



Presidency Times

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



RI President- **Rtn. Stephanie A. Urchik** | DG: **Rtn. Dr. Krishnendu Gupta**
President: **Rtn. Abha Lunia** | Secretary: **Rtn. Seema Kayal** | Editor: **Rtn. Anju Bothra**



Message by Stephanie A. Urchik President 2024-25

As the chill of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, we have an opportunity to rejuvenate our commitments to each other and to the communities we serve.

A shining example is the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland in Ontario, whose members support a program providing hot meals to people facing homelessness and food insecurity. On any given evening, the Soup Shack run by Feed Windsor-Essex

serves up to 130 people, offering nourishment and a sense of community and care.

This exemplifies how Rotary members can come together to address community needs, foster engagement, and make a tangible impact. By identifying opportunities for service and mobilizing resources, we not only support those in need but also strengthen our bonds with each other and with the communities we serve.

As we embrace the renewal that spring offers, let's take inspiration from the Windsor-Roseland club. Consider these ways to reinvigorate engagement within your club:

Identify emerging needs: Stay attuned to the evolving challenges in your communities. Engage with local organizations to understand where your club's support can make the most difference.

Mobilize resources quickly: When opportunities arise, act swiftly. Leverage the skills and networks within your club to gather resources, from financial contributions to equipment to volunteer time.

Foster collaboration: Encourage members to take initiative and collaborate on projects. Empowering individuals to lead and contribute their unique talents enhances engagement and drives success.

Commit to ongoing involvement: Beyond initial contributions, pledge continued support.

Regular service keeps members connected and reinforces the club's commitment to sustained impact. By embracing these approaches, we can harness the energy of spring to renew our dedication to service and engagement. Let's seize this season as an opportunity to revitalize our efforts, strengthen our connections, and continue making a positive difference in the world.

This is The Magic of Rotary — transforming lives, inspiring hope, and creating lasting change for the communities we serve.





Jeevan Jyoti2 : A Noble Initiative for Heart Care

RC Calcutta Presidency, In collaboration with BM Birla Heart Research Centre, is proud to offer free heart surgeries for underprivileged patients. Procedures such as angioplasty, pacemaker implantation, open-heart surgery, and ICD are included under this initiative.

On 1st April, Mr. Rabindranath Ghosh, aged 60, underwent open-heart surgery for two severe blocks in the LAD artery. The operation, performed by Dr. Ratan Das, was done completely free of cost, with the patient paying only ₹100 as a registration fee—an otherwise unaffordable ₹3 lakh surgery.

Our members Abha Lunia, Sangita Bajoria, and Dr. Rina Malpani visited him on 4th April, finding him in good health and deeply grateful. His son also appreciated our efforts. A heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ashok Malpani for making this possible. With valid financial documents, we can continue enabling more such life-saving surgeries—a truly noble act of giving someone a second chance at life.

Minutes of the 213th RWM & Club Assembly of Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency Date: 5th April 2025 | Time: 9:30 AM | Venue: Cosmopolitan Club



Guest Speakers: AG Vikram Tantia and ZS Raj Kr. Agarwal
President warmly welcomed the members and guests and officially called the 213th Meeting to order. The National Anthem was led by Rtn Asha Gupta. The minutes of the 212th meeting were read and confirmed.

The President then invited the esteemed guest speakers to the dais. She gave them an overview of the projects undertaken by the club and also shared details of the recently completed projects and the upcoming projects.

Completed Projects:

- 25th March 2025 – Interact Project at Taaza TV Studio
- 1st April 2025 – Project Jeevan Jyoti 2 at BM Birla Hospital
- 3rd April 2025 – Project at Saroj Gupta Cancer Hospital

Upcoming Projects: 13th April 2025 – **Project Sui Dhaga & Fashion Show at Rotary Ramkrishna Academy, Piyali**

As part of Project Sui Dhaga, 31 sewing machines will be distributed at subsidized rates to vocational training students, funded by an EIWRG grant. A fashion show featuring garments stitched by the students will follow. DGN Tapas Bhattacharya and Shailendra Gupta from Geetas Circle (material sponsor) will grace the occasion.

Water Cooler Donation: The event will conclude with the inauguration of a water cooler donated by Rtn Rashmi Surekha. Guest speaker AG Vikramji Tantia shared key insights into Rotary's purpose, stressing active member involvement, membership development, and the importance of updating Rotary platforms. He also discussed Rotary India initiatives and Global Grants. ZS Raj Kr. Agarwal offered practical advice on managing clubs effectively. A vote of thanks along with gifts was presented to the guests. The Secretary announced upcoming birthdays and anniversaries. The meeting was adjourned.



Editor's Note

As the golden hues of summer gently unfold around us, we find ourselves basking in longer days, brighter skies. But with the beauty of summer also comes a gentle reminder of our responsibility towards the **environment**. Rising temperatures, unpredictable weather, and the increasing strain on natural resources call for action - and awareness. As Rotarians committed to service, let us reflect on how our everyday choices and club projects can contribute to a healthier planet. Whether it's through reducing waste, supporting green initiatives, or simply encouraging eco-conscious habits in our communities, every effort counts. This season, let us also renew our commitment to being **stewards of the earth** - nurturing it with the same care and compassion we extend to the people around us.

However, this summer also brings a sombre reminder of the fragility of peace and the importance of unity. Just as we are stewards of the earth, we must also be guardians of harmony and understanding.

Warm regards

Rtn. Anju Bothra - Club Editor





SAKSHAM LN4 Artificial Hand Camp – A Step Towards Empowerment

On 19th April 2025, RC Calcutta Presidency partnered in a successful Saksham LN4 Artificial Hand Project camp held in Hooghly District, organized by Rachana Banerjee, Member of Parliament and renowned Tollywood actress. We were honored to serve as the executing partner for this noble initiative.

