



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 09

15

OCTOBER

FESTIVE SPECIAL ISSUE

Rotary



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

COVER STORY



From "Queen of Heaven" to "Great Mother of the Gods" she traveled all over the world, its that time when "Dashabhuj" comes home.

October : Economic & Community Development Month

TOP STORIES

Happy Occasions | Club Announcements

Upcoming Days | Family News

Family Corner | Club President's Message

Festive Wishes By Rotary Leaders | Cover Story - Editorial

Maitree On Air Golden Voices - Featuring
Bijoyinee Roy Chowdhury & Madhumita Saha

Recitation & Poem by Ruma Bhattacharya

Organ Donation by PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty

The Fortnight That Was | From the World of Rotary

Articles

PDC Indrani Chatterjee | Saikat Sarkar

Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta | Sunanda Bose

Avinanda Bhattacharya | Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta

Sunetra Bhattacharyya | PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee

Quiz Time | Minutes





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

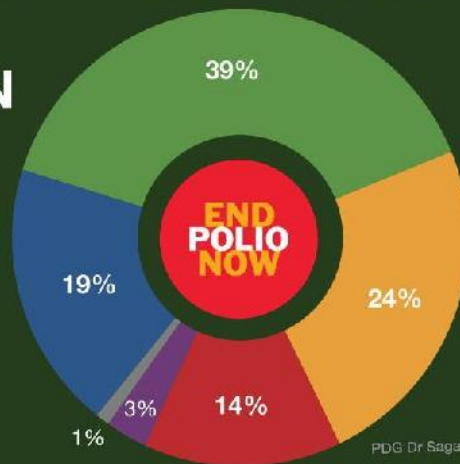
1. IS IT THE TRUTH ?
2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERN ?
3. WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERN ?

FROM THE ARCHIVES

ROTARY'S *POLIO FUND*

UTILISATION

Polio Grants in 2019-20 .
\$ 150 Million
₹ 1094.42 Cr



- Vaccine cost ₹ 207.94 Cr
- Delivering Vaccines to children ₹ 426.82 Cr
- Raising Awareness ₹ 262.66 Cr
- Detecting Disease ₹ 153.22 Cr
- Experts ₹ 32.83 Cr
- Research ₹ 10.94 Cr

“ It is not just the Money , It is what the Money can do ”. - John Germ . *Help to Eradicate Polio from the face of the Earth.*



**“DANCING COUPLE”
SCULPTED BY PP RTN AMARESH BHATTACHARYA**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY16th OctoberSayonee, daughter of Rtn Susmit
Bhattacharya21st October

Rtn Bikash Dutta

22nd OctoberAvik son of PP Rtn Amaresh
Bhattacharya23rd October

IPP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya

25th OctoberSubhrodeep son of PP Rtn Debidas
Ganguly29th OctoberRitika daughter of PP Rtn Anindya
Bose**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

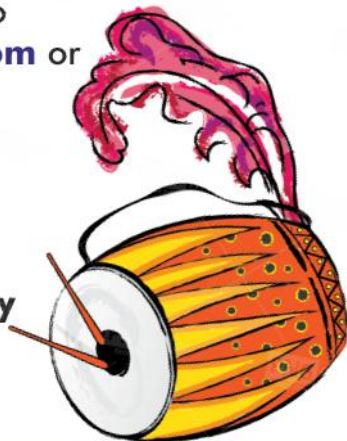
be sent over

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

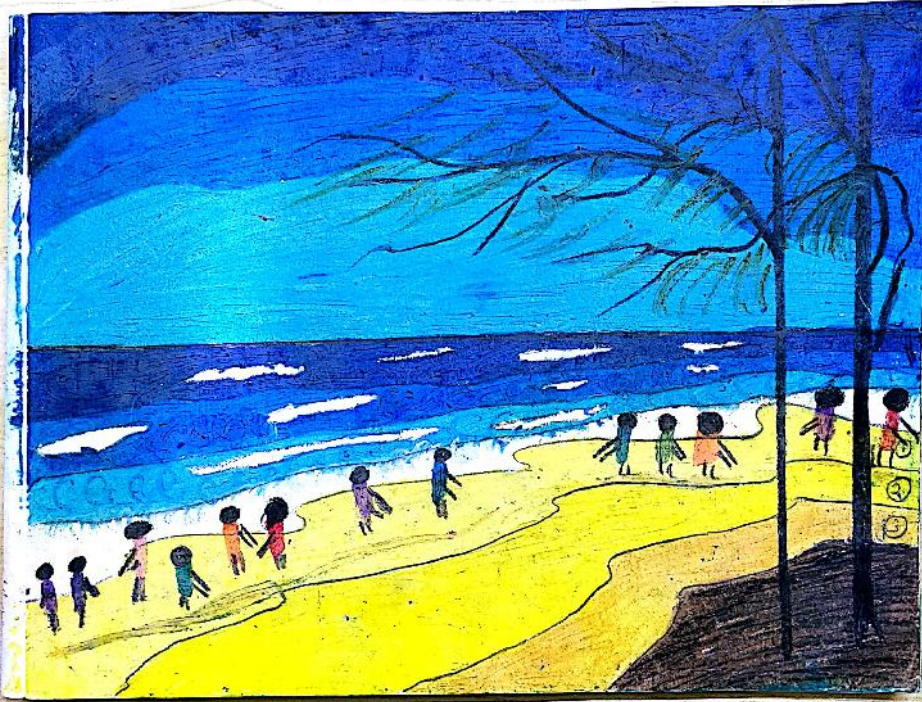
**CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kindly pay your
Semi-Annual
Dues.**

**FESTIVE WISHES**

**May the light be upon you and your family and be blessed by the almighty Mother.
Stay physically distant but socially connected.**

FAMILY CORNER



Hand drawn by Aranyaa Chakraborty. Granddaughter of PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty.

Do You Know Me?

Identify these landmarks & send your answers to the Editor by 27th Oct. You can also submit your clicks for this section.

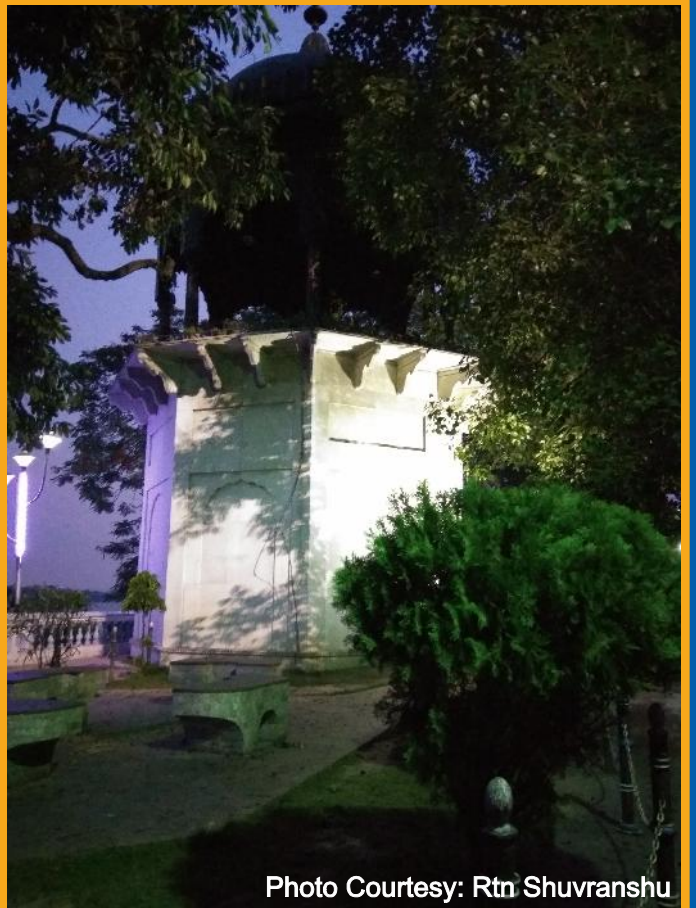


Photo Courtesy: Rtn Shuvranshu

A Message from the
PRESIDENT



Dear Members of Rotary Club of Behala,

We now complete the first Quarter of the Rotary Year 2020-21 and stepped into the 2nd Quarter. This year we had started with lot of apprehension on how will we carry our club meeting, installation programme, Charter Night and how will we be able to carry out our projects during this pandemic as all our movements got restricted . But this uncertainty had also created a new opportunity for us and we had faced all the challenges as a team and with support of all my members we had successfully contributed and did the Installation Ceremony and celebrated our Charter Night quiet uniquely and able to complete a reasonable amount of quality and sustainable projects including participating in some District Projects.

Our Rotaractors and Interactors all had made their contributions and we had been able to complete some digital programme and I sincerely believe and expect that they will be the main pillar of our club. We now really have enthusiastic group of administrators and members both in Rotaract & Interact.

RCB will continue to extend support to partners in service for all meaningful projects and I look forward that they will also receprocate and contribute. Our RCC members are working in tandem and all are doing a great job for the upliftment of the society. We have a dedicated RCC team and I hope that we will continue to do our projects with all their support.

My Best Wishes to all my members and their families for the coming Festive Season and I wish that all of you Enjoy with your family members and Friends but stay safe and don't forget to wear your mask.

FESTIVE WISH FROM ROTARY LEADERS

The President
Rotary Club of Behala

Dear Rtn. Sugata,

I am very happy to know from PP Rtn. Siddhartha Chakraborty that your Club is publishing a special Puja issue of your Club Bulletin "Maitree". My greetings and best wishes for the endeavour. I am sure that like all other issues, this special issue will also be very very informative, colourful and innovative on it's content, look & feel and will be enjoyed by all.



