

#### **1682ND REGULAR MEETING**

VOL 39, NO. 03

15 August 2024

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR** 

**AKS DR KRISHNENDU GUPTA** 

**OF RID-3291** 

# DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF MAHAVIR SEVA SADAN TO CELEBRATE THE INDEPENCE DAY



TOGETHER, ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN AND MAHAVIR SEVA SADAN CELEBRATE 39TH YEAR AS SERVICE IN PARTNER

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS & CALLIPERS REHABILITATION OF POST-POLIO SURVIVORS REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN

# WE REMEMBER LATE PP RTN SOHANRAJ SINGHVI

He ensured the Club joining with Mahavir Seva Sadan as Partner in Service since inception of both i.e., 39 years ago. His vision paved way for successful association with MSS. A big respect and admiration for you. Your valuable contribution will be always in our memories forever.



#### OUR ASSOCIATION WITH ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN

Mahavir Seva Sadan was built in the year 1985. The journey started with the setting up of an artificial limb manufacturing unit, a first of its kind in eastern India, adopting the world-renowned Jaipur foot technology.

What started as a small manufacturing unit in a 200 sq. ft. basement area has over the years bloomed into a 20,000 sq. ft. compound with various other services for the physically challenged, especially the underprivileged. A fully equipped physiotherapy department is being run by renowned physiotherapists. In addition to the limbs and calipers, we started manufacturing artificial hands too.

A vocational training unit was set up to impart various skills to the physically challenged to enable them to gain employment based on their aptitude. Our eye care unit provides free spectacles and cataract operations. A fully equipped mobile eye care van reaches the remotest of villages to help the poor with primary eye ailments. A diagnostic centre has been set up to provide free tests such as CT Scan, ECG, USG, Digital, X ray, Pathology, etc. A fully equipped mobile workshop for manufacturing limbs, caliper and artificial hands has travelled to various parts of India and also internationally and provided our services by reaching to the patients in their area.

In the year 2013, another marvellous chapter ensued when Mahavir Sava Sadan established a Cerebral Palsy unit. The outstanding work at this unit by qualified therapists and specialist doctors yielded positive outcomes. More than 900 children were registered in the first three years, along with over 15,000 visits by such patients. Encouraged by positive results of these patients, we have envisioned an expansive medical establishment.

MSS Rehabilitation and Research Centre is being set up keeping in mind the specific needs of the children suffering from Cerebral Palsy. Construction of 1 lakh square feet is under process in Joka. Facilities that will be offered include the most sought-after therapies like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, speech therapy and music therapy. It will come with a hi-tech artificial limb manufacturing and fitment centre, a sensory park, early intervention and school readiness programs, expert counseling, special education, inclusive education, vocational training, residential facility for cerebral palsy children with a parent training, institute for special teachers and many more provisions.

Alongside this will stand a multi-speciality medical centre, comprising of a state-of-the-art diagnostic centre, physiotherapy department, homeopathy department, eye care unit, ENT, dental care unit. One block of this gigantic project site will be a building with facilities such as an ultra-modern kitchen storeroom, dining space, residential accommodation for resident doctors, mini gym, and an expensive open space for a mini zoo and play area. The MSS Rehabilitation and Research Centre is a dream project of enormous proportions. Our vision is to restore the dignity of each human life for the differently abled.

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It was indeed a pleasant coincidence that both Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan and Mahavir Seva Sadan were chartered in the same year. The association that started since inception has over a period of 38 years grown from strength to strength. The months of January and August every year are sponsored by RCCM under their permanent project "Leg for Legless". With the active support and cooperation of RCCM, MSS has successfully organised several camps not only in various states of India but also in Nepal and Malaysia. Under its matching grants program, RCCM has supported MSS in providing artificial limbs, calipers and hands in large numbers. RCCM is currently providing equipment's and other support to the Cerebral Palsy for an amount of Rs.75 lacs under its matching grants project.

We sincerely hope that our journey of service with RCCM will continue smoothly and successfully and together we will be able provide various services to the physically challenged, especially the under privileged.

We also take this opportunity to express our best wishes and deep gratitude to all the distinguished members of

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**By Manoj Mohnot** Mahavir Seva Sadan

#### MSS REHABILITATION & RESEARCH CENTER, JOKA

When the intention is to make a difference, there is no limit to what can be created. Mahavir Seva Sadan, with their tagline 'Dare to Dream' and their expanded initiative standing tall on 6.5 bighas of land in Joka is a testimony to what is possible when a group of people unite to serve mankind. MSS and Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan have been together through many years of coming together to help support artificial limb donations or eye surgeries or a Global Grant designed and dedicated to fulfilling the needs of children undergoing treatment for cerebral palsy.

