

## MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10TH NOVEMBER, 2023

1. RWM called to order.
2. Welcomed internationally acclaimed persona, Bibi Russell, the members of Rotary Club of Victoria for good will visit and noted fashion designer, Ms. Paromita Banerjee.
3. National anthem of India followed by Bangladesh led by President Rtn. Ronit Mitra.
4. MOM of RWM dated October 18th 2023 confirmed by members.
5. Announcement of upcoming projects:
  - i. Project opening of 5 water stations and tube wells at Basanti Block on November 11th, 2023 at 8:30 AM.
  - ii. Organizing a seminar to observe World Diabetes Day on November 18th, 2023, Saturday, by Mohanananda Netralaya in association with Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City.
  - iii. Distribution of laptops to blind students by District Governor Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav at the RWM on November 30th, 2023 at Saturday Club.
6. Welcomed President Rtn. Arvind Agarwal of Rotary Club of Victoria and his fellow members.
7. Exchange of flags between President Rtn. Ronit Mitra, Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City and President Rtn. Arvind Agarwal, Rotary Club of Victoria.
8. Introduction of Ms. Bibi Russell.
9. Uttoriyo, Plant, Pen and certificate given to Ms. Bibi Russell by Rtn. Amitava Ghosh and Past DG Rtn. Nayantara Paulchaudhuri.
10. Talk show with Ms. Bibi Russell conducted by Rtn. Brinda Mukherjee.
11. Question answer session between Ms. Bibi Russell and the attendees
12. Vote of Thanks given by PP Rtn. Pradeep Gooptu.
13. Members Present - 26
14. Visiting Rotarians - 5
15. Guests Present - 12
16. Sunshine Collection - 2550/-



**TODAY'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISTRIBUTION OF  
LAPTOPS TO  
12 BLIND SCHOOLS AND  
8 NEEDY STUDENTS**

**PROVIDING  
TUITION FEES  
TO 2 STUDENTS  
FOR THE YEAR**



**Hiralal Yadav**  
District Governor, 2023-24



**Ronit Mitra**  
President, 2023-24



**Rajesh Balasubramanian**  
Secretary, 2023-24



**Banashree Mitra**  
Joint Secretary, 2023-24



**Sunil Sonika**  
Treasurer, 2023-24



**Brinda Mukherjee**  
Editor, 2023-24





# OUR GUEST SPEAKER TODAY

*Shri Dilip Loyolka, CA*

Mr. Dilip Loyolka is a senior Chartered Accountant and a law graduate by profession. He is successfully running a tax and audit practice in Kolkata. Despite the fact that Mr. Loyolka lost his eyesight during mid school, he became the first blind Chartered Accountant in India in 1983.

Mr. Loyolka has co-authored various books on income tax like How To Handle Income Tax Problems (currently running its 33rd Edition), Practical Guide To VDIS 1997, Kaise Suljhaye Aaykar Samasyayen, Income tax Pleading and Practice, Tax Planning and Conveyancing. Beside the above, Mr. Loyolka is regularly contributing articles in tax journals, presenting papers in different seminars, workshops and symposiums and is a regular guest speaker in the tax programme 'KAR SAMADHAN' of Taaza TV.

Mr. Loyolka has also won the following Awards & Recognitions:

- ◆ In 2017 Income Tax Department felicitated him for his contribution in the field of Income Tax on Income Tax Day. The award was presented by His Excellency K.N. Tripathi Honourable Governor of West Bengal & Bihar.
- ◆ In 2002 he received a National Award presented by His Excellency Shri APJ Abdul Kalam conferred to him by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ◆ In 2005 he again received an award from His Excellency Shri APJ Abdul Kalam as the most outstanding blind person in India on the occasion of AICB Silver Jubilee.
- ◆ In 2008 received “Outstanding Persons Award” from National Institute for the Visually Handicapped. The award was presented by Honourable Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India Shri J.S. Verma.
- ◆ In 2001 Sir Paul Harris title was conferred to him by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City for his contribution in blind welfare.
- ◆ In 1994 the Central Board of Direct Taxes awarded the book 'Kaise Suljhaye Aaykar Samasyayen' co-authored by him.
- ◆ In 1995 he received an award of “Outstanding Persons in the Field of Handicapped” from Rotary International. The award was presented to him by Honourable Sister Nirmala.
- ◆ In 1990 he received “Outstanding Young Persons Award” from South Calcutta Junior Chamber.
- ◆ In 1990 Marwari Yuva Manch awarded him with “Outstanding Personality Award”.

His achievements has been acknowledged and story on his life has been carried out in Doordarshan, All India Radio, other TV Channels, different print medias and other organisations, in their journals.

