



MAHANAGAR Magic

January is Vocational Service Month

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear Fellow Rotarians,
 Hope you all are having a fantastic start to the new year!
 New always brings with it the promise of hope—hope for brighter days, meaningful targets, and the fulfilment of our shared purpose. The year 2025 is a blank canvas, waiting for us to create something extraordinary together.
 As we reflect on the journey we've walked so far, we feel proud of the magic we've created through our projects. But we know there's so much more to be done. Every step we take, every life we touch, is a reminder that the service road is a continuous journey—a journey that becomes even more rewarding when travelled together.

This January, as we celebrate Vocational Service Month, we renew our commitment to empowering lives through skill-building and creating growth opportunities.

We also look forward to hosting our Life Beyond Cancer (LBC) fundraiser on 15th February at Rotary Sadan. This event will support those battling cancer with strength and dignity, and I encourage you all to participate wholeheartedly.

In line with our vision of inclusivity, I'm thrilled to announce a unique marathon for specially-abled children. This initiative is a tribute to their determination and spirit, and I hope all of you will join hands to make it truly special. Please encourage your children to volunteer and be part of this meaningful cause.

We recently had a wonderful trip to Almaty, filled with fellowship and unforgettable memories. A heartfelt thank you to Rotarian couple Shashi and Surendra Agarwal for their thoughtful planning and attention to detail, which made the experience truly special for all of us.

As we embrace this new year, let us also cheer for our incoming leader, Sanjay Bhalotia, and his energetic team for 2025-26. With fresh ideas, renewed passion, and a shared dream, they are ready to carry our legacy forward.

Let's welcome this year with open hearts and unwavering faith in our collective ability to create change. Together, let's promise ourselves once again that whatever we do or serve, we will do it with Meraki—pouring our soul, love, and hope into everything.

Warm regards,

Pramila Dugar, President, Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar



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PROJECTS



Netralaya



On 18th January, Netralaya organized an eye camp for 8 patients from the homeopathy clinic. All underwent successful cataract surgeries, marking another step towards improved vision and well-being.

Between 29th December 2024 and 21st January 2025, a total of 66 free SICS surgeries and 9 NPCB cases were completed by the end of December. In January, the work continued with 11 Phaco surgeries, 14 paid SICS surgeries, 175 free SICS surgeries, and 47 NPCB cases



Annadan Mahadan



On 17th January, an Annadan project sponsored by Saita Saria was held in the Salt Lake area, benefiting 400 people.



Adult Literacy



Pearapur Uttarpara ICDS Vidya Adult literacy center.



Medical Camp



On 16th January 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar organized a Free Mega Medical Camp at Vill Bamihati, Habra. Sponsored by Rtn Girish Soni, the camp provided a range of essential healthcare services to the local community. A total of 185 individuals benefited from general health check-ups, while 33 cataract cases were identified for further intervention. Additionally, 55 patients underwent ECG tests, and 72 spectacles were distributed to those in need. The camp served as a vital initiative in promoting health and well-being, ensuring accessible medical support for the underserved population.



Interact Club



Food Bank



On 23rd December 2024, we celebrated Christmas in a unique way with visually impaired students. We had a wonderful time interacting with the visually impaired. We organized games for them, such as Antakshari, and also sang songs for their entertainment. This event aimed was to bring joy and inclusivity. Around 12 interactors joined for hands on service. This event was a success, spreading happiness and cheer.



On 5th January 2025, cadbury chocolates from the food bank were distributed to participants of the drawing competition at Jodhpur Park as a token of appreciation for their creativity and enthusiasm.



Life Beyond Cancer



Dear LIFE BEYOND CANCER Team,
On behalf of the Paediatric Oncology Department at Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Life Beyond Cancer for their unwavering support. Your generosity has made a profound difference in the lives of our young patients, providing them with not only medical care but also hope and resilience through their cancer journey. As two of our brave children complete their treatment and prepare for discharge, they have expressed their gratitude through these posters, a testament to the impact of your funding and care. Thank you for helping us give them a future full of possibilities.



