



flame

The weekly bulletin of Rotary Ballygunge

Club # 16145
Rotary International District 3291

Volume # XLVI
Issue # 12
Date # 26.09.2024



Stephanie Urchick
Rotary International
President



Dr. Krishnendu Gupta
Rotary District 3291
Governor



Dr. Anjan Bhattacharya
Rotary Ballygunge
President



Anirban Sarker
Rotary Ballygunge
Secretary



Subhankar Chakraborty
Rotary Ballygunge
Editor

Editor : Subhankar Chakraborty

Editor's Column

Dear Readers,

Warm advanced Sarodiya greetings to all!

As we look forward to take on another promising year of service and fellowship under the leadership of new President for the year 2024-25, let us take an oath once more to be connected, showcases our collective achievements, and provides valuable co-operation to our esteemed members. We must think above the self-interest and commit



ourselves to serve the society at large

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your prompt co-operation in providing the necessary details, photographs, and updates. Your timely response has been instrumental in ensuring that I could compile and publish the "Flame" efficiently and on schedule. Your partnership not only highlights your commitment to our community but also strengthens our ability to server and connect more effectively.

As we move forward to the long vacation ahead, I encourage all members to utilize this time to its fullest potential to come up with new plans and ideas to serve it better, as pledged by the World Rotary. Your shared values, and dedication makes a positive impact in our community.

Thank you once again for your unwavering

support and enthusiasm. Together, we can look forward to the rest of the year filled with meaningful activities, impactful projects, and continued camaraderie.

Cheers!!



Handholding a village towards “a better tomorrow”

Rasheeda Bhagat

Vadachi Wadi is a small village with a population of hardly 40 families, comprising some 385 people, barely 13 km from Aurangabad. Most of the families depend on farming for income and while the smaller farmers have landholding of 2-3 acres, the larger ones own land plots of 5-6 acres and most of them grow jowar, bajra, cotton, corn, pulses and vegetables.

For the last few years the Rotary Club of Aurangabad, RI District 3132, has adopted this village in a bid to bring around transformative lifestyle changes in the village with focus on children's education, improving livelihoods, and above all introducing means of income generation for the women in the village.

The Rotarians adopted this village a few years ago to drive impactful community projects under the Rotary Panchayat. One initiative, “We wanted to address the villagers' needs and create sustainable solutions in education, farming and especially to enhance women's income by either teaching them new skills or upgrading existing ones,” says immediate past president of the club Sarita Setish Lonkar.

With focus on girls' education, the club began to beautify the village primary school by repairing and painting the building and providing separate toilets for girls and boys. It invited IPDG Swati Herkar to distribute 10 bicycles to

girls, who had to walk a distance of 8 km to the secondary school. Eight more bicycles, each costing ₹5,000, are going to be given to girl students soon.

Next, the project focused on supporting “local entrepreneurship

IPDG Swati Herkar (fourth from L) and IPP of RC Aurangabad Sarita Setish Lonkar after gifting bicycles to school-going girls in Vadachi Wadi village.



and self-employment of women through various initiatives as part of a broader mission to promote social change and improve livelihoods. To bring about economic empowerment of women and encourage entrepreneurship, the members organised Montessori training for six women who were interested, and of these three have been employed,” says Poonam Doodia, assistant governor, RID 3132.

Six of the village women were each given an *atta chakki* (flour mill), and now they are getting a regular income through the production of *roti* and *chilli powder*, *tamaris powder*, other Indian spices as



also grinding *foodgrains*. A sewing machine was donated to the women who were trained to make cloth bags, small purses and pouches, with the club members helping to market what was produced by the women, including powdered spices, pickles, papads etc.

Next, the farmers were trained in organic farming with experts organized to address and guide them. Fruit trees were planted in some farms and there is a plan to plant some 500 bamboo trees in the village this year. The total amount spent on this project so far is around ₹3 lakh.

One of the beneficiaries, Savita, said, “I am so thankful to the Rotary club and its president Sarita for giving me and six other women an *atta chakki* machine, and training us how to handle it for different kinds of grinding. Now, by doing this work, we can earn about ₹200 to ₹300 daily.”

Says a very happy club president Sarita, “Engaging in these initiatives



SEPTEMBER 2024 ROTARY NEWS 37



The village school before and after renovation by the club.



has been incredibly rewarding. Some of our members visit this village once a month, and seeing the smiles on the faces of the children, the gratitude of the women and the elderly, and the overall improvement in quality of life fills us with immense pride and joy.”

