



Rotary

Spectrum



RI District 3291

August 10, 2019

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 12A NO 6

PRESIDENT DR SUDHA CHAUDHARY

SECRETARY KUSUM CHAMARIA

EDITOR BL AJITSARIA

CLUB NO 78956

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

DG Ajay formally installs President Dr Sudha

President Dr Sudha Chaudhary got formally installed by DG Ajay Agarwal in club's 469th meeting held specially for the purpose from 9.00 AM onward at De Sovrani Hotel on Sunday, August 4, 2019.



Earlier, IPP Dr Ankush Bansal welcomed members, inclusive of, among others, Members of Rotaract club, and guests IPP Ankush further invited DG Ajay Agarwal, Chief Guest, DGE Sudip Mukherjee and Rajesh Chirimar, both Guests of Honor, club President Dr Sudha Chaudhary, club Secretary PP Kusum Chamaria and Installation Chair PP Dr Aruna Tantia to dais, and thereafter requested everyone to rise and PP Dr Chitra to lead National Anthem



DG Ajay Agarwal lead lighting of lamp. District's first lady Mamta, PP Dr Aruna, Prez Dr Sudha, PP Kusum, PP Dr Chitra, DGE Sudip, IPP Dr Ankush, AG Samir and ZS Sobhan followed.

While presenting club's activities and projects during the year 2018-19, IPP Dr Ankush thanked members for their support throughout the year 2018-19 and wished Dr Sudha and her team would exceed all expectations during the year 2019-20.

IPP Dr Ankush, thereafter, handed over the collar, hammer, gong and club charter to president Dr. Sudha through DG Ajay.

IPP Dr Ankush and President Dr Sudha exchanged memento.

PP Dr Chitra, while acclaiming her services rendered to community introduced President Dr Sudha to audience.

President Dr Sudha in her presentation, introduced the office bearers of club, shared club plan for year 2019-20 and mentioned club activities till end of September 2019.

PP Kusum Chamaria, club Secretary, while conducting club business, solicited participation and engagement of club members in upcoming

club and district programs and announced upcoming birthdays and anniversaries of members.



In absence of Editor PP Banwarilal PP Umapasrad got the day's club bulletin unveiled by DG Ajay.



Anirban Majumdar introduced Rajesh Chirimar, Mayor-in-Council, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to the guests.



DG Ajay inducted Rajesh Chirimar to honorary membership of RCSLMK for year 2019-20. DGE Sudip decorated Hon Rotarian Rajesh with Rotary pin.



While accepting renewed honorary membership of the club, Rajesh Chirimar stressed upon minimizing the deviation of Rotary's community services with respect to changing community needs.

DGE Sudip Mukherjee expressed his desire to join club's upcoming service projects.



PP Dr Aruna introduced DG Ajay Agarwal to audience. DG Ajay recalled his trip to Chalda in connection with club projects. He further stressed upon members' presence in District programs.



Visitors and guests on and off the dais, inclusive of, among others, past Governors Angsuman and Shyamashree with her spouse Sunand, AG Samir, ZS Sobhan, district's first lady Mamta, Debjani Chatterjee, mentor of Interact club of DPS New Town, presidents of RCC Birati, Chakda and Amta and members of Rotaract club of Salt Lake Metropolitan, were all felicitated with potted flowering plants. President Dr Sudha closed the meeting and invited members, guests and visitors to breakfast.

Shekhar Mehta of India selected to be 2021-22 Rotary International President



Shekhar Mehta, of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2021-22. He will be declared the president-nominee on 1 October if no challenging candidates have been suggested. Mehta acknowledges that current membership trends are a challenge and says that membership development should be Rotary's highest priority.

He believes that focusing on regional plans, successfully transitioning Rotaractors into Rotary clubs, and increasing diversity and female members could yield a 5 percent net growth in membership each year.

"A major brainstorming is needed to find effective solutions suited to different areas of the world," says Mehta. He adds that regional ethos and culture have to be taken into account to find localized solutions, as "one size does not fit all." He believes Rotary can extend to new geographical areas and countries.

As a strong proponent of Rotary's strategic plan, Mehta says he will encourage clubs to use action plans and reinforce the core values of Rotary.

Mehta says Rotary needs to become more contemporary and adaptable by focusing on partnerships with governments and corporations, expanding partnerships with organizations that specialize in Rotary's areas of focus, and investing in technology.

Mehta, an accountant, is chair of the Skyline Group, a real estate development company he founded. He is also a director of Operation Eyesight Universal (India), a Canada-based organization.

Mehta has been actively involved in disaster response and is a trustee of ShelterBox, UK. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, he helped build nearly 500 homes for families affected by the disaster.

Mehta pioneered a program that has performed more than 1,500 life-changing heart surgeries in South Asia. He is also the architect of the TEACH Program, which promotes literacy throughout India and has reached thousands of schools.

