

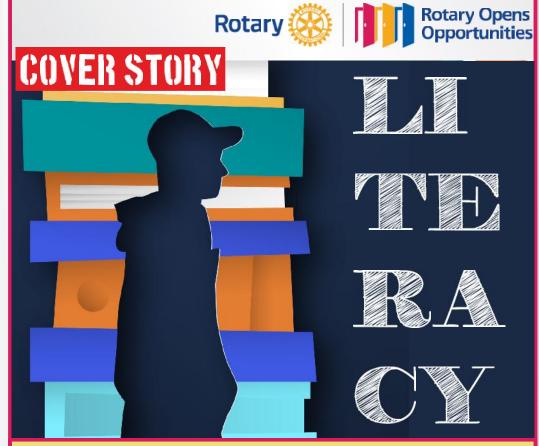
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ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

CLUB NO.: 16149

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3291 DATE OF CHARTER: AUGUST 24, 1964 VOLUMELVII ISSUE 06 O3 SEPTEMBER

2573rd RCM & JOINT MEETING WITH RC BIKRAMPUR, RID3281



From 12% to 74% since 1947. Indians have come a long way but obstacles are countless. Rotary's Area of Focus is Basic Education and Literacy.





September: Basic Education & Literacy Month

TOP STORIES

Health Webinar & Joint Meeting | Happy Occasions

Club Announcements | Family News & Corner

Cover Story - Editorial | The Fortnight That Was...

From the World of Rotary

Article By President Sugata Mazumdar

Quiz Time | Minutes



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?

Published by Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra, Club Secretary | Edited by Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty C/O Rtn Debidas Ganguly, 2/6 Biren Roy Road (East), Kolkata - 700 008

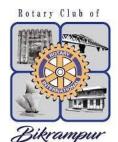




HEALTH WEBINAR & JOINT MEETING

Topic: Covid & Cardiac Patients









ROTARY CLUB OF BIKRAMPUR RID 3281 | BANGLADESH ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA RID 3291 | INDIA

Chief Guests





Sudip Mukherjee District Governor RI District 3291 India





Prof. Dr. Muzaherul Huq President 2020-21 RC Bikrampur RID 3281, Bangladesh

Speaker



Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty Past President RC Behala AG Zone 18, RID 3291, India



Sugata Mazumdar President 2020-21 RC Behala RID 3291, India



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9th September
Rikhia daughter of Rtn Ashish Kumar
Das

10th September

Debkumar son of PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar

10th September

Oindrila wife President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar

12th September

PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya 13th September

Paromita daughter of PP Rtn Probir Roy

<u>17th September</u> Sharmistha wife of PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee



MR. RANODEEP SAHA
Founder CEO | TEDx Speaker
Rare Planet Handicrafts Pvt. Ltd

FAMILY CORNER



A sketch by Dr Madhumita Saha wife of Rtn Dr Atanu Saha.

UPCOMING DAYS

5th September: Distribution of Mahogany tree saplings, masks and sanitisers at James Long Sarani in association with Sri Tarak Singh, local municipal councilor. The time will be notified to the members.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindly pay your Semi-Annual Dues.



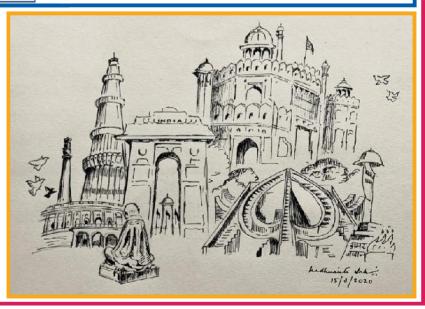
AN EARNEST REQUEST

All members & their family are requested to contribute to Maitree.

Send your articles, paintings or other material to < sid.ctvs@gmail.com> for publishing in this platform.

FAMILY NEWS

Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta was a Guest Speaker at Inter Rotaract Conference held on 30th August over Zoom platform.







COVER STORY

Editorial

PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty Editor 20-21





Freedom came to us at midnight, but with only 12% literacy rate. It raised steadily, being 64.80% in 2001 and then reaching 74.04% in 2011. But with a huge population of 135 crores today, we still have more than one third of world population of illiterates,

Tragically, our old social system was an obstacle to literacy for the girls, and even today it stands at 65.5%. Tragically, 60 lakh children in India are still out-of-school and 47.78% of them are girls An illiterate girl today is an illiterate pivot of a family tomorrow, and an educated lady is the path to control of birth-rate and to social development.