For the RCCM members, President Rtn Sashi Dhacholia, Secretary Rtn Rajiv Tibrewal, PP Rtn Dr Nevatia and Mrs Nevatia, PP Rtn Dr Naresh Goyal, PE Rtn Rajshree Jain, IPP Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel, and yours truly VP Rtn Runjhun Gupta, along with guests from Inner wheel club, a prospective member, the project visit became a great opportunity to bond over a fun ride together in a mini bus with some new faces, all beaming with smiles and laughter over heartfelt conversations that made the one-hour journey feel like minutes.

On reaching, we got a warm welcome from the MSS team and an auspicious gesture of garlanding the picture of Lord Ganesha by the President Rtn Sashi Dhacholia. The best part is the segregation of services into three towers linked through a beautiful healing garden. First tower is dedicated to artificial limbs, starting with waiting area, fitting area, practicing area with

mirrors to help them get the confidence and focus. The machines are of German make with advanced technology that avoids any dust spreading outside even while fine tuning the limbs.

The next tower is dedicated to children with Cerebral palsy with the entire ground floor rooms fitted with the equipment provided as a part of Global Grant by Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan. It was wonderful to see children and parents benefitting from the use of the equipment. There is an additional heated pool to help children heal through water therapy. The upper floors are designed for parents and children to stay during the residential treatments, with 8 of them, designed to accommodate high end clients. The last two floors are customised to setup school for these specially-abled children. The last tower, which is the first from the entrance, is a multi-speciality diagnostic centre, with the two floors being managed by PULSE Diagnostics and the upper floors are retained by MSS for physiotherapy unit and doctors' chambers for ENT. There is an additional service block that has dining for all the children, parents, staff along with the upper floors as studio apartments for doctors to stay when required. They intend to go completely operative from September 2024, but we already saw the vision of the many lives that will get impacted to live a better future and so grateful to be part of the wonderful dream they not only dared to dream, but make it a reality. Kudos to MSS!

### MSS REHABILITATION & RESEARCH CENTER, JOKA





















# MSS REHABILITATION & RESEARCH CENTER, JOKA- AN UNIT OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN



















# MSS REHABILITATION & RESEARCH CENTER, JOKA- AN UNIT OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN





















#### A VISIT TO ADHIGHAM BHOOMI SCHOOL ON 4.8.2024

Adhigham Bhoomi, a unique school spread across 6.5 Bigha, with the aim to house and educate 1000 tribal children, created, and operated by Mukti Group, under their NGO Help us help them, headed by Mukti Gupta, further supported by Century Ply, Anmol, Rotary foundation, Heritage and so many more. Kalinga institute has played a key role with the innovative curriculum.

The vision of the school is the reconstruction of rural India by redefining rural education system. The main aim being providing 'skill-based education' in a traditional Gurukul setting achieved by exposed brick structure, red-oxide flooring, mats on floor, benches and furniture made from recycled boards, cane, bamboo with additional details of creative messaging on cane trays in the corridors. Every floor is identical with the differentiation achieved with a meaningful name of the floor, like 'pipilika' symbolising teamwork achieved by ants and honeybees.

They have regular classes for the current number of 500 plus girls, all handpicked from the interiors of Bengal like Sundarbans, but the uniqueness is in special classes on flute, pottery, etc where they learn various subjects like science and maths while learning that skill. They have a floor dedicated for handloom, where the children are getting trained to work with it and be able to create products of utility that can be sold to earn income.

They have the residential block where all the children stay along with few teachers, with the ground floor used as a large dining area where they all eat together. They also have a creative open outdoor activity area, giving them a feel of working in nature. The school is a beautiful concept that will enable the children to get skilled along with completing their education, making it possible for them to set up units, businesses, skilling in rural areas. A step that will play a crucial role in the vision of 'Atmanirbhar' Bharat.

MSS Rehabilitation & Research Centre and Adhigham Bhoomi school share a common entry, and they also share the common passion of serving humanity through service, technology, and innovation. The visit to both the spaces left us more inspired to do more as Metropolitans, as we left with a celebration of life in our hearts.





#### WORKSHOP ON CYBER SAFETY AWARENESS SEMINAR AT PLC

On 08.08.24, a Cyber Safety Awareness workshop was organized by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan (RCCM) for the students, teachers and parents of the PACE Learning Centre at the school auditorium. The workshop, entitled "Stay Safe in the Digital Jungle: Empowering the Next Generation to Navigate the Digital World Safely", aimed to educate the audience about the risks associated with online activities and provide them with the knowledge to protect themselves from cyber threats.

