

THE PANACHE

NEWS FROM ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA AVYANNA

Jan - Feb - Mar 2023

RI President: Jennifer Jones | Dist. Governor: Ajoy Kumar Law | Club President: Sheela Janakiram



From the Desk of the Editor

Rtn. Sumi Chaudhury
Editor

Year 2023 ushered in with it, a fresh burst of energy and excitement into RC of Cal Avyanna.

Even as the crisp winter chill remained in the air, the Club found new ways of staying charged - which included a Fellowship meet over a long highway drive and lunch, an RM while on a river cruise upon Hooghly!

All of which added to Club's drive which was clearly evident in the success of every Service Project that RC of Cal Avyanna took on.

Be it indepth dialogues on Peace & Conflict or new batches enrolling with spontaneous enthusiasm for the Club's much appreciated "Angrezi Medium" initiative!

Even the official District Governor's visit this year held a wonderful positive and lively vibe with the presence of our Hon'y Member, Usha Uthup, sharing snippets and songs from her earlier visits to Kiev and Russia, much before the war. In fact, she expressed her desire to go there again and urged the DG to come forward to support world peace from Rotary Dist 3291 with RC of Cal Avyanna.

The months of Jan-Feb-Mar have been abuzz with activities and the momentum is set for greater action in the next quarter too!

Until then...
HAPPY READING



Message from RI President**
Rtn. Jennifer Jones
RI President 2022-23

The single most important factor in member satisfaction is the club experience. How at home you feel in your club, how rewarding club meetings are, and how engaged you feel in service projects.

I have seen this firsthand across the Rotary world this year. When members feel an emotional connection to their club, they cannot imagine leaving. And that connection is often forged in "Rotary moments," when people feel that special connection to the people around them and the impact of their service. Our Imagine Impact Tour is all about shining a light on those Rotary moments and encouraging our members to tell their stories.

But there's something else that makes an enormous difference in building and sustaining that connection. It's the comfort and care of our members - both Rotarians and Rotaractors.

We are in the relationship business, and if we take care of each other - genuinely show concern for each other - then we will make friends for life, and we will do anything to widen that circle of friendship. We do this by taking time for each other, actively listening to one another, and treating every Rotary member as equally valuable - no matter how long we have been a member or what position we hold. Good leadership is giving it away. Propping others up. Allowing others to feel the victory.

***Excerpts from the RI President's Jan 23 message.*



Message from
Rtn. Sheela Janakiram
President 2022-23

As Winter slips into Spring alongwith myriad vibrant hues, our Club too executed various projects of different areas of focus.

We had an excellent session on Peace & Conflict with well-known luminaries of our society from the field Art, Music and Literature viz. Shri Jogen Choudhury, Smt. Usha Uthup, Shri Parnab Mukherjee and Shri Sujit Sanyal.

Our annual picnic was a roaring succes. Our 124th RM, aboard the MV Matsyakanya was memorable. Sailing by Belur Math & Dakhineswar was totally an amazing experience.

The much awaited District Governor's visit, went off smoothly much to the delight of our members.

'Angrezi Medium' - our Literacy project has been receiving wide coverage in the media. It was very well covered recently again by Times of India newspaper. We have also been receiving great appreciation from our DG and Senior Officials from the District, for this project.

We have miles to go before we rest.

With our sheer determination, commitment and generosity, we Avyannas continue to march forward, scaling new heights.

Community Service **January**

4th January: Peace & Conflict Resolution - A Panel Discussion

Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna organised an evening discussion on understanding the different hues of peace and conflict - between personal and political and society at large. The event was organized at Art Exposure, a beautiful art gallery run by Club Member Uma Mitra. The evening was an invigorating one with 4 extended conversations between eminent personalities from the field Art, Music and Literature that included Shri Jogen Choudhury, Smt. Usha Uthup, Shri Parnab Mukherjee and Shri Sujit Sanyal. Each Speaker deliberated on the topic with great aplomb and humour, laced with practical experiences from real life. Signing off with Usha di's soulful and powerful rendition of 'Heal the World' ended the session on an optimistic note.



Club Service

8th January: Happy Avyannas in Picnic Attire!

Winter Fellowship Outdoors

The Avyannas spent a magical day by the shimmering waters of the Rupnarayan river in Hooghly. The superb venue, sumptuous breakfast and lunch and members bonding over music, dance, and long drive on the highway, made it one of the most enjoyable Fellowships of the year.



