



FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

September is Basic Education And Literacy Month

106

The Chaka

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta
R I Dist 3291
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107th Foundation Day Celebration

Special Guest :
Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya



Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, widely known as Shuvaprasanna, is one of India's most acclaimed contemporary painters. Born in Kolkata in 1947, he studied at the Indian College of Art and Draftsmanship and went on to become a leading figure in the city's art movement. His works often capture the spirit of Kolkata — its people, moods, and urban sceneries — blending realism with symbolic depth. Over the decades, he has exhibited extensively in India and abroad, and his paintings are part of prestigious collections worldwide. Beyond his canvas, Shuvaprasanna has played a vital role in nurturing the cultural landscape of Bengal, founding the Arts Acre Foundation to promote art, creativity, and heritage. He is also the recipient of several accolades that includes Banga Bibhushan by the Government of West Bengal (2012), Swarna Samman by Senco Gold (2014), Taj Gaurav award by Taj Association for Art, Culture and Heritage, and the list goes on.

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Special Guest : Sounak Chacraverti



Sounak Chacraverti, an independent curator and cultural archivist based in Kolkata, deeply involved in preserving and celebrating Bengal's rich visual and cinematic heritage. His publications include a selection of Bengali poetry from the first Bengali poetry magazine KAVITA [1935 - 1960] established by Buddhadeva Bose, co-edited with the eminent Economist and politician Ashok Mitra. He also co-edited the book [Prasanga : Shakti Chattopadhyay] with the famous writer and poet Sunil Gangopadhyay which is considered as an important critical work. He is the founder of Sensorium – Archiving Popular Culture, through which he has curated exhibitions of rare film memorabilia and ephemera, such as original posters, lobby cards, and film stills, bringing attention to often-overlooked material culture of Indian cinema.

With a strong belief in the power of art to connect past and present, his work bridges the archival, the aesthetic, and the social.

Traumitra



Under the initiative titled *Traumitra*, a total of **200 saplings** were donated by the **Rotary Club of Calcutta Basic Education and Literacy Committee** to the **Children's Welfare Association High School for Girls (HS)** Report by Rtn. Ruchika Majumdar

Implementation

- The teachers distributed each sapling to individual students.
- Students were instructed to **plant the sapling at home**, dedicating it in the **name of their mother** as a gesture of love and respect.

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

- The students have taken personal responsibility for nurturing and caring for their respective plants.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Over a period of **3 to 6 months**, students will observe and record the **growth and health** of their plants.
- They will submit a **progress report** to the school, detailing the **height, condition, and care** of the plant.

Objectives

- To instill environmental awareness and responsibility among students.
- To strengthen emotional bonds within families through symbolic dedication.
- To promote sustainable practices and hands-on learning outside the classroom.

Report by Rtn Ruchika Majumdar, Chair, Literacy Committee



Virangana Programme organised by Women



Virangana Programme organised by Women's Empowerment Committee took place at Lake School for Girls from 11 am to 4:30 pm on 16th September, 2025. Sensei Utpal Chakraborty conducted the workshop. Around 60 students from classes 9 and 10 participated in the workshop.

Virangana Project is part of Rotary International's focus area on Empowerment of girls through self defence awareness workshops. Countless women have found out the hard way, that molestation and sexual harassment is common in buses, trains, walking alone on deserted streets, at the workplace and even in their own homes. It is practically impossible for any law enforcement agency to deal with these incidents individually.

Virangana workshops aim to empower young girls and women through teaching them basic self defence techniques which in turn enables them to counter unwanted physical threats. Rtn Shampa Ghose (Jt. Secretary and Chairperson Women's Empowerment & Vocational Services Committee), Rtn Aditi Nundy and PP Rtn Ritwik Gupta attended the programme.



Reported by Rtn. Shampa Ghose, Jt. Secretary and Chairperson Women's Empowerment & Vocational Services Committee

AI In Education



On September 15, 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City hosted an academic session on AI in Education - Pluses & Minuses at the Calcutta Club. The event featured two speakers : Rtn Dr. Saswati Mukherjee (Youth Service Chair), who discussed the Pluses and Minuses of AI in Education and AI tools for teachers and students, and Arijit Sen (Secretary, Colts) who presented a talk on AI from the industry perspective.

