



ISSUE No: 02/2025-2026

REGULAR MEETING No. 2954

29 JULY 2025

JOINT MEETING WITH OUR SPONSORING CLUB, ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA.

President speaks:

THE JOY OF GIVING.....

A chemistry, works when you give something to someone, between the giver and the receiver -- both experience some kind of joy. However, the joy of giving to the needy and the underprivileged is beyond all comparison. I personally experience something like this when I visit the underprivileged to conduct various Projects. The joy derived from this work stems from the ability to make a tangible difference in their lives, fostering hope and empowerment where it's needed most.

Simple acts of kindness such as providing food items, offering medical support or simply lending a listening ear can have a lasting effect. Let me share some of my experiences:-

- a) The inmates of Shakhbhangha Shobor Village in Belpahari, live in extreme poverty. There is acute shortage of water, the land is ungriving (only shaal trees and bulbul grass grow in pockets), no medical facilities, there is a school but children go there not for education but for the mid day meal, people live off the forest and survive on red ants and bulbul grass. Most of them suffer from skin disease and cataract, even the children and at least 5 to 6 people die of starvation every year. We visit them often with clothes, slippers, mosquito nets, umbrella, candles and match box, and enough dry food items to last them for a month. This give and take action and the feelings exchanged between the 2 cannot be explained in words. It feels like a thousand doves taking a flight together towards a gold disc when that smile is exchanged between the giver and the taker.
- b) Every year on 15th August, we visit Kochipata Nursery School for the orphan and underprivileged children between the age group of 2 to 8 years in Masat, Usthi Road and donate something for the school and the children. When the tiny pair of lips turn to a smile while receiving the gifts and food hamper, tears fill my eyes. That brief exchange of emotion, love and affection is something I look forward to.
- c) Shrimoti Sucheta, an elderly lady runs a Home, Suchetana, with her meager means, for the rescued trafficked girls of South 24 Parganas. We have donated 2 sewing machines, a parlour chair and various parlour equipments and helped Suchetadi start Sewing and Beautician Training Courses for the inmates of the Home. We constantly monitor their classes and provide the necessary items needed for the courses. Each time I visit them, their smile of elation and satisfaction melts my heart.
- d) Recently, we donated 2 sewing machines to the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School to help start sewing and embroidery classes for the girls of Classes 5 to 8. We will also be monitoring the classes regularly and supply all necessary items needed for running the classes and provide a monthly honorarium for the sewing teacher. During our recent visits, a couple of times, I saw the smile in their faces the moment they see us as if trying to say "thank you very much", they clap their hands in their manner and wave out to us. A feeling of happiness and satisfaction engulf me and I thank God that I could be of little help to the needy.

I feel, working with the underprivileged, has offered me a unique opportunity for personal growth and development. It has broadened perspectives, challenged preconceived notions and fostered empathy and compassion. This act of giving back to the community also brings a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Club Secretary's thoughts:

THE FUN OF BEING A ROTARIAN..... Being a Rotarian is great fun because it involves community involvement, creates a friendly ambience and opens doors to social interaction within a supportive environment and the whole world in general. Although, I've entered the Rotary world only 2 years back, it seems my association with it has been for years. Such is the magic of Rotary. Needless to say, these days I look forward to the Regular Meeting and Board Meeting days when we not only meet to discuss and plan various Projects, we also enjoy a Fellowship session of "adda and eats". I feel Rotary provides a welcoming space for building lasting friendships and connections with like minded people coming from various professional life. The Social Events and Activities that we organize, bring happy vibes amongst the members—the social gatherings and parties offer a welcome break from the daily grind and create an atmosphere of fun and relaxation. Fellowship and dinner form a stark contrast after the serious Board Meetings. The Hilsa Fest, the Diwali Night, the Fun Fiesta Carnival are some of the events, we all look forward to. Even the 30 min Fellowship slot before the Regular Meetings help us start the meetings with a positive note. Rotary is a platform to help public speaking practice and expanding one's knowledge through guest speakers and educational programmes. I have had the opportunity of meeting Rotarians from various clubs at the District Conference where notes on club functioning the Projects were exchanged. I consider myself lucky to have been associated with Rotary where I have got the opportunity to actively participate in service projects and initiatives that benefit the local and international communities experiencing the satisfaction of making a difference. Being a Rotarian provides a sense of fulfillment and purpose by contributing to something larger than myself and working towards a common goal of service.