Club Service

12th January: Regular Meeting

The Club's 124th Regular Meeting was held on board the barge - MV 'Matsyakanya' as it glided over the Ganges.

Club President Sheela Janakiram, set the meeting rolling where the members participated actively. The experience was truly exhilarating as the meeting continued while the barge glided down the River Hooghly, cruising below the Howrah Bridge and the Bally Bridge, as the winter sun set behind Belur Math. The cool river breeze, coupled with some lip-smacking snacks and happy fellowship rounded-off this enjoyable RM on the river.



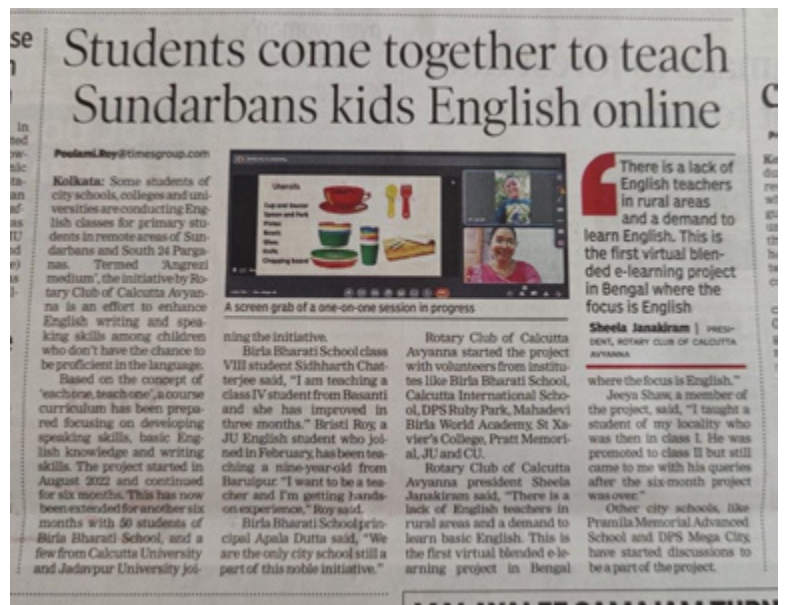
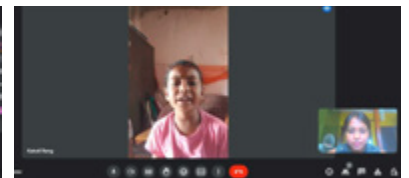
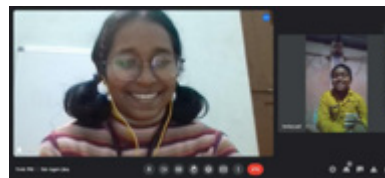
New Generation Service

15th January: The 2nd Round of Virtual Spoken English Classes for Children in Rural Bengal

After the overwhelming success of the Club's pilot 'Angrezi Medium' project, the Members meticulously planned and launched the next round of the 6-month project. The project, which involves Online teaching of Spoken & Written English to children living in remote regions of rural Bengal, began on 15 January 2023.

The concept of "Each one, teach one" has shown great results. The Mentors are mostly from the city's prominent English Medium Schools & mentees from rural sectors. This is the first ever virtual blended e-learning project in Kolkata.

The project has been receiving wide media coverage in several mainline dailies.



New Generation Service

21st January: UTTARON Rotary Youth Leadership Award

RC of Calcutta Avyanna Co-hosted the 7th Rotary Youth Leadership Awards "UTTARON" which was organized by Rotary Club of Calcutta Charnock City and supported by three Host Clubs and fourteen co-host Clubs of RID 3291 at Dhyan Ashram, Joka. The event was held from 21st Jan to 22nd Jan. 40 students from Behala Girls High School and Banitirtha Girls School participated in this RYLA. It was a successful event conducted by Rotary Club of Calcutta Charnock City.



Community Service

31st January: Construction of Toilets and Bathing Area for NGO

31st January 23, the first project was kicked off from the RC of Calcutta Avyanna Trust. This involved Construction of Toilet & Bathing area at Mother's Nest, a small NGO in Maniktala. After doing a proper need assessment, Members felt there was a dire need for toilets and a proper bathing area. So, in collaboration with Athreya Charitable Trust, RC of Cal Avyanna Trust has built 2 toilets and 1 bathing area for the underprivileged children and destitute women sheltered by the NGO.



