


 UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Presidency Times

 Bulletin of Rotary Club of **Calcutta Presidency**
 Rotary International District 3291

 RI President: Rtn. Francesco Arezzo | DG: Rtn. Dr. Ramnendu Homchaudhuri
 President: Rtn. Rajesh Bothra | Secretary: Rtn. Rashi Sureka | Editor: Rtn. Anju Bothra

Francesco Arezzo President 2025-26



When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write.

It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

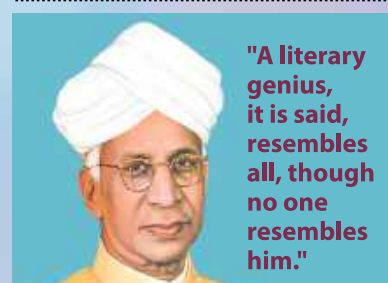
Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing

together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's *Unite for Good* by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we *Unite for Good*.



"A literary genius, it is said, resembles all, though no one resembles him."

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birthday, September 5, is celebrated as Teacher's Day in India because he was a devoted teacher, philosopher, and scholar who believed teachers were nation-builders. When his students asked to celebrate his birthday in 1962, he requested they instead honor all teachers for their contributions to society, leading the government to declare his birth anniversary as Teacher's Day.

"Teachers should be the best minds in the country."



A Decade of Service, a New Dawn

222 RWM and Installation Ceremony of President Rajesh Bothra held on August 29, 2025

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency ushered in a new Rotary year with its 222nd meeting and Installation Ceremony, held in grand style on August 29, 2025. The occasion was graced by PRIP Shekhar Mehta, DG Dr. R. Hom Chaudhuri and First Lady Dr. Bandana, PDG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, PDGs, and several distinguished district officials. Guests were warmly welcomed with chandan tika as the hall filled with the spirit of fellowship.

The ceremony commenced at 9:30 a.m. with Rtn. Dr. Rina Malpani as the Master of Ceremony, who ensured a seamless flow of proceedings. She invited outgoing President Rtn. Abha Lunia, Secretary Rtn. Seema Keyal, President-elect Rtn. Rajesh Bothra, and Joint Secretary Rtn. Anju Bothra to take their seats on the dais.

President Abha Lunia called the 222nd meeting to order, followed by the National Anthem. The District Governor was then invited to the dais and felicitated with an uttorio by Rtn. Pradeep Jain and the club also presented him with 60 Blood Donor Cards for thalassemia patients.

The First Lady was felicitated by Rtn. Sangita Jain, and PRIP Shekhar Mehta by Rtn. Sangita Bakliwal.

The outgoing President Rtn. Abha Lunia, who showcased the impactful projects of her year through a presentation, before gracefully handing over the Collar, Charter, Gong, and Gavel to the new President, Rtn. Rajesh Bothra.

President Rajesh delivered a heartfelt address that struck a chord with all present. Reflecting on his journey, he said: *"I consider myself privileged to have grown up surrounded by books, comics, and sports heroes who shaped my outlook. It was a universe of knowledge and inspiration that shaped who I am today. Today, Rotary gives me the chance to shape lives through service."* He emphasized his commitment to the club's flagship project, Rotary Ramakrishna Academy in Piyali, pledging to carry forward the school's mission despite challenges.

On this occasion, President Rajesh, along with the District Governor, launched The Presidency Times in the presence of members. He also handed over members' contribution cheques to the Rotary Foundation Fund to the District Governor, marking the Club's continued support towards Rotary's global initiatives.

The ceremony witnessed the induction of First Lady, Navita Bothra, pinned by First Lady Dr.

Bandana, and the honour of welcoming Dr. Ashok Malpani as an Honorary Member, inducted by PRIP Shekhar Mehta. President Rajesh then proudly introduced his new team of board members, while Rtn. Ranjan took the gathering through the club's remarkable 10-year journey.

