



# AHANA

# ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR BULLETIN

**VOLUME LVIII, September 25<sup>th</sup> 2024**



## September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

# Rotary



ROTARY CLUB OF  
CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

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**Dr. Krishnendu Gupta**  
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RID 3291

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Club President

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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

— Rabindranath Tagore

SEPTEMBER, almost always reminds me of the 1962 London America Recordings release music album "Come September" by Bobby Darin. The month also signifies a lot too for us, the Bengalis, as the mood sets in for the celebration of the festival of Durgotsab.

For the Rotarians, however, the month of September emanates a feeling of celebrating *Literacy and Basic Education*. Rotary International is committed to improve literacy rate in every nook and corner of the planet and create sustainable educational systems with a vision to foster long-term social and economic growth. Rotary strongly believes that education is not only a fundamental right, but also a powerful tool for changing societies, changing paradigms, if need be. Enhancing education and furthering its reach has always been a motive for our club. This month too, RCCJ has been observing the triumph of education through a number of activities and service projects with the motto of establishing education and literacy as essential pillars for community development.



**Minutes of the Meeting: 2132<sup>nd</sup> RCM held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024**  
**in Zoom platform**

**Time: 6.30pm onwards**

**Attendance: 22**

- Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, President RY 24-25 called the meeting to order and requested PP Rtn. Pausali Paul to lead the National Anthem.
- President welcomed everyone and got confirmed the minutes of the 2131<sup>st</sup> RCM.
- The President presented a summary of the services of RCCJ for the second half of Aug 2024. the soft copy of the summary report was circulated via email, later to all the members. He announced the proposed upcoming services (appended below) and declared the names of the kind donors for different services.
- President requested Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti to share his experience of the environmental literacy quiz conducted at Baruipur High School on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. Rtn. Dipankar briefly described the program.
- PP Rtn. Chitra Mandal, PP Rtn. Kunal Ray, Rtn. Manas K. Ghosh, Rtn. Sudipta Kundu and Honorary member Indrajit Ray expressed their ideas on how to make the mission plastic purge program more successful and raise public awareness.
- It was decided that Dr. Punarbasu Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Environmental Sciences, University of Calcutta will be invited for a talk on plastic pollution and awareness in a joint club meeting with other Rotary clubs like Aavyanna.
- Jt. Secretary Sanjay Ray conducting the club business announcing the birthdays of the members and their partners. All the other participating members heartily conveyed their well wishes to them. Rtn. Sudipta Kundu declared a donation of Rs 5000/- on his birthday. All the members thanked Sudipta for his kind gesture.
- Then, President introduced the guest for today, Mr. Agrag Ghosh, son of Rtn. Manas K. Ghosh. On the President's request Mr. Agrag Ghosh, presented a short film of 12 mins made by a group of school friends in which Agrag was the Assistant Director. Everyone appreciated the effort of Agrag and his friends and wished him all the best for his future projects.
- The meeting was then called to an end by the President.

## Upcoming Service Projects

- ☐ PROJECT MISSION LITERACY AND BEYOND ~ Pathshala/Udbhash monthly computer class/Observing National Space Day in BITM/donating science goods to students in a NASI-workshop/telescope making workshop in Baruipur High School/Clothes distribution at Loretto Rainbow Home/book donation to library/strip based ACR assessment in another old age home in New Garia
- ☐ PROJECT MISSION LIFE BEYOND CANCER
- ☐ PROJECT FIGHT FOR SIGHT
- ☐ PROJECT CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS AND VACCINATION: Awareness program in Rashmoni Balika Vidyalaya, Baruipur and Rishi Aurobindo Valika Vidyalaya
- ☐ PROJECT MISSION PLASTIC PURGE: Session 5 in Muktarpur High School
- ☐ PROJECT HAPPY HEALTH: Dance Therapy and Virangana in Sanlaap; Virangana in University of Calcutta

**Minutes of the Meeting: 2133<sup>rd</sup> RCM held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
**in Zoom platform** **Time: 6.30pm onwards**

