



THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER 2022

December is Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

103

The Chaka

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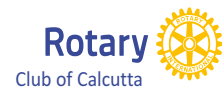
Today's Speaker



HITESH H. TECKCHANDANI

Hitesh Teckchandani, a.k.a Salsawala, has been living up to his motto of "Never Stop Learning" for over 20 years or more. An Afro Latin dance teacher, guide, and promoter, he has been teaching across Asia and Europe for more than 15 years.

Hitesh trained at the University of Surrey, UK, in a variety of dance styles. In his stay of 7 years in the UK he interacted and worked with several dancers' companies like The Royal Academy of Dance, English National Ballet, Akram Khan Dance Company to name a few. His journey has always been exploring dance both practically & theoretically. From the embodying of dance to studying the therapeutic benefits sets him apart. His forte lies in his passion for teaching, dancing & spreading joy from movement to students of all age groups, using dance to facilitate a healthy social, mental & physical life of one and all. Two international-level dance events, Kizomba in Kolkata and Kolkata Salsa Weekend, both have



been a huge success in their previous editions. So far, Hitesh has conducted three editions of each festival with some of the top international artistes of various dance genres around the world, including Italy, Spain, Colombia, Dominican Republic, the USA, and UK!

He is also the conceptualiser of Songbola, a unique, one-of-a-kind game for music enthusiasts. A game that started as a pub entertainment pop up has now become the reason of joy and laughter in the lives of many all over the world. His youngest group has been 7-year-olds and eldest has been 92 years of age. Music is for all ages and so is Songbola.

Here is Hitesh - a Dance educationist, Organiser, Facilitator, Entrepreneur and Game Changer.

PROJECT SAMARTH – PRINCEP GHAT – 17 DEC 2022, 9.30 AM



"Samarth, an initiative of spreading joy in the community – after 3 months of hard work, the mission is completed with the handover of 650 wheelchairs and 100 sewing machines... thanks Rotary Club of Calcutta" tweets Chair Community Service Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury on WhatsApp.

And thank you, Arindam and your cohorts Ravindra and Yogesh on the committee for bringing this largest ever single day service project to fruition for our 103-year-old Club. Accolades are still flowing as we go to press with this edition of Chaka!

The event was inaugurated by President Raj Agrawal, accompanied by a galaxy of PDGs from our District, at least seven of them, had a common comment that it was unprecedented in our District in their Rotary life. DG Ajoy Law also joined later in the day. Several Past Presidents graced the event with their presence and enthusiastic participation. Many members old and new attended and participated energetically.

The planning thus had to be fine grain, the co-ordination with agencies meticulous. The location was on Defense land, grounds that housed a monument maintained by the PWD, the management of footfall of over 1200 people and movement of many vehicles over 2 days all add up to an inter-agency nightmare. Yet with the combined efforts of the team and staff of Rotary Sadan all creases were ironed out for a smooth



Contd. to Page 2

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event flow. To cap it all there was VVIP movement across Kolkata causing traffic snarls and many beneficiaries were delayed. Yet, each one was attended to by dedicated teams covering entry, registration, distribution, food counter management, drinking water, first aid and smooth exit. Once again, the adage that has given good intention, the outcome is successful is proven by the Project Samarth event of 17 Dec. 2022.

In the end, the happiness of the beneficiaries was the sole reward for doing the Almighty's work on this land. The wheelchairs will provide never-before mobility to them, increasing their potential immeasurably. Who can tell some of them will provide wheelchairs themselves to others progressively empowering many others. The sewing machines provide immediate benefit to the lady beneficiaries – as they become deft, adept, and skilled to produce apparel and other useful stuff that potentially increases their income for a better life. Who knows, perhaps each of them can now send their children to school and gear up better quality of life with financial security and most importantly, dignity.

A different type of capacity building was also on view. Rotaractors and Interactors were enthusiastically participating as volunteers – ever ready to help with the beneficiaries and with event flow management. They would have immense exposure that would help them manage projects both at voluntary and professional levels. Samarth was all about capacity building that will ultimately aid community and country.

