



SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

December is Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

103

The Chaka

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R I Dist. 3291

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Today's Speaker



LATA BAJORIA

Having lived in her husband's shadow for decades, Lata Bajoria believes each day after his demise has been a learning to find her true self. Today, she oversees the flagship Hooghly Mills Company. The day she walked into the jute mill that she owned but was off limits for her, she realised what emancipation meant. Protracted legal proceedings and overarching patriarchy is what she and her daughters had to encounter, battle, and win after her husband's demise when she was only 57.

Hers is an outstanding journey of determination and grit leading to jute baroness, organic produce, and animal rescue champion. Her Eureka moment was triggered by a request from Max Mueller Bhawan to hold a laser show in the mill's warehouse. There was resistance from the mill manager, but she decided to stand firm and overrule. Today, the jute mill is a melange of activities — right from visits by the British High Commissioner to India to filmmakers and photographers such as Barbara Davidson.

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



For Lata, her personal transformation is also the “jute story”. She steadily encourages others to use jute as a substitute to paper and plastic bags. A Mumbai School ordered her jute bags to be distributed in their school and Hotel Taj Bengal placed an order for 2,000 jute bags to be distributed among its guests all leading to the revival of jute as an environment friendly product. If Lata is not at work, she can be spotted at her organic garden at home or working together with ApneAap, a Kolkata-based anti-sex-trafficking NGO.

Noticing the effects of fertilisers on plants made her instinctively convert the garden to a wholly organic one about 10 years ago. She also started rescuing animals and harbouring them in a portion of her garden, the “zoo”. It shelters cows, goats, turtles, snakes, peacocks, and owls. Her garden and zoo are not open for the public, but she never denies a request for a visit.

“I am a naturalist and a Jute lady. At my age... I am doing whatever I can do, I am pushing that 100%. All I can say is that it is never too late. I am blessed to have such a large organic garden which I want to share with everyone”.

REPORTS OF 2ND CLUB ASSEMBLY AND GREEN BADGERS MEET HELD ON SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 2022 AT ROTARY SADAN



The session started with 2nd Club Assembly and reporting. All the Committees showcased their achievements and announced future goals and projects. The projects and commitments of the committees was commendable.

The attendance was very good with 38 members (including 12 Green Badgers) attending the Assembly. It was an interactive session with members providing their valuable inputs.

The reporting of various committees in brief :

Fellowship & Children's Treat : Chair Rtn. Sonal Worah gave her presentation of the Committee. The Committee organised many fellowships with RWM, Funtakshari and our flagship event The 97th Children's Treat. In this event, more than 1200 children were invited from different RCCs and schools and spent the day with rides, gifts, magic show, and breakfast & lunch.

Special Projects : Chair Rtn Partha Pratim Mukherjee gave his presentation of the Committee. The Committee organised Mangrove Plantation in Sunderbans, Health Camp at Sister Nivedita School and The Refuge. A business Conclave with The Economic Times was also arranged.

Community Service : Co-Chair Rtn Ravindra Khandelwal gave his presentation of the Committee. The Committee organised donation of Computers to various schools, Water filtration plant for NGOs and Schools, and plant to organise a project to distribute wheelchairs and sewing machines, named Samarth Mela on 17th December 2022.

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CSR, Public Image and Bulletin : Chair Rtn Indrajit Banerjee gave his presentation of the Committee. He showed us all the promotions being done of all our projects. Bulletin is also being updated regularly.

Environment : Chair Rtn Ashok Basu mentioned about Projects undertaken like Fruit Saplings distribution and Solar Panel to run a pump at Dalmia CSR site at Salboni. Some of the planned projects are a Quiz on environment, visit to Rtn Lata Bajoria's house where she will discuss about Jute Ecosystems.

Family of Rotary : Chair Rtn Hirak Ray mentioned about connecting with members by wishing them Birthdays & Anniversaries. Committee also invited wives of deceased Rotarians and floated a corner in Chaka to showcase achievements of family of members.

Membership & Classification : Chair Rtn Abhijit Kolay mentioned about getting more quality members and retaining the membership strength.

NCLCL : Chair Roshni Ganguly mentioned about upgrading computers and courses and laid special emphasis on upgrading teachers. Committee also organised some programmes for Republic Day.

International and Long-Term Projects : Chair Rtn Saumen Ray mentioned about various WASH Projects, a Project at Priyamvada Birla Hospital, Ayodhya School Project and discussed on Ladakh Visit.

Women's Empowerment : Chair Shampa Ghose organised Virangana, a Project for self-defence for girls. A cervical cancer awareness camp was also organised.

Youth Service : Chair Malika Mukherjee Sarkar emphasized on making more Rotaracts and Interacts in coming time.

Attendance and Green badgers Committee on its 3rd Meeting took a call on the absentee members including a substantial number of green badgers. It was decided to host a special session of the Green Badgers and the recently inducted new members to a special session of Meet and Greet with special breakfast clubbed with Club Assembly on the Sunday, 11th of December, 2022 at 9 30 a.m. at Rotary Sadan. The idea was to acquaint Green Badgers with various committees and their objectives and activities and to give them an opportunity and option to choose under which committee/committees they would volunteer to serve.

