



APRIL IS ENVIRONMENT MONTH



FRANCESCO AREZZO
President 2025-26

Presidential Message April 2026

Not long ago, in a small health center in the village of Aaye in southwest Nigeria, a woman arrived in labor carrying twins. The facility was short-staffed. The nurse midwife in charge was not present.

A community health worker stepped forward. She had participated in Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale initiative. And though she was not formally trained as a midwife, she was equipped with essential emergency obstetric skills.

Hours later, both babies had been delivered, one at the health center and the other at a general hospital, where the mother had been referred after complications were quickly identified. The newborns and their mother were alive and safe.

Women around the world face similar circumstances every day — moments when the difference between life and loss depends on well-trained medical staff and reliable systems and procedures.

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria exists to increase the chances that those moments end in hope. By strengthening health systems and training frontline workers, this program helps communities protect mothers and children even when circumstances are difficult.

This work reflects the very heart of Rotary service. Service is not only what we do when conditions are ideal. It is what we do when systems are strained, resources are limited, and the need is urgent. It is the commitment to prepare people before a crisis arrives and to stand with communities when it does.

Maternal and child health is not an abstract goal. It is deeply personal. It is a mother who survives childbirth. It is a newborn who takes a first breath. It is a family that remains whole because someone was trained, ready, and cared enough to act. Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested.

Programs like Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions. By working alongside health professionals and local leaders, Rotary helps ensure that lifesaving care does not depend on luck or location.

The story of the mother and her twins is at its core a story of service. It is a reminder that Rotary's impact is measured in human moments when people step forward to help others in their most vulnerable hours.

When we *Unite for Good*, service becomes more than an ideal. It becomes a lifeline for families, a source of strength for communities, and a promise that Rotary will continue to go wherever help is needed most.




Rotary

APRIL ENVIRONMENT

"We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all"


Wangari Maathai



APRIL 22 IS rotary.org/rotary-and-earth-day

ROTARY AND EARTH DAY

"We have a duty to care for the Earth and leave it in a better condition than when we found it." Franklin D. Roosevelt



Rotary International moves Barcelona convention to 2027



BARCELONA (April 6, 2026) – Barcelona, Spain, has been selected to host Rotary’s international convention, which is often described by attendees as a mini-United Nations conference, on 26–30 June 2027 at the Fira de Barcelona. This decision enables the city to bring the Rotary community together two years sooner than was recently announced in March.

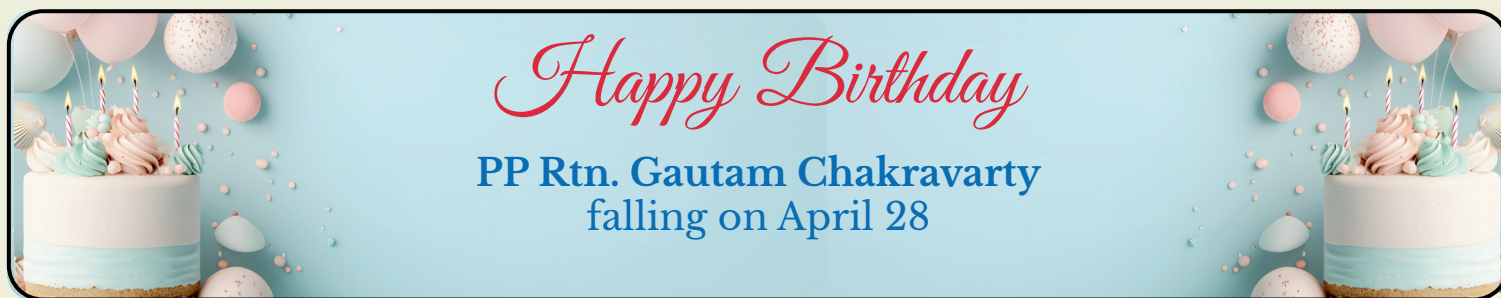
Based on previous events, the Rotary convention is expected to attract up to 20,000 participants from over 140 countries and generate more than €68 million for the local economy. The Rotary convention in 2027 was originally scheduled to take place in Dubai. Rotary postponed it to a later year due to the current uncertainty in the region. Leaders of the global membership service organization expressed gratitude to its partners in Barcelona for their flexibility and collaboration in accommodating this change.