Rotary Club of Behala is one of the leading club and torchbearer in our District with its rich legacy and heritage, excellent members profile and praiseworthy service projects and of course unmatched fellowship, I am fortunate enough to be with your Club so many times during my 25 years journey in Rotary and each time, I have been enriched by interacting with your Club members.

I always cherish my deep and long association with your Club. This year also, even during the pandemic and lock down situation, your club with your able leadership and with active help and support of your club members, have been able to reach to the needy and distressed people and you have done so many humanitarian service projects for the benefit of the community.

My compliments to you and your team and best wishes for all your future endeavours to keep the Rotary Flag flying high. Stay well, Stay safe, God bless, Enjoy Rotary.

Yours in Rotary

Angsuman Bandyopadhyay
District Trainer 2020-21

FESTIVE WISH FROM ROTARY LEADERS

My Dear Fellow Rotarians,

A HAPPY DURGA PUJA 2020 to everyone. May Ma Durga bless you with lot of happiness & give u the courage to overcome the pandemic situation we are passing through.

STAY SAFE & HEALTHY.

RTN. RINA SINHA ROY
ZONAL SECRETARY
2020-21



FESTIVE WISH FROM ROTARY LEADERS



I wish grand Puja to all the wonderful members of Rotary Behala.

Stay Safe, Be Happy.

With regards

Yours

Ballari and Rajani Mukerji

FESTIVE WISH FROM ROTARY LEADERS

To
PP Rtn.Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor 20-21.
Rotary Club of Behala
RID 3291



Dear Rtn. Siddhartha Chakraborty,

It gives me immense pleasure that RC Behala is going to publish a Puja Special issue of the Club bulletin "MAITREE".

Since my taking over as Asst. Governor of your club under Zone 20 for the current Rotary year, I am very closely following your bulletin MAITREE. I have seen good numbers of Rotary Club bulletin which primarily deal with happenings & events of their Club & concern District but apart from the Club & District events, MAITREE also encompasses articles on issues for updating our need of the hour knowledge. It also keeps space for promoting as well as encouraging cultural aspirations of the Members & their families.

My heartfelt best wishes for this Special Puja Bulletin & sincerely hope that this publication will enrich our learning. I wish a great success of the publication & wish all your Club Members an enjoyable Durga Puja with all the safety precautions against the current pandemic.

Thanks & Regards,
Susanta Kumar Sarkar

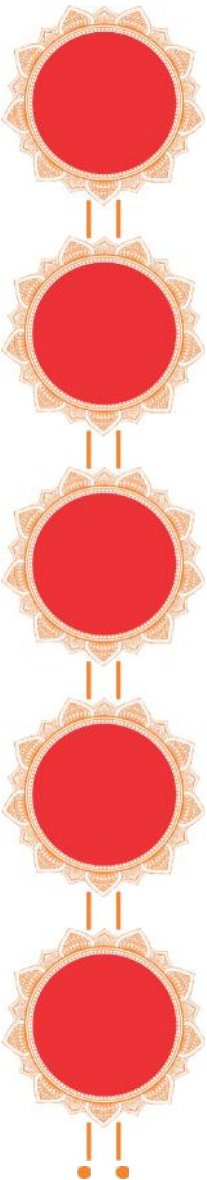
COVER STORY

Editorial

वेदों दर्शन MESOPOTAMIA TO MAJHERHAT



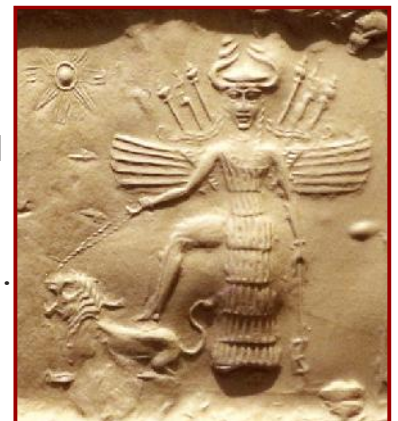
PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor 20-21



Happy Puja. Welcome to the festivities around Singha-bahini.

A god atop a lion is not unique to us, as we find Inanna – the ancient Mesopotamian goddess known as “Queen of Heaven” being worshiped in Sumer at least as early as c.4000 – c.3100BC.

The much younger Goddess Cybele was taken to Rome from Troy in c.204BC.....



Inanna – the Queen of Gods of Mesopotamia



Cybele – the Mother Goddess of Rome

and worshipped there as the "great mother of the gods" - Magna Mater Deium - at a temple located at the site of present day holy Vatican.

Interestingly, she sounds so similar to our Ma Durga – not only in her choice of lion as the mount, but being “goddess of caves”, her worship known as “baptism in the blood of the sacred bull”. Did the Romans discover by then the benefit of controlling the bull-cow ratio to ensure steady supply of milk while saving the crops from thousands of hooves?

In our country, we find mention of the word 'Durga' in Rigveda hymns of c.1500 – 1200 BC, but nothing specific. The earliest evidence of a goddess like her has been found in a



Kashmir, 9th century

cylindrical seal dating back to Indus Valley Civilisation. She was finally accepted as a demon-slaying goddess much later in c. 400-600 BC in Hindu text of Devi Mahatmya section of the Markandeya Purana. Some historians are of the opinion that she is rather a combination of a mountain-goddess and a war-goddess. May be the reason we find her in second century Uttar Pradesh or ninth century Kashmir.



Maa Sherawali

There remain variations of her mount, or the number of hands – ashtabhuja or dashabhuja – riding atop a tiger (Maa Sherawali) or a lion, but there she was, Mahishashur- mardini, showcasing urge of the agricultural community of the time to get rid of buffaloes tramping their cultivation.

She flourished. And flourished more in the eastern part of the country – Orissa, Bihar, Nepal, Assam, and Bangla. Gosanis of Orissa were perhaps the predecessor of Ma Durga of Bengal, the earliest recorded history of which is the Puja arranged in 1583



Gosani of Orissa

by a Rajsahi (presently in Bangladesh) zamindar as substitute of a planned Ashwamedha Yagna – to indicate unrivalled political power. The tip began to be picked up by other zamindars as well.

Bengal has a very interesting social history under the Mughal empire. This was a period of zamindars and jaigirdars – all belonging to the upper three segments of the caste system, and in general cut off from vast mass of common people. The Bengali language began to crystallise in the 15th century

and the initial literatures produced by this social troika were, in fact, produced in obeisance to Krishna, and not Durga. Casteism was at its height in Bengal alienating a large mass of lower castes, and Sri Chaitanya came out with a new brand of caste-less Hinduism which drew a large following, while a lot many diverted to Sufi form of Islam – towards another caste-less society. Economically deprived segment of Brahmins tried to control the rush with Mangal Kavyas, sung by local artists and drawing good crowd, but eulogising local non-Aryan gods and goddesses like Dharma or Manasa who fought with and defeated the Puranic deities.

The Hindu elite had to act fast for survival of their religion, their hegemony. Durga the warrior gave them that opportunity, specially with the slaying of Mahishasur - the Mahish or buffalo crumpling a harvest was a common enemy to the agricultural community. But to suit local temperament, she needed some modifications. Ganesh and Kartik had been created in Shiva Puran and Skanda Puran as sons of Durga, and made appearance at Naogaon in Rajshahi and Dakshin Muhhamadpur of Comilla in 11th – 12th century, but now were added Lakshmi (though older than Durga in mythology) and Saraswati – originally described as daughter of Brahma – as her two daughters. The siblings were added, but remained aloof even in this final battle of their mom with the demon. However, we got a version of Durga specially made to order – a good mother with a happy family. From being a probable example of women power, she was transformed to a glorious mother exuding the virtue of 'good' womanhood. As the colloquial Bengali goes, public khelo. The Puja became an occasion of festivity as it became a home-coming of a dear daughter with her offspring. Thus, while others in India observe piousness during Navaratri, Bengal indulges in best of food, dress, and merriment.

But the time of the celebration, too, needed some adjustment to coincide with stocking a good harvest of Aus crop prevalent at the time. Thus we get the story of Akalbodhan in Ramayan in Bengali by Krittibas (15th century) , though not in the original Valmiki version.

All these happened in the Mughal period. Of the empires, Jehangir was the first to empower a few Hindu zamindars in economic term, and in 1580 – during tenure of Akbar – Raja Kangsha Narayan of Taherpur organised the first Sharadiya or autumn Durga Puja in Bengal as an expression of gratitude and to show off his pomp and power. He was soon followed by Bhabananda Majumdar of Nadia and others who had enough to spend to boast. The family of Barisha Sabarna Ray Chaudhuri



Puja in Atchala today, Barisha Sabarna Ray Chaudhuri family

received recognition for bravery in battlefield and was awarded a Jaigir by Raja Maan Singh. Lakshmikanta Ray Mazumdar, the new Jaigirdar, celebrated their elevated status coupled with thanks-giving to Ma Durga by arranging Puja in their atchala in 1610 – much before birth of the City of Joy.

Aurangzeb, in his part, relied on Murshid Quli Khan, the Dewan of Bangla, to provide him with taxes collected from the zamindars. Fund was more important to him than religion, and Murshid Quli became friendly with the upper caste zamindars to achieve his goal – a practice he continued after declaring independence from Murshidabad after death of Aurangzeb in 1707. Many Pujas flourished in rural Bengal.



Puja at Shobhabazar Rajbari, initiated by Raja Nabakrishna Deb. Durga mounts an animal akin to horse.

