



TUESDAY 16 January 2024

January is Vocational Services Month

104

The Chaka

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rotarycalcutta104@gmail.com

Know Your Speaker



Navpreet Arora – Hidden Gems of Calcutta

A third generation "abangali", helplessly in love with her city, is how Navpreet likes to describe herself. Graduating with Sociology from Presidency College and following with a master's in management, she joined the corporate world, working in the Mutual Fund industry for 16 years. Life then took a turn in 2016 when she embarked to transform her undying love for the city into an endeavour to show people, both local and outsiders the beautiful heritage of the city, the myriad colours, and flavours of the City of Joy. And thus was born her company, Funonstreets - to bring out the magical enigma of Calcutta in its multi-faceted glories-the Land of the Babus, the Birthplace of Reformers, the Brewery of Nationalism. Navpreet deviates from the typical touristy

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



CREATE HOPE
IN THE WORLD

excerpts found in travel books and brochures, and weaves an "insider" narrative to Kolkata, to nurture a feeling among visitors and locals alike that resonates with the richness, passion, and overwhelmingly intense potential that the city harbors. The aim is to make the guests experience the real Calcutta, a Calcutta which has a fascinating time warped decadence and peeling opulence of the bygone era, beautifully co-existing with the modern, fast-paced whirlwind existence of today.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 5 to 7 January 2024



The Rotary Club of Calcutta was the host club for the District Conference, held at the prestigious Taj Tal Kutir, New Town. President Kanak Dutt introduced the keynote speaker Shiv Khera, the author of the book "You can Win".

It was a proud moment of our Club that DG Hira Lal Yadav started his presentation of projects of Dist. 3291 with Rotary Blood Bank, Diabetic Retinopathy and EYE Cornea Center mentioning the name of Rotary Club of Calcutta. While felicitating Padmashree Sri Jadhav Payeng, the eminent environmentalist, doing major projects in Assam, the session leader PDG Ravi Sehgal emphasised our club's leading role in the Ganga Abhiyan project, as our environmental initiative.

In a response to one of our members, DG Hira Lal Yadav messaged "I am so happy that you and other Rotarian Friends participated in the District Conference Utkarsh and made it an enjoyable and memorable one".

Our key projects were displayed on a large standee in the venue.

Compiled from WhatsApp posts of Kanak Dutt, Saumen Ray, Arindam Roychowdhury, Indrajit Banerjee, and Purnendu Roychowdhury

CONTACT US

E-mail: rotarycalcutta104@gmail.com
<https://rccalcutta.rotaryindia.org>

GHAT CLEANING: 3 Ganga Ghats – 12 Jan 2024 : AOS Community; AOF Environment

A Ghat Cleaning event, part of the 'mega' Ganga Abhiyan project, was organized collaboratively by WASH, Ganga Abhiyan, and Youth Services Committees, involving 7 Interact Clubs. The initiative aimed to instill community responsibility in Interactors, going beyond cleaning to create lasting awareness. 77 Interactors from seven clubs joined hands to clean 3 Ganga Ghats. Led by PP Saumen Ray, the total assembly surpassed 100 participants. President Kanak Dutt, unable to attend, conveyed his best wishes through Saumen for the project's success. Hon. Secretary Sarvani, PPs Abhijit Kolay and Raj Agrawal, PE Subrata De and VP Debnath Chattopadhyay, Chair Youth Saswati, Co-Chairs Wash and Ganga Abhiyan, Sonia and Partha, Club Correspondent Amit, Rtn Promita Saha, Rtn Ruchika, Rtn Udit Mitra graced the occasion. The presence of PDG Rajani and Rtn. Apala Dutta, RC Avyanna and DICC Dist. 3291 enhanced the occasion. RC Benevolence with their Interact Club, RC Universe and the local councillor were present.

Saumen introduced the day's project as a precursor to the mega Ganga Abhiyan Project, focusing on garbage cleaning and removal as a pillar, along with public awareness for the Clean Ganga Initiative. Three chosen ghats included Champatala Ghat (200 years old, refurbished by RC Calcutta including thematic wall painting), Nandibari Ghat (100 years old), and Kumartuli Ghat (over 300 years old) with average user footfall of 800 (winter) to 1200 (summer). Saswati welcomed the gathering on the day that marks Swami Vivekananda's 161st birthday and National Youth Day. The 7 Interact clubs (viz. Asian International School, Vidyanjali High School, Silver Point School, Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya, DPS Howrah, Serampore Girls' High School and Birla Bharati School) were introduced, and Interactors were split into 3 groups for the designated ghats with Teacher Co-ordinators, each led by a Rotarian supervisor. The teams used pre-arranged tools for cleaning and disposed the collected garbage only at municipal bins at ghat entry points.

