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ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

CLUB NO.: 16149

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3291 DATE OF CHARTER: AUGUST 24, 1964 ISSUE 08 OCTOBER

2575th REGULAR CLUB MEETING



With 28.7 crore illiterates we are the second most populated country. Rotary thinks this figure can change. But how??





October: Economic & Community Development Month

TOP STORIES

Happy Occasions | Follow Us on Facebook

Club Announcements | Upcoming Days

Family News | Family Corner

Cover Story - Editorial | The Fortnight That Was

From the World of Rotary

Article by PP Rtn (Capt.) Debabrata Joaradr

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







3rd October **PDRR Rtn Shuvratay Mitra** 4th October

Paramita daughter of Rtn Sujoy Krishna Bhadra 9th October

Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta 10th October

Rtn Shamshir Singh Kapany 11th October

Rohin son of PP Rtn Prasuniit Mukherjee 13th October

Hamandeep son of PP Rtn Amarjit **Singh Thethi**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6th October **Inderpal & PP Rtn Amarjit Singh** Thethi

EDITORIAL REQUEST

We propose to publish a Bijaya - Diwali Special Maitree e-issue on 19th of November.

All the members and their extended family are earnestly requested to contribute for these special issues. (English is the preferred language)

The article (any topic with no word limit) or a drawing or your video recorded song/poem/act's Youtube Link – may please be mailed to

sid.ctvs@gmail.com or be sent over WhatsApp No 9830030020 by 31st October.

Please call for any clarifications.

DO YOU KNOW WE ARE ON

facebook.



ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

CLICK HERE:

www.facebook.com/rotarybehala



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindly pay your Semi-Annual Dues.



A BIG THANK YOU

We are grateful to our members towards their club contributions which are helping the smooth functioning of the club and undertaking meaningful projects.





UPCOMING DAYS

A Joint Zonal Family Event hosted by Rotary Behala with President (Dr) Partha Sarathi Mukherjee of RC Calcutta Renaissance speaking on our heritage and Rtn Siddhartha Roy of same club conducting a general quiz on 16th October, 2020 from 7pm onwards.

Members are requested to join in numbers.

FAMILY NEWS

PP Rtn Dipak Kumar Mitra was tested positive for COVID.

He is currently in self isolation at his house.

We wish for his speedy recovery.

FAMILY CORNER

Our PP Rtn Debidas Gamguly's youngest son Subhradeep Ganguly, Ex-Cricketer was an expert in the IPL Pre Match Analysis.









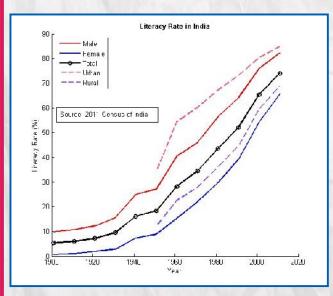
COVER STORY

Towards Literate A

PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty Editor 20-21







Literacy Rate in India

We may be the second in the world in respect of population, but are unglamorously topping the list of countries with illiterates. Of the 135 crore Indians, a whooping 28.7 crore are illiterate, with 27 crores at the age group above 15 yrs – termed as 'adult illiterate'.

Our constitution has made elementary education a fundamental right, tens of thousands of schools have been established, mid-day meals have been started to allure students, bicycles are being gifted to girl students in our State. But, still, 60 lakh children are out of school, 47.8% of

them girls – and an illiterate girl today is an illiterate pivot of family tomorrow with all the social and economic handicaps.

In 2018-2019, the Gross Enrolment Ratio of students at elementary level was 91.64%, which reduced to 79.55% at secondary level and dropped to only 58.56% at senior secondary level. Yes, almost half the students drop out by the time they clear class VIII.

But why?

Many reasons are there. Parental pressure is an important issue – a pair of working hands is much preferable to a brighter future for the kid. But there are other factors too – lack of books, ramshackle school building with poor infrastructure, lack of separate toilet for girl students. And, as a study showed, 6% of primary school teachers are not trained for the job. Finally, many students in hinterlands don't have the opportunity of a school in the vicinity, while those who had are currently ensconced in homes.