As we assimilate all the learning from Samarth 1, we move forward to a Samarth 2 and a Samarth 3 in future. In fact, post completion of the event, President Raj Agrawal hosted a Zoom meeting along with PP Saumen Ray and CYP Purnendu for our partner clubs overseas and for members of the CCRCRAG. Participating foreigners were keen to seek detailed information with a view to supporting this initiative in future.



[Reported by Co Editor AB4]

THE JUTE ECOSYSTEM – RTN. LATA BAJORIA, DIRECTOR HOOGHLY JUTE MILLS 18 DEC. 2022, 10 AM



Rtn. Lata Bajoria, deservedly called India's Jute Baroness, invited the members of Rotary Club of Calcutta to her abode-of-nature residence, for an RWM on 18 December. The attraction of the event drew many Rotarians, Rotary Anns and children to this magical place on Garden Reach Road despite traffic disruptions due to a marathon, a political rally, and a crowded Kolkata on a fine winter morning.

Indeed the place is unique. As Lataji herself explained, the whole environment is biodiverse to the extent of being self-sustaining, and all natural processes and cycles run their own course without any human intervention. The bungalow also houses an organic farm, and the fabulously green winter produce was on display for members and guests to buy. As if for icing, she has 2 pet emus, ducks, turtles, birds, kites, and a python – all are rescued animals finding a forever home under Lataji's protective umbrella!

Lataji then took us on the journey of jute. In quite a revelation, in her opening statements she said that 1 jute bag is capable of the function of 600 plastic bags and at the end of its life cycle is completely decomposed and does not degrade soil and water as plastic

Contd. to Page 3



does. Jute is fully sustainable, no chemicals are used in its manufacture, water bodies are not polluted and is labour intensive – every aspect of industrial activity so acutely required in India to solve her myriad problems. She champions the cause of jute usage for bags, wedding and corporate gifts and string. No part of the jute plant is unused – even the leaves can be eaten.

She then introduced Dr. Avijit Baul, a jute researcher, to talk on the issues plaguing the jute industry. Interestingly, there is a supply side problem, rather a problem relating to an intermediate process – that of decomposing the stalk of the plant to release the fibre. This must be done in running water and running water sources such as channels are drying up due to the inexorable march of civil construction. The process cannot be done in a river because the microbes released in the process kill marine life. In pre partition days East Bengal produced much of the fibre used by factories in West Bengal. However, trade issues then constrained supply, which would have fed the demand for substitutes like HDPE that has since imperiled humanity. He says though that trade routes are opening and that augurs well for jute's resurgence. Our Rotarian Pradyut Banerjee also added his inputs on jute.



A thoroughly enjoyable morning – commencing with delicious breakfast made from organic produce – to an educational immersion in the jute ecosystem. Thank you Rtn Lata Bajoria for this experience, and thank you Rtn Renuka Shah, Program Chair, for putting this day in place!
 [Reported by AB4, Chair Environment, and Co Editor]

MEETING WITH RTN. SURESH MARCANDAN AND R ANNE SHIREEN OF R C MELBOURNE, A 102-YEAR-OLD CLUB



Several Rotarians, R Ann first lady Asha Agrawal and Rtn Ayesha Mazumder met Rtn Suresh Marcandan and R Ann Shireen on 8th December 2022 over lunch. RC Melbourne is a 102-year-old club. President Raj Agrawal, CYP Purnendu Roychowdhury and PP and Chair International Saumen Ray briefed Rtn Suresh about the objectives of CCRC RAG and stressed the need for RC Melbourne to join this group. Rtn Suresh will introduce CCRC RAG to his Club to take the discussions forward. He exchanged flags and RC Melbourne's Centenary yearbook 100 Moments in 100 years. Our Chaka, Shatam, and In a Nutshell publications were presented to him. Rtn Saumen Ray's book "Managing Expectations" and Cookbook were also presented. RC Melbourne is the Host club of RI Convention in Melbourne in 2023 and may be instrumental in procuring a booth for us.



