



flame

The bulletin of Rotary Club of Ballygunge

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Rotary is not merely setting a target. It is issuing a global call to action. A defining moment that demands scale, speed, and conviction. The vision of 1.25 million Rotarians by July 1, 2030, aligned with Rotary's historic 125th anniversary, is not a number. It is a statement of intent. It reflects our commitment to amplify impact, deepen reach, and strengthen the very fabric of service above self. Every new Rotarian is not just an addition to membership. It is an expansion of influence, a multiplier of goodwill, and a catalyst for sustainable change across communities, industries, and nations.

This is the decade where Rotary must think like a movement, not a membership body. Growth is no longer optional. It is strategic. It is imperative. Each club, each leader, and each Rotarian carries the responsibility to identify, invite, and inspire individuals who embody integrity, leadership, and a passion for service. The path to 1.25 million will not be achieved through incremental effort. It will be realised through bold outreach, meaningful engagement, and an uncompromising focus on relevance and value. The question before us is simple yet profound. Will we witness this milestone, or will we build it.

Warm Rotary wishes,
Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee
President
The Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Editor's Message



Change-Makers of Rotary,

Rotary is not measured by what we say, but by the lives we change. Every act of service, every moment of compassion, every step we take together gives life to our timeless calling—*Service above Self*.

When communities are tested, we do more than respond—we rise. Not as individuals, but as a united force driven by purpose, courage, and an unshakable belief in doing well. You are the reason hope is restored, possibilities are created, and impact becomes real.

Let us not settle for what is comfortable. Let us challenge ourselves to think bolder, reach further, and serve with even greater passion. Because the world is not waiting for change—it is waiting for us. Every life we touch holds the power to spark change. With compassion, courage, and action, we can lift others, restore hope, and create a ripple that transforms families, communities, and the world. True impact is measured not in what we gain, but in the lives we uplift.

Last week's RWM and Fellowship was not just an event—it was a powerful testament to who we are. The presence of so many distinguished members transformed that gathering into something truly exceptional—a celebration of unity, leadership, and the very finest spirit of Rotary.

These moments are more than memories; they are milestones. They remind us that when we come together with purpose, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Together, we are not just making a difference—we are defining the future of service.

Global Highlights of the Week

1. Transforming Lives in Uganda

Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo inaugurated ground-breaking health initiatives at Kawempe National Referral Hospital—including Oxygen as a Service project and a USD 500,000 Mama Toto Care Global Grant. These projects are saving lives, empowering healthcare workers, and giving hope to countless mothers and children. This is Rotary turning vision into life-changing reality.

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2. Dublin to Host 2031 RI Convention

The announcement of Dublin as the host city for the 2031 Rotary International Convention reflects our ever-growing global presence. Bringing together over 20,000 Rotarians, this convention will showcase our collective strength, inspire new partnerships, and create lasting impact worldwide.

3. Fellowship Driving Purpose and Passion

The International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR) concluded its 2026 North American Ski Week, blending friendship, adventure, and fundraising for adaptive sports programs. This is a perfect example of how Rotary transforms fellowship into action that touches lives.

Rotary India and District 3291 – Highlights of the Week

- A new Rotary Peace Centre was inaugurated at Symbiosis International University in Pune, creating an academic hub for peace and development leaders from across Asia — a milestone in Rotary's commitment to education and harmony.
- The Rotary Club of Bombay launched a state of the art industry ready Innovation Lab at ITI Mumbai to equip youth with future ready skills — a powerful step in shaping careers and community growth.
- India made headlines internationally with one of the largest personal donations ever pledged to *The Rotary Foundation* by a long time Indian Rotarian, reinforcing India's leadership in global service.

Honouring Legacy: We celebrated the centenary of Santosh Dutta, showcasing how Rotary uplifts culture and inspires pride in our communities.

Innovation & Leadership: Through *RMB Connect 2026*, our district highlighted collaboration, technology, and visionary leadership, proving that service and innovation go hand in hand.

Step into Rotary—a world where ideas ignite action, passion drives service, and every connection sparks change.

Join weekly meetings to share your voice and shape projects. Immerse yourself in fellowships, where learning, laughter, and collaboration turn connections into lifelong bonds. Bring your bold ideas to FLAME, our platform to innovate, inspire, and transform communities.

Your presence matters. Your ideas matter. Together, we can dream bigger, serve stronger, and create ripples of impact that change lives.

Be inspired. Contribute. Lead. Transform. Rotary is waiting for you. Rotary isn't just a club—it's a global volunteer infrastructure, a public health powerhouse, and a network-driven engine for change.

Shared With Purpose!

Arko Bhattacharjee

Editor, Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Facts:

