



MAITREE

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ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3291

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04

FEBRUARY

2586th REGULAR CLUB MEETING



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

COVER STORY



Make Peace - Hate War

TWO SIDES OF A COIN

February : Peace & Conflict Prevention or Resolution Month

TOP STORIES



Happy Occasions

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RI Theme 2021-22

Promoting peace on the Pakistan-India Border

By Sajid Pervaiz, PDG 3272, Rotary Ruryila, Pakistan

Minutes of 2585th RCM

February : Peace & Conflict Prevention or Resolution Month



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

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

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY**15th February****PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee****HAPPY ANNIVERSARY****10th February****Sumita & PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sen Gupta****18th February****Champa & Rtn Susmit Bhattacharya****Guest Speaker**

One of the oldest rotarian of RID 3291 & Past President of Rotary Behala, he will speak on History & Past of RC Behala & Rotary.

PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sen Gupta**Paul Harris Challenge**

1 Member at least per Club in the next 25 Days - 100 New Members minimum in the District in the next 25 Days - that is 4 New Members per day! This is Rotary's Paul Harris Challenge and every Club President will be Recognised by the Rotary International! DG and I have Embraced the Challenge! Your Inspiring Leadership will Make it Possible.

Our Time Starts Now!
- DMC Rtn Debasish Mitra

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindly pay your Semi-Annual Dues.

Rotary India.org 

Hi DR. SIDDHARTHA CHAKRABORTY !

Behala W. Bengal

Check us in
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Find a Rotarian



Projects

Rotary World Rotary India 

ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA

Behala W. Bengal



District 3291

EDITORIAL REQUEST

Thank you for your constant appreciation & support towards Maitree. All the members & their extended family please keep on contributing to Maitree.

Please share your write ups / drawing / Art & craft by emailing it to **sid.ctvs@gmail.com** or whatsapp to **98300 30020**.

Please call for any clarifications.

Family News



After undergoing one Angioplasty some time back, Sri Sourav Ganguly-the cricket-icon & nephew of PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly - had to undergo Angioplasty of another two coronary arteries in a city hospital. We wish him speedy complete recovery.



He is one of the leading financial advisors in the country.

Our very own PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee is a regular at popular television channels for reviews & discussions on Budget 2021.



mplexus.com
Search, Research...Mutual Funds

Fund Raiser for Paediatric Cancer Patients

Based on the data of around 50,000 children suffering from cancer who got registered with NCI-AIIMS, 70% are treated and discharged from hospital successfully. Unfortunately, 40% of these children face lack of follow up & rehabilitation facilities resulting in loss of education, livelihood & relapse might be leading to death.

in order to address these issues:

Rotary club of Calcutta Jadavpur in association with Rotaract Dist. 3291 cordially invite you to join us for a fundraiser in support of ailing Paediatric Cancer Patients & Survivors. Please contribute to the cause generously. Enjoy two colourful evenings for a small donation. The occasion will be graced by performance of KAUSIKI CHAKRABORTY along with Cancer Survivors and Rotaractors.

Date: 13th & 14th February 2021 (7pm at zoom platform). Donation unit Rs 300 /- only. Individuals/ clubs will get link before the event. Only donors get entry by name.

Sponsorship : Logo & name in flyer Rs 25000 | Logo, name & ad video screening Rs 50000

JOIN THE MISSION WITH US TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN

For more info. contact AG (Service) Rtn Partha Sarathi Sarkar at 8335068511.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur
in association with
Rotaract District Organisation 3291

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KAUSHIKI CHAKRABORTY
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Cancer Survivors and Rotaractors

Date: 13th & 14th February 2021
(7pm Over Zoom Platform)

Join Us!!!
Donation unit Rs 300 /-
Recognition as Co-Host
clubs for 10 units only.

For Contributions:
Use the Bank Account Details
ROTARY CLUB OF JADAVPUR TRUST
SB a/c no. 401010110009917
Bank of India, Jodhpur Park branch
IFSC CODE: BKID0004010
MICR CODE: 700013028

**EDITORIAL
COVER STORY**

PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor 20-21



WAR CONFLICT & PEACE

The door opened, and from the aircraft emerged Muhammad Anwar el-Sadat. The waiting high-power delegation on the tarmac of Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, assembled on diplomatic compulsion on that chilly Saturday night of 19th of November 1977, were a bit startled with warm hugs from Sadat, President of Egypt – their sworn enemy since 1948. This is the very person who ordered his troops into the Sinai Peninsula, triggering the Yom Kippur war to revenge the drubbing in the Six-Day War of 1967.



