



**PARTHA S BARMAN**

PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you well. First and foremost, my warmest wishes to all our members. I am delighted to share that Tolly continues to thrive, and we remain committed to enhancing your experience at the Club. The past five months have been an exciting time, with positive developments across multiple fronts. While staying true to our ethos, we have undertaken essential projects such as the restoration and extension of the Outdoor Swimming Pool and the upgradation of the AC Auditorium-enhancements that have made Tolly an even more enjoyable space for all.

Building on this momentum, we have successfully completed several key infrastructure projects. The renovation of **Tolly Terrace (Northern Side)** has provided **upgraded** rooms, while the **Grandstand Cottage** has been given a **facelift** with **soundproof windows**. Four **clay Tennis Courts** have been **refurbished** to enhance play quality, and the Golf Cart path has been improved for smoother access. Other significant upgrades include the **waterproofing** of the **laundry roof**, an extended **South Indian and juice counter**, renovation of the **Moorum Road** near the Dressage Arena, a **new walkway** from the **car park** to the **AC Auditorium** for a much-needed shorter and safer approach, and a **ramp at the Ladies' Changing Room** entrance for better accessibility. Additionally, a **new drainage** line at the **North Staff Quarters**, the introduction of **Pickleball Courts**, improved rainwater drainage, and an upgraded **walkway** from the **main gate** to the **island** have strengthened our facilities. We have also invested in new furniture to enhance comfort across club spaces and upgraded golf course equipment, including ball pickers, filtration and irrigation pumps, **golf carts** (6 procured and 4 on the way), green and **rough mowers**, a battery-operated motorcycle, **telescopic pruning machines**, and a utility e-cart. The laundry services have been modernized with a new steam generator.

Several projects are currently underway, including the renovation of the West Staff Quarters, the upgradation of Tolly Terrace lifts, improvements to the **Grandstand Walkway** and Party Kitchen food preparation area, and the establishment of a Medical Room (**Tolly Recovery Clinic**). Looking ahead, we are preparing for some exciting developments. The much-loved **18th Shamiana**, in urgent need of **renovation**, will undergo essential repairs while preserving its architectural charm. This work is scheduled to commence in April 2025 and conclude by mid-June, during which a temporary Shamiana will be set up on the Main Lawns for member



convenience. Additionally, we are in the advanced stages of obtaining approval from the Heritage Conservation Committee for the construction of a **Badminton Court** and are actively considering the long-standing request for a **lift** in the **Admin Block**. We also intend to take up **renovation** of the **Men's Changing Room** in course of time.

On the **sporting front**, Tollygunge Club continues to shine. Over the past few months, we hosted 42 golf tournaments, including the Tolly Senior Open, PGTI, and the IICP Hope Cup. Our golf team achieved a remarkable feat by securing the Triangular Cup (FEWPTA-RCGC-Tolly) three out of four times! Cricket legend Kapil Dev was seen enjoying a round on the Tolly greens during the PGTI tournament. Members also had the unique opportunity to engage in an interactive evening with him, making it a truly special occasion.

The annual **Tolly Horse Show** was a grand affair, featuring 150 riders from our club, the Fort William Riding and Polo Institute, the West Bengal and Kolkata Mounted Police, and the Champions Ranch. In cue sports, Tolly was proud to host the **West Bengal State Championship**, where our very own **Mudit Poddar** clinched the title. **Pickleball**, introduced in November, has been met with great enthusiasm, with our team making an impressive semi-final run in its first inter-club participation at the BRC Interclub Sports Carnival. Our **squash circuit** is also strengthening, with a newly introduced coaching program. The Gym's Kick Boxing classes have been well received and we intend to commence more interesting fitness options.

**Tolly Fest 2025** was a resounding success, delivering ten electrifying days of competition, culture, and camaraderie from January 10 to 19. This fourth edition saw eight teams battle across 18 disciplines, including the newly introduced **pickleball** event. The Pantiles Pirates emerged victorious in a festival packed with standout performances-**Siddhanth Sharma** and his band kicked off the celebrations, **Anuvab Pal** had everyone in stitches, **DJ Girish** kept the party alive, and **Hum Sufi** enchanted the audience. The grand finale featured a powerhouse performance by the **Delhi Indie Project**, with **Subir Malik (Parikrama)**, **Girish Pradhan (Girish and the Chronicles)**, and **Rahul Ram (Indian Ocean)** delivering a night to remember.

