

summary report

# the future of power

Kolkata - December 2012

A series of exclusive conversations exploring the following  
'shifts in power' and their impact on leadership in the 21st Century

AN INITIATIVE OF THE



BRAHMA KUMARIS



Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) is the state capital of West Bengal which borders Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh and encompasses two broad natural regions: the Gangetic Plain in the south and the sub-Himalayan and Himalayan area in the north.

The British East India Company cemented their hold on the region and Calcutta served for many years as the capital of British India. The early and prolonged exposure to British administration resulted in expansion of Western education, culminating in development in science and institutional education. Several social reformers, like Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Swami Vivekananda led reforms where practices like sati, dowry, and caste-based discrimination or untouchability were abolished. Noted for its political activism, the state was ruled by democratically elected communist government for three decades.

West Bengal is noted for its cultural activities and presence of cultural and educational institutions; the state capital Kolkata is known as the "cultural capital of India". The state's cultural heritage, besides varied folk traditions, ranges from stalwarts in literature including Nobel-laureate Rabindranath Tagore to scores of musicians, film-makers and artists. West Bengal is also distinct from most other Indian states in its appreciation and practice of playing soccer besides the national favourite sport cricket.

A major agricultural producer, West Bengal is the sixth-largest contributor to India's net domestic product.

# Kolkata FOP Participants and Feedback

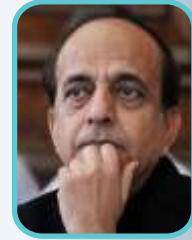


“Through waste thought and action we lose power and become powerless. This is now the end of Kaliyug and the beginning of Satyug Recover your power, then with our help, God can transform this world.”

Kanan Didi  
Director, BrahmaKumaris  
Eastern Zone

“Why do I want to be powerful? to take up more responsibility. For me the most important power is knowledge, to understand reality Only then you can have a tranquil mind.”

Dinesh Trivedi  
MP Lok Sabha



“Most of us know who we are and what we can do but we don't do it. We need to assert ourselves and make sure that we make life better for our fellow human beings.”

Dr. Alok Roy  
Chairman  
Medica Super Speciality Hospital

“When you work as a leader, you don't have power over people, you are responsible for people . We are privileged to be in a position to help people. We must look at it as a gift from God.”

Anand Nayak  
Executive Vice President, ITC



“We need to empower ourselves, unleash our power and transform power through positive energy and counteract the misuse of power by those who take decisions and have influence.”

Angsuman Bandyopadhyay  
Past District Governor, Rotary

“Power is a measurement of efficiency, the inherent functionality of a person or organisation. This decides the kind of return we get in life. The outside world is a reflection of your inner world.”

Dr. Anindya Goswami  
Deputy Medical Superintendent, Damodar Valley



“Power is inner strength which we need to harness and not let control us. It gives us the ability to understand our surroundings. It attracts people to you for comfort and should not repel people.”

Dr. Anuradha Das  
Director, Calcutta International School

“Power is your strength to influence the environment, the people around you. Each of us wants to do this, some for good, some for bad, some for personal upliftment, some for society.”

Arijit Dutta  
Managing Director, Priya Entertainments





“Power is the space between good trying to win over evil. It is a continuous process as these counter forces are at work and we continually strive to subdue the negative tendencies within.”

Harshvardhan Neotia  
Chairman & Managing Director,  
Ambuja Reality



“I know I have power within. I have to know about it and use it for the benefit of others.”

Indrani Sinha  
Executive Director, Sanlaap



“Power is the capacity to change things in a positive direction, for the better, for the maximum number of people.”

Jay Mehta  
Chairman, Jaypee Projects



“Power is something within, your divinity. With power one can do enormous good but also enormous harm. It is up to the individual how we use it and how we harness it.”

Kaveri Dutt  
Principal, Modern High School for Girls



Dr Hrishikesh  
Consultant Neurologist, Institute of  
Neurosciences



“Negative power is ruling - the power of violence, negative thoughts and actions. We need to get rid of these and travel toward the goal of peace. We have generated these seeds in our minds.”

J.K. Paul  
Advocate, Supreme Court



Kalpana Jana  
Educator, Saramoni Balika Vidyalaya



M.K.Ghosh  
Director, Indian Maritime University



“Power is going back to your original being.”

