



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSE

রাত্তা



-The Message

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January is Vocational Service Month

President's Message

Farewell 2025, Welcome 2026

Farewell 2025, welcome 2026.
Years go, years come—
countless images of laughter and tears
remain trailing behind.

In the new year, hopes and desires stretch endlessly;
may life return to rhythm,
may the whole universe be blessed with happiness.

I do not know—
the day the first sun
asked a question
at the new emergence of existence,
“Who are you?”
there was no answer.
Years passed on.

At the end of the day, the last sun
uttered its final question
on the shore of the western sea,
in the silent evening—
“Who are you, what are you like...?”

Was an answer ever found?
Yet may this entire world remain joyful.
Welcome 2026.

Happy Welcome 2026

A year is ending, leaving behind a galaxy of memories
embedded in smiles and tears.

Another year is arriving
on its familiar grey wings,
taking its usual place.

It could have been called scintillating
instead of grey,
yet the ray of hope
still does not descend
from the azure sky.

Everything that happens
is part of life's eternal journey—
nothing truly new,
only a changeover.

Glimpses of hope and prospects
continue to throng life, as always.

May you all be bestowed
with unending happiness and prosperity.
May this 2026 become
a milestone in our life's journey.

Rtn. Susmita Sarkar
President RY 2025-26

Projects

Livelihood Promotion for Date Palm Jaggery Makers



As part of a community service initiative, the Club undertook a humanitarian activity to support individuals engaged in the traditional occupation of preparing date palm jiggery on 19th December 2025 at Bobirhat BDO More. These workers



collect date palm sap early in the morning and prepare jaggery, often residing temporarily along busy roadside areas so that passers-by can easily purchase their products. Due to prolonged exposure to cold weather during early mornings and nights



spent outdoors, the Club distributed blankets to provide them with much-needed warmth and comfort. Club members personally interacted with the jaggery makers, encouraged them, and acknowledged the value of their traditional skills. To further support their livelihood, the Club helped promote their products among the public and also coordinated with local shopkeepers to collect and sell the jaggery directly from the producers, improving their market reach. This initiative not only addressed an immediate seasonal need for protection against the cold but also contributed to preserving a traditional rural occupation by enhancing visibility, dignity of labour, and market access. The project reflected Rotary's commitment to compassion, livelihood support, and overall community welfare.

Public Image Enhancement through Educational Awareness Miking



On 21st December 2025, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe organized a community miking awareness campaign in and around Nodakhali, South 24 Parganas, as part of its efforts to enhance Rotary's Public Image and promote access to education in remote areas. The initiative aimed to reach villagers who have limited exposure to information about affordable and quality educational opportunities for their children. Through systematic miking across interior villages, announcements were made in the local language explaining the objectives, facilities, and benefits of the Rotary-sponsored school Anirban Pathbhawan. The campaign emphasized that the school provides basic education up to the 5th standard at a very nominal fee, making it

accessible to children from economically weaker families. Special focus was given to the availability of computer training, which helps students develop essential digital skills, and sports facilities, which support physical fitness, discipline, and overall personality development.

Christmas Clothing Donation Drive



Prior to Christmas, on 22nd December 2025, men's wear was donated to Asha Bhawan Trust of India, an organization dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of abandoned families. The initiative was undertaken with the intention of sharing the joy and warmth of the Christmas season with those who are often deprived of basic necessities and festive cheer. The donated clothing not only addressed an immediate need for proper attire but also helped restore a

sense of dignity and belonging among the beneficiaries. The timing of the project, just before Christmas, added special significance, as it brought smiles and a feeling of inclusion during a season that symbolizes love, compassion, and togetherness. This humanitarian gesture reaffirmed the commitment of the Rotary Club to serving marginalized communities and spreading happiness beyond material support. By reaching out to abandoned families through this meaningful donation, the Club once again demonstrated its resolve to uphold the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self, especially during moments that call for empathy and generosity.

Santas on the Streets – Christmas Night Blanket & Care Distribution Drive



On the night of 23rd December 2025, on the eve of Christmas, the members of the Rotary Club stepped out onto the streets with compassion in their hearts and service as their mission. Embracing the true spirit of Christmas, the members became "Santas on the road," reaching out to aged and abandoned individuals who spend their nights exposed to the biting winter cold. Moving through different roadside locations, the members distributed warm blankets to protect the elderly from the harsh December chill, offering them much-needed comfort and dignity. Along with the blankets, cakes were lovingly shared, symbolizing joy, care, and the festive warmth of Christmas—often the only celebration these individuals experience during the season. Beyond material support, the initiative brought human connection and emotional solace. Club members interacted personally with the beneficiaries, offering kind words, smiles, and reassurance that they were not forgotten. For many of the elderly recipients, this simple act of attention restored hope and a sense of belonging. This heartfelt initiative reflected Rotary's commitment to service above self, transforming a cold winter night into one of warmth, compassion, and humanity. By extending care to those living on the margins of society, the project not only helped them survive the winter but also spread the true message of Christmas—love, sharing, and compassion for all.

Skill Development Project for the Transgender Community



On 26th December 2025, the Club undertook a meaningful community service initiative by donating computers to Ekta 24 Parganas, an organization dedicated to the welfare and empowerment of the transgender community. The donated computers will be used to set up a Computer Training Centre at Ekta 24 Parganas, aimed at equipping transgender individuals with basic computer skills essential for education, employment, and self-reliance in today's digital world. The training program will cover fundamental computer operations, basic software usage, and digital literacy. A unique and empowering aspect of this initiative is that the training will be conducted by trained members of the transgender community themselves. This peer-led approach ensures a safe, inclusive, and comfortable learning environment, allowing trainees to learn without hesitation, fear of discrimination, or feeling left behind.

Blankets of Care for the Transgender Community



In an effort to extend warmth, care, and compassion to the transgender community—who are often neglected and marginalized in society—our Club undertook a blanket distribution initiative on 26th December 2025. This humanitarian gesture aimed not only to protect them from the harsh winter conditions but also to convey a message of inclusion, dignity, and solidarity. Through this initiative, the Club reaffirmed its commitment to standing alongside vulnerable communities and addressing their basic needs with empathy and respect.



Four-Day Rotary Youth Sports Meet at Samali



A four-day Sports Event was successfully organized by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Universe at Samali, South 24 Parganas (Kolkata – 700104) as part of its Youth Service initiatives from 24th to 27th December 2025. The event aimed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship among rural youth while encouraging healthy recreational activities. The sports meet featured a wide range of athletic and team events, including 100-meter and 200-meter races, Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Badminton, as well as fun skill-based games such as Hit the Wicket and Kick the Ball. These diverse activities ensured active participation and enthusiasm among children of different age groups and interests. A total of 83

boys and girls from South 24 Parganas participated with great excitement and competitive spirit throughout the four days. The event provided a positive platform for young participants to showcase their talents, build confidence, and develop camaraderie. At the conclusion of the event, a prize distribution ceremony was held where winners and participants were recognized for their performances. Trophies, Medals and Jerseys were awarded, and special recognition in the form of "Man of the Event" awards was presented to outstanding performers, motivating the youth to continue engaging in sports and constructive activities.