



SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

Month is Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Month

105

The
Chaka

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R I Dist. 3291

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Alokananda Roy
Guest of Honour



Smt. Alokananda Roy, a celebrated Indian classical dancer, choreographer, and social reformer, has pioneered the use of dance therapy for rehabilitation. A gold medallist from Shri Shikshayatan College, she trained in Bharat Natyam, Odissi, Rabindra Sangeet, classical ballet, and pianoforte. Since 2000, she has used dance to transform lives in West Bengal's correctional homes, founding 'Touch World' in 2010 to rehabilitate prisoners and support their families. Her initiatives now extend to juvenile offenders, specially abled children, Parkinson's patients, the transgender community, and acid attack survivors.

She has represented her work globally, speaking at TEDx, IIMs, IITs, and international forums. She has choreographed for Kolkata Police and India's Border Security Force and has collaborated with prisoners in the U.S. Her groundbreaking efforts have helped nearly 200 inmates reintegrate into society, earning

Rotary
Club of Calcutta
105 Years in Service



her the 'Bongo Bibhushan' award, an honorary D.Litt., and recognition from the Indian Postal Service.

Tonight's discussion seeks to explore the essence of her transformative work, its sustainability, and how society can support and archive this remarkable initiative — offering hope in a world struggling with crime and conflict.

ASADHARON - Rotary Vocational Excellence Awards 2025 - AOS Club

They say the road to Hell feels heavenly, and the road to Heaven feels like Hell.

The recipients and nominees of the Rotary Vocational Excellence Awards 2025 – ASADHARON Awards have exemplified this unwavering commitment in their professional journeys.

This prestigious award is designed to honour individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to vocational service, particularly in training and skill development, with a strong focus on sustainability. These awardees have not only demonstrated excellence in their respective vocations but have also leveraged their skills to drive meaningful change in society. Their dedication has transformed lives, uplifted communities, and contributed to the nation's progress.

In 2025, Rotary Club of Calcutta is collaborating with Rotary Club of Calcutta New Alipore, Rotary Club of Calcutta Majestic, Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City, Rotary Club of Calcutta Endeavour.

To ensure a rigorous and transparent selection process, a distinguished jury comprising PDG Shyamashree Sen, PDG Rajendra Khandelwal, Rtn. Anand Sharma, Rtn. Sunando Sen (Metro City), Rtn. Nabaneet Maitra (Endeavour), and Rtn. Shirsendu Nyogi (Majestic) was appointed. After meticulous evaluation of 28 nominations spanning various fields—including sports, dance, drama, music, environmental advocacy, journalism, literature, and more—the jury focused on identifying changemakers who have gone beyond their professional identity to shape the future with exceptional passion and relentless dedication.

The final selection was no easy task. Hours of deliberation on March 18, 2025, at the Rotary Sadan Boardroom led to the much-anticipated conclusion, where the most deserving individuals were chosen to be honored and recognised.

As we come together to celebrate these extraordinary visionaries on this special occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to vocational excellence and service above self.

Written by Ravindra Khandelwal, Chairperson, Vocational Service committee.

We Meet Every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at ROTARY SADAN
<https://rccalcutta.rotaryindia.org>
E-mail: rotarycalcutta.office@gmail.com

Short Profiles of the Awardees



1. Ajay Mittal : Ajay Mittal is a changemaker and independent consultant driving impactful climate action and sustainable development. Formerly the Director of Climate Change Programs for India & South Asia at **EARTHDAY.ORG**, he now leads high-impact collaborations that catalyze systemic change. A recipient of prestigious global honors, Ajay is recognized as one of the EE 30 Under 30 by the North American Association for Environmental Education, a Water Hero by India's Ministry of Jal Shakti, and a Lead 2030 Grant Winner by One Young World.



2. Utpal Panda : Utpal Panda, a pioneer in thalassaemia treatment, empowered parents to lead the fight for better care. Unlike conventional models, his initiative mobilized caregivers, turning passive sufferers into changemakers and revolutionizing patient-led healthcare. For over 40 years, his unwavering commitment has sustained hope in Bengal, striving for a Thalassaemia-Free society. At 75, he remains dedicated to advocacy, dignity, and inclusivity for thalassaemics, proving that true change comes from perseverance and responsibility.



3. Gour Chandra Sardar : Mr. Gour Chandra Sardar, a Govt. of WB teacher from South Sunderban. As the founder president of NGO Harishpur Mahajati Sangha, Gosaba, he has led impactful projects, including installing four Tata Swachh safe drinking water projects for 1,200 households. Providing tailoring training to 120 tribal girls & women. Offering free coaching to tribal students, securing admissions for 64 in Parivaar residential school. A guiding force for underprivileged students, he envisions skill-based education for self-reliance. He received the Birs Munda Award 2024 for his contributions to tribal empowerment.



4. Mithu Banerjee : Mithu Banerjee is a vocational instructor and providing vocational training at Behala Bodhayan, empowers individuals with autism to gain practical experience and job-specific skills. She trains autistic and special children by teaching them all kinds of handwork. Therefore, contributing notably to society by teaching these children to be independent and self-sufficient. With her help more than 600 autistic and special children have been benefited at Behala Bodhayan.



