



MONDAY 01 January 2024

January is Vocational Services Month

104

The Chaka

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta
R I Dist. 3291

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Know Your Speaker



Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University.

Sugata Bose is the Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University. He has served as Director of Graduate Studies in History at Harvard and as the Founding Director of Harvard's South Asia Institute. Prior to taking up the Gardiner Chair at Harvard University in 2001, Bose was a Fellow of St. Catharine's College, University of Cambridge, and Professor of History and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Bose was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta, and the University of Cambridge where he obtained his Ph.D. His many books include *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (1998, 2004, 2011, 2017, 2022 with Ayesha Jalal), *A Hundred Horizons:*

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



CREATE HOPE
IN THE WORLD

The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire (2006), His Majesty's Opponent : Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire (2011, 2022), The Nation as Mother and other visions of nationhood (2017) and Asia after Europe: Imagining a Continent in the Long Twentieth Century (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2024). He was a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1997 and gave the G.M. Trevelyan Lecture at the University of Cambridge. In 2015 he was awarded the Rabindra Puraskar.

Sugata Bose is the Chairperson of Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkata. He has jointly with Sisir Kumar Bose edited the 12-volume Collected Works of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He is joint editor with Krishna Bose of Rabindranath Tagore, *Purabi : The East in its Feminine Gender*, translations of Tagore's poetry by Charu C. Chowdhuri and translator of Tagore's songs in his book *Tagore the World Voyager*. He has made three highly regarded documentary films.

Sugata Bose served as a Member of Parliament in India elected to the 16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019) representing the Jadavpur constituency in Bengal and throughout that period as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. His eloquent speeches in Parliament in defense of democracy were widely heard and appreciated.

SAMARTH 1 – Salt Lake GD Block Football Ground, 24 Dec. 2023 - AOS Community

Rotary Club of Calcutta, The Old Number One in its 104th year of service to humanity implemented a humanitarian community service project in the heart of Kolkata "SAMARTH-1", the Celebration of Spreading Joy. This project is in the second year running in a Community Service Initiative. This is not only a project but a small initiative to change some lives with a gesture of Rotary Service. This year the project was held at GD Block Salt Lake Ground on 24th December, 2024.

A project with this magnum scale, well organized, is a moment to cherish in our Club and District 3291. RID Anirudha RoyChoudhury was the Chief Guest, District Governor Hira Lal Yadav, Dr. Sujoy Chakraborty Chairman. Howrah Municipal Corporation was the Guest of Honor. The project was started with good wishes from RI President Gordon McNally. PDG Uttam Ganguly, PDG Rajani Mukherjee, PDG Prabir Chatterjee were also present in the program. DGE Dr. Krishnendu Gupta was also present.

In this mega project, 383 Wheelchairs were distributed to the especially abled people of the community. Apart from this, the especially abled people were given 383 blankets for the winter season. In addition 835 School Shoes were handed over to the students who cannot afford good shoes. All the beneficiaries were present with their guardians for the project. A moment touching lives. To mention further, NGO's, RCCs, Rotary Clubs of our districts participated in this

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program by bringing in their beneficiaries. The wheelchair was supported by generous donations from our donors and India Humanity Foundation for helping to make this project a grand success.

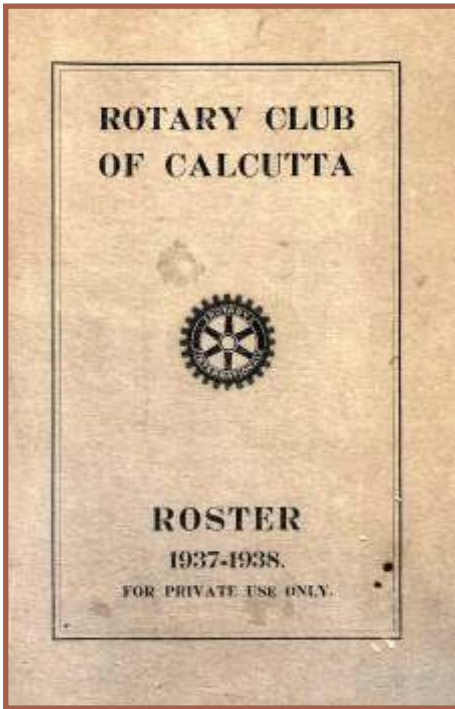
Also special thanks to Councilor BMC Sri Ranjan Poddar, Police Commissioner Sri Gaurav Sharma and OC Bidhannagar Arka Mukherjee for supporting the cause. 1500 food packets, 1500 Maaza Juice and Mineral Water were distributed to all the beneficiaries, their guardians and all the volunteers.