The workshop was presented by Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, the founder of ISOAH and cyber security expert. He explained the concept of cyber hacking and how it can lead to financial losses through online transactions. He provided examples of how personal accounts can be compromised, citing the instance of payment for hotel booking to personal accounts. The program highlighted the importance of being cautious while sharing personal information online specially in social media. He also cited examples of some inauthentic chat or game applications that can be dangerous if installed on mobile. He showed that the food delivery app, renowned restaurant accounts, true-caller app and so on have been hacked so easily.

Most importantly charging the mobile available through public charging ports in stations or airports can be a medium for hacking the accounts through hidden chips.

He advised with a list of solutions to prevent any undesirable loss through online

#### **Social Media Precautions:**

- 1. We need to avoid posting personal information in public on social media.
- 2. Not to accept friend requests from unknown or new profiles that seem to be fake.
- 3. No public post without restrictions
- **B. Email Security**
- 1. Enable 2-step verification in Gmail.
- 2. Strong password.
- C. Other safety notes:
- 1. Need to be cautious when clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.



- 2. Avoid charging your mobile phone through public charging ports.
- 3. For any financial loss through Cyber fraud we need to register a complaint at the helpline number 1930.
- 4. It's required to monitor the accounts and credit reports regularly for suspicious activity.
- 5. We should not share PAN and Aadhar numbers unnecessarily. Voter cards can be produced as identity cards.
- 6. We may lock the Aadhar card through UIDAI website and unlock it whenever required.

The workshop on cyber security sparked immense excitement among the students when Mr. Sengupta explained the vast scope of career opportunities in this field. The prospect of becoming a cyber-security professional and earning a lucrative salary of up to ?1.5 lakh per month was particularly thrilling. The expert made them aware of the growing demand for cyber security experts and the potential for high salaries. They were introduced to the concept of ethical hacking and the role of ethical hackers in protecting organizations from cyber threats.

The program was well-received by all the audience, including the esteemed guests RCCM president Rtn. Sashi Dhacholia, PLC president Rtn. Jayanta Chatterji, Rtn. Runjhun Gupta Ma'am and Rtn. Suchana Mazumdar. During the interactive session, some parents, teachers and our president sir shared their experiences of cyber fraud. The students were highly motivated and enthusiastic about the possibilities of pursuing a career in cyber security. Many expressed interests in exploring ethical hacking as a career option.

The Cyber Safety Awareness Program was a valuable initiative that empowered all of us with the knowledge to protect ourselves from cyber threats. Thanks to RCCM for such an important initiative and Mr. Sandeep Sengupta sir who applied his expertise and made the session explicitly excellent The program reinforced the importance of being vigilant while navigating the online world and taking necessary precautions to safeguard personal information.

By Mahashweta Maity Vice Principal, PACE Learning Centre



# WORKSHOP ON CYBER SAFETY AWARENESS SEMINAR AT PLC





















# GLIMPSE OF REGULAR MEETING & 1ST CLUB ASSEMBLY OF RY-2024-2025 HELD ON 27.7.2024

















# GLIMPSE OF REGULAR MEETING & 1ST CLUB ASSEMBLY OF RY-2024-2025 HELD ON 27.7.2024

















#### **INTERACTIVE FLAT PANEL**

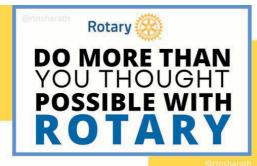
Three Interactive Flat Panel (Smart Board) were installed at PACE Learning Centre on 5.8.2024 to transform the school to Digital education. Two Smart Board were sponsored by Pace Universal, USA and one by the Club.



KARATE CLASSES AT PLC

A view of ongoing Karate classes at PACE Learning Centre on 4.8.2024

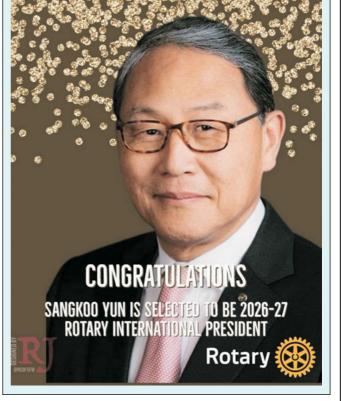




Rotary is 1.4 million passionate individuals in 46,000+ clubs worldwide. We are both an international organization and a local community leader. Together we lead change in our own backwards and across the world Discuss your community's needs and develop creative ways to meet them Connect with other leaders who are changing the world Expand your leadership and professional skills Catch up with good friends and meet new ones

#### **HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS**

Sangkoo Yun, of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Seoul, Korea, is selected Rotary International's President for 2026-27.



