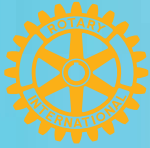


VOICE OF VICTORIA

Rotary
Calcutta Victoria
District 3291



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CALCUTTA VICTORIA | RI DISTRICT 3291

Vol 32 | No 5

ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Saturday, November 23, 2024

Spreading Joy With Toys



Rajnish Mehta, Vibha Mehta, PP Lata Bhatia and PP Seema Danda travelled to REFUGE - an orphanage in North Kolkata to distribute some of the toys. The excited children, 250 of them were thrilled to receive a Deepavali gift and their joy knew no bounds. The



In our younger days how thrilled we were when toys were gifted to us. Now as parents and grandparents the excitement of the little ones and the not so little when they receive toys gladden our hearts. This remembrance sowed the idea of 'Spreading joy with toys' amongst disadvantaged children. Vice President Dr. Vibha Mehta took the initiative, whose idea it originally was and within a short time a huge number of toys of different kind were collected and stored. Interact Club of P.B.Academic School also participated and gifted scores of new toys. They were all sorted and labelled according to the age of children and gender and lovingly gift wrapped by a band of enthusiastic Victorians, namely Lata Bhatia, Sutapa Das, Shampa Chakravorty, Alka Kejriwal and Vinita Dutt. Vibha Mehta's house was the centre of action and of course of delightful fellowship. Just before Deepavali, on the morning of 27th October 2024, President

sparkle in their eyes and smiling faces said it all. Special lunch was served to all the inmates sponsored by 'Mamta Sreelal Mehta Foundation' organised by the President. Rotarians Alka Kejriwal and Chandrakala Agrawal donated toys and K.K.Nangalia, Chhanda Banerji, Vinita Dutt, Sohini Banerjee & Karuna Kothari spouse of Rtn. Ashok Kothari donated money for purchase of suitable toys. VP Dr. Vibha Mehta conceptualised and executed the whole project. The second



toy distribution took place on Monday 18th November 2024 at All Bengal Womens' Union on Elliot Road where 56 children aged 3-6 years of Val Wabi Vidyalaya received gifts of toys. Club Secretary Sohini Banerjee, VP Vibha Mehta, PP Sunita Agarwala and Rtn. Sudipta Sen were present. Cakes and biscuits were given to all the children sponsored by Sunita Agarwala. A Third toy distribution to spread joy is scheduled at Arunima Hospice on 21st December 2024 to celebrate Christmas. More such toy distribution is on the anvil in 2025 to spread joy.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

- Joint Meeting with R.C. Belur & R.C.C. Chowringhee at Conclave (4th Floor) at 12.30pm Meeting to be followed by lunch.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

- Educationist - Mr. Babar Ali



Stephanie A Urchick
RI President



Dr Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor



Rajnish Mehta
President



Sohini Banerjee
Secretary



Lata Bhatia
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor

AWARENESS CAMP

On Sunday 17th November 2024 an awareness camp was held at RCC Kanthalberia to explain the need for vaccination of young girls to prevent cervical cancer which is a killer disease in India. Rtn. Dr. Dipanwita Banerjee gave a lucid talk explaining beautifully the need for such vaccination to the 40+ people assembled there. Club Secretary Sohini Banerjee, Vice President Dr. Vibha Mehta, PP Sunita Agarwala, Rotarians Sutapa Das and Sudipta Sen were also present. At the end of the programme the Victorians



were treated to a tasty home cooked lunch by the RCC members. It was decided that the first dose of the vaccine would be administered to 40 girls on 22nd December 2024. This is being sponsored by PP Sunita Agarwala and her family in the memory of her sister, late Sumitra Kejriwal.



Family News



Radhika Agarwala daughter of Sunita & Shashi Agarwala has been a painter for many years. She has now switched to sculpture and is receiving accolades like her paintings. Her recent creation is being exhibited at Emami gallery. Congratulations Radhika

Inspired by Virginia Woolf's reflection that "We are all bodies of water. Bodies need water, but water also needs a body." Radhika Agarwala's sculpture 'Water Flows

Through These Veins', cast in bronze and patina explores relationship between our physical existence, the natural world and the environmental scars left by our actions. The work reveals degeneration, movement and existence of water and debris together.

