



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR BULLETIN
VOLUME LVII, August 28th 2024



August is Membership and New Club Development Month



**ROTARY CLUB OF
CALCUTTA JADAVPUR**

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As I sit writing the editorial for this issue of Ahana, my heart aches to comprehend the brutal incident at RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata that led to the untimely demise of a young girl and a good doctor. Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur condemns the heinous crime and stands in solidarity with the millions of Kolkatans calling for justice for the bereaved soul. And why only Kolkatans, this brutal incident has almost miraculously united the whole world to have raised their voices to end violence against women, speaking in unison 'we want justice.'

In some way, the united voice of the mass is in sync with the theme of Rotary in August i.e. membership and new club development when the Rotarians are supposed to say it loud, say it proud that we belong to Rotary and invite others to join the organization in course to make a positive impact in the world. Extending membership is crucial to Rotary expanding its reach and influencing the organization's ability to implement and sustain the noble initiatives. In the context of contemporary global socio-geo-political challenges in peace and conflict resolution, through this clarion call of fostering growth and unity, Rotary seeks to amplify its impact and address pressing issues more effectively. A larger membership base means a greater pool of skills, perspectives, and resources, which can lead to more innovative and effective solutions to global problems. This expansion not only enhances Rotary's operational capacity but also stimulates inclusivity and thus a broader effect. By bringing together individuals from various classifications, Rotary promotes dialogues and understanding, which are crucial for peacebuilding. The new members serve as platforms for local cooperative projects and community engagement.

Women empowerment is another critical area where Rotary's membership growth has significant implications. Rotary is always committed to gender equality as reflected in its various initiatives aimed at improving the lives of women around the world. By increasing its membership base, Rotary can enhance its capacity to support programs that address gender disparities and advocate for women's rights. Furthermore, by actively promoting female membership and leadership within its ranks, Rotary sets an example of gender inclusivity and equity, which can inspire broader societal change.

More power to the unity, more power to Rotary.

Minutes of the Meeting: 2130th RCM held on 31st July 2024

Venue: Shiv Mandir, Mudiali & in Zoom platform (Hybrid Mode)

Time: 6.30pm onwards

Attendance: 29

- Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, President RY 24-25 called the meeting to order and requested Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee to lead the National Anthem.
- After the National Anthem was sung, President did welcome everyone including the guests for the day. He also got confirmed the minutes of the 2129th RCM.
- The President presented a summary of the services of RCCJ for the second half of July 2024. He distributed the hard copy of the summary of work to the members present, while the soft copy was circulated via email, later to all the members. He announced the proposed upcoming services and declared the names of the kind donors for different services.
- President requested Rtn. Partha S. Sarkar to share with the members the activities of Life Beyond Cancer in July. Rtn. Partha S. Sarkar briefly described the awareness program with Asha and Anganwari workers conducted by Dr. Prantar Chakraborti hosted by RC Budge Budge. He also mentioned of the kind donation of Rs 1.5lakhs to the cause by RC Chowrenghee, and that Chowrenghee has also committed to serve 50 more paediatric cancer patients in future.
- The members heartily acknowledged the contribution of Rtn. Anup Tibrewal for arranging hard-to-find medicines for paediatric cancer patients. RCCJ also donated Rs14,100 for medicinal support for 1 paediatric cancer patient admitted in NRS Medical College.
- President acknowledged the receipt of a memento from Loretto Rainbow Home presented for RCCJ's long-standing support of the institution. The memento had been handed over to Rtn. Sikha Mukherji by the officials of Loretto Rainbow Home.
- President discussed about the proposal of RC Calcutta to donate 2- desktop computer set up (with UPS) to 2 needy schools in South Bengal. The computers will be provided to the club by RC Calcutta provided an official appeal letter from the school be produced. The President intimated the members that through Rtn. Saiful Anam Mir, he communicated with the Sub-Inspector of schools Mr. Ankit Mukherji, Amta East Circle, Howrah, who recommended three schools based on their need. Two of the three

