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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
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Francesco Arezzo President 2025-26



October is Rotary's Community Economic Development Month, a time to spotlight our efforts to help communities build thriving, sustainable futures. This month's observance aligns perfectly with the Rotary core value of leadership.

Leadership means empowering people to guide their own progress. That is precisely what Rotary's economic development projects aim to achieve.

Take, for example, a recent initiative in southern India in which Rotary members unlocked the power of women of the Adivasi tribal groups through sewing training to earn a living and regain social inclusion. Historically, widows and abandoned women in this region lose social standing and are shunned by society or blamed for their misfortunes. Opportunities to support themselves or obtain training are minimal.

This story is one example of Rotary leadership in action: local people guiding solutions that address their community needs. Our role is not to deliver charity or to impose outside models, but to foster self-reliance by investing in leadership, skills, and sustainable enterprise.

Leadership is not always about being visible. Sometimes it means listening, working collaboratively, and amplifying the voices of others. That approach lies at the heart of Rotary's philosophy and our lasting impact on economic development.

Let us lead with good intention and provide support with heart. By nurturing local leadership, we can create opportunities that ripple through communities, empowering individuals, families, and societies.

Together, we can support economies that work for everyone and enact community development projects that last


 HAPPY
Diwali



Emergency Medical Camp at Kalighat Metro Station

Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency, together with Rotary Club of Amelia and in association with **BM Birla Heart Research Centre**, organized an **Emergency Medical Camp** at Kalighat Metro Station (Gate No. 4) on **29th September (Saptami)**, **30th September (Ashtami)**, and **1st October (Navami)** during the peak hours of **5 pm to 8 pm**, catering to the needs of Puja revellers.

The medical team, led by the dedicated nurses of BM Birla, attended to several minor emergencies, ensuring timely first aid and relief to spectators. The initiative received wide appreciation from commuters for the voluntary support and service extended.

Pandal Hopping for the Children of Premashraya, Tata Medical Center: 27th September 2025

Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency organized a memorable Pandal Hopping event for 150 children and their parents from Premashraya, the residential facility of Tata Medical Center for cancer patients. Three buses carrying the children were flagged off amidst cheer and festive spirit.

The program was graced by **Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, Superintendent, Tata Medical Centre**, **Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal, CFO, Tata Medical Centre**, and **Mrs. Sudeshna, Incharge of Premashraya**, who, along with our club members, joined in flagging off the children for this joyous outing.

Each child received a **steel tiffin box** as a gift, along with **food packets** for themselves and their parents. The happiness, excitement, and radiant smiles of the children made the day truly special.

Through this initiative, our club was able to spread joy and create cherished memories for children bravely fighting against cancer



Minutes of the 224 RWM of Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency held at Cosmopolitan Club on 4th October 2025



The meeting was called to order by President, Rajesh Bothra, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

President's Briefing on Upcoming Projects:

- **Tree Plantation at Mallickpur**
- **Fundraiser Event for RRA School** – Staging of the play "Chanda Bhedni"

The President encouraged all members to participate wholeheartedly and work together to ensure the success of these upcoming projects.

The meeting concluded with the **Acting Secretary, Rtn. Sangeeta Bajoria**, announcing the **birthdays and anniversaries** of members, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Editor's Note



As we step into the festive season, our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy — gratitude for the opportunity to serve and joy in seeing the impact of our collective efforts. Rotary has always stood for Service Above Self, and each project we undertake reminds us that true happiness lies in uplifting our community.

Our recent initiatives reflect the power of teamwork — when every Rotarian comes together with commitment and compassion, even the smallest effort creates a ripple of meaningful change. Community development remains at the heart of all we do, whether it's through healthcare, education, or social welfare projects.

This month, as we celebrate the festival of lights, let us continue to spread brightness in the lives of those around us. May the spirit of unity, service, and goodwill inspire us to keep working together for a better, more inclusive world.

As we look ahead, let us carry forward this enthusiasm and strengthen our bonds of fellowship. With dedication and a shared vision, there is no limit to what we can achieve — for our club, our community, and humanity at large.