The programme was attended by several distinguished guests, including PDG Rtn Rajani Mukerji and PDG Nayantara Palchoudhuri. PDG Rtn Rajani Mukerji also gave a speech on literacy. The event was further graced by the presence of President, Rtn Dr Amit Paul, Rtn Kaushik Banerjee, and PP Rtn Pradeep Gooptu, along with other Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City. The audience also included Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu, Principals and Teachers from various schools across Kolkata, Past Presidents of other Rotary Clubs, and members of the Calcutta Club.

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

Follow Through on Health Camp

After doing the Eye Camp on 13th August 2025, some of the elderly ladies were required to be given new spectacles as their power had changed.

Below are some photos where they are wearing the same after they were given the glasses at our RWM.

They were highly grateful for this and we are happy that we could assist in the same.

Report by : Rtn Udit Mitra, Chair, CS & RCC, R C Calcutta



Multiple Camps



Eye Camp, Thalassemia Awareness and Snakebite Awareness Camp at Village Chandaa, CD Block DH2, S24 Pgs, 15 Sep 2025

An eye screening camp was organised by the Health Committee in association with NGO Mission Mother and Child that works in the area. About 90 screenings were done and nearly 50 were discovered to be in need of refractive correction. The area appeared to be amongst the least provided anywhere, women were seen to be cooking on wood (collected) fires. It was a Monday and schools were open, numbers started building up a little before afternoon. Mothers and Fathers were very keen to have their children evaluated. Some adults were also examined and prescriptions given. The pictures will give an idea of the complete paucity of passable premises for this activity. Our Optometrists, Sunirmal and Parimal, long standing associates of President Debnath Chattopadhyay, and now our companions in this worthy pursuit carried out a splendid activity despite the heat, humidity, and lack of circulation.

Whilst the Eye Checks continued, a Thalassemia Awareness camp was also organised by the Health Committee. President Dr Debnath Chattopadhyay informed the gathering about this dreaded blood disease that can potentially destroy 2 families (Father and Mother's) to keep a thalassemic child alive with continuous blood transfusion. Prevention is simple, and is rooted in science, which has led to the adage "Microscope before Horoscope" in all marriages. Thalassemia is not curable, but entirely preventable, if only recourse is to science and not mythology. A handbill distributed to the audience is attached.

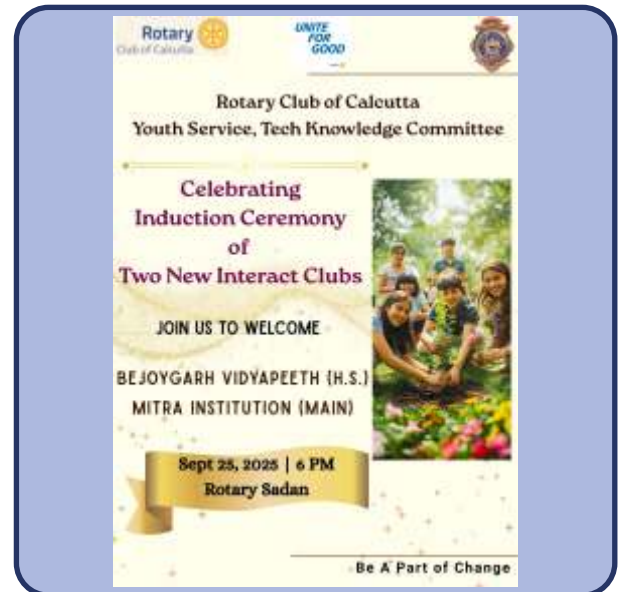
Post the Thalassemia awareness, an Environment Committee initiative dealt with snake and snakebite awareness. It needs to be said that the area is also the habitat of many snakes, both poisonous and nonpoisonous. Chair for Environment Rtn. Pranab Sarkar informed the audience of strange superstitions, all of it unfounded; a snake's Jacobson's organ that plays a crucial role in finding prey, identifying mates, and also threats. His final take – snakes are an important part of the food chain, keeping rodents and other snakes and reptile populations in check.