The total project value is as follows :

383 Nos. Karma Champion Wheel chairs @ MRP13500	= Rs. 51,70,500
835 Nos. Plaeto School Shoes @ Rs 2399	= Rs. 20,03,165
Blankets, Food, Decorators, Licence and BMC, Gifts	= Rs. 2,55,000
TOTAL	= Rs. 74,28,665

Reported by Special Projects Chair Arindam Roy Chowdhury

MEMORABILIA ON THE OCCASION OF 105th CHARTER DAY



The Oldest Roster



The Oldest Chaka



Our Charter

Remembering N C Laharry – The First Asian President of Rotary International



Nitish Chandra Laharry (1892–1964) was an Indian lawyer, social worker and film producer from Kolkata. He was the first person of Asian origin to be elected as the president of Rotary International. It was during his presidency that Rotary International started the Interact organisation.

He was one of three sons of a schoolteacher. He joined the Rotary Club of Calcutta in 1926 and became its secretary the same year. His business travels took him to Mumbai in 1935, but he continued his association with Rotary International by becoming a member of the Rotary Club of Bombay, and, on his return to Kolkata in 1939, he rejoined the Rotary Club of Calcutta and served as President in 1944. The Bengal famine of 1943 had already set in by that time and the organization, under his leadership set up food canteens and free medical camps for the people affected by the famine. In 1953, he was elected as the Second Vice President of Rotary International. Serving Rotary International in several capacities till 1961-62, he was elected as the Rotary International the organization in 1962. The theme for his year as President was "Kindle the Spark Within".

Amongst his various awards and recognitions are Padma Bhusan, Govt. of India and Order of Merit, Chile. Rotary Club of Calcutta has honoured him by naming their children's library as Nitish Chandra Laharry Children's Library.

(The Charter Day is an excellent occasion to remember this great Rotarian, and this is a small attempt to re-ignite the spark within. Compiled from Wikipedia reports and The Roster 2023-24 – Ed)



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Past Presidents share their thoughts on our 105th Charter Day



PP Vikram Somany

Rotary Club believes in Helping, Serving people.

Their Motto Is – Create Hope in the World Rotary is made up of people around the world working together to clean the environment, end polio, improve our communities and The Strengthening Rotary Initiative helps us to provide a simple answer to the question “What is Rotary”. By incorporating these messages

into your conversation, you will inspire and engage members of the community to connect and partner with Rotary. Great brands build their stories around simple ideas. The three phrases below convey the essence of who they are and help them tell the story with strength and consistency. They communicate what makes Rotary a positive force in communities all over the world. ROTARY UNITES LEADERS. Rotary brings together leaders who take on some of the toughest challenges in their communities. Rotary harnesses the strength of professional and community leaders from nearly every country in the world. ROTARY EXCHANGES IDEAS. At Rotary people discover and celebrate their diverse perspectives during club meetings, conferences, service projects and social events. Rotary finds a place for your expertise and passion. Whether you want to lead a project or be a part of the team that comes up with an idea for one, Rotary welcomes your thoughts. ROTARY TAKES ACTION. Rotary creates positive change in communities around the world through their service projects. From food pantries to projects that provide clean water and improve maternal health, Rotary Clubs join forces to carry out impactful and sustainable projects in communities around the world. And, THROUGH ROTARY, they build lifelong relationships. Rotary honours their commitments, they connect diverse perspectives. They apply leadership and expertise to address social issues and accomplish many extraordinary things every single day.

This year I want to congratulate the President, Hony Secy and Their Team as well as the Honourable Rotarian Members who are doing splendid projects with a view to “Create Hope in the World”.



PP Abhijit Kolay

About 27 years have passed since I was inducted as a member of Rotary Club of Calcutta, and I consider this period my best years of my life. When I became a member in April 1997 I was nervous, tense, and apprehensive as how I would fit myself among the highly respected and distinguished Senior Rotarians of this Club who are all personalities of eminence of our society. But gradually I overcame my initial thoughts as I was moved by the

warmth, affection, and encouragement which I had the privilege to receive from these Senior members. As a matter of fact my deep involvement in the activities of the Club was possible only due to the encouragement, guidance and support I received from my very respected Senior Rotarians.