**Attendance: 23**

- Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, President RY 24-25 called the meeting to order and requested Honorary Member Indrajit Roy to lead the National Anthem.
- President welcomed everyone and got confirmed the minutes of the 2132<sup>nd</sup> RCM.
- The President presented a summary of the services of RCCJ from 29<sup>th</sup> Aug to 17<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024. He also announced the proposed upcoming services (appended below) and declared the names of the kind donors for different services.
- President requested Ms. Sangeeta Chatterjee, who took the dance therapy session at Sneha Home, Sanlaap to share his experience. Ms. Chatterjee vividly described the emotions and elations among the participants and how they gradually opened up and shed off their inhibitions. It was so heartening to hear from her.
- PP Rtn. Chitra Mandal, PP Rtn. Kunal Ray, Rtn. Manas K. Ghosh, Rtn. Sudipta Kundu and PP Rtn. Pausali Paul, Rtn. (Dr.) Sharmila Sengupta and PP Rtn. Partha Sarkar expressed their views and ideas on the ongoing service projects and how to better the reach, especially with respect to mission plastic purge program.
- Secretary Soumya Chattopadhyay conducted the club business announcing the birthdays of the members. All the participating members heartily conveyed their well wishes to them.
- Then, President introduced the guests for the day, Dr. Emili B. Bhattacharyya and Dr. Santanu Rana who briefly talked about the field of work they are associated with and how they feel they can contribute to Rotary activities, given a chance.
- Honorary Member Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, on the request of the President, shared his views on the recent service projects. He heaped praises and encouraged the members



to do more for the needy.

- The meeting was then called to an end by the President.

### Upcoming Service Projects

- ❑ PROJECT MISSION LITERACY AND BEYOND ~ Pathshala/Udbhash/telescope making workshop in Baruipur High School/book donation to library/strip based ACR assessment in another old age home in New Garia
- ❑ PROJECT MISSION LIFE BEYOND CANCER
- ❑ PROJECT FIGHT FOR SIGHT
- ❑ PROJECT HAPPY HEALTH: Virangana in Sanlaap/ Clothes distribution at Loretto Rainbow Home in association with Quirky Bae
- ❑ Mission Plastic Purge: Coastal Clean Up at Digha

Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur has been the proud recipient of the 2023-24 District Governor Citation for outstanding performance in all the five avenues of service.





## CALCUTTA INNER CITY

**1st July:** An Awareness Program on Maintaining Good Health was held and eminent doctors from various disciplines – Dr. Binayak Sinha, Dr. Parthaj Das, Prof. Dr. Saikat Kumar and Dr. Suchand Das – spoke on how to keep good health on a daily basis. The program was moderated by Rtn. Dr. Debasis Dutta.

**9th July:** A cheque of Rs 50,000 was handed to the administrators at Udaan, a child care centre in Pailan (South 24 Parganas) which will be used for the nutritional and medical support of the children in the centre. This is an initiative to rescue and rehabilitate girl children of sex workers and at risk children from brothels of Soragachi. There are 47 girls in the hostel who are given formal education in the centre. The children gave a wonderful performance of song, dance, yoga and gymnastics.

**19th July:** An Awareness Program on 'Dry Eyes' was held at Interact Club of



Bidyia Bhaskari School. It was conducted by Rtn. Dr. Amit Pal and attended by more than 300 students and teachers. Dr. Pal spoke about the causes of dry eyes and ways to prevent and manage the same.

**25th July:** An Awareness Program for Thalassemia affected children was held at Dr. Shital Ghosh Thalassemia Hospital & HMC Blood Bank (Howrah). The program was attended by about 100 children (patients) and their guardians. Dr. Sujoy Chakraborty (Chairman, Howrah Municipal Council) and his team, DGV Ta-

pan Bhattacharya and other District Officials. President Tani Chakravarty spoke about creating awareness for prevention of Thalassemia to make the world Thalassemia-free. Gift hampers were distributed to the children.

2 toilets were inaugurated at Gopal Krishna Shiksha Kendra, a primary school in Howrah with 65 children from the marginalised category. The students put up a cultural performance. The project was done in collaboration with Hope Foundation.

## CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

**1st July:** Mission Plastic Purge, an Awareness program on plastic pollution and cleaning was initiated at Uddhosh, a child welfare organisation at Jodhpur Park. Dr. Punarbasu Choudhury (Faculty of Environ-



mental Sc., University of Calcutta) gave an audio visual presentation on how indiscriminate usage of plastics is destroying the world of terrestrial & marine animals and birds. 23 students were present who were given a short training on how to clean plastics with the help of wooden planks, sticks, gloves and a sack. The students cleaned the neighbourhood of plastics.

**2nd July:** A cheque for Rs 20,000/- for taking responsibility of 200 trees, was handed over to NGO Nature Mates for Afforestation in Pathorpostima (Sunderbans). The NGO has taken up a venture of planting more than 8,000 non-mangrove trees in different areas of Pathorpostima, Sunderbans.

**3rd July:** A Desktop Computer was donated to Rammohun Library and Free Reading Room that also runs a free Computer Teaching Centre for the needy. Financial support of Rs 40,000/- was provided for 4 Paediatric Cancer patients being treated at Tata Medical Centre.

**4th July:** Assessment of Glaucoma Parameters among the needy is held reg-

ularly at Vivekananda Mission Ashram Netra Niramay Niketan Eye Hospital. 3 patients were checked up by Dr. Asim Sil and his team.

In association with Tridhara Sammilani, a group of doctors who serve the underprivileged patients selflessly for free, were felicitated. MLA Debasis Kumar, from Tridhara Sammilani organized the event. The doctors were felicitated with plaques and framed pictures drawn by the children of Patishala at Parthajpur (Bolgur) along with some sweets. 5 support staff members who selflessly serve at the free medical camps organized by Tridhara Sammilani, were also felicitated.

**7th July:** Scout Training on Survival in the Wild was conducted at Uddhosh by Mr. Saubhik Ghosh, a journalist and naturalist who told the students how they could survive in the wilderness utilising forest goods. The resource persons from Udaan Mountaineering Association gave them training on various types of easy knots, how to make tents and the utilisation of sleeping bags and sacks.

## Calcutta Jadavpur

**9th July:** Computer literacy classes on MS Excel were held at Uddhosh. 12 students attended the classes.

**10th July:** Rs 11,000/- was donated at Rammohun Library towards the re-print of a commemorative volume on Acharya Pabulla Chandra Ray.

**11th July:** An aged Glaucomatous and visually impaired partially blind lady from Beshchampa, previously operated for cataract in Vivekananda Mission Ashram Netra Niramay Niketan Eye Hospital, underwent surgery for Glaucoma.

Under Mission Plastic Purge, an Awareness program on plastic pollution and cleaning. PP Dr. Chitra Mandal and Dr. Punarbasu Choudhury (Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Calcutta) spoke to around 50 students from classes 8-11 at Banpur High School. Then 25 students, who were provided with gloves and masks, cleaned their school premises of used plastics and stored them in sacks that would be cleaned in due time for recycling.

**13th July:** Kidney Function Test was performed at Ma Kaali Old Age Home, New Garia, where 21 individuals were tested.

**14th July:** Under Life Beyond Cancer, an online workshop for the caregiver volunteers was held by Dr. Arpita Bhattacharya, Ms. Nilanjana Mukhi, Ms. Bhawana Jain and Rtn. Partha Sarathy Sarkar (District Paediatric Cancer Chair).

**15th July:** Under Life Beyond Cancer, Rs 30,000/- was donated to SGCCB for the treatment and testing cost of 3 beneficiaries.

**17th July:** An Online Talk by Prof. Samir K. Sikdar (Jeld. Faculty & ex-Registrar of Bose Institute) was held on why and how to use rain water for daily chores including drinking purposes. It was attended by 32 people.

**20th July:** Forest Walk Rally and Awareness Lecture were observed with Gopal Chandra Bhattacharyya Vigyan Mela Committee. More than 500 school students participated in the program and 1,500 saplings were distributed. Rtn. Dr. Chitra Mandal spoke on the subject. The Afforestation Awareness Rally was held from Bagha Jatin metro to Jadavpur BB bus stand.

