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May is Youth Service Month

106

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R I Dist 3291

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Today's Speaker

Dr. Nilina Deb Lal, FRAS



Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh
Project Coordinator, Roxburgh Project, AJC Bose
Indian Botanic Garden

Independent Heritage Consultant and Researcher

Nilina Deb Lal is a conservation architect, architectural historian, and heritage consultant based in Kolkata. Her work in heritage and conservation has encompassed a wide range of engagements, from stakeholder consultations for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway to research on the evolution of Calcutta's urban fabric under the stewardship of the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

Her championing of the Roxburgh Project has been a two-decade endeavour, culminating in 2025 with the securing of funding for the first phase of work. Dr. Lal is currently an Honorary Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and has held research fellowships from the Paul Mellon Centre

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for Studies in British Art and the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta in connection with her research.

Over the years, Dr. Lal has been especially active in advocacy and public engagement on urban heritage, including the publication of INTACH's listing of Kolkata's heritage buildings; conducting heritage walks and workshops for teenagers and young adults; and contributing to writing and public discussions on the relevance of urban heritage in the 21st century.

The Roxburgh Project Conservation, Restoration and Reuse of the Historic Buildings in the AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden



The Roxburgh Project was conceived in 2018 and received administrative approval from the Government of India in 2019 as a vehicle for rejuvenating the historic AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden. The project focuses on rescuing, restoring, and reusing the ensemble of historic buildings on the banks of the River Hooghly — namely Roxburgh House, the Old Herbarium, and the Old Seed Store — thereby creating a much-needed Visitor Centre within the garden.

When complete, the Visitor Centre will feature state-of-the-art interpretation and education facilities and programmes for visitors of all ages and interests. It will provide recreational and leisure amenities, including restaurants, a souvenir shop, and children's play areas, and will incorporate revenue-generating facilities to ensure financial sustainability. The Centre's areas of engagement will centre on key contemporary concerns, particularly climate change and sustainability.

The Centre will support the sensitive repair and reuse of historic buildings through heritage skills training programmes, and will facilitate learning and experiential opportunities related to plants and biodiversity.

Pranadhara Project

Pranadhara installation – RCC Bishnupur – 19 April 2026

Some of us went to RCC Bishnupur on 19th April, 2026 to inaugurate the Tata Swachh Water Filter for the persons there and the school children. This is part of Prandhara Project under the Global Grant of our club - installation of a TATA Swachh Filter and accessories which gives output of 500 litre LPH.

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We Meet Every Tuesday At 1 p.m. At ROTARY SADAN
rccalcutta.rotaryindia.org
E-mail: rccal106@gmail.com

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The children and the teachers put up a small program of gymnastics and singing. Also, the children demonstrated their self-defence talents under the Kalpataru program.

The water filter project has been initiated by our Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury, who has taken up this highly impactful project

for schools in and around Kolkata and nearby districts. The RCC organisers also discussed various issues and their future requirements with us which we shall be taking up shortly.

I thank the following members of our club for attending this project.

President elect Rtn. Anand Sharma, Hony. Secretary, Rtn Ashok Kr. Basu, Past President Rtn Haladar Dey, Co-Chair RCC & Community Service, Rtn Atindra Sen and myself. We also thank R-Ann Madhu Sharma and R-Ann Meena Basu for attending with us and interacting with the children and teachers. Mr Bibhas and Mr Ashish of the RCC managed the whole proceedings very well.

Overall it was a very well organised and much needed project for this RCC.

Report by Rtn. Udit Mitra, Chairperson, RCC & CS

Rotary Satellite Club of Calcutta Sankalp



The Rotary Club of Calcutta, known as “The Old Number One,” launched its second satellite club — Rotary Satellite Club of Calcutta Sankalp — on 3 May 2026. It is the first all-women satellite club in District 3291.

Sankalp stands for commitment, teamwork, and service. It brings together successful women professionals to help society. With strong support and eager members, the club will make a big impact in the coming years.

The idea began during the 100th anniversary of the Annual Children’s Treat. Whilst DGN Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury and Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay guided the team, it was led by Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee with help from parent club members.