Arjen Wiersma  
Energy Auditor, Netherlands



“Power is like having a high powered car. Use it prudently and carefully, otherwise it can be hazardous for yourself and for others.”

Ashok Aikat  
President, Bharat Chambers of Commerce



“I need to reflect and introspect within to understand what is power and what power I have within me. I have power, I am powerful, but I would like to have a better understanding to take this forward. It is a true present for me today.”

Darshan Shah  
Director, Weavers Studio



“Spiritual power is the most effective and most active power in humans.”

Dr. Debabrata Jana  
Former Reader in Chemistry  
Bangabasi College

“There is an urgent need to awaken ourselves and make a difference through love and truth. Service is the rent you pay to be on this earth. Give happiness and in turn you will be happy.”

Dr. Aruna Tantia  
Medical Director, Tantia Hospital



“Connect to the Supreme God and empower ourselves for the betterment of others. It has to be practiced and that helps you in the future development of the self, the country and the society.”

D.K. Jaiswal  
MD, Hotel Hindustan International



“The idea of power that I have learnt about today is very natural, to be good, to truly enlighten the spirit and if we can do that, we can make a little difference.”

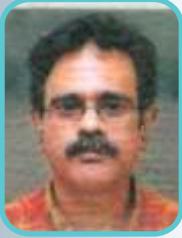
Dasho Wangda  
Consulate General Bhutan



“It is the power of silence, inner power and with that I can balance power outside. Power is light, it is the essence of everything.”

Eva Maria Pacheco  
(Artist) Spanish Cultural Centre, Delhi





“How do we translate negative power to positive energy? How do we use the powers within to improve our life, to use it in our work place and become a better self? I need to explore this further.”  
Rajiv Bagchi  
Resident Editor, Hindustan Times



Dr. Robin Sengupta  
Director & Founder,  
Institute of Neurosciences



Prof. S. Nandi  
Chartered Accountant & Barrister, Gray's Inn  
London and Nandi & Associates



“Power is the driving force within that is not going to change. My experiences are going to affect the kind of actions that I take in my life and I am sure that I will not take actions that I cannot live with.”  
Sanjeev Mehra  
General Manager, Operations  
CESC Properties

“Power is inner strength and is revealed by behaviour, demeanour, work and expression. How we use power is our choice. Nothing external is power.”

Rituparna Sengupta  
Actress, Tollywood



“Power is the ability to change. Power is the absence of fear. Power is the search for equality.”

Ruma Pal  
Former Justice Supreme Court



Prof. S.K.Sharma  
Director, EKO Diagnostics & Ex-Sheriff



“We are able to harness the power that is within us and also the source from which we draw the power. It is our duty as individuals to tap in to that power .”

Santosh Rungta  
Chairman, Rungta Group





“A child is most powerful. When they cry or smile it touches everyone. They are natural, innocent and pure. When we experience that divinity inside us and reflect that, it is powerful.”

Mamata Shankar

Actor and Dancer  
Mamta Shankar Dance Company



“India has the wisdom to combine spiritual power with worldly power, to bring back soft power. If you scratch an Indian, just below the surface is deep spirituality.”

Nizar Juma

Industrialist, Kenya



“Power is nothing but sharing.”

Phalguni Mookhopadhyay  
Chairman & MD, Brainware



“In dealing with evil, we need to explore how can we execute a paradigm shift in the way people think, a permanent paradigm shift which is positive in nature both for them and for us.”

Priscilla Corner

Hair Stylist, June Tomkins

“Power is knowing what is there within. Authority is given by someone else, but if we can use our inner power to control ourselves, it will be easier to control others.”

Nilotpal Roy

Executive Director,  
Monnet Ispat & Energy



“Power is the ability to influence, good or bad, but hopefully good, somebody's life in such a way that you leave a permanent legacy behind.”

Capt. P.M. Pradhan

Principal, Rockvale Academy



“You feel powerful when you are free from fear of success or failure and what people think. Life is designed by God and he is there to take care of me, this awareness brings unique experiences.”