Interactors, driven by enthusiasm for community service, traded textbooks for trash bags, making a positive impact on the sacred ghats. River Police on speedboats, advised caution due to High Tide, and Partha leading the Disaster Management team ensured safe working conditions. Saumen Ray invited senior Rotarians to share their views post-program. Abhijit Kolay highlighted the project's positive impact on river pollution. Rajani Mukerji had Interactors share their ghat cleaning experience on National Youth Day. Subrata De, delivering the vote of thanks, thanked the municipal, port and police authorities and all who attended. Saswati coordinated creative performances by Interactors, featuring recitation, enactment, and dance. Post-performance, Sarvani and others distributed certificates to the Interactors, followed by snacks as a token of appreciation.

Key takeaways from the ghat cleaning project for the 'mega' Ganga Abhiyan project : (i) Repaired and refurbished ghats attract three times more bathers. (ii) A floating garbage trap is vital to prevent garbage from escaping, aiding in river water cleanliness and bather safety during tides. (iii) Lack of women's toilet facilities and covered dressing/changing areas is a pressing need. The public address system engaged the community, showcasing project specifics to the satisfaction of those who witnessed the Champatala Ghat renovation in the previous year.

Reported by Amit Ghosh, Saumen Ray and Saswati Mukherjee





Life Beyond Cancer – AOS Community; AOF Fighting Disease



A cheque of Rs 2,20,000/- donated by Rtn. Abhijit Neogy was handed over to Rtn. Partha Sarkar of Rotary Jadavpur heading the organisation “Life Beyond Cancer” for paediatric Cancer patients. The donation was possible through the initiative of CSR Chair PP Rtn Sujata Pyne and Rtn Anusua Das.

Reported by Hony. Secretary, Sarvani

Interact Club Reports

Serampore Girls High School

Tiasa Mondal, a class XII student, and School Captain, donated her entire savings of Rs 9,000 to the Interact Club of Serampore Girls' High School. Inspired by Tiasa's generosity, Ahana Das used her savings to buy a blanket for her housekeeper and books and stationery for her two grandchildren.

Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya

The Interact Club of Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya in North Kolkata organized a tree plantation program on a congested street to combat vehicular pollution. Interactors prepared the soil, planted saplings, and will ensure their care for safety and survival.

Silver Point School

The Interact Club of Silver Point School donated 200 textbooks and stationery to Chintan Academy, a tribal school in the Baramanguwa district of Darjeeling. Additionally, they assisted in packing materials and logistics for the Rotary Club of Calcutta's Annual Children's Treat event and actively participated in a program raising awareness about thalassemia. 20 Silver Point Interactors supported the distribution of wheelchairs in the Rotary Programme Samartha 1.



Compiled from Reports sent by Chair, Youth Service, Saswati Mukherjee



Rotary India Appreciation



REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (09.01.2024)

Total Members	:	239
Members Present	:	31
Exempted Members	:	67
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	6

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 30th January, 2024 at 1.30 p.m. followed by Lunch at 1.00 p.m.
Speaker : Saurabh Thirani

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

Republic Day will be celebrated along with Painting Exhibition and Cultural programme by the Students of the Cultural Section on Friday, 26th January, 2024 at the Rotary Sadan. Flag hoisting at 10 a.m. Members are requested to kindly attend with families.

ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH - 2024

Annual Cricket Match followed by Fellowship & Lunch will be held on Sunday, 4th February, 2024 at 9.30 a.m. onwards at The Calcutta Club Ltd., A. J. C. Bose Road, Kolkata. Members interested in attending the Cricket Match are requested to register their name at the Club Office or Rtn. Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee, Chairperson, Programme (Mob. No. : 9830042610)

BOARD MEETING

The 7th meeting of the Board of Directors (2023-24) of the Club will be held on Monday, 29th January, 2024 at 6.30 p.m at Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor). All members of the Board are requested to make a note of it and attend.

NO WEEKLY MEETING

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024 on account of Public Holiday (Netaji's Birthday)

Birthdays

Dr. Krishna Sen	16th Jan
C. K. Dhanuka	19th Jan
Ashish Kumar Bagla	20th Jan
Vinay Nevatia	22nd Jan
Sharmistha N Koya	23rd Jan
Amitava Sinha	25th Jan
Shiv Ratan Goenka	25th Jan
Supriya Roy	26th Jan
Tapan Basu	26th Jan
Satish Kapur	27th Jan

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Anniversaries

Prabhat Krishna & Dr. Sashi Prabha Rohatgi	16th Jan
Mahesh Pansari & R-Ann Pooja	17th Jan
Dr. Ashoke Kumar Basu & R- Ann Dr. Jyotsna	18th Jan
Arunima Dey & Mr. Kaushik	18th Jan
C.K. Dhanuka & R-Ann Aruna	19th Jan
Shashi Bhargava & Mr. Anil	19th Jan
Dr. Amal Chakravarty & R- Ann Ruby	21st Jan
Hirak Kumar Sen & R- Ann Kalpana	22nd Jan
Indranil Dasgupta & R- Ann Madhumita	22nd Jan
Dr. Santanu Sen & R- Ann Dr. Kakali	22nd Jan
Jai Kumar Surana & R- Ann Mita	22nd Jan
Nirmal Kumar Saraf & R- Ann Shikha	23rd Jan
Udit Chand Mitra & R- Ann Sanjukta	23rd Jan
Anita Jain & Mr. Chandra Kumar	24th Jan
Malay Kumar Ghosh & R- Ann Soma	26th Jan
Arunava Mukerji & R- Ann Sumita	26th Jan
Subhajit Guha Mazumdar & R- Ann Chandrima	26th Jan
Shweta Tibb Arora & R- Ann Suraj	26th Jan
Gyanesh Choudhary & R- Ann Meenakshi	26th Jan
Suman Chakraborty & R- Ann Sakhi	27th Jan
Sanjiv Agarwal & R- Ann Ritu	27th Jan
Gurudas Mustafi & R- Ann Susmita	28th Jan
Zul Hirji & R- Ann Parveen	29th Jan
Nand Gopal Khaitan & R- Ann Madhu	29th Jan
Raghav Raj Kanoria & R- Ann Shrum	29th Jan
Subha Pal & R- Ann Manab	29th Jan