The Battle of Plassey changed the structure of administration, and of Puja. Ambitious gentry switched camps, and started business dealings with the British. Clive was looking for avenue to celebrate his victory and Nabakrishna Deb, who was making a fortune, gave him the opportunity by organising a Grand Durga Puja at his Shobhabazar Rajbari in 1787 and inviting him with his entourage. Clive also contributed towards the expenses (start of State dolling

out fund for the Pujas?), and there was best of food from Wilson's Hotel and drinks aplenty for the hon'ble guests, accompanied by dance by muslim nauch girls. It repeated each year, and became known as 'Company's Puja'. Other nouveau riche soon joined the fray, throwing to the roadside the religious scruples and showing off their wealth and politico-social status. Behala Amarendra Bhavan (started by Roy family in 1756) or Chatubabu-Latubabu's family puja at Ramdulal Nivas (1770) are just a couple of examples. People observed in awe, and decided that the goddess Durga uses to deck up with jewellery at Shivkrishna Dawn's mansion in Jorasanko, has her lunch with Abhaycharan Mitra's home in Kumartuli and enjoys musical evening at Shobhabazar.

At the other extreme was Rani Rashmani of Janbazar with a Puja festivity open to all the common people, to whom it was simply 'Ranir Pujo'. A social change was brewing up. The old feudal system was drying up, and the Permanent Settlement Act 1793 of Lord Cornwallis made way for the new riches to purchase zamindari and attain social aristocracy. Maharaja Krishnachandra's Durgapuja in Nadia was soon followed by many others in rural Bengal. To show off their allegiance to the Empire, many a Ma Durga of this period had faces analogous to Queen Victoria.



A miniature painting from Rajasthan, c.1700 AD

There was, however, a peculiar problem faced by the artisans. Unlike their counterparts in Gujarat or adjoining Rajasthan, they had not seen a lion till establishment of the zoo in Calcutta in 1886. The 'lion' till then resembled horse or some other creature, which are being carried forward in some aristocratic family even today.

Then came another twist. In 1790 few youngsters of the family of Kirtee Chandra Sen of Guptipara in Hooghly, not permitted to attend their family puja, grouped together with their friends and organised a Baro-

yaari Puja – Baro meaning twelve, and yaar being close friend. Short of fund for the purpose, they collected help from others as well and invited all and sundry. Musical soirees and a exhibition of clay models were added to entertain the guests – a tradition still maintained by many community pujas of this day. People in general loved it, and the 'Dirty Dozen' had set a trend. Soon after, numerous Baro-yaari Puja started in Bengal, as reported in Samachar Darpan and the Calcutta Courier from 1830s. Raja Harinath of Kashimbazar royals was impressed enough to take this Puja form to his place in 1832.

Finally, the Baro-yaari Puja reached Kolkata. The first Baro-yaari Durga Puja was organized in Kolkata in 1909 by Bhowanipore Sanatan Dharmotsahini Sabha at Balaram Bose Ghat Road, Bhowanipore. On this special occasion, Aurobindo Ghosh – just before his journey to become Rishi Aurobindo -published the famous Durga Stotra in his Bengali journal, Dharma. A great boost was the great poet Rabindranath attending the Puja organised during Calcutta conference of Indian National Congress and initiating kolakuli – embracing each other beyond caste, creed or religion. And there was the beginning of the unique ritual of sindur khela by married ladies – burying all intra- or interfamily petty jealousy and squibbles under layers of vermillion and good wishes.

Till then the contribution for the gala celebration came from the upper caste only. In 1919 Bagbazar Sarbojanin transformed it to the form of 'Sarbojanin', creating an opportunity for everyone to be a part of it. The organisers approached neighbours for



Sindoor Khela at Bijaya Dasami

contributions, and a common feeling of belonging and unity spread. Durgapuja became people's puja in true sense.

The number of Sarbojanin Pujas increased rapidly, at times with local leaders utilising it to enhance own public image or basic ideology. A number of Pujas were influenced by Anandamath of Bankim Chandra and Ma Durga and Bharatmata became one and same, at times a British officer was depicted as Asura. Simla Byayam Samity was greatly influenced by the revolutionary group Anushilan Samity, and the Puja was banned from 1932-34.

Around the time of independence there was a huge influx of Hindu people from the then East Pakistan, straining the local economy. But the Sarbojanin Pujas proliferated under local leaders, though bereft of previous pomp and glory. Gradually the economy stabilised, Pujas became more colourful and comparisons became talk of the town. The Asian Paints Sharad Samman awarded to the best decorated Durga Puja initiated in 1985 was a trend setter. A number of awards declared subsequently have brought the element of fierce competitiveness to the Pujas. New ideas, new themes, supported by exquisite craftsmanship and electrical effects have become the norm. And there is a sort of symbiosis with business people. Lakhs of visitors to the Puja pandals are potential customer to them, to attract attention of whom they spend huge amounts sponsoring the Pujas. Each survives on other. The traditional form of Sarbojanin Puja, sponsored by neighbours and enhancing bonding, has gradually shifted to high-rise apartment blocks.

YouTube has robbed Bengalis of their once favourite Pujor gaan, but in spite of publishing boom at Book Fair they still wait expectantly for the Pujosankhya of their favourite magazine – Desh or Bartaman, Anandamela or Shuktara, or Maitree. Happy reading.



MAITREE ON - AIR GOLDEN VOICE

Here we will feature members from the Rotary Behala Family, who are talented. On its first part, we are lucky to feature Mrs. Bijoyinee Roy Chowdhury, wife of PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury, Dr. Madhumita Saha wife of Rtn Dr. Atanu Saha & Mrs. Ruma Bhattacharya wife of Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya.

Please click on each Box to listen.



YA DEVI..



**CLICK AND LISTEN TO
THE BEAUTIFUL SONG BY
MADHUMITA**

GAANE - GAANE



**CLICK AND LISTEN TO
THE BEAUTIFUL SONG BY
BIJOYINEE**

ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION



**IS A CALL OF THE DAY.
WANT TO KNOW MORE?
LISTEN TO
PP DR SIDDHARTHA
IN AN INTERVIEW**





SONAI - ER CHITHI

Ruma Bhattacharya

[Click on the page to listen to the poem](#)

Social media -র জনপ্রিয়তার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এক গভীর সমস্যা তৈরী হয়েছে, যার ফল ভুগতে হয়েছে ও হচ্ছে অনেক মানুষকেই, বিশেষ করে অল্পবয়সী ছেলে মেয়েদের। এইরকম একটি সমস্যার কথা এই লেখায় আমি বলতে চেয়েছি। আমাদের সবাইকেই এই সমস্যাটি সম্পর্কে সচেতন হতে হবে, তবেই বিপদ এড়ানো যেতে পারে।

আজ প্রথমবার তোমায় চিঠি লিখছি মা।
ভাবিনি কোনোদিন এই চিঠি তোমায়
লিখতে হবে।
বাপি তো বোঝে না মা,
তুমি কিভাবে সব বোঝো?
কদিন ধরেই তুমি বলছ---
"তোমার কি হয়েছে রে, মুখটা শুকনো কেন"
--এড়িয়ে গিয়েছি।
আজ খাবার টেবলে তুমি আমাকে চেপে
ধরলে।
আজই ধরলে মা?
বাপি বলল--ও কিছু নয়, ও রকম মাঝে
মাঝে হয়।
তুমি বললে--না, কিছু একটা গুঁর হয়েছে।
কি হয়েছে সোনাই খুলে বল।
মাগো, সেই মূহুর্তে ইচ্ছে করছিল খাবারের
প্লেট ঠেলে সরিয়ে তোমাকে দুহাতে জড়িয়ে
ধরে হাউহাউ করে কাঁদি, আর চীৎকার
করে বলি---বরণ করণ নয় মা,
বরণ আসলে করণ নয়।

তুমিই ঠিক বলেছিলে মা।
সবই যেমন তোমাকে বলি, বরণের
কথাও যখন বলেছিলাম-
তুমি শুনে বলেছিলে--সবাইকে বিশ্বাস
কোরোনা, পড়াশোনার সময় পড়াশোনাটা
মন দিয়ে করো।
আমি তো পড়াশোনাই করছিলাম মা।
ক্লাস টেনের বোর্ড এগজ্যামে দারুণ
রেজাল্ট হল।
সেদিন তুমি কেন আমার জেদের কাছে
হেরে গিয়েছিলে মা?
কেন কিনে দিয়েছিলে আমাকে স্মার্টফোন?
আমি তো ফোন ছাড়াই পড়াশোনা
করছিলাম।
ফোনের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বরণ এলো।
না না বরণ নয়--সমরেশ গুর নাম।
বাপির চেয়েও বয়সে বড় একটা লোক।
আমার প্রোফাইল থেকে ফোটো চুরি করে

ফোটোশপে ছবিগুলোকে

বিকৃত করেছে ও।

আমাকে হুমকি দিয়ে নিজের পরিচয় দিয়ে
ছবিগুলো পাঠিয়ে বলেছে ওর কথামতো
না চললে আমার প্রোফাইলে ঐ ছবিগুলো
দিয়ে দেবে।

কুৎসিত জঘন্য ছবিগুলো দেখে

আতঙ্কে ঘৃণায় আমি শিউরে উঠেছি মা।

তুমি বিশ্বাস করো মা ঐ ছবিগুলোর আমি

আমি নই, আমি নই।

আমি sorry মা,

আমি চলে গেলে তোমার আর বাপির

যে কতটা কষ্ট হবে, সেটা আমি ছাড়া বেশি

কে জানে?

