

Maitree

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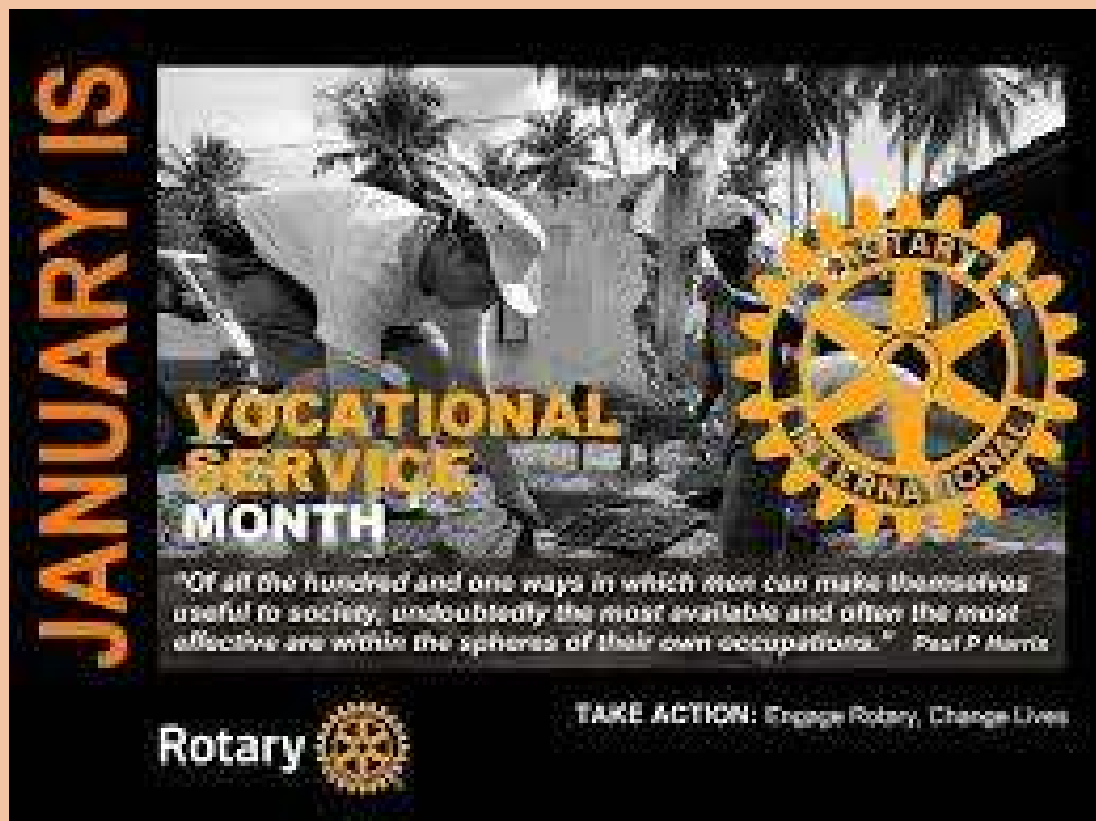
8th January 2026

RCM # 2711

Venue: Mallik Guest House

RI President : Rtn. Francesco Arezzo | Dist. Governor : Rtn. Ramendu Homchaudhuri


President : Sanghamitra Duttagupta | Secretary : Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra | Editor : Rtn. Sunit Roy



JANUARY IS

**VOCATIONAL
SERVICE
MONTH**

"Of all the hundred and one ways in which men can make themselves useful to society, undoubtedly the most available and often the most effective are within the spheres of their own occupations." *Past P Harris*

