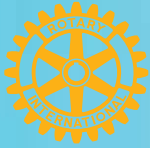


VOICE OF VICTORIA

Rotary
Calcutta Victoria
District 3291



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WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE MONTH

Saturday, March 8, 2025

International Women's Day



8th March is celebrated as 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY' (IWD) all over the world to promote dialogue on laws and social issues that affect women's lives. It also ensures global solidarity amongst women from diverse background. The first International Women's Day was celebrated on 19th March 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany & Switzerland. The day was celebrated to promote women's right. How did it start? In 1909 the Socialist party of America held the first National Women's Day in USA in New York city on 28th February. In 1910, Clara Zetkin, a German activist proposed the idea of IWD and the First one was held in 19.03.1911. In 1921 the date was officially changed to

8th March. The United Nations formally recognised and officially adopted IWD in 1977. The inception of National Women's Day in India may be traced back to the Indian Government's recognition of Sarojini Naidu's outstanding achievement to women's rights. As a homage to her contribution February 13 (her birthday) was declared as National Women's Day. The day is a celebration and recognition of women's achievements. To commemorate International Women's Day RCC Victoria has invited Mrs. Sraboni Sarkar Neogi, a child rights activist who has set up her organisation "Hamari Muskan" - a rights based NGO, to address the members and guests.

SHANTHI



A District Seminar on Peace and Public Image was held on Saturday 22nd February 2025 at Asutosh Centenary Hall, Indian Museum. RCCV was one of the host clubs. This was held in association with NIP (an education and cultural centre for differently abled). A programme with specially abled people, a Braille competition and Art exhibition of paintings & photographs of marginalised artists were held and much appreciated. District Governor Dr. Krishnendu Gupta presided at the event which was covered by Doordarshan and reported in the 10pm news.

Today's Programme

- ◆ Felicitation of Ms. Sraboni Sarkar Neogi, a child rights activist, for her outstanding contribution and unwavering dedication.
- ◆ She will speak on her organisation 'Hamari Muskan'.



Stephanie A Urchick
RI President



Dr Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor



Rajnish Mehta
President



Sohini Banerjee
Secretary



Lata Bhatia
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor

UTHE SABKE KADAM



A camp to provide artificial limbs - A Rotary Global Grant project (GG 2570766), started on 2nd March 2025 at Ekbalpore, Kolkata. This GG project has a budget of US\$ 88740 (75.42 lakhs) and would provide 1200 Artificial Legs, 500 Calipers, 25 Hands, 25 Modular Foot, 100 Club Foot & 50 Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation. The

project would take 15/16 months to complete. This Rotary initiative is in partnership with 17 Rotary Clubs from Finland, One Club & a NGO from UK, 5 Rotary International Districts, 4 Rotary Clubs from RID 3291, Young Indians and Mahavir Seva Sadan. The participatory clubs from RID 3291 are RCC Chowrenghee, RCC



Mayfair, RCC Victoria and RCC Metropolitan. The collective journey of this noble project started in 2021. Within a span of 4 years the 3rd edition of USK has commenced. The Victorians who attended the inauguration of the camp were President Rajnish Mehta, Col. Man Mohan Burman and Ashok Kothari.



SPORTS MEET



St. Lawrence Night school had their annual sports meet on Saturday 1st February 2025 at the school grounds like every year. Their were lots of sports events and the children had an enjoyable time. RCC

Victoria provided 450 food packets for them sponsored by Sunita Agarwala, Ashok Kothari, Col. M. M .Burman and Rajnish Mehta. RCC Victoria has been supporting their sports day for many years

ROVING ROTARIAN



Rtn. Julie Sen visited Rotary Club of Santa Fe, USA, District 5520. She also met Rtn Tim Simon, DG 2025-26.

Joint Meeting



A joint meeting was held on Saturday 8th February 2025 at Conclave along with RC Calcutta Avyanna, RC Calcutta Mayfair and RC Calcutta Metropolitan. There was good fellowship with a lot of interaction between the members of the four clubs. Ms. Sharda Radhakrishnan,

an ardent animal lover was the guest speaker. She has set up an animal hospital, 'CHHAYA' which is operating since 2008. She spoke about her journey and gave details of how she founded the hospital almost single handedly. It is a safe haven for animals in need.

