



# 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

I always walk into meetings at my home club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, with a smile on my face. There's nothing more powerful for engaging and retaining members than a club that's vibrant, welcoming, and — yes — fun. Think back to what drew you to Rotary. Chances are, it wasn't just the service projects or professional networking. It was the people — the friendships, the shared laughter, and the joy of working toward a common purpose. That's what keeps us coming back.

At your next meeting or event, try something new to bring out a few extra smiles. It's the simple things that create lasting bonds and make clubs simply irresistible.

Here's one example of a club moving in the right direction. The Rotary Club of Fukushima, Japan, has been combining environmental responsibility with community fun since 2021. In Japan, people have made picking up trash into a sport known as SpoGomi, and every year the club hosts a game. This year, more than 400 participants cheered each other on while they came together to improve their community.

This event is an excellent example of how Rotary clubs can have fun, make a difference, and raise awareness for broader global challenges all at the same time. And the inclusive, family-friendly format allows people of all ages to participate. When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our clubs strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

Retention and culture go hand in hand. The healthier our club culture, the more likely members are to stay. Rotary magazine is an outstanding resource for inspiration on how to enhance our club culture and deepen member engagement. I encourage you to explore the stories and strategies in these pages, drawing from other clubs' successes to find ideas that work for you. Together, we can create a more engaged, enjoyable, and inclusive Rotary that every member can feel proud to be part of. Let's continue with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, living *The Magic of Rotary*.

## The 'Sammelan' District Conference 2024-25



was a remarkable event that brought together Rotarians, leaders, and change makers to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and discuss impactful initiatives. Held with the aim of strengthening our shared commitment to service and innovation, the conference provided a platform for meaningful conversations and the sharing of valuable experiences. Our President, Abha Lunia had the honour

of introducing one of the eminent speakers, Air Marshall Vikram Singh. Our club was also recognised for its support to the S sammelan.





## Minutes of the 207th Meeting and AGM at Rajshree Rajhans Board Room Date: 28th December 2024, 9:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by the President, who welcomed everyone to the AGM. The National Anthem was sung by all attendees. The minutes of the 206th meeting were read and passed by Anju Bothra and Sangita Jain.

**AGM - Constitution and By-Laws:** The Constitution and By-Laws were reviewed and accepted as is.

1. The President invited PE Rajesh Bothra to the dais. He addressed the members and requested support during his term as President.
2. A Nominations Committee had been formed, and emails had been sent to all members to select board members. PE Rajesh Bothra was invited to choose his board.
3. Since it was mid-term, Secretary Seema briefly read out her report, covering all major activities undertaken by the club so far.
4. It was noted that the club still needs to focus on activities related to water, hygiene and sanitation, and peace and conflict.
5. Treasurer Rajeshji presented the audited accounts for the year ended 30th June 2023 for the club, and Rtn Pawan ji presented the accounts for the Foundation Trust for the year ending 31st March 2023. The accounts were reviewed, confirmed, and adopted. Additionally, updated bank balances and dues recoverable from members were presented.
6. A round of applause was given to the team working on the Piyali School project. Sangita informed the members about plans for a Sports Day at the RRA School on Republic Day.

### Rotary Project – Robe Completed

On 19th December, the Rotary Presidency organized the Robe project at

Young Horizon School. The goal was to sell donated clothes to the right population. Members contributed by collecting stock and assisting with sales. Young Horizon Interact members, along with teachers, helped with sorting, display, and selling. The sale resulted in approximately Rs 13,000 in proceeds.

### Upcoming Projects

1. **Cataract Surgery Project** on 29th December
2. **Sui Dhaga Project**
3. **Cervical Cancer Vaccination.** Date to be decided in consultation with the Principal of Charu Chandra College.
4. **Free Heart Surgery Beneficiaries:** Thanks to Rtna, two beneficiaries have been selected for free heart surgery under the Jeewan Jyoti program. Emails have been sent to district clubs for further beneficiaries.
5. **Toilets and Water Cleaning Projects:** Ten toilets are being set up, with details for six toilets provided by RCC Champahati Bird. Additionally, a machine for cleaning pond water to make it drinkable at Champahati will be procured. Sangita Bakliwal, Pradeepji, and Rajeshji will work on moving these projects forward, with plans to utilize CSR funding and apply for grants.
6. **District Conference Registrations**

Club secretary Seema read out the list of upcoming birthdays. Since it was Sangita Jain's birthday, the members celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony.

The meeting was then adjourned.



## P.E.T.S. Workshop at IIM Joka

The P.E.T.S. workshop held on 19th January 2025 at IIM Joka was a valuable experience for everyone involved! With professors like Dr. Rohit Kumar and Dr. Amir Dhiwan leading the session, it's no surprise the content was engaging and insightful. It's also great that President Elect Rtn. Rajesh and Rtn. Dr. Rina Malpani had the chance to attend—such programs can offer a fresh perspective on leadership and teamwork. The interactive approach of using games and questionnaires made the learning process even more impactful.



