



TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2023

August is Membership and New Club Development Month

104

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rotarycalcutta104@gmail.com



SREEMOYEE PIU KUNDU

Singlehood

Smashing Stereotypes and Creating Identity

Sreemoyee Piu Kundu, a journalist who worked at prestigious publications like Times of India and India Today, shifted from print media to PR. Her debut novel, "Faraway Music," arrived in 2013, followed by the successful "Sita's Curse", an exploration into an Indian Housewife's desires through the eyes of the protagonist. This propelled her as a notable voice on gender. Her rom-com "You've Got the Wrong Girl" broke ground in Indian 'lad-lit'.

In 2017, Sreemoyee penned the acclaimed non-fiction "Status Single," spotlighting challenges faced by urban Indian single women. The book gained global attention, and its audiovisual rights

were acquired by Viacom. Her latest work, "Cut," addresses government censorship's impact on artistic freedom, also adapted into a play.

Awards include the NDTV L'Oréal Women of Worth for Literature and the UN Woman Young Achiever. Sreemoyee founded "Status Single," an online/offline community for single Indian women, covered by BBC. A TED speaker and noted columnist, she completed her memoir "Unhealed" and a family saga "All Our Other Lies."

Reporting Note

MAITREE 2023 – AOS New Generation; AOF Supporting Education - Inter-School Cultural Competition in Bengali – 10 Aug. 2023 – Rotary Sadan



The Rotary Club of Calcutta organized an Inter-school Cultural Competition in Bengali - MAITREE 2023 on August 10, 2023, at Rotary Sadan. MAITREE aims to provide a platform and opportunities for Bengali-medium school

students to showcase their talents and increase their confidence, like the opportunities provided for students in English-medium schools. More than 100 students from 20 different schools from classes IX to XII participated in the event, which featured extempore, quiz, and recitation competitions in the Bengali language. The duration of each competition is one hour, and the modalities for each competition were pre-determined.

In the recitation, scripts of the six poems were given to the students in advance, and the participants had to recite any one of the six poems. The scripts helped the judges to observe the punctuation-related pauses, expressions, etc., during the evaluation. Due to many participants, about 42 students, an elimination round was held for the Quiz, with only six teams being selected for the Finals out of 21 teams. There were 152 attendees at the event, including 51 students and accompanying teachers. For the extempore session, 21 topics were given to the participants 60 minutes before the competition starts, and the participants had to select any one topic out of 21 floated in a basket.

The winners in the first and second positions were awarded Gold and Silver-plated medals. Since there were no 2nd runner-up positions in the design



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CONTACT US

E-mail: rotarycalcutta104@gmail.com
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layout of the competition, the organizers decided to give chess boards to the participants in 2nd runner-up positions. The event was a huge success, with enthusiastic participation from Bengali medium schools. All the participants were given Participation Certificates.

The inaugural ceremony started at 10.30 a.m. The program commenced with the national anthem performed by Rtn. Ruchika Majumdar, followed by an opening speech from Rtn. Dr. Saswati Mukherjee, Chairperson of the Youth Service Committee. During her speech, she explained the purpose of organizing MAITREE. The Chief Guest, Prof. Samir Ray, Chancellor of Adamas University, Prof. Pabitra Sarkar, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, and the judges were all felicitated with an Uttariya, Memento and sweets. The Club President Rtn. Kanak Dutta delivered the Presidential speech emphasizing the significance of MAITREE, mentioning that in 2005, only 5 schools participated, while today, 20 schools came to take part in the event. The Chief Guest and Guest of Honor addressed the audience, while District Interact Chair Ms. Apala Dutta shared her views on MAITREE via virtual mode. The opening ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from the Centennial Year President, Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury followed by the lighting of the lamp.

The competitions started on time and were impeccably executed. The participants delivered magnificent performances, which were an absolute delight to witness.

Indrani Ray from Beltala Girls High School was the first-place winner in extempore, while Swastik Chakraborty from Ballygunge Govt. High School secured the second position. The quiz was won by Arnab Das and Akash Biswas from G.S.M.S Boys Taki House, with Apala Dutta and Ananya Mandal from Serampore Girls High School taking second place. Spandan Mukherjee from DPS, Howrah emerged as the winner in recitation, and Moubani Bhowmick from Holy Child Institute took second place.