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives



Happy Occasions

BIRTHDAY



Awishee
D/O PP Rtn. Sugata Majumdar
DOB: 15th January

ANNIVERSARIES

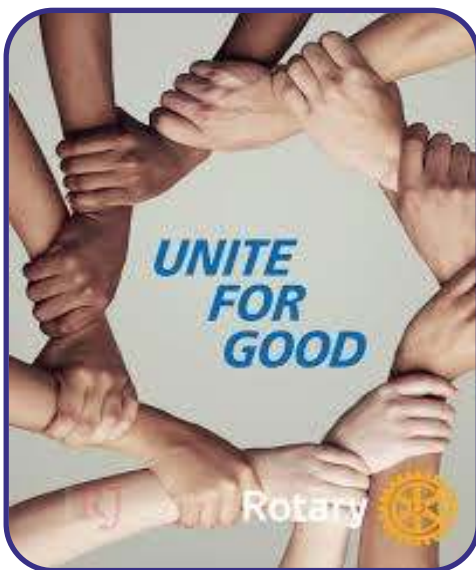


**Mrs. Chiroshree Sengupta &
Rtn. Sanjay Sengupta**
Date of Anniversary : 17th January



**Mrs. Bijoynee Roy Chowdhury
& PP Rtn. Deepnath Roy
Chowdhury**
Date of Anniversary : 18th January

RI NEWS



As we enter 2026, Rotary International has launched several high-impact initiatives and events that define the "New Year" spirit of service. Here is a curated news summary of what's happening in the world of Rotary this January.

Global Headlines: "Unite for Good"

The theme for the 2025–2026 Rotary year, "Unite for Good," is in full swing. Under the leadership of Rotary International President Mario César Martins de Camargo, clubs are shifting toward a 3-year rolling goal strategy, moving away from strictly annual planning to ensure long-term sustainability for humanitarian projects.

1. Major 2026 Events Announced

- **Taipei 2026 Convention:** Preparations are officially underway for the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, scheduled for June 13–17, 2026. Organizers expect over 30,000 members from 120 countries, projecting an economic boost of over \$50 million for the region.
- **Rotary Institute 2026 (Sri Lanka):** In a historic return after 21 years, Sri Lanka has been announced as the host for the Rotary Institute in December 2026. The event was recently launched in Delhi with a performance by global singing sensation (and former Rotaract President) Yohani.

2. New Year Service Highlights

- **Rose Parade Float:** On New Year's Day, the Rotary Rose Parade float traveled down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, CA. This year's float focused on "Service Above Self," decorated by hundreds of volunteers using thousands of seeds and flowers to symbolize global hope.
- **1st Day 5K (New Jersey):** The Rotary Club of Fair Lawn-Sunrise kicked off the year with its annual "1st Day 5K" run. This year's race doubled as a launch event for the US 250th-anniversary celebrations, raising funds for local scholarships.
- **Medical Milestones in India:** In Chennai, the Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Madras dedicated a new Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) unit to Stanley Government Medical College, a \$24,000 (?20 lakh) project that will serve over 1,000 ICU patients annually.

3. Strategic Goals for 2026

- **Peace Centers:** Rotary is strengthening its commitment to peacebuilding with the official establishment of the 9th Rotary Peace Centre at Symbiosis International University in Pune, India—the first of its kind in the nation.
- **Polio Eradication:** The partnership with the Gates Foundation remains a primary focus for 2026, with renewed funding targets set for the first quarter to keep the world "Polio Free."

DISTRICT EVENT



We are thrilled to welcome Mr. A. P. Singh, the esteemed International President of Lions Clubs International, as our Chief Guest at the Ramdhanu – Rotary District Conference on January 9–11 at Nicco Park, Kolkata. His leadership embodies the spirit of collaboration

and compassion that unites service organizations globally. Join us for an inspiring celebration of service and fellowship!

DISTRICT NEWS



Rotary District 3291 is teaming up with Lions International organized to raise awareness about Thalassemia in an exciting car rally on Sunday, December 28th! Each participating vehicle was proudly displayed the Rotary message as we join forces for this important cause. Fun-filled day featuring a

Thalassemia quiz, a scenic drive across the city, a treasure hunt, and a delightful lunch to bond with our friends from Lions. This fantastic experience was available for just Rs. 2000 per car (up to 4 people), a special rate made possible by Rotary Presidency.

CLUB NEWS

Winter Warmth in Behala: Rotary Club Spreads Festive Joy at Shanti Nivas

In a heartwarming gesture of community spirit and compassion, the Rotary Club of Behala organized a special charity event on 15th December 2025 at the Shanti Nivas Old Age Home. The initiative, led by key club leadership, aimed to bring both physical comfort and festive cheer to the elderly residents during the peak of the winter season.

Leadership in Service

The event was graced by the presence of Club President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta and Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra, who personally interacted with the inmates. Under their guidance, the club organized a seamless distribution of essential items, ensuring that every resident felt the warmth of the community.



Protecting the Elders from the Chill

With the winter temperature in Kolkata dipping, the members of the Rotary Club of Behala distributed high-quality woollen blankets to all inmates. This distribution is a cornerstone of the club's seasonal welfare projects in the Behala region.

