



TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2026
January is Vocational Service 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

Volume 93 No. 24

Ramdhanu, District Conference 9 to 11 Jan 2026



Ramdhanu, the District Conference of Rotary District 3291, was held with considerable pomp and splendour from 9th to 11th January 2026 at the East Side Pavilion, Nicco Park. The Rotary-specific sessions stood out for their exceptional depth and quality of content. The general sessions, featuring several well-known personalities, ranged from high-energy, chest-thumping presentations to moments of sheer intellectual brilliance.

Special mention must be made of Adman Bharat Dhabolkar, Coach and Mentor Deepak Rao, and India's young AI prodigy, Raul John Aju. Bharat Dhabolkar commanded the stage with the sheer force of his personality, sharing compelling experiences from specific campaigns and drawing clear parallels with Rotary's communication strategies. Deepak Rao delivered a masterful session on

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



UNITE
FOR
GOOD



interpreting subtle body-language cues; his live demonstrations left the audience spellbound and eager for more.

Equally impressive was 16-year-old Raul John Aju, whose confident and engaging presentation on Artificial Intelligence captivated the audience. He demystified AI through simple, practical insights and cautioned against allowing technology to overwhelm human judgment. His communication style — sharp, humorous, and focused — belied his age and marked him as a talent to watch. One can only wish him and his venture rapid success and an early Unicorn status.

We had 14 registrations this time. There was a special recognition of Rotarians who had completed 50 years in Rotary and our dear PDG Prabhat Rohatgi and PP Satish Kapur were present.

Reported by Hony. Secretary Ashok Basu

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



DGN Purnendu Roychowdhury's Acceptance Speech at the Ramdhanu, District Conference

There has been an overwhelming support by your Club leaders and Presidents in electing me as District Governor for the year 2027-2028, and I humbly accept the choice made by your leaderships. Having said that, my goal and endeavour is to be accepted as a friend by each of you, which is each Rotarian of District 3291. I will not reinvent the Rotary Wheel, which is already very well oiled by you for the past 100 years and above; but I will bring in new thoughts and ideas and how we can innovate and better our approach is where I will ideate with you. One of the important areas is Membership Growth and Retention. How we can address this as an individual with our old slogan of "Each one, fetch one". Incidentally, I am working with the Japanese from the age of 16 years, and our District Governor presented me a book on Kaizen at the District Conference, wherein we do not need to improve by leaps and bounds and pursue perfection but improve little by little every day. Hence, I request all of you to invest your every week for furthering the cause of Rotary. The Japanese concept of Nema Washi is to prepare quietly before decisions, as success will only come from ground work. This jells very well with our Bengali culture, where we prepare quietly to facilitate good decisions. Hence, I would be glad if you prepare a long-term plan with regard to projects, as well as leadership within your Clubs. As per my mother-in-law's Guru, who I consider my teacher, Shri Shri Ravi Shankarji says 'accept people as they are'; and I believe that I cannot put people into strait jackets. As accepting the many facets of their personalities including imperfections and flaws and working with them is where true friendship starts. Hence, we must try to think patterns in people by putting ourselves in their shoes. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.



The Public Image Committee

The Public Image Committee for our Club is happy to share that we have been very active on social media posting regular updates on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Chaka and other channels of print media. Our coverage of Charter Day celebration was well received and similarly the report on completion of 5000 Meetings by Rtn. Sanjib Basu. Post our committee meeting held on the 16th of December 2025, Rtn Mathur (Co Chair) has approached LIC suggesting the installation of a plaque for Rotary Club of Calcutta in the LIC building which was formerly the site of the famous Peliti restaurant where the first meeting of Rotary Club Of Calcutta was held in 1919. Recently, our Annual Children's treat at Nicco Park was shared with the media and the photographs were published on 2nd January 2026 in T2 (print media).

Reported by Subha Pal, Chair, Public Image Committee

Rotary Club of Calcutta Marks Historic Milestone : 100 Years of the "Annual Children's Treat"

On December 21, 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta celebrated a momentous occasion : the 100th anniversary of its signature service project, the "Annual Children's Treat." What began a century ago by a handful of Rotarians aiming to bring a "Day of Sunshine" to underprivileged children by taking them to the Botanical Gardens in Shibpur, has evolved into a massive, uninterrupted tradition. Remarkably, this event has persevered through history's most challenging periods, including World War II and the COVID-19 pandemic, during which time the spirit of giving continued albeit on a smaller scale.

