



Welcome District Governor Hira Lal Yadav & First Lady Deepali

Hiralal Yadav joined Rotary Club of Hooghly in the year 1995. He served as the President of the Rotary Club of Hooghly in the year 1998-1999 & 1999-2000. He is a past Rotaractor. He graduated from Calcutta University. He is a Ply Wood Manufacturer.

He revived the sick club which was recommended to be closed by the then District Governor. He established Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital in the year 2000 with only eight members in a rented building. The Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital became so popular, that a more spacious building was required. He constructed a well-designed 3 storied building for Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital in the year 2013. Now, Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital is a complete Eye Care Centre and pride of Rotary District 3291. In the last two decades he has helped eighteen clubs in India and two clubs in Bangladesh to establish Eye Hospitals. He is the Chairman of Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital, Rotary Gangadharpur Eye Hospital & Kuchaikot Rotary Eye Hospital-



Bihar. He is also the Chief advisor/Technical Advisor of 17 Rotary Eye Hospitals.

Presently 55000-60000 surgeries are being done in these Eye Hospitals & 4 lakhs to 4.50 lakhs patients are being treated in the OPD & in Out Reach camps. His dream is to arrange Eye Check-up for 10 lac patients & eye surgeries for 1 lakh patients. He has served Rotary District 3291 in different capacities and was invited as Guest Speaker in the Training Sessions and Conferences of Rotary District 3250 & 3291.

He is a great supporter of "The Rotary Foundation" & was instrumental in successfully completing 82 Global Grant Projects for different Rotary

Clubs in India, Bangladesh, Singapore & UK. He had made arrangements to construct many tube-wells to provide safe drinking water in the remote villages of Hooghly. He also gave new life to 27 needy children by arranging Heart Surgeries in R.N. Tagore Heart Research - Kolkata & at Narayana Hrudyalaya - Bangalore. He was instrumental in setting up a Primary School at Hooghly Railway station for Underprivileged children in the year 2014. He also supports an orphanage - "Vivekananda Ashram" for the last 23 years. He has worked with District Administration of Hooghly in the implementation of Central Government Development Schemes as Nominated Member of the District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee 2012 to 2019.

He is a Major Donor and recipient of the highest Award of the Rotary International - "Service Above Self Award".

He is married to Deepali. She is an active member of Rotary Club of Hooghly. They are blessed with three daughters & one son.



Gordon R. McInally
RI President



Hiralal Yadav
District Governor



Arvind Agrawal
President



Vinita Dutt
Secretary



KK Jha
Treasurer



Chhanda Banerji
Editor

PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES (1st July 2023 to 31st March 2024)

■ CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Sunita Agarwala

- ◆ **No. of members:** 42 + 1 Hony. Member
- ◆ **No. of meetings held:** 16 (as of 31.03.24)
- ◆ **No. of Board meetings held:** 2 (7th October 2023, 2nd February 2024)
- ◆ **No. of Bulletin published:** 13 (till date)
- ◆ **Website:** Club has an active Website
- ◆ **Fellowship:** 3. On 6th July 2023 (Installation meeting), 5th November 2023 (pre-Diwali) and 2nd February 2024.
- ◆ COTS was held on 24th June 2023
- ◆ **Club Assembly:** 3 (24th June 2023, 16th



- December 2023 and 24th February 2024)
- ◆ 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, child rights 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.
- ◆ Member Rtn. Sutapa Das was a speaker at an Advocacy meeting at Arunima Hospice on 17th February 2024.

- ◆ **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 RCC 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 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.
- ◆ Contributed and supported the District Conference held from 5th to 7th January 2024. Four members attended.
- ◆ Co-host for a fund raising programme 'Life Beyond Cancer' for after effect care and support to cancer patients held on 22nd February 2024. Lead Host club was RC Jadavpur.

- ◆ Supported PETS, SETS, TETS held on 25th February 2024.

■ MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ **Four members inducted:**
 - (i) Usha 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.
- ◆ Four members have left the club on 31st December 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.



SERVICE PROJECTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

(Non - Medical)

Chair: Seema Danda

- ◆ **Disadvantaged Children:** Digital Hearing Aids given to 15 severely hearing impaired children (one pair to each child) at Ideal School for the Deaf on 30th July 2023.



- ◆ 50 children of Metropolitan Institution Main for Girls were taken on an education trip on 13th January 2024 to Victoria Memorial and Birla Planetarium – where they attended a show. {cost Rs. 20,450}
- ◆ Annual Sports Meet sponsored for students of classes V to IX of Metropolitan Institution Main for Girls in North Kolkata on 27th January 2024.
- ◆ Annual Sports Meet for students of classes KG – VII of St. Lawrence Night School held at their school ground on 17th February 2024. 600 food packets were sponsored for the event.

