



TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2023

January is Vocational Services Month

103

The Chaka

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Know Your Speaker



DR. PRIYA VIRMANI

A leading orator and philosopher in our world today - Dr Virmani's talks and workshops have been applauded from MIT, Massachusetts, to China and the British Parliament.

Priya Virmani is an Author, an International and TEDx Speaker, the CEO of the mindful luxury travel company Ameluxe and the founder of the children's charity Paint Our World. She has been studying, researching and conducting workshops on well-being and Vedic Philosophy (a navigation tool for life). The clarity with which she communicates the concepts and applies them to contemporary dilemmas and living has been hailed internationally and put her in the category of a leading contemporary orator and philosopher. Priya regularly addresses organisations, corporates and educational institutions on the science of well-being enshrined

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



in The Gita and Vedic wisdom married to modern day neuroscience and psychology.

Her book published recently, 'The Smallest Stories to Extraordinary' is a resounding manual of inspiration for trying times. An event on the book in Britain's House of Commons in the Houses of Parliament in June 2022 was an overwhelming success.

As a Political and Economic Commentator her opinion pieces have been published in over 130 publications worldwide.

She is the recipient of many international awards. In 2019, in London she was also named 'An Asian Giant – A Contemporary Icon and an Exceptional Woman Inspiring Change' and she received the 'She Inspires Award' in the House of Commons in Parliament, London.

LAKSHYA SCHOLARSHIP – EDUCATION FOR ALL – ROTARY SADAN 28 JAN 2023



Another proud moment for our Club as we pioneered Lakshya, a joint endeavor of Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) and BYJU's Learning app. Inaugurating the program in a packed auditorium, President Raj

Agrawal informed that our Club has in this Rotary Year completed projects of about Rs 4 crore value to provide a better future for the underprivileged.

Chair Community Service and RCC, Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury outlined the process of the Scholarships to 25 students each from 5 schools (Children's Welfare Association School Sarsuna, Vidyanjali International School Bhowanipur, Silver Point School Kasba, Jodhpur Park Boys School, Bahuru Girls School, Joynagar) a total of 125 scholarships of the value of Rs 78,000 each, a total project value of Rs 97.50 lacs. The Scholarships are intended for students to access the BYJU's "Think and Learn Premium App" for 3 continuous years, an RILM initiative that aims for 100% literacy in India in 5 years' time; post the End Polio initiative of Rotary International, Literacy has taken centerstage. Arindam sought the support of all schools and parents to enable maximum utilization of the app – success in usage and outcomes shall help in a possible repeat of the program in future as well.



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In their very short but impactful addresses DG Ajoy Law and PDG Mukul Sinha inspired the recipients to extract the maximum utility from the App.

Literacy Chair Sriranjani Joshi outlined, using very expressive examples, the attributes of the App viz Concept Based Learning, Interactive content, Unlimited Test option and so on. For teachers, the module provides all data of academic progress. She then requested the recipients that as a gesture of gratitude, they should, each one of them, take up the responsibility of teaching at least one adult illiterate, an entirely possible endeavor.

Certificates were then handed over to representatives of the schools.

[Reported by Editor, Rtn Ashok Basu with inputs from Community Service Chair Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury]

PROGRESSIVE TEACHERS CONCLAVE – ROTARY SADAN – 28 JAN 2023



The second half of the day belonged to Literacy Committee in what turned out to be a double header for the Committee. The topic of discussion "Internet Addiction amongst Students" is instantly relevant. The audience was 130 teachers drawn from various schools and the program was conducted in association with George College. In their opening remarks, President Raj and Secretary Anand pointed at the potential menace of this lifestyle that appears to be taking over. There is no control over the content, no one knows if the content is useful or not and how to temper the usage for children. Literacy Chair Sriranjani recalled the meme that shows mothers then trying to pull their children indoors from play and now trying desperately to separate children from their devices so they can go outside and play.

Special Educator Sritama Ghosh outlined the gravity of the problem, especially post covid when the control environment is diluted. Although not yet recognized as a disorder, she believes that as long as the addiction starts affecting other life rhythms, it is a problem to be addressed. Overexposure to screentime, using the internet as a means of regulating mood, and need for more and more internet time incrementally are some of the most common manifestations of this disorder. In time there are physical implications such as lack of activity that leads to obesity and weakened immune systems. Mentally, it leads to agitation, depression, and anger. Amongst more serious consequences is cybersex addiction.

