



Voice of Victoria

Rotary
Club of Calcutta Victoria
District 3291



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W O R D S O F W I S D O M

Virtual Classes Online

At the regular meeting on Saturday 22nd August 2020 three teachers and a student of Calcutta International School spoke about various aspects of on-line class room. One of them was Victorian Kashmiri Marwah, a senior English teacher who conceptualized the whole programme. She introduced the other teachers and student. Mrs Aloka Schafranski, a senior teacher, whose teaching career spans more than 30 years is a teacher of English and German. She is also lover of fine arts and has a wealth of general knowledge. Ms Archana Tewari, the other teacher has teaching experience of over 13 years. Her innovative ideas and creative pursuits are the driving force behind her lessons. Use of technology to make learning fun is her forte. She also offers Rajyoga meditation course online. Miss Anastasia Chattopadhyay is a student



of class X. A very good student, her hobbies are learning languages and dancing.

Kashmiri Marwah spoke about how the lives of the students changed in an indescribable manner after the sudden closure of school on 20th March 2020, due to the pandemic. Many students on the verge of taking exams, were caught off guard as also constants in the lives of children and variables changed. Teachers, Technologists, Counselors, Parents all focused on children. All lessons went online, new time tables made. Pupils adapted marvelously to the situation. They became co-operative, creative. Learning curves of teachers going up and they are learning hands on which cannot be taught in B.Ed classes. Advantage for students is that they do not have to travel to school, no heavy bags to carry. But on the other hand they are missing playgrounds, cake cutting on birthdays have now gone virtual. In fact all activities like story telling session, debate, music, art have gone online.

Mrs Aloka Schafranski said that 5-1/2 months, in this extraordinary situation, initially resulted in confusion and anxiety but now has become the 'New Normal'. Because of technology there is some sanity. Classes begin and end in fixed time. Parents can monitor. Sometimes children are in doubt and distracted. Now teaches are listening more to the children. Their views are used which are often very helpful. Empathy, emotional support and humour are important aspects of virtual classroom. Sometimes problem in connectivity results in distress. Downside of this mode of teaching is that children need to physically interact. They need playground. How else will they develop? She said. Though virtual teaching is a wonderful substitute it cannot match actual class room. Long hours of screen viewing results in exhaustion and pain in lower limbs. There is no physical movement. Man being social animal needs interaction, said Mrs Schafranski.

Young Miss Anastasia Chattopadhyay spoke from a students viewpoint. She said on line classes were forced upon them which completely changed their lives. Life will not be the same again when they go back to school, as they will have to wear masks and keep safe distance from friends.

Today's Programme

Rotary Meeting on ZOOM

Guest Speaker

Amitava Chatterjee

will speak on **Laughter Yoga.**

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Virtual Classes Online

However online teaching is excellent and quite productive. Students have more time to study and can pursue their hobbies. Also now there is one to one with teachers. However it is unfortunate for those who cannot avail of this technology and thus missing out on education.

Mrs Archana Tewari explained the tools that are used for teaching primary children. She demonstrated a few of them like padlet and kahoot.com. She downloaded them and demonstrated how she used them. Sachiv Nijhawan and Lata Bhatia from RCCV joined

in. This is very interesting for children and grandparents even can join in which brings in a lot of bonding between them, by sharing all the child is doing.

Avantika Agarwal (daughter in law of IPP B K Agarwal) and Rtn Vibha Mehta then gave parents' viewpoint. Avantika thought children are adapting slowly and covering of syllabus is slow, but at least teaching has not stopped. Also there is a set routine. However emotional touch is missing and no playing with friends. Mothers also have to adjust at home which is sometimes hard if there are other kids to take care of. Too much screen time is also not desirable. If a child does not understand there

is no immediate solution. Problem of logging in is another negative point. Rtn Vibha Mehta's elder son is taking on-line classes from a university in USA. The time difference is a challenge at home. There is worry about his practical classes – how will he do it? Her younger son – a class IX student is struggling with online classes. Also syllabus is truncated and school time limited. Teachers often do not know what is going on for they cannot physically interact with their students. Online classes cannot be permanently substituted for physical ones, was her opinion.