Pradip Chopra

Chairman & Managing Director, PS Group



Raj K Johri

Advisor, Nabadiganta Industrial Township  
Authority





“Power is the inner strength that you have and that you can draw from the Supreme Source. Power must be used in a good way. It is a privilege to help others, it is to be used with great humility.”

Dr. Sarah Egger  
Hon. Clinical Senior Lecturer  
Dept. of Psychological Medicine



“I learnt of two kinds of power - soft and hard power. I believe that soft power is more powerful than hard power.”

Seema Mohta  
Director, Merlin



Sidharth Pansari  
Managing Director, Primarc



“As I was growing up I was trying to articulate the meaning of power. This has reaffirmed the articulation that I was trying to do myself. It reaffirms my faith with regard to power.”

Suparno Moitra  
Regional Manager, NASSCOM

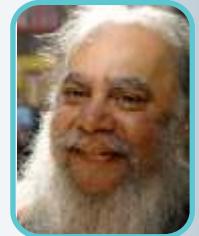
“Empowerment is a humbling experience because the world will be a better place if the higher you are, the humbler is your power.”

Saroj Kumar Gazmer  
Joint Commissioner, Armed Police



“He is powerful who never ever thinks that he is powerful and is a tolerant person. We are part of the great power of the universe, so He is my best friend, my philosopher and He is my energy.”

Shuvaprasanna  
Artist



“Power is more of an internal thing than really political or administrative power.”

Subrata Gupta  
Jute Commissioner, Govt. of West Bengal



“More power and authority bring more responsibilities in a person's life, this is something which needs to be understood. For taking a right decision, one should not have fear of the consequences.”

Sushil Mohta  
Managing Director, Merlin





“Power means to control one's life - having control over one's emotions, then only can we change others lives because first we need to change our life to change others.”

Suuchandra Bhutoria  
Director, AK Group

“Power is knowing myself and the power to share and to be free from fear and desire. This is a great effort and I am very glad to be a part of it.”

Tanmoy Bose  
Musician, Percussionist & Tabla Player



“If you have the right sense of detachment, that will give you the ultimate freedom of not losing power and this can be extended from yourself through to the nation.”

Swami Vedajnananda  
Regional Secretary Centre of  
Indian Institute of Chemical Engg.

“Power is doing more for people, who are opportunities. Think about them and do as much as possible because doing so will bring you joy, the happiness which you cannot buy in the world.”

Chandrodoy Ghosh  
Director at Mamata Shankar Dance Company



“The most valuable thing we have is our minds and yet we do not know how to use it at all. Understand the mind and make it powerful.”

Maureen Chen, Australia  
Participant Liaison FOP

“Power has a bad press! Left unchecked and married to ego, it's fickle and dangerous. Tempered with mercy, kindness, understanding and love, and used wisely, it's a precious gift.”

Arnold Desser  
Medical Trainer  
National Health Service, UK





# FOP Dynamics...

With the backdrop of the emergence of the voice for women's empowerment in India, we held our 16th dialogue in the culturally rich city of Kolkata at the ITC Sonar on 22nd December, 2012. The diversity and depth amongst the 52 participants highlighted, among other things, the awareness of the responsibility which comes with power. In the city which has led many social reforms, the participant words echoed those of great leaders which have spread from West Bengal - Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekanand and Mother Theresa.

As it was a whole day event, there was the opportunity for Nizar Juma and Maureen Chen to respond to a question put forward by Arnold Desser, Medical Trainer with the UK National Health Service, our facilitator for the dialogue: What questions or issues are important for you in relation to power? This opened up to a very stimulating group dialogue highlighting that real power is not demonstrated in outward expression but used discreetly and benevolently. The discussion also led participants to enquire as to how we can access power from the Supreme and an impromptu guided meditation provided an experience rather than an intellectual response. Kanan Didi, responsible for the many centres throughout West Bengal closed the session offering with deep insights.

The following evening was anchored by Dr. Sarah Eagger from the Department of Psychological Medicine, UK. It began with a performance by the Sanjay Mondol Group of India's Got Talent fame. The boys from the slums perform on recycled materials and create great rhythm whilst demonstrating that each one of us has power. It closed with a very beautiful message on the care for nature performed by Natraj Kala Kendra Dance Group, Kolkata.

