



MAHANAGAR Magic

February is Peace & Conflict Prevention Month

RI President - Stephanie A Urchick
District Governor - AKS Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

President - Pramila Dugar
Secretary - Sandeep Bagrecha

Editor - Anuradha Agarwal
rccmanuradha@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

Rotary is not just about service; it is about the bonds we build, the impact we create, and the legacy we leave behind. As I look back on this incredible journey, my heart swells with immense gratitude for each of you. Your unwavering support, dedication, and passion make our club a true beacon of hope and change.

February was nothing short of spectacular! Our last RWM was an inspiring session where we heard the remarkable journeys of some of our members—true jewels of our club. Our visit to the Jalaram Vocational Centre was deeply fulfilling, reaffirming the power of our collective efforts. The visit to Vivekananda School with an international delegation of 25 members from across the world was a wonderful exchange of ideas and goodwill.

One of the most memorable moments was our historic RWM at the Botanical Garden, where the majestic Banyan tree and the serene Ganga River stood witness to Rotary and its work. Walking the nature trail together was an experience beyond words, and the meeting itself was truly extraordinary—one where we built relationships that would last a lifetime. A particularly touching moment was when Nancy Barbee tied a rakhi on the wrist of our esteemed member Shekhar Mehta, symbolizing the deep connections we create through Rotary.

The LBC concert, where cancer survivor children performed, was profoundly moving, reminding us of the resilience and spirit of life. And then came the Buddy Marathon, an event that brought our entire club together like a divine force. It was not just a race; it was a testament to what we can achieve when we unite with purpose. The way each of you contributed, participated, and uplifted the event made it a true success. My heart is filled with gratitude for this incredible family we have built.

As I reflect on this fabulous February, I am humbled and inspired. But our journey doesn't stop here! With the same passion and commitment, we now look forward to the Gift Bazaar for underprivileged children at Star Welfare Society and the opening of a new Vocational Centre in Rajarhat. These are just the next steps in our larger mission.

As we welcome Holi, the festival of colours and joy, may it bring happiness, harmony, and togetherness to our Rotary family. Just as every colour has its beauty, each of us brings something unique to this family, making it vibrant and full of life. May this festival remind us to spread kindness, embrace diversity, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and service.

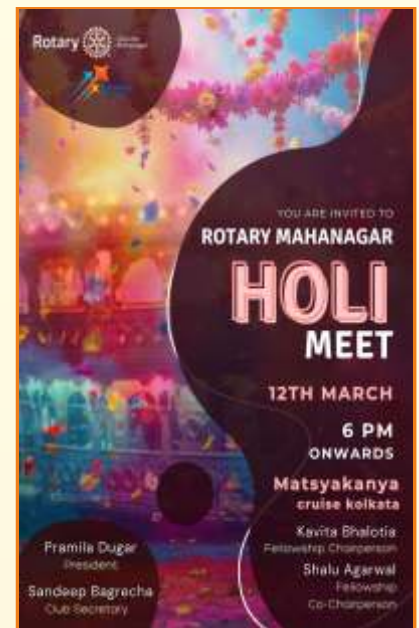
Wishing you all a Happy and Colorful Holi!

With deep gratitude and warm wishes,

Pramila Dugar

President, Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar

UPCOMING EVENTS



LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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PROJECTS



Annadan Mahadan



On February 7th, Aparna Biyani led the Annadaan initiative near Shambhunath Hospital, providing meals to 400 needy individuals.



Netralaya



Between 6th February and 24th February, H.C. Garg Rotary Netralaya successfully conducted 229 eye surgeries, providing critical vision-restoring procedures to numerous patients. The breakdown of the surgeries is as follows:

- 5 Paid SICS (Small Incision Cataract Surgery)
- 7 Phacoemulsification Surgeries
- 201 Free SICS
- 16 NPCB (National Programme for Control of Blindness) Surgeries

Report on Howrah Eye Camp

As part of its outreach efforts, H.C. Garg Rotary Netralaya organized the Howrah Eye Camp, where 178 patients received essential eye care services. The key outcomes of the camp included:

- 28 patients diagnosed with cataracts and advised for further surgical intervention.
- 105 patients were provided with spectacles, significantly improving their vision and daily quality of life.

Also eye camp at Habra district by our Netralay team.



Homeopathy



At homoeopathy clinic, an eye camp was conducted on 13th of February, during which 12 patients were treated, on 20th of February, 15 patients were treated and on 27th February 10 patients were treated. Also on 18th of February (Eye camp at Homeopathic clinic) spectacles were provided to 18 male & 12 female, total 30 & operations cases 5 out of 35 total patients checked.