“With enthusiasm and energy, we are prepared to pivot quickly to host the international convention in 2027,” said Sergio Aragón, chair of the Barcelona Host Committee and a member of the Rotary Club Barcelona Diagonal. “We look forward to welcoming our international guests and delivering an exceptional experience.”

About Rotary: Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges and creating lasting change. Rotary connects 1.2 million people of action from more than 45,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world, including more than 4,670 members across 250 clubs across Spain. Their service improves lives both locally and internationally, from helping those in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit rotary.org.

Happy Birthday

PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty
falling on April 28



Happy Anniversary

Mrs. Rita Chanda & Rtn. Bhaskar Chanda
falling on April 17

Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee & PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee
falling on April 20

Mrs. Smita Ray & PP Rtn. Sanjay Ray
falling on April 26



Corrigendum: The name of the club's new member Rtn. Sharbadwip Sen was erroneously published in the bulletin as Sharwadip Sen. The inadvertent error is sincerely regretted.



HOLGER KNAACK
Trustee Chair 2025-26

Trustee Chair's Message April 2026

Rotary's environment area of focus offers clubs and districts the chance to make a truly lasting impact in their communities.

One possibility is through the Community Action for Fresh Water partnership between Rotary and the United Nations Environment Programme, which launched the initiative in 2024 to protect, restore, and better manage freshwater resources worldwide.

Through the program, Rotary and Rotaract clubs identify a local body of water — a river, a lake, wetlands, or groundwater — and commit to its long-term protection and restoration. Members can draw on UNEP's technical expertise.

Salvador Rico, a member of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah, California, and a technical adviser to the partnership, tells us more:

The partnership is deeply personal to me.

My passion for clean rivers comes from a painful family experience during my childhood in Mexico: We believe my older sister died of polio she contracted from swimming in a polluted river there. Unsafe water is not an abstract environmental issue; it is a matter of life, health, and dignity for families and communities.

This experience drives my work as a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, where I ensure Rotary members have access to proven technical knowledge so their global grant-supported projects deliver lasting impact through permanent, scalable solutions.

Today, Community Action for Fresh Water supports Rotary clubs globally by providing a shared platform to upload projects, learn from other clubs, and access technical and financial support through global grants and club-to-club collaboration.

The impact became tangible in 2024, when the environmental chair of District 4170 in Mexico shared a critical challenge: Small, family-owned textile factories were polluting the upper Lerma River watershed. Rotarians lacked clear solutions. Through the freshwater partnership, I connected them with UNEP experts who provided guidance on bioremediation strategies. That collaboration led to a global grant application and, we hope, cleaner water for this community.

The partnership among Rotary clubs, family-owned textile companies, and government authorities ensures shared responsibility and long-term stewardship.

Every Rotary club can amplify this impact by registering freshwater projects at communityactionforfreshwater.org.

Look around your community — I bet you'll find a body of water in need of protection. The Rotary Foundation can support your project through Community Action for Fresh Water and a global grant.

Up to 15% of Sundarbans losing ability to recover from climate stress over 25 years, research shows

Cyclones, rising temperatures and upstream dams are weakening the world's largest mangrove ecosystem

By: Himanshu Nitnaware, Correspondent - Down to Earth



Findings show signs of “critical slowing down” in the UNESCO Sundarbans, where ecosystems take longer to recover from disturbances.

The Sundarbans, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site spanning India and Bangladesh, is seeing a marked decline in its ability to recover from environmental stress like climate driven and anthropogenic disturbances, a new study has found.

Researchers estimate that around 10-15 per cent of the forest, roughly 610 to 990 square kilometres, has experienced a loss of resilience over a 25-year period from February 2000 to December 2024. The Sundarbans stretches across more than 10,000 sq km.

The study, published in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*, identifies this weakening through a phenomenon known as “critical slowing down”, where ecosystems take longer to recover from disturbances, show increased fluctuations in productivity, and become more unstable over time.

Cyclones and climate pressures reshape the forest

The findings show that major cyclones have played a significant role in reducing resilience. Between 2007 and 2009, following cyclones Sidr, Rashmi and Aila, large areas of forest shifted to lower resilience categories. For example, areas measuring 820.97 sq km, 732.54 sq km and 1,138.74 sq km respectively moved from resilient to moderately resilient. At the same time, other large tracts shifted further, from moderately resilient to weakly resilient.