5. Dr. Aditi Bandopadhyay : Dr. Aditi, a physician with over a decade of critical care experience, specializes in neurophysiology and Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) to aid individuals with Autism and developmental disorders. She is the founder and Managing Trustee of SAMYA Foundation, advocating for the rights of differently abled persons. Through her foundation, she conducts workshops across India, integrating DMT for cognitive development and skill-building.



6. Suhrid Chandra : Suhrid Chandra, dedicated to sustainability, leads eco-friendly initiatives like Hari Mitti Agro Pvt. Ltd., Hari Mitti Foundation, and Feel Green. Raised in Sodepur, Suhrid's love for nature has shaped him into a silent climate activist. His impact includes 13 Miyawaki forests with 24,312 trees, 5,650 bamboo plantations, 6,200 fruit trees, and 1,350 rooftop gardens. He supports 1,560 marginalized farmers in Birbhum with sustainable farming.



7. India Autism Center : The Indian Autism Center (IAC) is running a world-class ecosystem that provides comprehensive care and fosters self-reliance for individuals with autism and related conditions. Their centre in Sarat Bose Road not only provides schooling but also provides vocational training to unlock the potential of each child by overcoming their challenges. This inclusive environment offers free education, specialized training, and vocational development, ensuring personalized care with a 2:1 staff-to-patient ratio.



8. Rimo Saha : Rimo Saha, diagnosed with Post Poliomyelitis Paralysis in his right lower limb, has defied all odds to become a certified swimming coach and lifeguard. An international champion, he holds five national records in the Indian Book of Records and Limca Book of Records. Honored with the prestigious Khel Samman Award by the Indian government, he has won 50 gold, 38 silver, and 19 bronze medals in various global tournaments. His inspiring journey is a testament to perseverance and his commitment to empowering others in the world of competitive swimming.



9. Iswar Sankalpa : Iswar Sankalpa, established in 2007, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing psychosocial assistance to the urban homeless. In the last 17 years, they have reached out to more than 9000 persons psychosocial support. Its vocational unit, "Saksham", focuses on skill development and empowerment through tailored vocational training programs. Under the leadership of Chaiti Chakraborty, the Vocational Unit Programme Coordinator, Saksham offers training in sewing, stitching, culinary arts, art and craft, block printing, and tie & dye.



10. Hanshi Premjit Sen : Recognized with the Times Men of the Year Award 2022 and Times Bengal Icons 2023, he has elevated karate's prominence in West Bengal, placing it alongside major sports. Through martial arts training, he empowers women and children with self-defense skills, confidence, and physical fitness, fostering a safer and more resilient society. His contributions as an athlete, coach, and mentor have brought accolades to the country while uplifting students. He has also created job opportunities in the martial arts sector.



11. The Bengal Organ Donation Society (BODS), Kolkata, has been actively engaged in raising awareness about deceased organ donation for over a decade. Under the leadership of its Chairman, the organization has conducted numerous initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between organ demand and availability, offering hope to patients suffering from end-stage diseases. BODS regularly organizes educational CMEs and workshops to promote a deeper understanding of organ donation. Its mission remains steadfast—to save more lives through awareness, education, and action.



13. Sewli Trivedi : Sewli Trivedi, owner of Sri Sparsham, has dedicated over 25 years to empowering rural women through handloom and handicrafts. She has provided livelihood opportunities to around 100 female artisans across Bengal, helping them gain financial independence and national recognition. Sri Sparsham works closely with women artisans in Birbhum and North 24 Parganas, nurturing their craftsmanship and connecting them to larger markets.



12. Chetnaa Karnani : Chetnaa Karnani has dedicated her career to advertising and social impact. Starting in advertising in 1999, she later founded Market Concepts in 2009. Her philanthropic work is deeply rooted in women's empowerment and livelihood development. As co-founder of For A Cause Charitable Trust, she has championed menstrual hygiene, rescued trafficked girls, and secured bail for imprisoned women. Through Nirdhan NGO, she leads initiatives that provide sustainable livelihoods across rural Bengal.

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes Rotary Clubs of Calcutta New Alipore, Calcutta Majestic, Calcutta Metro City and Calcutta Endeavour, India, R.I. District 3291

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 1st April, 2025 at 1.30p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) Assistant Governor – Zone 19 (RI Dist. 3291) to visit to the Club.

No Meeting

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday 25th March, 2025 as the said meeting held on Sunday 23rd March, 2025 followed by fellowship and dinner.

THIRD CLUB ASSEMBLY

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Third Club Assembly of the Club scheduled to be held on Sunday, 6th April, 2025 at 10.30 a.m. at Rotary Sadan has been postponed. Rescheduled date will be informed in due course.