All students, teachers, Rotarians, office staff, and organizers were provided with food packets, while the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, and Rotarians judges were given specially arranged food packets.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Club President, Rtn. Kanak Dutt, Hony. Secretary, Rtn. Dr Sarvani Gooptu and Rotarian judges include Rtn. Dr Krishna Sen, Rtn. Sanjib Basu, Rtn. Dr Suman Mukherjee, Rtn. Dr. Chandrayee Das, Rtn. Shampa Ghose, Rtn. Debjani Ghosh, Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu, R-Ann Suchaita Roychowdhury.

External judges : Mr. Snehasis Sur (President, Press Club), Mrs. Indrani Bhattacharya (Newscaster, Doordarshan, Rabindrasangeet Artist), and Mr. Sutanu Banerjee (Quiz master and host).

Special mention must be given to PP Rtn. Heena Gorsia, who provided unwavering support throughout the event. The presence of the Club Advisor and Past President, Rtn. Abhijit Kolay, CYP Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury and PP Rtn. Raj Agarwal also added significant value to the event. Thanks for the presence of other Rotarians that include Rtn. Hiram Ray, Rtn. Kirit Patel, Rtn. Yogesh Dassani, Rtn. Roshni Ganguly, and Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury. Recognition also goes to the Youth Committee members Rtn. Suman Chakraborty (liaison officer), Rtn. Anusua Das, Rtn. Arunima Dey, and Rtn. Tushar Basu, as well as the green badgers Rtn. Ruchika Majumdar and Rtn. Sonia Dutt. It is imperative to emphasize the exceptional efforts of Rtn. Sonia Dutt and the office staff of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, along with the five non-Rotarian students from Jadavpur University who actively participated in multiple activities and were awarded plaques as a token of appreciation.

(An Initiative of the Youth Services Committee, reported by Chair Saswati Mukherjee)

PS: Thanks, Saswati! This serves as a report AND a template for future activity! Ed.

76th Independence Day celebrations – AOS - Club; AOF – Promoting Peace – Rotary Sadan – 15 Aug. 2023



On 15th August 2023, the children of the cultural section under The NCLCL Committee, Rotary Club of Calcutta put up a wonderful programme. They showcased their yoga, dance, singing, and guitar playing skills woven into a beautiful medley tied in by a great script. Our thanks to the dedicated teachers who trained them so well. Special mention must be made of

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Ms Parama Kundu, our new Cultural Section in charge. This was her first effort and a huge success.

The Art Exhibition showcased the talents of the children nurtured by the Club. The skills of our young artists so impressed the RI Director, Rtn

Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury & PRIP Rtn Shekhar Mehta, that they immediately bought the best three paintings adjudged. Thank you to both. Our thanks to President Rtn Kanak Dutt too for buying 2 paintings. Flag Hoisting took place in the presence of The District Governor, Rtn Hiralal Yadav. Rtns and Annes Present - Rtn Kanak Dutt, Rtn Sarvani Gooptu, Rtn Abhijit Kolay, Rtn Hirak Ray, Rtn Indrajit Banerjee, Rtn Dr Debnath Chattopadhyay, Rtn Pritpal Singh Chauhan, Rtn Shampa Ghose, Rtn Debjani Ghosh, Rtn Heena Gorsia, Rtn Subha Pal, Rtn Arindam Roy Chowdhury Rtn Amit Ghosh, Rtn Anusua Das, R Anne Putul Bose, Rtn Bodhibrata Das, Rtn Sriranjani Joshi, Rtn Pradyut Banerjee, Rtn Sonia Dutt, R Anne Asha Agarwal, Yash Agarwal, R Anne Saswati Roy Chowdhury, R Anne Krishnapriya Mitra, R Anne Ranjana Ray.

(Reported by NCLCL Chair Roshni Ganguly)

ATMANIRBHAR – AOS: Community; AOF: Growing Local Economies - 15 Aug. 2023, Rotary Sadan

Atmanirbhar is a project for establishing model Community Based Vocational Centers in and around Kolkata. This project is a long-term sustainable project for the Community with a unique formation of Vocational Centers for long term benefit and income generation for the community, starting from women in the field of Sewing training with Singer Sewing Centre and certifications, Computer Education following the curriculum of George College of Education, George Telegraph, and Adult Literacy from RILM.

