



VOICE OF VICTORIA

BULLETIN OF ROTARY CALCUTTA VICTORIA | RI DISTRICT 3291

Vol 31 | No 10

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Saturday, January 20, 2024



DGE Dr. Krishnendu Gupta and first lady in waiting Dr. Simrana left for Orlando, Florida on 5th January 2024 for International Assembly. They have since returned after a wonderful programme with lots to share with Victorians. This is just the prelude - more in the next bulletin. **Wait & watch !!**

District Governor 2024-25 DR. KRISHNENDU and Dr. Simran at Orlando, Florida, USA



Gordon R. McNally
RI President



Hiralal Yadav
District Governor



Arvind Agrawal
President



Vinita Dutt
Secretary



KK Jha
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor

BON VOYAGE



At Calcutta Airport (5/1/2024) Destination Orlando, Florida



With RIP Gordon McInally



R.I. President (2024-25) Stephanie A. Urchick



MAGIC OF ROTARY
R.I. Theme (2024-25)

2nd Club Assembly Report

■ CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Sunita Agarwala

- ◆ **No. of members:** 46 + 1 Hony. Member
- ◆ **No. of meetings held :** 10
- ◆ **No. of Board meetings held:** 1 (7th Oct. 2023)
- ◆ **No. of Bulletin published :** 9
- ◆ **Fellowship:** Two. On 6th July 2023 (Installation meeting) and 5th November 2023 (pre-Diwali)

R.C.C. Charnock City on 2nd September 2023 at Rotary Sadan.

- ◆ Co-host for a Blood donation & Health check up camp on 3rd September 2023. Main host club was RC Nabadiganta. 5 members attended. New member Biswajit Rana donated blood for thalassemia patients and also pledged his organs.
- ◆ One of the Host clubs for Senior Citizens

Choudhuri on 6th July 2023 (ii) Somenath Dutta on 6th July 2023 (iii) Sohini Banerjee on 26th August 2023 (iv) Biswajit Rana on 26th August 2023.

- ◆ All members are registered with Rotary Central



◆ GOODWILL VISIT



Three Goodwill visits taken to (i) RC Calcutta on 19th September 2023 (ii) RC Calcutta Midtown on 12th October 2023 and (iii) RC Calcutta Inner City on 10th November 2023

- ◆ **FINANCE:** RI dues, District dues and payment for Rotary News all paid on time. Both Club fund and Trust fund are healthy. Accounts have been audited on time like every year.

- ◆ COTS was held on 24th June 2023
- ◆ PETS, SETS, TETS attended by President Elect, Secretary Elect and Treasurer Elect
- ◆ District Training Assembly attended by President Elect and his team 2023-24 on 21st May 2023
- ◆ Installation meeting held on 6th July 2023. Chief Guest was District Governor Hiralal Yadav.
- ◆ Regular meetings had erudite speakers on varied subjects like kettlebell sport importance of vaccination and when to take them, tackling depression etc. In some meetings quizzes are conducted.
- ◆ Bulletin carries club activities, District and RI news, minutes, synopsis of guest speaker's talk, articles of interest, birthday and wedding anniversary greetings, family news and other messages etc which makes the bulletin complete and readable.
- ◆ **Support to the District:** Lead Host Club for BHUMIKA – Meet and Greet DG Elect Dr. Krishnendu Gupta and Dr. Mrs. Simran Gupta along with TEAM 2024-25, on 1st October 2023.
- ◆ Co-hosted a seminar on thyroid and thyroid cancer awareness organized by

Puja Parikrama 2023, organized by RC Salt Lake Green on 21st October 2023.

- ◆ President Arvind Agrawal was part of RI District 3291 team for 'Ganga Abhijan' – a project where Host Club was RC Calcutta. Rotary Clubs from England and Scotland also participated. This was held on 31st October 2023.
- ◆ RCCV was one of the Host Clubs in "Childrens & Community Festival" organized by RC Avyanna in North Kolkata from 25th December 2023 to 1st January 2024.

■ MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ Four members inducted: (i) Usha



■ SERVICE PROJECTS

■ COMMUNITY SERVICE

(Non - Medical)

Chair: Seema Danda

- ♦ **Disadvantaged Children:** Digital Hearing Aids given to 15 severely hearing

Rs. 25000/- and brought the children

- ♦ **Tarpaulin Distribution (Sahaayta):** 40 Cycle Rickshaw pullers were presented with one tarpaulin each to cover their rickshaws with logo of Rotary wheel and club's name on them on 23rd July 2023. Biscuit packets were also given to all.



