



TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2025

October is Economic and Community Development Month

106

The Chaka

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R I Dist 3291
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Rotary Club of Calcutta

UNITE FOR GOOD

100%

ATTENDANCE

AWARDS

RWM

14 October, '25
Tuesday 1:30PM

Rotary Sadan



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Inauguration of Rotary Early Diagnosis and Management of Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic - 17 Sept. 2025

President Debnath Chattopadhyay has been ideating the co-creation of this Clinic well before the day he assumed charge as President of the Club. Discussions with CSR partners had also commenced well before time. This reporter recalls the first meeting with PP Rtn Vikram Somani and his CSR team at CERA



Sanitaryware, with (then) PE Debnath, Chair CSR Arindam Roychowdhury, and Jt. Secretary Ashok Basu, in which the first idea of the clinic was floated and a concept paper presented to the CSR Team. The affirmation came shortly after, and President was happy to announce the CSR backed project and acknowledge the presence of PP Rtn Vikram Somany at the Installation of office bearers on 4th July 2025.

Diabetes mellitus is rising rapidly in West Bengal, driven by urbanisation, lifestyle changes, and ageing populations. Many diabetics remain poorly controlled, increasing risk of complications. Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a major microvascular complication — damage to the retina caused by chronic high blood sugar — that can lead to vision loss. A recent study in West Bengal found that about **21.5%** of diabetic patients screened had DR, with much higher prevalence in rural ($\approx 26.6\%$) vs urban ($\approx 13.9\%$) areas. Risk factors include duration of diabetes, poor glycaemic control, infrequent eye checkups, and lack of awareness. Early screening, tight blood sugar control, and better linkages between physicians and ophthalmologists are essential to reduce the burden.

Susrut Eye Foundation & Research Centre is a non-profit advanced eye hospital established in 1998 in Salt Lake, Kolkata by Dr. Sunil Chandra Bagchi and Dr. Ratish Chandra



Paul. It is recognized as a "Centre of Excellence in Eye Care" by the Government of West Bengal. It offers comprehensive ophthalmic services (cataract, glaucoma, retina, cornea, paediatric eye care) and runs several vision centres and conducts training programs. Susrut therefore was a natural choice for the alliance. The

creation of additional capacity at the clinic will help many

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

more patients, particularly from underserved areas and the underprivileged. The equipment cost is c. Rs 1.07 cr.

The personnel at Susrut arranged a very efficient Inaugural program. Several dignitaries addressed the gathering including Dr Arup Chakravarty, President – WB Ophthalmological Society, PDG Ravi Sehgal, President Debnath, Dr Ratish

Paul – all speaking of the dire need for creating more capacity for DR treatment. The ribbon was cut by PP Rtn Vikram Somany, CMD CERA Sanitaryware. A sumptuous lunch preceded the formal function.

PDGs Ravi Sehgal, also 3291 Vice Governor for RY 25-26, Anshuman Bandopadhyay, Rajani Mukerji attended. Rotarians from the Club included PP Rtn Vikram Somany, Atin Sen, PP Haladhar Dey, PP Ritwik Gupta, Pranab Sarkar, Udit Mitra, Kirit Patel, President and Hony. Secretary. Several staffs of CERA Sanitaryware also attended.

Reported by Hony. Secretary Ashok Basu



Induction Ceremony of two New Interact Clubs



On September 25, 2025, the Youth Service and Tech Knowledge hosted the Induction Ceremony of two newly chartered Interact Clubs, Bejoygarh Vidyapith and Mitra Institution (Main), at Rotary Sadan.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Rtn. Dr Saswati Mukherjee, followed by the felicitation of Rtn. Nilanjan Sen, Co-Chair of the District Interact Committee, by PP Rtn. Ritwik Gupta. Rtn. Uttam Bhattacharya, President of the Rotary Club of Serampore, was warmly greeted by Rtn. Udit Mitra.

Rtn. Nilanjan Sen delivered an inspiring speech to the students of Bejoygarh Vidyapith, encouraging them to embrace the values of service and leadership.

DGND Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury spoke about his vision for school-based Interact Clubs and the global opportunities and significance of their international association. Hony. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Basu spoke briefly about the importance of joining Interact and actively participating in its diverse projects and initiatives. Rtn. Uttam Bhattacharya emphasised the value of youth engagement through Interact activities.

