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Editor : Ria Mookerjee

President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we traverse through October, a month dedicated to Economic and Community Development within the Rotary calendar, I write to you with profound conviction and unwavering optimism about the transformative power we collectively possess to reshape destinies and rebuild communities.

The Clarion Call of Our Times : We stand at a pivotal juncture in our nation's journey. Whilst India ascends on the global economic stage, deep fissures of inequality persist within our communities. Economic and Community Development is not merely a theme for this month; it represents the very essence of what "Service Above Self" demands of us in contemporary times. It is the bridge between compassion and capability, between goodwill and genuine transformation.

The RC Ballygunge Imperative : Our club bears a distinguished legacy of service. We have consistently demonstrated that when Rotarians unite with purpose, mountains move, barriers crumble, and impossible becomes inevitable.

When we provide vocational training to an unemployed youth, we do not merely create one job, we transform an entire family's trajectory, we instill hope in a community, we contribute to our nation's productive capacity.

The Moral Imperative : Fellow Rotarians, we are exceptionally privileged. We possess education, professional success, financial security, and social capital. These blessings carry profound responsibility. The accident of birth circumstances should not determine life outcomes. Every individual deserves the opportunity to realise their inherent potential, to contribute meaningfully to society, to live with dignity and purpose.

As Rotarians committed to "Service Above Self," we recognise that our own prosperity is incomplete whilst others struggle. We understand that healthy communities require broad-based economic participation. We acknowledge that sustainable development demands not just economic growth, but equitable distribution of opportunity.

The Vision Before Us : The poet Rabindranath Tagore, whose spirit suffuses this great city, wrote: "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

Service Above Self is not merely our motto, it is our sacred covenant with humanity. Economic and Community Development is not merely our October theme, it is our moral obligation to this generation and those yet unborn.

I am honoured to lead this distinguished club. I am confident that together, we shall make this month and this year truly transformative for the communities we serve.

With deep respect and unwavering faith in our collective purpose,

With Warm Rotary Wishes,
Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee
President (RY 25-26)

Editor's Message



October — a month dedicated to Economic and Community Development — reminds us that true service lies in empowering others to build a better tomorrow.

At RC Ballygunge, our efforts go beyond charity; they spark change. Every initiative — whether skill-building, education, or livelihood support — strengthens the foundation of self-reliance in our communities.

As we continue our journey of Service Above Self, let's remember that growth is most meaningful when shared, and progress is most powerful when inclusive. Together, we have the privilege — and the responsibility — to turn compassion into opportunity.

Let us carry forward this spirit through every act of service, big or small.

Warm regards,
Ria Mookerjee
Editor, RC Ballygunge

Sabari Bose - *Experience in corporate about 30 yrs in leadership mentoring*



An innovation project leader is like the captain of a ship, responsible for making sure the project stays afloat and navigating challenges to reach its destination. They set the course for the project, defining goals, critical challenges and questions that must be answered or validated to determine whether the problem is worth solving. And they determine whether the proposed solution would effectively solve it.

As new information is available, the innovation project leader reevaluates and adjusts the course of the project and ensures other team members understand any changes. Innovation project leaders consider their innovation coaches' challenges to their thinking and advice on different tools and methods to help test their critical challenges and answer their questions. They also engage key stakeholders for input and keep project sponsors updated on progress.

- **The innovation coach**

Innovation coaches advise on problem and solution-concept testing, research methodologies. They work closely with project leads, connecting them with subject matter experts and key stakeholders and advising on business case development

- **Characteristics of an effective innovation project leader**

Project leaders must demonstrate a remarkable blend of vision, adaptability and entrepreneurial risk taking when testing their core problem and building the case for a desirable, viable and feasible solution. Project leaders with the following qualities and capabilities provide the greatest likelihood of an innovation project's success:

- **Have a high tolerance for ambiguity**

Unlike projects focused on delivering an existing product or process, innovation projects start with a general sense of where the project will end up. But they're unlikely to follow a predictable path to get there. Like scientists, project leaders must test hypotheses about their problem and the proposed solution. They should expect their perspective to change as the work progresses. As research is completed and new findings are revealed, the path forward must change. The innovation project leader must decide how to change course and bring the rest of the team along. Instead of following a linear project plan set out at the start, effective project leaders focus on steps to successfully validate the problem and the solution that will solve it.

