



**ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN**

Club Regn. No. : 043290002/3842 • Charter Recd. : 17.06.1986

Rotary 



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

RY : 23-24

**METRO  
VOICE**

<https://rccalcuttametropolitan.rotaryindia.org>

PRESIDENT : RAKESH KUMAR GOEL - HONY. SECRETARY : RUNJHUN GUPTA - EDITOR : SASHI DHACHOLIA

1664th REGULAR MEETING

VOL 38, NO. 10

18 November 2023

Rotary 



## Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan Dist 3291

Having our **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT**  
with Cocktails & Dinner.

Also enjoy **BALLAD**

- A **TRIBUTE TO MEERABAI ON HER LIFE & EMANCIPATION.**
- A kaleidoscope of Dance, Enactment, Music, Reading & Songs  
by highly acclaimed  
performing artistes of Kolkata.

Please do come, with spouse, and enjoy the evening.

Place: Saturday Club, Phoenix hall  
Date: Saturday, 18th November, 2023  
Time: 6.30 pm



## MEERABAI - A TRIBUTE

After celebrating Durga Puja and Diwali recently, it is now time to relax. We are organizing Dance Drama Ballet "Meera Bai" followed by Fellowship on Saturday, the 18th November, 2023 at 6.30 PM at The Saturday Club Ltd, Pheonix Hall, 7 Dr M L K Sarani Road, Kolkata-700 016. Please join with your spouse to enjoy the Ballet and the fellowship.

### **A brief about Meera Bai Dance Drama Ballet**

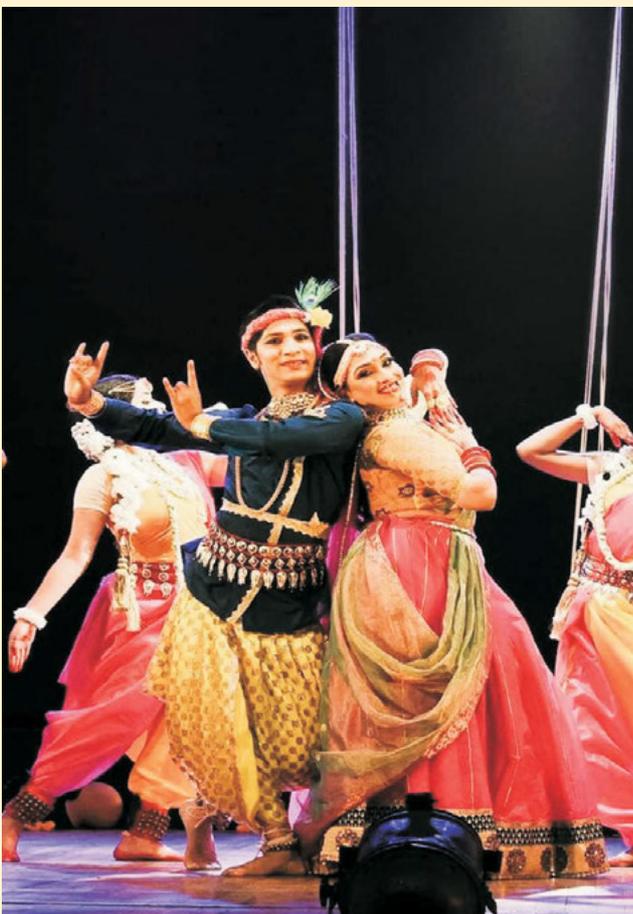
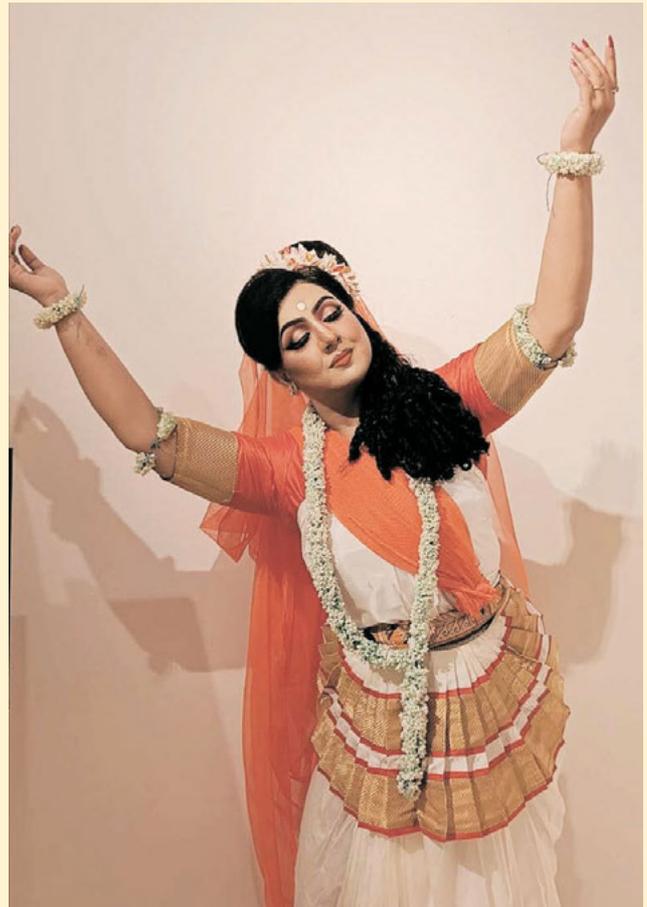
"16th century Princess Meera Bai, belonging to Rajputana Royal family and also married to Royalty, brought about a Spiritual Revolution in India lasting several centuries and impacting generations of devotees with her Bhakti Cult within the country and even beyond national boundaries. A Vaishnava Saint, a Philosopher, a Poet, a Sage, a Versatile genius, Meera was a path breaker with a vision and mission. Mission was to break social, cultural, religious moral barriers with her faith and unflinching devotion for a final union with her beloved Master, Lord, lover and husband Sri Krishna and attain salvation through Krishna Bhakti.

