



# ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSE



## বার্তা

-The Message

Club No - 89711 • Charter Date - 12th November, 2018

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President : Rtn. Susmita Sarkar

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## May is Youth Service Month Projects

### Thalassemia Screening Camp



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Thalassemia Screening Camp on 6th May 2026 at Dream Private Industrial Training Institute, Samali, South 24 Parganas, following a prior awareness session on Thalassemia. The initiative aimed at early detection and prevention by encouraging students to undergo screening. A total of 10 students participated and underwent the HPLC Blood Test. The project reinforced awareness, promoted responsible health practices, and contributed toward reducing the long-term burden of Thalassemia in the community.

### Thalassemia Prevention Drive



On 6th May 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Thalassemia awareness campaign in Samali, South 24 Parganas. The initiative aimed to educate the public about the importance of early detection, prevention, and management of Thalassemia. Students from Dream Private Industrial Training Institute actively participated by placing informative Thalassemia awareness stickers on public vehicles, ensuring wide visibility and outreach across the region. This creative approach allowed the message to travel beyond a single location, reaching daily commuters and drivers, thereby increasing public understanding of the genetic disorder. The campaign also fostered youth involvement in community service and strengthened the connection between educational institutions and social causes.

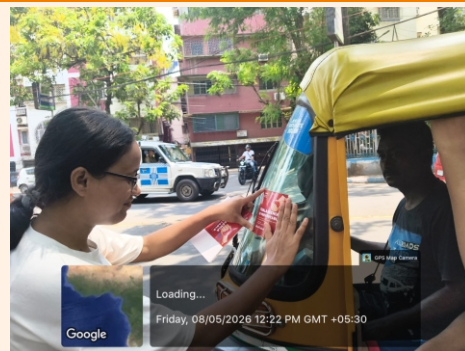
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## Thalassemia Screening Camp



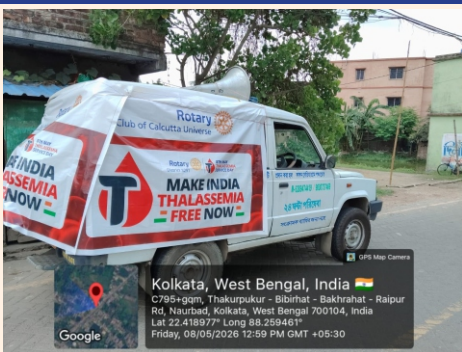
On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day on 8th May 2026, Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organised a Thalassemia Screening Camp at Dakshin Laxmi Narayanpur, Pathar Pratima, South 24 Pdns, Kolkata - 743371, for youths from adjoining rural areas. The camp aimed to create awareness regarding Thalassemia and the importance of early screening before marriage and parenthood. 13 youths underwent HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography) screening tests to identify Thalassemia carriers and related blood disorders. The project also included counseling and awareness sessions highlighting preventive healthcare, genetic counseling, and the social importance of early diagnosis. The initiative helped educate rural families about reducing the future burden of Thalassemia in the community.

## World Thalassemia Day Awareness Drive at Lake Gardens



On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day on 8th May 2026, Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organised a Thalassemia Awareness Drive in the Lake Gardens area of South Kolkata. Members of RCC Uddami India Foundation actively participated in the campaign by taking to the streets and placing awareness stickers on public vehicles to spread messages about Thalassemia prevention, early screening, and public awareness. The initiative aimed to educate the public about the importance of Thalassemia testing before marriage and parenthood, encouraging preventive healthcare practices among the community. The awareness drive successfully reached commuters, local residents, and vehicle owners, creating greater visibility for the cause.

## Thalassemia Awareness Ambulance Campaign



On 8th May 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe undertook a unique and impactful Thalassemia Awareness Campaign by displaying awareness banners on an ambulance that travelled through various interior and rural areas of South 24 Parganas. Simultaneously, public awareness announcements and miking were conducted throughout the journey to spread important messages regarding

Thalassemia prevention, screening, and social awareness. As the ambulance moved across villages, local markets, and populated rural areas, the banners and miking attracted the attention of residents and effectively communicated the importance of Thalassemia testing before marriage and the need for preventive healthcare measures. The campaign successfully reached people in remote rural regions where access to health awareness programs is often limited. Through this initiative, the Club attempted to sensitize the community about the importance of blood screening and reducing the prevalence of Thalassemia in society.

