



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSE

বার্তা

-The Message

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

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

Dist. Governor : Rtn. Ramendu Homchaudhuri
Secretary : Rtn. Ashmita Dey

VOLUME : 8

DECEMBER 2025

ISSUE - 4

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

PROJECTS

Harmony in Diversity



In an inspiring attempt to celebrate and uplift sections of society that are often marginalized, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a Bijoya and Diwali Sammelani on 7th November 2025, creating a vibrant and inclusive platform for expression and empowerment. The event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds — sex workers from Sonagachi, members of the transgender community, and abandoned specially-abled individuals — who showcased their remarkable talents through music, dance, and other cultural performances. Their participation symbolized the spirit of unity and equality, reinforcing the belief that art and culture transcend

social boundaries. Through this initiative, the Club aimed to foster social acceptance, dignity, and inclusion, demonstrating that every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves an opportunity to be heard, seen, and celebrated. The evening was not only filled with festive joy but also with hope and humanity, reflecting Rotary's core motto — *Service Above Self*.

Spreading Warmth, Sharing Care



As part of its continued commitment to community welfare and compassion-driven service, the **Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe** organized a **Blanket Distribution Drive** on **7th November 2025**. The initiative aimed to extend warmth and comfort to marginalized sections of society, particularly **sex workers and abandoned specially-abled individuals**, ahead of the approaching winter season. Through this thoughtful gesture, the Club sought not only to provide physical warmth but also to convey a message of **care, inclusion, and shared humanity**—core values that lie at the heart of Rotary's mission.

Crafting Dignity



On **7th November 2025**, the **Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe** organized a meaningful **exhibition** that celebrated inclusivity, empowerment, and creativity. The event featured **self-help groups led by members of the transgender community** and an **organization supporting old age homes and abandoned specially-abled individuals**. The exhibition served as a vibrant platform for these marginalized groups to display and sell their beautifully handcrafted items, including artwork, home décor pieces, accessories, and utility products. Each creation reflected the **immense talent, perseverance, and creativity** of individuals who often remain unseen and underappreciated in society. By providing them with this opportunity, the Club not only helped in **enhancing their self-esteem and social recognition**, but also encouraged **economic self-reliance and community acceptance**. The event symbolized Rotary's commitment to promoting **dignity of labor, inclusiveness, and sustainable livelihood** for all sections of society, reaffirming the true spirit of *"Service Above Self."*

Chartering of RCC Barat Kamdevpur Sanat Yoga Ashram



On 7th November 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized the Charter Handover Ceremony of its second Rotary Community Corps (RCC) — **Barat Kamdevpur Sanat Yoga Ashram**. The Club proudly serves as the sponsoring body of this newly formed RCC, established with the objective of empowering local communities

through collective action and service. During the ceremony, the Charter was formally handed over to the Director of the organization by the Club officials, marking the official induction of the RCC into the Rotary family. The event symbolized Rotary's continued commitment to fostering partnerships that promote grassroots-level development, social welfare, and sustainable community engagement.

Touching Lives : A Youth Service Compassion Drive



As part of Rotary's Youth Service initiative, the Interact Clubs of Narayana School Sonarpur and Narayana School Park Circus — both sponsored by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe — undertook a heart-touching service visit to the Kolkata Police Hospital on 7th November 2025. The purpose of the visit was to bring joy, comfort, and companionship to the children admitted in the Thalassemia ward, many of whom undergo frequent and painful medical procedures as part of their treatment. The young Interactors demonstrated exceptional compassion and maturity as they engaged with the children. They spent meaningful time interacting with the patients, speaking to them, listening to their stories, and offering emotional support through warm gestures and friendly conversations. To brighten their day further, the Interactors presented an enjoyable cultural program comprising songs, dances, and short performances. Their enthusiasm and energy created an atmosphere filled with laughter, music, and hope — a much-needed respite for the young patients who often face long hours of discomfort and anxiety.

Installation Ceremony of the Interact Clubs



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe successfully organized the **2nd Installation Ceremony** of its five sponsored Interact Clubs — Narayana School Park Circus, Narayana School Sonarpur, Narayana School Maheshtala, Narayana School New Town, and Narayana School Kalyani Expressway on 10th November 2025. The event symbolized the continuation of Rotary's mission to empower young minds and inspire them to embrace the spirit of "Service Above Self." New office bearers and members were formally inducted, marking the beginning of another year of impactful student-led initiatives. The ceremony brought together Rotarians, school authorities and students, creating a vibrant platform that celebrated youth leadership, teamwork, and community responsibility. This initiative reflects the Club's commitment to nurturing socially responsible leaders who are prepared to initiate meaningful change in their surroundings.

Dignity Support Initiative for Destitute Elderly Women



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a compassionate service initiative to support destitute elderly women residing in Bhalobasa Old Age Home at Thakurpukur on 12th November 2025 by distributing plastic commodes and adult diapers. Many of these women struggle with severe mobility challenges, chronic health issues, and limited caregiver support, making daily hygiene routines extremely difficult. The provision of these essential items aims to restore dignity, ease discomfort, and ensure better sanitation and health for the residents.



