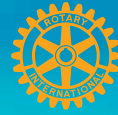




# VOICE OF VICTORIA

Rotary  
Calcutta Victoria  
District 3291



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CALCUTTA VICTORIA | RI DISTRICT 3291

Vol 29 | No 8 OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH Saturday, October 23, 2021

## Today's Programme

Regular Meeting at 12.00 noon on ZOOM.

Guest Speaker **MR ABHINAV BAJPAI** will speak on "Planet on your Plate".

## Senior Citizens Medical Camp Upohar



On going medical camps for senior citizens are regularly being held at Kanthalberia twice each month on alternate Sundays. The last two camps held on 18th September and 3rd October were attended by around

30 old villagers. A local doctor and a medical technician, assisted by a nurse checked blood sugar and pressure of the attendees. Medicines for sugar, pressure, fever, pain, vertigo, indigestion, general weakness as well as calcium, multivitamins are given out in the clinic every month. This camp is an ongoing project started last year with the donation given by benevolent members and friends. The next clinic will be held after the Pujas on 24th October.



Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria sponsored new dresses and shoes to 10 students of *continued on page... 2*

## Forthcoming Club Programme

- Inauguration of Vocational Training Programme for disadvantaged women at Satyanand Vidyapith at Baruipur
  - UPOHAR – 100 sarees would be gifted to needy women in rural Bengal.
- Date and time would be communicated in due course.



**SHEKHAR Mehta**  
RI President



**PRABIR Chatterjee**  
District Governor



**K K Jha**  
President



**LATA Bhatia**  
Secretary



**SUBHADRI Chatterjee**  
Treasurer



**CHHANDA Banerji**  
Editor

## Upohar

Joyjeet Das Memorial School. These children are extremely happy to receive them. Their smiles will go as a blessing to each family of the club. Round the year they have been wearing old clothes collected by others. But this year they are overwhelmed on receiving these new gifts for Durga Puja. Thank you Dr Jai and Kanchan Gurtu for sponsoring the project.



# Viswa Joge Sarat Sange

## Celebration of Durga Puja & Navratri

A very nice programme of songs, dances and narration on Zoom was organized by Rotary Club of Calcutta Harmony on Mahalaya on 6th October 2021. RC Calcutta Victoria was the lead host club. Some Rotarian guests from Bangladesh had also joined in.

The programme started with an "Agomoni" song by Tagore followed by welcome address by President RCC Harmony. District Governor Prabir Chatterjee recited a prayer to Ma Durga. Significance of Mahalaya was explained as also why Durga Puja was celebrated in autumn (Akaal Bodhan) followed by some songs. Our new member Bipasha Banerjee, beautifully sang a song in her lilting voice. There were nine dance performances each with narration, recital of slokas/songs depicting the nine manifested forms of Durga which are separately venerated for a night during the Navratri festival. After a few more songs there was a lovely dance recital where Mahisasur is slayed by Goddess Durga – triumph of good over evil. A wonderful finale ended the programme.



## W O R D S O F W I S D O M

# TREES FOR BAGS!!



On Saturday 2nd October 2021 young entrepreneur Ms Priyanka Mandal was the guest speaker at RCCV's weekly meeting. Founder of Clan Earth, she shared how she and her friend Broteen Biswas are using a business to create goodness around and create value via thoughtful capitalism.

Having worked in the Corporate world as a financial analyst for several years, Priyanka had this great urge to do something meaningful for the planet and society. So she quit her well paying fancy job and took a bold step of starting a social enterprise.

They started Clan Earth, a Sustainability focused startup working with local artisans to create India's first plastic-free carry products! They plant 5 trees per bag sold to fight climate change with our customers. This is done with well established NGOs who are

engaged in reclaiming waste lands and creating forests.

Their range of products are sustainable, stylish and super functional for anybody to adopt it. These plastic-free, vegan, cruelty-free backpacks, bags, wallets and other lifestyle products such as bamboo bowls, coconut shell soy wax candles have all been received extremely well. Even though they started just before the health pandemic, they have planted 5000+ saplings in 1 year.

At Clan Earth, they work directly with experienced artisans to create their range and these artisans also in turn train people from vulnerable financially backward communities to become artisans. They believe in fair trade and are trying to create a company which creates employment for the financially backward communities. They started with

1 experienced artisan and now work with 7 artisans.

They experiment with diverse traditionally natural fabric such as canvas and innovative eco fabrics such as cork to create our products and eventually all their products have a much lower carbon footprint. They also package completely plastic-free and being plastic-free and almost zero waste as a brand, and have diverted more than 2 tons of plastic away from landfills.

They look forward to support from the city of Kolkata to become not just a national but global brand which brings Indian Craftsmanship to the world!

Ms Priyanka Mandal was introduced by Vibha Mehta and thanked by Rajnish Mehta.

– Reported by Sachiv Nijhawan





# Programme on Public Image RCCV was lead Host Club

*Congratulations!*



RC Calcutta Avyanna put up these banners during puja days in different areas of Kolkata



*Krishnendu & Simran are proud Grandparents.*

**KIAN**, their grandson arrived on 20th October. Heartiest congratulations to Aparajita & Jan; Krishnendu & Simran. Our blessings to the little one.

