



SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026
April is Environmental Month

106

The Chaka

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta
R I Dist 3291
First Published in 1925

Editor : Rtn. Anindita Shoma Basu
Jt. Editor : Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu

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Rotary
Club of Calcutta



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

projects. Notably the Annual Children's Treat saw its 100th manifestation this year. The 5000th RWM was also a key feature this year. The Club has a Welfare Trust which provides awards/ scholarships every year for promoting excellence in education, health, sports, music, cultural activities and various other social services. Widely diverse objectives are covered under the scheme, for example – it seeks to support economically challenged meritorious students of medical, engineering or higher technology on the one hand and also a student of Hindusthani vocal classical music on the other. Orphanages, destitute homes and old age homes are also part of the scheme. Our benevolent members had created over 60 Endowments (the first of which was set up in 1991) to extend a helping hand every year to different sections of the underprivileged community. Beneficiaries are financially challenged and deprived members of society. The Endowments had been created by members in the memory of their loved ones. This is arguably one of the best projects that our Club has, which serves the community on an ongoing basis from year to year. The donors have the satisfaction of seeing their parents and other loved ones remembered every year through a donation/award for a cause close to his/her heart. This year the Trust will be extending support to over 100 beneficiaries involving an outlay of over Rs 15 lakhs. The procedure for selecting the final list of awardees is done in two phases. In the first phase, a group of Club members after scrutinizing all the applications prepare a short list of probable awardees. Thereafter, the final selection is done by the Selection Panel which consists of the Club's President and senior members of the Club besides the Chairman of the Trust.

PDG Ravindra Prakash Sehgal Vice Governor (Chief Guest)



Having done his schooling from St. Paul's School – Mr. Sehgal completed his Bachelor of Technology (Honours) from Benaras Hindu University Institute of Technology in Electrical Engineering. He has his Diploma in Business & Industrial Management from Calcutta, besides Diploma in Export

Marketing from Baroda. He has undertaken a special Management training course for Young Business Men from Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) Hyderabad. He is a keen sportsman having represented the school & college team in swimming, water polo and cricket. He has worked for two years in Saudi Arabia in a leading Engineering concern at Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), manufacturing castings & helped increase production four times in that span of 2 years. From 1983 till 2023 he was the Managing Director in Carnation Industries Limited, Kolkata's leading Export House manufacturing & exporting engineering goods, the

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 <p>Unveiling of Plaque</p>  <p>Rtn. NITISH CHANDRA LAHARRY</p> <p>Venue : Rotary Sadan 18th April 2026 Time: 5:30 PM</p>	 <p>On behalf of the Rotary Children's Welfare Trust and Rotary Club of Calcutta Welfare Trust Rtn. Dr. Debash Chatterjee, President ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA</p> <p>Cordially invites you and your spouse to the Unveiling of PRF H. C. Laharry Plaque at 5.30 p.m. 18th April</p> <p>RWM AND ANNUAL ENDOWMENT AWARDS CEREMONY-2026 on Saturday, 17th April 2026 10.00 a.m.</p> <p>Venue: Rotary Sadan 342, Chatterjee Road, Kolkata-700 000</p> <p>PDG Rtn. Ravi Sehgal, Vice Governor R I Dist 3291 has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest</p> <p>The meeting will be followed by Dinner Hosted by Rtn. Bibha Das Mukherjee and Rtn. Anindita Shoma Basu</p> <p>Starts : 8.30 p.m. (after the meeting) (Kindly be present at 8.15 pm)</p> <p>R.I. P.P. (Special Defn): No. 2223 - 8884 - 1978</p>
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Endowment Awards

Rotary Club of Calcutta, the oldest continuing Rotary Club in Asia, has entered its 107th year, was organized on 26th September, 1919 and received its Charter on 1st January 1920. In 1919 our Club was the only Rotary Club between English Channel and South China Sea. Today 'The old number One' is the longest continuously running club in Mainland Asia and The Phillipines. In 2025-26, the club has completed several marquee projects such as Vision on Wheels, ICU on Wheels, Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic, Each to Teach Mentor Mentee, Public Speaking, Music Literacy, Atmanirbhar (sewing machines and wheelchairs), Pranadhara (Water Purification). The club has led from the front in involving smaller clubs in large

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

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first Ductile Iron Foundry in India to attain Kitemark certification for Municipal Castings from BSI-UK. Currently he is the Chairman of Essen International, an Export unit specializing in Foundry product exports.

