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WEEKLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 10TH, 2023 - VOL. 46 NO. 12



Rotary International President
RTN. GORDON MCINALLY



District Governor
RTN. HIRA LAL YADAV



Club President
RTN. SHWETA BOSE BARUA



Rotary Garden Reach's 2239th RWM & J-RWM with Rotary Calcutta Charnock City & Rotary Calcutta Endeavour
 We heartily welcome our Guest Speaker **Dr. Amitava Bose - Ex-Director of ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU)**
Attendance last RWM: 11

Birthday Greetings
 Oct 11th : Spouse Jyotsna, Wife of PP Tapan K Roy
 Oct 12th : Spouse Rita, Wife of PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta
 Oct 14th : Spouse Sagarika Singha Roy
 Oct 15th : Spouse Priyanka, Wife of PE Biswajit Saha



Our guest speaker for today's J-RWM, Dr. Amitava Bose, who is an ex-Director-Inertial Systems Unit, ISRO has a wealth of experience in his field of work. After completing his Post Graduate Degree in Electrical Engineering from The University of Nottingham, UK, he directly joined Indian Space Research Organisation, (ISRO) in the year 1971 at its Satellite Launch Vehicle Development Centre known as Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).



In ISRO, he had worked for all major launch vehicle and in satellite research and development programmes acquiring specialization in the areas of Inertial Sensors, Inertial Systems, Navigation Systems and Navigation Software and created significant national capabilities in them. He worked with ISRO until retirement in the year 2002 while holding the post of Director of ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) at Trivandrum. He received national awards and commendations such as 'Dr. Biren Roy Space Science and Design Award', instituted by Aeronautical Society of India, during the year 2000 for outstanding contribution in the field of 'Aerospace', and 'Technology Knowledge Award' from then His Excellency the Governor of Kerala. He was awarded the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) Distinguished Visiting Professorship for lectures at IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Delhi and Kanpur for four consecutive years during 2002-2006 after retirement from ISRO. He has presented papers nationally and internationally which were well received. He co-authored three published books in the topic of Navigation and Inertial Sensors for use of students as well as for practicing engineers. He was a Visiting Professor at the Aerospace department of IEST, Sibpur for several years till August, 2017. He is a member of Research Council of Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO, He is a Fellow of Systems Society of India and a Life Member Astronautical Society of India.

Dr. Amitava Bose will speak on "From Fishing Hamlet to Chandrayan-3".



Alleviating poverty through Community Economic Development projects

Vanessa Vegas, Rotary Service Supervisor

In October, Rotary celebrates **Community Economic Development Month**. This is a good time to reflect on the profound impact Rotary members are making in this area of focus. Over 10% of all Rotary-funded projects are developed in this area, totalling an investment of more than seven million U.S. dollars in the 2022-23 Rotary year.

According to the World Bank, 659 million people lived below the US\$2.15 per day poverty line in 2019. Let's understand how Rotary and Rotaract members are supporting their communities and transforming lives through Community Economic Development projects.



There are many ways in which the Rotary family can create measurable and enduring economic improvement in their communities. Some possible paths are:

- *Building capacity and developing opportunities for productive work*
- *Empowering leaders and addressing gender or class disparities*
- *Supporting entrepreneurs, social businesses, or innovators*
- *Enhancing community resilience, adaptive capacity, and emergency preparedness*

The Community's Voice: A Crucial First Step

As with any successful project, the first step requires engaging with the community to identify not only their most pressing needs but also what resources (expertise, traditional knowledge, physical assets, organizations, infrastructure, financial, etc.) it has to address them. Rotary and Rotaract members can learn how to better provide support by understanding the community through the community assessment process.

In the case of the Rotary Community Corps of Aksu Village in northwest Turkey, the community assessment process was done by engaging in multiple family breakfasts and conversations with a group of women from the community's women solidarity association. After building trust, friendship, and open communication, the group voiced a need to grow their small businesses. They sold fresh vegetables and fruits, but their income-generating activity was limited to the summer. The Rotary Bursa-Uludag provided equipment, enhanced the space for production and sales, and supported the diversification of products. This led to growth and expansion of their ventures, which allowed them to have an income all year round.