The event also saw the gifting of new sarees to the female residents. The vibrant colors and the quality of the fabric brought smiles to many faces, offering a sense of dignity and celebration to their daily lives.

Christmas Spirits and Sweet Treats

Blending the warmth of the season with the joy of Christmas, the Rotary leadership organized a traditional cake-cutting ceremony. President Rtn. Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta and Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra joined the residents in cutting freshly baked Christmas cakes, which were then distributed among the inmates and staff.

"Our visit to Shanti Nivas is a highlight for our club," the club President Rtn. Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta specially mentioned. Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra specially mentioned, "Providing these blankets and sarees is a small way to ensure our elders are cared for, but the true gift is the time we spend together sharing a piece of cake and a conversation."

A Legacy of Compassion

The management of Shanti Nivas expressed their deep gratitude to the Rotary Club of Behala for their consistent and thoughtful support. The day concluded with a sense of peace and camaraderie, truly embodying the Rotary motto of "Service above Self."

Club in Action



Rotary Club of Behala (Joint Project)

A Journey of Faith: Rotary Club of Behala Co-Hosts Spiritual Trip to Mayapur for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities

In a move to promote inclusivity and spiritual well-being, the Rotary Club of Kolkata Galaxy

(Main Host Club), Rotary Club of Calcutta Mayfair (Co host Club) and Rotary Club of Behala (Co host Club) in collaboration with Swarnym Foundation organized a special pilgrimage to the ISKCON Mayapur Temple. The trip was exclusively curated for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs), many of whom were visiting the world-renowned spiritual center for the first time.

Ensuring Accessibility and Comfort

Recognising the challenges faced by elderly and differently-abled individuals during travel, the Rotary Club of Behala ensured a seamless, accessible journey. Provided specialized transport and mobilized volunteers to assist participants in navigating the temple complex, ensuring everyone could experience the evening Aarti and the magnificent architecture of the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TOVP).

Partnership for a Cause

As a co-host, the Rotary Club of Behala worked closely with Swarnym Foundation identifies beneficiaries from marginalized backgrounds who lacked the resources or physical support to undertake such a journey.

"For many of our participants, this isn't just a trip; it's a dream come true," said President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta. "At Rotary, we believe that service should touch the soul. Seeing the joy on their faces as they entered the temple was the greatest reward for our club."

Highlights of the Visit

- **Spiritual Immersion:** Participants attended the soul-stirring Kirtans and prayers at the main temple.
- **Inclusive Care:** Dedicated wheelchairs and volunteer "buddies" were assigned to those with mobility issues.
- **Community Dining:** The group partook in the traditional Prasadam at the temple's dining hall, fostering a sense of equality and brotherhood.

Promoting Mental Health and Inclusion

It is highlighted that such excursions are vital for the mental health of senior citizens, as they often face social isolation. By co-hosting this event, the Rotary Club of Behala emphasized that physical limitations should never be a barrier to experiencing peace and community.

The day concluded with the group returning to Kolkata, their hearts full of memories and spiritual renewed.



Club in action

Sustainable Sanitation: Rotary Club of Behala started the installation of 31 Water Tanks in Chandanpiri

Continuing its mission to improve rural hygiene and sanitation, the Rotary Club of Behala has completed 169 water tanks as the latest phase of its flagship "Water for Toilets" project. In the last phase, 31 high-capacity water tanks were installed, and installation is in progress for households in the Chandanpiri region, ensuring a consistent water supply for domestic sanitation.

Bridging the Infrastructure Gap

Chandanpiri, located in the remote Namkhana block, has long faced challenges with access to water for sanitation. To address this, the Rotary Club of Behala, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta and Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra, has been implementing a system that connects local water sources to overhead storage tanks.

The project involves:

- Installation of 31 overhead plastic water tanks (in the current phase).
- Pipeline connectivity from nearby water bodies or tube wells to the toilets.
- Manual or electric pumping systems to ensure storage, reducing the labor of carrying water.

An Ongoing Commitment

This project is a collaborative effort with the Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust (EIRWT). During a recent inspection visit, club officials reviewed the progress of the 200-toilet target. Of the scheduled units, a significant majority have been completed, with the 31 newly initiated installation water tanks representing a significant milestone toward the total goal.

