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September Is Basic Education & Literacy Month

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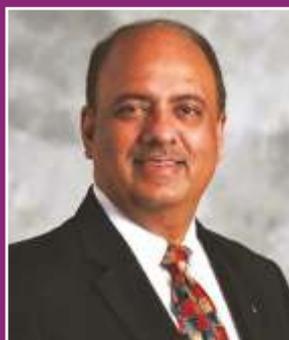
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**Rotary Club of Calcutta
celebrates 104th Foundation
Day, with a cultural programme
AGOMONI**

Today's Chief Guest



IP Rishi Shekhar Mehta

IP Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta was the 4th Indian to be nominated as the President of Rotary International (2021-22). He heads the Skyline Group engaged in real estate development in different parts of India. He is a member of many professional, social, cultural, and charitable organizations. He is a Trustee of Operation Eyesight Universal India a Canada based organization, and Shelter Box UK.

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



He is a member of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, and was District Governor in 1999-2000. He was the director on the board of Rotary International for the years 2011-13. He has held many positions at the international level. Prominent amongst them are

- i. Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee of Rotary International,
- ii. Chair of the Joint Committee on Partnership of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation.
- iii. Chairman of Rotary India Literacy Mission and
- iv. Chairman of Rotary India Centennial Celebration.

He has helped Rotary add 2 countries to its fold viz. Bhutan and Maldives.

Keenly dedicated to service Shekhar has led some major service initiatives in India some of which are

- i. Constructing 500 homes for Tsunami survivors at Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
- ii. Starting the Shelter Kit program which has served about 20 disasters in India distributing more than 10,000 shelter kits, helping about 50000 disaster victims.
- iii. Healing Little Hearts : More than 2000 heart surgeries for children all over India.

He has conceived, designed, and scaled up the Rotary India Literacy Mission by starting initiatives like conceiving and starting the TEACH program. The program today has a reach in the entire length and breadth of India. More than 3000 Rotary Clubs participate in this program making it one of the largest programs of Literacy and Education by Rotary in the world. He has initiated construction of 7,000 plus toilets in rural West Bengal benefiting 35,000 villagers. He has been instrumental in setting up 15 eye hospitals all over India.

He is recipient of all the highest awards of Rotary International, Service Above Self Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Service Award. Shekhar is married to Rashi. They have 2 children, son Chiraag married to Geeta settled in Delhi, and daughter Chandni pursuing PhD in Delhi. They have one grandson Veer.

During his year as President of Rotary International Shekhar asked Rotarians to Grow More and Do More. His mission for the year is a leap in membership to a record 1.3 million.

He wants Rotarians to focus on Empowering Girls - be it in Education, Health, Skilling, or WASH.

His own guiding mantra is Service is "the rent that we pay for the space we occupy on this earth".

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

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DURGOTSAV AND AGOMONI



Agomoni or the advent, the arrival of the Mother Durga at her parental home, is a time of festivities, new beginnings, and camaraderie, marked by rituals, sumptuous food, and cultural programmes. Agomoni gaan or songs of the advent are Bengali folk songs celebrating the arrival of Mother Durga on the eve of the autumn festival of Durga Puja. Also called Durgotsav, this is a 10-day long extravaganza of devotion, celebration, art, culture, gastronomy, social awareness drives, and sheer joy and bonhomie. The mind boggles at the sheer scale of this festival. It has been recognized as the largest mega-event in the world. Durgotsav was nominated by the Indian government in 2019 for the UNESCO cultural heritage tag and has been granted the same.

Swami Vivekananda, who had a vision of the Divine Mother at Kanyakumari said: "The calm sea is the Absolute; the same sea in waves is the Divine Mother : She is time, space, causation..."

As Durga is traditionally worshipped during Vasant, Shri Ram's invocation and untimely worship in autumn is known as Akaal Bodhon. This period has since become the main Puja of Bengal. In no other part of India does the worship of Durga affect the lives of the people as deeply as it does in Bengal. The daughter of Bengal, after all, is visiting her father's abode for a few days to get respite from the harsh life that she leads in Kailash with her husband Shiva.

The festival of Dussehra is associated with two legends. On Vijaya Dashami, Goddess Durga slew the demon Mahishasur in a 9-day battle. King Ravana also met the same fate at the hands of Shri Rama. Thus, the Mother Goddess and Maryada Purushottam established Dharma and restored peace by ending chaos, evil and destruction in the world.

