

# SHATAK



Rotary



THE ROTARY CENTENARY'S STORY





RI DISTRICT 3291

CLUB NO. 90740

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Rotary



Youth Culture - Making Them Future Leaders



YOUTH  
SHATAK BARTA

**I** In our Rotary clubs, May is designated as Youth Service Month. This month focuses on promoting Rotary's youth service programs, including Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Youth Exchange. It recognizes the importance of youth development and empowers young people through leadership development initiatives. Those are as following –

**A** **Youth Service** – Rotary's fifth avenue of service, Youth Service, includes programs for those up to age 30.

**Youth Programs** – These programs aim to develop young leaders, provide for health and education projects, and promote world peace and understanding.

**Focus of the Month** – May encourages Rotary clubs to highlight and support their youth service activities, including Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, and Youth Exchange.

**I** **Impact of Youth** – Youth service acknowledges the importance of young people as future leaders and advocates for Rotary's ideals.

**R** **Rotaract** - It's a global movement of young leaders who are developing innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18-30 to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service. In communities worldwide, Rotary and Rotaract members work side by side to take action through service. From big cities to rural villages, Rotaract is changing communities like yours. Rotaract clubs decide how to organize and run their club. Rotary club sponsors offer guidance and support and work with your club as partners in service.

**O** **Can your Rotary club sponsor a Rotaract club? – 'YES'**

Here, How we made it into reality in our Club Centenary by creating a Rotaract & Interact Club -

**T** **Rotaract Club** - We have reached out to Young Candidates in our community and develop leadership skills, build lasting friendships, and create positive change through Rotaract. Not only we made a difference by friendship only but, also helping in giving them training through various activities, placing them in various reputed organization and supporting them who are enthusiast in making initiating their entrepreneurial journey. We made them energized, inspired and also made them capable partners in service. Youth ages between 18-30...

**I** **Interact Club** – We took action and created Interact club, brought together young students ages 12-18 to develop & empower their leadership skills through various activities, while discovering the power of Service Above Self and cheered them to build their own dreams. We make them realize how serious leadership can be seriously fun through their levels of activities and numbers of different projects.

**D**

Rotary



*"... We cannot talk about the Future, without talking about the Children. They are the Future*

*..." – PRIP James L. Lacy 1998-99*



# OUR RECOGNITIONS THROUGH ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS & INTERACT CLUBS OF CLUB CENTENARY



As one of the most significant and fastest-growing program of Rotary service, with more than 10,700 clubs in 109 countries and geographical areas, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. Almost 200,000 young people of ages 12-18 are involved in Interact.

So, Our Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary has made and sponsored an interact Club, which provides support and guidance.

Our Interact Club of Bijoygarh Balika Vidyapeeth was instituted in 2025 and since then it has been undertaking community-based projects to help the underprivileged young students.

The award was given to the school authorities with sincere appreciation and great respect for their years of dedication to strengthening the foundations of goodwill, peace, and fellowship through service with Interactor in the community, and beyond. They are engaged in true sense through Service Above Self in the hearts and minds in making future community leaders.

Our Rotary club of Calcutta Centenary ignited the enthusiasm of local community, people to come forward, enable them to provide services above self. We Rotarians have empowered individuals to make a difference in their own communities and expanded our Centenary's reach and leveraged our network to address the community needs and implemented numerous service projects in our community.

In our Rotary Centenary Year (2024-25), Club Centenary has sponsored the local community service organization, "South Kolkata Hamari Muskan" who has organized and supported in our projects. For their incredible cooperation within the Rotary International guidelines, South Kolkata Hamari Muskan has been recognized as Rotary Community Corps of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary.