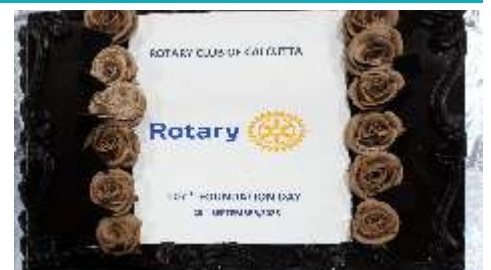
Headmasters Mr Tapas Kumar Dey (Bejoygarh Vidyapith) and Mr Sayantan Das (Mitra Institution Main) highlighted the importance of vernacular schools being part of the Interact movement, underscoring its role in fostering inclusive leadership and community service. As part of the Charter Handover Ceremony, Mr Tapas Kumar Dey and Mrs Susmita Biswas, Teacher Coordinator of the Interact Club of Bejoygarh Vidyapith, received the charter certificate and a flower stick from DGND Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury and Hony. Secy. Rtn Ashok Basu. Rtn. Nilanjan Sen officially presented the charter to Mr Sayantan Das.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Teacher Coordinators Monidipa Dutta (Vidyanjali International School), Debapriya Guha (DPS Howrah), and Anusua Dey (Asian International School), reflecting the collaborative spirit of the Interact network. A note of appreciation was extended to the office staff of the Rotary Club of Calcutta for their invaluable support in organising the event.

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



Foundation Day Celebration





Distribution of New Clothes on Durga Pujo to RCCs



The Rotary Club of Calcutta was delighted to spread the joy of Durga Pujo by distributing new clothes to underprivileged children from eight of our RCC's covering 800 children. Details of the RCCs and garments distributed are given below.

1. Star Welfare Society
2. Kanaidanga
3. SCIR
4. Ranihati Netaji SamajSathi
5. Dara
6. Joygram Social Welfare Society
7. Krishnanagar
8. Bishnupur Uchchal Probaho

Total Garments Distributed –

Girls : 437 pieces

Boys : 363 pieces

Total : 800 pieces

We thank the following two RCC's namely, RCC Ranihati and RCC Joygram for making the new garments. I would also like to thank Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury for taking the initiative and helping with this project. The total cost of the project was approximately Rs. 2,00,500/-.

The RCCs have distributed the clothes to the children for which the children and their families were extremely grateful and overjoyed to have new clothes for the festival season.

Report by,

Rtn. Udit Mitra

Chair: CS & RCC 2025-26



REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes Rotary Club of Calcutta Empathy, India, R.I. Dist 3291.

Birthday

Pulak Bachi	16th October
Raj Kumar Agrawal	17th October
Anusua Das	19th October
Shalini Biswas	19th October
Prof. Indira Chakravarty	21st October

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Wedding Anniversaries

Donn S Kabiraj & R-Ann Mahua Mallick	14th October
Satnam Singh Ahluwalia & R-Ann Gurbir Kaur	18th October

Celebrate your Joy and Happiness of Birthdays and Anniversaries - donate generously to the Rotary Foundation India and for Club Projects.

REPORTS

- The Club donated New Garments (Before Durga Puja) to underprivileged children of our eight RCCs at the Regular Weekly Meeting on 16th September, 2025.
- Handed over the Spectacles to the representative of All Bengal Women's Union at the Regular Weekly Meeting on 16th September, 2025, follow through of Camp held on 13th August, 2025.
- Inaugurated Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic with the support of Cera Sanitaryware Ltd. CSR at the Susrut Eye Hospital, Salt Lake City, Kolkata on 17th September, 2025.
- Inauguration of two New Interact Clubs sponsored by Rotary Club of Calcutta, Bejoygarh Vidyapeeth (H.S.) and Mitra Institution (Main) (H S). Club Charters were handed over on 25th September, 2025 at Rotary Sadan.
- To celebrate Literacy Month, Special Project Committee organized "Siksha Labh – III" project and handed over 80 Desktop Computers to the beneficiaries at Rotary Sadan. The entire project was supported by our DGN Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury and one well-wisher Member of the Club.
- The Club observed it's 107th Foundation Day on Friday, 26th September, 2025 followed by fellowship and dinner at Rotary Sadan.
- First Club Assembly of Club was held on Sunday, 12th October, 2025 at 10.30 a.m. at Rotary Sadan.

TODAY

Recognition of 100 % attendance members for the Rotary year 2024-2025

NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club on Saturday, 25th October, 2025, (5000th RWM) at 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner. You are requested to attend the meeting along with your spouse.

NO REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

- There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 21st October, 2025 on account of Diwali Holiday.
- There will no Regular Weekly meeting on Tuesday, 28th October, 2025 at 1.30 p.m. as the said meeting is being held on Saturday, 25th October (5000th RWM) followed by fellowship and dinner. You are requested to kindly make a note of these changes.

