

# Friendship Bulletin

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President : Alope Kumar Kanodia

Secretary : Amar Kumar Malhotra

Editor : Ajay Khanna

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**GLIMPSES OF JOINT MEETING WITH ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE HEARTLANDS  
TOPIC: A I TECHNOLOGY IN MEDICAL FACILITIES**

**DISTRICT FOUNDATION SEMINAR  
AT A GLANCE**



## Trustee chair's message - December 2020

On a foggy Christmas Eve in Victorian London, the old miser sits at his desk.

Bitter and disillusioned with the world, Ebenezer Scrooge has only one interest: his bottom line. He declines his nephew's invitation to Christmas dinner, refuses to support the poor and deprived, and reluctantly grants his underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, time off for Christmas Day.

After he arrives home, strange things begin to happen. Jacob Marley, his deceased business partner, appears as a ghost tethered to a chain, telling Scrooge to change his self-centered ways, lest he meet the same fate.

That is the premise of A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens' classic tale of a man's transformation from hardened recluse to generous humanitarian. To me, it offers valuable lessons for all, regardless of belief or time of year.

In one of my favorite passages, a spirit magically transports Scrooge to the Cratchit household. There, he sees his clerk from a new vantage point, observing a humble but heartfelt holiday gathering. Scrooge then understands that gifts like friendship, family, and gratitude can't be recorded into any ledger. By the end of the story, Scrooge has learned the most important lesson of all: that as long as we are still alive, it's not too late to devote ourselves to serving humankind.

The year-end holidays are upon us. It is a time of giving and sharing, but it is not limited to our loved ones. It is also for the

people we have never met and will never see, for those who are not so fortunate as we and could use a helping hand. The miracle of giving that Scrooge discovered on Christmas Eve is exactly what The Rotary Foundation does 365 days a year.

Our Foundation serves simultaneously as charity and performer in the field; Rotarians are on the ground, volunteering their skills and business expertise in support of grants that are funded by you. In this way, we carry out some of Rotary's most important work, such as protecting mothers and their babies and helping communities recover from the shocks of COVID-19.

Please remember The Rotary Foundation during this season of generosity. Remember that your gifts to the Foundation amplify our work in all areas of focus. They are perpetuated, not just today but long after we are gone. And the Foundation will continue to work its miracles in service to others tomorrow as long as we keep supporting it today. On behalf of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, I thank you for sending your generous contribution before 31 December.

**K.R. Ravindran**

*Trustee Chair 2020-21*

Source: Rotary International



Minutes of 2424<sup>th</sup>  
E- RCM of Rotary  
Club of BELUR held  
on 28<sup>th</sup> of November  
at 5pm

The 2424<sup>th</sup> e Regular Club meeting was a joint affair with Rotary Club of Singapore. It was attended by around 20 members.

The meeting was called to order by President of Singapore. She requested the members to rise for India's National anthem.

President Alope took over proceeding with club update followed by Club business done by Secretary Amar.

A unique presentation was given by Ms Samantha Mak about A E-commerce franchisee VYVO which showed us how Artificial intelligence is taking over the market and a digital health product in shape of a watch.

After the presentation, since there was no other business the meeting was terminated.

**Rtn Alope Kanodia**, *President*

**Rtn Amar Malhotra**, *Secretary*

## Birthdays

 Anil Kumar Jhavar  
on 1<sup>st</sup> December



Dr. Raj Rani Agarwal on 06<sup>th</sup> December



Diwakar Sharma on 09<sup>th</sup> December



Sunil Kumar Jain on 10<sup>th</sup> December

## Anniversaries



Girhdarilal and Bina Agarwal on 04<sup>th</sup> December



Ajay and Neelam Khanna on 05<sup>th</sup> December



Rajesh and Usha Agarwal on 06<sup>th</sup> December



Ajay and Sunita Agarwal on 07<sup>th</sup> December



Rajesh and Poonam Berlia on 08<sup>th</sup> December



Animesh and Anindita Roy on 08<sup>th</sup> December



Suresh and Madhu Khunteta on 08<sup>th</sup> December



Pijush and Rita Doshi on 09<sup>th</sup> December



Shreekant and Usha Rajgarhia on 09<sup>th</sup> December



Sharad and Anu Dugar on 09<sup>th</sup> December



Diwakar and Saroj Sharma on 09<sup>th</sup> December

## Profile of Proposed New Member



Pratima Saraf, born in Kolkata, the City of Joy to Mrs. Sushila Goenka & Late Pawan Kumar Goenka on 24 May 1980. She did her schooling from Auxilium Convent Dum Dum, Frank Anthony Public School; graduation from Seth Anandram Jaipuria college & has done her M.Sc (IT) from Sikkim Manipal University.

