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MAHANAGAR Magic



DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH



RI President - Stephanie A Urchick
District Governor - AKS Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

President - Pramila Dugar
Secretary - Sandeep Bagrecha

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President's Message



Dear Past Presidents,

January 2nd holds a special place in the hearts of all Mahanagaris as it marks the birthday of our beloved club. To make this year's celebration even more memorable, I, as the President, warmly invite all our esteemed Past Presidents to take center stage with a special performance!

Let's add a touch of grandeur to the occasion with some group dance, drama, skit, comedy, or anything your heart desires. This year, the spotlight is on you, and we can't wait to see the magic you bring to the stage.

So, dear Past Presidents, let's make this club birthday truly unforgettable with your enthusiasm and creativity. Looking forward to your participation!

Warm regards,

Pramila Dugar

RWM-29th Nov



Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar, the guest speaker, led an engaging session on heritage conservation and wellness. Key highlights included the restoration of Ramgarh Fort, the Vedaaranya Heritage and Healing Festival, and initiatives empowering over 1,000 rural women through skill development.

The event emphasized the importance of preserving intangible heritage and promoting wellness. It was a highly successful and engrossing RWM, thoroughly enjoyed by all members.

Fellowship cum RWM : Feel the Chill



The "Feel the Chill" event on **1st December** welcomed winter with a refreshing morning of group yoga, chanting, and a delightful breakfast.

Set amidst the serene environment of Horticulture Gardens, the session brought participants peace, positivity, and new energy. A special thanks to Mahendra ji for his warm hospitality and the delicious breakfast that added to the charm of the event.

The morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all, leaving everyone rejuvenated and filled with gratitude. A heartfelt thank you to Pramila ji and Mahendra ji for making this event memorable.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) was a prestigious leadership development program organized by Rotary International, on **13th December** to empower and nurture young leaders. The 2024-25 edition, titled Unmesh, was hosted by Rotary District 3291 and led by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna, Rotary Club of Calcutta Charnock City, Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, and Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence. Held on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of December, 2024, at Dhyan Ashram, Joka, the event provided participants with opportunities to enhance their leadership skills, foster teamwork, and embrace community service through engaging workshops and activities.



PROJECTS



Skill Development



A Skill Development - Madhyamgram area. There are 60+ beneficiaries, all are female and belongs to Widow, Single Mother category or their children upto certain age. This training is on security. Global Grant 1871537 partner Bitan Institute for Training Awareness and Networking. The cost to complete the training center along with placement is approx. INR 2.8 Lacs.



Save Mangroves



We are pleased to share that our mangrove restoration project from **11th to 13th December** in the Sundarbans has made excellent progress. Ms. Meenakshi Venkateshwar from the Action Group visited the site and expressed her satisfaction with the initiative's impact. We thank Rtn. Shyam



Modi, a dedicated Mangrove Committee member, for accompanying her despite his busy schedule. The mid-term evaluation, under the "Save the Mangroves" initiative, was covered by our correspondent Niloy and Shyam Modi. This milestone reflects the dedication of everyone involved in preserving this vital ecosystem.



Adult Literacy includes GST



- 28/11 : The Akshar Sathi team—Sahida Bibi, Nurnahar Khatun, and Suchitra Kahar—from NGO Srishti Foundation distributed adult literacy books to learners today in South 24 Parganas (North). Each literacy center supported 40 beneficiaries at a project cost of Rs. 14,000.
- 8/12 : Two adult literacy centers were inaugurated under Global Grant 2459-210 by the Medha Foundation at Namkhana and Peerpur Gram Seva Samiti at Habra, empowering communities through education. A total of 1,200 books were distributed to support and uplift the needy.
- Adult Literacy GG 2459210 Report : On Sunday, 8th December 2024, we visited Basirhat (North 24 Parganas) to review the operations of two adult literacy centers managed by our NGO partner, Shrishti Foundation. These centers are part of a larger initiative that will benefit 1,200 adult learners across 30 centers in the region. During the visit, we also distributed 250 fruit-bearing tree saplings to villagers, contributing to both environmental sustainability and community welfare. The visit was attended by President Pramila Dugar, Rtn Mahendra Singal, and myself, with our club executive, Nilay Modak.
- 9/12 : Dispelling Darkness - The Power of Literacy Page : Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) in collaboration with Coal India Limited is creating waves of change! This change is not about learning - it's about redefining lives and creating a legacy of empowered lives. RILM and CIL together have established 375 Vidya Centres across districts of West Bengal, touching the lives of 15,000 adult non-literates. Literacy isn't just a skill - it's freedom, independence and dignity.
- The Adult Literacy Center at Baishata Mandalpara Vidya Center 2 has been a beacon of hope and empowerment for the community. Successfully running in the heart of the Baishata Mandalpara area, this initiative has transformed lives by equipping adults with the fundamental skills of reading and writing.



