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## President's Message



**Dear Fellow Rotarians,**

Water is the foundation of life, health, and human dignity. Yet millions across the world still lack access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, and basic hygiene. Recognising this fundamental challenge, Rotary International dedicates the month of March to **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**.

The **WASH** initiative focuses on three essential pillars. First, ensuring sustainable access to clean and safe water. Second, building sanitation infrastructure that protects communities from water-borne diseases. Third, promoting hygiene education, particularly simple practices such as handwashing, that can dramatically reduce illness.

The impact of clean water extends far beyond health. When communities gain access to reliable water sources, women and children no longer spend hours collecting water from distant locations. Time is redirected towards education, livelihood, and economic development. Schools become healthier environments. Communities become stronger and more resilient.

Rotary's approach emphasises sustainability. Projects are designed not as temporary solutions but as long-term community assets, supported by local ownership, technical reliability, and environmental responsibility.

Every water system installed, every sanitation facility built, and every hygiene awareness programme conducted represents more than a project. It represents restored dignity, improved health, and a stronger future.

During the **WASH** Month, Rotarians across the world renew their commitment to ensuring that safe water, sanitation, and hygiene become accessible to all. Because when clean water flows, opportunity flows with it.

Warm Rotary wishes,

**Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee**

**President**

**The Rotary Club of Ballygunge**

## Editor's Message



**“Keep the Light Moving Forward”**

*A Rotary Reflection for the Second Week of March*

The second week of March reminds us that true service is not about the excitement of beginnings—it is about the courage to continue.

Anyone can start with enthusiasm. But real change is created by those who keep showing up: the ones, who mentor again, help again, believe again. That is the quiet power of Rotary. Every act of service—no matter how small—moves the light of hope forward. A student encouraged, a family supported, a community strengthened. These are not small things. They are the foundations of a

better world.

The Rotary motto, **Service Above Self**, asks something simple yet powerful:

not perfection, but participation. So this week, let us continue.

Continue to serve. Continue to care. Continue to believe that together we can leave the world better than we found it. Because when service continues, **hope continues—and hope changes everything.**

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month**

Water is the simplest gift of nature, yet for millions it remains a daily struggle.

This March, Rotary focuses on **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**—because clean water is not only about survival; it is about health, **dignity, and opportunity**. When safe water flows into a community, disease retreats, children return to school,

and hope quietly takes root.

Rotarians understand a powerful truth: A well is more than a well.

A sanitation system is more than infrastructure.

They are **pathways to a healthier and more equitable world.**

**Service above Self** comes alive in every drop of clean water delivered and every life protected through better hygiene. This month reminds us of a simple but profound responsibility:

**When we bring clean water to a community, we do not just change lives—we change the future.**

### **Global Highlights of the Week**

As March marks Rotary's focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, clubs worldwide are installing wells, improving sanitation systems, and educating communities about hygiene practices. Each clean water source not only prevents disease but restores dignity and opportunity.

Rotary partners have delivered thousands of mobility devices—including wheelchairs and crutches—to communities in Africa. For many recipients, these devices represent far more than medical support; they reopen doors to education, employment, and independence.

The headquarters of **Rotary International** at **One Rotary Centre** in **Evanston** has once again earned **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold Certification**, marking its **fourth recognition for environmental excellence.**

This achievement is more than a building milestone—it is a powerful message that **service to humanity must also protect the planet.** Rotary continues to lead by example, showing that responsible stewardship and humanitarian service go hand in hand.

Historic commitment to ending **Polio** gained new momentum this week as international experts gathered in **White Rock, Canada**, to strengthen global polio-containment strategies. For more than three decades, Rotary members around the world have stood at the frontline of this mission. The goal is now closer than ever: **a world where no child will ever again suffer from polio.** Across the country, Rotarians remain active partners in the global mission to **eradicate Polio**, continuing a historic effort that has protected millions of children

Volunteers recently completed a humanitarian medical mission in **Kenya**, delivering critical healthcare services including eye care, consultations, and treatment.

