

ISSUE No: 17 / 2025-2026

REGULAR MEETING No. 2969

27 March 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

LPG SHORTAGE

India faces a potential cooking gas (LPG) shortage due to heavy import reliance with over 85% of imports traversing the volatile Strait of Hormuz. India imports roughly 60% of its LPG. Ongoing conflicts (US-Israel-Iran) have affected shipping lanes, specially hindering shipments from the Strait of Hormuz. Inadequate strategic storage capacity makes India susceptible to immediate supply.

Restaurants, hotels and clubs are struggling to get commercial LPG cylinders, forcing some to reduce operations or shut down. Panic buying and worries about long-term availability have spread among households, exacerbated by long delivery delays. The surge in oil prices has caused the price of commercial cylinders to rise.

The Government has prioritised domestic supply over commercial to prevent widespread domestic issues. Refineries have increased production by about 10% to stabilise the market. India is looking to diversify its sourcing of LPG beyond the immediate conflict zone, encouraging a shift to piped natural gas (PNG) where available, to ease the pressure on cylinder logistics.

THE CLUB SECRETARY SPEAKS:

"Love in rituals"

I almost filed for divorce last Tuesday.

I was sitting in my car, staring at the paperwork, convinced that "the spark" was gone. I felt numb. I drove to my parents' house instead—seeking a place to hide, or maybe just looking for an excuse to delay the inevitable.

My parents, Margaret and Jimmy, have been married for 52 years. They are the kind of American couple you see in old photos: he's a retired foreman who speaks in grunts; she's a retired nurse who runs the house with quiet efficiency.

While Dad was out back tinkering with his old truck, I sat at the kitchen table and asked Mom the question that had been burning a hole in my chest.

"Mom," I whispered, watching her fold laundry. "After fifty years... are you actually still in love with him? Or are you just... used to him?"

She stopped folding. She looked at me with an expression I couldn't quite read—somewhere between pity and amusement. She didn't answer immediately. She just patted my hand, smiled a tired, knowing smile, and went back to the towels.

I left an hour later, frustrated, feeling like she didn't understand the modern need for "connection" and "passion."

But when I got home, my phone buzzed. It was a long email from my mother. She isn't tech-savvy, so seeing her type this much was a shock.

I sat in my driveway and read it. By the end, I was weeping.

Here is what she wrote:

"My darling girl,

You asked me today if I still love your father. I didn't answer you then because love isn't a soundbite I can explain while folding sheets. But I want you to know the truth.

It makes me smile that you ask this. Not because it's a silly question, but because the answer is complicated.

Do I love him like I did in 1972? No. If you are looking for butterflies in the stomach, or the nervous energy of a first date, or the fireworks of a Hollywood movie... then no, I don't have that.

But that isn't love. That is adrenaline.

Love, after a lifetime together, isn't the explosion. It is the roots.

It is no longer the feeling that shakes you up; it is the certainty that holds you down when the world tries to blow you away. It doesn't make my heart race anymore; it calms my soul. It doesn't make my hands tremble; it gives me the strength to get out of bed when my arthritis flares up.

In this house, there are no big surprises anymore. We don't do grand romantic gestures. We have something better: We have rituals.

It's the coffee pot starting at 6:00 AM exactly, because he knows I need it hot. It's the small, silly arguments we have about how to load the dishwasher or who left the porch light on. It's the way he instinctively pulls the blanket over my shoulder when I cough in the middle of the night.

I know what he wants and when, I do it instinctively, without fretting over it.

These seem like boring, trivial things to your generation. But they are everything.

At this stage of life, I don't need a man to buy me diamonds or take me to Paris. I need a man who listens when I say my back hurts. I need a man who just hands me a tissue when I'm crying over the news, without asking why. I need a man who doesn't leave the room when I'm depressed and I don't even like myself very much.

And your father? He does that. Without fanfare. Without asking for a 'thank you.' He is simply there.

Loving someone for fifty years isn't like the romance novels. It's more like developing a secret language that no one else on earth speaks. It's a way of looking at each other across a crowded room and knowing exactly what the other is thinking, because you have shared the same bills, the same worries about the kids, the same grief when we lost friends, and the same stubborn will to keep going.

So, to answer your question: Yes. I am still wildly in love with him.

But not with the boy I met at the diner in '72. I am in love with the life we built. I am in love with the peace that comes from knowing that, no matter how crazy this country gets or how hard the storm blows outside, he is my shelter.

Don't look for the fireworks, honey. Look for the person who becomes your home."

I turned off the car. I tore up the papers on the passenger seat. I walked inside to my husband, who was sitting on the couch, looking just as tired as I felt.

