



SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2022

September Is Basic Education & Literacy Month

103

The Chaka

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta
R I Dist. 3291

First Published in 1925

Editor: Rtn. Amit Ghosh

Volume 90 No. 11

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Today's Speaker



Professor Tapati Guha-Thakurta

Topic : Durga Pujas of Contemporary Kolkata - "The UNESCO Award"

Tapati Guha-Thakurta studied at Presidency College, Calcutta University, and the University of Oxford. She is currently an Honorary Professor of History at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) and was its former Director from 2012 to 2017. She has written widely on the art and cultural history of modern India and has held several visiting fellowships abroad. Her three main books are "The Making of a New 'Indian' Art: Artists, Aesthetics and Nationalism in Bengal" and "Monuments, Objects, Histories: Institutions of Art in Colonial and Postcolonial India", and "In the Name of the



Goddess : The Durga Pujas of Contemporary Kolkata". She is also the author of some exhibition monographs – among them, "Visual Worlds of Modern Bengal, The Aesthetics of the Popular Print" and "The City in the Archive: Calcutta's Visual Histories" – and has co-edited two anthologies of essays – "Theorising the Present: Essays for Partha Chatterjee" and "New Cultural Histories of India : Materiality and Practices". Since 1996, she oversaw the creation of a digital visual archive at the CSSSC that worked on documenting and cataloguing paintings, popular and commercial art, and photographs from different private collections in Kolkata. Among her recent assignments have been the setting up of the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource, Kolkata (a unit of the CSSSC) in 2017, and the preparation in 2019 of a dossier on the Durga Pujas of Kolkata for the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which has brought to the festival the coveted UNESCO inscription under its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

She is here with us today to share with us her experience in the lead up to the UNESCO inscription.

[compiled by Rtn. Ashok Basu, Co-editor]

SIKSHA LABH 9 -- LITERACY & BASIC EDUCATION

Location : Jagadbandhu Institution, Ballygunje Date : 14th Sept, 2022
Time : 11.00 AM



RC Calcutta inaugurated 9th phase of the ongoing project under Literacy & Basic Education – **SIKSHA LABH 9** – at Jagadbandhu Institution, led by President Raj Agrawal and Arindam Roy Choudhury, Chairperson, Community Services, along with about a dozen Club members, and for some it was a nostalgic moment, making a visit to their 'alma-mater'. PDG Rajani Mukherjee (also an ex-student of the school) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The RC Calcutta team was warmly received by Rajat Ghosh, Teacher-in-charge, (a one-time school mate of PDG) and escorted the team to the Computer Lab room in 3rd Floor, where the **11 nos. Computers** donated by the Club (with Windows 10 installed & each with its own UPS) were already set up in 'Live' condition. Ajay Mukherjee, President of the school Managing Committee, along with Avijit Bhattacharjee, Principal, welcomed the RC Calcutta team to the Lab room.

Jagadbandhu Institution is a 118-year-old school, was established in 1914, has 2,000 students approx. on-roll, roughly split into Elementary section (Class 1 to 4, having 800 students), Middle school (Class 5 to 8, having 650

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students) and high school (Class 9 to 12, having 550). M/S Arpita & Moumita confirmed that MS Paint and introductory MS Word is taught in Elementary classes, and M/S Arijit & Debasish stated that students learn MS Word & MS Excel in Middle school, the focus being that on entering High school the boys are 'computer literate'. They expressed that the 'bank' of new computers donated by RC Calcutta would greatly facilitate in broad basing computer education in the school.

During his inaugural address President Raj emphasised computer familiarity has progressively become mandatory for education, and an early start only gives an advantage. Accordingly, the Club has this year taken a commitment of extending computer education to 10,000 school children per month; today's event is the 9th in the series of this project. At the request of President to elaborate on RILM's Vision & Activities, PDG Rajani in his address explained :

- i. RILM's goal of making **India free of illiteracy** within this decade,
- ii. informed the **Nation Builder Award** – briefly detailing the process, the bottoms-up evaluation approach of Teachers, and invited the school authorities to register & adopt the process, as a strong recognition & encouragement to teachers who constitute the backbone of the education system,
- iii. The Adult Literacy scheme – **"Each one Teach One"** - where students commit to educate one adult illiterate (adequate up to class 3 level, to read basic instruction at Rly Stations, Ration shops, Bus No, etc), over a 60 day tenure, with books & process support from RILM post registration in website. On course completion certificates are issued by Rotary jointly with NCRT.

PDG Rajani also stressed the long relationship Rotary has established with the school, and proudly pointed at a flag-stone on the wall where the 1st computer Lab was set up with computers donated jointly by 6 Rotary Clubs in 2003, when he was President of his Club - Calcutta Mid East. M/S Mukherjee & Bhattacharjee, Managing Committee and Principal respectively, thanked RC Calcutta for the computers, expressed their need for consistent drinking water supply during school hours, and hoped for some assistance in this regard. With extension of deep thanks & gratitude from either side, the event was concluded.

