

Rotary
District 3291



SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

GML

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER - 1st JULY 2021





SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS OF EQUAL VALUE is District Governor Prabir Chatterjee's mantra and his life, energy, time and even the people he surrounds himself with is guided by this premise. If humanitarianism can be called a sport, Prabir is the master of it. He has displayed the passion and fervour in everything he has done in Rotary since becoming a member in the year 1999. He is a member of Rotary Calcutta Majestic.

Born to the famous Chatterjee family, he has always known the importance of using ones' privileges to help society. This alumnus of St. Xaviers College went on to become a first-generation entrepreneur after completing his BSc. followed by Diploma in Electronics & Video Technology. Through his work he wanted to create a positive impact on people's lives and founded TEEVEETRONICS POLYTECHNIC PVT. LTD. in 1984. His company has helped millions progress in their lives through Vocational Skill Development, Training & Computer Management. It is also the leading franchisee of WEBEL (A Govt. Of West Bengal undertaking), since 1991 with several Computer sales, service and training centres all over West Bengal. Between 1986 and 1997 he was associated with TATA STEEL, developing and conducting several training programs in Dhanbad, Jamshedpur and West Bokaro.

Prabir has held various positions in District 3291 after completing his tenure as President in 2007-08. He is a Rotary Leadership Institute faculty member since 2015 and a recipient of the "Vocational Service Leadership Award" from Rotary International in 2014. Through his immaculate leadership skills he believes in building a better community one step at a time, along with his Rotary Family.

He is a member of various organizations - Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BNCCI), Public Relations Society of India (PRSI - Kolkata Chapter), Dakshin Kalikata Sansad (DKS) Club, Calcutta International Club, Indian Life Saving Society (ILSS), Calcutta Sports Association (CSA), AAEI, Calcutta Film Society, Photographic Association of Bengal and KALABHRIT - a leading organization for Cultural & Sports activities.

Amidst all this, Prabir still makes time for his passion as a travel photographer and avid thrill seeker. In 2016 he drove from Kolkata to Jaisalmer and covered a total distance of 5,219 Kms.

His Spouse Rubena is a professional Dancer and currently the Senior School Co-curricular Coordinator at Sushila Birla Girls' School, Kolkata. She is a member of Rotary Calcutta Majestic since 2012. Their daughter Kathakali has completed her Masters in 'Public Relations & Event Management' from AMITY University, Noida in 2020 and is presently engaged with a reputed PR Agency in New-Delhi.





My dear Change Makers,

My daughter Kathakali and wife Rubena join me to thank each one of you for your support & cooperation since I got elected in 2019. It is needless to mention that during 2021-22, we will be proud to be Rotarians of District 3291 as our own Shekhar Mehta has taken charge as the Rotary International President.

Friends, I got inducted in 1999-2000, and such cannot express my feelings and still wondering how it could have been possible that I have taken the Chair as the District Governor and the then District Governor of 1999-2000 is our World President.

This is the reason we have to be more energetic, more pro-active and above all more positive while Serving to Change Lives. This is the time we should prove our ability to serve, adaptability to change, acceptability to welcome the young generation and above all mentality to unite.

Yes I understand, during this recent pandemic our activities have become restricted but we must prove our best and certainly do wonders in 2021-22.

Once again I express my gratitude to all Past District Governors of District 3291, Immediate Past District Governor, District Governor Elect & District Governor Nominee and request all to kindly be with Team 2021-22. I will be at a loss of words if I want to describe the Change Maker District Trainer & entire Team of 2021-22 including the officers of the individual clubs. I know my job will be easy as we all are dedicated to Serve the Best to Change Lives.

Yours-in-Rotary,
Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor, 2021-22

We present...

SHEKHAR MEHTA –

President of Rotary International - the world leader of 1.2 million Rotarians in 200 countries and geographical areas in the year 2021-2022

Shekhar Mehta is the 4th Indian in 115 years to be nominated as the President of Rotary International. He was born in 1959 in Kolkata. A keen academician, he graduated from St. Xavier's College, and has the unique combination of Masters in Commerce, a qualified Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant and Company Secretary. He heads the Skyline Group engaged in Real Estate Development in different parts of India, including the largest group housing in Rajasthan.

He is member of many professional, cultural and charitable organizations and is a serving trustee of Shelter Box (UK) and Operation Eyesight India (Canada).

