



TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022

November is Rotary Foundation Month

103

The Chaka

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta
R I Dist. 3291

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Today's Speaker



Rtn. Dr. Ajay Agarwal, Neurosurgeon

Topic : INTO THIN AIR – High Altitude Mountain Treks

Dr Ajay Agarwal is a Neurosurgeon. He did his graduation from NRS Medical College, Kolkata. He went on to do his neurosurgical training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He is currently attached as a Neurosurgeon with the Calcutta Medical Research Institute (CMRI) and Woodlands Hospital, Kolkata.

In 2012, he was introduced to mountain trekking by some of his friends. The experience was good and he went on to pursue trekking with passion. Over the next few years, he covered many high altitude mountain

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



IMAGINE
ROTARY

treks, some well-known for the beauty of their landscape and others intimidating in terms of challenge. To his credit he has scaled 20k feet high peaks not once but thrice, and each in the first attempt. In the treks to these remote high-altitude areas there is no electricity and often no telephone/mobile network. General people would rarely get to see such raw beauty of Nature. To create memories of these trips he developed his photography skills to capture the views better. The trek pictures reflect why one wants to go back again and again.

The year 2014 saw the first marathon organised by Tata Steel (TSK25) in Kolkata. The fitness gathered from treks encouraged him to participate and he then went on to participate in many more, year after year. He even participated in the Rotary Centenary year Marathon run and achieved a 10 km timing of 52.35. The stamina and fitness gained from the Marathons complemented the treks and vice versa.

He also indulges in Gardening, Swimming, Drama and Rotary.

GOODWILL Visits Rtn. Rajeev Paralikar in Netherlands



18th October, 2022

RWM of RC Diemen as Guest Speaker, gave a PPT Presentation on Activities of RC Calcutta in RY 2021-22.



19th October, 2022

Exchanged banner of RC Calcutta with President Anita Ekas of RC Almere, RID 1570, Netherlands.

CONTACT US

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“WHERE EAGLES DARE”

Rotary Club of Calcutta, supported by Rotary Club of London and Nanritam Reaches Peaks in Ladakh to Serve, hosted by Rotary Club of Ladakh.

Day by day report of the Eye Camps in Ladakh 12 – 15 October 2022, put together initially for London District Newsletter by Gill de Warren, and subsequently edited by Saumen Ray for the Chaka.

The projects was sponsored by Rotary Clubs of Calcutta, Rotary Club of London, Rotary Club of Leh and Nanritam and we screened approximately 1000 patients in three days.

ROTARY CLUB OF LADAKH
ROTARY CLUB OF LONDON

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA
NANRITAM, LOKESHWARANANDA
EYE HOSPITAL, W.B.

CHECK, CONSULT, CURE

FREE
EYE CHECK-UP CAMP
DISTRIBUTION OF SPECTACLES
DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINES

VENUE:
SNM HOSPITAL LEH
GOVT. HOSPITAL KHALTSE
GOVT. HOSPITAL DISKIT (NUBRA)

DATE: 11.10.2022
DATE: 12.10.2022
DATE: 14.10.2022

TIMINGS: 10.00am TO 4.00pm
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This report is composed by the Kashmir/Ladakh Rotary Steering Committee with extracts from reports sent by Rotarians in the field. The detailed program was planned by PP Saumen Ray (Chair) with members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, Rotary Club of London, Rotary Club of Ladakh, District Officials of District 3070 and 3291, and Nanritam Lokeshwarananda Eye Hospital Purulia. The eye camp team was led by Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay screening over 1000 patients.

We distributed medicine to patients, and spectacles, which will be distributed shortly. We now have an

even better understanding of the needs of the local people for taking the next steps of the project.

During this period, on a totally different, Nanritam Filix School organized a teacher training at Ladakh in which some 60 teachers of pilot schools identified by the Kashmir/Ladakh committee participated, along with 100 teachers from other local schools. Nanritam Filix School masterminded the whole teacher's training program with distribution of materials. **A separate report will be prepared later.**

This is the first project undertaken by the Kashmir/Ladakh committee, following the field needs assessment May 2022 when representatives of RC London, Battersea Park, and Calcutta, along with local Rotary Clubs and local Rotary Districts, visited the areas.

Rotary Club of Calcutta, being in the chair of Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs (CCRC) with PP Purnendu Roychowdhury as the Chairman and PP Saumen Ray as the Convenor, are proud to announce this project as the first of its kind to support / nurture new Rotary Clubs, such as Rotary Club of Ladakh which was chartered during the needs assessment study in Kashmir and Ladakh undertaken by our international team of Kashmir/Ladakh Steering Committee in May 2021.