The whole system needs a holistic approach for correction.

There are many NGOs working on different aspects of the problem, but Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) is the only organisation tackling all these aspects together since March 2014 with its T-E-A-C-H programme that has five components – Teacher Support, E-learning, Adult Literacy, Child Development, and Happy School.

Teacher Support

There is Online Teacher Training program with an aim to improve the professional abilities and performance of the teachers, together with recognising outstanding teachers with the "Nation Builder Award" – available at RILM website - through the Clubs.

E-learning

RILM's E-learning program, "E-Shiksha", aims at improving the teaching-learning experience through the use of curriculum based audio-visual modules in local languages in Govt. / Govt. aided schools. Educational contents are in line with different State School Board curriculum/ National curriculum in different India languages. Specialised hardware are available with selected partners of RILM. A digital classroom costs around Rs 40,000/-, and support from EIRWT to the tune of 50% is available for the project.

Current scenario with locked down schools has brought a new challenge, which RILM is ready to tackle. It has signed MOU with NCERT who is a partner in the e-Vidya Programme. As the reach of television is much widespread than smartphones in rural areas, contents for classes 1-12 in Hindi and English, each vetted by NCERT experts, will be broadcast daily through 12 dedicated television channels. The same will also be available in Diksha mobile App, where additional student-interactivity options

would be available. In phase 2 of the programme the contents would be translated in local languages, and phase 3 will see the contents distributed free to all Government schools with computer-projector facilities.

Again, some clubs in Maharashtra have taken a major project of providing smartphones to rural students with specific tool to monitor their usage.

Adult Literacy

RILM's Adult Literacy Programme aims to impart functional literacy to non-literate adults (15+ age) across India and then engage literate young adults in skill development training through various resource organizations.

Under this programme 87,870 adults have already been made literate through two projects - Diksha and Swabhimaan.

REDOM



Diksha has a one-to-one approach with a nice tagline of "Each One Teach One". In this approach student-volunteers from schools or colleges are engaged in providing functional literacy classes to non-literate adults (15+ age) over a period of 45-60 days.

The Interactors and Rotaractors will be happy to participate

as teachers.

Swabhimaan, on the other hand, envisions setting up of Swabhimaan Centres (SC) across India, in centralized locations, to impart functional literacy to non-literate adults (15+ years), who sit for the assessment by the National Institute of Open Schooling after completion of the course. The main resource person for this intervention is the teacher who is solely responsible for coordinating the project, tracking and reporting the progress of the learners. But of course, this project cannot be undertaken at present.

Child Development

Child Development is a program of RILM to send out of school children back to school.

ASHA KIRAN - a ray of hope - is the name given to the Child Development initiative to send 150,000 out of school children back to school. Under this programme children in the age group of 7 to 14 years, who have never been enrolled to any School or have been dropped out of school, are sent back to school after required brushing up. The objective is to facilitate these children's access to mainstream state funded primary / elementary schools.

Priorities are given to children from socially and economically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities like children of migrant workers, victims of child labour practices, tribal communities and children in need of care and protection etc.

RILM is working with some NGOs who identify the children, motivate them, arrange for admission in school and monitor them for further few months to ensure the child is absorbed in the mainstream.

The entire programme runs on contribution – it costs only Rs 2,500/- to sponsor one child in the project.

Till now, 37,436 out of school children have been enrolled in the Asha Kiran programme, out of which 35,078 children have been mainstreamed in schools.

Happy School

Happy School Programme aims to provide or upgrade the infrastructural and coscholastic facilities in state funded schools to make them secure, attractive and happy learning places for students and teachers. There are nine components of the





programme – from a library to adequate and functional separate toilets for boys and girls. For the library, a matching grant of 100 books are available from RILM.

The total cost for a Happy School comes somewhere between three to ten lakhs, depending on the existing condition of the infrastructures.



