



Spectrum



RI District 3291

December 9, 2023

PRESIDENT KUSUM CHAMARIA

CLUB NO 78956

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

SECRETARY DR CHITRA RAY

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008

VOL 17 NO 24

EDITOR DR OM TANTIA

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

Temple Run gives sacred sites a clean sweep

Posted on December 7, 2023 by Gautam Shrestha, immediate past president (2022-23) of the Rotary Club of Yala, Nepal



Members of the Rotary Club of Yala clean a temple in the Kathmandu Valley.



Gautam Shrestha

Kathmandu Valley is renowned for its rich cultural and historical heritage. It's home to numerous World Heritage Sites, and many visitors are attracted to the temples, squares, and stupas that reflect ancient and diverse cultural traditions.

Local people come to the temples to pray or visit as part of their morning walks. Older residents meet up to have a friendly chat or sing devotional songs called bhajan. The temples are a place of community, prayer, and reflection where people of all ages come together.

Recently, members of our club became aware of a troubling problem at some of these sites. Their beauty was being marred by a buildup of dust and debris. People arrive carrying plastic bags, but in their devotion to worship, they fail to keep the temple area clean or dispose of the trash they generate. There's also a practice of disposing of plastic and paper waste materials by burning them in the temple area.

After talking about it in our club and hearing from others in the community, we decided to take action. We mounted our first effort, which we called "Chandeswori Temple Cleaning," in Pimbahal, Lalitpur. We gathered about 55 volunteers from the Rotaract and Interact clubs of Yala, the Chandeswori Women's Group, and the Yala Heritage

Group. The volunteers spent the day picking up trash, debris, organic matter, and worn-out religious offerings in the temple area. We also cleaned floors, dusted, and performed various other surface cleanings.

The positive feedback we received was remarkable. The people who live in the area were happy with our project, and we were happy to see the community come together. We began to see members of the community taking the initiative to clean the temple on a weekly basis. This inspired us to expand our project and commit to cleaning a different temple every three to four months. I called it the "Temple Run" project, because we are regularly moving from one temple to another.

This approach not only allowed us to contribute consistently, but also encouraged local members of the community to actively participate in the regular cleaning of various temples.

We've been able to clean six locations, both Hindu and Buddha, including Banglamukhi Temple, Mahalaxmasthan Temple, the Machindranath Chariot Area, Karyabinayak Temple, and Sunakoti.

Volunteers from our club, which numbers about 50 members, are joined by many others on our cleaning visits: spouses, Interactors, local community groups, students, and about a dozen members of Rotaract.

We're leading by example, encouraging individuals and communities to engage in social responsibility by taking care of the shared spaces that hold cultural and religious significance. Our project aligns with Rotary's values of service and community engagement. The results may potentially have far-reaching positive impacts on health, culture, and the environment.

We look forward to continuing to foster a sense of community while helping to maintain the sanctity of these revered places, drawing attention to how Rotary unites neighbors, friends, and leaders to volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs.

Rotary History and Anecdotes

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, 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.*

Rotary International is a global service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to *provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.*

Over last 118 years, Rotary, like other surviving institutions, has changed itself to remain inclusive and contemporary *without compromising its dynamism and relevance.*

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Kusum Chamaria, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: Dr. Om Tantia

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In this section, the editorial team of Spectrum, so far, has touched upon and shared the following anecdotes of Rotary during the current Rotary year:

- History of Women in Rotary in the July 7, 2023 issue
- History of the 4 Way test in the July 15, 2023 issue
- Rotary's two official mottos in the July 22, 2023 issue
- Rotary's Work Commemorated in Stamps in July 29, 2023 issue
- Rotary and the United Nations in September 9, 2023 issue
- Why Rotary year begins 1 July in September 16, 2023 issue
- Rotary & Polio – World's largest global public health initiative in the history in September 23, 2023 issue
- Rotary Themes in September 30, 2023 issue
- Rotary partners in October 7, 2023 issue
- Interact as Rotary's service club program in October 14, 2023 issue
- Rotary Peace Program in October 21, 2023 issue
- Rotary Youth Exchange in October 28, 2023 issue
- The Rotary Foundation in November 4, 2023 issue
- Rotary's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in November 11, 2023 issue
- Rotary's Timeline: Founding Years (1905 to 1911) in November 18, 2023 issue
- Rotary's Timeline: Expanding our Reach (1912-1930) in November 25, 2023 issue
- Rotary's Timeline: Cultivating Leaders (1931-1957) and Global Service (1958-1984) to be continued in December 2, 2023 issue

Rotary's Timeline (Continued)

We continue this series, where we share, through timelines, how Rotary transformed itself without compromising its dynamism and relevance.