CLUB PROJECTS COMING UP

3rd August— Health Camp at Madartala Bazar Club House. There will be a General Physician, a Dermatologist and a Gynecologist (all members of our club) and a group of about 12 students from the Microbiology department of St Xavier's College who will conduct random blood sugar test, blood group test and blood pressure test. The beneficiaries are the inmates of Madartala Slums and the adjoining locality. Bleaching Powder and insecticides will be sprayed in the entire slum area.

14th August—Visit to Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School to distribute food hampers to the 250 inmates of the school on the occasion of Nari Dibosh.

15th August—Visit to Kachipata Nursery School, a school for the underprivileged and orphan children, at Usthi to donate money for procuring benches and table benches and giving food hampers to the children.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES –

- 3rd August is the Birthday of Mrs.Srirupa De
- 8 th August is the Birthday of Mrs.Rakhi Sen
- 10th August is the Birthday of Mrs.Keka Chakraborty
- 12th August is the Birthday of PP Rtn Satya Sundar Sarangi
- 13th August is the Birthday of Mrs.Sharmila Banerjee

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF RC. CALCUTTA.

Our Parent Club and our Hosts today.

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA was founded on the 26th of September 1919 and received its Charter on 1st January 1920. We have had the opportunity and rich heritage of hosting the greats like Mahatma Gandhi, His Holiness Dalai Lama and other global leaders as speakers in our club to address the members.

Since its inception, this was the only Rotary Club between the English Channel and the South China Sea, other than Manila and Shanghai (both installed in 1919), a few months prior to Calcutta. However, both the Manila and Shanghai Clubs had to suspend activities due to World War II and other reasons, thus making our Club the longest continuing Rotary Club in Asia with 105 years of uninterrupted service.

Of great pride in this long history of the Club is that its landmark 5000th RWM will be held a bit later in the Rotary Year 2025 26, as also the Centennial Edition of its flagship program "Annual Children's Treat". The Club has sponsored 32 Rotary Clubs.

CHANGE OVER CEREMONY – 11 JULY 2025
A FEW GLIMPSES.





CALCUTTA DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL PROJECT

Today we visited a school to conduct a Project, we visited a “silent school”. 250 children are getting education in the school, but silent looms as you enter, unlike other schools where there is a breath of noise as you enter the gates. This was our first Project with the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb school, a Government aided organization where all the children with hearing and speech disabilities come from economically weaker section of the society.

A Trust formed by Dr.Partha Sarathi Banerjee and Dr.Susmita Mitra Banerjee, in memory of their parents, in association with Rotary Club of Calcutta South West donated 2 sewing machines (one for normal tailoring and the other for embroidery) to the school and an informal inaugural ceremony took place on 22nd July 2025. Girl students from classes 5 to 8 will attend the tailoring classes twice a week. Along with the 2 sewing machines we have also donated all the articles and items needed to conduct the classes eg. Scissors, thread, needles, measuring tapes, spare parts of the machines, 4 big floor mats(for the girls to sit), cloth, graph exercise books to learn designs and cutting, pencils rubber and machine oil. We will also be giving a monthly honorarium to the sewing teacher.

Dr.Partha Sarathi Banerjee representing the Trust and 4 members from Rotary Club of Calcutta South West – Club President Rtn Ruma Mitra, Club Secretary Rtn Samir Sur, Community Service Directors Rtn Dr.Susmita Mitra Banerjee and Dr.Sumit Kr Mitra- were present at the Inaugural Ceremony which took place in the Sewing Classroom at 3 P.M. The girls walked in silently and stood in a line and all of them looked happy that they will begin to learn something new.

The Principal of the school Shri Madan Mohan gave a short speech and thanked all of us for taking up this unique Project. President Rtn Ruma Mitra addressed the students trying her best to explain in sign language and so did Rtn Dr.Susmita Mitra Banerjee. We told them to learn exactly the way their teacher teaches them and assured them that their work will be displayed at a Fair that we will organize in winter. Principal Sir explained in their language whatever we couldn't reach out to them with. The girls walked out of the room looking happy and elated. We too drove out of the Deaf and Dumb School with joy in our hearts.



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