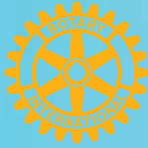


VOICE OF VICTORIA

Rotary
Calcutta Victoria
District 3291



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CALCUTTA VICTORIA | RI DISTRICT 3291

Vol 32 | No 9

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE MONTH

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

UTHE SABKE KADAM



On a wet and gloomy Saturday morning (22nd March 2025) PP Sachiv Nijhawan drove all the way to Pailan to represent RCCV at the inauguration of the MSS Rehabilitation and

Research Centre, a unit of Mahavir Seva Sadan. MSS is one of our partners in service in the mega Global Grant project of USD 88740 to provide artificial limbs, callipers and give other

support. A camp to provide artificial limbs etc. was started on 2nd March 2025 - a report of which was published in the last bulletin (8th March 2025). On 22nd March the new state of the art facility covering 1,05,000 sq.ft. area at Pailan was inaugurated. The main building includes an artificial limb unit, special children care unit, school for children with special needs, healing garden, training institute, residential rooms and vocational training centre. There is a space for an auditorium. The medical centre features diagnostic & homeopathic units, physiotherapy, eye care and doctor's chamber. The service building houses a kitchen, dining hall, dormitories and apartments for doctors, guests and members. This GG project would benefit a large number of people who would be able to lead a better life.

Input by **Sachiv Nijhawan**



Today's Programme

- ♦ Joint Meeting with RCC Millenium.
- ♦ Speaker :- Dr. Sayan Pal MD
Consultant Radiation Oncologist

Next Week's Programme Club Assembly (AG Visit)



Stephanie A Urchick
RI President



Dr Krishnendu Gupta
District Governor



Rajnish Mehta
President



Sohini Banerjee
Secretary



Lata Bhatia
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor

District Holi Meet



RANGOLI - District Holi Meet, held on Sunday 16th March 2025 at Eastern Metropolitan Club. RCCV was a Silver host club.



DG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta and President Rajnish Mehta attended a meeting with members of RC Singapore. RC Singapore was our 'sister club' years ago. Our first Matching Grant was with them. They had contributed USD 2000 towards our leprosy project. Hope we get to do some nice projects with them in the future.



PP Seema Danda receiving the PHF +5 PIN from President Rajnish Mehta.



Julie Sen attended a meeting at RC Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Krishnendu receiving Vocational Award in Hyderabad.



Topmost Healthcare Leaders Global award at Mumbai

◆ Our Dr. Krishnendu Gupta AKS, District Governor (2024-25) has received recognition for his exemplary work in his chosen field of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

◆ On 21st February 2025, 'World Health & Wellness' in its 9th edition, presented him "Topmost Health Care Leaders Global" award at a glittering function in Mumbai.

◆ On 23rd March 2025, after his presentation on "Cervical Cancer prevention - adolescent HPV vaccination the need of the hour" at the District Conference of RID 3150 in Hyderabad, he was felicitated with 'Vocational Excellence Award'. Present in the august gathering was RIPR RID Daniel C. Himelspace.

◆ Congratulation Dr. Krishnendu. We are so proud of you.

Happy Birthday!

*Lata Bhatia
28th March*

*Alka Kejriwal
6th April*

*Sreelekha(Julie) Sen
17th April*

GUEST SPEAKER



Dr. Sayan Paul MD is a senior consultant Radiation Oncologist with Apollo Cancer Institute, Kolkata. He did his MBBS from Calcutta Medical College and MD in Radiotherapy from King George's Medical University, Lucknow. He is DNB, Radiation Oncology in National Board of examinations. He trained at Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai,

SGPGIMS Lucknow & King Georges Medical University Lucknow. He did his clinical fellowship in AKH, medical University in Vienna, Austria & National Institute of Oncology in Budapest, Hungary under renowned oncologists. Before joining Kolkata he was with Apollo Hyderabad. He had also worked in P.D. Hinduja National Hospital in Mumbai and Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram. He has around 40 National and International publications to his credit. He is in the teaching faculty at the Indian college of Radiation Oncology.