- schools viz. Debandi High School and Khosalpur New Set Up Upper Primary School have already sent their official appeals for computers in the school letterhead. Thus, RCCJ will donate the computers in these two schools. The computers will be handed over to RCCJ by RC Calcutta on 17th Aug.
- President then requested IPP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta to present her plans on Maternal and Child Health. IPP briefed the members about the project she has been funded from National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) on the importance of Nutrition during first 1000 days of conception on the health status of the newborn among underprivileged 500 rural Tribal women in 10 different locations. She also discussed how RCCJ can collaborate with NASI in this work. PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal also talked about the importance of this project and asked President RCCJ to write a letter to NASI EC Committee to convey the wish to officially collaborate with NASI in this regard.
- This was followed by Jt. Secretary Sanjay Ray conducting the club business announcing the birthdays and anniversaries of the members (including the Honorary members). All the other participating members heartily conveyed their well wishes to them.
- Then the President requested Rtn. Manas K. Ghosh to introduce the guests Ms. Sushmita Ghosh, Mr. Nabarun Ghosh and Mr. Arpan Mukherjee. The guests heartily exchanged their views and visions on social service with the members.
- The meeting was then called to an end by the President.

Minutes of the Meeting: 2131st RCM held on 14th Aug 2024

Venue: Casa Broadway & in Zoom platform (Hybrid Mode)

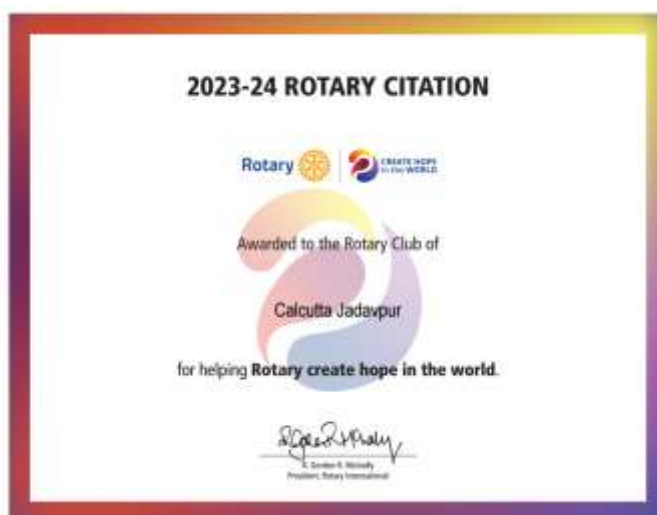
Time: 6.30pm onwards

Attendance: 25

- Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, President RY 24-25 called the meeting to order and requested Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal to lead the National Anthem.
- After the National Anthem was sung, President welcomed everyone and got confirmed the minutes of the 2130th RCM.
- The President presented a summary of the services of RCCJ for the first half of Aug 2024. He distributed the hard copy of the summary of work to the members present, while the soft copy was circulated via email, later to all the members. He announced

- the proposed upcoming services and declared the names of the kind donors for different services.
- President requested Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir to share his experience of the health camp conducted at Ma Kaali Old Age Home on 13th Aug. Rtn. Saiful briefly described the program and appealed to every member to consider helping the inmates of the old age home to the best of our ability.
- The members heartily acknowledged the contribution of Rtn. Swapan Chakraborty for the project: mission fight for sight and Rtn. (Dr.) Asim Sil for the project: Literacy and beyond.
- Then Jt. Secretary Sanjay Ray conducting the club business announcing the birthdays and anniversaries of the members (including the Honorary members). All the other participating members heartily conveyed their well wishes to them.
- The meeting was then called to an end by the President.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur has been the proud recipient of the 2023-24 Rotary Citation, an award that recognizes the hard work clubs do throughout the year.



Service Projects of the Month At a Glance

Mission Life Beyond Cancer



As a part of an ongoing service, this month, RCCJ donated Rs 1,44,100/- as a support to the treatment of 13 pediatric cancer patients. RCCJ donated a refrigerator to Apna Ghar, a transit home for cancer patients for preservation of essential medicines. Along with team Life Beyond Cancer, RCCJ donated more than 175 books for children to Institute of Child Health that will help them build a library for the patients.

Mission Happy Health



RCCJ conducted a health camp in Ma Kaali Old Age home in New Garia, with the help of Rtn. (Dr.) Arunava Das. Dr. Das and other members of RCCJ spent time talking with the residents understanding their problems related to health and beyond. RCCJ donated a second-hand TV as well, around 50 books and a sapling to the inmates of the old age home.

