

Rotary 


BEHALA
RI DISTRICT 3291

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MAITREEE

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Celebrating 60 Years

*Installation Issue
of
Rotary Club of Behala*

Rotary International District 3291

60th Installation Ceremony

7 pm || July 31 || Calcutta Club



The Red Indian
Woodwork by PP Rtn. Amaresh Bhattacharya

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



A new age in Rotary began from 1st July with Gordon R. McNally taking the mantle of leadership. Rotary Behala is no exception with super active President Debarshi & dynamic Secretary Sanghamitra leading us from the front and will make us feel proud like previous years.

Change being the only constant, Maitree is no exception. 2020-21 was the beginning of a new journey for the fortnightly bulletin to a magazine. PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha & PP Sugata were instrumental in making Maitree the best in this part of the country. I was fortunate to be a part of the editorial team and learn from the best.

Maitree 2023-24 will be a continuation of what we started and will explore new and updated innovations to gift a better readings experience to our readers. Content is the King when it comes to Maitree and our readers are our God. Maitree Installation issue explores the World of Rotary and its various avenues. Articles from members, wishes from District Leaders and last but never the least our advertisers who came pouring to make this issue a brilliant one.

I will do my best at what I do, ideate, create and present. I hope Maitree will give you that same level of satisfaction with a blend of information & innovation.

Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

Editor 2023-24

WHAT IS ROTARY?

ROTARY IS.....

- 2 ROTARY is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.
- 2 ROTARY is the world's first service club. The first Rotary club was founded in Chicago, Illinois, USA on 23 February, 1905.
- 2 ROTARY is some 1.2 million service-minded men and women belonging to more than 27,000 Rotary clubs in virtually every nation in the world.
- 2 ROTARIANS meet weekly for fellowship and interesting and informative programs dealing with topics of local and global importance. Membership is by invitation and reflects a wide cross-section of community representation.
- 2 ROTARIANS plan and carry out a remarkable variety of humanitarian, educational and cultural exchange programs that touch people's lives in their local community and our world community.
- 2 ROTARY is The Rotary Foundation, which each year provides some US \$60 million for international scholarships, cultural exchanges and humanitarian projects, large and small that improve the quality of life for millions of people.
- 2 ROTARY is Polio Plus, Rotary's commitment to work with national and international health organizations on the goal of polio education. More than one-half billion children in developing nations have been immunized against polio through Polio Plus grants.

ROTARY IS SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OUR MISSION & VISION

WHO WE ARE

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

OUR MISSION

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

VISION STATEMENT

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

WE WORK DIFFERENTLY

We see differently: Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.

We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues — and find unique solutions.

We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.

We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe.

REMEMBERING PAUL P HARRIS



Paul Harris, the father of Rotary Movement, was born on April 19, 1868 at Racine, Wisconsin, USA. When he passed away on January 27, 1947, he left behind for mankind a rich legacy of fellowship and brotherhood for international understanding and service to humanity. To-day, the seed he sowed in 1905, has blossomed into a large tree having more than 1.2 million Rotarians having 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.

We fondly remember him and pay our respectful homage to him on this auspicious day when we have stepped into another Rotary year to make it more eventful & meaningful.

Paul P. Harris (1868-1947)
Founder of Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

Of the things we think, say or do

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

ROTARY'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

We believe that exemplifying and embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) should be a part of everything we do at Rotary.

To ensure we live up to that ideal, the Board of Directors and our DEI Taskforce acted to strengthen the DEI statement originally adopted in 2019. The result is in a new commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion:

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.

We believe that all people hold visible and invisible qualities that inherently make them unique, and we strive to create an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong.

In line with our value of integrity, we are committed to being honest and transparent about where we are in our DEI journey as an organization, and to continuing to learn and do better.

WHO CAN JOIN?

We're looking for people who want to give back to their communities.

Rotary clubs also welcome Rotaractors, Rotary Peace Fellows, and other members of the family of Rotary who qualify for membership.

HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER?

Clubs accept new members by invitation. To help us find the right club for you, we'll ask you a few questions about yourself and your interests. Then we'll share your answers with Rotary leaders in your community who will match you with a club.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Becoming a Rotary member connects you with a diverse group of professionals who share your drive to give back. Through regular meetings and events, you'll:

- v Discuss your community's needs and develop creative ways to meet them
- v Connect with other leaders who are changing the world
- v Expand your leadership and professional skills
- v Catch up with good friends and meet new ones

OTHER BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

The Rotary International Convention is our biggest event of the year. Rotary members from more than 130 countries meet at the convention each year to celebrate our successes and make plans for the future.

Rotary Fellowships give members the chance to join a group of people who share similar interests, hobbies, or vocations. Some groups use their fellowship to make a positive difference.

Rotarian Action Groups unite Rotary members, family members, program participants and alumni who share their expertise in particular fields by collaborating with clubs and districts on projects.

WHAT'S EXPECTED OF ME?

As a club member, you will be asked to:

- v Pay club dues
- v Attend meetings and events
- v Use your professional skills and talents to make a difference

AREAS OF FOCUS

PROMOTING PEACE - Rotary encourages conversations to foster understanding within and across cultures. We train adults and young leaders to prevent and mediate conflict and help refugees who have fled dangerous areas.

FIGHTING DISEASE - We educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases like polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. We improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in developing areas.

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE - We support local solutions to bring clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to more people every day. We don't just build wells and walk away. We share our expertise with community leaders and educators to make sure our projects succeed long-term.

SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN - Nearly 6 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. We expand access to quality care, so mothers and their children can live and grow stronger.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION - More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES - We carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and create opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. We also strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT - Rotary members are tackling environmental issues the way they always do: coming up with projects, using their connections to change policy and planning for the future.



DESIGNATED ROTARY MONTHS

JULY 2023

Maternal and Child Health Month

AUGUST 2023

Membership and New Club Development Month

SEPTEMBER 2023

Basic Education and Literacy Month

OCTOBER 2023

Economic & Community Development Month

NOVEMBER 2023

Rotary Foundation Month

DECEMBER 2023

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

JANUARY 2024

Vocational Service Month

FEBRUARY 2024

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

MARCH 2024

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

APRIL 2024

Environment Month

MAY 2024

Youth Service Month

JUNE 2024

Rotary Fellowships Month

IN REMEMBRANCE

**On this auspicious
60th Installation ceremony,
we fondly remember the
valued contribution of all
our past leaders and
members who have left us
for heavenly abode. The
team has immensely been
benefited by their dedicated
service to the cause of
Rotary.**

OUR LEADERS OVER THE YEARS

Year	Club President Rtn.	Dist. Governor Rtn.	RI President Rtn.	RI Theme of the year
1964-65	Sailen Roy	C.R. Bose	Charlse W. Pettengill	Live Rotary
1965-66	Sailen Roy	P.N. Mookherjee	C.P.H. Teenstra	Action Consolidation and Continuity
1966-67	P. C. Basu	K.N. Mookerjee (1)	Richard L. Evans	Better World Through Rotary
1967-68	K. K. Nohria	Hari Mahapatra	Luther H. Hodges	Make Your Rotary Membership Effective
1968-69	B. D. Gupta	Rajendra Singh	Kiyoshi Togasaki	Participate
1969-70	S. L. Garg	Mihir Ray	James F. Conway	Review and Renew
1970	H. N. Dutta Gupta	Dr. K.C. Sarbadhikari	James F. Conway	Bridge the Gaps
1970-71	H. N. Dutta Gupta	A.F.M. Abdul Haq	William E. Walk, Jr	Bridge the Gaps
1971-72	P. P. Gupta	K. N. Mookherjee (2)	Ernst G. Breitholtz	Goodwill Begins With you
1972-73	Atin Mitter	Vijay Bhandari	Roy D. Hickman	Let's Take a New Look and Act
1973-74	A. Roy Chowdhury	Sisir Ghosh	William C. Carter	A Time for Action
1974-75	G. K. Gupta	Motilal Gupta	William R. Robbins	Renew the Spirit of Rotary
1975-76	R. K. Guha	Iftekharul Alam	Ernesto I. de Mello	To dignify the Human Being
1976-77	A. K. Chatterjee	Ramesh Chaudhury	Robert A. ManchesterII	I Believe in Rotary
1977-78	R. P. Agarwal	Prabhat K. Sinha	W. Jack Davis	Serve to Unite Mankind
1978-79	S. K. Roy	Manindra C Poddar	Clem Renouf	Reach Out
1979-80	P. Raichoudhuri	G.C. Sen	James L. Bomar, Jr	Let Service Light the Way
1980-81	A. S. Khanna	M. Maihur Rahaman	Rolf J. Klarich	Take Time to Serve
1981-82	Shyamal Datta	Ajit Prasad	Stanley E. McCaffrey	World Understanding & Peace Through Rotary

MAITREES

1982-83	A. R. Sengupta	Amyla S. Gupta	Hiroji Mukasa	Mankind is one – Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the world
1983-84	Dr. Saroj Gupta	Om P. Oberoi	William E. Skelton	Share Rotary-Serve People
1984-85	Pijush Ranjan Sengupta	Dr. S. C. Nandy	Carlos Canseco	Discover a New World of Service
1985-86	Arijit Ray	Ajay Kumar Dutta	Edward F. Cadman	You are the Key
1986-87	S. P. Sinha	Kodi K Navada	M.A. T Caparas	Rotary Brings Hope
1987-88	Bhaskar Bhattacharjee	M. C. Tandon	Charlse C. Keller	Rotarians - United in Service. Dedicated to Peace
1988-89	Nirmal Kumar Das	Shyamal Datta	Royce Abbey	Put Life into Rotary Your Life
1989-90	J. V. Rangarao	Kamal Seth	Hugh M. Archer	Enjoy Rotary
1990-91	Debidas Ganguly	Subimal Ghosh	Paulo V. C. Costa	Honor Rotary with Faith & Enthusiasm
1991-92	Ashok Banerjee	Subimal Bhattacharya	Rajendra K. Saboo	Look Beyond Yourself
1992-93	Debabrata Joardar	K. Chandramohan	Clifford L. Dochterman	Real Happiness is helping others
1993-94	Pijush Ranjan	Amitava Bhattacharya Sengupta	Robert Barth	Believe in what you can do-do what you
1994-95	Pradip Sen	Amit C Majumdar	believe in Bill Huntley	Be a Friend
1995-96	Swapan Benerjee	Aloke C Mitter	Herbert G. Brown	Act with integrity, Serve with love, work for peace
1996-97	Susanta Kumar Das	T. R. Manekshaw	Luis Vicente Glay	Build the Future with Action & Vision
1997-98	Dipankar Dutta Gupta	Anjan Kumar	Glen W. Kinross	Show Rotary Cares
1998-99	Dipak Kumar Mitra	Prabhat K. Rohatgi	James L. Lacy	Follow Your Rotary Dream
1999-00	Dr. Basudeb Mukherjee	Shekhar Mehta	Carlo Ravizza	Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity
2000-01	Prabir Roy	Ravi Prakash Sehgal	Frank J. Devlyn	Create Awareness, Take Action
2001-02	Anindya Bose	Siddhartha Sadhan Bose	Richard D. King	Mankind is our Business