Over the years the Club's involvement in serving the community has increased phenomenally and all this has been possible owing to the hard work and commitment of the Members to carry forward the great legacy of the “Old Number One”. I am sure that with each

passing year the Club will continue to raise our commitment of service to the underprivileged, the especially challenged and all who need our support. Let us CREATE HOPE in the World as we march forward to the future with our motto of “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”.



PP Dr S K Sharma

The Rotary Club of Calcutta holds a special place in my heart, akin to an extended family. Over my 32-year journey within this esteemed Club, I've experienced some of the most fulfilling years of my life. Before becoming a member, I deliberated on whether I could dedicate time to serving the underprivileged.

After careful consideration, I wholeheartedly embraced the mission to contribute to society. Despite the demands of my professional life, I consistently endeavored to engage with various projects. Along the way, I forged valuable friendships with individuals who steadfastly supported me. The enduring love and affection from fellow members continue to enrich my experience. To be part of Asia's oldest Club, Rotary, entails a commitment to support, whether through physical efforts, financial contributions, or both. Only then can we truly fulfill our role as responsible members of this venerable institution.

ROTARY CLUB OF KIRKCALDY

Organised 11th May 1921



TO THE PRESIDENT AND ALL THE MEMBERS
OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA

THANK YOU SO MUCH

We want to thank your Club for all the support you have given us in bringing the Diabetic Retinography project to fruition. It is a project of which we are extremely proud and reflects all that is good about Rotary.

As you know, the project arose out of our centenary year celebrations. Our Club wanted to find something which would of long term benefit to people less fortunate than ourselves. We were very attracted to the suggestion of a joint project with Calcutta and are delighted that it has now come to fruition, and that we will enable life changing treatment to many people for many years to come. It shows how powerful Rotary can be when clubs work together.

We appreciate the work which your club has put in, recognising that this is a large and complex project and we are truly grateful for the many hours of hard work that your club has put in.

It is my hope that our two clubs can remain in touch; we cordially invite any of your members who are in Scotland to visit us – they can be assured of a warm Scottish welcome.

Iain Gow

President – Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy
12 December 2023

The Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy administers a registered Charity.

"The Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy Charitable Trust"

[Scottish Registered Charity number Sc011785](#)

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (19.12.2023)

Total Members	:	239
Members Present	:	32
Exempted Members	:	68
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	2

TODAY

105th Charter Day celebration
 Speaker : Professor Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University, U S A

NEXT MEETING

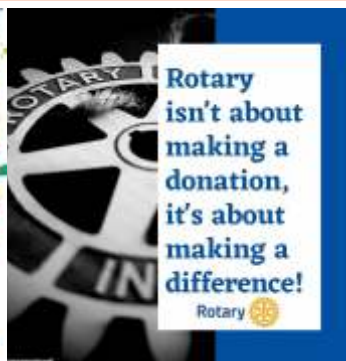
9th January, 2024 at 1.30 p.m. followed by Lunch

R I DISTRICT 3291 CONFERENCE-2023-24 "UTKARSH"

R. I. District 3291 Conference "UTKARSH" will be held Friday, 5th to Sunday, 7th January, 2024 at Taj Taal Kutir Convention Centre, Newtown, Kolkata

Registration Charges for Rotarian / Spouse / per head Rs. 7,500/-

You are requested to kindly register your name. For further details please contact Club Office.



ONE WORLD
 We remember with good wishes
 Rotary Club of Suntec City,
 Singapore, R. I. Dist. 3310

Birthdays

Dr. Chandra Sekhar Dhar	1st Jan.
Dr. Pronab Dasgupta	1st Jan.
Ritwik Gupta	1st Jan.
Shantanu Deb Mookerjee	1st Jan.
Mukti Gupta	2nd Jan.
Arun Kumar Chandra	4th Jan.
Dr. Ayusmati Thakur	5th Jan.
Dilip Kumar Jaiswal	6th Jan.
Abhijit Neogi	7th Jan.

