



PROBUS CLUB OF HYDERABAD

President : RK Bajaj ; Vice President: R. Vijaya Lakshmi
Secretary: CSY Sankara Rao; Jt. Secretary : Aditi Mukherjee ; Treasurer: P. Jayaprada
Committee Members : M.Chidambara Rao; Dr. N. Raghupathi Rao ; Aruna T
Immediate Past President: Dr. RHG Rau; Immediate Past Secretary : Kamal Sukhija
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A SPECIAL NEWS LETTER

We have so much to share among us this month, I captioned this News Letter as 'Special' only after I drafted it. The contributions from each member of our Club have been so immense and memorable. I humbly feel honoured to acknowledge with a big "Thank You".

.... Your Editor

1. PCH EVENTS OF 25th SEPT 2022

The events of the day covered both the Regular Monthly Meeting, and Foundation Day Celebration.

A. Regular Monthly Meeting

The RMM proceedings were held at Hotel The Plaza, Begumpet on Sunday, 25th September 2022 between 10.45 am to 1.45 pm. The Business Session covered Fellowship, President's formal welcome to the guests and members, Review of President's summary on the events since we last met, Humour for the day, Felicitation and Caring, among others.



Highlights of the deliberations are:

- President welcomed the members and expressed immense pleasure at the large attendance of 27 members.
- Humour for the day was shared by Pr. M. Chidambara Rao, Pr. CK Murty, Pr. Ravi M, Pr. Nooshie A, Pr. Dr. Raghupathi Rao and Pr. Dr. RHG Rau.
- Felicitations and Caring session was conducted by Pr. Visweswari Ramakrishna:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PROBIANS :

Aditi Mukherji: 8th September; Kumar Tipirneni: 19th September; MS Gowd: 23th September; T. Sudhakar: 26th September.

Pr. Sudhakar and Pr. Kumar blew the candles specially arranged. Members wished the Probians celebrating their birthdays an enjoyable and healthy year ahead.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF PROBIANS :

NIL

Specially designed PCH Car stickers were released by Pr. RN Mital and distributed among the Probians present.

B. Foundation Day celebration

Pr. Nooshie beautifully conducted the Foundation Day Programme. The events covered are:

- a. "Prayer Song" by Pr. Visweswari Ramakrishna
- b. "One Minute Solutions" Skit by Lady Probians
- c. "Shayeri" by Pr. Ramakrishna
- d. "Song" by Pr. Jhansi & Pr. R. Vijaya Lakshmi
- e. Presentation of PCH Hats for the Male Members
- f. Distribution of PCH Car Stickers among Probians
- g. "Rain Dance" by PCH Male Members
- h. Vote of Thanks by Pr. Kumar T

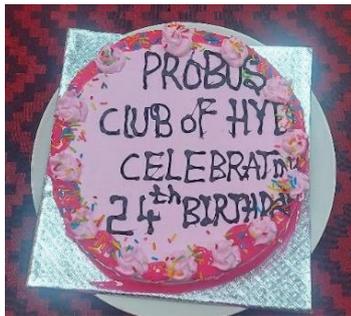


The programme showcased wonderful participation and conspicuous friendship, fellowship and frolic among members. Great feeling to see the enthusiasm of our lady Probians. Members said “Hats-off” to the Hats-on Foundation Members. Pr. RN Mital, the senior-most member present at this event, cut the PCH Birthday cake.

C. Hats-off to Foundation Members



D. Celebrating PCH-24



E. Filling the Gaps:

- i. Pr. Kumar T gave a brief on the recent memorable visit to Maldives celebrating his 80th birthday along with his better-half, the charming Pr. Aruna T.
- j. Pr. Kumar T and Pr. Aruna T spoke a few words on their one-week visit to Nana-Nani Homes, Coimbatore and their experiences with its management and the inmates.
- k. Pr. Ram Mukherjee, the Founder President of our Club, gave a few remarks on our Club and expressed immense happiness at the deliberations of this meeting.
- l. Pr. Dr. RHG Rau gave a brief on the discussions at the PROBUS Global Virtual Meeting of 22nd September 2022. He said that both Pr. Ram Mukherjee and himself, as India Coordinators, would love to share their views on Probis Global soon and see more and more members of PCH joining PG. This would enable them to network with Probians across the Globe.
- m. Pr. Ramakrishna started networking with Probis Clubs in Chennai, Mangalore and other places.
- n. Currently Probis Global has 9 members from India. That includes 4 from PCH and the remaining from Clubs from Chennai and Hubli.
- o. Before the members singing the National Anthem and dispersing for lunch at The Plaza, Pr. RN Mital cut the cake, specially designed for the 24th Anniversary of Probis Club of Hyderabad (shown above).