Meera travelled the length and breadth of the country from Mewar to Vrindavan, Mathura and finally to Dwarka in Gujrat.

A deputation of men from Chittore, deputed by Rana to bring her back, found her in Dwaraka but before they could lay hands on her, she disappeared while singing in the temple. All that was found was her sari draped around the Krishna Murti. It is said, in her death, she melted into the heart of Krishna.

This Dance drama ballet presents Time and life of Meerabai. Performance Show time is approximately one hour. The presentation is a unique mix of Music, dance, drama, poetry and reading; reliving the life of legendary Meerabai".

We are grateful to our PP Rtn Maitrayee Ray and PP Rtn Subha Pal (ex-member) for organizing the above event. We are also very thankful to all the members, who have sponsored the event.



## WE WELCOME RTN DR. POULOMI MULLICK AS METROPOLITAN

Rtn Dr. Poulomi Mullik was inducted as member of the Club on 4.11.2023 under Classification Educationist.



## PROGRESS REPORT ON REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN UNDER GG 19-80213

There is in-ordinate delay in completing the project "Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy Children" due to various factors particularly due to covid, which changed the requirement of equipment required under GG-19-80213 valued to the tune of USD 1,07,144 equivalent to INR-75,00,000/-. The progress is slow but slowly is getting being implemented. The implementing agency is Mahavir Seva Sadan. We have so far spent Rs.22,16,419/- on this project and the balance amount will be spent very soon.

Every child is gifted, but sometimes they need additional support and care to bring out their best abilities. We witnessed the power of these equipment that has helped create amazing transformation for these children with Cerebral palsy who could not even sit straight or walk or hold their head up or even hold objects, something taken for granted being blessed with good health and smoothly functioning body parts.

These equipment's are designed to focus different areas of a child based on their need and help them improve those parts slowly, helping them to function as a normal child. while this was a part of ongoing initiative of Rotary

Club of Calcutta Metropolitan under the Global grant project.

