



TUESDAY 06 February 2024

Peace building and Conflict Prevention Month

104

The Chaka

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta
R I Dist. 3291

First Published in 1925

Editor: Rtn. Ashok Basu (AB4)

Volume 91 No. 27

rotarycalcutta104@gmail.com

Know Your Speaker



Dr. Ramyanshu (Romi) Datta

Generative AI : Innovating faster to reinvent customer experiences and applications

Dr. Ramyanshu (Romi) Datta holds the dual role of Head of Product Management for Generative AI on Amazon SageMaker and Business General Manager for SageMaker Human in Loop services. In this capacity he leads product management, business operations and technical operations for these services in Amazon SageMaker, which is the first and most complete toolset for building, deploying, and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) models. He has been with AWS, the cloud computing division of Amazon for 5.5 years holding different product and general management roles. Prior to AWS he was Director

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

for Product at IBM and before that he held multiple technical and business leadership roles at IBM Research, Texas Instruments, Intel and Nvidia, as well as visiting research and teaching roles at the University of Texas at Austin. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004 and 2006 respectively and MBA from University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2012. In addition to his business experience which spans working on the ground with customers in 5 continents and driving growth of businesses in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars, he is also a prolific technical innovator, with 24 issued and 3 pending patents on topics ranging from Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence to Semiconductor Design and Test. He lives in the Bay Area in California with his wife and 10-year-old daughter, and loves long distance running and playing golf, tennis, and squash in his spare time.

Shakuntala Raha of RISAO is visiting



Shakuntala Raha, has been working with Rotary International South Asia Office for over twelve years now as Manager, Fund Development & Donor Services. Currently she is handling TRF contributions, Major gifts, and donor recognitions. She is an alumnus of the Delhi School of Economics and has been engaged in developmental sector for over 25 years now. She has worked extensively with multi-lateral institutions, ministries, and not-for-profit sector. Prior to joining Rotary she was working with Usha Martin Limited as Head, CSR Team. She is a member of RC Delhi South Metropolitan and a past President. She is a PHF Level 3.

PP Sujata Pyne to take on Impressive District Role



From July 2024 for 3 years PP Sujata Pyne will be District International Service Chair. She will assist the DRFC and guide the 3 consecutive DGs for approving DDF and will be in touch with foundation at USA and Delhi for all grants in Dist. 3291 and will be answerable to the Rotary Foundation for lapses and delays in performance of grants. This is in addition to her role as AG.

Many many congrats and wishing you most successful tenures in both roles!

CONTACT US

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

HMC Rotary Blood Centre – Inspection and Request for donation

President Kanak Dutt and HMC Chairman conducted an inspection of the proposed facility on 1 Feb 2024. HMC chairman provided his feedback. President has also inspected potential work that could be done at the Thalassemia Dr. Sital Ghosh laboratory. Rotarians present on the occasion - Arindam RC, Yogesh Dassani, Sonia Dutt, Ravindra K.

President has mentioned that a gap of Rs 2.27 Lacs remains in closing the funding for the blood bank, and he has requested members to donate generously to close the gap. Members may please reach Hony. Secretary Sarvani in this regard.

Collated from WhatsApp posts of Arindam Roychowdhury and Kanak Dutt



Ganga Abhiyan Multiple Club Outreach : AOS Community; AOF Environment

PE Subrata De, Partha Mukherjee and Saumen Ray of RC Calcutta were invited to RWM of RC Calcutta North Suburban to discuss Ganga Abhiyan project. They were one of the task forces with DGND Tapas Bhattacharya as the leader, in the Ganga Abhiyan project. Ashok Chakraborty, an eminent architect from their club reviewed all our Ghat project designs prepared by the three task forces which we acknowledged with thanks. As we are now planning two Global Grants in Bally, one by RC Belur and another one by RC Calcutta, DGND Tapas proposed to us to help North Suburban design the third Global Grant project in Baranagar and Dakshineswar areas and assist them to find an international partner club.

As invited by Rotary Domkol Murshidabad – Partha Mukherjee, Saumen Ray and our Ganga Abhiyan statutory clearance cell leader Sh. Goutam Chakravorty (Retd. Director Calcutta Port Trust) visited their club and Beldanga eye hospital recently. RC Domkol have now set up a committee to do the Ganga Abhiyan project. The main requirement is refurbishment of a Swasan Ghat shower, changing room, toilets, ground water recharge, floating barrier to stop pollution from flowers and plastics and mindset change training. They want a global grant but asked for support from Rotary Club of Calcutta. The government is constructing an electric furnace to replace the current wood fired one.