#### **DISTRIBUTION OF SANITARY NAPKINS**

Distribution of Sanitary Napkins for the 60 womenfolk of Nabadiganta Leprosy Colony, Durgapur took place on 4.8.2024 for the quarter July-September, 2024.



#### KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS OBSERVATION AT PACE LEARING CENTRE

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on July 26 every year to mark the victory of Indian forces over Pakistani intruders in the Kargil War in 1999. The day is a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers who fought to protect the nation's sovereignty.

Our school conducted a special assembly at our school auditorium on 26.07.24 observing Kargil Vijay Diwas to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of Indian soldiers who fought in the Kargil War.

Teachers and students lit candles to pay tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives in the war. Students delivered speeches highlighting the significance of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the bravery of Indian soldiers, and the importance of national unity.

The observation of Kargil Vijay Diwas in the school auditorium was a solemn and meaningful event that instilled a sense of patriotism and national pride among the students. It served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers and the importance of national unity. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem by all present, reaffirming the spirit of patriotism and national pride.

By Mahashweta Maity Vic Principal, PACE Learning Centre





#### PROUD OF YOU PDG RTN DR SYLVIA WHITLOCK



ROTARY CLUB OF CHICAGO MAKES DR. SYLVIA WHITLOCK HONORARY MEMBER Yesterday Rotary staff were treated to a talk by PDG Rtn Dr Sylvia Whitlock at One Rotary Center just hours before she was inducted into the Rotary Club of Chicago as an honorary member. Congrats Sylvia Whitlock on your honor. We are so lucky to have you among our great leaders!

#### **CHANGE BEGINS WITH GIRLS**

Rotary was founded by men and initially excluded women from its membership until a lawsuit in California, USA. Past

District Governor Sylvia Whitlock is Rotary's first female club president and a strong supporter of the Piyali Learning Center.

"Change begins with girls.... Girls suffer the most in poverty, yet they have the greatest potential to end it. PACE educates and nurtures the holistic development of girls in the world's poorest regions. Through education, girls become confident. They become empowered to change the world."

#### http://paceuniversal.org/

DR. SYLVIA WHITLOCK SUPPORTS PACE UNIVERSAL Earlier this year Aunty Deepa Willingham (founder of the Piyali Learning Center funded by PACE Universal) and Uncle Jayanta Chatterji (District Rotary Foundation Chair) arranged for me to visit the school where I saw the science lab which was dedicated to Dr. Sylvia Whitlock. It's very fitting today that many Rotarians and Rotary clubs around the world have supported the Piyali Learning Center providing education for girls and women. Dr. Whitlock has been to the school more than 7 times and has assisted with the teacher training program.

Thank you Dr. Sylvia Whitlock Sent. By Rtn Steven Cory Solomon

#### INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER SHRI MUKESH SETHI



Shri Mukesh Sethi is born in New Delhi and brought up in Kolkata. He did his schooling from Don Bosco, Park Circus, Kolkata. He was graduated from Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi. After this he became Chartered Accountant and worked in various companies like La Opla Glass Ltd and the joined the Escorts group in Faridabad, Haryana as General Manager.

Though he travelled and took up various assignments in different part of the country but he always kept his connections in Kolkata. His wife is Gynaecologist Doctor Seema Sethi, now President of Inner Wheel of Calcutta Metropolitan.

Mr Sethi elder son Shri Gandharv Raj Sethi resides in Mumbai and works for a Multinational Company. His wife is IT engineer working for a American company. His younger son Abeer is a software engineer settled in Seattle, USA.

His willingness to serve the humanity and the socity.

# Forthcoming Events

31.08.2024 Regular Meeting at The Conclave at 2.00 PM. Interactive session with Members and talk by newly inducted members 14.09.2024 Regular Meeting at The Conclave at 2.00 PM 28.09.2024 Regular Meeting at The Conclave at 2.00 PM | DISTRICT [ 14.09.2024 & 15.09.2024 Samagam- 1st President, Secretary Team meet at Hotel Sonar Bangla Taki 18.09.2024 Rotary Leadership Institute-Part-III at Rotary Sadan

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

18.08.2024	PP Rtn Harsh V Rungta
21.08.2024	Rtn Dr Mary D'Cruz
24.08.2024	IPP Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel
25.08.2024	Rtn Vivek Bajaj
27.08.2024	PP Rtn Utpal Chatterjee
31.08.2024	PP Rtn Maitrayee Ray



#### **PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE – AUGUST 2024**



Stephanie A. Urchick President 2024-25

If we are to truly change the world with The Magic of Rotary, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there, and the Action Plan can help you find your way. What does that look like?

