

# Breakfast News

Celebrating 20 Years

THE BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE | RI DISTRICT 3291

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## President Speak



Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, we had the opportunity to interact with Yuki Elias, a theater director, actor and a leadership coach. She introduced us to the idea of *The Hero's Journey*. Of us reconnecting with our inner calling and passion. And taking the bold steps into the unknown in pursuit of our calling. The concept of following ones passion is not alien to us, but what was good is that the exercise gave us structure to overcome our fears and take the plunge. It also reminded me that there are many Heroes right here in our club... those who have followed our dreams and pursued our passion. I'm sure that all of us would love to hear about the stories and personal journeys of our members and their spouses. About their challenges, fears and experiences. We shall be organising an event soon centered around this and request everyone to come forward to participate.

Yours-in-Rotary

**Deepak**

## Forthcoming Club Programmes

- **Tue, 15th Sep:** Joint meeting with RC Calcutta. **Speaker: Jayant Sinha, MP.**
- **Fri, 25th Sep:** Regular Meeting: Game Night.

## Education can't be stopped

The pandemic has shut us down but it hasn't been able to shut down the creativity and passion of our literacy team. I'm pleased to let you know our members and their spouses have been making and sharing fabulous video content with our children at Uluberia. Special thanks to Namita, spouse of PP Piyush Agarwal, Prachi, daughter of Rtn Pawan Kejriwal, Rtns Nutan Jayaswal and PP Rajni Jhunjunwala for creating great videos with poems, story telling and craft making for our children. Here are a few glimpses:



Storytelling by Rtn Nutan Jayaswal and PP Rajni Jhunjunwala



Song teaching video by Prachi Kejriwal



Craft teaching video by Namita Agarwal

Our members and spouses have also taken advantage of the e-learning introduced in the school and have volunteered to teach remotely.

**Ankur (lower nursery):** Rtns Meena Khemka and Anuradha Bhagat

**Kislaya (upper nursery):** PP Nita Sethia and Vandana Kanoria

**Nabamanjari (KG):** Rtn Sangita Todi and Meenakshi Modi

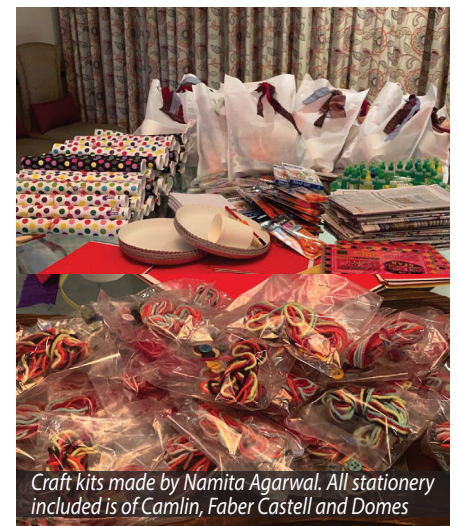
**Class-1:** PP Rajni Jhunjunwala and Nutan Jayaswal

**Class-2:** CP Sangita Todi and Vandana Kejriwal

**Class-3:** PP Meena Bansal and Sangita Todi

**Class-4:** Sudeshna Roychowdhry and Namita Agarwal

The subjects that they will be teaching are english, bengali, math, poetry, art-and-craft etc.



Craft kits made by Namita Agarwal. All stationery included is of Camlin, Faber Castell and Domes

SABRANG: WEAR YOUR COLOUR WITH PRIDE

Rotary Opens Opportunities

# The Chowrenghee Debate

**We can grow our money by investing in the Indian equity market today**, was the topic of Chowrenghee's first ever in-house debate kicking off the Game Nights series. For the motion were Sanjeev Ajmera and Himanshu Ajmera. Ready to demolish their assertions were PP Piyush Mohan Agarwal and Abhenav Khettry. A brief recap:

**Sanjeev Ajmera:** Lack of choices available to the Indian investor: Gold is nearing its all-time high and a correction is imminent, FDs and debt funds yield a post-tax return of just 3-4%. Conversely, mid and small-cap shares are trading at 30% below their all-time highs leaving room for growth. Further, once the Covid vaccine enters the market, the markets are bound to go through the roof.