Satya Saha, of Mission Mother and Child, then informed the audience about identifying snakebite, and from the bite marks and other symptoms, identifying which snake, to go into a hospital as soon as possible for taking the necessary dosage of anti-venom. He also advised some practices of protection from the deadly Palaj (Common Krait) that often intrude (Hello, didn't we humans intrude first?) into living places. An unobtrusive bite, delivering deadly neurotoxic venom. Protection comes from using mosquito nets and using a torch at night for effective avoidance.

Hats off to Mission Mother and Child Satya Saha and volunteers to have stood by in support. Rtns Atin Sen, Pranab Sarkar, PE Anand Sharma, provided heft, in this initiative led by President Debnath Chattopadhyay.

Reported by Hony. Secretary Ashok Basu on behalf of the Health and Environment Committees

Installation Ceremony Mahadevi Birla World Academy



REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONE WORLD

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

NO REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

There will be no Regular Weekly Meetings on Tuesdays, 30th September, 2025 and 7th October, 2025 on account of Durga Puja Holidays. You are requested to kindly make a note of these changes. Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club will be held on Tuesday, 14th October, 2025 at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)

Birthday

Indrajit Banerjee	28th September
Amal Chandra Chakrabortti	02nd October
Ravindra Khandelwal	03rd October
Sarvani Gooptu	04th October
Anindita Shoma Basu	04th October
Hirak Ray	08th October
Kasturi Raha	08th October
Dr. Nandini Ray	12th October
Krishna Kumar Kothari	12th October

Wish you many happy returns of the day

TODAY

107TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

Chief Guest : Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, District Governor, RID 3291.

Special Guests : Shri Shuvprasanna Bhattacharya, Artist and Painter and Mr. Sounak Chacraverti, Independent Art Curator

NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club on Tuesday, 14th October, 2025, Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. Programme : Recognition of 100% attendance members for the Rotary year 2024-2025

Wedding Anniversaries

M.L. Bhagat & R-Ann Manju	30th September
Kuldip Nayar & R-Ann Lakshmi	08th October
Sriranjani Joshi & Mr. Manoj	10th October

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

REPORTS

- Women's Empowerment Committee organised a workshop on Self-Defence for Girls "Virangana" at Lake Girls School, Kolkata on 16th September, 2025.
- The Club donated new garments to underprivileged children for Durga Puja from eight of our RCCs at the Regular Weekly Meeting on 16th September, 2025.
- Handed over Spectacles to the representative of All Bengal Women's Union at the Regular Weekly Meeting on 16th September, 2025 as follow through of the Camp held on 13th Aug 2025.
- Inaugurated Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic with the support of Cera Sanitaryware Ltd. CSR at the Sursut Eye Hospital, Salt Lake City, Kolkata on 17th September, 2025.
- Inaugurated two New Interact Clubs sponsored by Rotary Club of Calcutta, Bejoygarh Vidyapeeth and Mitra Institution (Main) and handed over their Club Charters on 25th September, 2025 at Rotary Sadan.

FIRST CLUB ASSEMBLY ON 12th OCTOBER, 2025

The First Club Assembly of the Club for RY 2025- 26 will be held on Sunday, 12th October, 2025 at 10.30 a.m. in Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) followed by a working Lunch.

All members, especially PDGs, Past Presidents, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, Club Officials and New Members are requested to kindly block the above date and join this important meeting. Committee Chairs are also requested to send their Committee activities reports during the First Quarter of the Rotary year 2025-26 to the Hony. Secretary for the Club Assembly.



The Chaka wishes all its readers a happy festive season and Shubho Durga Puja !

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 2025

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday, 30th September, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting On account of Durga Puja Holiday	_____
Tuesday, 7th October, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting On account of Durga Puja Holiday	_____
Sunday 12th October 2025	First Club Assembly of RY 2025-26	Meeting at 10.30 am. Tea Coffee at 10 am; Working Lunch 12.30 pm
Tuesday, 14th October, 2025	Regular Weekly Meeting Programme : Recognition of 100 % er for the Rotary year 2024-2025	Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m.
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	_____

MINUTES OF THE 4997th REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 1.30 P.M. IN ROTARY SADAN

- President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed Members and Guests and called the 4997th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
- The National Anthem was led by PP Rtn. Sujata Pyne.
- Minutes of the 4996th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 9th September, 2025 were confirmed.
- The President welcomed Rtn G. M. Kapur, State Convener INTACH as the Chief Guest.
Rtn Kapur is also a member of Rotary Club of Calcutta, Chowringhee. He would speak on "Heritage Conservation : Conserve and Reuse".
- The President then welcomed visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
- President reported the following :**
 - R I Dist. 3291 organized District Zonal Meet at Taki on 13th and 14th September, 2025. The Hony. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu, and the President Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay attended the programme.
 - The Environment Committee organised a special Snakebite Awareness Camp with Health Care Committee, an

Eye Camp and Thalassemia Awareness Camp at the NGO, Mission Mother and Child at Falta on Monday, 15th September, 2025.

The President and Honorary Secretary, PE Rtn. Anand Sharma, Rtn. Atindra Nath Sen attended the Camp. At the request of the President, Rtn. Atindra Nath Sen reported on the project.

- c) The Women's Empowerment Committee organised a workshop on self defence for Girls Students "Virangana" on 16th September, 2025 at the Lake Girls School, Kolkata.

7. The President announced the following :

- a) The Club donated new garments to underprivileged Children of our eight RCC for Durga Puja. At the request of the President, Rtn. Udit Chand Mitra, Chairman, Community Service and RCC Committee organised the programme.
- b) On 16th September 2025, the Community Service and Health Care Committee organized a follow through for the Eye and Dental Check Up held on 13th August, 2025. Spectacles were handed over to the representative from All Bengal Women's Union during RWM on that day.
- c) The President informed members that the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic with the support of Cera Sanitary Ware Ltd. would be inaugurated at the Sushrut Eye Hospital on 17th September, 2025. The Program will be preceded by Lunch at 1.00 p.m. He requested members to attend the inauguration programme on that day.

8. At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu thereafter conducted 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 25th September, 2025. He wished them and requested them to donate generously for the Rotary Foundation India and the Club Projects.
- c) There would be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 as the said meeting would be held on Friday, 26th September, at 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner.
- d) The First Club Assembly of RY 2025-26 will be held on Sunday, 12th October 2025 at Rotary Sadan. All members are requested to attend.
- e) The next meeting of the Club would be on 26th September, 2025. The Club will celebrate its 107th Foundation Day along with Regular Weekly Meeting on Friday, 26th September, 2025 at 6.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan (Ground floor). The Meeting will be followed by fellowship and dinner. Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, District Governor, RID 3291 would be the Chief Guest. Shri Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, Artist and Painter and Mr. Sounak Chacraverti, Independent Art Curator would be the Special Guests on that day. He requested members to make a note of it and attend the meeting with their spouse.
- f) 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 these changes.
- g) Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club will be on Tuesday, 14th October, 2025 at 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor).

Programme : Recognition of 100 % er for the Rotary year 2024-2025.

- h) Third Meeting of the Board of Directors (2025-26) of the Club will be held on Monday, 22nd September, 2025 at 6.30 p.m. in the Rotary Sadan (Board Room, 1st floor), 94/2, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata – 700 020. All members of the Board are requested to make a note of it and attend.

9. At the request of the President, Rtn Anusua Das introduced the Chief Guest, Rtn. G. M. Kapur on that day.

10. At the request of the President, Rtn G. M. Kapur addressed the audience on "Heritage Conservation : Conserve and Reuse".

11. Questions raised by members were addressed by the Chief Guest.

12. On behalf of the Club, a Vote of Thanks was given by Rtn. Sanjib Basu.

13. On behalf of the Club, the President handed over a memento to Rtn G. M. Kapur.

14. No Sunshine Box Collection on that day.

15. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Newbies, India, R.I. Dist. 3291.

16. The Meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay
President

Ashok Kumar Basu
Hony. Secretary

Published by Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu, Hony. Secretary, Rotary Club of Calcutta

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