Bloodline



During 13.02.2025 to 23.02.2025, our Club organized four Blood Grouping Camps and registered 140 SOS donors for our Bloodline.

- 16th Feb – Camp at Hatiyara Subhas Pally, 25 donors registered.
- 19th Feb – Camp at R. K. Sen Lane, 35 donors registered.
- 21st Feb – Camp at Fleming College, Baruipur, 45 donors registered.
- 23rd Feb – Camp at Habra, 35 donors registered.

Additionally, we met the blood requirements of four patients during this period.



Vocational Centre



Regular computer classes being held at Star Welfare Society. Also tailoring training examination programme at Vivekanand School Kulthali.



GST



On 18th February, under Project GST, Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar collaborated with three inspiring lady Rotarians on a road trip from Chennai to Nepal to promote environmental conservation. As part of the initiative, 500 plants were distributed to students of Adarsh Hindi School, fostering awareness about sustainability among young minds.

The event was graced by a visiting guest from the Meraki Club, Chennai. It was led by Chairman Sanjay Dugar, with active participation from Vice Chairman Pankaj Maloo, Rtn. Pradeep Agrawal, Manju Agrawal, Rtn. Usha Agarwal, and Club Secretary Sandeep Bagrecha. A special highlight was the thoughtful gesture of PRIP Shekhar Rashi Mehta, who marked his 41st anniversary by planting 41 trees. The initiative was met with enthusiasm and reinforced the importance of environmental responsibility.



Happy School

Redoing the school kitchen garden for summer vegetables at south calcutta school.

Vegetables plucked from kitchen garden of south calcutta school and now being transferred to kitchen for midday meal.



Food Bank



Chocolates from food bank are being distributed among kids at Shikharpore.



41 ration kits sponsored by Protiviti distributed to needy people at our vocational center star welfare society.



Report on Rotary International's 120th Anniversary Service Initiative : To commemorate the 120th anniversary of Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Calcutta Charnock City, organized a meaningful service initiative at Rainbow Homes, Loreto Convent, Entally, on February 23, 2025. The event focused on healthcare and well-being for underprivileged children, addressing critical health concerns through anemia screening, a tuberculosis awareness session, and a general hygiene education program. Blood tests were conducted to identify cases of anemia, while an informative talk on tuberculosis helped educate the children about its symptoms and preventive measures.

Additionally, a session on personal hygiene emphasized the importance of cleanliness in preventing diseases. To add a touch of warmth and care, biscuits from our food bank were distributed, bringing smiles to the children's faces. The initiative had a significant impact, ensuring early health screenings, spreading awareness, and promoting healthier habits among the children.

The event was a resounding success, exemplifying Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self" and reinforcing the power of collaboration in creating meaningful change.



Strengthening Bonds and Making an Impact



The Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar recently had the privilege of hosting an esteemed American delegation of 23 members from the United States, led by PDG Nancy Barbee, over two full days. This series of events led under the chairmanship of Rtn Pradeep Agrawal, not only reinforced our commitment to service but also strengthened international ties.

- Visit to Rotary Vivekananda School

On February 8th, the U.S. delegation, accompanied by our club members, visited the Rotary Vivekananda School, located about 50 kilometers from the city center. They were delighted to witness the impressive progress of students from underprivileged backgrounds. Each member of the delegation interacted with the children, distributed goodies, and captured joyful moments on camera. The visit, which included our PRIP Shekhar Mehta and his spouse Rashi Mehta, PP Manish Biyani and his spouse Aparna Biyani, President Pramila Dugar and her spouse PP Sanjay Dugar, Rtn Pradeep Agrawal with his spouse Manju Agrawal, Rtn Mahendra Singhal, and Rtn Sweta Choudhary, reaffirmed our dedication to empowering young minds through enhanced educational opportunities and global collaboration.

- Visit to Mahanagar Tridhara Dialysis Centre

On the morning of February 9th, PDG Nancy Barbee led a visit to the Tridhara Dialysis Centre. The delegation appreciated the excellent infrastructure and the high-quality, affordable services provided to patients. They were joined by PRIP Shekhar Mehta, Rtn Pradeep Agrawal with his spouse Manju Agrawal, and Rtn Sweta Choudhary.

- Visit to Rabindranath Tagore Hospital

The delegation then proceeded to Rabindranath Tagore Hospital, where they met three young patients who had undergone heart surgeries under our club's flagship project, Healing Little Hearts. In addition to the children, the delegation met with the patients' parents and expressed their appreciation for the compassionate care provided by the club.