**Himanshu Ajmera:** Stock market always the preferred option for higher-than FD returns. Equities are the only asset-class that can beat other choices in the long term (5 years or more) and has proven to be resilient time and again. In 2020 too the markets fell by 30-40% on the news of COVID but in 6 months recovered by 40-50%. With a horizon of 5-10 years the equity market is the best place to invest.

**Piyush Agarwal:** Today is the key word. Today markets are overheated and expensive and a correction is due. Banks are feeling the heat with increasing NPAs limiting their capacity to give fresh loans. Without loans, the growth plans of companies are stymied and hence share prices cannot rise.



The Indian indices simulate the US market and the growth seen so far is reflective of that. This rise, therefore, is not indicative of any internal strength.

**Abhenav Khettry:** A strong and disciplined mindset is required to make money in the stock market. There is a difference between the real return of an equity investment and what the investor actually gets because of the untrained and knee-jerk response to adverse events and news. Equities are exposed to geo-political risks, unpredictable business cycles and do not offer any guarantee of returns. There is also a need to access in-depth research far beyond what appears in the newspapers.



**Piyush:** Equity markets are currently expensive with no internal strength. There is room for a correction.

**Sanjeev:** Equity investments sensibly spaced out and into well-chosen mutual funds with a horizon of 5-10 years will always outperform the debt market.

**Abhenav:** The investor does not react sensi-

bly to volatility. Also introduction of mobile apps have eased entry in the stock market. Today's youth use the apps to gamble away their fortune hoping to make a quick buck. Equity investments have to be done after much thought and good advice.

**Himanshu:** There is ample research available today on the Net. Choose a sector wisely and then invest with a horizon of 5-10 years and you will not go wrong. The percentage of equity investors has risen sharply in the last 15 years.

**Final summation by Neeraj Kanoria:** World markets have seen a paradigm shift. All the safe havens of investment are anything but safe as India is deeply sensitive to the happenings in America, Europe and China. Any sector chosen for investment has to be first viewed in a global context and then a decision has to be taken. Reliance, a traditionally textiles and petrochemicals company has now changed its focus to telecom, technology and retail. Nothing is the same. Change is the new world order.



**Happy Birthday!**

*Dinesh Neotia • 1st September*

*Alka Chopra • 2nd September*

*Nisha Kanoi • 4th September*

*Alka Jain • 7th September*

*Sangita Todi • 14th September*

*Archana Chitlangia • 27th September*

*Meenakshi Modi • 30th September*



**Independence Day celebrations at Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalay**



*Archana Chitlangia  
and Masuma Mowjee  
on joining the Grandmothers' Club!*



# Down Memory Lane

RTN PRADUMAN JAIN

Our club was very new when I took over as President for 2001-02. I was ably supported by Rtn Jayshree Sanghvi as the Club Secretary. Due to the great efforts of Charter President Sangita Todi and our mentors from Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria, our club came in the notice of the District as a lively and vibrant club having special features i.e. breakfast meetings, equal number of male and female members, our fellowships and programmes.

My tenure was very hectic for me and my team of Directors and chairpersons as we had to learn fast and meet the challenges of the avenues of activities in Rotary and also to meet the demands of the District. The enthusiasm amongst members was heartening as was evident from the spur-of-the-moment meetings, discussions and the participation of families.

We experimented with a few fundraisers and the notable one was the play on the life

of Lord Buddha. I cannot forget the efforts made by all the members to make the play a grand success. It was a great moment for me when I announced the play open to a packed Kala Mandir hall. However, Parampara was established as our main fundraiser which has also raised the bar of the club in the District and the town itself.

We also made efforts to raise money for The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and members were gradually forthcoming to become Paul Harris Fellows. The rupee at that time was 35 to a dollar. Our club participated in TRF programme of Group Study Exchange and we hosted the teams coming from various countries. This was a very pleasing and informative experience for the club members. Being the President I had the opportunity to host the group leader, a senior Rotarian of the visiting club.

The fellowships were mainly held at the houses of the members or spaces provided

by them. The Governor's visit to our club was organized as a fellowship at the residence of Rtn. Pinaki Roy Choudhry. In May of 2002 the club members and their families put up a well-directed and entertaining play, something I cannot forget as it was a surprise for me and Neelima. Simply put, my tenure was very satisfying and challenging for me.

