



ROTARY CLUB OF KOLKATA BENEVOLENCE

District 3291 Club No: 222538

RTN MEMBERS

- RI President: Rtn. Jennifer E. Jones
- District Governor: Rtn Ajoy Kumar Law
- President: Rtn Reshma Narwani
- Vice President: Rtn. Chandan Gupta
- Secretary: Rtn Shweta Singh
- Joint Secretary: Rtn Aditi Jhunjhunwala
- Administration Chair: Rtn Bijal Kabra
- Editor: Rtn Rohit Raj Ghosh



From the Editor's Desk

As we step into another Rotary Year, we take new vows, we take a pledge to recommit and rededicate ourselves towards the service of mankind and community service. With "Imagine Rotary", the Rotary theme for this year, we the Benevolence team plan to dream even bigger and use our resources and our connections in a more socially responsible manner to manifest our dreams into reality. Our current theme, encourages us to "imagine", "innovate" and "implement". With the commencement of the new Rotary Year we urge everyone to join us in our goal and vision so that we can collectively spread the message of joy, hope and togetherness. Like they say :

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much"

- Helen Keller

Best Wishes,

-Rohit Raj Ghosh | Newsletter Editor| RY 2022-23





From the President's Desk

Dear Rotarians and friends,

Beginning the new Rotary year with thanking all fellow Rotarians of my club for bestowing their belief in me to lead and serve as the 2nd President of our Club for Rotary year 2022-23. Congratulations to IPP Rtn Kaushik Sen and his team on successful completion of Rotary year 2021-22 and taking the club to great heights.

The dedicated & passionate team of Directors and Members are my pillar of strength. We will endeavour to explore new avenues of opportunities in serving our communities. Our plan this year is to continue with the ongoing projects, take it to next level as well doing more long term sustainable projects. The focus area would be mainly Education and Literacy. The month of July has been a good month for our club as we had 4 interesting events which were extremely successful. The very first event was an exhibition for the artisans and craftsmen, in collaboration with Khadi - The Thread of Swaraj where I had the opportunity to attend and represent my club as one of the panelist speakers.

COTS was hosted for the directors of the club conducted by very energetic resource person PDG Raj Khandelwal, who not only shared his experience of Rotary but also motivated incoming leaders to do better for the society.

We also had an amazing Public speaking workshop, the most important skill needed for any chosen career on World Youth Skill Day for the students of RN Memorial High School conducted by Trainer Ankush Gupta from Ambala.

A Panel discussion on "Mangrove Ecosystem- Crisis and solutions" was held meticulously planned and executed by our VP Chandan Gupta.

In this journey with my team, following the "Rotary's Ethical guide - the Four Way Test", we will "imagine" a world which deserves our best and will do our best to make this world a beautiful place aligning with Rotary Theme of this year. Friendship, bonding within Members & fellowship will be the top most priority to make the club one big family, where each member has the sense of involvement and togetherness. I am sure the incoming Rotary Year will be full of activities and our club shall touch pinnacles.

I start this journey seeking blessings, support and co-operation from all.

Thanking you
Regards
Rtn Reshma Narwani
President 22-23



From the Immediate Past President's Desk

Dear Rotarians,

As we step in new Rotary Year, new Leadership Team takes over the Rotary Clubs, Rotary International Districts and Rotary International. I would like to wish everyone best of luck for a successful and exciting Rotary year. With the New theme of IMAGINE ROTARY, let us start with new zeal and enthusiasm. I would like to wish Incoming President Rtn Reshma Narwani and the new board for a successful Rotary year.

