



SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023

October is Community Economic Development Month

104

The Chaka

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AGOMONI : The Inception of the Autumnal Festival in Eastern India

AGOMONI, a vibrant start to the autumnal festival celebrated in Eastern India, with deep cultural and historical roots, dates back centuries. AGOMONI can be traced to a primarily agrarian society, heavily dependent on the bountiful harvests of the season, and therefore a way to express gratitude to Mother Nature. Traditionally, AGOMONI involves various rituals and festivities. People decorate their homes with colourful rangolis, light traditional lamps, and offer prayers to Goddess Durga, symbolizing the divine source of power. The festival also includes cultural programs, folk dances, and music performances that showcase the rich heritage of the region. One of the most iconic elements of

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



AGOMONI is the Dhaakis (traditional drummers) who beat their drums rhythmically, adding a unique and electrifying atmosphere to the celebrations. The rhythmic beats of the Dhaak echo the heartbeat of Eastern India's cultural soul. Over the years, AGOMONI has evolved into a significant cultural event, drawing not only locals but also tourists from around the world. It has become a platform to showcase the region's artistic talents, culinary delights, and traditional craftsmanship. In conclusion, AGOMONI represents the vibrant spirit of Eastern India, celebrating the beauty of autumn and the rich cultural heritage of the region. It serves as a reminder of the profound connection between nature, agriculture, and the people, making it a cherished festival that continues to thrive and evolve with time.

Ma Aaschhen!

Picture Courtesy Sourav Nandy @Pixabay

REPORT OF 1ST CLUB ASSEMBLY FOR RY 2023-24 HELD ON SUNDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT ROTARY SADAN



President Kanak Dutt, duly assisted by Hony. Secretary Sarvani Gooptu, convened the 1st Club Assembly for

the Rotary Year 2023-24, held at Rotary Sadan on September 24, 2023 at 10 am. The Committee Chairpersons and Greenbadgers attended in response to special request made by Prez. Kanak Dutt with attendees aggregating to 25. After a splendid breakfast, President Sir welcomed all with his address and Hony. Secy. Sarvani Gooptu requested the Committee Chairpersons to describe the respective committee's achievements during the previous 3 months. The following report attempts to highlight the important developments as presented by the Committee Chairpersons.

1. **Health Care Committee - Chairperson Dr. Ayusmati Thakur** - Started the Rotary Year with the Celebration of Doctor's day with a skit and Music Therapy Band by Doctors team, 2 Health Camps at

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Health Clinics one for the children with special needs and another for the Caregivers at the Goethels Church both with free medicines and follow ups. 1 Health Checkup camp, Fibroscan Camp for the Members of our Club at Rotary Sadan partnering with Abbott Pharma. Eye Camps were organized in three Schools organized by the Literacy Committee. The Future projects in line are Vaccination Camp For Rotarians, Lupus Project, Training The Trainers : Tuberculosis, Liver Health Camp For Police Personnel, Panel Discussion – Lifestyle Disease.

2. Community Service, RCC and Vocational Service - Chairperson Yogesh Dassani- Project Shiksha Labh at 7 schools, 65 Computers donated having 7240 beneficiaries. Project Pranadhara at 22 schools distributed 45 Water Filter Machines allowing 20,300 beneficiaries to be able to drink clean filtered water at Schools. Goodies Bag Distribution at Institute of Child Health (ICH) having 100 beneficiaries. In the pipeline are Prandhara Phase 2, distribution of new clothes to 800 children for Durga Puja, Awareness of cervical cancer and Thalassemia at schools.

3. NCLCL, Cultural section and computer centre - Chairperson - Roshni Ganguly - Continuous upkeep of Library material, Maintenance of musical instruments, the refurbished Computer Centre now has 41 students, the Computer and Spoken English Exams were conducted successfully under NIELIT with official Certificate distribution. The new Cultural Department In Charge Mrs Parama Das has been made permanent after her probation tenure. The salary of the Teachers of the Cultural Section is raised to Rs. 250/hr. for a maximum of 2 hours per class per day. Independence Day was celebrated on 15th August 2023 with Flag Hoisting by DG Rtn Hira Lal Yadav and the children of NCLCL put up a colourful programme in Rotary Sadan showcasing all the activities taught to them - dance, song, Recitation, Yoga & scouts. A successful Art exhibition was held too. An Agomoni Programme by the students of the cultural section will be presented on 30th September.

