



MAHANAGAR Magic

August is Membership & New Club Development Month

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

President - Pramila Dugar
Secretary - Sandeep Bagrecha

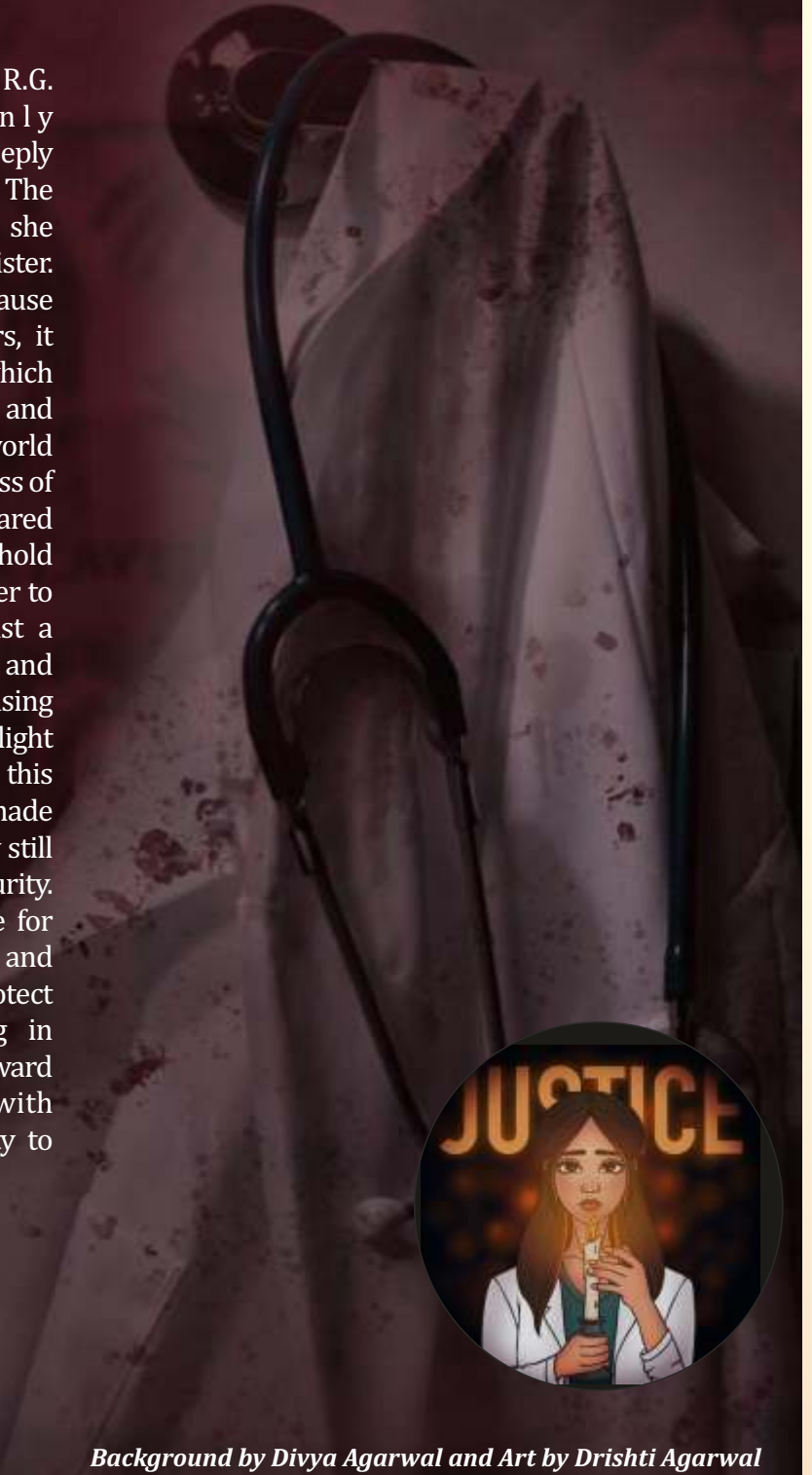
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The President's Note

The tragic incident at R.G. Medical is not only heartbreaking but also deeply troubling on many levels. The victim wasn't just a doctor; she was also a daughter and a sister.

She lost her life simply because she was a woman. As women and mothers, it breaks our hearts to witness such events, which reveal the harsh realities of our society and remind us that we've failed to create a world where everyone can live without fear, regardless of gender. As members of this society, it's our shared responsibility to push for change. We need to hold those in power accountable and work together to build a community where equality isn't just a concept but a reality for everyone. Protests and media coverage aren't enough. Instead of focusing solely on the victim's image, we should highlight the process of bringing those responsible for this horrific act to justice. While women have made significant progress in breaking barriers, they still face challenges in the name of safety and security. To achieve true progress, we must advocate for stricter punishments for these terrible crimes and empower women with the tools to protect themselves. Including self-defense training in every girl's education is a crucial step toward helping them live without fear and with confidence. As Rotarians, it's our moral duty to drive change in society.