Out of 12 registered recipients, 9 completed the registration process, and 6 beneficiaries were successfully fitted with LN4 prosthetic hands. One recipient was referred to Dhanbad for further assessment, and two were deemed ineligible due to short stumps. The camp was attended by our dedicated club members, all of whom contributed

to the smooth execution of the project.

The event received strong support and encouragement from Shri Kamnashish Sen, IPS – SP Hooghly, who appreciated the organized fitment, training, and counselling process. The Saksham team's dedication was widely praised, and our hotline number was shared with media outlets to help more recipients access this life-changing opportunity.

This impactful camp also marked a special occasion - the birthday celebration of Rotary International Founder, Paul Harris — making it a truly meaningful tribute.



"Care for the Cancer Patients" – A Touch of Hope

On 3rd April 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency carried out a meaningful initiative titled "Care for the Cancer Patients" at Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute, with a donation of ₹1,06,000.

The project included ₹1,00,000 towards the treatment of 5 underprivileged patients, and ₹6,000 for 28 silicone pencil pouch stationery kits and 28 foldable cotton utility bags distributed to young cancer patients and their guardians. The entire project was generously funded by our member Rtn Priyanka Gupta, to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks.

The visit began with a briefing on the Institute's history by Dr. Arnab Gupta, followed by a tour of the Children's Care Centre, where gifts were personally handed over to the children present. Gifts for those staying at St. Jude's Institute nearby were delivered to be distributed the next day.

This visit deeply moved our participating members, highlighting the immense need for continued support- especially as over 50% of patients at the institute are treated free or at highly subsidized rates. We look forward to continuing our support for such compassionate causes in the future.



EK NAYI PEHCHAAN... SUI DHAGA PROJECT

The SUI DHAGA Project event was held on 13th April at RRA School, Piyali, where 31 Singer sewing machines were given to the beneficiaries. Even with the heat and distance, many club members came to support and cheer for the beneficiaries.

Special guests included DGN Tapas Bhattacharya, Mr. Shailendra (from Geeta's Circle), and Mr. Barun. They were taken on a tour of the school before the event began.

The program started with Udit as the host. Dr. Rina Malpani spoke about the project and RRA Academy. DGN Tapas Bhattacharya

encouraged the students to use their skills to become independent. Mr Barun also shared a few words about the school.

A beautiful fashion show followed, where the beneficiaries proudly showcased the clothes they had made. With help from Sangita B, Rashi, and Udit, the ramp came alive with colors and smiles. Club members too joined in the ramp walk!

After the show, the students received certificates and sewing machines (through the EIRWT grant). Rtn. Jayshree gave a surprise gift to all beneficiaries, and food packets were distributed to everyone.



Cervical Cancer Vaccine Project by Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency

On 27th April 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency conducted a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp at Sushil Kar College, Champahati, for the beneficiaries of RCC Champahati Bird. A total of 84 girls received the HPV vaccine as part of this important health initiative.

The project was held in collaboration with Belur, under Global Grant No. GG#2454823, through which 28 girls aged 9 to 15 years were vaccinated. Additionally, 50 beneficiaries were vaccinated with support from the Serum Foundation, facilitated by our club. The initiative received media coverage by Bangla Republic, raising awareness about the importance of cervical cancer prevention. Our esteemed member, Dr. Rina, addressed the gathering and explained the critical need for early vaccination.

The project was made possible by the generous support of several Rotary members who came forward to sponsor vaccinations. This event showcased the true spirit of service and the strength of our club - always ready to serve.

Minutes of the 214th RWM Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency



The 214th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency was held on 26th April 2025 at the Calcutta Cosmopolitan Club.

The meeting was called to order by the President. After the National Anthem, a two-minute silence was observed for the victims of the Pahalgam shootings, followed by another silence in memory of President Abha Lunia's mother.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. The club welcomed six guests, including two from Japan—Mr. Tsuchida San of Tamano Rotary Club (District 2690) and Mr. Iwasaki Hiroshi—who were introduced by regular guest Mr. Palash Banerjee. Other guests included Ms. Renu Jain, Ms. Seema Kanoria, and Ms. Sutithi Bose.

The Club President exchanged flags and gifts with the visiting

Rotarian guest, who praised our country and the warm hospitality he and his companion had received, while also assuring his support for our RRA School Project.

The other guests also introduced themselves and expressed their desire to join our vibrant club.

This was followed by the President updating all about the Completed Projects including **Jeevan Jyoti 2, Saroj Gupta Cancer Hospital, Sui Dhaga and Ek Nai Pehchan, Water Cooler Installation at RRA, and Saksham, our signature project.**

She encouraged members to participate in the **Upcoming Project of the Cervical Cancer Vaccination** and also to attend the **District Governor's visit on 3rd May 2025.**

The Secretary extended anniversary wishes, and the meeting concluded with thanks from the President.

Distribution of Sewing Machines at Baruipur

On 26th April 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency distributed **seven sewing machines** at the **Vocational Training Centre in Baruipur**. Several women who have completed or are currently undergoing training at the centre lacked access to sewing machines at home, and purchasing them at market rates was financially unfeasible. To support them, the club applied for the **EIRWT Grant (Grant No. 0484)** and contributed its share, making the machines available at a **highly subsidized price**. Thanks to this initiative, these women are now empowered to use their skills to **earn a sustainable livelihood** from the comfort of their homes.



Happy Anniversary

Udita & Vikram Newar 17 Apr
Shubham Bagaria & Varsha 21 Apr
Pramita & Soumyajit Ghosh 27 Apr
Sanjay Sureka & Rashi 29 Apr
Rajesh Bothra & Navita 30 Apr

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.