



RI Club No. 16149

Date of Charter : August 24, 1964

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

Editor : Rtn. Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty

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MARCH : LITERACY MONTH

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1345 : Saturn/Jupiter/Mars-conjunction: thought as "cause of plague epidemic"
- 1739 : Nadir Shah occupies Delhi in India and sacks the city, stealing the jewels of the Peacock Throne.
- 1852 : Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published (Boston)
- 1886 : 1st AC power plant in US begins commercial operation, Mass
- 1922 : USS Langley, US Navy's 1st aircraft carrier is commissioned.
- 1925 : Marquis Curzon of Kedleston (Lord Curzon, former Viceroy and Governor General of India) died at age 66.
- 1952 : Anand Amritraj, great Indian tennis player, was born.
- 1964 : ESRO, European Space Research Organization established.
- 1995 : Poison Gas released in Tokyo subway 12 killed, 4,700 injured.
- 2014 : The 2360th RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.

Family Corner

Bad fortune hits again.

Mr Kashinath Bhattacharjee, 76 yrs, father of PP Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee has passed away on 17th March following surgery for head injury sustained in an accident.

May his soul rest in peace.

Our condolences to the bereaved family.

UPDATE YOUR DIARY

- 27th March, '14 : The 2360th RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.
- 29th March, '14 : District Holi Meet at Swabhumi from 6.30 pm. Regn : Rs 600/- per head.
- 5th April, '14 : District Talent Search at Rotary Sadan
- 19th April, '14 : District Leadership Seminar at Rotary Sadan at 3 pm.
- Chief Guest : RI Director Rtn PT Prabhakar
- 19th April, '14 : Official visit by District Governor
- 26th April, '14 : Nababarsha at RoYal Bengal Hall



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
 21-Mar : Ann Suneeta, W/o PP Rtn Swapan Kr Marwaha
 26-Mar : Avinanda, D/o Rtn Amaresh Bhattacharya
Wish you many happy returns of the day

Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharjee requests all our Club members to please attend the last rites of his departed father Mr Kashinath Bhattacharjee on 27.03.14 (Thursday) at his residence of 15, Gangadhar Sen Lane, Baranagar, Kolkata 700 036.

The Secret To Polio Eradication In India

Devin Thorpe, Contributor
 3/15/2014 @ 12:50AM

[The Editor stumbled upon this article by Devin Thorpe in Forbes online on 15.03.14, courtesy eFlash_Rotary.com. As this covers many aspects of our fight against Polio, the entire article will be serialized in Maitree. Ed.]

On March 26, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) is expected to certify India as a polio free country, marking more than three years since the last case of polio there. While visiting India for this story as a guest of Rotary International, I stumbled upon a surprising secret more about that later.

It is virtually impossible to convey the magnitude of the eradication of polio from India. Deepak Kapur, a business leader in New Delhi who has chaired Rotary's National PolioPlus Committee in India since 2001, explained the challenges to me during my recent visit. He identified six major challenges

We meet every Thursday at 6 PM at M.P. Birla Planetarium Auditorium - Visit us at www.rotarybehala.org

that the country faced :

1. Population: The biggest challenge is the sheer scale of the project, needing to vaccinate 172 million children twice each year. Note that there are only seven countries with a total population greater than 172 million on the planet.
2. Population Density: On one immunization visit, Kapur noted 107 people living within a 30 square yard plot of land in shanties, literally taking sleeping shifts around the clock.
3. Insanitary Conditions: You can see refuse flowing in open sewers and otherwise abysmal sanitation conditions in many Indian communities, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
4. Impure Drinking Water: Many people in India still lack access to clean drinking water; they may be drawing water from shallow wells in places with no sewer system such that there is a constant intermingling of sewage and drinking water.
5. Malnourishment: Malnourished children don't seem to get the same immunity from the vaccine that healthy children get. In the developed world, children receive three doses of the vaccine and gain immunity. Some Indian children have been infected with the virus after 18 documented doses.
6. Enteric diseases: Several communities in India have the highest incidence of enteric diseases in the world, meaning that the kids who received an oral dose of vaccine wouldn't gain immunity due to diarrhea-the vaccine simply didn't stay in the body long enough to do any good.

Without seeing, smelling and hearing these problems in person it is difficult to get a complete sense of the challenges. Having been there, I can tell you that only having it done makes it seem possible.