A Rotary member since 1984, Mehta has served Rotary as director, member or chair of several committees, zone coordinator, training leader, member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, and district governor. He is also the chair of Rotary Foundation (India).

Mehta has received Rotary's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards.

He and his wife, Rashi, are Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society.

The members of the Nominating Committee for the 2021-22 President of Rotary International are: Mikael Ahlberg, Ölands Södra, Sweden; Bernhard Baumgartner, Kitzbühel, Austria; Gerson Gonçalves, Londrina-Norte, Pr., Brazil; Serge Gouteyron, Valenciennes-Denain aérodrôme, Nord, France; Mary Beth Growney Selene, Madison West Towne-Middleton, Wisconsin, USA; Allan O. Jagger, Halifax, W. Yorks., England; Masahiro Kuroda, Hachinohe South, Aomori, Japan; Hsiu-Ming (Frederick) Lin, Taipei Tungteh, Taiwan; Larry A. Lunsford (secretary), Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA; Anne L. Matthews (chair), Columbia East, South Carolina, USA; Ekkehart Pandel, Bückeburg, Germany; P. T. Prabhakar, Madras Central, Tamil Nadu, India; José Antonio Salazar Cruz, Bogotá Occidente, Cund., Colombia; M.K. Panduranga Setty, Bangalore, Karnataka, India; Steven A. Snyder, Auburn, California, USA; Yoshimasa Watanabe, Kojima, Okayama, Japan; and SangKoo Yun, Sae Hanyang, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Shekhar Mehta: Vision & Goals for Rotary

My vision is to have Rotary as the most recognized service organization in the world.

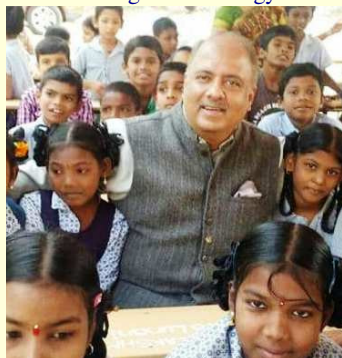
Rotary's priority should continue to be End Polio Now. I envision Rotary to get nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for our work in polio, peace programs and areas of focus. I would lead Rotary to a new horizon in the ever changing scenario of global community.

As a strong proponent of the Strategic Plan, I would encourage:

- Action Plans to percolate down to the club level
 - Reinforcement of core values of Rotary in members while inspiring them.
 - District governors to ensure member engagement at clubs through impactful projects and fellowship under their leadership
- Membership is at the heart of our organization. I would prioritize:
- Focus on regional plans, respecting the diverse culture and ethos
 - Adopting successful models of transition of Rotaractors into Rotary
 - Increase female membership even as we focus on other diversity
 - Ensuring 5% net growth year on year

We need to make Rotary more contemporary and adaptable by:

- Emphasizing on partnerships with governments and corporations
- Expanding our reach by partnering with specialized organizations in areas of focus
- Investing in technology



I see Rotary to extend in new geographical areas and countries. I will work with the Board, TRF, General Secretary and staff for growth of One Rotary. I will focus on reducing expenses wherever possible. I would like to lead the board through consensus and encourage board members to set goals. We have to be accountable to the trust that Rotarians have reposed in us by electing us.

On a personal note, I would lead by example, be a reason to inspire others and my actions will be totally in sync with Rotary's motto - Service Above Self.

Shekhar Mehta: Candidate interview questions-2019

1. What characteristics do you personally have that would make you an effective leader of volunteers and Chairman of the Board for Rotary International?

Leading volunteers perhaps comes naturally to me. My inter-personal skills with people make me relate very easily to them.

- I am innovative, lead by example, am hard working and have strong communication skills, all of which help me to easily motivate people.
- I have developed national level programs like Shelter Kit, Heart surgeries, T-E-A-C-H program involving up to 200 PDGs in a team. Thousands of clubs participated from South Asia.
- I have led hundreds of Rotary leaders to organize many large events, with up to 6000 delegates from across the world.

I should be an effective chairman of the Board of Rotary International as

- I am flexible and welcome bright ideas.
- I believe in consensus and inclusive leadership
- A proponent of strategic planning, I like to work with a vision of the future.
- Though innovative, I believe in continuity

My experience of being on boards of International Organizations will also help.

2. Rotary's membership has remained constant for decades and is falling in some areas. Do you see that as a problem? If so, what courses of action would you propose to address this? Are there any alternative membership models that you think we should consider?

Rotary's membership trend is surely a challenge. Membership development therefore needs to be the topmost priority and there should be a strategy for this.

