



SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH



HOLGER KNAACK

Trustee Chair 2025-26

Trustee Chair's Message September 2025

Education is the most powerful tool we have for changing the world, and during Basic Education and Literacy Month, I want to remind everyone why our work matters.

Education breaks the cycle of poverty, opens doors to opportunity, and empowers individuals to transform their communities. But education doesn't exist in a vacuum. We must also address peace,

health, clean water, economic opportunity, maternal and Child health, and the environment. This is why Rotary has these areas of focus. Lasting change requires a comprehensive approach. When we collaborate across these areas through The Rotary Foundation, we raise up communities sustainably and with dignity.

Today, I have asked **Lynne Paradis** from the Rotary Club of Red Deer, Alberta, to share her passion for literacy:

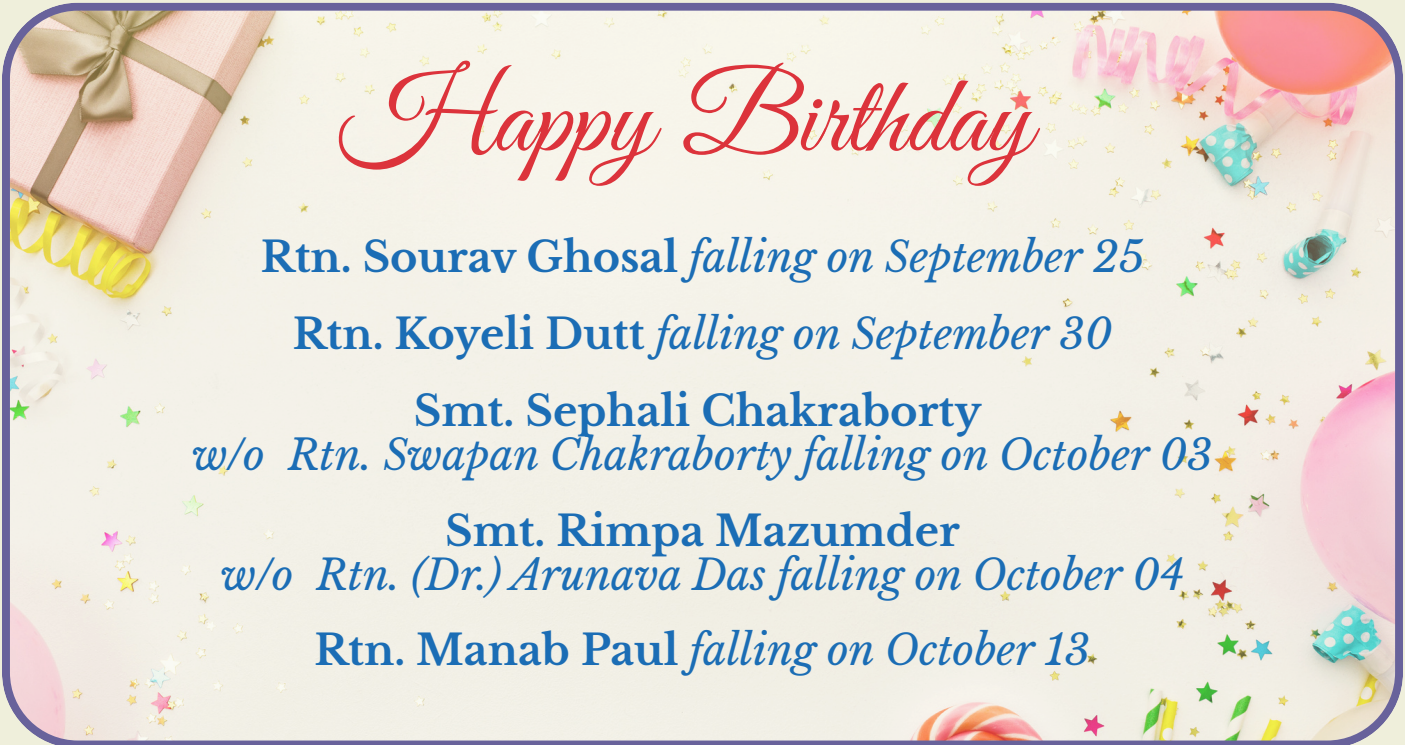
I believe that literacy is a human right. When I joined forces with the Rotary Club of San Ignacio, Belize, over a decade ago, we set out to improve reading instruction, but we had no idea how far this journey would take us.

Literacy Alive! has been supported by eight Rotary Foundation global grants since 2011. Using a straightforward approach based on phonics and science, we updated how teachers teach and focused on how students really learn. We collected data on reading skills improvement over six months

The program is now compulsory in Belize primary schools. What moves me most is hearing teachers say how confident they are that they can change students' lives. Our greatest success is working ourselves out of a job. When local educators take the lead, we know lasting change is underway."

After demonstrating that teachers had integrated new practices into daily instruction, the project snowballed. The Belize Ministry of Education took notice. Today, over 1,300 teachers have been trained and more than 20,000 students have benefited. We've achieved over 90 percent success rates, with many students making more than a year's worth of improvement in just five months.