With best wishes

Kaushik Sen | Charter President





Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence

List of events for July 2022

Sl. No	Event's Name	Event's Date
1.	Khaadi-The thread of Swaraj	6 th July 2022
2.	COTS session-Club Officers Training Seminar	9 th July 2022
3.	Public Speaking Training at RS Memorial High School	15 th July 2022
4.	World Mangrove Day	26 th July 2022
5.	Sahayata- Distribution at Deoghar	22 nd -24 th July 2022

OUR PROJECTS EXECUTED DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

KHAADI-THE THREAD OF SWARAJ

Our first event for this Rotary year happened on 6th July at the Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR). This event was done in association with WICCI and West Bengal Life Skills Council. Our club, Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence had tied up as the community partner. This event was symbolic in emphasizing the metamorphosis of the Indian fiber, Khaadi and also provided a platform for khaadi and handloom artisans who showcased their craft through exhibition stalls. Interactive discussions and heritage art and yoga staged by experienced council members of WICCI were another highlight of the event.



OUR PROJECTS EXECUTED DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

CLUB OFFICERS TRAINING SEMINAR (COTS)- PRERNA

On 9th July we had our COTS session at the Silver Spring Club. It was helmed by stalwarts from Rotary District 3291 like, Rtn PDG Rajendra Khandelwal (RY 2010-11), Rtn Sushmita Mukherjee (AG Zone 23) and Rtn Debjani Choudhary (ZS Zone 23). It was an important session for our club leadership team, where we got an insight into the dynamics of the Rotary community and advice on how to execute our ideas in a more effective manner.

The Joy of Giving Session: On that very day on 9th July we had an unique session at Silver Spring Club, on the joy of giving, taken by Basab Sen, a senior disciple of world-renowned philosopher Parthasarathy, teacher and trustee at Vedanta Institute Kolkata. His words of wisdom on how to collaborate two words of spirituality and community service, was engaging and indeed satisfying. The main takeaway from the session would be to keep our mind away from all negativities and to embrace the service to mankind as the motto for sustenance!!



OUR PROJECTS EXECUTED DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

PUBLIC SPEAKING TRAINING AT IRS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

In order to celebrate World Youth Day on 15th July 2022 we had undertaken Skill Development Programs – A series of Workshop and Training Programs for class 12th standard students of Ram Narayan Singh Memorial High School, Kasba. The training sessions were planned by Public Speaking Coach and Trainer, Mr. Ankush Gupta. It was the combined effort our President Rtn Reshma Narwani, Club Secretary Rtn Shweta Singh and Club Vocational Chair Rtn Paulami Niyogi that made this novel initiative a success.



OUR PROJECTS EXECUTED DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

WORLD MANGROVE DAY

We had celebrated World mangrove Day on 26th July at Silver Spring Club with a panel discussion on “Mangrove Ecosystem- Crisis and Solution” The event was graced by dignitaries like R. Santosha (Additional Secretary Panchayat & RRD), Anurag Danda (Director Sunderban Programme WWF-India), Anindya Guha Thakurata (Asst. Divisional Forest Officer, Govt. of West Bengal) and Animesh Sinha (Independent Researcher and Published Author). Around 20 Rotarians from other Clubs, and PDGs had attended the event. We extend our gratitude to Club President Rtn. Reshma Narwani , Club Secretary Rtn. Shweta Singh and Project Coordinator Rtn Chandan Gupta for making this event a grand success.



OUR PROJECTS EXECUTED DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

SAHAYATA

Distribution at Deoghar- During 22nd -24th July a few members of our Benevolence family had visited Deoghar, and had distributed fruits and food to the poor devotees of Baba Vaidhyanath Dham who were on pilgrimage during the month of Shravan. We extend our deepest gratitude to Rtn Kaushik Sen, Rtn Tarakjit Saha, Rtn. Praveen Baid, Rtn. Saurav Kayan, Rtn. Deepak, Rtn. Chandan Poddar, Rtn. Chandan Gupta, Rtn. Neeraj Kejriwal and Rtn. Amit Soni for keeping the benevolence flag flying high.