Saumen Ray, on behalf of Kashmir/Ladakh Steering Committee invites other Rotary Clubs in the U.K. to join hands with this noble cause by becoming part of Kashmir/Ladakh committee.

Please contact Saumen Ray - ray_saumen@rediffmail.com or secretary Gill de Warren of Rotary Club of Battersea Park London - dewarren@btinternet.com.

Details of the proceedings of the eye camp have been provided by Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay of Rotary Club of Calcutta and Rinchen Wagmo of Rotary Club of Leh.

Day 1 - 12 October, 2022, Leh Camp

"Today we had an excellent eye camp in Leh. More than 300 patients benefitted.

All patients who needed medicine were supplied. All patients needing glasses will be provided with. Future plans have been discussed with the Dr Motup, Rotary Club of Ladakh and Nanritam Lokeshwarananda Eye Hospital were rendered all possible support.

Debnath Chattopadhyay reports that medicines have been supplied. Thanks to Mr. Dawa and pharmacist Diskitlay for making it available - the only supplier of these medicines in Leh.

Tomorrow and 14th we will have two more camps away from Leh."



Day 2 - 13 October, 2022, Khaltse Camp

"Today we had another very hectic day with mega camp at Khaltse, Ladakh. More than 320 patients were examined. Medicine and supply of spectacles supplies were arranged. Many patients are awaiting surgery. May be some day we can deliver eye care to many more remote areas of Ladakh.

I had a very inspiring conversation with Dr Motup and other ophthalmologist. They are expecting a larger number in Nubra. Dr Asis Chatterjee will be joining in the team tomorrow. Dr Datta and Nursing staff of LEF will also be there to assist the whole team. Thanks for the Ladakh Rotary team members for arranging the whole show.

Special thanks for Rinchen too."



Day 3 - 14 October, 2022, Nubra Valley Camp

"Sunny day at Nubra Valley, a cold desert area. Today is our last camp for this time.

With good wishes of all of you, we are expecting good attendance so that we can render service to the poor people of the remote area.

Today was an extraordinary day for this group. Today we examined 353 patients at Nubra. Now we have clear idea about the patient needs and services we can provide in any future project.

"There is no doubt that Dr. Debnath is a wonderful Doctor but more than that an extremely humble and exceptionally good human being.

Thank you Nanritam and the team members. Ranjana who is working tirelessly on the ground without even taking proper sleep and rest. Thank you so much.

Once again thank you members of Rotary Club Ladakh - Crowd management team. On ground other 23 Rotarians have taken the lead. I would like to thank the team Rotary Ladakh, thank you so much. It would never have been possible without all of you. Special thanks to Dr. Motup and the ophthalmic team of SNM Hospital. Nothing could have been possible without your support. Thank you all for your support. Our sincere thanks to Debnathda who has started Retina section in Lokeswarananda Eye Foundation of Nanritam in 2011. He is equally associated with Nanritam. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Manab and Swarup who worked tirelessly to serve the patients. Needless to say our sincere gratitude to Dr Motup and the ophthalmic dept of SNM hospital, Mr Dawa and all Rotarians of Ladakh Rotary club. Last but not the least it would not be possible to get it done so smoothly without a young dynamic dedicated person. Thank you all. Hope all of we can begin a new chapter for the service of the people of Ladakh by God's grace."

Rinchen Wagmo – Secretary Rotary Club of Ladakh



"Lovely picture

Good morning, friends. You are doing a World of good. Rotary at its peak and on peak. Rotary Club Ladakh is probably the highest placed Club in the world. My regards and best wishes to all the team members and Family of Rotarians."

"Congratulations and big

THANK YOU for making this wonderful project possible. Special thanks to Rtn. Saumen Ray and his team for visiting this remote area. Thanks to Dr V K Raju for your farsighted vision. Congratulations and thanks to Dr Debnath Chattopadhyay"

Dr U S Ghai, IPDG, RID 3070.

"Excellent work done by you and the team Debnath da. Special thanks indeed to Rotary Club of Ladakh, NANRITAM, and local government authorities as well as Rotary Club of London for being partners in this initiative. Finally, this would not have been possible without Saumenda's determination and Purnendu's support, so a big thanks you to Saumen da and Purnendu"

Raj K Agrawal

President RC Calcutta, RID 3291

To conclude our reporting on the Eye Camp, spectacles will be made and distributed to a number of patients shortly, and approximately 300 patients will require cataract surgery in the near future. A detailed planning is required for the next step of the project and we look for sponsors.