## Thalassemia Awareness Miking Campaign



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Thalassemia Awareness Miking Campaign at the campus of the Thalassemia Society of India with the objective of spreading awareness among local residents, visitors, and pedestrians regarding the causes, prevention, and importance of early screening for Thalassemia. Through continuous public announcements and awareness messages broadcast during the miking campaign, people in and around the area gathered valuable knowledge regarding Thalassemia, its hereditary nature, and the necessity of blood screening before marriage. The initiative successfully attracted public attention and encouraged community awareness regarding this serious genetic blood disorder. On this occasion, the Club also served refreshments to the individuals involved in the miking and awareness activities as a gesture of appreciation and encouragement for their participation and support in the awareness drive.

## Refreshment Service for Blood Donors



On the observance of World Thalassemia Day, 8th May 2026, Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a service activity at the Thalassemia Society of India, New Alipore, to support and encourage voluntary blood donors donating blood for Thalassemia patients. The club members distributed snacks and refreshments to the donors as a gesture of appreciation for their noble contribution towards saving lives. The initiative aimed to recognize the importance of regular blood donation

for Thalassemia patients who require lifelong blood transfusions and to spread awareness regarding the challenges faced by individuals suffering from this genetic blood disorder. Rotarians actively participated in serving snacks to the donors and interacting with attendees to promote humanitarian values and community service.

## Refreshment Service for Thalassemia Patients



On 8th May 2026, in observance of World Thalassemia Day, Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a humanitarian service activity at the Thalassemia Society of India, New Alipore. During the program, snacks and refreshments were distributed

among Thalassemia patients who had come to the centre for blood transfusion and collection of medicines. The initiative was undertaken to extend care, compassion, and emotional support to patients who regularly undergo lengthy medical procedures as part of their treatment. Rotarians interacted with patients and their families, spreading awareness regarding Thalassemia and emphasizing the importance of community support for individuals affected by

the disorder. The activity reflected Rotary's commitment towards humanitarian service and healthcare support for underprivileged and vulnerable communities.

## Charter Handover Ceremony of RCC



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized the Charter Handover Ceremony of the RCC sponsored by the club, namely Dakshin Laxmi Narayanpur Health Awareness & Rural Welfare Society, at Sundarban Academy on 10th May 2026. The program was conducted with the objective of strengthening grassroots participation in rural health awareness, social welfare, and community

development activities in the remote Sundarban region. The event witnessed the formal handing over of the RCC Charter in the presence of Rotary members, local dignitaries, teachers, social workers, and community residents. During the program, discussions were held regarding the importance of preventive healthcare, sanitation, education, environmental awareness, and rural empowerment. Community members were encouraged to actively participate in welfare initiatives and work collectively for the upliftment of the locality. The

newly chartered RCC will function as a community-based support group under the guidance of Rotary and will organize future activities related to health camps, awareness drives, educational assistance, cleanliness campaigns, and other humanitarian services. The initiative aims to empower local residents to identify community challenges and take proactive steps toward sustainable development and social well-being.

## Distribution of Agricultural Tools to Rural Farmers



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a community development and livelihood support program at South Laxminarayanpur, Pathar Pratima, in the Sundarban region on 10th May 2026. During the program, 40 sets of agricultural tools including sickles and hoes were distributed among 40 economically challenged farmers. The initiative was undertaken to support rural farmers who depend on agriculture and daily wage-based agricultural work for their livelihood. Many of the beneficiaries lacked proper farming tools required for cultivation, land preparation, and participation in the government's 100 days employment scheme. The distribution of these tools will help them perform agricultural activities more efficiently, improve productivity, and increase opportunities for income generation. The event was attended by Rotarians, local community members, and beneficiaries who expressed their gratitude for the support. The project aimed to strengthen rural self-reliance, improve livelihood opportunities, and encourage greater participation of women in agricultural and economic activities. The distributed tools are expected to provide long-term support to the beneficiaries in their farming practices and daily work activities.

