



Rotary Club of Dum Dum

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ROTARY



We meet every Friday at 6.30 p.m.

President: Rtn. Tarun Kanti Biswas 9830338950 tarunkantibiswas@yahoo.com	Secretary: PP Rtn. Chinmay Roy 9433000262,7980928806 chinmayroy@hotmail.com	Treasurer: PP Rtn. Arup Majumdar 9830498903 arupmaj@yahoo.co.in	Executive Secretary: Rtn. Monojit Pal 9830051560 monojitpal2010@gmail.com	Editor: Rtn. Dr. Asitava Sur 98300039151 asitava.sur@gmail.com
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| BUZZ | BULLETIN OF RC DUMDUM | VOL-57 | ISSUE-30 | 19.02.24 | CLUB-16165 | DISTRICT-3291 |

Minutes of the RWM 2727 held at Mahendra Smriti Sabhagar, RC Dum Dum on 17.02.2024 at 7.00 pm

GREETINGS:

Honourable President **Rtn. Tarun Kanti Biswas** chaired and called the RWM 2727 to order. He welcomed Honourable **DG Rtn. Hiralal Yadav**, Honourable AG (Zone-IV) **Rtn. Swapan Basu**, and all the respected members & their gracious partners.

INVOCATION:

As requested by the President, respected first lady of the Club **Mrs. Samita Biswas** led the National Anthem.

CLUB BUSINESS:

Honourable Secretary, **PP Rtn. Chinmay Roy** conducted the club business.

a) Advanced Marriage anniversary greetings were extended to esteemed **Rtn. Rajeev Sinha & Partner Mrs. Jyoti**, which fell on February 22nd. Members present joined in.

b) The Secretary briefed the yearly activities of the Club, outlining the completed, ongoing and upcoming projects for the current Rotary year 2023-24.

c) On behalf of the Club, honoured **PP Rtn. Asok Guha** cordially greeted the DG with a flower bouquet.

d) The Secretary bid warm welcome to the AG with a flower bouquet on behalf of the club.

e) At the request of the President, the DG



addressed the assembly. He commended the Rotarians of RC Dum Dum and their partners for their praiseworthy activities in the service of Rotary. He particularly lauded the active involvement of senior Rotarians in various projects, specifically mentioning

the establishment of the Eye Hospital of Bankura. He expressed his personal commitment to support the club in all possible ways for future projects, especially regarding the utilization of Club's land at Khudiram Colony near Nagerbazar.

Emphasizing the great potential of RC Dum Dum's members, he stated that the District had high expectations from this longstanding Club. He invited members to participate in district projects in greater numbers to further Rotary's vision.

He also appealed to members to generously donate to the Rotary Foundation (TRF) for a better future for all, particularly the less privileged.

He concluded by expressing the AG's high degree of satisfaction with the Club's functioning and wished for many more achievements for the Club in the future.

Members listened attentively to his message delivered in clear Bengali and applauded him.



f) Reciprocating the call of the DG, illustrious new member **Rtn. Ardhendu Biswas** donated \$100 to the Rotary Foundation India and handed over the cheque to the DG. Everyone present appreciated the gesture.

g) President **Rtn. Tarun** also donated the same amount to the Rotary Foundation India and handed over the cheque to the DG. Members present clapped for the President.

DISCUSSION:

a) Members freely interacted with the DG and AG in the interaction session. Each and every query was attended to by the revered guests to the satisfaction of the members.

b) President declared that on the eve of International Women's Day, the Club would organize a cultural

evening in honour of the women folks on Saturday, March 2nd, at the Club venue and appealed to all the Rotarians to attend the same with their family members, especially the ladies.

c) As requested by the President, respected **PP Rtn. Swarnendu Saha** thanked the DG for his kind visit and inspiring deliberation in a lucid manner. On behalf of the club he expressed gratitude to the AG for his kind support to RC Dumdum not only for the day but whenever required. He also thanked the gracious Partners of the fellow Rotarians without whom nothing would have been possible. Finally he thanked

the organisers for all the arrangements and the members for their active participation.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Minutes of RWM 2726 circulated via email confirmed by the 17 members attending the meeting in the presence of the DG and AG. Sunshine was collected through bills. The meeting was terminated by the President with a note to meet in the next RWM on Friday, February 23rd, 2024, and a request to all the members for joining the dinner and fellowship organized by the club in honour of the visiting DG.



No fake clubs, no bogus members, no cooking up numbers: **RIPN**

Rasheeda Bhagat

If the session moderated by PRIP KR Ravindran was titled 'Frankly speaking,' the address delivered by RIPN Mario de Camargo at the Bengaluru institute deserved the title 'Plain speaking'.