DG Dr. Chaudhuri, in his keynote address, praised the club's achievements and teamwork under IPP Abha Lunia, affirming that the many awards won were truly deserved. He also urged members to take up the cause of Thalassemia prevention: "If we can create awareness, we can save thousands of children from suffering and loss. This is a fight we cannot afford to ignore." His blessings and best wishes for the new President and his team set a tone of encouragement and purpose.

The meeting also highlighted the club's upcoming fundraiser — the staging of the acclaimed Hindi play Chandaa Bhedni, a Rangakarmee Production, on 25th October, 2025— with proceeds dedicated to sustaining RRA, Piyali.

The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks by Rtn. Saswati Mukherjee, who read out a beautiful poem composed by Rtn. Sangita Jain, celebrating the club's glorious decade of service.



Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

As we step into another vibrant month filled with purpose and fellowship, we are reminded of the values that bind us together as a Rotary family - service, gratitude, and celebration of life in all its hues.

Teachers' Day, celebrated on September 5th, holds a special place in our hearts. It is a time to honor the mentors, guides, and educators who shape not just individuals but entire generations.. Let us take a moment to express our gratitude to those who have lit the path of knowledge for us, and reaffirm our commitment to supporting education in all its forms.

This season also brings with it the joy of **festivals** - occasions that remind us of the richness of our cultural heritage and the importance of unity in diversity. Whether it's Onam, Navratri, or Durga Puja or any other celebration observed in our communities, each festival is an opportunity to spread joy, build stronger bonds, and serve with renewed energy.

Let us carry forward this spirit, inspired by the lessons of our teachers and the joy of celebration, to make an even greater impact in the days to come.

Warm regards

Rtn. Anju Bothra - Club Editor



District Recognition for Our Members

At the District level, our club members were honored for their exemplary service and leadership. The District Governor bestowed **Individual Outstanding Awards** in recognition of their dedicated contributions in key positions.

We are proud to share that **three of our members received these prestigious awards:**

- **Rtn. Sangita Jain - Outstanding Assistant Governor (Admin)**
- **Rtn. Abha Lunia - Outstanding President**
- **Rtn. Seema Keyal - Outstanding Secretary**

Their achievements bring great pride to our club and inspire us all to continue striving for excellence



A Day of Three Impactful Projects

At **Victoria Vistas Banquet Hall**, in the presence of **Chief Guest DGN Rtn. Purnendu Roychoudhury (RC Calcutta Club)** and **Guest of Honour AG Rtn. Sheela Janakiram**, our club, along with five partnering Rotary clubs, completed three service projects in a single day:

1. **Scholarships (₹1.55 lakh):** Support for children of drivers, domestic help, yoga teachers, and others—confident young scholars, fluent in English, truly reflecting India's progress. Support to continue in coming semesters.
2. **Wheelchair Donation:** To a mentally challenged girl in the Sundarbans, thanks to **Rtn. Sangita Bajoria**.
3. **Prosthetic Limb Fitment:** For **Rudrani Sarkar (Class VIII)**, using an innovative dual-plane prosthetic made by **Rishab, an American student**, introduced to us by **Rtn. Bhattacharya (RC Bidhannagar)**.

Members present: Rtns. Asha Gupta, Sangita B., Pradeep Jain, Niti Tandon, Priyanka Gupta, Sangeeta Bajoria, and **Hon. Member Dr. Ashok Malpani**



223rd Regular Weekly Meeting

Date & Venue: 13th September, 9:30 am, **Cosmopolitan Club**

The 223rd Regular Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency began with a warm welcome by the President and the singing of the National Anthem. The President noted with regret the absence of Rtn. Rashi Sureka and Dr. Rina Malpani, who were attending the Taki Conference of Rotary Club Presidents and Secretaries. Members looked forward to the insights they would bring back.

"Rtn. Pradeep Ji has presented and filed the final accounts of last financial year. On behalf of the club, I thank him for his meticulous work and dedication", said the President

The President then shared the details of the projects completed in the past two weeks and also announced the Upcoming Projects.