What was inspiring to see was the enthusiasm in the kids with the idea of getting to play with the equipment and it further reflected in the face of the smiling parents who were happier to see the glitter in the eyes of their children.

The trained operators made it easy and effective for each child and parent trying to use the equipment to get the best out of it.

It was wonderful to see all the good work Mahavir Seva Sadan has been doing, and even wonderful to know the things planned for the future, which led to further discussions of opportunities that the club can take to support to make a bigger difference. It was worth knowing the impact these little steps are making to the community and in aiding their vision of a 'Viklang mukt Bharat'....!

By Rtn Runjhun Gupta  
Hony Secretary

# PROGRESS REPORT ON REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN UNDER GG 19-80213



## PROGRESS REPORT ON REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN UNDER GG 19-80213



### ROTARY'S SEVEN AREAS OF FOCUS



Peace & Conflict Resolution



Supporting the Environment



Water & Sanitation



Maternal & Child Health



Disease Prevention & Treatment



Basic Education & Literacy



Economic & Community Development

Service opportunities await! Explore our five avenues of service. There's something for everyone anywhere!

**5 AVENUES OF SERVICE**  
Rotary

- International
- Vocational
- Youth
- Club
- Community

**ANYWAY IS THE RIGHT WAY**

**Rotary**  
PEOPLE OF ACTION

## REPORT ON ROTARY FOUNDATION IN INDIA AND HOW TO CONTRIBUTE IN RELEVANT WAYS

To the world of Rotary, especially Kolkata, PDG Rtn Rajni Mukherji needs no introduction and he made us understand by sharing an in-depth insight into the process of running Rotary the right way. He was our Guest speaker in the Regular Meeting held on 4.11.2023.

He started by saying that every year Rotary India has 2 key goals, one with respect to the funds and the other with respect to membership. He said every year the money goal is met, no matter what the amount is and every year the membership goal is not being met no matter how small the goal is. He further added that money is a by-product of the intent.

PDG Rtn Rajni Mukherji shared the story of his mother, a Gujrati, with short haircut, moving around boldly in saree in the rice fields of village and would be made fun by the kids as that was not a regular sight of a woman in the village. She questioned the kids one day about their desire to learn and once they agreed she ran around, got the funds, got them started and today there is a big school setup in her name in that village helping numerous kids get the required education. He said so when the intent is right, funds will come from anywhere.

PDG Rtn Rajni Mukherji said the main issue with the membership is that it is a 2-way street. He shared that most of us want to do good but we forget the most important criteria for doing good is being available and he emphasized that this needs to be part of the code of conduct for new members where this should be one of the oaths we take as Rotary member that 'I will be available'. At the same time, the head table and the board need to help with member engagement where the ideas, suggestions of projects should come from members rather than other way round and the best way to make that possible is by implementing the initiative 'Know your member' and getting them involved in their areas of interest.

He shared the best way to get the benefit of making contributions to the foundation is starting Global Grant projects, as that is the only way the contributed money can make its way back and any other way of that money coming back is rare as most of it gets directed to help the needy across the world.

He shared from recent experience of being in the position of decision making at District level, that it has been a global concern with respect to attendance and one of the change is in the motto that Rotary means People of Action and in that light a lot of rigidity has

been removed like going forward there will be no more Rotary theme every year by incoming Leadership, District conferences will not be mandatory, Clubs will have the flexibility to get creative to increase member engagement by changing meeting formats and experimenting the best way to involve everyone and take it forward.