কিন্তু তোমাদের ঐ দিশেহারা অপমানিত

মুখদুটো চোখের সামনে দেখার সাহস

আমার নেই।

ভার চেয়ে অনেক বেশি সহজ

নিজেকে শেষ করে দেওয়া।

বড় ভয় করছে মা--

তোমাকে ছেড়ে, বাপিকে ছেড়ে, একা একা---

কতো কিছু করা হল না---

বাইরে গিয়ে হায়ার স্টাডিজ,

তোমাকে নিয়ে বাপিকে নিয়ে ওয়ার্ল্ড টুর

আরো কতো, কতো স্বপ্ন।

তোমরা দুজনে ভালো থেকে মা।

আমার স্বপ্নগুলোকে আমি টুকরো টুকরো

করে আমার এই ঘরে ছড়িয়ে রেখে

দিয়ে গেলাম।

ওরা সবসময় তোমাদের দুজনের

পাশে পাশে আমি হয়ে থাকবে, দেখো।

আজ আসি মা।

ও আর একটা কথা--

সমরেশকে তোমরা শান্তি দিয়ো মা

এমন শান্তি, এমন কঠিন শান্তি, যাতে আর

কোনোদিন কোন মেয়েকে আমার মতো

নিজের স্বপ্নগুলোকে দুমড়ে মুচড়ে

ফেলে ছড়িয়ে চিরঘুমের দেশে চলে যেতে

না হয়, ...না হয় মা।

ইতি--তোমার সোনাই

ROTARY'S 7 AREAS OF FOCUS



Basic
Education
& Literacy



Maternal &
Child
Health



Peace &
Conflict
Prevention/
Resolution



Disease
Prevention
&
Treatment



Water,
Sanitation
& Hygiene



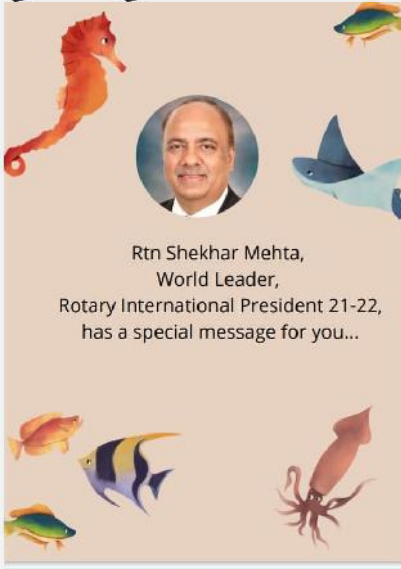
Community &
Economic
Development



Support the
Environment



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS... RI DISTRICT 3291



03.10-20 : Webinar on Wild Life Preservation organised by Rotary India with SEAVUS.



04-10-20 : Charter Presentation Ceremony of the new club - Rotary Club of Berhampore, Murshidabad, Club No 221944



04-10-20 : A physical meeting of AGs & ZSs held at Prakash Bhavan, Salt Lake



06-10-20 : Rotary Club of Midnapore handed over a certificate from RI on completion of 50 yrs of service on 5th November 2020



9-10-20 : District's 4th exclusive project on 'Project Positive Health' i.e. 'Know Your Numbers' was held.



10-10-20 & 11-10-20 : Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) organised at Rotary Sadan



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS...

CLUB

MULTIPLE PROJECTS AT RCC

Members of our club, led by Club President Rtn Sugata Mazumdar, visited our RCC at Chandanpiri and handed over food material, blankets, mosquito nets (sponsored by our friend 'Exposure' – an NGO who have sponsored generously for our Amphan Relief Fund), alongwith the official certificate from RI, a cheque towards initial payment of our Phase II of 'Water for Toilets' project and a cheque of Rs One lakh (sponsored by Gouri Gupta Trust) towards stipend to 25 girl students of the area. The tree saplings sent recently had been distributed, and were found to be well taken care of.

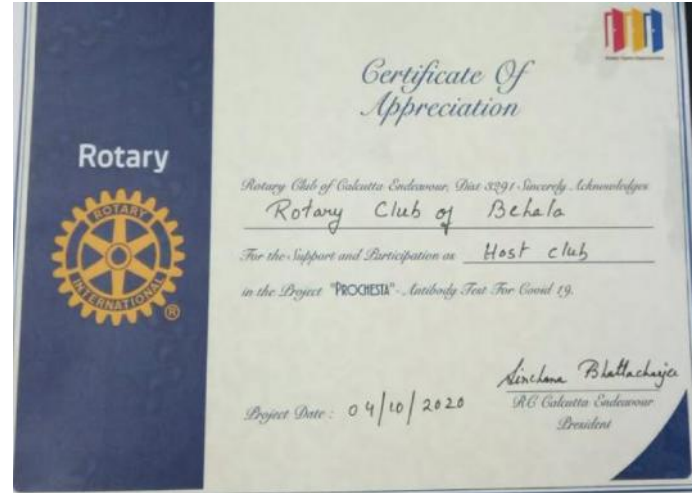
The team comprised of President Sugata, Secretary Shuvranshu Mitra, PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta – the man behind all our projects at Chandanpiri, Rtn Bikash Dutta – our man for all projects, and our very special guest Mr Biswadip Gupta from Gouri Gupta Trust.





THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS... CLUB

04-10-20 : Our club was a Host of the programme "Prochesta " organised by Rotary Club Of Calcutta Endeavour for Antibody Tests for Covid 19 at Star Community Hall Hatibagan, with Mayor in Council Sri Atin Ghosh as Chief Guest.



MasterClass

SEASON 1 | CLASS 1
4TH OCT | 7:45PM

COMMUNICATE OR PERISH

Meet The Master

BISWAJIT MATILAL
VP, Corporate Communication
Birla Corporation Limited

A noted media academician & reputed PR practitioner, in the profession of communication for more than five decades.

ZOOM ID: 844 686 5121 | PASSCODE: 007007

In the evening same day we along with Interact Bridge International School & Rotaract Behala organised Master Class Season 1, Class 1 on Communication & Public Image. PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury gave a brilliant introduction to the subject, which was followed by a wonderful deliberation on 'Communicate or Perish" by noted media academician and Public Relations authority Mr Biswajit Matilal.

09-10-20 : Members of our club participated in the Joint Zonal Seminar on RCC with District RCC Resource Coordinator PDG Jhulan Basu as the keynote speaker, preceded by a talk on 4 Way Test by District 4 Way Test Chair PP Rtn Rima Chakraborty.

Zone 18 & 20 initiative
RI District 3291

Zonal Seminar on
RCC
9th October @ 7pm

Keynote Speaker
PDG Rtn Jhulan Basu

Zone 18
AG Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty
ZS Rtn Rajarshree Saha

Zone 20
AG Rtn Susanta Sarkar
ZS Rtn Rina Sinha Roy

Zoom ID: 844 686 5121 | Passcode: 007007



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS...

ROTARACT BEHALA



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

18-26 SEPTEMBER WEEK TO #ACT4SDGs

ACTION 4 SUSTAINABLE INDIA

26th September, 4pm

Are you ready to #turnitaround?

UN75 Online Dialogue

Moderator

Amlan Das,
Right to Education
Ambassador, UNDP
King's college London

Guest Speaker

Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
MP, Ladakh

Mr. Chewang Norphel
Civil Engineer
Padma Shree
Awardee
The Ice Man of India

Dr. Pintoo Bandopadhyay
Professor, Dept of
Agronomy, Former
Director of Extension
Education

Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay
Deputy Director General
India Meteorological
Department, RMC,
Kolkata

Prof. (Dr.) Biplab Lohochoudhury
Professor & In-Charge
Centre for Journalism &
Mass Communication
Visva-Bharati,
Santiniketan, India

Dr. Kapil Kumar Bhattacharya
Faculty, The Bhawanipur
Education Society
College, Kolkata, India

Archan Mitra
Media Professor, PhD
Scholar Environmental
Communication
Researcher

(Maj) Poonam Kashyap (retd.)
Army Veteran, B.Sc
Nursing, M.Sc Applied
Psychology

Ankit Vats
B.Tech Undergrad,
App Developer,
Team Aurtistic

With the COVID-19 pandemic, economic and social disruption sweeping the globe, 2020 is a pivotal year for transformational change. This September 18th-26th, 2020, world leaders met virtually at the UN General Assembly, to take action to mark this September as a turning point for people and the planet. This being a once in a generation opportunity to reset and to create a better future, The Rotaract Club of Behala with UN75 in collaboration with United Nations Volunteering, Niti Manthan, Girl Up Alpha, Aurtistic and many other reputed organisation from diverse regions like Ladakh, Dehradun, Assam, New Delhi, Indonesia, presented " ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE INDIA : An Online UN75 dialogue with the aim of providing a two way communication between the attendees and the experts from various walks of life who have dedicated their lives of being the change they want to see. The goal is to bring together several stakeholders in conversation around the idea of a turning point. Through the event we intended to provide a platform for a community of experts, activists and thought leaders across sectors and regions to cite their opinions and evaluate the status of the SDGs and shine light on the key local and national development indicators post-Covid 19 and to engage the SDG Community in a conversation about how to #TurnItAround. The event was a massive success with about 300+ registrations and active involvement of the attendees.

We had organised interactive speaking and engagement sessions for the youth and the working professionals.

The spotlight was stolen by the guest speaker " Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, the star of the parliament, BJP MP of Ladakh. Our experts involved a diverse group people who were working in the field of SDGs ranging from 5 to 25 years. The Ice Man of India, Mr.C Norphel who went around creating 17 artificial glaciers also contributed hugely to the event. The aims and objective came into fruition and all together we did #turnitaround

FROM THE WORLD OF ROTARY

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT



RIP Holger Knaack

During a recent Zoom meeting with Rotarians and Rotaractors, I looked at the smiling faces on my screen and realized how much our organization has changed in a short period. It is clear that there is no going back to the "old normal" in Rotary — and I see that as an exciting opportunity!

Innovation and change are happening at so many levels as we rethink and remake Rotary. Rotary's new flexibility is blending with digital culture to drive change in ways that many of us have never seen before. We can learn a lot from Rotarians like Rebecca Fry — who, at age 31, already has 15 years of Rotary experience.

I see Rotary as a phenomenal platform to change the world. I believe I can have the greatest influence by empowering others to create the change they wish to see in the world. I've gained leadership insights through my experiences in RYLA and Rotaract, and now, as charter president of the Rotary Social Impact Network, a new e-club.