REPORTS

- "Melodious Afternoon"** was organised and followed by Lunch hosted by Rtn. Bani Roychowdhury, PP Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury & R-Ann Sucharita Roychowdhury on Sunday, 16th March, 2025 at the Lila Bati Devi Resorts Hotels, 206B, B. B. Chatterjee Road, Kasba, Kolkata - 700 042
- A Team of members from our Club visited Hooghly Jute Mills, Garden Reach and Regular Weekly Meeting was held on Tuesday, 18th March, 2025 followed by High Tea at the residence of Rtn. Lata Bajoria and the programme hosted by Rtn. Bajoria

Happy Birthday

Rtn. Dr. Asish Kumar Ghosh	28th March
Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay	28th March
Rtn. B. D. Mundhra	31st March
Rtn. Dr. Jeetendra Sharma	31st March

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Wedding Anniversaries

Rtn. Nitin S Kothari & R-Ann Kamalini	29th March
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FREE HEATH CHECK-UP CAMP

Heath Care Committee will organise in association with Vivekananda Adarsha Milan Mandir a free Health Check-up Camp at Maju Bazar, Howrah on Sunday, 30th March, 2025 at 10 a.m. onwards. You are requested to kindly make a note of it and attend.

Rotary Club of Calcutta **THE MAGIC OF ROTARY** **Rotary Club of Calcutta Renaissance**

MAITREE 2025
AN INTER-SCHOOL CULTURAL COMPETITION
STUDENTS FROM VERNACULAR SCHOOLS (Class VIII - XII)

3rd APRIL 2025
10AM - 3PM

ROTARY SADAN
34/2 Chowringhee Road
Kolkata - 700020

QUIZ DEBATE RECITATION CERTIFICATES AWARDS

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA YOUTH SERVICE & LITERACY COMMITTEES AND RC CALCUTTA RENAISSANCE

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH & APRIL 2025

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday 25th March, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting	As the said meeting is being held on 23rd March, 2025 at 6 p.m.
Tuesday 1st April, 2025	Regular Weekly Meeting Assistant Governor – Zone 19 (R I Dist. 3291) visit to the Club .	Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m.
Thursday 3rd April, 2025	MAITREE - 2025 an Inter School Cultural Competition	Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday 8th April, 2025	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker: Dr. Abhijit Chattopadhyay	Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) at 1.30p.m. / Lunch 12.30p.m.
Tuesday 15th April, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting	Holiday for Bengali New Year
Saturday 19th April, 2025	Annual Endowment Awards Ceremony - 2025	6.00 p.m. onwards at the Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) followed by Dinner
Tuesday 22nd April, 2025	Regular Weekly Meeting District Governor's official visit to our Club	Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE 4976TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 18th MARCH, 2025 AT 4.30 P.M. AT THE RESIDENCE OF RTN. LATA BAJORIA 76, GARDEN REACH ROAD, KOLKATA - 700043

- President Rtn. Subrata De welcomed Members and Guests and called the 4976th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order
- National Anthem was led by PP Rtn Nilima Joshi.
- Minutes of the 4975th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club held on 11th March, 2025 were confirmed.
- President welcomed Mrs. Amrita Bhattacharya, Environmentalist and Founder of Nili Botanicals as the Chief Guest on that day.
- President then welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting and conveyed Greetings to their Clubs.
- President Reported the following :**
 - A Fellowship gettogether "Melodious Afternoon" was organised and followed by Lunch on Sunday, 16th March, 2025 at 12 noon onwards at the LBD Resorts and Hotels, 206B, B.B.Chatterjee Road, Kasba, Kolkata - 700 042. The Programme was hosted by Rtn. Bani Roychowdhury, CYP Rtn.Purnendu Roychowdhury & R-Ann Sucharita Roychowdhury.
 - A team of members from the Club visited Rtn. Lata Bajoria's Jute Mill (Hooghly Jute Mills Co. Ltd.) before the Regular Weekly Meeting on that day.
- President Announced the following :**
Vocational Service Committee in association with R. C. of Calcutta New Alipore, R. C. of Calcutta Majestic, R. C. of Calcutta Metro City, and R.C.of Calcutta Endeavour would organise "ASADHARON" - Vocational Service Excellence Awards - 2025 alongwith regular weekly meeting on Sunday, 23rd March, 2025 at 6.00 p.m. onwards at the Rotary Sadan followed by fellowship and dinner and he requested members to attend the programme along with spouse on that day.
- At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Suman Chakraborty thereafter conducted the Club Business :**
 - He welcomed Members, Visiting Rotarians and Guests.
 - He then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 22nd March, 2025.
 - There would be no Regular Weekly Meetings on Tuesday, 25th March, 2025 as the said meeting will be held on Sunday, 23rd March, 2025 followed by fellowship and dinner.
- At the request of the President, Rtn Anindita Shoma Basu introduced Mrs. Amrita Bhattacharya, Chief Guest on that day.
- At the request of the President, Mrs. Amrita Bhattacharya addressed the audience.
- Questions were raised by the members which were answered by the Chief Guest.
- At the request of the President, Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
- On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Mrs. Amrita Bhattacharya.
- No Sunshine Box Collection on that day.
- The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Behala, India, R.I. District 3291.
- Before adjourning the meeting, President requested all to join High Tea.
- On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Rtn Lata Bajoria and thanked her for organising the meeting and High Tea.
- Meeting was adjourned at 5.25p.m

Subrata De
President

Suman Chakraborty
Hony. Secretary