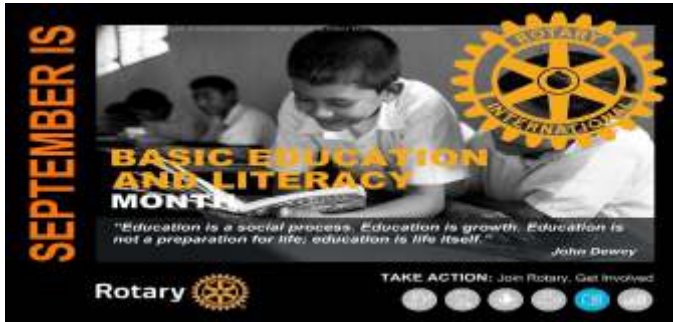


## REGULAR CLUB E-BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

RI PRESIDENT : RTN. R. GORDON R. MCINALLY : DISTRICT GOVERNOR : RTN. HIRALAL YADAV

PRESIDENT : RTN. PAROMITA DAS DUTTA : SECRETARY: RTN. (DR.) PARTHA PRATIM ROY EDITOR : RTN. (DR.) SOUVIK ROY  
RCCJ MEETS EVERY ALTERNATE WEDNESDAY AT CRC, RABINDRA SAROBAR, 7:00 PM : E MAIL: rccjadavpur@gmail.com



**September is Basic Education and Literacy Month for Rotary.** Basic Education and Literacy is a major one of Rotary's six areas of focus. Ability to critically read and write are essential for communication, gathering information, making agreements, and others. Enhancing Basic Education skills and Literacy are essential in reducing poverty, improving health, including maternal health, improving child survivability, promoting peace, enabling success in business or a profession, and encouraging community and economic development of a nation.  
*-Rtn Dr. Souvik*

## MINUTES OF THE 2108<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR, HELD AT CRC, RABINDRA SAROBAR, ON 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 7 PM

President Rtn Paromita called the 2108<sup>th</sup> meeting to order. This RCM was held on 6th September, 2023 from 7 pm onwards at CRC. She then requested the students of Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith, to lead the National Anthem. She thanked the students for leading the National anthem and welcomed all the Rotarians and Guests present. President Rtn Paromita briefed about the service projects held during the last fortnight. Blood Donation camp was held at Sihas RamaKrishna Vivekananda Sadhan Ashram, Bankura on 28th August, 23.70 healthy donors donated blood for the Bankura Medical College Blood Bank. Rtn Sambhunath Kar, Rtn Gautam Chakravarty and Ann Debi, Rtn Partha Pratim Roy and Ann Krishnakoli were present at Sihas. 45 school bags were distributed on the same day to the needy children at Sihas. Rakhi Bandhan Celebration with Pediatric Cancer affected children admitted at NRS on 30th August in association with Innerwheel Club of Jadavpur and SSKM on 31st August. Rtn Shakhi Banerjee, Rtn Sikha Mukherjee, Rtn Manas Kr Ghosh and President Paromita were present on 30th August at NRS and Rtn Gautam Chakravarty, Rtn Partha Pratim Roy, Rtn Manas Kr Ghosh, Rtn (Dr) Soma Banerjee and President Paromita were present on 31st August at SSKM. Rtn Dr Mainak Sengupta elaborated the details of the Glaucoma Project. Glaucoma check-up was held at Netra Niramoy Niketan, Amtola under Dr Asim Sil & Dr(Mrs) Sil on 31st August, 2023. National Nutrition Month was observed by arranging a Nutritional awareness camp for Mother and child at Udbhas on 3rd September. The children made a model food pyramid under the supervision of Subhalaxmi Nag (Rotary Family). Drawing competition was held on topics of Nutrition amongst the students. Three groups each got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. President Paromita specially thanked Ms. Subhalakshmi Nag, niece of PP Rtn Aditi di, Ms. Arpita Ghosh Deb, spouse of Rtn Manas Kr Ghosh for their active help and participation in