He was the Regional Chairman of The Engineering Export Promotion Council – Eastern Region (2000 – 2009) and the National Chairman of EEPC – India from 2017-2020. He was the President of Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF), an apex body of Foundries in India in 2008-2009. Currently he is the Mentor of the Editorial Committee of Indian Foundry Journal-published by IIF. He has represented EEPC & IIF at several National & International Forums including INDEE, International Exhibitions & World Foundry Forum. He has led Trade Delegations to Europe & Middle East and has been a speaker at various International Seminars. He is currently the Chairman of the National Center of Export Promotion, Institute of Indian Foundrymen.

He is an active Rotarian and has been the District Governor of Rotary District 3290 that covered the areas of South Bengal & Nepal in the year 2000- 2001. He has been bestowed The Rotary Foundation's honour of Certificate of Meritorious Award & the Distinguished Service Awards. He has received "Service Above Self" Award of the Rotary International. Past President of Rotary Club of Belur, he was the District Rotary Foundation Chair for nine years and District Membership Chair for three years and is currently serving as the Vice-Governor of the District. In 2026-27, he will be the District Resource Coordinator for TRF and CSR activities. Ravi & Sumati are Level Two Major Donors and their two sons are both Paul Harris Fellows.

PRANADHARA–Karabeg Gobindapur : Community Drinking Water Project



Installation Report

The 13th and 14th installations under PRANADHARA–II, executed through Global Grant No. 2578095, were successfully completed on Saturday, 11 March 2026. These installations form part of the ongoing initiative to provide access to purified drinking water to underserved communities.

The projects were commissioned at :

- Gobindapur Ratneswar High School, Baruipur
- Karabeg High School, Dhosa, Gocharan, South 24 Parganas

The combined beneficiary base across both institutions is estimated at over 4,000 individuals, including students, faculty, and members of the surrounding communities.

Each location has been equipped with TATA Swachh water purification systems, ensuring sustained access to safe and clean drinking water. The installations are expected to significantly improve health and hygiene standards within the beneficiary population.

The inauguration ceremonies were conducted with active participation and strong support from the respective school authorities and local community representatives. The events were well-organised and reflected a high degree of local engagement.

The following Rotarians were present on the occasion :

- President : Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
- Honorary Secretary : Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu
- President-Elect : Rtn. Anand Sharma
- Past President : Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal
- Rtn. Tapash Kumar Dey
- Treasurer : Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee
- Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury (Primary Contact for the Global Grant Project)

Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury acknowledged and expressed gratitude to the international partner clubs — Rotary Club of Colleyville (USA), Rotary Club of Portsmouth (USA), and Rotary Club of Singapore — for their valuable support and collaboration in making this project possible. Special appreciation was also extended to President Rtn. Kithsiri for his pivotal role in enabling the initiative.

This milestone reinforces the club's continued commitment to sustainable community development and access to safe drinking water.

Reported by Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury, chair for International Service & CSR Committee



PRANADHARA–Joynagar Eye hospital : Community Drinking Water Project



Installation Report (10th & 11th Installations)

The 10th and 11th installations under PRANADHARA-II, executed through Global Grant No. 2578095, were successfully completed as part of the continuing initiative to provide access to safe and purified drinking water to underserved communities.

One installation was carried out at the Rotary Joynagar Eye Hospital, Majilpur, Joynagar, South 24 Parganas — a high-footfall healthcare facility catering to over 600 patients daily. The formal inauguration took place on 5 April 2026 at 11:00 AM in the presence of club members, followed by a fellowship lunch organised by the host institution. The installation is expected to significantly enhance access to safe drinking water for patients, attendants, and hospital staff.