[Contributed by Rtn. Ayesha Mazumder]

SIKSHA LABH 10 & SRIJANI -- LITERACY & BASIC EDUCATION AND INCOME GENERATION

Location : RCC Ranihati

Date : 18th Sept, 2022

Time : 11.00 AM

The 10th phase of the project **SIKSHA Labh**, Literacy & Education and project **SRIJANI**- income generation and vocational training -was opened at our RCC Ranihati Netaji Samaj Sathi, Ranihati, Howrah on 18.09.2022. This is a joint project of the Community Service and Vocational Service Committee.



As this RCC was chartered in last Rotary Year, time had arrived to start new scope of work in the seven area of focus of Rotary. Before starting the projects, the RCC was visited personally by RCC Chairman to find out the needs of the project. After competition of the ground analysis, it was decided to start a

sewing school and a computer training centre at this new RCC. Since the RCC is placed in the hub of the garment market in Howrah, lot of opportunities are there for the women to learn the sewing which will help them for income generation. Under the project SRIJANI, 5 nos of sewing machines were given and the RCC has appointed two trainers for the selai school. 30 women from the nearby villages.

Our member Rtn. **Saileendra** Gupta has committed to give one motorized sewing machine to them. Our PP Rtn. Heena Gorsia has suggested to start a program for basic spoken English classes for the women to the RCC which will help the women to develop themselves for the jobs in the future with good communication skills.

Siksha Labh, the computer lab was opened today with 6 nos. of new computers will help the children from the nearby villages to get basic computer knowledge. 100 students have already registered and the RCC targets to educate 200 children with a minimum cost for the students from the nearby villages.



Different cultural programs were held in the opening ceremony and members of the RCC facilitated all our Rotarians who attended the program.

Rotarians present : Hony Secretary, Rtn. Anand Sharma, PP. Rtn. Heena Gorsia, Joint Secretary Rtn. SonalWorah, Vocational Service Co-Chair Rtn. **Saileendra** Gupta, Community Service Chairman Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury and Anne Shaswati Roy Chowdhury.

[Reported by Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury, Chair, Communitiy Services]

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS, BACK-TO-BACK WITH NUTRITION CAMP

Location : Rotary Sadan

Date : 16th Sept, 2022

Time : 11.00 AM



The Women's Empowerment Committee of Rotary Club of Calcutta in association with CII IWN organised a workshop on 'Cervical Cancer Awareness' for girls of various Colleges of Kolkata on 16.9.22. Around 5 colleges and 1 school comprising of around 135 students attended the very informative and relevant session from 11 am -12:15 pm at Rotary Sadan. Syamaprasad College, Jogamaya Devi College, Calcutta Girls College, Howrah Girls' College, George College of Management and seniors from Vidyanjali school participated in the workshop. The talk was conducted by Rtn Dr Indrani Lodh who is also the Vice Chairperson of CII IWN West Bengal Chapter.

The Chairperson Women's Empowerment Committee, Rtn Shampa Ghose started the session with formal introductions and followed by a welcome note by club President Rtn Rajkumar Agrawal. Dr Lodh took over the proceedings with a very educative power point presentation followed by an interactive question and answer session with the students. Rtn Sriranjani Joshi spoke a few words on the significance of IWN and the good work done by the group. Rtn Sarvani Gooptu delivered the vote of thanks.

The Women's Empowerment Committee of Rotary Club of Calcutta also conducted a nutrition camp in association with Abbot healthcare. Hand grip test, BMI monitoring and dietary counselling was done. The girls were provided with Ensure sachets from Abbott and nutrition packets comprising of coconut water, biscuits, cake and horlicks sachets from a few members of rotary club of Calcutta.



[Reported by Rtn. Shampa Ghosh, Chair, Women's Empowerment]

CEO CONCLAVE - A LEADER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING A LEGACY

Location : Taj Raajkutin

Date : 9th Sept, 2022

Time : 6.30 PM



emotions. If these are successfully addressed, it's more likely that a leader's vision, influence, and positive legacy will survive his or her tenure and lay the foundation for the future. The panellists made the discussion very interesting by sharing their personal experiences and how the legacy guard rails can support the future.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Commerce & Enterprises, Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction, Women & Child Welfare and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. The esteemed panel comprised of: Debashis Mitra, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India; Nand Gopal Khaitan, Partner, Khaitan and Co.; Shekhar Chakravarty, Managing Director, Conveyor & Ropeway Services Pvt Ltd ; Raj Kumar Chhajer, Co-Founder & Chairman, ArcVacForgecast Private Limited.