This was followed by a Talk Show with selected participants from the dialogue sharing their experiences. Actor, Arijit Dutta, reflected on the Bible, *"The person who has faith, more will be given to them. People, who have less faith, will find even that will be taken away. I think power is that."* Indrana Sinha from a women's movement, Saanlap: *"Decision makers - army, politicians, police, etc often become angry with me but they change when I stand in my truth."* Industrialist, Santosh Rungta: *"Yesterday's meditation experience was an eye opener which helped me to understand a method to access power. I consider it our incumbent duty to experience this phenomenon. You will be inspired to become more powerful to do what is needed to be done."* Arjen Wiersma, an Environmental Energy Auditor from Holland added, *"Yes, meditation gave me values, it gave me power and it made me very very happy and more humble."*

This was followed by a presentation by Mr Dinesh Trivedi, MP of the Lok Sabha and former Railway Minister, who closed his talk with a reflection on the law of cause and effect and inspired the audience to use our intellect to explore what is reality so that we can return to true inner peace.

Dadi Janki, the Chief of the Brahma Kumaris, especially sent a message for this event, *"Don't waste your thoughts and your words then automatically the world which is in the grip of fear and violence will become free with the power of truth, this is my bhavna. Consider past is past, live with truth in the present then automatically the future will become bright."*



Future of Power Dialogue, Kolkata, 22nd December 2012

Seated front row: Kaveri Dutt, Principal, Modern High School; Dr. Anuradha Das, Director, Calcutta International School; Kalpana Jana, Saramoni Balika Vidyalaya; Roopa Mehta, CEO, Sasha; Mamta Shankar, Actor & Dancer; Seema Mohta, Director, Merlin; Nizar Juma, Initiator of FOP; Sr Kanan, Brahma Kumaris; Ruma Pal, Former Justice, SC; Indrani Sinha, Founder, Sanlaap; Sarah Egger, Psychologist, UK; Suuchandra Bhutoria, Director, AK Group; Dr Aruna Tantia, MD, Tantia Hospital; Priscilla Corner, June Tomkins; Eva Maria pacheco, Delhi Spanish Cultural Centre  
 Standing second row: Maureen Chen, FOP; Darshan Shah, Director, Weavers Studio; Phalguni Mookhopadadhayay, CMD, Brainware; Rajiv Bagchi, Editor, Hindustan Times; Dr Alok Roy, Chairman, Medica Hospital; Dasho Wangda, Consulate General of Bhutan; D.K Jaiswal, MD, Hotel Hindustan Intl; Jay Mehta, Chairman, Jaypee Projects; Ashoka Aikat, President, Bharat Chambers of Commerce; Santosh Rungta, Chairman, Rungta Group; JK Paul, Advocate, Supreme Court, Bangladesh; Angsuman Bandyopadhyay, Past District Governor, Rotary; Raj K Johri, Advisor, Nabadiganta ITA; Subrata Gupta, Jute Commissioner, Arnold Desser, Medical Educator, UK; MK Ghosh, Director, Indian Maritime University; Capt. PM Pradhan, Principal, Rockvale Academy; Suparno Moitra, RM Nasscom; BK Swapan; Dr Debrata Jana, Former Reader in Chemistry, Bangabasi College, BK Supriya  
 Standing last row: Viresh Oberoi, MD, Metal Junction; Chandrodoy Ghosh, Dancer; Dr Hrishikesh Kumar, Neurologist, Institute of Neurosciences; Anand Nayak, Executive VP, ITC; Arjen Wiesma, Energy Conservationist, Netherlands; Dr Robin Sengupta, Founder, Institute of Neurosciences; Sanjeev Mehra, GM Operations, CESC Properties; Saroj Kumar Gazmer, Joint Commissioner, Armed Police; Nilotpal Roy, ED, Monnet Ispat & Energy; Siddharth Pansari, MD, Primarc; Vishwajit Sinha Roy, Chairman, National Homeopathic Laboratory; Swami Vedajnananda, Regional Secretary, Centre of Indian Institute of Chemical Engg.; Dr Anindya Goswami, Dy Medical Suptd, Damodar Valley Corp; Sushil Mohta, MD, Merlin; Arijit Dutta, MD, Priya Entertainment