Water and Sanitation



We are pleased to share that the inauguration of our first Water Kiosk (2024-25) took place at 1D-Jodhpur Park, Kolkata-68, on Monday, 2nd December. This initiative, graciously supported by our member Rtn Vivek Chowdhury, was organized in association with the Jodhpur Park Saradiya Utsab Committee. The event was graced by Mrs. Mousumi Roy (Councillor, Ward 93), PRIP Shekhar

Mehta, and DG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta. We thank all members who joined us to support this significant community initiative.



Medical Camp



The first medical camp was organized on the 1st of December at Jadavpur NK Pal Adarsha Shikshayatin Praktani Samiti, where 125 patients were screened. Out of these, 8 individuals were provided with spectacles, and 2 were advised to undergo surgery. The event was a great success and was sponsored by Rotarian Anuradha Agarwal, reflecting her commitment to community health and wellness.

The second medical camp was held on the 14th of December at Udayarajpur Barasat, organized by Srishti Cricket Academy. This camp offered general check-ups, along with eye and dental testing, catering to 86 patients. During the camp, 3 patients were recommended for cataract surgery at our Netralaya, and 24 were provided with spectacles, contributing significantly to their eye health. It was sponsored by Rotarian Anuradha Agarwal.



Netralaya



We are pleased to share that a state-of-the-art PHACO machine, costing Rs. 21 lacs, was received and successfully installed at Netralaya. This was made possible through a generous CSR contribution of Rs. 21 lacs donated by Mr. Nitin Agarwal, husband of our member Anuradha Agarwal. The funds were routed through Rotary Foundation India. It is noteworthy that this was the first and only CSR grant from Eastern India to be routed through Rotary Foundation India to date.



The remarkable success and smooth functioning of the Netralaya is truly commendable. From November to December 17th, 2024, the team achieved an impressive milestone by performing a total of 552 cataract surgeries. In November alone, they completed 401 surgeries, including 8 PHACO procedures, 41 PAID SICS, 10 YAG LASER treatments, 3 USG screenings, 201 FREE SICS under the Global Grant, and 140 SICS under NPCB. Continuing this excellence, by December 17th, they performed an additional 151 surgeries, comprising 5 PHACO, 10 PAID SICS, 4 USG screenings, 84 FREE SICS under the Global Grant, and 51 SICS under NPCB. This unwavering dedication reflects the Netralaya's pivotal role in delivering exceptional eye care and transforming countless lives.

The DTC Group, has been helping HCG Rotary Mahanagar Netralaya by providing free transportation to patients for cataract surgeries over the past six months. Their efforts, focused on urban slums in the Sundarbans, earned them the prestigious Sundarban Gourab Sanman. Mr. Joyjit Mukherjee, the CSR Manager of DTC Group, has been doing an outstanding job leading these initiatives.





On December 17, 2024, an eye camp at the Homeopathic Clinic examined 34 patients. Spectacles were prescribed to 22 individuals (17 males and 5 females), and 12 cases required surgical intervention.



On December 18, 2024, 43 surgeries took place. All the surgeries were successful.



On December 19, 2024, 25 OT were done. All the surgeries were successful.



Inauguration of the Physiotherapy Unit



We are delighted to announce the inauguration of the Physiotherapy Unit, a joint project of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar and Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (Kolkata), on 15th December 2024 at Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, located at 69/K, Prince Baktair Shah Road, Kolkata. This long-pending project has finally taken shape due to the consistent efforts of Rtn. Raj Somani and the visionary leadership of Immediate Past President Jyoti Mahipal. The funds raised through the Bhagwat Katha in 2023-24 have been utilized to set up this unit. The serene and positive environment of this facility will serve as a beacon of healing, offering physiotherapy, yoga, and ayurveda to benefit countless individuals. Hats off to the dedicated team for turning this dream into reality.



Healing Little Hearts



1) Ms. Trishika Debnath, a 2-year-old girl from Santipur, Nadia, required VSD+PDA surgery. Her father, employed as a worker in a saree shop, earns a monthly income of Rs. 8,000. The total cost of the surgery was Rs. 3,60,000.

The child was admitted to RN Tagore Hospital on November 27, 2024. With the support of our Global Grant, her surgery was successfully completed today.

2) Ms. Arpita Naskar, a 7-year-old girl from 29, Garfa School Lane, Kolkata, needed open-heart surgery. Her father, a daily laborer with a monthly income of Rs. 5,000, faced an estimated surgery cost of Rs. 1,40,000. She was admitted to the hospital on November 27, 2024, and today, her surgery was successfully performed.

3) Master Ishan Halder, a 9-month-old boy from Canning, South 24 Parganas, urgently needed Coarctation surgery. His father, a daily laborer, earned a modest monthly income of Rs. 5,000, while the surgery cost approximately Rs. 2,83,000. The surgery was successfully performed on December 7, 2024, at RN Tagore Hospital. We covered the full cost of the surgery.



