

AHANA 28 October 2021

VOL: XXXXII

ISSUE: 8

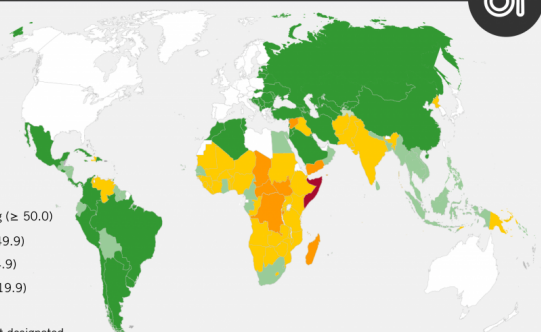


REGULAR CLUB E-BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

RI PRESIDENT: RTN. SHEKHAR MEHTA ::

DISTRICT GOVERNOR: RTN. PRABIR CHATTERJEE

2021 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX



The world as a whole is facing tremendous challenges posed by Covid-19, conflicts, and climate change. This is also reflected in recent increases in the prevalence of **Undernourishment** in many countries.

The **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is a measure of development of outcomes in the domain of hunger. The **2021 GHI** assesses the hunger situation on global and regional levels. This includes the situation in 135 countries, of which 116 has sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. In the **2021 GHI**, India ranks **101st** out of these. With a **score of 27.5**, India has a **level of hunger that is SERIOUS!!**

-Souvik



SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE-I

Project: Observance of World Polio Day



Rtn. Dr. Krishnendu Das
President Elect, RCCJ

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur participated in the Car and Bike rally organized by Rotary Rotaract district 3291 for observance of World Polio Day on 24th October 2021. The program started at 9.30 a.m from Rotary Sadan. RI President Shekhar Mehtaji was personally present on the occasion. He addressed the assembled participants and informed that for the last 9 months, no polio cases were reported from Pakistan and Afghanistan and this Polio awareness program by Rotary should continue to eradicate this virus completely from our planet. DG Rtn Prabir Chatterjee and Rotary District Polio Chair Uttam Ganguly also addressed the gathering. The rally in which 78 cars and 24 bikes, spread over 5 routes covering different parts of Kolkata, Salt Lake and Howrah was flagged off by the RI President. Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur was represented by Jaydeb Banerjee, Swapan Chakraborty, Pausali Paul and Krishnendu Das in 2 cars in route number 3 (Rotary Sadan - SP Mukherjee road - Prince Anwar Shah road - Jadavpur P.S- Dhakuria-Golpark -Vivekananda park). Former DG Sudip Mukherjee, in the presence of other past District Presidents and district officials, distributed certificates to the participants on completion of the program.

Some Glimpses



SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE-II

Project: Climate Wall



Sukrit Sen

Mentor, Rotaract Club of Jadavpur

Project '**Climate wall**' is an initiative that reinforces the commitment of U.S.-India, and the Living Waters Museum in association with the Rotaract Club of Jadavpur to address climate action through innovative ideas. Our main goal is to encourage young minds to promote awareness on climate action in Sundarbans and engage in the execution of developing a mangrove shield to build community resilience.

The Sundarbans, located in the low-lying islands in the Bay of Bengal spread over 1 million ha, are the world's largest single contiguous mangrove swamp, a RAMASAR site and a UNESCO world heritage site inscribed by both India and Bangladesh. They are home to a wide range of fauna including the Bengal tiger, the Ganges dolphin, river terrapin, the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python, which are classified as critically endangered, alongside over 260 bird species and around 64 plant species that can withstand the saline estuarine conditions. (Rahman 2017) (UNESCO 1997) (Nature Environment and Wildlife Society n.d.)

Sundarbans, which is primarily habitat to several types of mangroves, make it a very environmentally sensitive site. There is much research that proves the contribution of these mangroves in resisting the impacts of several natural and human induced hazards, not only in the delta region but also in the inner cities like Kolkata. (Thakur 2019) Unfortunately, these mangroves are now exposed to the threats of uncontrolled encroachment, illegal human activities and the impacts of climate change. As a result, the communities living in these areas are also exposed to the myriad of threats due to the rapid decline of these mangroves. While the state has undertaken many initiatives to replant mangroves on the edges of the rivers, especially on the inhabited islands, different natural and institutional vulnerabilities mean that huge stretches along the river bank still lie bare.