President Sadat at Ben-Gurion Airport, 19th November 1977



President Sadat at Knesset, Jerusalem

Sadat had an official meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and then addressed the Knesset in Jerusalem on the 20th November about his views on how to achieve a comprehensive peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which included the full implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

The ice broke. Series of negotiations followed, leading to the 1978 Camp David Accords, facilitated by US President Jimmy Carter – a momentous step that won Sadat Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 and assassin's bullets on 6th October 1981.



Sadat, Begin and Carter at Camp David

The Arab-Israeli conflict could be settled amicably, but alas, there were and are a number of international conflicts globally, claiming millions of lives. Decades of treaties and tensions between the nations of Europe and western Asia culminated in the First World War that left 30 million dead, and the imposition of severe economic sanctions and debt-repayment obligations on Germany and the other Central Powers which in its turn fed a festering resentment in Germany.



First World War



Second World War

Adolf Hitler and his team started twisting German folklores and traditions, and with the help of an excellent propaganda machinery achieved good public support with jingoistic fervor. He invaded Poland in 1939 and the Second World War started, claiming about 70 million lives. The victorious Allies no more remained united. Two power centres emerged – USSR and USA – both strategically poised to take advantage of the war's aftermath for economic and political gain, but wary of one another, espousing communism and capitalism respectively.



Ready !! Cold War



Kuril Island

The conflict settled into an uneasy 'Cold War,' in which no overt battles were fought, but there were a number of 'proxy wars' such as in Korea, Afghanistan, and Vietnam, political wrangling, and an arms race which included the development of massive nuclear weapons arsenals – the deterrents.

Though the phase has passed over – with disintegration of USSR – conflicts between nations do continue. We are witness to Chinese claim over Japanese-held Senkaku islands - intensified after oil and gas fields were found underneath, Japanese claim over Kuril island transferred to USSR in the Yalta agreements, claims by UK, France and Argentina over the frozen continent of Antarctica, or our disputes with Pakistan and China in high Himalayas.

Not all international conflicts are based on economic gain only. Religion also takes an important role. We remember crusades between 1095 and 1291, when multiple armies marched southeast

to Asia Minor and the Levant, where they would do battle with Islamic forces in an attempt to gain control of the Holy Land. In today's world, Jihad armies are fighting back, burning France and etching in our memory the destruction of Twin Towers on 11th September 2001.



The Frozen Continent – in dispute



Twin Towers Burning

The conflicts, regretfully, are not limited to international arena. There is rising phenomenon of mass protests across the globe. It is an equal-opportunity discontent, shaking countries governed by both the left and right, democracies and autocracies, rich and poor, from Latin America to Asia and Africa. And there are ethnic conflicts - ranging from the Protestant-Catholic conflict in Northern Ireland and Hindu-Muslim conflict in our country to black-white conflict in the United States and South Africa, Tamil-Sinhala conflict in Sri Lanka, the Shia-Sunni conflict in Pakistan, or the ethnic fights in Bosnia, Yemen, Ethiopia or some other African countries. United Nation do send Peace Keeping Forces – with arms or without – to control the outbursts, but the animosity smoulders on. There also are instances of Big Brothers joining the cauldron in that role, but ultimately extricating itself with difficulty, at times leaving behind unpleasant memories. Middle East . . . Sri Lanka . . . These clashes, based on ethnic identities and fighting for independence or increased socio-political, or economic power resist compromise, arouse passion instead of reason, and the conflict lingers on.



A Friend Indeed



Pockmarks of Machinegun - Middle East

Here comes the role of civil society. In villages in our country less than 4 percent of all deaths and roughly 10 percent of all Hindu-Muslim riots are on record during 1950 to 1995. Peace was maintained because everyday civil engagement between Hindus and Muslims was enough to keep potential rioters away. In cities, however, such everyday engagement was not enough and purposeful involvement of sane minds – without coloured glasses of cast, religion or political belief - were required.

Let us – the people who believe that 'Mankind Is Our Business' – rededicate ourselves to the cause in this month of Peace and Conflict Prevention. Rotary has opened that opportunity.

