

RC Singapore Trip to West Bengal, India July 2019

PP Tapan Rao and Spouse Prabha led RC Singapore's delegation of 6 to Kolkata, West Bengal, India 10-15 July 2019. The objectives of the visit were:

1. Attend Sister Club RC Belur's Installation on Sunday, 11am-3pm, 14 July 2019
2. Visit to Rotary Eye Hospitals of Partner Club RC Purulia in Purulia, West Bengal, India, 11-13 July 2019
3. Attend Joint Club Meetings of Partner Clubs RC Hooghly, RC Midnapore and RC Domlak Mushadabad.



Our Club's delegation also included Hon Member Mohan Vaswani and Spouse Kawita as well as PP Dr Shahul Hameed and Spouse Michelle. On arrival in Kolkata late on 10 July, the group spent the night in Kolkata before heading to Ranchi by air and travelled 3 hours by road to reach Purulia. We were warmly welcomed by Club President Amitav as well as Members of RC Purulia

Our delegation visited RC Purulia's Rotary Eye Hospital (established 1982) in Purulia as well as the adjoining Multi Speciality Hospital (established 2017). We also visited another Rotary Eye Hospital in Lalpur, Purulia. The Multi Speciality Hospital provides specialty treatment for O & G, Dialysis, Pediatric, Emergency Services, General Surgery and Medicine as well as Specialty Eye Care among others. RC Singapore has had 4 Global Grants Project with RC Purulia since 2013 and RC Purulia is also a Partner for our Global Grant Projects in Singapore. At Lalpur Rotary Eye Hospital, established 2009, RC Singapore suggested converting the adjoining unused space into a garden for the benefit of the patients. RC Purulia also agreed to consider introducing a specialty dental clinic to complement its services.





In the evening, our delegation attended RC Purulia's weekly Rotary Meeting. The meeting was well attended by its Members as well as Rotaractors and Inner Wheel Members.

The 3 Rotary Eye Hospitals in Purulia are managed by Rotarians from the Club. 3 separate Board of Trustees are in place to manage the staff and the Hospitals. The key takeaway from the Club's Weekly Meeting is that the Report of the number of patients treated and procedures done at the 3 different facilities are faithfully recorded in the Club's weekly Meeting Minutes. We were all very impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the Purulian Rotarians. At the Meeting, RC Purulia conferred Honorary Membership to HM Mohan Vaswani, PP Tapan Rao and PP Dr Shahul Hameed for their contributions to the Club.



We travelled back to Kolkata and attended Sister Club RC Belur's Welcome Dinner as well as their Installation the next day. The event was graced by Rotary VIPs including PRID Shekhar Mehta as well as dignitaries from Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Nigeria. RC Belur has been a Sister Club since 2015 and we have worked closely with the Club for Global Grant Projects in India and in Singapore. The Projects in India include, Water and Sanitation and Pediatric Cardiac Surgeries for Children in India, Nigeria and Afghanistan. Our delegation also had a separate, private meeting with PRID Shekhar Mehta. At the Meeting PRID Shekhar thanked RC Singapore for all the work done with Rotary Clubs in East India. Our delegation agreed in-principle to continue assisting East India with WASH and Literacy Projects as championed by PRID Shekhar.





On the last day before we headed home to Singapore, we attended a joint meeting of 3 Clubs specially organised in our honour. The 3 Clubs, namely RC Hooghly, RC Midnapore and RC Domkal Murshidabad, kindly conferred Honorary Membership to their Clubs to HM Mohan Vaswani, PP Tapan Rao and PP Dr Shahul Hameed. Our Club has a very good working relationship with the above Clubs with several Eye Project GGs as well as e-Learning and School Literacy Projects discussed and planned for the future.

RC Singapore also received an invitation for the 100 years celebration of Rotary in India by RC Calcutta who received their Rotary Charter on 1 January 1919. There will also be a Rotary Centennial Celebrations Conference in Kolkata scheduled for 13-16 February 2020. We will be organising a delegation to attend this conference in February as well as organising a side trip to Hooghly/Bhubaneswar/Cuttack/Purulia for members of RC Singapore delegation.