Image 1 Damage post Cyclone Amphan, Source: DNA

Traditional communities around the Sundarbans have always possessed the knowledge to protect themselves from different hazards. However, with changing times and urbanization, communities have gone through changes in their lifestyle over the last few decades. Such changes largely involved the extraction of different natural attributes to a point that it led to the depletion of the surrounding environment. According to information from local respondents, approximately 40 percent of the mangrove cover in the Sundarbans has disappeared in the last two decades. It is only in recent times after having been exposed to deadly cyclones such as, Aila in 2009 and Amphan in 2020, and with increasing salinity of the surrounding areas due to rise in seawater levels (World Bank 2017) etc. that communities have realized the need to bring back an ecological balance.

The cyclone acted as a catalyst to compel the communities to be concerned about their surrounding environment and start protecting it. This led to growing awareness among certain communities in the Sundarbans who feel the need to go back to traditional practices of local re-vegetation to develop natural embankments along the river, reduce salinity in the lands and replenish freshwater reserves. However due to the lack of funding the process has not taken up much shape yet but it is important to mobilise this juncture to keep this initiative alive and help develop resilience among these communities for future disasters. With the help of very humble local fundraisers, the communities have

been able to achieve partial success, but they do require more encouragement and support to keep this going and inspire neighboring communities to take it up as well. Hence, these communities are not only in need of financial assistance but capacity building especially among the youth to look at this from a more sustainable point of view.

Project 'Climate Wall' will aim to engage young students, and their mothers to understand their surrounding environment and its challenges, and to address them with the help of local knowledge on planting techniques and plant varieties. The project will look at developing awareness among school students through local knowledge expressed through local arts. The students will be further encouraged along with their mothers to develop a mangrove seed reserve in their homes, which once developed into a sapling will be planted in the riverside as a live "climate wall" in the Hingalganj and Sandeshkhali blocks of Sundarbans, 24 Parganas (North), West Bengal.

Sunderbans having recently experienced the impacts of a super severe cyclone, the communities feel the need to be independent and develop resiliency using local resources and available traditional knowledge. Sunderbans consists of a number of mangroves namely - Sundari (*Heritiera fomes*), Bain (*Avicennia officinalis/Avicennia alba/Avicennia marina*), Kakra (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*), Garjan (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Poshur (*Xylocarpus mekongensis*), Dhundhul (*Xylocarpus granatum*), Gol (*Nypa fruticans*), Keora (*Sonneratia apetala*), Garan (*Ceriops decandra*) and Geoa (*Excoecaria agallocha*).



Image 2 Different Mangrove Species, Source: Sourav Moni

Information from the local respondents suggest that Sundari plants which prove to be the best for the muddy river banks are lacking in the Bengal Delta. They suggest Sundori, Dhundhul and Poshur for major river banks, Kaloban and Kakra for the minor river banks. Other than these local knowledges also suggest replacing the existing Acacia and Eucalyptus plants along the internal roads with Keora trees not only because the former is not good for the health of the soil which communities also use for

agriculture. This project will help involve experts and validate the same and help children of the locality have a more holistic understanding of the trees around them and their contribution to the larger ecosystem. Additionally, the urban children who do not have much exposure to such a setup will be able to physically interact with the site, engage with rural children allowing peer-learning and help them develop urban narratives on this aspect of climate action.



Image 3 Mangrove Seed Organisation, Source: Sourav Moni

agriculture. This project will help involve experts and validate the same and help children of the locality have a more holistic understanding of the trees around them and their contribution to the larger ecosystem. Additionally, the urban children who do not have much exposure to such a setup will be able to physically interact with the site, engage with rural children allowing peer-learning and help them develop urban narratives on this aspect of climate action.

