

Rotary
Calcutta Visionaries



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Club Bulletin of
Rotary Club of Calcutta Visionaries

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PHF CLUB

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3291

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VISIONARIES 353rd RWM



The 353rd Regular Weekly Meeting (RWM) of our Club held on Thursday, 9th October 2025, from 7:30 PM at Calcutta South Club Ltd. President **Rtn. Ritu Agarwal** and Secretary **Rtn. Nisha Modi** presiding the meeting, **Rtn Rajesh Harlalka** giving the details of the event.

"WE MEET FORTNIGHTLY ON THURSDAYS AT 7.30 PM AT THE CALCUTTA PUNJAB CLUB FOR OUR REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING"

ANNUAL TRIP 2026 Dear Friends, Time to get set for our next big event, which we all wait for through the year - Our Annual Trip! Delighted to announce that our next Annual Trip is slated to be held at **Kushal Palli Resorts, near Purulia from 24th January (checkin) - 26th January (Checkout)**. Kushal Palli is a beautiful resort, on Ayodhya Hills, about 6 hours from here by train, and promises an excellent weather at that time, with lush green lawns, beautiful surroundings, great food, host of fun activities like tribal Santhal dance, Go Carting, Golfing, Bonfire, Musical nights and most importantly, the Visionaries dhamaal !!

Hernia & Hydrocele Operations for about 10-12 needy patients costing around Rs 20000/- each approximately, scheduled in last week of October 2025. Club members collectively sponsored the event. All the operations sponsored by our club shall be carried out DR S P Banka at Prem Milan hospital on 7th November 2025.

RVPS School Affiliation with WB Secondary Board : Thanks to the effort of **Rtn Pradip Jyoti, Club Chair Literacy & Community Service Medical**, we today handed over initial documents for taking forward our RVPS School Affiliation with WB Secondary Board.

The Telegraph covered our School RVPS on Calcutta Edition Page 9, on Tuesday 21st October 2025

NGO HOSTS PRE-DIWALI EVENT, TRAINS LOCAL WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Hope afloat as boat race returns to Sundarbans island

MOUMITA CHAUDHURI

Santigachi: On Saturday, more than 4,000 people from Santigachi village gathered on the banks of the Datta river to witness a boat race that had been discontinued sometime in the late 1990s.

The race was organised by not-for-profit organisation Anandapur Swami Vivekananda Seva Samity, Rotary Visionaries Public School, Santigachi, and the Calcutta-based Deepak Industries Limited.

Santigachi, located around 150km from Calcutta, lies in the Satjelia islands of the Sundarbans. It was named by Scotsman Daniel Hamilton after the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which followed at the end of World War I. Hamilton arrived in the Sundarbans in 1904, stayed on, and undertook several initiatives to make the islands habitable.

The boat race ahead of Diwali was one of many initiatives aimed at improving the economic condition of the village. Santigachi is home to around 10,000 people, most of whom depend on the forest for their livelihood.

In recent years, many men from the village have migrated to work as farmhands in Andhra Pradesh. The women and elderly are left to fend for the family. It was not surprising, therefore, that the initiatives announced on Saturday focused largely on women.

"We are encouraging people in the remotest of areas to take up alternative ways of sustainable livelihood."



The boat race on the Datta river; (right) Santigachi residents gather to watch the race. Pictures by Moumita Chaudhuri

said Yashwant Kumar Daga, chairman and managing director of Deepak Industries. "The women make many indigenous products, from condiments to handicrafts. Our purpose is to help them produce these in large quantities and earn a living from them," he said.

Rotary Visionaries has tied up with the NGO Sonarpur Swami Vivekananda Manas Mission to train Santigachi's women in stitching, handicrafts, flower and vegetable cultivation, and other skills. Three self-help groups have been formed to support training and marketing of these products. From 2023 to 2025, over 350 women have received training. Some have

begun selling their craft and produce for a living in the last six months.

The combined effort of all stakeholders is to turn Santigachi into a model village. The plan includes a fishing zone where visitors can taste local fish, a corner showcasing cockfighting, and a local market selling fresh produce. Maneesh Khanna, CFO of Deepak Industries, has assured support for the project through the company's CSR initiatives.

This year's boat race drew an enthusiastic crowd, and organisers now plan to have women participate in the event next year, said Khanna.

For the women of



Women of Santigachi at a meeting organised by NGOs

Santigachi, rowing boats is already a part of daily life. Nibedita Halder, 20, said.

"It is not a big deal for us. We often playfully compete among ourselves when we

go fishing. Only, the crowds are not there to cheer us," she said.

Binita Choudhary 10/Oct
Sundeep Doshi 13/Oct
Seema Harlalka 19/Oct
Ishan Shroff 22/Oct

Pinki Mishra 23/Oct
Sonia Birla 26/Oct
Vandana Goel 27/Oct
Amita Agrawal 28/Oct



On **18th October 2025**, Interactors conducted a **Diwali Drive** at **Pather Sathi** to celebrate the festival of lights with joy and creativity. During the drive, they interacted with the children and spoke about the significance of Diwali, the triumph of light over darkness, and the importance of spreading kindness and positivity. The children enthusiastically participated in a diya painting and rangoli colouring activity, showcasing their creativity and festive spirit. Goodie Bags were also distributed to the children. It was a heartwarming experience filled with colours, laughter, and the true essence of Diwali — sharing happiness and light with everyone!
-- Interact Chair Shalini Doshi



WEEKLY MEDICAL CAMP



