

# Maitree

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21st August 2025  
RCM # 2703  
Venue: Malik Guest House

RI President : Rtn. Francesco Arezzo | Dist. Governor : Rtn. Ramendu Homchaudhuri  
President : Sanghamitra Duttagupta | Secretary : Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra | Editor : Rtn. Sunit Roy

## AUGUST IS



## MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH



## BIRTHDAY



**Mrs. Rachana Mukherjee**  
W/O Rtn. Proshunjit Mukherjee  
DOB : 18th August



**PP Rtn Deepnath Roy Chowdhury**  
DOB: 19th Aug



**Rtn Dr Sudipta Chakraborty**  
DOB: 21st Aug



**Mrs. Sudeshna Roy**  
W/O Rtn. Sunit Roy  
DOB: 22nd August



**Alekhya**  
S/O Rtn. Sugata Majumdar  
DOB : 22nd August

## ANNIVERSARY



**Mrs. Jasmeeta & Rtn. Shamshir Singh Kapany**  
DOA : 26th August



## RI NEWS

### Peace on earth begins with peace of mind



It was the opening months of the COVID-19 lockdown, and students at Douglas Ewart High School in Newton Stewart, Scotland, were having trouble coping. “They came to us and said they were really struggling with their feelings and their thoughts during the pandemic,” recalls Jean Best. “They wanted to devise a toolkit so that all the youngsters at the school could help themselves.”

In 2014, at the [Rotary International Convention](#) in Sydney, Australia, she and her husband, Keith, had inaugurated a new program called the [Peace Advocate Project](#). The couple wanted to ensure that young people in their community and around the world would be prepared to serve as ambassadors for peace. Working with peace fellows from the [Rotary Peace Center](#) at the University of Bradford in England, they

designed a program that would help them accomplish just that.

For her efforts, Best was honoured in November 2017 ....designated [Rotary People of Action: Champions of Peace](#).

Working closely with the Bests, and repurposing what they had learned from their Peace Advocate sessions, the students began to assemble their toolkit. ....Best singles out a short video produced by a 16-year-old student. “It was all about the power of the mind and how the mind works,” she says. “This was the piece that most helped students realize how they were reacting to the pandemic.

As things began to return to normal, Best assembled the posts and created a new online facet of the Peace Advocate Project. “The students ..... wanted it to be known as a self-care program... ‘If we can get into the habit of taking care of ourselves,’ they reasoned, ‘then we can start to help other people.’ Which is great, because the Peace Advocate Project is all about helping young people empower themselves.”

As the project re-established itself in schools in the UK, the pandemic shift to Zoom helped the project expand its reach to other countries, including Australia, Japan, and Mexico.

Best is especially proud of a new online program that linked two schools in Scotland with two schools in Kenya. “We trained all the youngsters at the same time,” she says. “The students in each of the schools could see one another as they worked through the activities. It was all about building bridges between the two countries.”

Jean Best celebrates her Peace Advocate Project in Ireland in 2024.

As the world emerged from its COVID cocoon, Best and her husband continued to expand their project. This year alone they added three new programs, including one that helped secondary school parents learn how to communicate with their children. It was particularly impactful when introduced to Ukrainian parents who had resettled in the UK with their children. “We went through all our peace advocacy techniques on listening and how to get conversations going, and it worked really well,” says Best. “Afterward, one mother came up to us in tears. She said, ‘I can’t thank you enough. I’d lost my son, and because of this, I got him back,’ because now they could hold calm, meaningful, and sustainable conversations.”

Best continues to introduce her refined approach to thoughtful listening, fruitful conversations, and conflict resolution to other Rotary members for their use in and outside of Rotary. Jane Cooper, the 2024-25 governor of England’s District 1210, praises the work done in her region. “Jean and Keith worked with our district officers and members, and the feedback was excellent,” says Cooper.

In the end, Best stresses “This is a program delivered by young people for young people,” she says. “We strongly believe that once youngsters have been trained in peace advocacy, they will continue to use those skills in the years ahead.”

By **Geoffrey Johnson**

## Club News

## Club in Action



**4.08.25** 104 Saplings spanish cherry (Bakul), arjun, Indian Rosewood, jackfruit, white teak, Ashok, golden shower tree (amaltash) donated by Rotary Club of Behala were planted in G plot, patharpratima, village : Satyadaspur Block : Patharpratima, South 24 parganas in association with a local NGO Our Association of Remedy (OAR). The saplings were chosen suited to the soil of Sunderbans and planted to prevent soil erosion during the monsoon season and for a greener earth.





**8.08.25** On the auspicious occasion of Rakhi Purnima RC Behala members visited Sukharanjan Vidya Mandir Free Primary School (till class v) and gave biscuits, chips and Frooti to the 60 children. A board that displays the Rotary 4-way test was donated to the school to imbibe the good thoughts of the 4-way test in the young minds. The board would be permanently displayed in the school and enhance the public image of Rotary.



**12.08.25** RC Behala in association with AIWC GMJ Branch organized a Thalassemia awareness and screening programme, by a team from SSKM Hospital, at Santoshpur Vidyamandir boy's school with a co - education HS section. Beneficiaries were 100 boys and girls of the school. Each student was given a pamphlet to make them aware of thalassemia. After screening they were given Frooti and biscuits donated by RC Behala.



**Independence Day Programme Unity in Diversity**



**15.08.25** Independence Day was celebrated at the Free to be Kids. Flag was hoisted by President Sanghamitra Dattagupta. 5 Singer sewing machines were given to 5 village women of

Krishnarampur village by Rotary Club of Behala. They have successfully completed a sewing course taught at Krishna Rampur organized by the NGO Free to be kids.

