

Rotary
District 3291



ENDEAVOUR

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA ENDEAVOUR

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PRESIDENT - Nabaneet Maitra

SECRETARY - Madhumita Sengupta

EDITOR - Arkoprovo Ghose



We welcome District Governor Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, First Lady Dr. Bandana Homchaudhuri, District Governor Elect Tapas Bhattacharya, District Governor Nominee Purnendu Roychowdhury, All Past District Governors, District Officials, Members & spouses of Rotary Club of Central Calcutta and Rotary Club of Calcutta Endeavour, ladies & gentlemen

TODAY'S EVENT

Joint Meeting with our Rotary Club and Rotary Club of Central Calcutta at Marble Palace Kolkata from 7pm

HISTORIC MARBLE PALACE



The Mullick family is a famous name in the history of Calcutta and an important part of the mercantile and cultural fabric of the city. Unlike the Tagores, however, they were not zamindars, but gold merchants. The founder of their Great House, the Marble Palace, was Rajendra Mullick, whose father died when he was three. His mother Hiranmoyee Dasee and an English guardian Sir James Weir Hogg brought him up to become one of Calcutta's most famous citizens.

He received the title of Rai Bahadur for his efforts during the 1865-66 Bengal Famine, and was given the title of Rajah by Lord Lytton in 1878 in acknowledgment of his 'charitable disposition and philanthropic deeds', receiving a large diamond ring as a ceremonial gift. His extraordinary Marble Palace embodies his great interest in natural history and both Eastern and Western art and culture.

This Great House is still home to members of the Mullick family who also maintain it as a private museum. It is the most famous of Calcutta's Great Houses, not merely for its accessibility but for the opulent style and eclectic mix of art and treasures it houses. On a visit, Viceroy Lord Minto was so astonished with the ninety varieties of patterned imported marble on the floors, wall panels and tabletops that he called it the Marble Palace, and the title has remained to this day. Rajendra Mullick was just sixteen-year-old in 1835 when he built this Great House, and it took 500 Indian and foreign artisans over five years to complete. Built in European classical style and closely resembling London's Burlington House, the Marble Palace is situated in Mukhtaram Babu Street. Ornate gates flanked by guards holding tall iron spears go unnoticed by passersby going about their daily business. The enormous white façade of the Marble Palace seems strangely incongruous, with its driveway encircling an elaborate fountain and statues of lions, the Buddha, Jesus and various Hindu gods dotting the overgrown gardens.

The exterior of the palace features elaborate Rococo stucco work, and a portico with six Tuscan columns. It is impressive, with fourteen Corinthian-style columns on the ground floor and a further fourteen on the first floor, each separated by Venetian shutters. The house is topped with an ornately carved pediment.

The gardens of the Marble Palace are Baroque in style and extensive. Ornamental stone seats are placed amongst groups of tall palms and tropical plants. The garden once housed a menagerie of animals and birds, Calcutta's first zoo. The first room the visitor encounters is the elaborate billiard room dotted with statues and enormous carved side-tables. The walls are decorated with ornate stucco mouldings and hung with paintings. Other rooms follow, each as sumptuous as the last. Light filters through the shuttered windows adding to the atmosphere of faded Baroque grandeur. The family's fortunes enabled Rajendra Mullick to indulge in amassing a vast collection of art and artefacts for the palace.

Enormous glass chandeliers hang from the ceiling, their reflection multiplied in the floor-to-ceiling Venetian mirrors. Tables are crowded with Sevres vases, Bohemian goblets and Dresden figurines. Silent French ormolu clocks line the walls alongside swords from Toledo. Among the huge collection of oil paintings are a Rubens: 'The Marriage of St. Catherine' and a Joshua Reynolds 'The Infant Hercules Strangling the Serpent'. Each room is filled with the decorative, the ornamental and the monumental. The blue and white painted courtyard is filled with statues, potted palms and a fountain. The altar is ornate with stucco mouldings, and strangely, Greek and Roman statues happily exist alongside figures from the Hindu scriptures in the thakur dalan.

Despite their wealth or perhaps because of it, the family have maintained a long tradition of caring for the needy. Rajendra's father, Nilmoni Mullick was a philanthropist, who established a kitchen in Chorbagan to feed the poor. Rajendra continued and improved his father's philanthropic interests, and the family also continues this tradition, feeding 300-400 people a day from their private trust fund.

Rajah Rajendra Mullick's many achievements are embodied in the intriguing Marble Palace. Perhaps the most important is the inclusion of a binding clause in the trust deed which prevents any changes or additions to the original building. In this way, today's Mullick family can keep the palace alive by making it available as a museum, showcasing the family's vast collection of artefacts and allowing visitors a glimpse into the home of one of Calcutta's Great Families.

Message from Club President 2025-26



Dear Rotarians, Friends, and Well-wishers,

As we step into September, I am grateful for the energy, fellowship, and service that our members have shown over the past month. September is recognized in Rotary as Basic Education and Literacy Month, reminding us of the transformative power of learning and the role we play in strengthening communities through knowledge and opportunity.