Founding Members (11 nos) :

Dr. Ivy De (Chair), Dr. Sanchita Sen (Hon. Secretary), Haimanti Banerjee (Hon. Treasurer), Sucharita Roychowdhury, Asha Agrawal, Goutami Chatterjee, Vinkie Mathur, Malini Bhagat, Simanti Bhowmik, Soma Ghosh, Dr. Dimple Shah.

Acknowledgements :

- DGN Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury – Initiator and mentor
- Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay – Constant support and leadership
- Rtn. Debi Prosad Basu (District Chair) – Valuable guidance and encouragement
- Dr. Ivy De – Key role in shaping and driving the initiative
- Rtn. Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee – Helped plan and refine the program
- PP Rtn Abhijit Kolay & Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu – Guidance on processes and rules
- Rtn. Anusua Das - Membership Chair, Rtn. Hirak Ray, and Rear Admiral Rajeev Paralikar – Membership growth and support
- Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee – Leadership, coordination, and steady efforts to start the club
- The Board of Directors and all respected members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta and Satellite Club of Colts.

Rotary Sadan Office Bearers : Anjan Kumar Behera, Krishna Guchhait, Sambhu Charan Dey, Prabir Kumar Mukherjee.

With dedicated members and supporters, Sankalp hopes to make real contributions while following Rotary’s core values.

Reported by Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee



Interact Club Reports



Activity Report of the Interact Club of Silver Point School

On 1st April, 2026, the club conducted an Electronic Waste Handover Drive in collaboration with Hulladek Company. In the modern era of rapid urbanization, waste generation has become a major threat to mankind, leading to environmental hazards and health concerns. Electronic waste, or e-waste, includes discarded items such as televisions, mobile phones, monitors, air conditioners, refrigerators, batteries, remotes, keyboards, and CPUs. Such waste can be recycled and reused efficiently, thereby reducing environmental damage. Hulladek Company facilitates the regular disposal of e-waste and significantly reduces the burden on landfills. Through this initiative, the Interact Club successfully instilled a sense of environmental responsibility among students and inspired them to adopt sustainable habits in their daily lives. The Interactors handed over electronic waste for proper recycling and reuse with the aim of creating a cleaner and greener environment.

On 10th April, 2026, the club organized a Donation Drive. Three Interactors, accompanied by their teacher coordinator, visited THE ORPHANS, a government-registered organisation located at Boral, Garia, which focuses on providing a secure environment and education to children housed there. The purpose of the visit was to meet the children, provide immediate compassionate relief, stand by the organisation, and sensitize students about benevolent work for the welfare of society. During the visit, the Interactors met 120 children between the ages of 3 and 14 years and distributed 200 books including Mathematics, Bengali, Science, and drawing copies, along with 100 biscuit packets, 25 chhatu packets, and 30 muri packets. They also gave chocolates to the children and interacted warmly with them. Some boys and girls of the Home recited poems and sang the national anthem. Photographs were taken to treasure the memorable moments. The Interact Club resolved to continue organizing more such initiatives in the future.

Earlier, on 30th January, 2026, five Interactors along with their teacher coordinator visited Development Action Society for a Book Donation Drive. The purpose of the visit was to meet underprivileged children, help them in their academics, reach out to children in need, and sensitize the Interactors about serving society. The students met 20 children between the ages of 3 and 12 years and distributed 200 books covering Mathematics, Bengali, Science, and drawing copies. Biscuit packets were also distributed, and the Interactors spent time interacting with the children. Some girls of the institution recited poems and sang the national anthem. Photographs were clicked to preserve the cherished memories. The club expressed its commitment to carrying out more such service-oriented programmes in the future.

On 24th January, 2026, the Interact Club organized a Blanket Distribution Drive with the aim of spreading warmth and joy among underprivileged communities during the winter season and helping students understand their responsibilities towards society. The Interactors of Silver Point School, along with their teacher coordinators, had gone on an educational trip to Dooars. There, they distributed 20 blankets among underprivileged women of the locality to provide relief from the cold weather. They also handed over 20 biscuit packets for their children. The event aimed to provide warmth, comfort, and happiness to those in need while fostering a sense of community spirit and social responsibility among the learners.

Reported by Rtn . Saswati Mukherjee, Chair for Youth Services Committee

Unveiling of Plaque



Unveiling of Plaque to honour Nitish Chandra Laharry

A commemorative plaque was unveiled at Rotary Sadan, Kolkata on 18th April, World Heritage Day to honour Nitish Chandra Laharry - Past President of the Rotary Club of Calcutta and the first Asian to serve as President of Rotary International.