Completed Projects

- Scholarships worth ₹1.55 lakh disbursed to needy students in September (Literacy Month).
- **Wheelchair donation** to a differently-abled girl from the Sunderbans.
- **Prosthetic limb fitment** for Class VIII student Rudrani Sarkar,

enabling her to hold objects.

All projects were conducted at Victoria Vistas with no venue expenses.

Upcoming Projects

- **Culmination of Gratitude Project: Panel Discussion on 26th September** at Rotary Sadan.
Chief Guest: DG Dr. H. Choudhary | Moderator: PDG Ravi Sehgal
Students, parents, and teachers invited.
- **Mega Fundraiser – Hindi Play 'Chandaa Bedni' to be staged on 26th October** at Science CityMini Auditorium
- **Cervical Cancer Vaccination Drive** on 21st September at Ram Leela Bagan (for 39 girls)
- **Pujo Pandal Hopping** for cancer-afflicted children of PremAshray on 27th September at 10 am
- **RRA School Visit** on 15th September
- **Rotary CSR Awards – East**

October 2025 in Kolkata led by Rtn. Ranjan Ji

The meeting concluded with birthday greetings to members and warm fellowship.

Ongoing Projects



Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency, in collaboration with Tillotanna Foundation, organized a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Drive on 14th September, under the Care for the Girl Child program.

The drive, held at Ram Leela Bagan, Kolkata, benefitted 39 girls. Those below 15 years received their second dose, while girls above 15 years were administered their third dose of the cervical cancer vaccine.

Rtns. Sangeeta Bajoria, Jayshree, and Priyanka were present to support the initiative, and Dr. Sutapa Das supervised the entire vaccination process.

Community Service - Spreading Festive Cheer

As a gesture of gratitude ahead of the upcoming Puja festival, our club extended warmth and appreciation to the office staff, helpers, security personnel, and gardener of RRA by gifting them new clothes and gifts, sponsored by our club member, Rtn. Sangita Bakliwal. This small token of thanks recognized their dedicated services and brought smiles as we celebrated the spirit of community and togetherness.



PP and AG Rtn. Rina and Secretary Rashi attended the President-Secretary Conference in Taki.

The conference was organized to help club presidents and secretaries connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen

collaboration. Overall, it was a very informative and beneficial meeting.



I met Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri recently, who is working tirelessly towards a noble mission to make India Thalassemia Free.

• Listening to him made me reflect : Every big change begins with one person's effort, but it becomes powerful only when many come together. This is exactly how mutual funds work too. One SIP on its own may feel small, but when contributions combine and grow over time, the impact is extraordinary.

Teachers' Day Celebration at RCGC

Teachers' Day was celebrated with warmth and gratitude at **RCGC** along with the dedicated teachers of **Rotary Ramakrishna Academy (RRA), Piyali**. The occasion honoured their tireless efforts in shaping young minds and nurturing the future of our students. Club members expressed appreciation, and the teachers were felicitated for their commitment and contribution.



And whether it is fighting a health challenge like Thalassemia or building wealth through mutual funds, the most important step is the same - having a clear goal in mind. Once the goal is set, consistency, collaboration, and time do the rest.

• A noble cause like this reminds us that wealth is not only about money - it's also about creating impact and leaving behind something meaningful.

Sunita Kedia

Happy Birthday

Sangeeta Bajoria	2 Sept
Niti Tandon	4 Sept
Anurag Bindwala	4 Sept
Raj Kumar Nahata	7 Sept
Pawan Agarwal	10 Sept
Vikas Sarawagi	11 Sept
Pramita Ghosh	25 Sept
Pravin Jain	28 Sept
Om Prakash Agarwal Todi	29 Sept

Website link: <https://rccalcuttapresidency.rotaryindia.org/NA> | Join us on: [f /Rotary-Calcutta-Presidency-Dist - 3291](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Calcutta-Presidency-Dist-3291)

We have regular meetings twice a month at Cosmopolitan Club over Breakfast.