






Rotary BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA SOUTH CITY TOWERS
South City Rotary Network

RI Dist. 3291 | Club No. 85209

RI President : Rtn. Holger Knaack **Dist. Governor : Rtn. Sudip Mukherjee**
President : Rtn.PHF. Ajay Agarwal **Secretary: Rtn. Alok Bery** **Editor: Rtn. Barun Kar**

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Face Book: www.facebook.com/RCCSCT *For private circulation only*

We meet on Friday 7.30 p.m at Community Hall at South City Residence, 375 PAS Road, Kolkata - 700068

Rtn. Holger Knaack

R I President 2020-21



Rtn. Holger Knaack President 2020-21 : Presidential message October - 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All Rotary clubs have the opportunity to be innovative clubs, just like Bec's club. Let's trust those clubs, learn from them, and lend them our support. Change in Rotary happens at the grassroots level, as clubs lead the charge, defining what this new Rotary can be.

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

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

Rtn. K. R. Ravindran - Trustee Chair 2020-21 : Trustee chair's message - September 2020



In the early 1990s, polio was still a concern in my country. As the Sri Lanka PolioPlus Committee chair, I was part of a task force of Rotarians, government officials, and UNICEF representatives that drove all polio eradication efforts, including National Immunization Days (NIDs).

But those were difficult days; civil war was raging in Sri Lanka. The government said NIDs could happen only outside conflict zones. This meant one-third of the country's children would not be vaccinated — an unacceptable proposition.

Rotary stepped in with UNICEF to engineer a cease-fire. Establishing contact with one of the world's most feared and elusive rebel leaders was not easy, and we were careful to maintain Rotary's good name during negotiations.

A few weeks later, my secretary delivered a letter to my office, her hands shaking. Signed by the rebel leader himself, it read: "Dear Mr. Ravindran: If you can persuade your government to stop the war for two days, then we are willing to lay down our guns for two days too, for our war is not with children."

Soon the NID was on, and vehicles bearing the Rotary emblem traveled to the vaccination booths in the areas occupied by insurgents,

receiving the same respect and courtesy as the Red Cross.

Obstacles can seem insurmountable until we overcome them.

In March 2020, the polio program made the tough decision to temporarily suspend polio immunizations while the polio infrastructure that Rotary members had helped build was used for COVID-19 response. But with the wild poliovirus now banished from the African region and circulating in just two remaining countries, we continue to move forward. Our history shows that we can overcome even the most difficult situations. But we can't do it without your help.

World Polio Day is 24 October, and it's the greatest opportunity we have to raise funds and awareness for Rotary's polio eradication efforts. Visit endpolio.org/worldpolioday to get tools for planning virtual events and fundraisers, and to register your club's event.

Please consider making a donation to End Polio Now, to be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In the face of a pandemic, there is a serious risk of further spread of polio. Your support is more important than ever, and it will ensure that together we can tackle the remaining obstacles and achieve a polio-free world.

Club Activities

Community Service - Medical

Speaker Meeting 4th Sep

Rtn. Kunal Bose gave his classification talk at RWM, 4th September 2020. He suggested our club should take up projects where we can invest funds once and regularly generate funds from the project so that we can take up other projects. He suggested of taking up Hotels Laundry business. He is attached to an Ashram of which he will furnish more details.

'The Guptaji Show by Appurv Gupta



A stand up comedy was organised by our club on 6th September 2020. This was organised to get relief from the tensed situation due to Covid 19. Appurv Gupta is a famous Stand up Comedian who is B. Tech Electronics and Communication Engineer by Education. He has performed more than 1500 shows. IBN has put Appurv in the list of 20 Indian stand-up comedians to watch out for in 2014. He has featured multiple times on "The Rising Stars of Comedy" in NDTV Prime. He is a speaker at TEDx and has got 70 Million+ collective views on different social media.

The programme was exhilarating and enjoyed by each and everyone present. This had brought smiles and laughter on everyone's faces.