The second installation was undertaken at RCC Bhamari Baman Mollar Chak, Kultali, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Acropolis. This intervention addressed a critical community need, as the village — home to approximately 4,000 residents — had been without functional borewells for over two years. Residents were dependent on unsafe pond water or costly private suppliers. The commissioning of the water purification system has provided immediate and sustainable relief, and was received with deep appreciation by the local community.

The inauguration ceremonies were attended by :

- President : Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
- Honorary Secretary : Rtn. Ashoke Kumar Basu
- President-Elect : Rtn. Anand Sharma
- Rtn. Yogesh Dassani
- Rtn. Tapash Kumar Dey
- Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury (Primary Contact – Global Grant Project)
- PP Rtn. Abhijit Kolay
- PP Rtn. Ritwik Gupta
- Rtn. Shewatashree Kolay (Satellite Club – Calcutta Colts)

Rotarians from Rotary Club of Central Calcutta and Rotary Club of Acropolis were also present, as implementation partners for the project.

Rtn. Arindam Roy Chowdhury expressed sincere gratitude to the international partner clubs — Rotary Club of Colleyville (USA), Rotary Club of Portsmouth (USA), and Rotary Club of Singapore — for their continued support and collaboration. Special appreciation was extended to President Rtn. Kitshri for her leadership and contribution in making this project possible.

These installations mark another significant milestone in advancing sustainable community development and improving public health outcomes through access to safe drinking water.

Reported by Chair International Arindam

Three cheers to Rtn Shwetashree Kolay of Colts for joining the team. She did the ribbon honours at Joynagar Eye Hospital with great elan! I think Colts members leading project teams should now be a norm! Even though their co-travellers vintage would be about 4 standard deviations from their own!!

Reported by Hony. Secretary Ashok Basu



Gratitude

From
The Headmaster & Secretary

Index No. : C2-182

SONAMUKHI JANAKALYAN VIDYAPITH [HS]

Vill & PO: Abdalpur, PS: Diamond Harbour, Dist: South 24 Parganas, PIN: 743368

Ref. No.:

Date: 08 April, 2026

To

The President

Rotary Club of Calcutta

Rotary Sadan

94/2, Chowringhee Road

Kolkata 700020

Subject: Sincere Thanks for Providing Clean Drinking Water Facility.

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of our school, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Rotary Club of Calcutta for installing the clean drinking water facility, PRANADHARA, in our school.

This thoughtful initiative has greatly benefitted our students, teachers, and staff. Nearly 500 students in our school are using this facility every day and are directly benefitted.

What makes this initiative even more meaningful is that it is not limited to our school alone. A nearby kindergarten school, with around 300 students and their teachers, is also regularly using this water.

In addition, many people from the nearby market area, including shopkeepers and local residents, are depending on this facility daily for safe drinking water.

Your effort has made a real and lasting impact on our entire community by ensuring access to clean and safe water. Such a noble initiative truly reflects your commitment to social welfare.

We sincerely appreciate your support and hope to see more such meaningful initiatives from your esteemed organization in the future.

Thank you once again for your generous contribution.

Yours truly,
Sd/-
PRADIP KUNTI
Headmaster

DGN expression on Pranadhara

Well done Arindam as I am impressed with the scale and reach of the project plus the enthusiasm in our members to join. Participation makes us realise the kind of work that is happening. Implementation of such a huge project spread over such an expanse in reaching to the needy. I was at awe seeing a lady in Sunderbans savouring a salt free glass of water like some expensive wine. Water is life. Giving them this essential is God's work. Thanks to our goodwill created and the trust we have earned from various Rotary clubs who have become implementing partners and finding us new places to work jointly taking care of before installation to post installation and running of the system. Well done Arindam and your committee ably supported by President and Secretary. This is how we go forward. Make a video of their experiences. We will show it in Taiwan. Will discuss.

From the heart!