Other activities like beautician and bridal make up courses, mobile repairing, Each One Teach One, etc. can be carried out with different wings of Rotary. Through these centers, we are targeting new generations with activities which will help them for income generation, training, and sustainable program for livelihood.

The Special projects committee launched the project on 15th August 2023 at Rotary Sadan on the 77th Independence Day of India, with a pledge to make 10 such centers in this Rotary Year. This project was inaugurated by Rotary International Director Rtn. Anirudha Roychowdhury, Past Rotary International President Rtn. Sekhar Mehta, Club President Rtn. Kanak Dutt and Club Hony. Secretary Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu.

One Singer make Sewing Machines, one Computer Desktop and One Adult Literacy Kit were handed over to 3 beneficiaries. A special branding will be made in each centre showcasing the image building of Rotary Club of Calcutta.

(Reported by Special Projects Chair, Arindam Roychowdhury)



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Interact Visit to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Home –AOS New Generations; AOF Promoting Peace - August 12, 2023



As India celebrates its 76th Independence Day on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, the Youth Committee of the Rotary Club of Calcutta organized another unique experience in the city of Kolkata: a visit to the ancestral home of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on Elgin Road on August 12, 2023. This house, now a heritage building, Netaji Research Bureau (NRB) was integral to the leader Subhash Chandra Bose's formative years.



Interactors from four Interact Clubs, specifically Mahadevi Birla World Academy, Silver Point School, Delhi Public School, Howrah, and Vidyanjali International School, actively participated in a one-hour



informative tour of the Netaji Bhavan Museum. This tour was an absolute necessity for the Interactors to explore and gain knowledge about the legacy and contributions of our "Global Hero of Freedom," Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Moreover, it is worth highlighting that Prof. Sugata Bose, Chairperson of NRB, and Prof. Sumantra Bose, Director of NRB, held an hour-long interactive discussion on the topic of "Netaji : A Perfect Youth Icon" and its significance for the present-day youth. Interactors, Hony. Secretary, Rtn Dr Sarvani Gooptu, Rtn Debjani Ghosh and Committee Chair Rtn. Dr Saswati Mukherjee engaged in a highly engaging question-and-answer session. Refreshments were provided to the Director and Chairperson of the NRB, Office Staff, Interactors and Teacher Coordinators of Interact Clubs.

(Reported by Youth Services Chair Saswati Mukherjee)

Recognition event : Members with 100 percent attendance in Rotary Year 2022-23 – AOS: Club



An RWM dedicated to the commitment of these Rotary stalwarts was held on 12 Aug. 2023. Some images are alongside. While by itself a significant achievement, several of these members feature in this list year after year! Bravo! Setting examples in Club Service.



PP Saumen Ray presents Ganga Abhiyan in RC Battersea Park : AOS International; AOF Protecting the Environment - 17 Aug. 2023



We presented the Ganga Abhiyan Dist 3291 initiative at the Rotary Club of Battersea Park London, one of our sister clubs. Club members were very impressed with our initiative and one day they may be able to join us. London Assembly Member Leonie Cooper supports our proposed Floating Trash Barrier to protect the Ganga from plastic and paper waste. She is working on a similar project on the Thames in her official capacity of London Assembly Member.

(Reported by PP Saumen Ray)

Ganga Abhiyan – Email exchange with RIP Gordon McNally

Respected Rotary International President Gordon McNally, I missed you when you had visited our Rotary Club of Calcutta (Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs) Booth at the Melbourne Convention. I am in England now and wondering if you are in Scotland. We have started a mega District project on the Ganges in which I am the Chair. Please find a brochure on the project. If you are in Scotland in before 4 September 2023, and you have half an hour so free, I am willing to visit you and I will combine this with my visits to my Global Grant partner Clubs Monifieth and District, and Kirkcaldy. Regards, Saumen



Dear Saumen,

Thank you for this brochure on the Ganga Abhiyan initiative.

Although I will be in Scotland briefly before 4 September, it is for a TRF event, and I am fully committed. I am sorry that I will not be able to meet you, but I wish you well in all your Rotary endeavours.