These missions embody the Rotary spirit: **professionals transforming their skills into service**, restoring health, dignity, and hope in underserved communities.

Each meeting, each project, and each act of service adds another chapter to Rotary's global story—ordinary people creating extraordinary impact.

### **Looking Ahead: Global Fellowship**

Preparations continue for the upcoming Rotary International Convention 2026 to be held in Taipei this June. Rotarians from around the world will gather to exchange ideas, celebrate service, and strengthen the global network committed to humanitarian action.

### **Rotary India and District 3291 – Highlights of the Week**

Across India, Rotarians continue proving that meaningful change begins with simple acts of service.

A pioneering **Mobile Epilepsy Care Van** was launched in **Bengaluru** with support from **Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor.**

The van brings neurological diagnosis and treatment to rural communities, removing barriers of **distance, cost, and stigma** in healthcare access.

In **Chennai**, members of Rotary International distributed **225 bicycles to schoolgirls**, helping them travel safely to school and continue their education with confidence.

In **Dharwad**, the Rotary Club of Dharwad Central launched a **cervical cancer vaccination drive**, strengthening preventive healthcare and protecting the future of young girls.

Already vaccinated: **1,600+** young girls are being protected from a preventable disease through timely vaccination and awareness programs. This project reflects Rotary's belief that **empowering girls with health protection is empowering the future of society.**

District 3291 has conducted **over 2,500 self-defence workshops** under **Project Virangana**, empowering girls and women with safety skills and confidence.

The initiative is considered **a model project that can be replicated globally** across Rotary districts.

### **Come, be the Light. Join the family. Be the change**

Every Rotary meeting is more than a gathering—it's a place where hearts meet, hopes rise, and lives are changed. Through fellowship, we discover friendship; through **FLAME**, we feel inspired; through service, we touch lives we may never see.

Don't miss the chance to be part of something bigger than yourself. Come, laugh, learn, and serve. Because together, we can

light up the world—and perhaps, even heal our own hearts along the way.

### Share Your Voice!

Every insight counts. Write your thoughts on any ongoing topic—your idea could **inspire, spark change, or open new doors**. Don't hold back; your voice matters. Together, we grow stronger. Your Idea Can Change Everything!

The Editor Speaks

**Arko Bhattacharjee**

Editor, RY 2025-2026

## Shantih: District Inter City Meet Held on 28 February 2026



### Theme: Artificial Intelligence, Education, Peace Building and Conflict Prevention

The **District Inter City Meet**, convened on 28 February 2026 under the resonant banner **Shantih**, constituted a significant intellectual and civic gathering within the Rotary fraternity, bringing together clubs across the district in a spirit of reflection, fellowship, and collaborative inquiry. Within the Rotary tradition, such Inter City Meets represent annual occasions where members assemble not merely to exchange ideas but to reaffirm their collective commitment to service, ethical leadership, and social progress.

The Meeting was called to order by the **President, Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee**.

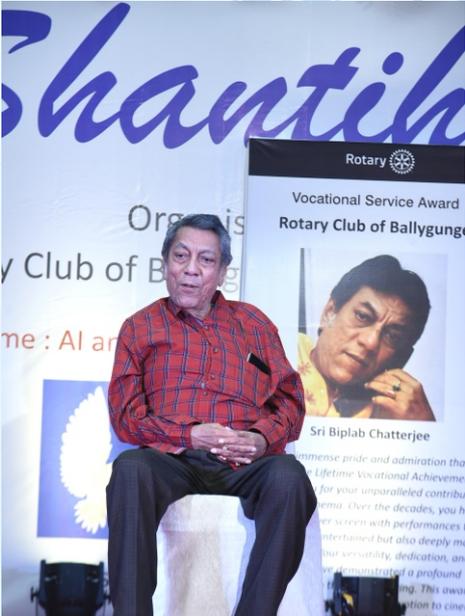
The Chairman of the SHANTIHI event, **Past President Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty**, welcomed the District Governor, Past District Governors, future upcoming District Governors and the Galaxy of Eminent Speakers.

