

REACHOUT



Rotary Club of Central Calcutta
Rotary International District 3291



Jhulan Basu
District Governor



Sudip Sen
President



Manoj Mehta
Secretary



Meeta Lakhota
Editor

We meet on Friday at The Oberoi Grand at 6.30pm for 7.00pm

AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

Share this publication with people you would like to invite to Rotary

Happy Birthday Kolkata

Amid controversy over the exact date of the foundation of Calcutta, now Kolkata, several organisations celebrated the 325th birthday of the metropolis.

Prayers were held and hymns were sung at St John's Church and wreaths placed at the mausoleum of Job Charnock, generally believed to be founder of the metropolis, a stone's throw from the central hub of BBD Bagh.

As per convention, the city's birthday is celebrated on August 24 considering its foundation by Charnock, a British merchant, on that day in 1690.

The date and year of founding has been challenged in the Calcutta

High Court by the zaminder family of Sabarna Roychowhury, who claimed that their 17th century ancestors owned Sutanati, Gobindpur and Kalikata villages, which were the nucleus of Kolkata.

The petitioners submitted in the court last year that Charnock was not the founder of Kolkata and the date and year of its foundation have been wrongly followed over the years.

The High Court has formed a five member committee comprising historians, intellectuals and experts, to determine the date and year of the city's foundation.

While the West Bengal government held that the city's birthday fell on August 24, Kolkata Municipal

Corporation authorities refused to be drawn into any controversy.

Today's Programme

- Rotary Weekly Meeting.
- **Guest Speaker Mr Sudipto Saha.** will speak on "Introduction of Bandhan Creations and its Products".
Synopsis of Talk – The presentation will be focused on introduction of Bandhan Creations, way of empowering artisans and about our product line.



CHIRAG
son of
PP Manoj Jain

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



Konw your Guest *Speaker*



Mr Sudipto Saha has been working with Bandhan Creations for the last 16 months and is responsible for the overall supervision of Bandhan Creations. Prior to this, he was working with a rural development consultancy firm and has been involved in several projects and assignments in India. He has completed his post-graduation from Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) and has been working in this sector for the last 12 years. He also has extensive experience in working with artisans / producers in the rural areas across India.

B A N D H A N

Bandhan is a pro-poor development organisation set up in 2001, established under the visionary leadership of Mr Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, a Senior Ashoka Fellow, to meet the twin objectives of women empowerment and poverty alleviation. With this aim in view, Bandhan is mainly engaged in the delivery of microfinance services with its exclusive focus on poor women who are bypassed by banks.

Most of Bandhan's programs are designed in a manner to bring about development of the disadvantaged women. The organisation believes that assisting women has multiplier effects in transforming the society. Women are poorer and more deprived than men; therefore there are good reasons to target women as when they are helped to increase their income, the whole family improves since they invest their income in the home. This particularly helps the children in their diet, education, healthcare and marriage. Conventional wisdom also shows that women are better money managers and caregivers than their male counterparts.

The microfinance is managed by Bandhan Financial Services Pvt Ltd, incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and also registered as a non-deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company with the Reserve Bank of India.

Since over a decade, Bandhan's program reaches out to millions of underprivileged households.

FORTHCOMING Club Programmes

Sunday, 30th August: Visit to RCC Dakshindihi at 7.30 hrs to be a part of Annual Function of our School, Bright Academy and health & hygiene talk with handing over of 50 Toilets through TRF G/G # 1411353. Thanks to the contributions of US\$ 14,293 raised by the children of Vasant Valley School, New Delhi.

Friday, 11th September: Regular Weekly Meeting followed by Club Assembly.

FORTHCOMING District Programmes

5th September, 2015: ICM on Basic Education & Literacy and celebrating Teacher's Day at Vidya Mandir from 3 pm onwards.

12th September, 2015: Polio orientation at Rotary Sadan at 2 pm. Keynote speaker – Deepak Kapoor

27th September, 2015: Observing World Heart Day at Rotary Sadan. Program includes Walk for HEART, health fest and seminar on Life style diseases.