With 2000 students in Siksha Labh 9, the aggregate number of students accessing computers stands at 7,700 per month, and with RCC Ranihati and Bahara Girls in the pipeline, the figure would work out to 9,900.



Reported by: Amit Ghosh, Editor]

COMMEMORATION OF TEACHERS' DAY

Location : Rotary Sadan

Date : 6th Sept, 2022

Time : 1.00 PM



In commemoration of Teachers' Day, the Rotary Club of Calcutta organized a felicitation program on 6th September 2022, to recognize the contributions and efforts of the Interact Teacher coordinators in making the Rotary Interact program a success.

The Program started with President Raj Kumar Agrawal and Hony. Secy. Anand Sharma welcoming and felicitating R-Ann Ms. Sucharita Roy Chowdhury, Principal Silver Point School, the Guest of Honour for the day. She spoke about her Interact and Rotary association of many years and how this has inspired the students of Silver Point School to get involved in various community service projects.

The Teacher Coordinators from Silver Point School, Mahadevi Birla World Academy, Asian International School, Delhi Public School Howrah, and Vidyanjali International School were felicitated with a memento and a small token of appreciation. They shared their wide, varied, and motivating experiences and how the Rotary Interact program has provided a platform for the school students to collaborate and drive projects that serve the community at large.

The Teachers from Rotary Club of Calcutta NCLCL Cultural section, Computer centre and Library were also felicitated in this program.

[Reported by Rtn. Malika Mukerji Sarkar, Youth Service Chair]

GOODWILL VISIT TO RC LONDON BY RTN. SUBHA PAL

Location : R C of London

Date : 12th Sept, 2022

Time : 6.00 PM

**Rtn. Subha Pal visits Rotary Club of London**

I visited Rotary Club of London on 12 Sept and was welcomed warmly by my Counterpart Chair of Attendance and Green Badgers' committee! The club were celebrating a special lunch for Green Badgers. I met and the President Rtn. Ian Balcombe who greeted me very cordially. At lunch I was given a seat in a table with a few visiting Rotarians from other parts of the world.

I exchanged the flag with him and mentioned that since 1919 we are in existence and adjudged Best Club of the district for our performances in all avenues of service in the Rotary year 2021-22.

I spoke about our environmental projects and Siksha Labh project with a mission to educate 10000 school children. Their club is also planting trees in certain specified areas as part of environmental project.

[Reported by : Rtn. Subha Pal]

ATTENDANCE REPORT (13.09.2022)

Total Members	:	243
Members Present	:	30
Exempted Members	:	67
Visiting Rotarians & Guests	:	01

**ONE WORLD**

We remember with good wishes
Rotary Club of Calcutta Sun City,
India, R. I. Dist. 3291

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 26th September 2022 at Rotary Sadan, at 6.30 p.m.

104th Foundation Day celebration of the Club along with Cultural programme "Agomoni" by the members and their families followed by Fellowship and Dinner. You are requested to attend with your spouse and enjoy the evening.

Programme :

"Agomoni" – 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Regular Weekly Meeting - 7.30 p.m. to 8.15 p.m.

(Fellowship and Dinner after the meeting)

Birthdays

Shampa Ghose	17th September
Dr. Ashoke Kumar Basu	22nd September
Sri Prakash Jalan	23rd September
Dr. Sukumar Mukherjee	23rd September
Dr. Abhijit Sen	25th September

Wish you many happy returns of the day

NO WEEKLY MEETING

There will no Regular Weekly Meeting on 4th October, 2022 on account of Durga Puja Holiday.

BOARD MEETING

Third meeting of the Board of Directors (2022-23) of the Club will be held on Monday, 26th September, 2022 at 5.30 p.m. at the Rotary Sadan. All members of the Board are requested to make a note of it and attend.

RESIGNATION / TERMINATION

i) The Board accepted the Resignations the following Rotarians at its meeting held on 29th August, 2022 with effect from 01.09.2022 .

Rtn. Satya Narain Jhunjhunwala and Rtn. Rajenda Kumar Dabriwala.

ii) The Board also Terminated at its meeting held on 29th August, 2022 the membership of Rtn. Srinik Singhvi with effect from 01.09.2022.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Time	Programmes / Events
Sunday	18.09.2022	11 a.m.	Computers donation and inauguration of Selai School at our New RCC Ranihati Netaji Samaj Sathi, Howrah
Saturday	24.09.2022	11 a.m.	Computers donation to Sukanto Nagar High School, Chingrighata
Monday	26.09.2022	6.30 p.m.	104th Foundation Day celebration of the Club will be held on Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor) along with Regular Weekly Meeting and Cultural programme "Agomoni" by the members and their families followed by Fellowship and Dinner. Programme : "Agomoni" – 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Regular Weekly Meeting – 7.30 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. (Fellowship and Dinner after the meeting)