## Distribution of Hens and Chicks to Women Poultry Owners



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a rural livelihood support program at South Laxminarayanpur, Pathar Pratima, South 24 Parganas on 10th May 2026. During the program, hens and chicks were distributed among 10 economically disadvantaged female poultry owners to support small-scale poultry farming and enhance their income-generating opportunities. The initiative was undertaken to empower rural women by encouraging sustainable backyard poultry activities as a source of regular livelihood. Many women in the area depend on small-scale farming and poultry rearing to support their families, but due to financial limitations they often lack sufficient resources to expand their poultry activities. The distribution of hens and chicks will help the beneficiaries increase poultry production, generate income through the sale of eggs and poultry products, and improve household economic stability. The event was attended by Rotarians, local community members, and women beneficiaries who appreciated the support provided through the project. The program aimed to strengthen women empowerment, promote self-employment, and encourage sustainable rural livelihood practices in the Sundarban region.

## Distribution of Banana Saplings to Women Farmers



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized an agricultural livelihood support program at South Laxminarayanpur, Pathar Pratima, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, where banana saplings were distributed among 10 female farmers. The initiative was undertaken to encourage sustainable agriculture and provide additional income-generating opportunities for economically disadvantaged rural women. Banana cultivation is suitable for the climatic conditions of the Sundarban region and can provide regular financial returns to farming families. Many women farmers in the area possess small agricultural land but lack resources and quality planting materials for productive cultivation. Through this project, the beneficiaries received healthy banana saplings that will help increase banana production in the coming seasons and contribute to better household earnings. The program also aimed to strengthen women's participation in agriculture and promote self-reliance through farming-based livelihood activities. Rotarians interacted with the beneficiaries and encouraged them to adopt proper cultivation and maintenance practices for better yield and long-term sustainability. The initiative is expected to improve rural economic stability and motivate other women farmers to engage in fruit cultivation for enhanced income generation.

## Empowering Women through Stitching Hub Initiative



On 16th May 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe undertook a women empowerment initiative at Pathar Pratima by setting up a community Stitching Hub for economically underprivileged women villagers. As a part of this humanitarian service project, three stitching machines were distributed among selected women beneficiaries to help them acquire tailoring skills and generate sustainable income opportunities from home. The initiative aimed at encouraging self-employment, enhancing financial independence, and supporting the socio-economic upliftment of rural women. The project also sought to create a common platform where women could collaboratively learn stitching and tailoring work, thereby fostering confidence, dignity, and community participation among the beneficiaries. The members of the club interacted with the villagers and motivated them to utilize the resources effectively for long-term livelihood development.

## Mangrove Plantation Drive



On 16th May 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Mangrove Plantation Drive at the river bank area of Wallscrick in Pathar Pratima, Sundarban. The initiative was conducted in active participation with the local women residents of Pathar Pratima who possess traditional knowledge and experience in mangrove plantation across the Sundarban region. The plantation drive aimed to strengthen the natural embankment system of the coastal belt through the cultivation of mangrove saplings. Mangroves play a vital role in protecting the fragile ecosystem of Sundarban by restricting soil erosion, reducing the impact of tidal waves and cyclones, and preserving biodiversity. The project also encouraged community participation and environmental awareness among the villagers, especially women, thereby promoting sustainable ecological practices and community ownership towards environmental conservation.

## “Little Savings, Bright Futures” – Clay Bank Distribution Drive



On 15th May 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a meaningful financial awareness initiative at Anirban Pathbhaban situated in Sehai, Nodakhali, District South 24 Parganas. During the programme, 100 clay banks were distributed among the students with the objective of developing the habit of savings from a very young age. The initiative aimed to educate children about the importance of financial discipline, careful spending, and saving small amounts regularly to fulfil their small wishes and future needs. Club members interacted with the students and explained how even a small daily saving can gradually become meaningful support for education, books, stationery, or personal aspirations. The project also motivated parents and guardians to encourage children in practicing responsible financial habits at home.

## Rabindra Jayanti Celebration



On 9th May 2026, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized Rabindra Jayanti Celebration at Sevac Mental Hospital with the objective of spreading joy, emotional support, and cultural awareness among the patients and staff of the institution. The programme was conducted to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, whose literary and musical contributions continue to inspire generations. The event featured recitations, Rabindra Sangeet performances, cultural interactions, and motivational engagement with the residents of the hospital. Members of the Rotary Club interacted warmly with the patients, encouraging participation in the celebrations and creating an atmosphere of inclusiveness and happiness. Refreshments were also distributed among the inmates, caregivers, and staff members as a gesture of compassion and fellowship.

## Assistant Governor's Visit



Our Club had the privilege of hosting the Assistant Governor's visit prior to the District Governor's Official Visit on 5th May 2026 at The Haldiram's Food Court at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in a warm and cordial atmosphere, providing an excellent opportunity for members to interact with the Assistant Governor Rtn. Ajay Kumar Agarwal and discuss the Club's activities, achievements, and future plans. Valuable guidance and encouragement were shared to help strengthen our service initiatives and enhance member engagement. The visit also served as an important preparatory session for the forthcoming Official Visit of the District Governor, inspiring all members to work together with renewed enthusiasm and dedication.

## District Governor's Official Visit



Our Club was honoured to host the District Governor's Official Visit on 12th May 2026 at Hotel Swagath at 7:00 p.m. The occasion was marked by enthusiastic participation from members and dignitaries, making it a memorable and inspiring evening. The District Governor Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri appreciated the Club's ongoing service activities, fellowship, and commitment towards community development. Insightful guidance and motivating words were shared, encouraging members to continue striving for excellence in all avenues of service. The visit strengthened the bond within the Club and inspired everyone to work with greater dedication, unity, and purpose in the months ahead.

### From the President's Desk

#### The Stain Has Been Marked

Wherever a stain appears,  
It will never fade away, no matter what.  
Thinking of it fills us with anger—  
Whether on clothes or in the mind,  
On character or on a chair.  
The moment a stain appears  
On the index finger of the left hand,  
We keep calling everyone to see it—  
As citizens of the world's largest democracy,  
Claiming our right to declare ourselves so.  
A stain has been marked, a stain has been marked.  
Whether it fades or not, let this stain remain.  
Someone, loving the survival of the citizen,  
Went ahead and marked it there.

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

#### Kalboishakhi (The Nor'wester Storm)

A fierce Boishakh without the Kalboishakhi—  
Scorched by heat, fevered and exhausted, dry, windblown,  
tawny;  
In treeless jungles of concrete houses  
The terrible heat radiated everywhere,  
Fearsome, dreadful, like Bhairava's call.  
At last the Kalboishakhi arrived,  
Bringing relief, holding the hand of that depression;  
With wild gusts of stormy wind as its companion,  
The rain came softly, easing the burning heat.  
The great city hides beneath umbrellas,  
Roads and streets overflow with water.  
Beside the park, with tender hands,  
Look—the flower petals are getting drenched.

A suddenly gifted rainy day—  
Schoolboys returning home float paper boats.  
Though mothers may scold, they do not care:  
“Come, today let's go home soaked through and through!”

Young lovers, skipping college in delight,  
Wander through parks or shopping malls.  
There are no mango groves anymore,  
So the joy of gathering fallen mangoes is gone.

This is not the rain of sorrow—  
From nature's fierce wrath  
Let humanity find a little freedom for a few days.

After relentless labor, returning home at day's end,  
The impoverished people in broken, powerless houses  
May perhaps feel their hearts lighten,  
And for a few nights  
Sleep peacefully at last.

So much wealth and luxury all around, and yet  
Most people in society remain  
Without light, without water, without food—  
Oppressed, abused, deprived.

We are the privileged fraction—  
Living on their labor while boasting of ourselves.  
Calling them “uneducated,”  
We give them neglect and disrespect,  
While we pass our days comfortably  
With cars, houses, and air-conditioners.

Holding the hand of depression,  
The Kalboishakhi cools the burning heat with relief.  
Yet “depression” has another meaning too—  
The sadness of the human mind.

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