- ◆ **Support to Visually Challenged Children:** On 5th December 2023 Thirty three 'Writers' were given to 33 visually challenged students of classes X, XI,

- ◆ **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 Rs. 25000/- and brought the children.



- ◆ 600 food packets were sponsored for students of St. Lawrence Night School (KG – class IV) at their Annual prize distribution, held on 18th December 2023.

- ◆ Christmas celebration organized for children at Institute for Psychological & Educational Research (IPER) in Lake Gardens on 23rd December 2023. 40 food packets and goody bags were presented to the children.



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 JoyjeetDas 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.





- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Protecting Our Environment:**
Chair: Lata Bhatia
Tree plantation was carried out on 29th February 2024 at Mentaid, a school for



intellectually disabled. 75 saplings planted, sponsored by the Club. Parents, childrens and support staff all got to plant at least one tree.

- ♦ **Disaster Relief:** Cartons of clothes, biscuits and Rs 36000/- were given to "Goonj" for flood victims of Assam,



Uttarkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi on 30th July 2023.

- ♦ **LEGAL AID :** A programme organized by Arunima Hospice in Behala on 17th February 2024 that houses 56 children affected by HIV, to make them aware of an ACT framed to protect and secure their rights. Member Rtn. Sutapa Das, advocate, explained in detail rights and duties of HIV+ person under the said Act. Food packets for 100 participants were sponsored.

■ 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, 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, Assistant 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.
- ♦ On 25th February 2024, 50 children aged 2.5 to 10 years of a free primary school run by a NGO, Purono Kolkater Golpo Society (PKGS) in remote Nayachar Island in Sunderbans were given slates, chalk,



pencils erasers and exercise books as well as sports jersey, all sponsored by the club. {cost involved Rs. 12000}.

- ♦ **Care for 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 RCC 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 and again on 17th December 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.
- ◆ **Blanket Distribution:** 100 blankets given to needy elderly villagers in



Belpukur, Dist. Nadia, on 25th December 2023. [cost of project – Rs. 12,000]

- ◆ **Toilet Project:** Two ladies toilet, bathrooms for ladies, Two gents toilet and a pump house constructed in the market area of village Padua in Joynagar area, benefitting large number of residents. This was a CSR initiative. Cost of the project nearly Rs. 2,20,000/- [A benevolent donor gave 2.17 lakhs and the club contributed the balance amount.]



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. Surgeries



were carried out the next day at the hospital. Free medicines and spectacles were given. Senior RCCV member Dr. OP AGARWAL provided hands on service.

- ◆ A Second and a Third eye camp were held on 23rd November 2023 and 9th March 2024 respectively at RCC Kanthalberia where (86 + 43) patients were screened. Those detected with cataract (26+8) were operated upon at Dakshin Barasat Eye Hospital free of cost. Free medicines and spectacles given to them. In total 187 villagers screened and 47 surgeries performed in RY 2023-24. Total cost of all three camps Rs: 35650/-



- ◆ **Medical Camps:** (i) A weekly medical camp is held at Bhanru Ramkrishnapur in S-24 Pgs regularly since July 2023. It is an ongoing project. RCCV is sponsoring 2 of the 4 camps per month Cost Rs. 4000/- per month. (ii) Bi-monthly free medical camp started at RCC Brindakhali on 26th January 2024. 20 villagers benefitted. THREE more medical camps held thereafter on 10th February, 25th February and 17th March 2024, whence 20, 22 & 15 patients were beneficiaries. Cost Rs. 4000/- per month.

- ◆ "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.
- ♦ **Mother and Child Project:** On 23rd March 2024, a Mother & Child project was organized at Srihor near Kamarpukur, Dist. Bankura by Ramakrishna Sarada

of them on 27th January 2024. All are earning reasonably well. Cost of the project Rs. 60,050/-



- ♦ At RCC Kanthalberia a project in tailoring (6 month course of Usha Co.) started with 13 ladies on 22nd July 2023. Classes were being conducted twice a week. One sewing machine costing Rs. 5500/- presented to them. The course concluded in January 2024. All are earning fairly well, some on their own and some under the Master tailor.

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:** Three eye camps held on 1st July 2023, 23rd November 2023 & 9th March 2024..Total patients checked 189. 47 patients operated upon for



cataract at Dakshin Barasat Eye Hospital. Medicines and spectacles given free of cost.

