

AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTH EAST

Rotary International District 3291

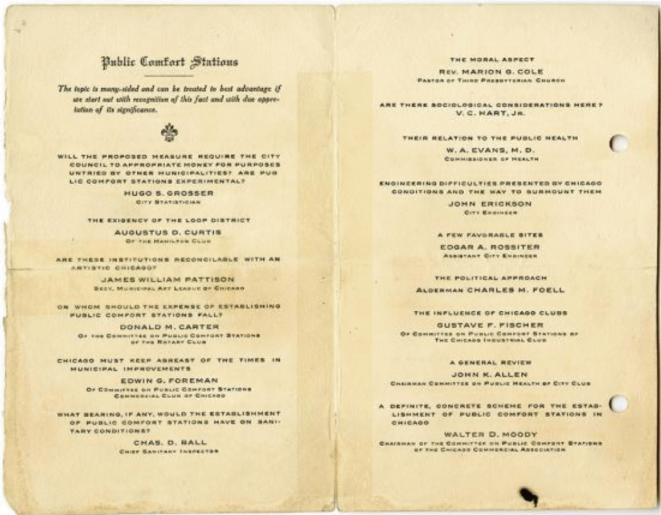
Vol. : 39	Thursday, 27th March, 2025	No. 17
Club No. : 23802	1619th Regular Meeting	Charter on : 12.06.1986
We meet every alternate Thursday at THE ANTELOPE, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 at 8.00 pm.		
Rtn Subasish Halder President	Rtn Swapnamita Roy Secretary	Rtn Sukanta Khan Treasurer
		PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul Editor

PROVIDING PUBLIC TOILETS: EARLY ROTARY SERVICE

By Rotary International

One of Rotary’s earliest service projects helped to bring public toilets to Chicago, the quickly growing industrial city in the Midwest of the United States where Rotary began in 1905. Club members didn’t construct the restrooms themselves, as they sometimes do today. But just as they do today, they worked with other local groups to raise awareness of the need for sanitation in this urban area and advocated to get the project funded.

These public toilets, then known as “comfort stations,” were typically underground structures at busy sites such as parks and public squares. Civic leaders and reformers in several American cities were noting a need for them, and Rotary members in Chicago were part of the movement.



Program for a forum organized by the Rotary Club of Chicago, 24 October 1907.



Entrances to public toilets at LaSalle and Washington Streets in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Before February 1955. These entrances no longer exist.

Rotary founder Paul Harris and his fellow member Donald Carter worked with other club members and other organizations to make a plan to build public toilet facilities in the city and gather support for the initiative.

In October 1907, the Chicago Daily Tribune (now the Chicago Tribune) reported that the Rotary Club of Chicago had had plans drawn for public toilets in the downtown district known as the Loop. The club held a forum on the topic later that month, noting, “the topic is many-sided and can be treated to best advantage if we start with recognition of this fact and with due appreciation of its significance.” Representatives from the club, the city, and

other local organizations spoke at the meeting. The discussion cited the need for Chicago to keep up with the latest practices in municipal improvements and considered who would pay for the project and what impact it might have on sanitary conditions and public health in the city.

Their efforts were noticed beyond Chicago. In December, *Charities and the Commons*, a weekly journal about social issues that was published in New York, reported on a study that found a lack of public comfort stations in Chicago.



Entrance to public toilets at LaSalle and Washington Streets in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Before February 1955.

The project faced opposition from the Chicago Association of Brewers and the Association of Department Stores on State Street, which represented businesses that had public toilets. In the social conventions of the time, men could use toilets in bars or their own places of business. Women's access to sanitation facilities was more limited. Often the only toilets it was acceptable for them to use were in department stores, where they were expected to make purchases.

Chicago was building a new city hall at the time, and it was suggested that public toilets be constructed there. By March 1908, at least one location had been approved, and others were being considered. The City of Chicago and

Cook County each allocated about US\$20,000 for the project.

As the city hall building neared completion in January 1911, the *Chicago Daily Tribune* reported, "In the basement are public comfort stations for men and women, entered at the Washington and LaSalle street corner of the building."