Mr. Loyolka is also a philanthropist and engages in the welfare of visually challenged persons in the State of West Bengal. He is the General Secretary of Blind Empowerment Foundation. He is also the trustee of M/s Loyolka Foundation. He was the Chief sponsorer for the ICAI Hall in Durgapur.



## Tanzania

Sujata and I travelled for 9 days across Tanzania towards the mid to end of September 2023.

We found it to be a lovely country with warm, wonderful and hospital people.

The fastest flight is from Mumbai to Dar-e-Salaam on Air Tanzania (small fleet). They operate a 787 on this sector and the aircraft was clean and service standards excellent.

Alert – there is a separate counter for Yellow Fever vaccination (irrespective of whether one travels from a WHO non-specified country)- so the vaccine is mandatory.

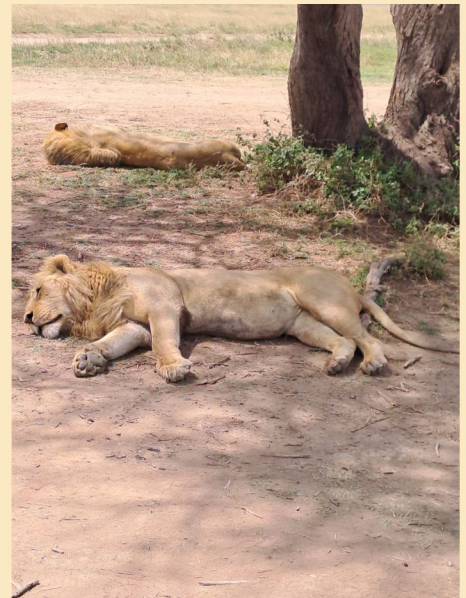
We flew from Dar-e-Salaam to Mwanza for one night (air Tanzania) - stayed at the Malaika Beach Resort located on the shore of Lake



Victoria. Excellent resort, terrific service, and great food (particularly the breakfast buffet). Lo and Behold! The GM was a Bengali gentleman named Mr. Purnendu Ghosh from Midnapur.

We next drove for slightly over 4 hours from Mwanza to the Serengeti gate (road condition was very good) with our eagle-eyed guide-cum-driver Marco, a thorough gentleman, who was a walking, talking encyclopedia on everything that's Safari related. We stayed at the Serena Serengeti (a lovely property) for 2 nights.

The legendary Serengeti! The sheer size, vastness and plethora of flora, fauna and wildlife of the Serengeti is mind-boggling & jaw dropping! The only words that I can think of to describe it, are awesome, majestic, and magnificent (these words will recur later as well). One needs at least 2 days (if not more) to soak in this paradise on earth (notwithstanding the vigorous workout that one gets driving across the plains). We were fortunate enough to see 4 of the big Five at close quarters – lions, elephants, the leopard, and the buffalos in addition to the cheetahs, hippos, deer of all shapes and sizes, wildebeests, warthogs, ostriches, zebras, hyena, and several species of exotic birds.



We were particularly lucky to witness a hunt in progress – a sole lioness stalking a small herd of wildebeest. It took her half an hour to cover 200 meters and the amazing thing was that she pounced just feet away from the nearest prey and failed. They scattered like a puff of smoke! We felt really sorry for the predator but at the same time a sense of relief for the prey and I remembered the old saying-

“Each morning the lion wakes up knowing that he has to run faster than the slowest prey and each morning the prey wakes up knowing that it has to run faster than the fastest lion.”

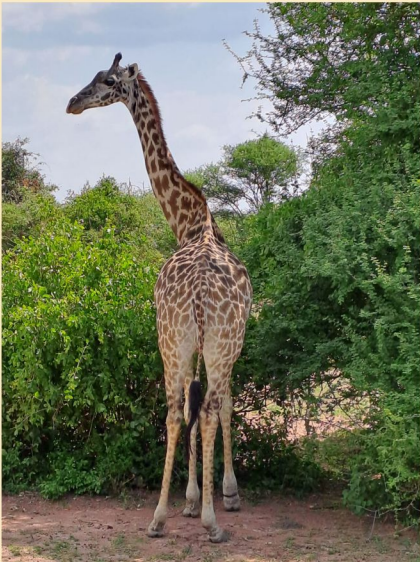
The African safaris, unlike the Indian tiger reserves, on account of the sheer size are morning to evening affairs (packed lunches are provided by the hotels). The Serena Serengeti is very well located within the reserve. The service, the food (in abundance, made fresh in a circular open kitchen and lots of options for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians) and the ambience was indeed superb. The rooms are uniquely designed and there are tons of photo ops available within the property. Being an unfenced resort, there are zebras, dik-diks (one of the smallest antelope species in Africa), and elephants pretty much right outside one's room. It's also a





The drive from the Serena Serengeti to Ngorongoro caldera is around 2 hours and it is indeed an unbelievable sight to behold especially while one is descending into the valley floor. Unlike the Serengeti, being a caldera, the overall land area is not very large and the animals within are completely unafraid of humans (there is no hunting and probably very limited poaching here compared to the Serengeti) – so while the animals are the same – as there is an alkaline lake within the caldera we saw vast flocks of flamingoes, a huge family of baboons and the elusive rhino here.