executing the projects. Rtn Aditi Nag Chaudhuri, Rtn Sikha Mukherjee, Rtn Manas Kr Ghosh, Rtn Mainak Sengupta and President Paromita were present at Udbhas. Rotary has a remarkable record when it comes to health initiatives. We've helped bring polio to the brink of eradication, and clubs have carried out myriad projects focused on preventing disease and supporting maternal and child health. Now the global pandemic has brought attention to another aspect of health that is often overlooked: mental health. Every year, the entire September month is designated as "World Alzheimer's Month." People across the world, various Alzheimer's societies and organizations come together in support of the people affected with Alzheimer's and dementia. RCCJ had taken up this awareness initiative by arranging a lecture on "Dementia- the greatest health challenge of the century" by Ms. Nilanjana Maulik, Secretary, ARDSI, Kolkata. She being a phenomenal speaker enthralled the audience which included school students, teachers, Rotarians and guests on 06.09.23. The 3rd Nation Builder Award was presented on 06.09.23. Awardee - Dr Chaitali Mukherjee, Biology Teacher at Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith, Kolkata. Our Honorary member Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, handed over the Nation Builder Award. Various activities were arranged for the children of Pathshala from 8th to 11th September, 2023 as part of the EAZY SCHOOL 2 project:

1. Handwriting competition
2. Spell craft making
3. Sankhya chart making
4. Stationary items distribution
5. Excursion to Aam khoi - Wood fossil park
6. Food Pyramid making
7. Seed distribution of fruit bearing trees

8. Inauguration of additional computer inaugurated by Mr. Debasis Pal (Rotary family)

Rtn Aditi Nag Chaudhuri and Rtn Pausali Paul were present at Dwaranda, Bolpur.

On 14.09.23, RCCJ supported the transport and logistics of 13 individuals from the glaucoma family who came for check up in the Vivekananda Mission Ashram Clinic. Of the 13, three were post op follow ups. One patient who was to be admitted today for trab surgery couldn't be admitted due to medical reasons. But he is doing okay with regards to intraocular pressure and thus a delay in operation shouldn't be much to be worried about. All the patients were given free medicines, some of which are quite expensive and almost unaffordable by the poorer section of the society. Next clinic visit day is on 12th October, 2023. On 16th September, 2023 RCCJ donated a Taiwan made wheel chair to Rehabilitation Center for Children, a NGO working in rehab of children with orthopedic deformities since birth. The wheel chair was received from Indian Humanity Foundation. This whole project was possible only because of the support received from PDG Prabir Chatterjee. We thank him from the core of our heart. We thank PP Rtn Jaydeb Banerjee for planning and executing the event perfectly. Special mention of Hon member Samirendu Dutt for joining the event. On behalf of RCCJ IPP Pausali Paul, PP Rtn Jaydeb Banerjee, PP Rtn Swapan Chakraborty, PP Rtn Partha

Pratim Roy and myself President Paromita were present. A truly humane project. Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur is going to observe Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the Pediatric wards of ICH on 19.09.23, 10:00am to 11:00am. We shall be distributing Goodie bag containing stationary items to 12 pediatric patients in the Pediatric Cancer ward of ICH. Life Beyond Cancer Team had been working at ICH since last few years. RCCJ had been instrumental in developing a play area at ICH in association with LBC.

Club Secretary PP Rtn Dr Partha Pratim Roy conducted the club business by congratulating the following members on their birthdays:

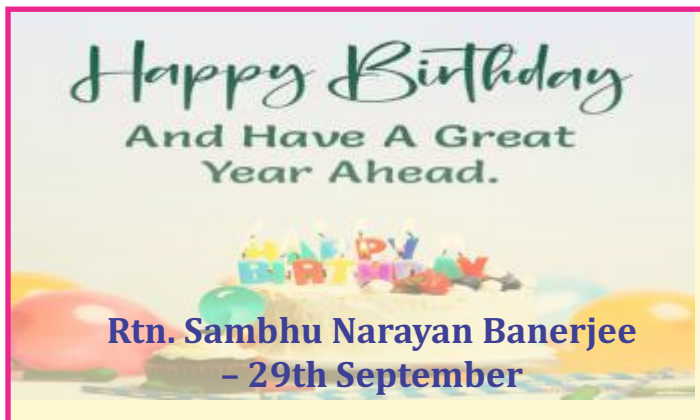
BIRTHDAYS:

- Rtn. Dr. Partha Pratim Roy – 12th September
- Rtn Dr. Chitra Mondal – 15th September

The meeting was formally closed by President Rtn Paromita.


### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT : BLOCK THE DATES

- ANNUAL PICNIC - 21st January, 2024
- Annual Family Trip - 16th -18th February, 2024



[Ideas, Feedback & Suggestions](#)

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 **souvikroybiotech@sxccal.edu**

## The Stary night – by Vincent Van Gogh



Vincent van Gogh, in full Vincent Willem van Gogh, (born March 30, 1853, Zundert, Netherlands—died July 29, 1890, Auvers-sur-Oise, near Paris, France), was a Dutch painter, generally considered the greatest after Rembrandt van Rijn, and one of the greatest of the Post-Impressionists. The striking colour, emphatic brushwork, and contoured forms of his work powerfully influenced the current of Expressionism in modern art. Van Gogh's art became astoundingly popular after his death, especially in the late 20th century,

when his work sold for record-breaking sums at auctions around the world and was featured in blockbuster touring exhibitions. In part because of his extensive published letters, van Gogh has also been mythologized in the popular imagination as the quintessential tortured artist.

Information Courtesy : Dr. Aditi Nag Chaudhuri

## Basic Education & Literacy - Chapter 2



**Rtn. Dr. Aditi Nag Chaudhuri**

Chair, Literacy, RCCJ

### History of our Literacy programmes:

Here are some glimpses of golden history in the Literacy and Basic Education along with Vocational Trainings and Environment development programme done by Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur:

In the formative days Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur started Diploma Course on Industrial Production and Marketing in the year 1979-1980. In the year 1983-1984 our first RCC was established at Chowbaga and at once vocational training centre was started. In '85-86 RCCJ purchased land and built a centre named rotary Karma Siksha Bhawan for educational/vocational projects. Embroidery training along with tailoring was started in '90-'91 at Chowbaga. In the next year there Type writing school and Adult Literacy centre were opened knitting classes were started in '95-'96 at the same time Environment awareness programme was undertaken at Chowbaga. Along with these specified projects Club also supported slum children for their studies. Club provided ten Sewing machines to Bainchitala Tailoring Centre and six Knitting machines to Chowbaga Training Centre in 1999-2000. Matching Grant helped to provide six tube wells in two RCCs. In the next year club gave to a disabled person one leather stitching machine, one sewing machine and one knitting machine, Karma Siksha Bhawan was built at Bainchitala RCC. In the following year another RCC was formed at Gopalnagar and vocational training like sewing, health trainers training and adult literacy programmes were started. At Bainchitala scholarships were given for two years' training on Block printing. Trees and saplings were donated to these three RCCs. In the year 2002 - 2003 computers have been donated to several schools. Study materials and scholarships and prizes were given to meritorious but needy students. In the next year all the projects were continued and a special Training on Piggery Farming was organized for the RCC people at Bainchitala. Our club continued its existing programme and completed 10 WC toilets at RCC Gopalnagar and complete Cricket kit, football and computer were donated to **N. K. Pal Adarsha Boy's School**. In the next year the adult literacy centre at Gopalnagar was continued and vocational training on bamboo and jute works were conducted at Gopalnagar. A fifteen-day training programme was conducted at Chowbaga RCC. Similarly, in 2006-07 all the ongoing projects were continued at Chowbaga and Gopalnagar, and a Teacher's Day felicitation was organized. Along with other ongoing projects at RCCs in the next year a computer centre was established for under privileged boys and girls at a very low cost. In 2008-09 one girls School for underprivileged girls named **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith** was adopted for supporting the school- an Interact Club was formed and safe drinking water system has been provided. **Udbhas**, a coaching centre for slum area children was supported time to time. A new RCC at Madhya Shibpur was inaugurated during this period - an adult

education centre, one sewing school and one Zari work training centre was opened there.