MAITREES

2002-03	Swapan Kr. Marwaha	Amitava Mookerjee	Bhichai Rattakul	Sow the seed of love
2003-04	Avijit Banerjee	Raj Kumar Rajgaria	Jonathan B. Majlyagde	Lend a Hand
2004-05	Sudhanya Kumar Basu	Prabir Chakravarty	Glenn E. Estess	Celebrate Rotary
2005-06	Kamal Kumar Sarkar	Swapan Mukherjee	Carl Wilhem Stenhamar	Service Above Self
2006-07	Krishnendu Bhattcharjee	Debashish Mitra	William B. Boyd	Lead the Way
2007-08	Amarjit Singh Thethi	Anirudha Roy Chowdhury	Wilfrid J. Wilkinson	
2008-09	Rita Das	Nayantara Palchoudhuri	D.K. Lee	Rotary Shares Make Dreams Real
2009-10	Deepnath Roy Chowdhury	Utpal Majumdar	John Kenny	The Future of Rotary is in your Hands
2010-11	Indu Bhusan Das	Rajendra Khandelwal	Ray Klingismith	Building Communities Bridging Continents
2011-12	Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty	Angsuman Bandyopadhyay	Kalyan Banerjee	Reach within to Embrace Humanity
2012-13	Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee	Uttam Ganguli	Sakuji Tanaka	Peace through Service
2013-14	Anjan Kumar Bhowmick	Rajani Mukerji	Ron D Burton	Engage Rotary Change Lives
2014-15	Prasunjit Mukharjee	Pinaki Ghosh	Gary C. K. Huang	Light up Rotary
2015-16	Manika Karmakar	Jhulan Basu	K. R. Ravindran	Be a Gift to the World
2016-17	Anirudha Gupta	Shyamasree Sen	John F. Germ	Rotary Serving Humanity
2017-18	Jayanta Kumar Mitra	Brojo gopal Kundu	Jan.S. Risley	Making a Difference
2018-19	Amaresh Bhattacharya	Mukul Sinha	Barry Rassian	Be the Inspiration
2019-20	Kaushik Bhattacharya	Ajoy Agarwal	Mark Daniel Maloney	Rotary Connects The World
2020-21	Sugata Mazumdar	Sudip Mukherjee	Holger Knaack	R o t a r y O p e n s Opportunities
2021-22	Soumjojit Mukherjee	Prabir Chatterjee	Shekhar Mehta	Serve to Change Lives
2022-23	Bikash Dutta	Ajoy Kumar Law	Jennifer Jones	Imagine Rotary
2023-24	Debarshi Dutta Gupta	Hira Lal Yadav	Gordon R. McNally	Create Hope in the World

OUR FOUNDATION



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

“It seems eminently proper that we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world.” – Arch C. Klumph

Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world.

OUR MISSION - The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

THE ORIGINS OF PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITION

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Rotary established the recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS TO ROTARY FOUNDATION

Bhattacharjee Krishnendu	PHF + 6
Gupta Anirudha	PHF + 3
Roy Chowdhury Deepnath	PHF + 2
Sengupta Pijush Ranjan	PHF + 2
Bhadra Sujay	PHF + 1
Chakraborty Dr Siddhartha	PHF + 1
Das Indu Bhusan	PHF + 1
Dutta Gupta Debarshi	PHF + 1
Karmakar Manika	PHF + 1
Mitra Dipak Kumar	PHF + 1
Bhowmick Anjan kumar	PHF
Bose Anindya	PHF
Chatterjee Ajoy Krishna	PHF
Ganguly Debidas	PHF
Mukherjee Prasunjit	PHF
Roy Probir	PHF
Thethi Amarjit Singh	PHF

PROPOSED PLANS & OBJECTIVES FOR THE ROTARY YEAR 2023-24

1. CLUB SERVICE

Club Administration

- Joint Board meetings and one Club Assembly before 1st. July 2022
- Another 3 club assembly during the year including AG & DG visit.
- Physical meeting every month(1st and 3rd)
- Physical Board Meeting every month (last Friday /Saturday)
- Anniversary Greetings to club members
- Guest Speakers from Rotary circle as well Non-Rotary circle.
- AG visit during January/February 2022
- DG Visit with Spouses and Fellowship meet

Membership Development & Retention

- Regular search for appropriate new members
- Constantly motivate members for retention
- Co-ordinate with Membership Chair on regular basis
- One Club picnic during December 2022 (contributory) – if all members interested..
- One excursion during January /February 2023 if members interested

Public Relation

- Club activities will be projected through different mass media like Club Face Book, Website to enhance the Public Image of Rotary.
- Website Maintenance with my Rotary App
- Collaboration with corporate sector for their CSR movement in community projects.

- Fortnightly publication of News letter- Maitree (Soft Copy) and Annual Maitree
- Display of Banners at Puja pandals

Integration of Website, My Rotary & Rotary India App

- Renewal of Website license
- Uploading of minutes of all RCM & Board meetings & members data
- Uploading of Club activities and photographs

Participation with District activities

- Co-hosting of District programs
- Co-ordinate and ensure maximum club participation in District programs
- Co-ordinate with concerned AG & ZS

2. VOCATIONAL SERVICE

- To plan for vocational training centre at RCC Chandanpiri.
- To initiate another RCC at Dhosa Hut
- To develop Sewing Training Program by a Ladies' Cooperative at Rasapunja
- To augment Computer Literacy Centre in association with "Free To Be Kids" with certified training courses at Nepalgunge or any other places
- Vocational Awards will be presented to the individuals who practice high ethical standards in their business/professions/careers and those who achieve exemplary vocational excellence in their field.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICE (MEDICAL)**Awareness and health check-up**

- Maternal And Child Health
- Cancer and Thalamesia Awareness Programme and Treatment.

Blood Donation Camps

- At least 1 blood donation camp with the help of local clubs

Eye Care

- Eye testing and cataract detection camps
- IOL surgeries
- Spectacles for cataract patients after surgery

4. COMMUNITY SERVICE (NON-MEDICAL)**Water & Sanitation & Hygiene**

- Continuation of ongoing sanitation project at Chandanpiri village
- Sanitation projects in schools or local area
- Hygiene awareness projects in schools through talks and handouts
- Any other programme after details survey in the locality .

Environment

- Plantation of Trees.
- Micro Solar Dom (12 W)

Basic Education & Literacy

- Happy School programme with District appointed school or school at Chandanpiri
- Continue Online education programme at Baidyapara School
- Continue Adult Education Programme in association with " Free To Be Kids"
- To encourage girls students for their higher education at RCC Chandanpiri.

5. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

The Rotary Foundation

- Special efforts to be made for more PHF and MPH
- Target to achieve 'Every Rotarian Every Year Club' status.
- Continue active participation on Polio eradication and awareness
- Ensure to work on Matching Grants for projects at Chandanpiri
- To take project with the help of Global Grant installation of Thalassemia Testing Machine.

“The hands that help are holier than the lips that pray”

- Mother Teresa and R. G. Ingersoll

MAITREY

Rotary  Behala



HAPPY BIRTHDAY


31st July : Disha, daughter of PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury
5th August : Rtn Amit Roy
7th August : PP Rtn Probir Roy
10th August : PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta

*Hope Your Day Is Filled With Lots of Love And
Laughter ! May All Your Wishes Come True*

From **research** to **relief...**
our association continues



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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT R. GORDON R. MCINALLY



R. Gordon R. McNally is president-elect of Rotary International. He was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh and at the University of Dundee, where he earned his graduate degree in dental surgery. He operated his own dental practice in Edinburgh until 2016. Gordon was chair of the East of Scotland branch of the British Paedodontic Society and has held various academic positions. He has also served as a presbytery elder, chair of the Queensferry parish congregational board, and commissioner to the general assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Gordon joined Rotary in 1984 at age 26. A member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, he has served as president and vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI). He has also served RI as a director and on several committees, including as an adviser to the 2022 Houston Convention Committee and chair of the Operations Review Committee.

Gordon says he looks forward to working with members to build new Rotary clubs and groups. "My vision is that Rotary should exist everywhere in a style to suit everyone who has the desire to be part of us and to help us do good in the world," he says.

Gordon is a patron of the UK-based nonprofit Hope and Homes for Children and led a partnership between that organization and RIBI to support children in Rwanda who had been orphaned in the genocide there. He is a patron of Trade-Aid, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven, Lincolnshire, England, that provides sustainable humanitarian aid to individuals, families, and businesses in the developing world. He is also an ambassador for Bipolar UK, a national mental health organization.

In his free time, Gordon enjoys rugby, good food and wine, and stick dressing, the traditional Scottish craft of making walking sticks.

Gordon describes The Rotary Foundation as "the fuel that provides the energy to do Rotary service." He and his spouse, Heather, also a Rotarian, are Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation. They are also members of the Bequest Society.

Gordon wishes to dedicate his presidency to making the world a better place for his granddaughters, Ivy and Florence, to live and thrive.

MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT

Even as we face new and serious challenges, Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace, and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World.



This year, we're prioritizing projects to support mental health. This effort is deeply personal to me. I know what it's like to see someone suffer in silence. I have also witnessed the power of personal connections, the value of discussing emotional and mental well-being, and the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment.

Research shows that performing acts of kindness is an effective step any of us can take to protect our well-being. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world.

Building peace is the essence of Rotary. Many of our service projects foster the conditions for Positive Peace. We work tirelessly to overcome barriers and create new connections. This year, we'll promote virtual international exchanges for members to strengthen those vital connections.

Peace isn't a dream, and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust, and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently — and bravely. Everything we do across our areas of focus has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible.

The spirit of connection and purpose should inspire every Rotary member. When club leaders focus on offering an excellent club experience, we retain more members and attract more prospective members. We must make our clubs as welcoming and as engaging as we can.

Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, from our club meetings to our service activities. We need to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments where everyone can be their authentic selves. All people of action need to be able to imagine a place for themselves in Rotary — it's up to us to ensure they can do so.

Over the next year, I will be putting a focus on continuing our journey in diversity, equity, and inclusion — ensuring that Rotary reflects the communities we serve and continues to take significant steps toward accessing the full range of human talents and experiences, so that we can better serve humanity. And we will continue to empower women and girls by helping them unlock the potential already within them.

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting “sense and worth, over all the earth.” This has long been my call to action, and I share it now with you.

Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and Create Hope in the World

R. Gordon R. McInally

President 2023-24

KNOW YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR



Hira Lal Yadav joined Rotary Club of Hooghly in the year 1995. He served as the President of the Rotary Club of Hooghly in the year 1998-1999 & 1999-2000. He is a past Rotaractor. He graduated from Calcutta University. He is a Ply Wood Manufacturer.