Best regards,

R Gordon R McNally,

RI President 2023-24, Rotary International

One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201-3698,USA

Holistic Education : AOS - Community; AOF – Supporting Education



Literacy Committee of Rotary Club of Calcutta (2023-24) plans to help schools in providing Holistic education by setting up of science and technology labs, conducting health check-up at regular intervals, conducting mental health awareness programs and career counselling camps seeking to engage all aspects of the learner, including mind, body, and spirit. This kind of education will help students to find a career path which will prepare them to be employable in the future.



The project was launched on 16 Aug 2023 at the Balia Nafar Chandra Balika Vidyalaya with the inauguration of the Science and Technology labs. The school is a Govt. sponsored high school with more than 2200 girl students from class 5-12. Most of the students are first generation school goers. These labs will help create an atmosphere of learning by doing. Understanding STEM concepts is a prime objective of the effort.

The event was attended by President Kanak Dutta, Hony. Secretary Sarvani Gooptu, Rtn Roshni Ganguly, Rtn Sonia Dutt, and Literacy chair Sriranjani Joshi.

A free eye checkup camp was also held for the students in association with the Optometry Department of George College of Management and Science.

(Reported by Literacy Chair Sriranjani Joshi)

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (12.08.2023)

Total Members	:	240
Members Present	:	27
Exempted Members	:	68
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	11



ONE WORLD

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

BOARD MEETING

Second meeting of the Board of Directors (2023-24) of the Club will be held on Monday, 28th August, 2023 at 6.30 p.m. at (TBA). All members of the Board are requested to make a note of it and attend.

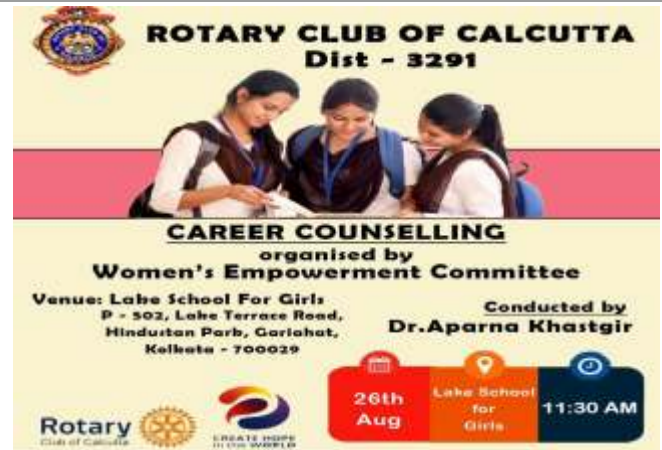
Forthcoming Meetings / Events

Day & Date	Programmes	Project & Timing
Saturday 26th August, 2023	Career Counselling for girls at Lake School for Girls by Women's Empowerment Committee	Career Counselling by Dr Aparna Khastagir at school premises at 11.30 am
Tuesday 29th August, 2023	Regular Weekly Meeting	1.30 pm after lunch at 1 pm Speaker : Saira Shah Halim

Birthdays

Laxmi Niwas Bangur	22nd Aug.
Sushil Jhunjhunwala	23rd Aug.
Dr. Pratibha Pradhan	23rd Aug.
Vikram Somany	26th Aug.
A.V. Bhuwalka	27th Aug.
Prof. Amita Dutt	27th Aug.
Subrata Kumar Basu	27th Aug.
Sudarshan Jalan	28th Aug.

Wish you many happy returns of the day



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA
Dist - 3291

CAREER COUNSELLING
organised by
Women's Empowerment Committee

Venue: Lake School For Girls
P - 502, Lake Terrace Road,
Hindustan Park, Gariahat,
Kolkata - 700029

Conducted by
Dr. Aparna Khastgir

26th Aug Lake School for Girls 11:30 AM

Rotary Club of Calcutta

MINUTES OF THE 4909th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 12th AUGUST, 2023 AT 6.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN

- President, Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4909th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
- National Anthem was led by Rtn Shampa Ghose.
- Minutes of the 4908th regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 5th August, 2023 were confirmed.
- President informed members that there would be no Guest Speaker on that day, as Classification, Attendance and Family of Rotary Committee had organised felicitation of 100 percenters for the Rotary year 2022.
- President then welcomed visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
- President reported the following :**
 - President sadly announced the demise of the mother of Imm. Past Secretary, Rtn Anand Sharma on 11th August 2023 and on behalf of the Club he expressed deepest condolences for the bereaved family.
 - On Sunday, 6th August, 2023, Under the leadership of Dr. Ayushmati Thakur, Health Care Committee in association with Goethals Memorial Health Centre, organized a free Health Check-up Camp at Sacred Heart Church premises between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Youth Service Committee under the leadership of Chairperson Rtn Dr. Saswati Mukherjee, organised an Inter School Bengali Cultural Competition "MAITREE" on Thursday, 10th August, 2023 at Rotary Sadan between 10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
 - A visit by 40 students of the Interact Clubs of different schools has been arranged by the Youth services Chair, Dr. Saswati Mukherjee, coordinated by Hony. Secretary Rtn Sarvani Gooptu to the Netaji Museum at Elgin on Saturday, 12th August, 2023 between 3 p.m- 5 p.m.

At the request of the President, Rtn Dr. Saswati Mukherjee reported on both the events.
- President announced the following :**
 - Independence Day would be observed on Tuesday, 15th August, 2023 at 9.30 am with inauguration of Art Exhibition followed by Cultural Programme by the students of the Cultural Section at Rotary Sadan. The programme has been organised by the NCLCL committee under the leadership of Rtn. Roshni Ganguly. Flag hoisting would be at 11 am. Respected Dist. Governor, Rtn Hira Lal Yadav would be present on that day. The President requested Rotarians to attend the programme with their families.
 - Holistic Education in Schools' phase 1 would be organized by Literacy Committee under the leadership of Rtn Sriranjani Joshi on 16th August, 2023 at Balia Nafar Chandra Balika Vidyalaya, Garia where Science and Technology labs would be inaugurated at 11.30 am.
 - Pranadhara project for donation of 45 pcs. Clean Drinking Water Machines to 21 Schools would be inaugurated on Saturday, 19th August, 2023 at Rotary Sadan at 11 a.m. onwards. The Project would be the joint initiative by the Special Projects Committee and Community Service, RCC and Vocational Service Committee.
 - On Sunday, 20th August, 2023 Health Care Committee would be organizing Non-Invasive Liver test-Fibro scan for Rotarians. First of 3 sessions will be conducted by the Health Committee Chair. Rtn. Dr. Ayushmati Thakur and Interested members are requested to contact Dr. Ayushmati Thakur for further details.
- At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu thereafter conducted the Club Business :**
 - She welcomed all members and guests and wished them.
 - She then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 21st August, 2023.
 - There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 15th August, 2023 on account of Public Holiday (Independence Day).
 - Next Weekly Meeting is on Tuesday, 22nd August, 2023 at 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan.
Speaker : Sreemoyee Piu Kundu
 - The Board at its meeting held on 31st July, 2023 accepted the resignations of the Rotarians with effect from 1st August, 2023
 - Dr. Asha Padgaonkar
 - Dr. Suresh Kumar Agarwal
 - Pavan Poddar
 - Pawan Kumar Kanoria
 - Dr. Sujoy Roychowdhury
- At the request of the President, Rtn. Hirak Ray, Chairman, Classification, Attendance and Family of Rotary organized felicitation programme of the 100%ers for the Rotary Year 2022-23. President and PP Rtn Raj Agrawal handed over the gifts to the recipients.
- President thanked Rtn. Rajarshi Dey for the donation of 100%ers Gifts for the Rotary year 2022-23.
- Sunshine Box collection Rs. 1,000/- with special contribution from Rtns Sarvani Gooptu and B. K. Dalmia.
- The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of North Suburban, India, R. I. Dist. 3291.
- On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtn. Prमित Kumar Ray and Rtn. Sakti Kumar Banerjee for co-hosting fellowship and dinner on that day.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7.33 p.m.

Kanak Dutt
President

Sarvani Gooptu
Hony. Secretary

Published by Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu, Hony. Secretary, Rotary Club of Calcutta

94/2 Chowringhee Road, Kolkata 700020 Tel: 2223 8686/8787

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