Rtn. Anju Bothra - Club Editor





Fundraiser Play

CHANDAA BEDNI

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency hosted its **Fundraiser Play** on **Saturday, 25th October 2025**, at a packed auditorium - bringing together members, guests, and generous donors for a meaningful evening dedicated to **education and community upliftment**.

The fundraiser was organised in support of the **Rotary English Medium Primary School at Piyali**, a project close to the club's heart. The school is run by a team of young and devoted teachers who nurture the dreams of children from underprivileged families. The event aimed to raise funds to ensure that these children continue to dream and thrive, unhindered by financial constraints.

Speaking at the event, **President Rtn. Rajesh Bothra** said: *"As Abdul Kalam beautifully said — 'Dreams are not what you see in sleep, dreams are those that do not let you sleep.'*

The dreams of these children do not let us sleep. Every effort we make tonight is a step toward keeping those dreams alive and giving them a fair chance to shine."

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank every donor present here — your generosity is not just charity — it is faith. It is an act of belief in a future you may never directly witness... but will live on through the lives you touched."





The highlight of the evening was the **acclaimed Rangakarmee production "Chandaa Bedni"**, written by *Alakhnandan* and directed by *Anirudh Sarkar*. Based on Bundelkhandi folklore, the play is a musical and folk-style retelling of the story of a courtesan named Chanda.

The production has earned multiple accolades at the 2025 Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)--- **Best Ensemble, Best Lighting, Best Choreography and Best Actor in a Female Lead Role – Ranjini Ghosh, daughter of club member Rtn. Pramita Ghosh.**

The performance was powerful, artistic, and deeply moving. Each of the 38 artists delivered an exceptional performance that captivated the audience and left a lasting impression.

The evening beautifully blended **art with purpose**, reminding everyone that through collective compassion and creativity, Rotary can continue to **light the path of opportunity** for many. It was a gratifying and memorable success — leaving hearts full and spirits high.

The event was graced by **DG Dr. R. Hom Chaudhuri, First Lady Mrs. Bandana Hom Chaudhuri**, along with many **district officials and distinguished guests**, making it a truly special evening for all.



Teacher Training Workshop for RRA teachers -11 October 2025



A teacher training workshop was conducted with Ms. Chitralkha Bhaskar as the resource person. The session was highly informative, engaging, and interactive, capturing the interest of all participants throughout.

Focusing on empowering teachers through 21st-century skills, the workshop emphasized practical approaches to enhance classroom engagement, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. The resource person effectively incorporated activity-based learning methods, making the experience not only insightful but also enjoyable.

Teachers found the session to be a valuable opportunity for professional development, equipping them with tools and strategies relevant to today's dynamic educational environment.



Tree Plantation Drive at Urbashi Farm

On 9th October, a small but spirited tree plantation drive was carried out at Urbashi Farm, Mullickpur. Despite the muddy ground and challenging conditions, two dedicated Rotarians enthusiastically went ahead with the activity - proving that true commitment to the environment knows no obstacles!

Bamboo and Moringa seeds were planted, both known for their ecological and nutritional benefits. It was a simple yet meaningful step toward creating a greener, healthier planet - one seed at a time!

Rotary India National CSR Awards 2025

The **Rotary India National CSR Awards 2025** - organised for the very first time - was truly an event to remember!

Held on **23rd October at Hyatt Regency, Kolkata**, the prestigious evening witnessed a full house with over **200 corporate representatives and Rotarians** in attendance. The Awards celebrated companies that have gone beyond business to create a lasting social impact through their innovative and meaningful **CSR initiatives**.

Our Club had the privilege of being one of the Supporting Clubs at the event. We were represented by Rtn. Rajesh Bothra, Rtn. Pradeep Jai, and Rtn. Raj Kumar Nahata. We were especially honoured to have our member, Rtn. Ranjan Mussadi, serve as the Convenor of the event, and Rtn. Sangita Jain as part of the Organising Committee, ensuring active corporate participation and engagement

The **Jury Panel**, comprising eminent personalities from diverse fields, had convened earlier on **8th October** to evaluate entries and identify projects that have made a genuine difference in society.

