

FROM THE MD'S DESK

Dear Readers,

As we gear up for the festive season, I'd like to share with you about the happy celebration of our Raising Day. At the very outset, I'd like to acknowledge that the best part of the Raising Day was how we worked together to make it a great celebration, while fulfilling our professional duties and meeting our deliverables. Like previous years, this year too we celebrated this occasion with the support system that keeps us going—our families. For many of us, who have been there from the first day, it was an emotional evening to remember how we had started and the heights we have scaled and the impact we have created. As I feel proud to see that our dedication to serve never wanes, I'm equally honoured and humbled by the kind words of our members, their blessings and the smiles we have spread. That is our ultimate reward!

I've met many of you at the Support Elders Silver Connect-2019 meet. It was indeed a pleasure to see so many of you making the effort to come and make this event a thumping success.

Happy Reading!
Apratim Chattopadhyay

ELDERCARE EVENT

Caring for the Elderly

We were happy to participate in 'Caring for the Elderly', an event organised by *The Times of India* and *Ei Samay* on 15th September, 2019. Mr Supratik Gupta, Chief Solutions Officer of Support Elders Pvt Ltd, talked about how Support Elders is enhancing the quality of life of the elders by ensuring responsive, holistic and seamless care. **SE**



TSC EVENT

Barshamangal

Our TSC members performed at Rabindra Niketan on 6th September, 2019. *Karna Kunti Shangbaad* was performed by Ms Shipra Chattopadhyay & Mr Shyamal Sengupta, *Sorshe Ilish* was performed by Ms Shipra Chattopadhyay and Mr Aakash Dutta while Ms Basudha Chattopadhyay recited Rabindranath Tagore's *Abirbhab*. TSC members—Ms Jayasri Basu, Ms Dipti Chatterjee, Ms Lily Chowdhury, Ms Shandhya Rani Chowdhury, Ms Sushmita Chowdhury and Ms Manjusha Dutta—also sang songs from Tagore's 'Barsha-r gaan'. The residents of Rabindra Niketan also joined them and they enjoyed the programme celebrating the season. **SE**



SEPL EVENT

Raising Day

We celebrated our 5th Raising Day on 31st August, 2019. Here are a few pictures from that evening.



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TRAVEL

Miraculous Escape

Our member Ms Maya Mitra shares her miraculous escape from a missile-hit ship during the Iran-Iraq War.

Since Ms Maya Mitra's husband was a marine engineer, she travelled extensively with her husband. In her words, "I liked travelling with my husband, as journey on board a ship was really exciting as well as relaxing. It was sheer bliss to watch the calm turquoise vast sea with dolphins coming close to the ship in search of food; the limitless sky full of stars twinkling at night... everything was like a dream."

This is about one such voyage. First, they had travelled to Japan, where the ship had anchored in Osaka for loading and unloading goods. While the engineers were busy, the families were free to travel within the country. Ms Mitra bought several gifts and dolls for her little daughter back home and the rest of her family.

From Japan, the ship set sail for Iran. It was a smooth journey till they neared Iran, as the Iraq-Iran War was on in full swing. They were asked to keep their important documents and passports ready in a bag and wait for the announcement (about what to do), in case any untoward incident took place. There were other ships too and they moved close to one another to avoid danger. It was a harrowing night as they sat, preparing for the worst but hoping for the best. The night was uneventful, but just as they started to relax, there was a thunderous sound and the entire ship shook heavily. A missile that had been shot to blow up a ship full of food packages had missed the target and hit their ship.

Panic-stricken, everyone started running amok when the announcement came that they had to immediately go up to the deck, where the lifeboats were being readied. Ms Mitra wanted to speak with her husband but couldn't. There was black smoke all around and without knowing what to do, they ran up to the deck and boarded the lifeboats, leaving all their belongings behind.

The scene on the shore was nothing better—all roads and shops were completely destroyed; small kids who otherwise looked angelic, had guns on their shoulders. Somehow, Ms Mitra and the families were escorted to a hotel in Baghdad. There they anxiously waited for their husbands to join them. The only food they had in the hotel was "khaboos" (very hard chapatis with salad) or rice and salad.

Clothes, however, were a big problem, as they had had to leave everything in the ship. They had to wash their clothes every night and wear the same after drying them the next day.

The situation in the ship had turned worse with all the iron stairs melting and the captain and his associates had had to jump down from the deck to be rescued.

Back home, in Kolkata, when Mrs Mitra's father-in-law had learnt what had happened via radio news, he had rushed to the head office to get information about his son and daughter-in-law, and was relieved to know that they had been safely escorted from the ship.

After staying almost in captivity for quite sometime, the families were allowed to get back to India by flight, while the captain and the engineers had to stay back to repair the ship and bring it back.