1. Rotary started in 1905 in Chicago, making it older than many countries' modern governments!
2. The name "Rotary" comes from meetings originally rotating among members' offices.
3. Rotary has 1.2+ million members across 200+ countries, connecting the world through service.
4. Rotary has helped reduce polio cases worldwide by 99.9% and contributed over \$2 billion to fight it.
5. Women joined Rotary only in 1987, opening doors to global leadership and service.
6. The Four-Way Test, created in 1932, guides ethical behaviour in over 100 languages worldwide.
7. Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," drives life-changing projects in health, education, and peace.
8. Members can join 70+ fellowships for hobbies like cycling, wine, music, and skiing—connecting passions globally.
9. The Rotary gearwheel emblem symbolizes civilization, movement, and teamwork.
10. Rotary communications have inspired members for over a century, making its legacy timeless. Every Rotary member is part of a global movement that proves small acts of service create worldwide impact.
11. Rotary in India has deep roots — Rotary began in India with the very first club in Calcutta ("Old Number One") in 1919, making India one of the earliest countries outside the USA where Rotary expanded.
12. District heritage is rich and historic — The region that later became District 3291 has been part of Rotary since before India's independence and once covered vast areas including today's Bangladesh and Nepal before being reorganised to focus on West Bengal and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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13. District 3291 has ambitious community support plans — Previously, the district unveiled a comprehensive blueprint of service projects worth around ₹58 crores, covering free surgeries, health camps, prosthetic hands, specialized medical units, tree planting, education efforts, and empowerment programs.
14. Rotary India Clubs are engines of rural upliftment — Clubs like the Rotary Club of Central Calcutta have driven village development through water supply, sanitation, vocational training, nurseries, and self reliance programs — benefiting entire communities beyond city limits.
15. District clubs do life changing community health work — Recent projects in District 3291 have focused on clean water, usable toilets in schools, and hygiene education that helps reduce disease, keep girls in school, and improve long term health outcomes.
16. Youth leadership thrives here — The Rotaract movement within District 3291 has grown significantly, with clubs empowering hundreds of young service leaders, contributing energy and fresh ideas to local impact projects.
17. Rotary recognises academic excellence — District 3291 has organised events to honour top school board exam achievers, celebrating not just service but also educational achievement in the community.
18. Rotary meetings and fellowships are inclusive and diverse — District 3291 clubs meet on different days, times, and formats — from Sunday gatherings to evening events — making service participation accessible and vibrant.
19. Rotary is both historic and evolving — While it has a century long legacy in India, the organisation continuously adapts, blending traditional community service with modern initiatives like health technology, environmental projects, and youth leadership development.

Special mentions of members of Rotary Club Of Ballygunge (Rotary Speakers of the week)

Dr. Debdita Banerjee is a distinguished dentist and oral & maxillofacial specialist based in Kolkata, holding advanced qualifications in Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Microbiology. With a track record of treating thousands of patients, she is recognized for her precision in managing complex conditions ranging from cleft anomalies and facial trauma to oral cancer screening. Blending clinical excellence with academic rigor, she actively contributes to research and peer-reviewed publications, reflecting a commitment to advancing oral healthcare. Fluent in English, Hindi, and Bengali, she embodies expertise, compassion, and impact in modern dentistry.

Dr. Aniruddha Basu is a leading oral & maxillofacial specialist in Kolkata with over seven years of expertise in advanced dental surgery and patient-centric care. Trained at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and West Bengal University of Health Sciences, he transforms smiles with precision, compassion, and a commitment to excellence.



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Induction of New Member



A new chapter of service begins as Rtn. Sumit Kumar Mondal is formally inducted into the Rotary Club of Ballygunge by the President Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee and Past

President Shubrato Chakraborty—an occasion that reflects Rotary's legacy of excellence, fellowship, and meaningful impact.

Vision-driven international business professional with over a decade of excellence in global B2B trade of leather bags and accessories. Trusted across Europe, the USA, the UAE, and Japan for strategic execution, sharp negotiations, and consistent results, he operates at the intersection of opportunity and reliability. Guided by integrity, discretion, and enduring relationships, he delivers impact beyond business—championing meaningful change through education, healthcare, and economic empowerment.

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Minutes of the 2547 Regular Meeting held on 26th March 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

- A Memorable Gathering of Fellowship and Purpose
The 2547th RWM was called to order by the President, who began the meeting by inviting all members to rise for the National Anthem, sung in chorus—a spirited start reflecting unity and pride.
- Agenda Highlights :
Celebrating “Baishakhi Adda”
Addressing SAD payments
Announcing Upcoming COTS & Installation
Key Proceedings & Decisions:
- Baishakhi Adda Celebration:
The President suggested hosting a festive “Baishakhi Adda” post-April 15th and sought members’ creative ideas for a memorable gathering.
- SAD Payments:
Expressing concern over repeated reminders from District Rotary, the President emphasized timely settlement of SAD dues by club members.
- PELS Insights:
The President shared takeaways from the President Elect Learning Seminar (PELS) held on March 22, 2026, at Vivanta, Kolkata—highlighting leadership strategies and planning insights for the upcoming Rotary year.
- COTS & Installation Announcements:
The Secretary (PE) informed members that the COTS for 2026–27 will take place on June 13, 2026, followed by the Installation Ceremony on July 30, 2026, confirmed by District Rotary.
- New Member Induction:
In a moment of pride, the President welcomed Rtn. Sumit Kumar Mondal into the fellowship and presented him with the official club pin—a symbol of trust, service, and shared values.
- Club Assembly EGM:
The President announced an upcoming Club Assembly EGM on April 16, 2026, to address key initiatives and strategic priorities.
- Speaker Session – Oral Hygiene Awareness:
Rotarian Dr. Debdita Banerjee, joined by Dr. Aniruddha Basu delivered an enlightening session on “Oral Hygiene,” sharing essential daily practices, dos and don’ts, and proposing awareness camps at select schools across Kolkata. The session emphasized the importance of preventive care and community health education.
- Closing Thoughts:
The President concluded the meeting by reinforcing the values of teamwork, timely action, and community service, inspiring members to actively participate in upcoming projects and initiatives.
- Celebrations & Announcements:
Upcoming Birthday of Ria Mookerjee – March 31
Belated Birthday of Anirban Sarkar – March 4
- Next Steps:
Members are encouraged to join upcoming projects and events. The next RWM will be held on April 2, 2026.
- Meeting Adjourned: With warmth and fellowship, the President officially concluded the session.

Members Present 16

Happy Announcements

Birthday

Shubrato Chakraborty 22th April
Rupom Mukherjee 26th April

Anniversaries

Muhammed Tayyab Khan 01st April
Moonmoon Gupta 06th April
Sudeep Roy 16th April
Dibyendu Barua 27th April