Bulletin Received



Friendship – RC Belur

Global Grant # 1413735

Solar Water Heating System for a hospital at Sao Jose do Rio Preto, Brazil. The project aims the acquisition and the installation of a solar water heating system to reduce the Hospital's electric power spending and its costs. This project will benefit 150 elderly patients with special needs who live in this place because of their bad health (part of them live in bed, in terminal stage) and they need hygienic care during the day, since their families cannot afford to keep them with dignity. Usually, these patients take showers 2 or 3 times a day. Some of them have to do this in bed. We must emphasize that

part of this hot water is used to cook breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks, dinner and evening snacks for all of these patients and about 150 professional volunteers that work there. The solar water heating system is a reliable option, since here we find the ideal operating conditions, with efficient technology. Also, it is an inexhaustible way to produce hot water with a clean energy source, with no further costs.

After the acquisition and the installation of these equipments, the benefiting community will maintain this project with funds raised from people who are involved with it. It should be empha-

sized that the majority of funding comes from donations of Sao Jose do Rio Preto's communities, through promotions conducted including with the help of entrepreneurs who contribute with cash every month.

Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Novo Cinquentenário (Sponsor), having also the Co-partner Clubs: Rotary – São José do Rio Preto, Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Alvorada, Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Centenário, Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Boa Vista, Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Jardins, Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Novas Gerações, Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Norte and Rotary São José do Rio Preto – Sul, will establish permanent contact with

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PP Vijay Bagaria

Chairman, Attendance Committee

Dear Rotarian friends,

I address this message to all of you with a fervent plea to help improve the attendance standings of the club. When we joined Rotary we were made aware of the attendance requirements, and recently PP Binod Khaitan has circulated the attendance rules through email, so I do not wish to repeat them here.

Physical attendance at weekly meetings is definitely most desirable, and we should make all efforts to come to the meetings unless we are prevented by compelling circumstances. In such a situation, there are several ways by which such absence can be “made-up”. Here I want to borrow from a recent write-up posted in Facebook by Terry R. Weaver, governor of District 7750 (South Carolina, USA)

“Several years ago Rotary’s Council on Legislation (COL) declared that almost ANY legitimate Rotary activity qualifies as a make-up. This includes not only attending another club’s meeting, but also a committee meeting or board meeting, working on a project etc. “Etc.” means anything that can reasonably be called a Rotary service activity...

Measuring engagement:

Why did the Council do that? Because

the point of tracking attendance is not to make people come to meetings. When measured this way, it’s a measure of engagement — a key performance indicator of how our Rotary club is doing at involving members in Rotary activities...Members need to be engaged, involved, and — hopefully — passionate about something the club is doing?

More importantly, tracking engagement (attendance is a surrogate) is an important way of ensuring that members get the return on their Rotary investment that they deserve. Members who don’t show up for club activities aren’t getting the benefit of Rotary, hence such members need to get involved in something they’re interested in...

Participation versus attendance:

So, attendance as a key performance indicator for engagement. Rather than, “You have to attend four meetings a month,” we say, “We expect you to participate in some Rotary activity four times a month – you pick the activity that works for you, and you pick the time.” I think that’s a whole different message, and actually what we’re attempting to promote and measure.

It’s not about making people come

to meetings. It’s about offering them a platform where they, in their own ways and based on their own preferences, can Be a Gift to the World....”

Every Rotary year the incoming Board embarks on certain plans and programmes, and decide how the club is going to be run in that year. This year several measures have been taken to make meetings more interesting and several projects have already been implemented within a short span of less than two months. The club bulletin “Reach Out”, of which copies are emailed to all members, carries full information of meetings, projects and members involved, as also members who attend meetings of other clubs, etc. The meetings now begin at 7.00pm sharp and end exactly after one hour. Each meeting gives us a rare and golden opportunity to listen to an eminent guest speaker on his/her field of specialization. The meeting ven-

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Appreciation

Dear Binodjee,

Thanks for the bulletins of your club, ReachOut which are indeed very informative covering all relevant information that gives an idea as to what all is happening and what is coming forth. The coverage is well done with the help of colourful pictures. The layout is professional and attractive.



Please give my appreciation to the Editors and the President + Secretary.

Keep it up.

Rgds.

