



flame

The bulletin of Rotary Club of Ballygunge

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

February in the Rotary calendar is not merely a thematic observance. It is a moral reminder. Peace is not the absence of conflict. It is the presence of justice, dialogue, and human dignity. In a world increasingly fragmented by ideology, inequality, and mistrust, Rotary's commitment to peacebuilding remains profoundly relevant.

As Rotarians, we are custodians of a simple but powerful belief. Peace is built locally before it is felt globally.

"Peace is not something you wish for. It is something you make, something you do, something you are."

— John Lennon

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

— Mother Teresa

This philosophy has guided Rotary for over a century and continues to define the work of **Rotary International** across continents.

World Understanding and Peace Day. 23 February

February 23 marks the anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting in 1905. It is observed as World Understanding and Peace Day. The date reminds us that Rotary itself was founded on fellowship, dialogue, and ethical engagement across differences.

Peace does not begin with treaties. It begins with conversations. Rotary clubs, by design, are platforms for respectful dialogue among diverse professionals, cultures, and perspectives. This may be Rotary's most understated contribution to peace.

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

— Albert Einstein

The Rotarian's Role. From Ideal to Action

Peacebuilding is not reserved for global institutions or diplomats. It is embedded in everyday Rotary action.

- When we ensure a child stays in school, we reduce future conflict.
- When we empower women economically, we stabilise families and communities.
- When we practice ethical leadership in our professions, we build institutional trust.
- When we resolve disagreements within our clubs with empathy and fairness, we model peace in action.

"An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Let this February remind us that peacebuilding begins with us. In our clubs. In our professions. In our communities.

Service Above Self is not just service. It is a pathway to peace.

Yours in Service,

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

Editor's Message



Giving, Loving, and Serving: The Soul of Rotary

In every generation, there are organizations that respond to the needs of the moment. And then there are those rare institutions that shape the character of humanity itself. Rotary International belongs to the latter.

Rotary was not built merely to hold meetings or exchange business cards. It was born from a vision that ordinary professionals, united by goodwill and ethical purpose, could create extraordinary change. At the centre of that vision lies a simple yet transformative principle: **Service above Self**.

But what does that truly mean in today's world?

It means choosing generosity over indifference. It means choosing compassion over convenience.

It means choosing service over self-interest.

It means giving, loving, and serving — not as occasional acts, but as a way of life.

Giving : The Courage to Share What Matters

When we speak of giving, it is easy to think of donations and fundraising campaigns. While financial generosity fuels many of Rotary's life-changing programs, true giving goes much deeper.

Giving is time — the one resource we can never replenish. It is showing up consistently. It is attending the planning meeting after a long day of work. It is volunteering on a Saturday morning when rest would be easier.

Giving is talent — using professional skills to mentor youth, strengthen non-profits, or guide community initiatives.

Giving is influence — opening doors for others, advocating for the underserved, and speaking for those who are unheard.

When Rotarians contribute to initiatives through The Rotary Foundation, they are not simply funding projects. They are investing in dignity. They are building wells that bring clean water, supporting education that breaks cycles of poverty, and sustaining peace initiatives that heal divisions.

But perhaps the most powerful gift Rotary offers is hope.

And hope is never small.

Loving: The Force That Transforms Service

Love may seem like an unusual word in professional circles. Yet at its core, Rotary is built on relational strength — on fellowship that transcends cultures, borders, languages, and beliefs.

Love in Rotary is not abstract. It is active.

It is welcoming a new member and making them feel valued. It is listening to a community before designing a project. It is respecting differences while seeking common ground.

When we love through service, we stop seeing “beneficiaries” and start seeing partners. We no longer ask, “How can we fix this?” but rather, “How can we work together?”

Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio stands as a profound example. Through partnerships and decades of dedication, Rotarians have helped bring the world to the brink of eliminating a disease that once paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children each year. That effort was not driven by obligation alone — it was driven by love for future generations.

Love is what sustains long-term commitment. It is what keeps volunteers engaged long after applause fades. It is what turns service projects into lasting impact.

Serving : Leadership in Action

Service is not simply something Rotarians do. It is who they are.

Service is leadership without ego. It is influence without domination. It is action guided by ethics.

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians to ask:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

These are not just questions for business decisions — they are questions for life decisions.

Serving means stepping forward when others step back. It means recognizing a need before it becomes a crisis. It means believing that small, consistent acts can change the trajectory of a community.

Service does not always make headlines. Often, it happens quietly — in literacy programs, scholarship awards, food drives, health screenings, and peace-building dialogues.

Yet quiet service builds strong societies.

The Ripple That Becomes a Wave

Every act of giving creates gratitude. Every act of loving builds connection. Every act of serving sparks change.

And change multiplies.

A scholarship recipient becomes a community leader.

A clean water project reduces disease and improves school attendance.

A young professional inspired by Rotary becomes a lifelong advocate for ethical leadership.

These ripples extend far beyond what we see.

Rotary reminds us that we do not need to be famous to be impactful. We do not need to be perfect to make a difference. We simply need to be willing.