4. Youth services-Chairperson - Dr. Saswati Mukherjee - “Maitree”, An Inter-school cultural competition in Bengali was organised on August 10, 2023 with 112 Vernacular Schools of Kolkata and suburbs and 167 students of classes IX - XII to showcase their talent and abilities featuring Extempore, Quiz, and Recitation competitions. August 12, 2023 an informative one-hour tour of the Netaji Bhavan Museum and question-answer session between Interactors, Chairman and Director of Netaji Research Bureau was organized. New Interact Clubs formed : Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya, Calcutta Boys' School, Serampore Girls' High School. Interact Club Activities done : Distributing Food to slum dwellers, Blood Donation Camp, Adult Literacy, Participation in SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES etc.

5. Women's Empowerment - Chairperson - Shampa Ghose - Interactive session by Co-Chair Debjani Ghosh held with school students and teachers on subjects POCSO & POSH at Rotary Sadan, Career Counselling, conducted by Dr. Aparna Khastagir, was held at Lake Girls School attended by nearly 400 students, an eye check-up camp was organized at Lake Girls School with 150 students.

6. Special projects - Chairperson - Arindam Roychowdhury - ROTARY BLOOD BANK, the Presidential Project of 2023-24, scheduled for inauguration by end of the year, MOU signed between Rotary Club of Calcutta and Howrah Municipal Corporation, funded by PP Rtn Vikram Somany of “Cera Sanitaryware Limited”-this Blood Bank will have storage Capacity of 1000 pouches of blood benefitting a large number of people, ATMANIRBHAR Project of Vocational Training Centers where training of computers, sewing and adult literacy are given. 3 Centers inaugurated at Metiabruz on 3rd September, Niharika Handicapped School Garia on 17th September, 3rd Atmanirbhar Center was opened at RCC Ranihati, Howrah on 23rd Sept. sponsored by Rtn. Krishna Kumar Kothari – Kothari Hosiery Factory Pvt. Ltd.

7. Literacy - Chairperson - Sriranjani Joshi - “Holistic Education in Schools” inaugurating 4 Science and Technology laboratories done in Two Schools, one more school is in pipeline and scheduled to be inaugurated very shortly on 27th September '23. At these schools to be followed up by career guidance and adult literacy training. Eye check-up camps were organized in 3 Educational Institutions partnering with Health Committee.

8. Wash and Ganga Abhiyan – Chairperson - Saumen Roy-Bagged 6th Scottish Club As Global Grant Partner In



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Priyamvada Birla Eye Hospital New Global Grant Prevention Of Retinal Disorder For Diabetes first In District 3291. Detection and screening machine without invasive procedure. Value USD 93,000 project = INR 77 Lakhs, Included in above, Hospital providing USD 25,000 = INR 21 Lakhs, Partner Club – Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy, Scotland, Rotary Ward inside the hospital, Inauguration scheduled on 1 November 2023, Kirkcaldy President and DRFC Dist. 1010 Scotland coming.

Wash Project Wash 5 – Birbhum, Krishnanagar, Dara, Bishnupur RCCs – in progress; WASH Projects - Wash 4 – Birbhum 5 villages - 151 toilets and 13 bore-wells all complete, final report submitted- awaiting Rotary Foundation

review. Wash3 – Duttapukur RCC – 120 toilets and 6 bore-wells – all complete – applying for additional toilets from the monies saved. Wash 6 - for 250 toilets, 25 borewells at RCCs thought of under planning before submission to Board.

Ganga Abhiyan - District Project chaired by our Club comprising three Global Grants initially as follows :

Washrooms/toilets , changing room for women, repair of ghats, wastewater in ground water recharge, floating trash barriers for plastics and flowers at following ghats.

- a) Bally Swasan and Dewan Kaji
- b) Mondal, Ariadaha, Madhur Roy
- c) Goenka, Mullick, Vanga Chora and Chote Lal Ki near Howrah Bridge

9. Annual Children's treat - Chairperson - Abhijit Kolay-Annual Children's Treat to be organized at Nicco Park on 10th December 2023. The venue is booked and finalized with Nicco Park authorities. About 1,500 participants including Children, Escorts, Support Staff and Rotarians etc. are expected to be present for the event, Invitation letter to the Chief Guest finalized and will be forwarded shortly. Letters for Schools Buses and to participating Schools and Institutions to be sent shortly.