Merely excerpted from WA, verbatim –
Hony. Secretary



Computer Training

Batch selection – Computer Training

One of the most widely beneficial project for the underprivileged is the Flagship program of Rotary Club of Calcutta's Computer training program provided to the children belonging to the poor strata of society. Interviews for the next batch was completed on 11 April 2026. Four kids who have already passed the basic Computer training was found suitable for TALLY Training. They were really good. Besides another batch of 19 were selected for the Basic course.

Reported by Rtn Atin Sen

Dr Atindra Nath Sen, Achtung for short, is most modest – he doesn't mention in the report that he has been doing the initial screening for these candidates for uncountable years now! Doff my hat. Hony. Secretary



REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding Anniversaries

Rtn. Shailendra Kumar Gupta & R- Ann Madhu	20th April
Rtn. Hemant Kanoria & R-Ann Madhulika	22nd April
Rtn. Shree Kumar Bangur & R- Ann Shashi	25th April
AKS Rtn. Sourabh Khemani & Rtn Dr. Joshita Davar Khemani	25th April
Rtn. Dr. Ajay Agarwal & R-Ann Indrani	27th April
Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kumar & R-Ann Aradhana	27th April
Rtn. Ritwik Gupta & R-Ann Anuradha	27th April



ONE WORLD

We extend our warm greetings to the Rotary Club of Colleyville, U.S.A., RID 5790.

Birthday

Rtn. Abhijit Kolay	23rd April
Rtn. Brijendra Kumar Poddar	27th April
Rtn. Shauryaveer Himatsingka	27th April

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.

REPORTS

- a) International Service & CSR Committee inaugurated two Pranadhara II projects under GG No. 2578095 on last Sunday, 5th April, 2026 at Rotary Joynagar Eye hospital and Bhramari Janakalyan Mission at Kultali, Sundarbans.
- b) Two installations under Pranadhara II GG No. 2578095 took place on Saturday, 11th April, 2026 at Gobindapur Ratneswar H S Dakshin Gobindapur and Karabag Charaghata H S in Joynagar.

BOARD MEETING

The Tenth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Club will be held on Monday, 27th April, 2026, at 6.30 p. m. in Rotary Sadan (1st floor).
All Board members are requested to kindly make note of it and attend.

TODAY

Annual Endowment Awards Ceremony - 2026

ROSTER 2025-26

Members are requested to collect their copy of the Member' Roster for the Rotary year 2025-26 from the Club Office.

NO WEEKLY MEETINGS

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on next Tuesday, 21st April, 2026 as the said meeting is being held on Saturday, 18th April, 2026.

RESIGNATION

The Board at its meeting held on 30th March, 2026 accepted the resignation of PP Rtn Vinay Nevatia with effect from 31st March, 2026.

SUBHO NABOBARSHO

"Chaka" wishes its readers and well-wishers a Very Happy Bengali New Year 1433

RABINDRA JAYANTI & NAZRUL SANDHYA

Rabindra Jayanti and Nazrul Sandhya will be observed on Saturday, the 9th May, 2026 at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) at 6.00 p.m. onwards with a programme to be staged by the students of the Cultural Section. You are requested to join the programme with your family.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Date	Day	Programme	Time	Venue	Speaker / Remarks
21st April, 2026	Tuesday	No Regular Weekly Meeting	—	—	—
28th April, 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting*	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	Speaker : Mrs. Diya Jaiswal
5th May, 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting & Debate	6:30 p.m. onwards followed by Dinner	Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)	—
9th May, 2026	Saturday	Cultural Section Rabindra Jayanti and Nazrul Sandhya	6.00 p.m. onwards	Rotary Sadan (Ground Floor)	—
12th May, 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	Dr. Nilina Deb Lal
19th May, 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	—
26th May, 2026	Tuesday	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch 12:30 p.m. / Meeting 1:30 p.m.	Rotary Sadan (2nd Floor)	Mr. Arijit Sengupta

*Possible joint meeting with RC Calcutta Metropolitan East



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF THE 5020TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 7TH APRIL, 2026 AT 6.00 P.M. IN ROTARY SADAN

