



RCCP 's commitment to the Sundarbans - Tiger Widows Project enters its third year

Over the past 4 years, RCCP has built a robust partnership with Purbasha Eco Help Line (PEHS) and jointly we execute several projects every year. RCCP's flagship project in Sundarbans is Sundarban Tiger Widows Economic Development Project. In association with PEHS the club has embarked on a 3-year project, working with a cohort of 19 Tiger widows and economically disadvantaged women. RCCP is providing seeds, fertilizers, saplings, spawns, chicks and other livestock, preparing and reinforcing their land or pond, and imparting necessary training to this cohort. Gradually and surely, RCCP is carving a path for these women to become financially self-sufficient, by the end of 3 years in 2026.

The returns have started coming in- in a small but encouraging way. The beneficiaries have started believing in their ability and in RCCP's continued effort to support them towards self-reliance.

The project has been featured in Times of India for the second year in running.

We have continued our efforts for Mangrove Plantation in Sundarbans in 2025 as well.

Ecologically fragile Sundarbans is losing its mangrove cover due to over exploitation, altered hydrology, pollution and natural calamity. For the last four years, RCCP has been planting mangrove in Sundarbans as a small effort to help in ecological stabilization of Sundarbans and protection from cyclones. PEHS is RCCP's partner on the ground. In June 2025, we planted 1,500 mangrove saplings in Chandipur, Gosaba. Around 11 village women from the Mangrove Army, helped in planting the saplings. Packets of assorted vegetable seed were distributed to them for their kitchen gardens.

Education and literacy are one of the primary focus areas of RCCP. The club encourages children to join mainstream education system and complete the course. In this space, RCCP supports an after-school in Chargheri, Sundarban for 40 students from impoverished families. The school prepares the children for formal schooling and/or supplements their school curriculum.

the trees that are growing fine ought to bear fruit in the fifth year.



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Tiger Widows Project

This year RCCP provided them with new school uniforms for the new school year.

RCCP also provides funds to PEHS to purchase festival (Durga Puja) clothes for these 40 children and sarees for the 18 beneficiaries of the Sundarban Widows project.

This is also the year when RCCP has taken up one of our most ambitious projects in Sundarbans. We are building a multi-disciplinary Education and Skill Development Center in Bipradaspur, Sundarpar. This multi-disciplinary facility will be used to run a pre-school for children aged 3-8 in the morning, conduct computer training classes for women and adults in the evening to make them familiar with digital transactions and basic computer literacy, and will hold health camps and seminars during the weekend. This multi-disciplinary facility will benefit all demography of the village by-

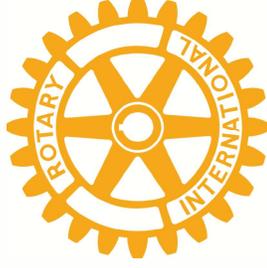
- *Reducing the number of school dropouts due to lack of similar facilities near residential areas like Monoshatoli para, Santamari para, Paschim Palli para, Gayen para, Barman para, and Hathkhola para.

- *Building an all-weather structure that will replace the currently dilapidated temporary structure to conduct education to students in a safe and healthy environment.

- *Developing the building as a venue to host various community-based programs like health awareness, vocational, etc. that will serve the local population.

- *Reduce the digital divide by providing rudimentary computer education.

Construction is expected to complete by April 2026 and the centre will be operational, fulfilling a much-needed requirement of the community.



Tiger Widows Project

Window of hope: Farming, fishing aid for tiger widows in Sundarbans

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Kolkata: About two years ago, Rina Sarkar went to catch crabs with her husband when the duo encountered a tiger in the Sundarbans. Rina fainted at its sight. But as she regained consciousness, her husband was no more.

He fell prey to the predator. Now, the woman from Chargheri village in Sundarbans is growing paddy on her husband's land and planning to start prawn cultivation to fend for herself.