Ensuring Sustainability

Every project, regardless of its size, should be planned with the intention of continuing beyond the initial assistance from clubs. For projects in the Community Economic Development area, support through equipment, materials, and physical assets are important but insufficient. Entrepreneurship, financial, and vocational training, as well as mentorships and strengthening leadership skills, will ensure a project can be sustained long-term.

In the case of a small service project developed by the Rotaract Karachi Sunrise and Rotary Karachi Sunrise in Pakistan, the goal to alleviate poverty was addressed by providing entrepreneurs with a fully equipped potato fries setup, including a cabin, machines, gas cylinder, and all necessary supplies for one month. However, they knew this would not be enough, so they strengthened their initiative by providing mentorship to participants, equipping them with business skills and knowledge that will outlast the materials donated.

Measurement and Adaptability to attain positive impact

When engaging in projects that aim to address the economic needs of a community, understanding the existing situation (through baseline data), as well as including activities for monitoring and evaluation, to gauge what is working, what is not, and possible ways to improve deficiencies, heightens the possibilities of the intervention having a positive impact long-term.

In Colombia, a global grant was developed to support the economic development of the El Pencil farming community by providing enhanced agricultural methodology and cooperative creation training to 25 farmers. As part of this effort, an exhaustive baseline data on farming production, income, and profits was carried out. The monitoring strategy designed by the Rotary Clubs of Medellín-Nutibara and Downtown Los Angeles included continued monitoring and measurement of the improvement attained through the project's activities. By doing this, the sponsors and farmers concluded that they would have higher income if they processed some of the produce harvested. Therefore, grant funding was reallocated to purchase low-technology food driers so the products could last longer and be sold at a higher price in the market. Being able to measure project progress allowed the team to adjust their original project plan to reach the best project outcome.





Technical Expertise in-house

Each community our members support is different. Community Economic Development projects can range in size, scope, activities, type, and duration; however, there are general guidelines that can apply to all project planning.

One of the most significant assets Rotary has is our pool of experts in all fields, areas of focus, and regions of the world.

Rotary members interested in developing community-based, sustainable, and impactful Community Economic Development projects can contact their District International Service Chair to get more information on technical expertise available in their district.

As part of the District Resource Network, the Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development, and members of the [Cadre of Technical Advisers](#) with a background in this area of focus can provide support in the design, implementation, and monitoring of your projects. Make sure to reach out as you are in the planning stages.

Rotary International is not just alleviating poverty; it's igniting hope, empowering communities, and forging a brighter tomorrow through Community Economic Development. Join us in this endeavour, and together we'll create lasting change, one community at a time.

OUR ROTARY

PP Rtn. Chandrakant Chaudhari, Rotary Aurangabad Metro, RID 3132

In my opinion, sooner or later, Rotary International will struggle to survive. In spite of all the efforts there is no or negligible growth in the membership. Again, retention is also challenging.

- * *Opening membership to women has not helped us.*
- * *Dilution in Classification has not helped us.*
- * *Relaxing attendance rules has not helped us.*
- * *Giving equal Rotary status to Rotaract has not helped us.*
- * *Creating E-clubs, Satellite clubs etc. has not helped us.*

Instead of addressing the root cause, we are increasing RI per capita dues just to keep our RI the white elephant alive and trying to make our Foundation stronger by asking Governors to collect contributions to TRF. Every RI Officer presents how your contributions multiply but never places number of beneficiary clubs. I am sure out of 33,000 clubs not more 15% clubs close to RI Officers, Governors get advantage, whereas every Rotarian and all clubs are pressurised to contribute.

In the beginning of 20th century there was a need of service organisations & Rotary was first to start with. Thereafter many international organisations like Lions, Giants, International Masonic Association, Jaycees & many more came up.

Apart from these international organisations many local associations, community NGOs, caste-based groups, private trusts, Chamber of Commerce have also cropped up and they are visible in the community. Membership in local clubs suits them. The membership fees are nominal with minimum or no administrative expenses.