He is member of numerous associations and societies of oncology in India and Europe. He has numerous achievements and honours to his credit. A Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search scholar in 1996, he has won prizes in thesis competition, received Parvati Devi gold medal, ESTRO grant and other prestigious grants from countries in Europe. He is course coordinator in National Cancer grid online educational portal, training in proton therapy treatment (Prague), Editor of Bethesda Handbook of clinical Oncology and many more.

WORDS OF WISDOM



On Saturday, the 8th of March, which is celebrated as International Womens Day all over the world, Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria featured Ms Sraboni Sarkar Neogi, a well known social worker in Kolkata as guest speaker at its Weekly Meeting Ms Srabani Sarkar Neogi, is the Founder Secretary-cum-Director, South Kolkata Hamari Muskan an anti trafficking organisation working in Kolkata since 2009. It works in the red light areas of Sonagachi and Bowbazar with the children, adolescents and women survivors to protect them from different forms of violence and abuse and to build their confidence and resilience so that they can choose a dignified life. Ms Neogi believes that their job is not just to plug trafficking or second-or third-generation prostitution: their goal is to use educational and psychological interventions to create an ultimate resilient being: one who allows no torture, no injustice against self or society; one who can unite others to start a movement and create an egalitarian world. Ms Neogi shared her goals and experiences with the members and engaged them in her engrossing

talk and exposition. She said that South Kolkata Humaari Muskan firmly believes that prostitution is a violation of human rights. At Humaari Muskaan, they prefer not to use the words, sex worker, but instead use the term, prostitution. In a blindingly true and hard hitting statement, Ms Neogi said that If someone wants to choose prostitution at 18 then it can be done. But does she know what she is letting herself in for? At Humaari Muskaan, the project Mental Health and Nutrition of children of sex workers started in 2009. This was because the mother worked till early morning and had to sleep after that. The "home" was a brothel. It was a vicious cycle the children of prostitutes were caught up in. However, many of these young girls were educated. One of the main objectives of Hukaari Muskaan was Gate Keeping and prevention as this was most important to prevent second generation prostitution. Ms Neogi and other likeminded social workers like her faced many problems and dangers. If the social workers went there to protect or prevent, the racketeers would stop them. The Gate Keeping program was thought of very carefully so that social workers could work "in" the system. This project was divided into different stages according to the age group of the children with focus on health food and nutrition for the babies of the mothers who worked as prostitutes, and later also to provide education for the growing children. In her moving address, Ms Neogi said that at Muskaan it was all about team work and dedication and she also said all this is done through donation. As they grow older, the children are given the option to either go on studying or leave and learn a vocation. The main objective of the Gate Keeping project

is to try and stop prostitution, one of the greatest injustices against women, and the worst form of exploitation. The Exit Program helps them to leave prostitution. Ms Neogi said that over 100 women have successfully been in the Exit Program Ms Neogi added that Mrs Gayatree Dhar helped a girl from the red light area to train and earn a living by cooking. Ms Neogi and her team try to give vocational training in cooking, baking, making costume jewellery, sewing, and embroidery. While they are training, they are given Stipends. Ms Neogi said that when the prostitutes try to come to mainstream there are a lot of problems. Patience is needed to bring them to mainstream and specialists in Adult literacy, Mental Health, Counseling are needed alongside to help these young women to come out of their trauma. The children of the prostitutes are unseen and unheard by people. This is the saddest part. The conditions they live in are below dismal and inhuman and the children see their mothers being abused by the clients. Mothers want to go through to the Exit Program. The basic idea is not only to try to take them away from the dark reality if that is possible, but also to mainly safeguard them and their children in the best way possible. Ms Neogi said that she would always appeal to civil society to understand and be aware of their pain and helplessness, and to work for the education of the children of prostitutes. Ms Sraboni Sarkar Neogi was introduced by PP Gayatree Dhar. A token of appreciation was given to Ms Sraboni Sarkar Neogi by Rtn Julie Sen. The speaker was thanked by PP Chhanda Banerji.

Reported by **Kashmiri Marwah**