Venue of Exhibition: Emami Art- Gallery 2 & 3, Ground Floor, Kolkata Centre for Creativity 777, Anandapur EM Bypass, Kolkata – 700 107

GOODWILL VISIT



PP Dr. Jai Nath Gurtu, PP Col. M.M. Burman, V.P. Dr. Vibha Mehta & Club Secretary Sohini Banerjee went for a goodwill visit to RC Calcutta on Tuesday 19th November 2024. RC Calcutta Rotarians were very warm and hospitable. Club flags were exchanged. The guest speaker **Ms. Suman Manaksia** spoke very well on Second Innings of Happiness.

Reported by – **Sohini Banerjee**

Deepatika



District Bijoya Diwali meet that was organised at Eastern Metropolitan Club on Sunday 27th October 2024 was a fun filled evening of music, dancing, good food and lots of bonhomie. The evening started with a short speech by DG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta followed by distribution of certificates to several challenged boys and girls who had

received training in bakery, food packaging and kitchen work sponsored by RCC Avyanna and Eastern Metropolitan Club. Some of them were so good at their work that the club was ready to employ them. In fact a stall was put up where cookies and muffins made by them were being sold. An excellent project by RCC Avyanna.



Stage was then taken by a group of singers (all Rotarians), member of International Chapter of Musicians and they enthralled all present with a variety of songs. The accompanying musicians on their various instruments were very good. Some got up to dance and soon others joined them. Later in the evening the star attraction- singer Gourab Sarkar who was 1st runner up in Sur Sangam and also

Zee Bangla Sa-re-ga-ma took the stage and captivated all present with his repertoire of songs sung in his mellifluous voice. The snacks and food were quite good. All in all an enjoyable evening. President Rajnish Mehta, K.K.Jha, Chhanda Banerji, Lata Bhatia, Seema Danda, Arvind and Rumana Agrawal were present at the programme. And of course Dr. Krishnendu Gupta.

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA VICTORIA BOARD 2025 - 26

Nominations are invited for the election of office Bearers constituting President, President Elect, Vice President, Club Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-arms and a maximum of six Directors for the board for 2025-26.

Nominations should be submitted to the Chair, Nominating Committee, Past President Chhanda Banerji, in a sealed envelope or by e-mail at cchandabanerji@yahoo.co.in not later than 30th November 2024.

Words of Wisdom



Artificial Intelligence is a very IN topic today- 'A new kid on the block', said Mr. Abhishek Kar - deputy head-technology at Injunction Services

Ltd. who was the guest speaker at the club's regular meeting on 9th November 2024. He spoke about various aspects of AI, how it is created, its pros and cons. In creating a 3D model everything is digitally defined. Texts were being converted into speech with sync.lips and animate face and then broadcasted. Human clones were being made. He said humans were in control but AI was an extremely efficient assistant. It can be used to reduce routine workload like data collection, converting text into script, reviewing, printing. AI had the ability to perform tasks like planning, reasoning, creativity etc. It is more efficient than google search matter. It selects the best suited algorithm out of a set of algorithms. ML (machine learning) was a branch of AI that focuses on the creation of intelligent machines that learn from data. If Cleopatra lived today how would she look like? Her face would be created by studying the facial structure of people of that era and area. John McCarthy is considered father of AI who proposed and modified the concept of AI. How can it help? It can execute orders, provide multiple pointed answers, provide more sophisticated design and ease of use, generate better summaries, give in time feedback due to sync. with several apps/sites etc. Very useful in healthcare, manufacturing, HR (saving time and making operation smoother). Useful in retail, customer assistance, good teachers (education), fraud detection and so on. and on. However there are negative aspects too. There will be loss of jobs, generating emotions, in areas of creativity like sports and entertainment, greenhouse effect due to generation & storage, driverless autos on busy streets can spell disaster AND it is an unknown territory. There was a lot of interaction at the end of the talk. Abhishek was introduced by Shampa Chakraborty and thanked by Seema Danda. A memento was presented to him by Vibha Mehta.