In the next year all the projects were continued at all the RCCs and one instrument for Zari work was donated at Madhya Shibpur RCC. Underprivileged students of Udbhas and **South Calcutta Sevasree Sangha** were provided with all sorts of study materials. A football coaching centre was continued at Chowbaga. In the following year along with ongoing projects 15 needy girl students were given financial support for their studies. In 2011-2012 a computer centre at Madhyshibpur and a Knitting school at Chowbaga were set up. Blind boys and Blind Boys' School were supported for education. A Text book library was formed at **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith**. 2000 saplings were distributed among people of Madhya Sibpur and Chowbaga. In the following year **Udbhas** children were supported with text books and umbrella. Text book library at **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith** was extended for XI and XII. Blind boys were supported with audio CDs for their studies. Set up of Ten toilet, knitting machine and knitting training were organized at Chowbaga. In the year 2013-14 Udbhas students were supported in different ways like back packs, colour pencil boxes, synthetic boards etc. In the next year a **Kachipata Nursery and KG School**, Masat was adopted, supported with library, toilets, school sports etc. Adult Literacy Centre at RCC Chowbaga was inaugurated. Computers were donated to a cancer survivor girl and **Blind Association**, Baruiapur. In 2015-16 **Udbhas, Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith**, adult literacy class of 17 students at Chowbaga were supported as they required. 50 toilets were constructed at Chowbaga. 52 school bags were donated to **Santoshpur Vidyamandir**. High and Low benches were given to **Kachipata Nursery and KG School**. In the year 2016-17 Club donated books, other educational materials for Library and High and low benches to Gokornee Madhyamik Siksha Kendra, Mograhat. Then school kits comprising dictionary, Geometry Box, exercise books umbrella, two pair of socks, shoes school dresses were given to students of **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith** under "OUR DAUGHTER" project of the club. Adult Literacy at Chowbaga was going on. **Kachipata Nursery and KG School**, Masat was supported. A large number of books received from RILM were distributed to Benipukur Higher Secondary School, Kachipata Nursery and KG School, Masat, **Gokornee Madhyamik Siksha Kendra**, Mograhat, Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith for Library. In the following year adult literacy class and sewing classes were going on, Club hosted a seminar on Basic Education and Literacy at Rotary Sadan where District conferred Rotary Siksha Ratna Awards to five recipients. Tree plantation programme was done at Nature Study Park, Taratala. 'Our Daughter' project at **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith** was organized on information of vocational courses. A structure for dining space, Safe drinking water and WASH were built at **Bhim Rao Mission School**, Parsemari. Club donated computers to **Santoshpur Vidyamandir Primary and Montessori School**. Basic Education and Literacy programme throughout the year was appreciated by the District. In the year 2018-19 'OUR DAUGHTER' programme was done at **Rainbow Home** run by Loreto School Bowbazar by distributing 130 school bags, 300 gel pens and tiffin boxes. A library was opened with large number of new and old books, Two Almirahs, Two sets of High and Low benches at **Shri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sevashram, Chirakuti**, Jhargram. E-learning accessories were handed over to **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith**.

