

Urbanama

Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana

R.I.District 3291

Rotary



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Month: January, 2021

RI President : Rtn. Holger Knaack
Dist. Governor : Rtn. Sudip Mukherjee

President : Rtn. Arindam Sil
Secretary: Rtn. Kohinoor Mandal

Editor: Rtn. Sumit Das Gupta

BLANKET DISTRIBUTION

Project Lead: Rtn. Anand Chand

Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana distributed 140 blankets to the homeless at Shelter for Urban Homeless at Beliaghata Road led by Rtn. Anand Chand and ably supported by Rtn. Mahua Sur Roy we could organise the programme within 2 days. We will continue to do projects which matter the most for all of us. As our Charter President Rtn. Arindam Sil said, "When we reach out to them, we will always be thankful to God that we are blessed that we are able to give."

30

Dec, 2020



WINTER CLOTHES DISTRIBUTION

Project Lead: Ann. Rajni Agarwal (Wife of Rtn. Akhil Agarwal)

Under the 'Community and Economic Development' Programme, we, #RotaryClubofKolkataUrbana, visited Universal Smiles and distributed clothes, cakes, chocolates to children. Arindam Sil (Charter President), Rtn. Kohinoor Mandal (Charter Secretary), members and family were present.

10

Jan, 2021



GUEST SPEAKER



Pt. Bickram Ghosh spoke on "Rhythm of Life" on 27th November in our weekly meet. The Maestro enthralled our members with his eloquent speech on how the rhythm of tabla, drums, musical instruments are actually a representation of our life. He ended with a breathtaking signature performance. We were honoured to have him with us.

27

Nov, 2020

President's Message

Ushering 2021 with hope and prayers was the best thing we could do this new year. 2020 has taught us, if we couldn't learn earlier, how helpless we can be in front of nature and its wrath. Well, if that be so, then how seldom do we think how helpless can they be who are indeed born not as privileged as us? Our children need to learn what it is to share common toilets, sleep on the floor and on the streets. Only then will they understand how privileged we are and why we have all the more reason to stand by humanity and serve.

From its inception at Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana, we have been trying to do our best to do service of various kinds. We need to create more services and dedicate more of our available selves to the cause of mankind through our Rotary. That is the reason why we, within ourselves, should bond more in our club, with our family members, as a bigger family and do it together!

Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana ought to be one of the most active clubs of the district. We have the privilege of staying in the same complex together, and so we must use this as an advantage to create more service opportunities. Along with my wife Shukla and daughter Sonika, I take this opportunity to wish you all and your family a very happy new year. Let us work together as One -- as Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana.

Sincerely,
ARINDAM SIL
Charter President (2020-2022)
Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana

Secretary's Message

Leaving the pains and pangs of 2020 behind we have moved into 2021. It may be customary to wish everyone a happy new year when we change our calendars but this custom has gained huge significance as we try to move into the last phase of our fight with COVID 19.

However, as there can be nothing that is totally bad, the year 2020 gave all of us a new meaning to social living when we formed the Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana. It was a humble beginning for a great cause in the most difficult of times and thereafter we have not looked back.

In the last two months, we have succeeded in touching precious other lives by distributing polio vaccines amongst the underprivileged kids and distributing blankets and winter clothes to those who needed it most. We joined with 2 other clubs for Environment awareness by doing a cycle marathon in New Town.

I am grateful to my fellow members who despite their busy personal schedules have always found time to join hands and offer service above self; the motto of all Rotarians like us.

Sincerely,
KOHINOOR MANDAL
Secretary (2020-21)
Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana

BREATHE GREEN PROJECT

19
Dec, 2020

A Rotary District 3291 project on Environmental awareness and Polio fundraising was organised on 19th December.

Led by Rotary Clubs of Rabindra Sarobar, Calcutta South City Towers & Kolkata Urbana, the project saw overwhelming support from 27 Rotary clubs of the district as hosts and co-hosts for the project.

The project focussed on 3 areas -- **Support Environment** and 2 important verticals of **Rotary International, Public Image & The Rotary Foundation – Polio Fund.**

As part of the project a 15 km cycle rally was flagged off by Rtn Sudip Mukherjee – RI District Governor 3291 -- in the presence of PDG's Rtn. Uttam Ganguli & Rtn. Mukul Sinha Rotarians and guests at 6.45 am from Biswa Bangla Gate at New Town Kolkata. All cyclists wore the special T-shirt promoting Environment and Polio messages which helped in augmenting Rotary's image in the area.

