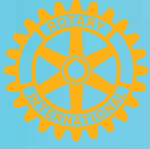


VOICE OF VICTORIA

Rotary
Calcutta Victoria
District 3291



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BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Rain Water Harvesting, Purulia



A New Life is born

In the interiors of Purulia district, in the village Lalpur, like many other parts of India the villagers faced severe water scarcity. With the very little water they got during rainy season the villagers could only yield a little bit of paddy which was not sufficient for a family of four to eat for the whole year. And the money in hand was also scarce. The rest of the time the land was barren.

Rotary Club Of Calcutta, Victoria, its Past President Rtn. Arvind Agrawal with his team came as a big boon to the villagers. With the generous help of CSR funds from Worldwide Safety Pvt.Ltd. by Mr.Prashant Tulsyan and a NGO Switch-On, a rain water harvesting

pond was dug in last April. With the onset of rains the pond gradually became full with water. Now Solar panels were installed and with a submersible solar pump water was pumped into the nearby lands. Almost 30 to 40 Acres of land were benefitted. The result was tremendous. Now just by four months, the month of August, the villagers were harvesting paddy and all kinds of vegetables like beans, gourd, aubergine, peas watermelons etc. After Paddy, the villagers had plans to harvest Mustard, Mung Dal, Potatoes and Onions and many more. Villagers whose lands were little far also came asking for water. And once they got the promise they also started yielding different crops.

The villagers now let some fish into the pond. They now made plans to get ducks who will give eggs and meat.

Now 15 and more families could not only feed their whole family but also sell the excess vegetables in the markets. This made the ladies who look after the fields economically self sufficient and their joy knew no bounds. The Rotary Club Of Calcutta Victoria is indeed happy and humbled to be a part of this life changing Service To Mankind project.

Reported by – **Sohini Banerjee**

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

■ Club Assembly



Stephanie A Urchick
RI President



Dr Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor



Rajnish Mehta
President



Sohini Banerjee
Secretary



Lata Bhatia
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT BRINDAKHALI



On 15th August 2024, a group of four Rotarians went to Brindakhali which is a quaint village in Baruipur district, 20 kms from Kolkata. The Rotarians were Sachiv Nijhawan, Sanghamitra Choudhury, Subhojit Sinha Roy and Nitish Jain. The members reached Brindakhali at 10 am in the morning. The national flag was hoisted by Rtn. Sanghamitra Choudhury. The National Anthem was sung by the villagers. Almost 100/150 of them including children and elders participated in this. The villagers were very happy to see the Rotarians. A football match had been organised there to celebrate Independence

Day and many villagers old and young had gathered there for an exciting day ahead. There were two football matches between veteran teams and the second one was between 2 winners of league matches. The teams had all the best players of Brindakhali and the neighbouring villages. The matches were being played in the rain and muddy fields which were a treat to the eyes with all the action and live commentary. The winners were given cash prizes by the Rotary club of Calcutta, Victoria. An organic lunch was organised for the visiting members. Thus ended a truly satisfying Independence Day celebration with the villagers of RCC, Brindakhali.

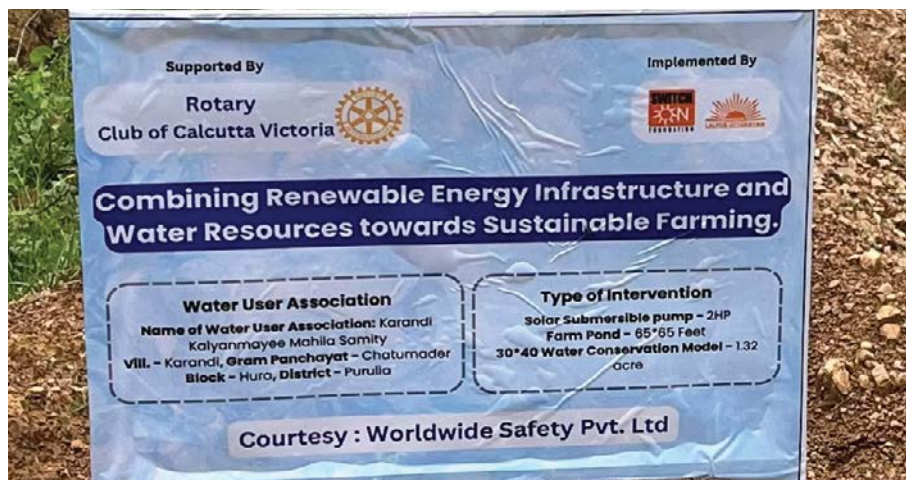
Reported by – Nitish Jain



Disease Prevention, Tree Plantation and Fruit Garden

Disease prevention

In the village of Lalpur, Purulia 50 mosquito nets were distributed to villagers to prevent diseases like Dengue Malaria and Chickungunya.



