



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSE



বার্তা

-The Message

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RI President : Rtn. Francesco Arezzo
President : Rtn. Susmita Sarkar

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Secretary : Rtn. Ashmita Dey

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May is Youth Service Month

Projects

Empowering Youth through Financial Literacy



On 28th March 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe successfully organized a **SMARTs Investor Awareness Program** for the students of Dream Institute of Technology. The primary objective of the program was to empower young minds with essential knowledge about financial planning, investment strategies, and the importance of making informed financial decisions. The session focused on introducing students to the basics of savings, various investment avenues such as stocks, mutual funds and fixed deposits, along with the associated risks and returns. Special emphasis was placed on developing disciplined financial habits at an early stage and understanding the long-term benefits of systematic investments. Expert speakers and resource persons guided the students through practical insights, real-life examples, and interactive discussions, making the session both engaging and informative. The program also highlighted the importance of avoiding fraudulent investment schemes and encouraged responsible financial behavior. The initiative was well-received by the students, who actively participated and expressed keen interest in learning more about financial independence and wealth management.

Empowering Women Through Digital Upskilling



On 28th March 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe, in association with its RCC Uddami India Foundation, successfully organized a Women Upskilling Workshop at their Lake Gardens Campus, Kolkata. The primary objective of this initiative was to empower women from underserved communities by equipping them with essential digital skills, thereby enhancing their employability and self-reliance in today's technology-driven world. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from women of diverse

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age groups, primarily from economically weaker sections. The training sessions were carefully designed to introduce participants to basic computer operations, use of smartphones for professional purposes, digital payments, internet browsing, and awareness about online safety and cybersecurity. Special emphasis was laid on practical demonstrations to ensure hands-on learning and better retention. Experienced trainers and volunteers conducted the sessions in an interactive manner, encouraging participants to engage actively, ask questions, and practice in real-time. The initiative also focused on building confidence among the participants, enabling them to explore digital platforms.

Vision for All – Spectacles Distribution Camp



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Spectacles Distribution Camp on 2nd April 2026 at the campus of Uddami India Foundation. The initiative aimed to address vision-related challenges among economically disadvantaged individuals. Beneficiaries who had undergone prior eye examinations were provided with spectacles based on their specific prescriptions. The camp ensured proper identification and distribution, benefiting a total of 30 individuals. This initiative significantly improved their daily functioning, productivity, and overall well-being while promoting awareness about eye health and the importance of timely vision correction.



Fight Against Thalassemia – Awareness & Prevention Drive



A **Thalassemia Awareness Workshop** was successfully conducted at Dream Private Industrial Training Institute, Samali, Thakurpukur on 9th April 2026. The session aimed to educate students about one of the most serious genetic blood disorders affecting society today. The keynote speaker for the session was **Rtn. Subhojit Roy**, Public Image Chair of Rotary District 3291, who delivered an insightful and impactful address. He explained in detail about **Thalassemia**, its causes, effects, and the long-term challenges faced by patients, especially those suffering from Thalassemia Major. During the



session, students were made aware of :

- The **serious health implications** of Thalassemia
- The **importance of early detection and prevention**
- The necessity of undergoing **carrier detection through blood tests (HB Electrophoresis/HPLC)** before marriage

To reinforce the message, **awareness leaflets** were distributed among all participants. The students actively engaged in the session and showed keen interest in understanding the disease and its prevention. A significant highlight of the program was the **pledge taken by the students** to work towards a **“Thalassemia-Free India by 2050.”** This reflected their commitment to spreading awareness and encouraging preventive measures within society.

A Mental Wellness Activity



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a stress-relieving programme on 14th April 2026 at SEVAC Mental Hospital. The initiative aimed to provide patients with a refreshing and joyful experience through active participation. As part of the programme, ingredients for preparing a popular local snack, *phuchka*, were arranged by the Club. The patients enthusiastically engaged in preparing the snack themselves and later served and enjoyed it together. This hands-on activity encouraged social interaction, creativity, and a sense of independence among the patients. The event created a lively and cheerful atmosphere, helping patients break away from their routine and experience moments of happiness and inclusion. The programme significantly contributed to reducing stress and enhancing emotional well-being.

Tree Plantation Drive



On the occasion of Earth Day, 22nd April 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Tree Plantation Drive at Gazipur, South 24 Parganas. As part of the initiative, 25 saplings comprising both fruit-bearing and non-fruit-bearing trees were planted to increase green cover and promote biodiversity in the area. The activity aimed to create environmental awareness among local residents while contributing to long-term ecological balance. The drive reflected Rotary's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Roadside Pond Cleaning Initiative for Ecological Balance



On the occasion of Earth Day, 22nd April 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Roadside Pond Cleaning Initiative at Gazipur, South 24 Parganas. The project focused on cleaning and restoring a neglected roadside water body that had been affected by waste accumulation and poor maintenance. The activity involved removal of debris, clearing of stagnant waste and basic restoration to improve water quality and surrounding hygiene. This initiative aimed to revive the natural ecosystem, support aquatic life and create awareness among local residents about the importance of maintaining clean water bodies. The project reflects Rotary's commitment to environmental conservation and community well-being.