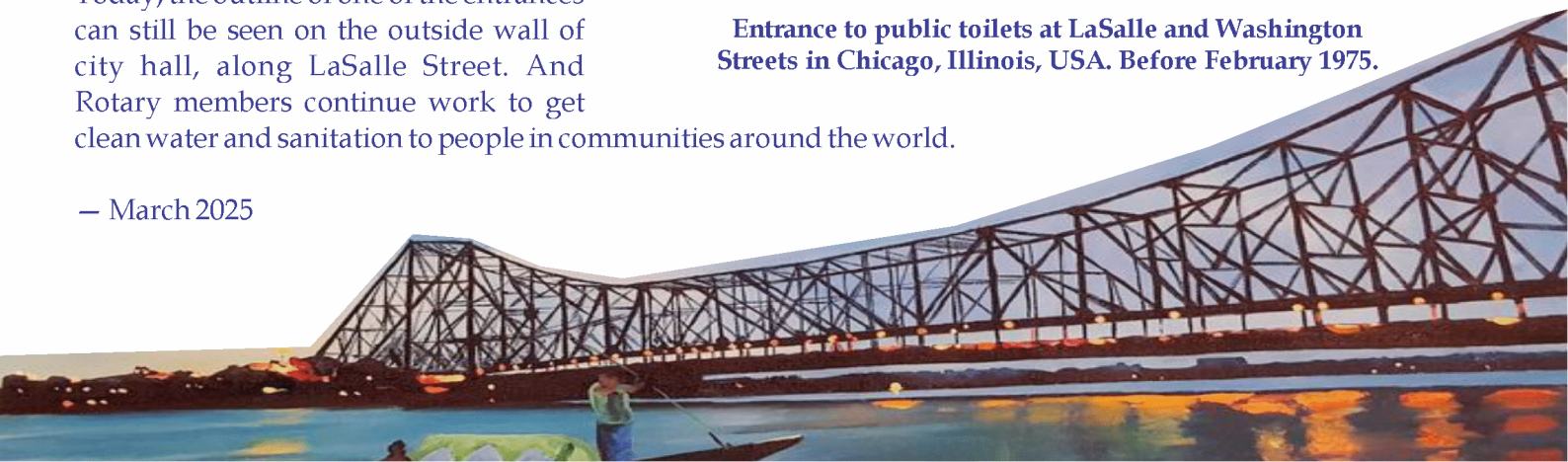
Paul Harris later recalled that additional public toilets were proposed but a lack of funding prevented the effort from expanding. Underground roads were also expected to be built in the future, and people thought that might require a different approach.



Entrance to public toilets at LaSalle and Washington Streets in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Before February 1975.

Today, the outline of one of the entrances can still be seen on the outside wall of city hall, along LaSalle Street. And Rotary members continue work to get clean water and sanitation to people in communities around the world.

— March 2025



GLIMPSES OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO RCCNE



District First Lady Simran Gupta welcomed by
Rtn Dr Indrani Basu Mallik

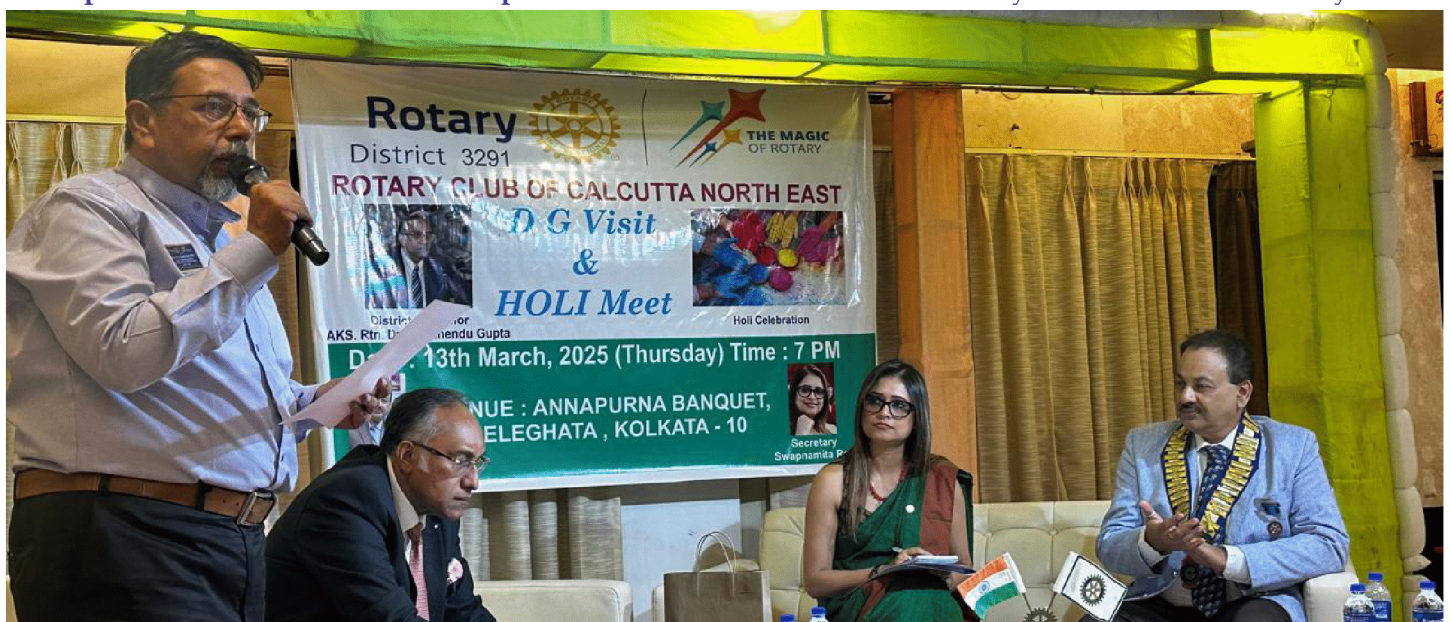
District Governor felicitated by
PP Rtn Srikanta Basu Mallik