She is married to CA Anirudh Saraf and is a proud mother of five year old daughter, Jevii Saraf. She has over 15 years of experience in Wealth Management for High Networth Individuals. Presently she is the Regional Head (East) for Learning & Development with Edelweiss.

She is a Pranic Healer & Arhatic Yoga practioner. She is also a partner in AIN-Magical Aromas.

She joined Rotary Club of Calcutta Renaissance in 2012 together with her spouse, under the leadership of PP Nawneet Sodhani, who was her erstwhile client, turned friend, turned confidant, turned family.

She held the office of Presidentship in Rotary Club of Calcutta Renaissance in the Centennial year, 2019. Club has won several awards & recognition during the Centennial year and was well represented in the RI District 3291.

"Rotary Connects the World" and evolves the meaning of Life & Relationships too.

## RI President's Message - December 2020

As I look back on 2020, I reflect on how our lives have changed. The global COVID-19 pandemic brought pain and loss to many of us. And for almost all of us, our daily lives, family time, and work also changed this year. But we've made it to the end of this difficult year, not on our own but by reaching out to one another, as we always do in Rotary. With each passing year, I become prouder of our organization.

I will choose to remember 2020 as a year of great change and strength for us; Rotary didn't stop, despite the pandemic. We removed obstacles, found new ways to connect, and embraced new approaches to service, such as online projects and virtual fundraising. I have invited two Rotarians to share their stories about how Rotary grew stronger this year.

When the pandemic shut everything down, our emerging e-club was already providing digital service, including internationally. Fourteen U.S. women and I, members of multiple Rotary clubs, were using WhatsApp to mentor women entrepreneurs in rural Costa Rica, helping them to grow their ecotourism business, RETUS Tours [the subject of the magazine's May cover story, "Nature & Nurture"]. The project has grown, with 30 Rotarians now providing consulting and help with the RETUS website and social media. Most importantly, we continue building relationships and empowering these women to transform their own lives, and we are doing it online. I've even helped one of the women, Rosa, prepare a presentation in English for an online international conference. While our engagement with the Costa Rican women still requires some hands-on activity, the most transformative impacts haven't had to be in person.

— Liza Larson, Rotary E-Club Engage and Rotary Club of Plano East, Texas

I was president of my club when COVID-19 hit, and many members didn't yet have Zoom. Only 10 of our 53 members participated in the first Zoom meeting during the pandemic.

I thought that reaching out and getting guest speakers from around the world to engage our members would help. Many Rotary leaders, a Rotary Peace Fellow, and even RI President Holger Knaack visited virtually and spoke to our club. Meeting attendance improved, while we reduced running costs by cutting out meals. Some members who worked outside our city and had missed our meetings even rejoined us. Registering our online meetings on My Rotary enhanced contacts with clubs across the world, and the joint meeting addressed by Holger attracted more than 300 visitors. We also raised more funds as members and visitors contributed to our projects. To continue being flexible for all, we are now offering hybrid meetings. For me, 2020 has been the best year in Rotary as I've made many new friends.

— Blessing Michael, Rotary Club of Port Harcourt North, Nigeria

These stories should give us all reasons to be optimistic about Rotary in the year ahead. We are not just surviving; we are gaining strength. We are discovering how resilient our organization truly is. We are seeing for ourselves how Rotary Opens Opportunities — even during pandemics — to grow, connect, and engage our members and the communities we serve.

From our home in Ratzeburg to yours, Susanne and I would like to bid you and your family the warmest of season's greetings. We can't wait to see the good things that 2021 will bring.

**Holger Knaack**

*President 2020-21*

Source: Rotary International



## CLUB EVENTS

**December 12, 2020 RCM Details to be follow**

**December 19, 2020 RCM - Stress Management Yoga with Ruchica Patni**

**December 26, 2020 Annual General Meeting**

# Do you know?

## HAUNTED PLACES IN KOLKATA

Did you know that our beautiful city has some of the eeriest tales, scary mysteries and ghostly folklore about the most haunted places of Kolkata to tell?