He revived the sick club which was recommended to be closed by the then District Governor. He established Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital in the year 2000 with only eight members in a rented building. The Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital became so popular, that a more spacious building was required. He constructed a well-designed 3 storied building for Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital in the year 2013. Now, Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital is a complete Eye Care Centre and pride of Rotary District 3291. In the last two decades he has helped eighteen clubs in India and two clubs in Bangladesh to establish Eye Hospitals. He is the Chairman of Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital, Rotary Gangadharpur Eye Hospital & Kuchaikot Rotary Eye Hospital-Bihar. He is also the Chief Advisor/Technical Advisor of 17 Rotary Eye Hospitals.

Presently 55000-60000 surgeries are being done in these Eye Hospitals & 4 lakhs to 4.50 lakhs patients are being treated in the OPD & in Out Reach camps. His dream is to arrange Eye Check-up for 10 lac patients & eye surgeries for 1 lakh patients.

He has served Rotary District 3291 in different capacities and was invited as Guest Speaker in the Training Sessions and Conferences of Rotary District 3250 & 3291.

He is a great supporter of "The Rotary Foundation" & was instrumental in successfully completing 82 Global Grant Projects for different Rotary Clubs in India, Bangladesh, Singapore & UK. He had made arrangements to construct many tube-wells to provide safe

drinking water in the remote villages of Hooghly. He also gave new life to 27 needy children by arranging Heart Surgeries in R. N. Tagore Heart Research – Kolkata & at Narayana Hridayalaya - Bangalore. He was instrumental in setting up a Primary School at Hooghly Railway station for Underprivileged children in the year 2014. He also supports an orphanage – “Vivekananda Ashram” for the last 23 years. He has worked with District Administration of Hooghly in the implementation of Central Government Development Schemes as Nominated Member of the District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee 2012 to 2019.

He is a Major Donor and recipient of the highest Award of the Rotary International – “Service Above Self Award”.

He is married to Deepali. She is an active member of Rotary Club of Hooghly.

God’s eye of mercy falls on those who take care of the lowly

- Guru Nanak

MAITRE

Rotary  Behala

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Rtn Debarshi Duttagupta
President 2023-24
Rotary Club of Behala
RID 3291



Dear President Debarshi,

I am joined by Deepali in congratulating you as you don the mantle of leadership of your Club. Taking up a new responsibility is always a challenge and I am sure that you will rise to such a challenge!

I take the opportunity to thank your outgoing President Rtn Bikash Dutta, Outgoing Secretary Rtn Amit Roy and all your Club members for the dedicated service rendered by your Club during Rotary year 2022-23 as we Imagined Rotary!

Rotary, my friend is a unique journey! Rotary gives us colossal opportunities to make new friends, strengthen our bonding with existing friends and together - we get the opportunity to serve mankind to the best of our abilities!

Rotary International President for 2023-24, Rtn. R. Gordon McInally has given us a vibrant theme "CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD". Our world leader's goal is to restore hope to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and to help achieve lasting change. He has emphasized the need for peace and continuity, including working toward diversity, equity and inclusion, while not neglecting our mission to end polio! He feels that Rotary should exist everywhere in a style to suit everyone who has the desire to be part of Rotary and to help us Rotarians do good in the world.

I consider myself TREMENDOUSLY fortunate to have the opportunity of working with him! The major initiative introduced by my GURU in Rotary, our own Rtn. Shekhar Mehta and followed by his predecessor Rtn. Jennifer Jones – "Empowering Girls" will also remain as his focus area. His other two focus areas are Mental Health and Building Peace through Virtual Exchanges.

The clarion call "Create Hope in the World" is there for you my friend! Let us capture the attention of the world and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations, to Create Hope in the lives of humankind!

Best regards,

Yours in Rotary Service

Hira Lal Yadav

District Governor 2023-24

KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT

Club President Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta has a rich heritage in Rotary. His grandfather Late Rtn Hirendra Nath Dutta Gupta was a charter member and Past President of RC Behala, a chair held later by his father Late Rtn Dipankar Dutta Gupta. Now it is his turn.

Born in 1976, he graduated in law from Calcutta University in 2001, practised law for some time, and then joined East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd. where he is the Managing Director now.

Professionally, he is also

- Chairman (East), Indian Institute of Packaging (Govt. Of India).
- Vice Chairman, National Safety Council, West Bengal Chapter.
- Vice President, State Productivity Council, West Bengal State.
- Chairman, Eastern Region of Indian Chemical Council (ICC)
- Past VP (East), Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association (ADMA).
- Executive Committee Member of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industries (BNCCI).
- Chairman, Health Sub Council – Eastern Region,



The Associated Chambers of Commerce And Industry of India (Assocham).

- Vice President, Bengal Business Council.

He is recipient of :

- Indian Achievers Award for “The Young Entrepreneur For Health Care Excellence, 2010, New Delhi”.
- Indian Achievers Forum “International Achievers Award, Dubai, UAE, 2012”.
- Indian Achievers Forum “International Achievers Award, Destination USA, New York 2016”
- “Mahatma Gandhi Sanman Award” awarded By NRI Welfare Society of India at House of Commons, Westminster, London.

His hobbies include photography, travelling, music, watching documentaries on Nature.

His spouse Nabamita, psychologist by profession, is attached to a reputed school in Kolkata as Counsellor and son Debarjyo is a student of class III.

Purity, patience, and perseverance are the three essentials to success, and above all love.

- *Guru Nanak*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



A new year for our beloved Rotary movement has begun.

With a team of dedicated rotarians we the members of the Rotary Club of Behala will look forward to carry on the legacy of our beloved club.

It is a very special year for us as we step into the 60th year of our club. We will celebrate this landmark year with more meaningful projects including joint projects with other clubs in our district and lots of fellowship.

Our club has been known for the quality of members and their efforts to serve our society. Looking forward to another successful year of Rotary.

Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta

President, 2023-24

Rotary Club of Behala

KNOW YOUR SECRETARY

Daughter of late Justice Salil Kumar Datta, Rtn Sanghamitra was a student of St John's Diocesan Girl's High School, followed by Sibnath Shastri College from where she got her BCom.

Her marriage brought her to the world of Rotary, assisting her father-in-law Late Rtn Hirendra Nath Dutta Gupta (Charter member, later President of RC Behala) and then her husband Late PP Dipankar Dutta Gupta. Her son is the 3rd Generation President of this Club, and will definitely be assisted whole heartedly by his Club Secretary.

Rtn Sanghamitra is

- Director, East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd
- Charter member and Past President of Inner Wheel Club of Behala.
- Past President, University Women's Association of Calcutta (UWAC)
- Past President, 'Pragati' - the Ladies wing of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI)
- Life Member, Craft's Council of West Bengal (CCWB)
- Past Executive Committee Member, National Indian Association of Women (NIAW)
- Member, Nari Seva Sangha

She has travelled extensively in India and abroad, adores nature and loves to capture them. Her other loves include cooking, sewing, and nurturing plants.

Her son Debarshi is the Managing Director of East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd, and daughter Debika has settled at Melbourne, Australia with her family.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



We are at the threshold of yet another Rotary year, our 60th Diamond Jubilee year.

On this momentous occasion I would like to congratulate our respected seniors and junior Rotarians for their untiring support and cooperation for making this day truly a memorable one.

Service to mankind is service to God .Let us extend our hands of service to the needy and underprivileged and change their lives to make it a better place to live in.

I like to thank IPP Rtn Bikash, Secretary Amit and their team for a commendable year. I feel honoured and privileged to serve as Secretary on this special year of service.

Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta

Secretary 2023-24

Rotary Club of Behala

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE



Best wishes for the installation ceremony

A new Rotary year brings with it a new leadership, new sets of dreams and a fresh spirit of enthusiasm.

It is also a time to reflect on the past experience and the learning from them. It is a time to renew the pledge to pursue on going successful projects and bring in fresh ideas for building a strong future.

I take this opportunity to express our best wishes Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta

The incoming President of Rotary Club of Behala

I extend my sincere regards and best wishes to the President and the team and all club members for an enviable successful year of service to humanity. Yours is a distinguished and vibrant club in our Dist 3291 known for dedication.

As you all know we have been crusaders for End Thalassemia mission and your club has always extended a strong support to our efforts in this project.

I eagerly looking forward to your continued support and promise you to extend all possible co-operation from our side to the endeavours of your club.

God bless you all.

Warm regards & love

Dr. Ramendu Hom Chaudhuri

District Governor Nominee, 2025–26

Rotary International District 3291

MESSAGE FROM PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Dear President Rtn Deborshi and Club Secretary
Rtn Sanghamitra Duttagupta,

Greetings to both of you and all the members of RC Behala!

I am happy to know your club is organising Installation Meeting on 31st July 2023.

I have known the members of RC Behala for a long time. The cordiality of this club's members and the kind of service projects you have been executing every year, have always inspired me.

I am sure that both of you and your team are ready to serve and to do innovative projects, learn as much as you can about Rotary and its working.

Gordon R. McNally has given us a beautiful theme: "Create Hope in the World." The goal is to restore hope-to help the world heal from destructive conflicts, and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves. He has said he will lead with caring as his core value and that he believes in continuity. With priorities like empowering girls and women, virtual exchanges among people that may lead to peacebuilding, a mental health initiative, this will surely be a "caring" year!

I wish you and all the members - seniors and new comers, all the best for another great year of service.

Your club 's board has the uniqueness of a President and Club Secretary who are son and mother! This is so unique! Besides, RC Behala has a great relationship with their Inner Wheel Club, as well as Rotaract Club.

Keep serving and please create hope in everyone's heart ... without hope, life is meaningless. May the flag of your club keep flying high,

All the best,

PDG Shyamashree Sen
EPNC Zone 6 (2020-24)
RC Calcutta Metro City
R.I. District 3291



MAITRE

Rotary  Behala

MESSAGE FROM PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Prabir Chatterjee

District Governor 2021-22

District Resource Coordinator 2023-24

Zonal Chair, rotaryindia.org (Zone 6) 2022-24

District Coordinator, RILM (Adult Literacy) 2022-24

Rotary 
DISTRICT 3291



Rtn. Debarshi Duttagupta

President 23-24

Rotary Club of Behala

Dear President Debarshi,

Rubena joins me in congratulating the respected and ever-enthusiastic Rotary Behala family on this wonderful occasion.

I wish each one of your Club Members the same Joy and fulfillment that I have personally enjoyed over these many years as a Rotarian.

Debarshi, you are selected by the members of your Rotary Club to guide its affairs during the year 2023-24 and as a President of your club, you need to be thinking ahead to the coming year(s) as well that will help and shape your Club's future.

I wish you all the best along with your Rotary Behala Family Members for a meaningful Rotary year and assuring my unending support to CREAT HOPE in the WORLD.

With best regards,

Prabir Chatterjee

Past District Governor

Rotary International District 3291

MESSAGE FROM INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BEHALA PRESIDENT



Dear Debarshi,

On behalf of the members of Inner Wheel Club of Behala, I would like to congratulate you on being chosen the President of Rotary Club of Behala. Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your team a glorious year full of enterprising activities that would benefit the underprivileged section of our society.