Having been welcomed by Club President, Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal and Attendance and Green Badger's Chair, the New Members and Green Badgers were introduced to the rest of the Club Members and were requested to Comment on their observations on Rotary Club Proceedings/Meetings and express their views as to how to make meetings more user friendly and interactive.

The inputs from Green Badgers were quite useful and following suggestions were incorporated for future inclusions.

1. Rtn. Dr Subhendu Sarkar suggested Twice a year Awareness camps showcasing life saving techniques.
2. Rtn. Ranjita Mazumder suggested some care and concern for stray dogs. Her argument was if they could be sterilized then cases of Rabies will drop.
3. Rtn. Dr Chandra Shekhar Dhar suggested Twice a year camp - Awareness Programme for Orthopedic Cases.
4. Rtn. Moloy Ghosh suggested that the Club office could provide NEFT link or Bank Transfer link. He also recommended Appeal for Donation could be sent by WhatsApp as well. His other suggestion was for a sticker for carto be parked in front of Rotary Sadan to sort the long-standing issue of Parking.
5. Rtn. Shailendra Gupta suggested unused cut fabrics can be donated to make carry Bags for shopping with Logo of Rotary.

The first attempt at Get to know your Fellow Rotarian went very well which started with sumptuous breakfast followed by great fellowship for those who stayed back to lift the Rotary Spirit.



[Reported by Rtn. Subha Pal, Chair, Attendance and Green Badgers Committee]

ROTARY INSTITUTE AT VISAKHAPATNAM – 8TH DEC TO 11TH DEC

Rotary International Institute, Vishaka Vista 2022 was held at Radisson Blue Resort, Visakhapatnam. This institute was the institute of Rtn. Dr. Mahesh Kotbagi, RI Director 2021-23. The Institute was opened with a TRF Seminar followed by a TRF dinner. Eminent speakers from Rotary International like RID Dr. Mahesh Kotbagi, Trustee Rep. Jorge Aufranc, RI President Jennifer Jones, Trustee Dr. Bharat Pandya spoke about the Rotary Foundation. Lastly TRF awards for Zone 4,5,6 and 7 were given to the past district governors.

The day of the 9th of December started with the Mid Year Review Meet of the present District Governors followed by the District Trainers Seminar. Women in Rotary was another plenary session which was held in Gitam University Campus, Rushikonda, AP.

Gift of Life... MOU with Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital and Rotary India Humanity Foundation was signed to provide life saving



heart surgeries for children from the economically challenged segments of the society.

Meeting the Art of Staying Not Out! Padma Bhushan Sh. Sunil Gavaskar was the chief guest and he spoke about the sporting elegance of the game cricket on and off the

field. He also delivered the keynote address on his ways of success and life.

Imagine Rotary President Jennifer Jones also spoke about the doing good to the world. She sets the tone for the Rotary Institute making all to Imagine even more to celebrate Rotary.

Rotary India Literacy Mission & BYJU signed a MOU for E-Learning App for the student from class 6 to class 12, the scholarship program Lakshya which will be availed through Rotary Clubs all over India. The scholarship is for three years amounting to Rs 78,000 per student for the BYJU's App. The recommended students from Rotary Clubs will be given scholarships with the minimum participation of the club of Rs 1,000 per student. Each school can recommend 25 students for this scholarship program.

Our RIPN Stephanie Urchick gave an excellent presentation on strategic planning and explained the thrust of the thriving success story of Rotary. She also spoke about the topical subject of Regionalization of Rotary.

Our club was represented by Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury and spouse Mrs. Shaswati Roy Chowdhury. Our Club's flags and CHAKA were handed over to our RIP Jennifer Jones and RIPN Stephanie Urchick.

A mega service project was organized by Rtn. Valdamani where 1000 bicycles and 1000 motorized sewing machines for women were distributed. Along with that 1000 wheelchairs were given to the Red Cross Society. It was a show par excellence.

For the public image of our club a standee was placed in the main hall showcasing the 103 years of service in the Rotary Movement in India.

In the entire Institute, Rtn Arindam Roy Chowdhury exchanged our club mission and vision to all the Rotarians he interacted with.

[Reported by Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury]

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (06.12.2022)

Total Members	:	244
Members Present	:	33
Exempted Members	:	67
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	1

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting on Thursday, 22nd December, 2022 at Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)

Regular Weekly Meeting and "Songbola" - A Musical Tambola with DJ Hitesh Teckchandani.

Regular Weekly Meeting at 6 p.m. / 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. "Songbola"

Fellowship and Dinner 8 p.m. onwards.