Solar Street Lamp Installation Initiative



On the occasion of Earth Day, 22nd April 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Solar Street Lamp Installation project at Gazipur, South 24 Parganas. The initiative focused on installing a solar-powered street light in a local garden to provide eco-friendly and reliable illumination. This effort aimed to enhance safety and visibility for residents during evening hours while promoting the use of renewable energy in rural areas. The project reflects Rotary's commitment to sustainable development, energy conservation, and community welfare.

CPR Training & Emergency Response Awareness Program



A CPR Training Session was organized by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe at the campus of Dream Private Industrial Training Institute, Samali, South 24 Parganas on 25th April 2026. A total of 76 students participated in this hands-on training program. The session was conducted by Miss Bijaya Kundu (General Nursing Midwifery) from Uddami India Foundation, who provided practical demonstrations and guided participants through essential life-saving techniques, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The initiative aimed to prepare participants to provide immediate assistance during medical emergencies, particularly within the critical "golden hour," thereby supporting villagers in the remote areas of South 24 Parganas.

Club participated as Co-Host in "Rotary Community Corps Conference"

Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Conference



The Rotary District 3291 Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Conference was successfully organized at Bakkhali on 28th and 29th March 2026, bringing together Rotarians and RCC members from across the district for a comprehensive and impactful two-day program. The Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe was represented by three of its members, who participated enthusiastically alongside three members of its RCC, reflecting the strong synergy between the Club and its community corps. The conference featured a diverse range of informative and practical sessions aimed at holistic community development. Key areas covered included overall health, women's health and hygiene and the crucial role of games and sports in promoting child health and well-being. These sessions emphasized preventive care, awareness and the importance of active lifestyles. A significant highlight of the event was the awareness rally on Thalassemia, which helped spread vital information about prevention and early detection among the masses. Additionally, a hands-on CPR training session equipped participants with life-saving skills, enhancing their preparedness in emergency situations. The conference also addressed livelihood and sustainability through sessions on modern farming techniques and methods to increase crop production. Participants gained valuable insights into innovative agricultural practices that can improve yield and support rural development. Furthermore, an informative session on how to effectively avail government schemes empowered attendees with knowledge to access various benefits and welfare initiatives. Overall, the RCC Conference at Bakkhali served as a dynamic platform for learning, collaboration, and empowerment. The active participation of members from the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe and its RCC underscores their commitment to community service and their dedication to creating a meaningful and lasting impact in society.



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Achievement



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe is deeply honoured and proud of our Charter President and Executive Secretary Rtn. Dr. Sainen Bhowmick to have received the prestigious “Shrestho Bangali 2026” award, held on Sunday, 19th April 2026. As a Club President I convey my heartfelt congratulations to him whose dedication and commitment towards promoting health and well-being continue to inspire our community. It is truly a privilege to be recognized alongside such remarkable individual.

Bengali New Year — Then and Now

This year, I did not hear
The song of clouds and rain from the northeastern sky at
year’s end.
With blooming flowers and clouds of colored powder,
With the fast of Nil Shashthi and Shiva’s Gajan beside it,
Smeared in the colors of Phagua, as flowers blossomed,
Chaitra came to an end.
Touching the glide from soft *Nishad* to pure *Nishad*,
Spring has departed for this year,
Inviting the fierce Baishakh, the silent ascetic of heat.
In the Bengali New Year today,
So much has nearly vanished—
No *Nabapatrika*, no *Panjika*,
No sweets distributed from shop to shop, no Bengali
calendars, no sprinkling of rose water,
No printed invitation cards arriving from stores
anymore.
So today, one deeply wonders—
O Kolkata, how are you? O Mahanagar, how do you fare?
In this abandoned *Hal Khata*,
You remain a city of distress and hope.
Wi-Fi, AI, internet, email, WhatsApp—
Yet the joint Bengali family is shrinking into nuclear units.
Visits from home to home have ceased,
The promise of reunion during festivals—
Of wiping away distances between families—has faded.
Money, self-interest, distrust—
In the marketplace of goods, it is only “want, want,
want.”
A race of showmanship, an endless urge to be seen and
advertised.
Emotional bonds loosen, empathy and warmth decline.
On Poila Boishakh today, the Bengali stands quite alone,
Carrying only a bundle of gloom, despair and
vulnerability.

Searching for unity amidst division, connection amidst
isolation.
As Wi-Fi, AI, and WhatsApp increase in Bengali society,
So too grow pressure and distance—unceasingly.
Today, Bengalis celebrate New Year twice a year.
For that one day, with effort, they wear dhuti-panjabi
and saree,
With Bengali food, songs,
Recitations of Rabindranath Tagore and his melodies.
Yet even there, a competition—
To appear on stage or television,
To perform something—song, poem, dance—
To show everyone, if not on TV, then through a selfie
post.
Even if creativity, expression, emotion,
Practice, or merit may be lacking.
Calling Gurudev’s songs “Tagore songs,” parents feel
proud—
After all, the child studies in a convent, so the Bengali
need not be perfect...
In the whole world, perhaps only this one community
exists
That does not rebuke even its own children
For not knowing their mother tongue.
Long live the Bengali, long live the Bengali New Year.
I live with this hope—
That in the life of Bengal, a new dawn will return again,
All conflicts and confusions will fade away.
The enchanting flute will play once more,
And people across the world will again say of Bengalis—
“What Bengalis think today...”

By : **Rtn. Susmita Sarkar**
President RY 2025-26.