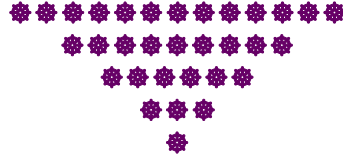


MINUTES OF THE 1350TH RWM (A CLOSED DOOR MEETING) ON 30TH OCTOBER, 2024 AT CALCUTTA CLUB

1. President Rtn. Tunir Chakravarti calls the 1350th RWM to order and requests all members to stand for the National Anthem led by Rtn. Rakhee Biswas Gandhi.
2. Minutes of the 1349th meeting held on 27th September, 2024 (circulated to all members) is confirmed. Inner Voice has also been circulated.
3. President announces the demise of Rajendra Nath Mukherjee, ex-member and requests everyone to observe one minute of silence in his memory. PDG Nayantara and PP Noshir Framjee speak about him.
4. This is a closed door meeting.
5. LOA is granted to Rtn. Nilanjan Basu, Rtn. Anindya Palchaudhuri, Rtn. Banashree Mitra, Rtn. Ashish Mitra, Rtn. Mekhla Chowdhury, IPP Ronit Mitra, Rtn. Orijit Chatterjee, Rtn. Sunil Sonika, Rtn. Vikram Swarup and Rtn. Saroj Bansal.
6. President announces the upcoming programs/projects as follows:
 - i) Vocational Training for Assistant Chef is a program sponsored by ITC and conducted by Don Bosco Technical Institute. The cost per candidate is Rs. 2000/-. Innerscity proposes to sponsor 20 candidates. The modus operandi for the same is discussed at length. The possibility of going through Right Track is also being considered, although some members have reservation about this. It is felt that the right candidates need to be identified. Finally, Rtn. Rahul Johri volunteers to speak to Don Bosco Technical Institute and report back to the President in this regard. President Tunir appeals for sponsors for this project and a good response is received.
 - ii) President informs that Kalagachia School authorities have requested for 4 green boards for their new class rooms. The cost of each green board is Rs. 8000/-. President requests for sponsors for this project. At this point, Rtn. Noshir asks about the fund position in the club's Trust Fund and opines that since this is a service club, members should contribute to the Trust Fund. President informs that there is approx. Rs. 1,25,000/- in the trust fund, out of which about Rs. 1 lakh will have to be paid to the RCCs for teachers' salaries. Therefore, he requests for contributions to top up the Trust Fund.
 - iii) President proposes to open a new RCC at Raichak. 2 toilets will be opened in Ashapur Uchhal Prabaha at Raichak.
 - iv) President proposes a solar panel project for a de-addiction centre in Howrah. Rtn. Kaushik Banerjee has objection to this project. PP Pradeep Gooptu suggests that they approach the Renewable Energy Department of the Govt., which supports such solar energy initiatives.
 - v) PP Debasish Dutta speaks about Cervical Cancer prevention through creating awareness and vaccination. 2 injections would be needed in a gap of 6 months. The cost for this is Rs. 2560/-. But the challenge is to find the girls in the age group of 11 – 19 years who would come back for the second shot after 6 months. However, the issues are WHERE to give it and WHO to give??
It is discussed that we may have campaigns in the RCCs, local schools, UDAAN Residential school, etc. to identify the target recipients. Rtn. Amitava Ghose shall also talk to one NGO known to him. PP Chandrani Chakraborty suggests that we may join with other clubs who are looking for partner clubs for this venture.
 - vi) President also appeals for contribution for the Dristidaan Project. 6 operations have been done so far and more are expected.
 - vii) PP Navarun Sen talks about Swapnapuron Project in Hingalganj, North 24 Parganas. Innerscity has supported the Swapnapuron project in the past. Now, Swapnapuron Welfare Society (SWS) have requested for financial support for extending the building - 1st floor which will house the kitchen and the 2nd floor, which will be the Teachers' Quarters for lady teachers, an essential requirement in such remote location. Extension of the main building is also in the plan. The total fund requirement for this project is about Rs. 67 lakh. The donor has been identified for this project who will route the fund through Spicer's NGO Bees Trees & Water. The donor has already given the first tranche of Rs. 30 lakh and the rest will follow. The work has already started. Spicer will open a separate account for this project. An agreement will also be signed to indemnify Rotary Club and Bees Trees & Water from legal and other aspects.