10. Club Strategies - Chairperson - Udit Kumar Mitra - Discussed about Goals and Objectives of the Committee viz. increase membership, Enhance Membership Engagement, Expand Community Outreach, Promote Vocational and Leadership Development, Strengthen Public Image and Branding, Ensure Financial Sustainability, Implementation and Monitoring all above.

11. Classification, Attendance and Family of Rotary - Chairperson - HIRAK RAY - Rotarians with 100% Attendance in RWM for the Year 2022-23 were recognized and felicitated during RWM held on August 29, 2023. Updated Filled and Unfilled Classification List circulated to all Rotarians through google group in September 2023. List of High Absentee Green Badgers, and comparatively New Members, prepared and shared with Board. They will be encouraged to participate in rendering National Anthem, Giving Vote of Thanks and also “2 Minutes Talk” to be introduced shortly. Appropriate Classification for 3 Proposed Members carried out. Birthday Greetings Cards being sent to Rotarians.

President thanked all members for making it convenient to attend this important meeting and whole heartedly congratulated all committees for taking up important projects. The meeting was adjourned by President wishing all to be the inspiration and the very best for a great Rotary year 2023-24.

Reported by Rtn. Sonia Dutt

FOUNDATION DAY - 26 SEPTEMBER 2023



What a luminescent end to the 104th year of existence and what a running start for the 105th! The meeting commenced with the Chief Guest Melinda Pavek's unique talk laced with humour – and trivia - her research revealed that our Club is older than Q-Tips, Band Aid, and sliced bread.. and of the same age are the pop-up toaster. She went on to mention the human need to be of service to other people that create “Service Before Self” institutions like Rotary. She remembered those who came before, with efforts big and small, to lead by example to make the world better. Although she herself is not a Rotarian, she has lived the Rotary life, being encouraged to volunteer, and contribute, her parents having given her an early start in this journey. On India US partnership she outlined the initiatives under healthcare, education, and business collaboration.



A special emphasis is placed on developing women entrepreneurship that directly confronts the evils of gender bias, trafficking, and domestic violence. All aimed, like Rotary objectives, of creating a peaceful, prosperous, and healthy world.

The 105th lift off rocketed on the Blood Bank project in Howrah. Donor PP Vikram Somany was present with all the humility that we are so accustomed to.

12 members from the Rotary Club of Madras were received at the airport, and after seeking divine blessings at Kalighat, a hurried lunch, a run through of Rotary Sadan NCLCL, brief on the educational and extra-curricular activities carried out at Rotary Sadan, they joined us for our 4915th RWM. Anna Kanak and Tambi Ravi (of RC Madras) made a special evening even more special.

RID Aniruddha Roychowdhury and DG Hira Lal Yadav complimented the Club on its 105th Foundation Day showering encomia such as "Service Innovation Torchbearer", "One seed that has sprouted so many trees in the subcontinent" and so on. They dwelt on the

various activities of RI and the District, highlighting the Peace Corps initiatives, Malaria eradication in Zambia, Diagnostic Centers in Purulia, Hooghly and Murshidabad and Cervical Cancer vaccination initiatives. RID urged RC Calcutta and RC Madras to collaborate on projects. DG urged us to work on a Blood Collection Van that will complement the proposed Blood Bank. DG made a special mention of the Ganga Abhiyan project led by PP Saumen Ray of our Club. Not content to be just supporting it, he has sensitized his fellow DGs in UP and Uttarakhand to participate to ensure that our Holy River is restored to its pristine condition from its origin to the estuary.

President Ravi of RC Madras thanked us profusely for our invitation, complimented us on the 105th as a shining example of Service Before Self. He is justifiably proud of the achievements of RC Madras, the scale and depth of its projects, its membership strength. It was heartening to hear him mention the guardrails set by the 4 Way Test, 5 Areas of Service and 7 Areas of Focus. WASH, WinS, Literacy, Shelter are some of the key initiatives in his presidential year. Proud to be associated with RC Calcutta, he extended an invitation for an International Day Celebration in Chennai on Feb 23, 2024.