Speaker Meeting on Project Positive Health – Disease Prevention and Treatment

Vasudha Goenka is a Dietitian/Nutritionist having more than 8 years of experience as specialist. Vasudha Goenka has a great passion for health and fitness and this is what got her into doing a nutrition and dietetics course and sports nutrition. Vasudha wants to guide people towards a more positive and a healthy lifestyle.

During our regular RWM on 11th September 2020, Vasudha Goenka speak on "Positive & Healthy Lifestyle". Vasudha enlightened the members of the essential need of having a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle. It was a very informative interactive session and members gained immensely on Healthcare and Fitness.

Speaker Meeting – RWM dated 18th September 2020

Madam Shukla Chattopadhyay from Soroptimist International South Kolkata gave a presentation and expressed the need for Mangrove Plantation in Sundarbans area. The members suggested providing more details and a concrete proposal to enable the club to take decisions and work out the modalities to go ahead with the project.

Speaker Meeting - RWM dated 25th September

Rtn. Alok Bery gave a presentation to the members on Understanding & use of Rotary India APP and the My Rotary Website. Rtn. Alok Bery explained the various features of the Rotary India App and website with demonstration by sharing screen in Zoom meeting. It was a very informative presentation and all the members immensely benefited from the same.

Supporting the Environment – Sapling Planation Project

23rd September 2020. Cost: Rs. 12500

Background :

In the month of May, 60% of the trees was partly/fully damaged by cyclone AMPHAN and we saw that ecological imbalance has occurred in Madhabpur area. Sapling plantation was needed to recover the ecological imbalance.

In this regard, our RCC had planned to plant near about 500 saplings at road side of Madhabpur-Jadabpurhat road and Mukundapur-Kalitala road in Sundarbans area near their organization office. The saplings shall be sourced from the local Nursery . The saplings shall be covered at the time of plantation with net. In future, members & well-wishers of the RCC organization will look after and maintain the saplings.



Current Status :

Accordingly, our club sponsored 250 saplings and the project of plantation along with protection of the saplings was completed on 23.9.2020. Four species of saplings were planted namely, Sonajhuri, Sishu, Lambu and Mehagani. The total cost of the completed project was 12500/-

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - THEATRE TECHNICIANS HELP

27th September 2020, Cost: Rs. 17500

The coronavirus outbreak and subsequent nationwide lockdown swiftly brought the curtains down on live performances everywhere, putting a challenge to what was already a tenuous means of livelihood for many. This Project is focused to support the Technicians who never took the stage but survived through it. They wait for the curtains to rise to feed their Families. This is an initiative to help these theatre technicians to gift them a little hope that might help them survive in these trying times. The plan was to do a Digital Theatre Festival "THE CHALYUG THEATRE FESTIVAL" a set of e Plays featuring young artists from across the country. All the money collected of these shows would go to the beneficiaries. Our Club supported by sending Rs. 17500/- to the main host club RC Calcutta Inner city for support of five technician and five of our club members came forward for this noble cause . At the end of the project, a total 51 technician got support through this drive. The week long theatre festival was attended by approx. 80 audience in each show.



Rotary India to partner with Govt. of India in different initiatives



During this pandemic which has brought the world to a standstill, Rotarians are looking at opportunities to do good and help the government fight Covid-19." With these words RID Bharat Pandya opened a webinar with Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping. Senior Rotary leaders discussed future partnerships with the Govt of India (Gol).

RIPN Shekhar Mehta congratulated the Gol for showing remarkable leadership in handling the Covid-19 crisis and highlighted the work done by Rotarians across India. "We have contributed ₹105 crore towards the PM CARES fund.

Corporates contribute from their CSR funds, but this money that we have donated comes from the savings of our Rotarians. At the grassroots level our Rotarians have spent ₹90 crore over food packets, sanitisers, PPE kits and medical equipment."

He pointed out that these figures are a week-old and the money spent by Rotarians has crossed ₹200 crore, (including ₹105 crore for PM Cares Fund). "We have converted many of our Rotary hospitals to Covid hospitals and have also been focusing on

mental health.”