A distinguished lawyer and dedicated Rotarian, Laharry was known for his deep commitment to public service. His humanitarian efforts during the Bengal Famine of 1943, where he worked tirelessly to support those affected, remain a significant part of his legacy. His enduring message "Kindle the Spark Within" continues to inspire service and leadership across generations.

The function was attended by Chief Guests PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal who unveiled the plaque, Rtn. G.M. Kapur, Chairman of INTACH, Rtn. Subhojit Roy, Chair, District Public Image, along with other members of the Rotary fraternity.

Speaking at the occasion, Mrs. Subha Pal said "I shall add as the Chair of Public Image Committee that the intention of the committee to install the citation plaque was to uphold the values of service, ethical leadership and global goodwill that Rtn. Nitish Chandra Laharry created which not only strengthened our Public Image but connected our proud past with dynamic present and inspires future generation Rotarians to carry the torch forward."

Reported by Shoma Basu, Editor Chaka

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding Anniversaries

Rtn. Rachana Nahata & Mr. Ajay	4th May
Rtn. Suvamoy Saha & R-Ann Neena	6th May
Rtn. Dilip Kumar Jaiswal & R-Ann Padmini	6th May
Rtn. Sakti Kumar Banerjee & R-Ann Smaranika	7th May
Rtn. Swapan Kumar Dey & R-Ann Ila	8th May
Rtn. Gautam Dey & R-Ann Bani	10th May
Rtn. Renuka Shah & Mr. Mahesh	10th May
Rtn. Shalini Biswas & Mr. Sumit	11th May
Rtn. Kirit Patel & R-Ann Kusum	12th May
Rtn. Kanak Dutt & R-Ann Pranati	13th May
Rtn. Subroto Lahiri & R-Ann Anushree	15th May



ONE WORLD

We extend our warm greetings to the Rotary Club of Belur, India, RID 3291

Birthday

Rtn. Raghunath Dey	30th April
Rtn. Arunava Mukherji	5th May
Rtn. Dr. Sukalyan Purkayastha	8th May
Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury	12th May
Rtn. Aditi Nundy	12th May
Rtn. Gautam Dey	18th May

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Members are encouraged to celebrate these special occasions by contributing to The Rotary Foundation and supporting Club Projects.



WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY

To observe World Thalassemia Day, Rotary Club of East Calcutta and Rotary Club of Calcutta Kankurgachi organised a Car Rally on Friday, 8th May, 2026. Our Club participated and President, Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay joined the Car Rally.

SPEAKER FOR TODAY

Dr. Nilina Deb Lal
Heritage Consultant
& Researcher

REPORTS

- On 18th April, 2026 Vice Governor, PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal unveiled a plaque dedicated to the memory of PRIP Nitish Chandra Laharry at the entrance of the Rotary Sadan building. This was an initiative by the Public Image Committee.
- Annual Endowment Awards ceremony held on Saturday, 18th April, 2026 at the Rotary Sadan followed by dinner.
- International and CSR Committee inaugurated a Pranadhara project under GG No 2578095 installed at our RCC Bishnupur Uchchal Probaho on Sunday, 19th April, 2026.
- The Third Club Assembly of the Club was held on Saturday, 9th May, 2026 at the Rotary Sadan.
- Rabindra Jayanti and Nazrul Sandhya observed on Saturday, the 9th May, 2026 at Rotary Sadan with a programme staged by the students of the Cultural Section.
- Rotary Satellite Club of Calcutta Sankalp was launched with 10 members on 3rd May 2026. Congratulations to the new members and a hearty welcome.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Date	Day	Programme	Time	Venue	Speaker / Remarks
19th May 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting & Debate	6:30 p.m. onwards followed by Fellowship and Dinner	Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)	—
26th May 2026	Tuesday	Joint Regular Weekly Meeting with Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan East	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	—
2nd June 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	—
9th June 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	—
13th June 2026	Saturday	4th (joint) Club Assembly and Club Officers Training Seminar (COTS)	4 p.m. onwards with High Tea	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	—
16th June 2026	Tuesday	No Regular Weekly Meeting	—	—	—
20th June 2026	Saturday	Regular Weekly Meeting and Members' Nite followed by Fellowship and Dinner	Meeting at 6:00 p.m. / fellowship and dinner after the programme	Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)	—
30th June 2026	Saturday	Regular Weekly Meeting and Gratitude evening followed by Fellowship and Dinner	Meeting at 6:30 p.m. / fellowship and dinner after the programme	Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)	—

