



TUESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2025  
September is Basic Education And Literacy Month

106

# The Chaka

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## Celebrating Teachers Day Rtn. Dr. Krishna Sen

India has a long tradition dating back from Vedic times of the *guru parampara*, or a lineage of illustrious teachers who transmitted the sacred knowledge and were revered by their students or *shishyas*. Today India is one of around 110 countries that celebrate Teachers Day on various dates to honour their educators and commemorate their service to society, but we have a very special connect with this event since, as we all know, 5th September is not a randomly chosen date. It marks the birthday of our second President, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, and instituted in 1962 at his own request. Dr. Radhakrishnan was indeed the most befitting emblem of this day. An eminent philosopher, scholar and educationist, he held the coveted Spalding Professorship in Eastern Religion and Ethics at Oxford University from 1936. But we in Kolkata have an exclusive link with this towering personality. Dr. Radhakrishnan occupied King George the Fifth Chair of Mental and Moral Science at the University of Calcutta for ten years from 1921-1931, before moving to Andhra University as Vice Chancellor. But the paradigms of teaching from the primary to the tertiary levels have drastically changed since then. Gone are the days when teachers expounded and students listened. With the onset of globalization, the exponential rise of an aspirational Indian middle



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

class, the introduction of India's National Education Policy (NEP) in 2020, and the onslaught of technology and AI tools like Chat GPT, one needs to embrace innovative parameters in teaching if Teachers Day 2025 is to be celebrated in a meaningful manner.

To celebrate this occasion, Rotary Club of Calcutta will be honouring the Coordinators of Interact Clubs and Teachers from NCLCL on 9 September, 2025.

## Panchali : The Bengal Narratives Rotary Colts Spark a Night of Inspiration in Kolkata

It was an unforgettable evening at Rotary Sadan on August 28, when the Rotary Satellite Club of Calcutta Colts — the vibrant youth wing of the 105-year-old Rotary Club of Calcutta — hosted the inaugural edition of *Panchali : The Bengal Narratives*. Proudly sponsored by Rotary Calcutta, the event brought together an inspiring crowd of changemakers, including District Governors, senior Rotarians, cultural icons, and community leaders, all united in celebrating Bengal's spirit through stories of courage and creativity.



The evening was graced by Chief Guest Aparna Sen, legendary filmmaker, actor, and editor. With over five decades of contributions to Indian cinema, multiple National Awards, and an unwavering voice against social injustice, Sen's presence set the tone for a night of reflection and resolve.

A powerful panel followed, bringing together voices as diverse as Bengal itself:

- Ratnaboli Ray, psychologist and human rights defender
- Monideepa Banerjee, veteran journalist
- Seema Sapru, Principal of The Heritage School
- Sharmila Biswas, Odissi dancer and choreographer
- Doma Wang, Kolkata's celebrated "Momo Queen"

The dialogue, moderated by Josh Prakash Majumdar, Head of the Veera Foundation, explored identity, change, and the rethinking of traditions.

What stood out most were the small but powerful stories shared:

- Ratnaboli Ray urged clarity in distinguishing stress from clinical depression, reminding us that courage lies in choosing the right path over the easy one.

We Meet Every Tuesday At 1 p.m. At ROTARY SADAN  
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- Monideepa Banerjee offered “stories untold” — truths beyond headlines that reveal Bengal's deeper social and political realities.
- Seema Sapru emphasized the irreplaceable value of parental presence, noting, “No privilege can replace the simple gift of presence.”
- Sharmila Biswas illuminated histories of women who, despite stigma, chose independence through art and work, reframing freedom as something to be claimed, not privilege granted.
- Doma Wang shared her entrepreneurial journey, proving that persistence, one plate at a time, builds legacies.

The evening was seamlessly anchored by Secretary Rtn. Arijit Sen, with Chairperson Rtn. Mrinalini presiding. Behind the scenes, the young Colts team — Yash, Yashovardhan, Ishaan, Shreyashi, Rajeshwari, Sukrit, Swetashree, Jaysheel, and Anita — worked tirelessly to bring the vision to life. Supported by various partners like Adiva Jewelry, Evo Connect and media sponsor Dainik Vishwamitra, the event was both polished and profound.

*Panchali : The Bengal Narratives* was more than just a Rotary initiative — it was a testament to how persistence, honesty, and vision shape change. With the Rotary Club of Calcutta's continued sponsorship and the Colts' energy, this is only the beginning.

Here's to many more stories, many more sparks, and many great things to come!

