



# 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

This month, as we come together for the International Assembly and the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate The Magic of Rotary - a unique blend of global connection, vision, and action that empowers us to create lasting change. One of the most inspiring examples is our Rotary Peace Fellowship program, a cornerstone of Rotary's mission to build a more peaceful and just world. This month during the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate a significant

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This month during the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate a significant focus on training leaders to address peacebuilding challenges in the Middle East and North Africa, further extending Rotary's impact.

Peace fellows are dedicated champions of transformation, addressing critical issues such as refugee resettlement, youth and women's empowerment, and reconciliation in conflict zones. Many founded vital organizations or hold leadership roles in governments, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions like the United Nations and World Bank. One inspiring story is that of Ntang Julius Meleng, a 2024 Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University in Uganda. Through his Social Change Initiative, Julius has worked to empower young people in Cameroon to take active roles in peacebuilding and leadership.

His project provided training in conflict prevention, civic engagement, and leadership to youths and community officials in areas affected by conflict, equipping people to drive sustainable peace efforts.

Julius harnessed Rotary's global network to overcome obstacles, including limited funding and security risks, and make a meaningful impact.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave Julius the tools and support to turn his vision into reality. His work embodies The Magic of Rotary — the transformative power of connecting people, sharing resources, and uniting for a common purpose. As we reflect on the achievements of our peace fellows and celebrate Rotary's enduring commitment to peace, let us also recognize the role that everyone in our network of 1.2 million members plays in creating magic through service. Together, we can amplify our impact, inspire new generations of leaders, and build a brighter, more peaceful future.

## The Rotary Leadership Training Program Part 1



Held on 8th February 2025 was attended by members Udita Newar and Sangita Bakliwal and on 9th Feb. by Sangita Bakliwal. The training helps to enhance our knowledge of Rotary and explore our potential of leadership.



## Minutes of the 209th RWM of Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency Date: 1st February 2025 | Venue: Cosmopolitan Club | Time: 9:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by the President, who welcomed all members and the guest speaker, Indrani Sinha. The National Anthem was sung by all present.

The minutes of the 208th meeting were read out and were passed by Asha Gupta and Sangita Jain.

Update of Projects conducted in January:

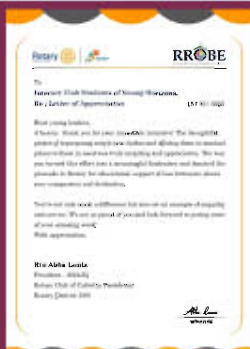
- **Rotary Bosch Bridge Skill Center:** An MOU was signed on 11th January 2025 between the Awareness Foundation for Environment and Skill Development and the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency for the upcoming vocational center at Mallikpur. On 29th January, Rtn. Rina, Rtn. Priyanka, and President Abha visited the Bandhan Skill Development Center. Mr. Rajib, the in-charge of the vocational center at Mallikpur, joined them.
- **Service Projects:** Distribution of blankets on 12th January and donation of a wheelchair on 14th January.
- **Project Virangana** was successfully conducted on 20th January for the girls of Howrah Shiksha Sadan,
- **District Program:** Rtn. Rashmi and Rtn. Uditia attended a district

program at Nazrul Satabarsiki Sadan, Madhyamgram, on 25th January. The program focused on "Easy School 3 Hashtag English" and "Effortless Mathematics," under District 3291. The club was acknowledged for its contribution.

- **Rotary Ramkrishna Academy** celebrated Republic Day and Annual Sports Day on 26th January.

Upcoming Projects

- **The club is set to launch a vocational project** in mid-February.
  - **Saksham Camp:** A camp will be held at Durgapur on 22nd February. A few club members are expected to join.
- Guest Speaker, Indrani Sinha, gave an insightful talk on Relationships with oneself and others. She shared valuable tips on how to realign yourself with your body and mind, and how to upgrade our mind space. She also discussed the concept of Expectation vs Acceptance. The session included an interactive discussion with members. Club Secretary Seema Keyal read out the list of upcoming birthdays and anniversaries. The meeting was then terminated.



**We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the Interact Club of Young Horizons School for their outstanding efforts in the Rrobe Project, which was held in December.**

Their initiative and the proceeds generated from this project have been generously shared with our club. We plan to utilize these proceeds in our upcoming projects, which we will be working on together with the Interact Club.



### Editor's Note

As Rotarians, we are driven by the powerful belief that we can make a tangible difference in the world, not just through service, but by fostering peace and understanding at every level. Peace building is at the heart of our efforts, and it extends far beyond conflict resolution—it is about creating lasting relationships, opportunities, and hope for all.

This month, we are excited to highlight some important initiatives from our club that are making a direct impact in our community and beyond. We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new **Vocational Center**, a project aimed at empowering individuals with the skills and resources they need to thrive in the workforce. This initiative is a key part of our commitment to peace building, as it provides opportunities for economic stability and personal growth.

In addition, we continue to expand our **Saksham Project**, which focuses on empowering and providing support to individuals with disabilities. These initiatives, along with the everyday acts of kindness and service, contribute to our ongoing efforts to create a more peaceful world.