To commemorate the Centenary year, the event was organized on a grand scale at Nicco Park. Over 1,200 children were transported in 30 school buses arriving at 9:00 AM to a warm reception of breakfast and health drinks.

The day formally began at 10:00 AM with the National Anthem. Club President **Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay** delivered the welcome address, followed by a speech from the District Governor of Rotary District 3291, **Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri**. After the inauguration, the children enjoyed unlimited access to Nicco Park's rides for nearly four hours followed by a freshly cooked hot lunch.

The East Side Pavilion was transformed into a festive wonderland with red and white balloons, evoking the spirit of

Christmas. Mascots resembling Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy mingled with the children, while a specially curated Centenary Photo Booth became a highlight. Rotarians from various clubs were seen snapping photos with the proud caption : "I attended the longest-running service project of Asia's longest-running Rotary Club."

The highlight of the 100th year was a live musical performance by **Shibaprasad & Co**. They entertained the attendees which included the children, their escorts and Rotarians. The children were ecstatic, clapping, dancing and singing along to popular Hindi and Bengali hits, enjoying the atmosphere of a lively concert.

When the day ended, every child was handed an ice cream and a specially designed jute goodie bag filled with food and stationery. As the sun set on this historic day, the Rotary Club of Calcutta renewed its pledge to keep this "Day of Sunshine" alive for the next century and beyond.

We express our sincerest gratitude to the sponsors and donors whose support and encouragement have helped to make the children smile.

We gratefully acknowledge the following Rotarians and well-wishers for sponsoring the items as mentioned below :

Rtn. S. R. Goenka for Soft Drinks and Maaza Tetra packs
PP Rtn. Kanak Dutt for Health Drinks

Rtn. Shampa Ghosh for Fruit Drinks

PP Rtn. Heena Gorsia for Thacker Ice Cream

Rtns. Supriya & Prasanta Roy – Breakfast at concessional price

A very special thanks to the following donors for sponsoring the items which were packed in the Gift hampers handed to the children :

1. Bisk Farm – for Biscuits.
2. Pampar Overseas Foods – for Chips and Snacks.
3. Line Pens – Geometry Boxes

The above sponsors were arranged by Rtn. Ravindra Khandelwal & Rtn. Yogesh Dassani

A Big Shout out to the following school's Principal & management for providing us the buses :

1. Asian International
2. DPS – Howrah
3. DPS – Ruby Park
4. Mahadevi Birla World Academy
5. South Point

Thank you to RCC Ranhati for providing the ambulance and the management team of Nicco Park for their support.

Sincere thanks to office staff of Rotary Club of Calcutta and special thanks to Shri Madan Kothari for his dedicated support in preparing the lunch for this event over the last 30 years.

We also gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions received from the following donors as on 28th December 2025 :