OUR ACTION PLAN FOR RY 2022-23

1. MESSAGE FROM CLUB SOCIAL PROJECTS CHAIR:

We began our work last year as a brand new club. This year our plan will be to launch a few projects and to continue with some of the projects taken up last year. Our projects UDAAN (setting up sewing machines) and PEHCHAN (setting up computer centres) will now move to phase 2 of learning and self-sustainability. We shall be launching a few pilot projects too related to empowering women and contributing to social and economic growth.

Our endeavour will be to work on all 7 areas of focus

- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- Community and Economic Development
- Maternal and Child Health
- Supporting Environment

- Rtn Sryashi Mehrotra, Club Social Projects Chair



2. MESSAGE FROM CLUB FELLOWSHIP CHAIR:

Fellowship programmes facilitate personal and professional developments for individuals working on some of the most complex problems of the society. This space to learn and grow with exposure to new ideas and techniques is critical.

Fellowship programs help you to learn public speaking, community organisation, media relations and leadership skills. Attending fellowship activities helps to know fellow attendees, provides opportunities to network with guests and helps to amplify the scope of knowledge sharing.

We look forward to host the following Fellowship events during this Rotary year:

Month	Event	District/Club	Dates
Sep-22	Party Night	Club	29-Sep
Oct-22	Bijoya Diwali Meet	District	22-Oct
	Bijoya Diwali Meet	District	30-Oct
Nov-22	Sports Activity	Club	19-Nov
Dec-22	Picnic	Club	17-Dec
	Fund Raising	Club	22-Dec
	Pre-Christmas Celebration	District	22-Dec
Jan-23	Conference	District	6 Jan-8 Jan
	Visit to Port Blair	District	19 Jan-23 Jan
Feb-23	Heritage Meet	District	05-Feb
	Life Beyond Cancer	District	11-Feb
	Picnic & Sports	District	12-Feb
	Party Night	Club	24-Feb
Mar-23	Holi Meet at Purulia	District	4 March-5 March
	Women's Day - Naari Samman	Club	08-Mar
Apr-23	Nababarsher Adda	District	16-Apr
	Weekend Trip	Club	17-Apr
May-23	Rabindra Jayanti & Drama	District	07-May
	Party Night	Club	20-May
Jun-23	International Yoga Day	District	21-Jun
	Awards	District	25-Jun
	Thanksgiving Party	Club	



-Rtn Tarakjit Saha, Club Fellowship Chair



OUR ACTION PLAN FOR RY 2022-23

3. MESSAGE FROM CLUB VOCATIONAL SERVICE CHAIR:

The main focus of Impact is to empower people. We have combined training and practical work exposure under the supervision of experts to create an impactful learning opportunity. Skill Development, knowledge sharing, Community Building and implementation of empowerment strategies are the 4 pillars of Impact.

-Rtn Paulami Niyogi, Club Vocational Service Chair



4. MESSAGE FROM CLUB LITERACY CHAIR:

The forth coming projects for literacy are to teach basic Bengali ,English and Maths and provide basic Computer education. To organise various events at school and college level, mainly spoken English sessions.

- Rtn. Chitra Sen, Club Literacy Chair



5. MESSAGE FROM CLUB YOUTH SERVICE CHAIR:

Our Rotaractors are young and full of energy and as a fairly new club , the enthusiastic Rotaractors are planning to raise funds to support various social projects of Benevolence through Cricket and football tournaments. Our Rotaractors are also willing to collaborate with Benevolence Kolkata for several social projects.

-Rtn. Ayindrila Bhattacharya, Club Youth Service Chair





EXPRESSIONS

A TRIP TO DEOGHAR BY TEAM RCKBENEVOLENCE

-BY RTN. TARAKJIT SAHA

Vaidyanatha Jyotirlinga temple, also known as Baba Baidyanath dham and Baidyanath dham is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the most sacred abodes of Lord Shiva. It is located in Deoghar in the Santhal Parganas division of the state of Jharkhand, India. It is a temple complex consisting of the main temple of Baba Baidyanath, where the Jyotirlinga is installed, and 21 other temples.