My suggestions:

1. Fellowship: We must first give priority to fellowship at club level. Attendance in club meetings is falling. Fellowship is lacking.
2. Local community need based projects: Instead painting rosy pictures of Global projects we should concentrate on local need-based projects and make Rotary visible. We have no global project like Eradication of Polio.
3. Merging of weak clubs: Boosting that we have 33000 clubs in over 200 countries is just making a mockery of ourselves. There are more than 10,000 Rotary clubs with less than 20 members. These are weak clubs and many of these clubs are just for namesake. Compulsorily we must bring down the number of clubs. Merge clubs with less than 20 members or close all those clubs that have failed to increase club membership over and above 20 members in last 5 years.
4. After merging clubs and making all clubs with membership of minimum 40, the total number of clubs will come down to around 20,000.
5. Consolidating & Redistricting: We must go for Consolidating & Redistricting of all 529 districts. Each district will have minimum 100 clubs thus with 20,000 clubs we can bring down number of districts around 200.
6. There is a concentration of Rotary Clubs in metropolitan big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Karachi, London, and many other places. Here we can plan a district for minimum 150 clubs.
7. Extension: In future only with the consent of existing Rotary club a New club must be admitted with minimum 40 members. Sponsoring club must undertake the responsibility to pay R I Per capita dues for minimum 6 terms. If the new club fails to pay, then the sponsoring club will have to pay the dues of the new club.
8. Cutting down the expenses: Consolidating & redistricting and merging of clubs will bring down all the expenses substantially and as per my estimations it will be less by at least 40%.
9. Rotary Zones: With less number of clubs we can plan our Zones. Each Zone should have 3,000 clubs thus the total number of zones will be not more than 7.
10. RI and Foundation restructuring: We should cut down number of R I Directors & TRF Trustees. From each zone we can have One Director & one Trustee. With smaller Board of Directors & Foundation Trustees again we can cut down





the expenses.

11. Electing Representative to COL: With less number of districts we will elect less number of representatives for COL again helping us on cost cutting on COL. Instead of three years the COL should be called after every 5 years.

12. RI Directors & TRF Trustees Meetings: Alternate RI Board of Directors meeting and meetings of TRF Trustees be held virtually and only important meetings be held physically.

13. Nominating RIPRs: All RIPRs be nominated from nearest district bringing down expenses on travel & stay.

14. District Leadership Plan: Implementing effectively the DLP is very necessary for healthy growth of clubs. And there are many more ways to bring down the expenses & minimize increase in RI per capita dues.

I AM ASSOCIATED WITH ROTARY SINCE 1975-76 & SELECTED TO LEAD AS CHARTER PRESIDENT IN 1984-85. I HAVE SEEN ROTARY CHANGING IN LAST 45 PLUS YEARS & DEFINATELY CAN PRESENT MY VIEWS & GIVE MY OPINION ON MAKING OUR ROTARY BETTER AND STRONG. ALL THIS BECAUSE I LOVE ROTARY.

World Polio Day - One Day, One Focus, Ending Polio

By working together with our partners, governments, and communities around the world, we've immunized over 2.5 billion children in 122 countries.

Our Partners

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Gavi uses innovative finance mechanisms to secure sustainable funding and an adequate supply of quality vaccines. Gavi supports the inclusion of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in routine immunization programs and the strengthening of health systems in Gavi-supported countries.

Rotary International

Rotary uses its members' skills and passion to build awareness, fundraise, and encourage governments to donate to and support polio eradication efforts. Over one million Rotary members have volunteered their time and resources to help end polio.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest private source of funding for the GPEI. For every \$1 donated to End Polio Now, up to \$50 million per year, it gives \$2 for polio eradication. It provides technical support and invests in research to enhance polio vaccines, surveillance, and outbreak response.

US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC deploys epidemiologists, public health experts, and scientists to investigate outbreaks of polio, identify the strain of poliovirus involved, and pinpoint its geographic origin.

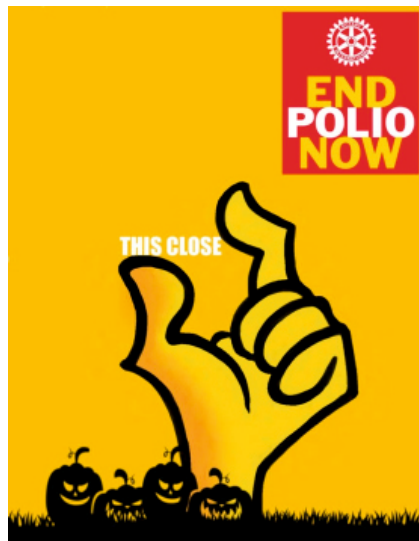
UNICEF

UNICEF buys polio vaccine and manages its distribution. The agency spreads the word about the benefits of vaccination to gain community acceptance. On the ground, field workers immunize children with the help of local health workers and volunteers.

