



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,

As we reflect upon Rotary's enduring commitment to **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**, we find ourselves at a defining inflexion point in human history. The rapid emergence of Artificial Intelligence is not merely a technological shift. It is a civilisational moment. One that compels us, as Rotarians, to reassess how we build, sustain, and protect peace in an increasingly complex world.

The relationship between Artificial Intelligence and peace is often described as a **double-edged sword**. While AI offers transformative tools for conflict prevention and reconciliation, it also introduces significant risks to international security and human rights. This duality demands not passive observation, but **active stewardship**.

AI as a Force Multiplier for Peacebuilding

AI is increasingly being integrated into what is now globally recognised as "**PeaceTech**". These are technology-driven interventions designed to enhance the effectiveness, scale, and inclusivity of peace processes.

1. Digital Dialogues. Democratising Voices in Conflict Zones

Platforms such as Remesh. AI are enabling real-time, large-scale consultations in fragile regions like Libya and Yemen. For the first time, mediators can engage **thousands of citizens simultaneously**, capturing diverse perspectives that would otherwise remain unheard.

This is not just technology. This is **participatory peacebuilding at scale**.

2. Combating Misinformation. Safeguarding Social Harmony

In today's digital age, misinformation can spread faster than truth, often fuelling division and violence. Tools like *Perspective API* are helping identify and mitigate hate speech and inflammatory language before they escalate into conflict.

Peace is not only built in negotiation rooms. It is also preserved in the **digital conversations we allow or restrain**.

The Risks We Must Confront

While these advancements are promising, we must remain vigilant.

AI, if misused, can:

- Amplify propaganda and deepfakes
- Automate warfare through autonomous weapons
- Erode privacy and civil liberties
- Deepen inequalities between nations and communities

This is where Rotary's role becomes critical. We are not merely observers of global change. We are **custodians of ethical leadership**.

The Rotary Imperative. Leading with Conscience

As members of The Rotary Club of Ballygunge, we must ask ourselves:

- Are we prepared to **advocate ethical AI usage** in our spheres of influence?
- Can we initiate **community awareness programs** on digital responsibility and misinformation?
- How can we **integrate technology-driven peace initiatives** into our service projects?

The Four-Way Test becomes even more relevant in the age of AI:

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

If AI is to shape the future, then Rotary must help shape **the values that guide AI**.

A Call to Action

Let us embrace AI not with apprehension, but with **disciplined optimism**. Let us position ourselves at the intersection of **technology and humanity**, ensuring that innovation serves peace, not conflict.

The future of peacebuilding will not be written by machines alone. It will be written by **people of integrity**, guided by purpose, and anchored in values.

That is where Rotary stands. That is where Ballygunge leads.

Let us lead with foresight. Let us lead with responsibility.

Let us lead with peace.

Warm regards,

Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee

President

The Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Editor's Message



Rotary Fellowship is more than networking—it is a global commitment to service, empathy, and collaboration. Participants step beyond their communities to connect across cultures, turning ideas into action and goodwill into tangible change.

To participate is to lead quietly yet profoundly: to strengthen communities, uplift lives, and inspire collective progress. Each fellowship is a bridge, proving that ordinary individuals, united by purpose, can reshape societies and spark lasting impact.

In Rotary, service is both responsibility and privilege. It reminds us that global change begins not with power, but with people daring to serve, connect, and act. Every fellow carries forward a promise: that compassion, collaboration, and courage can make the world brighter, together.

As February draws to a close, the week reminds us that every challenge is an invitation and every moment an opportunity. Let us step forward with courage, act with compassion, and shape a future where hope, service, and human dignity triumph — for the world we build begins with the choices we make today. The undeniable power of people united in service.

Rotary is not a stage for politics. It is a Launchpad for impact. It is where energy turns into action, where ideas spark into initiatives, and where ordinary afternoons become extraordinary moments of purpose. When we gather, we leave division at the door and step into something far more powerful: shared mission, shared momentum, and shared heart.

Imagine the force we create when every member shows up — focused not on differences, but on possibility. Focused not on debate, but on doing. The room changes. The air changes. The pace quickens. Vision sharpens. Plans accelerate. That's the Rotary advantage. This is our arena — inclusive, respectful, apolitical, and fiercely committed to service above self. Every voice matters here. Every handshake builds trust. Every meeting fuels the next breakthrough for our community. So come ready. Come energized. Come believing in what we can accomplish together. Because when we show up united, there is no limit to the good we can do. When we gather with purpose, we change lives — including our own.

Each meeting is more than a date on the calendar. It is a circle of fellowship, a forum for ideas, and a catalyst for service. It is where commitment becomes action and where individual goodwill is woven into collective impact. Your voice, your perspective, and your presence are not incidental — they are essential. When you attend, you strengthen the fabric of our club. You affirm the values we share. You help transform good intentions into meaningful service that reaches far beyond our meeting room.

If you are able, I warmly encourage you to join us at our next gathering. Come not out of obligation, but out of belief — belief in service above self, in the power of community, and in the difference we make together.

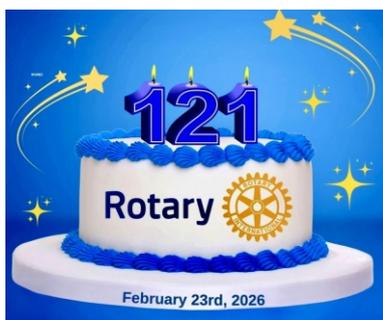
We are better when you are there. Be present. Be the power.