According to Hindu beliefs, the demon king Ravana worshipped Shiva at the current site of the temple to get the boons that he later used to wreak havoc in the world. Ravana offered his ten heads one after another to Shiva as a sacrifice. Pleased with this, Lord Shiva descended to cure Ravana who was injured. As he acted as a doctor, he is referred to as Vaidya ("doctor"). The temple derives its name from this aspect of Shiva.

Kanwar Yatra is an annual pilgrimage of devotees of Shiva, known as Kānvarias or "Bhole" to Hindu pilgrimage places of Sultanganj in Bihar to fetch holy waters of Ganges River. Millions of participants gather sacred water from the Ganga and carry it across hundreds of miles to dispense as offerings in Baidyanath Temple in Jharkhand.





On the way these devotees take rest at different Ashram/Dharmashala/Shivirs (Temporary resting places). One such Shivar, happened to be created by the family of Rtn. Bikash Agarwal in the name of Shivohum Balaji Seva Trust located at Laxman Jhula on Banka – Deoghar Road. Since the month of Shravan is celebrated with much pomp, we decided to pay a visit and offer prayers together this time. Initially the idea was envisaged by our IPP Rtn. Kausik Sen and gradually were joined by Rtn. Praveen Baid, Rtn. Saurav Kayan, Rtn. Deepak, Rtn. Chandan Poddar, Rtn. Chandan Gupta, Rtn. Neeraj Kejriwal, Rtn. Amit Soni and myself.

We took the Indian Railways to reach Jasidih and thereafter took a car to reach the Ashram. During the travel time we tried to brainstorm and explore different opportunities of various projects through discussion apart from sharing jokes, stories and life experiences. While travelling in the car we could see a sea of orange everywhere, devotees carrying water walking on the road, some in groups, some slow, some in good pace.



It was late evening, as we disembarked from the car at the Ashram, we found the scene electrifying with a live devotional song being sung by a singer and the devotees also sung to the tune. The whole Shivar had become a lifesaver for the devotees not to mention abundant space for resting, abundant washrooms separately for men and women, doctor-check-up and first aids were being administered to devotees who had suffered during the walk.

There was drinking water, tea and food free to all. Even there were hot water available for foot soaking to ease the pain. Kudos to Rtn. Bikash Agarwal for arranging all this on his own. As we took a look around the place there were not less than 1000 devotees at that time. On enquiry we learnt that it is the same scene morning and night for the entire month of Shravan. Thereafter, we fed the pilgrims, retired late in the night and had a good first day experience.

Next day, it was the same scene again. The devotees of the previous night had left and another set of devotees were coming in one after another. Slowly the number rose close to 1000 again. Meanwhile, we got ready to offer our prayers to Lord Shiva and reached the Mandir. Systematically we offered our prayers and had a divine feeling. After a bit of shopping we went around the town and then returned back to the Ashram. The same feeling, the crowd seemed to have increased yet the management was very particular. The weather of course had changed and there was drizzle every now and then. The temperature was apt as if it was a blessing to the pilgrims who were walking bare feet. We were mesmerized about the fact how Rtn. Bikash Agarwal and his family served the pilgrims with all their might. We also distributed/served food to the pilgrims on all days of our stay.