Our Parliament has passed the Constitution 86th Amendment Act, 2002, to make elementary education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6–14 years, tens of thousands of schools have been established, mid-day meals have been started in schools in 1995 to allure students and ensuring their proper nutrition, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been established in 2001. In our State the wonderful Kanyashree Prakalpa gifts every girl student her personal bicycle to commute to school.

Still we find Masuda Khatun of Dhulian, a student of class IX keen to pursue her studies and confronting parents adamant to marry her off. Still we get Bablu Das of Ketugram toiling in the paddy field with his father. For his parents a pair of working hands are much more important than an elusive future of the kid.



They are not alone. Tens of thousands of young boys and girls are school dropouts, majority of them first generation learners. But why do they leave school? Parental pressure is an important issue, but there are also other factors like lack of books, loathsome school infrastructure or lack of toilets. or even incompetent teachers. Yes, a

study shows one in six of Primary School teachers are not professionally trained in spite of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan instituted by the Government.

Coupled with this is the problem of lakhs of young minds not having a school within reach.

The whole system needs a holistic approach.

Basic education and literacy is a declared area of focus of Rotary, and Rotary India Literacy Mission has come forward with the wholesome 'T-E-A-C-H' programme, training the teachers, arranging e-learning and adult literacy, child development, and transforming schools into Happy schools with modern facilities, libraries, toilets, new look.



We are proud to be selected as a participant for pilot project on E-learning conducted last year – our project being conducted at Baidyapara High School, Behala. And are proud to be one of the few clubs in the District with a Standing Committee on LiteracyAfter successfully eradicating Polio, let us eradicate Illiteracy.

Rotary has Opened The Opportunity.







ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

AFRICAN REGION CERTIFIED WILD POLIO-FREE

Dear Rotarians,

It our pleasure to announce to you that the African region has just been certified wild poliovirus-free.

Rotary members have played an invaluable role in the effort to rid the African region of wild polio. We should be proud of all the hard work that we've done to eliminate the wild poliovirus throughout Africa and in nearly every country in the world.

This progress is the result of a decades-long effort across the 47 countries of the African region. It has involved millions of health workers traveling by foot, boat, bike and bus, innovative strategies to vaccinate children amid conflict and in

GOOD-BYE POLIO

THANK YOU

Rotary

innovative strategies to vaccinate children amid conflict and insecurity, and a huge disease surveillance network to test cases of paralysis and check sewage for the virus.

Over the last two decades, countless Rotary members in countries across the African region and around the world have worked together to raise funds, immunize children, advocate with local and national leaders, and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination, enabling the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to effectively respond to and stop polio outbreaks.

This milestone is an incredible public health achievement for Rotary members, the African region, and our GPEI partners, and a huge step forward on the road to global polio eradication. But we still have important work to do in order to eradicate wild polio in the last two endemic countries.

We have faced many challenges in our journey to eradicate polio. But we've made remarkable progress, and the polio infrastructure that Rotarians helped build will serve as a lasting legacy that will continue to help protect vulnerable children against other diseases for decades to come

We are calling on you today to recommit yourselves to ending polio. We need each and every one of you to help finish this fight and continue raising \$50 million each year for PolioPlus. The eradication of wild polio in the African region shows us that polio eradication is achievable, and shows how our hard work, partnerships and financial commitment continue to propel us forward, even during a global pandemic.

Thank you for your continued efforts, for achieving a wild polio-free African region, and for remaining committed to fulfilling our promise of a polio-free world.

Sincerely,
Holger Knaack
President, Rotary International

K.R. Ravindran Chair, The Rotary Foundation









ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

FIRST LADY PRESIDENT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The 2020-21 Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International, having functioned in accordance with the bylaws of Rotary International, has indicated that it unanimously nominated:

JENNIFER JONES

of the Rotary Club of WINDSOR-ROSELAND, ONTARIO, CANADA

for the office of President of Rotary International for the year 2022-23.