1. Late Rtn. Nandita Sen (Nandita Sen Endowment Award)	Rs. 27,000/-
2. PP. Rtn. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Basu	Rs. 2,000/-
3. Rtn. Ravindra Khandelwal	Rs. 25,000/-
4. Rtn. Anand Vardhan Bhuwalka	Rs. 25,000/-
5. Rtn. Ashish Kumar Bagla / Rtn. Deepa Bagla	Rs. 1,00,000/-
6. Rtn. Dr. Atindra Nath Sen	Rs. 20,000/-
7. A Well Wisher	Rs. 1,00,000/-
8. Rtn. Niraj Kumar Saraf	Rs. 11,000/-
9. Rtn. Brijendra Kumar Poddar	Rs. 10,000/-
10. PP. Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal	Rs. 21,000/-
11. Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu	Rs. 25,000/-
12. Rtn. Sharmistha N. Koya	Rs. 51,000/-
13. PP. Rtn. Debasish Mitra	Rs. 25,000/-
14. PP. Rtn. Haladhar Dey	Rs. 10,000/-
15. Rtn. Dr. Ajay Agarwal	Rs. 5,000/-
16. PP. Rtn. Vikram Somany	Rs. 2,00,000/-
17. Rtn. Hirak Ray	Rs. 5,000/-
18. Rtn. Tapan Basu	Rs. 25,000/-
19. Rtn. M.L. Lohia	Rs. 1,00,000/-
20. Rtn. Shailendra Kumar Gupta	Rs. 10,000/-
21. Rtn. Dr. Indrajit Roy	Rs. 15,000/-
22. Rtn. Kirit Patel	Rs. 10,000/-
23. Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay	Rs. 20,000/-
24. Rtn. Balkrishna Dalmia	Rs. 10,000/-
25. PP. Rtn. Kanak Dutt / Rtn. Sonia Dutt	Rs. 1,00,000/-
26. Rtn. Anusua Das	Rs. 5,000/-
27. Rtn. Sujata Pyne	Rs. 5,000/-
28. Rtn. Shampa Ghose	Rs. 5,000/-
29. Rtn. Roshni Ganguly	Rs. 5,000/-
30. Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu	Rs. 5,000/-
31. Rtn. Satarupa Ghosh Mukherjee	Rs. 5,000/-
32. Rtn. Sriranjani Joshi	Rs. 5,000/-
33. Rtn. Anindita Shoma Basu	Rs. 5,000/-
34. R-Ann. Sucharita Roychowdhury	Rs. 5,000/-
35. R-Ann. Sanjukta Mitra	Rs. 5,000/-
36. Prof. Sushmita Mukherjee (Well-wisher)	Rs. 5,000/-
37. Ms. Sayantani Dutt (Well-wisher)	Rs. 5,000/-
38. Ms. Nargis Hirji / Ms. Parveen Hirji	Rs. 10,000/-
39. Rtn. Probir Kumar Gupta	Rs. 5,000/-
40. Rtn. Sukanti Taraphdar (R. C. of Manchester)	Rs. 10,000/-
41. Sudha Medical Relief & Research Foundation (Courtesy Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury)	Rs. 1,00,000/-

42. PP. Rtn. Subrata De	: Rs. 10,000/-
43. Rtn. Shankar Sehanobish	: Rs. 10,000/-
44. PP Rtn. Nilima Joshi	: Rs. 10,000/-
45. Rtn. B.D. Kothari	: Rs. 21,000/-
46. Rtn. K.K. Kothari	: Rs. 21,000/-
47. Rtn. Dr. Chandreyee Das	: Rs. 5,000/-
48. Rtn. Dr. Saswati Mukherjee	: Rs. 5,000/-
49. PP. Rtn. Abhijit Kolay / Rtn. Bablu Kolay	: Rs. 1,00,000/-
50. Ms. Amishi Dhanuka (Daughter of PP Sushil Kumar Bagla)	: Rs. 11,000/-
51. Rtn. Shaurya Veer Himatsingka	: Rs. 21,000/-
52. Techno Electric & Engineering Co. Ltd. (Courtesy PP. Rtn. Heena Gorsia)	: Rs. 60,000/-
53. Rtn. Dr. Abhrajit Ray	: Rs. 10,000/-
54. Rtn. Dr. Nandini Ray	: Rs. 10,000/-
55. PDG. Rtn. Prabhat K. Rohatgi	: Rs. 5,000/-
56. Rtn. Sonal Worah	: Rs. 20,000/-
57. Rtn. Yogesh Dassani	: Rs. 10,000/-

The programme was a great success but would not have been so without the support & love from ALL OF YOU.

Reported by Rtn. Yogesh Dassani, Co- Chair for Childrens Annual Treat Committee



REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes Rotary Club of Hirakata, Japan, R.I. Dist. 2660.

TODAY

Closed Door Meeting. Panel Discussion on Constitution and By Laws of the Club.

Birthday

Ashish Kumar Bagla	20th January
Vinay Nevatia	22nd January
Sharmistha N Koya	23rd January
Amitava Sinha	25th January
Shiv Ratan Goenka	25th January
Supriya Roy	26th January
Tapan Basu	26th January

Wish you many happy returns of the day

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

NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club on Tuesday, 27th January, 2026 / Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)

BOARD MEETING

The Seventh Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Club will be held on Friday, 30th January, 2026, at 6.30 p. m. at the Rotary Sadan (1st floor) You are requested to kindly make note of it and attend.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

Republic Day will be celebrated along with Painting Exhibition and Cultural programme by the Students of the Cultural Section on Monday, 26th January, 2026 at the Rotary Sadan (Ground floor). Flag unfurling at 10 a.m. All Members are requested to kindly attend with your families on that day.