## Know your Guest Speaker



Abhinav Bajpai was born and brought up in Kanpur and did his bachelor studies from Delhi University. After pursuing engineering career for 3 years, he became an environmentalist because he loved working for Nature. He worked with Greenpeace India for 5 years as a public awareness mobilizer and fundraiser. Along with a

few friends last year he started a Cafe in Kolkata called as \*Ubuntu Community -The Vegan Cafe\* which is Kolkata's first eco friendly community Cafe. It is themed around sustainability practices and it is trying to raise awareness in public about the same by serving plantbased food which is delicious but of no harm to the environment and animals. They have launched their second kitchen in Mumbai in September 2021 and now is planning to expand in many other cities by 2022.

## Suchikala

project in Kanthalberia going on for 5 months. The girls have made various items like blouse, bags, palazzo, frocks of various designs. Planning to give them materials from the club so that the bags can be made and sold.



# Minutes of the 1286th Regular Meeting of **ROTARY CALCUTTA VICTORIA** held on Saturday, 2nd October, 2021 at 12:30 pm at Conclave

- President Kaushlendra Jha called the 1286th meeting to order.
- President Kaushlendra Jha welcomed all members and guest speaker Ms Priyanka Mandal to the Meeting and requested her to sit at the head table.
- President requested members to rise for the National Anthem. National Anthem was sung by all led by Sunita Agarwala.
- Minutes of the 1285th meeting were confirmed, proposed by Gayatree Dhar and seconded by Mukul Mittra.
- President K K Jha informed the members that we had been invited to participate in Project Tejaswini led by RC Calcutta Avyanana and joined by other Rotary clubs. Our club had participated in the same project last year. President requested PP Gayatree Dhar to throw more light on the project.
- PP Gayatree Dhar said that all puja pandals that were being organised by women were chosen to participate in this program. The judges were shown different aspects of the pandal virtually and prizes were given on that basis. Our club has decided to participate this year again, said the President.
- **President's Announcements:**
  - ♦ We were a host club in the District programme *Agomoni on Mahalaya* (6th October 2021). This would be done on Zoom. All members were requested to join, the link of which would be sent soon. Our new member Bipasha Banerjee was requested to participate in the program by singing.
  - ♦ 40 Literacy kits that were to be given by the district @ Rs 80 per kit on 19th September 2021 got delayed. Treasurer Subhadri Chatterjee has now collected the coupons from the district and would collect the kits for distribution. These kits would be distributed in a village called Nayachar in the Sunderbans. A total of 50 kits would be given. 10 kits would be purchased by us.
- ♦ October being Rotary Economic & Community Development month, would be started a vocational Training project at our RCC Satyanand Mahapeeth. Plan is to impart skill development in 5 areas such as (i) Dress designing, (ii) beautician course, (iii) embroidery, (iv) cutting & stitching, (v) batik. The total cost of the project is 1.5 lakhs including material. Satyanand Mahapeeth had the space as well as the sewing machines. PP Sunita Agarwala had offered to provide all the material for the cutting & stitching project. Therefore the actual cost for the club was going to be substantially less. Members please contribute for the project.
- ♦ *Puja Upohar* of 100 new Saree Distribution was being handled by PP Arvind Agrawal. The sarees would be distributed along with the school bags at Nayachar before Kalipuja as that locality is flooded at present and not accessible. Members were again requested to donate generously.
- ♦ An appeal had been received from an old age home at Bharuramkrishnapur on Diamond Harbour line near Kalyanpur railway station. They own 10 bigha of land and have a building for the old age home and also have retired people as inmates. One could do organic farming on the open land. They also have built up space which could be utilized for a library, a computer centre, a recreation club etc. They were looking for a collaboration with our club for continuous long term project.
- ♦ The members felt that one could start with small projects and decide on the big projects later.
- ♦ A call had been received from Manikta Leprosy Mission Premanand Hospital with whom the club had done our flagship projects earlier. They were looking for CSR funding for running the hospital.
- ♦ As CSR chair, PP Alka Jayaswal was given charge of the project and President K K Jha and PP Alka Jayaswal would be visiting them on Wednesday 6th October 2021.
- The guest speaker Ms Priyanka Mandal was introduced by Vibha Mehta and she spoke on her start-up called Clan earth
- The formal vote of thanks was given by VP Rajnish Mehta and he also gifted a plant to the speaker as memento.
- **Secretary's Announcements:**
  - ♦ Next regular meeting would be held on 23rd October 2021 at 6.00 pm in person at Shisha followed by a fellowship. More details to follow.
  - ♦ Warm wishes were extended to all for the Pujas.
  - ♦ Birthday greetings were extended to Roopa Seth Mittra for 6th October and Sarah Macwan for 13th October. Wedding anniversary greetings were extended to Arvind & Rumana Agrawal for 14th October.
- As there was no other matter to be discussed the meeting was terminated at 2:00 pm.

**Happy**  
*Birthday!* 

Seema Danda • 25th Oct  
Dr J N Gurtu • 31st Oct  
Subhojit Sinha Roy • 1st Nov