Background by Divya Agarwal and Art by Drishti Agarwal

What's Inside...

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PROJECTS



Shelter Kit

14.08.2024



22.08.2024



On the 14th of August, 50 shelter kits were packed with enthusiasm and dedication by members. Later, on the 22nd of August, Rotary Wanyard District Relief successfully distributed 100 shelter kits that were sent by our Club. This entire project was a collaborative effort involving the Rotary Club of Bombay and the India Humanity Foundation.



Blood line

25.08.2024



The Bloodline initiative involved a medical camp and blood group testing camp at Rotary Vivekananda School. During this event, 250 students received medical check-ups, and 150 students underwent blood group testing.



Netralaya

25.08.2024



Under the eye check-up and medical camps initiative, a free eye check-up was conducted on the 25th of August at Banipet Girls High School for 51 girls. The event was attended by the Director of Medical Services, Rotarian Girish Soni, along with the Netralaya team.

25.08.2024



Eye camps were organized for the people at Canning 2, Jeevantala. Regular free eye checkup camps held at Hari Charan Garg Rotary Netralaya.



Rotary Vivekananda School

27.08.2024



382 students at Rotary Vivekananda School appeared for the 2nd term exams.



Annadan Mahadan

11.08.2024



Anandan at Navneer old age home at Chetla by Pooja Agarwal, a friend of Rtn. Jyoti Mahipal. 90 senior citizens were provided mid day meal.

12.08.2024



Annadaan by Anuja Banthia at Sambhunath Pandit Hospital where 350 people were provided meal.

15.08.2024



Outside Shambhunath Pandit Hospital Rotarian Ashok Singhvi sponsored meals for 350 people.

18.08.2024



Kalighat Tram Depot on the 18th : Another 350 people were provided with meals, supported by Rotarian Sanjay Bhalotia and Rotarian Kavita Bhalotia.



Project Food Bank

15.08.2024



- Kodulia, Sonarpur : Cereals and chocolates were distributed to children, spreading joy and happiness.
- Surya Uday School : Kellogg's cereals, Meri Kitab copies and cakes, sponsored by Rotarian Shyam Modi, were distributed to the kids.
- Vivekananda Park : On the morning of 15th August, Kellogg's cereals from the food bank were distributed to 600 beneficiaries.



23.08.2024 Kellogg's cereals were distributed in the villages around Kolkata by members of RCCM.



Save Mangroves

07.08.2024



Under the **Save Mangroves** initiative, which includes a grant for beekeeping, an update was shared by our associate, Nilay Madok, reporting excellent progress. This initiative not only supports environmental conservation by protecting mangroves but also promotes sustainable livelihoods through beekeeping.



Adult Literacy Center

30.07.2024



The **Adult Literacy Centres** of RCCM are currently being supported through funds raised from a golf tournament. This initiative is in collaboration with the Sundarban Social Development Centre and the Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM). The project is underway, aiming to improve adult literacy rates and empower communities through education.





Girl Empowering

14.08.2024



Under the Girl Empowerment initiative, a meeting was held to discuss a grant aimed at addressing crucial issues faced by women and girls in

underprivileged communities. This grant will focus on tackling malnutrition, preventing cervical cancer, and promoting menstrual hygiene management (MHM).



Vocational Center

24.08.2024



Regular computer and other classes are being held at both vocational centres.



GST

11.08.2024



1000 fruit bearing tree saplings were distributed and a number of plants relocated in the Durga Puja Prangan, Sikharpur, Rajarhat. Members and participants helped making the project a huge success.



Healing Little Hearts

28.08.2024



The president and members visited RN Tagore Hospital to see Master Barnit Bhakta, a 1 year 3-month-old boy from Nadia. The AV Canal surgery took place on 28/8/24. It was really very heart-touching to see a small child with so many pipes and in pain with his helpless mother trying her best. We pray to God for his speedy recovery and a healthy life ahead.



GIFT CARD



The Rotary Mahanagar Gift Card is a unique and meaningful way to celebrate special occasions with your loved ones. Instead of traditional gifts, these cards represent a contribution towards ongoing service projects that make a real difference in the community. Available in various denominations, each purchase directly supports our initiatives, ensuring that your gift has a lasting impact on those in need. I have chosen to honor my loved ones with these gift cards, knowing that this gesture not only celebrates them but also helps to better the lives of others. I encourage all members to consider doing the same—together, we can make every celebration count.-Rtn. Anuja Banthia

FLAG HOISTING



In the morning of 15th of August, the flag hoisting ceremony was conducted by PRIP Shekhar Mehta and President Pamila Dugar at Surya Udaya High School, which is run by Rotarian Sunita Kanoria. This was followed by a cultural performance by the talented children of the school. The event was a beautiful celebration of independence and showcased the skills of the students.

