



TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026

February is Peace Building and Conflict Prevention 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. 28

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

He holds an MBBS and MS degree and is a Fellow of Ophthalmology at Sankara Nethralaya. He has also completed an advanced fellowship programme with SNEC, Singapore. Throughout his career, Dr. Biswas has consistently practiced evidence-based medicine and has demonstrated a strong commitment to teaching, research, and innovation.

Dr. Biswas has been closely associated with the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) since 2008. He has held several important leadership positions, including Chairman of the Academic & Research Committee for two consecutive terms and Chairman of the Scientific Committee. In recognition of his contributions, he has recently been appointed Vice President of AIOS and has represented the Society at major national conferences across the country.

A prolific academician, Dr. Biswas has conducted approximately 157 structured educational programmes nationwide, addressing key areas such as cataract, glaucoma, retinal disorders, diabetic blindness, and ophthalmic education. He has authored multiple journals and publications and has participated extensively in national and international surgical workshops and conferences.

A pioneer of refractive surgery in Eastern India, Dr. Biswas was the first to introduce SMILE technology in the region. His distinguished career, academic leadership, and clinical excellence continue to benefit patients and inspire generations of ophthalmologists.

Report on Educational Tour and RYLA at Murshidabad – Feb 14 & 15, 2026



Rotary Club of Calcutta UNITE FOR GOOD

ORATION DAY
Guest of Honour: Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri
District Governor 2025-26



Speaker of the Day:
Dr. Partha Biswas
MBBS, MS, Fellow (Sankara Nethralaya)
President, All India Ophthalmological Society
2025-26, Medical Director Trenetralaya,
Kolkata, Director Netralayam, Kolkata

RWM
24 FEBRUARY, '26
TUESDAY 6:30PM
ROTARY SADAN

Followed by Fellowship n Dinner
Hosted by Anand Rathi Group

Dr. Partha Biswas is a distinguished ophthalmologist with over 33 years of exemplary service in clinical practice, academics, and professional leadership. He currently serves as the Medical Director of Netralayam and Trenetralaya, Kolkata, and is widely recognised for his significant contributions to the advancement of ophthalmology in India.



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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 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Educational Tour, organised jointly by the Community Service, RCC, and Youth Services Committees of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, was successfully conducted on 14th and 15th February 2026 at Murshidabad, a place of immense historical and cultural significance and once the capital of Bengal. The two-day programme brought together 40 children in the age group of 10–15 years from RCC Bishnupur UCHCHAL PROBAHO and RCC The Refuge, providing them with a meaningful platform to learn, explore, and showcase their talents.

A 45-seater bus was arranged to transport all participants from Rotary Sadan to the Historical Hotel, Murshidabad, where the children and office staff were comfortably accommodated. The journey began early in the morning with cakes and biscuits served to all participants. Breakfast was thoughtfully arranged at Krishnanagar, ensuring the children remained refreshed and energised for the day ahead.

The Rotarians who joined and guided the RYLA programme included President Rtn Debnath Chattopadhyay, Rtn Ashok Basu, Rtn Udit Mitra, Rtn Saswati Mukherjee, and R-Ann Meena Basu. They were ably supported by office staff members Sri Prabir Kr Mukherjee and Sri Krishna PadaGuchhait, whose coordination ensured the smooth execution of the entire programme.

On the evening of 14th February, the RYLA session commenced with great enthusiasm. The programme began with the President's opening address, inspiring the children and setting the tone for the event. This was followed by an informative speech by the Youth Chair, who elaborated on the meaning, objectives, and relevance of RYLA in shaping young minds and fostering leadership qualities. Three competitions, namely, Extempore, Singing, and Recitation, were thoughtfully designed to encourage participants to express themselves confidently and creatively. The children participated wholeheartedly, showcasing remarkable talent and enthusiasm. Winners were awarded medals and certificates, while the Best RYLarian (All-Rounder) was awarded to **Judhajit Ansari from RCC The Refuge**, who received a prestigious Cup in recognition of his outstanding overall performance. All participants received participation certificates in recognition of their involvement and efforts. The children from RCC Bishnupur gave a remarkable demonstration of Kalari Sword Play, which was truly beyond words and left everyone in awe of their discipline, coordination, and skill. The energy and spirit demonstrated by all the participants reflected the true essence of RYLA.