A felicitation ceremony was organised on the same day at the New Town Business Club to felicitate and honour environment & wildlife conservationists. The ceremony was attended by over 100 Rotarians through physical presence at the venue and through the virtual platform where the event was beamed live. Chief Guest Rtn. Sudip Mukherjee - District Governor 3291 -- and Guest of Honour Rtn. PDG Uttam Ganguli, PDG Shymashree Sen also graced the occasion. Dignitaries who were felicitated for their contribution in various areas of environment and wildlife protection, included Mr. Debashis Sen Chairman, HIIDCO, Dr. Pradeep Vyas, IFS (Retd) - Commissioner Vigilance, Dr. Ram Jakati IFS (Retd), Mr. Dhritiman Mukherjee -- Nature, Wildlife & Deep Sea photographer -- and Bandipur Prakriti Premik Samity, Haripal, Hooghly. A Rotary Calendar for 2021 was released to raise funds for Polio Eradication. The calendar is a collector's item with unpublished photographs from eminent photographers. All sales from the Rotary calendars will be donated to the Rotary end-Polio fund.



ZERO WASTE A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

12
Jan, 2021

Project Lead: Ann Rina Wadhwa (wife of Rtn Mr Sanjay Wadhwa)

A one of its kind concept by HIDCO and NKDA (New Town Kolkata Development Authority), where people can donate clothes and other goods which will be further recycled and given to others in need. We #RotaryClubofKolkataUrbana in association with HIDCO have collected a huge number of good-to-use used, washed and ironed clothes and will handover to the HIDCO team on 16th January. The meeting was attended by ADG Rtn. Srinithi with our club members including President, Secretary and Treasurer.



POLIO DISTRIBUTION

22
Nov, 2020

Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana went for a polio awareness programme in and around Urbana with the help of local club members of Mundapara. Charter President Rtn. Arindam Sil and other members met local residents and helped them in getting vaccinated by KMC health workers.



SPORTS - UPL 2.0

10
Jan, 2021

Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana instituted a Player of the Series award for Urbana Premier League 2.0. UPL was an in-house 9-a-side, 8-over cricket tournament in IPL format, loved and cheered by all Urbanites. RCKU honoured Mr. Adhiraj Johuri as Player of the Series and we are proud to be part of UPL 2.0.





New Strain of SarS CoV-2

Dr Debkishore Gupta

Recently the UK declared the discovery of a new strain of SARS CoV-2. This mutated virus has been named B117 or VUI2020/21 and it has pressed a panic button across the world.

The mutations affected important areas of the viral spike proteins -- which attach to human cells. We are not totally aware of the outcome of these mutations. It is important to know at this juncture that viruses (especially RNA viruses like flu) mutate naturally and quite frequently. Still we must wait till we gather sufficient data and knowledge regarding the present mutations. Till now, there is local evidence that the new strain is more transmissible and sporadic claims are coming that it is also affecting children unlike the previous strain which spared the paediatric population largely. This may spread quicker and infect more people with higher viral loads. However, there is no such evidence that this new strain causes increased severity and that is reassuring.

We should definitely be bothered about viral mutations if there is drastic change in its pathogenicity because we may have to relook into our precautionary measures once again and strengthen them. There may be a theoretical chance of diagnostic misidentification. As far as vaccines are concerned, there is apprehension among the general public that the available vaccines may be ineffective. Going by the science, vaccines may have reduced efficacy based on their mechanisms of action but there is no immediate threat that the present mutant strain will render all the candidate vaccines completely ineffective. Reasonable efficacy should be there.

All we have to do at this time is to remain watchful without changing our precautionary stance. Wearing mask, using hand sanitiser each time before touching face/mask can ensure high degree of protection. Once we have the right vaccine available for mass vaccination, we can surely hope for breaking the chain of the pandemic. Mutations will keep occurring but will not result in pandemics in the long run.

