

# MAHANAGAR Magic

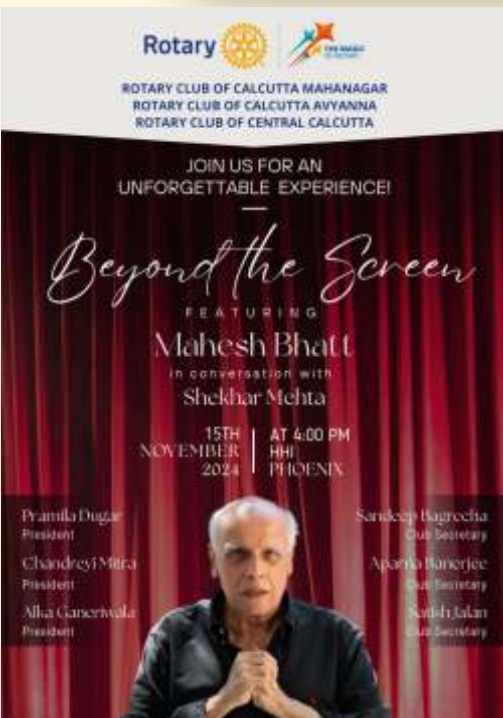
## November is Rotary Foundation Month

RI President - Stephanie A Urchick  
District Governor - AKS Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

President - Pramila Dugar  
Secretary - Sandeep Bagrecha

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### Proud Moment... Our Club Features on Rotary News



“The Stage is Set”- Meet our Guest

**Bollywood Iconic Storyteller & Legendary Director**

## “Shri Mahesh Bhatt”

He is a renowned Indian film director, producer, and screenwriter, who has shaped Indian cinema with his bold, emotionally charged films over a career spanning four decades. Known for iconic works like *Saaransh*, *Naam*, *Aashiqui*, *Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin*, and *Zakhm*, Bhatt often explores themes of love, loss, social justice, and human relationships. He has launched the careers of stars like Anil Kapoor and Aamir Khan and earned numerous accolades, including a National Film Award and a Filmfare Award for Best Director. Bhatt’s storytelling continues to inspire filmmakers and audiences alike.

### What’s Inside...

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## LAST RWM



On the 10th of November we had an insightful RWM at The Coffee House of the Alipore Jail Museum, with Ms. Smita Chakraborty as our guest speaker. Smita was an esteemed Indian researcher and activist known for her impactful work in prison reform and criminal justice across India. Her dedication had brought significant attention to the conditions of inmates, particularly undertrial prisoners, in various Indian prisons. Her talk was a powerful revelation for all attending members and their spouses. She shared how her efforts had uncovered the struggles faced by undertrial prisoners, many of whom remained incarcerated for extended periods without trial. Smita's contributions had spurred judicial and government reforms, encouraging steps to improve prison

conditions and uphold the rights of undertrials. Notably, her recommendation to establish open jails like those in Rajasthan across all Indian states had been endorsed by the Supreme Court, with implementation already underway.

-Rtn Pradeep Agrawal

## FLAG EXCHANGE



On November 4, 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting esteemed friends from the Rotary Club of Milano Europa at our Dialysis Centre in Chetla. They were delighted to observe the efficient

operations and quality care provided at the facility, underscoring our commitment to accessible and effective dialysis services for the community.

## DISTRICT DIWALI MEET



## SPREADING SMILES



The Principal and MSVP of NRS Medical College & Hospital distributed Diwali goodies to pediatric and oncology patients, bringing festive cheer to the children at NRS Medical College & Hospital.



# PROJECTS



## Save Mangroves



Our Nypa Palm Plantation initiative, under Mangrove Grant No. 2236761, is moving ahead successfully. As part of this effort, we are relocating 6,000 Nipa palm plants to restore and protect vital mangrove ecosystems. This project aims to strengthen coastal resilience and support biodiversity conservation.



## Healing Little Hearts



Seven-year-old Master Ismail Sekh from Rasun, Murshidabad, recently underwent Fontan surgery to address his heart condition. He was admitted on October 22, 2024, and underwent surgery the following day. His father, a laborer with a monthly income of Rs. 4,000, faced immense financial challenges in securing this critical care. Thanks to the support of RC Mahanagar through a Global Grant, Ismail's surgery was made possible, offering him a chance at a healthier future.



## Skill Development



On November 11, 2014, a new skill development centre was inaugurated at Santoshpur, Budge Budge. This centre was established in collaboration with our valued partner, BITAN, to empower individuals by providing essential skills.



## GST



A beautiful way to kick off the festivities! On October 27, 2024, we planted 25 trees along the walkway on AJC Bose Road, creating a shaded path for all who pass by. One of these trees was specially sponsored by Sarla Totla as a heartfelt gift in celebration of her grandchild's first birthday. Our sincere thanks to Raj Somani and Sarla Totla for their generous contributions.

This project, valued at 1 lakh, was a true team effort with hands-on support from PP Sanjay Dugar, PP Vinod Mahipal, IPP Jyoti Mahipal, Rtn Raj Somani, Seema Somani, Sarla Totla, Kamlesh Agarwal, and President Pramila Dugar. Together, we took another step toward a greener city!