Under Life Beyond Cancer, Rs 10,000 was donated for treatment support of a patient at SGCCB.

**22nd July:** Under Life Beyond Cancer, treatment support of Rs 20,000 for 2 patients was donated at SGCCB.

**26th July:** Under Life Beyond Cancer, treatment support for 4 patients was provided at Tata Medical Centre and treatment support for 1 patient was provided at SGCCB.

**27th July:** A refurbished laptop was donated to Rammohun Library for the digitisation of books and catalogues and to aid

free computer education to the needy.

**31st July:** A sapling plantation venture was jointly organized with Pandita Montessori School. The saplings were planted in pots and each pot was assigned to 3 students for regular watering.

As a part of an ongoing project, tuition classes and extra-curricular activities were organized for 40 odd needy children (from class V to VI) from Divaranda and adjoining villages in Bolpur.

Under Life Beyond Cancer, medicine support of Rs 14,100/- was donated at NRS Medical College for 1 patient.

## CALCUTTA KANKURGACHI

**20th July:** Under Project Aranyak 1, a tree plantation program was held at Bhodra Village (South 24 Parganas). 100 saplings were distributed to 40 people to promote dense plantation.

**21st July:** Under Project Aranyak 2, 100 saplings were planted at CG Block Park in Salt Lake jointly with the Block Association.



## CALCUTTA LABANHRAD

**2nd July:** Pediatric Heart Surgery of a girl child of 12 months was sponsored at Narayana RV Tagore Hospital.

**14th July:** Under Easy School 3 Project, Sit and Draw competition was organized at Udaipur (Bishnupur) where 66 children participated.

**24th July:** Hands on workshop on Navigating Attention Deficit was held which was conducted by Centre for Cognitive Em-



tional Impoverishment. 100 students from 12 schools participated in the program.

## CALCUTTA LAKETOWN

**1st July:** Dr. Doctor's Day, Dr. Maghadhi Sen (physician who renders service by holding general camps at Sunderbans, Dakshinadri, Dr. Rakesh Sen (Dentist) and Dr. Ghosh of ICH were felicitated.



A 15 days Mushroom Cultivation Training Camp in collaboration with Motherdighi Palli Seva Sadan, Narendrapur, Ramkrishna Mission Lok Siksha Parishad & Gosaba Green College has been completed with the aim of providing alternative employment to the unemployed people at Sunderbans.

**16th July:** 50 plant saplings were distributed to the community people in Lake Town on Uda Rethiyeta.

In the Aug GML, our service work for the entire July, has been extensively mentioned and highlighted.



Rtn. Sikha Mukherjee completed RLI I and II

Rotary District 3297  
**VIRANGANA**  
by  
**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH CALCUTTA**  
2nd September  
Baghbazar Multipurpose Girls' School

faculties

Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta

Sensei Utpal Chakraborty

Rtn. Dr. Sarojika Pokraschi



Dietician



Self-Defense Instructor



Consultant Psychologist

Rtn Arpita Mullick  
President 2024-25

Rtn Rajesh Mukherjee  
Secretary 2024-25



# Service Projects of the Month At a Glance

## Mission Life Beyond Cancer



As a part of an ongoing service, this month, RCCJ donated **Rs 1,21,000/-** as a support to the treatment of 11 pediatric cancer patients.



To observe **Childhood Cancer awareness month**, RCCJ, through **Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith** and **Uddhash Children Welfare Organization**, promoted the cancer awareness by means of drama or skits performed by the students. Both the educational beautifully crafted short drama performed by the students. The students of **Baruipur High School** also ran the cancer awareness campaign in different classes. In all the promotional activities, the activities of **Life Beyond Cancer** were highlighted.

## Mission Literacy and beyond

### A. Tuition classes and cultural event in Pathshala



As an ongoing project, RCCJ organised daily tuition classes at Pathshala, Bolpur. Along with regular academic courses, the beneficiaries are also associated with activities like yoga and drawing. Beside the regular activities, RCCJ organized a cultural event with the students and teachers on 3<sup>rd</sup> September where members from Rotary Club of Tagoreland were the guests.