The second session was on the role of teachers play in securing the mental health of students by Ms Rajeswari Basu Asst Prof George Group of Colleges. Teachers play an important role in the mental health of students by creating a safe and supportive learning environment, providing emotional support, and identifying and addressing mental health concerns. They can also serve as a point of contact for students to access mental health resources, such as counselling services. Additionally, teachers can educate themselves on mental health issues and be aware of warning signs of mental health concerns in their students, so they can provide appropriate support and referrals.

The session was interactive and well appreciated by the teachers.



[Reported by Editor Rtn Ashok Basu, with inputs from Literacy Chair Rtn Sriranjani Joshi]

PROJECT IMPACT MULTIPLIER – THE GLOBAL GRANT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

When you donate to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund, your contribution disappears overseas, right? Wrong!

In fact, it's invested for three years (earning excellent returns) and then becomes available for Rotarians to fund high-impact projects. The good news is that Rotarians 'Down Under' are particularly ingenious when it comes to devising and implementing high-impact projects.

However, that's not where the good news ends. Let's say you identify an opportunity to run a project that will transform educational outcomes for disadvantaged kids in your community. The problem is that it requires an investment of \$100,000 and your club can only raise \$10,000.

You decide to apply for a global grant from the Foundation and your district agrees to match your \$10K contribution with the same amount in District Designated Funds (DDF is the Annual Fund contributions that come back to your district after being invested for three years).

Then, six other clubs get inspired by your project and contribute a total of \$18,000, and three more districts come on board with \$30,000 in DDF. Now you're up to \$68,000. Next, TRF approves a \$32,000 global grant from the World Fund.

With \$100,000 from all these sources, you've now multiplied your club's \$10,000 fundraising by a factor of 10 and delivered a high-impact local project. We call it the Project Impact Multiplier.

[Excerpted from a Zone 8 Write up and Contributed by Rtn HIRAK RAY, Chair – Family of Rotary]

Editor's Note : In The Chaka No 25 Vol. 90 of 17 Jan 2023, we had briefly touched upon the subject of Global Grant. The above write up amplifies the method by which a GG can support large projects. This "multiplier" aspect of GG was also illustrated in an article in our Centenary Yearbook "Shatam" authored by PDG Prabhat Rohatgi.

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (28.01.2023)

Total Members	:	242
Members Present	:	41
Exempted Members	:	65
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	22



ONE WORLD

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

TODAY

Speaker : Dr. Priya Virmani
Author, International and Tedx speaker, Social Entrepreneur,
CEO – Ameluxe Travel and Founder and Children's Charity –
Point Our World
Topic : "Who really is Lord Shiva and why is he the Ultimate
Yogi"

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting on Tuesday, 7th February, 2023 at 1 p.m. at
Rotary Sadan

District Governor, Rtn. Ajoy Kumar Law official Visit to our
Club

MEMBERS' ROSTER - 2022-23

Members' Roster-2022-23 is available now and Members
are requested to collect their copies from Club Office.

Birthdays

Ashok Kumar Basu (AB4)	1st February
Dr. Rama Shanker Bhartia	1st February
Satya Narayan Agarwala	4th February
Prosanta Kumar Roy	5th February
Ram Kumar Sharma	5th February

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Wedding Anniversaries

Ram Kumar Sharma & R- Ann Rashmi	31st January
Ashish Kumar Bagla & R- Ann Deepa	4th February
Priti Patel Melhotra & Mr. Arvind Kumar	4th February
Dr. Dilip Kumar Saha & R- Ann Manisha	4th February
Amit Ghosh & R- Ann Soma	5th February
Gitanjali Jolly & Mr. Harish Kumar	5th February
Niraj Kumar Saraf & R-Ann Vinita	6th February
Dr. Subhendu Sarkar & R-Ann Sushmita	6th February
Dr. Shankar Ghosh & R-Ann Sujata	6th February
B.K. Dalmia & R-Ann Premlata	6th February
Dr. Pratibha Pradhan & Dr. Dipendra	6th February

Wish you many more years of marital bliss

ROSTER UPDATE

Rtn. Amal Chandra Chakrabortti has changed his residential
address to :

" The Address" (6th floor), Flat No. 6E, Block -4 , 1002, Eastern
Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata - 700105

PEACE CONFERENCE ON 12TH FEBRUARY, 2023 AT DARJEELING

Rotary Club of Calcutta will organise a “Peace Conference” as the umbilical connect with Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City, Rotary Club of Darjeeling and Rotary Club of Darjeeling Himalayas on 12th February, 2023 at Darjeeling.