- Special Rotary Meeting & Picnic at the Botanical Garden

A unique Rotary meeting was held amid the serene beauty of the Botanical Garden, blending nature, camaraderie, and international fellowship. The presence of 23 U.S. Rotarians made the occasion even more meaningful. A particularly touching highlight was when Nancy Barbee tied a rakhi to PRIP Shekhar Mehta, symbolizing a new dimension in the Indo-U.S. Rotary friendship. The exchange of flags among members from different countries further showcased our collective commitment to global unity. The event was enriched with engaging conversations, shared laughter, and a delightful feast.

- Service Beyond Borders

Furthering our humanitarian efforts, the team visited Mother Teresa's House and then embarked on an important initiative for the Polio Project in the slums. These visits underscored our ongoing mission to serve communities in need and create a lasting impact.

With every event, our Rotary family grows stronger—fostering lasting friendships and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

~By Sweta Choudhury and Shalini Surana



BUDDY MARATHON'25



Buddy Marathon, a unique event for specially abled children was organized by Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, Unmish Learning Centre and Kolkata Police Sergeant's Institute and Police Athletic Club on Sunday, 16th February.

The event was flagged off by Commissioner of Police, Kolkata Sri Manoj Kumar Verma. The marathon was attended by more than 350 specially abled children who showed tremendous grit, motivation and ran spiritedly to either half marathon of 1 ½ k.m. or full marathon of 3 k.m.

The event started from Police Athletic Club and went upto Vijay Dwar via Red Road and finished at the Police Athletic Club. This unique inspiring marathon for specially abled individuals with their buddies was organized by Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar known for its tremendous humanitarian service in the fields of health, literacy, disaster management etc and Unmish Learning Centre, a centre for specially abled children and by Kolkata Police.

The event was also attended by Past Rotary International President Mr Shekhar Mehta, District Governor of Rotary District 3291 Dr Krishnendu Gupta, President of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar Smt Pramila Dugar, Director of Unmish Smt Nita Diwan and General Secretary of Kolkata Police Sergeants' Institute Sri Kusum Kumar Dwivedi.

This Buddy Marathon attended by more than a thousand people was a celebration of determination, resilience, and unity, bringing together people from all walks of life to promote a more inclusive society. The event highlighted the spirit of togetherness, emphasizing that ability knows no bounds.

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কলকাতা



আরোথবর

তিলোত্তমা

বিশেষভাবে সক্ষমদের নিয়ে ছকড়া
হাফ-ম্যারাথন কলকাতা পুলিশের



আজকাল



বিশেষ ভাবে সক্ষমদের ম্যারাথন। পুলিশ আয়োজিত
ক্রসের উপলক্ষে। রবিবার। ছবি: অঙ্গন মুখার্জি

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কলকাতা, সপ্তম ১৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫

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LBC



Life Beyond Cancer (LBC) is dedicated to the survival and well-being of paediatric cancer patients. Our motto is simple: ***"No child should die of cancer."***

Launched in 2021-2022 by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar and the Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur, Project LBC has now entered its 5th year. This year, like every year, our fundraising concert for Project LBC was held with great enthusiasm on February 15th at Rabindra Sadan.

Thanks to the tireless efforts and coordination of our brand ambassador, the renowned Ms. Rituparna Sengupta, this event featured spectacular performances and was attended by a large number of people. Among the special guests were PRIP Rtn. Shekhar Mehta, DG Rtn. Krishnendu Gupta and Debasis Kumar MMIC, MLA

The troupe of Armaan Rashid Khan mesmerized the audience with their melodious recitations, while famous singer Anik Dhar captured hearts with his soulful songs. The dance recital by Rituparna Sengupta herself, along with her group, was one of the major attractions of the evening. Debolina Dutta also delivered a flawless performance, showing her support for this noble cause.

A particularly touching moment of the evening was the performance by LBC's cancer survivor children. Their strength and determination proved that with faith, anything is possible. It was an incredibly refreshing and emotional evening for everyone present.

As of now, Project LBC has reached out to over 550 cancer-affected children, making a significant difference in their lives through the support of 11 partner hospitals.