The gathering fulfilled several interrelated purposes:

- To encourage **shared learning and reflective dialogue** among Rotary members.
- To host **presentations and deliberations centred on a common theme of contemporary relevance**.
- To strengthen **fellowship, professional engagement, and collaborative networking** among Rotary clubs within the district.

This particular edition explored the profound intersection of **Artificial Intelligence, education, and peacebuilding**, a theme reflecting Rotary's forward-looking engagement with emerging technology, the enduring importance of education, and the organisation's historic commitment to peace and conflict prevention.





**Artificial Intelligence and the Moral Architecture of Technology**

In contemporary scholarly discourse, Artificial Intelligence is increasingly understood not merely as a technical achievement but as a domain that raises profound ethical and philosophical questions. As articulated in reflective academic analysis:

“Artificial intelligence, in the judgment of contemporary scholarship, is no longer merely a technical enterprise but a profoundly moral one, requiring that innovation be disciplined by reflection, accountability, and human purpose. Academic research across journals devoted to AI, philosophy, and technology ethics has consistently emphasised that the central concerns are not only bias, privacy, transparency, and responsibility, but also the deeper question of how machine systems should remain answerable to human values, institutional integrity, and the public good. The more serious academic view, therefore, does not treat ethics as an ornamental afterthought to computation; rather, it regards ethical inquiry as intrinsic to the design, deployment, and governance of intelligent systems, especially as universities, researchers, and scientific communities confront the implications of generative models for authorship, truthfulness, and academic trust. In this higher sense, AI ethics has emerged within the academy as an interdisciplinary field in which computer science, philosophy, law, and public policy converge to ask not simply what machines can do, but what they ought to do, under whose authority, and at what cost to justice, dignity, and human freedom.”

Such reflections underscore the central premise that technological progress, however transformative, must remain anchored in ethical responsibility and guided by the broader aspirations of human society.



**Artificial Intelligence in a World of Conflict**

The contemporary geopolitical landscape also reveals the increasing presence of Artificial Intelligence within the sphere of military strategy and national security. As scholarly analysis observes:

“Artificial intelligence has entered the theatre of war not as a distant auxiliary, but as a decisive instrument of targeting,



surveillance, operational coordination, and strategic acceleration, thereby rendering the conduct of conflict more rapid, opaque, and morally fraught. In the present conflict involving Iran, reports indicate that Anthropic’s Claude was used by the Pentagon in support of U.S. military operations even amid a serious dispute over the conditions under which such systems might lawfully and ethically be deployed. That dispute appears to have turned on Anthropic’s insistence that its models not be used for mass domestic surveillance or fully autonomous weapons, while the Pentagon sought authority to employ the technology for all lawful purposes, exposing a profound tension between frontier AI firms and the national security state over who shall define the moral perimeter of machine-assisted warfare. More broadly, the integration of advanced AI into military applications—alongside high-end systems from firms such as OpenAI, Google, and xAI under Pentagon contracting frameworks—signals a new age in which computational power may sharpen battlefield effectiveness while simultaneously endangering deliberation, restraint, and the already fragile architecture of peace.”

These developments illuminate the growing urgency of international dialogue on the ethical governance of emerging technologies.

## Artificial Intelligence as an Instrument of Peace

Yet when guided by prudence and moral discernment, Artificial Intelligence may serve as an instrument not of disruption but of reconciliation:

“Artificial intelligence, if governed with prudence and moral seriousness, may yet become an instrument not of rupture but of reconciliation, strengthening the fragile architecture of peace through foresight, restraint, and humane judgment. Its highest promise in the domain of conflict prevention lies in its capacity to detect early signals of instability, analyse patterns of grievance, monitor humanitarian risks, and support timely diplomatic intervention before violence hardens into war. Yet this promise remains inseparable from ethical vigilance, for systems designed to anticipate conflict may also magnify suspicion, empower surveillance, and reduce profoundly human questions of justice, memory, and dignity into cold abstractions of data. The true civilizational challenge, therefore, is not merely to make intelligent systems more powerful, but to ensure that they remain answerable to wisdom, law, and conscience, so that technology may serve peace without usurping the moral responsibilities upon which peace ultimately depends.”