In this Centennial year, we the members of IW Club of Behala would cherish an active participation from Rotary Club of Behala in various joint projects so that we are able to reach a larger section of the Society.

Wishing you all the best for the year ahead.

With warm regards

Yours-in-Wheel

Sharmila Sur

President (2023-24)

MESSAGE FROM IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Respected Rotarians, I wish to thank all the members of this club for selecting me as the President. This year has seen the club doing many things and continued things that we have enjoyed in the past. It has been a most enjoyable year and one that has allowed me to get much satisfaction out of Rotary. This has been achieved by the work of all Rotarians in this club and every one of us should be proud of the way in which we have stepped up to the plate on numerous occasions during the year to help the club as well as the community.

I would like to thank the members of my board, who made my job so easier this year each and every one of them achieved a tremendous outcome.

I am overwhelmed with emotion as this Rotary year comes to a close; I express my gratitude to each and every one of you. I sincerely appreciate that it is because of your selfless involvement that made a difference.

As I pass the baton to Rtn. Debarshi and Rtn. Sanghamitra Di, I look forward to continuing to make a difference in Rotary.

Thank you.

Rtn. Bikash Dutta

Immediate Past President (2022-23)

Rotary Club of Behala

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2023-2024)

President	Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta
Immediate Past President	Rtn Bikash Dutta
Secretary	Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta
Treasurer	PP Rtn Dipak Kumar Mitra
President Elect	Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya
Vice President	Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta
Director Club Service	PP Rtn Manika Karmakar
Director Vocational Service	Rtn Arup Dasgupta
Director Community Service(Medical)	PP Rtn Sugata Mazumdar
Director Community Service (Non Med)	PP Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya
Director International Service	Rtn Amit Roy
Director Youth Service	PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya
C I C O & Executive Secretary	PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty
Editor	Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra
Sergeant-At-Arms	PP Rtn Soumyajit Mukherjee
Club Administration Chair	PP Rtn Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee
Membership Chair	PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar
Foundation Chair	PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee
Service Project Chair	PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta
Strategic Committee Chair	PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury
Literary Chair	PP Rtn Indu Bhusan Das
Public Relation Chair	PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty

Bank of India 
Mutual Fund

75 
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

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Goal Oriented SIP



To know more,
scan the QR code



SIP - Systematic Investment Plan

MUTUAL FUNDS *Sahi Hai*

Goal Oriented SIP is a concept and not a product.
An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative of Bank of India Mutual Fund
All investors have to go through a one-time KYC (Know Your Customer) process. Investors to invest only with SEBI registered Mutual Funds, as available on SEBI website under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure institutions". For redressal of your complaints you may please visit SEBI Scores portal. For further information on KYC visit: www.boimf.in

MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

SUB-COMMITTEES (2023-24)

Committees under Club Service

Membership Development & Retention

Chair : PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar

Co-Chair : PP Rtn Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee

Constitution & Bylaws

Chair : PP Rtn Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee

Co-Chair : PP Rtn Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty

Public Image of Rotary

Chair : PP Rtn Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty

Co-Chair : Rtn Dr. Atanu Saha

Rotary Information

Chair : PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya

Co-Chair : Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

Fellowship

Chair : PP Rtn Debidas Ganguly

Co-Chair: PP Rtn Swapan Marwaha

Committees under Vocational Service

Vocational Training

Chair : Rtn Arup

Co-Chair Rtn Ashish Kumar Das

Co-Chair : Rtn Sunit Roy

SUB-COMMITTEES (2023-24)

Computer Literacy

Chair : Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

Committees under Community Service (Medical)

Eye Care

Chair : PP Rtn Manika Karmakar

Co-Chair : PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya

Blood Donation Camp

Chair : PP Rtn Anjan Kumar Bhowmick

Comprehensive Health Check - Ups

Chair : PP Rtn Dr.Siddhartha Chakraborty

Co-Chair : PP Rtn Sugata Mazumdar

Committees under Community Service (Non-Medical)

Water & Sanitation

Chair : PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta

Co-Chair : Rtn Dr. Sudipta Chakraborty

Environment

Chair : PP Rtn Amarjit Singh Thethi

Co-Chair : Rtn. Shamshir Singh Kapany

SUB-COMMITTEES (2023-24)

Rotary Community Corps (RCC)

Chair : PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta

Co-Chair : PP Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee

Committees under International Service

Friendship Exchange

Chair : PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Choudhury

Co-Chair : PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee

Polio Awareness

Chair : PP Rtn Indu Bhusan Das

Committees under Youth Service

Rotaract

Chair : PP Rtn Prasunjit Mukherjee

Co-Chair : PDRR Rtn Shuvratav Mitra

Interact

Chair : Rtn Shuvranshu Mitra

Co-Chair : Rtn Amit Roy



Club Service - Membership

- As on 1st July 2022 – 40
- As on 1st July 2023 – 37
- Addition after 1st July 2022 – 02
- Members Terminated – 05

Club Service - Meetings

24 Regular
Club Meeting

9 Board
Meetings

4 Club
Assembly

4 Fellowship
Meetings

Maitree (Club Bulletin) – 23 nos. Published



59th Installation Ceremony – Tollygunge Club
Date – 23rd July, 2022



58th – Charter Day Celebration
Date – 24th Aug, 2022



Christmas Day Celebration
Date – 25th Dec 2022



A Family Trip to Ashaboni near
Jamshedpur
Date – 3rd March, 2023



Thanks Giving Ceremony
Date – 23rd June, 2023



Distribution of Clothes Bag at Market
Date – 1st July, 2022



Distribution Of Eco-friendly Cloth Bags
Date – 15th Aug, 2022

Distribution Of Eco-friendly Cloth Bags
Date – 4th Sep, 2022



Blood Donation And Health Check-up Camp
Date – 24th July, 2022

Health Check-up Camp
Date – 31st July, 2022

"The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane." – Mahatma Gandhi



Complimentary Health Check Camp at:
Nabapally Jagriti Sangha Club,
Baguiati, Kolkata-700059

In Association with:
East Bengal Club Kolkata
Indian Pharmacological Society, West Bengal Chapter
Association of Physicians of India, West Bengal
Rotary Club of Behala
Inovocare Healthsoft Solutions

31st July, Sunday, 10 AM Onwards!

Complimentary Services Provided:

General Check-Up for All	Clinical Pharmacological Reconciliation
Cholesterol Screening	BGL Monitoring
Sugar Check	Peripheral Vascularity Screening
BP, Pulse Monitor	Edema Testing and Blood Grouping
Dietary Counseling	Stool for OPC
Psychological Assessment and Counseling	Lung Function Testing





Giftng Two Fowler Beds To Balananda Brahmachari Hospital
Date – 24th Aug, 2022

Handng Over Scholarships To 25
Girl Students
Date – 4th Sep, 2022





Helping Hand To NSCB Cancer Hospital
Date – 9th Sep, 2022



Giftng A Desktop Computer To A School
Date – 15th Sep, 2022



Distribution Of Mosquito Nets & Dengue Awareness
Date – 28th Sep, 2022



Puja Parikrama For Elderly – 2022
Date – 2nd Oct, 2022



Seminar on Breast Cancer & Survivors Meet
Date – 28th Oct, 2022

Thalassaemia Awareness Camp
Date – 23rd Feb, 2023



Health Camp, Blanket & Mosquito Net Distribution
Date – 31st Dec, 2022



Distribution of Water Filters to 40 ladies of Adult Education Centre
Date- 16th March, 2023



Eye Testing & Cataract Detection Camp
Date – 26th March, 2023



Health Camp for General check-up, Eye and oral care
Date – 30th April, 2023

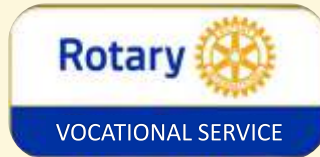


Adult Literacy – Local Women Education
Date – July 2022



Water for Toilet Project -
verification of Phase IV
Date – 2nd April, 2023





Distribution of Sewing Machines
Date – 28th Jan, 2023



Distribution of irrigation pump to farmers
Date – 26th March, 2023



Visit To RC Oakleigh Clayton
Huntingdale, RID 9810
Date – 18th July, 2022



Seminar on World Peace and
Understanding
Date – 23rd Feb, 2023





A Soccer Tournament For Under-15 Kids
Date – 3rd July, 2022



Children's Day Celebration
Date – 14th Nov, 2022



Handing Over Blankets For Underprivileged with Interactors.
Date – 5th Dec, 2022



First Aid Training For Youngsters
Date – 16th Dec, 2022



Adventure & Nature Study Camp
Date – 26th Dec, 2022



Test Paper Distribution for under privileged students
Date – 8th Jan, 2023



Visit To Book Fare With Children
Date – 11th Feb, 2023



Festive Banners For Public Awareness
Date – 1st Oct, 2022



Total Contribution This Year	:	1750 USD
Number of MPHf	:	12
Number of PHF	:	07



ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA WELFARE TRUST

Over the last few years, a Big Sustainable Project remained in the wish list of the Club. But a big project needs big money – obviously, we need support from Global Grant or from corporates through their CSR initiatives. For both, a Trust remains mandatory. In the last Rotary Year the club decided to form the “Rotary Club of Behala Welfare Trust” with the following office bearers :

President : PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty

Secretary : PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury

Treasurer : PP Rtn Anirudha Gupta

Applications were made as mandated, and on 2nd July 2023 was received Provisional Approval for three years. Further application has given us the 'Charitable' status with relief of Income Tax to the donors under section 80G.

The formation and subsequent progression of the Trust has been made possible by the initiatives and untiring efforts of members like Rtn Arup Dasgupta, PP Rtn Dipak Kumar Mitra, IPP Rtn Bikash Dutta, Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya and others.

We thank them all.

Now the club members and other friends may please remit their donation to :

“Rotary Club of Behala Welfare Trust”

A/c No : 41996714154

State Bank of India

Alipore Branch

IFS Code : SBIN0000004

MICR CODE : 700002002



THE GOLDEN SIXTY YEARS

PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty

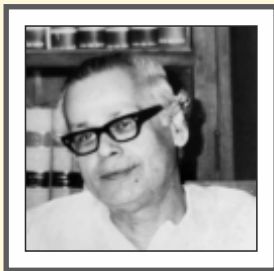


Formation

In the month of August 1963, District Governor Rtn Hemen Ganguly of RI District 325 appointed Past President Rtn Mihir Roy of RC Calcutta South West as his special representative to evaluate extension of Rotary club of Behala. Rtn Mihir Roy commenced survey of Behala area on November 1963 and thereafter the survey report was sent to DG.

In December 1963 President Rtn. Dr Ranjan Banerjee of RC Calcutta South West formed an extension committee with Rtn Mihir Roy as chairman and Rtn Ashoke Roy and Rtn H S Sinha as members to go into details for the formation of Rotary Club of Behala.