Unlike other top-down approaches of post-disaster recovery organized by the government, this project will actually look at involving the community by first getting their perspective on the need to do this and encourage them in taking ownership of building resilience themselves, which will in a way be a step forward towards developing local economy and upholding the position of women and children. The larger idea behind this drive is to look at a sustainable future by young leaders, the future of the country where communities are self-sufficient in protecting not only the environment and themselves but also benefiting from the same through economic incentives.

The project also aims to involve local musicians and artists who will primarily look at creative and innovative ways by which they can work with the children to raise awareness using the local culture of performing and visual arts, not only to revive them and provide economic opportunities for local artists but also attract an audience beyond the general stakeholders, that typically take interest in such projects. Activities such as composing songs in the local 'Bhatiyali' genre, painting workshops in the local schools of artforms etc will be initiated so that children have a more interesting take on the subject rather than it being an academic experience. This will be particularly inspirational for young minds too, for the awareness is primarily aimed towards them as the future custodians of their culture and stewards of their local environment.

The project also aims to involve local musicians and artists who will primarily look at creative and innovative ways by which they can work with the children to raise awareness using the local culture of performing and visual arts, not only to revive them and provide economic opportunities for local artists but also attract an audience beyond the general stakeholders, that typically take interest in such projects. Activities such as composing songs in the local 'Bhatiyali' genre, painting workshops in the local schools of artforms etc will be initiated so that children have a more interesting take on the subject rather than it being an academic experience. This will be particularly inspirational for young minds too, for the awareness is primarily aimed towards them as the future custodians of their culture and stewards of their local environment.

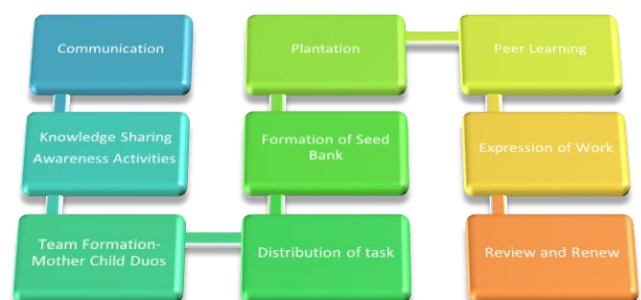


Image 4 Project Methodology, Source: Sukrit Sen

SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE-III

Project: At Udbhas



Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta
Chair, Youth Service, RCCJ

It was a very successful and satisfying Rotary-Rotaract event at Udbhas on 3rd October, 2021. Rotaractors Urvi and Shayosri from Rotaract Club of Jadavpur, and Rotaractors Rupsa and Aditi from Rotaract club of Jadavpur Greens participated, while Rtn. Partha Sarkar and I represented RCCJ. We distributed masks to the Udbhas inhabitants, students and officials. We also donated 3 jars of sanitiser from Rotaract Club of Jadavpur and Rotaract club of Jadavpur Greens. The Rotaractors interacted with the kids to their merriment, and chips and cakes were given to 10-15 children. They also discussed opportunities of future prospect of service involving Udbhas like literacy camps. Thank you Rotaractors for your wholesome participation! Looking forward to more such collaborative endeavours!

Some Glimpses



Some Glimpses



RCCJ As Host of 'Rotaract Ghoroa Puja Award'



**MINUTES OF THE 2062ND CLUB MEETING OF RC CALCUTTA
JADAVPUR HELD ONLINE, THURSDAY, 7TH
OCTOBER 2021 AT 7:00 PM**

Past President Rtn. (Dr) Aditi Nag Chaudhuri called the 2062nd meeting of RC Calcutta Jadavpur to order.

The National Anthem was led by Rtn. Manasij Bandopadhyay.