Global Service (1958-1984): continued from the previous issue of Spectrum

1978: Health, Hunger and Humanity grants



RI President Clem Renouf announce the 3-H program at the 1978 convention in Tokyo: "A new program will be launched during this coming year . . . which will bring a new dimension to our service activities. It will be known as the Health, Hunger and Humanity program."

Rotary develops a program to improve health, alleviate hunger, and enhance human and social development. Rotary

members use the grants to create access to clean drinking water, support literacy programs, provide medical care, and more, setting the stage for today's global grants.

1979: Rotary International fights polio

A multi-year grant project to immunize children in the Philippines launches Rotary in the fight to eradicate polio.



On 29 September 1979, RI President James L. Bomar Jr. ceremonially launched the project in the Philippines by administering oral polio vaccine to a child in Guadalupe Viejo in metropolitan Manila. Listen to him recount the experience in an interview from 1991.

Bold Goals (1985-2004)

We establish some of our most ambitious programs and partnerships. Building peace and fighting polio take on increased importance as we look for ways to make a lasting impact.

1985: Rotary launches PolioPlus

PolioPlus supports the commitment Rotary made a few years earlier to "eliminate polio through immunization." Today, that commitment remains a top priority and the PolioPlus program coordinates the efforts of Rotary and its partners.



A volunteer immunizes a child against polio in Bolivia. 1989. The WHO's America region is certified polio-free in 1994.



A poster advertising National Immunization Days in Tanzania in 1996



A healthcare worker uses a bicycle to travel to children in remote areas during a National Immunization Day in Cote d'Ivoire, in 2013. The cooler is vital for keeping the polio vaccine cold and useable.



A Rotary volunteer marks the finger of a child to indicate she has just received polio vaccine. Attock, Punjab, Pakistan. 2019.

1987: Women join Rotary



Women join Rotary clubs throughout the U.S. following a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1989, women join clubs worldwide.

About a year after women join Rotary worldwide, The Rotarian magazine runs a feature story looking at the impact of Rotary's expanded membership.

1988: Peace Forums and advocacy

The Foundation holds its first Peace Forum in Evanston, Illinois, USA, as part of a pilot program. The program is later broadened and peace-focused events continue under many names.



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The Mediterranean: A Cultural Mosaic and Microcosm of the World Condition

There is no better site for a philosophical reflection than on the banks of the Mediterranean Sea. Together for half the world's population, according to Guy Naim, governor of E.L. Loucheur (1979) (France, Morocco), who spoke at the opening of the 1988 Rotary Peace Forum.

The Peace Forum, held on 24 September in Nice, France, saw the largest date, with more than 700 participants from 21 countries. The theme: "Peace and the Mediterranean".

The first of a series of international gatherings, Guy Naim, director of the European Institute for Advanced International Studies and general secretary of the Academy for Peace and International Security, provided the main address with an historical overview of conflict in the Mediterranean region.

Theological as the "cradle of the most brilliant civilization" and a "crucible of major nations," Naim characterized the region as one of constant tension between the less-developed countries of northern Africa and the more affluent European nations.

Because of the strategic importance of the Mediterranean, the region has often been a theater of conflict between the superpowers and has attempted to avoid such conflicts in the area. In addition to the tension between East and West, Naim said, conflicts between ethnic minorities in many Mediterranean areas contribute to destabilization of established governments.

Organizations seeking to resolve these conflicts, such as NATO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, must promote regional unity and peace, according to Naim.

Naim concluded his remarks on a note of optimism, suggesting the three between East and West, and a meeting of Greek, Jewish, and Arab leaders in the Middle East, may be the best chance for peace. He added that these peace initiatives were reinforced by the three between the superpowers, and that the Mediterranean area offers a viable alternative to the use of force. He said that the meeting of Greek, Jewish, and Arab leaders in the Middle East, may be the best chance for peace.