1. President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 5020th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. The National Anthem was led by Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu.
3. Minutes of the 5019th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 31st March, 2026 were confirmed.
4. The President informed members that the Vocational Service Committee has organised Vocational Excellence Awards-2026 "ASADHARON" on this day. On behalf of the Club, President welcomed Smt. Soma Das Mitra, IPS, DIG, CID as the Chief Guest. President also welcomed our Dist. Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri as the Guest of Honour. President then felicitated them and handed over a cheque of \$1000 in favour of Rotary Foundation, India to the District Governor.
5. The President welcomed all visiting Rotarians and Guests at the meeting and conveyed greetings to their Clubs. President also welcomed all awardees.
At the request of the President, Dist. Governor Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri addressed the audience.
6. **President reported the following :**
 - a) Tuesday, 31st March, 2026 - Health Committee organised a Vaccination Camp after the Regular Weekly Meeting at Rotary Sadan.
 - b) International Service & CSR Committee inaugurated two Pranadhara II Projects under GG No. 2578095 on 5th April, 2026 at Rotary Joynagar Eye hospital and Bhrumari Janakalyan Mission at Kultali, Sundarbans. It was an all day programme. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Chair, International Service & CSR Committee Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury and his team.
7. **President announced the following :**
 - i) The next two installations under Pranadhara II GG No. 2578095 would be held on Saturday, 11th April, 2026 at Gobindapur Ratneswar H S Dakshin Gobindapur and Karabag Charaghata H S in Joynagar and requested members to join on that day. For further details, please contact Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury.
 - ii) The Annual Endowment Awards-2026 ceremony along with Regular Weekly Meeting will be held on Saturday, 18th April, 2026 at 6 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) to be followed by dinner. He requested members to make a note of it and attend with their spouses.
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 17th 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 Meetings on Tuesdays, 14th April and 21st April, 2026.
 - d) The Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club is on Saturday, 18th April, 2026 at 6.00 p.m. in Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) Programme : Annual Endowment Awards-2026 ceremony followed by dinner. He requested all members to attend this important meeting with their spouses on that day.
He also informed members that the unveiling of plaque of Rtn. Nitish Chandra Laharry would be held on Saturday, 18th April, 2026 at 5.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan premises and requested members to be kindly present at 5.15 p.m. on that day at Rotary Sadan.
 - e) He then announced that the R I Dist. 3291 will organise "Boishaki Sondha" on Friday, 24th April, 2026 at 6 p.m. in the Urbana Club House. Registration charges Rs. 500/- per person and requested members to register their names. For further details please contact Club office.
 - f) He then requested members to collect their members' Roster 2025-26 from the Club Office.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn. Shampa Ghose, Chairperson, Vocational Service Committee then conducted Vocational Excellence Awards-2026 ceremony "ASADHARON". She then gave a brief overview of Vocational Excellence Awards and introduced Smt. Soma Das Mitra as the Chief Guest for the day. At the request of Rtn. Shampa Ghose, Smt. Soma Das Mitra addressed the audience.
10. Rtn. Shampa Ghose handed over a Memento to the Chief Guest, Smt. Soma Das Mitra.
11. Rtn. Shampa Ghose, Chairperson, Vocational Service Committee then marshalled the Vocational Excellence Awards-2026 ceremony "ASADHARON".
The Vocational Excellence Awards-2026 were handed over to the all awardees by the Dist. Governor, Chief Guest, President, Secretary and herself.
13. Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
14. On behalf of the Club, President congratulated all the awardees and thanked the Chair, Vocational Service Committee, Rtn Shampa Ghose, and her Committee members for the selection of awardees and execution of the Vocational Excellence Awards programme.
15. No Sunshine Box Collection on that day.
16. The Club remembered with good wishes the Rotary Club of Calcutta South Circle, India, RID 3291.
17. Before adjourning the meeting, President requested all to join Fellowship and Dinner. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtns. Prosanta Kumar Roy, M. L. Lohia, Dr. Shankar Ghosh, Abhijit Kolay and Kanak Dutt for hosting Fellowship and Dinner on that day.
18. Meeting was adjourned at 7.45 p.m.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
President

Ashok Kumar Basu
Hony. Secretary