## Dignity



Under this initiative, we are providing skill development training to widows, single mothers, and their daughters in Baraipur. The project aims to empower these women by enhancing their employability and fostering economic independence. Progress on Project Dignity has been actively reported by our staff member, Suman Chatterjee, and the work continues with dedication and impact.







## E-Learning



We installed E-learning in Shalbagan GSFP School, Shyamnagar, North 24 Parganas in 2020. Headmaster of the school has received Rastriya Shikshak Samman from our honourable President of India Droupadi Murmu.



## Adult Literacy



Under our Adult Literacy Global grant no 2459210, 7500 books were distributed to NGO members on 13.11.2024. Further down these books shall be given to adult learners in 250 Vidya centres.



## Homeopathy



On 9th November 2024, 21 patients were treated at Homeopathy Clinic. On 13th November 2024, 13 patients were treated.



## Cervical Cancer



Second dose of the cervical cancer vaccination was administered on 09-11-2024 to 50 girls at Balia Nafar Chandra Balika Vidyalaya through the SURYKSHA Cervical Cancer Initiative, supported by our club. Chocolates and food items were also distributed to them from our Food bank.

Second dose of the cervical cancer vaccination was administered on 13.11.2024 to 50 girls at Children Welfare Association High School, Behala.



## Bloodline



Between 16.10.2024 and 10.11.2024, our club conducted three Blood Grouping Camps, successfully registering 81 SOS donors for our Bloodline. The first camp, held on 1st November 2024, registered 34 donors, while the second camp on 3rd November 2024 saw 47 new donors join. The third camp, held on 10.11.2024 at Rajarhat Bishnupur, further strengthened our donor base. Additionally, we met the needs of 9 patients during this period. An upcoming event includes a fourth camp on 17.11.2024 at Lake Garden Falguni Sangha.







Life Beyond Cancer: On her birthday, November 8, 2024, Rituparna Sengupta made a beautiful gesture of compassion by celebrating with children battling thalassemia. Representing our club, Past President Ashok Agarwal, Club Secretary Sandeep, and president Pramila Dugar were honored to join her for this special occasion. They distributed chocolates and choco crunches from our club's food bank, adding a touch of sweetness to the day. Rituparna spent meaningful time with the children, bringing smiles and joy to everyone present. Witnessing the happiness on the faces of the kids and their families was incredibly rewarding and a reminder of the power of kindness.

## DIWALI FELLOWSHIP



A Diwali Night to Remember!

Our Diwali celebration celebrated at Ras Manch, Rajkutir Swabhoomi on 26th of October 2024 was a night of lights, laughter, and togetherness, bringing our members closer in the spirit of festivity. The event kicked off with an incredible Fancy Dress Competition inspired by Ramayan characters. Both adults and kids donned vibrant costumes, bringing the magic of mythology alive in full color and detail.

Creativity was at its peak during the Rangoli Thali Competition, where participants designed stunning, festive thalis that showcased their artistic flair. The thrill continued with a Diwali-themed Tambola, where guests tried their luck for a chance to win exciting prizes, adding an element of suspense and excitement to the night.

Adding even more sparkle, the Best Dressed Award celebrated the one who shined the brightest in her dazzling traditional attire. And, of course, the Lucky Draw had all eyes on the golden prizes, building suspense and delivering plenty of joyous surprises!

To top it all off, members enjoyed a delicious spread of Diwali delights, a feast that captured the essence of the festival. Each dish was crafted to perfection, leaving everyone delighted and satisfied. The evening was filled with joyful moments, heartwarming exchanges, and surprise highlights, making this Diwali one that will remain in everyone's memories for years to come.

Kudos to our member Kavita Bhalotia and the team for curating such a well organized programme.

**MINUTES OF THE 1382nd REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MAHANAGAR HELD ON SUNDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2024 AT ALIPORE JAIL MUSEUM COFFEE HOUSE**

1. The meeting was called to order by our President Pramila Dugar at 5:00 pm.
2. Members were welcomed and the national anthem was sung.
3. President Pramila Dugar welcomed the members and introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Smita Chakraborty, highlighting her contributions to human rights and open prison reforms.
4. An overview of the projects done in this month were shared by the President.
5. A brief was shared by our President Elect Sanjay Bhalotia about our upcoming exhibition Bloom & Blend.
6. Our Secretary Sandeep Bagrecha concluded with the club business along with few details about our excursion planned in the month of January to Almaty.
7. Our Guest Speaker Mrs. Smita Chakraborty delivered an insightful talk on the concept of open prisons and their role in rehabilitating inmates. She shared stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed through these progressive systems, emphasizing the importance of dignity and hope in the reintegration process.
8. The meeting concluded with a fellowship session, where members enjoyed refreshments and informal discussions at the Coffee House.
9. A vote of thanks was extended and meeting was adjourned by the President.



**UPCOMING NEXT RWM**  
on  
**29th November 2024**

**Bloom & Blend**  
IN AID OF COMMUNITY CLINIC IN KOLKATA  
DECEMBER 20TH, 21ST & 22ND  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY  
THREE DAYS  
SWABHUMI, KOLKATA  
Rang Manch/ Rang Durbar



**SCULPTED TREASURES**  
POOJA BAGRECHA PRESENTS  
*Rtn. Sandeep & Pooja Bagrecha*



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