all and most of these horror movies are based on a few common things: A family with underlying tensions, young children aged between 5 and 9, adolescents and/or pre-pubescent kids, an imposing house where they all move in due to economic hurdles of living in a big city – and the likes. Poltergeist had Carol Anne, the toddler who could communicate with spirits through the television. She had the 'shining' just like Danny in The Shining or the kid, Dalton, in the Insidious series. That's why the Paranormal Activity franchise became such a hit. With it, a whole new paradigm of horror was explored – the handheld feel, which makes it all so authentic. Of course, this trend was started by the infamous Blair Witch Project – one of my personal favourites – a movie I always make an example of since the source of the fear was never SHOWN or identified. It finishes off midway which leaves the audience at a cliffhanger position making the purge all the more significant.

It is therefore my humble submission that writers who set out to write horror for the TV or the big screen make sure to avoid the above horror cliques and keep the source of the fear hidden until the very end or even beyond to affect the feeling of dread in their audience. That is what makes for a good horror flick.

# NIGHTMARE ABOARD A SHIP

PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar



Sometimes back, I narrated a real life incident that happened on a ship, where my wife Anuradha was also sailing with me.

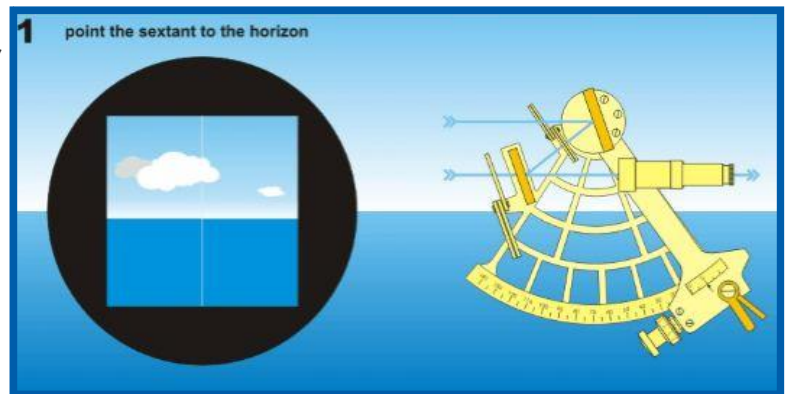
This time, I am recollecting another life incident that happened on board an Indian ship where I was second officer. This was around 1964, about 3 years before I got married.

My ship was on a voyage from port of Colombo to Calcutta and was pretty old. It did not have any modern navigational equipments, even by that

time standard. We had to mostly navigate by magnetic compass and fixing position obtained from celestial bodies.

As most people reading this article are unlikely to understand what is fixing from celestial bodies, allow me to explain.

This is basically identifying stars, Sun, planets etc and then measuring altitude, which is observing height in degrees from that celestial object to horizon. For this was used an instrument namely Sextant and the horizon had to be somewhat clear and visible. This Sextant was a must to carry for all navigating officers, besides ships having their own.



Elaborate calculations were required to get the ship's position. Modern equipment have sadly replaced Sextant, but that is still carried.

It was monsoon in Bay Of Bengal and after coasting along Ceylon coast, The ships head straight for Sandheads, which is the Pilot pick up point, around 120 nautical miles from Calcutta port.

The weather turned rough and totally cloudy with intermittent rain. The sky was totally obscured which prevented viewing celestial objects. Thus getting ship's position was impossible.



Stormy winds and sea currents further added to our misery. The Captain and us were afraid if we miss picking up Sandheads light vessel due to our incorrect position, we might enter shallow waters along Indian and East Pakistan coast.

The captain decided around 2 days before expected pilot pick up point, to alter ship's direction towards land. The idea was to spot a light and /or lighthouse close to Devi river, which is north of Paradip port in Orissa, and thus to ensure ship's position. On that fateful night, when we were supposed to spot the light, we were extremely alert and tense. The captain was present on the bridge throughout along with navigating officers and lookout sailors.

My watch was from midnight to 4 AM when visibility turned poor with continuous rain. The chief officer came to relieve me, but I continued on watch. Around 5 AM I went into chart room to fill up the Log Book when suddenly I felt a massive bump with vibration and was thrown into the sofa. I



managed to run back to bridge and found ship's engine has been stopped by the captain. Then he reversed the engine full throttle and after few minutes the engine was stopped again. We realised that the ship has gone aground, which means the bottom has touched land and therefore we have become immobile.

Soon the morning twilight indicated that daylight was coming, Also, luckily, the rain stopped and we found ourselves high and dry at the entrance of Devi river.

Subsequently all-out efforts were taken to come out afloat. Fortunately the ship touched bottom only from forward to around two third the vessel, thereby after part was afloat. This helped tremendously as ship's engine and propeller could be used to refloat.

Although the owner and insurance company was willing to give shore help, like use of a tug to pull out, the captain refused all help.

Finally we managed to refloat after toiling for about 14 hours of going aground. The vessel had to be drydocked at Calcutta to ascertain bottom damage and repairs, if any. But that is a different story altogether.

I shall always remember those few dreadful days of my life.

# QUIZ

There would be 5 questions in every issue of Maitree. The answers, and names of successful friends will be published in next issue.

Please send your answers to the Editor over WhatsApp (9830030020) within 7 days.

Happy head-scratching.

## QUIZ #10

- #1 Who was the first Muslim President of India ?
- #2 How many Rotary Districts are there in the world ?
- #3 Which metal is commonly used for galvanising iron ?
- #4 When was the Polio Plus program first introduced ?
- #5 He devised temperature scale and developed the mercury thermometer. Who is He?

### Answers to Quiz #9

#1 Fire temple is the place of worship of which religion?

Ans: Zoroastrianism (Parsi Religion).

#2 Who founded Rotary Foundation ?

Ans: Arch C. Klumph.

#3 The ozone layer restricts which type of rays?

Ans: Ultraviolet.

#4 One of the first four Rotarians was a tailor by profession. Who is he ?

Ans: Hiram Shorey.

#5 Hockey was introduced in the Asian Games in \_\_\_\_\_ .

Ans: 1958 in Tokyo.

Cheers to the friends who have submitted correct answers:

PP Rtn Manika Karmakar &

PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya.



**MINUTES OF THE 2579th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD  
AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 5th NOVEMBER, 2020.**

# Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar called meeting to order, followed by welcome address.

# National Anthem was played on screen.

# Club President Rtn Sugata started the proceeding with few points on RCC and our Service Projects.

# He reiterated our last Board decision to think of another RCC in a semi-urban area.

# PP Rtn Aniruddha Gupta was requested to speak with RCC Chandanpuri and have a road map for development of the area along with our ongoing Water for Toilet Project.

# It was decided to hold individual projects at areas other than RCC too.

# An Adult Literacy programme will be held with Free To Be Kids. President Rtn Sugata has been requested to look for other options as well.

# Membership Chair PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar requested for a membership drive. He also proposed for members to speak on their professional experience at regular club meetings. It was decided that PP Rtn Ajoy Chatterjee will be the speaker at RCM on 19th November.

# Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra proposed a MasterClass sessions by Asif Iqbal and Manzilat – two eminent personalities in food industry of Kolkata.

# PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee and PP Rtn Siddhartha Chakraborty have been given the responsibility of organizing a Bijoya Diwali Get-together online on 21st November.

# Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu conducted the usual club business.

# Minutes of 2577th and 2578th RCM as published in Maitree was confirmed.

# President terminated the meeting after vote of thanks from and to the Chair.

**Total members : 32 Members present: 16**