

Visit of German Rotarians Families to Kolkata from 22nd to 26th January, 2011.

The team lead by PDG Reinhard Fricke and Rtn Killian Vedder arrived in Kolkata in two batches, five on the early morning hours on Saturday 22nd and 12 others at late morning of the same day. All were accommodated in the floating hotel in Hooghly River 'Floatel'. After lunch most of them were taken on city tour to Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, Nandan Art complex and Tagore house.

Sunday saw Dr. Reinhard and Rtn Killian along with President of RC Budge Budge and few other Rotarians proceeded to see the Mobile Boat Clinic completed with RC Dum Dum. This boat hospital, equipped for emergency services have rooms for labour, dental, minor OT and general consultancy and a mini pharmacy. Among a large number of far flung small isolated inhabited islands in the Gangatic delta this is a big blessing for the population. The boat hospital is jointly operated with a local NGO.

All others of the team accompanied by PDG Chandramohan and few other Rotarians visited the project sites in the far flung poor villages near Sundarbans. In this major Matching Grant projects between RC Munster-St.-Maurtz and RC Budge Budge about 15 villages are covered for various development activities in association with a local agency 'Nishtha' working for poor women. This major projects incorporate many innovative schemes for the less educated economically and socially weaker section. These include, Reproductive Health Education or girls, teaching them to fight against trafficking and domestic violence, prevention of HIV AIDS etc. Married people are counseled on contraception, child spacing child sanitation etc. We also provide family based sanitary toilets and bicycles for bright students. Scholarship to support school dropouts are also part of these. For all visitors the service and in return the love and hospitality given by the villages were heart touching.

Monday 24th January was for the visit of regular projects of RC Budge Budge. These included visit to the GRSM Eye hospital, inauguration of a deep tube well at Senpukur, P L Memorial School and Rotary Priti Vocational Training Institute. RPVTI where over 200 poor girl students are getting trained in various vocational skills like Tailoring, Knitting, Beauticians Course, Computer education and Artificial Jewellery making was of immense interest to all. The evening dinner was at the scenic Lake Land Country Club.

Inauguration two deep tube wells at two sites near Ashuti village was programme which was taken up by the group after a visit to Rotary Anellie Dental Clinic and Bata R K Mission where we have about 30 sponsored poor boy students. For lunch the team reached Jyotirmoyee orphanage and school where students presented various programme for the visitors. We have 25 girl students sponsored by German Rotarians here.

Highlight of the evening was the International Evening held at Peerless Hotel, where all RC Budge Budge Rotarians joined with their spouses. Rtn Dr. Samar Das from Rotary Club of Guildford, UK who managed to support 13 matching grant of 1000 each free eye operation for Dist. 3291 was a special guest for the evening.

After excellent fellowship and dinner the team returned to their hotel for leaving in the next early morning on their further lap of Indian tour.