Sincerely, John Hewko Rotary International General Secretary



RI DISTRICT 3291



29th August: Webinar on Eye Donation Awareness

30th August: Ek Chammach Kum: Chapter 2 of **Project Positive Health**



Our club members attended both, as also many other virtual meetings organized by different clubs of the District.



CLUB

GLORIOUS THE CHARTER DAY



The gala event started with our senior member PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly cutting the ceremonial cake at his residence and sharing the fragrant pictures.



A Rabindra Sangeet from the sweet voice of Bijoyinee Roy Chowdhury enthralled all.



The programme then started with the golden voice of Ann Madhumita Saha rendering a wonderful stotro.





And then a surprise! Few did know about the gift Ruma Bhattacharya did possess. She wonderfully recited a beautiful poem penned down by herself.



PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar then briefed about the history of formation of the club in 1964 and shared reminiscences of the early years.







CLUB



Time for lighter moments. Dr Sudipta and PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty presented a hilarious audio drama (Shruti Natok) "Paka Dekha" enjoyed by all.



there was a sweet surprise for Rtn Dr Siddhartha. His medal for MPHF had arrived at the residence of IPP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya on that day.



Melodious voice of Ex-Rtn Dr Bikramjit Mukherjee with his troupe took us all back to old days.







A quiz on the historic significance of this day, with the Master of Ceremony PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee doubling as the Quiz Master. The correct answers were provided by President Elect Rtn Soummojit Mukherjee, Rtn Vijay Kr Fatehpuria and Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta – perhaps with a little help from his son.







CLUB

Laughter is the best medicine. So it was PP Rtn Amarjit Singh Thethi who regaled all with classic Punjabi jokes on Santa & Banta.



Dr Bikramjit was back on visual stage. Bengali songs were followed by a couple of old Hindi ones.

Madhurena samapayet.



A formal vote of thanks was presented by PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee.



The entire programme was chalked down and conducted with aplomb by our own Master Conductor PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee with sprinkles of his wit and songs.



And the two persons behind the scene looking after the technical aspects of the online meeting were IPP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya and Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta.

Kudos to them.

An event to remember for long. We are grateful to all our spouses, Rtn Susanta Sarkar, AG & Rtn Rina Sinha Roy, ZS of Zone 20, the graceful members of Inner Wheel Club of Behala led by their President Mrs Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra, the Rotaractors & Interactors and other distinguished guests for their august presence in our festivity.







FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

NEWS UPDATE: ROTARY INDIA LITERACY MISSION (RILM)'S NATIONAL E-VIDYA-PROGRAM LAUNCH (IN COLLABORATION WITH NCERT-TV AND GOVERNMENT'S DIKSHA MOBILE-APP)

[We are grateful to PDG Rtn Rajani Mukerji, ARRFC, Member, Executive Committee, Rotary India Literacy Mission for this very informative write-up.]

PM's eVidya Program: Honourable Prime Minister has recently launched the E-Vidya program, to promote digital education in the country & address the need for alternate education-medium for millions of school-children under lockdown

RILM has come forward to address this national challenge: RILM has curetted eLearning content for classes 1-12 (aligned to the NCERT-curriculum) through our software-partners & shall provide free to the nation through NCERT-TV and DIKSHA App.

<u>RILM has vast experience in eLearning:</u> We have already installed e-Learning solutions for the past 5 years, directly in over 30,000 schools across India.

RILM enters a MOU with NCERT: MOU signed in the presence of HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Union Education Secretary Anita Karwal, on 9th June 20. Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi also commended Rotary's work.



> NCERT TV Tie-up: RILM's ELearning for classes 1-12, through Twelve Television channels of NCERT in Hindi &

English, planned from September20. The content is aligned to NCERT curriculum and every episode vetted by NCERT-experts.

- > DIKSHA App tie-up: The e-Learning modules would also be available immediately through Government's national DIKSHA-app, wherein additional student-interactivity options would be available.
- > Regional Translation: As phase 2, the content would be translated through state SCERTs, who are keen for similar eLearning content in regional languages (under discussions).
- > Post-Covid School-support: We have agreed with MHRD and NCERT, that they would support us in distributing our content FREE to all Govt schools in the country which has computer / projector facilities (approx. 120,000 schools today, touching 15 Million children), in the post-Covid phase. This will be Phase 3 of RILM's national eVidya program.