Addressing one of the sessions, the president-nominee almost read out the riot act to those Rotarians from our zones who indulge in dubious activities to boost figures and win false glory. Spelling out his vision, he told the assembled participants: "Our vision is membership, membership, membership, make no mistake about it. But we want healthy, sustainable membership. No fake clubs, no bogus members. Rotary doesn't need that; India doesn't need that."

Complimenting Indian Rotarians for membership growth, he said, "You're doing very well and showing the world how to grow Rotary, but you

have to do it in a sustainable, sincere and honest way. We don't want to cook up the numbers... we are a frontier organisation. We don't need money in Rotary. We care for Rotary money. So what is the sense in having members who are not real? For what purpose? Politics? Power? What kind of power? The power that we have derives from inspiration and motivation and has to be solid, concrete, true... otherwise it will confront the first question of the Four-Way Test: Is it the truth? If it isn't the truth, it doesn't interest me, or (RI president) Gordon or (RIPE) Stephanie."

Only recently, he had attended a meeting in India about a district split. "And we had to take a very tough decision on a district in this part of the world. The membership, since the district was split, plummeted from 8,950 to 7,200, a loss of 1,700 Rotarians in one single year. You know what we did? We cancelled the split. That district will no longer be split. We revoked the earlier year's decision. If it's not sustainable, it is not going to happen," said RIPN de Camargo.

Many people had asked him about his vision. "I wouldn't say it's *my* vision, it's *our* vision. Our vision is to make our institution strong and we have an outstanding asset that no other institution has — you. The most valuable asset in Rotary is not TRF or

its money, but members. You people make the magic happen at the club and community levels, at the small cities level... not so small in India though!"

The biggest challenge before Rotary was to embrace change and grow the organisation and its impact. "So how are we going to do this? In a few ways; first of all, innovation... doing new things. We are people of action, we not only think, we do things. So we will have to be not only creative, but also innovative."

An example de Camargo gave was embracing new format clubs. One of the questions he was asked by the chair of the nominating committee that selected him as RIPN was: 'How will you use new format clubs to enhance diversity in Rotary?' He had thought very hard on this topic; did they know how many members the satellite clubs of Rotary had? "Only 9,000; that is 0.75 per cent of 1.2 million members. We have a huge opportunity but we have to think outside the box."

He recalled how during his year as an RI director (2019–20) he had "dared and challenged my club, which is a very old (75 years) and traditional club with 105 members, to charter a satellite club. They opposed the idea as they thought satellite clubs were second grade clubs. And because they were opposed to that, I made a stronger point to charter it. They finally acceded and chartered a club which is my wife's club with 45 members. So my club's membership went up from 105 to 150!"

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Nigar Shaji: breaking gender stereotypes

Rasheeda Bhagat

In ISRO, I believe, all the missions that we have taken up have become possible and met with success, because our mantra is taking pride in whatever we do and thanks to a sense of belonging. Self-motivation is the ISRO culture, for the Aditya mission too,” said Nigar Shaji, project director of ISRO’s Aditya-L1, India’s first solar observatory, which has reached its destination. She was addressing a session at the Bengaluru zone institute where she was honoured for the role she was playing in leading the Aditya-L1 mission to the Sun.

On the successful Aditya-L1 mission, a self-effacing Nigar said the whole project “is teamwork, and the honour being bestowed here by Rotary



RI President Gordon McNally interacting with RI Director Raju Subramanian; Nigar Shaji, project director, ISRO’s Aditya-L1; and her brother PDG S Sheik Saleem.

on me, I dedicate to my team. I am so proud of being the project leader of this mission, which will make it possible for India to also study the Sun, which is the need of the hour.” (Since the institute was concluded in December, the laboratory has been successfully parked at an optimum spot in space from where it will have an unobstructed view of the Sun.) Nigar is the sister of RID 3212 PDG S Sheik Saleem.

Recalling the very purpose behind setting up of ISRO, the aerospace engineer, said, “ISRO was started by

the visionary Vikram Sarabhai with a goal to use space technology to improve the standard of living of our people. It is so similar to what you Rotarians are doing... your service to humanity both locally and globally. I am really amazed that you have managed to carry out such long programmes like polio eradication, spending billions of dollars. You have now taken up projects like eradication of malaria in African countries.”

Saying that she was extremely proud of being a part of Sarabhai’s dream which had come such a long way, she added, “Thanks to all these projects done today by ISRO, we have respect in the world in the area of space technology. All the nations which have developed space programmes respect us today because of our landing on the moon (through the Chandrayaan-3) and because of the Aditya mission and our other achievements. Now these nations are coming to us for co-operation, and this is the biggest achievement for us, and the need of the hour for our country which is inching towards becoming a developed country,” she added amidst thunderous applause.

Pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat



From L: Ravvi Shankar, RID 3232 PDG J Sridhar, his spouse Punitha, Nigar Shaji, RID 3212 PDGs V R Muthu and Sheik Saleem.