All the participants were thanked by Chhanda Banerji.

Membership Seminar

On Saturday 22nd August 2020 RID 3291 held a seminar on membership development and retention on zoom. There were discussions on membership growth and retention. Retention especially was stressed on as there were worries of clubs losing members due to the pandemic.

Growth is important as members are the pivot around which Rotary functions. Public image, contribution to TRF all hinges on growth. India is doing very well in the area of membership especially zone 5 & 6. 70% clubs are meeting online but 30% are not meeting at all. Loss of members may be from these clubs.

To retain members, new ones inducted must be made to feel comfortable and connected. They should be involved in club activities. Absentee members should be given assignments. Create interest in the members by undertaking meaningful projects. If there is an idea, experiment with it. What good is an idea if it remains an idea? Do not

be disheartened by failure, try try again – never give up.

The keynote speaker was PDG Dr Siva Anathan from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, RID 3300. He gave an excellent video presentation followed by a wonderful talk which included a game, much appreciated by one and all.

Paul Harris said years ago "This is a changing world. We must be prepared to change with it". How true. Our journey is a journey of re-invention and continually improving oneself. Being rigid will not help. Invest in technology, he said. Necessity is mother of invention after all. He cited examples where companies have gradually declined into oblivion like Kodak, Blackberry, Pan Am because they failed to understand their business. Kodak did not fail to innovate but when one of their employee Steve Sasson made the first digital camera and presented his invention to the man-

agement, they hid it for fear of hurting their film business and eventually had to pay for their lack of vision. Dr Anathan wondered whether Rotary will be headed their way. It is important to understand the business of Rotary which is a more kindly world, more generous world and to achieve this, meaningful projects have to be undertaken.

Attendance rule is now flexible, so Prioritize Engagement rather than attendance. He said,

- Develop Protocols for speaking.
- Rolling of Sgt-at-arms (different person for different meetings)
- Create multiple membership type like
 - i) Corporate Member
 - ii) Ordinary Member (who pays all dues)
 - iii) Family Member
 - iv) Associate Member (who pay only for meals)
 - v) Junior Member

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Mega Disaster management programme at Bally Island 2 in Sundarbans

On May 20, 2020, Amphaan did an irreparable damage at Sunderbans, the largest river delta in the world, destroying homes and taking lives. Trees were uprooted, river banks got destroyed. Due to the cyclone there was an increase in the salinity of the water in the river which destroyed all the crops, their only source of income.

On August 30, 2020, Veterans of Indian Armed Forces (23 NDA Batch) along with Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria their Rotaract Club and Interact Club of Chowringhee High School organised the second AMPHAAN relief for the affected people of the Bally Island 2, in Sunderbanas Area. The Project was executed successfully in extending relief to 200 families of the Island.

General Partha Sen (Retd) and Col Man Mohan Burman (Retd) organised funds from the Veterans of Armed Forces 23 NDA Batch. Gayatree Dhar the President of Rotary Victoria organised funds from the Club. Rotaract and Interact (CHS) of Victoria also helped in raising funds. A total of 4.5 Lakhs was collected and with this essentials weighing approx 5Tons was distributed to the affected people. The people who helped in weaving the entire project and materialising it are Col Man Mohan Burman (Retd), Rtn Gayatree Dhar, Rtn Dr J N Gurtu, Rtn B K Agarwal, Rtn Subhojit Sinha Roy, Mr Dasani of Chowringhee High School, Rishi Jindal, Debankur Saha, Abdul Wajid, Ayan Maity, Veterans of Indian Armed Force, Members of Rotary, Rotaract & Interact all contributed generously.



Know your Guest Speaker



Amitava (Amit) Chatterjee, an alumni of Calcutta Boys School, did his B.A(Hons) from Elphinstone College, Mumbai, MBA from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management and AMP from Harvard Business School USA. He is an accomplished business leader with 30 years of strategic business development and operational general management experience with 2 leading Global Corporation, Sara Lee Corporation and Reckitt Benckiser.