The moderator of the program was Mr Jayanta Mukhopadhyay, Partner, BSR & Co LLP. Our President Rtn. Raj Kumar Agarwal addressed the dignitaries and highlighted the rich heritage and projects of our club.

The Rotary Club Calcutta thanks Partha Mukherjee, Anand Sharma, Dr Harsh Agrawal, Tushar Basu, Indranil Dasgupta, Shampa Ghose, Nilima Joshi, Subrata De, Indrajit Banerjee, Heena Gorsia, Padma Shree Rtn Indira Chakraborti, K.K. Kothari, Dr Santanu Sen, Shailendra Gupta, Raju K and Rajarshi Dey for attending the program.

[Reported by Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee, Chair, CSR & Public Image committee]

GUEST SPEAKER PDG SHYAMASHREE SEN'S TALK ON "POLIO – THE END GAME STRATEGY"

Location : RWM at Rotary Sadan

Date : 13th Sept, 2022

Time : 1.00 PM



At our RWM On 13 Sep 2022, PDG [Dist 3291] Rtn Shyamashree Sen, End Polio Now Coordinator, Zone 6, 2020-23, gave members a Power Point presentation on this truly relevant issue, especially since cases have been discovered in USA and Pakistan.

Her comprehensive presentation covered vital matters related to this dreaded, highly infectious disease which affects children under the age of 5. It spreads person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can attack

the nervous system and, in some instances, lead to paralysis.

Although there is no cure, there is an effective vaccine – one which Rotary and its partners use, to immunize over 2.5 billion children worldwide. 19 million people are walking on earth today, who would have otherwise been paralyzed. An estimated 650,000 polio cases are prevented annually. Since 1988, 3 billion children have received oral polio vaccine. In 2019, more than 430 million children in 40+ countries were vaccinated using 1.2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine.

There are 2 polio afflicted nations near India: Pakistan and Afghanistan and now Mozambique. Rotary needs to raise funds to help with the polio eradication efforts in these countries. We have reduced polio cases by 99.9%. However, until the virus goes away forever, every child will remain at risk.

We often say, Keep India Polio Free. To do that, we need to work extremely hard to raise funds. Rtn Shyamasree stressed the need for concerted fund-raising efforts and offered suggestions such as contributions to the Polio Fund. The Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 offers a comprehensive set of actions that will position the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to deliver on the promise that brought the world together in the commitment to eradicate polio.

Her presentation was well-received, and the meeting ended with an animated Q&A session and vote of thanks to the speaker.

[Reported by Rtn Ayesha Mazumder]

Birthdays

Indrajit Banerjee	28th September
Aishwarya Biswas	30th September
Partha Sarati Bose	1st October
Amal Chandra Chakrabortti	2nd October
Rajeev Gupta	2nd October
Ravindra Khandelwal	3rd October
Sarvani Gooptu	4th October
Dr. Sarbani Ghosh	4th October
Anindita Shoma Basu	4th October
Dr. Amal Chakravarty	5th October
Vijay Kumar Patodia	5th October
Hirak Ray	8th October
Prem Kumar Agarwalla	8th October
Kasturi Raha	8th October

Wish you many happy returns of the day

NO WEEKLY MEETING

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

Wedding Anniversaries

M.L. Bhagat & R-Ann Manju	30th September
Sriranjani Joshi & Mr. Manoj	10th October

Wish you many more years of marital bliss

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 11th October, 2022 at 1.30 p.m.

Speaker : Rtn (Wg Cdr) Dharam Paul Sabharwal

Founder Chairman of Alzheimer-Dementia

Rotary Action Group (ADRAG), India

Topic : "From Know Alzheimer's to No Alzheimer's"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to an unforeseen circumstance the RWM scheduled for 17th Sept, 2022 was postponed. The confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Regular Weekly Meeting held on 13th Sept, 2022 (viz. 4869th RWM, and carried in Chaka Issue No 11 dated 17 Sept, 2022) has been rolled over for today's Regular Weekly Meeting.

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.

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

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