



CHOWRENGHEE TIMES

November - December | 2024-25

★ ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE ★

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
District 3291




Gaurav Gupta

Rotary


Our Club maintained its commitment to community service and impactful projects throughout November and December. We continued to focus on our ongoing initiatives, and as we blinked, the year seemed to vanish before our eyes! We are now in 2025 and I am overwhelmed to note that 6 months of the Rotary year are already over.

Service Projects undertaken in November & December:

- In the second phase of the club foot project with M/s Cure (India), we sponsored the foot abduction braces for another 50 children.
- A survey was conducted at Salpukuria, Nepalgunge where work has commenced in the construction of two submersible tubewells and two Community baths. The entire project is being very generously supported by the "Dil se Foundation".
- Camps related to Cervical Cancer Vaccination and Breast Cancer Awareness were conducted at Joynagar. This was followed up with the 1st dose vaccination for 130 girls.
- Our club donated IT equipment at the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy. Members interacted with their students who show remarkable resilience and fortitude despite their challenges.
- Free distribution of the reusable "Stree" sanitary pads was undertaken at Joynagar.
- The regular schemes of Anjali & Annapurna Yojana, for economic upliftment were continued at Amoragori Vriddhashram.

Regular meetings were held with some very interesting speakers like PDG Rajendra Khandelwal who spoke on Karma, Babar Ali of Anand Shiksha Niketan, recognised as the younger headmaster by BBC, and Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar who spoke on Nada Vibronics and sound therapy. In December we had the very engaging speaker Shri Ritesh Bawri, entrepreneur and health wizard. The last regular meeting was a heritage walk named "Chowrenghee Chase" with Ms. Navpreet Arora ending with breakfast at the iconic Flurys.

The club embarked on its annual retreat, "Awadh Se Ayodhya Tak," a journey to Lucknow and Ayodhya. This three-night excursion was met with resounding success and provided members with a deeply enriching and enjoyable experience. The retreat likely included cultural immersion, historical exploration, and opportunities for bonding and fellowship.

There are many more exciting plans in the New Year ahead!

I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their enthusiastic support and involvement.

Gaurav K Gupta

President 2024-25

AWADH SE AYODHYA TAK



To celebrate its 25th anniversary, RC Chowrenghee undertook a four-day retreat to Lucknow and Ayodhya from 15-18 November, aptly titled "Awadh se Ayodhya Tak." Over 40 Rotarians and their spouses joined, experiencing the vibrant culture of Awadh and the spiritual significance of Ayodhya.

The retreat kicked off with a celebratory dinner and dance. In Lucknow, the itinerary included historical landmarks like La Martiniere, a special treat for Rotarians with ties to the institution. A highlight was an enriching interaction with Raja Muzaffar Ali at Kotwara House.

Ayodhya offered a spiritual immersion, with a visit to the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, the Saryu river, Kanak Bhawan, and the Hanuman Ghadi temple. Rotarians, dressed in traditional attire with scarves of Shri Ram, experienced a sense of collective devotion.

The retreat also delved into the rich art and culture of Lucknow, exploring the intricate world of chikankari embroidery in their shopping experience.

"Awadh se Ayodhya Tak" proved to be a resounding success, fostering deeper camaraderie among members, particularly new Rotarians. It will undoubtedly remain a cherished memory for all who participated. Thank you President Gaurav Gupta for meticulously planning this trip.



REGULAR MEETINGS



KARMA - The Winner

Our first regular meeting for the month was held on 9th November at Auris Hotel. Our guest speaker, PDG Dr. Rajendra Khandelwal, owner of Dhanwantary medicare inspired us with his compassionate and mature approach, sharing valuable life lessons. He has recently released his second book "Karma- the Winner". Secretary Aditi Saraogi and PE Vidhi Beri moderated the session by asking pertinent questions to bring out the core message of the book.



His core message resonated deeply: "Our belief, love, surrender, and gratitude to the Almighty, in whatever form we worship, are the essence of a fulfilling life." Members were enriched with the knowledge of truly winning in life through positive thought and action.