300 Saplings were distributed to different schools and

organizations. Water filters were donated to **Rainbow Home** along with saplings. In 2019-2020 Club supported **Pratham Padakshep**, an organization for mentally and physically challenged children. Club has organized a poster competition on RAIN WATER HARVESTING among 100 high schools and total 654 posters were collected from schools. The prize winning posters were displayed at a seminar on CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS WORLD PEACE and the schools were recognized with certificates for each student. The schools which sent more than 50 posters were specially awarded. The main speaker was Prof. Sugata Hazra. Sanitary napkin vending machines were donated to different rural schools like **Binapani Ashram, Khalishani Vidyamandir**, etc. Vocational training on Compostin and Fruit bearing plants were distributed to **Shri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sevashram, Chirakuti, Jhargram**. Students were also visited one plant and environment preservation centre. Embroidary machine was donated to **Udbhas** for vocational training. Sewing school was going on at Chowbaga RCC. Vocational training on Terracotta ornaments making was done at **Cossipore St. Ninian s High School for Girls**. One Interact Club was set at **Cossipore St. Ninian s High School for Girls**. Heritage walk was organized for school children from Rajbhavan to Vitoria and finally the students visited Victoria Museum. Students from **Cossipore St. Ninian s High School for Girls** were supported to visit Science City museum. Teacher's Day was celebrated at Cossipore St. Ninian s High School for Girls with some gifts from Club. At the same school Rain water harvesting system was established by the club with the help of NASI.6 toilets construction plan at Sangraminagar Free Primary School was started and that was supported by EIWRT. Support was given to Kachipata Nuesery and KG School. Then came CORONA PANDEMIC which made the whole world shaken, bewildered and physically distanced. But Rotarians continued their services for the distressed world. In the year 2020-2021 RCCJ could do a few progress in Literacy advancement. Club donated a Incense stik making machine to Mathurakhand in Sundarban area and an adult literacy programme was initiated. A training programme on Ornamental fish culture was done at Chowbaga RCC. Rain water harvesting project was completed at **Cossipore St. Ninians School for Girls. Sangrami nagar Free Primary School** toilets were completed. Club cohosted a free of cost book donation. Sanitary napkin vending machine and Incinarator were given to **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith**. An initiative was taken for free coaching of school students at Chowbaga. 5 Smart phones were donated to students of **Rainbow Home**. Participated in Tree Plantation of District Project and sent 50 Fruit Bearing trees to **Shri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sevashram, Chirakuti, Jhargram**. In 2021-'22 we have started a new RCC at Canning and built two toilets for a Coaching Centre named **Sandhi**. Vocational trainings were done there for Tailoring, Bee hiving and Mushroom culture. But all were in vain. They did not start or after starting did not continue. All-covered midday meal space with high and low benches was constructed by the Club with District Grant. We have started a free coaching centre named **Panthaniwas Pathshala** at Bolpur, where underprivileged children from Class 1 to Class 8 are taught by 5 teachers and snacks are distributed. Because of COVID pandemic schools were closed and the poor children did not get smart phone for online classes.

They were benefitted from our coaching centre. That coaching centre is still continuing. **Rotary News** had covered the news on this centre. In the year '22-'23 we have started monthly Science Club at **Udbhas** & we have started to support their Computer classes. Three computers were donated to

**Dwaronda High School**. Three teachers were felicitated with Nation Builder Award and managed to give two Computers to our students at **Panthaniwas Pathshala**, the interested students were given dance training also. One procession was conducted for the villagers so that they should send their children to school. Birla Industrial and Technological Museum visit for a village school was conducted. 4 deep tube wells with water kiosks were also installed at Kultali Block. Throughout our journey every year we have donated, books, khata, bags and other accessories to underprivileged students. Four teachers were felicitated with Nation Builder Award in the year 2022-2023. We are trying to do more for Literacy and Basic Education for the underprivileged people.

### NOTE OF APPRECIATION

On the occasion of Literacy Month, Dr Debnath Chaudhuri, spouse of PP Rtn Aditi di, has donated ₹ 10000 to Literacy fund on 3rd September and PP Rtn Aditi di herself has donated a huge sum of ₹ 30000 to our Literacy Fund.

A few days back PP Rtn Aditi di had donated a sum of ₹ 5000, to the Literacy Fund. I express my appreciation to the true Rotary Family. 🙌  
What a spirit.

Rtn Sikha Mukherji has donated a sum of ₹ 5000 to the Literacy Fund.

My heartfelt appreciation ❤️ PROUD OF ROTARY FAMILY ❤️

Thanks 😊

- Paromita Das Dutta



**Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta**  
President, RCCJ

## Observation of World Alzheimer's Month

06.09.2023

Rotary has a remarkable record when it comes to health initiatives. We've helped bring polio to the brink of eradication, and clubs have carried out myriad projects focused on preventing disease and supporting maternal and child health. Now the global pandemic has brought attention to another aspect of health that is often overlooked: mental health.