Can you help sponsoring?

[Compiled by PP Saumen Ray, Chairman International Long Term Project Committee]

ROTARACT / INTERACT NEWSLETTER

MBWA Celebrates Daan Utsav



MBWA celebrated the festival of giving - Daan Utsav in the month of September as a prelude to the season of festivity and joy. Daan Utsav is a tradition that has been sustained with great interest and involvement by the MBWA family for years.

The students of Classes VI- XII joined hands in the contribution for the Pujor jaama drive in which 298 new dresses were gifted to the girls residing in the different protection and shelter homes of Hope Foundation Kolkata. It is matter of great joy for students and teachers to collaborate for this humble initiative and thus celebrate Durga Puja with a

feeling of inclusiveness and compassion.

Students of Classes KG to V immersed in the happiness of fulfilling wishes written in one thousand wish cards from the NGO, Anondo. The wish cards are hung on a beautiful wish tree on campus and the little Good Samaritans relish every bit of this opportunity to reach out to their friends from the NGO. They also understand how simple things like ten packets of chocolate biscuits or instant noodles can be something to be wished for. They learn to value and appreciate the privileges that they take for granted and feel great happiness in sharing them.

Daan Utsav is organised and coordinated by the Interact Club members of MBWA. It is a landmark event for the club and the members work for it with great compassion and camaraderie. They make and leave memories of their selfless service as they trudge forward beyond the realm of their school.



[Reported by Rtn. Malika Sarkar, Chair, Youth Services and Interact Rotaract]

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (18.10.2022)

Total Members	:	241
Members Present	:	51
Exempted Members	:	67
Visiting Rotarians & Guests	:	7

NO WEEKLY MEETINGS

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 8th November, 2022 on account of Public Holiday (Guru Nanak's Birthday).



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes
Rotary Club of Rochdale, U K
R. I. Dist. 1280

Wedding Anniversary

Dr. Asish Kumar Ghosh & R- Ann Nabali

5th November

Wish you many more years of marital bliss

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 12th November, 2022 at 6 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor)

Programme : "FUNTAKSHARI" with Mr. Rajat Baid followed by Fellowship and Dinner at 8 p.m. (after the programme). You are requested to attend the programme with your spouse.

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 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.

THANK YOU DONORS (Donation received for Annual Children's Treat up to 30.10.2022)

Nandita Sen	Rs. 27,000/-
Dr. Ashoke Kumar Basu	Rs. 2,000/-
Kirit Patel	Rs. 5,000/-
Srirupa Dasgupta	Rs. 2,000/-
Sudarshan Jalan	Rs. 25,000/-
Mohan Lal Bhagat	Rs. 5,000/-
Ashish Kumar Bagla	Rs. 25,000/-
Dr. Indrajit Roy	Rs. 10,000/-
Ms Nargis Hirji	Rs. 5,000/-
Mrs. Parveen Hirji	Rs. 5,000/-
Rajeev Gupta	Rs. 11,000/-
Rear Admiral (Retd.) Rajeev Paralikar	Rs. 20,000/-

"The Chaka" Wishes Happy Diwali to all its readers

***Birthdays***

Sushil Kumar Bagla	1st November
Tanmay Chatterjee	1st November
Zul Hirji	2nd November
Shriya Saboo	2nd November
Malika Mukherji Sarkar	4th November
M. L. Pachisia	6th November
Donn S. Kabiraj	6th November
Sudhir Jalan	7th November
Sumangala Murarka	7th November
Brij Gopal Roy	9th November
Pavan Poddar	10th November

Wish you many happy returns of the day

CHANGE OF WEEKLY MEETING DAY, DATE AND TIMING

The Regular Weekly Meeting schedule to be held on Tuesday, 15th November, 2022 at 1 p.m. has been re-scheduled on Saturday, 12th November, 2022 at 6.00 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) and special programme "FUNTAKSHARI" with Mr. Rajat Baid followed by fellowship and dinner at 8 p.m. (after the programme).

Members are requested to note this change and attend with your spouse.

