



TUESDAY 23 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. 29**

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## World Understanding and Peace Day Rotary Oration -2024



### DR. KUNAL SARKAR

MBBS, FRCS(ED), FRCS(Glasg), MNAMS

An alumnus of St. Xavier's School and Calcutta Medical College, Dr. Kunal Sarkar is one of the leading Cardiac Surgeons of India. He is the President of Society of Coronary Surgeons and a past President of Indian Association of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons (IACTS). He is an exponent of coronary bypass surgery and complex adult cardiac surgery. Currently, he is the Senior Vice Chairman and Chief Cardiac Surgeon of Medica Hospitals Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata and Chairman-Kolkata Heart Foundation (KHF).

He is a former Vice-president and Chief Cardiac Surgeon of Narayana Hrudyalaya Group of Hospitals (2001-2012), Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences,

Rotary  
Club of Calcutta



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Kolkata, India. From a 'start up' RTIICS flourished as the largest cardiac surgical unit of India, performing 2000 cardiac surgeries annually. He trained and worked in Cardiac Surgery in the UK (London, Liverpool, Hull) for more than 10 years between 1986 to 1996. He is a former faculty member of Imperial College London. He is a Member of the European Academy (European Association of CT Surgeons), Society of Thoracic Surgeons USA, and Society of Cardiac Surgeons of Great Britain. A National scholar, he received eleven medals in Surgery including the Gold medal in Surgery.

An avid debater since his school and college days at St. Xavier's Collegiate School and Medical College, Calcutta, he founded the Calcutta Debating Circle (CDC), which hosts "Calcutta's Festival of the Spoken Word", which is the largest debating festival in India. CDC aims to encourage quality public speaking amongst students and chairs the largest open Debate in India. He is a healthcare activist and a popular speaker on English and Bengali TV Channels. He is one of the most followed speakers on health and social issues on Social media and has authored the book 'The Sickness of Health' (his first), an authoritative read on the status of healthcare in India. He started one of the first health apps from Kolkata. He relentlessly pursues the goal of accessible healthcare in India and has conducted more than 500 free health camps across Bengal.

## Guest of Honour - DG Hira Lal Yadav



The incumbent DG of RI Dist. 3291, Hira Lal Yadav, is a member of the Rotary Club of Hooghly since 1995, served as its President from 1998 to 2000. He is a Plywood Manufacturer and a graduate of Calcutta University. He successfully revived a struggling Rotary Club of Hooghly, which had faced closure, and established the Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital in 2000 with just eight members and a rented building. Its success led to

the construction of a three-story building in 2013, making it a renowned Eye Care Centre in Rotary District 3291. Yadav's impact extends beyond Hooghly. He has helped establish Eye Hospitals in 18 clubs in India and 2 clubs in Bangladesh. Currently, he serves as the Chairman of several Rotary Eye Hospitals, performing thousands of surgeries and treating hundreds of thousands of patients. He has also contributed significantly to completing 82 Global Grant Projects for various Rotary Clubs in India, Bangladesh, Singapore, and the UK. Additionally, he facilitated the construction of tubewells in remote villages, arranged heart surgeries for underprivileged children, established a primary school at Hooghly Railway Station, and supported an orphanage called "Vivekananda Ashram" for over two decades. He actively collaborated with the District Administration of Hooghly, participating in the implementation of Central Government Development Schemes. For his outstanding service, he is recognized as a Major Donor and has received the prestigious "Service Above Self Award" from Rotary International.

### CONTACT US

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### Our Ambassador Overseas – AOS : International



PP Saumen Ray continues his peregrinations in the incident, as the Club's standard bearer, reporting as under :

Quote - Good morning, reporting from London Peace Conference. Briefly discussed Kashmir/Ladakh, Ganga Abhiyan and Blood Bank with Rotary International President Gordon. Dave King, Editor of Rotary News Rotary Great Britain, and Ireland is interviewing us for publishing our report on positive peace in their Magazine in April 2024. Many clubs are interested to join our 106 th Foundation Day in Kolkata. Let's see. RIP is very interested to know about Blood Bank, well done Arindam - Unquote

### Flagship HMC Blood Centre – Reportage in Press

The HMC Blood Centre Project, inaugurated on 16 Feb. 2024, has received extensive coverage in the media. Some images :

The collage consists of several newspaper clippings. On the left, there are Bengali articles with headlines like 'আধুনিক ব্লাড ব্যাঙ্ক' and 'পূর উদ্যোগে প্রথম ব্লাড ব্যাঙ্ক হাওড়ায়'. In the center, there is an English article titled 'Howrah gets blood bank' by Rupak Banerjee, which mentions that the bank is jointly created by the Howrah Municipal Corporation and Calcutta Rotary International Club. On the right, there are more Bengali clippings, including one with the headline 'হাওড়া মেন্ন খোলা জা রহা হৈ আধুনিক ব্লাড বঁক' and another titled 'বাজা'.