# EXCELLENT EXPERIENCES THROUGH DG'S ANNUAL CLUB VISIT TO OUR CLUB CENTENARY



Finally, the day has come, **May 19, 2025** when we Rotarians anxiously await to hear, to interact , to share our achievements, our experiences, we look forward to **DG's annual visit at our Centenary Club** to get more insights about Rotary, enthusiasm to do more for our communities to make a better tomorrow . The purpose of the official club visit of the District Governor (DG) gave us an opportunity to communicate directly with us, all the Rotary members in our Club. It enables us to speak to the DG, to listen from him, to get guidelines and to gain a better understanding of the workings of the club. The meeting indeed has served as a catalyst to strengthen our power to serve more, to work on the deep values, the vision. We wanted to ensure that visit goes smooth, memorable to inspire our path ahead and it ended up with loads of memories & motivation. Sharing below few glimpses to enrich our memories further -



District Governor, Rotarian Dr. Krishnendu Gupta had praised us on Club Centenary's Long-term, Sustainable Projects, especially the Music & Art Fusion Workshop at Bijoygarh Balika Vidyapeeth, Smart Village Program and Employability Skill Development Program. The projects were also applauded by Dist. Treasurer - Rtn. K K Jha, Dist. Sec Finance - Rtn. Ajay Kr. Agarwal, Zonal Secretary - Rtn. Parama Dasgupta, Assistant Governor - Rtn. Sulagna Daw, and Dist. Official Rtn. Bhaswati Ray...





# ONE OF OUR INCREDIBLE MILESTONE PROJECTS "SMART VILLAGE PROJECT"



***"The nation can only be rebuilt by reconstructing villages. If the villages perish, India will perish, too. It will be no more India." Mahatma Gandhi.***

The profound statement by the Father of Nation underscores the pivotal role of rural development in shaping India's national identity and progress. While urban centers may exhibit progressive infrastructure, digital connectivity, and resourceful services, it is crucial to recognize the role of Smart Villages as key feeder systems to cosmopolitan hubs. Smart Villages unblocking the cities and lay the foundation of Smart Cities.

A Smart Village is a concept that focuses on leveraging technology and innovation to improve the quality of life in rural areas. Similar to Smart Cities but tailored for rural settings, Smart Villages address challenges such as access to healthcare, education, clean water, energy, and sustainable economic development. It aims to bridge the rural-urban divide by harnessing technology's potential to make rural communities more sustainable, inclusive, and economically viable. Villages supply the urban landscape with vital resources, including food, skilled labor, and raw materials.

The prosperity movement should happen more in rural than urban areas to build a strong India and the fundamental requisites of a Smart Village are –

<b>Technology Integration -</b> Utilizing digital technologies like the Internet enhances connectivity.	<b>Sustainable Development -</b> Promoting environmentally friendly practices such as renewable energy sources, waste management solutions, and sustainable agriculture.	<b>Quality of Life Improvements -</b> Enhancing healthcare facilities, education systems, and public services through technology.	<b>Economic Opportunities</b> - Supporting local economies by fostering entrepreneurs hip, improving market access, and creating employment.	<b>Community Engagement -</b> Involving residents in decision-making processes and promoting social unity through digital platforms.	<b>Infrastructure Development -</b> Upgrading roads, water supply systems, and telecommunications to support and enhance their living standards.
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With the similar mindset, we Rotarians, at the Rotary Club of Calcutta centenary, have made the strategic choice to implement and provide service to ***Pathra - Gurbhanga village to make it a Smart Village Program*** to enhance the standard of living, to give them a ray of hope to modernize their lifestyle and support them in connecting with the other parts of the country and the world through various educational and other programs. This smart village program was launched on May 23, 2015 by one of the Senior-most and one of the Youngest resident of the Village and made the Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary proud through this remarkable project. Rotary Club Of Calcutta Centenary will continue **this program to develop and support this smart village project for the next whole 3 - years (and may extend it for another 2 years).**

**We aim to work with the 234 families & about 1400 citizens of these laminated villages.**



***The idea is – "Leaving No One Behind ..."***



# ONE OF OUR INCREDIBLE MILESTONE PROJECTS "SMART VILLAGE PROJECT"



*Library with proper system  
implemented to manage the library  
at the mentioned village, made by  
Club Centenary*



**We Rotarians of Calcutta Centenary along  
with few of the Villagers**



**Excited  
"Us"**



**Inauguration Ceremony on  
May 23, 2025**



**TOGETHER  
WE ARE  
UNITED**





# ONE OF OUR REMARKABLE PROJECTS "PROJECT - UTTORAN"



Project UTTORAN is a service initiative by Rotary International and Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary is focusing on making lives better. It aims to address improve the life of youth from the age of 18-30 by increasing their efficacy level to place themselves on their own feet with their dream position in their world.