Shekhar joined Rotary in 1985 and has been Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee of Rotary International, Rotary India Literacy Mission, Rotary Foundation India, Rotary India Centennial Celebrations and Rotary India Humanity Foundation.

He served as District Governor in 1999-2000 and as a Director of the Board of Rotary International in 2011-2013. While serving as Rotary International Director, he helped add Bhutan & Maldives to the fold of Rotary.

Keenly dedicated to service, Shekhar has led many major service initiatives in India. He initiated construction of 500 homes for Tsunami survivors at Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He started the Shelter Kit program in India which has served about 20 disasters by distributing more than 15,000 Shelter Kits helping about 75,000 disaster victims, He started the Healing Little Hearts program through which more than 2500 heart surgeries have been done for children from across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal & African Countries. He also facilitated for the program to become a National Program. He conceptualized nationwide T-E-A-C-H, a literacy program in India with the Central Government and many State Governments, and reached out to more than 50,000 schools and 15 million children. He has been Instrumental in setting up 15 Eye Hospitals across India performing nearly 50,000 eye operations each year. He started a scholarship program called UDAAN for scholarships to be given to marginalized children over the last 10 years. 1000 such scholarships have been given. Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national call, he has helped set up 6000 rural toilets benefitting 30,000 people.

Shekhar Mehta is a motivational speaker and has spoken at hundreds of events nationally and internationally. With his motivation skills he has helped raise millions of dollars for The Rotary Foundation.

Shekhar.Mehta is a recipient of the highest awards of Rotary International & The Rotary

Foundation, namely Service Above Self Award, Meritorious Service Award, Distinguished Service Award.

As Texas is very close to his heart, the Annual Convention of Rotary International in the year 2022 is scheduled to be held at Houston.

Shekhar Mehta is married to Rashi, a social worker and a stage artist having performed in socially relevant plays across India.

His guiding mantra in life is "Service is the rent that we pay for the space we occupy on this earth".



Dear fellow Rotarians,

We have been through trying times together. We have helped the world cope with uncertainty and adapt to rapid change. Now is the time for us to dream big. It is time for us to take on major challenges, to do more and grow more, and most of all, for us to care for and share with others. This year, we note all the ways that we Serve to Change Lives.

Service is the rent we pay for our time on earth and we will expand Rotary service as we “grow more and do more.” We will grow through “Each One, Bring One.” If every Rotary member could bring just one more person to Rotary, there is no limit to how much we can grow. We will do more by putting a special emphasis on empowering girls, so young women can have improved opportunities worldwide.

We will also feature Rotary Days of Service, so that all members share in our good works around the globe and look for new ways to serve beyond their backyards. It is our attitude that defines service. We all have a great opportunity to lead by example and to inspire each other to participate in projects that have a measured and sustained impact.

The District Board has assumed important responsibilities and I thank them for this hard work. They have made a commitment to help Rotary grow, adapt to the digital future and make Rotary more appealing to younger generations. Your good work will help us serve our communities and help Rotary thrive so we can Serve to Change Lives.

Kindest regards,

Shekhar Mehta

Rotary International President, 2021-22



Dear DG Prabir Chatterjee,

Congratulations on being chosen by your district to be their leader in the year 2021-22. The preceding 12 months have seen unprecedented challenges that have never been experienced before. Rotarians have risen to the challenge and have demonstrated to the world that nothing can keep the service oriented Rotarians down.

Hopefully the worst is behind us. You have the onerous task of elevating the scale and impact of service to the community with your vision and leadership. Let us focus on increasing our membership through 'Each one bring one' model and also through new club models. While

clubs in our districts continue to do serve their community, let us , in the coming year focus a little more on Empowering girls through the service projects that clubs carry out.

It is going to be an exciting year. While I pledge my support to you and to all the Rotarians in your district, I urge you to challenge your own expectations and exceed them. There is no better joy than to feel that we have done better than what we thought could.

My best wishes to you in this journey as you serve to change lives.

Warm regards

A.S. Venkatesh (Venky) – RI Director (2021-2023)

Dear Change maker Governor Prabir da,

Sumita joins me in congratulating Rubena and you for being the First Couple of our RID 3291 in the historic second year of second century of Rotary in India when our own Shekhar Mehta will be taking over as Rotary International President.

I am sure your Change maker Presidents will take up meaningful sustainable projects based on the 7 Areas of Focus and also stress upon three important Verticals namely Public Image, Membership and Foundation.