The Rotary LBC Help Desk at Calcutta Medical College was inaugurated on 14th January 2025. The event saw the participation of dignitaries, including the District Governor, ministers, Dr. Prantor, and the college principal. After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), all dignitaries visited the help desk room. Members who were present contributed to the successful launch of this important initiative, aimed at providing support to young cancer patients. The help desk will operate every Friday and Saturday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



Bloodline



Between 19.12.2024 and 17.01.2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar conducted several impactful initiatives under its Bloodline project. Blood Grouping and Donation Camps were held on 20.12.2024, 09.01.2025, and 13.01.2025, registering 171 SOS donors and supporting 5 patients. On 16.01.2025, a free eye and health checkup camp benefitted over 200 villagers, while on 17.01.2025, a camp provided blood donation, grouping, and healthcare to over 150 individuals, with 72 donors participating. In a critical

case on 17.01.2025, the club arranged "O-" blood for a 2-year-old's surgery, showcasing its commitment to saving lives. These initiatives highlight the club's dedication to community service and health awareness.



Skill Development



On Tuesday, December 31st, a certificate distribution ceremony was held at the Fultala, Baruipur Training Hall of Samaj Unnyan Kendra. The event recognized 200 beneficiaries who had completed skill development training under GG 1871537. The training programs included Tailoring (80 beneficiaries), Beautician courses (80 beneficiaries), and Nursing Support (40 beneficiaries). The ceremony was attended by Chairman PP Chitra Agarwal, Rtn Pradeep Agarwal, spouse Manju Agarwal, and other dignitaries. In addition to distributing certificates, chocolates from the organization's food bank were given to the attendees, adding a sweet touch to the celebration.

The skill development program (Grant GG 1871537) for Home-Based Care Givers and Security Guards, supported by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, was completed. A Valedictory Program and Certificate Distribution Ceremony was held on January 10, 2025, at Sandhya Nir Community Hall, Madhyamgram, to celebrate the trainees' achievements. The event, attended by Rotary members, marked a significant step in empowering individuals with vocational skills for better livelihoods.

A certificate distribution ceremony was held today in Madhyamgram under Skill Development Project GG 1871537, benefiting single mothers, widows, divorcees, and their children. A total of 88 beneficiaries completed training in caregiving and security services. The event was attended by the Chairman of Madhyamgram Municipality, officials, and Rtn. PP Chitra Agarwal, who praised the initiative's impact.



Vivakanand School



The SVTTA Tournament was held on December 29, 2024, at Rotary Vivekananda School. The event brought together table tennis enthusiasts and players in a competitive yet friendly atmosphere. Participants showcased their skills and sportsmanship, making it an exciting day for both players and spectators.



On January 12th 2025, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated alongside the Foundation Day of Rotary Vivekananda School. The occasion was graced by the presence of the esteemed Rtn. Anup Kumar Guha and featured a variety of cultural programs, including a sit-and-draw competition, recitations, and a quiz contest. The event witnessed active participation from 450 students, 60 parents and guardians, staff members, and local community members, including Toto drivers. A Rakhi Bandhan ceremony was also held to welcome new members, making the celebration a true reflection of unity and togetherness.



Homeopathy



10 patients were treated on the 2nd of January 2025, 23 patients were treated on the 4th of January 2025, 14 patients were treated on the 9th of January 2025 and 19 patients were treated on the 16th of January 2025 at the Homeopathy Clinic at Bhawanipur, operated by Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2025



The District Conference 2025, held at Nicco Park's East Side Pavilion from January 3rd to 5th, was a grand success, featuring eminent speakers and stellar performances by Kishore Sodha, Jolly Mukherjee, Debojit Saha, Anushka Patra, and Porshia Sen. Our club proudly



received the Token of Appreciation as the Diamond Host for this well-organized event. Kudos to District Governor Dr. Simran and Dr. Krishnendu Gupta for their outstanding leadership in making the conference memorable and inspiring.

CLUB ASSEMBLY



The first Club Assembly of the Rotary year was a grand success, marked by interactive discussions and productive reviews. The session highlighted the club's accomplishments over the past six months under the leadership of President Pramila Dugar and her team, celebrating significant achievements and milestones. Plans for the upcoming term were outlined, focusing on continued service and impactful initiatives. President-elect Rtn Sanjay Bhalotia introduced his team for the Rotary year 2025-26, with Secretary-elect Rtn Pradeep Agrawal taking the lead alongside him. Members shared valuable suggestions and ideas, reflecting strong collaboration and enthusiasm. Congratulations were extended to President Pramila and her team for their excellent work, as well as to the newly announced team. The assembly concluded on a positive note, with anticipation for future achievements in service and fellowship.