RESIGNATIONS

The Board at its meeting held on 22nd September, 2025 accepted the resignations of the following Rotarians with effect from 23.09.2025

- Rtn. Joyanta Chatterjee
- Rtn. Indrajit Ganguly

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL "ATTENDANCE CENTURIONS" FOR THE ROTARY YEAR 2024 -2025

- Raj Kumar Agrawal
- Sakti Kumar Banerjee
- Ashok Kumar Basu
- Suman Chakraborty
- * Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
- *Balkrishna Dalmia
- * Haladhar Dey
- *Subrata De
- Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee
- Nilima Joshi
- Partha Pratim Mukherjee
- * Kirit Patel
- *Sujata Pyne
- * Hirak Ray
- Arindam Roychowdhury
- Purnendu Roychowdhury
- Atindra Nath Sen
- Anand Sharma
- Rajeev Swaika

* Exempted from Attendance



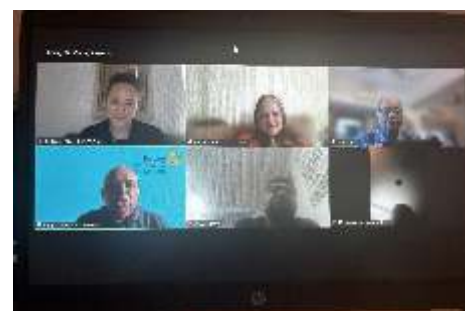
THE CHAKA WISHES ALL
ITS' READERS
"SUBHO BIJOYA"



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2025

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday, 21st October, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting	_____
Saturday, 25th October, 2025	5000th Regular Weekly Meeting followed by fellowship and dinner	Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) 6.30 p.m. onwards
Tuesday, 28th October, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting	_____

Peace Conference with Rotary Action Group for Peace



Date : 21 st September, 2025

AOS : International Service

Members attended : 17

"There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves."
— Lyndon B. Johnson

This quote aptly reflects the spirit of the Peace Conference I had the privilege of moderating. The online session brought together over 100 Rotarians, including international and national dignitaries of Rotary International.

The keynote speakers were Rtn. Tijana Ristic, Chairperson of Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP), and Rtn. Namrata Suri, Co-chair of the India Chapter of RAGFP. Also present was Rtn. Dirk Lustig, Chairperson Elect, who joined from Ukraine, where alarms sounded in the background, a poignant reminder of the urgency of Rotary's peace mission.

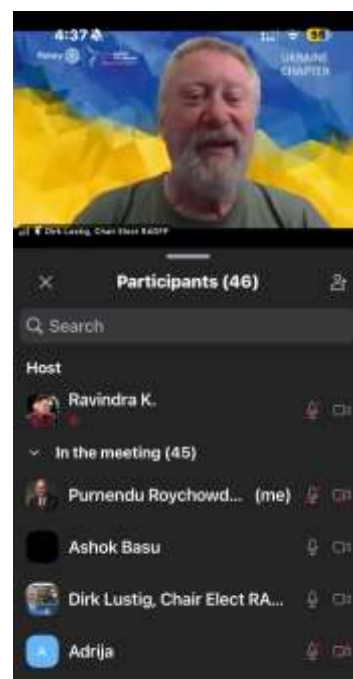
The session began with opening remarks from our President, Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay, followed by introductions from Hony. Secretary Ashok Basu (AB4) and Rtn. Rajeev Paralikar. Rtn. Tijana spoke with clarity, emphasizing her deep connection with India and inviting RC Calcutta to join RAGFP. Rtn. Namrata outlined RAGFP's role and the opportunities for Rotarians, particularly in India, to foster harmony and create lasting impact.

Rtn. Dirk's message carried added weight given his circumstances in Ukraine. Rtn. N.K. Gopinath of RC Madras also shared his thoughts, and I highlighted the special bond between RC Calcutta and RC Madras. A brief Q&A followed, with questions from RLI Chairperson Rtn. Anjan Ray and Rtn. Krishanu Chatterjee of RC Serampore, addressed by Rtn. Tijana and Rtn. Namrata.

The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Hony. Secretary AB4, who moved the audience with a touching poem. Gratitude was also extended to Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury, Chairman of the International Service Committee, for his support, and to DGN Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury, whose office enabled the session on a premium Zoom platform. Special thanks to Rtn. Rajeev Paralikar for seamlessly coordinating the speakers and technical arrangements.

The Peace Conference reminded us that dialogue remains the first step toward resolving conflicts, and Rotary's role in building peace is as vital as ever.