Lynne's story exemplifies the power of Foundation grants. Through partnerships spanning six Rotary clubs and three countries, Literacy Alive! reminds us how good Rotary is at creating systemic change. When our members' passion meets Foundation support, we don't just improve individual lives, we change entire communities. By supporting the Foundation, you can put your passion to work this month and every month.



Happy Birthday

Rtn. Sourav Ghosal *falling on September 25*

Rtn. Koyeli Dutt *falling on September 30*

Smt. Sephali Chakraborty
w/o Rtn. Swapan Chakraborty falling on October 03

Smt. Rimpa Mazumder
w/o Rtn. (Dr.) Arunava Das falling on October 04

Rtn. Manab Paul *falling on October 13*



Happy Anniversary

Honorary Member

Rtn. (Dr.) Arup Ratan Dutta & Dr. Soma Dutta
falling on October 08

Wish you many more year of marital bliss



SangKoo Yun No More

SangKoo Yun, a consummate Rotary leader and businessman who had been selected to be Rotary International's President for 2026-27, passed away on September 05, 2025, after months of treatment for pancreatic cancer. A member of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Seoul, Korea, Yun resigned as President-Elect in August 2025, to focus on his medical treatment.

CURE 
Thalassemia

India doctors report discovery of new blood group CRIB, rarest in the world

A routine surgery in Karnataka led to the identification of a blood group never seen before. The finding has raised questions about the limits of our understanding of human blood types



In a first-of-its-kind discovery, Indian doctors identified a blood group never seen before - CRIB, in a woman from Karnataka.

In a ground-breaking medical discovery, Indian doctors have identified a blood group never seen before anywhere in the world.

Dubbed CRIB, this ultra-rare blood type was discovered in a 38-year-old woman from Kolar, Karnataka, during preparations for a routine heart surgery - catapulting her case into the global spotlight for its uniqueness and raising critical questions about rare blood group awareness.

Although her known blood type was O Rh-positive, none of the available O-positive blood units matched. The hospital then referred the case to the *Advanced Immunohematology Reference Laboratory at the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre* for further testing

Dr Ankit Mathur from the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre told The New Indian Express that using advanced serological techniques, his team found that her blood was 'panreactive', incompatible with all test samples.

"Recognising this as a possible case of a rare or unknown blood type, the team collected blood samples from 20 of her family members to search for a compatible match, but none of them were a match. The case was managed with utmost care, and with collaborative effort from her physicians and family, her surgery was successfully completed without the need for transfusion," said Mathur.

Her and her family's blood samples were later sent to the International Blood Group Laboratory (IBGRL) in Bristol for further analysis.

By: Sarjna Rai :: New Delhi www.business-standard.com : August 04 2025

Young engineers should see themselves as assets to society: Shashi Tharoor

COIMBATORE: Young engineers should work on safeguarding digital infrastructure as cybersecurity is a very big challenge in the current situation and cyberattacks can happen in “any system we create,” said Dr Shashi Tharoor MP on Wednesday.

Tharoor was speaking as chief guest at the 75th foundation day function at the PSG College of Technology here.



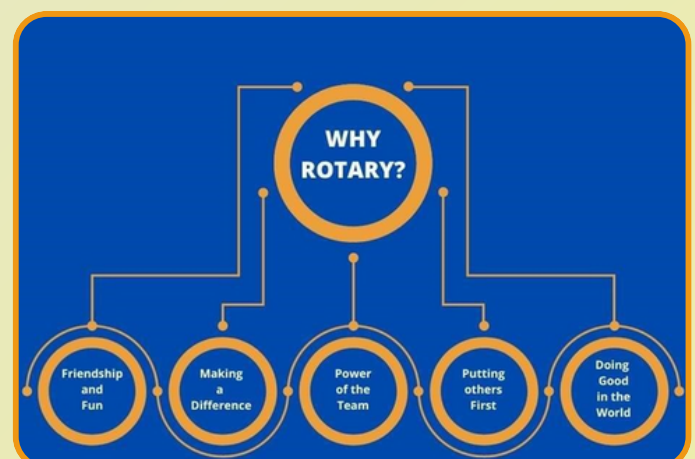
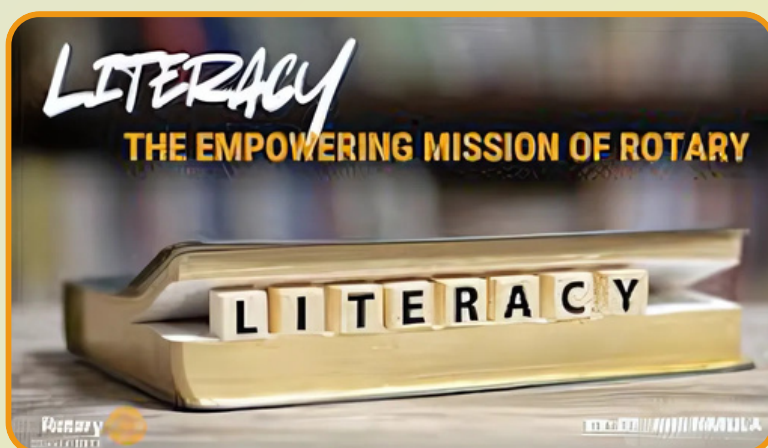
He appealed to young engineers to see themselves as assets to society, guided by empathy and civic-minded leadership.