## Mission Literacy and beyond

### B. Computer classes in Udbhash



As a part of an ongoing project, RCCJ organized a computer training session at Udbhash conducted by Mr. Arpan Saha, PhD scholar of Genetics Dept., Univ of Calcutta.

### C. Observing National Space Day at BITM



On 29<sup>th</sup> Aug, RCCJ, in collaboration with NASI and BITM organized a program at BITM to celebrate National Space Day at BITM, in which, **Dr. Debiprosad Duari and Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly** gave two lectures to around 220 teachers and students from different schools.

### D. Presenting small scientific instruments to 50 school students



The National Academy of Sciences, India conducted a 4-day long science experiment demonstration workshop at Jadavpur University from 4-7<sup>th</sup> Sep, with 50 students from different schools. RCCJ presented small scientific instruments/gadgets like magnet and compass, kaleidoscope, prism, springer- balance etc. with which they can perform some of the experiments that have been demonstrated to them in the workshop.



## E. Telescope making workshop



On 19th September, Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur and Rotary Club of Avyanna jointly organized a telescope making workshop at Baruipur High School. Mr. Gopal Mandal, teacher of Falta Vivekananda Mission School was the resource person for this project.

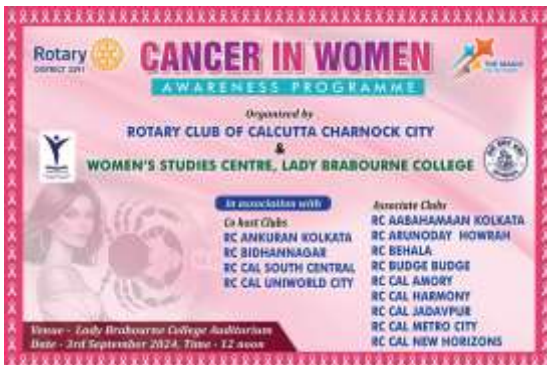
## Mission Happy Health

### A. Cervical Cancer Awareness Camps



RCCJ organised cervical cancer awareness camps at Rashmoni High School, Baruipur and Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug and 7<sup>th</sup> Sep respectively. PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal and Rtn. (Dr.) Sharmila Sengupta conducted the sessions.

### A. Awareness Camp on Cancer in Women



On 3rd Sep, Rotary club of Calcutta Charnock city organized a Cancer Awareness Programme at Lady Brabourne College. Renowned doctors and cancer survivors were present in the campaign event that was also attended by the students of Lady Brabourne College. RCCJ was one of the **associate co-host clubs** of the event.



## Mission Mental Well-Being Dance Therapy in Sanlaap



On September 14, 2024, RCCJ organized a dance therapy session for the residents of Sanlaap's SNEHA HOME, a shelter for rescued women and young girls, mostly from sex trade. The session was conducted by Ms. Sangeeta Chatterjee, a dance therapist, who works with autistic children.

## Mission Plastic Purge Coastal clean up at New Digha and awareness camp



On 21st Sep, Departments of Environmental Sc. & Genetics, University of Calcutta in association with the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India observed International Coastal Clean-up Day 2024 by cleaning plastics and other waste materials in the New Digha sea beach. As an extension project of Mission Plastic Purge, RCCJ actively collaborated towards the success of the event. A total of 58 students and mentors participated in the venture and cleaned a total of **63.5kgs of litters** in a span of 3 hours, of which **40kgs** were **plastic wastes**. The plastic wastes were handed over to KGN Plastics for recycling purposes. Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti delivered an awareness lecture on our plastic purge activities in the New Digha Science Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep.