## Editor's Note

As we begin this New Year, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the incredible work we have accomplished together. Our club continues to lead the way in service, compassion, and community impact, vocational service and creating lasting change across the city and beyond.

From empowering young girls through self-defence training to providing life-changing cataract surgeries, each project has been a testament of our collective spirit of service. These initiatives not only demonstrate our commitment to making a tangible difference but also inspire others to join us in this noble journey.

As we continue to grow and strengthen our efforts, let us stay united in our mission to serve, uplift, and bring positive change to those in need. Together, we are not just impacting lives; we are transforming communities and building a brighter future for all.

I invite you to read through the rest of this newsletter, which highlights the wonderful work we've done so far and the exciting initiatives that lie ahead. Your dedication, energy, and support are the heartbeat of our club, and together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference.

Here's to another year of service, growth, and making the world a better place!

Warm regards

Rtn. Anju Bothra - Club Editor



## Literacy Project

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency received Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for its outstanding and active support, participation and sponsorship for the Hashtag English and Effortless Arithmetic under Easy school 3, District Literacy project.



## Rotary Bosch Bridge Skill Centre - Vocational Training Initiative

On January 11th, 2025, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Awareness Foundation for Environment and Skill Development and the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency, marking the launch of the Rotary Bosch Bridge Skill Centre in Mallickpur, Barulpur. This collaboration promises to bring vocational training to underprivileged students, empowering them with skills that will make them employable and open up opportunities for better livelihoods.

The MOU formalized the partnership for this impactful vocational project, which will be managed by an NGO in Mallickpur and supported by the Tarachandra and Shanti Maheshwari Trust. Bosch will play a key role in the success of this initiative by providing placement opportunities for the students, with a commitment to absorb 70% of the trainees into first-level entry jobs.

The vocational centre is set to begin classes in mid-February 2025, marking the start of an exciting new chapter for the underprivileged youth in the region.

This project exemplifies Rotary's commitment to skill development, empowerment, and creating sustainable employment opportunities for those in need.



## Netra Raksha: Cataract Surgery Initiative - Part 2

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency is pleased to announce the success of our second special initiative aimed at bringing the gift of clear vision to those in need. On December 28th, 2024, we organized a cataract surgery camp, providing 60 cataract operations using the advanced Phaco process. This state-of-the-art procedure is known for being safe, efficient, and minimally invasive, offering a swift recovery with minimal discomfort for patients.

We were honored to have **DGN Tapas Bhattacharya** as the Chief Guest for the event, and his presence added great significance to the project. The initiative was also supported by several esteemed members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency.

Together, we strive to make a difference, one life at a time, with the power of clear vision.

## Fellowship Picnic at Kakinara Farm house - 12 Jan 2025



Our club recently hosted a delightful fellowship picnic at the charming Kakinara farmhouse, which turned out to be a truly memorable and magical experience. The event took place in an idyllic setting, far from the bustle of the city, with the farmhouse discreetly tucked half a mile off the main highway. Upon arrival, the vibrant cascade of flowers at the entrance set a welcoming and heavenly tone for the day.

As members began to arrive, the atmosphere quickly became lively and festive. A diverse spread of food was provided, catering to all tastes. The highlight of the meal was the avocado toast and veggie cheese sandwiches, freshly prepared by our male members, who sported aprons and chef hats. Their humorous take on the role of Master Chefs added an extra layer of fun to the culinary experience.

One of the standout features of the picnic was the freshly extracted sugarcane juice, mixed with ginger and lemon. This refreshing drink proved to be a favorite among the attendees, offering a burst of natural flavor that complemented the relaxed atmosphere.

In addition to the great food, several innovative games were organized to encourage team bonding and playful competition. The playful energy and camaraderie created a joyful environment that kept everyone engaged and entertained. No picnic would be complete without some music, and the game of Antakshari—an all-time favorite—provided the perfect nostalgic touch.

To cap off the day, we were honored by the presence of our Immediate Past District Governor, Hiralal ji, who graciously joined us for the festivities. His presence added a special touch to the gathering.

The day was a perfect blend of fun, food, and camaraderie, leaving everyone with lasting memories of a truly enjoyable experience.

## Service Projects

**1. Blanket distribution:** In celebration of the Sankranti festival, our club took the initiative to distribute 50 blankets to those in need in the Kakinara area. This gesture was aimed at providing warmth and comfort to individuals who face the challenges of the cold weather, especially during the festive season.



## 2. Wheelchair Donation for a Blind Child

Our club provided a wheelchair to a 2-year-old blind child who faces the dual challenge of both visual impairment and limited mobility. Currently, the child's mother has to carry him everywhere, which has proven to be both physically and emotionally draining. This thoughtful and compassionate act of kindness aims to significantly improve their quality of life.