He was CEO of Sara Lee in Indonesia, President of Greater China and Vice President of marketing for Asia Pacific, improving sales everywhere leaving his indelible mark, and earning accolades. He was Director in the boards of several companies in India, China, Singapore and Indonesia.

Currently he is working in India as a consultant and is stationed in Gurugram, Haryana. He is a member of R C Singapore and engages with the Community. He is member of American Chamber of Commerce. He is married to Seema who has written several books for children. They are blessed with a son Dhruv, who is now in USA but shortly shifting to India. Passionate about sports especially Cricket and Soccer, he also loves to travel.



5th September is celebrated all over India as Teachers Day which is also the birthday of Dr S Radhakrishnan, India's second President. On this day this year, RC Calcutta Victoria and RC Calcutta Mahanagar along with RID 3291, spearheaded by DG Sudip Mukherjee organized a mega event on zoom. Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, teachers, guests, students all participated. The programme started with the reciting of a poem 'Ode to Teachers' written by Pat Mora by a young student (Class IX) of Calcutta International School, Miss Rahini Kothari. After the National Anthem there was a video presentation 'One World One Rotary', may there be Peace in Heaven, skies and Earth – verse and songs of different faith and religion interwoven together. After this, the District Governor, Sudip Mukherjee gave his welcome address.

The first speaker was RI Director Kamal Sang-

hvi, Chairman Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM). He was introduced by PP Seema Danda. Kamal Sanghvi hailed the teachers as builders of our Nation and recognized them stating that teaching is the greatest profession in the world. In India 'Teachers' are given status of God. Gandhi, father of our nation had said to wage a war against illiteracy. He went on to talk about T-E-A-C-H a programme of Rotary in India which is the largest literacy programme in the world. It involves (i) 'Teachers Training' whereby their skills are constantly upgraded and knowledge enhanced, and (ii) e-learning programme to benefit 15 crore children who can learn from home. It has already helped crores of children in different states of India and has become the flavour of the Nation. Now digital learning had to be expedited because of the pandemic. The target is

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Membership Seminar

He also observed that not many children of Rotarians, join Rotary. Reach out to Rotaractors he said. New options are there for new Rotary clubs like e-club, satellite club (has not caught on), Passport clubs (members who travel a lot), cause based Rotary club like the one by R C Jalandhar (R I Dist 3070) who have formed an eco club which tackles environment issues only. Induction of young members make clubs pro-active with fun and new ideas.

Dr Siva Ananthan emphasized strongly about caring for our environment. To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. If we do not act now, large number of plants and animals will become extinct. Every species are connected genetically. It is US that is ruining nature. Clean air, Clean water are our rights. "PROTECT NATURE".

PDG Debasish Mitra, spoke about the importance of induction talk to new members. Since 1st July 2020, 250 members (including 50 lady members) have joined Rotary. 3 New Rotary clubs formed in RID 3291. Lady Rotarians are the biggest success stories because they are more proactive, dedicated, sincere and hardworking, he said.

Dream Big, Set goals and Never give up.

There were 400 participants for the seminar including some from R C Calcutta Victoria.



Happy Birthday!

B K Agarwal • 14th Sept

Sohini Banerjee • 18th Sept

ERRATA

In the last bulletin, it was mentioned lunch was served to 200 inmates of All Bengal Womens Union. Actually lunch was served to 310 inmates. The error is regretted.

Navsiksha

23 crore children in the future. The 'Asha Kiran' programme is designed to send school drop out children back to school. He spoke about HAPPY SCHOOL. Unless schools have benches, toilets, water one cannot ask children to go to school. Convert at least one government school in to Happy School, he requested.

Rotary has envisaged a huge programme along with Government of India to tackle adult illiteracy. There are nearly 22 crore of them. Under 'Adult Literacy' programme, each child will teach one adult and make him/her literate. This way the child also becomes more responsible.

The second speaker of the evening was Mrs Indrani Sanyal, Principal, Delhi Public School, Mega City, an educator of 32 years and principal for 14 years. She was introduced by PP Alka Jayaswal who mentioned that Mrs Sanyal has numerous awards to her credit and was a member of the Planning Commission.