"Do you want some coffee?" he asked.

"Yes," I said. "I'd love that."

It starts with the butterflies. But it survives on the roots.

SECRETARIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 29th March is the Birthday of PP Rtn Dr.Arup Kr. Mitra
- 8th April is the Birthday of Mrs.Mitali Bose
- 9th April is the Birthday of PP Rtn Dr.Sumit Kr. Mitra
- 10th April is the Birthday of Rtn Zeena Augustine
- 10th April is the Birthday of Rtn Debashish Hazra

PROJECTS COMPLETED AFTER

- 26th March donated a Water Purifier, Drawing Books, Colour Pencils, Crayons, Pastels, Paints and brushes and Drawing Books to Amader Padakhep (a Home for the homeless boys) in Baghajatin, Jadavpur.
- 27th March installed a Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine (donated by PP Rtn Satya Sundar Sarangi on behalf of RCCSW) at Rasapunja Girls School in Bishnupur, South 24 Pargs. The destroyer that comes with the machine has been donated by Shri Alope Biswas, VP of P.C Sen Charitable Trust.
- 27th March had a meeting with Shri Alope Biswas and other representatives of P.C Sen Charitable Trust (owners of Senco Jewellers) to plan and execute joint projects in their CSR funded Hospital and upcoming Nurses Training College in Thakurpukur.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Awareness Drive on Cervical Cancer and Thalassemia at St.Xavier's College Raghobpur. Tentative date is 28th March.
- Health Check up for the inmates of Mary Cooper Home for the aged in Khidderpore. Tentative date is 7th April.

CHANGE of PORTFOLIOS of the Board of Directors 2026-'27 as approved in the Board Meeting held on 17th March.

**Rtn Debashish Sarkar -- President Elect & Director Vocational Service
Rtn Samir Sur – Vice President & Director International Service
Rtn Biswarup Gupta -- Director Youth Service**

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBER:



SOUMITRA PODDAR

A 2nd generation Rotarian, son of Late PDG Manindra Chandra Poddar, will be inducted on 10th April 2026.

PROFILE:

Birthday--27th May

Mail id-- Soumitra.poddar@gmail.com

Mobile--9903043177

Spouse-- Sangita Poddar

Birthday--16th February

Anniversary-- 23rd January

Founding Partner

Strategic Services consulting

*Author book "Digital Transformation Implementation Handbook "

• Certified Independent Director by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs under MCA

• 20 years of experience with PwC / IBM

• Global Transformation experience having worked with worldwide clients – Shell, BP , StatOil and Sony Pictures

• Developed Models and framework Digital solutions including Social analytics and Supply chain and Marketing solutions

• 5 full life cycle design and implementation of SAP Transformation projects

• DPE , delivered the SAP HR global template roll out and Application Support program including setup of Testing competency. Built team 150 FTE team and support across 50 countries.

• Global Service Transition Lead based in UK handling complex migration for over 25 countries and over 12,000 employees

• Developing Solutions in the areas of Connected Systems , Hardware Software integration with a primary focus on Robotics , Artificial Intelligence in the Industrial and Consumer Industry

He is one of the distinguished alumni of Vinod Gupta School of Management, IIT Kharagpur.

RCCSW IN ACTION

Baking Class in progress at the Light House for the Blind



Flyer for Awareness Drive at St.Xavier's College, Raghbapur

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
RAGHABPUR CAMPUS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
BENGAL OBSTETRIC & GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND
ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA SOUTH WEST
PRESENTS
Integrated Health Initiative:
Screening for Hemoglobin, Thalassemia
and Cervical Cancer Awareness
CHIEF PATRON
REV. DR. DOMINIC SAVIO, SJ
Principal
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
CHIEF ADVISOR
REV. FR. JOHNSON PADIYARA, SJ
Vice-Principal, Raghbapur Campus
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
SPEAKER
DR. SUSMITA MITRA BANERJEE
CONSULTANT - OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
ROTARIAN
DATE: MARCH 28, 2026
TIME: 2 PM ONWARDS
VENUE: RAGHABPUR CAMPUS

On 26th March visited Amader Padakhap and gave a Water Purifier and some Drawing and Art stationery for the little boys of the Home.



MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION.

PP. RTN.DR. SUMIT KUMAR MITRA

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

It was indeed a great experience to negotiate with a Navy Commodore and asking for a ship to take us to Barren Island, in June 2005.

Firstly the language of the Navy officer's is too bold. The Commodore- during my interaction told me- "I have told my boy's to tie you civilian up with a rope, and encircle around Barren Island and come back". When I told specifically, we want to land in the Island, by Gemini Boat, do some fieldwork and collect samples, as per directive of Govt. Of India-he agreed, with a clause- that we have to report to Naval Dock of Port Blair within a notice of 30 minutes.