### Acknowledgement

Heartfelt thanks to President Kanak Dutt and all other Rotarians who contributed towards the Centennial Fund Raising Programme of Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta.

Rtn Roshni Ganguly  
Centenary President IWC Calcutta



## HMC Rotary Blood Center AOS : Community; AOF Fighting Disease 16 Feb. 2024

The first Blood Center in Rotary International District 3291 was opened on 16th February, 2024 by Shri Arup Roy, Hon'ble Minister In Charge, UD & MA Dept, Govt. of West Bengal in presence of Hon'ble Chairman Shri Dr. Sujoy Chakravarty, Howrah Municipal Corporation in the name and style of HMC Rotary Blood Center. Eminent Guests RID Rtn. Anirudha Roychoudhury, DG Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav, PRIP Shekhar Mehta and PP Rtn. Vikram Somany also graced this ceremony. As the Old Number One, Rotary Club of Calcutta in every Rotary Year has a Presidential Project with a big ticket totally sponsored by the members of the prestigious club. This year under the leadership of President Rtn. Kanak Dutt, the club implemented this project with a project value of Rs 1.10 Crores. Our member and PP Rtn. Vikram Somany partnered this grand project through the CSR of Cera Sanitaryware Limited. HMC Rotary Blood Center is fully digitized modern state of the art Blood Center established at 50, Panchanantala Road, Howrah located beside a Thalassemia Childrens Transfusion Center which will be a great benefit for the children and their parents. This blood center is the first in the entire District of Howrah and it will be a great benefit for the people of the other neighbouring districts of Hooghly also. The HMC Rotary Blood Center is a fully digitized center with a capacity of storage of 800 bags every month. The modern equipment is connected to a server which will be controlling the total system and will be collecting the data and uploading to the Govt. Health Department on daily basis. Blood Storage refrigerators, Blood Plasma refrigerators, Centrifuge Machines, Elisa Readers, etc. are all state of art machines. The HMC Blood Center will also have a Blood Transportation and Collection Van donated by Rotary Club of Salt Lake City Calcutta initiated by President Rtn. Oindrilla Guho. What a way to work in Rotary by joining hands and making this project a grand success. This HMC Rotary Blood Center will be a great benefit to all the Rotary Clubs of RID 3291 where all members will get blood upon request letter from the sitting President of the Club. Rotary Clubs upon doing Blood Donation Camps will invite the HMC Rotary Blood Center for participation and collection of Blood pouches. In return, Donor Cards will be given to the clubs for helping the community. Project Cost : Rs 1.10 Crores Time Taken : 2 months (Starting to Implementation)

*Reported by : Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury, Special Projects Chair 2023-24*

DG Hira Lal Yadav is repeatedly stating that this project is not merely a project of RC Calcutta but of District 3291!  
Kudos to the team - Ed





## Ravindra Khandelwal's account of HMC – an account and appreciation!

Our President Shri Kanak Dutt had a dream, and everything fell into place. With the intention of setting up a blood bank, Rotary Club of Calcutta decided to look beyond the periphery of Calcutta and identified that Howrah did not have a blood bank. This opportunity to serve was taken up by Special Projects Committee Chair Arindam Roy Chowdhury. Bhoomi Puja was conducted on 8th of December. HMC Chair Dr. Sujoy Chakravarti was kind enough to allot the space on 2nd floor of the new block of the premises in which Dr. Sital Chandra Ghosh Laboratory is also situated for Thalassemia patients in need of regular transfusion. Chair Arindam RC extensively mobilised members who pooled in their resources. Subsequently, contractors were called for quotations and identified through discussion with HMC. More than 50 donors from Rotary Club of Calcutta volunteered to donate for this mega project. Furthermore, even members of other clubs of Rotary Dist. 3291 came forward. Rotary Club of Salt Lake City, led by Rtn. Oindrila Guha came forward to offer a Blood Transportation Van for transport of blood pouches from camps to the Blood Centre. Various jobs in setting up the infrastructure of the blood bank like false ceiling, CCTV, civil jobs, sink installation, painting, lights, switchboards, air-conditioners, electrical lines, and power channel distribution for high-capacity machines were all completed within 31st January. All materials that entered the premises was monitored by HMC representative recording all material in/out movement. HMC Chairman Dr. Sujoy C. was keeping a close eye on the developments and conducted an inspection of site before fitment of machines and instruments. The machines of the blood bank arrived on site on 9th February at 10 pm, including Centrifuge (which separates the components of blood), Plasma freezer, Platelet incubator, Blood refrigerators, Plasma expresser, Thawing bath, Elisa reader, Ph meter, Laminar air flow, Donor couch and all other supporting instruments. Co-chair Ravindra was there at site on 9th Feb. from 9 pm to midnight to receive the shipping consignment from Labtop Instruments Ltd., Maharashtra and ensure the safe lifting of instruments from truck to 2nd floor with forklift and labour support, in coordination with HMC representatives and electrical contractor and blood bank consultant.