# Public Image Initiatives



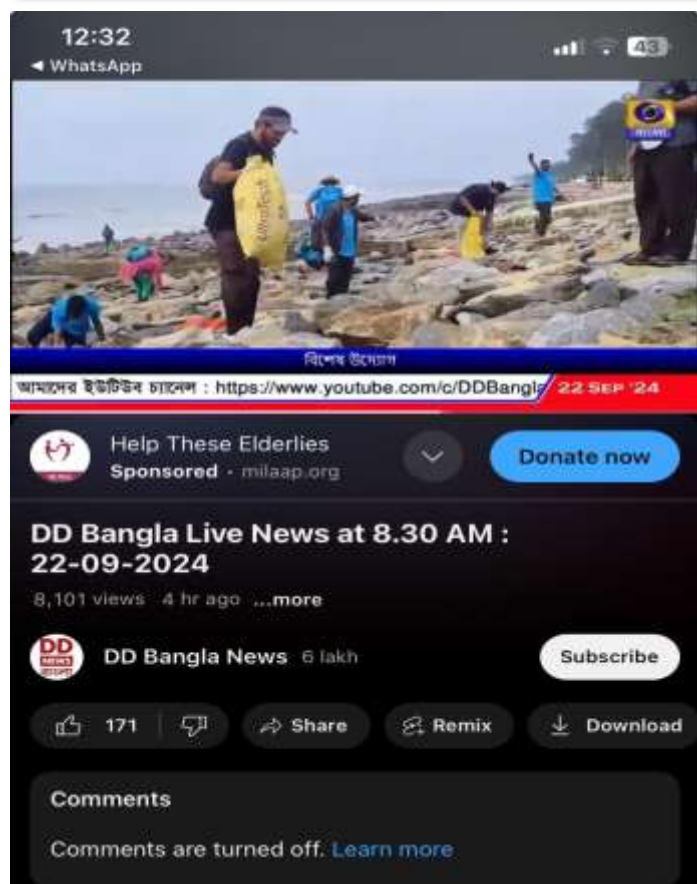
Life Beyond Cancer Hoardings in front of SSKM and Hedua, Kolkata; courtesy: Karukrit



SPREAD THE WARMTH ~ Pujo garment collection drive for the needy with **QUIRKY BAE**



# Public Image Initiatives



DD Bangla coverage of the coastal clean up service project at New Digha





**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. Narajit De, Ms. Ballari Banerjee, Dr. Munia Ganguly, Mr. Aniket Bhattacharyya, Prof. Alok K. Sil, Ms. Shibangi Bose. and Rotary Club of Chowrenghee.

# Media Reports of Importance to our Service Projects

## India pledges vaccines against cervical cancer

G.S. MUDUR

New Delhi: India has pledged diagnostic kits and vaccines worth \$7.5 million to prevent cervical cancer as part of a four-country initiative to help reduce the cancer burden in the Indo-Pacific, amid what some experts view as a delay in adding the jabs into India's immunisation programme.

India's commitment to share technical expertise, radiotherapy treatment capacity, diagnostic tools and vaccines is part of the Quad Cancer Moonshot Initiative launched on Saturday on the sidelines of the Quadrilateral Summit of the leaders of Australia, India, Japan and the US in Wilmington, Delaware.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the Quad Cancer Moonshot event, said India would provide support for radiotherapy treatment and capacity building for cancer prevention in the Indo-Pacific. He said the Indo-Pacific countries would benefit from the supply of 40 million doses of vaccines from India under GAVI, a global vaccine alliance.

The Pune-based Serum Institute of India, in partnership with GAVI, will support the procurement of up to 40 million doses of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine for distribution across the Indo-Pacific region, according to a fact-sheet on the Cancer Moonshot Initiative.

Medical researchers have known for nearly four decades that HPV infections raise the



Actor Rani Mukerji with cancer patients in Mumbai on Saturday. (PTI picture)

risk of cervical cancer and more than 100 countries offer HPV vaccines to adolescent girls through their immunisation programmes to prevent cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer, while preventable through vaccination and usually treatable if detected early, remains the third leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the Indo-Pacific region. Fewer than one in 10 women in the Indo-Pacific have completed the HPV vaccination series and fewer than 10 per cent have had recent screening.

The Quad initiative will seek to address such gaps by promoting HPV vaccination and expanding access to screening and treatment options in underserved areas.

The US government, through USAID, has pledged at least \$1.58 billion to GAVI which will bolster efforts to increase vaccine coverage, including the HPV vaccines, in low- and middle-income countries.