For the purpose of monitoring the project and to ensure governance, compliances, release of payments on milestone basis, etc., a committee comprising Rtns. Navarun Sen, Ritesh Kapoor, Amita saha, Kaushik Banerjee and Orijit Chatterjee is being proposed. This is duly passed by the members. Rtn. Sukanya opines that the project should be done under technical supervision. The members suggested that Rtns. Sukanya Dasgupta and Nilanjan Basu can be consulted from time to time to ensure that structural and other technical parameters are being followed.
 - viii) The 'Digital Divide' is a matter of concern, particularly in our villages. In this regard, Yvonne D'Silva, our ex-Member is coordinating with Rotary Club of Melbourne who are willing to support our club to set up 'Innerscity Digital Education Access Centre' in some of our RCCs. It is felt that we can start at one place first; hence Ranjapur is suggested. PP Navarun emphasizes the need for maintaining sustainability after the centre is set up.
 - ix) The second Virangana program will be organized at our Interact School Bidhya Bharati on 16th November, 2024.
7. Rtn. Sukanya Dasgupta reports on her visit to Rotary Club of Cupertino during her personal visit to the US. She exchanged Club Flags with the President and informs that they are ready to do international projects with our Club. She hands over the Flag of Rotary Club of Cupertino to President.
8. President informs that an essay competition on 'Peace and Conflict Resolution' was organized in Bidhya Bharati School. He nominated PP Pradeep Gooptu and Rtn. Brinda Mukherjee to evaluate the essays and report in the next RWM.
9. President informs that there are unpaid half-yearly bills from 3 members.
10. President raises a concern regarding timely payment of bills by our club which is being affected due to very busy schedule on account of professional commitment of the Treasurer, Rtn. Orijit Chatterjee. The members said that the cheque book should be kept with the President, which is the usual practice in our club, for ease of operation.
11. Rtn. Amit Paul, President Elect announces that the AGM of the Club will be held on 6th December, 2024 at Calcutta Club at 6.30 pm. Rtn. Vivek Dutta has consented to be the Election Officer. He seeks the support of all members for the ensuing Rotary Year.

12. The pending PHF certificate and pin is presented to Rtn. Kaushik Banerjee. Rtn. Amit Paul informs he has received the pin but not the certificate.
13. President announces the date of next RWM on 17th November, 2024 at Calcutta Club followed by Bijoya & Diwali Fellowship Dinner to be sponsored by Rtns. Kaushik Banerjee, Kaushik Ganguli and Amita Saha.
14. PP Noshir requests the President to review the Honorary Memberships in the next Board Meeting and also the role of Chief Guest in the Installation Function.
15. Secretary conducts Club business.
16. 18 members are present.
17. The sunshine collection is Rs. 900/-.
18. The meeting ends with thanks to all members present and greetings to Rotary Club of Cupertino.



Some glimpses of the meeting.....



Rtn. Noshir Framji



Innercity Members at the RWM



Rtn. Ritesh Kapoor on projects



**Rtn. Debasish Dutta
on Cervical Cancer**



**Rtn. Navarun Sen
on Swapanapuron Project**



**Rtn. Pradeep Goptu
on Vocational Training**



**PDG Nayantara Palchoudhuri
Addressing the gathering**



**Rtn. Kaushik Banerjee being
honored with PHF pin**



**Presenting the PHF Certificate
to Rtn. Kaushik Banerjee**



**Rtn. Amit Paul, President Elect
Invites members to AGM**



**Rtn. Sukanya Dasgupta displays
Flag of Rotary Club of Cupertino**

TOILET OPENING AT RABINDRA NAGAR KALI MANDIR

On 2nd November 2024, Inner City members visited Rabindra Nagar Kali Mandir to inaugurate a toilet with water facilities. This has benefitted more than 500 people in the adjoining community. This Project is sponsored by Bees Trees and Water.

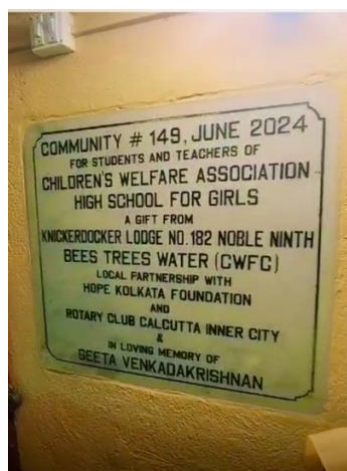


Toilet opened by Master Mitangsh, son of Rtn. Ritesh at Kali Mandir

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION & TOILET INAUGURATION

Children' Day was celebrated by Rotary Club of Kolkata Innercity at Children Welfare Association High School for Girls at Barisha, 24 Parganas(S) on 14th November, 2024. The event was enjoyed by all the students of the school. The students celebrated the occasion by song and dance performance.

A toilet, sponsored by Bees Trees and Water was also inaugurated at the said school, which will benefit the girls immensely.