## Scoping for Thalassemia Awareness project site with E Rly., Diamond Harbour Venue : Diamond Harbour, Date : 29th Aug., 2025, Time : 8.15 AM



At the invitation of E Rly., a team from R C Calcutta visited Diamond Harbour on 29th August, 2025, to scope for a suitable site for extending a Thalassemia Awareness event. The R C Calcutta team consisted of President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay, PP Rtn. Dr. Ashoke Basu, Hony. Secy. Rtn. Ashok Basu (Ab4), Community Chair Rtn. Udit Mitra, and Rtn. Amit Ghosh. The team assembled at Sealdah Station at 8.15 AM and was warmly greeted by Dr. Subhankar Hom, CMO, Dr. Kalpana Mondal, Chief Med Superintendent, Dr. Sanjib Choudhury, Asst. CMS, and many others, all from B R Singh Hospital.

The assembly point was a “Salon Car” provided by E Rly. for the trip to Diamond Harbour & back. For many amongst the RC Calcutta team, it was a first ever journey by a Salon Car, a memorable trip, starting at 8.50 AM and reaching destination by 10.00 AM, with snacks & refreshments provided during the journey within the salon.

Adjacent to the Diamond Harbour Station, at the EMU operators training centre & night halt facilities, E Rly. had arranged the day's event. R C Calcutta had a 3-pronged objective for this event, viz.

- I. Building a relationship with E Rly.
- II. A Health Camp limited to E Rly. staff & their families stationed at Diamond Harbour
- III. An introduction to Thalassemia, scoping a suitable site for a Thalassemia mapping project jointly with B R Singh hospital.

The Health Camp commenced at 10.30 AM, and had a registration counter with routine check-up for height, weight, BP etc, an eye-check- up counter (manned by Dr. Arnab Mitra), a counter for pulmonary checks (manned by Dr. Navendra Jena), all doctors from B R Singh hospital. Approximately 80 persons attended the Health cum Medical camp.

Once the camp was in operation, a talk on Thalassemia was delivered by PP Rtn. Dr Ashoke Basu, to explain the disease, how it is transmitted only through the blood-line, its gravity from patient's mortality and family's financial burden point of view, finishing off with the tag-line “Microscope before Horoscope” as the only means of its eradication. A video on Thalassemia Awareness was forwarded to Railway Protection personnel in uniform, who will arrange for presentation to railway staff (at Diamond Harbour or other railway township under E Rly.) and Dr. Hom, CMO will share feed-back with R C Calcutta to agree the future initiatives.

On conclusion of the day's proceedings, the team were escorted to the luncheon site, (via a detour through Purna Lakshmi Resort on the riverbank, for a tour of the facilities and the river view), to a restaurant pre-arranged, and served with a sumptuous Hilsa lunch. Post lunch, and after extending thanks & gratitude to all E Rly. people, we travelled back to D H Station and took the return journey in the salon car, along with B R Singh hospital doctors.

Reported by Rtn Amit Ghosh



## Dental And Health Camp At RCC Stars Welfare Society



The Dental and Health Camp was held on 2nd September, 2025.

It was a successful and much needed camp at our RCC STARS WELFARE SOCIETY. Approximately 51 children aged between 5 and 18 were examined by Dr. Annu Singh (Dental) and Dr. Chandan Behera (General Medicine). The children were given proper medical advice along with written prescriptions. Few children who needed medicines were advised accordingly and the details were also shared with the teachers accompanying them.

We thank President Rtn. Debnath Chattopadhyay, Rtn. Ashok Kr Basu, PP Rtn. Raj Agarwal and PE Rtn. Anand Sharma for joining us and supporting this initiative.

We appreciate the efforts of Rtn. Dr. Sukalyan Purkayastha and President Rtn. Debnath Chattopadhyay for organising the team of doctors for this health camp which made the initiative possible and will benefit so many children who attended the Health and Dental Camp.

Report by Rtn. Udit Mitra  
Chair - Community Service & RCC

## Report on STEM Awareness Seminar – Youth Service, Tech Knowledge Committee



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Youth Service and Tech Knowledge Committee, in association with JSR Eventers, organised a STEM AWARENESS SEMINAR on August 31, 2025, at Rotary Sadan. The initiative aimed to inspire young minds by highlighting the critical importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in solving real-world challenges and exploring innovative opportunities and pathways.

A total of 55 students (Classes XI–XII) and 10 teachers from 7 schools across Kolkata participated in the seminar. The seminar featured two distinguished speakers. Dr. Jaideep Talukdar, Vice-Chancellor of Silicon University, Odisha, shared his extensive expertise from over four decades in both academia and industry. Holding a Ph.D. in Engineering from UNH, USA, his specializations include environmental engineering, renewable energy, and fibre-optic sensors. He was joined by Mr. Rajarshi Roy, an experienced educator specializing in mathematics, quantitative aptitude, logical reasoning, and data interpretation. With over 18 years of experience preparing students for national-level competitive exams, Mr. Roy currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Tutopia Learning App. The seminar provided several key takeaways, including a deep understanding of the problem-solving approach central to STEM education. Participants gained insight into the scientific method as a structured way of inquiry, which emphasises careful observation, the development of testable hypotheses, and rigorous experimentation. The seminar also highlighted effective, quick problem-solving techniques in mathematics, which are essential for competitive exams such as JEE (Mains), SAT, GRE, and GMAT. Finally, the program focused on fostering the critical thinking and analytical skills that are vital for academic success.