The hospital not only takes care of the animals medically but are also given a lot of love and care which was so essential. She was thanked for her illuminating talk and presented with gift. The four club Presidents exchanged flags/gifts before terminating the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER



Ms. Sraboni Sarkar Neogi's foray into social work started from her early childhood. She grew up in a household

where every ideology was respected irrespective of class, caste, religion or gender. She realised the contrast between 'her world' and the other 'unfair world' she met on the streets and knew something should be done about it. In class VII Sraboni became a member of the 'Night Class Champions' teaching street children as part of school volunteer service. At age 14, she joined the para elders to teach slum children at the local library. She was actively encouraged by her father and uncles and their influence was far reaching. All her activities are based on equality

and equity. In college Sraboni became part of Nari Nirjatan Pratirodh Manch (NNPM) - a platform for women activities. A firm believer in child rights, she has worked for rehabilitation of children and adolescent girls - especially survivors of sexual trafficking, slavery, domestic violence, street children and HIV+ & AIDS victims. She believes in creating resilience among them to become future leaders through educational and psychological intervention. Some of her stints have been at Sanlaap and Apne Aap. Her organisation 'Hamari Muskan' is a rights based family first NGO whose framework stands on non-rote learning, education and nutrition for all, skill development and alternate livelihood. She is also into combating trafficking and prostitution. She has received an award from The Telegraph in recognition of her outstanding work.

Happy Birthday!



Dr. Shashi Prabha Rohatgi

8th March

Lata Bhatia

28th March

Happy Wedding Anniversary



Vibha & Rajnish Mehta

14th March

WORDS OF WISDOM



At the regular meeting on 11th January 2025, Ms. Neha Pradhan, the guest speaker spoke about her work in creating safe spaces for adolescents & women. Crimes against children were increasing. The children were vulnerable to various abuse like sexual, parental (hitting), online, substance abuse and so on. All this has an impact on the child that needed to be addressed. Many cases go unreported. Protection and prevention were possible. Parents and teachers must talk to children and make them aware. Mrs. Neha Pradhan's organisation "MUDITA" has developed tools for various age groups to help children, adolescents and others, who were emotionally and economically vulnerable. Tools were in the form of games, drawings, art, video and films. The organisation was helping create safe spaces in communities. First responders in communities were police, doctors etc. Approach was a very collaborative one. Public awareness was important. Between 2019 - 2024 Mudita has reached out to 11000 people by working with partners. Social media is also an important tool. A short video was screened by her which highlighted the organisation's work. It was a very informative talk and there was a lot of interaction. She was introduced by Sachiv Nijhawan and thanked by Chhanda Banerji.

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MORNING BLOOMS



Bengal is India's third largest flower producer after Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, growing around 10,000 tonnes a year, generating income for thousands. From the hub at Mallick Ghat, these flowers are sent out to various corners of the country and even to foreign shores. Many traders export to Europe and West Asia. The market springs to life before dawn, even before the first ray of the sun touches the water of the Hooghly. The place is a riot of colour in the mornings with flowers of various hues spread over a large area.

HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA



Hindu Kush Himalaya is called the Water Tower of Asia. WHY? It is because the HKH mountain range that spans 8 countries and stretches 3500 Km. across Asia is the source of 10 large rivers of Asia and serves the water needs of 16 countries HKH is also known as the THIRD Pole. WHY? That is because it

has the third largest amount of snow after the North & South poles. Holds more than 1,00,000 sq.km. of glacier, it's water output serves livelihood needs of about 2.2 billion people in Asia, including much of China, India, S.E. Asia, Pakistan and Central Asia upto the Aral sea. The perennial flow of the rivers

originating here - the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus and the Yellow river supports about one third of the world's population and countless irreplaceable species. Unfortunately increased Global Warming and spells of heat wave are leading to glacial melt at an alarming rate It is a challenge that HAS to be addressed.