Among the organisations recognised for their exemplary work were **Jindal Steel, ITC, Patton, L&T, Emami Paper Mills, Graphite India, Tata AIA, Central Coalfields, Eastern Coalmining Traders, CESC**, and several others. Each recipient expressed deep appreciation to the Jury and Rotary for this prestigious honour and recognition of their social

commitment.

Adding to the grandeur of the event were impressive **CSR project displays by various Rotary Clubs**, which beautifully highlighted Rotary's ongoing efforts toward sustainable and inclusive development. These exhibits offered guests an inspiring glimpse into Rotary's enduring mission of service to humanity.

The warm appreciation received after the event made all the hard work worthwhile. The **Rotary India National CSR Awards 2025** not only recognised outstanding contributions but also strengthened the bond between **Rotary and the corporate world**, reaffirming that together, we can create a more responsible and compassionate society.



"Dil Ki Suno" – A Lifesaving Digital Initiative



To amplify their impact in 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency, in partnership with BM Birla Heart Research Centre and renowned trainer Sutapa Seal, expanded the "Dil Ki Suno" campaign into a digital format, ensuring wider accessibility and participation across all sections of society. This initiative encourages everyone to learn CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) through easily available online resources and to share the official YouTube training video link with family and friends. The campaign reinforces a powerful message - that any citizen can become a real-life hero by learning this simple yet life-saving technique.

Diwali Celebration at Premashraya

The festival of lights was celebrated with warmth and joy at **Premashraya**, bringing happiness to over **180 patients and their families**. The evening truly reflected the spirit of **Diwali - togetherness, compassion, and hope**.

Highlights of the Celebration:

- The Wow Wonder Ladies inspired all with their uplifting storytelling, spreading smiles and laughter.
- Interactors of St. Teresa's Girls School presented a lively performance, filling the room with youthful energy. Their Principal, Sister Jasmine, graced the occasion with her blessings.
- Graceful dance performances, including by the young children, added colour and cheer to the evening.
- A beautiful diya ceremony united everyone in a moment of warmth and radiance.
- The hospital building glowed with festive lights, thanks to a kind donor.
- Jain Mahila Mandal contributed **25 kg of Horlicks** for the children, adding sweetness to the celebration.

The evening concluded with refreshments arranged by **RCCP**, marking a perfect blend of celebration and compassion - a **Diwali to remember at Premashraya**.



World Polio Day Celebration

On 24th October, a meaningful program was held at Rotary Sadan to mark World Polio Day. The Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency had the privilege of being one of the host clubs, along with several others from District 3291. The event was graced by eminent Rotarians - ENPC PDG Uttam Ganguly, DPPC PDG Mukul Sinha, and DG Dr. Hom Chaudhuri - whose presence and guidance added great value to the occasion.

A proud moment for our club was when Rtn. Sangita Bajoria extended her personal contribution of USD 100 to the Polio Fund, reinforcing Rotary's global commitment to this noble cause. Our club also received its Host Certificate in recognition of our participation.



Thalassemia Awareness Drive

As part of our ongoing commitment to community health, Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency organized a Thalassemia Awareness initiative during the staging of Chanda Bedni at Science City. The event was graced by our District Governor, adding significance to the cause. Pamphlets highlighting the causes, genetic nature, and prevention of Thalassemia were distributed to all the young participants of the play. They were informed that this disease can be effectively prevented through awareness and timely testing. The HPLC blood test helps identify carrier status — and if both partners are tested before marriage, the birth of children with Thalassemia can be completely avoided. Continuing the awareness effort, on 27th October, similar pamphlets were distributed at the Ladies Petrol Pump in Alipore. The staff and visitors were sensitized about the importance of preventive testing.

Happy Birthday

Sangeeta Mukherjee	19 Oct
Dr. Ramesh Agarwalla	25 Oct
Amit Gupta	29 Oct



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.