Currently, we are actively serving paediatric cancer patients in nine hospitals in Kolkata, one in Mumbai, and one in Silchar, making a deep and lasting impact:

1. Institute of Child Health
2. Kolkata Police Hospital
3. Netaji Subhas Chandra Research Institute
4. Nil Ratan Sarkar Hospital
5. Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute
6. SSKM Hospital
7. Tata Medical Centre
8. Medica Specialty Hospital
9. Calcutta Medical College
10. Wadia Hospital, Mumbai
11. Cachar Cancer Care and Research Centre, Silchar

What We Do

Financial Support for Treatment:

We understand that many underprivileged families hesitate to begin treatment due to financial assistance for the initial treatment phase through a crowdfunding corpus fund. This ensures that no child is denied treatment. Additionally, we guide families in accessing government support through initiatives like the Chief Minister's and Prime Minister's funds. Our dedicated team maintains continuous communication and records to keep families engaged throughout the treatment process.

Post-Discharge Support:

We recognize that a lack of awareness and social stigma often lead to the abandonment of treatment after hospital discharge. This tragic situation can result in fatal outcomes, even though timely treatment offers a high chance of recovery. LBC takes a proactive approach by monitoring and assisting patients post-discharge to prevent relapse, which can be as high as 38% in our region.

We also extend financial assistance for diagnostic tests and out-of-hospital expenses, disbursing funds directly to diagnostic laboratories or hospitals. As of December 2024, we have supported more than 550 children battling cancer.

Furthermore, we have dedicated resources to supporting the well-being of cancer survivors through educational, psychological, vocational counseling, and material assistance.



Our Vision

Our vision is to reach as many cancer-affected children as possible, make a meaningful difference in their lives, and ensure they experience a "Life Beyond Cancer."

We are deeply grateful to our generous friends at Mahanagar, whose unwavering support continues to provide life-changing treatment for these children. Their sponsorship is a testament to the power of community, love, and kindness.

As we continue our journey, we seek the same love and support from all of you in the days to come, because, as we believe:

NO CHILD SHOULD DIE OF CANCER.

~By Rtn Ashok Agarwal

MINUTES OF THE 1388TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MAHANAGAR HELD ON SUNDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT BOTANICAL GARDEN, SHIBPUR, HOWRAH

1. The meeting was called to order by our President Pramila Dugar.
2. All the Members of the club and the team of American delegates were welcomed and the national anthem was sung.
3. The meeting began with a welcome address introducing the US delegation, emphasizing the purpose of fostering international relations and raising environmental awareness.
4. The interaction with the US delegation followed with exchange of flags and ideas on potential collaborations on future projects explored.
5. The meeting was adjourned by the President.

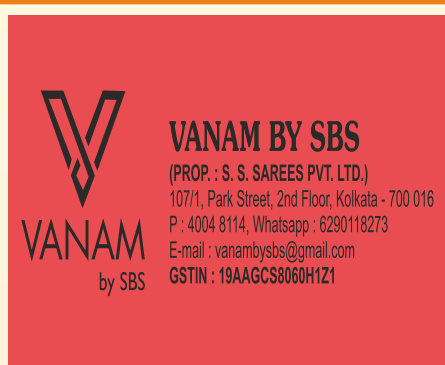


Rtn. Sandeep Soni



Bhandari Automobile Pvt .Ltd
23, Chetla Central Road
Kolkata-700027
www.nexaexperience.com

Rtn. Sanjay Bhandari



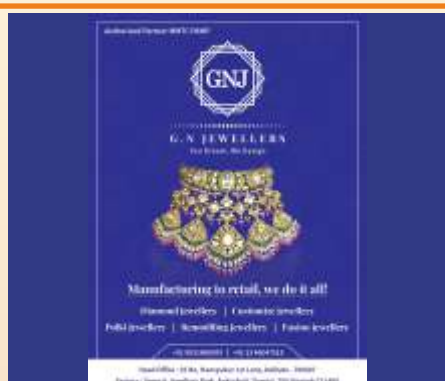
Rtn. Mahinder Singhal



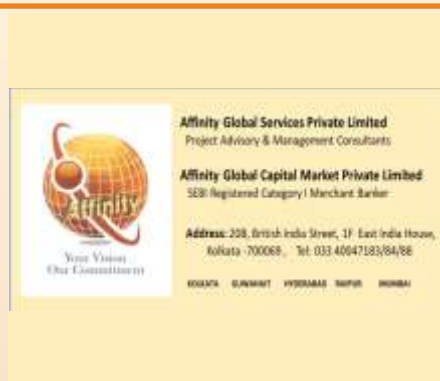
Rtn. Sandeep & Pooja Bagrecha



Rtn. Saurabh Agarwal



Rtn. Girish Soni



Rtn. Sanjay Bholotia



Rtn. Surendra Agarwal