F. Events in Snaps:



2. FOR LEISURE READ

A. Down The Memory Lane: Episode – 14:

The Dikes in Netherland: One of the seven wonders of the Modern World: 1953-54

While in Eindhoven, a shiver went down my spine when somebody told me that where we were standing was 15 feet below the sea level. But it happens to be true more than 50% of the Netherlands lie below the sea level on which 60% of its population resides. They are protected from getting drowned by a barrier - Dikes. A crack in those dikes or an earthquake which may crack them or a bomb planted by a terrorist could punch a hole, ending a unique race of people who are very hard working, honest and unassuming.

Their history goes back to more than 400 years before Christ, when Frisians came and settled in North Holland. To escape flooding by the North Sea, they built their houses on mounds of earth 4 to 6 feet high called terpens and also built walls of 2/3 feet in height to keep the North Sea from entering their country. They were hard working frugal people. They prospered for centuries on the very fertile land and the easily available seafood. They also added to their territories land which was lying submerged by the North Sea by pushing it back by building simple dikes.



Sarala on a dike

It appeared as if the North Sea could stand it no longer and on one dark night in 1287, it peaked over the simple barriers built by the Frisians and flooded the entire country, claiming more than 50,000 dead, their farms destroyed and their villages devastated. These are considered to be the worst floods so far in history. A large low lying part of the country in North Holland got converted as a part of the North Sea and became known as the Zuider Zee. The Dutch, instead of abandoning that area, decided to fight it out with the North Sea and to claim back the low lying areas which had been submerged. They started building dikes higher and stronger to keep the sea away from flooding their villages. They not only protected their habitations they even reclaimed land from the sea adding to their existing territory proving the adage “God created the Earth while the Dutch created Netherlands”.

The North Sea did not accept the situation lying down and it made another attempt on 1st February 1953 to thwart the designs of the Dutch. On the night of 1st February, 1953, supported by a spring tide and a storm, backed by the mighty Atlantic, its unusually high and ferocious waves spilled over the newly designed dikes and flooded



Windmills pumping out leaked water (internet)

unsuspecting, sleeping towns in the low lying coastal areas causing extensive devastation. Next day, by the time we reached the Factory, Emergency had been declared. Some engineers and staff members volunteered. They returned after about a week loaded with tales of extreme suffering and sacrifice. In spite of the heroic efforts of the rescue teams more than 2000 lives were lost, however around 75,000 could be evacuated and saved. A rumor was floating that the Philips management had decided to grant one additional increment in the salaries of all those who had volunteered.

This devastation prompted the authorities to place the entire activity connected with the building of Dikes under one authority which was responsible for protecting the complete coast line of 280 miles. Height of the dikes was increased, gaps were closed, dams and sluices were added to strengthen them. Additional channels were built parallel to the dikes to hold water leaking from the Dikes and Canals radiating out from there and carrying leaked water, wherever they did not exist. These canals also provided facilities for cultivation and navigation. The excess water still left in channels was pumped back into the North Sea by windmills working all the 24 hours. Now, most of them have been replaced by more efficient pumps operated by diesel or electric motors. The Dikes have been declared as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.



I am reminded of a very popular legend regarding the heroic effort of a school boy, who by plugging a leak in a dike near Amsterdam with his finger and staying there the whole night, saved the country from getting flooded. We went to see that famous statue and there is an incident associated with it which I am tempted to share. Those days in the Government of India, there used to be a senior officer, Mr. Dev Bhakta who was responsible for the Development of Electronic Industries. He was sent to Philips, Eindhoven, for a week to study the developments in this field. Philips were also keen to make his visit a success. We were asked to look after his sightseeing and entertainment. A chauffeur-driven car and an officer from the concerned department were placed at our disposal.

We drove one morning to show him the dikes and that famous statue. After visiting it, we drove to Haarlem. On the way, while passing through a village, Mr. Dev Bhakta expressed a desire to have a cup of tea. We looked around and there was no restaurant or café in that village. We were advised that we should go to the Headman, who will do the needful. We drove down to his house, he was not there but an elderly lady attended on us. The Philips Officer introduced Mr. Dev Bhakta to her in Dutch as a very senior officer from India, exaggerating his importance. The Lady was highly impressed and bowed towards him and offered tea with sandwiches using ham. Mr. Bhakta told her that we were vegetarians and could not take meat. She was extremely courteous and said that she had fish and will bring sandwiches with fish but Mr. Bhakta politely said to her that he could not take sandwiches with fish either as it was also non-vegetarian. The lady was not discouraged and offered sandwiches with chicken. Mr. Bhakta politely declined those also. By now the lady was getting a little uncomfortable and said, "Ok, ok I will make them with eggs." Mr. Bhakta told her that even eggs were not acceptable. This brought down all barriers of patience and decency in the lady and she exclaimed. In extreme disgust, "You Indians do not eat meat, you do not eat fish, cannot eat even chicken and above all not even eggs then what do you eat? She exclaimed thumping her fist on the table again and repeated "What do you Indians really eat?" Mr. Bhakta was speechless and did not know what to say, choosing the easier way out replied politely, "Madam, tea is enough." The Philips Officer was smiling all the time. It did not satisfy the lady but we left after profusely thanking her.



