



RI Club No. 16149

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Official Bulletin of Rotary Club of Behala : RI District 3291

R.I. President : Rtn. Ron D Burton

District Governor : Rtn. Rajani Mukerji

President : Rtn. Anjan Kumar Bhowmick

Secretary : Rtn. Jayanta Kumar Mitra

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## MARCH : LITERACY MONTH

### Today in History

- 1508 - Emperor Humayun, son of Babar, was born in Kabul
- 1834 - Toronto incorporated with William Lyon Mackenzie as its 1st mayor
- 1857 - Dred Scott Decision : Supreme Court rules slaves cannot be citizens
- 1869 - Dmitri Mendeleev presents the first periodic table to the Russian Chemical Society.
- 1886 - 1st US alternating current power plant starts, Great Barrington, MA
- 1896 - 1st auto in Detroit, Charles B King rides his "Horseless Carriage"
- 1899 - "Asprin" patented by Felix Hoffmann at German company Bayer
- 1918 - US naval boat "Cyclops" disappears in Bermuda Triangle
- 1921 - Police in Sunbury Penn issue an edict requiring Women to wear skirts at least 4 inches below the knee
- 1946 - France recognizes Vietnam statehood within Indo-Chinese Federation
- 1971 - Test Cricket debut of Sunil Gavaskar, vs West Indies at Port-of-Spain
- 1991 - Mr. Chandrasekhar resigns as Prime Minister of India
- 2014 - **The 2358<sup>th</sup> RWM of RC Behala, a Joint Meeting with RC Calcutta South West at regular venue & time.**  
**Guest Speaker :** Shri Bikram Sarkar, Ex-Chairman of Calcutta Port Trust and Ex-Member of Parliament, speaking on "Lokpal & Bureaucracy".

### UPDATE YOUR DIARY

**8th March, 2014 :** Celebrating International Women's Day. Joining hands with NSS, Jadavpur University and Behala Krira Sanskritik Mancha at a Special Programme at Sarsuna College at 6 pm. Keynote speaker : Prof. Dr. Chilka Ghosh, Women's Study Centre, Calcutta University. Study materials will be handed over to more than 100 financially handicapped girl students.

**13th March, 2014 :** The 2359th RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.

**19th April, 2014 :** Official visit by District Governor



### Happy Anniversary

6th March : Ann Sumita & PP Rtn Probir Roy

10th March : Rtn Gargi & Mr Kalidas Ojha

12th March : Ann (Dr) Swati & Rtn (Dr) Bikramjit Mukherjee

*Happy anniversary to the wonderful pairs*

### Rotary's "T-E-A-C-H" Programme

Buoyed by the success of "End Polio", a programme of Rotary International, the efforts of which resulted in eradication of polio from nearly 995 of the world, Rotary wants to start a war against illiteracy in South Asia and provide "Freedom from illiteracy" by the year 2017. WE wish to achieve this with "Rotary's TEACH Mission".

The components are :

#### Teacher Support

- \* Periodical evaluation & appraisal of teachers
- \* District / National level recognitions
  - ✓ Standardised evaluation method
  - ✓ To include cash prize
  - ✓ Recognised on our websites
- \* Trained volunteers as teachers
  - ✓ Training module to be available online
  - ✓ Volunteers to be tested before being deputed
  - ✓ Special emphasis on youth/senior citizens/spouses of Rotarians
  - ✓ Provision of contractual employment of volunteers
  - ✓ Continuous teacher training through E-learning modules.

#### E-learning

- \* Establishment of E-learning Centres in schools
- \* Provision of E-learning kits in needy schools.
- \* Development of software for each state curriculum in local language and English to be Govt's responsibility with Rotary's advocacy.
- \* Other costs like projector/ power back-up etc to be approx Rs 30,000/- to be shared equally between National Committee, Club and school.

#### Adult Literacy

- \* Use of 'E-learning' module (presently available in 9 languages)
- \* Promotion of formation of 'Self Education Groups'
- \* Active participation of Rotarians, their spouses, Rotaractors and Interactors as volunteers
- \* Use social media as a tool
- \* Specialised training to housewives and girls living in slums.
- \* Promotion of literacy among mothers

We meet every Thursday at 6 PM at M.P. Birla Planetarium Auditorium - Visit us at [www.rotarybehala.org](http://www.rotarybehala.org)

- ✿ Functional literacy through
  - ✓ Vocational training
  - ✓ Basic education in maths, business fundamentals, computer skills etc
  - ✓ Promote 'Learning for Earning'
- ✿ Working persons can benefit by Accelerated Learning modules.

### Child Development

- ✿ Special emphasis on overall inclusive growth
- ✿ Eradication of child labour
- ✿ Bringing the school dropouts back to school
- ✿ Equity in education for Differently abled children
- ✿ Provision of scholarship to meritorious students.