Engaging Rotary program alumni is key in forming new clubs. Our club is proof that Rotaractors and other alumni want to join Rotary — but sometimes they can't find the Rotary club that's right for them. Our club has 31 members, all between the ages of 23 and 41, and almost all of them are alumni of Rotary programs.

We need to be able to integrate and align Rotary with the other personal and professional goals we're pursuing. In chartering this club, we set out to design a personalized model of Rotary that is focused on added value for our members. We have also sought to leverage connections — through Rotary Fellowships, Rotary Action Groups, and other international partnerships — in order to elevate our members' experiences beyond the club.

Our club meets and manages most of its projects online, using Microsoft Teams to engage 24/7 in topics that interest our members. This also means our club is not geographically bound to any one location: Although many of us are in Australia, we also have members in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Tanzania, and the United States.

Also key for our club is measuring the impact of our projects. For Plastic Free July this year, we created an awareness campaign promoting ways that individuals could reduce their use of plastics, and we reached more than 6,000 people. It's a project with a tangible impact that anyone can take part in wherever they are. I'm proud that, through our club, we are bringing people together for a new type of Rotary experience. I am excited for our future.

All Rotary clubs have the opportunity to be innovative clubs, just like Bec's club. Let's trust those clubs, learn from them, and lend them our support. Change in Rotary happens at the

grassroots level, as clubs lead the charge, defining what this new Rotary can be.

Change is constant, and we have more work to do in many areas. It is important that we celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds and promote people from underrepresented groups so that they have greater opportunities to participate as members and leaders in Rotary.

The tools to make Rotary more inclusive, more relevant, and more fun for everyone are at our fingertips. Let's use them now, and we will see how Rotary Opens Opportunities for ourselves and for those yet to discover us.



Rotary 

Designated Months For Year 2020 - 21

July 2020 New Leadership Month	Aug. 2020 Membership & New Club Development Month	Sept. 2020 Basic Education and Literacy Month
Oct. 2020 Economic & Community Development Month	Nov. 2020 Rotary Foundation Month	Dec. 2020 Disease Prevention & Treatment Month
Jan. 2021 Vocational Service Month	Feb. 2021 Peace & Conflict Prevention or Resolution Month	Mar. 2021 Water and Sanitation Month
Apr. 2021 Maternal and Child Health Month	May 2021 Youth Service Month	Jun. 2021 Rotary Fellowships Month

“BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE ELSE’S CLOUD”..... MAYA ANGELOU



Indrani Chatterjee
Past District Chairman (2018-19)
Inner Wheel Dist.329

Inner Wheel, the largest women's voluntary organisation, ninety-six years old and spread in more than 104 countries worldwide has brought together like minded ladies who believes in serving humanity while enjoying friendship. The Inner Wheel movement owes its birth to the vision of Mrs. Margarett Oliver Golding, a nurse by profession and the wife of a Rotarian on 10th January, 1924 with the formation of the Inner wheel Club of Manchester. Gradually clubs were opened throughout England & Ireland giving rise to the formation of Districts. The districts took the corresponding number of Rotary and their working were similar to those of the Rotary district.

The link between Rotary and Inner wheel runs deep not only because Inner Wheel was started by the wives of the Rotarians but also because the ethical values and the broad objectives of both are similar albeit Inner Wheel is an autonomous organisation. Till as recent as 2012 active membership of Inner Wheel was restricted to the wives and close relations of Rotarians and of course existing Inner Wheel members.

The formation of the Association of Inner Wheel clubs of Great Britain and Ireland in 1934 marked the beginning of a new journey and also ushered in the spreading of its wing to other countries. Ballarat (Australia), Berger (Norway), Napier (New Zealand), Winnipeg (Canada) and Port Elizabeth (South Africa) being amongst the first clubs formed outside of United Kingdom.

In 1967 the International Inner Wheel came into existence giving opportunity to any qualified member in any country to take the post of the President. India has the proud distinction of having 7 members adorning the top position of International Inner Wheel President, including our current President. It is also worth mentioning here the glorious moments for the Indian members when

the International Inner Wheel Conventions in Copenhagen in 2015 & Melbourne in 2018 were chaired by Indian Presidents. The hat-trick however couldn't be accomplished as the Covid19 pandemic played a spoilsports and the Convention, to be hosted for the first time by India, in Jaipur in March 2021 had to be called off.

Inner Wheel came to India with the formation of the Inner Wheel Club of Ahmedabad in 1955 as District 55 at present Dist.305. It was the first district to be formed in India.

In 1976, the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh was formed with Mrs. Raksha Mehta of Dist.314 as the first President. Subsequently Sri Lanka & Bangladesh got segregated from India once they formed their districts in their individual countries.

The eastern part of the country witnessed the rise of Inner Wheel movement in 1961 with the Inner Wheel club of South West Calcutta being the first club formed with the Late Arati Dutta as the founder President and Roja Branley as founder Secretary. The Charter was presented by DG Rtn. Karim of Bangladesh (in RI Dist.3290 then).

Our District 329 was formed in 1977 with four clubs – South West Calcutta, South Calcutta, Darjeeling and Gauhati. The Late Mrs. Arati Simal was the founder Chairman and the Late Mrs. Purnima Chowdhury was the founder Secretary. The first District Conference was held in Gauhati and the first District Assembly was held in Calcutta.

The journey of Inner Wheel Club of Behala on the path of service to mankind began on 23rd March, 1989 with Mrs. Savitri Agarwal, wife of Late Rtn. Ramesh Agarwal, as the Charter President of the Club and there has been no looking back.

Rtn. Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Late Rtn. Ramesh Agarwal, Rtn. Sanjit Chatterjee of Rotary Club of Behala were instrumental in the formation of Inner Wheel Club of Behala. IWC Behala has the distinction of giving three District Chairmen to District 329.

The dedication and passion for community service amongst the members keep the wheel moving forward. Inner Wheel clubs throughout the world are active in the various avenues of service with the aim of making a positive difference in the lives of people. Inner Wheel is actively involved in protecting our Mother Earth too not only by planting saplings on a big scale but also by way of

sensitising people on the hazards of plastics through their campaign –'Say No to Plastics', distribution of solar lamps , water harvesting and save water awareness projects.

Caring for women and children is an integral part of our activities. From providing educational help, vocational training, self defence classes for girls to empowering women by making them economically strong are projects worth mentioning.

No challenge is big enough to stop the wheel from rotating be it the Covid19 pandemic or the natural disaster Amphan. These speed breakers have actually made us more resilient. Each and every club of Dist.329 came forward and not only provided relief materials to those badly affected by the super cyclone but joined hands to build a shelter home at Jhorkhali area of the Sunderban which was totally flattened by cyclone Amphan.

Extensive projects have been done by Inner Wheel members and clubs throughout India providing rations and basic items of daily needs including masks and sanitizers to the migrant workers, old age homes, orphanages and those who needed the extra help to survive the recent periods of lockdown as the pandemic ravaged India and the world.

Inner Wheel has adapted smoothly to the changing times and the need of the day. In fact it is heartening to mention we are moving ahead and implementing meaningful projects like building old age homes, community halls & shelter homes for people to take refuge during natural calamities, helping the survivors of trafficking and acid attack victims, providing alternative means of income generation to the women of the red light areas amongst many.

Our canvas of work is ever increasing so much so that International Inner wheel over the last few years has representation in the UNO where a paper is presented annually on the work done by Inner wheel throughout the world.

Long live Inner Wheel !!!

DO YOU KNOW?

When was "Inner Wheel Day" Created?

President Helena Foster (1969-1970) came up with the idea for a special day for a special organisation, so she wrote a letter to all clubs worldwide.

"I would like to ask all members of clubs throughout the world to link together in **ACTION ON JANUARY 10th**. I have chosen this special day because it was on January 10th 1924 that the Mother Club, the Manchester Inner Wheel club, England, first adopted the name **INNER WHEEL**. It can be interpreted in any way you think fit- in a group or as individuals - giving personal service to someone who needs you - planting a tree or flowers to beautify some corner of your land or just the simple act of writing a letter. I am sure that there are inspiration and encouragement to be gained by the knowledge that your fellow members throughout the world are at that moment joined together to extend service and friendship"

Courtesy: International Inner Wheel website

CARAVAGGIO

Saikat Sarkar



[Mr Saikat Sarkar - a friend of President Sugata Mazumdar – was a student of Presidency College and did his masters in Economics from Calcutta University and MBA from IIM Bangalore and Berkeley. He is in Indian Economic Service and is presently in a very high position under Govt of India. Medieval art of Europe is one of his favourite subjects. Maitree is obliged to have this piece from him. – Ed]

The famous Italian film director Federico Fellini once said 'All art is autobiographical – the pearl is the autobiography of the oyster'. But it is not always that the life of an artist influences not only his or her work, but gives birth to a new style, a novel idiom.

Caravaggio (born Michelangelo Merisi in Milan, Italy, in 1571) was a man forsaken by fate right at his childhood. When he was only six, his father, his grandfather and his grandmother died of plague within a span of a few days. Seven years later, his mother died too. Little was Caravaggio, and the world, aware that these scars were creating deep recesses in his psyche, where dark shadows were taking shape, shadows which would one day make his paintings spring to life, and for centuries hold everyone, even art ignoramuses like myself, spellbound.

Caravaggio was initially apprenticed to Simone Peterzano, who belonged to a school of painting called 'Mannerism', which emphasized proportion, balance, ideal beauty and sophistication. (This style was influenced by the likes of da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael). But the genius in Caravaggio soon wearied of the 'stylism' and the worship of the staid 'ideal beauty' prevalent at the period. He hungered for something more real, something with more life, in which warm blood coursed through the veins of the people portrayed.