Thus, Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM)'s National eLearning Program is an opportunity to make a great impact to India's school education system long-term, and also provide alternate education-support to millions of Covid-struck children in the short-term.

This aligns to RILM's philosophy, of spreading quality education, across the length and breadth of India, and within reasonably short timescales.



MESSAGE

I am happy to learn about the initiative of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between RIHF and NCERT on E-learning content telecast for Classes 1-12 on all NCERT TV channels. The endeavour to contribute towards 'education for all' through T-E-A-C-H programme is commendable.

The utilisation of technology, particularly digital technology is fast becoming a norm in the education sector the world over. E-learning through digital tools possesses unmatched potential to become a force multiplier. Coming at a time when the entire world is in the throes of the Corona pandemic, E-learning guides the way forward.

Our Government is constantly working towards educational reforms that would make India a vibrant, global knowledge superpower. As the present crisis has posted multifarious challenges, we are continuously taking comprehensive and holistic measures to ensure seamless and quality education for all through enhanced use of technology. In such a scenario, the efforts of Rotary India to collaborate with the Government to take education to every corner of the country through digital tools will surely add to these endeavours, impacting lives in a positive and constructive manner.

Best wishes to everyone associated with the implementation of this initiative.



(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi ज्येष्ठ 19, शक संवत् 1942 09th June, 2020

> Commendation Letter from Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi





HISTORY OF THE PANDEMIC SPANISH FLU **AND INDIA**

President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar

Adapted and Scripted from various Sources

Coronavirus is the global pandemic of our times but this is neither our first nor it is our most deadly war with an infectious disease. Around a Century ago, celebrations



Rotary

marking the end of the First World War were cut short by the onslaught of a devastating disease - the 1918-19 influenza pandemic Spanish flu which remains the deadliest in modern history, killing at least 50 million people and infecting more than 500 million. This was one-third of the world's population at the time. The flu that killed an estimated 18 million Indians is about 6% of the country's population. Spanish flu caused widespread suffering and disrupted the economy and infrastructure.. The major countries involved in the World War 1 were keen to avoid reports of the extent of the flu and so the media reports were suppressed in Germany, Russia, France, United Kingdom and U.S. This was done to keep the moral up of its citizen and soldiers. Spain who remain neutral and was free of the media blackouts had to take the burden of its origin and the nick name.

In fact, the geographic origin of the flu is still been debated. The Spanish flu hit at a time when bacteriologists had enjoyed the acclaim of decades of successful discoveries, including the pathogens responsible for various high-profile diseases like tuberculosis and cholera. But the pathogen responsible for Spanish flu remained a mystery.

Through the months of April and May of 1918, it spread rapidly in the UK, France, Spain, and Italy. Its mortality rate was roughly similar to the seasonal flu, and the outbreak was relatively mild. Numbers dropped through the summer, but towards late August the same year, a more virulent strain emerged in Europe. Unlike the current SARS-CoV-2 virus, where despite expected mutations there's no change in virulence anywhere, the mutated strain in 1918 spread like wildfire and wiped out millions. It was suddenly infecting young healthy people too, such as those who served in the war, and killed them within 24 hours. The death rate increased in geometrical progression in two months. Unlike typical illnesses that killed those with inherently weaker immunity—this one affected even the strongest of the population. The mechanism behind this

ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA I RID 3291





was the cytokine storm, which is when the body's immune system overreacts and kills healthy cells and organs along with the virus.

This was a virulent form of the influenza virus than anyone could have anticipated and the virus rapidly spread across much of the globe to become one of the worst natural disasters in human history. The reason it was so deadly and passed so quickly across the entire world was that it took place during wartime and soldiers had to move from one continent to other. The rapid spread of the disease was primarily because of a lack of public health systems and the unwillingness of authorities to impose quarantine during wartime. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers were deployed to military camps, leading to severe shortages while treating civilians.