The Sadan was suffused in warmth as felicitations and tokens of goodwill were exchanged. In keeping with tradition the Foundation Day cake was cut by the senior most member Prabhatda and juniormost Sonia in the presence of visiting dignitaries.

Reported by The Editor AB4

OUR AMBASSADOR OVERSEAS



I paid a 'Goodwill Visit' to RC Wijdmeren, Netherlands, at their RWM on Monday, 25th Sep 23. The President and a few Members of RC Hilversum-West also attended the RWM. I gave a PPT Presentation on 'Activities of RC Calcutta' and exchanged the Banner of RC Calcutta with Presidents of both the Clubs.

Reported by Rtn Rear Adm. Rajeev Paralikar

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (26.09.2023)

Total Members	:	242
Members Present	:	68
Exempted Members	:	70
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	31

ONE WORLD



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes
Rotary Club of Amsterdam, Netherlands,
R. I. Dist.1580

TODAY

"AGOMONI"

Programme Committee will organise Cultural Programme "Festivals of Autumn" by the members and their families along with Regular Weekly Meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 10th October, 2023

Meeting : 1 .30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. at Rotary Sadan
Special Immunization Camp for members

Birthdays

Amal Chandra Chakrabortti	2nd Oct.
Rajeev Gupta	2nd Oct.
Ravindra Khandelwal	3rd Oct.
Sarvani Gooptu	4th Oct.
Dr. Sarbani Ghosh	4th Oct.
Anindita Shoma Basu	4th Oct.
Dr. Amal Chakravarty	5th Oct.
Vijay Kumar Patodia	5th Oct.
Hirak Ray	8th Oct.
Prem Kumar Agarwalla	8th Oct.
Kasturi Raha	8th Oct.

Wish you many happy returns of the day

MEMBERS' ROSTER - 2023-24

Members' Roster for the Rotary year 2023-24 is available.
You are requested to collect their copies from Club Office.

NO WEEKLY MEETING

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023 as the said meeting held on Sunday, 1st October, 2023.

Forthcoming Meetings / Events

Day & Date	Programmes	Project & Timing
Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023	No Regular Weekly Meeting	-
Tuesday, 10th October, 2023	Regular Weekly Meeting Immunization camp	1 .30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan (Second Floor)
Tuesday, 17th October, 2023	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker : Amrita Panda	1 .30 p.m. / Lunch 1 p.m. Rotary Sadan (Second Floor)
Tuesday, 24th October, 2023	No Regular Weekly Meeting on account of Durga Puja Holiday.	-
Tuesday, 31st October, 2023	Regular Weekly Meeting followed by Fellowship and Dinner, Speaker : Rtn. Sailendra Gupta	6.30 p.m onwards Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)

Subject to no objection received within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, the following candidates will be inducted as members of the Club

Mr. Raghunath Ghose

Proprietor

R. N. Ghose & Associates
10, Old Post Office Street, Room No.
36 A, (1st Floor), Right Wing
Kolkata - 700 001

Residence : 1 E, Chakraberia Lane
Kolkata - 700 020

Age : 61 Years

Classification : Legal Service - Civil

Proposer : On behalf of Membership Development, Retention, and Green Badgers Committee

Dr. Joti Deb Mukhopadhyay

Professor of Medicine, Department
Medicine, IPG ME & R, Kolkata

Chamber

244, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020

Residence : Flat No.- 3, CF - 333, Sector
-1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064

Age : 64 Years

Classification : Medicine - Diabetes and
Endocrinology

Proposer : On behalf of Membership Development, Retention and Green Badgers Committee

Dr. Arkaprovo Roy

Associate Professor

Calcutta Medical College & Hospital
88, College Street, Kolkata - 700073

Residence : Mekhala Co-Operative
Housing Society, DB -7, Flat - 3B, Street
No. 286, Action Area - 1, New Town,
Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700 156