World Health Organization

WHO coordinates the management and administration of the GPEI and provides technical and operational support to ministries of health around the world. WHO is responsible for monitoring our progress and strategic planning.

The Solution:



Finishing the Fight

Together with our partners, governments, community leaders, health workers, and volunteers, we must stay vigilant. Until we eradicate the disease, we must continue to immunize every single child against polio.

What Your Money Buys:

In January 2023, Rotary gave USD\$50 million in grants to our partners WHO and UNICEF for polio eradication activities. The money will pay for technical expertise, social mobilization, and more. Some examples of how the money was used:

In Afghanistan:

Stipends for 56,445 vaccinators and 630 mobilizer vaccinators to promote community dialogue and address barriers to vaccination.

100,000 soap bars and 51,000 baby blankets to engage communities and promote hygiene and boost vaccination.

In Pakistan:

Support for 187,000 mobile vaccinators and 400 union council polio vaccination support officers.

In Nigeria:

Transport for 11,520 polio specimens per month to two national laboratories.





On Saturday, October 7th, 2023, Rotary Garden Reach donated an Electric Scooty to a physically Challenged tribal girl, Devika Mete, studying in a college 16 km from Bolpur. This will help her to commute and continue with her studies. Parents are daily labourers.



Our Members led by our President Shweta, PPs Tapan Roy, DK Rao, Ashfaque Ahmed, Naresh Jain & Prosenjit Barua along with spouse Jyotsna Roy, member of Inner Wheel Garden Reach was present at the ceremony organised by Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust of Daranda who also presented Ms. Devika with books, and clothes. Devika has battled all odds as a physically challenged girl with poverty shadowing her at every step to become empowered to carry on with her life.





Rotary's top leaders to attend COP-28

Yasar Atacik

For the first time, Rotary will have a pavilion and programming in the Blue Zone at this year's UN Climate Conference – COP 28 - which will take place in Dubai from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12. Rotary's senior leaders will attend with a significantly expanded delegation including four ESRAG members. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is convened by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Blue Zone is the official plenary and negotiation space for the COP. Rotary's goals in attending COP 28, according to delegation chair Judith Diment, are to promote Rotary senior leaders' engagement with high level government people and to strengthen relations with the UN. This also gives us a chance to tell what Rotary does. Rotary's COP 28 Planning Committee, led by Judith Diment and Dr. Chris Puttock, have been working on planning since the beginning of the year. Rotarians from the UAE are providing critical support for the organization. We've just learned that the Association of Rotary Clubs of the UAE is hosting a webinar Oct. 7 to explain their role in supporting Rotary's pavilion in the Blue Zone.

Rotary's engagement with COP has grown exponentially over the last five years. In 2018 ESRAG Co-Founder Karen Kendrick-Hands attended COP 24 as Rotary's first observer-delegate ever. RI Presidents Shekhar Mehta and Jennifer Jones attended COP 26 and 27 with a delegation.

This year our delegation includes [Rotary's top leaders: RI President Gordon McNally, Rotary Foundation Chair Barry Rassin, and General Secretary and CEO John Hewko](#). The delegation is led by Judith Diment, dean of the Rotary

Representative Network to the United Nations and International Agencies. Mohamed Delawar, Rotary's representative to the Arab League, and Rotarians from Dubai will also attend. Dr. Chris Puttock, Dr. Mina Venkataraman, Salvador Rico and I will be part of the delegation representing ESRAG.

The Rotary pavilion in the Blue Zone is large enough to accommodate up to 40 attendees. Thematic sessions will be organized aligning with COP 28 themes announced for each day. These themes and the sessions include:

- 🌱 *Health, relief, recovery, and Peace Day*
- 🌱 *Finance, trade, gender equality*
- 🌱 *Energy, industry, and just transition*
- 🌱 *Multilevel action, urbanization, built environment, and transportation*
- 🌱 *Youth, children, education, and skills*

🌱 *Food, agriculture, and water*

In addition to events on these themes, Rotary will have sessions on how Rotary works and how Rotary addresses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on environment, pollution, and climate.