## Education as the Foundation of Peace

Closely intertwined with technological reflection is the enduring role of education in shaping peaceful societies. As the intellectual discourse surrounding the event emphasised:

“Education is among the most enduring safeguards against conflict, for it does not merely impart literacy or skill, but forms the moral and civic imagination by which individuals learn to live with difference without descending into division. Where education is inclusive, humane, and intellectually serious, it cultivates habits of reason, mutual respect, and social responsibility, thereby diminishing the appeal of fanaticism, prejudice, and violence. It also strengthens societies at a structural level, enlarging opportunity, reducing inherited inequality, and creating pathways through which grievance may be expressed in discourse rather than in bloodshed. In this sense, the classroom is not only a site of learning, but a quiet architecture of peace, shaping citizens whose minds are less vulnerable to hatred and whose futures are less captive to conflict.”



## Panel Discussion

### AI, Education and Peace for Sustainability

#### Chairman

The panel session was presided over by **Past President Rtn Amitava Chakravorty**, who established the intellectual tone of the discussion by linking technological advancement with the broader aspiration of peaceful and sustainable societal development.

#### Panellists

The panel assembled distinguished voices from diverse institutional and intellectual traditions:

- **Respected Swami Vedatitananda**, from the Ramakrishna Mission ShilpaMandira, Belur
- **Prof. (Dr.) Mohua Banerjee**, Director, IMI Kolkata
- **Shri Dhruvajyoti De, IPS**, Additional Commissioner of Police, Kolkata
- **Prof. (Dr.) VivekRajvanshi**, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
- **Prof. (Dr.) Samit Paul**, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta



Together, they offered perspectives spanning the impact of education on peace, use and misuse of AI, ethical philosophy, educational leadership, public administration, and technological scholarship.

**Moderator**

The discussion was moderated by **Dr J. N. Mukhopadhyay**, alumnus of IIT BHU and IIM Calcutta and visiting professor at several Indian Institutes of Management, who guided the conversation toward a coherent exploration of technology, education, and peace.



**Shantihhi within Rotary's Commitment to Peace**

The *Shantihhi* initiative resonates deeply with Rotary's global commitment to **Education and Literacy** as well as **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**.

The broader philosophical framework within which such initiatives operate may be expressed in the following reflection:

"Rotary International's role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is distinguished not by rhetoric alone, but by a sustained humanitarian philosophy that seeks to address the moral and material roots of unrest through service, dialogue, education, and institutional fellowship. It understands, with admirable clarity, that peace is not secured merely by the silencing of arms, but by the patient cultivation of justice, social cohesion, educational opportunity, and equitable access to resources, all of which diminish the conditions from which violence so often arises. Through Rotary Peace Centres, fellowships, scholarships, community projects, and cross-cultural engagement, the organisation has invested in forming leaders capable of mediation, reconciliation, and principled public service in regions troubled by division and fragility. In this sense, Rotary serves as both a moral convener and a practical architect of peace, demonstrating that

enduring conflict prevention is achieved less through grand declarations than through disciplined acts of understanding, human solidarity, and locally rooted transformation."

Within this wider vision, Inter City Meets functions as an intellectual and civic platform where leaders, scholars, and practitioners gather to exchange ideas, inspire collective action, and design collaborative service initiatives. The *Shantihhi* meeting exemplified this spirit by bringing together perspectives on **Artificial Intelligence, education, and peacebuilding** within a rapidly evolving global landscape.

