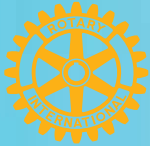


VOICE OF VICTORIA

Rotary
Calcutta Victoria
District 3291



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CALCUTTA VICTORIA | RI DISTRICT 3291

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JULY IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Saturday, August 3, 2024

Installation Meeting



Rajnish Mehta was installed as the 32nd President of Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria on Saturday, 6th July 2024. The event was held at Calcutta Swimming Club in the evening. A large number of members attended the programme, ladies beautifully attired with a dash of gold, the theme for the evening, and gentlemen in formals. The programme began with Ganesh Vandana sung by Sunita Agarwala, Dr Jai Nath Gurtu and Seema Danda followed by the meeting. The changeover ceremony took place with the handing over of collar, charter, gavel and hammer by outgoing President Arvind Agrawal to Rajnish Mehta – President 2024-25, with Dist Governor Dr Krishnendu Gupta by their side. IPP Arvind Agrawal

addressed the gathering, thanking all members for their unstinted support. He also thanked generous donors whose CSR contributions enabled the club to do meaningful projects. He recognized the contribution of young Shruti Jha and Shri Samanta and felicitated them with gifts. He wished the President and his team 2024-25 all the best and promised full support. Vice President Vibha Mehta introduced the newly installed President Rajnish Mehta. President Rajnish Mehta gave his address



TODAY'S PROGRAMME

- Open House
- Quiz by Col. M.M.Burman



Stephanie A Urchick
RI President



Dr Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor



Rajnish Mehta
President



Sohini Banerjee
Secretary



Lata Bhatia
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor



after welcoming everyone. He spoke about his initial days in Rotary Calcutta Victoria – how he was enamoured with senior leaders of the club and their dedication to service in spite of their busy schedule and how that taught him ‘service above self’. He complimented IPP Arvind Agrawal for the excellent work done and went on to enumerate the various projects and programmes that the club would be undertaking in 2024-25. He said he felt proud to have taken on the mantle of presidentship in the year RCCV member Dr Krishnendu Gupta has become the DG. He signed off by promising that RCCV would once again become a hundred percent PHF club. Team 2024-25 was then introduced. PP Col. Manmohan Burman took over and proceeded with the induction ceremony of 3 members – Mrs Shampa Chakraborty, a new member proposed by PP Lata Bhatia and two past members Capt. Arnab Sen and Dr Dipanwita Banerjee who rejoined the club. DGN Tapas Bhattacharya was then invited to speak. He congratulated

DG Dr Krishnendu Gupta, AKS who would be bringing smiles on everyone’s lips. He elaborated on the meaning of Krishnendu i.e. ‘aura of Krishna’/ Prince of the Earth. He praised IPP Arvind Agrawal for the superb job done in extending hands of love towards the destitute and the disadvantaged. President Rajnish Mehta would be creating magic and spreading smiles and sunshine everywhere. He narrated a story with a moral, service to man is service to God. After his address all the PDGs present were felicitated. It was now time to hear our DG. Varsha introduced DG Krishnendu Gupta letting us know hitherto little-known facts like his passion for collected aero plane models, in-depth knowledge about watches especially Rolex and his love for music. We learnt DG Krishnendu Gupta is a self-taught pianist who plays from his heart. DG spoke

about his journey in Rotary and about the theme of this Rotary year – “Magic of Rotary”. He was felicitated by Rtn. Chandrakala Agrawal. The club secretary made her announcements followed by the vote of thanks by PE B K Agarwal. Then the special event that all were looking forward to i.e. the Lucky Draw commenced. Draws were made and the lucky winners took home 8 beautiful hampers. A wonderful fellowship with an excellent dinner and a lot of bonhomie concluded the evening. MC Col Manmohan Burman and MC Vibha Mehta did an excellent job as did the members at the registration counter - Gayatree Dhar, Dr Joyashree Dhar and Sudipta Sen.

Reported by – **Chhanda Banerji**



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT

A Vocational Training Project was held on July 28th 2024 at Dakhin Kolkata Arya Vidya Mandir, Garcha Road. Forty Five girls and ladies registered for a three month course in Mehendi, Embroidery and Hair Styling. It was decided that the classes may get extended depending on the attendance and interest of the students. The teachers who will be taking the classes were Paramjit Kaur who is a trained beautician from the Lakme Academy and Manpreetdi who will teach Embroidery. Like all the years this project was spearheaded by Ann. Dr.Kanchan Gurtu. Nine Rotarians braved the morning rains and were present at the project. Food packets were given to

all the students which were sponsored by President Rtn.Rajnish Mehta and Rtn.Vibha Mehta.