Vocational Service

February

**3rd February:
Spreading More Smiles with
Our 'Horseshoe' Project
Fundraising Event**

RC of Calcutta Avyanna felt privileged and honored to be invited to the War Veteran Reunion at ITC Royal Bengal for exhibiting the 'Horseshoe' brand of brocade sneakers.

The Club has been promoting the brand at various Fundraiser events to support the city's cobbler community. This event too provided an exciting platform as it was enthusiastically supported by the pan India Armed forces who had gathered for the event in Kolkata.



New Generation Service

**3rd February: ANUSHEELAN
Rotary Youth Leadership
Award**

RC of Cal Avyanna was a Co host for the District RYLA Anushilan Programme held at Dhyan Ashram, Joka, South 24 Parganas, on 3rd, 4th and 5th Feb 2023. As many as 41 Students from 6 different Schools took part in the event, which also included 7 Interactors from Birla Bharati School. The eventful 3-Day Programme started with the Inauguration by DG Ajoy Law, DGE Hiralal Yadav, District Trainer Angshuman Bandopadhyay, District RYLA Chair, Tamal



District RYLA Awards Ceremony for Anusheelan was held on 13th March 2023, at Hotel Hindustan International, Kolkata, in which RC of Cal Avyanna was a Co host. Interactors from Birla Bharati participated. Interactor Raunak Agarwal won the Best male RYLAN trophy. The Club received a memento of appreciation which was collected by IPP Apala Dutta.



Community Service

5th February: Cancer Awareness talk

On World Cancer Day, RC of Cal Avyanna organised an Awareness Talk at Sunderbans. Rtn Sutapa from Cancer Foundation India and also a member of RC of Cal Avyanna, gave an excellent talk on awareness & prevention of Cervical Cancer to young teenage girls at Gosaba, Sunderbans. The session was very well attended and accepted by the local people.



Community Service

4th February: Menstrual Hygiene Workshop

RC of Calcutta Avyanna held a Menstrual Hygiene Management Camp at Disha, Gosaba, Sunderbans, in association with UNICEF. Dr. Mandira from Kolkata's renowned AMRI hospital was also present there to answer queries from the girls. This Camp had young boys too, to make them aware and understand about the taboos often associated with Menstruation. Packs of Biodegradable sanitary napkins and hand-wash were later distributed among the young girls present at the Camp.



Public Image Initiative



5th February:

DRIVE HRIDAYA (Season 4) Fundraiser for Child Heart Surgery

Members of RC of Cal Avyanna readily participated in the Drive Hridaya Car Rally Season 4.

This Rally was held to raise funds for Heart Surgeries for young children. The 4-Member Team from RC of Cal Avyanna's were awarded medals and a Trophy for being the "only all-women team" to participate!



Public Image Initiative

15th February: Life Beyond Cancer Fundraising Event

RC of Cal Avyanna was a Co host at the mega LIFE BEYOND CANCER event held this year at Kolkata's renowned Rabindra Sadan auditorium. The objective of the event was too to raise awareness and funds in aid of paediatric cancer patients and survivors. The funds would not only assist initiation of treatment of underprivileged cancer affected children and also support the vocational, educational or psychological needs of the paediatric cancer survivors.

The star-studded event included celebrity singers like Usha Uthup, Sourendro Soumyojit and Actor Rituparna Sengupta among others.





Public Image Initiative

19th February: Tai Chi Workshop at the Lakes

On 19th Feb 2023 the members of RC of Cal Avyanna bonded over a very different Fellowship-cum-workshop a TAI CHI class held early morning amidst the serene surroundings of the Rabindra Sarobar Lakes. The workshop was conducted by a trained professional with the participants following in full earnestness in this one-of-a-kind wellness session. The members later bonded over tea and breakfast at a popular local tea-shop.



Public Image Initiative

27th February: District Governor Visit

The Official District Governor's Visit saw a full-house attendance. President Sheela Janakiram set the event rolling with an impressive presentation on the Club's various projects. In fact, she called the individual Project Chairs, to speak about their areas of work themselves. The speakers for the day also included Teachers from Ankuran (the Club's school for inmates' children at Dum Dum Correctional Home) who shared their first-hand experiences. Member Ananya spoke about the huge impact of the Club's 'Angrezi Medium' project. In fact, the Mentors and Mentees were also invited to share their experiences with the audience. During the event, members Uma Mitra and Sarmistha Das came forward to hand over a sizeable donation each to the DG towards The Rotary Foundation.