CORRIGENDUM

Following error in the minutes of the Regular Weekly Meeting held on Tuesday, 11th October, 2022 printed in the bulletin "The Chaka" Vol No. 90, Issue no. 14 dated 18th October, 2022 :

"During the meeting, MOU was signed between Rotary Club of Calcutta and ADRAG and handed over to Rtn. (Wg Cdr) Dharam Paul Sabharwal". The correction may please be noted.

Subject To No Objection Received Within Seven Days From The Date Of Publication Of This Notice, The Following Candidates Will Be Inducted As Members Of The Club

1) Mr. Jai Kumar Surana

Senior Partner
Surana & Choudhury
Proposer : Rtn Sumangala Murarka

3) Mr Abhineet Gupta

Director
Fun Toys
Proposer : Rtn Suman Chakraborty

5) Dr. Arjun Das Gupta

Chamber
Calcutta Medical Research Institute & Hospital
Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan Purkayastha

2) Mr. Amitabha Ray

Partner
Saimed Innovation
Proposer : Rtn Partha Pratim Mukherjee

4) Dr. Joydeep Das

Prof. & Head of the Department
Jagannath Gupta Institute of Medical Science
Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan Purkayastha

6) Dr. Suparna Gangopadhyay

Director
Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata
Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan Purkayastha

7) Dr. Pratibha Pradhan

Director
Himalaya's Skin Clinic, Hair Free &
Hair Grow
Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan
Purkayastha

AMRI CEDICAL CENTRE

Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan
Purkayastha

9) Dr. Biswajit Paul

Consultant Neurologist
AMRI Hospital, Dhakuria Unit
Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan
Purkayastha

10) Dr. Jayanta Roy

Director of Stroke Medicine
Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata
Proposer : Rtn Dr. Sukalyan
Purkayastha

8) Dr. Subhro Bhattacharjee

Director

MINUTES OF THE 4872ND REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT 1.00 P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN

- 1 In absence of President, Raj Kumar Agarwal, Imm Past President, Rtn. Sujata Pyne conducted the meeting. She welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4872nd Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
- 2 National Anthem was led by Rtn. Shampa Ghose.
- 3 Minutes of the 4871st Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club held on 11th October, 2022 was confirmed.
- 4 Imm. Past President, Rtn. Sujata Pyne welcomed Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta, Art Historian as the Chief Guest.
- 5 She also welcomed all visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
- 6 **Imm. Past President, Rtn. Sujata Pyne reported the followings :**
 - a) Rtn. Rajeev Paralakar made a Goodwill visit and exchanged Club flag with Rotary Club of Amsterdam Halfweg on 5th October, 2022.
 - b) Kashmir/Ladakh Steering Committee organised in association Nanritam Lokeswarananda Eye Hospital, Purulia and Rotary Club of Ladakh / Kashmir, free Eye check-up Camps and distributed Spectacles and Medicines held on 11th, 12th and 14th October, 2022 at Kashmir. Total number of patients was 353. Rtn. Saumen Ray and Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattapadhyay attended the Camps.
- 7 **Imm. Past President Announced :**

This year Annual Children's Treat -2022 of the Club would be held on Sunday, 20th November, 2022 at 10 a.m. onwards at Nicco Park, Salt Lake, Kolkata. We would invite more than 1,500 underprivileged Children to that Flagship programme of the Club in this year and requested members 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 "Day of Sunshine" for those Children. Donation of Cash or Cheque would 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.
- 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 and Wedding Anniversaries during the week ending 31st October, 2022 and conveyed best wishes to them.
 - c) He then informed members that there would be no Regular Weekly Meetings on Tuesdays, 25th October and 8th November, 2022 on account Public Holidays (Kali Puja / Diwali and Guru Nanak's Birthday).

He also informed members that the next Weekly Meeting of the Club would be held on Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 at 7 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner. Speaker: Rtn. Dr. Ajay Agarwal.
- 9 At the request of the Imm. Past President, Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu introduced Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta, Speaker of that day.
- 10 Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta then addressed the audience on "The Durga Pujas of Contemporary Kolkata : The UNESCO Awards."
- 11 Questions raised by the members which were answered by the speaker.
- 12 At the request of the Imm. Past President, Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB 4) offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
- 13 On behalf of the Club, Imm. Past President handed over a memento to Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta.
- 14 Sunshine Box collection Rs 200/- with special contribution from Rtn. Subhajit Guha Mazumdar.
- 15 The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of London, U K, R. I Dist. 1090.
- 16 Meeting was adjourned at 2.40 p.m.

Sujata Pyne
Imm. Past President

Anand Sharma
Hony. Secretary

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

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