- ♦ **Suchikala:** A vocational training programme for 6 months for 13 ladies in tailoring that started on 22nd July



Mission Matri Bhavan (Tollygunge) at their branch there. 380 women and children from the village were checked and free medicines given 80 eye patients were also checked by an eye specialist. The camp was sponsored by RCCV. 4 members and one spouse attended [Cost incurred Rs. 30,000/-]

■ VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Chair: Chandrakala Agrawal / Gayatree Dhar

- ♦ 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 regularly took classes twice a week. On completion of the course certificates were given to all

They are also receiving orders from NGOs outside W.Bengal. Recently 5000 bags made by them sent to Chennai. 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



2023, has conclude in January 2024. A sewing machine was given. All are now earning fairly well.

- ♦ 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.

- ♦ **Medical Camp:** Bimonthly camp started on 26th January 2024 at Brindakhali. Flag hoisting also took place. THREE more such camps have since been held on 10th February, 25th February and 17th



March 2024. Total beneficiaries till now 77. [Cost Rs.4000/- per month].

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 club was 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 in ward 8.

- ♦ NID was observed on 3rd March 2024 by participating in the Rally organized by RID 3291 at Rotary Sadan. Also visited designated polio booths in Ward 8 (Ballygunge).



♦ **International Service:**

Chair : Col. Man Mohan Burman

- ♦ Mrs. Kyoko Hashimoto Govindasamy , a Japanese national residing in Australia was a guest speaker at the club's regular meeting on Saturday 16th March 2024. She was accompanied by Ms. Chika from Japan.
- ♦ Our member DGE Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

AKS attended the International assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA along with Dr. Simran Gupta from 7th to 11th January 2024.

- ♦ Global Grant: (i) Global Grant - 1873091; Kritika Academy Final report sent. Global Grant closed. (ii) Global Grant - 1637079; Mentaid
- The interim report will be sent in April. Will

be asking for the approval for a change of scope from RI and will try and close this Grant by F.Y. 2025

■ **THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

Chair: Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

- ♦ Contribution to TRF is \$3000+ till date. [President Arvind Agrawal - \$1000]. Dr. Sashi Prabha Rohatgi has become the **10th Major Donor** of the club.



Mrs. Kyoko Hashimoto from Japan at our regular meeting.

Mother and Child Care Project

On **23rd March 2024**, a Mother and Child project was organised at Srihor near Kamarpukur from 11 am to 5 pm, with the help of Ramkrishna Sarada Mission Matri Bhavan at their branch there. A team of 6 doctors, 6 nurses and assistants went from Kolkata for the camp. 380 villagers both women and children were checked by Gynecologists and Paediatricians. Free



medicines were given out to them. In addition to this there were 80 eye patients who were also checked by an eye specialist. 5 Victorians attended the camp namely Mukul Mitra, Sukla Mitra, Seema Danda, Sudipta Sen and Gayatree Dhar. The camp was sponsored by RCCV.

WORDS OF WISDOM

On Saturday 16th March 2024 the club welcomed Mrs. Kyoko Hashimoto Govindasamy, a Japanese teacher living in Australia, as a guest speaker. She is also a violin player and a table tennis champion. But she is now into social service.

Way back in 1986 she had come to Shantiniketan to study textile art at the university there on a Government of India grant. She found that quite often the campus had no power and water. Coming from an affluent country like Japan this was quite an eye opener. She learnt to cope and developed different values. During her travel in rural India she found that 23% girls dropped out of school because there was no protection during menstruation. She decided to do something for the girls and women.

Menstruation is not a taboo; it is a health issue. She had thought of

buying pads or mass producing them in a machine and distributing them but decided it would be so much better to get the village women to make them. She spoke to over 5000 school girls over a period of time to understand their problem and ascertain their needs. Girls and boys were always segregated and boys were not allowed to attend the discussions even in co-ed schools, which surprised her. A lady from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh helped her in her effort to find a solution to the problem. A fabric had to be chosen which was a good absorbent, easily washable, dryable and cost effective. Mrs. Kyoko's knowledge about textile art was a great help. She visited dozens of textile hubs in India but could not find a suitable fabric for using as inner lining. So she was now getting the fabric from Taiwan made from disposable plastic bottles. She has registered a charity " Hanaru

Ethics Pvt. Ltd." in India for making and marketing these special napkins. These can be washed 250 times and after that instead of incinerating them, can be upcycled and used for road construction. This would vastly reduce carbon emission. The project has multiple benefits girls would go back to school and would be able to do something later in life, rural women would get employment and our environment would be protected. These napkins can be used by senior citizens too who have a problem of urine retention. During her talk in various cities where gentlemen were also present she found many men were willing to help. There were lots of queries from members after her illuminating talk.

She was introduced by Varsha Ghatak and thanked by Seema Danda who also presented her with a memento.

LUNGS OF KOLKATA

The Lake or Rabindra Sarobar, with its 4 islands and the lush green surroundings, home to a wide range of biodiversity was Non- Existent till about 100 years ago.

