



# BLISS



## AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTH EAST Rotary International District 3291

Vol. : 39	Thursday, 5th September, 2024	No. 05
Club No. : 23802	1607th 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

### LEADING WITH PEACE

Posted on July 19, 2024

By Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, 2019-20 RI Vice President and 2018-20 Rotary International Director

I have been involved with Rotary for more than 40 years, beginning as a Rotaractor in 1983 and transitioning to a Rotarian in 1993. My journey in peacebuilding started from two fronts: my deep commitment to community service and my involvement in Rotary's structured peace initiatives. As a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, in District 9141, I have held numerous leadership positions including as club president, district governor, and past Rotary International director.



My passion for peacebuilding was sparked during my university days in Nigeria where we leveraged Rotaract to implement community improvement projects. This passion was further awakened when I became a regional Rotary Foundation coordinator (RRFC). In this role, I realized that while Rotary's focus areas were being addressed, peacebuilding was not as actively engaged by Rotarians. This observation led me to prioritize and advocate for more intensive peacebuilding activities within Rotary.

Through my role as an RRFC, I began to understand that many Rotarians and Rotary clubs were unsure how to engage in peacebuilding. They often lacked the necessary skills and capacity. To address this, I connected Rotary Peace Fellows with their respective districts to share their expertise and experiences. These interactions were crucial in demystifying peacebuilding and demonstrating practical ways Rotarians could contribute to this important cause, knowing that for more than 25 years, Rotary members have been investing in the Rotary Peace Centers program. Because of that commitment, more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have been trained through our peace centers to work in peace and development across the globe.



Past RI Vice President Olayinka Babalola leads a discussion on the Pillars of Positive Peace. During this journey and hunger for learning more, I became a Rotary Positive Peace Activator. This program, developed by Rotary International in partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, emphasizes the eight pillars of Positive Peace. These pillars provide a comprehensive framework for creating an environment where peace can flourish. I was invited to the East Africa Positive Peace Activators program as a guest and that inspired us to start the expansion of the program to West & Central Africa cohort, where I was trained and became a Rotary Peace Activator.

During my involvement with the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, I've had the privilege of engaging with Rotary Peace Fellows. These fellows undergo extensive training and return to their communities to implement Social Change Initiatives, later sharing their progress and challenges. This hands-on approach is vital in fostering a practical understanding of peacebuilding.

On a personal level, my engagement with the Positive Peace framework has profoundly influenced my interactions and leadership style. For instance, in my community, we applied the framework to understand and address issues such as school absenteeism, which was linked to unsafe routes frequented by drug dealers. By addressing the root causes, we created a safer environment for students, working with neighbors and understanding local governance.

My journey in peacebuilding with Rotary has been one of continuous personal and professional learning and active engagements. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts and I believe that building capacity for peacemaking at every level is crucial and more needed than ever before.



**Peacebuilding  
and Conflict  
Prevention**



**Disease  
Prevention  
& Treatment**



**Water,  
Sanitation  
& Hygiene**



**Maternal &  
Child Health**



**Basic Education  
& Literacy**



**Community  
Economic  
Development**



**Environment  
& Sustainability**



**President RC Calcutta Old City Rtn Mohua Roy being felicitated by President Rtn Subasish Halder.**

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting (1606) of Rotary Club of Calcutta North East with Rotary Club of Calcutta Old City at "Spring Club", EM Bypass, Kolkata on 24.08.2024 at 8:00 pm.**

President of Calcutta Old City Rtn Mohua Roy called the meeting to order along with the Club secretary Rtn Tapan Pattanayak. She invited the President of Calcutta North East Rtn Subasish Halder and Secretary Rtn Swapnamita Roy to take their chair for the joint meeting. Meeting started with the National Anthem.

Rtn Rijju Joseph and Rtn Srija Raj from Rotary Club of Trivandrum Amity was present, since they were on a visit to Kolkata for personal reason.

At the outset, the felicitation cum welcome program was done among both the Clubs. The Presidents and Secretaries of both the club exchanged the Club Flag and a gift as a token of gesture.

President of Calcutta Old City Rtn Mohua Roy, informed the gathering about their upcoming project at Sundarban. A medical camp with food distribution is planned. They are also planning a sewing training centre for woman from the under privileged sector.

She also informed about their flagship project "Hridaya" and a musical event at Rabindra Sadan on 31st August for fund raising. She has requested us to circulate this event among our club member and try to ensure participation of our club members. A few RCCNE members present in the meeting purchased tickets from the spot.

Visitor members of Rotary Club of Trivandrum Amity was introduced and welcomed by President Rtn Mohua Roy. Members of both the club of District 3291 demonstrated a very warm gesture towards the visitor with the exchange of their club flags and a token of gift. The visitors introduced them as Rotarian couple and expressed their good feelings.

President of RCCNE Rtn Subasish Halder, informed about the Plantation project "GREEN HEART" done at Subhash Sarovar and Independence Day celebration at Kashipur Institution. He also informed RCCNE took part in a protest gathering with candle march on 14th August in show of support and solidarity for the RG Kar Hospital victim.

President Rtn Subasish Halder informed about the induction of Mr. Arup Kumar Chatterjee. He requested PE Rtn Angana Paul to introduce Mr. Arup Kumar Chatterjee. Arup Kumar Chatterjee was inducted to our Club by PDG Rtn Brojo Gopal Kundu.

President Rtn Subasish Halder felicitated PDG Rtn Brojo Gopal Kundu, who is also the Charter member of RCCalcutta Old City.

President informed about Invitation for participation in "PRAKRITI" a project of RC Calcutta Harmony. He also invited all the members to join the District Membership Seminar on 31st August.

President requested Club Secretary Rtn Swapnamita Roy to do the Secretarial business. Club Secretary thanked all the members of RC Calcutta Old City. She also greeted the visitor members of Rotary Club of Trivandrum Amity. The secretarial business was done, and she then handover the proceedings to the President of Calcutta Old City.

The meeting was adjourned by both the Presidents, and everyone was invited to join the musical program, followed by the dinner and fellowship.

*Birthday Greetings*

**06 Sep : Rtn Somdeb Poddar**

**10 Sep : Kanisha, D/o Rtn Kalyan Saha**

**13 Sep : Rtn. Saumendra Mohan Rakshit**

**18 Sep : Ritika, D/o Rtn Gurmeet Singh Sachar**

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