MINUTES OF THE 5021ST REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH APRIL, 2026 AT 6.00 P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN

1. President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed all Members and Guests and wished all Shubho Noboborsho for the Bengali New Year 1433. He then called the 5021st Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. The National Anthem was led by Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu.
3. Minutes of the 5020th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 7th April, 2026 were confirmed.
4. President informed members that Rotary Club of Calcutta Welfare Trust would be organising Annual Endowment Awards ceremony - 2026 on that day. President welcomed and felicitated PDG and Vice Governor RID 3291, Rtn. Ravi Sehgal as the Chief Guest on that day.
5. President welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting and conveyed greetings to their Clubs. President also welcomed all awardees.
6. **President reported the following :**
 - a) International Service & CSR Committee inaugurated two Pranadhara II projects under GG No. 2578095 on 11th April, 2026 at Gobindapur Ratneswar H. S., Dakshin Gobindapur and Karabag Charaghata H. S. in Joynagar. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury and his team of International Service & CSR Committee for the special projects.
 - b) Before the meeting, Vice Governor PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal unveiled a plaque dedicated to the memory of PRIP Nitish Chandra Laharry at the entrance of the Rotary Sadan building. This was an initiative by the Public Image Committee of the Club. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtn Subha Pal and her Committee members for the wonderful project.
7. **President announced the following :**
International and CSR committee has organised the next Pranadhara project under GG No. 2578095 which would be installed at our RCC Bishnupur on Sunday, 19th April, 2026. Interested members were requested to kindly contact Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury, Chair for International Service and CSR Committee.
8. At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu conducted the Club business :
 - a) He welcomed all Members, Visiting Rotarians, Guests, and all awardees on that day.
 - b) He then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 27th April, 2026 and wished them and also requested them to donate generously for the Rotary Foundation and the Club Projects.
 - c) There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesdays, 21st April, 2026.
 - d) Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club is on Tuesday, 28th April, 2026.
Meeting 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) Speaker : Mrs. Diya Jaiswal.
 - e) Rabindra Jayanti and Nazrul Sandhya would be observed on Saturday, 9th May, 2026 in Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) at 6.00 p.m. with a programme staged by the students of the Cultural Section and requested members to join the programme with their families.
 - f) The Board at its meeting held on 30th March, 2026 accepted the resignation of PP Rtn Vinay Nevatia with effect from 31st March, 2026.
 - g) The Tenth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Club would be held on Monday, 27th April, 2026, at 6.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan (1st floor). He requested all Board members to kindly make a note of it and attend.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu introduced Chief Guest, PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal.
10. At the request to the President, PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal addressed the audience.
11. President handed over a Memento to Chief Guest, PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal.
12. Before adjourning the meeting, President thanked everyone present, congratulated the awardees, and the RCCWT for the excellent selection of awardees and handed over the proceedings to PP Subrata De to conduct the Endowment Awards.
13. The Meeting was adjourned at 06.35 p.m.

Endowment Awards

1. At the request of the President, PP Rtn. Subrata De, Chairman, Rotary Club of Calcutta Welfare Trust conducted the Annual Endowment Awards ceremony for 2026.
2. At the request of the PP Rtn. Subrata De, Rtn. Ravindra Khandelwal assumed the role as the master of ceremony on that day.
3. New endowments from Rtn Krishna Sen and Rtn Sonia Dutt were instituted.
4. Chief Guest, President, Chair RCCWT, Past Presidents, Hony. Secretary and members of the Club felicitated and handed over the Awards to all awardees on that day.
5. President Elect, Rtn. Anand Sharma gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
6. Sunshine Box Collection Rs. 500/- with special contribution from PP Rtn. Abhijit Kolay on that day.
7. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Colleyville, USA, RID 5790.
8. All were requested to join for dinner, courtesy Rtn. Bithal Das Kothari and Rtn. Krishna Kumar Kothari, for which heartfelt gratitude was extended.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
President

Ashok Kumar Basu
Hony. Secretary