- **Value input from a wide range of sources**

Innovation project leaders can come from any professional background if they have experience with the subject matter and a passion for innovation. An innovation project leader won't likely have all the skills needed to test a new idea and make a business case. It's not required. But innovation project leaders must be open to others' opinions and able to collaborate with individuals with different expertise.

These could be industry experts and seasoned leaders or mentors, or internal supporters from finance, marketing or sales, just to name a few. The best leaders appreciate input from their trusted advisors. May include a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences in brainstorming meetings and cross-pollinate perspectives to generate new ideas. This emphasis is equally important in the thick of an innovation project. The innovation project leader needs to champion an open, collaborative environment where different perspectives are encouraged and valued.

- **Open to coaching**

It's unlikely that an innovation project leader will be the most seasoned innovation professional or even the most experienced colleague within their area of expertise. Project leaders should be open to coaching from colleagues who specialize in innovation tools and methodologies and be open to mentorship from senior subject-matter experts. Openness to coaching and mentorship goes beyond openness to input from different sources. It means being open to receiving feedback, reflecting and acting to grow in their own careers. Even Satya Nadella, after becoming CEO of Microsoft, accepted Bill Gates as his mentor, recognizing his potential for ongoing development.

- **High level of self-awareness about their skills and abilities**

Innovation projects move quickly. There's little time to study a new skill or gain a new technical capability. That's not to say there's no place for learning. Innovation projects require continuous learning and analysis of incoming information. Yet, there are technical skills that require years of dedication to perfect. Project leaders need to know where they need to lean on technical experts for support. Being honest about their capabilities and areas for improvement can set innovation project leaders apart by enabling them to better use their team's skills. They encourage team members to communicate their strengths and contribute to areas where they are most capable of delivering their best work.

- **Make timely decisions**

Throughout an innovation project, leaders must take feedback from numerous sources, evaluate recommendations and make decisions about the direction of the project. Effective project leaders make timely decisions despite competing feedback. They're able to make hard decisions and manage stakeholders' and sponsors' expectations.

- **Passionate about the challenge**

Innovators focus on falling in love with the challenge and not the solution. The most effective innovation project leaders stay true to this mantra. Passion for solving the problem at hand and an openness to possible solutions provides innovation project leaders and their teams with the energy to continue forward even in the inevitable face of adversity.

- **Getting started**

The role of innovation project leader can be a great experience. You can learn more about yourself, meet with important experts and leaders, and see an idea become a product or even a whole new business. Recognizing and cultivating the characteristics above will help aspiring individuals prepare for an exceptional journey in leadership and innovation. The time to get started is now — not when inspiration strikes sometime in the unforeseeable future.

Anyone interested in building innovation leadership characteristics can start in their current role. When you encounter a question to which you do not have an immediate answer, practice consciously testing the problem with others before striking out to find the answer yourself. You might be surprised to hear how differently they perceive the problem or potential solution, which will hopefully lead you to a more accurate answer by considering multiple perspective. And just like that, you've tested your problem and gained new insights! You're on your way to becoming an expert innovation project leader.

Press Conference (18th September 2025)



The Press Conference for Durgotsab 2025 was held on 18th September 2025 at Rotary Sadan, marking the formal commencement of this year's celebrations. Organised by the Rotary Club of Ballygunge in association with the Forum for Durgotsab and in collaboration with NIP, the event underscored Rotary's continued commitment to fostering inclusion and accessibility during the festive season. The conference was graced by eminent personalities including Kunal Ghosh, noted politician, journalist, and actor; Richa Sharma, Mrs. India Universe and actress; Dipendu Biswas, former Indian footballer; and Dibyendu Barua, International Grandmaster. A highlight of the afternoon was the induction of Mrs. Richa Sharma as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Ballygunge, recognising her inspiring social outreach and contribution to humanitarian causes. The event reflected the essence of Rotary's spirit — where celebration meets service, and compassion transforms into action.

