



flame

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,
May 2026 carries a very special significance in the Rotary calendar. It is observed as **Youth Service Month**, a month dedicated to recognising, encouraging, and empowering young people through Rotary's powerful youth-focused platforms such as **Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Youth Exchange**. Rotary clubs across the world use this month to focus on youth leadership, service, international understanding, and responsible citizenship.

Youth Service, for Rotarians, transcends the boundaries of a conventional programme; it constitutes a solemn investment in the moral and civic architecture of the future. The passage underscores that young people are not passive recipients of benevolence but dynamic collaborators whose creativity, idealism, and sense of responsibility possess the power to shape a rapidly evolving world. Amid technological upheaval, environmental uncertainty, and social transformation, Rotary emerges as a guiding force, channelling youthful energy through mentorship, values, and purposeful leadership.

The Rotary Club of Ballygunge bears a dual responsibility: to serve present societal needs while simultaneously cultivating the next generation of ethical leaders. Every act of encouragement, training, or inspiration extended toward youth becomes an enduring investment in continuity, goodwill, and social progress.

On **7th May 2026**, our fellowship programme "**Boishaker Boithoki**" became a truly memorable evening for the Rotary Club of Ballygunge. The overwhelming participation of our members and

several spouses made the programme warm, vibrant, and deeply personal.

What made the evening special was not only the gathering, but the Rotary Fellowship Spirit behind it. Members came forward with their own personal contributions in the form of songs, recitations, cultural expressions, and heartfelt participation, transforming the evening into much more than a fellowship programme. It became a celebration of bonding, talent, affection, and shared identity.

Such evenings remind us that Rotary is built not only through projects, meetings, and reports, but also through relationships. Fellowship is the emotional foundation of Rotary. It strengthens trust. It creates belonging. It brings families into the Rotary fold. It converts membership into friendship.

I place on record my sincere gratitude to every member and spouse who participated in **Boishaker Boithoki** and made it such an enriching experience. The effort, enthusiasm, and affection shown by all will be remembered for a long time to come.

The Rotary Club of Ballygunge has always drawn strength from committed members, supportive families, and a shared belief in meaningful service. With this collective spirit, I am confident that May 2026 will be remembered not only as a month of youth engagement but also as a month of renewed fellowship, warmth, and purpose.

Together, let us continue to serve with commitment, lead with compassion, and inspire the next generation to believe in the power of service.

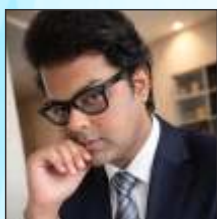
Warm Rotary wishes,

Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee

President

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Editor's Message



We live in a world that rarely pauses. Attention jumps from screen to screen, problem to problem, moment to moment. Everything is urgent. Very little is deep. In such a world, service becomes harder to notice—but more powerful than

ever.

And yet, in Rotary meetings across cities and communities, something quietly remarkable continues. People still sit together. Still listen. Still commit time not for themselves, but for others. In a distracted age, that alone is a statement. But the most important truth is even simpler: the future of Rotary is already in the room.

It is in the young member who sees solutions instead of limitations.

It is in the quiet voice that asks, “Why not do this better?” It is in the new energy that does not wait for permission to make an impact.

We often speak about the “next generation” as if it is somewhere far away. It is not. It is here—sitting next to experience, learning from it, and gently reshaping it.

The danger is not that Rotary will lose relevance. The danger is not noticing that relevance is already being renewed from within. Because in a distracted world, attention is rare.

In a divided world, connection is powerful. And in a changing world, Rotary’s greatest strength is simple: it keeps bringing people together who still believe action matters.

The future of Rotary is not something we are waiting for. It is something we are sitting with—right now.

Giving to the Rotary Foundation Matters:

Giving to The Rotary Foundation is not just generosity—it is impact multiplied.

A single contribution does not stay in one place. It travels. It funds vaccines that protect children, clean water that transforms villages, education that opens futures, and disaster relief that restores hope when it is needed most. This is the power of Rotary: it turns giving into systems that last. In a world full of urgent problems, it is easy to feel that individual action is small. But through The Rotary Foundation, small action becomes sustained change. One donation becomes many lives changed—again and again. Polio

eradication, maternal health, literacy, peacebuilding—these are not distant causes. They are ongoing results of people who chose to give. Giving is not the end of service. It is what makes service scale. And in that simple choice lies something powerful: the ability to be part of change that continues long after the moment of giving is gone.

Because when we give through Rotary, we are not just helping today.

We are building tomorrow.

Rotary News of the Week : India & Global

Rotary this week continues its usual style—quiet work, steady impact, and results that speak louder than announcements. The world is very close to finishing the fight against polio. It is no longer a question of possibility, but of patience and consistency. At the same time, Rotary Peace Fellows continue to quietly prepare for roles where calm thinking matters more than loud opinions.

Across India, Rotary projects continue in health, education, and eye donation awareness—simple efforts that create long-term change. Young members are also becoming more active, bringing fresh energy and new ways of looking at old challenges. Rotary this week is simply doing what it does best—staying consistent, staying useful, and staying involved where it matters. While the world debates what should be done, Rotary usually prefers a simpler approach—just getting it done.

We know your schedule is busy. So is everyone’s. Even Batman shows up for meetings. But here’s the deal: Every week, we gather for Rotary—where world-changing ideas are discussed, and then occasionally delayed by “quickly one small point” that lasts 18 minutes. You bring ideas, you meet great people, you do actual good in the world, and yes, there is always at least one person aggressively guarding the snacks. If you’ve been “meaning to come,” congratulations—you’ve now officially graduated to “being expected.” Same time, same purpose, different slightly chaotic optimism. Show up. We notice. And we save you a chair anyway.