MINUTES OF THE 4869th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 13th September 2022 at 1.00 pm at Rotary Sadan

1. President, Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4869th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Dr. Shankar Ghosh.
3. Minutes of the 4868th meeting of the Club held on 6th September 2022 was confirmed.
4. President welcomed PDG Rtn. Shyamashree Sen as the Chief Guest.
5. President also welcomed all visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
6. **President reported the following :**
 - i) 6th September, 2022 – To observe “Teacher's Day,” Youth Service & Interact and Rotaract Committee organised Felicitation of Teacher Coordinators from five Schools and Teachers from NCLCL.
 - ii) 9th September 2022 – Club donated Computer to Hatiara Madrasa High School, Kolkata.
 - iii) 9th September 2022 – Club organised in association with The Economic Times a Seminar on “A Leader's Guide to Building a Legacy” at Taj Raajkutir, Kolkata. Cabinet Minister, Dr. Shashi Panja was the Chief Guest. Our Club members, Rtns Debashis Mitra (PP), N.G. Khaitan, Raj Kumar Chhajjer and President Rajkumar Agrawal attended. President Raj Kumar Agrawal also addressed the distinguished gathering on that day. A number of Rotarians from our Club also attended on that day.
 - iv) 10th September 2022 – First Club Assembly of the Club was held at 4 pm at Rotary Sadan. Zonal Secretary, Rtn. Pranay Agarwal was also present in the Assembly.
 - v) 11th September 2022 – R I Dist. 3291 organised Club Presidents, Secretaries, Assistant Governors, and Zonal Secretaries meet at Lilabati Devi Resorts, Kasba, Kolkata. The programme was Co-hosted by our Club. Rtns Rajkumar Agrawal, Purnendu Roychowdhury and Anand Sharma attend the programme.
 - vi) 11th September 2022 in the evening, Installation meeting of the Rotaract Club of Calcutta was held at Rotary Sadan. Rtns Rajkumar Agrawal, Purnendu Roychowdhury, Anand Sharma, Sonal Worah, Malika Mukerji Sarkar and Heena Gorsia attended the meeting.
 - vii) President congratulated IPP Rtn. Sujata Pyne and Imm. Past Secretary Sriranjani Joshi for receiving Dist. Awards for contribution to Rotary Foundation and Membership Growth in Members and Rotary Citation for the Rotary year 2021-22.
7. **President Announced :**
 - a) Women's Empowerment Committee in association with CII and India Women Network would be organising a Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop followed by a Nutrition workshop with Abbott Health Care on Friday, 16th September 2022 at Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor) between 11 am to 1 pm and requested members to kindly attend the Workshops. Further details are available with Rtn Shampa Ghose, Chairperson, Women's Empowerment Committee.
 - b) 104th Foundation Day celebration of the Club would be held on Monday, 26th September 2022 at 6.30 pm at Rotary Sadan followed by Fellowship and Dinner and he requested members to block the day and to attend the meeting with spouse.
8. Hony Secretary, Rtn Anand Sharma thereafter conducted the Club business :
 - a) He welcomed all Members and Guests.
 - b) He then announced the names of Rotarians, celebrating their Birthdays during the week ending 16th September 2022 and conveyed best wishes to them.
 - c) He then informed members that the next Weekly Meeting of the Club would be held on Saturday, 17th September 2022 at 7pm, Speaker: Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta, Art Historian, Topic : “The Durga Pujas of Contemporary Kolkata : The UNESCO Awards”
 - d) He also informed members that there would no Regular Weekly Meeting on next Tuesday, 20th September 2022 as the said meeting would be held on Saturday, 17th September 2022 at 7 pm followed by fellowship and dinner at Rotary Sadan.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn Ayesha Mazumder introduced the day's Speaker, PDG Rtn. Shyamashree Sen.
10. PDG Rtn. Shyamashree Sen then addressed the audience on “Polio – The End Game Strategy”.
11. Questions raised by the members were answered by the speaker.
12. At the request of the President, PP Rtn. Heena Gorsia offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
13. On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to PDG Rtn. Shyamashree Sen.
14. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City, India, R. I. Dist. 3291.
15. The Meeting was adjourned at 2.38 pm.

Raj Kumar Agrawal
President

Anand Sharma
Hony. Secretary

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S TREAT - 2022

Annual Children's Treat of the club will be held on Sunday, 20th November, 2022 at 10 a.m. onwards at Nicco Park, Salt Lake, Kolkata. We will invite more than 1,500 underprivileged Children to this Flagship programme of the Club in this year.

Members are requested to generously donate or Sponsor Breakfast, Lunch, Ice Cream, T-Shirts, Caps, Carry Bags, Sports Items, or any kind of Gift Items to make this a “Day of Sunshine” for these Children.

Donation of Cash or Cheque to be made in the name of “Rotary Children's Welfare Trust” are eligible for Income Tax Exemption U/S 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Published by Rtn. Anand Sharma, Hony. Secretary, Rotary Club of Calcutta

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