DG AKS Dr Krishnendu Gupta and First Lady Simran
Gupta with President Subashis and Spouse Sharmila



PP Rtn Prabir Kr Paul felicitates
District Secretary Rtn Amitava Chakraborty



District Secretary sharing his thoughts



**Peacebuilding
and Conflict
Prevention**



**Disease
Prevention
& Treatment**



**Water,
Sanitation
& Hygiene**



**Maternal &
Child Health**



**Basic Education
& Literacy**



**Community
Economic
Development**



Environment



President and Member attended Pointers Conclave & Expo V4.0 at Rotary Sadan 8th-9th March

Minutes of the 1618th Meeting, followed by District Governor Official Club Visit of Rotary Club of Calcutta North East held at “Annapurna Banquet”, Hem Chandra Naskar Road, Kolkata – 700010 on 13.03.2025 at 7:00 pm.

- ❖ Club Secretary welcomed honourable District Governor AKS Rtn Dr Krishnendu Gupta, First Lady Rtn Dr. Simran Gupta, District Executive Secretary Rtn Amitava Chakraborty, all the Club members and their family.
- ❖ President Rtn Subasish Halder then called the meeting to order, followed by the National Anthem. He welcomed District Governor, First Lady, District Secretary, and all the Club members with their family with Holi good wishes. President then requested the DG to take his chair on the dias.
- ❖ President briefed about all the club ongoing and past projects, he informed about upcoming Project “Dhawni” on 13th April 2025. President invited District Governor to grace this project at IICR, Ho Chi Minh Sarani.
- ❖ President requested Club Secretary to complete the secretarial business.
- ❖ President then felicitated District Governor, First Lady and the District Executive Secretary Rtn Amitava Chakraborty. He requested District Governor for his deliberation. DG expressed his satisfaction on the Club activities and reporting. He appreciated RCCNE for their TRF contribution. He drew attention towards POLIO and recent developments, he also vociferously requested Rotarian to Donate to The Polio Fund. DG mentioned RCCNE flagship project “MAA” as one of the popular and Public Image building of District 3291. DG also appreciated RCCNE new sustainable project “DHWANI”. He also appreciated the membership drive of the Club and asked to put focus on sustainability of existing members. He wished all the member Happy Holi. DG requested all the member to attend upcoming “Chintan Meeting” and to follow Rotary Action Plan. He also mentioned and invited for District Holi Meet on 16th February and Baisakhi Adda. District Governor requested The District Executive Secretary for his announcements.
- ❖ District Executive Secretary mentioned his satisfaction on Club reporting and pointed out areas of scope of improvement. He mentioned that The Club Charter need to be uploaded with the original print and Projects need to be uploaded as per different categories areas mentioned in the website. He mentioned “MAA” project should be categorised under Public Image. He has asked to consider for a sponsored Club under RCCNE. District Secretary concluded his speech wishing Holi wishes to all.
- ❖ President then invited District Governor, Club Members and the family to join the Holi celebrations, a small cultural program was conducted by Club members and their family followed by fellowship and dinner.

This issue of BLISS is sponsored by : Rtn Rathindra Nath Dey