On 12th February, Labtop Instruments sent a representative for installation of all machines and instruments which was completed in two days and monitored for two more days. On 16th February, the grand inauguration ceremony was conducted at the site with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Shri Arup Roy, Minister in Charge. The stage was set at Bankim Park for the handover ceremony. Shri Firhad Hakim, MIC, UD & MA dept., Govt. of WB was present through a video call at the event due to his hospitalisation. Both Shri Arup Roy and Shri Firhad Hakim congratulated and thanked Rotary Club of Calcutta for the gift of Blood Centre to the citizens of Howrah. They repeated how Rotarians are always jumping on the opportunity to serve humankind without a second thought. The MC also invited our DG Hira Lal Yadav, RID Anirudha Roychoudhury, PRIP Shekhar Mehta and President Kanak Dutt to speak at the event. Shri Smrutiranjana Mohanty, IAS, Commissioner of HMC, offered the vote of thanks. In the end the HMC Rotary Blood Centre is handed over to Howrah Municipal Corporation to operate with capacity of 800 pouches of blood, an essential boost to the citizens of Howrah who didn't have the privilege of availing emergency services in times of need.

For the benefit of the readers of The Chaka, I as the author of this report would like to mention some names here. We cannot be grateful enough to our principal donor Rtn. Vikram Somany ji for the purchase of all machines and instruments. His support has made this a reality without any grants. It is his contribution that brings fruit to most of our service opportunities. Rtn Sonia Dutt has been a pillar of support for the smooth execution of the Blood Centre including overseeing of all coordination with vendors and related parties. All signages and branding has been taken care of by her with the guidance of the committee. Rtn. Arindam RC would not agree with this special mention, but the credit of seeing the project to implementation till launch stage goes to him. His active leadership of the Special Projects Committee has inspired many in the team to learn from his leadership. This level of service is contagious to the Special Projects team. Last but not the least, I cannot forget to thank the able leadership and guidance of our President Shri Kanak Dutt and our Hony. Secretary Dr. Sarvani Gooptu. Their vision is unparalleled while being so humble and diplomatic in their approach. We have much to learn from the individual personalities of such leadership in The Old Number 1!





**REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REPORT (13.02.2024)**

Total Members	:	234
Members Present	:	33
Exempted Members	:	65
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	4

**ROTARY ORATION – 2024**

**Chief Guest:** Dr Kunal Sarkar, Head of Cardiac Surgery at Medica Superspeciality Hospital and

**Guest of Honour:** Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav, District Governor, R I Dist. 3291

**NEXT MEETING**

On Tuesday, 27th February, 2024 at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. at Rotary Sadan

**Speaker:** Dr Semanti Ghosh, Associate Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika

**Rotary at a glance as on December, 2023**

(Source from Rotary News – January, 2024)

Rotary Clubs	:	37,123
Rotaract Clubs	:	11,061
Interact Club	:	15,028
RCCs	:	13,227
Rotary Members	:	1,186,961
Rotaract Members	:	1,67,857
Interact Members	:	3,45,644

**Reports**

a) **Saturday, 17th February, 2024** – Women’s Empowerment Committee organised Empowering with Experiential Knowledge at Rotary Sadan between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker: Ms Soma Basu, Co-founder Knexup.

b) **Saturday, 17th February, 2024** - Dadagiri Season 10 – a special audition exclusively for Rotarians was held between 11 a.m to 4 p.m. at the LBD Resorts & Hotels, 31/1, N. C. Chowdhury Road, Kolkata – 700 042

*Birthdays*

Nilima Joshi	23rd Feb.
Dr. Niranjan Bhattacharya	24th Feb.