RILM Website

As on date, 2,950 Government and Government-aided schools have been converted into Happy Schools.

Would like to know more about these programmes? Just log in to the website of RILM

www.rotaryteach.org

And how can we be a part of the programme? Teacher Support

Recognising 5 outstanding teachers from 5 schools with "Nation Builder Award" available at RILM website

E-learning

Creation of a Digital Classroom Spreading awareness about e-Vidya

Adult Literacy

Involving Interactors, Rotaractors and our children as teacher in Diksha.

Child Development

Sponsoring at least one child each @ Rs 2,500/- (and get tax relief through 80G)

Happy School

Adopt a suitable school (Govt-aided)

Would like to contribute for the cause? Click at the link on the website given above and pay through debit or credit card – and Bingo! The receipt will be there in your inbox shortly.

We have eliminated **Polio from the country**. Let us now eliminate **illiteracy**.

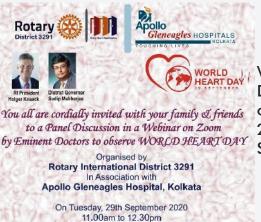
Rotary has opened that opportunity.





THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS.. RI DISTRICT 3291

District Webinar on 18th September, on National Education Policy with Dr Bikash Sinha as the speaker.



Host Club: Rotary New Ballygunge

Meeting ID: 469 978 4899 Passcode: ROTARY Log in shall start from 10.45 am World Heart Day was observed on 29th September.

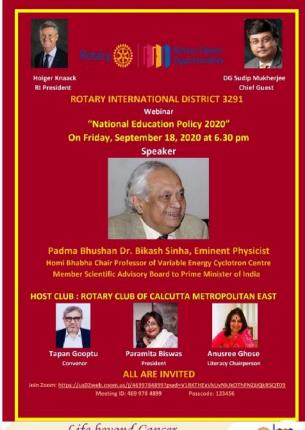
The third Health Camp on "Know Your Numbers was held on 25th September



Health Check-up Camp for Heart and General Health on 26th September



"Life Beyond Cancer" with focus on paediatric cancer was the subject of a webinar on 25th.





Rotary District 3291

Rotaract Mil District 3281







President Elect Rotary International



Rotary International District 3291 in association with Rotaract dist 3291









Madhurima Barman District Rotaract Representative Rotary International Dist 3291



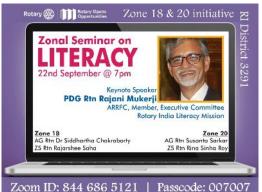




THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS...

CLUB

The support from EIRWT in the form of a matching grant has been received for our ongoing project of Water for Toilet at RCC Chandanpiri. The second phase of the project will commence soon.



On 22th September members of our club participated in the Joint Zonal Seminar of Zones 18 & 20 on Literacy with PDG Rajani Mukerji as the speaker.



POLIO IMMUNIZATION DAY AWARENESS



Rotary Behala was very active and prompt towards spreading awareness and ensuring safety for Polio Immunizations days on 20th & 26th Sept, 2020. We undertook the responsibility of doing rigorous miking on auto with awareness banners and usage of billboards

before the polio day. The Polio Days were observed by our club in Kolkata Municipal

Corporation Wards No.: 76, 117, 118,123, 128, 129 and 131. On the day we handed over mask, hand wash (sanitizers) and refreshment to all health-workers involved. Kudos to IPP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya and Rtn Bikash Dutta for all the hard work and taking the programme to fruition.











THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS. **CLUB**

FEW GLIMPSES OF POLIO DAY AWARENESS & O



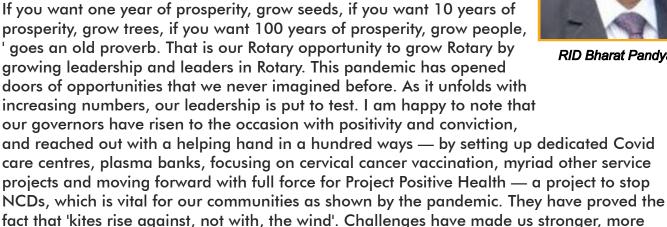




FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

committed, relevant and effective.