For bringing in realism in his art, he employed two potent techniques. The first, 'chiaroscuro' ('chiaro' in Italian means 'clear' or 'light', 'oscuro' means 'dark') involved using strong contrasts between light and dark shades to give solidity, a three-dimensional effect to subjects in a painting. Though this was used earlier too, Caravaggio made it a dominant technique. It is said that it was he who

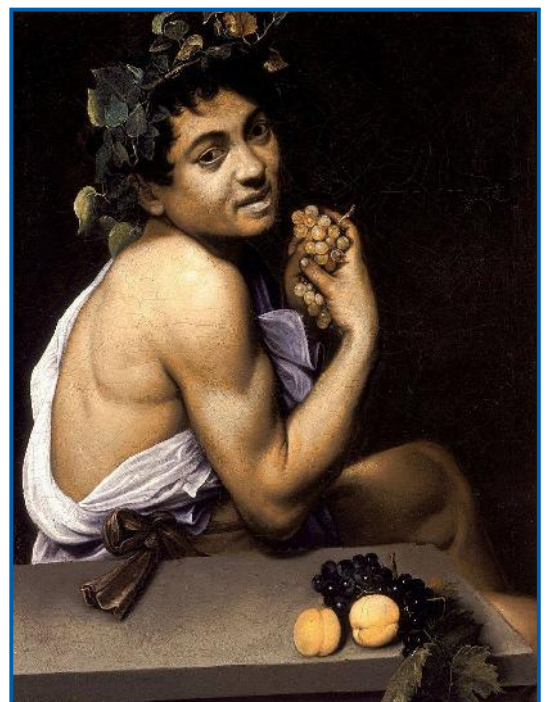
brought 'oscuro' (darkness) in 'chiaroscuro'. The second technique, tenebrism' (from 'tenebroso' meaning 'murky' in Italian), was said to be invented by Caravaggio himself. Here, violent contrasts between light and dark shades are used – the darkness predominating – to get a dramatic effect, not just solidity. Caravaggio would transfix his subjects in a blinding shaft of light against a dark background. With these, he laid the foundation of Baroque Art, which put emphasis on tension and drama in painting.



Seven Works of Mercy

Naples, he painted the 'Seven Works of Mercy'. He was in need of mercy. The effects of light and dark shades (the light of his genius and the darkness of his crime) are quite evident here. His 'Young Sick Bacchus' is believed to be self-portrait painted when he fell seriously ill on first arriving in Rome, from Milan. Here, too, we can see chiaroscuro at work. The pathos on the face of Bacchus is touching.

But where did Caravaggio get his dark shades, the intensity of emotions and violence on the canvas from? Critics say – from his lifestyle, his almost regular brawls, his wild anarchic ways, which were sometimes murky and brutal. (Maybe this was an effect of his childhood scars. He had also suffered from a long period of penury when he first came to Rome from Milan as a young painter.) He even committed a murder – a critic named Tomassoni was the victim – and had to flee Rome. At that time he was hailed as 'the most famous painter of Rome'. Taking refuge in



Young Sick Bacchus



Judith beheading Holofernes

Rembrandt, Velazquez and Artemisia Gentileschi. It is apt that he grew out of 'mannerism', the ideal world of beautiful and sophisticated shapes, and taught the world that darkness can be as real as light, that vice can contribute as much to art as virtue can. 'Vice and virtue are to an artist materials for an art', said Oscar Wilde, another genius who was generally not on speaking terms with the law of the land. Note that, in this aphorism, he puts vice before virtue. But he also warned: 'All art is at once surface and symbol. Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril. Those who read the symbol do so at their peril.'

Caravaggio died at the age of only 38 (18th July, 1610). His death is still shrouded in mystery. No one is hundred percent sure about the cause of his death. Some contend that he had been murdered.



*Caravaggio –
Portrait by Ottavio Leoni*

A rare example of violence and high drama is seen in his 'Judith beheading Holofernes'. 'David with the Head of Goliath' is another one of similar kind.

Caravaggism', as the technique of Caravaggio was called, revolutionized European art. His naturalism and high drama had a tremendous effect on successive generations of painters, including even Peter Paul Rubens,

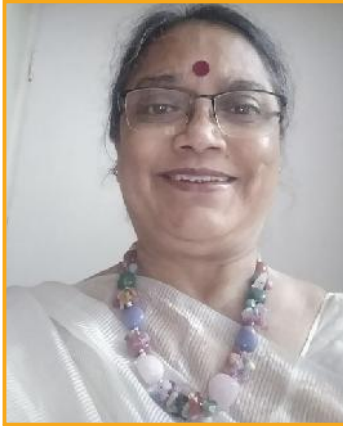


David with the Head of Goliath

Though I am not a connoisseur of art, Caravaggio has always fascinated me. One of the numerous attractions of Italy is the body of work of this enigmatic painter. Though his works can be found in almost all the great museums Italy is littered with, a special mention may be made of Galleria Borghese in Rome, which has a large collection of his paintings. No one visiting Rome will regret spending an afternoon in this awesome gallery in the midst of the beautiful Villa Borghese gardens.

A TRIP TO SALVADOR DE BAHIA

Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta



This was my second trip to Brazil, of course to a different place called Salvador de Bahia. It is a beach resort on the Atlantic coast. A series of coconut trees added to the beauty of this place. The place where the convention took place was Guanajuamo, which was about 45 km from the Salvador airport. The place consists of huge villas with widespread rooms in and

around with lots of greenery.

Salvador is a state of Brazil. Prior to Rio de Janeiro, Salvador was the capital of Brazil. Africans also migrated here for occupation. If Rio has the glamour, Sau Paulo the money, Salvador de Bahia was the essence of Brazil's soul. Palm fringed white beaches stretched for miles along its seashore fronted with modern tourist hotels. Salvador is where Africa met Europe in South America. It was Amerigo Vespucci the Italian explorer and navigator who gave name to this sub-continent and spotted Salvador's magnificent site. He landed in the great bay which became Bahia des Tados os Santos and the city of Salvador de Bahia was to be declared capital in 1549. By the 17th century the whole area came to be known as Bahia and was renowned for its great sugar plantations. Salvador de Bahia was the chief port of the thriving Portuguese colony of Brazil and through it flowed the rich trade of sugar, Brazil wood from the hinterland, gold and diamonds from the southern mines.



Until 1763 Salvador remained capital and right up till 1815 it was Brazil's



busiest port. The wealth of the greatest colonies passing through the city was reflected in the fine houses that the merchants and officials built for themselves and the ornate churches they raised for their worship. As wealth and power shifted south to the new capital of Rio de Janeiro, Salvador slipped

into decline. The rich gradually moved to newer districts and the historic old centres became inhabited by the former household helps.

Salvador, the capital of Brazil's north-eastern state of Bahia is known for its Portuguese Colonial architecture, Afro Brazilian culture and tropical coastline. Then in recent decade

came tourism and economic revival so that old Salvador today is a fascinating mixture of brilliant renovation, colourful arts and crafts. Regarded as the finest complex of colonial architecture in all Latin America it is an UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE site in the process of comprehensive restoration. I accompanied my husband Dipankar for this convention, the memories of which will be etched in my heart forever.



DO YOU KNOW?



Brazil officially the Federative Republic of Brazil is the largest country in both South America and Latin America.

Brazil is the world's fifth-largest country by area and the sixth most populous.

The most popular sport in Brazil is football. The Brazilian men's national team is ranked among the best in the world according to the FIFA World Rankings, and has won the World Cup tournament a record five times.

OF MIR ZAFAR - E AND BAKER STREET DAYS

Sunanda Bose



The lockdown has made us philosophize about life and an unfamiliar world. We contemplate and surmise, trying to extract golden linings....Life Lessons learned from the Covid Era. I can speak about myself... To begin with, Let's be grateful for small mercies but I for one didn't quite find tranquillity in the blue skies and the deserted streetsnor did I spot an unusual bird or a leopard walking down Southern Avenue. Yes, I did learn a few valuable lessons... mostly related to Mood Management, Food Management and Solving Mysteries. The last half, weird it may sound, is the truth. You see, ever since our lockdown started, we have embarked on a binge of crime serials – Spanish, English, American and so on. I have grown up on a staple diet of Enid Blyton's Famous Five, Secret Seven, Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Agatha Christie and of course the legendary Sherlock Holmes. Feluda was very close to my heart ... a homely affair (A little digression here - I had even started writing a Famous Five series and Feluda - a meagre 12 year old, not yet acquainted with words such as Plagiarism, Copyrights... And the story doesn't end here. This 12 year old had the audacity to look up Satyajit Ray's number, dial him and tell him that she was on her second story..... the Gentleman that he was, he seemed thoroughly impressed and invited her with her stories but alas, the parents were aghast at this proposal and Feluda remained secretly nurtured in her twelve year old heart.

A slew of crime shows has drawn out the sleuth within us...unlike the wild guessing game we have been playing about nabbing the virus, the genre of crimes series gives us clues. So The Bose's have taken to postulating names of killers and murder manoeuvres....And believe it or not, my years of vain effort to entice the Husband with various concoctions of Kanjeevarams and Chitol Mutha hadn't ever yielded results like now.. We even share the Remote (Like never before!) both gaping at the not-so-idiot- box, for the culprit's next move. I never fail to Thank the Almighty for small mercies.. If it hadn't been for the Covid, we'd never have discovered this Romance associated with the detection exercise! But I guess like us many other Indians are also engaged in some form of the Whodunit game and the only difference perhaps is that the endings will be engulfed in a shadowy mist forever!