Pandal Hopping & Judgement (25th September 2025)

The Pujo Parikrama and Judgement Day was held on 25th September 2025, beginning with an enthusiastic flag-off ceremony at 9:00 AM from Rotary Sadan, conducted by Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, MIC, Government of West Bengal. Organised by the Rotary Club of Ballygunge, this event exemplified the inclusive spirit of Rotary — celebrating culture while promoting accessibility and dignity for Differently Abled and Senior Citizen visitors. The judging team visited several prominent Durga Puja pandals across the city, evaluating them for accessibility, comfort, and inclusivity.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the collaborating and host clubs whose participation made the event truly grand and successful:

Rotary Clubs of Behala, Belur, Calcutta, Calcutta Amory, Calcutta Ayyanna, Calcutta Endeavour, Calcutta Inner City, Calcutta Mayfair, Calcutta Mega City, Calcutta North East, Calcutta Old City, Calcutta Park Point, Calcutta South Extension, Calcutta Sun





City, Garden Reach, Kabitirtha Calcutta, Kolkata Lakes, and Salt Lake City.

Their collective energy and shared purpose embodied Rotary's motto — Service Above Self. The day concluded with renewed pride in celebrating a festival that transcends barriers, uniting communities through compassion and collective joy.

Minutes of the 2531 Regular Meeting held on 11th September 2025, At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. The President called the 2531st RWM to order.
2. The President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members.
3. The President duly requested PP Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty to mention the project conducted jointly with Calcutta Pointers on literacy which took place at South 24 Parganas. Including many important aspects, a very significant discussion was highlighted about the "marriage at the right age". It has been further emphasized in the said discussion that the locales there have a custom to make their daughters married at the very age of 15/16 (i.e. approximately 40%, as per the Government data). Later, they are forced opt for trafficking and thus, eventually hygiene and miscarriage have become a normal phenomenon for them. PP Chakraborty was pleased to announce that around 200 girls participated in the said program and the discussion.
4. PP Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty requested Rtn. Tanulal Chakraborty to share his views and his experience about the project organized by the club at Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission. Rtn. Chakraborty have briefly placed the highlights of the said event. He said in presence of the AG, Health Checkup, eye camp and blood test other things were done with the help of Principal and his team. A lot of people whoever joined the program, shared their views about such project and acknowledge the way they got the help through the project. It was indeed a very noble project.
5. PP Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty requested the President to say something about the past projects took place in the last few weeks. President briefly narrated the events took place and thanked all the members of the club who had voluntarily participated in the said projects and made it successful.
6. It has been further proposed that a cervical cancer awareness camp can be organized, where at least Two vaccine can be donated from the end of District, which can be procured during the time of such awareness camp. A Location can be finalized e.g. at Sundarbans area. A school may be a better place where this can be organized understanding the parameters and concurrence needed from the parents.
7. The President announced the next project which is Puja Parikrama. On 18th there will be a Press Meet followed by the Parikrama to commence on 25th September. Charges will be Rs. 5,000/- for the club to be associated with NIP. On 25th there will be our next RWM.
8. Our respected District Governor of RID 3291 may come and join in one of our RWMs in the coming months, as he expressed his interest to the President.
9. The President requested all the new members to participate in RLI and to understand the changes taking place in Rotary.
10. Requested Mr Amitava Bajpayee, the guest to say something. Mr Amitava Bajpayee handed over a flag of Zurick International to the President.
11. The President appreciated the gesture and requested for a collaboration.
12. PP Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty proposed for Thalassemia project to be included in Puja Parikrama.
13. The Minutes of the last meeting could not be confirmed due to lack of coram.
14. Secretary announced the happy announcement of Rotarian Rishika Singh.
15. Secretary, handed over to the President for business.
16. President invited all to join the upcoming Puja Parikrama event.
17. President terminated the meeting.

Members Present 10, Guests Present 1

Happy Announcements

Birthdays

Jayanta Chattopadhyay
Mritunjoy Ganguly
Jitendra Agarwal
Piyush Tekriwal

04th October
04th October
11th October
23rd October

Sabari Bose
Dibyendu Barua
Subhankar Chakraborty

26th October
27th October
28th October