ONE TO ONE WITH RTN DR. BHARAT PANDYA. **RI DIRECTOR. 2019-21**





RID Bharat Pandva

As Rotarians, we would do well to remember that we have to do our best, focus on excellence and not be content with mediocrity. Excellence comes from inside. It's an attitude. Aim to be the best, not because someone tells you to, but because you want to be the best. When you choose the path of excellence, you will bring to it your best and in return you will receive the best. The best leaders are servant leaders. They care about serving.

Mahatma Gandhi said it so well: "No matter how insignificant the thing you have to do, do it as well as you can, give it as much of your care and attention as you would give to the thing you regard as most important. For it will be by those small things that you shall be judged." There are no small jobs. Each project, each activity is important and needed.

September is Basic Education and Literacy month. Helping someone to read and write effectively or acquire basic math skills we all take for granted, improves the future of everyone in society. Literacy is key to making our world more sustainable, peaceful and secure. Education has the power to transform people's lives. Parents from even the poorest families long to give basic education to their children, so that they do not have to face the terrible handicaps their parents had faced. Who can do it? It is you and I — we as Rotarians who can do it. Our work is more critical than ever as the pandemic keeps millions out of school who have no access to virtual classrooms.

The pen is truly mightier than the sword. As Rotarians we must ensure that more of our children are able to hold and wield the pen. That is our Rotary opportunity. Let's do it.

[Courtesy: "Light" – the bulletin of RC Garden Reach dated 17-09-20]





FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

RTN TUNJI FUNSHO NAMED ONE OF
TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
BY RYAN HYLAND

Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, joins 100 pioneers, artists, leaders, icons, and titans as one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People. TIME announced its 2020 honorees during a 22 September television broadcast on ABC, recognising Funsho his instrumental leadership and work with Rotary members and partners to achieve the eradication of wild polio in the African region.



Rtn Tunji Funsho

He is the first Rotary member to receive this honor for work toward eradicating polio.

A Rotarian for 35 years, Funsho is a member of the Rotary Club of Lekki, Nigeria, past governor of District 9110, and serves on Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. Funsho is a cardiologist and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. He lives in Lagos, Nigeria with his wife Aisha. They have four children; Habeeb, Kike, Abdullahi and Fatima; and five grandchildren.

TIME 100 comprises individuals whose leadership, talent, discoveries, and philanthropy have made a difference in the world. Past honorees include Bono, the Dalai Lama, Bill Gates, Nelson Mandela, Angela Merkel, Oprah Winfrey, and Malala Yousafzai.

"I'm honored to be recognized by TIME for my part in ensuring that no child in Africa will ever again be paralyzed by wild polio, a disease that once disabled 75,000 African children every single year," said Funsho. "Eradicating the wild poliovirus in Africa was a team effort that required cooperation and dedication of governments, partners, Rotary members, hundreds of thousands of health workers, and countless parents who chose to have their children vaccinated against polio."

As the chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, since 2013 Funsho has led PolioPlus efforts in the country, building upon the work of his predecessors. He has worked alongside Rotarians in Nigeria to raise awareness about the importance of polio immunization, encouraged governments and public figures to support polio eradication, and served as a vocal leader and advocate for Rotary and its fight to end polio. He works closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partner organizations: the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavl, the Vaccine Alliance.

As a member of Nigeria's Presidential Task Force on Polio, he has coordinated immunizations and advocacy campaigns with the Minister of State for Health and the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee for Polio Eradication. He has also worked closely with the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, the Dangote Foundation, the Traditional Leaders Council and the





FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria.

In August 2019, Nigeria reached three years without a case of wild poliovirus. Nigeria's progress, led by Rotary, its partners and local and national governments, was the result of decades of sustained efforts, including domestic and international financing, the commitment of hundreds of thousands of health workers, and innovative strategies to immunize children who previously couldn't be reached due to insecurity in the country's northern states.