Various sessions on these themes are being developed by the delegation with others. Rotary earlier announced its desire to connect with all Rotarians attending COP 28, so please spread the word about the Rotary pavilion and send me the names of Rotarians or Rotaractors that you know who are going.

Rotaractors will help to run Rotary's pavilion. The Rotaract volunteers are being selected from different countries, speaking a variety of languages to facilitate communication with delegates coming to the pavilion. They will be hosted by Rotaractors in Dubai. This will be a valuable Rotary leadership experience for the Rotaract volunteers.

COP 28 will also take up a critical issue: Global Stocktake. As foreseen in the Paris Climate Agreement, UNFCCC is undertaking this global stocktake to assess what has been accomplished. The report which was published this month will be discussed by the parties at the meeting. Unfortunately, as expected, the findings show that very little has been achieved.

The expense for the pavilion was not expected and not budgeted by RI, so most of the funding (\$200,000+) for the pavilion and related work had to be funded by donations, including a few from members of ESRAG. Thanks to those ESRAG members who contributed!





Kumortuli: Straw, Tamarind & 130-year-old tradition brings these Kolkata statues to Life

Ananya Barua

You walk through the winding turns and twists of the narrow lanes of North Kolkata. You cross ornate buildings with red-oxide stone floors and green French windows, some persevering while others breathing their last.

And then, as the roads give way to narrow labyrinthine streets covered in sticky mud, your momentary inconvenience dissolves in awe at the sight of numerous lifelike (sometimes larger-than-life) clay sculptures. Rows of heads and arms carved into perfection lie out in the sun to dry, as the artists prepare the skeleton for the rest of the body of what they believe would soon become gods and goddesses.

Amid the buzz of the street hawkers, rickshaw pullers and the incessant camera clicks of enthusiastic tourists, the kumbhars maintain their calm, meditatively working day and night to perfect the form of the human body in pursuit of creating an image of the divine.

Kneading the clay and painstakingly carving intricate details of curves and creases, these are the kumbhars of Kolkata, who, decades ago, found their home on the banks of Hooghly river, in a settlement known as Kumortuli or Coomartolly.



There are more than 450 workshops owned by several families of master sculptors who, for generations, have been creating idols and models for museums and galleries. However, it is the festival of Durga Puja that demands most of the hard work, as orders for idols demand new heights of challenges and creativity every year. It is estimated that each year, the kumbhars create more than 4,000 sets of Durga idols with her entire family members, and many of them are shipped abroad as well. There are more than 450 workshops owned by several families of master sculptors who, for

generations, have been creating idols and models for museums and galleries. However, it is the festival of Durga Puja that demands most of the hard work, as orders for idols demand new heights of challenges and creativity every year. It is estimated that each year, the kumbhars create more than 4,000 sets of Durga idols with her entire family members, and many of them are shipped abroad as well.

Origin of Potters' Abode

Knee-deep in history and traditions, Kumortuli was born when a group of Patuas (potters) from the banks of Ganges migrated to the area which was then a small hamlet. The migration was a result of several socio-political events of the time.

The beginning came with the end of the Battle of Plassey in 1757, after which the British began to build Fort William in the erstwhile village of Govindapur. This decision eventually forced the population to move north to an area called Sutanuti, whereby, the rich decided to set up houses in nearby neighbourhoods of Jorasanko and Sutanuti Hatkhola. While these areas emerged as home to the local rich, including the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in his home, Jorasanko Thakurbari, several surrounding areas developed to give rise to the metropolis of Calcutta (Kolkata).

It was during this time that JZ Holwell, an employee of the East India Company, was ordered to allot separate areas as per the occupation of the communities. The residents of these settlements were to provide their services to the Company, as and when needed.

Thus, among others like Suriparah (settlement of wine sellers), Colootolla (settlement of oil merchants), Chuttarparah (quarters for carpenters), and Ahiritolla (settlement of milkmen), Kumortuli came into existence as the abode of the potters, the patuas.