Every year, the entire September month is designated as "World Alzheimer's Month." People across the world, various Alzheimer's societies and organisations come together in support of the people affected with Alzheimer's and dementia. RCCJ had taken up this awareness initiative by arranging a lecture on "Dementia- the greatest health challenge of the century" by Ms. Nilanjana Maulik, Secretary, ARDSI, Kolkata. She being a phenomenal speaker enthralled the audience which included school students, teachers, rotarians and guests on 06.09.23.

## A Glimpse



**Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta**  
President, RCCJ

## 3rd Nation Builder Award Ceremony

06.09.2023

The 3rd Nation Builder Award was presented on 06.09.23. Awardee - Dr Chaitali Mukherjee, Biology Teacher at Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith, Kolkata. Our Honorary member Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, handed over the Nation Builder Award.

## A Glimpse



## Some more Glimpse



## Hand-Writing competition at Pathshala

08.09.2023

On 08.09.23 Pathshala students participated in hand writing competition and five students were awarded. They have started making different educational kits which will be posted after completion.

## A Glimpse



## Some more Glimpse

RCCJ has yet again ventured into a new area, a vision of PP Rtn Aditi di. The 1st issue of a magazine was published with stories and drawings by students of class IV at Pathshala.





**Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta**  
President, RCCJ

## Spell Craft, Sankhya Chart making, Stationary Distribution & New Computer opening at Pathshala 09.09.2023

There was a distribution of stationary, pencil, eraser, scale etc to students of Pathshala on 09.09.23. Spell craft in English was made by Class 4 and in Bengali by Class 3, whereas Sankhya Chart was made by Classes 1 and 2.

### A Glimpse



### Some more Glimpse



## Excursion to AMKHOI WOOD FOSSIL PARK

10.09.2023

Excursion to AMKHOI WOOD FOSSIL PARK was conducted on 10th September, 2023, Sunday. A team of 27 comprising of students and teachers of Pathshala, RCCJ Members and family started at 11.30 am, and returned by 2 pm.

### A Glimpse



### Some more Glimpse





**Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta**  
President, RCCJ

RCCJ IPP Pausali Paul, PP Rtn Jaydeb Banerjee, PP Rtn Swapan Chakraborty, PP Rtn Partha Pratim Roy and myself President Paromita were present. A truly humane project.

### A Glimpse



## Food Pyramid Making competition to observe Rashtriya Poshan Maah & Seed Distribution of Fruit bearing Trees at Pathshala 10.09.2023

Students of Pathshala were informed about Food Pyramid. They made a model and drew charts on it for a competition on the occasion of Rashtriya Poshan Maah on 10.09.23.

### A Glimpse



### Some more Glimpse



### Some more Glimpse



**Rtn. Mainak Dr. Sengupta**  
President Elect, RCCJ

## Wheel Chair Donation to Rehabilitation Center for Children 16.09.2023

On 16th September, 2023 RCCJ donated a Taiwan made wheel chair to Rehabilitation Center for Children, a NGO working in rehab of children with orthopedic deformities since birth. The wheel chair was received from Indian Humanity Foundation. This whole project was possible only because of the support received from PDG Prabir Chatterjee. We thank him from the core of our heart. We thank PP Rtn Jaydeb Banerjee for planning and executing the event perfectly. Special mention of Hon member Samirendu Dutt for joining the event. On behalf of

## Glaucoma Project 01.09.2023

On 14.09.23, RCCJ supported the transport and logistics of 13 individuals from the glaucoma family who came for check up in the Vivekananda Mission Ashram Clinic. Of the 13, three were post op follow ups. One patient who was to be admitted today for trab surgery couldn't be admitted due to medical reasons. But he is doing okay with regards to intra ocular pressure and thus a delay in operation shouldn't be much to be worried about. All the patients were given free medicines, some of which are quite expensive and almost unaffordable by the poorer section of the society. Next clinic visit day is on 12th Oct.