Tree Plantation

150 Fruit Bearing tree saplings like Lemon, Guava, Mangoes, were distributed to 50 villagers. The villagers and their children can now have the fruits and also sell some fruits. This will be good for their health and also get them some money.



Fruit Garden

In another land, water trench has been dug and Fruit Garden has been created. The garden now has small saplings of all kinds of fruits like lemon, pomegranate, guava etc.



INTERACTORS IN ACTION

Installation ceremony at P. B. Academy School

The 8th installation ceremony at our Interact Club of P. B. Academy on B. L. Saha Road, Kolkata was held on August 21st, 2024. It was attended by DG Rtn. Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, Rtn. Mukul Mitra, Rtn. Sachiv Nijhawan and Rtn. Shampa Chakraberty from Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria.

The program started at 12 noon with a beautiful rendition of an English song from the choir of the Interact club. Subsequently the past office bearers of the Interact club were felicitated. The Principal of P. B. Academy welcomed the Rotarians and spoke of various issues regarding the school. The Interact Club president then gave a very detailed power point presentation of



the various projects that the Interact Club had done during the year. The Rotarians were very surprised and pleased to see the amount of effort put in by the Interact Club members in the various projects. Next, the office bearers of the Interact Club for the coming year were felicitated. The President of the Interact Club for the coming year put up a spirited presentation with details of projects that would be done by the Interact Club this year. Finally, all Rotarians present were felicitated and the program ended therein.

Reported by – **Shampa Chakraberty**

Installation Meeting at St. James School



Installation Meeting of Interact Club of St. James School held on 4th September 2024. President Rajnish Mehta, V.P. Vibha Mehta attended the meeting.

For Justice and Peace



A heinous crime has been committed in Kolkata which has shaken not only W. Bengal but the entire nation. A young lady doctor while on night duty at

R.G.Kar Medical College and Hospital was brutally raped and murdered on 9th August. People from all walks of life have condemned the murder and there has been mass protests since then seeking Justice. Rotarians from RID 3291 have expressed solidarity and a condolence meeting was held for the dear departed soul at Prakash Bhavan, Salt Lake on 22nd August 2024 and a silent protest march around Victoria Memorial on 30th August 2024. DG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, PDGS, large number of Rotarians joined the meeting and protest march, to mark respect for the departed soul and seeking Justice and Peace. Several Victorians and spouses participated.

Happy Birthday!



- Vinita Dutt
9th September
- B. K. Agarwal
18th September
- Sohini Banerjee
18th September
- Sandeep Mukherjee
22nd September
- Chhanda Banerji
25th September

Roving Rotarian



At the Long Beach Rotary Club in California

During my travel in the USA I had a chance to attend a regular Rotary meeting in Long Beach, (Los Angeles area) California on Wednesday 14th August 2024 along with my daughter (past member of the club of Long Beach - RID5320). The club of Long Beach is 107 years old and at present has 240 members. They meet for lunch at an iconic venue in the beautiful salon of a ship Queen Mary which had given service during the Second World War and later purchased by the USA in 1948 and has been docked in the port of Long Beach on the Pacific Ocean since then. Now the ship has been turned into a hotel. President Steve Hockett and club members were very hospitable. There were quite a few other guests too at the meeting. All guests



At the Long Beach Rotary Club in California

were individually welcomed at the start of the meeting by the Sergeant at arms as is the norm in the Rotary clubs of USA. It was an interesting meeting. RC Long Beach is a rich club and their major project now is giving scholarships to students every year. Scholarships worth USD 400,000 is given out to high school and college students to pursue their studies. In addition one international scholarship of USD 40,000 is given in conjunction with the district to study in an university of their choice outside USA in one of the Rotary's area of focus. I too spoke about our various projects especially the latest one in Purulia to some of the senior Rotarians in an informal chat All in all a very enjoyable meeting.

Words of Wisdom



Ajay Mittal, an environmentalist delivered a compelling presentation on climate change, breaking down the

science behind the issue in simple, passionate terms. He explained how the planet's temperature has been steadily rising since the Industrial Revolution and connected global warming to extreme weather events such as cyclones, flash floods, droughts, forest fires, sea-level rise, increased disease burden, food crises, and economic losses. Mittal stressed that without limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C or 2°C, the world risks entering an irreversible process leading to mass extinction. Despite this grim outlook, he emphasized that we have the technology and resources to address the crisis, pointing to ongoing renewable energy adoption and policies. However, he urged for greater action, both collectively and individually, to demand climate action and lead more sustainable lifestyles. The presentation, which included a report from the IPCC highlighting Kolkata as one of the most vulnerable cities, deeply resonated with the audience, leaving many shaken by the harsh reality of the climate crisis.