"When I entered my house, my little daughter came running to me jumping in joy, unaware of what had happened, Mamma I am four now!" SE

GASTRONOMIC DELIGHT

Triple Treat!

What better way to celebrate the Monsoon than with three Hilsa feasts!

Hilsa Fest I: 31st July 2019 in Taki

Taki is a quiet town on the bank of River Ichhamati at the border of India and Bangladesh. We arranged for accommodation and a Hilsa lunch in Hotel Sonar Bangla. On D-day, 38 members along with 4 officials, set off for Taki. In spite of some minor hiccups, it was a wonderful and enjoyable journey, as the music and anecdotes of Taki zaminders and stories of the Vidyadhari and Matla rivers wiped away the glitches. We reached Taki by 11 a.m. Members, taken by the beauty of the place—the lush lawn adjacent to the beautiful Ichhamati,—gathered there. Lunch was a delicious affair with plenty of Hilsa dishes, along with dal, alu bhaja, mixed vegetable and caramel custard.





Hilsa Fest II - 20th August at CMIG Campus

It was a day-long picnic at the CMIG Campus, with members enjoying several kinds of Hilsa dishes. As members gathered, the place filled with music, adda, laughter and togetherness. Many of the members enjoyed cooking the various Hilsa dishes. Everybody enjoyed a great deal.



Hilsa Fest III - 30th August at Hotel Punyalakshmi

The jovial chitchat and music set the mood for the day, as we set off for Hotel Punyalakshmi. As we reached our destination, breakfast was served. After this members gathered under the riverside sheds. Adda and songs filled the air with joy and merriment. The sumptuous lunch included Bhapa Hilsa and Patoler Dorma. Everybody had a great time! SE





Mark Your Calendar

November 11 (Mon)

Day-trip to Haneswari Temple (Hooghly)

The architectural style of the Haneswari temple is distinctive with 13 minars or ratnas, each built as a blooming lotus bud. Raja Narsingha Deb Roy Mahasay had started to build it and later it was completed by his widow, Rani Sankari in 1814.

Transport: AC Bus

Venue: Govt. guesthouse

Details: full day trip with Breakfast & Lunch

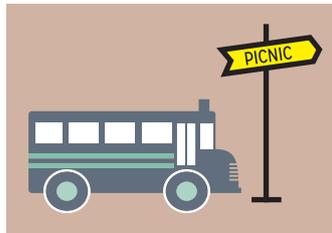


November 30 (Sat)

Picnic at Harinavi Bagan Bari

Transport: AC bus

Details: Includes Breakfast, Lunch and evening Tea



December 4 (Wed)

Discussion: History of Kolkata surnames and Adi Ganga

Speaker: Dr Debashis Basu

Time: 10.30-12.30pm

Venue: Café Drifter



December 8 (Sun)

Heritage tour: Heritage Buildings (Synagogues & Churches in Kolkata)

A half-day tour of some heritage buildings in Kolkata.

Transport: AC Bus

Details: Half-day tour includes Lunch



Film Screening & Discussion**

October 17 (Thursday)

*Shatranj ke Khilari****

Shatranj Ke Khilari, a 1977 film, is a Sanjeev Kumar, Saeed Jaffrey, Shabana Azmi, Farooque Shaikh starrer, written and directed by Satyajit Ray, based on Munshi Premchand's short story.

October 31 (Thursday)

*Ajantrik (Bengali)****

This is a 1958 Indian Bengali film written and directed by unparalleled filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak. A comedy-drama, this is one of the earliest Indian films to portray an inanimate object—an automobile—as a character of the story. Music by Ali Akhbar Khan, the film starring Kali Banejee, Kajal Gupta and Keshto Mukherjee

November 14 (Thursday)

Komal Gandhar (Bengali)

It is a 1961 Bengali film starring Debabrata Biswas, Supriya Devi and Anil Chatterjee. Written and directed by noted filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak, it was part of the trilogy, *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1960), *Komal Gandhar*, and *Subarnarekha* (1962), all dealing with the aftermath of the Partition of India in 1947 and the refugees coping with it.

November 21 (Thursday)

Sunflower

An Oscar nominee for Best Score (Henry Mancini), this is a grand emotional melodrama featuring a stunning performance by Sophia Loren.

December 5 (Thursday)

Gol Maal

This is the 1979 Indian comedy film starring Amol Palekar, Utpal Dutt and Bindiya Goswami. It was directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee.

****For all the film screenings:**

Time: 4.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Venue: Institute of Mass Communication Film & Television Studies

*All programmes are subject to last-minute changes.

***Shifted to this month due to unforeseen circumstances.