We spent the night at the Lions Paw resort (glamping) on the rim. We were absolutely bowled over by the staff's hospitality. Great food, incredible ambience, stunning views, and the staff, the staff, the staff! Our next destination was Arusha for one night which was a relaxed stay at the Serena Arusha a colonial style property. Our objective was to catch a glimpse of the Killi (as the Kilimanjaro is fondly called by the locals) but alas, the weather Gods played spoilt sport by hiding most of the mountain in a cloud bank. We did however get to see it in its glorious magnificence when we took off from Kilimanjaro airport for Zanzibar. We flew Precision Air, a dependable and efficient regional airline.



## Zanzibar:

Zanzibar Stone Town – a truly immersive experience where we spent one night at the, (you guessed it) – the Serena – a historic property dating back over 100 years and located right on the beach. The azure waters, the bazaar, the promenade, the old fort, the food, the Freddy Mercury Museum (he was born there), the smell of spices, the Stone Town is a unique experience unto itself. The Freddie Mercury Museum, though tiny is a must visit for Queen and Freddie Mercury fans – there are hosts of photos of his life, song sheets and other memorabilia that allows one to spend a very interesting hour or more at the

house where Farrokh Bulsara spent his childhood.

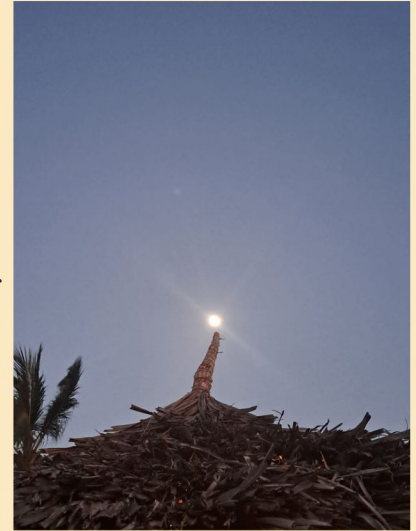
A Short drive from Stone Town took us to the Nungwi Beach Resort – a veritable party paradise - golden sand, water reflecting various hues of aquamarine, great resort, great staff – great food, great bar and terrific cocktails!!

Just what the doctor ordered! Magnificent sunsets!

We headed back to Dar e salaam via ferry from Stone Town on the last leg of our journey– though just an hour and a half's ride – the ferry ride is certainly not for the weak stomached, and a lot could be done at both ports to improve the experience especially in Dar. This experience was the only spoiler during our entire trip. It's better to fly between the two cities especially for senior citizens and those with heavy luggage.

Dar itself is a wonderful city, in a wonderful country – gracious people, spotlessly clean, disciplined traffic, great places to eat, nice weather, and honestly, a dollar converted into the Tanzanian shilling (Tzs2550/ \$1) goes a long, long way in Tanzania. Asante Sana (thank you very much) Tanzania!

- Written by **Rtn. Kaushik Banerjee** - Pic Credits: **Mrs. Sujata Banerjee**





# MOMENTS FROM LAST RWM





## Opening of Water Stations and Tubewells at Basanti Block



## UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

### ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec 4th: Rtn. Anindya Paulchadhuri & Mrs. Pameli Paulchadhuri
- Dec 4th: Rtn. Swapna Bhattacharjee & Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharjee
- Dec 7th: Rtn. Dr. Suchandro Das & Dr. Suchetana Das
- Dec 10th: Rtn. Rahul Johri & Mrs. Anuradha Johri
- Dec 11th: Rtn. Tunir Chakravarti & Mrs. Sharmila Chakravarti
- Dec 12th: Rtn. Rajesh Balasubramanian & Mrs. Bharathi Sundaram
- Dec 14th: President Rtn. Ronit Mitra & First Lady Mrs. Nandini Mitra
- Dec 17th: Rtn. Supriyo Mukherjee & Mrs. Godhuli Mukherjee

### BIRTHDAYS

- Dec 17th: Rtn. Subir Khasnobis
- Dec 18th: Rtn. Pradip Das