President Tunir Chakravarti inaugurates the toilet at Children Welfare Association High School for Girls, Barisa



Teachers' Day Celebration at the School

Bengali Cuisine – a brief Discourse

By Rtn. Kaushik Ganguli

“**Bhalo Khabar**” and the Bengali are never too far away from each other **and to paraphrase Alexander Campbell – the sun never sets on Bengali Cuisine; from Puja Bangali restaurant in Tokyo to Bangla Bazar & restaurant in LA and all places in between.** It has been a long-standing dream of mine to present a guide to the best eating places in Kolkata, at one time the second city of the British empire, and one time first city of post-Independence India till the early 70s and the current cultural capital of the country. Reams of articles, tomes of books have been written on Bengali food, Kolkata cuisine and the great restaurants, hotels and clubs of the city.

As the city evolved from its foundations of a village, to a trading post to a city and then to one of the world’s megacities, the various food influences took root. As of now, after almost 200 yrs of evolution, the cultural influences of Kolkata are broadly the following:

1. Bengali Cuisine or Bangla Ranna
2. Mughlai, Awadhi Cuisine
3. Chinese Cuisine
4. Cuisine from the rest of India
5. Continental and Anglo-Indian Cuisine

I would like to focus on the classic Bengali cuisine in this article. The Cultural Influences of Bengali food can be traced back to ancient texts like the Manasa Mangal Kavya and epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata. As opposed to many cuisines in India, Bengali food evolved as a Service Ala Rouse cuisine (served course by course with clear logic and thought process). In the 1960s’ the French Ambassador to India said “Bengali food can be in fact, compared to French Cuisine in terms of complexity of preparation and etiquette of serving”. I would argue we had mastered the art of cooking and plating when the French were still hunter-gatherers.

Certain aspects of food philosophy prevail, which are the following:

1. There is a presence of all flavours in a single meal, and a progression of flavours from bitter (cleansing the palate) to sweet (the ultimate indulgence for a Bengali). There is thus a progression of the meal which is logically dictated and which should not be flouted.
2. There is also a tradition that no part of the meal should be wasted, and only seasonal food would be served and consumed. Today we have talk of carbon

footprint but this philosophy prevailed long back, around 2,000 yrs ago.

3. The menu of a Bengali kitchen varies with the weather and the calendar. There is a huge influence of Ayurveda and medicine in the preparation of food. A similar trend to Japanese cuisine which is based on 10th century texts (Ishinpo) and where two whole chapters are dedicated to dietary health.

A major cultural influence of Bengali cuisine was food prepared by widows. Governed by a strict monastic routine, widows who lost their aged husbands at a young age were expected to do only household work and prayer. This paradoxically gave rise to a wealth of cookery, using only certain permitted vegetables and eschewing the usage of onions and garlic. Despite the absence of these ingredients, the food turned out incredibly tasty.

As recently as 30 yrs ago, Bengali cuisine was largely confined to the household kitchen and no fine dining restaurants offered Bengali dishes. This has changed dramatically over time and today a plethora of restaurants from fine dining restaurants to budget friendly ones serve a variety of Bengali food. Menus have also changed over the decades, with the introduction of newer dishes and several traditional dishes being relegated to handwritten notebooks kept in private archives.

Bengali cuisine offers a broad spectrum from home style cooking (barir khabar) to elaborate meals for social functions (marriages). Bengali cuisine has also lent itself to many facets of popular culture, pithy sayings and aphorisms as well as daily street food consumed in humongous quantities in Kolkata, other cities and rural areas. The Bengali diaspora is present all over the globe and Bengali is amongst the ten most spoken languages in the world. The Bengali students, entrepreneurs, professionals and academics have etched their names in all fields and carved out a niche outside their homeland. Our Global Bengalis, like pigeons coming home to roost, savour their macher jhol bhat, kosha mangsho and luchi, aloor dom, phul kopir checkki, dimer dalna and poshto cooked home style, after having partaken every form of global cuisine. Dr Samuel Johnson (1709-84) had probably not had the pleasure of sampling Bengali cooking, otherwise “Khabar” and “Ranna” would have found their rightful place in his famous ‘Dictionary of the English language’. And so, like the Frenchman, the Bengali lives to eat and unlike the Englishman, who eats to live (probably on account of British cuisine). Long live the gastronomic urge of the Bengali.



BOARD MEETING

The second Board Meeting of the Club was held on 10th November, 2024 at the Cozy Corner, Calcutta Club. The meeting was attended by 12 members.

Birthdays from November 1 – October 17, 2024

11th Oct Rtn. Kaushik Banerjee 15th Oct. Rtn. Sudhir Ahuja

-: Invitation. :-