Rina is not alone. Eighteen other women, whose husbands were mostly mauled by tigers in the mangrove forest, are being assisted by civil society and voluntary organisations to become financially independent by utilising their own assets like land, ponds, arhats.

Members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Pointers who have joined hands with Pargore Society for Rural Development and Purbasha Eco-Healthline Society, are working for the welfare of tiger widows as part of a three-year



(Left) Tiger widow Anima Mondal has taken up paddy cultivation (right) Rina Sarkar has taken up paddy cultivation



We support the beneficiaries of the project with seeds, chicks, and spawns. With the help of a new earning route, we hope these women don't have to move deep into the forest

Aditi Dey ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA POINTERS MEMBER

Rotary Club of Calcutta Pointers, told TOI. "This is the second year of our pilot project in the Sundarbans. We support the beneficiaries of the project with seeds for farming, chicks, and spawns. With the help of a new earning route, we hope these women don't have to move deep into the forest for livelihood."

"The on-ground local supervisor keeps us updated with GPS-tracked pictures and monthly reports. We also support a pre-school in Sundarbans and are planning to hold health camps for these women in the future," said Dey.

ran into acute debts to run the family. Last year, I started farming crops on my land, and I received seeds and some monetary help from the organisation in Kolkata. I am planning to expand my paddy cultivation and will look for help from the organisation."

In 2010, Anima Mondal's husband was fishing with some villagers when he was almost mauled by a tiger. Now she is growing vegetables and fruits, including potatoes, ginger, and arum. "When I lost my husband, my three children were young, and I

Rotary Values

From Rotary International

Rotary projects around the globe
October 2025
By Brad Webber

Rotary members and their partners in service come together each World Polio Day on 24 October to recognize progress in the fight to end the disease. Here is a sample of the ways members are taking action to make history and eradicate polio.

United States

In support of polio eradication, Ralph Zuke has raised more than \$57,000 by pedalling his rickshaw bicycle from his Missouri home to recent Rotary International Conventions in North America: Toronto in 2018, Houston in 2022, and Calgary this year, a journey in which he braved hail, sleet, and snow, and even skirted a tornado. His next opportunity will be at the 2028 convention in Minneapolis. "If it's needed," Zuke adds, optimistically, "I hope we'll be done with polio by then." As governor of District 6060, Zuke rolls out the rickshaw for parades and on his rounds to clubs. "It allows me to tell my passengers about polio, Rotary, and what Rotary has done for polio. It's a captive audience for a couple minutes. That's all they need," says Zuke. "If they donate, that's great. If they don't, that's fine too, but at least they know the story of what Rotary's done with polio."

Canada

The annual Pub N Paint event by the Rotary Club of Edmonton Whyte Avenue raises money each November to fight polio. The Alberta club's regular meeting venue, the Rooster Kitchen, hosts the event. "I do a little spiel about the state of polio and Rotary's role in eradication," says Stan Bissell, a past president of the club who inaugurated the project. It's not unusual for visitors to remark how little they know about polio, he says. "We talk about it so much in Rotary, but people don't know and think it's a disease of the past." After his presentation, an art teacher distributes blank canvases and brushes, guiding Rotarians and guests in replicating landscapes such as Edmonton's cityscape and a mountain range. "There are some very talented people" among the club's members, reports Bissell. "But it's variable — mine is in the garage."

Italy

There may be no better way to spotlight (literally!) polio awareness than through the can't-miss illuminations of global landmarks. Those monuments have included the Sydney Opera House, London's Houses of Parliament, Rome's Colosseum, the Egyptian pyramids, Scottish castles, and more. For World Polio Day 2024, the Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the Pisa area teamed up with community leaders to turn the floodlights on the Leaning Tower of Pisa. "This is a commitment that we wanted to share together precisely to reach a wider audience," the club presidents noted in a statement. They've showcased historic buildings for about 25 years and the city's signature tower over the past five. The clubs also had a video about polio eradication shown on monitors at the Pisa Airport.