Wedding Anniversaries

Hirak Kumar Sen & R-Ann Kalpana	22nd January
Indranil Dasgupta &	
R-Ann Madhumita	22nd January
Dr. Santanu Sen & R-Ann Dr.Kakali	22nd January
Jai Kumar Surana & R-Ann Mita	22nd January
Nirmal Kumar Saraf & R-Ann Shikha	23rd January
Udit Chand Mitra & R-Ann Sanjukta	23rd January
Anita Jain & Mr. Chandra Kumar	24th January
Malay Kumar Ghosh & R-Ann Soma	26th January
Arunava Mukherji & R-Ann Sumita	26th January
Gyanesh Choudhary &	
R-Ann Meenakshi	26th January
Dr. Asis Kumar & R-Ann Purabi	26th January

REPORTS

PDG Rtn Prabhat Krishna Rohatgi, PP Rtn. Satish Kumar and Rtn. Arunava Mukherji felicitated as Senior Rotarians (around 50 years associated with Rotary) at the R I District Conference 2026 held between 9th and 11th January, 2026 at the Nicco Park.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS IN THE MONTHS OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2026

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Monday 26th January, 2026	Republic Day Celebration	10 a.m. at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor)
Tuesday 27th January, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)
Tuesday 3rd February, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker : Dr. Rudrajit Sinha	Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)
Tuesday 10th February, 2026	No Regular Weekly Meeting	—
Tuesday 17th February, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker : Mr. Mudar Patherya	Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)
Tuesday 24th February, 2026	Rotary Oration along with Regular Weekly Meeting	at 6.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) followed by fellowship and dinner



MINUTES OF THE 5010TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY, 2026 AT 1.30 P.M. IN ROTARY SADAN



1. President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 5010th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. National Anthem was led by PP Rtn. Sujata Pyne.
3. Minutes of the 5009th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 1st January, 2026 were confirmed.
4. President informed members about the sad demise of our Ex-Member Ashok Maheshwari on 9th January, 2026 and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.
5. President welcomed Mr. Aveek Agarwal, Partner at Agoi Financial Services as the Chief Guest and Speaker for that day. The topic was "Recovery of Unclaimed Investment & X Factor in Investment Planning."
6. President then welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who were at the meeting.
7. **President reported the following :**
 - a) The Club celebrated its 107th Charter Day followed by fellowship and dinner on 1st January, 2026 at Rotary Sadan.
 - b) Programme and Fellowship Committee have organised a trip to Shantiniketan from 2nd to 4th January, 2026.
 - c) The Second Club Assembly of the Club was held on 6th January, 2026 at 5.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan followed by Hi - Tea.
 - d) Youth Service Committee in collaboration with the NGO, Hijli Inspiration celebrated its 30th Foundation Day on 8th January, 2026 at Rotary Sadan.
 - e) The Club participated and displayed our Club projects at the Rotary District 3291 Conference for 2026 held between 9th and 11th January, 2026 at the Eastside Pavilion, Nicco Park, Kolkata.
8. **President announced the following :**

Community Service have organised a free Eye check-up Camp at the RCC Ranihati Netaji Samaj Sathi on 17th January, 2026. He requested members to attend the Camp. For further details, members may contact Rtn. Udit Chand Mitra, Chairman, Community Service and RCC Committee.
9. At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu conducted the Club business :
 - a) He welcomed all Members and Guests.
 - b) He then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 19th January, 2026. He wished them and also requested them to donate generously for the Rotary Foundation and the Club Projects.
 - c) Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to be held on Tuesday, 20th January, 2026. Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan (2nd floor). There will be a discussion on Club Constitution and By Laws.
 - d) Republic Day would be celebrated along with Painting Exhibition and Cultural programme by the Students of the Cultural Section on Monday, 26th January, 2026 at the Rotary Sadan (Ground floor). Flag unfurling will be at 10 a.m. He requested members to kindly attend with their families on that day.
10. At the request of the President, Rtn. Shampa Ghose introduced Mr. Aveek Agarwal, Chief Guest on that day.
11. At the request of the President, Mr. Aveek Agarwal addressed the audience on "Recovery of Unclaimed Investment & X Factor in Investment Planning."
12. Questions raised by the members were answered by the Chief Guest.
13. Rtn. Indrajit Banerjee gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.
14. On behalf of the Club, President presented a Memento to Mr. Aveek Agarwal.
15. No Sunshine Box Collection on that day.
16. Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
President

Ashok Kumar Basu
Hony. Secretary