[Reported by AB4, Co Editor]

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (18.12.2022)

Total Members	:	244
Members Present	:	40
Exempted Members	:	67
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	18



ONE WORLD

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

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting on Tuesday, 27th December, 2022 at Rotary Sadan (Second Floor)

Speaker : Ms Rupa Chakravarti
 Global Educator, Author, Poet, Artist, and Choreographer
 Topic : "Draupadi Globally"

Birthdays

Kanak Dutt	22nd December
Dr. Dipanwita Hazari	23rd December
Kirit M Patel	23rd December
Shouveek Ray	23rd December
Ramesh Maheshwari	25th December
Veena Rohatgi	25th December
Dr. Surendra Kumar Sharma	26th December
Dr. Santanu Sen	26th December

Wish you many happy returns of the day

TODAY

"Songbola" - A Musical Tambola with DJ Hitesh Teckchandani.

REPORTS

- i) SAMARTH Mela held on Saturday, 17th December, 2022 at Princep Ghat Ground, Kolkata.
- ii) Regular Weekly Meeting was held on Sunday, 22nd December with Breakfast at the Residence of Rtn. Lata Bajoria who spoke on "The Jute Ecosystem".

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.

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 are Rs. 6,000/- per person. You are requested to kindly register your name with our Club Office.

MINUTES OF THE 4878TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2022 AT 10.30 A.M. AT THE RESIDENCE OF RTN. LATA BAJORIA, 76, GARDEN REACH ROAD, KOLKATA - 43

- 1 President, Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4878th Regular ~~Weekly Regular~~ Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
- 2 The National Anthem was led by Rtn. Nilima Joshi.
- 3 Minutes of the 4877th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club held on 6th December, 2022 was confirmed.
- 4 President, Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal welcomed Rtn. Lata Bajoria, Director, Hooghly Jute Mills Ltd. as the Chief Guest on that day. She would speak on "The Jute Eco System".
- 5 President also welcomed all visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
- 6 **President Reported the following :**
 - a) Club organised Second Club Assembly and Green Badgers meet on 11th December, 2022 at Rotary Sadan.
 - b) The Club also organised SAMARTH Mela on 17th December, 2022 at the Princep Ghat Ground, Kolkata, between 9.00 a.m. to 4 p.m. where 650 Wheelchairs and 100 Sewing Machines were distributed to especially abled people and women from the villages by empowering them in their daily lives. It was a Mega project of our Club. On behalf of the Club, President specially thanked Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury, Chairman, Community Service Committee and Rtn. Ravindra Khandelwal and Rtn Yogesh Dassani, Co-Chairs of the Committee for organizing the Mega project.
 - c) **President Announced :**
 - i) The Club would 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 and requested members to kindly note the date and attend with spouses.
 - ii) R I District 3291 Conference – 2022-23 "ANANDADHARA" would be held from Friday to Sunday, 6th to 8th January, 2023 at Nicco Park, East Side Pavilion, Kolkata.
Registration Charges are Rs. 6,000/- per person and he requested members to kindly register their names. For registration Members may please contact the Club Office.
 - iii) He also informed that Members' Roster-2022-23 was available and requested members to please collect their copies from the Club office.
- 7 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 21st December, 2022 and conveyed best wishes to them.
 - c. He then informed members that the next Weekly Meeting would be held on Thursday, 22nd December, 2022 at 6 p.m. along with "Songbola" - A Musical Tambola with DJ Hitesh Teckchandani. Regular Weekly Meeting at 6 p.m. / Songbola at 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fellowship and Dinner will start at 8 p.m. onwards and requested members to make a note of it and attend.
 - d. He also informed that the Sixth meeting of the Board of Directors (2022-23) of the Club would be held on Tuesday, 20th December, 2022 at 6.30 p.m. at the Rotary Sadan and requested all members of the Board to make a note of it and attend.
- 8 At the request of the President, Rtn. Lata Bajoria addressed the audience on "Jute Eco System".
- 9 Questions raised by the members were answered by the speaker.
- 10 At the request of the President, Rtn. Suksham Singh offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
- 11 On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Rtn. Lata Bajoria.
- 12 The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Melbourne, Australia, R. I. Dist. 9800.
- 13 Before adjourning the meeting, President thanked Rtn Lata Bajoria for hosting Breakfast Meeting on that day on behalf of the Club.
- 14 Meeting was adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

Raj Kumar Agrawal
President

Anand Sharma
Hony. Secretary

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

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