The evening concluded on a lively yet emotional note with Ushadi sharing snippets of her experiences and songs from her visit to Kiev and Russia that she had made before the war. She wishes to visit these countries again to promote peace and felt that the DG could involve Rotary Dist 3291 and RC of Cal Avyanna to support the cause. It was truly gratifying and encouraging to hear words of appreciation from DG Ajoy Kumar Law as well as Dist. Sec. OCV Amitava Chakraborty, with regard to the Club's overall performance.



Community Service March

5th March: Rare Diseases Awareness Race Organized by ORDI

RC of Calcutta Avyanna was the Support Partner for the ORDI Awareness Race. Our member Roshni Das Bhattacharya also participated in the race for awareness. It was a very gratifying morning as Club President Sheela Janakiram stepped up to receive a token of appreciation for the Club's participation in this grave cause.

ORDI is trying its level best to create awareness amongst the people, specially parents, who are in complete denial of the fact that their child is either afflicted with Prader Willi Syndrome, Congenital Hypothyroidis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy or other rare diseases, of which they have little or no knowledge.





Club Service

17th March: 127th RM

A Club Training was organized by the Charter President and Club Trainer Srabane Chakraborty. In the session, Srabane talked about strategic planning that got approved in 2020 and Seviceman Projects.

All doubts about how a project is perceived and executed was explained. The role of Service Chairs and other responsibilities were talked about.

The different types of meetings and duties of Rotarians was also touched upon.



Community Service

18th March: Cervical Cancer Awareness Camp

RC of Cal Avyanna and Cancer Foundation India carried out screening of around 50 women and vaccinated 10 underprivileged girls in Ward 92 with HPV Vaccine on 18 Mar 2023. Kudos to Club Member Sutapa who also heads CFI, Kolkata, for carrying forward this noble initiative. 3 months of aggressive advocacy and awareness resulted in the excellent turnout of ladies at the Camp.



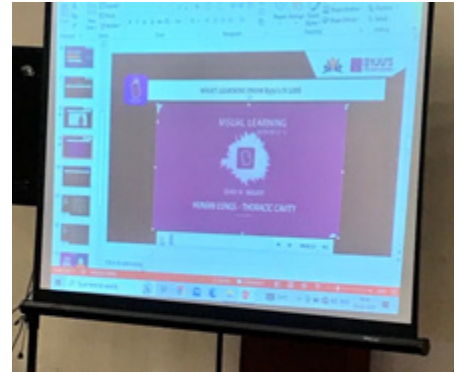
Club Service

29th March: 128th RM

It was an RM with a difference! Rtn Pranay Agarwal was invited to make a presentation about Lakshya Scholarship - the District's new education programme in collaboration with BYJUS. This would benefit hundreds of children in the most effective manner. Club Members can simply choose to sponsor a student for only Rs.1000/- each, which would fetch the student material Content worth Rs. 80,000/- for 3 years. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the not so privileged children to avail of the 3 year tutorial classes by Byjus.

New Member Dr Rita Chatterjee was officially inducted into the Club at the RM.

The Club Members were also fortunate to have another guest at the RM Savita Jhunjhunwala, an Accupressurist. Ms. Jhunjhunwala gave a wonderful presentation with live demonstrations, on the subject which made the session really interesting.



Rotary 

THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Dance Classes Reopen for Inmates

RC of Cal Avyanna is happy to announce the re-opening of the Dance Therapy Classes for the inmates of Dum Dum Correctional Home. The classes had been paused due to the COVID pandemic. A new Dance Trainer, appointed by the Club, will be visiting the Home again to continue the therapeutic journey for the inmates.

27th March : Club President Gets Featured in The Telegraph t2 for a Noble Objective

Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna President Sheela Janakiram gets featured in The Telegraph t2 as she makes a meaningful style statement in a beautiful South Cotton Saree. The ensemble is part of the Poilabaishakh designer handloom saree collection showcased by Club Member Sanhita Moulik of Twine Tales - aiming to provide a big boost to the weaver community!



WARM
Birthday
WISHES

JANUARY BORN

7th
Mita Walia

13th
Shruti Singhania

15th
Swati Mukherjee

23rd
Dola Mukherjee

FEBRUARY BORN

4th
Reshmi Mukherjee

7th
Debapriya Mukherjee

11th
Paromita Banerjee

11th
Dia

18th
Chandrima Roy

12th
Sanhita

14th
Apala Datta

14th
Sumi Chaudhury

21st
Sheela Janakiram

24th
Sarmishta Das

MARCH BORN

2nd
Mandira Mukherjee