



flame

The bulletin of Rotary Club of Ballygunge

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Francesco Arezzo
Rotary International
President



Dr Ramendu Homchoudhuri
Rotary District 3291
Governor



Dr. (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee
Rotary Ballygunge
President



Subhankar Chakraborty
Rotary Ballygunge
Secretary



Arko Bhattacharjee
Rotary Ballygunge
Editor

Editor : Arko Bhattacharjee

President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

February. The Quiet Architecture of Peace

Peace is often mistaken for an absence. Yet Rotary understands a deeper truth. Peace is not the silence after conflict. It is the *architecture that prevents conflict from arising at all*.

February, designated as **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month**, invites us to reflect on peace not as a distant ideal, but as deliberate, patient work. Work that begins long before disputes erupt and continues long after attention fades.

Peace Begins Where Inequality Ends

Conflict rarely appears without warning. It germinates in poverty that strips dignity, in inequality that hardens resentment, and in scarcity that turns neighbours into rivals. Rotary's peacebuilding mission recognises this uncomfortable reality. Peace cannot be imposed. It must be constructed, brick by brick, through education, equity, opportunity, and dialogue.

When Rotary invests in clean water, education, healthcare, and livelihoods, it is not merely delivering services. It is dismantling the conditions that make conflict inevitable. Service, in this sense, becomes prevention. Compassion becomes strategy.

From Conversation to Commitment

February calls every club to move beyond reflection into action.

- Highlight peace projects that quietly transform communities.
- Create spaces for dialogue where differences are acknowledged, not erased.
- Project Rotary's image not merely as a service organisation, but as a *peace-building institution*.

Peace flourishes where people choose cooperation over convenience, ethics over expedience, and service over silence.

A Rotary Reflection

Peace is not forged in grand declarations.

It is sustained by consistent choices. By leaders who refuse to look away.

By communities that choose understanding when anger would be easier.

In Rotary, we do not wait for peace to arrive. *We build it. Steadily. Thoughtfully. Together.*

Because peace, like Rotary itself, is not an event. It is a lifelong commitment to doing what is right.

Yours in Service,

Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee
President (RY 25-26)

Editor's Message



Arko Bhattacharjee

Editor, RY 2025-2026

February in Rotary : A Month That Speaks of Peace and Resolution.

There's something special about February in Rotary. Maybe it's the quiet determination that comes with a new year still fresh in our minds. Maybe it's the simple but powerful reminder that even the shortest month can carry the biggest message.

In Rotary International, February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month. But this isn't just a title on the calendar. It's an invitation.

An invitation to pause. To reflect. To ask ourselves how we, as Rotarians, are shaping the world around us.

Peace can feel like a grand, global idea—something debated in world capitals or written into history books. Yet Rotary gently reminds us that peace begins much closer to home. It begins in classrooms where children are given the tools to succeed. It grows in villages where clean water replaces scarcity. It strengthens in communities where economic opportunity replaces uncertainty. Every service project that restores dignity and hope is a quiet act of peacebuilding.

And then there are the Rotary Peace Fellows—individuals from around the world who are trained through Rotary Peace

Centers to mediate conflicts, design sustainable solutions, and lead with compassion. Their journeys are inspiring, but they are also deeply human. They represent what happens when service meets education, and when vision meets action.

But here's the beautiful truth, peacebuilding isn't reserved for specialists. It lives in our clubs. It's present in the way we welcome diverse voices to the table. It's found in the friendships we form across cultures and professions. It's reflected in every thoughtful conversation and every hand extended in service.

February invites us to lean into that spirit. To look beyond headlines and remember that meaningful change often begins quietly—through fellowship, understanding, and shared purpose. It encourages us to be intentional about building bridges, not barriers.

As Rotarians, we carry a motto that says 'Service Above Self.' In February, we see how deeply that motto connects to peace. Because when we serve others with empathy and integrity, we are doing more than meeting needs—we are strengthening the foundations of harmony and goodwill.

So as February unfolds, let it be more than a month. Let it be a reminder. That peace is possible. That it is practical. And that in Rotary, it begins with us.

Therefore, with that spirit in mind, I warmly encourage everyone to share your thoughts and reflections here in FLAME—because it is through your voices and ideas that our fellowship continues to grow stronger and brighter.

Friendship is the strong foundation on which Rotary proudly stands, and it is through tolerance that we continue to grow stronger, more united, and more impactful, together.

Editor's Fresh Take – Warmly Yours

Arko Bhattacharjee

Editor, Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Visit to Belur Vidyamandir – 4th Feb 2026



On 4th February, a few of our club members visited **Belur Vidyamandir** to meet **Pradip Murmu**, a first-year Sanskrit Hons student and recipient of the **Sachin Gupta Memorial Scholarship 2025-26**. The principal warmly welcomed us, and we had an enriching discussion on the socio-economic scenario and the college's projects beyond education. It was truly inspiring to learn from Maharaj and share our thoughts with him.

It was a delight meeting Maharaj at Belur Vidyamandir and connecting with the beneficiary of our literacy project, sponsored by PP Indrani. We also learned about **Bose House in Rishra**, once the home of Sarat Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji. Donated to the Ramakrishna Mission, it now serves as the **second campus of Belur Vidyamandir**, continuing the mission of education and service.