RC Calcutta South West released the territory of the proposed Rotary Club of Behala on 13th February, 1964. A month later DG Rtn Hemen Ganguly gave permission to organize the said club with the territorial limit of former South Suburban Municipality with a population of about 2 Lakhs.



Rtn Sailendra Nath Roy
Charter President

On April 1, 1964 the organizational meeting was held at the residence of Rtn Sailendra Nath Roy, where the prospective members were explained the objects of Rotary and the obligations and privileges of the members. In that meeting the office bearers were selected and constitution and bylaws of the club adopted.

The inaugural meeting of the provisional Rotary club of Behala was held on April 11, 1964. A total of 37 members were present – the group of Charter members.

The Charter dated August 24, 1964 was presented to Club President on Saturday 26th September 1964 by Rtn C.R. Bose, District Governor of RI District 325.



Rtn Premangshu Mohan Chatterjee
Charter Secretary

Rtn Sailendra Nath Roy was Charter President and the famous cricketer Rtn Premangshu Mohan Chatterjee was the Charter Secretary. Charise W Pettengill was the incumbent RI President with RI Theme of 'Live Rotary'.

Venue and frequency of the regular meetings

Initial meetings were held at the residence of Charter President Rtn Sailendra Nath Roy. Then it shifted to Vivekananda College, Behala. The venue was changed to New Alipore Association Hall where it continued to meet on every Thursday till June or July 1976, when Park Hotel became the location for some time before the club settled down on Hotel Oberoi Grand for meetings over evening tea.

Grand Hotel hosted our meetings over the longest period of time, but the club had to venture for a new location. After few months of 1992 at Calcutta Management Association behind AC Market on Theatre Road, the auditorium of Birla Planetarium could be arranged. This was the regular venue till 2015, when the authorities over there decided to renovate the complex in a major way.

Malik Guest House on Harish Mukherjee Road became the new venue till the Covid epidemic forced the club to go online in 2020. It is the regular venue now with restoration of physical meetings.

The club strictly follows the Club Constitution as decided by Rotary International from time to time. Since birth it was the evening of every Thursday till 2016 when, with the

flexibility allowed by RI, the club decided to meet in the evening of 1st, 3rd, and 5th (if any) Thursdays every month.

With the onslaught of Covid, online meeting was the call of the day and the club started online Club Meetings on 30-04-2020. With normalization of situation, physical meetings were brought back, and the experience and exposure has encouraged the club to move on to hybrid mode enabling out of station members to join the meetings.

Serving Rotary beyond Club

Few Past Presidents of the club have served Rotary as Zonal Secretary, AG (Administration), AG (Service), District Secretary, GML Chair, or Community Service Chair.

PP Rtn AtinMitter could not win the race for the coveted post of District Governor for the 1980-81 session, but in 1988-89 session it was our PP Rtn Shyamal Datta who became the DG.

Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program and our club

Our club participated in this unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity over many years. A group of youngsters led by a senior Rotarian would visit another country, stay with families of Rotarians for a few days and imbibe culture and traditions of that community. We hosted visiting teams from abroad regularly, the last opportunity being in 2006. Past Presidents Rtn Debidas Ganguly, Rtn Probir Roy, Late Rtn Dipankar Dutta Gupta, Late Rtn Kamal Kumar Sarkar used to open their doors for the dignitaries. Incumbent Club Secretary Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta fondly remembers John Ackerman and Stewart J Umholtz— her young family guests in 1992 from Illinois -and is still in touch with the later.

As a reciprocating gesture, our District sent out teams abroad. Late PP Rtn AtinMitter, Late PP Rtn Ajit Chatterjee and PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sengupta had been selected by respective DGs to lead the District teams, the last named having visited RID 6460 (Illinois, USA) in

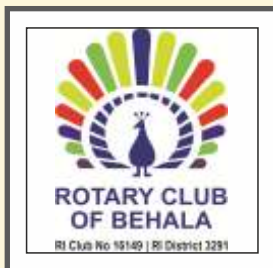
April – May 1992 with five youngsters.

Past President Rtn Soumjojit Mukherjee had been member of a District GSE team visiting Brazil in 2012 – the last GSE team from this District before RI closed the programme.

Regular Club Bulletin

Initially it was simply “The Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Behala”, subsequently renamed “Maitree” or friendship. Traditionally a two-page printed sheet with occasional special issues, it put on colours with advances in technology and become an online issue of many more pages since the start of Covid pandemic,.

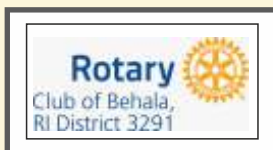
From ghat-ghatangblack and white Letter press to nice coloured pages, and finally on to e-version – quite a journey indeed!



The Logo is Dead

Club Mascot and Club Logo

Initially Clubs were allowed to choose a mascot and Peacock was selected as ours. Later, a club logo was designed by Rtn Avijit Dev in 2005, with some small modification by PP Rtn Kaushik Bhattacharyya in 2016.



Long Live the Logo

In 2021 the logo has been changed in conformity with specific directive from RI.

The Club and Rotary Community Corps

Majority of projects undertaken by the club were conducted through RCCs.

The club had a number of RCCs in its journey.

1. RCC Rasapunja. It was a very old RCC with the club, where special projects included annual health check-up camps, regular weekly Homeopathic Clinic, a sewing training centre for ladies, and construction of a building for the RCC and the vocational training centre. With urbanisation of the locality and self-sufficiency of the unit, in 2006 the club decided to let them grow independently.
2. RCC Nawabad at Nalgora, South 24 Pgs. This was an area without electricity, connected to the motorable road by a narrow dirt track. The RCC was established in 2006 and the club arranged solar lamps, solar torches for students, few van-rickshaws for vocation, a sewing training centre for ladies, and construction of a building for the primary school-cum-vocational training centre. In 2017 the elected members of the RCC wanted to pursue a course not commensurate with Rotary ideas, and the club withdrew its support.
3. RCC Unnayan at Tapuriaghata off EM Bypass was established in 2017. The club had some one-time projects, but no long-term project could be initiated. In 2019 the club decided to withdraw its support.
4. RCC Sri Ramkrishna Ashrama at Chandanpiri, South 24 pgs. Paperwork for this RCC started in 2018, and the Charter was received in 2019. A heavy duty RO water filter was installed at their premises housing a primary school and orphanage, and through them distributed more than 1,000 fruit tree saplings. Annual stipend of Rs one lakh for 25 girl students (courtesy Gouri Gupta Trust) is running for few years. And there is the flagship ongoing project of Water for Toilets with support from EIRWT, 105 units having already been completed.

Some services undertaken by the club**Vocational Service**

1. Training of youth in own organisation by Rtn Susanta Kr Das and Rtn JV Rangarao
2. Vocational Awards to a couple of deserving personalities every year.
3. Career counselling for senior students of local schools, including a specially designed booklet for distribution.
4. A seminar at Rotary Sadan in 2007 discussing 'Sea as a career.'
5. Sewing Training Centres at RCC at Rasapunja and Nalgora, and at a Ladies' Cooperative of Self-help groups at Rasapunja.
6. Distribution of irrigation pumps to farmers.

Club Service**1. Organising District Conference**

The club organised the District Conference in 1989, with our own PP Rtn Shyamal Datta at the helm as DG. The venue was Calcutta Blind School on Diamond Harbour Road, Behala and many club leaders of the time carried out specific responsibilities. Conference Chairman was Late PP Rtn Bhaskar Bhattacharjee, Secretary was PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sengupta, and PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar was Chair, House of Friendship.

2. Club Drama

The club organised two dramas as fund raising event. The first one was held at Rabindra Sadan to help Late PP Rtn Saroj Gupta establish his dream project of 'Cancer Centre Welfare Home & Research Institute' at Thakurpukur(now renamed as 'Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute'), based on a story written by himself.

The next drama was 'Military Sinduk' performed at Sarat Sadan, Behala in 2006 to raise fund for construction of a building for Primary School-cum-Vocational training Centre at RCC Nawabad at Nalgora, 24 Pgs (S).

3. Club Picnic

With a very good bonhomie among members and their families, the club organises regular family picnic every year.

4. Club Excursions

Till date, the only international excursion by the club members was to Singapore and Bangkok. But tours have been organised to Hazaribagh, Puri, Bhitari Kanika, Shantiniketan, Lataguri, Jhargram and Ashaboninear Jamshedpur with members and families enjoying the trips.

Community Service (Medical)**1. Eye Camp.**

Prior to the May 2002 Government order banning cataract surgery outside well organised hospitals, the club held cataract surgery camps at the St Joseph School building (within Oxford Mission campus in Behala) in the week of X-mas every year where around 50 patients were operated upon on a Sunday, stayed there for a week, and released after examination by the surgeon next Sunday. Eminent ophthalmologists like Dr Anutosh Dutta or Dr I S Roy voluntarily performed the surgeries.

Since 2002, the club has been joining hands with local social clubs or NGOs of Behala to organise cataract screening camps, the selected patients being referred to Rotary Eye Hospital at Budge Budge for the purpose. The spectacles for the patients are also provided by the club.

2. School Health Programme

The club visited the local schools and arranged for health check-up of the young patients, including eye sight and dental check-up.

3. Health Check-up Camps

Health check-up camps at the RCC or at other sites as per local requirement has been

a regular programme since long. A spectrum of consultants from various streams voluntarily join our effort.

Some special camps are also organised for Mother and Child Care.

4. Awareness Camps

Conscious of the importance of spreading awareness among people, the club has organised many awareness programmes – both online and off-line – on subjects ranging from heart to diabetes, thalassaemia to child care, breast or cervical care, mental health to organ donation.

5. Know Your Number Camps

These are specialised health check-up camps, conceived by RI in 2020, where Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and BMI (calculated from height and weight) are checked and the patients are counselled. The club organised and took part in four of them.

6. Child Heart Surgery

Prior to initiation of SishuSathi scheme by Government of West Bengal, having cardiac surgery for the kids was a dream to the common people. Rotary came up with the project for Child Heart Surgery, and our club has sponsored cardiac surgery for 11 children over the years.

7. Sanitary Napkin Vending machine

Personal hygiene of ladies is of paramount importance and has a direct relation to the dreaded cervical cancer. Our club has installed few Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines at girls' schools, a cooperative of Ladies' Self-Help groups, and two RCCs.

8. Covid Care

As the second wave of Covid 19 ravaged the city, hospital beds or oxygen cylinders became scarce. Atma Foundation joined hands with authorities of Don Bosco School at Park Circus to run a Covid Care Centre. Our club, the generous members and their families contributed more than five lakh rupees on 20th May 2021 to run the show.

The club has also handed over personal protection materials to Institute of Child Health and to Kolkata Police.

9. **Holding hands of a local hospital**

The club has helped BalanandaBrahmachari Hospital, Behala, with

- a) One Ambulance-cum-Medical Van through Matching Grant in 2004.
- b) Four Jumbo oxygen cylinders in August 2021
- c) Two Fowler's Bed in August 2022.

Community Service (Non-Medical)

1. **Water and Sanitation**

Water purifiers, including heavy duty RO model, have been installed at various RCCs and different schools over the years.