ALMATY TRIP REPORT

A Winter Wonderland Adventure



Our group of 14 couples embarked on an unforgettable journey to Almaty, Kazakhstan, from January 6th to 12th Jan. Led by the exceptional Shashi Bhabhi and tour agent Rohit, the trip was meticulously planned, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for all.

The Fun Begins at the Airport itself, as we gathered at the airport, the excitement was palpable. Our large group was buzzing with anticipation, and the fun had already begun. We took our first group photo, setting the tone for the rest of the trip.

Upon arrival in Almaty, we were greeted by a mesmerizing snowfall. The landscape was transformed into a breathtaking winter wonderland, with snow covering every inch of the ground. The temperature ranged from -1 to -12 degrees Celsius, but we were well-prepared with layers of warm clothing with comfortable snow boots. We took countless photos, capturing the beauty of the snow-covered landscape.

Our itinerary included visits to some of Almaty's most stunning attractions:

1. Kok Tobe: We enjoyed panoramic views of the city and took a thrilling cable car ride.
2. Shymbulak: This picturesque ski resort offered breathtaking mountain vistas and a chance to experience the thrill of skiing.
3. Oi Qaragai: We marvelled at the scenic valley surrounded by majestic mountains.
4. Charyn Canyon: Often referred to as the "Grand Canyon of Central Asia," this natural wonder left us awestruck.
5. Dostyk Mall and Luxury Mall: We indulged in world-class shopping experiences.

The highlight of our trip was the Gala Night on January 9th Jan, which featured delightful music, dancing by our own members, and merriment. We also enjoyed sightseeing tours on the luxury bus, thanks to Mahinder Ji and Ashok's non-stop entertainment. Surendra Bhaiya's captivating shayaris and poems added to the joyful atmosphere.

Our hotel, Rixos, was a wonderful property that exceeded our expectations. Shashi Bhabhi's meticulous planning ensured that we enjoyed good food everywhere we went, from traditional Kazakh cuisine to international delicacies to our Indian tastes.

Our Almaty trip was a resounding success, thanks to President Pramila and Shashi Bhabhi for arranging and motivating such a wonderful trip. We cherish the memories of our time together, exploring the breathtaking beauty of Kazakhstan. The trip was a perfect blend of adventure, culture, and camaraderie, and we look forward to our next journey together.



~By Rtn Usha Agarwal

CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION

At Rotary Mahanagar: A Resounding Success



On 2nd January 2025, Rotary Mahanagar hosted its Charter Day celebration, commemorating the club's founding at Bengal Club, was a magnificent evening of elegance and Parisian charm. The event was a testament to the club's commitment to fellowship and service.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of past presidents, who

were honored for their contributions to the club's growth and success. Donors to the Rotary Foundation were also felicitated with a pinning ceremony, marking their generous contributions.

The celebration featured an array of entertainment, including captivating speeches, energetic dance performances by President, Secretary and team, and melodious music. The culinary experience was equally impressive, with a delectable spread of food that catered to diverse tastes. The beautiful weather added to the overall ambiance, creating a perfect setting for the fellowship.

Special thanks were extended to Aditi Gautam Ray for the impeccable venue arrangements, Shalini Uttam Bagaria for the delectable cuisine, and the vibrant dance troupe for spreading cheer. The celebration was a perfect blend of recognition, entertainment, and fellowship—a true testament to Mahanagar's spirit.

~By PP Ashok Agarwal



SUKANTA SMRITI COMPUTER CENTRE



We are proud to announce that Sukanta Smriti Computer Centre (Sikhapur, North 24 Parganas) is conducting comprehensive computer training programs aimed at equipping individuals with essential digital skills for the modern world. There are many courses like basic & advanced computer skills, also software & hardware electronics.

Upcoming Exhibition



TATA STRUCTURA

Yeh tikega...saalon saal chalega!

Congratulations to Rtn Naresh Jalan for securing first place in the 5 km Marathon organized by BRC in the Senior Citizen (60 years) category! His remarkable achievement and unwavering spirit truly make him our very own Milkha Singh.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE
We are deeply saddened by the loss of Shri Sumer Chand Singhvi, father of Rtn Ashok Singhvi. Our thoughts are with their family during this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace.

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Rtn. Mahinder Singhal

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