



flame

The bulletin of Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Club # 16145
Rotary International District 3291

Volume # XLVII
Issue # 19
Date # 20.05.2026

Rotary
Ballygunge



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President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Sustainability is no longer a distant global conversation. It is a personal discipline, a community responsibility, and a moral commitment to future generations.

For Rotarians, sustainable living is not merely about protecting the environment. It is about building healthier communities, reducing waste, conserving resources, and ensuring that progress does not come at the cost of the planet.

Across age groups, the subject of sustainable living creates meaningful conversations because it touches everyday life. It connects the student carrying a reusable water bottle, the homemaker segregating waste, the professional choosing public transport, the senior citizen conserving electricity, and the entrepreneur adopting renewable energy. Sustainability is powerful because everyone can participate.

As Rotarians, we can encourage institutions to examine their energy consumption, explore solar installations, and adopt energy-efficient systems. A green institution is not only environmentally responsible. It is financially prudent.

The Rotary Club of Ballygunge has always believed in service that creates lasting change. Sustainable living aligns naturally with Rotary's areas of focus, particularly supporting the environment, water and sanitation, disease prevention,

community development, and basic education.

The key is not only to conduct projects, but to design them with continuity, measurement, and community participation.

One reason sustainable living resonates across all age groups is that it allows every generation to contribute meaningfully.

A family that practises waste segregation, avoids unnecessary consumption, saves water, and respects nature becomes a living classroom. A school that teaches sustainability shapes responsible citizens. A club that promotes green habits becomes a catalyst for civic transformation.

Sustainable living is not a campaign for one day, one month, or one event. It is a way of life. It requires discipline, awareness, and collective action. The climate challenge may appear large, but the response begins with small, repeatable choices.

As members of the Rotary Club of Ballygunge, we have the opportunity to lead by example.

Through our homes, workplaces, schools, community projects, and public platforms, we can inspire responsible consumption and practical environmental stewardship.

We do not inherit the earth only to use it. We hold it in trust for those who will come after us.

Sustainable living is a service. Green living is a responsibility. And responsible citizenship is one of the finest expressions of Rotary's ideal of Service Above Self.

Warm Rotary wishes,

Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee

President

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Editor's Message



A child today can ask a machine for advice. A student can generate an essay in seconds.

A business can replace conversations with automation.

And somewhere, in the middle of this astonishing progress, humanity faces a quiet danger. We are becoming more connected to technology, and less connected to each other.

This is the Age of Artificial Intelligence — an era of breath taking innovation. Machines can now learn languages, create art, detect diseases, write poetry, and imitate human conversation with startling accuracy. The impossible has become ordinary almost overnight. Yet while technology grows smarter, the world often feels colder.

People sit together, but look at screens. Families share homes, but not time. We react instantly, but rarely listen deeply. In a world overflowing with communication, genuine connection is slowly becoming a luxury. And perhaps that is the greatest paradox of our time: the more the world advances technologically, the more valuable human warmth becomes.

Artificial Intelligence can answer questions. But it cannot understand heartbreak. It can generate words. But it cannot replace sincerity. It can simulate empathy. But it cannot truly care. Only humans can do that. A comforting hand during grief. A teacher who changes a child's confidence. A volunteer serving silently without recognition.

A friend who says, "I'm here."

These moments will never be automated, because the soul of humanity does not come from intelligence alone — it comes from compassion.

This is why organizations like Rotary International matter more today than ever before. In an age racing toward artificial intelligence, Rotary reminds us of something profoundly important: human beings are not meant merely to function together — we are meant to care for one another.

The future will not be shaped only by coders, engineers, or machines. It will also be shaped by listeners, caregivers, mentors, volunteers, and communities that refuse to let humanity disappear behind technology. Progress is important. Innovation is necessary. AI will undoubtedly improve lives in countless ways.

But if we lose empathy while gaining efficiency, the victory will be incomplete. The true measure of civilization has never been how advanced our machines are. It has always been how deeply we value people.

As we move forward into a future powered by algorithms, may we not forget the timeless power of kindness, presence, friendship, and service. Because long after the newest technology becomes outdated, one thing will remain irreplaceable: A human heart that truly connects with another.

*They asked for nothing.
Yet gave everything.
And somewhere tonight,
A stranger sleeps with hope
Because Rotary existed.*

*The purest form of love
Is helping someone
Who can never repay you.
That is Rotary.*

Arko Bhattacharjee
Editor, Rotary Club of Ballygunge
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Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Rotary Club of Ballygunge : District Learning Assembly (DLA 2026)



Rotary District 3291 DLA 2026 District Learning Assembly

Host: Rotary Club of Belur

17th May 2026 Sunday

Venue: HYATT REGENCY KOLKATA

BREAK AWAY SESSIONS

Presidents 2026-27	Secretaries & Treasurers 2026-27
Club Service	International Service
Vocational Service	Youth Service
Community Service Medical & Non Medical	The Rotary Foundation, Polio & CSR
	Spouses Session

Great Ambience - excellent food - seamless fellowship - enthralling presentations - business like Breakouts

"Renew Old Friendships and Build New Bridges of Friendship"

Tapas Bhattacharya District Governor 2026-27 | PDG Debashish Mitra District Learning Facilitator 2026-27 | Sharad Dugar HOST PRESIDENT 2025-26



The Rotary District Learning Assembly 2026 is designed to prepare and empower incoming Rotary leaders with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead effectively.