The workshop began with the national anthem, led by students, followed by a welcome speech by Rtn. Saswati Mukherjee. Mrs. Ananya Majumdar of JSR Eventers moderated the event. In a special gesture, District Interact Advisor Rtn. Sulagna Daw was felicitated with an Uttariya. The distinguished speakers were also felicitated by members of our club. President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay and PP Rtn. Nilima Joshi addressed the audience with words of encouragement. The seminar was also honoured by the presence of several dignitaries, including Dr. Geetanjali Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the National Education Forum, and Dr. Rekha Vaishno from the Rotary Club of Dehradun.

The registration desk was managed by volunteers from JSR Eventers and Lopamudra Dutta (JU). This seminar would not have been possible without the essential support of President Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay, Hon. Secretary Rtn. Ashok Basu and the dedicated staff of the Rotary Club of Calcutta. The program was honoured by the presence of several Rotarians, including PP Rtn. Ritwik Gupta, Rtn. Dr. Krishna Sen, PE Rtn. Anand Sharma, Rtn. Yogesh Dassani, Rtn. Dr. Sarvani Gooptu, Rtn. Ravindra Khandelwal, and Rtn. Pradeep Gooptu.

The distinguished speakers were presented with a plant and dry fruits by the Founder of JSR Eventers, Mrs. Samita Talukdar. Students and teachers received participation certificates, and the feedback was positive. To ensure all attendees were well taken care of, food boxes were provided for all distinguished guests, students, teachers, Rotarians, and staff.

Report by Youth Chair  
Rtn Saswati Mukherjee

## REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### ONE WORLD

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

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 16th September, 2025 at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m.

Speaker : To be announced

### REPORTS

- On 29th August, 2025, a team of Rotarians for our Club visited Eastern Railway Diamond Harbour Station premises for an Eye and General Healthcare camp supported by Rotary Club of Calcutta.
- On 2nd September, 2025 - Community Service & RCC and Health Care Committee jointly organised a Dental and Health Check-up Camp at our RCC Stars Welfare Society.

### Birthday

Samrat Sen	09th September
Sanjiv Agarwal	09th September
Suman Chakraborty	10th September
Malay Kumar Ghosh	11th September
Deepak Kumar Khemka	13th September

*Wish you many happy returns of the day*

### NO MEETING

There will be no Regular Weekly Meeting on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 as the said meeting will be held on Friday, 26th September, at 6.30 p.m. followed by fellowship and dinner. You are requested to kindly make a note of these changes.

*Celebrate your Joy and Happiness on Birthdays and Anniversaries. Donate generously for The Rotary Foundation and Club Projects.*

### TODAY

Teachers' Day celebration and felicitation

### 107TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

107th Foundation Day Celebration along with Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club will be held on Friday, 26th September, 2025 at 6.30 p.m. at Rotary Sadan.

The Meeting will be followed by fellowship and dinner. You are requested to make a note of it and attend the meeting with your spouse.

### BOARD MEETING

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. at 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.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

Day & Date	Programmes	Timing and Venue
Tuesday, 16th September, 2025	Regular Weekly Meeting Speaker: To be announced	Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) 1.30 p.m. Lunch 12.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting	-----
Friday, 26th September, 2025	Regular Weekly Meeting Programme : Foundation Day celebration followed by fellowship and dinner	Rotary Sadan (Ground floor) 6.30 p.m. onwards
Tuesday, 30th September, 2025	No Regular Weekly Meeting Durga Puja Holidays	-----



## Activity Report of Interact Club of Asian International School – August 2025



On August 30, 2025, the INTERACT CLUB of Asian International School took a commendable step towards environmental stewardship by organizing an Environment Awareness and Cleanliness Drive at Champatala Ganga Ghat. The initiative was a multi-faceted effort aimed at both immediate cleanup and long-term behavioural change. Students diligently swept the ghat premises, ensuring the area was free of debris, and applied bleaching powder to enhance hygiene. To promote

sustainable waste management, a dustbin was strategically installed. Beyond the physical cleanup, a key focus was on community education. Three posters, featuring impactful Bengali slogans, were displayed to encourage locals to keep the area clean and protect the sacred river Ganga from pollution. This drive successfully created a clean and hygienic environment at the ghat and sensitized the local community to the importance of environmental conservation. The enthusiastic participation of the students was a true reflection of their commitment to social responsibility, embodying the school's motto : Knowledge, Honour, Glory.