Celebration of Children's Day



Approximately 598 children-of the evening section of St. Lawrence school were given chips, cookies and cake on the occasion of Children's Day. A magic show was also organised for their entertainment. This event was sponsored by RCC Victoria. The Club was represented by VP Vibha Mehta who also addressed the excited audience. They were all very enthused and were Clapping and cheering and singing songs in their best dresses. Their excitement when they heard from me about the magic show was so amazing



SUCHIKALA



Vocational Training programme in stitching and tailoring for ladies have commenced for the next term at RCC Kanthalberia. An on going project the ladies after completing the course are benefitting a lot.

Seminar on Polio

Towards Polio Free World A District seminar was organised on 29th October 2024 at Gyan Manch on Polio shared by DG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta. It was well attended. Some decisions that were taken are listed below:

- ◆ Encourage Rotarians to participate during NIDs and SNIDs and promote polio vaccination.
- ◆ Rotarians to contribute generously to the PolioPlus Fund of TRF and pledge to become Members of "PolioPlus Society".
- ◆ Support the efforts of the Government in its efforts to keep India polio-free.
- ◆ Keep the momentum to spread the importance to keep India polio-free by enhancing/increasing visibility about the disease by public rallies, social media, visual aids etc.

DG DR. KRISHNENDU GUPTA & SIMRAN have contributed USD 2200 (Rs. 1,84,800/-)towards Polio Plus fund. Till date their contribution to Polio Plus Fund is USD 32,500/- Thank you Krishnendu and Simran for being such a generous donor.

Enigma of Fireflies

In many forests in South India and elsewhere on a clear star lit evenings, the night comes alive with thousands of fireflies twinkling away - a wonder to watch. Fireflies communicate through their glow, lighting up vast forest areas. There are over 2000 firefly species worldwide and they have their own typical light pattern, rhythms of light which they repeat through the night particularly to find a mate. They show diverse lighting formation. Bright light hamper their mating process and they perish. They are not affected by red light but cannot function in white light(LED light). Rains are important in the lifecycle of fireflies and to their bioluminescence. They are farmers friends for their larvae eat agricultural pests. However pesticides, insecticides decimate them. A beautiful gift of nature they should be appreciated and their nocturnal habitats protected.

INTERACTORS IN ACTION



DEBATE COMPETITION: A debate competition between four interact Clubs was held on 19th October 2024 at HHI at RCCV's Regular Meeting. The topic of the debate was " In the opinion of the house the Olympic games are a waste of resources ". Interact Clubs of St. James School, St. Johns Diocesan School, Pratt Memorial and Calcutta International School participated with 2 members from each club. One FOR the motion and another AGAINST the motion. Other Interact members had come along to encourage them. Teacher co-ordinator Mrs. Juthika Mall from CIS was present too. The Interactors debated enthusiastically with both sides coming out with valid reasonings. Some said it was a colossal waste of money as many of the huge stadiums built lie unused later on. Players village too often are not wholly made use of after the games. Speakers gave

examples and statistics to prove their point. Many countries run into huge debts. On the opposite side speakers spoke about focus on health and fitness, the interaction with players of many nations which is very enriching. Peace and cooperation is a big plus point. Cities that host Olympic games

greatly improve their infrastructure. and so on. It was a closely contested competition and the 2 judges Chhanda Banerji and Shampa Chakraborty had a hard time deciding on the best speaker. Moderator Vibha Mehta did an excellent job with occasional witty remarks. Time keeper Lata Bhatia did a meticulous job. At the end of the debate an opinion poll was taken from the audience. By a majority vote it was proclaimed that Olympic Games are NOT a waste of resources and must go on. Miss Tayabi Jamin of St. Johns Diocesan School was adjudged the best speaker. 2nd prize went to Miss Sohani Ray of St. Johns Diocesan School . 3rd prize was won by Mr. Adhwin Athani of Calcutta International School. Everyone agreed more such stimulating debates should be organised. Input by Kashmiri Marwah