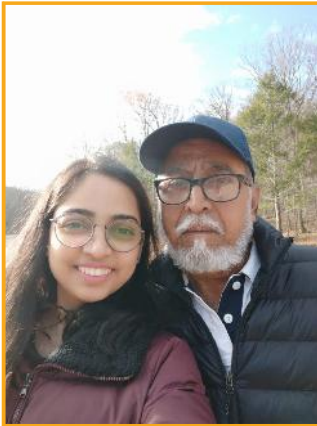
Everyone knows about my passion for cooking...Please don't be alarmed. I will not discuss lockdown recipes!!! Of course I do have tales to tell ...my tryst with the Restaurant Style Tandoori Chicken and my ever critical family politely hinting, how it could have been more burnt or perhaps a little more succulent! Never mind if my Husband can't bring himself to give a 20/20 to his wifey (A Real Bengali Man never does so, they say), but he does fuel the spirit of The Epicurean Inventiveness in her!! In a flash of a second, the Tandoori Chicken becomes Dil Khush Murg. It's amazing what you can do with the previous night's Roti.. make an upma out of it or your leftover keema from Friday night's dinner! Add Boiled Eggs, cubed Potatoes and cook it in rice into a fabulous Biryani (with crispy fried onions, generously sprinkled on it). The trick, my dear, is that you have to baptize the dish and give it a name.. Mir Zafari Biryani... BUT Always Remember....never disclose the history of the dish to the Family! "Elementary, Dear Watson! When you have eliminated the Impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the Truth" Can't deny, the Lockdown and the valuable lesson it has taught me!

POSITIVE THINGS THAT CAME OUT OF THIS LOCKDOWN

Value	Genuine Relationships
Better practice at	Hygiene
Innovations to Stay	Connected
We are helping	Each Other
New	Tools & Software
Effectiveness of	Remote Working
Education	Digitized & Affordable
Self	Dependent
Understanding	Priorities
Importance of	Share & Care
Mental & Physical	Endurance
All can	Cook

CELEBRATIONS AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Avinanda Bhattacharya
(D/O of PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya)



2020 has been a year full of surprises; some being very nasty, some heart-breaking, yet some wonderful changes that we could never have perceived to be possible. Nine months of the year flew by, wrapping us in a cloud of fear, uncertainty and anxiety. However, nothing can ever defeat the indomitable spirit of the humans. This year has been a great one as far as learning is concerned. People learnt so much in every sphere of life from handling relationships and realizing their values to developing survival skills like cooking and cleaning. People took up new hobbies to utilize the new found time while others challenged themselves daily by juggling their multiple commitments.

In the milieu of this chaos, some more trouble is being added to the woes of the Bengalis. It is that time of the year when we become joyful and turn on our happy and smiling mode. It is time for celebrations to be lurking around to bring people close together, not some ten month old virus distancing people away. The irony here is, these past years when people had the option of being close together they seemed disconnected, while now as we are distanced we yearn to be connected. All year long we plan for these five days that is worth the rest of the year. We have so much to worry, like what dresses to buy, which pandals to visit, bucket list menus to try, meeting so many friends, getting the perfect clicks and stories for social media; a virus is the last thing on our minds.

A major learning this virus has taught us is introspection. Over the years we have been engulfed by superficiality, worrying more about looks than feelings. Let's take a step back this year and while we continue embracing the new normal focus on our inner self. How calming will it be to not just repeat mantras in a crowd but to actually sit back and silently thank Goddess Durga and her family to give us the opportunity to brave this pandemic and give us the motivation to hope that this all ends soon! How heart-warming will it be to actually spend some time with our folks enjoying their stories and giving them time! How can one not call this a celebration?

The autumn skies will still look the same with tufts of clouds floating across the bright blue sky, Kaash phool will bloom throughout the season, and pujo pujo gondho will fill the air. Durga pujo will last for five days. Of course, Ma Durga will also return to her home next year.

Nothing has the power to change as we humans do. We can adapt and adjust to any situation we are thrown in. In order to do so we have to first fight this virus together by distancing. Let us take a moment and think of those unfortunate lives who have never had the privilege of celebrating the pujo. Let us pause and celebrate helping those in need. The Rotary Club across the globe is striving to bring a smile on the faces of the less privileged.

Let us join hands together and strive to make this world a better virus free place. Let us celebrate one another this pujo.

And this year pujo let us pledge to take care of ourselves and our close ones and chant Aschhe bochor hobei hobe!

DO YOU KNOW?



In 2013 ASSOCHAM Report titled "West Bengal cashing in on Durga Puja celebrations" pegged the total size of Durga Puja at Rs 25,000 crore and growing at about 35 per cent CAGR. Based on its projection the size would be Rs 1.12 lakh crore in 2018 and Rs 1.5 lakh crore in 2019. As West Bengal's current GDP is Rs 10.20 trillion, as per the estimate, the Puja economy contributes a little over 10 per cent to the state's GDP.

Courtesy: Business World Website

“JAI HIND” INSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS - LONDON



Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta

I hail from a family of freedom fighters. My great grandfather, my grandmother and grand father were also active members of the Swadeshi Movement. My great grandfather, Late Birendranath Duttgupta was hanged by the British Raj after he was caught and charged with assassination after he had shot Shamshur Alam, an officer in the police force on the main entrance steps of the Kolkata High Court. I would ask my Grandmother to tell me this story again and again when I was in school. Both my Grandparents had served jail terms during the pre independence period. They were fearless individuals with one dream of setting India free from British Rule.

In 2001 I got enrolled as a member of the Bar Council of India. I remember my father telling me to remember my great grandfather as I walk up those stairs to the first floor of the Calcutta High Court wearing my black gown and white collar.

With all the history in my mind, I always had a crazy dream, something I was sure would never come true....to say “Jai Hind” inside the British Parliament. When ever I remembered this, I would smile and carry on with my life.

In mid 2019 I got an email from the Indian Achievers forum and the NRI Society of India inviting me to the World NRI Congress to be held at the House of Commons, London. The email also said that I was chosen to receive the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Samman on behalf of my company East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited for our contribution towards the Indian healthcare industry.

I looked at the email and wondered whether this was my chance of fulfil my “Jai Hind” dream.



The Medal and Plaque

I agreed and was on a flight to London on my birthday on the 9th of October 2019. I have travelled the World but have been to UK only once in my life as a transit passenger. Deep inside I really wanted to see what the people of UK would be like., I had many friends from Kolkata living there. I wanted to meet them too. The ceremony was in 2 days time and I kept on thinking about the "Jai Hind" moment. When do I say it ? or do I say it at all ? Will I get arrested ? I could not sleep the night before the award ceremony. I was excited and had butterflies in my stomach. I kept on thinking about my great grandfather and my grand parents.

It was time to get ready for the ceremony. As it was an evening ceremony with dinner, the House of Commons has a dress code which was mentioned in the invitation card. It read "Black Evening Suit". I wore a black suit not knowing whether it was an Authentic evening suit or not. I walked up to the hotel receptionist and asked her whether it will be wise to walk to the house of commons (my hotel was 20 minutes walk from the venue). She asked e why was I going there. I showed her the invitations card and she told me "You cant just walk there, You are an awardee!" I will call a cab for you.



Receiving the Mahatma Gandhi Samman from Members of Parliament , UK

I cleared all security checks protocol and entered the Palace of Westminster and went for the strangers dining room. It was a fantastic experience taking in the famous British Etiquette. I met a lot of attendees, most of them members of the British Parliament. I found out many of them were extremely apologetic of what the British Raj had done to India during their long reign. As the award ceremony started, my name was called out and I went up to collect the Mahatma Gandhi Samman Medal and citation from members of the British Parliament. I thanked them on behalf of East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited and saidJAI HIND !! I was nervous but I said it. I could only hear loud claps. My dream was fulfilled and it was time to take a flight back home.



(L) Restricted hallway leading to the Strangers Dining Room & (R) Inside the "Strangers" Room - Fellowship before the Award Ceremony - House of Commons , London , UK

MY EXPERIENCES OF WORKING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Sunetra Bhattacharyya



someone for whom writing forms a major part of her work, I was stumped for want of ideas to write and share with you all. Finally on the basis of suggestions and advice I zeroed in on sharing my experiences of working with the United Nations (UN).

As a young girl I had always had the knack for picking up languages and a soft skill that we now call interpersonal skills. You could say I am talkative too- something that held me in good stead in my field of work! These became all the more useful when I was wondering what to do with my life after graduating with Health Management and Public Relations. Having failed to qualify for the entrance tests for medicines, the next obvious choice was the humanitarian or the more commonly known social sector. Hence after much indecisiveness I decided that the humanitarian sector would be where I want to work.

The journey wasn't easy though. Having done a SWOT analysis I felt that the biggest hindrance in achieving my dream of working with the UN especially in the European HQ was my middle class background. No encouragement came from anyone expect for my parents who let me chase my dream! - For this I remain forever grateful to them.

Having earned the degrees and the basic qualifications required, I started applying nonstop to each and every Communications (my chosen field of work) job that I could possibly find. I was so fired up with the passion that my friends who knew about my dream started joking that should the UN ever do an analysis of their applications, Ms Ghosh's name would be omnipresent.

To come back to my experiences, I finally figured out that I had to do something to make my application stand out. I decided to go to Africa! - A wild thought for a middle class Bengali girl. I had read somewhere that working in hardship stations (The countries are labeled according to the difficult living situations) I could win brownie points that could help me get closer if not a foot inside the door of the European HQ.

It was destined I guess as I did qualify and was on my way to Nigeria to work with the Global Polio Eradication Programme- a joint programme of UNICEF, Rotary International and CDC among a few more. Reaching Atlanta, USA to train at Centre of Diseases Control (CDC), I was ecstatic to have finally arrived. However I was soon to understand that the journey had just begun!