## The Annual Sports Day at RRA

The Annual Sports Day at RRA, held on 26-01-25, was a spectacular success, celebrating the indomitable spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and resilience. The event was graced by the presence of Chairman Mr. Barun Mondal and the members of the Management Committee Rtn. Sangita Jain, Rtn. Jayshree Soman, Rtn. Priyanka Gupta and Rtn. Rashmi Surana.

The day began with a vibrant Oath Taking Ceremony by our students. This was followed by a series of track and field events, fun relays, and team games that captivated the audience. The spirit of healthy competition was palpable as participants gave their best, cheered on by their peers, teachers, and parents. The event was not just about competition; it was a celebration of holistic development. It reminded us that sports are a vital part of education, shaping character and instilling essential values like perseverance, discipline, and the ability to handle both victory and defeat gracefully.

As Headmistress of RRA, I am immensely proud of our students and their achievements. The Annual Sports Day was a true testament to the vibrant spirit and all-round development of our school community. We look forward to nurturing more talent and hosting more such memorable events in the future.

**By: Reshmi Choudhary**  
Headmistress-RRA



## Happy Birthday

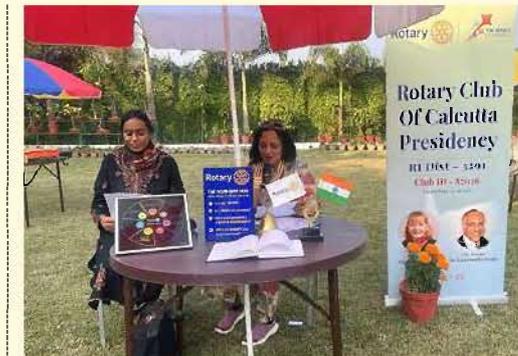
Seema Koyal 3 Jan  
Udita Newar 9 Jan  
Sunil Mall 10 Jan  
Sandeep Jain 12 Jan  
Ranjan Musaddi 22 Jan

## Happy Anniversary

Sangeeta & Mohit Bajoria 23 Jan  
Rina & Ashok Malpani 25 Jan  
Mita & Ramesh Ganerwal 26 Jan  
Sangita Jain & Sunil 27 Jan  
Sangita Jain Bakhtwal & Viresh 27 Jan

## District Project Virangana - Self-Defense Training for Girls, 20 Jan. 2025

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency recently organized the District Project Virangana, a self-defense training program aimed at empowering 50 girls from Howrah Shiksha Sadan. The training was conducted by renowned trainer Utpal Chatterjee and focused on providing the girls with essential skills to protect themselves, enhancing both their physical and mental well-being. In addition to the self-defense training, Rtn. Sangita Jain delivered an informative talk on nutrition, emphasizing the importance of a balanced diet for maintaining energy and overall health. Psychologist Madhuri also spoke on the topic of mental wellness, offering valuable insights on how to develop focus, make quick decisions, and manage emotions in stressful situations. These discussions provided a well-rounded approach to empowerment, addressing both the physical and mental aspects of the girls' growth.



## Minutes of the 208th RWM of Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency

**Date: 12th January 2025**

**Time: 1:00 PM**

**Venue: Kankinara Farmhouse**

The President called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. The President welcomed all members present. The National Anthem was sung by all attendees. The minutes of the 207th meeting were read and passed by Anju Bothra and Sangita Jain.

**Projects Completed:**

**1. Netra Raksha Project (29th Dec 2024):** 60 eye cataract operations through Phaco were conducted in collaboration with Prem Milan. The total cost of the project was Rs. 1,80,000/-, fully sponsored by relatives and friends. DGN Tapas Bhattacharya attended and appreciated the project.

**2. District Conference (3rd - 5th Jan 2025):** The club registered 7 participants for the District Conference. The club was an associate host by paying Rs. 25,000/- 3. Picnic Fellowship and Blanket Distribution (12th Jan 2025): A picnic fellowship event was organized, during which 50 blankets were distributed to the needy in Kankinara.

**Upcoming Projects:**

**1. Republic Day & Annual Sports Day (26th Jan 2025):** The students of Rotary Ramakrishna Academy will celebrate Republic Day and Annual Sports Day. The club has arranged prizes for sports and food packets for the children and faculty.

**2. Vocational Training Project (15th Feb 2025):** The club will launch a vocational training project in collaboration with Bosch, supported by the Tarachandra and Shanti Maheshwari Trust.

**3. Saksham at Durgapur (22nd Feb 2025):** The club will send approximately 3 members to Durgapur a day before the event for setting up the camp.

**4. Sui Dhaga - Sewing Machine Donation:** The Barulpur Sewing Centre requires 17 sewing machines, and 8 machines are also needed at Piyali. The club plans to apply for an EIRWT Grant to provide the necessary machines, with Pradeep and Sangita B assisting in the application process.

Secretary Seema read out the upcoming birthdays and anniversaries of club members. The meeting was concluded.



**Website link:** <https://rccalcuttapresidency.rotaryindia.org/NA> | **Join us on:** [/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.**