Rotary  District 3291**SAMAGAM***Conference for all*

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, RID 3291

Date : 20th & 21st March 2021 (Sat & Sun)

Venue : Swabhumi. Entire complex has been booked. Main programme will be in new 'Rajkutir'. Other 3 halls – including dining area - will have online video streaming.

Time : Morning of Saturday to evening of Sunday.

Club Exhibits : Physical. Display Dimensions to be informed later.

Refreshments : Lunch on both days, dinner on Saturday, evening high-tea on Sunday.
Complimentary breakfast session on Sunday for new Rotarians.**Expected Programme :**

Saturday :

- > Inaugural session may include Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Sri Jagdeep Dhankhar (Ex-Rotarian), RID Rtn Kamal Sanghvi, RIP Elect Rtn Shekhar Mehta (online) etc.
- > Session on Membership with RID Rtn Kamal Sanghvi as keynote speaker.
- > Session on Community Service with launch of two mega projects of the District, Recognition on-stage of the Major Donors of the District.

Sunday :

- > Session for new members with complimentary breakfast
- > Session on Public Image with some leading personality of the field
- > Session on Literacy
- > Session on Vocational Service – Sri Arindam Seal and 5 leading figures from industry in panel discussion on '100 years of Bengali cinema'
- > Session on Leadership with Retd Air Chief Marshall Arup Raha and Prof Anup Sinha, formerly of IIM Joka
- > Valedictory Programme – termination at 6 pm

Cultural Programme :

Saturday evening : Homage to Rahul Dev Burman with an orchestra from Mumbai (including musicians who performed with the maestro) and two singers.

Sunday evening : In-house programme from 6 pm

House of Fellowship :

Saturday : For 2 hrs after lunch, in the evening before dinner

Sunday : After Valedictory Programme

Registration :@ Rs 3000 + 18% tax = Rs 3540/- (Physical/ Online)
Registration starts at Kerala Food Festival on 31-01-21**Sponsorship :**Host Club (2) : Rs 10 lakh each
Co-host Club : Rs 2 lakh, 1 lakh, 50,000/- and 25,000/-
(Any sponsorship arranged by a club from any well-wisher will also be credited to the club concerned)

Members are requested to submit their names to the President/Secretary as early as possible.



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS...

RI DISTRICT 3291

Know Your Numbers Camp

24th January - Camp organised by RC Cal Kankurgachi & RC Budge Budge.

Additional service of Awareness of Cervical Cancer & Menstrual Hygiene was also done.

24th January - Camp organised by RC Cal North Suburban & RC Kolkata Temple City.

Additional service of Thalassaemia and Cancer Awareness Programme, Heart & Eye Check-up was also done.

26th January - Camp organised by RC Cal South City Towers.

Additional service of Blood Donation camp was also done.

26th January - Camp organised by RC Cal Sutanuti & RC Salt Lake Central

On 27th January, 2021, a Zoom meeting was organised for District Core Committee, AGs, ZSs, and all Presidents and Secretaries of the District.

DG Rtn Sudip Mukherjee talked about 'Paul Harris Challenge' initiated by Rotary International with an aim of inducting 4000 new members in the RI zones of 4,5,6 and 7 within 23rd February, and requested all clubs to concentrate all efforts to induct new members within this time frame, so that the District may have at least 100 new members.

This was followed by District Trainer Rtn Angsuman Bandopadhyay speaking on forthcoming District Conference (Highlights are there in this issue of Maitree).

Rotary Opens Opportunities

DISTRICT 3291

RYLA 2021

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Virtual RYLA

Organised by : District 3291
Lead Host : Rotary Club of Budge Budge
 in association with other Clubs of the District

District Governor
 Dist 3291
 Rtn. Sudip Mukherjee

Virtual RYLA on 30th & 31st January 2021

Kerala Food Fest



National Polio Immunisation Day was observed by the clubs of the District, with awareness programme. It was an entirely Door-to-door programme with transit units and mobile units, without specific booths.





THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS... CLUB

Supporting The Frontline Workers

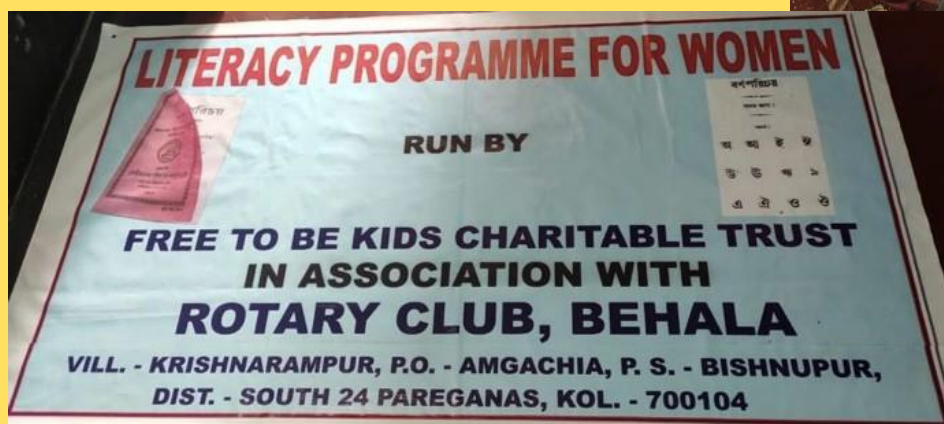
On 25th January, 2021, Ten clubs of RID 3291 joined hands to gift 100 litres of sanitiser to Kolkata Police through the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Reserve Force.

Participating clubs were :Rotary Club of Ballygunge, Behala, Calcutta Charnock City, Calcutta Endeavour, Calcutta Jadavpur, Central Calcutta, Garden Reach, Geetanjali Kolkata, Howrah & Tollygunge.



Supporting Adult Literacy

“Free to be Kids Charitable Trust” is engaged in running an Adult Education Centre at Krishnarampur, near Amtala. On 25th January, 2021 members of Rotary Behala visited the centre & handed over a cheque of Rs.10,000 towards the monthly salary of the teacher. We will support the centre by paying the monthly salary and also provide logistical support as per requirement. We also gifted the students with 50 mats (Madur).



Led by Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar, Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra, VP Rtn Bikash Dutta and PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta were present.



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS...

CLUB



Start of a Vocational Training Centre

On 26th January, A Vocational Training Centre has been started at Vill - Banagram, near Rasapunja with four Singer foot-operated sewing machines for training of local ladies under the banner of Sonar Taree Sangha Prathamik Bahumukhi Sambay Samity Ltd, Rasapunja.

The programme was preceded by unfurling of the National Flag by Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya and address by our team members.

We are thankful to Mr Nazrul Huq Gayen, a local teacher, who kindly gave consent to run the programme at the first floor hall of his place.



Led by Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya, our team also included PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar, PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya and PP Rtn Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty.

FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

FEBRUARY, 2021



RIP Holger Knaack

In Rotary, 23 February is our anniversary, and February is also the month when we focus on promoting peace. There is a reason for this: Contributing to peace and international understanding has been a high priority for us since our earliest days.

We are often asked: "How can we get involved in peace now?" There are many paths to peace in Rotary. Our youth programs point us in the direction of Positive Peace, as does the work of intercountry committees and the Rotary Action Group for Peace.

Another path is the Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator (RPPI), an inspirational collaboration among Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows and alumni. Led by Rotarians in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, RPPI has designed 48 global projects that any club can support, either directly or through Rotary Foundation global grants. Nino Lotishvili and Matthew Johnsen, alumni of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, are two of the many volunteers.

During my Rotary peace journey, I have learned how personal resilience helps build inner peace and create sustainable outer peace. This was the inspiration behind the Women Peace Ambassadors for the South Caucasus project, which is based on my field research in Georgia. The RPPI team of Rotarians and peace fellows recognized the incredible potential of women from mixed-ethnicity families who live on borderlands to be role models for peace within and beyond their communities. Through workshops on building inner and outer peace that draw on the power of storytelling, 40 participants will be sharing their stories and reaching around 400 extended family and community members. These inspiring but marginalized women will reclaim their inner strength as peacebuilders at the grassroots level. In this way, we will take steps toward the sustainable, peaceful society we need so much, not only in our region, but throughout the world. — Nino Lotishvili

I was excited to join the peace incubator project and to further strengthen my ties with Rotary's peace community by working with past and current peace fellows to develop these proposals. My team wrote five proposals — three in Bangladesh, one in Iraq, and one in Poland — that focus on the arts and on education to generate dialogue across religious divisions and avert the radicalization of young people. I was inspired by how, despite the pandemic, we came together via technology with a vision to develop, test, and strengthen ideas and to produce workable solutions that clubs across the world can support to advance peace. I am excited to work with Rotary's peace community to transform these visions into reality. — Matthew Johnsen

Here is further proof that in Rotary, we prefer action to words. This is Rotary at its best. I encourage you to visit rppi.ch to explore the projects and support them.