The most affected zones are in the central and south-eastern parts of the Sundarbans, particularly in seaward regions stretching from the Satkhira range to the Sharankhola range. These include parts of the Chandpai and Sharankhola ranges.

Another hotspot identified is the Shala River corridor, which lies between the Chandpai and Sharankhola ranges. Despite receiving freshwater, this region remains highly vulnerable due to its exposure to the paths of severe cyclones such as Sidr.

In India’s western Sundarbans, mangrove stands were found to be less resilient than those in Bangladesh, particularly near the northern boundaries where significant declines were recorded.

The study also identifies a new hotspot of resilience loss in the north-eastern region, while long-term analysis shows that northern and coastal boundary areas have seen steep declines.

Human pressures and ecological shifts

The study highlights that both climate change and human activity are contributing to the weakening of the ecosystem. Forests along boundary regions contain a mix of fast-growing species such as *Avicennia officinalis* and *Excoecaria agallocha*, and slower-growing species including *Heritiera fomes*, *Bruguiera sexangular* and *Xylocarpus mekongensis*. These diverse stands, often characterised by taller canopy heights, are now under stress. Some species like *Excoecaria agallocha* grow taller in the northern areas, while in the saltier seaward and western parts, they remain shorter.

Rising temperatures were found to reduce resilience by affecting species richness and key traits such as canopy height. While rainfall can help maintain hydrological balance, erratic patterns combined with extreme weather events are undermining this benefit.

The researchers note that higher rainfall typically reduces salinity and water stress, allowing mangroves to grow more efficiently. However, changing climate patterns are disrupting these processes.

“Higher rainfall plays a crucial role in alleviating water stress, increasing freshwater flow and diluting porewater salinity, which, in turn, reduces the energetic cost of osmoregulation and improves overall physiological performance. This allows mangrove trees to allocate more energy into vertical growth. Moreover, consistent precipitation helps maintain a hydrological balance and stabilises sediment conditions,” the study said.

The study also links the trends in the Sundarbans to broader patterns seen in other tropical forests, such as the Amazon, where resilience is also declining.

In the Sundarbans, resilience depends on factors such as structural complexity, species diversity and functional traits. The study found that as canopy height and leaf characteristics decline, forests are becoming more uniform with fewer species, reducing overall diversity.

Disease is another factor. The “top dying” condition has affected the dominant Sundari tree (*Heritiera fomes*) since the 1960s, reducing timber value and turning parts of the forest from a carbon sink into a source of emissions. The study estimates an annual loss of about \$16.72 million in timber value.

Human pressures are also intensifying the problem. Reduced freshwater flow due to upstream dams increases salinity, forcing plants to expend more energy on survival rather than growth. Excess phosphorus in sediments further disrupts nutrient balance and can create oxygen-deficient soil conditions.

Encroachment, shrimp farming and illegal logging, particularly of large, dominant trees, are also degrading the forest's structural complexity and recovery capacity.

The researchers say improving forest management will be key. They recommend protecting mature trees from poachers, strengthening patrolling, involving local communities for awareness, and incorporating climate impacts into policy can play a key role in protecting the mangroves.



Minutes of the 2170th RCM of RC Calcutta Jadavpur held on April 01, 2026 at Casa Broadway, Kolkata at 6.30 PM.

President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu called the meeting to order and welcomed District Governor Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri along with the First Lady Rtn. (Dr.) Bandana Homchaudhuri, PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha, Rtn. N. Ramakrishnan - Secretary to DG's Office, Rtn. Tamalesh Kumar, Rtn. Shubhrajyoti Bhowmik, AG & ZS respectively, Zone - 30: RID 3291, Ajay Kumar Agarwal - District Secretary (Finance) and the members and spouses present. He also welcomed the prospective members Mr. Subhadeep Mukherjee & Mr. Sharbadwip Sen, present for their formal induction. President Rtn. Sudipta requested PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal to present a flower bouquet to the First Lady Rtn. (Dr.) Bandana Homchaudhuri.