■ Literacy

Chair: Bipasha Banerjee

- ♦ Upgradation of 9 computers at 'Ideal School for the Deaf' in Salt Lake and donation of a new computer to the school in August 2023.
- ♦ On 'Teachers Day', 5th September 2023,

impaired children (one pair to each child) at Ideal School for the Deaf on 30th July 2023.

- ♦ **Support to Visually Challenged Children:** On 5th December 2023 Thirty three 'Writers' were given to 33 visually challenged students of classes X,XI,XII of Lighthouse for the Blind to write their final Board exams. Project cost Rs. 23800/- Organised and implemented by Dr. Jai Nath Gurtu.
- ♦ 44 young children at Joyjeet Das Memorial School received books and food packets on 5th September 2023.



- ♦ Books and pencil boxes (containing pencil, eraser, sharpener, ruler) were given to 44 children of St. Lawrence Night School on 8th September 2023.
- ♦ **Chotoder Sharad Shrestha:** 68 children were taken pandal hopping in buses on 18th October 2023 to several Puja Pandals in the city. They were judges for that day. This was in association with Times of India. Bhawanipur Education Society and Caring Minds were also partners in service. RCCV contributed

হইছমোড়ে দুর্গাশিশনের পালা শুরু চতুর্থী থেকেই

হইছমোড়ে দুর্গাশিশনের পালা শুরু চতুর্থী থেকেই। এই দিনে শিশুগণকে দুর্গা পুজোর আনন্দ উপভোগ করার সুযোগ দেওয়া হয়েছে।

একটি ছবিতে দেখা যাচ্ছে, শিশুগণ দুর্গা পুজোর আনন্দ উপভোগ করছে। অন্য ছবিতে দেখা যাচ্ছে, শিশুগণ দুর্গা পুজোর আনন্দ উপভোগ করছে।

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at Joyjeet Das Memorial School on Prince Anwar Shah Road 44 tiny tots received books and food packets. 4 teachers felicitated for their contribution to their vocation.

- ◆ On 8th September 2023, at St. Lawrence Night School, under the banner of Easy School, an initiative of RID 3291, Forty



Four young students of Class I were gifted with books and pencil boxes (each containing pencil, eraser, ruler & sharpner). The Principal, Assiatant Head Master and Head Mistress were recognized for their service to their profession.

- ◆ 33 writers given to visually challenged students of classes X,XI,XII of Lighthouse for the blind to write their board exams, on 5th December 2023.
- ◆ **Care to Senior Citizens:** Ration for 42 people donated at Kasba Divine



Foundation, a home for senior citizens on the bypass on 4th August 2023.

- ◆ Mosquito nets distributed to 100 senior citizens at R.C.C. Kanthalberia



on 15th August 2023. Partners in service, Kanthalberia Mahila Suchetana Samiti. Cost of the project Rs. 5000/-

- ◆ Special lunch was served to 45 senior citizens at Kasba Divine Foundation



during autumn festival on 17th October 2023. Ration was also given to the senior citizen's home.

- ◆ RCCV was one of the host clubs for Senior Citizen's Puja Parikrama on 21st October 2023, organized by RC Salt Lake Green.

■ COMMUNITY SERVICE (Medical)

Chair: Dr. Jai Nath Gurtu

- ◆ **Eye Camp:** On 1st July 2023 an eye camp was organized at RCC Kanthalberia under the aegis of Kanthalberia Mahila



Suchetana Samiti. Doctors from Dakshin Barasat Eye Hospital checked 60 patients. 13 were detected with cataract. Free medicines and spectacles were given.

Senior RCCV member Dr. O.P.Agarwal provided hands on service.

- ◆ Second eye camp was held on 23rd November 2023 at RCC Kanthalberia where 86 patients were screened. 31 were detected with cataract. 26 surgeries carried out free of cost at Dakshin Barasat Eye Hospital. Free medicines and spectacles given to them. Cost of project- Rs.7000/-

- ◆ "Lets break the negative lifestyle and step towards a positive lifestyle" - A musical meditation & mental healing programme was held at the hall of Alipore Jail Museum on 16th July 2023 in association with IDFC First Bank, Rota Talk Foundation and ISKCON, New Town. HG Sri Prema Swarupa Das, spiritual and life coach conducted the programme. 75 attended the event including 7 Victorians. Cost – Rs. 17,500/-

- ◆ **Hearing Aid Project:** On 30th July 2023, Thirty imported digital hearing aids, each costing Rs. 17,000/- were implanted on 15 severely hearing impaired children at the 'Ideal School for the Deaf' in Salt Lake.