On future plans, she says the club is keen to encourage the education of girls and towards “this goal, we want to set up a scholarship for girls' higher education. We also want to introduce digital classrooms and e-learning resources.”

She adds that healthcare services will also be taken up by holding regular health camps for medical check-up and vaccination. Skill development of women and youth will continue as also the planting of trees and educating and motivating the farmers to opt for organic farming.

“We are optimistic that all these components of the project will create a ripple effect of positive change and usher in a better tomorrow for the villagers,” smiles Poonam. ■

Blessings From Holy Souls



I hereby inform the following to my fellow Rotarian friends that- Respected Swamy Suparnananda Maharaj, Secretary of Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark has accepted my two published books, "Manas Kailasher Pathe" and "Himalaye Path Chala" for keeping at their renowned General Library. I am honoured with his blessings.

Respected Swamy Ekachitwananda Maharaj, Principal of Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission College has also kindly taken my above books to keep at the college Library.

Respected Swamy Mahapragyananda Maharaj, Principal of Bellur Ramkrishna Vidyamandir College has also accepted my above two books for their Library.

I also handed over the books to Respected Swamy Balabhadrananda Maharaj, Asst. Secretary of Ramkrishna Math and Mission, Bellur and he accepted those for Library of the Math.

I feel God's blessings that the above mentioned Learned, Pious souls had accepted my Pranam and allowed my books to be kept at their reputed Libraries.

~From the Column of "Ms. Indrani Gupta" (Rotarian):

ANNOUNCEMENT



We are proud to announce and congratulate our immediate Past President Rotarian Rinku Das Chowdhury for achieving such prestigious award!!



Eye Check- Up & Health Camp at Gandhi Vidyalaya, Entally



On September 21, 2024, RCB, Ballygunge had organized an eye checkup camp for the students of Gandhi Vidyalaya, Entally. The students participated in both programs with great enthusiasm. We are blessed to see the smiling faces of the children. The programme has been led by our very dynamic President Dr. Amlan Bhattacharya with his great professional skills and wonderfully anchored by our very beloved Rotarian PP Ashif Shah with his natural enigma. Other fellow Rotarians also joined the and graced the occasion. A special thanks to Rotarian Sharbari Dey. We also installed the new board of Interact Club attached to the school.

Place : Gandhi Vidyalaya, Entally

Kolkata : 700 014

Date : September 21, 2024

Minutes of the 2507th RWM held in The International Club, Kolkata, on 19/09/2024.

- 1) President called the 2507th RWM to order.
- 2) President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members and guests present.
- 3) President informed the members that a service project was conducted on "Mental Health" at the Rotary Sadan on 14th September covering 25 students and 25 parents. The students were mostly from standards 8, 9 and 10. There were separate counselling sessions for the students of Gandhi Vidyalaya and their parents, and the programme had participation by trained Psychiatrists. The project was participated by Rtn Apala Datta, the Disha Group and PDG Rtn Mukul Roy (District Literacy Chair). Food packets were sponsored by Rtn Dibyendu Sekhar Lahiri. President informed the members that on 14th September 2024,
- 4) President informed the members that a camp on Eye Checkup will be held on 21st September at the Gandhi Vidyalaya.
- 5) President informed the members that on 28th September, an Eye Camp will be held at the Sarat Memorial Institution, jointly with RC Mahanagar. The Eye Camp is expected to benefit 150 children and 100 parents.
- 6) President informed the members that distribution of apparels among the poor will be conducted before the commencement of the Durga Puja festival and such distribution is expected to take place in the first week of October 2024.
- 7) World Polio Day will be celebrated on 24th October to raise awareness about polio and the importance of vaccination. President requested the members to donate USD \$100 each for this noble cause. President also informed that RC Ballygunge will be participating in a programme on eradication of polio on 24th October.
- 8) President informed the members that a school in the Purulia District has been chosen for the adult literacy project.
- 9) President informed the members that on 9th November, PP Rtn Indrani Gupta will conduct a talk at the Ramkrishna Mission, Narendrapur.
- 10) President informed the members that the visit of the District Governor will be held on 20th March 2025.
- 11) President handed over to the Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee., for the happy announcements.
- 12) Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee welcomed the members to join the RWM and to participate in important matters concerning the club.
- 13) The Minutes of the last meeting was confirmed.
- 14) Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee, handed over to the President for business.
- 15) President terminated the meeting (RWM 2507).

Members Present : 09