He said India is the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and a growing leader in AI. Unemployment in India has motivated young people to become entrepreneurs. Students are the architects of future India, and they should be ready to face future challenges to make a better India, he added.

L Gopalakrishnan, managing trustee of PSG & Sons' Charities, presided over the event. D Lakshminarayanawaswamy, trustee of SNR Sons Charitable Trust, was the guest of honour.

As part of the platinum jubilee, six alumni of PSG Tech were honoured for their professional achievements. The alumni honoured were Srinivasan Ravi, chairman & managing director of Craftsman Automation, Coimbatore; Cottalango Leon, a distinguished engineer at Sony Pictures Imageworks, USA; Vanitha Kumar, senior vice-president of software engineering at Qualcomm Technologies Inc, USA; Gowthaman Ranganathan, former director at Oracle America Inc, entrepreneur and angel investor, USA; Lakshmi Narasimha Moorthy, founder and CEO of Niche Brains, Hyderabad; and Kavitha Krishnan, chief technology officer of customer innovation services at SAP Labs, Bengaluru.

timesofindia.indiatimes.com :: September 03, 2025 By: Tysion Prabhu



Minutes of the Virtual 2157th RCM of RC Calcutta Jadavpur held on September 03, 2025, Wednesday at 7.00 PM, on Google Meet.

- President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu called the meeting to order and welcomed all the members present online.
- National Anthem was led by Rtn. Dipankar Chakraborty and joined by all.
- President Rtn. Sudipta and other fellow members congratulated IPP Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee, PP Rtn. Partha Sarkar, PP Rtn. Pausali Paul, for their remarkable contributions during the RY 2024-25. This was duly recognised by Rotary District 3291, during the recently held award ceremonies held at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium and Haldiram Banquets.
- Next, President Rtn. Sudipta deliberated about the service projects rendered by RC Calcutta Jadavpur during the period - August 21 and September 03, 2025.
 - a) The club in association with Inner Wheel Club of Jadavpur, distributed sarees to the sex workers at Sonagachi on August 28, 2025. In this context PP Rtn. Pausali Paul and Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee shared their experience about the joint project.
 - b) A Blood Donation Camp was organised by RC Calcutta Jadavpur at P P Hospital & Diagnostic Centre at Uluberia, Howrah on September 01, 2025, which was attended by Rtn. Subrata Kundu and himself.
 - c) An online campaign is being carried out by the club for membership growth, which began since last month as August happened to be the designated month for Membership and New Club Development.
- Next, President Rtn. Sudipta talked about the upcoming projects viz. Dementia Caregiver Workshop, plastic cleaning at Ganga Sagar, multiple projects at Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith. He also informed the attendees that today's RCM will be followed by a virtual session on mental health, where Ms. Nilanjana Maulik will talk about Dementia and Alzheimer's. Members are requested to attend and participate in numbers.
- President Rtn. Sudipta requested PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal to talk about the benefits of participating in the Dementia Caregiver Workshop, being organised by the ARDSI Calcutta Chapter, at Jadavpur University campus on September 13, 2025, to which, she updated about the said workshop. Further, PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal talked about the series of projects to be executed at the Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith, on

September 25, 2025, which will include a cultural program competition, nutrition and cooking competition, Shobdojobdo competition and slogan writing competition.

- Next President Rtn. Sudipta requested IPP Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta to update the attendees, about the plastic cleaning endeavour at Ganga Sagar, scheduled to take place on September 20, 2025. Accordingly, IPP Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta elaborated about the arrangements being made.
- President Rtn. Sudipta informed that RLI – Part II would take place on September 07, 2025 at Rotary Sadan. Members, specially the new ones should make it a point to participate..
- President Rtn. Sudipta announced that the next RCM will be held on September 18, 2025 at the Casa Broadway Hotel, 6:30 PM onwards and members are requested to take note of the same.
- In absence of the Secretary Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir, President Rtn. Sudipta conducted the club business and extended birthday greetings to: Smt. Debjani Dutta spouse of Rtn. Sudipta Kundu falling on September 04, PP Rtn. Dr. Partha Pratim Roy falling on September 12, Dr. Koutilya Bhattacharyya, spouse of Rtn. (Dr.) Emili Banerjee falling on September 14, PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal falling on September 15
- Minutes of the 2156th the meeting was confirmed by the members present and the meeting was concluded with thanks to all the attendees.

As scheduled, President Rtn. Sudipta invited Ms. Nilanjana Maulik to start the session on “Ask About Dementia; Ask About Alzheimer’s” and address the members present. Ms. Maulik talked at length about the issues and dwelt on the same in details. The talk was followed by an interactive session participated by quite a number of members. After this, President Rtn. Sudipta thanked Ms. Maulik for sparing her valuable time and talk about the subject issues and he hoped that the participants have certainly benefitted from the much awaited session.