Take for instance the Rotary Club of Beveren-Waas in Belgium. It was chartered in 1974 but has evolved with the times, developing both a strategic plan and a membership plan. To find new members, the club analyses the city's professions to help focus its search, and all new members are quickly assigned tasks and roles.

The club also mixes up meeting times, alternating between evening and afternoon sessions, making them accessible for all members. Sometimes, circumstances force clubs to make changes. But as people of action, we know that behind every obstacle is an opportunity.

The Rotary Club of Holyoke in Massachusetts was forced from its meeting place because of rising costs after the COVID-19 pandemic, but members took this setback and turned it into a strength. The club started meeting in a library community room that was available for no charge and catering lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person but it's optional, so no one has to spend money to attend a meeting. What a great way to work toward being "fair to all concerned."

Since making this change, the Holyoke club has gained 13 members. I suspect part of its membership growth is due to the club's sense of inclusivity - the first step toward belonging. If you ask members what they expect from the club experience, you might find that your club doesn't meet expectations. Think of this as an opportunity to reshape your club in exciting ways, as alternative club models are making a positive impact. For example, a Rotary Fellowship called Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide, or BREW, has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funnelled 25 percent of its dues to those initiatives. BREW is one of many examples of members pursuing belonging to improve the world.

I can't stress enough the importance of belonging. Clubs become simply irresistible when all members feel that they are exactly where they need to be. To me, belonging is the spark that ignites The Magic of Rotary.

As you receive feedback from club members and the community you serve, I urge you to pursue that spark. The Action Plan can help you find the path to success, and if you light your way with the spirit of belonging, that path will lead to a bright future for your club, your community, and the world.

#### **TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE – AUGUST 2024**



Mark Daniel Maloney RI Trustee Chair 2024-25

I love our many Rotary traditions, especially our emblem: the wheel. Whenever I put on my Rotary pin, admire a new club's logo, or spot the emblem on a volunteer's T-shirt, I am inspired by the possibilities that wheel represents.

Early in Rotary, our predecessors envisioned it as a gear, part of a sturdy machine making great things happen. It remains that, and much more. To me, it also symbolizes cycles and movement on our journey of doing good in the world.

August is Rotary's Membership and New Club Development Month, and I encourage you to think about the cyclical connection between membership and The Rotary Foundation. When we have engaged members in dynamic clubs, The Magic of Rotary happens. Members - both new and experienced - deepen their commitment to each other and their communities. And that local engagement attracts attention and more members. Gradually, the new members realize their club is part of a powerful organization that is making lasting change in the world. They learn about the Foundation, support it, and perhaps apply for a grant. They see themselves as part of the movement that will eradicate polio.

As our members' experience deepens, so does their commitment to Rotary at all levels. The public sees our impact, making Rotary irresistible. New members join, new clubs are formed, and the cycle continues. With each turn of the wheel, we grow Rotary and our Foundation.

There are countless ways this magical connection between clubs and our Foundation can unfold. For instance, 100% Paul Harris Fellow Clubs, where every member is a Paul Harris Fellow, showcase how engaged clubs are directly connected to the Foundation. Some clubs even up the ante, like the Rotary Club of Crescent (Greensboro), North Carolina, whose 125 members are all Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, and Sustaining Members simultaneously. But you do not need to be in such a "triple crown" club to make a difference.

I am asking all Rotary members to remember this month's goal for what I'm calling Mark's Magical Markers: Please make the personal commitment to contribute what you can to the Annual Fund by 31 August. Do it right now, before you forget, at rotary.org/give. While you are there, set up a recurring direct donation.

With your help, we can keep that great wheel of Rotary and its Foundation rolling in the right direction, moving toward something greater tomorrow than we can even imagine today.

#### Sponsored by : A WELL WISHER

We meet every Saturday at 2.00 pm at The Calcutta Swimming Club, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001 Published by : Rtn. Sashi Dhacholia, Mobile : 98310 14640, E-mail : sashidhacholia@gmail.com (For Private Circulation Only) https://rccalcuttametropolitan.rotaryindia.org