

MARCH : LITERACY MONTH

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1790 - The modern shoestring (string and shoe holes) invented in England
- 1794 - The United States Government establishes a permanent navy and authorizes the building of six frigates.
- 1848 - John Parker Paynard originates medicated adhesive plaster
- 1855 - Abraham Gesner patents kerosene
- 1860 - M L Byrn patents "covered gimlet screw with a 'T' handle" (corkscrew)
- 1866 - Andrew Rankin patents the urinal
- 1884 - 1st long-distance telephone call, Boston-NY
- 1914 - 1st successful blood transfusion (in Brussels)
- 1933 - Polythene discovered by Reginald Gibson & Eric William Fawcett
- 1958 - Nikita Khrushchev becomes Soviet Premier as well as First Secretary of the Communist Party
- 1976 - Washington DC underground Metro opens
- 1977 - 583 die in aviation's worst disaster as KLM-Pan Am 747 crash on Tenerife
- 1977 - The government of India revoked the national Emergency promulgated on Dec 3, 1971.
- 1980 - Mount St Helens becomes active after 123 years
- 2014 - The 2361st RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
 02-Apr : Anj Nabamita, W/o Rtn Debarshi Dutta Gupta
Wish you many happy returns of the day

UPDATE YOUR DIARY

- 29th March, '14 : District Holi Meet at Swabhumi from 6.30 pm. Regn : Rs 600/- per head.
- 3rd April, '14 : The 2362nd RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.
- 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
- 26th April, '14 : Nababarsha at Royal Bengal Hall
- 27th April, '14 : Official visit by District Governor

Family Corner

Better news this week.

Rtn (Dr) Nirmalendu Nath is back after a stint at B'lore for neurological consultations, and is better.

And Rtn Jayanta Chatterjee is back to business after his spinal surgery.

Keep your fingers crossed !!

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.

**"Southeast Asia is declared polio-free.
 Nearly 80% of the world now
 lives in polio-free countries.**



On March 27, Southeast Asia will be declared polio-free by the Regional Certification Commission for polio eradication. This 11-country region being declared polio-free is an historic milestone. This declaration

means that nearly 80% of the world's population will now be living in polio-free countries.

In 2007, nearly 70% of the world's polio cases were found in Southeast Asia. In the last 20 years, at least 189 nationwide polio campaigns were conducted in the region, and more than 13 billion doses of the oral polio vaccine were administered. The region has not reported a case since 2011. Now is the time for to build on this achievement, and work to make the rest of the world polio-free.

The remaining polio-endemic countries Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan are working toward success, despite tremendous challenges. The solidarity and support of the polio-free world is key to helping these areas cross the finish line.

Polio can and must be eradicated.

Sign up to share this message on your social channels on March 27th and let the world know that you support the fight to end polio.

Together we can end polio now.

The Secret To Polio Eradication In India

Devin Thorpe,

[Contd]

[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.]

Government of India:

Everyone I spoke with was quick to give the ultimate credit for success in India to the Indian Government. When I met with Anaradha Gupta, An Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who serves as the Mission Director of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), leading the polio fight for the Indian Government, I was impressed that I had found the person responsible for finally snuffing the life out of polio in India. Gupta earned an MBA in Australia and has done executive education at both Stanford and Harvard. It showed. She spoke the language of an MBA, focused on process and outcomes. When she took office in 2009, India had 741 cases of polio. In 2010, there were just 42 cases, with the last case of polio in India reported in January 2011.

She explained that early in her tenure, she faced a difficult decision. The World Bank was prepared to provide funding for vaccines in 2010. The loan would come with strings attached. One of the strings was that vaccines were to be purchased from WHO prequalified manufacturers, who were not yet prepared to produce the vaccine at the scale required for India. Gupta decided to source the vaccine locally in India from high-quality, but non-WHO-prequalified who met India's "Good Manufacturing Practices." The impact of that decision is evident in the dramatic decline in cases from 2009 to 2010 and 2011. "We saw amazing results," she exclaimed.

The other key, she says, was the programmatic effort to ensure that every single child was immunized. The goal was to reach every single child. Her data indicates that they in fact reached 99.7 percent of the children under five in the country. "We started to get data of every household that was missed," she explained.

National Immunization Days:

The government organizes, with help from Rotary, WHO, and UNICEF, two National Immunization Days (NIDs) each year. On these days, all 172 million children are immunized. Volunteers from Rotary work side-by-side with health care workers to stand up immunization booths in every community in the country. In the days leading up to the event, all sorts of promotion is done.

Scott Leckman, a cancer surgeon from the Salt Lake Rotary Club (my club) has been visiting India every year for the past five years to help with the NIDs. He noted that on the day before the NID, he works with local Rotary clubs to distribute flyers around the community to alert people to the place and time for the NID booth in the community the following day.

When I visited India, I was able to observe a rally with about 100 Rotarians, many local, plus groups from Tokyo Japan and Devon, England, along with 300 primary and secondary school students. The group, with visiting Rotarians riding horses, a marching band playing, marched through the neighborhood for two hours waving signs and banners announcing the NID place and time.

On the actual day of the event, I visited three booths operating in strategically different ways. The first stationary booth was, as it was explained, the most common sort. Set up under a simple awning, Rotary volunteers working with health workers began immunizing children with two drops of the oral vaccine early in the morning. Each child immunized would receive a toy ball. Given the incentive, it was not surprising to see that most of the young people were accompanied by modestly older siblings; six-year-olds dragged their four-year-old brothers and sisters to get inoculated in order to get the toy ball.

When children were immunized, their pinkies were marked with a pen using the same ink used to mark adult fingers after voting in an election here in

India. This not only prevents children from being immunized multiple times for the sake of toys, but also allows for the "mop-up" teams who go house-to-house following the NID to find the children who weren't immunized.

On the NID, there are also mobile units that drive around setting up shop quickly and then moving on after immunizing the children in the immediate area.

The third focus of the NID is transit stations; booths are set up in train stations. The workers and volunteers there not only invite children passing



through the stations be immunized, but also board the trains when they stop in the station to look for children who need to be immunized and give them their drops right on the train.

Leckman shared with me an anecdote from his 2009 trip with 16 Salt Lake Rotarians to India to help with the NID.

After doing the immunizations and walking back to the bus. I'm kind of walking by myself and this Indian guy about my age on a bike was passing by and jumps off and starts walking with me.

He says, "Where are you from?"

I say, "The United States."

"What are you doing here?"

"I'm with Rotary and we're immunizing kids against polio."

"Well, what do you get out of it?"

I said, "A world without polio."

He thought about it for a moment and simply replied, "Namaste," which is to say, I recognize the divinity within you. Then he got back on his bike and rode away.

to be Contd

MINUTES OF THE 2360TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD ON 20TH 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.
- ❖ Club President Rtn Anjan welcomed all Club members to the Closed Meeting.
- ❖ He briefly informed members about our recent activities and upcoming events of the Club and the District, including :
 - ❖ 29th March, 2014 : District Holi Meet at Swabhumi from 6.30 pm. Regn : Rs 600/- per head
 - ❖ 5th April, 2014 : District Talent Search at Rotary Sadan
 - ❖ 19th April, 2014 : District Leadership Seminar at Rotary Sadan at 3 pm. Chief Guest : RI Director Rtn PT Prabhakar
 - ❖ 26th April, 2014 : Nababarsha at Royal Bengal Hall
- ❖ The official visit by DG will be on 27th April
- ❖ Members assembled discussed in depth the different aspects of functioning of the Club.
- ❖ 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.

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