Training at CDC Atlanta USA



Farewell party for the Polio team at CDC Atlanta

Working in Nigeria's Zaria LGA (Local Government Area, equivalent to our districts) was one of the most beautiful and adventurous experiences of my life.

Fired up and determined to do my best reached my duty station, Nigeria and was assigned to a remote village in Northern Nigeria-Zaria. What had started off with mixed feelings ended with an exhilarating experience!



At Zaria office with colleagues



(Top)Zaria LGA office & (Right) With the Emir of Zaria's bodyguards



It left an indelible mark on my mind so much so that even after a decade I continue to be friends and in contact with my friends I made there. Work was fun, I learnt a lot-right from social mobilization in communications - in everyday parlance it would mean behavior change, to field work, media teams co-ordination. I managed to get the local offices of the National TV and Radio on board to do a live telecast of the polio campaign. Life apart from work was exciting too with long hours of chats with friends and colleagues and cooking. It was heart breaking to come back from there.



With the TV station team and my colleague



With the Station Head and colleague at Zaria FM Radio station



Polio vaccine administration in Zaria



Programme planning in Nigeria



With my health workers team

My dream of working at the Geneva HQ materialized in 2014 when I was selected to work with the Global Malaria Programme at WHO Geneva. The moment for me had arrived!

Another chapter of my life had started where every day I was working closely with renowned Public Health experts and felt extremely proud to be part of the policy making team. 2014 was when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were wrapping up and it was time for the policy making body- WHO to lay down post 2015 agenda for public health.

Exciting hours of brainstorming, writing and designing communications materials, attending the World Health Assembly (WHA), travelling to Morocco and the Philippines to collate expert advice for the Global Technical Strategy (GTS) from the regions formed part of my work day! Oh what experiences they were! I was living my dream of being a public health communications specialist.



At WHO Kaduna office with polio eradication team



Office party at WHO EMRO Philippines regional office



Celebrating my birthday with colleagues at WHO GMP Geneva

After the GTS for Malaria post 2015 was adopted at the WHA 2014, I moved to the central news and media team- another experience that I am yet to forget. I was tasked to work with the team providing senior management including the Director General of WHO and the technical teams with breaking news and to prepare talking points for the Spokespersons fielding questions at the Press Conferences. Additionally I would respond to Facebook and Twitter posts and messages and keep abreast of the latest news. Making an impact with my work



Celebrating my birthday with colleagues at WHO GMP Geneva

was what drove me.

Working with the United Nations is one lifelong dream fulfilled something that has given me manifold- knowledge, expertise and the perks that came with it. When Africa was declared polio free this August 2020, I rejoiced along with my colleagues and have this sense of deep pride of having contributed in the efforts- Indeed a memorable one!

I could go on and on but I must stop here lest my thoughts run away...

DO YOU KNOW?



Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

Courtesy: Rotary International Website

EDITOR - ER BHOYE !!!

PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee



Sampadak amake adesh korlen, ami kibhabe aswikar korte pari ...

without preparation and any inspiration just perspiration on my brows and forehead, I jumped into it. *Kintu shudhu bhoys holey ja hoye, kebal kapuni, kapte kapte*, I don't know about anything else, *creativity aashey na.*

At first I thought *ja ami sabcheye beshi jani*, perhaps food, *ami er opore anekbar likhechhi*, Lets think of something else. I have written on it to the limits and beyond of my knowledge and any further will only make my deception, totally evident to the members. *Na, khabar samparke jatheshta* writings and articles. Something new!! But apart from food what do I know? Ohh yes.... I have been imbibing the godly nectar for such a long time that I could write about where all I fell down but that would cover so many places and so many cities, to make it an almost jumping into embarrassing situation. And on top of it I have to think of my *ijjat* in the Rotary Behala fraternity and how could I let go of something I have built up over so many years. And to top it all, we have a *sampadak* who personally does not imbibe and is very strict.

So over to the next topic!!!

Let's talk money!! But how could I be talking money in a group that is full of fancy business people, lawyers, senior managers and doctors and what have you. Yes yes...boast about money to the guys who print it.

Na... sei bishaytikeo chhere dewoa jak!!!

So now having exhausted all the things that I could possibly write about and having so disturbingly realised that so many in the immediate group know so much I am forced to pen my little thoughts on Hold it...what else I could have done.

Number 1::: I am quite ok at sports and play a number of sports even now quite well. But of all, I am particularly passionate about football and swimming.

In swimming I had even done state level and in football I have regularly been a "player for hire". Means, if you know about it, the healthy para leagues of our times had already made me some money. I just needed to go up the ladder, like a ten thousand steps and would have reached Wari FC or Aryan FC. Enough to make it as used car salesman and to earn good to get myself a scooter when rich.

Plan dropped.

Ami Jodi satar kattam tabey ta aro dukkhojanak. What I would be doing on a scooter having played football, with swimming I would have earned enough for a bicycle, second hand. In fact, our coach at that time, Tukun da, a backstroke specialist was actually riding a bicycle to the Salt Lake pool every day.

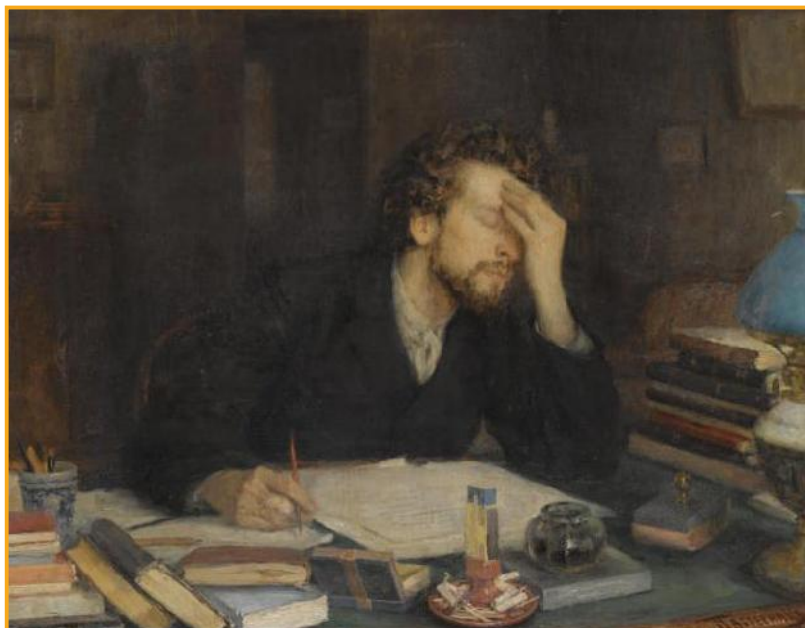
Talk about inspiration. Satar dropped.

And then I got my eureka moment. It clearly said...the easiest way to reach some comfort in life is to study a bit from time to time. Get a couple of degrees. Get into job to earn some experience and then start a business. Hope it succeeds.

So that's what I did. Business made some success. Someone told me join Rotary and I asked what do I have to do. Very presciently, he said.... Oh nothing. Attend some zoom meetings, write some articles from time to time and you are set.

I am set!!!!

DO YOU KNOW?



FEAR OF WRITING PHOBIA IS CALLED SCRIPTOPHOBIA.

The word Scriptophobia is derived from the Latin word script meaning writing and phobos which is the Greek word for fear or dread.

QUIZ TIME

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 #8

- #1 Before Akal Bodhan practice started, Goddess Durga was worshiped in March – called Basanti Puja. Who started this Puja?
- #2 What does the acronym RYLA stand for?
- #3 After death of Mahishasur, his sister plotted for revenge. What was her name?
- #4 What is Interact?
- #5 In which country is Durga Puja celebrated for 15 days?

Answers to Quiz #7

- #1 No history book on 2nd World War can avoid this vegetarian teetotaler non-smoker who commanded a large army.
Ans: Adolf Hitler.
- #2 Who started the practice of annual Rotary theme?
Ans: Percy C. Hodgson, Rotary President in 1949-50.
- #3 Who did succeed Dag Hammarskjöld as Secretary-General of the UNO?
Ans: U Thant.
- #4 When was the Rotary Foundation established ?
Ans: 1917.
- #5 Federation Cup, World Cup, Shivanthi Gold Cup and Centennial Cup are awarded to winners in which sport?
Ans: Volleyball.

Three friends have submitted correct answers:
And they are . . .

President Rtn Sugata mazumdar, PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar and PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya.



**MINUTES OF THE 2575th RCM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD
AT ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM ON 4th OCTOBER, 2020.**

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

National Anthem was played on screen.

President Rtn Sugata informed that a special edition of e-Maitree will be released on 19th November and will contain some advertisements from our friends.

He also informed that Literacy program will continue to be carried out by the club. There are few NGOs like Kids Charitable Trust or Hope Foundation working with children. Our RCC Chandanpiri also runs a school. We shall assess the requirements and the organisations and plan accordingly. He informed that new saree & clothes will be given to homes/charitable organizations before the puja. The events will be updated to the members.

Club Editor PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty gave a brief preview on the lead article in Maitree of the day discussing RILM.

He also informed about the alternatives of physical vis-a-vis online Official Visit by District Governor and requested all members to attend the Joint Zonal Seminar on RCC scheduled for 9th October.

Salary and annual bonus of our staff Sri Apu was discussed and approved.

Club Treasurer PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya gave a current financial standing of the club and other financial matters were discussed.

President Rtn Sugata informed about the upcoming projects planned for the month of October.

He also informed about successful collaboration with other rotary club towards organising covid - anti body test camp which place today morning. He also requested members to join the MasterClass with Mr. B. Matilal post the meeting.

Club Secretary Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra conducted the usual club business.

Minutes of 2574th RCM as published in Maitree was confirmed.

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

Meeting attendance :

Total Members : 32 Members Present : 14

Festive Wishes
From

Rotary 
बेहला