ONE WORLD



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes
Rotary Club of Melbourne,
Australia, R. I. Dist. 9800

Birthdays

Sashi Bhargava	18th December
Dr. Tandra Sarkar	19th December
Indrajit Ganguly	21st December
Dr. Asok Kumar Ghoshal	21st December

Wish you many happy returns of the day

TODAY

Speaker : Rtn. Lata Bajoria, Director, Hooghly Jute Mills Ltd.
Topic: "Jute Eco System"

REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- i) 2nd Club Assembly and Green Badgers meet held on Sunday, 11th December, 2022 at Rotary Sadan.
- ii) Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury and R Anne Shaswati attended Rotary Institute Visakha Vista in Vizag, 8th to 11th Dec.
- iii) Samarth Mela was held on 17th December at the Princep Ghat grounds. Detailed reporting will be done in the next edition of 'The Chaka'.

BOARD MEETING

The sixth meeting of the Board of Directors (2022-23) of the Club will be held on Tuesday, 20th December, 2022 at 6.30 p.m. at the Rotary Sadan (1st floor).

All members of the Board are requested to make a note of it and attend.

NO WEEKLY MEETING

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on next Tuesday, 20th December, 2022 as the said meeting will be held on Thursday, 22 December 2022, alongwith Songbola.

**R I DISTRICT 3291 CONFERENCE - 2022-23
"ANANDADHARA"**

R I District 3291 Conference – 2022-23 "ANANDADHARA" will be held from Friday to Sunday, 6th to 8th January, 2023 at Nicco Park, East Side Pavilion, Salt Lake City, Kolkata.

Registration Charges per head Rs. 6,000/-. You are requested to kindly register your name.

For registration please contact Club Office.

**103RD CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION ON
1ST JANUARY, 2023**

The Club will celebrate its 103rd Charter Day along with Regular Weekly Meeting on Sunday, 1st January, 2023 at 6.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan followed by fellowship and dinner.

You are requested to kindly note the date and attend with your spouse.

MINUTES OF THE 4877TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2022 AT 1.00 P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN

- 1 President, Raj Kumar Agrawal welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4877th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
- 2 National Anthem was led by Rtn. Arunima Dey.
- 3 Minutes of the 4876th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club held on 29th November, 2022 was confirmed.
- 4 President, Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal welcomed Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB 4) Banker and Rolling Stone as the Chief Guest on that day. He would speak on "Photography – The First Ten Thousand". President also informed members that Attendance and Green Badgers Committee would organise a Felicitations of 100%ers for the Rotary Year 2021-22 on that day.
- 5 President also welcomed all visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
- 6 **President Reported the following :**
- 7 **President Announced :**
 - a. The Club would organise "SAMARTH Mela" on Saturday, 17th December, 2022 at the Princep Ghat Ground, Kolkata between 9.00 a.m. to 4 a.m., where 650 Wheelchairs and 100 Sewing Machines would be distributed to especially abled people and women from the villages by empowering them in their daily lives and requested members to make a note of it and attend the mega project.
 - b. President then informed members that Rtn. Suman Chakraborty has been nominated as the Hony. Joint Secretary for the Rotary year 2023-24 and Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee has been nominated as the Hony. Joint Treasurer for the Rotary year 2023-24. He then congratulated Rtn. Suman Chakraborty & Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee.
- 8 Hony. Secretary, Rtn. Anand Sharma there after conducted the Club business :
 - a. He welcomed all Members and Guests.
 - b. He then announced the names of Rotarians, celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries during the week ending 17th December, 2022 and conveyed best wishes to them.
 - c. He then informed members that the next weekly meeting would be on Sunday, 18th December, 2022 at the residence of Rtn. Lata Bajoria, 76, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata 700 043 at 10 a.m. preceded by breakfast. Speaker : Rtn. Lata Bajoria, Director, Hooghly Jute Mills Ltd. Topic : "Jute Eco System".
 - d. He also informed members that there would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 13th December, 2022 as the said meeting would be held on Sunday, 18th December, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the residence of Rtn. Lata Bajoria. The Second Club Assembly and Green Badgers meet would be held on Sunday, 11th December, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor). Breakfast and Registration will be at 9.30 a.m., and he requested all members, especially PDGs, Past Presidents, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Club Officials and New Members to kindly block the above date and join the important meeting. Committee Chairs were also requested to send their committee activities reports during the second quarter of the Rotary year 2022-23 to the Hony. Secretary for the second Club Assembly.
 - e. He then informed members that the Board accepted the resignation of Rtn. Rekha Kanojia at its meeting held on 28th November, 2022 with effect from 01.12.2022.
- 9 At request of the President, Rtn. Subha Pal, Chairperson, Attendance and Green Badgers Committee conducted felicitations of 100 % ers for the Rotary Year 2021-22.
- 10 At the request of the President, Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB 4) addressed the audience on "Photography – The First Ten Thousand".
- 11 Questions raised by the members were answered by the speaker.
- 12 At the request of the President, Rtn. Subha Pal offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
- 13 On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB 4).
- 14 Sunshine Box collection Rs 1,300/- with special contribution from Rtns Raghu Mody and Partha Pratim Mukherjee.
- 15 The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Belur, India, R. I. Dist. 3291.
- 16 Meeting was adjourned at 2.40 p.m.

Raj Kumar Agrawal
President

Anand Sharma
Hony. Secretary