The next day, 15th February, after breakfast at the hotel, the children were taken on an educational tour to explore the rich heritage of Murshidabad. They visited the iconic Hazarduari Palace, where they learned about the history and architectural grandeur of the Nawabi era. The group also visited Motijheel and Lalbagh Garden, gaining insights into the region's cultural and historical legacy. The tour was both informative and inspiring, helping the young participants connect with their roots and understand the importance of preserving heritage. After completing the educational visits, the group and the Rotarians boarded the bus and their respective cars to return to Kolkata. Lunch was arranged at Krishnanagar during the return journey. The children carried back with them beautiful memories, laughter and enriched knowledge. The children expressed immense happiness and gratitude for the opportunity to participate in such a programme. Many of them requested that similar initiatives be organised every year, as they are often deprived of such enriching experiences and platforms to showcase their talents. The hotel stay was comfortable and well-organised, contributing to the overall positive experience. Notably, after many years, the two committees organised an outstation RYLA, marking a memorable milestone. The escorts from both RCCs were acknowledged for their dedicated support and were presented with thanksgiving mementoes as a token of appreciation.

A special mention must be made of PP Rtn Kanak Dutt for his generous contribution, which significantly supported the successful organisation of the programme. Overall, the RYLA and Educational Tour at Murshidabad was a grand success. The event successfully combined leadership development, talent recognition, and cultural education, leaving a lasting impact on the young participants and strengthening Rotary's commitment to service and youth empowerment.

Report by Rtn Saswati Mukherjee, Chair for Youth Service Committee

Interact Activity Report of Delhi Public School, Howrah – Nov. & Dec. 2025

Jal Taranga – Celebration of World Heritage Week through the Hooghly River

On 21st November, the interactors of Delhi Public School, Howrah, participated in Jal Taranga, organised by the Indian Museum in association with the Ministry of Culture, as part of the World Heritage Week celebrations at Manikpur Ghat along the Hooghly River. The event provided students with valuable insights into India's rich cultural and historical heritage. A proud

highlight of the occasion was the opportunity to welcome and interact with the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, C. V. Ananda Bose, whose inspiring words encouraged students to cherish and preserve the nation's legacy.

Winter Jacket Distribution Drive

In December 2025, the Interact Club of Delhi Public School, Howrah, organised a Winter Jacket Distribution Drive on the school premises as a community service initiative. The programme aimed to provide warmth and support to staff members and beneficiaries during the winter season. Student volunteers actively participated in the planning and distribution process, ensuring that the jackets were given respectfully and in an organised manner. The initiative reflected

the values of "Service Above Self" and encouraged empathy and social responsibility among students. The drive was successfully conducted and left a meaningful impact on both the recipients and the young volunteers.

JAL TARANGA -
CELEBRATION OF WORLD HERITAGE WEEK THROUGH
HOOGHLY RIVER BY INDIAN MUSEUM IN ASSOCIATION
WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE



Interact Activity Report of Delhi Public School, Howrah – Jan. 2026

Republic Day Celebration at Indian Museum, Kolkata

Delhi Public School, Howrah was honoured to present a cultural performance at the Indian Museum on the occasion of India's 77th Republic Day. Interact Club members highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's Khadi Movement through music, dance, and visual presentation. The performance conveyed messages of simplicity, self-reliance, unity, and patriotism, leaving a lasting impression on the audience. The event provided students with a meaningful platform to express national pride and social awareness.

"Virasat – A Legacy" Interschool Heritage Fest

Delhi Public School, Howrah organised "Virasat – A Legacy" on 21 January 2026, celebrating India's rich cultural heritage. Students from various schools participated in competitions including dance, music, art, and theatre. Interact Club members played a key role in coordination and management, demonstrating leadership and teamwork. The fest successfully promoted cultural pride, creativity, and collaboration among young learners.