Editor-approved goodies.

Arko Bhattacharjee

Editor, RY 2025-2026

Biggest Rotary International headlines this week (Feb 2026)



Vision for the Future : Rotary's global **eye care initiative** is restoring sight and strengthening local health systems in developing regions — a bold leap toward health equity.

121 Years Strong : Clubs across the Philippines launched a **week-long celebration** for Rotary's 121st anniversary, uniting members for service, sustainability, and community impact. Rotary International — 121 years of transforming the world through service above self. From bringing peace where there is conflict, to health where there is suffering, education where there is need, and hope where there is despair, Rotary proves that ordinary people, united by purpose, can achieve the extraordinary.

This isn't just a birthday. It's a call to action, a reminder that the next century of impact is ours to create.

Polio Eradication Drive: Rotary leadership reaffirmed the urgent global mission to reach near-total immunization and finally consign polio to history.

Peace Leader Development : Fellowship applications opened for **Rotary Peace & Development programs**, empowering tomorrow's global change makers.

Rotary India weekly snapshot :

Peace in Action

On World Peace and Understanding Day, clubs across India renewed their commitment to the ideals of **Rotary International** — advancing dialogue, ethics, and service as instruments of peace.

Unity at Scale – Kozhikode

In **Kozhikode**, 1 500-2000 of Rotarians gathered for a high-energy district conference, celebrating fellowship, innovation, and impact.

Health with Heart – Ahmedabad

In **Ahmedabad**, Rotarians led a major cancer awareness walkathon, mobilizing communities around prevention and early detection.

Across India, Rotary isn't just meeting — it's moving.



Each story is a testament to Rotary's bold pursuit of peace, health, and hope — one community at a time. The **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)** is not just a training program — it is a transformational experience.

It is where good Rotarians become great leaders.

Through RLI, members discover their voice, sharpen their vision, and gain the confidence to step forward. It deepens understanding of **Rotary International** and reveals the extraordinary opportunity each of us has to shape our club's future.

RLI ignites something powerful:

- Courage to lead.
- Clarity of purpose.
- Energy to innovate.
- Commitment to service above self.

Clubs with RLI-trained members are stronger, more vibrant, and more future-ready. Meetings become more meaningful. Projects become more strategic. Leadership transitions become smoother. Momentum builds.

Most importantly, RLI reminds us that leadership in Rotary is not about titles — it is about influence, integrity, and inspiration.

If you have ever thought, *"I could do more... I want to contribute more..."* — RLI is your moment.

Step forward. Say yes. Invest in yourself — and in the future of Rotary.

empowering you to lead projects, inspire others, and make a lasting impact. Whether you aspire to serve as a club president, committee chair, or district leader, RLI gives you the **tools, network, and confidence** to excel.

Why Join RLI?

- Gain **hands-on leadership training** tailored for Rotarians.
- Learn how to **plan, organize, and execute high-impact community projects**.
- Connect with **like-minded leaders** from across the region.
- Prepare yourself to **influence positive change** locally and globally.

Why Act Now?

Leadership is **learned, not inherited**. RLI is your chance to step forward, amplify your impact, and shape the future of Rotary in Kolkata — and beyond. Every session is an opportunity to gain knowledge, network, and emerge ready to **lead with confidence and serve with purpose**.

Minutes of the 2543 Regular Meeting held on 19th February 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. The President called the 2543rd RWM to order.
2. At the President's request, all members stood and joined in singing the National Anthem, rendered with unity and respect.
3. The President shared with the members the heartwarming project undertaken by the club at Ashoknagar on 15th February 2026, where 11 cycle rickshaws were distributed with generous support from EIRWT. Beyond providing a means of livelihood, the initiative brought tangible hope and joy to the beneficiaries and their families, as smiles lit up their faces and a sense of possibility filled their homes. It was a powerful reminder of how thoughtful action can transform lives and uplift entire communities
4. Cancer awareness initiative, 'Life Beyond Cancer,' raised funds and hope for patients in need. With strong member participation, the event highlighted the power of compassion in action, bringing light and support to those fighting cancer
5. The President announced that the club will launch a transformative literacy program in March 2026, designed to empower minds, ignite a love for learning, and open doors of opportunity for the community
6. The President invited Past President Amitava Chakraborty to share his reflections on Shanthi. He offered a thoughtful update on the progress and key developments since the last meeting, highlighting achievements and inspiring continued engagement from all members
7. The President appealed to the members for support to fund the upcoming 'Shantihi' program. Responding with enthusiasm and generosity, members spontaneously stepped forward, exemplifying the spirit of service and collective commitment that lies at the heart of Rotary
8. Club members expressed their concern about member engagement and proposed creating meaningful opportunities for interaction and collaboration. It was decided that this initiative will be explored further in upcoming meetings, with the goal of fostering stronger connections and empowering the club to undertake impactful ventures together
9. The President requested the Secretary to share any happy announcements. The Secretary wished Past President Rinku Das Chowdhury a happy birthday on February 20, and congratulated Past President Pradeep Kumar (February 24), Past President Susanta Sarkar (February 25), and Chartered Member Past President Pradip Majumdar (February 26) on their upcoming marriage anniversaries. The Secretary then handed the proceedings back to the President
10. Minutes of the previous meeting could not be confirmed due to lack of quorum.
11. The President encouraged all members to participate in the upcoming projects and meetings, announcing that the next meeting will be held on February 26, 2026.
12. The President officially adjourned 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