Age : 46 Years

Classification : Medicine - General
Surgery

Proposer : Rtn Dr. Ayusmati Thakur

MINUTES OF THE 4915th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN

1. President Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4915th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. National Anthem was led by Rtn Shampa Ghose.
3. Minutes of the 4914th regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 19th September, 2023 were confirmed.
4. President informed all that the Club would celebrate its "105th FOUNDATION DAY" on that day. President then welcomed Ms. Melinda Pavek, US Consul General as the Chief Guest. President also welcomed RID, Rtn. Anirudha Roychowdhury and DG Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav as the Guests of Honour on that day. Members were welcomed in the usual Rotary Manner.
5. President then welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting. He especially welcomed the team from Rotary Club of Madras, RID 3232, who came for Goodwill visit to our Club. He also informed members that Rotary Club of Madras has completed 95 years in Rotary.
6. **President reported the following :**
 - a) On Saturday, 23rd September, 2023 - The Third Vocational Centre was inaugurated at our RCC Ranihati Netaji Samaj Sathi. The Project was the initiative of the Special Projects Committee under the leadership of Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury.
 - b) On Sunday, 24th September, 2023 –The First Club Assembly was held at 10 a.m. at Rotary Sadan. It was well attended and all Committee activities during the first quarter of the Club of the Rotary year 2023-24 were presented by the Chairpersons and Co-Chairpersons.
7. **President announced the following :**
 - i) Programme Committee would organise Cultural Programme "Agomoni" by the members and their families along with Regular Weekly Meeting on Sunday, 1st October, 2023 followed by fellowship and dinner. Invitation for the same would be sent to you in due course and he requested members to make a note of it and attend with their families on that day.
8. **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 30th September, 2023.
 - c) Next Meeting of the Club would be held on Sunday, 1st October, 2023 - Programme Committee would organise a Cultural Programme "Agomoni" by the members and their families along with Regular Weekly Meeting 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner and requested members to make a note of it and attend with their families.
 - d) There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023.
 - e) Members' Roster for the Rotary year 2023-24 was available and requested Members to collect their copies from the Club Office.
 - f) Two upcoming projects were announced by the Hony. Secretary. Holistic education of schools under the Literacy Committee, led by Rtn Sriranjani Joshi, would be held at Sir Nripendranath Institution on 27th Sept. The donation for 4 science and technology labs was by Rtn Vikram Somani, Chairman CERA. The other was the inauguration of the 4th Atmanirbhar vocational centre at Barasat Ramkrishnapur Nivedita Sayambhar Goshthi on 28th September 2023 by Special Projects Chairperson, Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury.
9. At the request of the President, PP Rtn. Sujata Pyne introduced Ms Melinda Pavek, Chief Guest of that day.
10. At the request of the President, Ms Melinda Pavek addressed the audience.
11. The First Lady, R-Ann Pranati Dutt felicitated Chief Guest, Ms Melinda Pavek along with the President. The NCLCL Chairperson Rtn Roshni Ganguly presented a painting by the art students of NCLCL to the Chief guests.
12. At the request of the President, RID Rtn. Anirudha Roychowdhury, DG, Hira Lal Yadav addressed the audience.
13. The President requested the Programme Chairperson Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee to request all members of the Rotary Club of Madras led by President Ravi to come on stage for felicitation by the Club.
Members of the Rotary Club of Madras also felicitated President, Hony. Secretary and other members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta.
14. At the request of the President, Rtn. S. Ravi, President, Rotary Club of Madras addressed the audience and reported about their Club activities. He also invited all members of R.C. of Calcutta to visit Rotary Club of Madras.
15. At the request of the President, Senior member PDG Rtn. Prabhat Krishna Rohatgi and junior member Rtn Sonia Dutt, Chief Guest, Ms Melinda Pavek, RID Rtn. Anirudha Roychowdhury, DG Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav, President, and Hony. Secretary jointly cut the Foundation Day Cake. President informed members that the Cake was sponsored by Taj Bengal Hotel and on behalf of the Club he thanked the Taj Bengal Kolkata for the same.
16. On behalf of the Club, President Elect Rtn. Subrata De offered the vote of thanks.
17. No Sunshine Box collection on that day.
18. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Calcutta of Madras, India, R. I. Dist. 3232.
19. Before adjourning the meeting, President requested all to join the fellowship and dinner.
20. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtns Dr. Sukumar Mukherjee, Dr. Saswati Mukherjee, Malay Ghosh, Dr. Ajay Agarwal, Tushar Basu, Deepak Khemka, Dr. Ashoke Kumar Basu, Udit Chand Mitra and Debashis Mitra for hosting fellowship and dinner fellowship and dinner on that day.
21. Meeting was adjourned at 8.42 p.m.

Kanak Dutt
President

Sarvani Gooptu
Hony. Secretary