A Call to Renew Our Commitment

As members of Rotary International, we inherit more than a legacy. We inherit a responsibility.

A responsibility to protect the values that have guided Rotarians for over a century.

A responsibility to adapt to changing times without losing our moral compass.

A responsibility to inspire the next generation to see service not as sacrifice, but as privilege.

The world continues to face division, uncertainty, and inequity. Yet within Rotary clubs across the globe, there is something stronger than these challenges — a fellowship rooted in generosity, compassion, and action.

To give is to declare that others matter.

To love is to affirm our shared humanity.

To serve is to build the future we wish to see.

May we continue not simply as members of an organization, but as stewards of hope.

Because when Rotarians give, love, and serve — the world changes.

Expertly curated by the editor

Arko Bhattacharjee

Editor, RY 2025-2026

District 3291 Cycle Rickshaw Distribution Project



A Transformational Livelihood Initiative

Under the dynamic leadership of Past President **Jayanta Chattopadhyay** and with the wholehearted approval and guidance of Present President **Dr CA Joydeep Mookherjee**, the Rotary Club proudly executed one of the most impactful livelihood initiatives in Rotary International District 3291 — the **Cycle Rickshaw Distribution Project**.

This initiative stands not merely as a distribution event, but as a sustainable empowerment movement — restoring dignity, generating income, and transforming families.

Project Vision

The core objective of the project was simple yet powerful:

To empower economically underprivileged breadwinners by providing them with self-owned cycle rickshaws, enabling sustainable livelihood and financial independence.

Rather than offering temporary relief, the project focused on long-term economic stability — aligned with Rotary's Area of Focus: Community Economic Development.

Concept and Leadership

The project was conceptualized and initiated by Past President **Jayanta Chattopadhyay**, whose deep understanding of grassroots economic challenges inspired the club to think beyond charity and toward empowerment.

Recognizing that many daily wage earners rent rickshaws at high daily rates — reducing their take-home income drastically — he envisioned a model where ownership replaces dependency.

With strategic planning, beneficiary identification, transparent fund allocation, and community coordination, the project took structured shape.

Present President **Dr CA Joydeep Mookherjee** provided administrative approval, financial oversight, and institutional support, ensuring the project met Rotary's highest standards of accountability and impact measurement.

Project Execution

Beneficiary Selection

- Detailed background verification conducted
- Priority given to sole breadwinners from economically weaker sections
- Preference for individuals currently renting rickshaws

Distribution Details

- Brand new, durable cycle rickshaws procured
- Safety and structural quality ensured
- Official handover ceremony conducted with dignity

Each beneficiary received :

- One new cycle rickshaw
- Safety guidance and operational orientation
- Rotary mentorship assurance for future support

Why This Project Is District-Level Best

Sustainable Livelihood Creation

Ownership eliminates daily rental costs, increasing monthly income by 25–40%. Families now retain full earnings, enabling savings, education for children, and improved living conditions.

Dignity over Charity

This project does not create dependency. It restores self-respect. Beneficiaries become entrepreneurs, not recipients.

Measurable Economic Impact

Within the first few weeks:

- Increased daily net income reported
- Reduction in debt dependency
- Improved family nutrition and school attendance

Scalable Model

The project model is replicable across clubs within District 3291 and beyond, making it a blueprint for sustainable economic intervention.

Strong Rotary Branding

Each rickshaw prominently displays Rotary insignia and messaging, enhancing public visibility of Rotary's service mission and strengthening community trust.

Community Impact

The smiles at the distribution ceremony reflected more than gratitude — they reflected renewed hope.

One beneficiary shared:

“Today, I feel I own my future.”

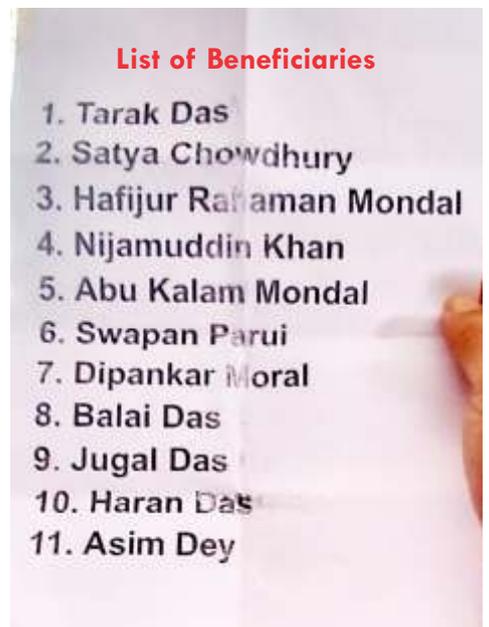
This single sentence captures the essence of the initiative.

The ripple effect of this project extends beyond individual recipients:

- Families gain financial security
- Children gain educational continuity
- Communities gain economic stability

Project Highlights

- ☑ Project Area: Community Economic Development



- ☑ Transparent beneficiary screening
- ☑ Sustainable asset-based empowerment
- ☑ Strong leadership collaboration
- ☑ Immediate and measurable social impact

Leadership Acknowledgment

The visionary planning of Past President **Jayanta Chattopadhyay** and the steadfast approval and institutional backing of President **Dr CA Joydeep Mookherjee** demonstrate exemplary Rotary leadership — combining compassion with structured execution.