## Interact Club Activity Report of Delhi Public School, Howrah



### Independence Day Celebration – Aug. 2025

The Interact club members of DPS, Howrah, celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour, an event organized by the Interact Club. The celebration commenced with a formal flag hoisting ceremony, followed by the National Anthem, which filled the air with pride. Students showcased their respect for the nation through heartfelt patriotic songs, paying tribute to the sacrifices of freedom fighters and instilling a sense of unity. The performances beautifully reflected the values of nationalism and inspired everyone present. The programme concluded with a powerful message on the importance of upholding the ideals of our Constitution and safeguarding the freedom that was so hard-won. This event not only fostered patriotic feelings among the students but also encouraged them to take an active role in nation-building, highlighting their commitment to social responsibility.

MINUTES OF THE 4995TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING  
HELD ON 30th AUGUST, 2025 AT 6.30 P.M. AT ROTARY SADAN

1. President, Rtn. Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay welcomed Members and Guests and called the 4995th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
2. The National Anthem was led by Rtn Anusua Das.
3. Minutes of the 4994th Regular Weekly meeting of the Club held on 19th August, 2025 were confirmed.
4. The President welcomed Dr. Surajit Chakraborty BDS, MDS and Consultant Orthodontist as the Chief Guest on that day.
5. The President then welcomed visiting Rotarians and Guests who were attending the meeting.
6. The President reported the following :
  - a) Last Thursday, 28th August, 2025 – Satellite Club of Calcutta, sponsored by Rotary Club of Calcutta organised their first programme – Panel discussion at Rotary Sadan titled “Panchali - The Bengal Narratives” which was a huge success. A large number of Rotarians from our Club attended the programme.
  - b) On 29th August, 2025, a team from our Club visited Eastern Railway Diamond Harbour Station premises for an Eye and General Healthcare camp supported by Rotary Club of Calcutta and the amount for the project was donated by Rtn. Shakti Kumar Banerjee. At the request of the President, Rtn Amit Ghosh presented a report on this initiative. On behalf of the Club, the President thanked Rtn Banerjee for his donation.
7. The President announced the following :

On 2nd September, 2025, the Community Service, RCC and Health Care Committee will jointly organise a Dental and Health Check-up Camp at our RCC Stars Welfare Society and requested members to make a note of it and attend.
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 8th 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, 2nd September, 2025 as the said meeting was held on Saturday, 30th August, 2025 and requested members to kindly make a note of the change.
  - d) Next meeting of the Club would be on Tuesday, 9th September, 2025 at Rotary Sadan (2nd floor) 1.30 p.m. / Lunch 12.30 p.m. / Programme : Teachers' Day celebration and felicitation.
  - e) Youth Service and Tech Knowledge Committee would be organising a “STEM Awareness Seminar” on Sunday, 31st August, 2025 between 1.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. at the Rotary Sadan. Speakers : Dr. Jaideep Talukdar, Vice-Chancellor of Silicon University, Odisha and Mr. Rajarshi Roy, An Experienced Educator Specializing in Mathematics. He requested members to make a note of it and attend the programme on that day.
  - f) He then informed members that IPP Rtn. Subrata De, Imm. Past Secretary, Rtn. Suman Chakraborty and PP Rtn. Raj Kumar Agrawal and Rtn. Sujata Pyne have been awarded the outstanding President, outstanding Secretary and outstanding Zonal Secretaries Zone 30 at the Awards ceremony held on 30th August, 2025 at the Haldiram Banquet, Kolkata.
9. At the request of the President, Rtn Shampa Ghose introduced the Chief Guest, Dr. Surajit Chakraborty.
10. At the request of the President, Dr. Surajit Chakraborty addressed the audience on the topic “Story of a Less Travelled America”.
11. Questions raised by members were answered by the Chief Guest.
12. On behalf of the Club, Vote of Thanks was given by Rtn. Dr. Asis Kumar.
13. On behalf of the Club, the President handed over a memento to Dr. Surajit Chakraborty.
14. Sunshine Box Collection Rs. 1,000/- with special contribution from Rtns. Ajay Agarwal and Biswajit Datta.
15. The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Serampore, India. R.I. Dist 3291.
16. Before adjourning the meeting, the President requested all to join the fellowship and dinner. On behalf of the Club, the President thanked Rtns. Dr. HIRAK KUMAR SEN, Amit Ghosh, Dr. Abhijit Chattopadhyay, Pramod Mathur and Udit Chand Mitra for hosting fellowship and dinner on that day.
17. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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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