Its core purpose is simple: to build capable leaders, strengthen clubs, and amplify community impact for the year ahead.

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Sachin Gupta Memorial Scholarship



Education is not charity. It is the most powerful investment in the future of society.

On Wednesday, 20th May 2026, Past President Indrani Gupta, Past President Bhomra Chatterjee, and Secretary Elect Tanulal Chakrabarti visited Narendrapur College to hand over a cheque of ₹50,000 for the continuation of our club's prestigious annual initiative — "Sachin Gupta

Memorial Scholarship," generously sponsored by Rtn. Indrani Gupta.

This scholarship is more than financial support. It is a bridge between talent and opportunity, between dreams and destiny. At a time when many bright students struggle to continue their education, such initiatives become a beacon of hope and dignity.

The cheque, post-dated in alignment with the new academic session beginning on 1st July, was formally handed over to Principal Moharaj.

What made the moment even more inspiring was the remarkable achievement of the beneficiary student, Md. Moinuddin. Through hard work, discipline, and determination, he secured 1st position in English in the last semester and also stood 1st in the Essay Competition. His success is a reminder that when society believes in a student, that student can rise beyond every limitation.

Moments like these define the true spirit of Rotary — creating lasting impact not only through service, but through empowering human potential. One scholarship can educate a student. One educated student can uplift an entire family, community, and generation.

It was truly a proud, emotional, and fulfilling experience to be part of such a noble project that continues to inspire hope, excellence, and transformation through education.

UPCOMING EVENT

Rotary District 3291 Rotary Community Corps

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Rotary Community Corps DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2026

Lead Host: Rs 25,000
Host: Rs 20,000
Co-Host: Rs 10,000
Associate Host: Rs 5,000

Scan Here

Bank Account Details
A/C Name: Rotary International District 3291-District RCC
Account No.: 8052161670
IFSC Code: KKBK0006628
MICR NO. 700485048

24th May 2026 9.30am - 5pm

Registration fees
Rotarians 700/-
RCC Members 300/-

Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture Golpark

24 9.

Minutes of the 2551 Regular Meeting

held on 14th May, 2026 At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

- The 2551st Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club commenced with warmth, camaraderie, and a renewed spirit of service, as the President called the meeting to order amidst the gracious presence of the members.
- The proceedings began on a solemn and patriotic note as the President requested all present to rise for the National Anthem, which was sung in unison by the members, filling the room with a sense of pride, unity, and fellowship.
- At the very outset, the President expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all members for making the "Baisakhi Baithak" programme and fellowship an overwhelming success. He fondly acknowledged the enthusiastic participation, vibrant fellowship, and collective effort that transformed the evening into a memorable celebration of togetherness and Rotary spirit.

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

- The President thereafter presented a brief yet meaningful report on the Thalassemia Awareness and Testing Programme organized by the Club at Gandhi Vidyalaya. He conveyed his sincere gratitude to Assistant Governor Rtn. Abhijit Banerjee for extending valuable support by deputing two persons for collection of blood samples for the required tests. The President also warmly thanked all members who participated in the observance of World Thalassemia Day on May 8, appreciating their commitment towards humanitarian service and community health.
- The meeting then moved into discussions on several upcoming service initiatives envisioned for the forthcoming Rotary year. The President updated the members regarding the proposed Dental Camp and emphasized the importance of expanding the Club's outreach in preventive healthcare. Deliberations were also held on organizing a meaningful programme in observance of Doctors' Day on July 1, recognising and honouring the tireless contributions of the medical fraternity.
- In continuation of the discussions on community welfare, the President proposed a project at Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission focusing on "Blindness amongst Children", a subject that deeply resonated with the members and evoked thoughtful interaction and concern.
- Further strengthening the Club's commitment towards compassionate service, the President also proposed organizing a Food Distribution Programme at a maternity clinic, with the modalities and venue to be mutually finalized in due course.
- The President then invited the Secretary to address the gathering regarding the District Learning Assembly scheduled for May 17, 2026. The Secretary encouraged all members to actively enrol and participate in the session, highlighting it as an excellent opportunity for learning, leadership development, and strengthening Rotary engagement.
- The Secretary further informed the House about the forthcoming Club events and important dates scheduled in the coming months:

• Event	Date
• Club Officer Training Seminar (COTS)	June 13, 2026
• Joint Board Meeting	June 20, 2026
• Incoming & Outgoing	June 24, 2026
• Installation Ceremony	July 30, 2026

- Adding a cheerful and affectionate touch to the evening, the President requested the Secretary to make the happy announcements. The House joined in extending warm birthday wishes to PP Sanjoy Dey (May 13), Anindita Chatterjee Sinha (May 16), and Rtn. Moonmoon Gupta (May 17). The moment was marked with smiles, applause, and the unmistakable warmth that defines the Club's fellowship.
- Before concluding, the President once again urged all members to actively participate in the upcoming meetings and service projects, reminding everyone that the true strength of the Club lies in the collective enthusiasm and involvement of its members.
- The next meeting of the Club is scheduled to be held on May 21, 2026.
- There being no further business to transact, the President declared the meeting terminated, bringing to a close yet another engaging and purposeful evening marked by fellowship, vision, and the enduring spirit of "Service Above Self."

Members Present 10

Guests Present 1

Happy Announcements