Then Past President Rtn. (Dr) Aditi Nag Chaudhuri announced:

- That 26th September being World Polio Day, leaflets were distributed along with newspaper to generate awareness about Polio Eradication arranged by Rtn. (Dr.) Krishnendu Das.
- That on 3rd October, a service was held at UDBHAS, Retractor Rupsa from Rotaract Club of Jadavpur Greens narrated about the program. Five litres of sanitiser each from Rotaract Club of Jadavpur and Rotaract Club of Jadavpur Greens were to given to the organization. Chips and cakes were given to 10-15 children. They spent quality time playing and chatting with the children. She also mentioned that they had a talk regarding two upcoming projects in two phases - in November/December and March/April. One project would be Literacy project and the other one would be community awareness such as Traffic rules, Doctor's check up etc.
- On 3rd October evening, there was a Zoom meeting to discuss possibilities of having an online app to coach the children in Dwaronda, Santiniketan. PP Dr. Aditi Nag Chaudhuri, Rtn. Manasij, Rtn. Pausali and Mr. Aditya Dasgupta (Manasij's friend), were present in the meeting. Since using an online app would be challenging for the girls from underprivileged sector, Rtn. Pausali suggested that on her next visit to Dwaranda, she would sit with the senior students and make a roaster and give them a demo class to guide them in taking tuition classes for

students of class 1-10 as well as adults. In the meantime, Mr. Aditya Dasgupta would build an app to help them.

- That there would be a meet of AG, ZS, Presidents, Secretaries of District 'Aalingan' on 8th October, where Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur would co host with a cost of Rs. 6000.
- That Rotaract Club of Jadavpur was to organize a competition to give award to the Best Dhaki, RCCJ contributed Rs. 5000 on that account.
- That the Club donated Rs. 5000 for Midnapur Flood to District (RID 3291).
- That a sum of Rs. 1500 was given to Rotaract Club of Adi Bhowanipur as host of Rotaract Ghoroa Puja Award.
- That the date of Vijaya Sammelani was to be fixed and it was decided that it would take place only after Diwali as per convenience of most members to have maximum participation. It was also decided that it would be a Family program.
- That a Board Meeting was to be arranged in end of October or beginning of November.
- That while fixing the upcoming projects, maximum emphasis was to be given on literacy.

In the Club Business, Secretary Rtn. Pausali, on behalf of all the members of RCCJ, wished Dr. Arup Ratan Datta and Ann Dr. Soma Datta for their anniversary on 8th October. She also wished Rtn. Manab Paul for his upcoming birthday on 13th October.

Minutes of 2061st meeting were confirmed. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

After conclusion of RCM, Retractor Sukrit was introduced by Secy. Rtn. Pausali and he had given an excellent presentation on "ROLE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN DISASTER RECOVERY- WORK IN

ACTION." His speech along with power-point presentation was highly applauded by the house.

বৃষ্টি মায়্যা



Ann. Shakhi Banerjee

মেঘ ছাওয়া এই বর্ষা দিনে
একলা বসে ঘরের কোণে

রিমঝিম ঝিম বৃষ্টি নূপুর
মন খারাপের অলস দুপুর

ভাবছি কি ছাই আকাশ পাতাল
ছেলেবেলার বাদলা সকাল,

মাঠ পুকুরে জল উতোরোল
হালকা হাওয়ায় চেউ দোলদোল

জল থৈ থৈ উঠোন বাড়ী
নৌকো ভাসাই সারি সারি

কার নৌকো ছুটল জোরে
কোনটা ডুবলো একটু দূরেই

গাছের পাতায় হীরের কুচি,
বৃষ্টি স্নানের দেদার খুশী

আবছা আকাশ দিগন্ত ছায়
জুঁই কামিনীর সুবাস মাতায়

ঝুপসী সবুজ আঁধার ঘনায়
বিকেল ফুরোয় সাঁঝের মায়্যা।।



Happy Birthday Wishes
Rtn. Dibyendu Chakraborty
-24th October



WARM BIJOYA GREETINGS



I, on behalf of RCCJ, would like to express my heartfelt warm regards and sincere wishes to all my Rotarian friends and their family members on account of Bijoya Dashami and Dusshera.

May Devi Maa shower her blessings to help us move towards a disease-free world.

- Souvik, Editor, Ahana
Photograph: Editor

Ideas, Feedback & Suggestions



+919831316389



souvikroy81@rediffmail.com