- Membership being lifeline of Rotary, a major brain-storming is needed to find effective solutions suited to different areas of the world. Regional ethos and culture have to be given importance to find localized solutions, as one size does not fit all.
- Greater accountability and evaluation of performance of Regional Coordinators is needed
- Emphasis should be on making clubs strong, so as to attract and retain members
- Using technology for greater member engagement is essential
- Focus on Rotaractors and female members should be the long term strategy for membership growth.

Alternative membership models to consider could be:

- Seamless membership transition from Rotaract to Rotary
- Reciprocal Membership with similar organizations like Round Table etc
- Global Membership
- Family Membership.

3. How does your vision for Rotary integrate with our strategic plan and what specific elements of the plan would you stress and why?

My vision for Rotary is interwoven with the strategic plan of Rotary International. My vision for Rotary is:

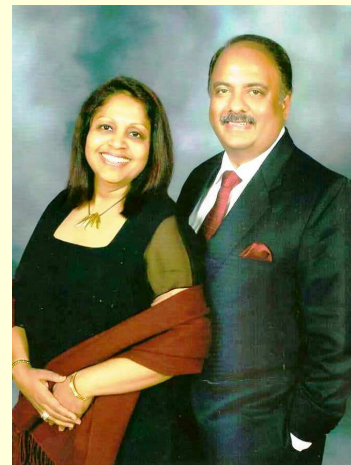
- The strategic plan to percolate down to club level to make clubs strong
- Recognition of Rotary's work in polio
- Focus on membership, especially Rotaractors and female members
- Making Rotary more contemporary and adaptable by partnering with others
- Higher Member engagement
- Investing in technology

These, I believe will help increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participation engagement and increase our ability to adapt.

I would focus on each of the elements of the plan as all of them are necessary for our overall growth.

I would stress specifically on membership growth as that is the mainstay of our organization and also on enhancing impactful projects for greater engagement of members and better impact and image of the organization on the communities around the world.

4. How would you partner with RI staff on a day to day basis and what would you do to ensure that Rotary operates free of any harassment or discrimination?



I would have meetings with the general secretary and through him, the senior staff, to understand the day to day work of the organization from their point of view as I respect the vast collective experience of the staff. I would want to listen and learn a lot. I will follow the organizational hierarchy.

It is important that an organization as multi cultural and diverse as Rotary has proper policies on harassment or discrimination right from Rotary International to Rotary Club level.

These terms may be nuanced in different parts of the world. Therefore Rotary International's policy on harassment and discrimination should be made understood at every level of the organization. Districts would be encouraged to have their defined policies on harassment or discrimination and this matter would be taken up seriously so as to protect the image of Rotary and Rotarians.

Creating awareness will be critical.

5. How would you build continuity of leadership between the preceding (2019-20 and 2020-21) and succeeding leadership teams (2021-22 and 2022-23)?

Continuity has been a hallmark of Rotary, helping sustain it more than 100 years despite its annual leadership changes. I am a huge believer in continuity.

Even as I believe in innovation, I do not like to reinvent the wheel. I would be a good listener and ready to learn from the leadership proceeding in 2019-20 & 2020-21. I would like to see further, only by standing on the shoulders of my predecessors. I will develop good personal and working relations with them

I am sure the preceding leadership teams will play around the new strategic plan and the vision of Rotary. This would help me do the same and maintain continuity.

Regular meetings with the preceding leadership teams, understanding their ethos and thought process would help hugely in continuity and the support and guidance I receive from them, I would like to pass on to the succeeding leadership teams.

The power of story to build a better future

Posted on August 6, 2019 by Kiran Singh Sirah, Rotary Peace Fellow and president of the International Storytelling Center



Kiran Singh Sirah (middle with sunglasses) and other Rotary Peace Fellows at the Rotary Peace Symposium in Hamburg, Germany
Photo by Monika Lozinska / Rotary International

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of visiting Hamburg, Germany, to present a series of talks at the Rotary International Convention and Peace Symposium. I always look forward to the symposiums and the chance to reconnect with other Rotary Peace Fellows. The event underscored for me how much better it is to hear people's stories in real life, in person, as opposed to on the news.

That's not a new idea – in fact it informs all the work we do for our annual National Storytelling Festival (known as the largest and most prestigious storytelling gathering in the world) – but it's an important one. The first session I led focused on connecting storytelling and peace building, and how the stories we share today help us envision a better tomorrow. Together, we're all shaping the story of our future world.

Stories build relationships

Stories are also an important tool we use to build relationships with one another – to understand people who come from places we don't necessarily know very well, and to keep our own homes alive in our memories when we're far away. In the session, I invited everyone to share their own stories of what had brought them to the event.

In Hamburg, I shared a room with my friend Eduardo Costa, a Brazilian peace activist who grew up in the Amazon rainforest. He's an economist who has encouraged me to think about my own work on a global scale. He and his family are currently living in Canada, where he's finishing his PhD in peace and conflict studies. If he were to return to his home country, he would be very concerned about the risks that currently face indigenous leaders and environmental activists. The risks he has to worry about are much more common worldwide than you might imagine.