Wish you many happy returns of the day

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA
RID 3291

105th

CHARTER DAY
Inauguration of
ROTARY CORNEA SERVICE

Date	1st January, 2024
Venue	Behala Balananda Brahmachari Hospital, Pathakpada
Time	11.30am
Chief Guest	RID Anirudha Roychoudhury, President Kanak Dutt
Guest of Honour	DG Hira Lal Yadav & PP Rtn. Vikram Somany



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday 9th January, 2024	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker : Shikha Metharamani	Lunch 1 p.m./Meeting 1.30p.m. Rotary Sadan(2nd floor)
Tuesday 16th January, 2024	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker : Preeti Arora	Lunch 1 p.m./Meeting 1.30 p.m. Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)
Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024	No Regular Weekly Meeting	Public Holiday.
26th January	Republic Day Celebration	10 a.m. onwards at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor)
Tuesday 30th January, 2024	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker: Saurabh Thirani	Lunch 1 p.m./Meeting 1.30 p.m. – Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)

**MINUTES OF THE 4925th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 19th DECEMBER, 2023
AT 1.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN**

1. President, Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4925th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. National Anthem was led by Rtn Dr. Shankar Ghosh.
3. Minutes of the 4924th regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 12th December, 2023 were confirmed.
4. President informed members that there would be no speaker on that day as that day was closed door meeting and final confirmation of the Board for the Rotary year 2024-25 would be announced.
5. President then welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting and announced that the closed door meeting would follow after the regular meeting was over.
At the request of the President, Rtn. Rana Bhattacharjee, Rotary Club of Suntec City, Singapore, R.I. Dist. 3310 addressed the gathering and invited members to visit Singapore during the Rotary Convention and also visit their club.
6. **President reported the following :**
 - a) Under the leadership of Rtn. Dr. Ayushmati Thakur and Co-Chair, Rtn. Dr. Parthajit Das, Health Care Committee organised Vaccination Camp, 2nd phase on 12th December, 2023 after the Regular Weekly Meeting.
 - b) Under the leadership of Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury, Chairman, Special Project Committee and Rtn Yogesh Dassani, Chairman, Community Service committee BYJU's Scholarship programme was organized on 14th December, 2023 at Rotary Sadan. The Project was sponsored by Rtn. Sonia Dutt.
7. **President announced the following :**
 - i) Special Project Committee, under the leadership of Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury, would organise SAMARTH – 1, Distribution of Wheel Chairs, blankets and School Shoes on Sunday, 24th December, 2023 at GD Block, Salt Lake City, Kolkata at 10 a. m. onwards and members were requested to donate for the Mega Project of the Club and attend with their families.
 - ii) RI Dist. 3291, District conference -2023-24 “UTKARSH“ would be held from 5th to 7th January, 2024 at Taj Taal Kutir Convention Centre, Newtown, Kolkata. The Dist. Conference was co-hosted by our Club and requested members to kindly register their names. For further details members should contact Club Office. Registration Charges :
Rotarian per head Rs. 6,500/- up to 20th December, 2023
Rotarian per head Rs. 7,500/- from 21st December, 2023
8. At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu thereafter conducted the Club Business :
 - a) She welcomed all Members and Guests.
 - b) She then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 31st December, 2023.
 - c) Next Regular Weekly Meeting would be held on Monday, 1st January, 2024 at 6.30 p.m. along with 105th Charter Day celebrations followed by fellowship and dinner accompanied by lively music.
Speaker : Professor Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University, USA
 - d) There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 26th December, 2023 on account of Christmas Holiday.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn. Abhineet Gupta addressed the audience about his experience as a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta.
10. President then recognised the following PHF Members during the Rotary year 2021-22 & 2022-23 and handed over the PHF materials to Rtn. Shailendra Kumar Gupta, Rtn. Sri Prakash Jalan and Rtn. Anita Jain.
11. Rtn Udit Mitra discussed the suggestions made by the members in the Rotary Appraisal Form and IPP Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal, Rtn. HIRAK RAY and others then gave suggestions for development of the club.
12. Sunshine Box collection was Rs. 1,100/- with special Contribution from Rtn. Kanak Dutt and Rtn. Kirit Patel on that day.
13. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Tollygunge, India, R I Dist. 3291
14. Meeting was adjourned at 2.20 p.m

Kanak Dutt
President

Sarvani Gooptu
Hony. Secretary