Ghana

In the port city of Tema, more than 300 Rotarians, Rotaractors, and partners stepped out in October 2024 for a twilight World Polio Day walk. A campaign surrounding the action included a "polio tower" lighted for the occasion, signage, and a sea of End Polio Now T-shirts donned by participants. The Rotary Club of Tema-Community 25 led the effort, which was supported by the Rotary clubs of Tema and Tema Meridian, as well as the Ghana PolioPlus Committee. The involvement of 25 Rotaract and Interact clubs contributed to the sizable turnout, says club member Elizabeth Ahiagba. "Participants distributed educational materials, engaged commuters and residents, and advocated for vigilance, particularly among families with young children," Ahiagba says.

India

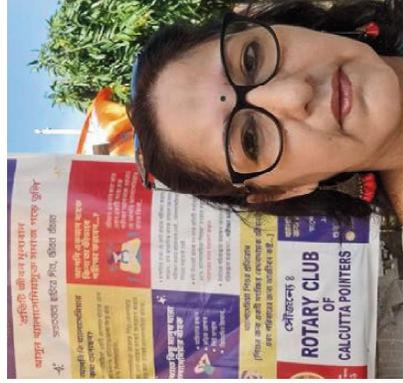
For World Polio Day 2024, more than 1,200 young people hoisted placards as they lined up in formation to spell out "Polio Free Bharat" (India) when viewed from above. Students performed traditional dances and skits during a program at the community sports complex of Dwarka, a neighborhood of New Delhi. The day concluded with a spirited rally. "There was a huge response from the public and youths, including members of Rotaract and Interact clubs," says Mahesh Trikhia, then governor of District 301. The district has sponsored similar gatherings for about a decade.

Monthly Projects

Thalassemia Awareness during Durga Puja

Project Date: 28th September to 2nd October 2025

Under the leadership of the newly inducted District Governor Rtn Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, the District has pledged to intensify its fight against one of India's most silent yet devastating genetic disorders—thalassemia. RCCP put up banners in Salt Lake and South Kolkata from 28th September to 2nd October 2025, the days of Durga Puja, to spread awareness about Thalassemia. The project that cost Rs 2000 and took 10 hours to complete, was attended by Rtn Nabanita Khan, Rtn Gargee Dutta, Rtn Soumya Priya Mukherjee, Rtn Sanjukta Majumdar and Rtn Subrata Chatterjee.



Sundarbans Tiger Widows Project Year 3

Project Date: 1st October, 2025

On 20 Aug 2023, RCCP in partnership with PEHS, organised a workshop aiming to start a Long-term Economic Welfare Project for Tiger Widows and other financially disadvantaged women. Around 20 women and a few men were invited by PEHS to help RCCP members understand their plight and economic situation. The data collected was used to design personalized plan for these beneficiaries, with the help of NGO Tagore Society for Rural Development that works extensively in Sundarbans.

In Year 3, Sundarbans Tiger Widows Project started on 1st October 2025, and the same process continued. The beneficiaries are 18 now (reduced due to two deaths). Things provided were -potato seed, paddy seed, fertilizer for paddy crops. The fruit and vegetable plants potted in Yr1 & Yr:2 are thriving. The project that cost Rs 80000, took 18 hours to complete, benefitted 18 persons, was led by Rtn Soumya Priya Mukherjee. He was assisted by Rtn Gargee Dutta, Rtn Arunava Dasgupta and Rtn Subrata Chatterjee.



Monthly Projects

Thalassemia Awareness Camp at Kalighat

Project Date: 16th October, 2025.

Under the leadership of newly inducted District Governor Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, RCCP has been holding thalassemia awareness workshops for students and sections of society where knowledge about the disease could be low. RCCP had earlier worked with Diksha, a noted NGO of Kolkata, on various projects. RCCP with the support of Diksha organised a Thalassemia awareness camp on 16th October 2025 at Kalighat for women coming from red-light area and other marginalised segments.