Another colleague of mine who works for human rights was recently imprisoned and threatened. But it's not all bad news. On the other side of the spectrum, a Jewish American who lived in Ramallah, a predominantly Muslim city in Palestine, talked to me about how the community where she lived felt like the safest place in the world. Her community protected her from harassment and other forms of hassle. That's not likely what you would see on TV.

On Sunday, our free day, a group of us decided to take a ferry trip. I set off with Yuri (who's from Israel), Sandra (who's Brazilian), and Anne, a Danish woman who's living in Berlin. Anne has been working with Syrian refugees, teaching them how to code. Melissa, who also works with refugees, came along, as did Merlin, who works in Somalia. I was pleased to catch up with Jessica Trijsburg, who I knew from our time as students at the University of North Carolina. Now she lives in Australia, and is ISC's partner for the videogame that we're currently developing.

Late night in Hamburg

Later that night, my head still buzzing with the day's activity, I was unable to sleep. I wandered outside and over to the Turkish café directly opposite from the place I was staying. I was in the mood for a kebab. Even though it was after midnight, there was still plenty of activity on the downtown streets of Hamburg. The shops were still open, and people were coming out of the dance clubs. Old men were smoking cigarettes and chatting intently on the city benches. I sat outside at the one tiny table that was available outside the café near two other men. It reminded me of central London. It felt like home.

A Ghanaian man who grew up in London overheard me speaking English and struck up a conversation with me and a younger Egyptian man who was sipping tea with a friend (who was busy on his cell phone). We talked about where we were from and how long we had been in Germany. The Egyptian man told us that he was in process of seeking political asylum. The Ghanaian man got very excited when I explained what I was doing there in Hamburg presenting at the peace symposium. He even asked me to talk about it so he could share it via a Snapchat video he made on his phone. Somewhere out there, there's a video of that moment!

I'm proud to represent an organization that works hard to connect people through story. It's important to help a person to realize that home is more than just a physical place or location, but something that goes much deeper into our personal stories, hopes, and dreams. In this recognition, we help create a future that opens up again with peace and understanding – and that is something to celebrate.

Adapted with permission from the International Storytelling Center

Today's Club program

Talk on **Golden Hour of Heart Attack! How to recognize and what to do?** by Dr. Sunil Lhila, Cardiologist, RN Tagore Hospital

Upcoming Club programs

- Aug 15, 2019 Flag hoisting at JC, Salt Lake
- Aug 25, 2019 Multi specialty free health camp at Dutta Phulia village near Bangladesh Border, Nadia organized by Dimer Club along with RCC Chakdah, Dt: Nadia
- Sep 8, 2019 25 beneficiaries will receive Cycle Vans under Global Grant 1524507 titled 'Swabalamban 3' at Amta Howrah
- Sep 15, 2019 35 beneficiaries will receive Cycle Vans under Global Grant 1524507 titled 'Swabalamban 3' at Chakdah, Nadia
- Free Health camp at Chakdah, Gynae, Paed, Skin, Oral Cancer, Medicine doctors required
- Blood donation camp at Chakdah
- Project Green: Distribution of fruit plant sapling to 115 people at Chakdah

Birthdays of Rotary members in August 2019

- Archana Goyal on August 11, 2019
- Rajkumar Rajgharia, past Governor on August 15, 2019
- Jhulan Basu, past Governor on August 16, 2019
- Kusum Chamaria, past President on August 21, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members & spouses in Aug 2019

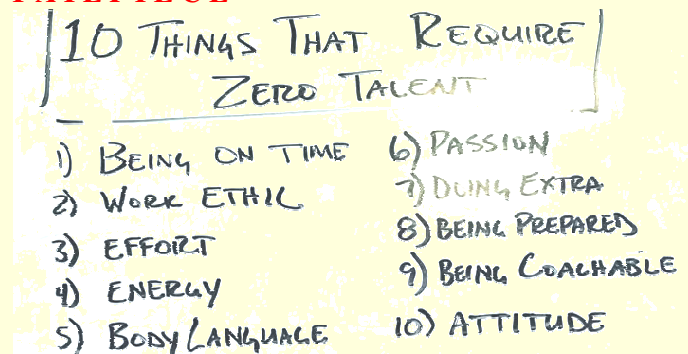
- Sp Sunayana & PDG Utpal Majumdar on August 15, 2019
- Sp Sipra & PDG Aniruddha Roychoudhury on August 17, 2019

August is Membership & Extension Month

UNWIND

Real friends do not get offended when you insult them. They smile and call you something more offensive.

TAILPIECE



We meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Dr Sudha Chaudhary, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: BL Ajitsaria

For private circulation only • Web site: www.rcslmk.org