Issued in service, pride and fellowship by the Editorial Board.

Arko Bhattacharjee

Editor, Rotary Club of Ballygunge

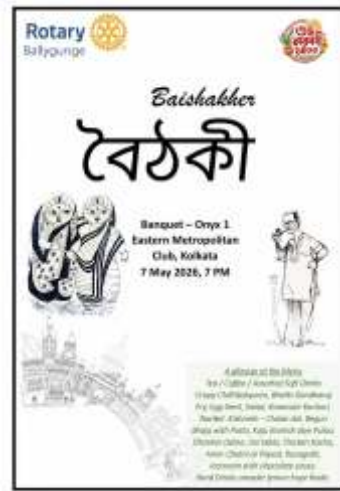
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Baishakher Boithoki Adda





Rotary Club of Ballygunge



Rotary Club of Ballygunge





What an unforgettable evening it was!

On 7th May 2026, our club came together for the much-awaited **Baishaker Boithoki Adda**—an evening that beautifully blended **fellowship, fun, and family bonding** into one vibrant celebration.

The event unfolded like a festival of talent and togetherness. From a lively **fashion show** that lit up the stage with confidence and colour, to soulful **poetry and recitations** that touched hearts, every moment carried its own charm. The atmosphere came alive with melodious songs, spontaneous laughter, and the unmistakable joy of being together beyond formal meetings and service projects.

More than performances, it was the spirit of participation that made the evening truly special—members and families stepping forward, cheering each other on, and celebrating every act with warmth and pride.

As the evening flowed seamlessly into a gala dinner, conversations deepened, smiles lingered, and memories quietly settled in—reminding us that fellowship is not just an event, but the heartbeat of our Rotary family.

Baishaker Boithoki Adda was not just celebrated—it was felt, shared, and remembered.

Thalassemia Projects



Here's some truly delighting and uplifting news from The Rotary Club of Ballygunge:

On the morning of **8th May 2026**, two impactful **Thalassemia projects** have been successfully carried out—each aimed at awareness, prevention, and early detection.

First, a vibrant **Car Rally** took to the streets with one clear mission: to spread awareness about Thalassemia in a way that could not be ignored, overlooked, or scrolled past. It turned heads, sparked conversations, and carried our message far beyond the starting point.

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Second, a meaningful initiative was conducted in the form of **blood testing for early detection of Thalassemia among students of Class 11 and Class 12 Shri Gandhi Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School**, empowering young individuals with awareness and the invaluable advantage of early diagnosis.

Together, these initiatives reflect what Rotary stands for at its best—action with purpose, service with heart, and impact that lasts beyond a single day.

More such meaningful updates will follow soon.

Minutes of the 2550 Regular Meeting held on 7th May, 2026 At Onyx Room- 1, Eastern Metropolitan Club, Kolkata

- Members were thereafter requested to rise for the National Anthem, which was rendered in unison with dignity, patriotism, and commendable enthusiasm—some members even managing to remain perfectly in tune.
- The President then drew the attention of the House to the upcoming Thalassaemia Awareness Programme scheduled to be held on May 8, 2026, at Gandhi Vidyalaya in observance of World Thalassaemia Day. Members were earnestly encouraged to participate in large numbers. It was further informed that several District Officials would also grace the occasion, thereby adding further significance to the event—and perhaps a little additional pressure to arrive on time.
- Continuing with the Club's commitment to meaningful service, the President announced that a project concerning "Blindness amongst Children" is proposed to be undertaken at Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission. The finer details, including the date and programme structure, shall be communicated shortly. Members welcomed the initiative wholeheartedly, proving once again that the Club not only sees the future clearly but also works tirelessly to brighten it for others.
- The President thereafter made a humble appeal to all members to contribute generously towards TRF, reminding everyone that while goodwill is priceless, service projects occasionally insist on invoices.
- The House was further informed of another important Thalassaemia programme to be organised by District 3291 at Howrah Station, where Past President Ashif Shah, along with several members of the Club, would represent the Club in service and fellowship. Members appreciated the initiative and silently hoped that the Howrah traffic would cooperate with Rotary ideals.
- The President then invited the Secretary to address the members regarding the District Learning Assembly scheduled for May 17, 2026. The Secretary eloquently highlighted the importance of the Assembly and encouraged members to enrol and participate actively, gently reminding everyone that learning in Rotary is a lifelong process—even for those who still struggle with Zoom links and muted microphones.
- The House then moved to the ever-cheerful segment of "Happy Announcements." The Secretary joyfully announced the birthdays of Rotarian Dr. Aniruddha Basu (May 4), Past President Bhomra Chatterjee (May 5), Past President Amitava Chakraborty (May 12), and Past President Sanjoy Dey (May 13). Warm wishes and applause followed, with some members tactfully avoiding any discussion regarding the number of candles involved.
- The Secretary also announced the wedding anniversaries of Past President Rinku Das Chowdhury (May 2), Dr. Joydeep Mukherjee (May 4), and Rotarian Subhankar Saha (May 9). The Club extended heartfelt congratulations to the couples for continuing to uphold the noble ideals of patience, partnership, and selective hearing.
- The Secretary thereafter handed the proceedings back to the President, who invited all members to actively participate in the forthcoming projects and meetings, reminding everyone that Rotary works best when fellowship, service, and attendance coexist harmoniously.
- The next meeting of the Club is scheduled to be held on May 14, 2026.
- There being no further business before the House, the President declared the meeting terminated with thanks to all present for their participation, enthusiasm, and continued commitment to service above self. Members dispersed in high spirits, some inspired for service, others inspired by the prospect of dinner; and most fortunately managing both.

Members Present 17

Guests Present 6

Happy Announcements