Many domestic models have been distributed among those in need.

Water for Toilet is an ongoing flagship project undertaken at RCC Chandanpiri with matching grant from Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust.

2. **Environment**

Plantation of fruit bearing trees, mainly through RCCs, is a regular project for long. In recent years the club has been sponsoring plantation of more than one thousand trees annually.

Towards the same objective, more than 3000 clothes bags have been distributed at different locations of Behala.

3. **Literacy**

Ours is one of the clubs with a Standing Committee on Literacy.

- a) The club had donated computerised Braille system to Calcutta Blind School, Behala in nineties.
- b) Participating in 'Adopt A School' programme of the District in 2006, the club adopted Janakalyan Vidyapith Primary School and Barisha Bastuhara Free

Primary School -two Primary Schools of Behala - for a year, sponsoring books, teaching materials, school uniform, water filters and mid-day meal to all the students daily throughout the year.

- c) The club had a long association with St Joseph Primary School of Behala. The club donated infrastructure like desk, benches, blackboards, library with books and few computers loaded with special software for teaching the kids. The Club also renovated the building with construction of modern toilets. Bulk of the work was through CSR courtesy PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury.
- d) In 2019 the club took up e-learning project at Baidyapara High School, Behala as a part of the District Pilot Project related to e-learning, and is continuing with its support. Separate modern toilets for girls and boys were constructed by the Club in 2020.
- e) An Adult Education Centre at Krishnarampur of Nepalgunge area of 24 Pgs (S) is sponsored by the club over years.
- f) A computer centre, complete with 5 computers with special teaching software and other accessories has been commissioned at Free To Be Kids Adult Education Centre, Thakurpukur.
- g) A desktop computer has been gifted to Society 5-O Kolkata Primary School, Thakurpukur.

4. **Care of Senior Citizens**

'Shanti Niwas' and 'AponGhar' are two old-age homes of Behala where the club organised many projects over the years including

- a) medical check-up, distribution of new garments during Puja festivals and organising fireworks on Kalipuja nights.
- b) 'Puja Parikrama' had been a regular programme with Rotaractors joining up as volunteers. The inmates of these two old-age homes, along with mentally

challenged students of the organisation 'Ment-Aid' were ushered through many Puja pandals of the city, and lunch was arranged for them.

5. **Disaster Management**

The Club has a RCC at Chandanpiri of Sundarbans. Unfortunately, it is one of the areas that has to withstand fury of cyclones recurrently. There were the cyclones Fani and Bulbul in 2019, followed by Amphan in 2000 and Yaas in 2021.

The club has been one of the first to reach the affected region quickly with dry food, shelter and clothes, followed by repeated visits with lime, bleaching powder and other essentials.

It has received special recognition in this field for consecutive two years.

International Service

1. **Global Grants**

The club conducted two projects with International Matching Grants – precursor of today's Global Grant .

- a) Gift of Braille Computer systems to Calcutta Blind School, Behala
- b) Gift of an ambulance-cum-medical van to Balananda Hospital, Behala in 2003. In this project our partner was Top of the Lake Rotary Club of Mooresville, North Carolina (RID 7680).

2. **Polio Eradication**

In the initial period, the club conducted Polio vaccination camps, including campaigning and delivery of oral Polio drops, at times transporting the chilled vaccine boxes from distribution centre. Later, as the Government and Municipal Corporation took charge of everything, we were allotted a big booth at Anjuman High School on Biren Roy Road West where we assembled on Polio Days to encourage the youngsters and the parents.

Currently the club routinely takes part in spreading awareness in six wards of Behala and encouraging the health workers involved.

3. Roving Rotarians

True to the spirit of International Friendship, in 2019 PDRR Rtn Shuvratav Mitra attended a meeting of RC Manila, the oldest Rotary Club in Asia. There he met a number of District officials, including an ex-speaker of the Philippines parliament.

PP Rtn Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee met Rtn Samir Khatri, President of Rotary Club of Phoenix, Mauritius during his trip there in May 2022, and in the same year incumbent Club Secretary Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta attended a regular meeting and a service project of RC Oakleigh Clayton Huntingdale of Australia, RID 9810.

4. International Joint Meeting

On 3rd September 2021, the club had a Joint Online Meeting with RC Bikrampur of Dhaka, RID 3281. DG of both the Districts graced the occasion and PP Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty spoke on Covid and Heart – a topic of the time.

5. Hosting Seminar on World Peace and Understanding

Our club was privileged to serve as host of a Seminar on World Peace and Understanding organised by RID 3291 in association with Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and Calcutta Chamber of Commerce on 23rd February 2023.

Youth Service

1. Youth festival

The club organised two Youth Festivals at the grounds of Calcutta Blind School, Behala in 1984 and 1985. These were huge affairs, and had tremendous impact among the youngsters.

2. Rotaract Club

Rotaract Club of Behala was sponsored by the Club on 19th March 1993 and had its

own ups and downs. It was adjudged the Best Rotaract Club of the District in 2008-09, 2010-11, and 2011-12. Rtr Shuvratav Mitra went on to become the DRR of RID 3291 for the 2013-14 session.

3. **Interact Club**

The Club has sponsored two interact clubs in DAV Public School and Bridge International School.

Rotary Foundation

The members of the club are generous in contributing to TRF, and traditionally hand over their cheques to the District Governor during his Official Club Visit.

Acknowledgement

The narrative is based on

- ❖ *Memoirs of PP Rtn Debabrata Joardar on formation and early years of the club, published in Installation Maitree, 2021.*
- ❖ *Memoirs of PP Rtn Pijush Ranjan Sengupta shared in an online Regular Club Meeting.*
- ❖ *Contributions from many club members.*
- ❖ *Personal experience.*

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER



Name - Dr. Anindya Basu

MBBS MS(ORTHO)

Res- Flat NRD 122, DLF Newtown Heights, Action Area 3, New Town
Kolkata - 700135

Phone : 9830503720

Email : dranindya.basu@gmail.com

Workplace : Institute of Neurosciences Kolkata

DOB : 27th April

Spouse : Dr PriyaGhose

MD (Radiology), Consultant Radiologist, Tata Medical Centre

DOB : 20th February

Daughter : Aishani Basu

New town school, Upper KG

DOB : 3rd October

Proposed Classification : Medical (Spine Surgeon)

Proposer : Club President Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta

MAITREE

Rotary  Behala

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MANUFACTURERS OF

DRUGS AND COSMETICS

DIGITAL VISION SYNDROME

PP Rtn Manika Karmakar



Digital vision syndrome means a group of eye and vision problems due to prolonged use of illuminated digital devices, previously named computer vision syndrome.

Now a days gadgets like TV, computer, laptop, tablet, mobile or wrist watch are all digitalised and people from the ages of three to ninety use any of this kind of devices.

EYES are the visual sense organ which carry visual impulse from eye to brain through optic nerve.

To protect eyes externally, covers are there, called eye lid. Lids blink in a regular manner to clean the eyes. At the outer side of both eye brows above the eye are present lacrimal glands which continuously release tear to clean and protect the eyes and act as lubricant. When we blink excess tear drains into the nose and throat through nasal channels so that nose and throat never dry up.

When we use the illuminated digital devices for prolonged period, our normal blinking time changes - rather reduces. So cleaning process is interrupted and eye strain starts. During digital work we are constantly trying to concentrate on illuminated screen and discard peripheral vision. As a result, a group of eye and visual problems arise - headache, dryness, redness, itching, discomfort, tiredness of eyes and sometimes even double vision.

'WHERE THERE IS A PROBLEM THERE IS REMEDY'

Adjusting process:-

- ❖ **Light** :- Room light should be optimum.
- ❖ **Posture** :- Should adjust according to type of the devices- computer, laptop, tablet,

mobile etc.

- ❖ **Viewing the devices:-** should be placed at a distance of 1.5 feet or at arm's length and 15 degree below the eye level.
- ❖ **Must use spectacles** with accurate power during use of devices .

Self Eye care:-

- ❖ Follow 20-20 rule - close eyes for 20 seconds after working for 20 minutes.
- ❖ Enlarge the text on device.
- ❖ Reduce glare of light from environment.
- ❖ Must use anti-glare lens with or without power.
- ❖ Do not forget to blink properly and regularly.
- ❖ Use lubricating eye drop every 2 hours during work.
- ❖ Fluid intake at regular intervals.
- ❖ Do not wash eyes frequently with water.
- ❖ Exercise:- Palming, frequent blinking, splashing water on closed eyes for stress relief.
- ❖ Most important - consult the eye doctor in every 6months for complete check up.

Though digital eye strain cannot cause permanent eye damage yet you must follow the above rules to ENJOY the beauty of nature for rest of your life.

REACHING THE LAST MILE

Rtn Angshuman Bhattacharya

The driving force to pen down this article is an emotional volcano built-up within me over the last few years when a mere participation on a mission has transformed into a passion. I have observed similar type of emotions within some of the senior Rotarians who always step forward beyond call of duty.

Before we move to picturise the emotions let me write down few things about the theme of this article – Financial literacy.



Financial literacy is the cognitive understanding of financial components and skills such as budgeting, investing, borrowing, taxation, retirement Planning and personal financial management. The absence of such skills is referred to as being financially illiterate.

As per a report published in September, 2022 by SEBI, only 27% of adults and 16.7% of teenagers in India are financially literate - very low in global standard.

Benefits of Financial Literacy includes effective management of money and debt, greater equipped to reach financial goals, reduction of expenses through better regulation resulting in less Financial Stress and Anxiety.

Financial literacy rate can be improved only through financial education.

The four Regulators in financial sector – SEBI, RBI, IRDA and PFRDA and NCFE (a non-profit organisation formed by four regulators with single point focus of spreading financial education) are in the mission to disseminate financial education among different segments of society, particularly to the people living in rural India.

The concept of Financial Inclusion remains only in the dream world until a basic financial education is spread up to the grass root level in a country like us.

Financial Education workshops are organised at every nook and corner of India through different channels including the Resource Persons with a larger focus on women living at villages.

The author of this article is lucky enough to be actively involved on this mission along with other resource persons, primarily academicians and professionals, spread across India.

Financial education workshops are conducted from school level to university students, workers to white collar people, urban to hamlets, small farmers to Self-help Groups.



Now coming back to the world of emotion that forcing many of us (as it is seen among the Rotarians) to convert this activity in to a fulfilling experience, especially, when a workshop is conducted at a village where home makers listen first time in their life about fixed deposit.

It is the same feeling when a massion thanked the speaker after the workshop and confirmed that he would soon open a Pension account in his bank.

The speaker remains speechless when a widow approaches him with folded hands and slowly says “after attending your program about three years back my husband who was a school teacher bought a life insurance. When he suddenly died in a train accident, I got money from the insurance company that kept me floating in last one year”.

The speaker feels like won the war when all villagers take oath not to subscribe to any Ponzi scheme in future as they did earlier and had lost their hard-earned money.