- National Anthem was led by PP Rtn. Praomita Das Dutta and joined by all.
- Next, President Rtn. Sudipta announced the sad demise of Late Aparna Datta, mother of Mrs. Krishnakoli Roy w/o PP Rtn. (Dr.) Partha Pratim Roy, who passed away on March 31, 2026. He requested the attendees to rise and observe a minute's silence in memory of the departed soul.
- Then, President Rtn. Sudipta deliberated briefly about the projects that have been carried out after the last RCM:
 - On March 21, 2026 our Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur carried out an Eye Check-up Camp at the RCC at Chowbaga. A team of expert ophthalmologists from Amulya Jyoti Eye Foundation examined the eyes of 33 under-privileged residents of the locality. Those who were diagnosed with cataract will be operated upon, at the Amulya Jyoti Eye Foundation, free of cost.
 - Beauty and Makeup Skill Training to rural women at Sarenga in Bankura is going on. Further, the Tailoring Skill Training to rural women at Sarenga is also continuing. In both cases, the 2nd batches of 10 women completed their training and are ready to earn for themselves. This is part of the club's major initiative towards Community Economic Development.
 - The Graphic Design Training to the students of Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith is progressing satisfactorily. Rtn. Subrata Kundu, a fellow member is offering the training as a Vocational Service.
 - Since March was the month for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, RC Calcutta Jadavpur has run an online campaign to spread awareness through social media.
 - That on March 29, 2026, the Club organised a Cricket Match at a turf in New Alipur. Around 20 fellow members participated in the fellowship event with much fun & frolic.

- Next, President Rtn. Sudipta outlined the upcoming projects of the club and requested the members present to attend in numbers.
- A Thalassemia & Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign is being organised at Godapiashal MGM High School on April 03, 2026.
- Again on April 04, 2026 the club is organising a Nutrition Awareness Campaign at Sarenga on April 04, 2026.
- Review & Certification of beautician trainees as well as tailoring trainees at Sarenga, are also being organised on April 04, 2026.
- The club will donate Pre owned clothes at Sarenga on the same day
- On April 12, 2026 RC Calcutta Jadavpur is organising a Blood Donation Camp For Thalassemia affected kids at Nimtala.
- The graphic design training at Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith will continue under the guidance & supervision of Rtn. Subrata Kundu.
- The club thankfully acknowledges a donation of Rs.5,000/- received from PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee, on the occasion of his birthday which fell on March 29.
- In absence of the Club Secretary Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir, President Rtn. Sudipta conducted the club business and extended greetings to Mr. Debanjan Biswas, spouse of Rtn. Jayatee Biswas for his birthday falling on April 12. Further, he extended anniversary greetings to PP Rtn. Pausali Paul & Mr. Debasis Paul falling on April 15.
- Minutes of the 2169th meeting, was confirmed by the members present.
- Next President Rtn. Sudipta requested PP Rtn. Pausali Paul to formally introduce Mr. Subhadeep Mukherjee and Mr. Sharbadwip Sen the two prospective members. Thereafter, Mr. Sharbadwip Sen and Mr. Subhadeep Mukherjee were inducted by District Governor Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri and PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha respectively, as the new members of the club.
- A contribution of \$1,018.00 was handed over to the District Governor by the PP Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal Ray, the club's TRF Chair.
- Thereafter, the RCM was concluded by the President Rtn. Sudipta and the Official Club Visit of the District Governor started.
- Upon the request of President Rtn. Sudipta, District Governor Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri and AG Rtn. Tamalesh Kumar graced the head table.
- With permission from the District Governor Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri, President Rtn. Sudipta laid out the work executed by RC Calcutta Jadavpur during the RY 2025-26, through an audio-visual presentation.
- While applauding the stupendous work in various fields of service undertaken by the club so far, Assistant Governor Rtn. Tamalesh Kumar and the District Governor Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri shared their thoughts and suggested ways and means to achieve greater heights. They advised that RC Calcutta Jadavpur being such a vibrant club of the District should explore opening a Satellite Club.
- PDG Rtn. Mukul Sinha delivered his brief speech and requested our club to donate to the Rotary Foundation and also to the Polio Fund.
- Secretary Elect Rtn. Manas K. Ghosh was invited by President Rtn. Sudipta to offer the formal vote of thanks, where District Governor Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri is on his formal visit to the club alongwith the First Lady of the District and other District Officials.
- There being no other business, the meeting was concluded with thanks to everyone and President Rtn. Sudipta invited everyone to join for fellowship & dinner.