The Peace Forum was further developed by Peace Initiatives Alliance, coordinator for a United Nations program that provides human



The 1988 Rotary Peace Forum, held 24 September in Nice, France, was the largest to date, attracting more than 700 participants from 21 countries. Guy Naim, governor of French Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, said attendees did there must for a constant dialogue for peace among the diverse nationalities, cultures, and religions of the Mediterranean region.

tion and economic assistance to the people of Afghanistan and on president of the Independent Commission for International Development Studies.

The Forum described the region as "an ethnic and cultural mosaic" and a "microcosm of the world condition." He urged the diverse population to find a common language for constructive dialogue toward peace.

Following the Forum's remarks, a panel of distinguished European experts focused on three major areas of conflict in the Middle East: the Middle East, the Balkans, and the Nagorno-Karabakh region of northern Armenia.

Stefan H. Harny, senior French ambassador to Lebanon, discussed the renewed cooperation in the Middle East. He said

the historical role of the Mediterranean in the history of nations is the main theme of the forum in this area.

Naim, former Minister of the Interior of the French Republic, stressed conflict in the Balkans, where many ethnic minorities are struggling for recognition within their own countries.

Director of the Balkans programme, North-Eastern and Western Europe, the expert groups have an interest in controlling these ethnic conflicts. Naim said that the proposed solutions between the Super Powers and the U.S.A. may have provided an opportunity for the Balkan nations to explore long-term solutions to their problems.

Finally, Michel Arbet, former French

The Peace Forum newsletter shared key messages from the events with members around the world.

1988: Partners in the fight against polio

Inspired by Rotary's immunization work in the Philippines and global fundraising success, the World Health Assembly sets a goal of worldwide polio eradication. Rotary is a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).



Ending polio requires close coordination with our partners. A Rotary member from India meets with members of the WHO India National Polio Surveillance Project at the WHO country office in New Delhi, India, in 2019.

1999: Peace Centers empower leaders

Foundation Trustees approve the creation of the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, now known as Peace Centers. An inaugural class of Rotary Peace Fellows begins studies in 2002.



Rotary Peace Fellows at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, in 2022.



Rotary Peace fellows in 2019 at Duke University-University of North Carolina in Durham, North Carolina, USA



Rotary Peace Fellows at International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan. 2011



Rotary Peace Fellows at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 2014.

2004: Arch Klumph Society recognizes donors



Arch Klumph Society lapel pin

Rotary creates the Arch Klumph Society to recognize individuals, couples, and organizations that have contributed \$250,000 or more to the Foundation. The first annual dinner is held at the 2005 convention in Chicago.

To be continued...



PE Rtn Sunil Singhi on December 4, 2023
PP Dr Ankush Bansal on December 6, 2023
PP Siddharth Tantia on December 12, 2023
Rtn Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty on December 16, 2023



Spouse Rajul & PE Sunil Singhi on December 9, 2023

December is Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

TAILPIECE

India and climate: what does the world's most populous nation want from COP28?

By Gayathri Vaidyanathan on December 6, 2023 in Nature

India is pitching itself as the voice of the global south at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), now under way in Dubai. The country is also massively dependent on coal, and is the world's third biggest carbon producer. India resolves that seeming contradiction by noting that its per-capita emissions last year were less than one-sixth those of the United States and 24 times smaller than the figure for top-ranking Qatar, while its average standard of living is far below that of both. What that amounts to at COP28 is India pushing for commitments that reflect how the dice are loaded in favor of rich countries, which have already benefited from historically high emissions.

"If we have to reach net-zero by 2050 collectively, then India's share in that collective goal should be a significant one," says Nandini Das, a climate researcher based in Perth, Australia, who works for the global research group Climate Action Tracker. But she adds that in terms of finance, "India requires substantial international support".

At the conference, India has not signed any declarations that mention de-carbonization, including the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, which aims to triple renewable-energy generation capacity by 2030 and calls for an end to new investments in coal. India also rejected a declaration that calls for emissions cuts in the health sector. That's despite the country having signed a similar renewable-energy pledge and a commitment to develop low-carbon health systems at the meeting of the G20 group of nations in August.

India's domestic goals are in line with its self-imposed 2070 deadline for reaching net-zero emissions, says Vaibhav Chaturvedi, a researcher with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, an independent think tank based in New Delhi. "There is no backsliding happening," he says, although he warns that India's net-zero trajectory can be properly evaluated only after its emissions peak.