Building Confidence and Courage : Self-Defence Workshop for Girls

Delhi Public School, Howrah organised a Self-Defence Training Workshop for girls to promote safety, confidence, and awareness. A trained instructor demonstrated practical techniques and guided students through hands-on practice. Interact Club members assisted in organising the session, ensuring smooth coordination. The workshop proved to be empowering and reinforced the importance of preparedness and self-confidence.

Spreading Warmth and Care : Free Blanket Distribution Programme

Delhi Public School, Howrah, in association with HelpAge India, organised a Free Blanket Distribution Drive for the elderly and underprivileged. Interact Club members actively assisted in organising and distributing blankets with dignity and care. The initiative reflected compassion, inclusivity, and social responsibility.

A Message of Gratitude : Letters to Indian Army Personnel

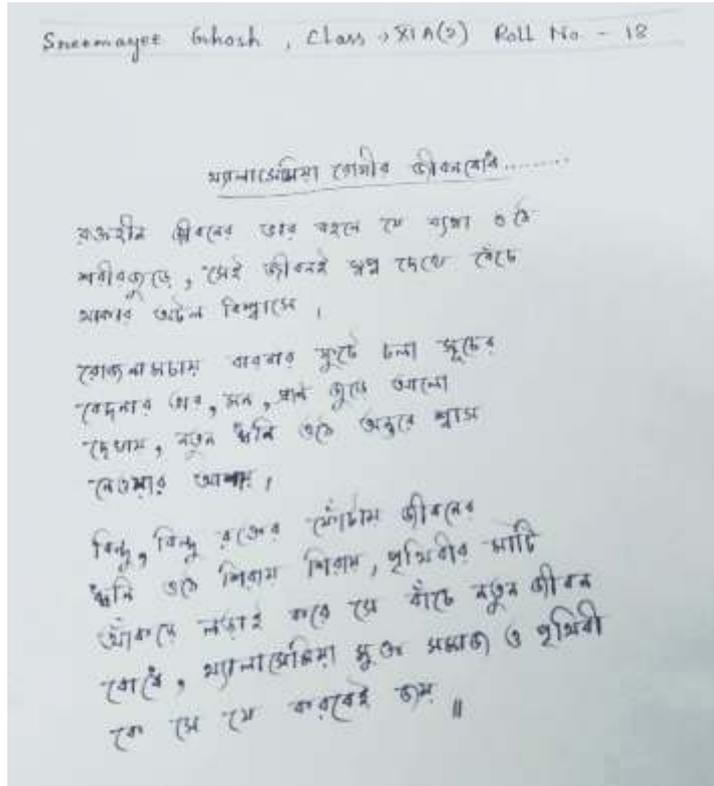
The Interact Club members of Delhi Public School, Howrah sent 120 heartfelt letters and creative messages to Indian Army



personnel serving at the frontiers. The initiative fostered patriotism, gratitude, and empathy among students. Interactors coordinated the collection and dispatch of entries, making the activity meaningful and memorable.

“The Voyage of INSV Kaundinya” – 212th Foundation Day of Indian Museum

The Ministry of Culture organised “The Voyage of INSV Kaundinya” at the Indian Museum on its 212th Foundation Day. The event featured an insightful lecture by Sanjeev Sanyal on India’s maritime heritage. Interact Club members participated actively and assisted in welcoming dignitaries, including the Hon’ble Governor of West Bengal. The programme offered a valuable learning experience and celebrated India’s rich historical legacy.



धैर्येसीमिया- औसु, साहस और उम्मीद की तान

जन्म से ही जंग हिय, मातुल का एक प्रस, धैर्येसीमिया कहता है - "धैर्ये फिर भी त्यों जगता" सुन्दरों का दर्द राह, पर हिम्मत न हुरद कम, हर बदलन कबुली रहती - ये हास्य-पौन, हरदम।

मैंकी लछें भीषी पर मुकलन बनी श्रृंखर पिता फलन भी बोलें - "न बेट, मा तुहमा" सत की हर मीन में है कल की गयी जगल, डोनर की दया से बिलसती है बच्चों की पहचल।

सोटे-सोटे हाफे में सपनों की बिलसो है, दुर्द के अघेरी में भी देखन दे नफन है, उन कपल की पीडा - एक भी भी कलनी फिर भी मन में जमी रहती उम्मीद सुहनी।

