



## INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION

### MONTHLY ELECTRONIC - NEWSLETTER – VOLUME – 23.



#### Presidents Page

Dear Rosarians,

#### WARM GREETINGS FOR A ROSY 2017 !!

We just enjoyed very successfully organized 35<sup>th</sup> All India Rose Convention at Kolkata by the Bengal Rose Society. I'm sure all those who attended this convention enjoyed every minute of those three days. Outstanding display of pot - roses, rose show of superb quality cut flowers, engrossing discussion by eminent rose experts and legendary Bengali hospitality backed by mouth watering cuisine were a few of things to be remembered by delegates who attended this convention.

Tall, healthy rose plants grown in pots with hundreds of flowers was a pageant never seen before by most. Even the foreign delegates were dumbfounded by this spectacular display of lovely plants. The credit for this goes mainly to a dedicated team of rose enthusiasts headed by Mr. Sanjoy Mukherjee and to his colleagues: Nilesh Majumder, Abhijit Sarkar, Nilesh Biswas, Hiranmoy Nandy and Sapan Halder. This radically new and innovative method of growing roses will revolutionize rose growing in urban areas.

Second most pioneering method of rose growing was invented and perfected by my friend from Kolkata - Mr. Sekhar Datta. He has been growing a plant of American Heritage (AARS of 1966) in a pot without changing pot or growing medium for almost 40 years. He also has vintage plants such as Dr. B. P. Pal, Shiun etc. growing for more than 35 years. All these plants are healthy and vigorously flowering without any sign of fatigue or deterioration of any kind. Marvelous display indeed. Kudos to you, Sekharda!

I request all members of the Indian Rose Federation to take serious note of these two gifts of novel methods of rose growing from our Bengali brothers. There is great potential to apply and adopt these techniques for growing your roses, especially for those who have scarcity of land in urban areas.

Hearty Greetings, Warm regards,

Suresh Pingale

## EDITORIAL



Dear Members,

Well here comes an end of the winter flowering, by now practically all rose societies have completed their winter shows, which started in December - 2016 and ending in January - 2017, the Convention at Kolkata which was held from 5<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> January was very well attended and managed too by the young Turks, I am really happy that these 20 young gentlemen have taken up rose growing as hobby or profession, what I can see is they will be in the forefront very soon managing the affairs of the local society, which I must say is very important, the next line is ready at Kolkata, it is difficult to find young growers in other cities and most of the Societies are finding it hard to enroll them, it is not as if they are not interested, space and time is not available to them, one cannot grow roses in balconies which are hardly ten feet, second is job oriented youngsters do not get time, the pot grown roses were a delight for the onlookers and growers, followed by the Jakpur show which went off well, having a discussion with Kelvin Trimper about Indian varieties, which are now being revered by our friends abroad, Kelvin wanted me to start a dialogue between the Indian Breeders and Australian Breeders, which I assured him, as soon as I get information from him, I will pass it on to our breeders, one more thing he wanted was bartering of varieties, which is a difficult proposition as Australian Laws are quite strict on plant materials and seed as told by Kelvin himself, but anyway at least transfer of knowledge can take place, ideas and techniques can be exchanged, short coming can be dealt with and new friends can be made, Societies which have completed their shows are requested to send reports and photographs, which can be put up in the bulletin, I hope they will do so, yes one more thing is which is quite important, the 2018 Convention is being planned out, not final as yet, but probably by end of this month Andhra Rose Society will give their decision and Vijayawada will be the Location.

Regards

Arshad Bhiwandiwalla.

## THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ROSE CONVENTION A REPORT

Mr. Amitava Mukherjee

The 35<sup>th</sup> Rose Convention of the IRF has been organised on and from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January - 2017 by the Bengal Rose Society in collaboration with the Agri Horticultural Society of India at the latter's establishment at 1. Alipore, Kolkata – 700 027. His Excellency, the Governor Shri. Keshrinath Tripathy graciously inaugurated the convention and flower show. Shri. S. B. Mookherjee, President Emeritus, Bengal Rose Society, Shri. Sumit Mazumder, President, Agri Horticultural Society and Dr. Kalyan Chakrabarti, President, Bengal Rose Society embellished the podium with their presence.

Around 1600 cut roses from different parts of the country entered the competition in 8 Divisions divided in 70 Classes. There were 10 Classes for floral art and a Class for rose photographs was also assigned. BLUE OCEAN became the King of the show and BOGOTTI, the Queen. SUMMER SNOW and CHATILLON ROSE conquered the Prince and Princess titles respectively. Mr. Arun Patill has been the Chief Coordinator in cut flower judging. Mr. Ashish More won the Champion of Champions honour in cut flower competition.

387 pot roses entered the fray in 4 Divisions as well as 35 Classes. MONA LISA took the honour of best large flowered pot and FANTASIA became the best clustered flowered one. BAHURUPI won the ribbon for best Indian bred rose, whereas the laurel reserved for the best tiny rose went to LIBBI. The emerald lawn of the Agri Horticultural Society was glittering with Bengal's now famous soilless pot roses. No less than 23 pots were there with more than 100 blooms in each, sparkling in the sun. I myself had been in charge of overall judging of pot roses. Shri. Swapan Halder took the Champion of Champions honour.

Mr. Suresh Pingale and Mr. Arshad Bhiwandiwalla, the President and Hon. Secretary respectively of the IRF with other office bearers made the occasion ornate with their presence. So did 297 delegates, mostly from various parts of our country. There was presence from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and even from the distant land of United States. A good number of social media friends of the BRS also joined, which is trend anew. The icing of the cake was the presence of Mr. Kelvin Trimper, the President of the WFRS and Madam Helga Brichet, the Convention Liaison Chairperson of WFRS accompanied by our own, the President Emeritus of the IRF as well as WFRS Vice President – Central Asia, Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan. Receiving prizes from their hands at the twilight zone on 6<sup>th</sup> instant, appeared to be a lifetime experience for the contestants.

As per tradition, a seminar was arranged on the second morning where qualified speakers elucidated different aspects of rose breeding, culture, rosafari and rose commerce. I was appointed as the convenor of the seminar. Speakers were Mr. M. S. Viraraghavan, Dr. N. V. Shastri, Mr. Sushil Prakash, Myself, Mr. Arun Patil, and Mr. Satish Prabhu in that order. They represented different regions of the country and even abroad. The seminar was very well attended with appreciative delegates.

Commemorating the grand occasion of 35<sup>th</sup> Convention and rose show, a souvenir was published, edited by Dr. Shubhendu Chaudhuri.

The third and final day was earmarked for a nursery visit and sightseeing. Some willing delegates were transported by arrangement of the BRS, to Jakpur, one of the prominent nursery belts in Bengal. There they could notice daily activities in rose nurseries and a local flower show. Others were taken to Eco - Park at fringe layer of Kolkata. This place has been created as a collage with so many ingredients for entertainment including an excellent rose garden. Respected delegates enjoyed the treat.

Sweet tales do not last long. The bell rang in minds signaling, end of the saga. But the feeling remained, .... that was no end, actually that has been the harbinger of a new dawn.























SOME PHOTOS OF THE KOLKATA EVENT PROVIDED BY SANJOY MUKHERJEE