My Trail Blazer Presidents have risen to the occasion to undertake projects during full year of pandemic. I am sure your Change maker Presidents will hold candle to their predecessors' names under your leadership.

Trail Blazers have blazed the trail by Opening Opportunities and it is up to Change Makers to Serve to Change Lives.

Sudip Mukherjee - Immediate Past District Governor





During 2007-08, when I was acting in the capacity of DS (Admin) for PDG Anirudha Roychowdhury, Prabir was the Club President of RC Calcutta South Extension, and I had the opportunity to closely know him since then. Not only did I find him to be a very dedicated Rotarian and a successful Club President, but our association developed into a treasured friendship. In fact, Prabir along with Rubena and their lovely daughter Kathakali, became close friends of my family. So much so, that on the insistence of Prabir and Rubena, Ballari joined Rotary as a member of his Club.

We always speak of Prabir as Mr. Dependable – whenever there was any crisis, Prabir and Rubena came forward with all manners of assistance. And I am sure that it is not only for me, I don't think he can let down any of his friends. During 2013-14, when I was the DG, Prabir was my obvious choice for DS (Admin), and proved to be my rock-solid support. Day in day out, for anything and everything, he stood by me like my shadow, and displayed the qualities of a fine leader. He is honest to the core, can comfortably interact with people from a variety of backgrounds, and has a ready wit that brightens any situation – a complete package. As DS (Admin), he won the hearts of all Club leaders and Rotarians.

However, it took us almost five years to convince him to accept the role of the DG. I still remember, it was during one of the Team '13-14 lunch meets at our lawn that Ballari launched him as the DG candidate.

I'm absolutely confident that he is going to be one of the most popular and successful Governors of 3291. With his out-of-the-box thinking, and readiness to take up new ventures, Prabir is capable of ushering in innovations in Rotary, and will definitely fly high... 'Where Eagles Dare.'

Ballari joins me in wishing him and Rubena a purposeful & successful year ahead.

With lots of love

Rajani Mukerji – Governor, 2013-14

Thirty years ago in 1991-92, I was the Governor of our Rotary District. The same year Shekhar graced RC Central Calcutta as the President. I met him then for the first time. He had a boyish handsome look with a smile smeared all over his face. His impressive look was enthusing. A tete e tete with him was energising, it encouraged you to take large challenging service projects to meet the needs of a large needy population. This is the reason, probably, why to Shekhar, small is not always beautiful, for it would fail to cover the total need, when it is large.



I recollect one incident of that period: I visited Shekhar at his residence. I do not recollect why I did so, but then that gave me the pleasure to meet his father and opportunity to interact with him. In its course, he mentioned that his expectation from Shekhar is that he would excel in fulfilling Rotary's service motto. We have all witnessed that Shekhar has more than fulfilled his father's expectation. Bravo Shekhar. God Bless! I shall fail if I do not mention about Rashi. Then, she was a small little cutie. She was very hospitable to me. Thank you, Rashi.

Thank you and God Bless

Subimal Bhattacharya – Governor, 1991-92



Dear Prabir,

From “Rotary Shares” to “Serve to Change Lives”, it has been a long journey of 15 years as you rise through from the leadership position of Club President to District Governor of Dist 3291. I am proud that you were President when I was the Governor of the erstwhile District 3290.

What a coincidence that when you are taking the mantle of Governorship of our District – you have the 4th Indian world leader of Rotary International from the same District, Shekhar Mehta.

The year 2021-22 is very significant due to the fact that this is the first time our World President has taken up a cause never ventured before ie to change the “1.2M” to “1.3M” membership. The great stride has been taken with the objective “GROW MORE SERVE MORE”.

I am confident that with your experience in Rotary, you and your team will translate the vision of our world leader by bringing in quality members organically as more hands in service will bring more resources. Thus our Foundation will be able to take up a larger scale of projects which would touch lives of millions and justify the theme of this year Serve to Change Lives.

I wish you all the best in all your endeavours and count me as one of your Comrades in Service.

Anirudha Roychowdhury, Governor, 2007-08

WHERE EAGLES DARE...THE JOURNEY BEGINS ...



PARICHAY (*Know each other*) - Presidents Elect Meet 21 -22 was held at Westin Hotel, Rajarhat on 27th September, 2020. As the name suggests, it was an introduction to the Rotary year 2021-22. It was attended by many Presidents, PDGs and the District team. DGE Prabir highlighted his views and vision for his year as Governor and introduced his District team. The meeting was also attended by RIPE Shekhar Mehta.