Their collaborative approach reflects the true spirit of **Service Above Self**.

Conclusion

The District 3291 Cycle Rickshaw Distribution Project stands as a shining example of what Rotary can achieve when vision meets action.

It transforms charity into empowerment.

It converts support into sustainability.

It turns hope into livelihood.

This project is not just a service activity — it is a model initiative worthy of recognition as one of the **best livelihood projects at the District level**.

Through this initiative, the Rotary Club has reaffirmed its commitment to building stronger communities — one empowered family at a time.

Under the present stewardship of President Dr CA Joydeep Mookherjee, the project received full administrative approval and institutional backing. His support ensured compliance with Rotary standards and strengthened the club's reputation for responsible service delivery.

The synergy between past and present leadership reflects the continuity and strength of Rotary values.

Great projects are born from compassionate hearts — but they succeed because of determined leadership.

Past President Jayanta Chattopadhyay demonstrated:

- Vision beyond convention
- Commitment beyond expectation
- Leadership beyond position

He did not merely serve during his tenure; he created a lasting legacy.

His ability to identify real community needs and convert them into structured, sustainable solutions is exemplary. This project stands as a testament to his belief that Rotary must move from relief to resilience.

District 3291 is proud of such leadership.





Life Beyond Cancer (LBC) – Rotary District 3291



Life Beyond Cancer is a paediatric cancer support initiative run by **Rotary International District 3291** (West Bengal, India). Its mission: **“No child should die of cancer.”**

Key Focus Areas

- **Awareness** : Community programs, school workshops, and campaigns about childhood cancer.
- **Financial Support**: Helps families access treatment funds and government schemes to reduce treatment abandonment.
- **Hospital Assistance**: Active presence in major hospitals (SSKM, NRS, Tata Medical Center, ICH, etc.) with help desks, counselling, and guidance.
- **Post Treatment Care** : Follow-up support, counselling, nutrition guidance, and recreational activities for children.
- **Events & Fundraising** : Annual concerts, awareness drives, and community engagement to raise funds and support.

How to Get Involved

- **Volunteering** : Help desks, awareness programs, and therapy activities.
- **Contact** : lifebeyondcancerproject@gmail.com | +91 83350 68511

Impact : Hundreds of children and families supported, hundreds of volunteers engaged, and significant funds mobilized for treatment and care.

Life Beyond Cancer combines **medical, emotional, and social support** to help children **survive and thrive beyond cancer.**

Impact So Far

According to LBC's own published figures, the initiative has:

- Helped **hundreds of children and families**
- Involved **hundreds of dedicated volunteers**
- Mobilised **lakh scale funds** to support treatment and care

These numbers continually grow as the project expands its reach across more hospitals and regions of Eastern India.

Minutes of the 2542 Regular Meeting held on 12th February 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. President called the 2542nd RWM to order.
2. President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members.

Agenda

- Distribution of cycle rickshaw vans to underprivileged people
- Proposal of TOTO project
- Shantihi project updates
- Fundraising and stall installation for Shantihi
- Book distribution during Shantihi
- Committee get-together
- Proposals by the Past President Nasir Uddin Ahmed: Iftar Party in Kolkata and Cricket Match in Kashmir
- Feedback and concerns about Shantihi from Rtn Mritunjoy Ganguly.

Minutes

- **Cycle Rickshaw Van Distribution** : Scheduled on February 15, 2026, in the presence of PDG Rajani Mukherjee, who has expressed his willingness to join the occasion. All logistics to be arranged prior to the event.
 - **TOTO Project** : Proposal for a new project in March. A detail plan is to be discussed and developed further shortly.
 - **Shantihi Project** : The President requested for reconfirming the Schedule of the occasion. It has been further requested to give special attention for the stage activities, including the distribution of books.
 - **Fundraising & Stall Installation** : The committee will seek funding and organize installation of stalls for Shantihi. Teams to be assigned for these tasks.
 - **Book Distribution** : Proposed distribution of books during the Shantihi project, specifically during the stage program.
 - **Get-Together** : Planned for March 22, 2026. Venue and arrangements to be confirmed.
 - **Nasir da's Proposals** : Two projects were suggested: Iftar event and Cricket Match in Kashmir to be played by the team to be selected for Rotary 3291 district.
 - **Shantihi Feedback** : Rtn Mritunjoy Ganguly shared thoughts and concerns regarding Shantihi; these will be reviewed and addressed during project planning.
 - The meeting concluded with a commitment to effective teamwork, timely action, and addressing community needs through these initiatives.
3. The President requested the Secretary to make the happy announcement, if any. Secretary announced the upcoming Marriage anniversary of Rtn Balaram Pyne on February 15. Secretary handed over the business to the President.
 4. The President invited all to join the upcoming projects and meetings. The next meeting to be held on February 19, 2026.
 5. The President terminated the meeting.

Members Present 09

Happy Announcements

Birthday

Rinku Das Chowdhury

20th February

Anniversaries

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