Now, it's the most adventurous and suspense time of our trip – the return journey. We had our train back to Kolkata from Jasidih at 9:15pm. It generally takes 25 minutes to reach the station from the Ashram. We started casually with comfortable time in hand around 7:00pm. Suddenly we found ourselves in a nightmare of traffic congestion. We switched on to the google map and found that the entire stretch was blocked. We waited and the time to distance increased manifold. We then urged the driver to overtake as to shorten the distance but was again blocked. Time passed by and tensions arose. We had 15 minutes to board the train where as the travel time distance was showing 45 minutes. Could't help but no other way except to overtake. Meanwhile it was ascertained that the train we were supposed to board had left the previous station on time. So we thought to give it a chance by overtaking else there was no other option. There goes the mistake, we were caught by the traffic police who intended to slap a fine of Rs. 5000. We politely got off and negotiated with them and they let us go. But they insisted we turn back and take a detour through a village road. They suggested it would be the best way out to reach the station. It was already 9:15pm at that time and we had lost all hopes of boarding the train. Still we used the road as suggested and reached almost after 20 minutes of the scheduled time. Yet to our Luck we found the name of our train on the display board and on enquiry learnt that the train was yet to arrive. We could not anticipate the happiness that flowed in. there after once the train came in and departed we tried to find our seats and suddenly found that the train which was running late has reached Asansol on time and thereafter it reached Kolkata also on time.

At the end we found that apart from the station we had boarded that train, it had reached all other stations on time. Hence we all felt that God was with us throughout.





TAGORE AND HIS POEMS.....

-BY RTN PIYALI GHOSH

In any mood I am, Tagore seems to have a poetry depicting that mood. That's why today I wanted to read Tagore's love poems and many a times while reading his poetry feel as if he must have felt all emotions possible in such deep roots that only he could write about each and every human emotion possible.

For Tagore the essence of love is to give, never take..... it's not "give and take" as many people believe....but it is "give and give". The mystic poet, painter, philosopher writes:

"Power said to the world, "you are mine." The world kept it prisoner on her throne. Love said to the world, "I am yours".

What is love? or in another way, what does it truly mean to love someone? this is an important question which is more often found in literature and in every traces of human mind and soul.

Take for example a Rabindra Sangeet---

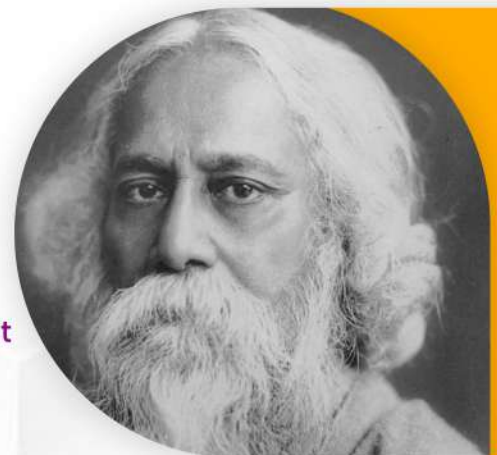
"Bhalobeshe sokhi, nibhrite jatone"do inscribe my name, my darling, with utmost care, affectionately in the temple of your soul!

The poet speaks our mind and communicates through his poems and songs effectively. His poems, songs are enlightened communication.....an extensive interaction of soul and mind.

The concept of his poem "Unending Love" and love being "remade" in this poem is a spiritual concept of love that makes it universal. On the occasion of his birthday, I just take a moment to remember the icon of our favourite poems on love by Tagore,

"thou art the sky,
Let me not forget
Unending Love...".

In this day of corporate-style spiritual establishments, let us listen to Tagore on spiritual teachings. With modern developments, the big bang, black holes, dark energies..... giving a nihilistic picture of human life, here is Tagore, all time defending the majesty of human personality. His songs, novels, short stories and poems are surrounded with the theme of love, work and loneliness. It isn't surprising if the people of the 21st century too can relate to his works because of his omnipresent themes. There is always an urgent need to increase awareness among youth about the vast works of Rabindranath Tagore, intellectuals feel. A large section of youth is seemingly indifferent to the writings of Tagore.





"The elderly people love to read the poems, stories and novels written by Tagore, but there is an urgent need to bring the young generation in this fold!" says poet Subodh Sarkar. But there lies many controversies regarding this statement. He brought India under the spotlight on a global platform. Some of the great quotes by the Bard of Bengal which are no less than life lessons -- follow them and they can help us sort our lives.

1. "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

2. "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I woke up and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."





Thank You

THIS BULLETIN IS

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