Subhash Saraf, PDG 3131

Binodji,

Compliments for the two good bulletins and good work Central Calcutta is doing. Please pass on my good wishes to your club President and members.

Regards,

Girish Mittal

Global Grant # 1413735

the international sponsors (International Rotary Clubs and Districts) during all the time this project will take to be implemented.

Rotary Central Calcutta has contributed \$1000 as International partner for this project.

Global Grant # 1410603 for 2500 IOL implant operations. Rotary Calcutta Merlin is a co-partner in this project with 500 operations which have already been completed at Hari Charan Garg Rotary Netralaya, a project of Ro-

tary Calcutta Mahanagar. 200 operations will be performed there on behalf of Rotary Central Calcutta. The rest will be performed at the Joynagar eye hospital.



Thank you

Rtn Yogendra Mohan Lakhota for contributing **\$100** for **Global Grant** projects.

PP Vijay Bagaria

ue “The Oberoi Grand” is central, most attractive and comfortable. Delicious snacks are served during fellowship time 6.30pm to 7.00pm.

With the above back-drop I repeat my sincere appeal to please come forward and enjoy the fruits of Rotary, a movement that you have joined of your own accord. It's sad that many of our older, seasoned members have taken a back-seat and are seldom seen at meetings & projects. The newer members need to be much more regular, engaged and involved. Let not your interest in Rotary wane even before you have put in the

desired effort. To the IFCR members I have to say that we value the presence of each and every one of you. Rtn Anshuman Agarwalla gave us a wonderful talk on “Solar Energy” which in itself was most informative. Let me remind you that you are members of R C Central Calcutta first and IFCR afterwards. We are aware of the wonderful work you have done as part of fulfilment of Rotary's objectives, but let's not forget our basic obligations as Rotarians. We need you to make our club stronger and more valuable for the community, so please strengthen the hands of our President to take the club to greater heights.

I may be getting carried away, but my

sole objective is to seek maximum attendance, ENGAGEMENT, and involvement. We hope to see you at the next meeting. If you are a relatively new member, have not attended meetings and hesitate to come, let me assure you that we shall all endeavour to make you feel comfortable. In case we do not recognise you at the first instance, do introduce yourself. I also request members who have sponsored new members to play a more pro-active role to help your sponsored member assimilate quickly into the club. With warm Rotary wishes,

Vijay Bagaria

Roving Ambassadors

15th Aug: PDG Raj Kumar Rajgaria was guest speaker at Joint Meeting of Rotary Calcutta Renaissance & Rotary Calcutta New Town. He spoke on Membership Development & Retention. PDG Raj Kumar Rajgaria attended the Project and meeting of RC Kamarhati.



22nd Aug: ICM on theme “Be a Gift to the World” along with Elocution & Poster competition was held in the auditorium of South City International School. The program was attended by PP Brij Mohan Lakhotia and PP Shriratan Jhawar.

22nd Aug: RWM-cum-49th Charter Anniversary of RC Belur was held at Haldiram Banquets. The program was



attended by PDG Raj Kumar Rajgaria, PP Brij Mohan Lakhotia, PP Meeta Lakhotia, PP Shriratan Jhawar and IPP Rajesh Lakhotia.

23rd Aug: PP Shriratan Jhawar was chief guest for Rainbow, a program organised by Rotaract District 3291. It was a unique programme as participants were under privileged and special children.



Blood Donation Camp

Blood donation camp was held on Sunday, 23rd August conducted by Ashok Laboratories at Chetla Sarbasadharaner Durgotsav, Prasannamoyee Ghat from 10 am onwards. Hon Minister Firhad Hakim attended the camp along with our members Hony. Secretary Manoj Mehta, Hony. Treasurer Girish Ganeriwala, PP Subir Poddar, Ajay Kejriwal and S S Bidasaria. The project was co-sponsored by Gayatri Projects Ltd.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much.

People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full up, so to do humans take longer to

access information, it has been suggested. Researchers say this slowing down is not the same as cognitive decline.

The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.



ReachOutwishes

Happy Birthday to

आप जियें हजारों साल,
साल के दिन हों पचास हजार



Rrahul Bengani – 31 August