Mission Literacy and beyond

A. Tuition classes in Pathshala



As an ongoing project, RCCJ organised daily tuition classes at Pathshala, Bolpur. Along with regular academic courses, the beneficiaries are also made to engage in physical activities like yoga.

B. Science Club activities in Udbhash



As a part of the ongoing monthly science club activities, RCCJ organised a class on plant cells by Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti in Udbhash, a child welfare organisation.

C. Environmental Literacy Quiz in Baruipur HS



As a part of the EAZY School 3 activity, RCCJ organised an Environmental Literacy Quiz in Baruipur High School with the students of classes IX-XI. Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti was the Quiz Master. The champion group consisting of 6 students were presented with Krishna Lakhani Memorial gold medal while the runners up students were awarded with Alope Ghosh Memorial silver medals.

D. Aiding E-learning



RCCJ donated desktop computer set (monitor, CPU, UPS, keyboard and mouse) to a) Debandi High School and b) Khosalpur New Set Up Upper Primary School, Amta for the cause of computer education, in presence of the head-masters of the respective schools and the school-inspector Amta region. These computers were handed-over to RCCJ by RC Calcutta as a part of their ongoing project Sikshalabh.

Mission Fight for sight



As a part of an ongoing project RCCJ supported the post-operative monitoring of an aged glaucomatous and visually handicapped woman from a large glaucoma affected family from low economic background. Rtn. (Dr.) Asim Sil and his team at Netra Niramoy Niketan Vivekananda Mission Ashram Eye Hospital leads this program

Mission Plastic Purge



RCCJ conducted single-use plastic pollution awareness and cleaning program in Dum Dum Ananda Ashram Sarada Vidyapeeth.

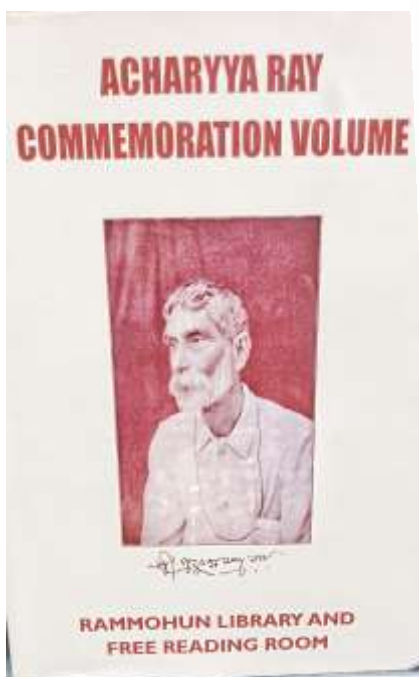
Project with Interact Club



On 7th Aug, on behalf of RCCJ, Rtn. Sikha Mukherji handed over gardening tools to the Interact club of Dum Dum Ananda Ashrama Sarada Vidyapeeth. From that day onwards the students would initiate the process of kitchen gardening in the campus.

A Public Image Initiative

On 2nd Aug, Rammohun Library and Free Reading Room celebrated the 163rd Birth Anniversary of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, at the Raya Debnath Auditorium in the library premises. On this occasion, the re-print of Acharya Ray Commemoration Volume was inaugurated. RCCJ had contributed towards this reprint, which has been duly acknowledged in the book. The library presented RCCJ with one copy of the precious volume. RCCJ thanks Hony. Member Samirendu Dutt for paving the way to this noble cause.



Acknowledgement

We take great pride in republishing this valuable book and extend our heartfelt gratitude to Smt. Krishna Basu, daughter of Late Professor (Dr.) Santiranjana Palit, D.Sc., P.R.S., formerly professor and Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry, later on Emeritus Professor, at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata for her generous donation in memory of her illustrious father. Professor Palit was regarded as father of polymer research in India.

Also as in the past, Rotary Club of Jadavpur Trust, Kolkata contributed with a donation for this endeavour.

We also express our sincere thanks to Shri Ashish Lahiri for penning the foreword of this edition.

Memories of the Month.....



Down Memory Lane..... (contd.)