*Wish you many happy returns of the day*

*Anniversaries*

Birjendra Kumar Poddar & Kavita	23rd Feb.
Indrajit Ganguly & Rtn. Roshni Ganguly	24th Feb.
Dr. Pronab Dasgupta & Iti	25th Feb.
Dina Dutta Sarkar & Soumen	25th Feb.
Bablu Kolay & Sukla	26th Feb.

**ONE WORLD**



**ONE WORLD**

We remember with good wishes Rotary Club of Gangtok, India, R.I. Dist. 3240

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Explore exciting attraction!  
Create lifelong connection!

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Rotary

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS**

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday 27th February	Regular weekly Meeting Speaker: Dr Semanti Ghosh, Associate Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika	At 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan ( 2nd Floor )
Tuesday 5th March	Regular weekly Meeting	At 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan ( 2nd Floor )
Tuesday 12th March	Regular weekly Meeting	At 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan ( 2nd Floor )
Tuesday 19th March	Regular weekly Meeting	At 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan ( 2nd Floor )

## MINUTES OF THE 4931<sup>st</sup> REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 1.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN

President, Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4931<sup>st</sup> Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.

1. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Suman Chakraborty.
2. Minutes of the 4930<sup>th</sup> Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club held on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 were confirmed.
3. President welcomed Mr. Kaushik Ghosh, Co-Founder Knex up as the Chief Guest on that day.
4. President also welcomed all visiting Rotarians who attended the meeting on that day.
5. **President reported the following :**  
President informed members about the sad demise of our Senior Rotarian Rtn. Raghu Nandan Mody who passed away on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. He was a member of the Club since 1977 and served as Committee Chairman. He expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. To mourn his death, two minutes silence was observed.
6. **President announced the following :**
  - a) The HMC Rotary Blood Centre would be handed over to Howrah Municipal Corporation on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 4 p.m. On behalf of the Club, the President extended gratitude to all those who had generously donated for the Blood Center. This Blood Bank was a significant, sustainable Presidential Project and was a flagship project being the first Blood centre in District 3291. Other Clubs Members of the District also joined hands for the Project through donations. Rotary Club Salt Lake City committed their support through the donation of blood collecting van of the approximate value of Rs. 17 Lakhs. President requested all club members to visit the Blood centre and join the handover ceremony of the Blood Center on that day.
  - b) To commemorate "World Understanding and Peace Day" the Club would organise "Rotary Oration -2024" along with Regular Weekly Meeting on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024 at Rotary Sadan at 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner. Chief Guest on that day is Dr Kunal Sarkar, Director, and Head of Cardiac Surgery at Medica Superspeciality Hospital. The President requested members to kindly block the date and attend with their spouse on that day.
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 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 .
  - c) Next Regular Weekly Meeting would be held on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024 at 6.30 p.m. "Rotary Oration-2024" along with Regular weekly Meeting followed by Fellowship and Dinner at Rotary Sadan with Dr Kunal Sarkar as the Chief Guest.
  - d) There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 as the said meeting would be held on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
  - e) Eighth meeting of the Board of Directors (2023-24 ) of the Club would be held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 6.30 p.m. at the Calcutta Club Ltd. All Board members were requested to make a note of it and attend.
  - f) The Board at the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 has accepted the resignations of Rtns Raj Kumar Chhajjer, Jeet Banerjee, Sushil Jhunjunwala, Chitrak Mitra with immediate effect.
  - g) On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February Women's Empowerment Committee would organise "Empowering with Experiential Knowledge" at Rotary Sadan between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker was Ms Soma Basu, Co-founder Knexup and all members were requested to attend on that day.
  - h) The Audition of Dadagiri Season 10 would be held on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 between 11 a.m to 4 p.m. at the LBD Resorts & Hotels, 31/1, N.C. Chowdhury Road, Kolkata – 700 042. Interested members were requested to contact PP Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury or Rtn. Sonia Dutt.
8. At the request of the President, Rtn. Shampa Ghose introduced Chief Guest, Mr. Kaushik Ghosh.
9. At the request of the President, Mr. Kaushik Ghosh addressed the audience on "Knexup Empowerment".
10. Questions raised by the members were answered by the Chief Guest.
11. On behalf of the Club, Rtn. Koel Roychowdhury offered the vote of thanks.
12. On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Mr. Kaushik Ghosh.
13. Sunshine Box collection was Rs 500/- with special contribution from Rtn. Hirak Ray on that day.
14. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Delhi South Metropolitan, India, R. I. Dist. 3010.
15. Meeting was adjourned at 2.40 p.m.

**Kanak Dutt**  
President

**Sarvani Gooptu**  
Hony. Secretary