All-Inclusive Talent Hunt



The “All-Inclusive Talent Hunt” is a prestigious and compassionate initiative designed to empower individuals from diverse underprivileged backgrounds by providing them with a dignified platform to showcase their talents on 13th November 2025. This unique program extends its support to **acid attack survivors, transgender persons, and special children**, recognizing their remarkable resilience and the challenges they continue to face in society. By offering them an opportunity to express their abilities in a safe, encouraging, and celebratory environment, the event aims to boost their confidence, promote social inclusion, and create awareness about their inherent potential. Through this initiative, the organizers aspire to break stereotypes, highlight inspiring stories of courage, and foster a more inclusive and accepting community where every individual is valued and uplifted.

Interactors Bring Smiles to Thalassemia Warriors



A meaningful project was carried out at the Kolkata Police Hospital as part of Rotary's Youth Service initiative. The Interact Club of Narayana School, Newtown — sponsored by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe—took the lead in bringing joy to the young patients on 14th November 2025. The enthusiastic Interactors entertained the children with engaging activities, interacted warmly with them, and created a cheerful, compassionate atmosphere within the ward. The program concluded with the distribution of gifts to

the children suffering from Thalassemia, adding moments of happiness and comfort to their challenging medical journey.

Nurturing Children with Safe Drinking Water



On 14th November 2025, a significant community-support initiative was undertaken at Anirban Pathbhavan, Sehai with the installation of a deep tubewell fitted with a submersible pump and an RO water filtration system. This project was designed to address the long-standing issue of inadequate access to clean drinking water for the children studying at the school, most of whom come from economically weaker backgrounds. By providing a dependable and safe source of purified water within the school premises, the initiative aims to

safeguard the students' health, reduce waterborne illnesses, and create a more conducive learning environment. The installation not only fulfills an essential daily need but also empowers the school to maintain better hygiene standards, ensuring that every child has the basic right to clean and healthy drinking water.

Children's Day of Hope and Happiness



On 14th November 2025, a deeply meaningful Children's Day celebration was organized at the Kolkata Police Hospital for the young patients battling Thalassemia. The event aimed to bring joy and emotional comfort to these brave children who face daily challenges with immense courage. Thoughtfully chosen gifts were distributed among them, filling the ward with excitement and happiness. The children's delighted smiles and radiant expressions created an atmosphere of warmth and positivity, making the celebration truly special. This small gesture of love and kindness not only brightened their day but also reinforced the message that they are cherished, supported, and never alone in their fight.

Enabling Lives : Wheelchair Donation Initiative



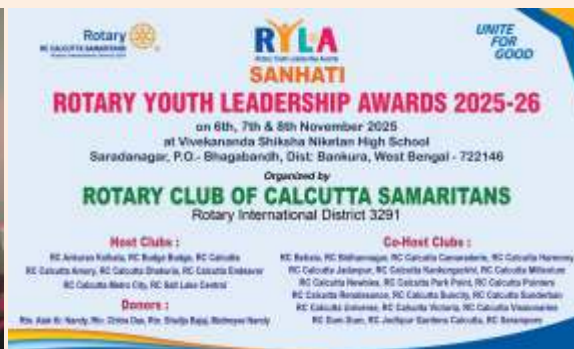
On 15th November 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe extended meaningful support to a woman affected by Post-Polio Residual Paralysis by donating a wheelchair to enhance her mobility and independence. This compassionate initiative reflects the Club's continued commitment to serving individuals with physical challenges and ensuring that essential assistive devices reach those who need them the most. Through this effort, the Club aims to improve her quality of life, restore dignity, and promote inclusion within the community.

Empowering Education at Save the Children Home



As a part of the Basic Education and Literacy initiative, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe donated two whiteboards with stands to Save the Children Home, Thakurpukur. The home provides shelter and support to girls aged 5 to 18 years coming from economically weaker families. This contribution will support and strengthen their primary education by enhancing their learning environment and helping them access better educational resources.

RYLA for Tribal Youth



“SANHATI” RYLA for Tribal Youth is a signature and long-term project of our club, dedicated to empowering underprivileged tribal boys and girls across various regions of West Bengal.

Through this specially designed Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program, we identify and nurture their leadership potential, inspire personal growth, and bring forth their hidden talents. The initiative aims to build confidence, enhance communication skills, and create opportunities for these young individuals to realize their aspirations, thereby contributing to their overall development and strengthening community ties. Our Club was Co-Host of the event which took place from 6th November to 8th November 2025.

DONATION OF FOOD GRAIN FOR GIRL CHILDREN



Project was undertaken with the objective of providing essential nutritional support to girl children between the age of 5-18 years belonging to economically weaker families and residing in Save the Children Home Thakurpukur, a protective home environment, on 26th November 2025. Recognising that proper nutrition is the foundation for healthy growth, learning, and overall well-being, the Club organised a food-donation initiative to support these young girls who often face multiple socio-economic challenges. As part of the project, a variety of nutritious food items were donated, including staples and items that directly contribute to balanced growth.

