



BLISS



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Wednesday, 13th November, 2025
1634th Regular Meeting

No. 09
Charter on: 12.06.1986

We meet every alternate Thursday at THE ANTELOPE, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 at 8.00 pm.

Rtn Angana Paul
President

Rtn Sabyasachi Roy
Secretary

PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul
Treasurer

PP Rtn Subhashis Ghosh
Editor

TOGETHER, WE

EMPOWER

Free IOL Cataract Operation Camp



Reminiscing The Past

ROTARY YEAR 2016-17
LED BY PP RTN KAMAL PAL

SPONSORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLISS
PP RTN PARBIR KUMAR PAUL

FELLOWSHIP
RTN SUKANTA KHAN

REFRESHMENTS
PP RTN SUBHASHIS KAR

Rotary's History in Korea

The first Rotary club in Korea was chartered in Seoul on 10 November 1927. Since then, Rotary members in Korea have maintained their commitment to fellowship, service, and leadership through difficult times – growing membership, leading our organization, offering hospitality to the Rotary world, and showing themselves to be people of action.

Early years

Rotary members expressed interest in starting a club in Korea as early as 1922, but action was deferred while Rotary focused on expanding in countries that already had clubs.

The idea was reignited in 1926 when two clubs in the United States contacted Rotary leaders about Americans living in Korea who could organize a club. A club in the state of Kansas suggested an honorary member who was doing missionary work for the Presbyterian church. From Iowa came the recommendation of a man who was working for the YMCA.

James Davidson, who organized the first Rotary clubs in Australia and New Zealand, and other leaders who were guiding Rotary's efforts to establish clubs in new countries hesitated to change course quickly. They also had reservations about giving this responsibility to people with little Rotary experience.

Instead, work began in earnest in 1927, when members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo, Japan, advocated founding a club in Seoul. Hachisaburo Hirao of the Rotary Club of Osaka, Rotary's special commissioner for Japan, oversaw its organization. At the time, Korea was under Japanese rule, and the new club included both Japanese and Korean members.

The Seoul club received visitors from near and far. It joyfully reported an occasion in 1931 when Rotarians from the United States attended a club meeting when their cruise ship docked nearby at Incheon. The club also hosted annual family outings; 1934's took place on the grounds of the Chosun Beer Company, where guests hunted for chestnuts and enjoyed food from different cultures.

The Rotary Club of Seoul was the only club in Korea until Rotary chartered clubs in Busan in May 1935, Pyongyang in July 1937, and Daegu in June 1938. This growth was short-lived. All clubs in Korea disbanded in 1940 as Japan adopted a strong nationalist stance opposed to Westernization and entered World War II. The clubs' membership in RI officially ended in December of that year.

Rotary returns to Korea

The Rotary Club of Seoul was formally re-established on 15 March 1949 with 25 members. When Seoul was occupied by the North Korean Army in 1950, club members were among those forced to flee. Some went to Busan, about 325 km (200 miles) southeast of Seoul, where they began helping other refugees and holding meetings that echoed their former Rotary club meetings. As a result of their efforts to make connections and serve the community, the Rotary Club of Busan was officially re-established on 3 January 1952.

In January 1961, Rotary International placed the 10 clubs in the country in an administrative group known as a Rotary district. Although it was unusual for a district to have so few clubs, Rotary leaders believed that the organization's growth in Korea would be more successful using this approach than it would if clubs were grouped with clubs in other Asian countries.

Indeed, by Rotary's centennial in 2005, Korea boasted more than 1,200 Rotary clubs and 48,900 members. Twenty years later, it had more than 1,600 Rotary clubs and 64,000 members.

Rotary presidents

It is a great honor to be elected to lead Rotary International, and members from Korea have twice been selected to serve as president of the global organization.

Dong Kurn "D.K." Lee of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang was



Rotary members and students deliver freshly packed lettuce to a local restaurant that purchases produce that is grown and harvested in the greenhouse at Andong Young-Myeong Special Education School in Andong, Korea. 2014.

president in 2008-09. Reflecting at the start of his term on Rotary's growth in Korea, he noted that the country was very poor during and after the Korean War of 1950-53. "Many international organizations and governments helped build the economy back up. Now our economy is booming, and all Koreans want to give back some of what was given."

SangKoo Yun of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Seoul, was chosen to serve as president for 2026-27. Yun, a consummate Rotary leader and businessman, died in September 2025 before taking office.

Host to the Rotary world

Building on the tradition begun by the first club in Seoul, Korean members continue to host visitors from around the world. They welcome guests, participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, and host large-scale events.

Rotary's 1979 Asia Regional Conference in Seoul drew nearly three times more participants than any other regional Rotary conference at the time. The opening ceremony had to be split into two sessions because the audience was so large. James L. Bomar Jr., the 1979-80 RI president, called the occasion "a significant tribute, providing great visibility to the growth of Rotary" in Asia and Korea.