We have lasted 116 years because of our strong ethics, our passion for Service Above Self, and our unique approach to problem-solving. One of our greatest strengths is how we reach across our communities and across national, ethnic, religious, and political divisions to unite people of all backgrounds and to help others. This month, let's celebrate our history and the many ways that Rotary Opens Opportunities to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, our ultimate mission.



RI President -elect announces

2021-22 presidential theme

Namaste. Hello, the movers and shakers of Rotary around the world. You, the DGEs, are the movers, and I am Shekhar.

Today you are taking a very important step in your journey of service and leadership. The forthcoming 17 months will be the most amazing, fruitful months in your life. You can turn this period into the most satisfying period of your life. During this period, I urge you to dream big, guided by our shared vision for Rotary. You will plan and set goals, inspire and motivate Rotarians to reach goals — goals to expand the reach of our organization by increasing membership, and goals to increase the impact of Rotary by serving the world. And in this journey, you will play a stellar role as you share your goal with Rotarians and Rotaractors in your district and inspire them to “do more and grow more.” Friends, this will be our guiding mantra. “Do more” as in bigger and impactful service projects, and “grow more” as in increasing our membership and expanding the participation.

Membership, friends, continues to be our biggest challenge. For the last 17-plus years, our membership has been at 1.2 million. Together let us change that over the next 17 months. My dear change-maker governors, here is your opportunity to make the biggest change in Rotary history as far as membership is concerned. What we have not accomplished in the last 17 years, I challenge you to accomplish in 17 months.

But that's too big a dream, you may say. Well, if I ask you to dream big, I have to lead from the front. One of my inspirations comes from what George Bernard Shaw said. He said, “You see things; and you say ‘why?’ But I dream things that never were; and I say ‘Why not?’”

So, friends, the dream is to increase our membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022! How can we reach that incredible goal? The answer is each one, bring one — ask each Rotarian to bring one member to Rotary in the next 17 months. Just one member in 17 months is all you need to ask of every Rotarian in your district. You can ensure this by leading by example and having your club presidents lead by example as well. As Rotarians in every club do this, they too will become change-makers, as they will change for good the lives of each person that they make a Rotarian.

Governors-elect, we need to grow more to do more. I have always hugely been inspired by the motto of Rotary — Service Above Self. It has taught me to care for others and share with others. Service, to me, is about thinking of others even before I think of myself. On thinking about others, let me share one of my Rotary moments.

I had just joined my Rotary club, and the club organized a limb camp. Here we were, distributing calipers, artificial limbs, and hand cycles. Every member was given some responsibility and so was I. I was to check if the beneficiary of the hand cycle had enough strength in his hand to ride the tricycle by his hands. And I was to do this by asking the beneficiary to pull my hand, so that I could fathom the strength in his hands. As I stood in my designated spot, waiting for the beneficiary to come, I saw him crawling towards me. He had no legs, so he had to crawl towards me. I stretched my hands to hold his, and I'll be honest, in that moment, I was thinking about me and not about him. I was thinking about my cleanliness, my health. I did not want to hold his hand. But I did it and kept thinking of myself for the second and third set of hands. But suddenly after the sixth, seventh set of hands, my empathy towards their plight grew and soon enough I could feel their pain, their challenges, and I was thinking more about them than I was thinking of myself. It was at that moment, friends, when from being just a member of my Rotary club, I became a Rotarian.

Soon I started attending more club projects. As a Rotarian, when I had first gone out to the rural areas of India 35 years back, I truly understood the plight of my brethren. They had no toilets in their homes, the water they drank was from the same pond that they bathed in, the schools were in the shade of a tree, and the black painted wall was the only blackboard in the school. The nearest health center was a few miles away with basic facilities. And then, through my Rotary club, we helped set up toilets, provided clean drinking water, enhanced the education system, and set up world-class health facilities, not just in my community or my city, but in my country.

Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity. Service became a way of life for me, and my life's guiding philosophy became, "Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth." And I want to be a good tenant of this earth. I am sure each of you also has found your opportunity to serve. You too may have provided eyesight to the blind, food to the hungry, homes to the homeless. They may have been small opportunities for service or large projects. More than just the size, it is the attitude that defines service.

Gandhi was once getting up on a train. Even as he was getting up on the train, the train started moving, and one of his slippers fell off. Gandhi's immediate reaction was to throw his other slipper to where the previous one had fallen. His friend was traveling with him and asked him, "Why did you do that?" Gandhi said, "Someone will find that slipper. What good will be one slipper to him? So I threw the other." Friends, it was a small act of service, but I think it was a big attitude of service. Are we also ready to think of others before we think of ourselves? As Rotarians, we can do just that.

Why else have Rotarians spent billions of dollars and volunteer hours over the last 35-plus years to eradicate polio and serve mankind? Why else have we set up thousands of schools, hundreds of hospitals, provided water in parched villages, brought dignity to people by providing toilets in their homes, given the gift of life to tens of thousands of children by doing their heart surgeries? Rotarians keep serving because we want to change lives. One project in Nepal changes the lives of a few thousand people, the family health program in Africa has served millions of people, a water project in Haiti has changed the lives of more than 10 million people. Back home in India, the T-E-A-C-H program of literacy and education has impacted the lives of millions of children.

Many of you have been an important part of similar service projects, and you have changed the lives of people. There was a need to serve, and you served. Today the need to serve has become even more necessary and apparent. So, my dear change-maker governors, in the coming Rotary year, I request you, urge you, cajole you to serve people and help to change their lives. So, my dear governors, our theme for the year 2021-22 is **Serve to Change Lives**.

I urge you to lead by example and inspire Rotarians and Rotaractors to participate in projects that have a sustained impact. Join hands with other Rotarians, other organizations, corporations, and do projects that impact your community, your city—projects that can change lives of people across the country and around the world. At the end of your term as district governor, you should feel that because of your leadership, because of your inspiration to the Rotarians and Rotaractors, the world has changed for better because of the service done by them during the year.

As we all serve, we change the lives of not only others; we change our lives, too. Vivekananda, one of India's greatest philosophers, said, "When you help someone, do not think that you are obliging him or her. In fact, it is he or she who is obliging you by giving you an opportunity to give back something to this world from where we have received so much." Also, he added beautifully, "In life, take the position of the donor or the server, and yet be so humble in giving and serving that let the donor or server kneel down and ask: 'May I give? May I serve?'"

Friends, to live for others, to care for others, to serve others and change their lives is the best way to live our own lives. Just as Albert Einstein said, "Only a life lived for

others is a life worthwhile.

And friends, as we go about our service initiatives, our special focus this year will be on empowering girls. One of Rotary's core values is diversity. We have a public statement that outlines our belief in DEI — diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is important that we empower the girl as we all find that more often than not, the girl is disadvantaged. We will serve all children, but our focus will be specially on the girl. There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have.

Friends, to do more and grow more, we have designed some presidential initiatives.

There will be seven presidential conferences across the world focusing on the seven areas of focus. And for every Rotary and Rotaract club to be able to organize and engage Rotarians and Rotaractors, and the public at large, we will have Rotary Days of Service. Do participate in the presidential conference closest to home, and do encourage every club to participate in a Rotary Day of Service. Let them join Rotaractors and Interactors. Let us showcase our work the world over through thousands of Rotary Days of Service by Rotary clubs.

Dear change-maker governors, ending polio, fighting COVID, working on large impactful projects, and increasing our membership to a never-before 1.3 million — the task ahead is challenging. And that should excite you. Rotarians love challenges. A ship is safe in the harbor, but that is not what ships are meant for. They need to go out in the high seas. Life, my dear change-makers, is about adventure and not maintenance.

Let me end with what I have penned for our theme:

The biggest gift we are given
Is the power to touch a life
To change,
To make a difference
In the circle of life.
If we can reach out
With our hands, heart, and soul
The magic will begin to happen
As the wheel begins to roll ...
Let's turn the wheel together
So all humanity thrives
We have the power and the magic
To serve ... to change lives ...