Stressing on mental health, the Minister said, “Samasya ghambir hai, logon ke mann me darr hai (It is a difficult time and people are scared). It is good to know that you are working towards spreading positivity. I wish more Rotarians could talk to more people, boost their confidence and assure them everything will be alright soon.” On a lighter note, he said, “We will all have to learn the art of living with corona. I request Rotarians to spread awareness about safeguarding ourselves from the virus.”

Mr. Gadkari talked about the many programmes the Gol is planning to implement in future. “We are working towards solving the drinking water crisis across India. We would appreciate if Rotary could help in creating awareness on saving water.” For a start, “we could partner to help the rickshaw pullers in Kolkata replace their hand-pulled rickshaws with electronic rickshaws. This is the worst form of labour, and it must be stopped,” he said.

He requested Rotary to help 2,000 women who work at the Baramulla Khadi Udyog in Kashmir. “Each woman makes 80 men’s handkerchiefs per day and earns ₹5 a piece. If you could do anything to make their lives better, it will be great.”

Mehta immediately said, “we will place an order for five lakh handkerchiefs, with the Rotary logo embroidered on it.” The Minister accepted the proposal and said, “Rotary has done so much in India in the areas of rural healthcare and literacy. The Gol is proud to partner with it.” Mr. Gadkari also mentioned that the government has been planning to plant trees on the National Highways. Before he could finish, Mehta quickly rose up to the occasion and asked, “Whom should we get in touch with to start? We have put up trees in crores.”

RIDN A S Venkatesh emphasised that Rotary’s interface with the government is a valuable input for Rotary leadership in India, and said that meetings like these help us understand the government’s priorities so we can lend a shoulder. Rotary in India has a strength of 1.6 lakh educated, accomplished and committed foot soldiers with whom the government could associate in times of such crises.

Dhrub Tara for the month September 2020

Rtn Nikhil Chokhani was adjudged the Dhrub Tara for the month of September 2020, for his exemplary achievements as a Rotarian.

Release of September Bulletin

Bulletin Editor, Rtn. Barun Kar presented the September issue of the bulletin for the year 2020-21 which was released during the RWM on 25th September, 2020.



Message from the bulletin editor Rtn. Barun Kar

Very warm greetings to my dear fellow Rotarians. This bulletin gives you a synopsis of the events held in September 2020. In the last month we had organised various speaker meetings. Also we, along with our RCC have done a sapling plantation project in the area of Madhavpur, Sundarbans.

Since October is Economic and Community Development month, I request all the Rotarians to come forward and invest time and money by creating sustainable, measurable and long term economic improvements in our communities and livelihoods.

I wish all the Rotarians and their family a very happy Durga Puja. May the joy of this festive season last you all through the year and may God bless each of you and your families with health, happiness, wealth and well being in every sphere of your lives.



Ann Anshu Bery	03-Oct
Annet Arjun Bhattacharjee Son of Rtn. Annapurna & Ann Debashish Bhattacharjee	04-Oct
Annet Amrita Chakrabarti Paul Daughter of Rtn. Satyanarayan & Ann Sanghamitra Chakrabarti	05-Oct
Rtn. Ritesh Agarwal	06-Oct
Rtn. Chitralkha Datta	06-Oct
Annet Nirmaan Agarwal Son of Rtn. Ajay & Ann Swati Agarwal	09-Oct
Annet Dhruv Srivastava Son of Rtn. Raj & Ann Abha Srivastava	14-Oct
Annet Srika Agarwal Daughter of Rtn. Ajay & Ann Swati Agarwal	18-Oct
Annet Atika Bery Daughter of Rtn. Alok & Ann Anshu Bery	18-Oct
Rtn. Satish Tarway	18-Oct
Ann Amalina Bose	22-Oct
Ann Swati Agarwal	26-Oct
Annet S. Rayeesa Arifeen Daughter of Rtn. M. J. Sultan & Ann Aneesa Zaibab	27-Oct
Rtn. M. J. Sultan	30-Oct