"Clean water and sanitation are fundamental rights," said President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta. "By providing these 31 tanks, we are not just giving equipment; we are ensuring health, privacy, and dignity for the families of Chandanpiri."

Community Impact and Feedback

The residents of Chandanpiri expressed immense relief, as the overhead tanks now provide running water in their toilets, a luxury previously unavailable in many households. The Rotary Community Corps (RCC) of Chandanpiri is working closely with the club to monitor the maintenance and functionality of the installed units.

This project sits alongside other initiatives in the region, including the distribution of solar lamps for fishermen, reinforcing the Rotary Club of Behala's deep-rooted connection with the Namkhana community.





Rotary Club of Behala Honors Mrs. Aparna Bhattacharya with Vocational Excellence Award

In a move to celebrate local entrepreneurship and self-reliance, the Rotary Club of Behala conferred the prestigious Vocational Excellence Award upon Mrs. Aparna Bhattacharya, a rising self-entrepreneur in the field of artisanal cake baking.

Recognizing the Art of Entrepreneurship

The award was presented during a special ceremony held at the club's regular meeting venue. Miss Bhattacharya was recognized for her exceptional skill, creativity, and the high ethical standards she maintains in her baking business. As a self-entrepreneur, she has turned her passion for cake baking into a successful

venture, serving as an inspiration to many young professionals in the Behala community.

The ceremony was led by Club President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta, Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra and Executive Secretary PP Rtn. (Dr.) Siddhartha Chakraborty. While presenting the citation, the leadership highlighted that Vocational Service is a cornerstone of Rotary, aimed at dignifying all useful occupations.

"Aparna represents the spirit of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' at the grassroots level," said President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta. "Her commitment to her craft and her entrepreneurial drive perfectly align with the values we cherish at Rotary."

Upholding the Four-Way Test

Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra added that the Vocational Award is not just for professional success but for practicing one's trade with integrity. Mrs. Bhattacharya's business practices were noted for being fair, transparent, and community-focused.

The event concluded with a felicitation by the club members, who expressed their hope that this recognition would further encourage Mrs. Bhattacharya to expand her horizons and mentor other aspiring bakers in the region.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of the 2710th Regular Club Meeting of Rotary Club of Behala held at Malik Guest House at 6.30 PM on 18th December 2025

- President call the 2710 th Annual meeting to order.
- National Anthem was lead by Rtn Krishnendu Bhattacharya.
- Vocational Award was given to Mrs. Aparna Bhattacharya a home baker. She was presented with a memento and some goodies.
- Photo exhibits to be displayed at the Dist Conference to be held on 10/11 th of January 2026.
- 11th Dec-Mother and Childcare, Disease prevention and treatment for 25 children and 25 Mothers were held at Krishnarampur Adult Literacy centre for an Interactive session. The speaker was Dr Sumita Basu, HOD Dept of Paediatrics RK Mission. Children were given Horlicks and Iron Tonic to mothers. 25 blankets distributed to the Mothers n Children. No of beneficiaries were 25.
- 15th Dec-25 Blankets, 22 sarees were distributed to the inmates of Santi Nibas Old Age Home, on the occasion of Christmas. President n Secretary spent some quality time with the inmates and gifted them Christmas cakes. Total number of beneficiaries were 25.
- RC of Behala cohosted Swapnapuran a trip to Mayapur for senior citizens hosted By R C of Calcutta Galaxy.
- In our Annual Meeting last years accounts were placed and the next Board for the Year 2025-26 were announced.
- Free to be Kids invited all the members to join the Christmas celebration on 25 th December at Srijoni, Thakurpukur.
- Rtn. Sunit Roy informed that the eye camp will b held on 1st/18 th Feb at Behala.
- President requests Club Secretary to conduct Club Business and Birthdays and of Anniversaries of members were celebrated by cutting a cake.
- Dist Conference is on 9/10th January at Nicco park, members are requested to Join.
- Secretary announced the next meeting on 8th January 2026 on line.
- Members are requested to attend.
- The minutes of the last meeting was confirmed.
- President terminated the meeting.

Total Members: 39. Members Present: 17. Guest: 1

RTN SANGHAMITRA DUTTAGUPTA
PRESIDENT RC BEHALA 2025-26

RTN FRANCESCO AREZZO
RI PRESIDENT 2025-26

RTN DR RAMENDU HOMCHAUDHURI
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2025-26

RTN SUNIT ROY
CLUB EDITOR 2025-26