कलसे मिलकर जगती, मानस की बल, ललतल में छिया है लीकन का लफन। धैर्येसीमिया के बच्चों पर रहते अनन फलन, जगती हर मुकलन में बल है भगलन।

अधृत घोष (IX)
(DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, HOWRAH)

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE WORLD
We remember with good wishes Rotary Club of Millbrae, California, U S A, R. I. Dist. 5150

TODAY
Rotary Oration along with Regular Weekly Meeting.
Speaker of the Day : Dr. Partha Biswas, President, All India Ophthalmological Society
Guest of Honour : Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, District Governor, 2025-26, R I Dist. 3291
Followed by Fellowship and Dinner Hosted by Anand Rathi Securities

Birthday

Rtn. Dr. Niranjan Bhattacharya	24th February
Rtn. Priti Mehrotra	28th February
Rtn. Renuka Shah	4th March
Rtn. Rear Adm (Retd) Rajeev Paralikar	5th March
Rtn. Mahendra Kumar Jalan	8th March
Rtn. Joshita Davar Khemani	9th March

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Wedding Anniversaries

Rtn. Roshni Ganguly & Mr. Indrajit Ganguly	24th February
Rtn. Dr. Pronab Dasgupta & R-Ann Iti	25th February
Rtn. Bablu Kolay & R-Ann Shukla	26th February
Rtn. Mahendra Kumar Jalan & R-Ann Sashi Prabha	4th March
Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu & R-Ann Meena	5th March
Rtn. Hari Mohan Bangur & R-Ann Rajkamal	6th March
Rtn. Jayanta Kumar Mitra & R-Ann Aroti	6th March
Rtn. Atindra Nath Sen & R-Ann Mallika	9th March

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, 10th March, 2026. Meeting 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)

NO WEEKLY MEETING

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on next Tuesday, 3rd March, 2026 on account of Public Holiday (Holi). You are requested to kindly make a note of the change.

REPORTS

Community Service & RCC and Youth Service Committees jointly organised an Educational Tour with Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programme on 14th and 15th February, 2026 in Murshidabad for the boys of our two RCCs, the Refuge and RCC Bishnupur Uchchal Probaho.

HOLI MILAN

Rtn PP Raj Agrawal will host "Holi Milan" followed by fellowship with Chaats on Friday, 27th February, 2026 from 7 p.m. onwards at his residence at 16, Ballygunge Park Road, Kolkata – 700019. All members are requested to attend the programme with spouses on that day.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Friday, 27th February, 2026	Holi Milan followed by fellowship with Chaats on Friday, 27th February, 2026	7 p.m. onwards at the residence of PP Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal, 16, Ballygunge Park Road, Kolkata – 700 019 hosted by Rtn. Raj Kumar Agarwal and R-Ann Asha Agarwal
Tuesday 3rd March, 2026	No Regular Weekly Meeting	Public Holiday (Holi)
Tuesday 10th March, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)
Tuesday 17th March, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)
Tuesday 24th March, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting	Timing will be informed in due course
Tuesday 31st March, 2026	Regular Weekly Meeting	Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)

**MINUTES OF THE 5014TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING
HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY, 2026 AT 1.30 P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN**

1. President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 5014th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. President informed members that in the absence of Hon. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu, Past Secretary Rtn. Anand Sharma would conduct meeting on that day.
3. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Dr. Shankar Ghosh.
4. Minutes of the 5013th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 3rd February, 2026 were confirmed.
5. President welcomed our Rotarian Surendranath Majumdar as the Guest Speaker on that day, and he would speak on "When Music Heals: The Therapeutic Power of Music Across Lifetime".
6. President then welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting. President also specially welcomed Past President Rtn. Madhumita Bishnu, member E-Club of Melbourne, R I Dist. 9800 and Rtn. Candy Tsang from Rotary Club of Millbrae, R I Dist. 5150. At the request of the President, Rtn. Madhumita Bishnu and Rtn. Candy Tsang addressed the audience and gave an overview of their Clubs.
7. **President reported the following :**
 - a) The Club donated a Desktop Computer to the Inner Wheel Club of Haldane Avenue for supporting a School Library on 4th February, 2026.
 - b) Youth Service Committee organised the project "Ganga Ghats cleaning" in association with KultX at Champatala Ghat, near Shovabazar, Kolkata on 7th February, 2026.
 - c) Programme and Fellowship Committee organised the Annual Cricket Match on Sunday, 8th February, 2026