ROTARY AS I REMEMBER:-



**Past President
Sambhu Narayan
Banerjee**

The Rotary name was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. The members of the newly formed Rotary Club wished to form a professional club with a friendly spirit keeping in view to have close fellowship and friendship within club members only at that point of time. The said group of American gentlemen were engaged in their different professions. At times they were facing problems in their professions and were not getting suitable helps and advices from anyone to solve their problems. So, it was decided that the members of the clubs should be leaders of different professions so that they would have experts in all professions and could help each other as friends. Later on the said professions were designated as Classifications. Until the beginning of the first world war Rotary had no concept of service to the world.

Immediately after the first world war there were acute humanitarian problems throughout the world when Rotary International adopted the motto "Service above self" which signifies the belief that Rotarians would put their duty to help others before their own needs. Rotarians decided to serve mankind through fellowship.

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, advance the world through understanding, fellowship, goodwill, and peace. Rotary is an icon and undisputed benchmark of service. Rotary teaches all how to live for the cause of others happily and cheerfully in association with neighboring fellows.

The month of February is very significant in the history of Rotary as it was founded on 23rd. February, 1905. Rotary clubs observe this day as Worlds Understanding & Peace Day by inviting Foreign friends to their clubs and reciprocate cultural & social friendship among themselves.

Interestingly the Father of the Rotary, Paul Percy Harris was not the first Rotary Club President in 1905. He offered the post to his best friend, Silvester Schiele to be the first Club President. Paul was the 2nd club President. However, Paul Harris was the first RI President On 15th August, 1910 at the Chicago convention. After a long illness, Harris died on 27th. January, 1947 and was buried beside his great friend Silvester Schiel, as per his will.

The first Rotary club outside the USA was formed in Canada in 1910 when Rotary was designated as Rotary International.

I will conclude by mentioning one funny happening in early Rotary which turned to be adopted and lasted till ladies were first allowed to be members in Rotary, in 1989. Earlier it was not customary for wives to accompany their husbands to any Rotary program. In 1914, the California Rotarians chartered a train to the RI convention in Houston. One lady, the wife of a San Francisco club president, Rtn. Henry Brunnier (Bru) insisted and joined the team. As the train left the station, the Rotarians greeted each other by calling their first names. One of the Rotarians wanted to greet the single lady and said to her "I do not want to call you Mrs. Brunner. What is your first name?" The lady replied, "Ann". The festive group immediately nicknamed her "Rotary Ann". She became so popular during the long train journey that Bru joked he never had to buy her a meal because she was always a guest at some group's table. In the same convention, it was adopted that wives of Rotarians would be addressed as Ann.

(To be contd.)

Cherishing the Moments.....

Strategic Planning Chair PP Rtn. Pausali Paul reports on PDG and District Literacy Chair Mukul Sinha's visit to Pathshala, Bolpur

It is our great honor that PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha, District Literacy Chair, visited Pathshala on the morning of , with his partner Ms. Rakhi Sinha. They interacted with the students and were overwhelmed with their sincerity and integrity towards learning. He seemed to be very satisfied with the overall discipline and the plethora of activities undertaken in the tuition center for educating the students. He was of all praise of the dedication of the teachers and expressed his wish to visit our club to share his experience at Pathshala. PDG Mukul Sinha said that they were touched by the warmth of the kids as they bid them farewell with the words 'জেঠু, আবার আসবে তো তোমরা?' They distributed chocolates and donated Rs1000/- to the class coordinators for the kids.



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH YOUR DONATION IN CASH OR IN KIND



RCCJ also duly acknowledges the generous contributions of Mr. Subhabrata Mukherjee, Ms. Nirmala Aniruddha, Dr. Nupur Sengupta, Dr. Shaoli Majumder, Mr. Arup Das, Ms. Subhasree Nayak, Mr. Debasish Ghosh, Ms. Sarbani Mukherjee, Ms. Jayati Paul, Ms. Megha Lal, Mr. Deepanjan Paul, Mr. Jajati Mandal and Inner Wheel Club of Cossipore.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur stands for Justice for Abhaya, condemns the heinous crime committed and demands strongest measures for the perpetrators





Drawing by a student beneficiary: Tiasa Chakraborty,
Class V, Ananda Ashram Sarada Vidyapeeth