FELLOWSHIP MEET

27
Dec, 2020

Our very first Fellowship Meet of Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana happened on 27th Dec at Bengal Lounge with a lot of fanfare, good food, drinks and live music performed by Carlton Pariera. Members, their families and kids enjoyed the afternoon Sit Down Christmas Lunch and danced to the festive tunes.

DG and DGN of R.I Dist. 3291 were present with their wives and wished everyone a Happy New Year in advance. Our Charter President, Secretary and Treasurer were present with their families.



NEW MEMBERS



Anirban De

Anirban did his BSc from Calcutta University, GNIIT, and Post Graduate in Management from IMT Ghaziabad. He has spent 19 years in banking and is currently working as Branch Manager at HDFC Bank; he is wealth portfolio manager to many HNIs across the globe.

His wife Tanusri Sengupta did her BSc from Burdwan University and MCA from IGNOU, was a participant in Mrs India Worldwide (Greece) 2018, freelance at IT and interest in Fashion Industry.

Their son Ankit is studying in standard VI at e Heritage School and an aspiring Footballer.



Dr Sumanta Dutta

MBBS, MRCS, MD, FRCS, CCT (UK)

Consultant in Gastro-intestinal, Laparoscopic and Bariatric surgery

Dr Sumanta Dutta completed his MBBS from Burdwan Medical College, West Bengal. He then went to United Kingdom for further education and training. He completed his surgical training and FRCS from Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd). He did research in the field of surgical oncology from University of Glasgow and obtained his research degree (MD).

He is an avid reader and enjoys socialising with friends and family. He is enthusiastic to participate in activities for social cause. He is working as a Consultant Gastro-Intestinal and Bariatric Surgeon in Apollo Hospitals, Kolkata.

His wife Dr Sagarika Basu, is a gynaecologist. She completed her MBBS from Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College. Then she went to the UK for further training. She completed training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Infertility and obtained MRCOG from Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London. She is working as Consultant Gynaecologist and Infertility Specialist in Fortis Hospitals, Kolkata. She has developed her culinary skills over the years and enjoys socialising. However, what she enjoys most is dancing. As a family of four, they have two young daughters (9 years and 7 years old). They have been actively involved in the kid's social activities of Urbana.

Having come back from the UK recently after working there for more than a decade, they are keen to participate in activities initiated by Rotary Club, Urbana and look forward to making new friends in the process.



Baishali Khasnobis

Baishali has been an entrepreneur in the salon industry for the past 15 years. She was awarded the "Times Power Women" award for exceptional contribution as a salon entrepreneur to the city. She also runs her own cafes and restaurants.

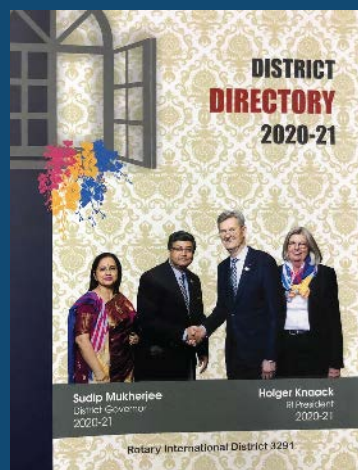
She is associated with IPER NGO Kolkata and many of her staff are from Save the Children NGO, providing employment to the underprivileged.

Her husband, Subir, a Post Graduate with Business Management and Economics, has been in Pharmaceutical formulation, manufacturing, marketing, export and consultancy for more than 30 years and has been socially active in different capacities for decades.

They are proud parents of two daughters, Sampurna and Samadrita, both of whom graduated from the prestigious St. Stephens College, New Delhi. The elder one is pursuing her Master's in Public Policy from University of Chicago and the younger one has started her career as consultant and freelance writer.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY is ready for delivery from DG's Office at 2/2B Nundy Street, Kol-29 near Gariahat between 12noon and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

Those who intend to buy please pay Rs. 400/-per Directory by Cash/Cheque in favour of 'Rotary International District 3291 Publications 2020-21'. Its first come first basis as there is limited stock. **NO ONLINE PAYMENT.**



Please stand in support of Rotary End Polio Program by getting your copy of the first Rotary Calendar.

This is a joint initiative of Rotary Clubs of Kolkata Urbana, Calcutta Rabindra Sarobar, South City Towers. Please contact Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn. Uday Shankar Mukhopadhyay to get your copy/copies