Multiple US government

departments will also contribute to the initiative through technical assistance, training, capacity building, expanding access to clinical trials and sharing information on the screening, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer, according to the fact-sheet.

Australia has pledged over \$20 million and Japan \$27 million for the Quad initiative for similar anti-cancer programmes in several southeast Asian and western Pacific island nations.

HPV vaccines have been available in India through the private sector since 2008, but public health experts have long advocated the need for the government to introduce the vaccine through the free immunisation programme to benefit all girls.

"It is unfortunate. The introduction of HPV vaccines has been excessively delayed," said Bhudev Das, a cancer researcher and former director of India's Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology, who had started work on HPV in the late-1980s.

An advisory group that guides the Union health ministry on immunisation had in 2017 recommended the introduction of HPV vaccines in the immunisation programme but this remains unimplemented, doctors say, likely because of the vaccine's cost.

The Serum Institute had last year announced a home-grown HPV vaccine that was expected to cost lower than the foreign-made vaccines.

## 'COUNTRY'S MACROPLASTIC WASTE CAN FILL 604 TAJ MAHALS'

## India becomes world's top plastic polluter

G.S. MUDUR

New Delhi: India is the world's largest plastic polluter, releasing enough plastic waste into the environment each year to fill 604 Taj Mahals, according to a study released on Wednesday that has displaced China from the top position.

Researchers at the University of Leeds in the UK have estimated that India emits some 9.3 million tonnes of macroplastic waste into the environment, over 90 per cent of it coming from uncollected municipal waste or waste burned at land disposal sites.

Their study, aimed at producing the first ever global plastic pollution inventory, has calculated that the world released 52 million tonnes of plastic waste into the environment during 2020, with India, Nigeria, Indonesia, China and Pakistan the top five polluters. The researchers have estimated that one million tonnes of macroplastic waste would fill 65 Taj Mahals.

"We're hoping our findings will provide national governments baseline estimates from which they could work towards reducing plastic pollution through local action plans," Ed Cook, a study co-author



The top 10 plastic polluters in the world. The coloured boxes denote the amount of plastic waste measured in million tonnes per year. Credit: Angliki Savvastoglou, Bear Bones

and research fellow at Leeds who specialises in plastic waste management, told The Telegraph.

Cook and his colleagues Josh Cotton and Costas Velis who used artificial intelligence tools to model waste management in over 50,000 municipalities around the world have estimated that two-thirds of the planet's plastic pollution comes from uncollected rubbish.

Indian regulatory au-

thorities have since 2022 sought to curb plastic pollution through rules that prohibit the production, sale, or use of single-use plastic items, including plastic cutlery, wrapping films, balloon sticks, flags, banners and fine plastic carry bags less than 100 microns in thickness. Thicker carry bags are intended to curb the use of light-weight single-use carry bags.

But plastic bags, Cook

said, represent only one relatively small component of India's plastic pollution challenge. The study has estimated that 53.4 per cent of India's plastic pollution emissions come from uncollected municipal waste and 38.2 per cent comes from waste burned at land disposal sites.

India's Central Pollution Control Board's annual report for 2020-21 reported that uncontrolled land dis-

posal dumps outnumber sanitary landfills by 10:1. Despite the claim that there is a nationwide collection coverage of 95 per cent, the Leeds researchers have said, there is evidence that the official statistics do not include rural areas, open burning or uncollected waste.

"India's official statistics on waste generation omit many rural areas," Cook said.

The study results have suggested that sub-Saharan Africa could become the world's largest source of plastic pollution over the next few decades because many of its countries have poor waste management systems and its population is expected to grow rapidly.

"People whose waste is not collected have no option but to dump it or burn it," said Costas Velis, a professor of civil engineering at Leeds who supervised the study. Setting plastic on fire may seem to make it disappear, but open burning of plastic waste can contribute to human health damage and lead to a much wider dispersal of the pollutants, Velis said.

The study's co-author Cotton said: "The health risks from plastic pollution impact some of the world's poorest communities who are powerless to do anything about it."