Reported by – **Sohini Banerjee**



District Governor's Speech



Dr Krishnendu Gupta AKS welcomed everyone, expressed happiness on the induction of 3 members welcoming them to the Rotary family. He then briefly dwelt on the RIP's theme of the year "Magic of Rotary" and went on to speak about his journey in Rotary. He has joined Rotary in 1993 and was a member of RC Jadavpur but had to leave after an year as he was leaving Kolkata for an assignment in Manipal. On his return it was Late Dr Duru Lilaram RCCB's charter president who brought him into the Rotary fold and he eventually became a member of RCC Victoria. He remembered Late Past Presidents Deepak Atal, Santosh Arora, Nirmla Kohli and especially Dr Joydeep Banerjee whom he introduced to the club, referring to him as his first ever friend in Rotary. He said that they may not be with us today but have left their indelible mark in the club. He also spoke

about Aandhi Shah and her contribution to the club. He said he learnt a lot from his President Col MM Burman when he was Club Secretary. After that he became VP and later after nine long years of avoiding the responsibility, he relented after a stern talk by the Colonel and became the President in the year 2017-18, the club's silver jubilee year. He also recognized the contribution of Gayatree Dhar Club Secretary in RY 2017-2018 when he was President. He spoke about the Rotary action plan given by RI President and the significance of the orange colour in the logo which is that of change. Polio has to be eradicated hence funds are needed. From 4 the number of known cases has increased to 14, which is very worrying. He earnestly requested all to generously contribute to TRF and to the Polio Fund. His heartwarming talk touched everyone deeply.

Words of Wisdom



Shri Rahul Das, a technology specialist and passionate about eliminating child labour was the guest speaker at the regular meeting

on Saturday 20th July 2024. With the help of a power point presentation he unveiled the history, method of manufacture, labour dynamics and the pathetic condition of the workers and children in the brick kiln industry in India. Brick making was known from early times from the Harappan Age (2077 BC). In 1870s chimney making process was introduced in the UK. Clay is needed to make bricks. This is obtained from the top layer of the soil by the river bank. It is moulded and fired. They are sun dried. 10% of the entire world production is by India. About 240 billion bricks are produced per year in India. Coal and biomass are used as fuel. This is a very unorganized sector where manual labourers work, mostly seasonal migrants (November to June). Entire families are usually employed in the brick making industry. Though cost of a brick is Rs 13 the workers are paid only Rs 445 per thousand bricks. For them it is a hand to mouth existence. The temporary living conditions that are set up for them are appalling, with no electricity and little water, along with a work schedule of 12 hours. 65-80% of the workers are children. There are about 10,000 kilns in West Bengal. Lack of education, debt bondage, lack of family planning are some of the reasons for their sad condition. It is a vicious cycle. China produces more bricks than India using mechanized manufacturing processes that eliminate child labour. In India, perhaps such a method can be introduced. Some social security, outdoor school for children, vocational training etc. are needed to uplift these workers and their families. Many consumers these days opt for bricks that are child labour free. The talk was an eye opener for many. There was active interaction with members. Rahul Das was introduced by Lata Bhatia, thanked by Arvind Agrawal and presented with a memento by Julie Sen.



Chandra kala Agrawal felicitating DG.

Independence Day Programme

■ Sports Meet at RCC Brindakhali and Flag Hoisting.

PROJECT AT BARUIPUR

Early on Saturday, July 13th, ten Victorians and two Anns headed towards Baruiipur Satyananda Vidyapeeth where a couple of projects were to be held. It was a rainy yet pleasant day and the students, teachers and the head of the institute were eagerly waiting for the Rotarians. The projects that were taken up that day were:
Vocational Certificates were given out



garden spade in their hands dug the plant beds with lots of enthusiasm and planted saplings of Mangoes, Lemons and Sandal. Sit and Draw Competition: Around Seventy Two children took part in the competition. They were judged in different categories and were given prizes. Rtn.Sunita Agarwala sponsored 90 food packets for all the students. The food packets comprised of Cakes, Biscuits, Instant Noodles and cold drinks for everyone present. The rest of the members present gave them stationery.

Drawing Book, Crayons, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpner and Ruler. The children enjoyed the activity and were very happy. **Scholarship:** A cheque of Rupees Thirty Thousand was handed over to the head of the institution as scholarship for the students. The ashram ladies had made delicious lunch for all the members. The children now bid everyone goodbye and thus ended a happy heart fulfilling day.

Reported by – **Sohini Banerjee**

to Forty Seven girls for Dress Designing, Tailoring and Beautician Course. These certificates were due from the year 2020-2021 which couldn't be distributed that time due to Covid. The girls informed that they were interested in continuing the course and many more girls were ready to join. Rt. Julie Sen who is also a renowned beautician interacted with them and said that she could help out with the beautician course.

Tree Plantation: Sixty Two saplings were ready to be planted and each Victorian took turn to plant a sapling. The members with the



INTERACTORS IN ACTION

On 24th July 2024 the Interact club of St James School hosted JAGO JAGRITI their annual signature project that aims at bringing together the under privileged children from different evening schools and try to make them feel appreciated and celebrated. This year 5 schools participated and all of them put up a splendid show with excellent choreography. The theme for this year was "Colours of India". All the participants were presented with a gift hamper at the end of the programme. President Rajnish Mehta and Vice President Dr Vibha Mehta attended the programme.



Happy



Birthday!

K.K.Nangalia
13th August