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2025-2026



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2025-2026

## WHISTLE

E-Bulletin of

Rotary Club of Calcutta South West

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ISSUE No: 10 / 2025-2026

REGULAR MEETING No. 2962

28 November 2025.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I would like to share a very famous story by Dhivyadarshini Selvaraj. A true incident which has a lot to teach us.

There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend.



One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her and then she could see everything, including her boyfriend. Her boyfriend asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?"

The girl was shocked when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too and refused to marry him. Her boyfriend walked away in tears, and later wrote a letter to her saying: "*Just take care of my eyes dear.*" This is how human brain changes when the status changed. Only few remember what life was before, and who's always been there even in the most painful situations.

### Life Is a Gift

Today before you think of saying an unkind word—

think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food—

think of someone who has nothing to eat.

### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Being part of a team is about pooling diverse skills to achieve a common goal, which often leads to superior results compared to individual work. Effective teamwork depends on strong communication, mutual respect and trust among members as well as the ability to share responsibility and support one another. This collaborative environment not only boosts productivity but also provides a unique opportunity for personal growth and the development of impersonal skills such as empathy and conflict resolutions.

Teams bring together individuals with different skills, perspectives and ideas which can lead to more effective and creative solutions and better problem solving than one person could achieve alone. Tasks can be divided and specialized among team members allowing for tasks to be completed faster and more effectively. Complex tasks are less overwhelming and stressful when a team works together as the effort and burden are shared.

By combining different analytical and practical skills, teams are better equipped to tackle challenges and make more robust decisions. Working in a team teaches individuals to communicate effectively, respect others' opinions and build stronger relationships. It fosters a sense of community and helps individuals learn to navigate different personalities and viewpoints.

Differences in personalities, working styles or agendas can lead to conflict. A key aspect of teamwork is learning to resolve these disagreements constructively. If some members do not contribute their fair share, it can create resentment and hinder the team's progress and poor leadership and unclear goals can lead to confusion and inefficiency.

#### **PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS MONTH :**

4<sup>th</sup> November conducted an Awareness Programme on Cervical Cancer and Thalassemia in association with BOGS at IICP. The main speakers were Dr.Susmita Banerjee and Dr.Zoha.

6<sup>th</sup> November distributed 20 mattresses to the inmates of Amader Padakhep, a home for little homeless and orphan boys.

7<sup>th</sup> November conducted Thalassemia and Cervical Cancer Awareness Programme at St.Xavier's Coed School, Raghabpur to over 500 girls of classes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11& 12. The main speakers were Dr.Susmita Banerjee, Dr.Zoha and Dr.Arup Kr. Mitra.

14<sup>th</sup> November celebrated Children's Day at Amader Padakhep for the boys of the Home. We had sponsored a Magic Show, some snacks and lunch.

22<sup>nd</sup> November organized an 'evening discourse' at CRC on "From Shadows to Safety". Social Activist Sobhan Mukherjee, also known as the Padman of Bengal, spoke on Human and Child trafficking. Bishakha Laskar, Secretary of the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee spoke on recognition of sex work as a legitimate profession.

23<sup>rd</sup> November conducted Thalassemia and Cervical Cancer Awareness Programme at Udayan in Barrackpore. It is a Home for the children of Leprosy affected people. Dr.Susmita Banerjee addressed more than 200 children of the age group of 9 to 15 years.

#### **DISTRICT NEWS:**

Rotary Foundation Seminar was yesterday at the Spring Club. The main speakers were Shri Ashok Mahajan, Past Rotary International Director and Trustee and Shri Leander Paes, recipient of Padma Bhushan and Olympian. "Sampark", a Multi District Public Image Seminar (RID 3240 & 3291) has been organized at Mistwood Hotel, Dugapur on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Presidents, Secretaries, Asst Governors and Zonal Secretaries Meet is on 10<sup>th</sup> December at Rotary Sadan.

Members are requested to register for the District Conference, "Ramdhenu" earliest by 15<sup>th</sup> December to avail of the 'early bird' offer.

#### **RCCSW IN ACTION**

##### **Project: From Shadows to Safety – The Journey of Trafficked Girls**

(Sensitisation and Inclusion of Sex Workers, and the Rescue & Rehabilitation of Trafficked Girl Children from Red-Light Areas)

Date: 22/11/2025

Venue: Calcutta Rowing Club

Audience consisted of: RCCSW members, Rotarians from other Rotary Clubs and Non-Rotarians

Project Details:

The session began with a brief introduction of the day's agenda, and the thought behind RCCSW's initiative was shared with the audience.

The guest speaker for the evening was Smt. Bisakha Laskar, Secretary, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee—an organisation of sex workers advocating for their rights and equality. She was felicitated by Dr. Rtn. Sushmita Mitra.

Smt. Laskar spoke about how actively Durbar advocates for reforms in laws and policies that restrict the human rights of sex workers, and how the organisation has been working towards their inclusion in mainstream society since 1992.

She also elaborated on the processes of rescue, counselling, and rehabilitation of trafficked girl children from red-light areas. Special emphasis was placed on counselling sex workers about their rights, boundaries, and the potential hazards associated with sex work.

RCCSW leadership and members expressed their intention to join hands with Durbar and Smt. Laskar for meaningful collaborations in future projects.



### **Project: Thalassemia awareness camp**

Date: 23/11/2025

Venue: UDAYAN (UDAYAN is a home and school on the outskirts of Kolkata, India, for children whose families are affected by Leprosy).

Beneficiaries : Students from classes 3 to 8 (approx 200)

• Aids used: Laptop, loud speakers, mike, projector and screen.

Project details :

We organised an awareness camp conducted by Rotarian Dr. Mrs Susmita Mitra Banerjee.

Had an interactive session with all the children initiated by our President Mrs. Ruma Mitra. Encouraged the students to do the blood test.

Spent time with the children and staff.

### **Project: Cervical Cancer Awareness Programme in association with BOGS**

Date: 23/11/2025

Venue: UDAYAN ( a home and school on the outskirts of Kolkata, India, for children whose families are affected by Leprosy.)

Beneficiaries : Girls from classes 3 to 8 approximately 100 of them all of the age group from 9 yrs to 15 yrs

• Aids used: Laptop, speakers, mike , projector and screen.

Project details :

\* We organised a seminar where Rotarian Dr. Susmita Banerjee educated the girls about cervical cancer and the importance of the vaccine.

\* Our President Mrs.Ruma Mitra too spoke to the children in an age appropriate way (the play way method) to recapitulate the information shared by our esteemed Dr. Mrs Susmita Mitra Banerjee.

\* Spent quality time with the children and interacted with them

\* Distributed consent forms and explained to the staff the details of the form

\* Wrote down the names of the students who are interested in availing the vaccine (70 girls from age 9 to 15 years)