At this moment, I urge you, wherever you are seated, to put your hand on your heart and pledge with me:

**WE HAVE THE POWER AND THE MAGIC
TO SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

So, my dear change-makers, are you ready? Are you ready for the big challenges? Are you ready to serve? Are you ready to change lives?

I am, and I'm sure you are too. Together, let us Serve to Change Lives.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

PROMOTING PEACE ON THE PAKISTAN-INDIA BORDER

By Sajid Pervaiz, PDG 3272, Rotary Ruryila, Pakistan



In March, members of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact from both Pakistan and India gathered together at a holy shrine on the border for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship. It was a small, but significant step toward building peace between our two countries.

Ever since attending a breakout session on healing the wounds of war at the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Canada, I have had a heart to draw members of the Rotary family together to talk about peace. Being from Pakistan, I have seen how the tensions between my country and India have disrupted harmonious relationships.

Recently, I had a chance to put my idea into motion, and reached out to my Rotary friends in India. Upkar Singh Sethi from the Rotary Amritsar South and PDG 3070 (India), agreed to organize the meeting from the India side of the border.

We held the event at Kartarpur Sahib, a shrine in Pakistan built on the site where Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism, settled and assembled the first Sikh community in the 16th century. Because of the tensions between the two countries, it has been difficult for

Sikhs in India to visit the shrine. But in 2018, the government of Pakistan opened up a corridor so pilgrims from India could visit the shrine visa-free.

On that day in March, we stood together in goodwill and fellowship, among the other visitors who come to venerate the site. It was exhilarating. Sethi expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity and noted how his club had limited its delegation to a little more than 20 members because of the strict protocols for visiting through the corridor. "However, we were amazed to see the response from across the border, where more than 50 Rotarians from various clubs turned out to receive us and join us in paying homage to this holiest of Sikh shrines," he said.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic is over, we plan to invite a delegation from India four times a year to join us in building goodwill and friendship between our two countries. It may have been a small effort at peacemaking, but it is the start of an evolutionary process of achieving peace and justice with the greatest speed and grace.

[Source : Light, Newsletter of RC Garden Reach dt 04-08-20]

ROTARY MONITORS THE GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Read how Rotary is responding to the impact of the global COVID-19 crisis. We are closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure the safest and most appropriate actions are taken by and for our members and the communities they serve.

CLICK TO READ

**MINUTES OF THE 2585th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD
AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 22nd JANUARY, 2021.**

- # Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar called the meeting to order.
- # National anthem was played online.
- # Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar announced the three upcoming projects with nodal persons - PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty for the Joint Project of gifting sanitiser to Kolkata Police on 25th January morning, VP Rtn Bikash Dutta for handing over cheque to Free To Be Kids Charitable Trust on same evening, and Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya for handing over 4 sewing machines to women' cooperative at Rasapunja on 26th morning, together with flag hoisting.
- # On request from the President, the three nodal officers briefly outlined the project concerned and assembly points for the volunteers.
- # On request from the President, PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty reported on our visit to RCC Chandanpuri on 17th, and PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta presented the requirements of the area which can be taken up gradually. The list included Literacy projects including books and study materials, repairing the tubewells that have sunk low, construction of a community toilet complex, and medical camps.
- # President Sugata requested all members to contribute for TRF. Club Foundation Committee Chair PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee informed that he will contact members personally with the same request.
- # Prospective member list was discussed in the meeting. PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar & PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha brief about the current standing.
- # President Sugata suggested for Paediatric heart surgeries in return PP Rtn Dr. Siddhartha & Rtn Dr Atanu Saha gave a brief account on how it can be done. Further discussion will be done on the following meetings.
- # President Sugata suggested spouses, kids and friends of members to attend meetings and to organise an interactive session.
- # Official visit by District Governor has been fixed on 4th of March. Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra briefly detailed the homework being undertaken for the same.

**MINUTES OF THE 2585th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD
AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 22nd JANUARY, 2021.**

- # President Sugata suggested holding one offline RCM every month. The proposal was accepted unanimously.
- # Club Treasurer PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya updated on receipt of club dues.
- # Next RCM will be held online on 4th February with PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sen Gupta as the speaker of the day.
- # Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra conducted the usual club business.
- # The minutes of 2584th RCM of the club as published in Maitree of the day was confirmed.
- # President Sugata terminated the meeting after thanks from and to the chair.

Total Members : 32 | Members Present : 17