The children studying in a school run by the Free to be kids at Salt Lake put up a wonderful performance.

## DISTRICT PROJECT



**12.08.25** To help the underprivileged sections of the society to fight the menace of diseases due to mosquito bite

during the rainy season the District organized mosquito nets distribution project which clubs could join. Rotary club of Behala received 50 mosquito nets for distribution.

On 12th August these were distributed among 50 villagers of Krishnarampur village in Nepalgunge at the ongoing adult education centre. The mosquito nets were 6'x6' size and had the Rotary logo on them.

A Four-way test board was donated to be displayed permanently to enhance the public image of Rotary.





## DISTRICT PROGRAMME



**15.08.25** RC Behala hosted a District programme 'Mukhtir Mandir Shopantole' at the Town Hall in the evening.

### UPCOMING DISTRICT PROGRAMME



**SAMMANAM THIRD PRIZE  
NEWSLETTER**



**SAMMANAM SECOND PRIZE  
WATER AND SANITATION**



### FAMILY CORNER

"Happy 1st Birthday to Little Angel - Sahana Roy grand daughter of Rtn Sunit Roy. The celebration took place in Fremont California, USA

### NEW MEMBER



*To be Inducted on  
the Charter Day*

**Mr. Sanjoy  
Sengupta**

## CHARTER NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

62nd Charter Night Celebrations at CCFC at 7 pm on 24th August 2025. Members and their spouses are cordially invited to join.

### The program is as follows :

- Welcome District Officials
- Induction of new member
- Audio Visual Presentation "My Avian Friends" by Debarjyo Duttagupta
- Cake cutting
- Fellowship and Dinner.

Res : Godrej Seven, Tower E, Flat no 701,  
D.H.Road, Joka, Kolkata-7000104

DOB: 05/01/1965

Anniversary : 17/01/1993

Email : bile.marico@gmail.com

Present Position : Capability Head Marico Ltd, Kolkata. Consecutive 4 years Pan India award for Capability, training and content creation.

Have worked last 10 years as capability head in Marico Ltd. Attached with and ex student of Ramkrishna Mission. Proposed classification Sales and Marketing Manager.

Spouse : Chirooree Sengupta

DOB: 16/05/1970

M: 9835187893

Daughter : Shreyashi Sengupta

DOB: 26/08

Software Engineer

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Minutes of the 2702nd Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Behala held at Malik Guest House at 6:30 pm on 07.08.2025

- Club President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta called the 2702nd meeting to order.
- National Anthem was led by Rtn. Manika Karmakar.
- On 15th August 79th Independence Day will be celebrated at Free to be kids. Free to be Kids invited Rotary club of Behala members to their main campus at Joka. The duration of the programme will be 9 30 am to 11 30 am. 5 Singer sewing machines were delivered to the Joka office of Free to be kids, to be donated by Rotary Club of Behala to 5 beneficiaries on the same day. The programme will be followed by lunch.
- 20 students would be given each a scholarship of Rs 5,000/-, amounting to Rs.1 lakh, at Chandanpiri from Gouri Gupta Trust donated by Past President Rtn. Anirudha Gupta. There is an appeal for one wheelchair from RCC at Chandanpiri. One wheelchair will cost 4,500/- Nayan Giri of Chandanpiri Ashram was grievously injured and nearly 1 lakh spent on his treatment at the hospital. He still requires funds for the follow up treatment and there is an appeal to RC Behala to give support.
- 50 mosquito nets would be distributed among the villagers of Krishnarampur village at the adult literacy centre. District has organized the mosquito nets distribution project. The clubs can procure these by making a payment of 3,500/-
- Past President Rtn. Anirudha Gupta will visit Rotary Club of Top of the Lake, Mooresville, North Carolina, USA on Thursday 11th September. He would highlight areas of focus, mainly with the RCCs, which include clean water, sanitation, adult education and health. After attending the regular RCM Rtn. Anirudha Gupta will meet their board members in charge of their service projects and external funding.
- The Breast Cancer Awareness seminar will be organized on 20th September at Rotary Sadan. Venue charges, tea and snacks, token of appreciation to be given to the guest speaker and the Chief Guest and other logistics would amount to an approximate budget of 50,000/-. It was decided that Rotary club of Behala as the lead club can request other clubs to join as host clubs and co-host clubs. Host club - 5000/-, Co-host club - 2000/- For this joint project flyers will be made and circulated.
- The members were informed that booking of the CCFC Club for the Charter Day celebrations on 24th August is confirmed. The members were requested to come with their spouses. The food menu was posted in the official group. Since Mr. Sanjoy Sengupta would be inducted as a new member District Learning Facilitator PDG Rtn. Jhulan Basu, District Membership Chair Rtn. Debi Proasdas Basu, AG Rtn. Anand Sharma, A.G. membership will be invited.
- 15th August Independence Day will be celebrated by the District, 'Muktir Mandir Shopantole' at 6 pm at the Town Hall.
- District Awards 2025, Sammanam, will be held on 17th August 2025 at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium. Registration at 2 30 pm. The programme starts from 3 pm. There are no registration charges.
- Club business was conducted by Secretary Rtn. Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra.
- Minutes of the 2701 regular club meeting was confirmed.
- Total Members 38 Members present- Rotarians-11 Guest -2
- The next regular meeting of Rotary Club of Behala will be held on 21st August 2025 at Malik Guest House at 6 30 pm.
- The meeting was terminated by the President after the 4way test was read by all the members present.