- ◆ Co-hosted a seminar on thyroid and thyroid cancer awareness at Rotary Sadan on 2nd September 2023, organized by RCC Charnock City .

- ◆ **Awareness on Thalassemia:** On 20th August 2023 at Prantik Mahila Samiti at village Uttarpadmajala, near Kanthalberia in S.24 Pgs. an awareness



camp on thalassemia was organized. Dr. R.Hom Choudhury addressed around 100 villagers. He stressed the importance of blood test to prevent thalassemia.

- ◆ On 3rd December 2023, a free blood testing camp was organized for detection of 'carriers' of thalassemia. 67 blood samples were collected by 2 technicians.

- ◆ **Blood donation & Health Check up Camp:** RCCV co-hosted this camp



organized by RC Nabadiganta on 3rd September 2023 near Lake Mall. RCCV's new member Rtn. Biswajit Rana donated blood. He also pledged his whole body and organs at the camp.

■ VOCATIONAL SERVICE

- ♦ Training in Mehendi, hand embroidery and a beautician's course (Nail art and Hair styling) for 6 months started for 13 women at Legal Aid Services of Bengal in South Kolkata on 8th July 2023. Two trained teachers are regularly taking classes twice a week.
- ♦ At RCC Kanthalberia a project in tailoring started with 23 ladies on 22nd July 2023. Classes are being conducted twice a week. One sewing machine costing Rs. 5500/- presented to them. Cost of project Rs.30,000/-. Partners in service Kanthalberia Suchetana Mahila Samiti.
- ♦ **Vocational Awards:** Recognition of teachers on the occasion of TEACHERS DAY
 - (i) At Joyjeet Das Memorial School – Four teachers – Shrimanti Das, Gayatri Dutta, Debjani Banerjee & SK Javed Ali were felicitated on 5th September 2023, 'Teachers Day' for their contribution as teachers to the young children.
 - (ii) At Legal Aid Services Bengal – Two teachers Paramjeet Kaur Bhambra and Manpreet Kaur Bhambra were honoured on 5th September 2023, 'Teachers Day' for imparting their knowledge and skill to a large number of students.
 - (iii) At St. Lawrence Night School - Fr. Joseph D'souza, Principal, Ravi Shankar Pathak, Assistant Head Master, and Ms. Sujata Singh Head Mistress were honoured for their exemplary service to their profession on 8th September 2023.
 - (iv) Dr. Shashi Prabha Rohatgi and **Chhanda Banerji**, senior members and teachers were felicitated at the regular meeting on the occasion of Teachers day.

■ ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS (RCC)

- Chair : Gayatree Dhar**
- ♦ **At Kanthalberia:** Two eye camps held on 1st July 2023 & 23rd November 2023. Total beneficiaries 146. 44 patients detected with cataract. 26 surgeries done. Medicines and spectacles given free of cost.



- ♦ **Suchikala:** A vocational training programme for 6 months for 23 ladies in tailoring running since 22nd July 2023. A sewing machine given.
- ♦ 100 mosquito nets distributed to senior citizens of the RCC.
- ♦ **At Brindakhali:** On 15th August 2023,



Independence Day, a football match was organized at the RCC. where several teams participated. Prize money sponsored by RCC Brindakhali. 2 Trophies were given by RC Calcutta Victoria, to the winners and runner up. Flag hoisting also took place.

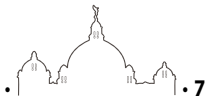
■ PUBLIC IMAGE

- Chair : Col. Man Mohan Burman**
- ♦ **Chhotoder Sharad Shrestha:** On 18th October 2023, 68 under privileged children and 6 teachers were taken pandal hopping in association with



Times of India, Bhawanipur education society and Caring minds. Well known movie star, Ms. Rituparna Sengupta inaugurated the programme. The event was prominently highlighted in Times of India on 19th October 2023 and in other vernacular papers.

- ♦ 40 cycle rickshaws were presented with tarpaulin cover on 15th July 2023 which had the Rotary logo and our club's name on them.



- ♦ On Polio awareness day and SNID auto rickshaws went around the city with polio banner where RCCV's name was prominently displayed (on 24th October 2023 & 10th December 2023).