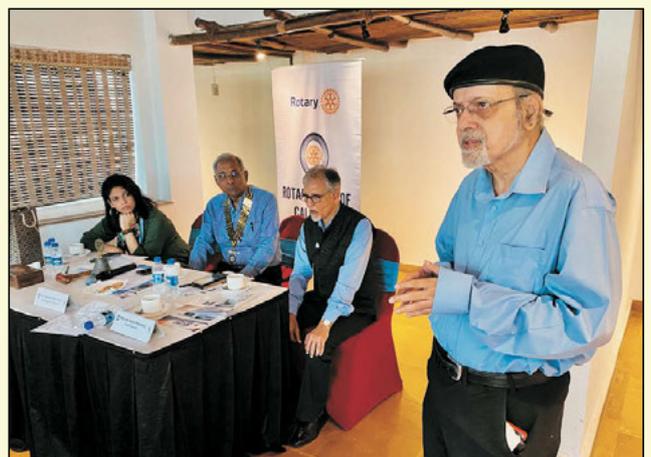
PDG Rtn Rajni Mukherji summarized the entire session with this realisation that foundation is a worthy contribution when it comes from a collective group with the intent and effort to do bigger good, where everyone makes Rotary the third priority after family and business and not just something that only shows them on the name list as we them miss out on the purpose of serving. He ended with a funny story of how 2 people came up to him at Chennai airport as he was wearing a rotary shirt, only to realise that they all were part of Kolkata and of the same club but not knowing each other. Only reason they had not met was because they never attended the meeting.

On the other hand, he shared he has a personal network of 10000 people thanks to Rotary that has helped come out of the worst situations. He shared one story where he got a call from a Rotarian from Shimla that one of his family members was ill and needed facilities were not available at Shimla and doctors advised him to take the patient to Chandigarh for further treatment. Rajanida called some Rotarian at Chandigarh, who arranged everything possible personally and ensured that the patient could travel back safely to Kolkata for further treatment. This is the Power of Rotary. Help is available from more than 1.2 million Rotarians from any corner of the world.

Rtn Utpal Chatterjee beamed with pride as PDG Rtn Rajni Mukherji gave him credit for all learnings as his student. Rtn Utpal Chatterjee shared his association with speaker and applauded him for the insights and at the same time urged the club to get younger minds to add to the new energy as suggested by the speaker, while himself making a commitment to do the best to support the club in serving to its best capacity...it was a commitment made on behalf of each and every Metropolitan.

By Rtn Runjhun Gupta  
Hony Secretary

# REPORT ON ROTARY FOUNDATION IN INDIA AND HOW TO CONTRIBUTE IN RELEVANT





## CONSTRUCTION OF ROTARY VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IS IN FULL SWING



## WHEN I BECAME A FULL-FLEDGED ROTARIAN: PP RTN UTPAL CHATTERJEE



Those were the days, nearly three decades ago, when I was a 24x7 journalist with India's leading newspaper with time not under my command. Yet, the demand and desire to listen to me speak was great. So, whenever I could, I spoke at, among other fora, some of the leading Rotary Clubs,

and gradually began to realise what Rotary was really all about.

I spoke more than once, two consecutive weeks in fact, at a particular Rotary Club. The then President, of the club, who happened to be a leading Barrister, spoke to his Board and decided to include me in their fold as a Honorary member.

After a couple of weeks or more, I decided on listening to him a little more attentively and told him I would rather be a full-fledged Rotarian. So, I became a permanent member. My conscience prevailed because of the universal Rotary motto, "Service above self". I knew time was a factor but I also remembered what I had heard as a small schoolboy, "Those who say they have no time, have all the time in the world". So, my innings as a Rotarian began. I made it a point to attend all the Rotary Weekly Meetings and visited the project sites.

Years started rolling. I took up the reins of the President and my heart went to the village near Sundarbans that we had adopted. Our action plan became a dream turned true. The RI District 3290 chose three outstanding Presidents and chose me as the one to be recognized ahead of the rest. That was a great honour.

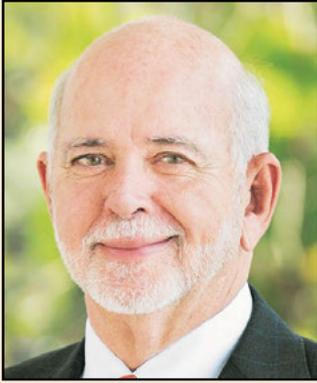
My heart and soul were in the Rotary movement. The RI District gave me greater responsibilities. District Co-Ordinator thrice, Assistant Governor four times, Special Aide and then Advisor to the District Governor thrice and, presently, Chief Ambassador of RID 3291. In the interim, I led our GSE to Germany.