Drive on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Rights



An **AIDS Awareness Camp** was organized on **2nd December 2025**, from **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, in front of the **Calcutta Mint**, along the footpath area. To spread vital information, **public miking** was conducted, highlighting the relevant laws of the country pertaining to the rights and protection of people living with HIV/AIDS. Announcements were also made to encourage the general public to become more aware and responsible in preventing the spread of AIDS. As part of the outreach activity, **informative leaflets** and **condoms** were distributed to pedestrians as well as commuters travelling in public transport, ensuring that the message reached a large and diverse audience. The entire event was jointly organized by **EKTA 24 Parganas**, an organization of transgender individuals, and the **Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe**, reflecting a strong collaborative effort towards public health, awareness, and inclusivity.

Medical Support For Mental Patients



Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe extended a compassionate hand to the mental patients residing at SEVAC Mental Hospital, located at Samali in South 24 Parganas. The institution currently shelters around 78 male and female patients, many of whom have been abandoned by their families and left without emotional or financial support. These vulnerable individuals depend entirely on the care provided by the hospital for their treatment, medicines, and daily needs. Understanding the critical need for uninterrupted access to proper



medication—an essential component of mental health care—our Club came forward to support the institution in a meaningful way. After interacting with the authorities and assessing the immediate requirements, Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe committed to providing financial assistance toward the medicines needed for the inmates on 2nd December 2025. This contribution aims to ensure that

patients continue receiving their prescribed treatment without disruption, promoting stability, dignity, and improved quality of life.

Van Rickshaw Support for Farmers



Two van rickshaws were donated to the farmers of South 24 Parganas on 6th December 2025 with the objective of strengthening their means of livelihood. These van rickshaws will play a vital role in helping the farmers transport their harvested crops, vegetables, and other produce from the agricultural fields to nearby markets without dependency on costly external transport. By providing reliable and convenient transportation, this initiative ensures that the farmers can carry larger quantities of produce in a single trip, reduce post-harvest losses, save transportation expenses, and increase their daily earnings. It also empowers them with greater mobility, independence, and flexibility in planning their market visits. Overall, the donation of the van rickshaws is a sustainable step toward supporting rural farmers, improving their income-generating opportunities, and enhancing their economic resilience in the long run.

Wheelchair Donation for a Neurologically Challenged Beneficiary



A wheelchair was donated on 9th December 2025 to a male beneficiary who is unable to stand or move independently due to a severe neurological condition. Understanding the critical need for mobility support in such cases, our club took the initiative to provide him with a sturdy and comfortable wheelchair to enhance his daily life. The donation aims to restore dignity, improve accessibility, and enable him to carry out essential activities with greater ease. This support will significantly reduce his dependency on others for movement within the home and immediate surroundings. It will also help caregivers manage his needs more effectively while improving his overall well-being. The project reflects our club's commitment to serving individuals with critical health and mobility challenges, ensuring that no one is left behind due to physical limitations.

Spreading Joy through Inclusion



As part of a Service Project, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe visited Mom's Care, a home for specially-abled individuals living with cerebral palsy on 12th November 2025. Club members spent quality time with the residents, engaging in personal interactions, listening to their talents, and appreciating their abilities. The initiative focused on emotional support, encouragement, and inclusion rather than material aid. The interaction brought visible joy and confidence among the inmates, making them feel valued and important members of society, while also sensitizing Rotarians towards the needs and potential of persons with disabilities.

Empowering Hands : Sewing Machines for Self Help Group



The Rotary Club donated **two sewing machines** to a local **Self Help Group (SHG)** engaged in stitching clothes free of cost for **abandoned specially-abled individuals and inmates of old age homes** on 12th December 2025. The SHG also earns a livelihood by stitching garments for residents of the surrounding area, making the initiative both **service-oriented and income-generating**.

The Reversed Chariot

In this life I see countless contradictions.
Love burns the heart, yet never scorches the body.
Those whose eyes are heavy with sleep have no proper bed,
And those with fine beds have no sleep in their eyes.
Those whose hearts are full of kindness, compassion, mercy
and care
Have nothing at all to give to others,
And those who, by God's grace, possess abundance
Have no will to give.
The one who believes and loves sincerely is deceived,
While the deceiver lives in joy.
As the market fills with more and more goods,
Human greed keeps growing.
Competition increases,
And people grow ever more ruthless.
Through compromise and flattery,
By licking boots,
By cheating others, stealing, and taking bribes,
People become wealthy.
The honest, hungry, oppressed poor
Are called beggars,
Treated with disgust and insult.
Milk must be sold by roaming from door to door,
Yet liquor sells even if one sits idle.

Those who give education
Live in neglect and humiliation,
With heads bowed low.
And those who sell education
Live happily, with honour, heads held high.
The bigger the thief, the louder his voice;
And the saint's voice grows ever softer.
The greater the fraud, the schemer, the devil,
The more status and respect society grants today.
But the honest, decent, good-hearted person
Has neither wealth nor honour.
Day by day, as science and technology advance,
The pace of life keeps accelerating.
At the same time, pollution increases everywhere,
Nature keeps changing,
And humanity suffers.
This so-called development
Is bringing global warming—
Perhaps this, after all,
Is the destiny of the human race.

Rtn. Susmita Sarkar
President RY 2025-26