The Secret :

Sajjan Goenka, an entrepreneur and philanthropist in Mumbai who has been a member of Rotary since 1968 was the first person I interviewed in India for this story; he shared the surprising secret with me. He shocked me when he said, "We didn't believe we could do it. I didn't believe we could do it." Kapur agreed, offering up the same observation after he enumerated all of the challenges to eradicating polio.

I expected bravado and chest thumping. I expected to hear that "we always knew we could do it." In fact, a group of naive, well-intentioned people got together and thought even though it would probably be impossible, it was important enough to try.

And so it-the eradication of polio from India-is done. In the 1980s, there were approximately 350,000 cases of polio every year worldwide, 150,000 in India. In 2013 there were just 403 cases of polio worldwide, none in India, according to a WHO report.

Goenka was the first to help me understand the early history of the fight against polio. In those early days in the 1980s, he explained, Rotary was virtually alone in the effort. He explained that the government was not investing in polio vaccines so Rotary funded and administered the first vaccination campaigns alone.

Over the years, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the WHO, UNICEF and the Indian Government all got involved. More recently, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has added more than \$1.5 billion to the fight in an effort to ensure that having come so far, the virus is finally defeated.

The Vaccine :

Dr. Sunil Bahl, Deputy Project Manager, National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), a joint project between the Indian Government and WHO, explained some of the technical challenges of the polio vaccine. There are-or were-three strains of Polio, commonly called P1, P2 and P3. For more than a generation, a "trivalent" vaccine that inoculated against all three strains was used.

In India, however, it was learned through the NPSP surveillance that the trivalent vaccine was not especially effective. Children weren't gaining immunity. The last case in the world of P2 was reported in 1999, so thereafter it was no longer necessary to immunize against it. So, in 2005, the country began using "monovalent" vaccines that inoculated against just one strain. The results were immediately apparent. When the P1 vaccine was used, cases of P1 dropped significantly, but cases of P3 would rise.

A "bivalent" vaccine had not been developed or used prior to that point. The bivalent vaccine was developed in 2009 and it is now used around the world. Its efficacy is comparable to the monovalent vaccines-much better than the trivalent vaccine-and it covers the last two strains.

Dr. Jay Wenger, a Director of Global Development at the BMFG who previously worked with Dr. Bahl, explained that the last reported case of P3 occurred just over one year ago. Only P1 appears to be surviving today.

To be Contd ...

MINUTES OF THE 2359TH RWM OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA - A JOINT MEETING WITH ROTARACT CLUB OF BEHALA - HELD ON 13TH MARCH, 2014 AT MP BIRLA PLANETARIUM AUDITORIUM, KOLKATA AT 6.30 PM

- ⇒ Club President Rtn Anjan Kumar Bhowmick called the meeting to order.
- ⇒ Meeting started with National Anthem led by IPP Rtn Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee.
- ⇒ Club President Rtn Anjan welcomed all Club members, the President, Secretary and members of Rotaract Club of Behala including their DRR Rtr Shuvratav Mitra, Rotaractors from other Clubs and the guests.
- ⇒ He briefly informed members about our recent activities and upcoming events of the Club and the District, including :
 - ▷ District Holi Meet on 29th
 - ▷ Other programmes in April
 - ▷ The next RWM on 20th will be a closed meeting of the Club.
- ⇒ On request from the chair, PP Rtn Indu Bhusan Das reported on the Programme at Sarsuna High School on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March.
- ⇒ Club President Arijit of Rotaract Club of Behala called his meeting to order and highlighted some programmes of his Club, including :
 - ▷ Selling handbands @ Rs 20/- to help paediatric patients.
 - ▷ Awareness through posters - samples displayed.
 - ▷ 'Khai Khai' and Rota Mastermind - two programmes organized by them.
 - ▷ Rotaract Career Plus - a programme to help youth enter the corporate world.
 - ▷ 'Garbage-free India' - an awareness programme to be launched soon.
- ⇒ He also invited all to their Charter Day Celebration on 19th March.
- ⇒ DRR of RID 3291Rtr Shuvratav Mitra, himself a Past President of Rotaract Club of Behala, talked on Rotary-Rotaract relationship.
- ⇒ Club Secretary Rtn Jayanta Kr Mitra conducted usual Club business.
- ⇒ After confirming the minutes of 2358nd RWM of RC Behala as published in Maitree dt 13.03.2014 and declaring the attendance, Club President Rtn Anjan terminated the meeting.
- ⇒ Attendance statistics :
Members: 45. Members present : 10, Rotaractor : 15.