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: The Interact Club of St. James School celebrated the festival of lights at their school premises on 29th October 2024. It is their annual event. The programme was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by chief guest Ms. Payel Mukherjee from Tollywood, Principal Dr. Ireland, Rajnish Mehta President RCCV and teacher coordinator Mr. J.Chacko. The school premises was beautifully decorated with rangoli and lights. The programme commenced with the school band playing a number which set the stage on fire. There was music and dance. School dance team, ex- school team both put up excellent performances. The evening school 'Ekta' won everyone's heart by their choreography and performance. Popular Band HUM SUFI left a lasting impression. Children were entertained by a magic show. Gifts and food packets were given to all the children which lit up their faces. It was an evening to remember.

GUEST SPEAKER



BABAR ALI

- ◆ Social Entrepreneur Public Speaker & Educationist.
- ◆ Founder & Headmaster, Ananda Siksha Niketan, West Bengal, India
- ◆ Babar Ali started a school named "Ananda Siksha Niketan" (Home of Joyful Learning) in the backyard of his family's home when he was nine years old, bringing affordable education to an impoverished area of West Bengal, India. At the age of 16, he was named as "Youngest Headmaster in the World" by the BBC. As a TED fellow and public speaker, Babar Ali inspired many individuals and organizations with his mission "Education for All". For the last 20 years since its inception, more than 7000 students benefited from complete free education from this institution. His biography is a part of the syllabus in different curricula across the globe. Hon'ble President of India, His Excellency, Shri Ramnath Kovind mentioned him and his work in his speech towards the nation on 25 January 2020.
- ◆ 2013 Bachelor's in English Honours, Krishnath College, Murshidabad. MA (Double, Under Kalyani University, West Bengal.
- ◆ 2017 Post Graduation, English and History, Kalyani University
- ◆ He is recipient of several awards. In 2009 he received 'Real Hero Award by CNN IBN. In the same year BBC bestowed on him 'The Youngest Headmaster Award'. Since then also received *Indian of the year by NDTV,* Literacy Hero by Rotary India Literacy Mission, *Indian Iconic Award by Rotary International. *Rising Literacy Hero by International Literacy Association, *Education Leadership, *Teacher Warrior by Global Education Trust, *Forbes 30 under 30, *Hero of the Nation from Government of India (ministry of women & child development and ministry of external affairs),* Republic Heroes of Change.

Happy Wedding

Anniversary



*Roopa & Siddhartha
Mitra • 20th November*

*Varsha & Sobuj Ghatak
• 24th November*

*Sutapa & Pradosh Das
• 24th November*

*Dr. Krishnendu & Dr.
Simran Gupta • 26th
November*

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- ◆ **30th November:** Mega Digital Hearing Aid Camp at Ideal School for the Deaf at Salt Lake at 10am.
- ◆ **7th December:** Distribution of 'Writers' at the Lighthouse for the Blind
- ◆ **7th November:** Fellowship at Ladies Golf Club
- ◆ **14th December:** Regular Meeting at HHI at 12.30 pm
- ◆ **21st December:** Distribution of toys at Arunima Hospice
- ◆ **22nd December:** Camp for vaccination of girls for prevention of cervical cancer at RCC Kanthalberia.
- ◆ **28th December:** Annual Meeting at HHI - 12.30pm




The
Rotary
Foundation






Stephanie A Urchick
R | President
2024 - 2025

Dr Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor
2024 - 2025

Anisudha Roychowdhury
R | Director 2023 - 2025
(Zone 5 & 6)

Sudip Mukherjee
DRFC 2022 - 2025
District 3291

Rotary Foundation Seminar 2024

Registration: Rs 500/-

**FOLLOWED BY
HIGH TEA**




*Please deposit the amount
to the following bank account*

Account Name:
RID 3291 A/C Events 24-25
A/C Number: 402024202511
IFSC: RATN0000311
Bank Name: RBL Bank

SUNDAY
24 NOVEMBER 2024
TIME: 2 PM - 6 PM



The International Management Institute
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