Finally on 13th June 2005, the call came at 5.00 am in the morning, and we reported at 5.30 am, immediately the Ship started for Barren Island. Wading through the choppy sea, at a speed of 15-20 knots/hr, we reached and landed at Barren Island around noon.

It was indeed an experience to observe the Fuming Barren Island Volcano, 135 km northeast of Port Blair. It was a life-time experience to stand before the fury of nature on 13th June, 2005.

Based on the reports of the Indian Coast Guards, Port Blair, a documentation and on the spot study of the volcanic activity was carried out by our team where myself as the party leader along with three other colleagues landed at Barren Island by boat Gemini in extremely rough monsoon sea and risky weather condition. We reached closer to the active Volcano, taking about 1 km of painful walk over the dangerously strewn sharp edged boulders of the scoriaceous-brecciated basalt of earlier (1995) eruption.

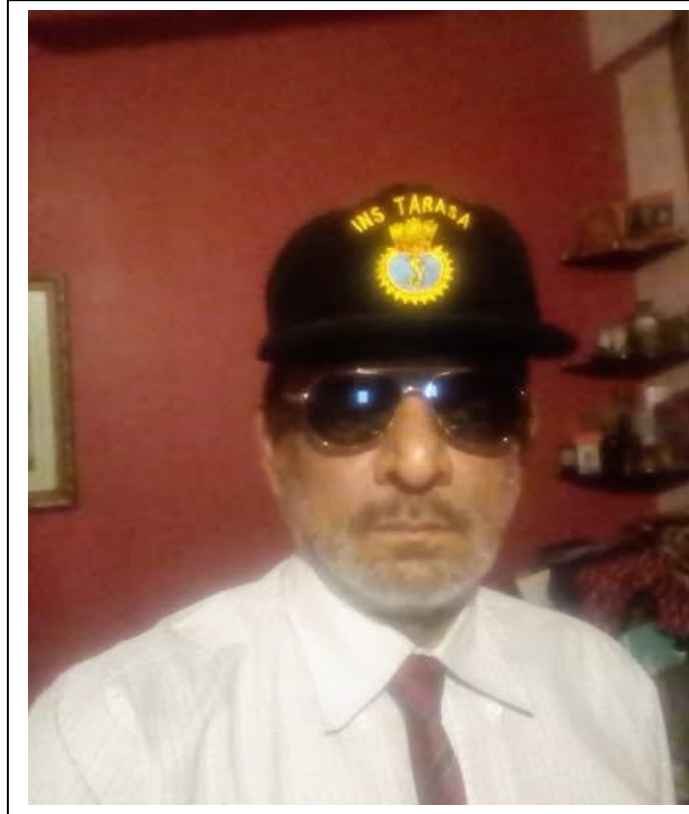
Tough fieldwork for nearly 4 hours had finally enabled us to complete the study and return to the ship (INS TARASA, a frigate of Indian Navy) with bags full of samples and cameras loaded still pictures and movie shots.

But the journey back to Port Blair was more painful - I have never experienced a ship journey like that in my lifetime- we felt like we were travelling in a space ship- as the ship was speeding at 25 knots/hr in the rough sea.. We all vomited like anything, whatever lunch we had, came out. I faintly heard in mike- we are reaching Port Blair. We all came out, then slept on the jetty for 1 hr, before we realised we were ok.

Next day morning we went to meet the Commodore at his office- he stood up from his chair, told-"You CIVILIANS have guts, my sailor's were all sick".

The evening- The Captain along with the Chief Officer, came to meet us at the Circuit house-and gave us this Cap, - which I am wearing. This is normally given to Navy Chief when he comes onboard the ship.

I feel happy at least with the thought that the Navy people recognised us by giving this Cap as an Honour. But my own Organisation never gave a letter of appreciation for completing this daunting task, in the Bad weather- probably my Higher ups took their credit from the Ministry- NEVER THE LESS I REMAIN A GENTLEMAN.



A FEW IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 05 April 2026: DISTRICT TEAM LEARNING SEMINAR at SRING CLUB
- 26 April 2026: SECRETARIES ELECT LEARNING SEMINAR at TAJ CITY CENTER
- 17 May 2026: DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY at HYATT REGENCY
- 22 May 2026: RCCSW – CLUB OFFICERS LEARNING SEMINAR
- 12 June 2026: RCCSW – CLUB ASSEMBLY
- 26 June 2026: RCCSW – PRESIDENT’S NIGHT

SMILE A WHILE