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes
Rotary Club of Calcutta Park Point,
India, R.I. Dist. 3291

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Thursday 18 th January 2024	Workshop on Synergizing Music, Mind and Movement by Rtn Ruchika Majumdar	4-6 p.m. at Rotary Sadan
Sunday 21 st January, 2024	Second Club Assembly	10 a.m. / Registration 9.30 a.m. at Rotary Sadan (2 nd floor)
Tuesday 23 rd January, 2024	No Regular Weekly Meeting	On account of Public Holiday
Friday 26 th January, 2024	Republic Day Celebration	10 a.m. onwards at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor)
Tuesday 30 th January, 2024	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker : Saurabh Thirani	Lunch 1 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2 nd floor)
Sunday, 4 th February, 2024	Annual Cricket Match followed by fellowship and Lunch	10 a.m. at Calcutta Club Ltd

**MINUTES OF THE 4927TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON
9TH JANUARY, 2024 AT 1.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN**

President, Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4927th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club.

1. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Debjani Ghosh.
2. Minutes of the 4926th regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 1st January, 2024 were confirmed.
3. President welcomed Mrs. Shikha Metharamani, President & Founder of IPWSA and Director at Rare Warriors of Bengal Association as the Chief Guest on that day.
4. President also welcomed all Visiting Rotarians who were attended the meeting on that day.
5. **President reported the following :**
 - a) President informed members of the sad demise of the husband of Rtn Krishna Sen and Rtn. Dr. Bratati Lal Mazumder on 30th December, 2023 and 6th January, 2024 respectively and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.
 - b) R. I. District conference -2023-24 "UTKARSH" was held from 5th to 7th January, 2024 at Taj Taal Kutir Convention Centre, Newtown, Kolkata. The Dist. Conference has been hosted by our Club. Our Club activities were also displayed at the Dist. Conference.
6. **President announced the following :**
 - i) The Wash and Ganga Abhijan Committee and Youth Service Committee of the Club would organize a programme to reduce sources of pollution of Ganga Ghats (Kumartuli and Champatala Ghats) on Friday, 12th January, 2024 at 11 a.m. onwards along with 66 school children and Interactors and requested members to join on that day.
 - ii) Republic Day would be celebrated along with Painting Exhibition and Cultural programme by the Students of the Cultural Section on Friday, 26th January, 2024 at the Rotary Sadan. Flag unfurling would be done at 10 a.m. and he requested members to kindly attend with their families.
7. At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu thereafter conducted the Club Business :
 - a) She welcomed all Members and Guests.
 - b) She then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 15th January, 2024.
 - c) Next Regular Weekly Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 16th January, 2024 at 1.30 p.m. Speaker : Navpreet Arora.
 - d) There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024 on account of Public Holiday (Netaji's Birthday)
 - e) The Second Club Assembly of the Club would be held on Sunday, 21st January, 2024 at 10.00 a.m. at Rotary Sadan followed by Breakfast. Registration 9.30 a.m. and she requested all members, especially PDGs, Past Presidents, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Club Officials and New Members to kindly block the date and to join the important meeting. Committee Chairs are also requested to send their Committee activities reports during the second quarter of the Rotary year 2023-24 to herself or Club Office for the Second Club Assembly.
8. At the request of the President, Rtn. Anusua Das introduced Chief Guest, Mrs. Shikha Metharamani.
9. At the request of the President, Mrs. Shikha Metharamani, addressed the audience on "On a Rare Mission."
10. President then handed over a cheque for Rs. 2,20,00/- to Rtn. Partha Sarkar of Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur and the Chairman of Life Beyond Cancer for the benefit of paediatric Cancer patients. The amount was donated by our Rotarian Abhijit Neogi. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtn. Neogi for his generosity and PP Sujata Pyne for initiating the project.
11. On behalf of the Club, PP Rtn. Heena Gorsia offered the vote of thanks.
12. On behalf of the Club, President handed over memento to Mrs. Shikha Metharamani.
13. No Sunshine Box collection on that day.
14. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Ludhiana, Punjab, India, R. I. Dist . 3070.
15. The Meeting was adjourned at 2. 44 p.m.

Kanak Dutt
President

Sarvani Gooptu
Hony. Secretary