at the Calcutta Club followed by Fellowship and Lunch which was hosted by Rtn Ashish Kumar Bagla and Rtn. Deepa Bagla. On behalf of the Club, President thanked Rtn Ashish Kumar Bagla and Rtn. Deepa Bagla for their contributions.

- d) Community Service & RCC and Youth Service Committees jointly organised an Education Tour and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programme at Murshidabad for two of our RCCs on 14th and 15th February, 2026. On behalf of the Club, President also thanked Rtn Udit Chand Mitra and Rtn. Saswati Mukherjee for this special project in Murshidabad.

8. President announced the following :

To Commemorate “World Understanding and Peace Day”, the Club would organise “Rotary Oration - 2026” along with Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 24th February, 2026 in Rotary Sadan at 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner. Dr Partha Biswas, President of the All-India Ophthalmological Society will be the Speaker of the Day and deliver the Rotary Oration-2026. Guest of Honour, Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, District Governor, 2025-26 R I Dist. 3291 will also address the audience. A representative from Anand Rathi Group will speak on the topic “Union Budget – 2026” on that day. The fellowship and dinner will be sponsored by the Anand Rathi Group.

9. At the request of the President, Past Hony. Secretary Rtn. Anand Sharma 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 23rd February, 2026. He wished them and also requested them to donate generously for the Rotary Foundation and Club Projects.
- c) Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club is on Tuesday, 24th February, 2026 at 6.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan followed by fellowship and dinner. Programme : Rotary Oration-2026. Chief Guest : Dr Partha Biswas, President of the All India Ophthalmological Society. Guest of Honours - District Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri and representative from Anand Rathi Group. The fellowship and dinner will be sponsored by Anand Rathi Group. He requested all members to attend with their spouses.
- d) The Rotary Oration day which falls on 23rd February, 2026, will be held on 24th February, 2026 at 6.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan followed by fellowship and dinner.
- e) The Board at its meeting held on 30th January, 2026 accepted the resignations of Rtns. Kuldip Nayar, Kasturi Raha and Dr. Biswajit Paul with effect from 31st December, 2025.
- f) The Board at its meeting held on 30th January, 2026 also terminated the membership of Rtn. Shouveek Ray with effect from 31st December, 2025.
- g) Fellowship Committee has organised “Holi Milan” followed by fellowship which will be hosted by PP Rtn. Rajkumar Agrawal and R-Ann Asha Agarwal with Chaats on Friday, 27th February, 2026 at 7 p.m. in their residence of 16, Ballygunge Park Road, Kolkata – 700 019. He requested all members to attend the Holi Milan with their spouses on that day.
- h) The eighth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Club will be held on 27th February, 2026, at 6.00 p.m. in the residence of PP Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal, 16, Ballygunge Park Road, Kolkata – 700 019 (Before the Holi Milan program) and requested all Board members to make note of it and attend on that day.

10. At the request of the President, Rtn. Subha Pal introduced Rtn. Surendranath Majumdar, Guest Speaker on that day.

11. At the request of the President, Rtn. Surendranath Majumdar addressed the audience on “When Music Heals : The Therapeutic Power of Music Across Lifetime”.

12. Questions raised by the members were addressed by the Guest Speaker.

13. PP Rtn. Ritwik Gupta gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.

14. On behalf of the Club, President presented a Memento to Rtn. Surendranath Majumdar.

15. Sunshine Box Collection Rs. 2,500/- with special contribution from Anand Sharma, Subrata De, Usha Agarwal, B.K. Poddar and Nilima Joshi on that day.

16. The Club remembered with good wishes the Rotary Club of Casablanca Anfa, Morocco, R.I. Dist. 9010.

17. Meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
President

Anand Sharma
Past Hony. Secretary