■ YOUTH SERVICE

Chair : B.K.Agarwal & Nihar Duggar

- ♦ RCCV has 5 vibrant Interact clubs. They are Interact Clubs of -- Calcutta International School, Pratt Memorial



School, St. John's Diocesan H.S.School, P.B.academy School and St.James School. All of them are doing excellent work. Few RCCV members attended the Installation of all the Interact clubs and each were presented with Rs 5000/- to start off their service projects. A sponsorship of Rs. 50,000/- was organized for the mega fund raising event, a musical play ,of Pratt Memorial School. Also supported fund raising event of St John's Diocesan School , a fun fair , with Rs 10,000/-.

- ♦ Trophies were sponsored for a football tournament at RCC Brindakhali on 15th august 2023, where a large number of youth participated. 6 Victorians attended the event.

■ POLIO

Chair : Sarah Macwan

- ♦ Awareness on World Polio Day was celebrated on 24th October 2023 by putting up banners in ward 8 and other areas of Ballygunge. An ambulance with microphone travelled to different parts of Kolkata spreading awareness to keep India polio free. 2 District officials PDG Uttam Ganguly and PDG Mukul Sinha attended the programme.
- ♦ On 10th December 2023, SNID, polio



drops were administered at Ward 8. Banners put up and awareness carried out using tempo fitted with microphone, in South and North Kolkata. Food packets were given inn ward 8.

■ THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Chair: Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

- ♦ Contribution to TRF is \$1100 (President Arvind Agrawal -\$1000 & Dr. Jai Nath Gurtu - \$100)

TEAM VICTORIA 2024-25

Rajnish Mehta
President

Arvind Agrawal
Immediate Past President
Club Administration

President Elect

Sunita Agarwala
Vice President

Lata Bhatia
Treasurer

Sohini Banerjee
Secretary

Anurag Daga
Jt Secretary

Kashmiri Marwah
Sergeant-at-Arms

Sachiv Nijhawan
Jt. Editor

Chhanda Banerji
Editor

Col. Man Mohan Burman
Club Facilitator

COMMITTEE CHAIR 2024-25

Sunita Agarwala
Club Administration

Dr. Jai Nath Gurtu
Service Projects

Seema Danda
Vocational Service

Vinita Dutt
International Service

Vibha Meht
Youth Service

Dr. Krishnendu Gupta
TRF

B.K.Agarwal
Membership

Arvind Agrawal
Fellowship Chair

Gayatree Dhar
R.C.C

Sachiv Nijhawan
Polio/NID

Alka Kejriwal
Community Service (Non-medical)

Subhojit Sinha Roy
Water Sanitation & Hygiene

Sunita Agarwala
Community Service (Medical)

Bipasha Banerjee
Basic Education & Literacy

Dr. O.P.Agarwal
Eye Camps

Lata Bhatia
Environment

Nitish Jain
Public Relations

Dr. Joyashree Dhar
Mother & Child Health

BLANKET DISTRIBUTION



Rtn. Sutapa Das travelled all the way to remote Belpukur in Nadia District many miles away to distribute 100 blankets to extremely needy elderly villagers on 25th December 2023, so that they may

be warm on winter nights. Total cost of the project was Rs.12000/- Rs 10,000/- sponsored by Sutapa Das and the rest by the club. Kudos to Sutapa for the wonderful work done single handedly.


At St. Lawrence Night School



Annual prize distribution ceremony of St. Lawrence Night school for students of KG to class IV, a school Victorians have been associated with for many years, was held on 18th December 2023. The programme was beautifully organized with the giving away of prizes of each class interspersed with excellently choreographed dance programmes performed by students attired in colourful costumes. Victorians Sunita Agarwala, Usha Chaudhuri and

Chhanda Banerji attended the event and were invited to give away some of the prizes and address the students. Sunita Agarwala sang a few lines of 'Hum Honge Kaamyad' and asked the students to join in which they did quite enthusiastically. Shri Dinesh Rai, who had been Principal of the school for many years but now retired was felicitated. RCCV had sponsored 600 food packets for the children.

GUEST SPEAKER



Deepshika Kumari Prasad graduated from Lady Brabourn College with Honours in Political Science. and a Master in Social Science from Vidyasagar School of Social Work. She holds a Diploma in computer from WEBEL and a certificate in Teacher Training.

She is a professional social worker and demonstrated ability to lead and manage teams to achieve a desired result. Ability to work equally well with executive level leadership on strategic initiatives and with rank and file employees on day today operations. Skilled at managing projects, research work and communication skills coupled with a can-do-attitude. Her hobbies are reading, singing, public speaking and travelling.

'She is Founder & Director of Passionate for you foundation'. Worked as a Kolkata relief work manager, world wide child line and also as a teacher head - Grace community centre and at other places.