In her talk on present and future of on line teaching she stressed that the scope of digi-

tal class room is vast and in practice in various forums which has now become necessary because of covid-19. All the Boards like CBSE, ICSE, HS and others resorted to different programmes via Internet and Television. Teachers took training and saw to it that teaching did not come to a stand still. Advantages are that there is no travel, no transport cost, no need to miss classes, minimum infrastructure, lesser people needed. Attendance better. It is good for slow learners and shy students. However it is a privilege facility that requires good internet connection. It is not for Pan India. However great effort is being made to make e-learning available to all. Laptops/smart phones needed. Also lab work not possible. Physical contact not there which is undesirable. Technological problem a major issue. It is alright for teenagers and adults but not that good for children. At the end of the day one cannot replace a teacher in the class room. Then there are health issues because of too much screen time. Elderly teachers are not that tech savvy and that can be a challenge.

The final speaker was R I President Elect Shekhar Mehta, an old friend of RC Calcutta Victoria. His topic was 'Nation Building'. He remem-

bered Dr Radhakrishnan on his birthday and recognized all teachers who he said shape the destiny of the Nation and are the pivot of education. A classroom without a teacher? Unthinkable!! He asked the Interactors and other students to be a better human being and that should be their "Guru Dakshina". Each of us should leave our footprints on the sands of time. On line education is catching on. Rotary started e-learning project 12 years back. There will be a big programme which will be launched on 2nd October where with one TV at home and 12 channels, three kids per home can benefit. Schools can choose channels. They will be educative once plus popular ones like animal planet, discovery etc. Comprehension and retention will become much better because of visuals. He suggested that childrens' films be shown in schools. E-learning is the future as it is a powerful tool and attractive, so students will be drawn to such schools. He was distressed that even after 70 years of independence illiteracy is a problem. 27 crore of adult illiterates in India, which is shocking. Each one teach one is

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Minutes of the 1250th Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria held on Saturday, 22nd August, 2020 at 12:00 noon on ZOOM

- The President Gayatree Dhar called the 1250th meeting to order.
- The National Anthem was played.
- President welcomed the guest speakers Rtn Kashmiri Marwah, Mrs Alokha Schafanski, Mrs Archana Tewari and students Anastasia Chattopadhyay, all from Calcutta International School and all the members to the virtual Rotary meeting on Zoom ID 4587195595 Password RCCV.
- **President's Announcements:**
 - ◆ RCCV has completed two projects. These are donation of 25 PPE kits & 50 face shields to Medi View Nursing Home. Rtn Sunita Agarwala along with

her family sponsored this. Rtn Subhdeep Sinha Roy went to distribute them on 18th August 2020.

- ◆ District tree plantation, 'Green Expedition' was on 22nd August 2020 at E.M. By pass, opposite ITC was attended by myself and Rtn Subhadri Chatterjee.
- ◆ A correction to be made regarding the announcement of inmates of All Bengal Women's Association. 310 were treated to lunch sponsored by Ashok Kothari.
- ◆ A new project spearheaded by Rtn Joyashree Dhar will commence in September, 10 adult pregnant women will be provided with medicines and food supplements till delivery.

- ◆ Amphan project will be undertaken on 30th August 2020. Some Victorians have agreed to go along with the Interactors and Rotaractors to Bali 2 in the Sunderland to distribute food and necessary items to 200 families there.
- President then invited Rtn Kashmiri Marwah to start the program.
- **Secretary's Announcement:**
 - ◆ 1st Board meeting on 27th August 2020 on Zoom at 5 pm.
 - ◆ Next meeting on Saturday 29th August 2020 on Zoom.
- There being no other business, the meeting is terminated at 1 pm

Minutes of the 1251st Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria held on Saturday, 29th August, 2020 at 12:00 noon on ZOOM