The Youngest Headmaster in the World



Babar Ali addressed a joint meeting held on 23rd November by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee, Victoria and Belur together. Babar Ali, hailed as the "youngest headmaster in the world," is an inspiring educator and TEDx speaker from Murshidabad, West Bengal. At just 9 years old, he founded Ananda Shiksha Niketan, a free school for underprivileged children who couldn't afford formal education. What began in his backyard has now transformed hundreds of lives, breaking cycles of poverty through the power of learning. His incredible journey and determination to bring education to all continue to inspire people worldwide. Mr. Ali shared the trials and tribulations in his journey and truly inspired us. The Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee has committed a donation of ₹11,000 to his school at the meeting

itself and will now engage and support further endeavors. DG Krishnendu Gupta was also present at this meeting conducted at the Conclave.

Nada Vibronics

Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar conducted a Nada Vibronics session on 30th November at Studio Cocoon, exclusively for our members. The session explored the science of sound vibration, Beeja Mantras, and the influence of ragas on our physical and mental well-being. The serene ambience of Studio Cocoon further elevated the experience, making it a fulfilling and holistic learning journey for all member attendees. This was regular meeting No. 958 for RC Chowrenghee.



Live to be - 100



A very insightful and an engaging session entitled “Live to be - 100” with Health Coach and Entrepreneur Mr. Ritesh Bawri was held on 14 th December. Mr. Ritesh Bawri is a health coach and entrepreneur specializing in metabolic health, gut health, and lifestyle transformation. Combining expertise in human biology with science-based strategies, he helps individuals achieve sustainable wellness and peak performance. He engaged members with his lucid speaking style and novel ideas on health. Our 959th Regular Meeting was held at the Auris Hotel.

Rotary Foundation

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The Chowrenghee Chase

Chowrenghee members enjoyed a walk through the namesake Chowrenghee Road on the beautiful Saturday morning of 28th December. We learned about the history of Chowrenghee and all the important heritage landmarks along the way from Navpreet Arora. Members enjoyed the winter morning stroll together. This was followed by a scrumptious breakfast at Flurys.



PROJECTS



DISEASE PREVENTION

● Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp - *Amoragori*

On November 8, 2024, a cervical cancer vaccination camp was successfully organized at Amoragori. A total of 45 girls were vaccinated during this session, adding to the 322 girls previously vaccinated under the project. The initiative aims to vaccinate 1,200 girls aged between 9 to 14 years to combat cervical cancer and promote disease prevention in the community this Rotary year.



● Cervical Cancer Awareness Camp with Stree Sanitary Napkins - *Joynagar*



On December 4, 2024, Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee and Narayana Health collaborated to organize a series of health awareness programs in Joynagar. The cervical cancer awareness camp was conducted at Joynagar Institution for Girls, focusing on educating women and girls about cervical cancer prevention. Additionally, 460 reusable sanitary napkins were distributed to underprivileged women and girls to promote menstrual hygiene and reduce the environmental impact of disposable products.

● Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp - *Joynagar*

A cervical cancer vaccination camp was held on December 19, 2024, at Joynagar, with active support from the Rotary Joynagar Eye Hospital RCC members. Out of the 400 attendees, 140 girls were successfully vaccinated within a span of 2.5 hours. The camp witnessed the presence and efforts of PP Manisha Srivastava and PP Vikram Tantia, who contributed to its seamless execution.

These initiatives collectively reflect Rotary's commitment to promoting health awareness, disease prevention, and women's empowerment in the region.



● Monthly visit to Kolkata Swasthya Sankalp

A monthly visit to Kolkata Swasthya Sankalp was made on 9th December under Project REN-NEW. Last month, 808 patients were supported. We thank PP Nita Sethia for her year-long financial support to the project.



● Cerebral Palsy

On 16th December, we had the honor of visiting the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy and donating IT equipment. Our member interaction with the students was truly inspiring, as they exhibited remarkable resilience and strength in the face of adversity.



● Eye check-up camp

An eye check-up camp was conducted on 19th November at Amoragori for the resident mothers. The camp was organized by PP Dr. Pradeep Saraf.



WATER AND SANITATION

● UNNATI

Our #7 and #8 tubewell under the project UNNATI were completed at Amoragori on 6th November 2024, sponsored by Rtn. Yashodhara Khaitan.