**A Reflection by Biplab Chatterjee**

During the event, the distinguished Bengali actor **Biplab Chatterjee** was honoured with a lifetime achievement recognition for his enduring contribution to Bengali cinema.

Shri Biplab Chatterjee is one of Bengali cinema's most recognisable veteran actors, with a career that began in Satyajit Ray's *Pratidwandi* and grew across more than five decades in film and television. He became especially admired for bringing depth, intensity, and credibility to antagonistic and supporting roles, while also building a substantial body of work in notable films such as *Joi Baba Felunath*, *SabujDwiper Raja*, *Phatik Chand*, *Royal Bengal Rahasya*, and *Chaamp*.

His achievements also extend beyond acting into direction and formal industry recognition. Shri Biplab Chatterjee directed Bengali films including *Abhimanyu*, *Prajapati*, and *Chor O Bhagoban*, and he received the BFJA Award for Best Supporting Actor for *Banaphul* in 1997 and *Debipaksha* in 2005; more recently, he was honoured with a lifetime contribution recognition at *Cinemasamabartan 2026*, reflecting his enduring impact on Bengali cinema.

In a moment of thoughtful reflection, he offered a poignant observation:



“War is one thing; yet the greater battle resides within ourselves. If we do not strive to become better human beings, how can peace ever exist? Today we quarrel with one person, tomorrow with another, until our lives become consumed by endless strife. I appeal to politicians: please bring an end to divisive politics. Let people do good, let them act with kindness, and nurture the goodness within humanity, for only then can true peace flourish.”

The District ICM ended with a vote of thanks from the President Elect, RtnSubhankar Chakraborty.

Let peace rise like the first light of dawn over a weary world, dissolving the shadows of hatred, fear, and division.

Let humanity remember its highest calling: not to conquer one another, but to uplift, to heal, and to build a future radiant with compassion, justice, and grace. For what nobler destiny can we claim than this, to let every child grow beneath skies unscarred by violence, to let every nation speak in the language of understanding, and to let every human soul flourish in the embrace of dignity and hope?

Let humanity thrive; let mercy triumph over malice, wisdom over wrath, and love over all that seeks to wound and divide.

Let peace be upon all, in every land and every heart, and let all conflicts end, so that the song of our shared existence may no longer be drowned by the drums of war, but lifted forever by the eternal anthem of harmony, brotherhood, and peace.

## Minutes of the 2544 Regular Meeting held on 26th February 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

### 1. Call to Order :

The President called the 2544th RWM to order.

### 2. National Anthem :

The meeting commenced with the singing of the National Anthem by all assembled members.

### 3. President's Address:

The President informed the members that only 48 hours remain for the club's signature project “SHANTIHI” (“Education and Peace”), scheduled to be held at Rotary Sadan.

### 4. Program Publication :

The President requested **Chairman SHANTIHI, Past President Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty**, to publish the detailed program of “SHANTIHI” so that all club members are well-informed and can participate actively to ensure the program's success.

### 5. Activity Status :

The President further requested the Chairman to elaborate on the status of different activities related to the program.

### 6. Chairman's Report :

Chairman SHANTIHI, PP Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty, presented:

- o Detailed program schedule
- o Status of each related activity
- o Fund position and final estimates
- o Responsibilities assigned to each member for 28th February 2026 at Rotary Sadan

### 7. Minutes of Last Meeting :

The minutes of the previous meeting could not be confirmed due to a lack of quorum.

### 8. Secretary's Announcements :

The Secretary made happy announcements and extended good wishes for the birthdays and marriage anniversaries of club members celebrated between 19th February 2026 and 26th February 2026.

### 9. Handover to President :

The Secretary handed over the proceedings to the President for further business.

### 10. Termination :

The President concluded the 2544th RWM and requested all assembled members to participate in the fellowship.

### Members Present 9

## Happy Announcements

### *Birthday*

**Anirban Sarkar**

**4th March**

**Ria Mookerjee**

**31st March**