The disease was also oddly more widespread in the summer, whereas influenza cases usually spike in the winter. Spanish Flu Pandemic in India shows the disease was brought to the Indian shores by the soldiers returning home after World War I. It was primarily first hit the port areas of Bombay, Madras Kolkata and Kerala. The colonial government's response was proved inadequate to handle the virus. In 1918, India possessed a fragile medical system urgently in need of expansion, chiefly, in its cities. War-time deployment meant that even this system was further depleted of its personnel. In India, the disease didn't affect the British and the privileged much, as they lived in large homes with ample space and maintaining distancing. But among the rest of the country, there was devastation. Because of shortage of wood for cremation, rivers and drains were filled with bodies.

Prominent citizens from Mahatma Gandhi to writer Munshi Premchand are suspected to have fallen sick due to the Spanish Flu. The disease left a devastating impact on the economy .In the last 120 years of recorded economic history in India, 1918 was the worst. Recorded growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) was the lowest (-10.5%) while inflation was near all-time highs, including the world wars or the Bengal famine. The economic strain due to wartime inflation and commodity shortages further exacerbated these difficulties by making essential commodities such as food and kerosene beyond the reach of the vast majority of the population.

Fortunately for India the virus lose its virulence in December 2018 but the pandemic made it very clear that the British had ignored the healthcare in the country. The medical infrastructure had failed to deliver result and in total breakdown. The death and misery of the countrymen due to this pandemic fueled the anger against the colonisers. And people rallied behind Gandhi and the independence movement.





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.

Please send your answers to the Editor over WhatsApp (9830 030 020) within 2 days. Next issue is on 6th Aug. Happy head-scratching.

QUIZ #5

- Must a person be resident of the area of the corps' #1 community?
- What is the name of the leadership team of the corps? #2
- #3 All members of the corps have to pay a fee. How should this fund be utilised?
- How long can a RCC function? #4
- #5 Who can terminate a RCC?

Answers to Quiz #4

#1 What are the Rotarians' role in RCC?

Ans: They provide professional expertise, guidance, encouragement, organisational structure and some material assistance.

#2 Can a Rotaractor join Rotary and enjoy dual membership?

Ans: Yes.

#3 How many major projects an Interact club should complete every year?

Ans: Two – one to serve the community, other to promote international

understanding.

What is the age group for participating in RYLA? #4

Ans: 14 to 30 Years.

How often does a Council On Legislation take place? #5

Ans: Every 3 Years.

(All answers are there is "Rotary Basics")

Cheers to the friends who have submitted correct answers: PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar & PP Rtn Manika Karmakar







MINUTES OF THE 2572nd RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA & 57th CHARTER DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 24th AUGUST, 2020.

- # Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar called the meeting to order and welcomed all.
- # National anthem was not played as few members were travelling.
- # Members observed one minute of silence to pay respect to Late Bibek Mitra, father of club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra and PDDR Rtn Shuvratav Mitra.
- # Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar informed that:
 - a) An online joint meeting will be held with RC Bikrampur, RID 3281, Bangladesh on 3rd September towards furthering international goodwill and Covid awareness. Rtn Rubayet Hossain, District Governor of RID 3281 will inaugurate the session and our District Governor Rtn Sudip Mukherjee would be the Chief Guest. Prof Haq, President of RC Bikrampur and PP Siddhartha Chakraborty would be speaking on Corona.
 - b) On 5th September there would be a programme on James Long Sarani joining hands with Sri Tarak Singh, the local municipal councillor. Face masks and tree saplings would be distributed.
 - c) Sri Swapan Chakraborty of RCC Chandanpiri has requested us not to visit the place at present as many cases of Covid 19 have been detected in the area. So our programme of distribution of cheques of scholarship to girl students, mosquito nets, bleaching powder and tree saplings is being postponed for now. The tentative date is third Sunday of September.
 - d) We are expecting a senior journalist as guest speaker shortly. Members would be informed after finalization of the date.
 - e) Next Board meeting of the club will be held on 31st August at 7pm over Zoom platform.
- # The festivity of Charter Day Celebration started and was enjoyed by all.
- # In the absence of Club Secretary, President Elect Rtn Soummojit Mukherjee conducted club business
- # The minutes of the 2571st RCM held on 5th August as published in Maitree was confirmed.
- # Meeting terminated with vote of thanks from and to the Chair.

Meeting attendance:

Total members : 32. Total log-in : 36