Bloodline



Between November 28, 2024, and December 17, 2024, our club successfully organized five blood grouping camps and registered a total of 252 SOS donors for our Bloodline initiative. The first camp was held on December 7, 2024, at “Matia Milan Sanha,” Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, where 15 donors were registered. The second camp took place on December 8, 2024, at Shramik Mangal Kendra, Belur, Howrah, in association with K-1 India and Sansar, registering 29 donors. During this period, we also met the needs of seven patients. Subsequently, three more camps were conducted: the first on December 13, 2024, at Muraripukur Santi Sangha, Kolkata, where 18 donors were registered; the second on December 15, 2024, at Medical Bank, Sovabazar, Kolkata, which saw an impressive 110 donors; and the third on



December 17, 2024, at Dinabandhu Andrews Institute of Technology and Management, Patuli, Kolkata, registering 80 donors. These efforts significantly strengthened our Bloodline and addressed urgent medical needs in the community.



Dignity



The Skill Development Grant GG 1871537 has facilitated vocational training in West Bengal, focusing on trades such as Hospitality Management, Beauty & Wellness, and Retail Sales.

At the BITAN Institute for Training, Awareness, and Networking in

Madhyamgram, 60 individuals have commenced training as Security Guards and Home-Based Care Givers.

Partner centers in Budge Budge and Baruipur are also contributing to these skill development initiatives, collectively enhancing employability and supporting economic growth in the region.





Homeopathy



19 patients were treated on 28th November 2024, 16 patients were treated on 30th November 2024, 24 patients were treated on 7th December 2024 and 15 patients were treated on 12th December 2024 at Homeopathy Clinic at Bhowanipore operated by Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar.



Annadan Mahadan



- 5th December : Rotarian Sanjay and Pinky Sinha organized a food distribution drive near Dhakuria Bridge, serving nutritious meals to 250 people in need.
- 9th December : Rotarian Sanjay and Pramila Dugar extended their support by providing meals to 250 underprivileged individuals near Shambunath Hospital, ensuring no one went hungry.
- 10th December : A heartwarming initiative sponsored by Rotarian Raj and Seema Somani saw 250 people served with food near Chittaranjan Hospital, Hazra, spreading hope and kindness.



Food Bank



Under our Foodbank initiative, we distributed Maggi, chocolates, and ration kits to support the needy, spreading warmth and hope through small but meaningful acts of kindness.





**ELECTION OF MEMBERS
OF BOARD OF
DIRECTORS 2025-26**

To elect the team for Rotary Year 2025-26, Nominations are hereby invited for following positions:
President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 5 Directors

Nominations are to be filled with the Presiding Officer at his office - **Skyline House**, 145 Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata-26 by 5 PM on Monday, **23rd December 2024**. Tuesday **24th December 2024** will be the last date for withdrawal of nomination.
The Nominating Committee will meet on Thursday **26th December 2024** at 6.30pm.

Election, if any, will be held on Friday **27th December 2024** at the Regular Weekly Meeting, if required.
Board to be announced on 27th December 2024.

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
SHALL COMPRISE OF: PRID RTN.**

PRIP Shekhar Mehta : Chair
President Pramila Dugar : President
IPPJyoti Mahipal : Member
PPManish Biyani : Member
PPAshok Agarwal : Member

Congratulations...



Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, renowned for his global efforts to eradicate child labor and advocate for children's education, has been inducted as an honorary member of Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar. Since founding the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save Childhood Movement) in 1980, Satyarthi has been instrumental in liberating over 86,000 children from exploitation in India. His leadership in the 1998 Global March Against Child Labour, spanning 103 countries, significantly contributed to the adoption of the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor. Satyarthi's commitment to children's rights continues to inspire collective action against child exploitation worldwide.

**MINUTES OF THE 1384th REGULAR
WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF
CALCUTTA MAHANAGAR HELD ON FRIDAY,
29th NOVEMBER 2024 AT THE CONCLAVE**

- Meeting started with a prayer by President Pramila Dugar followed by Club business by Secretary Sandeep Bagrecha.
- Later our Guest Speaker Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar delivered a profound session on vibrational healing and the importance of preserving tangible and intangible heritage.
- Approximately 25-30 members were present.
- Special attendees included Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar and her daughter, the incoming President of Rotary Chowringhee.
- Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar received a token of appreciation for her inspiring session.

Token of Appreciation



Appreciation Memento received from National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB) Swathya Bhawan, to Mahanagar Netralaya for conducting a 4-day Eye Camp for them. About 500 people eyes were checked.

SCULPTED TREASURES
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DESIGNS

Rtn. Sandeep & Pooja Bagrecha

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