## A Glimpse



## Some more Glimpse



## Environment Facts!!

### Firefighters in Greece Are Struggling to Battle The E.U.'s Biggest Wildfire Ever Recorded



Firefighters struggled Thursday against strong winds and hot, dry conditions to tame multiple wildfires ravaging Greece, including one in the country's northeast that officials say is the largest ever recorded in the European Union. The wildfires have left 20 people dead over the last week. Eighteen of those, including two boys aged between 10 and 15, are believed to be migrants who crossed the nearby border with Turkey. Their bodies were found by firefighters near a shack in a burnt forest area near Alexandroupolis in northeastern Greece. Sixty firefighters have been injured, fire department spokesman Ioannis Artopios said. The wildfire in the

Alexandroupolis region, burning for a sixth day, combined with smaller fires to create a massive inferno that has consumed homes and vast tracts of forest and triggered multiple evacuations of villages and of the city's hospital. With more than 730 square kilometers (282 square miles) burned, the combined blazes "are now the largest wildfires on record the EU has faced," European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "We must continue strengthening national & collective prevention and preparedness efforts in view of more brutal fire seasons," he tweeted. Elsewhere in Europe, fires on Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands, northwestern Turkey near the border with Greece, Portugal and Italy were being brought under control, officials said. Firefighters in Greece were battling dozens of other fires, including a major blaze on the outskirts of Athens that scorched homes and encroached on one the last green areas near the Greek capital, the national park on Mount Parnitha. On Wednesday alone, firefighters battled 99 separate blazes across the country, authorities said. Greece's Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said arson was to blame for some of the blazes near Athens. "Some ... arsonists are setting fires, endangering forests, property and above all human lives," Kikilias said in a televised statement. "What is happening is not just unacceptable but despicable and criminal." The minister said nine fires had been set in the space of four hours Thursday morning in the area of Avlona, in the northern foothills of Mount Parnitha. "You are committing a crime against the country," Kikilias said. "You will not get away with it. We will find you, you will be held accountable to justice." With firefighting forces stretched to the limit, Greece has asked other European countries for assistance. Germany, Sweden, Croatia and Cyprus sent aircraft, while dozens of Romanian, French, Czech, Bulgarian and Albanian firefighters have been helping on the ground. Artopios, the Greek fire department spokesman, said 260 firefighters, including more than a dozen from France, were battling the Parnitha fire supported by 10 planes and 11 helicopters. Bulgarian, Albanian, Romanian and Czech firefighters with vehicles were helping in the Alexandroupolis fire. With their hot, dry summers, southern European countries are particularly prone to wildfires. European Union officials have blamed climate change for the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in Europe, noting that 2022 was the second-worst year for wildfire damage on record after 2017. In Spain's Tenerife, a fire that has scorched 150 square kilometers (58 square miles) was being brought under control. Canary Island regional President Fernando Clavijo said Thursday the blaze had "not gained a single square meter" for the first time in over a week. He said firefighters hope to declare the fire totally under control later Thursday, but warned that high afternoon temperatures could ignite more pockets of fire. Of the 12,000 people forced to evacuate their homes earlier in the week, only about 200 were still unable to return. In Turkey, firefighters in the northwestern Canakkale province on Thursday brought a wildfire under control less than 48 hours after it erupted amid high temperatures and strong winds, Turkish Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said. Yumakli said the fire, which had forced the evacuation of 11 villages, had affected 40 square kilometers (15 square miles) including 14 square kilometers (5.4 square miles) of agricultural land. A firefighting volunteer who was injured and six other people who suffered from smoke inhalation were being kept under observation in hospitals, Yumakli said. "We are extremely happy that there was no loss of life," Yumakli said. "However, we are heartbroken for other creatures of the ecosystem that were affected." Shipping traffic through the Dardanelles Strait, a major maritime thoroughfare linking the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara, was being partially restored to one lane only, after being completely suspended as fire-dousing aircraft use the waterway to pick up water. Yumakli said another fire in central Turkey has also been brought under control and there were no other active wildfires in the country Thursday. Two large fires in Portugal and a smaller one in Italy were brought under control by Thursday, those countries' authorities said, but temperatures - and the risk of new fires - remained high.

Information Courtesy: Dr. Aditi Nag Chaudhuri

Source: <https://time.com/6307987/greece-firefighters-battle-biggest-wildfire-ever-recorded/>