Reported by Rtn. Ravindra Khandelwal, Co-chair, International Service Committee



MINUTES OF THE 4998th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 6.30 P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN

1. In the absence of President, Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay, Vice-President, Rtn. Anusua Das conducted the meeting on that day.
2. The Vice President Rtn. Anusua Das welcomed Members and Guests and called the 4998th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
3. The National Anthem was led by Rtn Sarvani Gooptu.
4. Minutes of the 4997th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 16th September, 2025 were confirmed.
Vice-President, Rtn. Anusua Das informed members that the Club would celebrate its "107th FOUNDATION DAY" on that day. She then welcomed our Dist Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri as the Chief Guest. She also welcomed Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya, Artist and Painter and Mr. Sounak Chacraverti, Independent Art Curator as the Special Guests.
5. The Vice -President then welcomed all PGDs, Dist. Officials, Visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
6. **The Vice President reported the following :**
 - a) On 17th September, 2025, the Club Inaugurated Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic with the support of Cera Sanitaryware Ltd. CSR at the Susrut Eye Hospital, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. The entire amount for that project was donated by the CSR of Cera Sanitaryware. On behalf of the Club, the Vice-President thanked PP Rtn. Vikram Somany, Chairman, Cera Sanitaryware for the donation.
 - b) On 25th September, 2025, to celebrate Literacy Month, the Special Project Committee organized "Siksha Labh -III" project and handed over 80 Desktop Computers to beneficiaries at Rotary Sadan. The entire project was supported by our DGN PP Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury and a well-wisher Member of the Club. On behalf of the Club, the Vice-President thanked Rtn. Purnendu Roychowdhury and the other well-wisher for their donations.
 - c) Two new Interact Clubs -Bejoygarh Vidyapeeth (H.S.) and Mitra Institution (Main) (H S) sponsored by Rotary Club of Calcutta were inaugurated and their Club Charters were handed over their Charters on 25th September, 2025 at Rotary Sadan. On behalf of the Club, the Vice-President congratulated Rtn Saswati Mukherjee, Chairperson, Youth Service Committee for this achievement.
 - d) On 26th September, 2025 - Blood donation Camp was organized in association with Institute of Child Health, Kolkata at their premises
7. **The Vice-President announced the following :**
The Club Co-hosted and participated at the "Sharad Swikriti and Sharad Archana" organized by R I Dist. 3291 during the Durga Puja - 2025
8. At the request of the Vice-President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu thereafter conducted the Club Business:
 - a) He welcomed DG Rtn Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya, Mr. Sounak Chacraverti, PDGs, Dist. Officials , Visiting Rotarians, other Guests and all Members of the Club.
 - b) He then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 13th October, 2025. Hewished them and requested them to donate generously for the Rotary Foundation India and the Club Projects.
 - c) There would be no Regular Weekly Meetings on Tuesdays, 30th September, 2025 and 7th October, 2025 on account of Durga Puja Holidays and requested members to kindly make a note of those changes.
 - d) Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club on Tuesday, 14th October, 2025 (After the Durga Puja Holiday) at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor). Programme : Recognition of 100 %attendance members for the Rotary year 2024-2025.
 - e) The First Club Assembly of the Club for Rotary year 2025- 26 would be held on Sunday, 12th October, 2025 at 10.30 a.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) followed by a Working Lunch. (Tea at 10 a.m.)

All members, especially PDGs, Past Presidents, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Club Officials and New Members were requested to kindly block the above date and join that important meeting. Committee Chairs were also requested to send their Committee activities reports during the First Quarter of the Rotary year 2025-26 to the Hony. Secretary for the first Club Assembly.
9. At the request of the Vice-President, Rtn Anusua Das, Rtn Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee, Chairperson, Programme Committee conducted the proceedings as MC of the Foundation Day celebration programme on that day. The Vice-President then felicitated Dist. Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya and Mr. Sounak Chacraverti.
10. At the request of the MC, Dist. Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri addressed the audience.
11. At the request of the MC Rtn. Subha Pal introduced Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya and Mr. Sounak Chacraverti. After that, Rtn Subha Pal moderated the Panel discussion by Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya and Mr. Sounak Chacraverti.
12. At the request of the Vice-President, Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya, Mr. Sounak Chacraverti, Hony Secretary, Ashok Kumar Basu, Senior Rotarian Jayanta Mitra and Junior Rtn Pradipta Chandra Ganguly joined the Vice President to cut the Birthday Cake on that day.
13. The Vice-President informed that the Birthday Cake was sponsored by Taj Bengal Hotel. On behalf of the Club, the Vice-President thanked Taj Bengal Hotel for the same.
14. On behalf of the Club, the Vote of Thanks was given by Rtn. Dr. Krishna Sen .
15. The Vice- President then felicitated Mrs.Shipra Bhattacharya, spouse of Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya.
16. Sunshine Box Collection Rs. 2,500/- with special contribution from Rtns. Hirak Ray, Ravindra Khandelwal, Indrajit Banerjee, and Sarvani Gooptu on that day.
17. The Club remembered with good wishes the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee, India, R.I. District 3291.
18. Before adjourning the meeting, Vice-President requested all to join the Fellowship and Dinner. On behalf of the Club, she thanked Rtns Debashis Mitra, Shampa Ghose, Tushar Basu, Malay Kumar Ghosh and Dr. Ajay Agarwal for hosting fellowship and dinner on that day.
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 8.05 p.m.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
President

Ashok Kumar Basu
Hony. Secretary