Rotary Online Resources Training Workshop Phase 1 was held at Sister Nivedita University Hall (Techno India), New Town, on 12th & 13th December, 2020. Basic Computer training was given to Rotarians so that they can be proficient in uploading data in My Rotary.

Rotary Online Resources Training Workshop Phase 2 was held at Sister Nivedita University Hall (Techno India), New Town, on 23rd January, 2021. The focus was to train the Presidents, Secretaries, Assistant Governors and Zonal Secretaries along with District officials.



TALIM, a program to educate the leaders (PrePETS 21-22) was held on 20-21 February, 2021 at Hotel Sonar Bangla, Kolaghat. It was a two day training program for the Presidents elect and Assistant Governors. The PDGs spoke on various subjects related to Rotary. Zumba was arranged for the Rotarians. It was an educative as well as fun filled session.



AGNI, to spark the passion for service (AG & ZS Training Seminar), was held at Sister Nivedita University Hall (Techno India), 4th April, 2021.

PURNATA – PETS, SETS, TETS combined - was held on 5th & 6th June. The program was moderated by District Trainer, PDG Rajani Mukerji. On the Inaugural Day, Keynote speaker was Shekhar Mehta - Rotary International President Elect. He spoke on “Where Eagles Dare”. Breakaway sessions were held on the second day separately for the - Presidents elect, AGs & ZSs – and – Secretaries and Treasurers elect. The keynote speaker of the day was PDG A. S. Venkatesh – RI Director elect – who spoke on “Your Vision....Your Goal”.



At the inaugural session of **ABHIGYATA** – the District Training Assembly, held on 19th June – RID Kamal Sanghvi spoke on “Each one Bring one”, RIPE Shekhar Mehta deliberated on his theme “Serve to Change Lives” and DGE Prabir Chatterjee gave the call of “We are the Changemakers.”

There were 9 different Breakaway sessions and DGE Prabir was managing all the rooms efficiently and was seen visiting all the rooms time and again.

Presidents elect session was held in the **Nitish Ch Lahirri Room** with **DT Rajani Mukerji** as the session chair. Eminent speakers of the session were **PDG Angshuman Bandypadhyay** (Rotary International Strategic Planning & Club Leadership Plan), **PDG Ravi Sehgal** (Engaging Membership) and **PDG Ramesh Agarwal** from RID 3012 (How to undertake Service Projects). **District Secretary Finance PP Ranjit Ghosh** and **District Treasurer PP Naveen Khandelwal** placed the budget before the house which was unanimously approved and adopted.

Secretaries & Treasurers elect session was held in the **Raja Saboo Room** with **PDG Brojo Gopal Kundu** as the session chair. The speakers for the session were **Mr. Joseph Thomas** from Club and District Support Team of RISA0 (Your Support from Rotary), **Ms. Hema Gupta** from The Rotary Foundation Team of RISA0 (Annual Fund) and **ARC PDG Angshuman Bandopadhyay** (R.I. Strategic Plan & CLP).

Club Administration & Membership session was held in the **Kalyan Banerjee Room** with **District Membership Chair PDG Debashish Mitra** as the session chair. His presentation focused on “Each One Bring One” with a stress on Service Projects, Polio Eradication & Public Image. Eminent speakers of the session were **PDG Raju Rajgaria** (Club Administration), **PDG Siddhartha S Bose** (How to be a Vibrant Club) and **PDG RC Pradeep Mukherjee** from District 3120 (Membership Growth & Retention).

Basic Education & Literacy and Empowering Girls session was held in the **Shekhar Mehta Room** with **PDG Mukul Sinha** as the session chair. He highlighted objectives and importance of Literacy as the Password to Happiness. Eminent speakers of the session were **Ms Jhilm Roy Chowdhury** (programs of TEACH) and **DR Aapga Singh** (empowering girls).

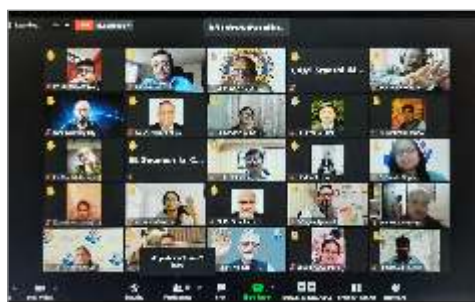
Polio & Public Image session was held in the **Kamal Sanghvi Room** with **PDG Uttam Ganguly** as the session chair. Eminent speakers of the session were **PDG Shyamashree Sen** (Polio last mile challenge – our responsibilities), **PDG Utpal Majumder** (Rotary and CSR) and **PDG Surendra Seth** of RID 3070 (Strengthen Rotary's Public Image).