I am glad I am with the ideal Rotary Club where the projects must be seen to be believed. Such is the dedication of the members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan that you cannot make out who is more active than the other. No wonder, until not too long ago, it was the only Rotary Club from India that figured in the Rotary International Hall of Fame at Evanston in the U.S. Yes, I am humbled by the accolades that I still keep receiving from the world over as a journalist, Public Speaker and Global Peace Ambassador but I feel much the same as a Rotarian. (The accompanying photo shows me receiving my first Rotary International Vocational Award for Excellence in Journalism and Public Service from Dr Subramanian Swamy in 2015)

## ONLINE CLASSES IN FULL SWING



## TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE – NOVEMBER 2023



**Barry Rassin**  
RI Trustee Chair 2023-24

This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's recognize it for what it is: one of the world's best humanitarian organizations.

Many charities, relief organizations, and nonprofits do the same type of work, and the public associates them with the causes they work on. But I wonder how many people know that Rotary supports those same causes - seven of them in fact - which we call our areas of focus.

If they want clean water, good health, and a sustainable future for our planet, they support what our Foundation does. If they envision a world where peace, full literacy, and economic opportunities for communities to support themselves exist, they also believe in Rotary's mission. And if they want to see mothers and their babies thrive, their vision aligns with the work we do.

And we have a lot of work in progress through the Foundation. Polio eradication is changing the world, one drop of vaccine at a time. Rotary Peace Centers are training peacebuilders to reduce violence and resolve conflict. And through Foundation global and district grants, we are improving lives in a real way.

The way we work also sets us apart. We have global reach, with more than 48,000 field offices in the form of Rotary and Rotaract clubs. We emphasize good stewardship of your funds and efficient implementation of your projects. And we always aim for sustainable solutions.

During the 2022-23 Rotary year, the Foundation awarded 1,098 global grants. If you think of what a single grant can do, you begin to grasp the scale of our work and the magnitude of our impact - an impact people can see and feel in their daily lives.

Our district supported a global grant project that focused on basic education and literacy in Malawi, where we helped train 38 teachers who are responsible for 4,000 students. We also built two toilets and installed a pump, so they had water for drinking and hand washing.

I will never forget that when Esther and I visited the school, a young boy pointed to my Rotary pin, recognizing it from other volunteers who wore their pins during the project. He said, "I know you helped me. I won't be able to travel to thank the others who helped me, so please thank them for me."

So thank you, Rotary, on behalf of a child in Malawi whose future you made a little brighter, and on behalf of thousands of others you have helped by supporting The Rotary Foundation.

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE – NOVEMBER 2023



**R. Gordon R. McNally**  
RI President 2023-24

Next year, Rotary takes a step toward supporting peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region when recruitment begins for our newest peace center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University (BAU) in Istanbul.

A series of events in the coming year will recognize the new center at BAU and Rotary's work to promote peace. The 2024 Rotary International Convention in May will mark 25 years since the first Rotary Peace Centers were announced - coincidentally at the Rotary Convention in Singapore in 1999. Recruitment for the first cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows at BAU also starts in 2024, and selected candidates will begin their program in early 2025.

Since its beginning, the peace centers program has prepared more than 1,700 peace fellows working in more than 140 countries to create a more peaceful world. That is certainly worth celebrating, but Rotary Peace Fellows are more than statistics on a page. Their actions have helped Create Hope in the World and will continue to do so.

For example, Jennifer Montgomery and Gorett Komurembe - peace fellows from the program at Makerere University in Uganda - are co-founders of Magenta Girls Initiative. The international nongovernmental organization equips Ugandan girls and young women with the support and tools to overcome harmful gender norms, generational poverty, gender-based violence, trafficking, and trauma.

Ndzi Divine Njamsi, another peace fellow who studied at Makerere, has taken lessons learned about Positive Peace and is sharing them with students of his own in Cameroon. He became interested in the Rotary Positive Peace Activator training program after witnessing extremism, online hate speech, and violence in Cameroon. Since completing the program, he has brought his lessons on peace to students at the Yaoundé International Business School and other organizations in the Central Africa country.