On 25 August, the African region was certified wild polio-free. This historic announcement means that five of the WHO's six regions, representing more than 90 percent of the world's population, are now free of the wild poliovirus. The virus is still endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

With Africa's milestone, Rotary and its partners took a major step forward toward their goal of global eradication. Funsho told TIME magazine of the achievement: "The polio eradication program in Nigeria has gone through some difficult times, but I never once doubted that this day would come. Any time that we've experienced a setback, Rotary and our partners have been able to find solutions and develop strategies for reaching vulnerable children."

He added: "One thing I know for certain, is if Nigeria could eliminate the wild poliovirus, any country can eliminate it."

[Source: Rotary World]



We were an integral part of "Action 4 Susutainable India". Detailed report will be published in the next issue.





MY EXPERIENCE AS A MERCHANT NAVY CAPTAIN



PP Rtn (Capt.) Debabrata Joardar

I had joined in merchant navy as a cadet way back in 1958.

It has been a long journey since then. After completing various stages and international maritime examinations, I rose to my highest level, which is Captain of a ship or the rank of Master, as it is called

in shipping.

Besides sea, I have served in Kolkata Port, shore based ship handling organizations, Indian maritime university etc.

In between I went back to sailing as a captain, at times with my family. From 1995 to 2001,I was sailing as a captain only, of course not at a stretch, In Shipping Corporation Of India.

I would like to narrate an incident that happened around 1999 September. It was a bulk carrier carrying full load of thermal coal for Haldia port. My ship was about 2 days away from reaching Haldia, in the middle of Bay of Bengal. My wife Anuradha was sailing with me. The weather was reasonably good and we were fast asleep around midnight.

suddenly the alarm started ringing in my bedroom, indicating that there is fire somewhere in the ship. Ignoring phone calls at that time, I rushed to the BRIDGE, from where the ship is navigated. Immediately I ordered the engine to stop and directed the watch keeping officer to inform me



[Representative picture sourced from google image. - Ed]





the location of the fire, from the smoke detector gadget. Necessary Emergency and fire alarm was activated and communication system was also manned. My wife came up the bridge and had to be coaxed to sit quietly in the chart room.

The fire originated from crew's recreation or smoke room, as it is called. The fire was in full blaze and the firefighting team started the process of extinguishing fire with the help of extinguishers, water jets etc.

There was no chance nor I wanted any help from outside sources. Finally the fire was brought under control after about 2 hours and the ship proceeded towards her destination, which was the Pilot pick up point at Sagar island.

With the day break, I had to try to investigate the possible cause of fire and damages there of. It was presumed to be from cigarette butt causing the fire to start from sofa. I had to conduct extensive enquiry and document various evidences of members of the crew and my own observations in the ship's official Log book. The smoke room and the surrounding areas in the accommodation were extensively damaged.

On reaching Haldia Port, Govt of India shipping ministry surveyors, Insurance surveyors. owner's representatives etc came on ship for conducting their enquiries. This lasted for about one day.

The cause of the fire could not convincingly be ascertained in the enquiry. It was later decided to carry out the repairs in China along with other surveys and drydocking, which was due.

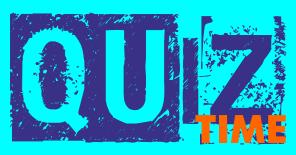
I was still the Captain for the passage to China and returned to India after loading at east coast of Australia.

But let me leave that story for some other day.

STAY SAFE. BE RESPONSIBLE.







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 (9830 030 020) within 7 days. Happy head-scratching.

QUIZ #7

- #1 No history book on 2nd World War can avoid this vegetarian teetotaler non-smoker who commanded a large army.
- **#2** Who started the practice of annual Rotary theme?
- **#3** Who did succeed Dag Hammarskjoeld as Secretary-General of the UNO?
- **#4** When was the Rotary Foundation established?
- #5 Federation Cup, World Cup, Shivanthi Gold Cup and Centennial Cup are awarded to winners in which sport?