On the **environmental front**, Tolly's commitment to sustainability remains unwavering. The **Golden Jackal Census** recorded 84 jackals in September 2024, reaffirming our role as



stewards of this unique ecosystem. Additionally, we harvested over **500 kgs of compost** from kitchen waste in collaboration with **Garbage Free India**, furthering our green initiatives.

Our **IT Systems** have also been upgraded for member convenience. We have integrated the **JIO Payment Gateway**, introduced sports booking for **pickleball** in the Tolly App, launched a **digital golf leaderboard** with QR code-based e-card functionality, and added **Tolly Fest automation**. Guests can now enjoy the **Tolly TV Android App** in their rooms, and we have captured breathtaking **drone footage of all 18 golf holes**. Exciting developments in the coming months include a **new Tolly website**, **digital golf score submission**, and **pin position tracking** for an enhanced golfing experience.

On the **entertainment front**, Tolly continued to pulsate with energy. The **Bijaya Sammilani** celebrated the festive spirit of Pujo and Diwali, while **Live @ Pantiles** kept members enthralled with performances including a top-notch **jazz band** and a classic rock act from Dehradun – **Chick n Roll**. **Tolly's Talents** showcased our children's brilliance, and the **Eastern Naval Command Band** once again stirred patriotic and musical emotions. **Down Memory Lane** brought Bollywood retro classics to life with Surojit Guha along with his co-singers crooning classic and popular Bangla and Hindi songs; the **Jugal Bandi Sandhya** featured maestros **Parthasarathi Bose, Pt Mysore Manjunath, Ustad Sabir Khan and Vidwan S. Sekhar in a mesmerizing Uttar-Daskshin** dialogue, followed by a spellbinding duet rendition by the **Mishra brothers**.

Notable theatrical performances included **Lushin Dubey's** riveting one-woman play *Aruna's Story* and **Keshav Roy's** solo act on **Mark Twain**. **Saunak Chattopadhyay** paid a heartfelt tribute to **Md. Rafi and Madan Mohan** in *Aasmaan Se Aaya Farishta*.

The **Library Committee** engaged members with discussions featuring **Dr. Julie Banerjee Mehta, Dr. Harish C. Mehta, and Rajdeep Sardesai**, while the **Film Fanatics' Movie Magic** series continued to celebrate cinematic brilliance. It is also elating to note that Tolly Quizzers continue to dominate the Quizzing Realm.

The **Christmas Season** was a grand affair, beginning with **Christmas Carols** by our delightful Tolly children, followed by the **Children's Xmas Party** on the lawns. **DJ**



**Notorious (Mumbai)** and **DJ Happy (Kolkata)** rocked the crowd on **Christmas Eve**, while the **Christmas Lunch** with a live performance by **Blue Mist** brought members together in holiday cheer. **New Year's Eve** was a showstopper, with **King's Code (Delhi)** and **DJ Sheikh** keeping the dance floor alive till dawn.

On **Republic Day**, we hoisted the flag at the union office, followed by a **captivating presentation** on the 1971 **Liberation of Bangladesh War**, curated by **Peninsula Studios** and featuring veteran military officers.

The **Annual Ruhaniyat** festival in early February was a soul-stirring experience, followed by **Bikram Ghosh & Taufiq Qureshi's** breathtaking **Ramta**. The **Beatles Valentine** that featured the band 1972, some interesting Beatles quiz and an inspired menu and cocktail list, was an unqualified success. The **Romani Violon Tzigane**, a stunning ensemble of gypsy violin music, was presented in collaboration with **Alliance Française**. **Srikanto Acharya & Srijato's** "**Dui Bondhu Ek Shondhe**" blended music and poetry into an unforgettable evening.

This year's **International Women's Day** was celebrated with unprecedented enthusiasm, featuring lively stalls, a special staff felicitation, mesmerizing dance performances, and enchanting musical acts. The **Basanta Utsav**, curated by our **Entertainment Committee**, was a vibrant evening of dance and joy.

As always, I extend my deepest gratitude to our members, committee members, and club staff for their unwavering support and enthusiasm. It is your dedication that makes Tollygunge Club the vibrant and cherished institution that it is. We look forward to your continued participation and support in the exciting times ahead.

Warm regards,

*A. S. Butcher*