“Dil Se Charitable Trust” has generously donated ₹1 lac for the advance payment against the community baths and submersible pumps project at Salpukuria, Nepalgunje. This is a newly identified project area for the club with acute water shortage. Our club has formed a new RCC in this area.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

● Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day was celebrated with the students of Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya, Uluberia at the Birla Industrial and Technological Museum on 14th November. Mrs. Khushboo Saraf, friend of PE Vidhi Beri, sponsored the snacks and drinks for the children on the occasion of her birthday. The children were accompanied by the teachers as well as RC Chowrenghee members into the museum for their visit. Rtn. Devashish Dabriwal ensured that the school children meticulously experienced the museum to the most.



ENVIRONMENT



● Solar lights installation

10 solar street lights were installed successfully at our RCC in Amtala on 29th November.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



● Club foot

Club Foot Project at Shambhunath Pandit Hospital on 16th November joint between Cure (India) and The Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee.

LITERACY

● RCV Uluberia Camp

A camp was organized by PP Meena Bansal at RCV Uluberia on 30th November under the guidance of Trainer Sangita Gupta. The workshop included a variety of activities such as yoga, stress-relieving exercises, fun games, dancing, and drawing. These activities were designed to help participants release stress and tap into their true potential.



● Mid-day meal at Uluberia

The midday meal sponsorship program continues and now we have close to 372 children. The meals are generously sponsored by RC Chowrenghee members on a daily basis and meticulously coordinated by Rtn. Anuradha Bhagat.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Rtn. Devashish Dabriwal's daughters cleared their black belt exams and are now officially Black Belt Taekwondo ITF. It was a grueling 3-hour exam wherein they had to demonstrate a variety of patterns, had to do a number of sit ups, wrist sit - ups, etc. in the Goa Nationals in December. Vrisha won Gold and Vanya won Silver.



BOARD MEETING

The third Board Meeting for RC Chowrenghee was held at PP Vikram Tantia's residence on 13th December. The agenda discussed in the meeting included extension of the Uluberia school, CSR project possibilities and required due diligence, TRF foundation collections and dues, sponsorship of new tube wells by "Dil Se" Foundation, the adopt a child sponsorship launch in January 2025, distribution of sanitary pads to correctional homes, the accounts of Stree Handicrafts, and Charter Day celebrations.



Anniversaries of the Month



November

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 19th Jain Namrata & Ajay | 23rd Neotia Dinesh & Abha |
| 20th Goenka Hemant & Shruti | 23rd Ginodia Rajeev & Shobha |
| 22nd Vajpayi Dr. Rajkumar & Rati | 25th Srivastava Manisha & Devesh |
| 22nd Sureka Vishnu & Shweta | 26th Kejriwal Shantanu & Nalini |
| | 28th Jain Alka & Kamal |

December

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2nd Chittlangia Archana & Jaydeep | 8th Ajmera Sanjeev & Ruchira |
| 2nd Tantia Vikram & Shruti | 10th Gupta Gaurav Kumar & Ritu |
| 2nd Roychowdhury Sudeshna & Pinaki | 10th Kariwal Vivek & Shivaani |
| 2nd Jhunjhunwala Neerza & Ashish | 11th Jain Praduman & Neelima |
| 3rd Kothari Sangeet & Debasish | 11th Sethia Nita & Ashok |
| 5th Juneja Meenu & Ramesh | 11th Todi Sangita & Raj |
| 6th Ajmera Himanshu & Kavita | 11th Baid Rohini & Sidhartha |
| 6th Kajaria Ravi Kumar & Anushree | 11th Dabriwal Rashmi & Devashish |
| 6th Sood Sangeeta & Kapil | 12th Agarwal Piyush Mohan & Namita |
| 7th Beri Ambica & Sanjiv | 14th Kejriwal Pawan Kumar & Vandana |
| | 25th Gupta Bharat H & Sangeeta |

Birthdays of the Month

November

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|------|---------------------|
| 4th | Sanghvi Jayshree |
| 4th | Dabriwal Rashmi |
| 21st | Sood Sangeeta |
| 25th | Saraf Pradeep |
| 28th | Sethia Nita |
| 28th | Dr Rajkumar Vajpayi |

December

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|------|-----------------|
| 3rd | Jindal Rajiv |
| 8th | Ajmera Sanjeev |
| 8th | Bhagat Anuradha |
| 8th | Saharia Anshu |
| 12th | Khemka Meena |
| 14th | Saraf Deepak |