Rtn Dr. Kaushik Sill from RCCP addressed about 50 over two consecutive sessions. The project that benefitted 50 women and children, took 3 hours to complete, was led by Rtn Madhumita Chatterjee. She was assisted by Rtn Nabanita Khan, Rtn Sachindra Rao, Rtn Sanjukta Majumdar, Rtn Sarbari Ghose, Rtn Sutapa Roy, Mahua Sengupta, spouse of Rtn Utpal Pal, was present.



Breast Cancer Awareness Session at Mallickpur

Project Date: 16th October, 2025.

In 2025, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in India, with an estimated 232,832 new cases expected. The disease is affecting younger women more frequently, with 15-20% of patients in some studies being under 40 and is often diagnosed at a later stage in India compared to Western countries due to a lack of widespread screening programs. RCCP organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Camp at Mallickpur Dishari Sewing Centre.

Dr. Indrani Mukherji (Ghosh) is a leading Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon working across Great Western Hospital, Swindon and the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.



Monthly Projects

On 16th October 2025, RCCP organised a Breast Cancer Awareness session at the Dishari Sewing School in Mallickpur, South 24 Parganas, that RCCP jointly runs with Awareness Foundation for Environment and Skill Development. The students of the school and other women from Mallickpur and nearby villages were asked to join the camp and learn about symptoms for early detection through self-examination.

Dr Mukherji is a passionate educator who addressed 80 women. She demonstrated self-examination on a mannequin for better understanding of the attendees. It was a very interactive session with lots of questions, comments and open discussions. The attendees were unanimous in their appreciation of the session and acknowledged that they found it very useful.

The project that benefitted 80 women, cost Rs 6000 and took 18 hours to complete, was led by Rtn Nabanita Khan. She was assisted by Rtn Utpal Pal, Rtn Madhumita Chatterjee, Rtn Arunava Dasgupta, Rtn Sachindra Rao, Rtn Sarbari Chose, Rtn Soumya Priya Mukherjee, Mahua Sengupta and Sasanka Chatterjee were also present.



Club of Calcutta



FOSET- Forum of Scientists, Engineers & Technologists

Project Date: 28th October 2025

RCCP has been working with FOSET for the last 3 years. Situated in Madarat in South 24 Parganas, its main drive was to make local women economically self-dependent by making pickles, nectars, bori and spices. These products were sold in the local market.

In an earlier visit, RCCP had advised them to reduce the usage of plastic package and preservatives. The use of glass bottles and jars was also becoming impractical for transporting and selling. Moreover, the packaging process was fully manual and time-consuming, affecting productivity.

To address these issues RCCP supported FOSET by providing modern machines for hygienic packaging. The machines would also improve their productivity and boost up sales, thus generating more income for these self-help group. This endeavour will lead to long-term sustainable impact in the operation of this unit.

On 28th October 2025, these machines were inaugurated in the presence of RCCP members. The project that cost Rs 46400, benefits 100, and took 18 hours to complete, was led by Rtn Sanjukta Majumdar and Rtn Madhumita Chatterjee. They were assisted by Rtn Nabanita Khan, Rtn Sarbari Chose, Rtn Arunava Dasgupta and Rtn Sachindra Rao.

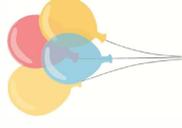


HAPPY Birthday

Birthdays

Rtn Satyajit Srimani
3rd October

Rtn Arunava Dasgupta
18th October



Heartfelt Thanks to our Donors

Rtn Aniruddha Bhattacharya (family & friends)
Sudip Dasgupta (ext)
Rtn Arunava Dasgupta
Rtn Angshuman Basu
Vidyashakti Foundation (ext)
Satyajit & Tuli Dasgupta (ext)
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Upcoming Projects

1. Thalassemia awareness camp at Garden High School
2. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in Bankura
3. Pranadhara IV -Water purifier project
4. Chhondo 3



SCAN TO DONATE

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