Ten students (beneficiaries) of South Kolkata Hamari Muskan (our RCC), who are in college are being provided with a twelve weeks Employability Skill Workshop. We, Rotarians shall try to place them as interns in their choice of sectors for one year. The basic focus is they become employable by the end of this course with respect to the market demands.

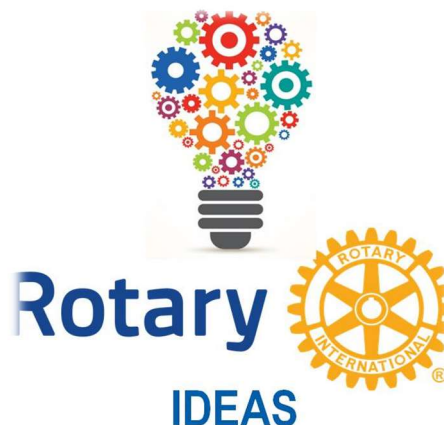
Among these ten participants of the program, three wants to be in Finance, Accounts or Banking Sector, one in Psychology, one wants to be the footballer, one with his dream to become an entrepreneur, one wants to become an actress, one wants to be in the Food Industry, one wants to be a Photo-Journalist and rest one wants to study further and complete her Masters & PhD. We observed one good thing that they have clear vision on their goals and which enabled us to help them in their paths.

These students belong to under-privileged segments of the society from warned red-light areas of the Kolkata. The whole purpose of the program is to inspire these student to bring out of the dark backstreets and enlighten them in building a better career, better life of their own with self-respect and steadiness.

The project launched on 24th January 2025 and will continue for 17 classes after which there shall be a final One-to-One session with the students and they will proceed with Internships or Job Support. The project will also be implemented with support from Anthelion School of Art and Career Guidance Academy.

The classes continued as follows to acquire knowledge on various aspects –

1. Class 1 - Jan 30 – Rtn. Dipayan Banerjee - Entrepreneurship Qualities
2. Class 2 - Feb 4 – Rtn. Mausumi Paul - Employability Skills
3. Class 3 - Feb 6 – Rtn. Mausumi Paul - Employability, Interviewing Skills & CV
4. Class 4 - Feb 20 – Rtn. Dipayan Banerjee - Organizational Structure
5. Class 5 - Feb 21 – Rtn. Dipayan Banerjee - Sales, Marketing, Branding & PR
6. Class 6 - Feb 25 – Rtn. Tuhina Pandey - Grooming
7. Class 7 - Feb 26 – Rtn. Tuhina Pandey - Grooming
8. Class 8 - Mar 7 - Subir Roy- Entrepreneurship & Govt Opportunities
9. Class 9 - Mar 21 - Disha Jhunjhunwala - Legal Matters
10. Class 10 - April 01 - Mausumi Paul - CV Finalization
11. Class 11 - April 04 – Rtn. Dipayan Banerjee - CV Finalization, Problem Solving Skills
12. Class 12 - April 08 - Dripta Sarkar - Life Skills
13. Class 13 - April 11 – Rtn. Dipayan Banerjee - Digital Marketing
14. Class 14 – April 25 – Rtn. Mausumi Paul – Interviewing Skills (Final)
15. Class 15 – April 29 – Dr. Parijat De – Communication Strategy in Professional Life
- 16. Class 16 – May 2 – Rtn. Sujan Das – Finance management in life**
- 17. Class 17 – May 9 – Rtn. Aniruddha Chatterjee and Rtn Leena Das Ghosh – Leadership & Social Responsibility in life.**





# ONE OF OUR REMARKABLE PROJECTS "PROJECT - UTTORAN"



Glimpses from Project **Uttoran** in May, 2025 -





# CLUB CENTENARY'S ENGAGEMENT IN DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY, MAY, 2025



In the Rotary International District Assembly Training on May 25, 2025, our Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary was the proud **Bronze** partner



The Rotary International District Training Assembly is a key leadership training event within the Rotary district. The club leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively lead their clubs and achieve their goals. The assembly offers workshops, discussions, and information on various aspects of Rotary administration, service projects, and leadership. With high spirit, Club Centenary leaders brought the members together for the whole event on May 25, 2025 at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium, Kolkata and enjoyed thoroughly the experience of the events and speeches of the great Rotary International Leaders. Sharing below few glimpses from the event -







**#EndPlasticSoup** is a Rotary movement, started in the Netherlands, which is changing the conversation about the environment and which has captured the imaginations of many...

When the Belgian American chemist, Leo Baekeland, created the first synthetic, mass-produced plastic in 1907, little did he realize what he was unleashing on the world. There has been no material more revolutionary than modern plastic. Since the 1950s, it has been used in almost every single industry,

in a vast variety of ways, thanks to its versatility, high durability and an ability to be moulded into whatever shape necessary. No material has changed the world the way plastic has. Gert-Jan van Dommelen, co-founder of the proposed EndPlasticSoup Rotary Action Group, knows full well how plastics threaten to destroy the earth's eco-system, and he wants to do something about it.

"Plastic soup is not just the plastic waste in the oceans, it's not just the plastic waste in the waters or our rivers and lakes. "It is the plastic waste in our environment," he said. "Eighty per cent of plastic waste gets into the ocean sooner or later, through the air or through our rivers." In little more than two years, EndPlasticSoup is gaining traction. Already, a number of Rotary clubs in Great Britain & Ireland have signed up to become a member club, joining a movement which is supported by 1,500 clubs, and 3,500 Rotarians and Rotaractors globally, with 72 Ambassador Clubs in 47 countries. Their aim is simple; by 2050, to rid the world of the plastic soup which lingers in the oceans and seas, in our lakes, rivers, forests, parks and streets.

Their desire is for Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs worldwide to work together to solve and prevent the plastic pollution problem. As Rotary seeks to define itself to a younger audience beyond a traditional constituency of polio, so plastics and campaigning for the environment is being regarded by some as a path to Millennial enlightenment. "EndPlasticSoup really appeals to the younger generation," explained Gert-Jan, who has been a Rotarian for less than four years with the Rotary Club of Huizen Gooimeer, 25 miles east of Amsterdam. "Youngsters now regard Rotary as a different organization and are happy to be part of this. Many people see this as new Rotary. My own club gained eight new members over the past 18 months because of this initiative." Five Rotary clubs from the Netherlands started the initiative in 2018 following a plastic soup fishing weekend cleaning up Amsterdam's canals. What now exists is an advocacy and action movement which aims to educate, challenge and provide a pathway towards change. "Rotary cannot solve this alone," added Gert-Jan. "We need all the people on this planet. "We need all the governments, all the industries and all the organizations to work together, building alliances, so we can accelerate and connect to make this possible." In practical terms, EndPlasticSoup is looking for Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs to start the debate by creating awareness in their own communities, perhaps taking on a small project, such as the clean-up of a park or a beach. This is a perfect opportunity to recruit community-minded volunteers. In Gert-Jan's home town of Huizen Gooimeer, the Rotary club has strong links with the town's High Schools and have organised events with the environmentally-awakened students who have been inspired by Swedish teenage activist, Greta Thunberg. There they have worked with children on the perils of cigarettes – not just on the health risks of smoking, but on the dangers to animals, and that has clearly struck a chord. Cigarettes filters contain micro plastics, so when the butts are discarded on the streets, they are collected by birds and other animals which can cause harm. This is a message the schoolchildren have been successfully taking home to their parents.





### JOIN HANDS IN SUSTAINABILITY MOVEMENT



A boy picks his way along a path littered with plastic debris, on the island of Saparua in Indonesia

In the Moluccas in Indonesia, where the river takes care of the rubbish when it rains, flushing the plastic debris into the ocean, EndPlasticSoup is working with its partner Happy Green Islands on Saparua to educate the children. The schoolchildren's task is to fill three big nets of plastic rubbish they collect each day, with a reward once they have completed the task. EndPlasticSoup works with 50 corporate organizations worldwide. All share similar values and all are making a difference in various pockets of the globe, establishing connections with Rotary clubs in the Philippines, Thailand, Egypt, the Caribbean, Honduras, Turkey, Russia and Brazil. One example is the work they are doing with Boyan Slat, the Dutch inventor and entrepreneur, who is also the founder of The Ocean Cleanup, which has developed advanced systems to rid the world's oceans of plastics. The Ocean Cleanup is also targeting rivers.

EndPlasticSoup is working in eight different locations, including in Alexandria, Egypt, cleaning the River Nile for a project which is reaching across communities and involves both Orthodox Christian and Muslim Rotary clubs. A legal charitable entity in the Netherlands, EndPlasticSoup has applied to become a formal Rotary Action Group worldwide, working with WASH, the Water Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group, and ESRA, the Environmental Sustainability Action Group. EndPlasticSoup has created a series of action packages to provide a focus for Rotary club environmental activities. Over the coming months, the focus is on a series of action days to co-ordinate Rotary activities and engage communities. March 22nd is World Water Day, June 5th is the United Nations' World Environment Day, June 6th is Rotary EndPlasticSoup Action Day and September 18th is World Cleanup Day. It is a campaign, said the Dutch co-founder, which is crossing generations. "Suddenly, people are seeing Rotary in a different way and I think that is appealing.

People are so concerned about the planet and about climate-change. "It is difficult to do something about carbon dioxide and things you can't grab. "With plastic, you can grab it. Plastic is there. You can do something about it and you can start today." Gert-Jan added: "What is important is awareness, that is why we are asking Rotary clubs all over the world to join this initiative just by adding the EndPlasticSoup element to their actions. "For example, you may be doing a walk for water to do fund raising for Africa, with schoolchildren or community volunteers. Why not ask to clean up on their walk because we don't want to leave plastic in nature? "We want to educate children not just by giving a lesson, but by asking the schools to work with parents, staff and the wider community to really reduce plastic consumption. "In my home town, when we go to the flower shop we ask them not to use plastic wrapping but paper instead. "It is about awareness, action and alliances across the full cycle, not just clean-up at the end. "This is not an easy thing, it is complex, but when you start doing this, miracles happen. | Information | For more information visit: [endplasticsoup.nl/en/](http://endplasticsoup.nl/en/) "Everybody wants the same thing, and that is what is unique about this project. "Start at the club level, start today. "Try to find a few people who feel energized to do one or two things initially. "Do this step-by-step. Don't make it too big, we will need you for more years than just this year. "Join us now and, if possible, become a member club to support us. "We can share all the information and knowledge we have."

#### | Fact file | PLASTIC

The world produces about 400 million metric tons of plastic every year – 45% is for single-use purposes. • Every year, eight million metric tonnes of plastic enter our ocean – one garbage truck per minute, much of this waste flows from rivers and other waterways. • By 2030, virtually every seabird species on the planet will be eating plastic. • Worldwide, 73% of beach litter is plastic; filters from cigarette butts, bottles, bottle caps, food wrappers, grocery bags, and polystyrene containers. • Packaging accounts for 40% of total plastic usage. Most of it never gets recycled or incinerated. • The Beat the Micro-bead app is a fast way to learn if your cosmetics and personal care products contain plastic ingredients.

Sources | Plastic Oceans, End #PlasticSoup, National Geographic



HAPPY MOMENTS TO CELEBRATE IN OUR CENTENARY FAMILY

**BIRTHDAYS | ANNIVERSARY**



**BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATED  
IN MAY, 2025**

- 1) Rtn. Zhenyu James Liao, May 2, 2025**
- 2) Rtn. Ashish K Mitra, May 23, 2025**

*Rotary Centenary Club wishes You all a very Happy, Prosperous, Healthy & Joyful year ahead*