During the period of almost 20 years, our club has grown and matured. Our fellowships, programmes and community service has progressed by leaps and bounds. It is quite satisfying to see that we have our Uluberia school doing so well and also the various charities and in particular the Water and Sanitation programme.

The most satisfying feature of the club is the emergence of young members who are tech-savvy and enthusiastic to take the club forward. I can foresee the growth of the club unabated and wish all well.

## Interact Installation

### Interact Club of Sri Sri Academy had its 6th installation meeting on 8th August via Zoom.

Dhriti Kumar took over as the new President. Present online were President Deepak, Chief Guest DG Rtn Sudip Mukherjee, PDG Rajani Mukherjee among others. Key extracts of President Deepak's address to the Interactors: "You've been born into a world that is better than any time before. You will drive the innovations of tomorrow and create a better world for the future of mankind."

I commend you on all the good work that you have been doing. We at Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee are very proud of you. While we want you to be independent, we want you to know that we are always there for you and you can reach out to us



for any assistance with ideas or projects that you may want to pursue. Get inspired by the good work done by others...

*continued on next page*

# Minutes of the 869th Meeting of ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE held on Friday, 14th August, 2020 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM

- President Deepak, called the 869th Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee to order.
- Members stood for the national anthem.
- President Deepak, briefly updated all Members present, regarding the Club activities/ initiatives taken in the first month of the year 2020-21
- He spoke on the Literacy initiatives, being taken in Uluberia. Thanked the Literacy Committee who have been very active to pursue the introduction of the E-Learning through our Members/ Spouses and Member's Children. President Deepak, mentioned that the Committees of Literacy, Water & Sanitation are meeting monthly to plan and discuss all the ongoing projects. This is a very good initiative. President Deepak requested Members to join for the Independence Day celebration at the Uluberia School, the next day. He Deepak told the Members that they plan to have one RM a month as a Game Night for the Members and this initiative was being introduced today, with the Member's Debate.
- As there were no further updates, President Deepak asked Secretary Vikram for his announcements.
- Secretary Vikram requested Members, to note the date for the next RM of the Club on August 28th. An interesting Texdex speaker, Yuki Elias had been invited as the Guest Speaker. He announced the Birthdays and Anniversaries that were to further come in August. He also requested Members to kindly message CP Sangita Todi, should they be keen to join on the video call for the Independence Day Celebration at Uluberia School.
- Secretary then requested Pres. Deepak to introduce and begin the much awaited Member's Debate.
- President Deepak thanked the 4 Member Debaters and all the Members/ Guests who had eagerly joined in. He then passed on to Sangita Todi, who was the Coordinator of that evening.
- CP Sangita introduced the Topic of the Debate " We can grow our money by investing in the Indian Equity Market today". She introduced the 4 Debaters, PP Piyush Agarwal, Rtn. Himanshu Ajmera, Rtn Sanjeev Ajmera and Rtn Abhenav Khettry.
- Sangita explained the rules of the game.
- For the next 40 mins. There was an interesting Debate for all to see and enjoy.
- The Debate was summed by a short speech from Rtn Neeraj. He gave a wonderful closing analysis of the Indian Equity Market in connection with the outside world.
- At the end, all Members/Guests were asked to give their vote through an online portal to declare and choose the winning team.
- Piyush and Abhenav, who spoke against the motion were declared the winning team. They both had presented their arguments, very convincingly.
- All who attended, really enjoyed the Meeting/Debate.
- As there were no more agendas, President Deepak, thanked everyone, once again, and adjourned the Meeting.

Members Present: 38 • Guest: 10

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## Interact Installation

leverage technology to make a larger difference and create a greater impact for your efforts. You can use crowdsourcing, websites, social networks, mobile apps, communication platforms; these technologies can be great enablers. The world is changing...changing fast, and you are the harbingers...of that change...the future belongs to you.

Right now you are the new... but your time is also limited, don't waste it living someone else's life. Have the courage to follow your heart."

Here are some snippets of the fine work done by the Interactors in the past year.