Snapshots : AGELS – Assistant Governors Elect & Zonal Coordinators Learning Seminar



On **8th February 2026**, Rotary Calcutta Visionaries hosted the **AGELS (Assistant Governors Elect & Zonal Coordinators Learning Seminar)** at the **Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata**.

Here are a few glimpses from the event, highlighting collaboration, learning, and the spirit of Rotary in action.

Note:

RCB Charitable Trust – Address Update

The address of RCB Charitable Trust has been updated to : **5, Raja Subodh Mullick Square 1st Floor, Kolkata – 700013.**

The trust deed has been amended accordingly.

Minutes of the 2539 Regular Meeting held on 15th January 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. President called the 2539th RWM to order.
2. President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members.
3. District Conference: A total of 24 members attended, setting a new all-time record for participation.
4. Remembrance of Bhol da: The meeting began with a heartfelt tribute to Bhol da, recognizing the profound loss and the enduring impact of their contributions.
5. Remarks by Pradip da: Pradip da was invited to speak in memory of Bhol da, sharing reflections on their legacy and the void left behind.
6. Words from Amitava da: Amitava da was requested to offer his thoughts and memories, further honoring Bhol da's influence within the group.
7. Presidential Tribute: The President took a moment to remember Bhol da once again, emphasizing the collective grief felt by all members.
8. Members' Remembrances: Members individually paid their respects, each recalling personal memories and expressing their sentiments regarding Bhol da.
9. No Happy announcement made under the given situation.
10. President invited all to join the upcoming projects and meetings. The next meeting to be held on January 29, 2026.
11. President terminated the meeting.

Members Present : 8

Minutes of the 2540 Regular Meeting held on 29th January 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. President called the 2540th RWM to order.
2. President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members.
3. **Remembrance of Rotarian Asit Baran Bhol (Bholda)**
The meeting commenced with the President paying tribute to Bholda in the presence of his family, acknowledging his contributions and expressing heartfelt gratitude.
4. **Reflections by Family and Members**
Bholda's son was invited to share his thoughts and memories, followed by remarks from Rotarian Arko and Rotarian Tanul da, each offering personal reflections.
5. **Memorial and Group Photograph**
A brief memorial service was observed in honor of Bholda, after which a group photograph was taken with all attendees to commemorate the occasion.
6. **Obituary: Anirban's Mother**
The gathering offered a respectful obituary for Anirban's mother, expressing condolences and acknowledging her lasting influence on the community.
7. **Introduction of Subhankar Saha & Dr. Aniruddha Basu**
Rotarian Subhankar Saha and Rotarian Dr. Aniruddha Basu, a prospective member has been formally introduced to all members. PP Ashif da proposed that his induction be conducted in the presence of District Members, underscoring the importance of full participation. With the consent of all members present the President however conducted a pin ceremony to the new member.
8. **Project Update: EIRWT Cycle Rickshaw Van Distribution**
Rotarian Jayanta da spoke on the progress of the EIRWT project, focusing on the distribution of cycle rickshaw vans and the positive impact on the beneficiaries.
9. **Discussion on Shantihi and Upcoming Panel**
PP Amitava da addressed the topic of Shantihi and provided insights into the upcoming panel discussion, which is to be moderated by Prof. J. N. Mukhopadhyay. Ashif da suggested inviting representatives from Gorki Sadan and the French Embassy to participate in the panel and enrich the dialogue.
10. President requested the Secretary to make the happy announcement, if any. Secretary announced the upcoming Birthday of PP Indrani Gupta on January 30th and further announced the Marriage anniversary of PP Amlan Bhattacharya on January 30th itself. Secretary handed over the business to the President
11. President invited all to join the upcoming projects and meetings. The next meeting to be held on February 5, 2026.
12. President terminated the meeting.

Members Present 11, Guests Present 3

Minutes of the 2541 Regular Meeting held on 05th February 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. President called the 2541st RWM to order.
2. President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members.
3. A brief discussion was held at the request of the President on 11 number of Cycle Rickshaw Distribution on 15th February followed by Cancer awareness programme to be held in the same evening. President requested for confirmation of heads on the said date to attend the programmes.
4. President requested PP Amitava da to say something on Shanthi. A brief note has been shared by him on the update took place since the last meeting.
5. President duly requested Rotarian Amitava Vajpayee to address and share some of his vast experience on Rotary. He was glad to share some of his thoughts and Gifted "Know Your Rotary" to the President.
6. President requested the Secretary to make the happy announcement, if any. Secretary announced the upcoming Marriage anniversary of Rotarian Debajyoti Datta on February 7, Marriage anniversary of Rotarian Sabari Bose on February 10 and Marriage anniversary of Rotarian Mrityunjoy Ganguly and Rotarian Subhankar Chakraborty on February 11. Secretary handed over the business to the President.
7. President invited all to join the upcoming projects and meetings. The next meeting to be held on February 12, 2026.
8. President terminated the meeting.

Members Present 11, Guests Present 1

Happy Announcements

Birthday

Rinku Das Chowdhury 20th February

Anniversary's

Debajyoti Datta	07th February
Sabari Bose	10th February
Mritunjoy Ganguly	11th February
Subhankar Chakraborty	11th February
Balaram Pyne	15th February
Prodeep Coomar	24th February
Susanta K Sarker	25th February
Pradip Majumdar	26th February

7 Areas of Focus



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT