



TUESDAY 27 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**

## Guest Speaker Dr. Tilak Ranjan Bera



Dr. Tilak Ranjan Bera is an acclaimed explorer, author, and Indologist who has dedicated over three decades of his life to uncover the untold history of ancient India. Dr Bera completed graduation from Calcutta Medical College and post-graduation from Mumbai University in medicine. He joined Indian Armed Forces in 1984. He served in the Armed Forces till 2007 prior to his pre-mature retirement. He was awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship (2011-12) because of his passion in Indology and was affiliated to the Yale University, USA during his Fellowship. He was also awarded Senior Research Fellowship by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Blending science with exploration, Dr. Bera



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

employs tools from genetics, anthropology, archaeology, and geo-physiology to trace early human migration and cultural exchanges. His work challenges conventional historical narratives, suggesting India as the origin of modern civilization. He has authored several books and conducted ground-breaking research on ethnic links between India and regions like Egypt and the Mediterranean. Dr. Bera's contributions continue to inspire fresh perspectives on the antiquity and global influence of Indian civilization.

Dr Bera not only delivered lectures in Yale University but also was invited to do the same at the Bar Ilan University, Tel Aviv, Israel. He has delivered lectures in the Asiatic Society, Kolkata; Vivekananda Science Circle, Ramkrishna Mission, Golpark, Kolkata; IIT Delhi; Sangam Talks, New Delhi and many other national and international conferences. Many of his lectures are available on the internet and uploaded by the respective institutes.

## RIP monthly message for January



In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope. This is

what Rotary's Vocational Service Month celebrates each January — the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn't just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do. The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn't be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a nonprofit offering counseling and support services alongside vocational training. That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service. Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world's children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity. The same integrity must drive our

We Meet Every Tuesday At 1 p.m. At ROTARY SADAN  
[rccalcutta.rotaryindia.org](http://rccalcutta.rotaryindia.org)  
E-mail: [rccal106@gmail.com](mailto:rccal106@gmail.com)

vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support. But support doesn't mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves. You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary's values creates lasting change. The question isn't whether you have something to offer, it's how you'll use your skills to serve. This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs? Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters. Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.

## RCC Ranihati Eye Camp



An Eye Camp was successfully conducted at RCC Ranihati, where approximately 160 individuals underwent eye examinations. Of these, 106 beneficiaries were advised to use spectacles, while around 16 patients were identified as requiring cataract surgery. The camp commenced at 10:00 a.m. and due to the overwhelming response and demand from the local community, continued smoothly until 4:00 p.m.

The initiative was very well received by the residents, who expressed their appreciation and enthusiasm for organizing similar health camps in the future. We sincerely thank the organizers of RCC Ranihati for their excellent arrangements, which contributed significantly to the smooth and effective conduct of the camp.

RCC Ranihati is a highly active and vibrant centre, undertaking several impactful community initiatives. They conduct stitching classes and supply high-quality women's garments to various organizations, creating substantial employment opportunities. Through these programs, many students and homemakers have been empowered to start small businesses, work from home, and contribute meaningfully to their family incomes. Additionally, the RCC runs regular computer training programs, where students complete certified courses that enhance their employability.

It was a pleasure to collaborate with such a dynamic RCC, and we look forward to undertaking more projects with them in the future, based on their needs and community requirements.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to President Rtn. Debnath Chattopadhyay for arranging the medical team and for personally examining several patients and offering valuable guidance on critical eye-related issues. We also express our sincere appreciation to Hon. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Kr. Basu for his dedicated presence at the project site throughout the day, actively assisting in addressing concerns and discussing ways to provide future support.

RCC Ranihati has immense potential for impactful community service, and there is significant scope to carry out meaningful projects together in the days ahead.

Reported by Rtn. Udit Mitra, Chair for RCC and Community Services

## Member Activity Report



An academic alliance reshaping India's Music Education Landscape

Congratulations to Rotarians Surendranath Majumdar and Ruchika Majumdar for their visionary leadership which led to the signing of an academic affiliation agreement between Saratov State University, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of Russia, and Musicea Arts and Culture Council—India's global voice

for music qualifications. Musicea has emerged as a transformative force, redefining how Indian musicians learn, qualify, and engage with the world. This collaboration not only elevates the value of Indian music qualifications but also empowers students and educators to participate in global exchanges and collaborate internationally on equal terms.



## REPORTING &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes Rotary Club of Taipei Tienmou, Taiwan, R.I. Dist 3520

## SPEAKER AT TODAY'S MEETING

Dr. Tilak Ranjan Bera, acclaimed explorer, author and Indologist.

## Birthday

Satish Kapur 27th January  
Ashok Kumar Basu 1st February  
Dr. Rama Shankar Bhartia 1st February

*Wish you many happy returns of the day*

## Wedding Anniversaries

Suman Chakraborty & R-Ann Sakhi 27th January  
Sanjiv Agarwal & R-Ann Ritu 27th January  
Gurudas Mustafi & R-Ann Susmita 28th January  
Zul Hirji & R-Ann Parveen 29th January  
Nand Gopal Khaitan & R-Ann Madhu 29th January  
Raghav Raj Kanoria & R-Ann Shrum 29th January  
Raghunath Dey & R-Ann Debjani 30th January  
Ram Kumar Sharma & R-Ann Rashmi 31st January

## NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2026 / Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)

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

## REPORTS

- On Saturday, 17th January, 2026 – Community Service & RCC Committee organised a free Eye Check-up Camp at our RCC Ranihati Netaji Samaj Sathi, Howrah.
- 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).

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS &amp; EVENTS

| Day & Date                     | Programmes                                       | Timing and Venue                                                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday<br>10th February, 2026 | No Regular Weekly Meeting                        | —                                                                               |
| Tuesday<br>17th February, 2026 | Regular Weekly Meeting                           | Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m.<br>Rotary Sadan (2nd floor)             |
| Tuesday<br>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 |



PEACEBUILDING AND  
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,  
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

## MINUTES OF THE 5011TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 20TH JANUARY, 2026 AT 1.30. P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN



1. President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 5011th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu
3. Minutes of the 5010th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 13th January, 2026 were confirmed.
4. President informed members that there was no Guest Speaker on that day as this meeting was a Closed-Door Meeting of the Club. A Panel discussion on Constitution and By Laws of the Club was organized on that day.
5. President then welcomed all Visiting Rotarians and Guests who were attending the meeting and requested them to leave the meeting room as this meeting was a Closed-Door meeting of the Club.
6. President Reported the following :
  - a) PDG Rtn. Prabhat Krishna Rohatgi, PP Rtn. Satish Kumar and Rtn. Arunava Mukherji felicitated as Senior Rotarians (50 years associated with Rotary) at the R I District Conference -2026 held between 9th to 11th January, 2026 at the Nicco Park.
  - b) On 17th January 21, 2026, the Community Service & RCC Committee organized a free Eye Check-up Camp at our RCC Ranihati Netaji Samaj Sathi.  
At the request of the President, Rtn. Udit Chand Mitra, Chairman, Community Service & RCC Committee reported on this project.
7. President Announced the following :  
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). He informed that the Flag hoisting is at 10 a.m. and requested members to kindly attend with their families.
8. 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 26th 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 is on Tuesday, 27th January, 2026 / Lunch at 12.30 p.m. / Meeting 1.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor).
  - d) He advised that the seventh meeting of the Board of Directors for the Club would be held on Friday, 30th January, 2026, at 6.30 p.m. in Rotary Sadan (1st floor) and requested all Board members to kindly make note of it and attend on that day.
9. At the request of the President, PP Rtn. Ritwik Gupta, Chairman of the AdHoc Committee conducted the Panel discussion on Constitution and By Laws of the Club on that day. The Chairman put up for discussion the draft byelaws as circulated after full consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee and invited members' views. The following suggestions and proposals were accepted by the members and the Chairman was requested to finalise the wordings of the respective clauses.
  - a) By Rtn Rajeev Paralikar that Method of Meeting as stated in the Constitution be also mentioned in the Bylaws
  - b) By Rtn Amit Ghosh that publicising of clubs event in Social Media needs to be added in the By Laws
  - c) By Rtn Hirak Ray that defaulting members must not be continued indefinitely and PP Raj Agarwal's proposal that maximum default of three successive bills be ground for automatic termination. Subject to these modifications the draft By Laws were approved and passed as there were no other suggestions or objections. The Chairman will circulate the final version of the By Laws.  
The Chairman thanked the members for their valuable thoughts and suggestions, the Ad Hoc committee for all their inputs in preparing the drafts and the President and the Board for their support and encouragement for undertaking this task.
10. Sunshine Box Collection Rs. 1,000/- with special contribution from Rtns. Dr. Krishna Sen and Udit Chand Mitra on that day.
11. The Club remembers with good wishes the Rotary Club of Hirakata, Japan, R.I. Dist 2660
12. Meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay  
President

Ashok Kumar Basu  
Hony. Secretary

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

**94/2 Chowringhee Road, Kolkata 700020 Tel: 2223 8686/8787**

**Designed & Printed By DARK HORSE DESIGNS :: 8334953509, 9831050155**