According to a popular lore, in the early years of idol sculpting, Kumortuli potters did not know how to sculpt a lion (Durga's pet), as they had never seen one before. All they knew were tigers and horses, and based on this knowledge were inspired to sculpt a horse-like creature with a stout mouth, large teeth and a ferocious look.

That early rendition of a lion is still replicated for one of the oldest Durga pujas of the region performed at the residence of Raja Nabakrishna Deb. The tradition has been in practice for the past 300 years.

Hence, from simple potters who fashioned the river-side clay into earthen pots and utensils, they gradually evolved into master sculptors, creating magnificent idols that often towered over 10 ft in height.

The art of creating gods

A 130-year old colony spread across 5-acres of land is now populated with hundreds of homes with linear rectangular rooms with entrances facing the road. The houses have dark, high-ceilinged, tin-roofed temporary rooms, crammed with rows humongous idols of Durga and her family, on either side, that serves as the workshop of the kumbhars or karigars of Kumortuli.

However, the art involves a number of rituals prior to the actual carving.

It begins in mid-April after a ritualistic worship of Ganesha and Lakshmi on the day of Rathayatra, known as Kathamo puja. This is followed by the worship of the wooden or bamboo frames on which the idols will eventually be cast. These frames that serve as the skeleton of the figures are created based on the style of the idol, for instance 'ek-chala' or 'do-chala', whereby the idols are set against one or two backdrops, respectively.



The style and frame of the idols vary according to the number of backgrounds, as they are then wrapped with straw and hay to create the muscles and curves similar to a human form. Once the rituals are in place, the tedious job begins.

First, the clay dug out from the riverbed of the Ganges River is kneaded and pounded until the right consistency is achieved. This 'etel-maati' or sticky clay is then mixed with rice husk and applied all over the straw frame. This procedure is known as the 'ek-mete', and is followed by

thorough sun-drying.

Once dried, the idols begin to show cracks, only to be smoothed by strips of cloth and more layers of soft clay. This step is continued until the artist successfully creates a smooth base.

The next step is known as 'do mete', whereby another layer of fine-grained clay, known as 'bele-maati' is carefully applied to give a smooth and rounded structure to the idol.

More intricate parts like fingers and faces of the idols are cast separately and attached later to the frames using the same sticky mud. The figure then is once again left out to dry.

The completion of the drying procedure then gives way to colouring which begins with a base coat of white water-soluble paint mixed with a thick sticky layer of tamarind seed paste. Several other steps of body colouring using vibrant shades of yellow, pearl, pink, red, etc. follow. The act of drawing the eye is one of the most crucial tasks in the process, and so the most experienced artist usually does that in the workshop.

To make the idols more lifelike, nylon hair, eye-lashes, clothes, ornaments and embellishments are meticulously attached breathing life into the clay sculptures.

Over the years, with the rise in the grandeur of Durga Puja, the art has also evolved. From shabeki idols carved in the image of a traditional Bengali bride to adhunik abstract influences that cater to themed-pujas, the art has come a long way.

Under the flickering light of a bulb, the work of these karigars goes beyond the ambit of artistic expression. While the world stands gaping at the beauty of their creation, for them the art is tradition—a matter of familial pride and survival, which nevertheless is dwindling with time.





Minutes of the 2238th RWM held on October 3rd, 2023 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. President Shweta call the meeting to order & requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. The District Governor's official visit has been finally scheduled for November 7th, 2023 at our club venue.
3. The Assistant Governor's visit will commence on October 17th, 2023 at the club venue.
4. The donation of an e-Scooty to a special girl child will take place at Daranda on October 7th, 2023. President requests members to attend.
5. RCC Champa Mahila Society will have its "Sundaban Mahila Utsab" on October 7th, 2023 at Basanti. PP Tapan has donated 50 kgs & PP Kumud 100 kgs of rice, Dal by PE Biswajit and Mosquito nets by PP Prosenjit respectively.
6. J-RWM with Rotary Calcutta Charnock City & Rotary Calcutta Endeavour has been decided on October 10th, 2023. Meeting will commence from 6:30 pm.
7. Pre-Pujo Clothes distribution at RCC Badartala on October 14th, 2023.
8. The Club Secretary conducts the Club Business.
9. On confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, President terminated the meeting.