Members interested in joining the Peace Conference are requested to contact Hony. Secretary, Rtn. Anand Sharma or Mr. Prabir Kumar Mukherjee, Club Office.

(Departure from Kolkata on 11th Feb and return on 14th February, 2023.)

REPORTS

- i) **28.01.23** - Literacy Committee organised in association with George College, a seminar on “Progressive Educator's Conclave” at Rotary Sadan
- ii) **28.01.23** - Community Service Committee was organised and launched “Lakshya Scholarship” for 125 Students at Rotary Sadan

MINUTES OF THE 4884th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY, 2023 AT 7 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN

1. President, Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4884th regular weekly meeting of the Club to order.
2. National Anthem was led by PP Rtn. Sujata Pyne.
3. Minutes of the 4883rd regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 17th January, 2023 was confirmed.
4. President then welcomed Mr. Shahanshah Mirza, The Great Grandson of King Wajid Ali Shah, the last Ruler of Awadh as the Chief Guest.
5. President then welcomed all visiting Rotarian and Guests who attended the meeting and exchanged Club flag with visiting Rotarian from R. C. of Orleans, France, R I Dist. 1720.
6. **President reported the following :**
 - i) President informed members the sad demise of our Past President, Late Rtn Nandita Sen who passed away on Thursday, 26th January, 2023. She was a member of the Club since 1990. She served as President, Director, Committee Chair, Editor of the “Chaka”, Club Correspondent and Advisor. Our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family. May her soul rest in peace. Everyone mourned her death and in her memory observed one minute silence.
 - ii) Health Care Committee organised a Mega Health Check-up Camp on 22nd January, 2023 at Rajnagar, Purulia .
 - iii) To observe “International Sports Day”, Special Project Committee organised in association with Taj Bengal, a Sit and Draw competition for the Children of our RCC Star Welfare Society on Tuesday, 24th January, 2023 at Rotary Sadan.
 - iv) Republic Day was celebrated on Thursday, 26th January, 2023 at the Rotary Sadan.
 - v) Community Committee organised and launched “Lakshya Scholarship” on 28th January, 2023 at Rotary Sadan for 125 Students at Rotary Sadan. Our Dist. Governor, Rtn. Ajoy Law handed over the certificates to the institutions.
 - vi) Literacy Committee organised in association with George College a seminar on “Progressive Educator's Conclave” on 28th January, 2023 at Rotary Sadan .
7. **President Announced the following :**
 - a) Club would organise a “Peace Conference” as the umbilical connect with Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City, Rotary Club of Darjeeling and Rotary Club of Darjeeling Himalayas on 12th February, 2023 at Darjeeling. Interested members to join the Peace Conference are requested to contact Hony. Secretary Rtn. Anand Sharma or Mr. Prabir Kumar Mukherjee, Club Office. (Starting from Kolkata on 11th February and returning to Kolkata on 14th February, 2023.)
8. At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Anand Sharma thereafter conducted the Club Business :
 - a) He welcomed all members and guests and wished them.
 - b) He then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 30th January, 2023
 - c) He then informed members that the Next weekly Meeting will be on Tuesday, 31st January, 2023 at 1 p.m. at Rotary Sadan. Speaker : Dr. Priya Virmani, Author, International and TedEx, speaker, Social Entrepreneur, CEO – Ameluxe Travel and Founder and Children's Charity – Point Our Would. Topic : “Who really is Lord Shiva and why is he the Ultimate Yogi”
 - d) He then informed that the Members Roster 2022-23 was available and requested to please collect their copies from Club Office.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn. Dr. Sourabh Khemani introduced the Guest Speaker Mr. Shahanshah Mirza.
10. Mr. Shahanshah Mirza then addressed the audience on “The Awadhi Influence on West Bengal”
11. Questions raised by the members were answered by the speaker.
12. On behalf of the Club, Rtn. Rear Adm. (Retd.) Rajeev Paralikar offered the vote of thanks to Mr. Shahanshah Mirza.
13. On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Mr. Shahanshah Mirza.
14. Sunshine Box collection Rs. 500/- with special contribution from Rtn Subha Pal .
15. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Faridgonj, Bangladesh, R.I. Dist. 3282.
16. Before adjourning the meeting President requested all to join fellowship and dinner and on behalf of the Club he thanked Rtn. Ashish Kumar Bagla for hosting fellowship and dinner on that day.
17. Meeting was adjourned at 8.27 p.m.

Raj Kumar Agrawal
President

Anand Sharma
Hony. Secretary