महिमामय है देश हमारा
ले वीणा गाती सरस्वती
इस भारत पुण्य भारती
सूर्य चन्द्रमा नित्य उतारा
करते इसकी पण्य आरती
गद गद हो धोता है इसके
पुण्य तरण सागर नित खारा
महिमामय है....
सुख से जियें और जीने दें
एक मात्र आदर्श यही है
यहाँ आत्म बल पूज्य रिसाला
पशुबल में विश्वास नहीं है
कोटि कोटि कण्ठों से इसकी
उठो लगायें जय का नारा
महिमामय है...

प्रथम सभ्यता का उन्नायक
युगयुग की महिमा से मण्डित
इसकी बुद्धि विराट हिमालय
और हिंदय गंगा की धारा
महिमामय है देश हमारा
महिमामय है देश हमारा

Poem by PP Rtn . Pradeep Rawat

LAST RWM



Rotary Weekly Meeting held on 9th August 2024, featured IPS Officer Dr Rajesh Kumar, Principal Secretary Environment Department & former Kolkata Police Commissioner as the chief guest. Dr. Kumar delivered a compelling speech, drawing on his extensive experience in public service, Pollution control along with waste management, in which members too engaged in a discussion. His address was well-received by the approximately 30 members in attendance, sparking a meaningful discussion.

UPCOMING RWM ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2024

FELLOWSHIP



On the 15th of August, the fellowship program **Antakshari**, a regular annual event of RCCM, was held. This program is a cherished tradition where fellow Rotarians and their spouses gather to sing patriotic songs and revive old memories. This year, the event was themed "Lehra Do" and was held at the Haldiram's banquet, celebrating the spirit of freedom with the motto "Aao milkar aazadi ka jashn manaye". It is a wonderful way to honor the country's independence while fostering community spirit. The best dressed award was given to Rtn Bhupesh Agarwal as "Jat tau" and Shalini Bagaria as Bihari lady.



Silent Screams of Freedom

On this eve of Independence Day, the air feels heavy,
 With tears of sorrow, and voices weary.
 We celebrate a nation born from the flame,
 Yet, in the shadows, lies so much shame.
 Oh, Tillottoma, in the heart of Calcutta's streets
 You walked with hope, but met with defeat!
 A healer's hands, now cold and still,
 A life crushed by a monstrous will.
 Mother India, your daughters bleed,
 Not on battlefields, but in every street!
 Where is the freedom they deserve to know,
 When all they feel is fear and woe?
 We speak of progress, of rights and pride,
 But what of the night that steals their light?
 What of the hands that reach unbidden,
 In a land where respect seems forbidden?
 The years and blood of women long gone,
 Cry out in agony as each dawn is born;
 Is this the legacy we leave behind,
 A nation blind, a heart unkind?
 How long will it be their burden to bear,
 To walk in fear, with constant care?
 It is not their duty to protect their breath,
 From the lurking shadows that promise death.
 No more should they carry this weight alone,
 Their safety should not be just their own.
 Mother India, your daughters cry out!
 Shelter them, protect them, erase their doubts.
 Let the streets be safe, the nights serene,
 Let no woman's life be shattered, unseen.
 For every Tillottoma, for every name,
 We demand justice, not just fleeting fame.
 On this day of freedom, we plead and pray,
 For a future where women walk free every day.
 Let not their blood stain this sacred earth,
 For in their strength, lies our true rebirth.

~by Rtn Monolina Dutta Gupta

Ripped Soul and Body



Wall art by
 Divya Agarwal
 and
 Drishti
 Agarwal,
 daughters of
 Rtn Anuradha
 Agarwal
 at
 Calcutta
 International
 School.

From the Editor's Desk

Empowering Our Daughters : A Call for Change - I often tell my daughters to "be strong, mentally and physically," encouraging them to stand up, speak out, and be fearless. I want them to know that if they are strong, they can face anything in this world. "You are in a safe environment," I remind them. But today, they seem confused. Yesterday, I told them, "Come home early. It's not safe outside, especially at night. And don't wear a frock." I am deeply shaken by the recent incidents, such as the one at R.G. Medical, which leaves me wondering: where is our society headed? Respect for women begins at home. As partners, brothers, and sons, we must understand the value of women on this planet. Respect is reflected in small actions—how we treat women, help them with household responsibilities, show love and care, and create a safe space for them. I, like many others, am troubled by the increasing cases of violence against women. Each gruesome act of rape and murder leaves a scar on society and makes us question where we are going. We must come together to build a world where women feel safe and respected, not just in words but through our actions every day.