Answers to Quiz #6

#1 Garampani sanctuary is located at . . .

Ans: Diphu, Assam.

#2 What is the tenure of office of a leader of a RCC?

Ans: One Year.

#3 Louis Washkansky finds a place in medical history. Why?

Ans: Recipient of world's first heart transplant.

#4 Who are Rotary Senior Leader?

Ans: Current, Incoming & Past RI Presidents, Directors, and Rotary Foundation Trustees.

#5 Golf player Vijay Singh belongs to which country?

Ans: Fiji.

Cheers to the friends who have submitted correct answers: President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar, PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar, PP Rtn Manika Karmakar, PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya & Rtn Bikash Dutta.







MINUTES OF THE 2574th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 17th SEPTEMBER, 2020.

- # Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar called meeting to order, followed by welcome address.
- # National Anthem was played on screen.
- # President Rtn Sugata congratulated PP Rtn (Dr) Siddhartha Chakraborty & members responsible for making the Joint meeting with RC Bikrampur, RID 3281 on 3rd September a huge success.
- # He also appreciated the effort taken by Rtn Bikash Dutta and other club members for a very successful 5th September project.
- # President Rtn Sugata informed about the Polio Immunization Day activity to be taken up by the club for KMC wards 76, 117, 118, 123, 128, 129 & 131. He informed that club members will assist the health workers and will sponsor the logistics involved along with the pre-Polio Day auto promotions. Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra highlighted the current status and shared the promotional banners.
- # President Rtn Sugata also requested that in case any member is contacted by anyone for any joint project or community service activity, a prior permission from the President & the Board should be sought before any commitments.
- # President Rtn Sugata informed that club members will visit RCC Chandanpiri on 27th September for 3 projects. PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta briefed about these projects namely, on Water & Sanitation, Girl Student Scholarship & Amphan Relief phase III.
- # On request from the Chair, Rtn Angshuman described the request by a self-help group of ladies towards donation of few sewing machines and briefed about the group. It has been decided that a team of our members will visit the area and submit their assessment report.
- # President Rtn Sugata Informed of his preliminary talk with one of the leading PR professionals for an online seminar in the month of October. It will be a joint project with Rotaract Club of Behala & Interact Club of Bridge International School as well, and the date will be confirmed shortly.
- # President Rtn Sugata informed that few joint projects with our club as host is in the pipeline.
- # PP Rtn Siddhartha invited everyone to be a part of the Seminar on Literacy conducted by PDG Rtn Rajani Mukerji and organised by Zones 18 & 20 on 22nd September.





MINUTES OF THE 2574th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 17th SEPTEMBER, 2020.

President Rtn Sugata requested Club Literacy Chair PP Rtn Anindya Bose to share his views on the literacy projects to be undertaken by the club along with ideas to make it effective. It was also discussed how the club can help with the online education or online educational aid to less fortunate households or schools.

On request from the Chair, Club Membership Chair PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar gave an overview on the current membership issues related to our club.

Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu updated about the upcoming projects and activities for club as well as the district.

Club Editor PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha informed that some of the articles published in club bulletin "Maitree" have gathered high praises from many people outside our club. In return the members also appreciated his and Secretary's efforts.

Club Editor PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha also informed the members about the new innovation done to the 17th Sept Maitree Issue. Which was applauded by the members.

Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu conducted the usual club business.

Minutes of 2573rd RCM as published in Maitree was confirmed.

President Rtn Sugata terminated the meeting.

Meeting attendance:

Total Members: 32. Members Present: 14



Rotary Calcutta founded on 26th September 1919 is the first Rotary Club in Main-land Asia. They completed their 101st Birth Anniversary! Huge achievement indeed! Our Salutation to the great leader - first Rotary President from India in 1962-63 PRIP Nitish C. Laharry member Rotary Calcutta - who gave us the most inspiring mantra "Kindle the Spark Within".