She will talk about her organisation and how they are working on Child Rights and Prevention of Child Abuse.

Educational Trip of Metropolitan Institution Main For Girls

On Saturday 13th January 2024, Students of Metropolitan Institution Main For Girls, 39, Sankar Ghosh Lane, Kolkata 700006, both English and Bengali medium sections were taken on a trip to Victoria Memorial and Birla Planetarium. Around 50 heads went there for the trip. The children were given light refreshments in the morning, and thereafter they travelled to their destination in a private luxury bus from the school. The team reached the spot at around 1:30 pm where the members of Rotary club of Calcutta Victoria, met them. The children had their lunch in the garden and went around the Victoria Memorial and were



given a detailed information about the Monument built in the early 20th century. Then they were taken to Birla Planetarium where they enjoyed the 4 pm show (Hindi version). The children were highly excited to watch the show.

The club sponsored the travel expenses, the lunch for all, and the cost incurred for buying tickets for the planetarium show. The headmistress as well as teachers extended their heart felt gratitude to the club for sponsoring this wonderful educational Trip of their school.

Reported by - Bipasha Banerjee

At Senior Citizen's Home

Special lunch was served to 45 residents of Kasba Divine Foundation – a home for senior citizen on 17th December 2023. Rtn. Subhojit Sinha Roy hosted the lunch in memory of his late mother. PP Gayatree Dhar organized the event.



Christmas Celebrations

At Institute for Psychological and Educational Research (IPER) in Lake Gardens Christmas celebration was organized for disadvantaged children on the evening of 23rd December 2023. The place was gaily decorated complete with twinkling lights and the excited children of varying ages were all there dressed up for the gala occasion. There were songs and dances



and guitar recital by some students as well as a talk on teachings of Jesus. 40 food packets and goody bags with attractive and useful gifts were presented to the children sponsored by Usha Chaudhuri, Subhojit Sinha Roy and Chhanda Banerji. Victorians who attended were Gayatree Dhar, Chhanda Banerji, Dr. Joyashree Dhar, Sunita Agarwala, Usha Chaudhuri and Bipasha Banerjee.



Team 2024-25. Announced at regular meeting on 30th December 2023.

**District
conference
2024 -25**

Report on District Conference will be published in the next bulletin.

**PP Tapas Bhattacharya
elected DGND (DG - 2026-27) .
Congratulations!!**

**Happy
Birthday!** 

*Vibha Mehta
7th January*

*Siddharth Jhajharia
11th January*

*Anurag Daga
26th January*

**Happy Wedding
Anniversary** 

*Shashi Prabha Rohatgi & Prabhat Krishna
16th January*

*Subhojit Sinha Roy & Susmita
21st January*

*Alka Kejriwal & Mahesh
26th January*

*Sanghamitra Chowdhury & Bibekananda
3rd February*

Minutes of the 1337th Regular Meeting of **Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria** held on Saturday, 30th December 2023, at Hotel Hindusthan International at 12:30 pm

- ♦ President Arvind Agarwal called the 1337th meeting to order at 1 pm.
- ♦ President welcomed all members and guests.
- ♦ National Anthem was sung by all led by Rtn. K.K.Jha
- ♦ The minutes of the 1336th meeting was confirmed and passed by Dr. Gurtu and confirmed by Rtn. Gayatri.
- ♦ Dr. Krishnendu Gupta DG Elect informed that on 25th February 2024, there is a seminar at ITC Sonar and we must register for that.
- **President's Announcements**
- ♦ The President said that in the last 6 months we have done projects under every focus area. We now need to concentrate on TRF collection. He requested all members to pay generously to TRF.
- ♦ In the absence of IPP Sachiv Nijhawan, Rtn. K.K.Jha tabled the accounts for the year 2022-23 which were adopted by the club. Dr. Krishnendu proposed the accounts and Rtn. Lata Bhatia confirmed the same. He also shared the accounts for the current year upto December 2023.
- ♦ President Arvind asked members to share with him the various projects which can be done so that he can arrange for funds. Rtn. Sutapa mentioned about a project she wishes to do in Purulia for the very poor persons there.
- ♦ Election Officer Rtn Lata Bhatia was invited to the head table.
- ♦ She mentioned that no other nomination for the post of President was received, so she declared Rtn Rajnish Mehta as the incoming President. She invited him to present his board.
- ♦ PE Rajnish Mehta presented his team 2024-25.
- **Secretary's Announcements**
- ♦ The next regular meeting will be held on 13th January 2024 at HHI.
- ♦ The meeting was terminated at 2 P.M.