Community Service Medical & Non medical session was held in the **Dr Bharat Pandya Room** with **PDG Pinaki Prasad Ghosh** as the session chair. Eminent speakers of the session were **AKS Dr Krishnendu Gupta** (Cervical Cancer & Menstrual Hygiene), **Dr Ramendu Homchowdhury** (COVID & Thalassemia) and **PDG Rajiv Sharma** of RID 3030 (non medical Community service).

The Rotary Foundation session was held in the **Dr Mahesh Kotbagi Room** with **DRFC Anirudha Roychowdhury** as the session chair. Eminent speakers of the session were **PDG Ravi Sehgal** (Service opportunities through TRF and changes in rules for Global Grants), **PDG Sambasiva Rao Patibandala** of RID 3150 (Our Foundation – ways of contributions) and **DRFC Anirudha Roychowdhury** (Foundation Goals).

Youth Service session was held in the **A. S. Venkatesh Room** with **PDG Rajendra Khandelwal** as the session chair. Eminent speakers of the session were **PDG Ravi Vadlmani**, World Rotaract Chair (Interact & Rotaract), **DRR Elect Arka Nag** (Brand Rotaract) and **PDG Ajay Agarwal** (RYLA).

Ladies session was held in the **Rashi Mehta Room** with **First Lady Rubena Chatterjee** as the session chair. Eminent speakers of the session were **Vinita Venkatesh** (spouse of RIDE AS Venkatesh), **Chaitali Dasgupta** (television news reader, dancer, actress and designer), **Riddhi Bandyopadhyay** (singer) and **Sudarshan Chakraborty** (renowned dancer and choreographer).



Aalap, RCC Assembly was held on 26th June





Grants Management Seminar was held on 27th June


WHERE EAGLES DARE ... THE JOURNEY CONTINUES..

July 1st - Suswagatam, Felicitation of RI President Shekhar Mehta and Governor RID 3291 Prabir Chatterjee

The Rotary Foundation





Shekhar Mehta
RI President
2021-22



Prabir Chatterjee
District Governor
RID 3291


Grant Management Seminar


Rotary International District 3291


Resource Persons



Gulam Vahanvaty
Trustee, TRF


Dr. Debasish Das
ARRFC


Anirudha Roychowdhury
DRFC


Rajani Mukerji
District Trainer


Sumit William
Coordinator - Grants
RISAO


Binod Khaitan
Dist. Chairman,
Stewardship

Date : 27th of June'21, Sunday
Time : 11:00 am onwards
Please login 30 minutes before the program

Meeting ID : 812 8446 9006 | Password : GMS2122

Rotary District 3291



Team 2122
District 3291
presents

सुस्वागतम

JULY 1 2021



URBANA Banquet,
Urbana Bengal NRI Complex,
Anandapur, Kolkata
11.30 AM

July 10th - District COVID Vaccination Camp



July 24th & 25th
Self Defence Awareness program for Girls

July 24th & 25th - RLI Part 1
Date to be announced - Membership Seminar

TEAM 21-22



From the GML Chair

The Rotary Wheel keeps on turning and a new circle is about to begin on the 1st of July. With each turn of the wheel, Rotary leadership changes throughout the world. I am back again to help you to highlight your service projects and programs this year, keeping in mind that the Governor's Monthly Letter mirrors the actions of a dynamic District 3291.

Due to the pandemic, we have had a unique Rotary year where we have moved from the physical world to the virtual world. Kudos to all the Presidents and Rotarians who have braved this situation and provided respite to the society by being physically present to give out food, rations, medicines, sanitisers, masks etc. at the risk of catching the infection themselves. We have also lost many of our dear friends and family members. Rotarians truly showed us the meaning of Service beyond Self. Let us hope that the situation soon gets better and the world heals so that we can be free to meet people physically rather than on the virtual platform.

Friends, let us continue the good work and more importantly continue reporting, so that District 3291 shines throughout the Rotary world.

Have a Great Rotary year and soar like Eagles!

Best Wishes!

Meeta Lakhotia, Chair – GML

Email: meeta.gml3291@gmail.com



Kaleidoscope