The 1989 Rotary International Convention was held at Olympic Park in Seoul, the site of the 1988 Summer Olympics. Prime Minister Kang Young-hoon gave the welcome address. At the time, it was the second-largest convention in Rotary history, with 38,000 participants. The 2016 convention in Seoul attracted 44,600 participants, becoming the new second-largest convention.

People of action

Korean members have shown themselves to be people of action over the decades. In a country that once primarily benefitted from service projects initiated by clubs in other countries, today's Rotary members are proud to lead positive change in their own country and beyond.

In 1963, nearly all 600 Rotary members in Korea led a reforestation effort in the mountainous region west of Seoul. The area was heavily deforested during World War II when trees were used for fuel because of electricity and coal shortages, and more were damaged during the Korean War. The project protected the few trees that remained and planted more, in hopes that the seedlings would "grow as high as the sky."

Environmental concerns were again a priority in 2008, when members in Korea and Mongolia used a grant from The Rotary Foundation to counter desertification and erosion in the Gobi Desert. People involved in the multiyear initiative planted trees, built infrastructure, and worked with farmers to find solutions to overgrazing by livestock.



Members of Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Korea package grain for distribution to people in need.



Members of the Rotary Club of Seoul with James Davidson of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, circa 1931.

In 1989, members of the Rotary Club of Seoul purchased winter clothes, shoes, and medicine to support Vietnamese refugees in Busan. One club member donated new clothing from his textile company. The project helped almost 300 refugees endure the winter in a climate they were unaccustomed to.

Rotary clubs in South Korea have long supported North Korean defectors by building schools, offering scholarships, and providing health screenings. The Rotary Club of Ulsan Freedom, started by immigrants in 2016, combines personal experience and the Rotary network to help immigrants from the North who don't have family or friends nearby adapt to an unfamiliar economic system and culture.

Members also seek to help people outside Korea. The Rotary Club of Yeongju Moran and District 3630 in Korea collaborate with U.S. Rotary members on a job training program near Chicago, Illinois, USA, for Korean, Asian American, and Pacific Islander people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Rotary Korea, one of Rotary's official regional magazines, has featured Rotary members' work in Korea since 1963.

Project Report : Cataract Surgery

Under the ongoing Cataract Surgery Project at Hooghly Eye Hospital, 16 beneficiaries underwent successful operations on 31st October. This impactful initiative was made possible largely due to the unwavering support and guidance of PDG Rtn Hira Lal Yadav, to whom we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

Members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta North East also had the privilege of spending valuable time at his chamber, engaging in insightful discussions and learning more about Rotary's vision and service ethos. It was truly a day of service, learning, and inspiration. President Rtn Angana Paul and Secretary Rtn Sabyasach Roy were present on the day of the surgery.



Project Report : Sponsorship for North Central Zonal Women's Football Tournament for the Blind

The Rotary Club of Calcutta North East (RCCNE) proudly extended its support to the Bengal Team participating in the 3rd Men's & Women's North-Central Zonal Blind Football Tournament, held from 31st October to 4th November 2025 at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. The event was managed and promoted by the Football Association for the Blind of Bengal (FABB) and supported by several Rotary Clubs including RC Belur, RC Calcutta Mayfair, RC Calcutta Millennium, RC Calcutta Subhash Sarovar, and RC Kolkata Galaxy.

As part of our continued commitment to inclusion and care, RCCNE provided lunch to the players upon their return, celebrating their hard work, perseverance, and true sporting spirit. It was a small gesture of appreciation for these remarkable athletes who continue to inspire us all with their strength and determination. The project was attended by PP Rtn Sudip Kumar Dutta, IPP Rtn Subhasish Halder and President Rtn Angana Paul.



Project Report : Cervical Cancer Awareness Camp

Members of RCCNE reached Gajinadaspur Jyoti Prakash High School at Hooghly to conduct an awareness camp to gain consent from parents for administering the cervical cancer vaccine for girls aged between 9 to 14. The team was accompanied by doctors from the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute who explained the benefits and how such a kind of cancer can be easily avoided through vaccination. The doctors had an interactive session with the parents and addressed their concerns. President highlighted Rotary's effort in disease prevention and achievements in eradicating POLIO from India and encouraged attendees to give consent for the vaccination. The camp was followed by a Fellowship program organised by PP Rtn Biswajit Chaudhuri at his residence. RCCNE was represented by President Rtn Angana Paul, Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy, PP Rtn Sujit Dutt, PP Rtn Haraprasad Garg, PP Rtn Biswajit Chaudhuri and PP Rtn Shubadip Roy along with their spouses, PP Rtn Suidp Kumar Dutta, PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul, Rtn Sukanta Khan and PP Rtn Subhashis Ghosh.



Members of RCCNE attended the District Bijoya Diwali Meet on 1st of November, 2025 at WET-O-WILD, Nicco Park.