Warmest regards,

Nabaneet Maitra

President, RY 2025-26, Rotary Club of Calcutta Endeavour

Message from Club Editor 2025-26

As we progress through this Rotary year, I'd like to focus on a critical issue: Basic Education and Literacy in interior villages. Despite advances, many villages in our country remain under-resourced, with children lacking access to quality education due to poverty, overcrowded schools, and limited resources. Education is a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. Without it, children are trapped in low-paying jobs, unable to rise above their circumstances. Beyond academics, literacy impacts health, social inclusion, and economic stability. We must continue our efforts to ensure that even the most vulnerable have access to this vital resource.



Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. PP. Arkaprovo Ghose

Rtn. PP. Arkaprovo Ghose Editor, RY 2025-26, President - 13-14, DCH - 16-17, ZS - 18-19, AG (Service) - 19-20, AG (Admin) - 2AG - 20-21, AG (Service) - 21 - 22, DCH - 22-23, DS (Logistics) - 23-24, AG (Admin) - 24-25

Secretaries' Report for August Month

14th August - Pre-Independence Day with the Children of Mukundapur

On the eve of Independence Day, 14th August, our Club had the joy of celebrating with the spirited children of Mukundapur, together with **Krita Foundation** – an organisation that lovingly supports their after-school learning.

These little ones may come from very modest homes, but their curiosity and energy light up every room. With Krita Foundation's guidance, they eagerly take part in extracurricular classes that help shape their confidence and dreams.



That evening, our members spent time sharing stories about the meaning of Independence Day. The children listened with wide eyes, asked questions, and joined in with their own thoughts – reminding us how beautifully pure their sense of freedom and hope really is.

The celebration ended on a heart-warming note as we handed over **educational kits** and **food packets**. The sparkle in their eyes and the smiles on



their faces made it a truly memorable Independence Day celebration.

15th August – Independence Day at Nabadisha Centre

This Independence Day, **RC Calcutta Endeavour** celebrated with the bright and talented children of a school supported by **Kolkata Police under their project Nabadisha**.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and patriotism as 65 children came together to showcase their love for the motherland through a heartfelt **cultural presentation**. Their songs, dances, and performances were a true reflection of innocence, pride, and hope for the future of our nation.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of **food packets and gifts**, bringing smiles to every little face. For our members, it

was not just a celebration of freedom, but also a reminder of the responsibility we share in nurturing the next generation.



15th August: Mohun Bagan Foundation Day x RC Calcutta Endeavour

August 15th marks the **foundation day and anniversary of Mohun Bagan Athletic Club**, a name that holds a special place in every football lover's heart. This year, in the presence of nearly **300 passionate fans**, RC Calcutta Endeavour partnered with Mohun Bagan for a unique cause beyond the football field.

A specially designed **car sticker** was launched and distributed jointly, carrying the message of **Thalassemia awareness**. The idea was simple yet powerful – to reach the masses and spread awareness about this critical health issue through the love and following of a legendary club.

With the spirit of football and the commitment of Rotary coming together, this collaboration promises to make a lasting impact in creating awareness about Thalassemia. This initiative was appreciated in print media.



20th August- Cervical Cancer Awareness Camp

On **20th August**, **RC Calcutta Endeavour** organised a **Cervical Cancer Awareness Camp** at *Garia Nafar Chandra Balika Vidyalay*.

A team from **RC Belur** joined the initiative and interacted with the parents, explaining in simple terms

what cervical cancer is, its risks, and why vaccination is so important in preventing it.

The session helped create awareness among families and encouraged them to consider preventive measures for the health and safety of their daughters. This collaborative effort was a step forward in spreading knowledge and protecting future generations.



23rd August, 25 - Table Tennis Boards Gifted to Government Schools in Sundarbans

A heart-warming sight unfolded at **Tangipara F.P. School** and **Raidighi Srifaltala Junior Basic School**, where children from the remote Sundarbans region were seen playing **table tennis** with immense joy and excitement.

Two table tennis boards were gifted to these government primary schools by Rotary Club of Calcutta Endeavour with the help of **BDM International School**, encouraging the children to embrace sports alongside their studies. Our earnest hope is that these young students grow up making both education and sports their companions in life.

Ann Speaks



Rotary movement empowering women has come a long way. Having visited several villages in West Bengal, I am immensely satisfied and also motivated to see that women from the subdued sections of the society are all coming out of the four walls and engaging themselves towards self sustainability.

Their eagerness to learn and make others aware of the profit of learning has deeply moved me as an individual.

As a teacher, it's one of my duties to make my tender students understand the value of education which I resonated while visiting the adult education centre at a village near Mathurapur, South 24 Parganas.

Rotary helped me to learn and appreciate life more and I feel blessed if I could in some way contribute to make someone smile.

Anindita Mookerjee (RY 2025-26)

Rotary Club of Calcutta Endeavour

Voice of Rota kid - Neelakshi Mukherjee

Recently in the month of June, I availed a golden opportunity provided by the Rotary club of Calcutta Endeavour to visit a small village in Kakdwip— nestled away from the city but bounty in hopes and creativity especially reflected through the women of this area. Seeing the women in rural West Bengal so liberal and ambitious to provide for their family not just as an emotional support but also economically struck a chord within me.

Being in the field of Psychology and a woman myself makes me feel immensely proud to get the chance to interact with them.

That day I took back with me a piece of their resilience and optimism, and it wouldn't have been possible without Rotary and their constant initiative to empower individuals from the grassroot level and making the society a better place for all!



Birthday

Ahana Bose 22nd September
Swagata Dhar 29th September
Ravina Ghosh 26th September
Samit Mondal 4th September