There are many beautiful tourist places to visit in this city, but at the same times some of these places are famous for age-old haunted stories, attached to them, and certainly raises questions in the minds of people even today.

### WIPRO OFFICE SALT LAKE SECTOR 5

This is again one of the very unlikely haunted places in Kolkata.

Newly-built is the Wipro Office, in Salt Lake. Young people rather than the older ones narrate scary stories of this haunted building. Though now salt lake became the IT hub, once it was a part of the wetlands of Kolkata.



The third floor of tower 3 remains locked almost all the time. No one is allowed to roam over there in the corridor unnecessarily. Night shift workers complained about hearing and seeing scary happenings and things at night when they step outside or use the lift.

### WRITER'S BUILDING AT BBD BAG

The Secretariat of West Bengal, the Writer's Building is one of the scariest places in Kolkata. People generally refuse to work here late in the evening. The lift sometimes run by itself here in the night.



Nightguard and the owners of food centers besides the building reported about the scary cry of persons inside the man less building at night. Also late in the night a roaring voice of someone can be heard from the closed doors of this haunted building.

### GHATS OF THE GANGES

People of Kolkata worship the Mighty river Ganges as the divine one.

There is a ghat under the Howrah Bridge, near the Mullick Ghat flower market, which has a lot of eerie stories of paranormal activities. This is one of the most haunted places of Kolkata.

The morning walkers, wrestlers, and other passers-by people, who come and practice at this place on a daily basis, claim to see the flailing hands in the river. It's so frightening that they can't say for sure, whether these hands are of alive human beings or of some spirits. These people believe that the souls of the people who lost their lives either by committing suicide or were drowned in the river, maybe playing tricks with them.

Some people say that they have seen a lady in white saree, sobbing and calling their name in a nasal tone.



### RABINDRA SAROJAR METRO STATION

This metro station in South Kolkata is one of the busiest metro stations in Kolkata and is quite unlikely to be a haunted place. It got infamous as a haunted place mainly because of the scary late-night tales. People noticed shadows on the platform pillars and peculiar hues passing the tracks. These stories



and views are very common here. Last metro compartments from this platform also witness a lot of spooky movements here.

### BHOOT BANGLA OR HASTINGS HOUSE

This place is currently used as the Women's College of Calcutta University. Students of this college claim that they have sighted a man riding a horse to visit the place.



Rumour goes that, people have heard the footsteps of a person, supposedly Warren Hastings. Local people believe that he comes to the place in search of his folder, containing some old papers. As he was impeached in London, people believe that those old papers in that file could save him there.

### THE ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB

Royal Calcutta Turf Club or better known as Racecourse has some spooky folklores about the ghost appearance of a snow-white horse in the foggy moonlit night. It's



scaring to experience this scary vision in the late evening of moonlit Saturday night.

Once George Williams, a race freak, used to live at this place. He was passionate about winning the bet with his most beloved snow-white horse named Pride. Pride was the champion of all tracks. With time she grew old and one day she lost the Derby. The next day people found her dead on the race track itself.

Staff members recognize the strange foggy patches in the night as "William Saheb ki Sada Ghora".

Every petty Food Business Operator shall register themselves with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

Have you ever checked with the places you order from whether they have this registration and license? A news report which appeared in newspapers put many homemade food selling operators in a tight spot. As the reports, non-compliance with the regulations attracts a first time penalty followed by further action depending on the gravity of the situation.

While the law has been in force since 5 August 2011, it is only now, during the COVID-19 pandemic that this has come to general light. Homemade food selling operators who have an annual turnover of under Rs 12 Lakh are required to mandatorily register themselves, those above the Rs 12 Lakh limit need to apply for a license.

Having the FSSAI registration / license also assures the customers that the products and goods that you are selling are of good quality.

So the next time you order homemade food, ask for your safety their registration certificate or you may check /complain to FSSAI by calling 1800-112-100, a dedicated helpline number which also resolves issues pertaining to food quality adherence and adulteration.



*(Eye opener from PP Rakesh Bhatia)*