A different type of emotion brews up by scrolling back to college days when he used to sit on the bench while the speaker addresses a young bright batch of management students.





The feeling of being a teacher even for few hours and delivering a session on financial education that would help them not only to be an informed investor but also guide them to exciting careers in financial world.

Addressing executives in an MNC is a different ball-game altogether. The process of exchange of idea

s, counter arguments in the work shop makes the program an exciting one. But end of the day when they stood-up to say that they have so many ideas to take back home makes a different type of feeling of accomplishments that only deposits into the speaker's emotion bank.



The feeling that the speaker had while conducting a Financial Education program under G 20 convention at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata was absolutely satisfying. About 3,000 school students from different districts of West Bengal attentively listened the program and made it a truly interactive. The speaker finds the purpose of life.

Before I conclude, would like to share a true- life story of a young tribe woman written by the author of this article

that got published in a Coffee Table Book of National Centre for Financial Education, Mumbai.

Journey of a tribe girl ~ Football to Finance

Jungle Mahal in West Bengal is home to a number of different tribal communities



including Santhals, Kurmis, Kherias and Sabars, the tribal ethos enriches the mystic charm and natural beauty.

Barnali Hansda a girl from Jungle Mahal was different than other girls of the same village. Like other girls she went to school but in her past time she was to be seen busy playing football with the local boys while other girls were helping their

parents in household chores.

As she grew up, she improved her natural skill of art of football but at the same time continued her studies when many of her girlfriends had left studies.

Her football skill meanwhile drew attention of school teachers and other local authorities. She represented her school in Subrata Cup Tournament, an all-India School Football Tournament, representing state of West Bengal.



As she involved in football more and more her fame spread wing on a larger canvas. She was nominated to be a part of West Bengal Women Football team to represent West Bengal in National Women Football Championship.

After two years, she got married and shifted to a village in Birbhum district to stay with her husband.

Meanwhile, she attended a Financial Education program of NCFE conducted by me at her present village where she landed into the world of personal finance. She came to know



about financial planning, how to increase value of his investment without compromising risk, importance of insurance and also first-time realised necessity of retirement planning.

Within a month she was seen running around bank, talking to local insurance agent and made her husband busy to

ponder over their future.

Finally, opened their first fixed deposit account in bank and issued cheque towards premium of life insurance. Next month she and her husband again went to their bank for opening account for Atal Pension Yojana.

In between she completed her graduation in Physical Education. She is now an enlisted football referee supervising the league matches in different districts in West Bengal.

As I met her again after a gap of two years in another program she came forward and thanked me for educating her in personal finance front.

I was delighted to know that she had convinced her other family members to open Pension account. Incidentally, she brought her mother-in-law to the financial education program conducted by me at a nearby village.

It gives a fantastic feeling to know, yes, we could reach last mile.

SHINE A LIGHT



From dusk to twilight darkness flow
Tormented soul traverse path so low
Beneath the veil covering the soul
Teardrops glisten and a begging bowl
As sundial measures hours with no sun
Acid rain, gender bias, transgenders they shun
Shine a light from where the dots begun
Cascading golden rays of hope spun
Centennial year the wheel turns to ignite
Thousands of golden dots in service unite
Into eternity in friendship endless
The wheel turns a hundred times (for the) defenceless.

Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra
Secretary, WOC Behala 2023-24

নিকষিত হিম

রুমা ভট্টাচাৰ্য

পাশেৰ টেবিলে একটা পৰিবার নৈশভোজ সারছে। পুত্রকন্যা সহ মা বাবা। প্ৰায় একই বয়সী বাচ্চাদুটি নিজেদের মধ্যে খুনসুটি কৰছে। দেখেই বোঝা যাচ্ছে, সুখী একটা পৰিবার। মহিলাটি মিডনাইট ব্লু রঙেৰ শিফন শাড়ি পড়েছেন। সুন্দৰী মহিলাটিৰ স্বামী ভদ্রলোকটিও যথেষ্ট সুপুৰুষ।

—“ওই, হাঁ কৰে কি দেখছিস ওদিকে?”... শাক্যৰ ডাকে চমকে উঠল বিদিশা। এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সচেতন হলো। এভাবে কৰুৰ দিকে নজৰ কাৰাটা এটিকেট বিৰোধী, এ ব্যাপাৰে ও যথেষ্টই ওয়াকিবহাল।



দৃষ্টি ফিৰিয়ে বিদিশা শাক্যৰ দিকে তাকিয়ে হালকা হাসলো।

—“কফিটা খা, ঠান্ডা হয়ে গেলো”... শাক্য বললো। শাক্যৰ কফি শেষ। চামচটা দিয়ে কাপে মৃদু ঠুংঠুং আওয়াজ কৰলো একটু। তারপর বিদিশাকে বললো—“কিছু ভাবলি দিশা?”

বিদিশা কফিতে চুমুক দিলো, এখনও ওই সুখী পৰিবারটিৰ প্ৰতি একটা মুগ্ধতা ওৰ মনে লেগে আছে। একটু সময় নিয়ে বললো—“তুই তো সবটাই জানিস শাক্য, তুই বল এই পৰিস্থিতিতে মাকে ছেড়ে যাওয়া সম্ভব আমাৰ পক্ষে?”

—“আমাৰ জন্যও নয়?”... বিদিশাৰ চোখে চোখে ডুবিয়ে গভীৰ কণ্ঠে বললো শাক্য।

চোখ নামিয়ে নিল বিদিশা। মনখাৰাপী বিষন্নতা ছেয়ে গেল ওৰ মুখে। মৃদুস্বৰে বললো—“বাৰবাৰ বলিস কেন? আমাৰ কষ্ট হয়।”

একটা দীৰ্ঘনিঃশ্বাসকে বেরিয়ে যেতে দিল শাক্য। পৰক্ষণেই চনমনে গলায় বললো—“কি খাবি বল? চাইনিজ, না কন্টিনেন্টাল? এৰা দাৰুণ স্টেক বানায়। অৰ্ডাৰ দিই?”

বিদিশা ঘাড় হেলালো। শাক্যৰ এই চনমনে ভাবটা যে স্বেচ্ছা আৰোপিত, সেটা বিদিশা ভালোই জানে। পাশেৰ টেবিলেৰ পৰিবারটিৰ খাওয়া শেষ। ওৰা বেরিয়ে গেলো।

পাৰ্ক স্ট্ৰিটের রেস্টোৱাৰাটিতে এখন পিক আওয়ার। শাক্য আৰ বিদিশাৰ অফিস নিউ টাউনে। কিন্তু মাৰোসাৰে ওৰা পাৰ্ক স্ট্ৰীটে চলে আসে। যতোই হোক, পাৰ্ক স্ট্ৰিট ইজ পাৰ্ক স্ট্ৰিট... শাক্যৰ মতে। আজ ডিনাৰ কৰে ফিৰবে, জানিয়ে এসেছিল বিদিশা আৰতি মাসীকে।

খেতে খেতে বিদিশা বললো—“ইউএস যাওয়ার আগে একবাৰ আমাদেৰ বাড়িতে আয় শাক্য। মা তোর কথা সব জানে। কথা বলতে না পাৰলেও খুশি হলে বাচ্চাদেৰ মত হাসে।”

শাক্য কাঁধ ঝাঁকায়—“ হুম, যাওয়া যেতেই পারে। বাট, উনি কি আমায় পছন্দ করবেন ?

আর একটা কথা দিশা, ডোন্ট টেক ইট আদারওয়াইজ... মানে, তুই কতোদিন অপেক্ষা করবি ওনার জন্য ? উনি তো তোর জন্য কোন স্যাক্রিফাইসই করেননি কোনোদিনই।”

বিদিশা নিচুস্বরে বললো—“ জানি না।”

—“ আমাদের ব্যাপারটাও তো সেটেল্ করা দরকার।”

—“ যাওয়ার ডেট ফাইনলাইজ করেছিস ? টিকিটও তো হয়নি তোর ?”... প্রসঙ্গ পাল্টাতে চাইলো বিদিশা।

—“নাহ, ওয়েট করছিলাম, ভেবেছিলাম তোর দিক থেকে কিছু পজিটিভ ইন্ডিকেশন পেলে দুজনে একসঙ্গেই যাব।... এবার শৈবালদার সঙ্গে কথা বলে ঠিক করে নেবো। অফিস সুবিধামতো টিকিট করবে।... চল ওঠা যাক।”

খাওয়া শেষ।

শাক্যর বাইক আছে। বিদিশা উবার নিল। দুজন দুদিকে... শাক্য কলেজ স্ট্রিট, বিদিশা চেতলা। অফিসে একই প্রজেক্ট আছে দুজনেই। শাক্য অন সাইটে যাচ্ছে ইউএস। একটু চেষ্টা করলে বিদিশারও হয়তো হয়ে যেতো, কটা মাসের আগে পিছে।

কিন্তু...

উবারের সিটে মাথাটা হেলিয়ে দিলো বিদিশা। ক্লান্ত লাগছে। বোজা চোখের পাতায় ভেসে উঠল একটু আগে রেস্টোরাঁয় দেখা সুখী পরিবারটির ছবি। কি সুন্দর সুখী শৈশব বাচ্চাদুটির! মনের পর্দায় নিজের শৈশবটা.....

শহরের নামকরা ডাক্তার অমিতাভ রায় ও তাঁর সমাজসেবী স্ত্রী মোহনা দুজনেই নিজেদের কর্মক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত ব্যস্ত। সংসারে বৈভব অপরিাপ্ত কিন্তু একমাত্র কন্যাটির মনের খবর নেওয়ার সময় নেই বাবা-মায়ের।

সো হোয়াট? মেয়ে কি আমার একার? মেয়ের জন্মদিনে তুমি যদি একটাদিন চেস্বার বন্ধ রাখতে না পারো, আমিই বা আমার এনজিও'র প্রজেক্ট অ্যাটেন্ড করবো না কেন?”