- President Gayatree Dhar called the 1251st meeting to order.
- National Anthem was played.
- Minutes of the 1250th meeting was confirmed proposed by Chhanda Banerji and seconded by Dr Joyashree Dhar.
- **President's Announcements:**
 - ◆ Today's an open house meeting. No guest speaker has been invited.
 - ◆ Bally 2 programme is all finalized for tomorrow, 30th August 2020. Car, boat all booked.
 - ◆ Dr Shashi Prabha Rohatgi has expressed her inability to be President 2021-22 through a mail. Kaushlendra Kumar Jha has kindly agreed to take on the mantle for next year i.e. 2021-22. This was ratified in the Board Meeting held on 27th August 2020.
 - ◆ District programme on literacy 'Navshiksha' to celebrate Teachers Day will be held on 5th September 2020 on Zoom at 6 pm. RC Victoria and R C Mahanagar are joint hosts. There will be 3 speakers, RID Kamal Sanghvi will speak on RILM, RI President Elect Shekhar Mehta on 'Nation Building' and Mrs Indrani Sanyal, Principal Delhi Public School Mega City on Online Teaching. Miss Rahini Kothari of Calcutta International School will recite a poem 'Ode to Teachers'. Request members to bring guests for this special meeting.
- ◆ 100 mosquito nets have been booked at a subsidized rate, from the District for distribution to the needy.
- ◆ Ration will be provided to New Age orphanage near Baruipur partnered with Interact Club of Chowringhee High School.
- ◆ Dr Joyashree Dhar has started Mother and Child Health Care programme from Monday 24th August 2020. 10 woman above 18 years of age, in early state of pregnancy has been chosen for the programme. Pre-natal and post natal care to be provided. Mr Rishikesh of Joynagar is the contact person.
- On being invited to give details of the MCHC programme Dr Joyashree Dhar did so, stating that the pregnant women will contact her every Monday between 3-5 pm. Mothers Horlicks and medicines will be given once a month. In addition women with small children will be provided with junior Horlicks also.
- Arvind Agrawal said the two pregnant girls below 18 years of age whom we cannot officially take care of may be helped unofficially on humanitarian ground. Members readily agreed to this.
- Lata Bhatia had informed the club that mangrove saplings (each costing Rs 50) is being planted in a big way to replenish the ones damaged by Amphan in Sunderbans. Many members had wanted to help. They may do so by giving a cheque. Arvind Agrawal suggested that the members can deposit their cheque in RCCV Trust and one cheque from the trust can be issued to the concerned organisation.
- Col M M Burman then gave details about Bally 2 island programme. Truck loaded with more than 3 ton materials that is to be distributed, will leave the city early in the morning to reach ferry ghat by 10 am. Members, Rotactors, Interactors must leave by 7 am. Boats will leave ferry ghat around 10 am. Lunch will be between 1.30-2.00 pm. Return journey should start by 3 pm to reach Kolkata by 6 pm before it gets dark.
- **Secretary's Announcement:**
 - ◆ RC Calcutta Victoria is co-host of a very big district programme on literacy on 5th September 2020 at 6 pm. Requesting each member to invite teachers, students, guests to register for this.
 - ◆ Birthday greetings extended to (i) Dr Sreyoshi Som for 3rd September and (ii) Vinita Dutt for 9th September.
 - ◆ Next meeting on Saturday 12th September 2020 on Zoom. Speaker is Mr Amitava Chatterjee.
- A quiz mostly on Kolkata was conducted by PP Vinita Dutt.
- There being no other business, the meeting was terminated at 1 pm.

Members Present: 20

Navsiksha

a good mantra to eliminate illiteracy. Nation Building is all about making people literate. Let us all join hands and achieve this dream. You can succeed. Play your role, he signed of. RIPE Shekhar Mehta acknowledged PP Rakesh Macwan and PP Sarah Macwan's contribution towards various literacy proj-

ects. Good show Rakesh, good show Sarah! He also did not forget to thank PP Alka Jayaswal whose invitation to him actually made this programme happen and stated that he had kept his promise to come to our club's programme.

President Gayatree Dhar gave the vote of thanks, thanking one and all, and stated that

RCCV is a second home of RIPE Shekhar as he is an old friend of Victoria. Shekhar Mehta's home club R C Mahanagar, the other co-host club, did a stellar job in organising the zoom meeting. Kudos to President Pranay Agarwal who was the MC. Large number of Interactors attended the programme. Total participants was a little less than 600.