Reported by Saumen Ray

Rotary partners with United Nations to focus on waterways

A new collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme will empower Rotary members to clean up, protect, and monitor their local waterways. The strategic partnership aligns with both the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Rotary's environmental area of focus. It will include a program encouraging clubs to organize river cleanup days, raise awareness in their communities, and conduct basic water quality tests. The new partnership builds on the Adopt a River for Sustainable Development pilot program begun in 2020 in Africa.

(Our Club is at the forefront with Ganga Abhiyan Project)

Members, Rotary Anns and Annettes – Many Accolades – Many Congrats!!



Rtn. Tapan Basu won the best cinematography award in Cinematography Art Magazine Award for TV commercial for Samsonite featuring Mr. Amitabh Bachchan.



Vaanya Swarup, Rajeev Swaika's daughter, wins the 2nd Prize at the recently concluded Tolly Fest



Not to be outdone, Rtn Rajeev Swaika is felicitated and recognised by Tata AIG in Baku, Azerbaijan



Rtn Debjani Ghosh is awarded a Doctorate in Law and Social Work (Honoris Causa) by the World Peace of United Nations University



Rotary Ann Sucharita Roychowdhury is honoured by the MIT World Peace University as one of India's Most Impactful School Leaders for 2023.

Secretary Sarvani has been selected as a collaborator with National Endowment for the Humanities (US) NYU project on Nehru papers on India China relations. She will be attending conferences in Beijing, Shanghai and then New York.



History of the Rotary Bell

In 1922, U.S. Rotarians organised an attendance contest; the challenge was that the losing clubs would join in giving the winning club a prize. The Rotary Club of New York City was declared the winner and to them was awarded as a prize a bell from a popular patrol boat, which was placed on wood that came from HMS "Victory", Admiral Nelson's vessel at the battle of Trafalgar. Since then, the bell used in Rotary meetings started to represent, as on the ships, order, discipline, and the time to guide us through the weekly hour and a half meetings. The bell informs us with its sound the beginning of the Rotary meeting, other club rituals and of course the closure of the regular club meeting.

Thanks to Rtn Sourabh Khemani for this interesting Rotary info!



Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Udit Mitra to formulate long term, rolling action plans for our large and complex Rotary Club over 3 to 5 years. The committee has been regularly interacting with current and future leadership of the club as well as many members including new members. In this endeavour a survey has been circulated in Google Forms format (Ravindra Khandelwal helped develop this) as well as hard copy format (available in the Club Office). Members who have not yet participated in this survey may please do so at the earliest opportunity. This will help the committee to suggest appropriate measures for enhancing members' engagement in our club.

Interesting and actionable responses have been received from members who have so far responded. For example, while many respondents have found the Speakers at RWMs to be interesting, aligning speakers to Rotary's Avenues of Service and Areas of Focus has been suggested, along with widening the spectrum and horizon of the subject matter presented. Very many have responded in the affirmative to the query "Would you like to be a speaker in RWM's". Greater engagement of Green Badgers in Club activities and Projects is certainly emerging as a key action point. Amongst other points made, members would like to participate in cultural activities, sports, coding, and hackathon challenges!

Here's a renewed request for members to participate and complete the survey!

Sent by Udit Mitra, Chair, Strategy

Annual Friendly Cricket Match

Annual Friendly Cricket Match between Rotary Club of Calcutta XI and Calcutta Club XI was successfully held at Calcutta Club on Sunday 4th February from 10am. At the time of going to the press the 2 teams were chugging along at 171 for 17, each wicket averaging 10 runs, a statistically astonishing level! Kirit Bhai's benign smile says it all. Detailed report will appear in The Chaka of 13 Feb. It was followed by fellowship and lunch which was hosted by Rtn Ashish Bagla and Rtn Dr Pronab Dasgupta.



REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (30.01.2024)

Total Members	:	239
Members Present	:	36
Exempted Members	:	67
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	4

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 13th February, 2024 at 1.30 p.m. preceded by Lunch at 1.00 p.m.

Speaker : Kaushik Ghosh on Knexup Empowerment

ROTARY ORATION – 2024

To Commemorate “World Understanding and Peace Day”, the Club will organise “Rotary Oration - 2024” along with Regular Weekly Meeting on Friday, 23rd February, 2024 at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) at 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner. Chief Guest : Dr Kunal Sarkar. You are requested to kindly block the date and attend with your spouse.