Congratulations to
 Aarav Bagrecha, son
 of Rtn. Sandeep
 Bagrecha





PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



1st

After careful deliberation, we have chosen the four winners of the photography competition. Each entry displayed incredible talent and creativity, making the selection process quite challenging. A big thank you to everyone who participated and to Rotarian Ajay Lodha for his invaluable help in judging.

- 1st - Pradeep Agrawal
- 2nd - Shanghamitra Ghosh
- 3rd - Neena Agarwal
- 4th - Sourab Choudhary
- 5th - Nitin Agarwal



2nd

Participants of the contest :-

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Pradeep Agrawal | Bhupesh Agarwal |
| Manju Agrawal | Payal Agarwal |
| Neelam Jalan | Vishal Agarwal |
| Naresh Jalan | Shyam Modi |
| Nikihita shah | Renu Modi |
| Basant shah | Shashi Agarwal |
| Nisha Padia | Surendra Agarwal |
| Vijay Padia | Rakesh Singhania |
| Sanghamitra Ghosh | Sushma Singhania |
| Kallol Ghosh | Vinita Kejriwal |
| Anuradha Agarwal | Sanjeev Kejriwal |
| Nitin agarwal | Sourabh Agarwal |
| Usha Agarwal | Rishika Agarwal |
| Ashok Agarwal | Sweta Choudhary |
| Sandeep Bagrecha | Sourav Choudhary |
| Pooja Bagrecha | Rita Singh |
| Alok Mukkim | Pranay Agarwal |
| Kavita Bhalotia | Neena Agarwal |
| Sanjay Bhalotia | |
| Shalu Agarwal | |



3rd



4th



5th



19TH August
INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

OPEN COMPETITION
For all the Travel Enthusiasts

Share your adventure pictures with us and we will feature the **WINNERS** in our next bulletin. **Entry closes on 15th August.**
 Email - rccmeditorial@gmail.com

DRISHTI 3 AT NETRALAYA



We are pleased to announce the launch of the "Drishti - III" project, a bold initiative aimed at conducting 3,000 eye surgeries to combat preventable blindness. This project is a joint effort supported by the Rotary Foundation Global Grant #2464581, led by Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar and Rotary Club of Calcutta Millennium in District 3291, with backing from Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale/Cypress Creek and various other districts.

The unveiling ceremony took place at the Deepak Deb Memorial Hari Charan Garg Rotary Mahanagar Netralaya in Kolkata. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who have played a part in turning this vision into a reality. PRIP Shekhar Mehta, PDG Ajay Agarwal, DGN Tapas Roy, president of Rotary Club of Millennium Sanghmitra Shah, our eye hospital chairman Rtn Mahendra Singhal, and our members.



On the inaugural day of Drishti III, cataract surgery on 33 patients were performed at Rotary Mahanagar Netralaya. Chocolates from our food bank were also distributed on the occasion.

BOARD MEETING



On 26th August, the first board meeting at Hindustan Club was successfully held, featuring smooth discussions on completed work and future plans. During the meeting, we also launched our Instagram handle to promote our cause.

MINUTES OF THE 1377TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MAHANAGAR HELD ON FRIDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2024 AT HHI

- The meeting was called to order by President Pramila Dugar.
- A brief welcome was extended to all members and the special guest.
- Approximately 30 members were in attendance.
- Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS Officer, Principal Secretary Environment Department & Member Secretary West Bengal Pollution Control Board & former Kolkata Police Commissioner, attended the meeting as the chief guest.
- Dr. Rajesh Kumar delivered an insightful and eloquent speech, focusing on Environment, Pollution & Waste Management, sharing his valuable experiences & plans for future.
- Members engaged in a lively discussion following Dr. Rajesh Kumar's address where members shared their thoughts and queries.
- A vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Rajesh Kumar for his time and inspiring address by PP Sanjay Dugar.
- The meeting was adjourned by President Pramila Dugar.

UPCOMING EVENT

HENDER WILHOUB MITZINGEN
SAVE THE DATE
Date: September 20, 2024
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Venue: Salt Lake Convention Centre, Kolkata

Sudhayan tree plantation
01 SEPTEMBER 2024
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
ROTARY PRAKASH BHAVAN
SALT LAKE, KOLKATA

SCULPTED TREASURES

Marble Arch, Artifacts & Mini-Arch
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Rtn. Sandeep & Pooja Bagrecha

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