Warm regards

Rtn. Anju Bothra - Club Editor



# Minutes of the 210th RWM of Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency

Date: 15th February 2025 | Venue: Cosmopolitan Club | Time: 9:30 AM



President called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and the guest speaker, Dr. Kumar K Rudra, FRCP Consultant Physician and Ortho Geriatrician based in UK. The National Anthem was sung by all. The minutes of the 209th meeting were read and approved by Dr. Rina and Sangita Jain.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- 8th & 9th February - RLI 1 & RLI 2:** Rtn Sangita Bakiwal and Rtn Uditia attended the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) sessions.
- 10th February - Fellowship at Horticulture Garden:** A small fellowship was held at the Horticulture Garden with games like pickleball and croquet. Members present: Sangita Bakiwal, Rina, Sarita Singhania, Jaishree, and Rashi.
- 11th February - Visit to Arunima Hospice:** Members visited Arunima Hospice, a home for AIDS-affected children. They spent the afternoon with the children and provided Puchka, Ice creams, chocolates, and cookies, all sponsored by Saswati. Attending members: Saswati, Sangita, Rashmi, Neena.
- 16th February - Buddy Marathon (RC Mahanagar):** The club sponsored ₹21,000 for the Buddy Marathon organized by RC Mahanagar, where RI Past President Shekhar Mehta, DG Krishnendu, and other dignitaries were present. The event was well-organized, with high energy levels.
- Interact Club of Young Horizons School - Robe Project (December):** The proceeds from the Robe project have been shared with the club and will be used for future projects in collaboration with the Interact Club.

## UPCOMING PROJECTS:

- 17th February - Rotary Bosch Bridge Skill Center Classes:** Classes will

begin for around 20 students. The inauguration is scheduled for 26th February, with RI Director Anirudh Roychowdhury as the chief guest.

- 22nd February - Saksham at Durgapur:** Around 5 members will attend this event.

**3. EIRWT Grant Application:** The club will apply for the EIRWT Grant for 31 Singer sewing machines. A team of 4 people has been formed for the application process. Sangita Bakiwal will be the Project Chair. The need is 7 machines for Baruipur Sewing Centre and 24 machines for Piyali.

**4. GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr. Kumar gave a talk on **Frailty, Falls, and Osteoporosis**. Dr Kumar Rudra is a Consultant Physician and a Geriatrician for East Kent Hospitals University Foundation NHS Trust. He is also a College Tutor of the Royal College of Physicians in London and an Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medicine for King's College, London. He is a multi award winner for his role as an outstanding teacher, including the most prestigious 'Professor Tim Lancaster' award that he received in 2022 from Guys and Kings Medical School. Dr Rudra is the first British Indian to ever win this award. The session was interactive and engaging for all members. As the Club Secretary Seema was absent, incoming Secretary Rashi read out the list of upcoming birthdays. The meeting was then terminated.

## SAKSHAM 22 FEB. 2025

The Saksham LN4 artificial hand project took place on 22nd February 2025 at Durgapur, in collaboration with Rotary Club Smart City Durgapur 3240. A total of 32 beneficiaries registered, and 30 attended the camp. 27 were fitted with LN4 prosthetic hands, while 3 were declined due to short stumps. Five members from our club- Ranjan, Sangita A, Rina, Rashmi, and Rashi - travelled to Durgapur for the event, which was well-organized and hosted with excellent hospitality. The event featured fitment, training, and counselling sessions for the beneficiaries, who showed great interest in learning how to use the prosthetic hands. The camp was visited by the Mayor and DSP, who were impressed by the impact on the beneficiaries' lives.

Rtn. Ranjan emphasized in his speech that with collective efforts, no person with limb loss should be without access to LN4 prosthetic hands.

In a separate project, our club, in collaboration with Mahavir Seva Sadan, successfully fitted over 80 prosthetic legs over three days. Both projects were a great success, thanks to Rtn. Ranjan and Rtn. Sangita Jain for leading them.





Ice cream treat



Group photo



Puchka Treat,



And afternoon well spent

On February 11th, a few members of our club visited **Arunima Hospice**, a home for children affected by AIDS, to spend an afternoon with the children. They shared the joy of enjoying Puchka, ice creams, chocolates, and cookies - all sponsored by Saswati. The members who attended were Saswati, Sangita B, Rashmi, and Neena. It was a heartwarming experience for everyone involved.



## The Buddy Marathon organized by RC Mahanagar on February 16th

was a great event. It was supported by our club with a ₹21,000 sponsorship through our member Rtn. Pravin Jain. The event was flagged off by notable figures such as RI Past President Shekhar Mehta, DG Krishnendu, Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Varma, Unmish founder Nita Diwan, and Piyali Basak, the first woman from Bengal to climb Everest without oxygen. The marathon was well-organized, and the energy levels were high. It was wonderful to see specially-abled children enjoying the event.



On 10th February, a small group of our club members gathered at the Horticulture Garden for an afternoon of fun and fellowship, playing both **pickleball and croquet**. The participants included Sangita Bakliwal, Rina Malpani, Sarita Singhanian, Jaysree, and Rashi.



## Happy Birthday

Vinod Bhandari 24 Feb  
Sunila Peddar 29 Feb

## Happy Anniversary

Praveen Kothari & Preksha 3 Feb  
Alok Kumar Agarwal & Sangita 4 Feb  
Dr. Ramesh Agarwalla & Mitali 15 Feb  
Asha Gupta & Dinesh 15 Feb  
Anju & Pradip Bothra 19 Feb  
Rashmi Surana & Abhay 23 Feb

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.