NO WEEKLY MEETING

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 20th February, 2024 as the said meeting is being held on Friday, 23rd February, 2024 at 6.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan



ONE WORLD

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

Birthdays

Ashok Kumar Pasari	7th Feb
Dr. Abhrajit Roy	8th Feb
Dr. Indrajit Roy	10th Feb

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Anniversaries

Niraj Kumar Saraf & R-Ann Vinita	06th Feb
Dr. Subhendu Sarkar & R-Ann Sushmita	06th Feb
Dr. Shankar Ghosh & R-Ann Sujata	06th Feb
B.K.Dalmia & R-Ann Premalata	06th Feb
Dr. Pratibha Pradhan & Dr.Dipendra	06th Feb
Shinjini Bose & Mr. Deborshi Shadan	07th Feb
Arindam Roychowdhury & R- Ann Saswati	09th Feb
Brij Gopal Roy & R-Ann Gopa	09th Feb
Tushar Basu & R-Ann Anusri	10th Feb
Ashok Manaktala & R-Ann Dr. Shobha	12th Feb

IN MEMORIAM



We mourn the sad demise of our Member Rtn. Pradyot Banerjee who passed away on Sunday, 24th December, 2023. He was a member of the Club since 2021. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday 13th February	Regular weekly Meeting Speaker: Kaushik Ghosh on Knexup Empowerment	At 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)
Friday 16th February	HMC Rotary Blood Centre Inauguration and handover ceremony	To be announced
Saturday 17th February	Empowering with Experiential Knowledge by Women's Empowerment Committee Speaker: Soma Basu, Co-founder Knexup	11 am to 1 pm Rotary Sadan
Friday 23rd February	Rotary Oration along with Regular weekly Meeting Speaker: Dr Kunal Sarkar	At 6.30 p.m. followed by Fellowship and Dinner at 8 p.m. (After the meeting) Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)
Tuesday 27 th February	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker: Dr Semanti Ghosh, Associate Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika	At 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan (2 nd Floor)

**MINUTES OF THE 4929th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 30th January, 2024
AT 1.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN**

President Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4929th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club.

1. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Dr. Shankar Ghosh.
2. Minutes of the 4928th regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 16th January, 2024 were confirmed.
3. President welcomed Mr. Saurabh Thirani, Licensed Instructor and Certified Pranik Healer 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 :**
 - i) This year the Club has opened New RCC at Bally District of Hooghly "Bally Sujan Bandhu", and their certificate was handed over to them at the Regular Weekly Meeting held on 16th January, 2024.
 - ii) Under the leadership of Rtn. Saswati Mukherjee, Chairperson, Youth Service Committee, Club organised a Workshop on "Synergizing Music, Mind and Movement" on Thursday, 18th January 2024 between 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Rotary Sadan. The Workshop was organised by Rtn Ruchika Majumdar.
 - iii) Second Club Assembly of the Club was held on Sunday, 21st January, 2024 at Rotary Sadan.
 - iv) Republic Day was celebrated along with Painting Exhibition and Cultural programme by the Students of the Cultural Section on Friday, 26th January, 2024 at the Rotary Sadan.
6. **President announced the following :**
 - a) Annual Cricket Match RC Calcutta XI vs Calcutta Club XI would be held on Sunday 4th February, 2024 at 9.30 a.m. onwards at the Calcutta Club Ltd. followed by fellowship and lunch. Members interested in attending the Cricket Match were requested to register their names at the Club Office or with Rtn. Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee, Chairperson, Programme.
 - b) President informed Members that R I Convention Committee has agreed to give a free booth for display our Club Activities at the Rotary International Convention at Singapore. Members interested to join Singapore Convention were requested to contact Rtn. Saumen Ray. At the request of the President, Rtn. Saumen Ray made an announcement about the R I Convention.
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 5th February, 2024.
 - c) Next Regular Weekly Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 6th February, 2024 at 1.30 p.m.
Speaker : Ramyanshu Dutta on *Generative AI innovating faster to reinvent customer experiences and applications.*
Mrs. Shakuntala Raha from RISAO office New Delhi would be present on that day.
8. At the request of the President, Rtn Gitanjali Jolly addressed about herself and her experience as a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB4) introduced Chief Guest, Mr. Saurabh Thirani.
10. At the request of the President, Mr. Saurabh Thirani addressed the audience on "Your Hands Can Heal You."
11. Questions raised by the members were answered by the Chief Guest.
12. On behalf of the Club, Rtn. Hirak Ray offered the vote of thanks.
13. On behalf of the Club, President handed over memento to Mr. Saurabh Thirani.
14. Sunshine Box collection was Rs. 1,700/- with special contribution from Rtns. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB4), Prosanta Kumar Roy, Gitanjali Jolly and Amit Ghosh on that day.
15. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Utrecht, Netherlands, R.I. Dist. 1570
16. Meeting was adjourned at 2.45 p.m.

Kanak Dutt
President

Sarvani Gooptu
Hony. Secretary