...মোহনা আয়নার সামনে মেকআপের ফিনিশিং টাচ দিতে দিতেই বললো। পরনের দামী আউটফিটটা কোমরের কাছে একটু টেনে ঠিক করে নিলো সে। পঁয়ত্রিশেও তার সৌন্দর্য যেকোনো সুন্দরী অষ্টাদশীকে ম্লান করে দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা রাখে।

বর্ধমানের একটি অখ্যাত গ্রামে আজ মোহনাদের এনজিও'র প্রতিপালিত স্কুলটিতে মাস্কুলি ভিজিট আছে, তাকে যেতেই হবে।

আর অমিতাভ? আজ তার অন্তত তিনটি নার্সিংহোমে তিনটি ওটি কেস আছে। কাজেই সে-ও নিরুপায়। বিদেশার জন্মদিন নয়

আরেকদিন সেলিব্রেট করা যাবে।

ছোট্ট বিদিশা বাবা মায়ের বাকবিতণ্ডায় কুঁকড়ে থাকে ভয়ে, ভুলে যায় বার্থডে সেলিব্রেশনের বায়না করতে। বাবা কোনো কোনোদিন কত রাতে ফেরেন, সে জানে না। আর মা'কেও জিজ্ঞেস করতে পারেনা। কারণ মা বেশিরভাগ রাতে যখন বাড়ি ফেরেন, সোজা হয়ে দাঁড়ানোর ক্ষমতাটুকুও তাঁর থাকে না, মদিরার গুণে। আরতি মাসী মাকে ধরে গাড়ি থেকে নামিয়ে ঘরে নিয়ে আসে।

পর্দার আড়াল থেকে কিশোরী মেয়েটি ভয়াকুল চোখে তার মাকে দেখে। অনেক হিসেব কষেও সে ভেবে পায় না, তার মা কেন তার বন্ধুদের মায়েদের মতো নয়। কিশোরী বেলা থেকে বড় হতে হতে বাবা-মা'র প্রতি একটি নিরেট ঘণার পাঁচিল তৈরি হতে থাকে মেয়েটির মনে। একই পরিবারের তিনটি মানুষ নিজেদের বানানো তিনটে আলাদা আলাদা দ্বীপে বসবাস করতে থাকে। শুধু আরতি মাসীর কাজ হল তিনটি দ্বীপের মধ্যে একটা যোগসূত্র বোনার নিরন্তর চেষ্টা চালিয়ে যাওয়া।

এভাবেই সময় গড়ায়।

এরপর সেই দিনটি...

অমিতাভ ও মোহনার এক কমন ফ্রেন্ডের বাড়িতে সেদিন ছিলো নৈশভোজের নিমন্ত্রণ। বিদিশা এখন বড় হয়েছে, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এর ছাত্রী। মা-বাবার সঙ্গে ঘনিষ্ঠতা আর গড়ে উঠলো না তার। নিজের জগতে সে ব্যস্ত থাকে।

গল্পে, আড্ডায়, পান-ভোজনে অনেকটাই রাত হয়ে গিয়েছিলো। মাত্রাহীন মদ্যপান ভয়াবহ পরিণতি ডেকে আনলো। ফেরার পথে স্টয়ারিং থেকে বারবার হাত ফসকে যাচ্ছিল ডাক্তার অমিতাভ রায়ের। তারপরই ভয়াবহ অ্যাক্সিডেন্ট। অমিতাভ স্পট ডেড। মোহনা প্রাণে বাঁচলেও মারাত্মক ব্রেইন ইনজুরি। আশ্চর্য হয়েছিল সবাই, নিজের ডাক্তার হয়েও ড্রাক্স অবস্থায় অমিতাভ ড্রাইভ করেছিলেন কেন!

দিশেহারা হয়ে পড়েছিলো তখন বিদিশা। দিন পনেরোর যুদ্ধজয়ের শেষে মোহনা ঘরে ফিরলো। দাপুটে আধুনিকা পক্ষঘাতে পঙ্গু, বাকশক্তিহীন। শুধু মেয়ের দিকে তাকিয়ে নির্বাক চোখদুটি অঝোরে ঝরে, বোধহয় ক্ষমা চায় সে দৃষ্টি। বিদিশার মনের ঘণার পাঁচিলটা অজান্তেই ধ্বংসে পড়েছিলো। এই সর্বহারা মাকে দুহাতে আগলে ধরেছিলো সে, ভেঙে পড়েছিল কান্নায়।

—“ডানদিকে ঢুকবো?”... ড্রাইভারের প্রশ্নে চমক ভাঙে বিদিশার। এসে গেছে।

—“কিরে খাচ্ছিস না কিছু? কি হয়েছে?”... মা শাক্যকে জিজ্ঞেস করলেন।

—“খাচ্ছি তো”... বললেও সত্যি শাক্য খাবার নিয়ে নাড়াচাড়া করছিলো।

—“আজ বিদিশাদের বাড়ি গেছিলি? কেমন আছেন ওর মা?”... শাক্যর মা’ও বিদিশার কথা সবই জানেন।

—“ওই রকমই”... কোনোমতে শেষ করে উঠে পড়ল ও।

রাত অনেক হলেও ঘুম আসছে না শাক্যর। একটা সিগারেট ধরিয়ে জানলার সামনে দাঁড়ালো। নিরেট কালো আকাশ, চাঁদ নেই। হঠাৎই শাক্যর মনে হলো বিদিশাকে কখনো ও তেমন রঙিন পোশাকে দেখেনি। ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজে একসঙ্গে পড়াশোনা, তারপর একই মাল্টিন্যাশনাল কম্পানিতে চাকরি।

শাড়ি বা অন্য পোশাক যাই-ই পরে বিদিশা, গ্লুমি কালারের। আশ্চর্য, এটা আগে খেয়াল করেনি তো!

সব ঠিকঠাক, ভিসা রেডি, শুধু এয়ার টিকিটটা পাওয়ার অপেক্ষা।

কিন্তু একটা অসুস্থ হচ্ছে শাক্যর মনের গভীরে। আজ বিদিশাদের বাড়ি ঘুরে আসা ইস্তক একটা ছবি মনের মধ্যে...

ছইলচেয়ারে বসা বিদিশার মা, এখনো বোঝা যায় ভদ্রমহিলা দারুন সুন্দরী ছিলেন, সেই মানুষটার মুখ একদিকে বেঁকে গেছে। হাত-পা অসাড়। শাক্যকে দেখে নির্মল হাসি ফুটলো ওনার মুখে। ওনার সব কথা শাক্য শুনেছে বিদিশার কাছে।

প্রথম দেখায় মনে বিতৃষ্ণ এসেছিলো। শাক্যকে দেখে অদ্ভুত উজ্জ্বল হয়ে উঠলো ওনার মুখ। হাসির সঙ্গে ঠোঁটের পাশ দিয়ে গড়িয়ে এলো লাল।

বিদিশা যত্ন করে ন্যাপকিনে মা’র মুখ মুছিয়ে, আদর করে ওনাকে জড়িয়ে বললো—“মা, শাক্যকে তোমার ভালো লেগেছে?”

এই ছবিটাই বারবার শাক্যর মনে ভেসে উঠছে। একটা মেয়ে... যে কোনোদিনই মা-বাবার ভালোবাসা পায়নি, সে এতটা ক্ষমাশীল হতে পারে? এতোটাই ভালোবাসা, দায়বদ্ধতা তার অন্তরে সেই “মায়ের” জন্য? আর, সেই মেয়েটাকে এমন রঙহীন একলা দিনযাপনের মধ্যে ফেলে রেখে সে চলে যাবে উন্নততর জীবনের সন্ধানে?

অসম্ভব! সুযোগ আবার আসবে। তখন দেখা যাবে।

শৈবালদাকে কালই অন্য কারোর নাম সাজেস্ট করতে হবে, অনসাইটের বিশাল লাইন থাকে।

ভালবাসতে বুঝি শুধু বিদিশাই পারে?

ঘুমের মধ্যে শাক্যর মুখে মিষ্টি একটি হাসি ফুটে রইলো। হয়তো স্বপ্নে সে দেখছে বিবর্ণ রংগুলো সরিয়ে বিদিশা উজ্জ্বল রামধনুরঙা একটি শাড়ি পরেছে, বিদিশার ঝলমলে হাসিমুখটিতে খেলা করছে ভালোবাসার সাত রং!

Minutes of the 2651st Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Behala held at Board Room of East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd, 6, Little Russel Street at 6.30 pm on 20-07-2023

- ❖ Club President Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta called the meeting to order.
- ❖ National Anthem was led by Rtn Dr Sudipta Chakraborty.
- ❖ Various points regarding the Installation ceremony were discussed in details, including PowerPoint presentation, TRF contribution, induction of Dr Anindya Basu as a new member of the club.
- ❖ The Installation Conduction Committee will meet on 26th July at Calcutta Club to finalise all the nitty-gritties.
- ❖ Rtn Debabrata Joardar briefed the members regarding the Masterclass held by Rotary India over Zoom on 19th July, the topic being "Sustainable Membership Growth".
- ❖ Happy Announcements were made by Club Secretary Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta.
- ❖ The minutes of the last RCM as published in Maitree of the day was approved by all.
- ❖ President Rtn Debarshi requested all members to attend the Installation Ceremony at Calcutta Club on 31st evening with spouse.
- ❖ Happy occasions were celebrated by cutting a cake by members whose happy days were announced.
- ❖ Meeting was terminated with a vote of thanks from and to the chair.

No. of Members - 36**Members present - 20**

Wishing President Debarshi & His
Team A Wonderful Year Ahead

PP Rtn. Debidas Ganguly

&

Srimati Ganguly



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PP Rtn. Debabrata Joardar

&

Anuradha Joardar

**Wishing President Bikash & His
Team A Wonderful Year Ahead**

PP Rtn. Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee

&

Indrani Chatterjee

Past Chairman, IW District 329

With Best Wishes To

**President Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta
&
Secretary Rtn Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta**



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PP Rtn. Dipak Kumar Mitra

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**Wishing President Bikash & His
Team A Wonderful Year Ahead**

PP RTN. MANIKA KARMAKAR

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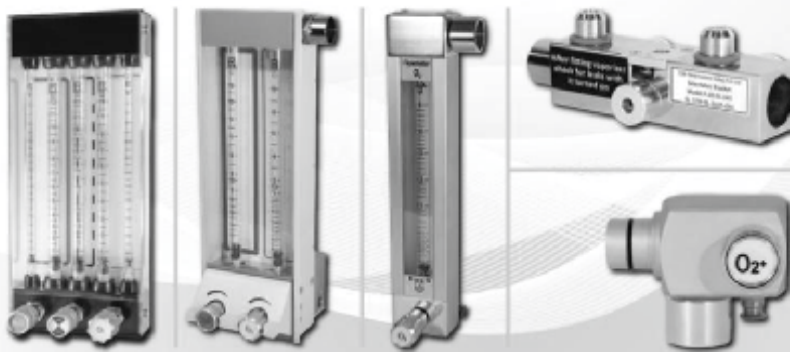
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our friends and well-wishers who came forward to help us publish this bulletin with their kind contributions.

The entire sum collected will be utilised for worthwhile Service Projects.

We are grateful to the distinguished guests who graced our Installation Ceremony and made it really memorable.

We also thank Dark Horse for designing and printing it with love and care.

- Team RC Behala 2023-24

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The diagram shows a market cycle with the following emotional states and key points:

- Optimism** (at the start of the cycle)
- Excitement** (at the start of the rise)
- Euphoria** (at the peak)
- Denial** (at the start of the fall)
- Fear** (at the start of the decline)
- Panic** (at the trough)
- Despondency** (at the start of the recovery)
- Hope** (at the start of the rise)
- Relief** (at the start of the rise)
- Optimism** (at the end of the cycle)

Key points on the cycle:

- Point of maximum financial risk**: Located at the peak of the cycle.
- Point of maximum financial opportunity**: Located at the trough of the cycle.

Investment advice at the bottom:

- High Prices**: Best Time to Sell
- Low Prices**: Best Time to Buy
- What you should be doing**: A central red diamond containing this text.

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