The area was a marshland from where soil was excavated to fill tracts of land where Jodhpur Park now stands. The cavernous pit that was formed by the excavation turned into a lake. Initially referred to as Dhakuria Lake, it was renamed as 'Rabindra Sarobar' in 1958 and was conferred the status of a National Lake in 1997. The entire Rabindra Sarobar covering 192 acres has about 11,000 trees of 270 different varieties. It is a delight for bird watchers, nature enthusiasts, morning & evening walkers and elderly

people. It is a birder's paradise. A variety of species some rare are spotted here.

During excavation of the lake, cannons were found that were probably used in the battle between

Siraj-ud-daulah and Lord Clive in 1756. 3 of the cannons are displayed on a platform on the southern side. A hanging bridge built in 1926 forms a link to one of the islands. Rabindra Sarobar is a harmonious blend of nature, history and urban life.

Conservation of "Lungs of Kolkata" is a necessity for it protects our environment and thus measures have to be taken to prolong the life span of the water body.

Courtesy: TOI

DO YOU KNOW?

Shores of the Dead Sea, a salt water lake with high mineral content, in Israel is the LOWEST Land Point on earth. It is 430 m below sea level.



Happy Birthday!

*Alka Kejriwal
6th April*

*Sreelekha (Julie) Sen
17th April*

Minutes of the 1341st Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria held on Saturday,

16th March 2024 at Hotel Hindusthan International at 12.30 pm

- ◆ President Arvind Agrawal called the 1341st meeting to order.
- ◆ President welcomed all members and guest speaker Mrs. Kyoko Hashimoto Govindsamy, a Japanese teacher and her friend Ms. Chika from Japan.
- ◆ National Anthem was sung by all led by Sunita Agarwala.
- ◆ Guest speaker Mrs. Kyoko Hashimoto sang the Japanese National song.
- ◆ The minutes of the 1340th regular meeting was confirmed, proposed by Lata Bhatia and seconded by Seema Danda.
- **President's Announcements**
- ◆ President Arvind Agrawal announced that DG's official visit was scheduled for 31st March 2024 and all members must reach HHI by 11.30am. Rtn. Vibha Mehta would be sending minute to minute programme to everyone shortly. Requested members to please contribute to TRF before 31st March 2024. Cheques were payable to 'Rotary Foundation India'.
- ◆ PP Seema Danda said one could also contribute to Polio fund in TRF.
- ◆ On President's request, Seema Danda gave details about the Mother & Child project to be implemented by Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Matri Bhavan (Tollygunge) at Srihor,

- near Jairambati in Dist. Bankura. 150 women and 70 children would be checked and medicines given. Registration fee would be Rs.10/- per head. RCCV would be sponsoring the project. Cost would be Rs. 30,000/- (food & medicines). Doctors along with nurses would leave Kolkata at 8am. It would be a day long camp.
- ◆ PP Gayatree Dhar reported on the vocational training project 'Suchikala' at RCC Kanthalberia. All the women that were trained are earning well, mostly making bags right now. They were receiving orders. Till now 5000 bags have been sold.
- ◆ President announced that the Suchikala project would continue for another 6 months at the RCC.
- ◆ President also said that Legal Aid project for disadvantaged women would be taken up in rural areas. Rtn. Sutapa Das would do it for the women in RCC Kanthalberia.
- ◆ PP Gayatree Dhar mentioned that people of Kanthalberia wanted a monthly medical camp there.
- ◆ President said that closure report for funded projects have to be obtained, namely (i) Sholo Bigha project, (ii) School at Baruipur Ashram where a retired judge has now taken over the running of the school and (iii) Metropolitan Institution Main for Girls where Rtn. Bipasha Banerjee is the head mistress.

- ◆ PP Sunita Agarwala expressed her desire that a cancer project be undertaken in memory of her late sister, a past member of RCCV who died of cancer.
- ◆ PP Lata Bhatia, Chair Environment was requested to suggest a project on environment. She said a good project on water conservation could be done.
- ◆ On President's request Rtn. Varsha Ghatak introduced the guest speaker Mrs. Kyoko H. Govindsamy, a Japanese teacher teaching in Australia who is on a mission to help support girls and women in India.
- ◆ Mrs. Kyoko H. Govindsamy gave an illuminating talk about her work in raising awareness amongst women in rural areas about menstrual hygiene and how to make washable napkins.
- ◆ The speaker was thanked by Seema Danda who also presented her with a memento.
- **Secretary's Announcements**
- ◆ Birthday wishes were extended to Lata Bhatia form 28th March.
- ◆ Next meeting would be held on Sunday 31st March 2024 at HHI.
- ◆ This was District Governor's official visit. and members to please come by 11.30 am.
- ◆ There being no other business the meeting was terminated at 2 pm.