Flevoland the 12th province

The Dutch once again proved the adage, “God created the Earth, Dutch created the Netherlands” in 1986 when they added the 12th province to their 11 provinces. The new province was named as Flevoland. Though this happened very much after the period covered by my memoirs, I am including it for its information value.

In the big floods of 1287, the North Sea had annexed a major part of North Holland, converting it into a Bay, which was named as Zuider Zee. The Dutch resolved to claim it back one day. With that objective, they first closed the opening towards the

North Sea in 1932, converting Zuider Zee into a freshwater lake. The fresh water was gradually drained

out leaving dry fertile soil. Thus, was created the new province named Flevoland in 1986!

Ps : The portion in Italics has been taken from other sources to make the narration look complete and informative.

..... Contribution from Pr. RN Mital

3. FROM EDITORIAL TEAM

A. SHARING RANDOM THOUGHTS

Friends,

I have been hibernating at home for sometime due to health related issues. It has given me the opportunity to pick up one of my favorite Bengali writers, Bonophool --- figuratively, my soul food! Balaichand Mukhopadhyay, who wrote under the pen name Bonophool, was a physician who spent major part of his life in the service of the people living in the margins. As he saw the under belly of society from close quarters, his writings reflect the rawness of life which he presented in an aesthetic way. Bonophool was a master story teller. It will not be an exaggeration to call him the Chekov of Bangla literature -- both mastering the art of ‘the twist’ at the end of a short story.

‘Neem Tree’ has been a favorite with me. I thought I would share a rough translation with those of you who are not familiar with his writings. It was originally translated by Prabha Chatterjee and I have taken the liberty to make ample alterations.

I hope you enjoy reading this story!

The Neem Tree

Some peel off the bark and boil...
 Others tear off the leaves and grind...
 Yet others fry them in hot oil.
 Excellent remedy for scabies, itching, ringworm...
 Best cure for all types of skin disease.
 Some eat the tender leaves as such
 Others fry them with eggplant...
 Good for liver, they say.

Some break off the tender twigs and chew
Good for the teeth, don't you know?
Ayurveda is all praise for the tree. If a sapling sprouts near the house, elders say don't destroy it. The breeze from the Neem tree will do you good.
No one will destroy it, but nor will anyone take care of it.
Everyone dumps their garbage around it.
True, some have built a stone bench around it. But that is another way of pressing it into submission.
One day a stranger came. He was a dreamer, poet, not at all worldly wise.
Awestruck, he looked at the tree.
He didn't peel off the bark, nor did he pluck the leaves.
He just stood there mesmerized, gazing...
How beautiful are the leaves, he exclaimed, such graceful shape. The bunches of lovely flowers are an embodiment of the Spring... as if, a fistful of stars have descended from the blue sky upon the green canopy below.
He stood there for a while and left.
The Neem tree felt a great desire to follow him. But couldn't. Its roots had run deep into the soil.
It continued to stand there in the backyard in the midst of the garbage.
Just like the competent multitasking woman of that household.

...Contribution from: Pr. Aditi Mukherjee

B. LIVING THE LIFE

LIFE is like a movie
It is a comedy when we are glad,
It is a tragedy, when we are sad
It is horror when we are scared

LIFE has no rewinds and forwards
It unfolds itself at its own pace,
Forget the past with spirit and grit,
Get ready for a promising tomorrow with grace.

Life is conjugal picture of bliss ,
Life flows on magical wings
It runs like an ocean wave,
Life is precious and short,
Live every moment with a gracious smile!

.... Contribution from: Pr. P. Jayaprada

4. FOR MENTAL STIMULATION

A. Squaring the Circle:

Can you think Outside the box and “Square a Circle”?

B. Missing Letters:

Here is a logical pattern. What are the next Nine letters?

O. T. T. F. F. S. S. E. N.

C. Make a Sequence:

What are the next three terms of the sequence?

1, 3, 11, 47, -----, -----, -----.

EDITORIAL



Dear Friends,

It has been an honour and privilege to page set and edit this News Letter. Both the major events of this month, namely the Regular Monthly Meeting and the Foundation Day Celebration have been unique. Their coverage is both a pain and a pleasure.

Possibly this was the first time in PCH history that the President conducted the RMM while standing, without anyone next to him. Everything was near-informal and there was no normal stiffness. Foundation Day events have been mostly self-directed amidst festive moods. Hands and legs moved on their own. A large number of photographs, both video and still were taken among us, commemorating the occasion, and were immediately circulated among the Probians with enthusiasm.

I am sure you all agree that we could not have expected a better start to celebrating Dassera and Deepavali festivals in the coming days.

With Best Regards,

Dr. R.H.G.Rau
29th September, 2022