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POTPOURRI

BIZ BIGGIES BOND ON FRIENDSHIP DAY WITH BREAKFAST ADDA. PLUS, A THREE-DAY SHOPPING BONANZA IN ASSOCIATION WITH t2

Picture by Bishwarup Dutta



The youngest friendship in this band of boys is of 30 years and the oldest, more than 55. Wry humour, candid chats and animated debates ensure that their equation remains strong as ever, despite their super-busy lives. And these BFFs (best friends forever) also happen to be among the top industrialists in town.

On Sunday mornings, some of these biz big daddies meet up to indulge in a good ol' adda session, over a hearty breakfast. So Sunday the 7th, Friendship Day, was special. Arranged by Emami, a strong 12-member group (with a few absentees because of the

rain) met at the Goenka House on Southern Avenue to raise a toast to their friendship with tea, samosa, *kachori* and *jalebi*. From business to politics, family to flashback, the old boys' club chatted on, dressed casually in shorts and tees or kurta-pyjama.

The dynamic dozen? R.S. Agarwal and R.S. Goenka of Emami Group, S.K. Todi of Shrachi Group, S.K. Khaitan of Khaitan Group, Narendra Kumar of Ritspin Synthetics and SPBT, R.K. Agarwal of Ernst & Young, India, S.R. Mundehra of Allied Resins and Chemicals Ltd, M.G. Todi of Alfa Aluminium Pvt Ltd, Amitav Kothari, finan-

cial consultant, Chandravadan Desai of CD Acquittance and CD Equisearch, B.D. Sureka of Sureka Group and I.K. Kejriwal of Chengmari Tea Co. Ltd.

"Have you ever seen a merrier group of chairmen?" they asked, the hall echoing with laughter. "We have all been friends for a very long time," said R.S. Goenka.

R.S. Agarwal, his childhood friend of over 55 years, who completes the "Ram-Laxman *ki jodi*" as Chandravadan Desai put it, added, "It has become a ritual for us to meet up every Sunday, after our morning walk, and spend some time amongst friends.

When SP Goenka was alive, during those days of Kityly, we used to all go walking in the Victoria Memorial grounds. Now we go our own different ways but meet up at the Goenka House, to show our respect."

All one needed on Sunday morning to complete the picture of camaraderie was the background score of *Yeh dosti...*!

Madhurima Chatterjee

Do you know of an enduring/special friendship in Calcutta? Tell t2@abp.in