The world needs more people like the graduates of the program at Makerere and our other peace fellows. To that end, we can all advance peace by encouraging our local peacebuilders to learn more about Rotary and apply for this impactful fellowship. Rotary members can also mentor candidates for the fellowship. Or you can work with peace fellows who have already graduated. They probably have an initiative or two that would benefit from your help.

Our peace centers in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia depend on financial support as well. The program at BAU was made possible thanks to a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.

This new Rotary Peace Center will offer a one-year professional development certificate in peace and development studies for fellows focusing on peacebuilding within the Middle East and North Africa region.

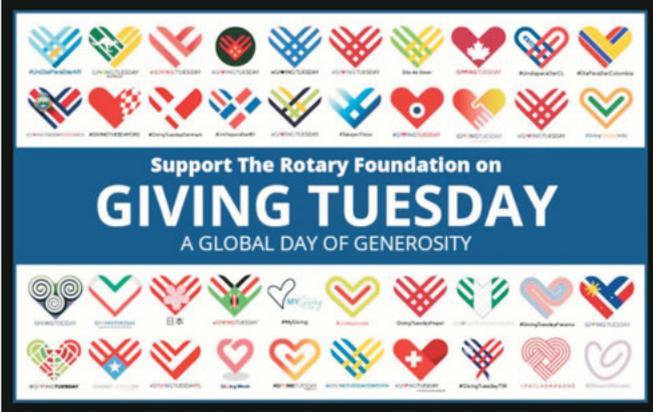
Peace must be waged persistently; it is the soil where hope takes root. But as with any journey, we take one step at a time. Let's take those steps together.

## GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday happens once a year, but your gift of Rotary will make a difference for a lifetime. This Giving Tuesday, consider making a special gift to The Rotary Foundation, and together, we can continue Doing Good in the world.

We need your help as a Rotary leader to raise funds and awareness for The Rotary Foundation this Giving Tuesday, 28 November.

This global day of generosity is an opportunity for all members to make a big impact, with a gift of any size that supports projects you're passionate about.



A graphic with 3D figures: seven white figures and one red figure in the center. Below them is the Rotary logo and the text "IMAGINE ROTARY".

**Great Leaders**  
**Dont tell you What to Do.**  
**They show you HOW ITS DONE.**

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**Develop Leadership**  
**IMAGINE ROTARY**

## Forthcoming Events

### CLUB

- 25.11.2023** Regular Meeting and Guest speaker will be Professor Dr Suman Mukhopadhyay who will speak on "Inclusive Economic Growth"

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- 26.11.2023** Distribution of 5 Sewing Machines to young women at Ramkrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore

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- 09.12.2023** Regular Meeting and and 2nd Club Assembly

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- 20.12.2023** Eye Screening Camp at Ramkrishnapur Rani Rashmani Seva Sangha, Kulpi

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- 30.12.2023** Regular Meeting and Annual Meeting followed by 6th BM and 2nd Trust Meeting

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- 03.02.2023** Fellowship to be held by PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi. Venue details will be communicated later on

### DISTRICT

- 18.11.2023** District Bijoya Diwali Meet at Private Bay of Nicco Parks & Resorts Ltd from 6.00 PM onwards. Registration Charges Rs.1600/- per person

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- 02.12.2023 & 03.12.2023** Pre-PETS for 2024-2025. Venue The Creek at Shantiniketan

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- 06.01.2024 & 07.01.2024** District Conference for 2024. Venue will be informed later on

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**24.11.2023** PE Rtn Sashi Dhacholia



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

**20.11.2023** Rtn Nisha Singhania & spouse Rohit

**22.11.2023** PP Rtn Dr Neeraja Rateria & spouse Poonam



**Sponsored by : A WELL WISHER**

We meet every Saturday at 2.00 pm at The Calcutta Swimming Club, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001  
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