### Happy Schools

- ✿ Clean schools Painted and well-maintained school buildings
- ✿ Benches and desks for better student-teacher interaction
- ✿ Clean and hygienic toilets for boys and girls
- ✿ Clean and pure drinking water for both children and teachers
- ✿ Library for schools having children exceeding the count of 200
- ✿ Provision of uniform and footwear for every child
- ✿ Well-maintained space for teaching staff.

Clubs are requested to identify schools which lack at least 4 of the above requisites and provide them to make them 'Happy Schools'

[Source : [www.rotaryteach.org](http://www.rotaryteach.org)]

## Bridge the education gap : take action during Rotary Literacy Month

*by Ellina Kushnir, RI Programs*

Despite rising literacy rates for youth and adults, 897 million people around the world are still illiterate\* and 57 million children of primary school age are not in school. In March, Rotary Literacy Month, let's reaffirm our commitment to meet basic education and literacy needs locally and abroad.

Here are just a few examples of how we're helping improve education around the world :



✿ The Rotary Club of Tachia Centennial, Taiwan helps children foster a love for learning and reading by donating books to children from birth to age five. The Taichung City Education Bureau advises on which books to distribute through the Bookstart project. More than 130 families

have already participated in this program.



✿ Focused on improving reading comprehension and an appreciation for books, the Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise, Bahamas, launched a reading time initiative at a community preschool. Every week, club members read and mentor students and cultivate the children's appreciation for

books. While global literacy rates are on the rise, there's still much to be done. Looking for projects to support?

✿ The Rotary Club of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is seeking assistance to support a mobile library in remote regions of the country. The library is operated by a librarian and a volunteer assistant. Each mobile library circulates around ten communities throughout the week. In addition to providing community members access to books, the librarian also leads reading and storytelling



activities. About 1,000 people benefit from this program every month.

✿ The Rotary Club of Grand Cayman-Sunrise, Cayman Islands, is seeking partners to help support a local Leveled Literacy Intervention program. Students

improve reading skills by participating in this program after school four to five days a week for up to 18 weeks.

\*United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) June 2013 figures.

Source : <http://rotaryservice.wordpress.com/2014/03/03/bridge-the-education-gap-take-action-during-rotary-literacy-month/?blogsub=confirming#subscribe-blog>

***Rtn. Sujay Krishna Bhadra has invited all of us to the post-late rite 'niyam bhanga' of his mother, at his residence of 118, Fakir Para Road, Behala on 09.03.12 (Sunday) noon.***

## MINUTES OF THE 2356<sup>TH</sup> RWM OF RC BEHALA HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014, AT MP BIRLA PLANETARIUM AUDITORIUM, KOLKATA AT 6:30 P.M.

- ⇒ In the absence of Club President Rtn Anjan Kumar Bhowmick, Vice President Rtn Manika Karmakar called the meeting to order.
- ⇒ Meeting started with National Anthem, followed by one minute of silence praying for eternal peace of the soul of two departed 'masima's of our Club - Srijukta Kalyani Bhattacharya, mother of Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya and Srijukta Radha Rani Bhadra, mother of Rtn Sujay Krishna Bhadra.
- ⇒ Rtn Manika welcomed all Club members, and guests.
- ⇒ She briefly informed members about our recent activities and upcoming events of the Club and the District, including :
  - ✓ The last rites of PDG Rtn Shyamal Datta was held at his residence on 22.02.14. Many members assembled there to pay the last homage.
  - ✓ Last Sunday (23rd Feb) was a NID. Members of our Club actively participated in the programme.
  - ✓ Board Meeting of the Club was held at the residence of Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta on 24.02.14 where various affairs of the Club were discussed in details.
  - ✓ Our Club is joining hands with Behala Krira Sanskritik Mancha - a social Club of Sarsuna, Behala in organizing a special programme on 8th March to observe International Women's Day.
- ⇒ On request from the Chair, PP Rtn Siddhartha Chakraborty elaborated on the proposed programme at Sarsuna on 8th March.
- ⇒ Rtn Siddhartha also extended to the members the requests from Rtn Amaresh & Rtn Sujay for attending the last rites and 'niyam bhanga' of their mothers respectively.
- ⇒ On request from the Chair, DRR Rtn Shuvratav (George) Mitra informed that the District Conference of Rotaract Club of RID 3291 will be held on 1st & 2nd of March, 2014. The venue for the first day of the programme is the Heritage Institute of Technology, and Rotary Sadan is the choice for the second day. He requested all to attend the programme and to make it a grand success.
- ⇒ Rtn Manika then shared with members her wonderful experience on a visit to Piyali Island, 24 Parganas (South).
- ⇒ Club Secretary Rtn Jayanta Kr Mitra conducted usual Club business.
- ⇒ After confirming the minutes of 2356nd RWM of RC Behala as published in Maitree dt 27.02.2014 and declaring the attendance, Rtn Manika terminated the meeting.
- ⇒ Attendance statistics – Members : 45, Members present : 08, IWC Member : 1, Rotaractors : 03.

Published by the Secretary Rtn. Jayanta Kr. Mitra and Edited by Rtn. Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty

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