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTHEAST MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NO. 1633

Date: 30th October, 2025

Venue : The Antelope, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700017

Call to Order

President Rtn Angana Paul welcomed AG Rtn Surojit Kala and ZS Rtn Utsab Bhanja, along with all members, and called the meeting to order. The National Anthem was led by Rtn Swapnamita Roy, with all members joining in respect.

Address by Zonal Secretary (ZS)

ZS Rtn Utsab Bhanja began with a formal greeting to all members. He appreciated the Club's public image efforts, particularly the work done by Rtn. Ahana Ghosh on social media.

He suggested ways to make the Club's online presence more effective, including:

- Creating blogs and new digital channels to showcase major projects and activities.
- Increasing coverage and engagement through social platforms.



He also encouraged members to attend upcoming district events:

- District Diwali Meet on 1st November 2025
- Foundation Seminar on 27th November 2025 at Spring Club

Address by Assistant Governor (AG)

AG Rtn. Surojit Kala appreciated the Club's regular and timely uploading of reports on Rotary websites and advised updating Club Goals accordingly.

He suggested adding video clips or reels of completed projects to strengthen the Club's digital impact. He commended the Club for covering all Rotary Areas of Focus and successfully executing several meaningful projects.

AG also encouraged all members to contribute to The Rotary Foundation (TRF), with a suggested minimum of USD \$25 per member, and invited everyone to attend the District Diwali Meet.

President's Project Reports

President Rtn. Angana Paul presented updates on recent Club activities:

• Cataract Screening Camp (12th October 2025):

Screened beneficiaries at RCC Kankinara will undergo cataract operations on 31st October 2025 at Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital.

• Visit to "Natun Ghar" (22nd October 2025):

On the day of Kali Puja, the Club visited Natun Ghar, an old-age home for homeless women. The Club donated groceries and sponsored lunch for all residents.

Attendees: President Rtn Angana Paul, PP Rtn Vivekananda Bhowmick, Rtn Ramprasad Chattopadhyay, Rtn Sukanta Khan, and Rtn Sabyasachi Roy.

• World Polio Day (24th October 2025):

The Club co-hosted the District's Polio Awareness program at Rotary Sadan, Kolkata.

Attendees: President, PP Rtn Sudip Kumar Dutta, Rtn Sabyasachi Roy.

• Health Check-up Camp (30th October 2025):

Free health check-up and medicine distribution camp conducted by Dr. Nirmala Biswas. The Club participated as a sponsor.

Upcoming Projects & Announcements

- 1st November 2025: Cataract operations will be done for all screened beneficiaries at Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital. Members are requested to attend.
- 1st November 2025: Bijoya-Diwali Meet — Members were requested to register and participate.
- 8th November 2025: Awareness Camp on Cervical Cancer at Jyoti Prasad Memorial High School, Pandua. Organisation of the camp will be done by PP Rtn. Biswajit Chowdhury and it will be followed by

fellowship at his residence in Pandua.

- 20th November 2025: Follow-up Vaccination Camp and vaccine administration to be done on the said date.
- Appeal received from RC Galaxy for sponsoring lunch (Rs. 4,400/-) for 22 blind footballers travelling to Jamshedpur for a Blind Football Tournament. The same was approved by all members.
- Sponsorship appeal received from RC Mahanagar their upcoming "Mela" project for BPL children. The decision on the proposal was kept pending.
- Appeal for water purifier installation at Dhakuria School through IPP Rtn. Subhasish Halder is being considered and a formal request is awaited from the schools.
- PP Rtn. Subhasish Kar: Appeal for an eye check-up camp (will be discussed further).

Update on Project "MAA"

Chairman: PP Rtn. Ramprasad Chattopadhyay

He provided an update on the "MAA" project, outlining:

- Estimated beneficiaries: 800 persons
- Budget details discussed
- Fundraising appeal to be circulated soon among members.

Secretarial Report

Club Secretary Rtn. Sabyasachi Roy :

- Extended thanks to all members present.
- Confirmed minutes of the previous meeting.
- Offered birthday and anniversary greetings to members and their families.
- Announced that the date of the next regular meeting will be shared in the Club group.

Conclusion

With no other business to discuss, President Rtn. Angana Paul concluded the meeting and invited all members to join the fellowship gathering.

Sponsorship Acknowledgements

- **BLISS** : Rtn Dr Supratip Kundu & Rtn Dr Debarati Paul
- **Fellowship** : PP Rtn Subhasish Ghosh & IPP Rtn Subasish Halder
- **Snacks** : PP Rtn Ramprasad Chattopadhyay

Minutes Prepared by: Rtn Sabyasachi Roy, Secretary

Birthday Greetings

12 Nov : Rtn Prabir Kumar Paul

12 Nov : Rtn Kalyan Saha

14 Nov : Rtn Swapnamita Roy

15 Nov : Mira Bakshi, W/o Rtn Tapan Kumar Bakshi

Wedding Greetings

20 Nov : Rtn Suven & Soma Mukherjee