



flame

The bulletin of Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Club # 16145
Rotary International District 3291

Volume # XLVII
Issue # 07
Date # 30.10.2025



Francesco Arezzo
Rotary International
President



Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri
Rotary District 3291
Governor



Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee
Rotary Ballygunge
President



Subhankar Chakraborty
Rotary Ballygunge
Secretary



Ria Mookerjee
Rotary Ballygunge
Editor

Editor : Ria Mookerjee

President's Message



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As the calendar turns toward the 24th of October, we are once again summoned to reflect upon a triumph of collective will and humanitarian conviction: World Polio Day. This occasion is more than a ceremonial observance it is a reaffirmation of Rotary International's indomitable spirit and its steadfast pursuit of global health equity.

We are not merely commemorating milestones; we are acknowledging a near-miraculous achievement in human history. From the early days of our crusade against polio, Rotary dared to imagine what many thought impossible: the total eradication of a disease that once left multitudes crippled, disfigured, and bereft of hope. Today, save for the redoubts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, the spectre of poliomyelitis

has been banished from the face of the earth. And this, friends, is due in no small part to the unwavering commitment of Rotarians across the globe volunteers who have given not only their treasure but their time, their expertise, and often, their very safety.

Yet, let us not rest upon the laurels of past victory. The eradication of polio is not a monument but a mandate a living call to vigilance, perseverance, and continued service. The virus lurks still in the shadows of conflict and suspicion. Our journey is not complete until every child, in every corner of the world, is free from its grasp.

October, designated by Rotary as the month of Economic and Community Development, lends particular resonance to our deliberations. The fight against polio has never been a mere medical endeavour; it is a campaign for community empowerment. It is about building trust, systems, infrastructure, and the confidence that a child's life is worth protecting not once, but always. Thus, we must harness the energy of this thematic focus to invest anew in the flourishing of our communities.

In this spirit, I invite you to turn your gaze to another silent affliction: thalassaemia. A genetic blood disorder with tragic implications, thalassaemia often condemns children to a lifetime of transfusions, pain, and premature death. The economic burden it imposes on families is immense, and its toll upon emotional and physical well-being is incalculable. Unlike polio, it has no vaccine, and its cure lies not in inoculation, but in awareness, early detection, and sustained medical care.

Rotary is uniquely positioned to confront this challenge. We have the structure, the credibility, and the compassion to bring thalassaemia into the light to educate communities, to promote genetic screening, to facilitate access to treatment, and to support the families who suffer in silence. As with polio, the first step is to care enough to act.

At the core of both these efforts is our sacred motto: Service Above Self. These three words are not a platitude; they are the fulcrum upon which all our action rests. They call us beyond the boundaries of comfort, beyond the limitations of personal ambition, into the realm of sacrificial generosity. When we lift others, we transcend ourselves. When we labour for the good of those we may never meet, we testify to the enduring worth of every human soul.

Therefore, let us, in this month of October, resolve anew to engage in projects that uplift our communities not as momentary gestures, but as sustained commitments. Let us organize health camps not only to immunize, but to inform. Let us initiate partnerships with local health authorities and civil society to bring thalassaemia screening and support into the public eye. Let us empower families, not just with charity, but with the tools to rise above their circumstances.

And let us remember that every act of service, no matter how small, contributes to a tapestry of global good. A single child vaccinated, a single parent consoled, a single community educated these are the brushstrokes of the masterpiece we are all painting together.

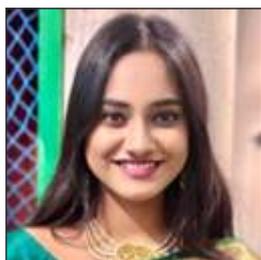
The poet Rabindranath Tagore, whose spirit suffuses this great city, wrote: "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

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.

The hour is rich with opportunity. The world does not need more spectators it needs more Rotarians, living boldly into their pledge to serve humanity with humility and tenacity. Let us answer that call with all the fervour, imagination, and courage we can muster.

Yours in Service,
Dr (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee
President (RY 25-26)

Editor's Message



As the autumnal grace of October envelops our days, I write to you with a message of solemn reflection and invigorated resolve, anchored in the enduring ethos of Rotary, Service Above Self.

This month, we once again approach World Polio Day on the 24th of October, a date that transcends symbolism and stands as a global clarion call. It reminds us not merely of a disease but of a promise; a promise made decades ago that no child, anywhere, should suffer the paralysing scourge of poliomyelitis. That we now stand on the cusp of victory, with only the final embers of polio flickering in Pakistan and Afghanistan, is due to the unyielding devotion of countless Rotarians, health workers, and global partners.

Indeed, *World Polio Day highlights the global efforts to end poliomyelitis (polio) worldwide*. This life-threatening disease, caused by the poliovirus, was formally targeted for eradication by the World Health Assembly in 1988. The triumphs since then are monumental: the WHO European Region was declared polio-free in 2002 and has sustained this status ever since. *Every year on 24 October, we observe World Polio Day to raise awareness of the importance of polio vaccination to protect every child from this devastating disease, and to celebrate the many parents, professionals and volunteers whose contributions make polio eradication achievable.*

Yet the work remains unfinished. *To ensure a polio-free future for everyone, efforts must continue to maintain high immunization coverage, implement high-quality surveillance to detect any presence of the virus, and prepare to respond in the event of an outbreak.* This is not a call to passive admiration but to vigilant engagement. Until polio is extinguished everywhere, it remains a threat everywhere.

At the same time, we must broaden our horizon of care. In the spirit of October's Rotary theme, Economic and Community Development, I urge us to turn our compassion and capacities toward another quiet affliction: thalassaemia. This inherited blood disorder, though often overlooked in the cacophony of more conspicuous health crises, demands urgent and sustained attention. *Thalassaemia is more than a clinical condition, behind every statistic is a person with unique experiences, aspirations, and challenges. Too often, the human element gets overshadowed by medical complexities.*

Let us therefore reject the reduction of suffering to numbers. *This year, we call for a patient-centred approach, where care extends beyond treatment to encompass holistic well-being, dignity, and empowerment.* Let Rotary be the hand that not only delivers aid but restores agency, that not only treats but uplifts. *By standing together as a united global community, we can drive meaningful change, ensuring that the needs, rights, and voices of individuals with thalassaemia are not only recognised but actively prioritised.*

As with polio, the path forward requires vision, coordination, and the quiet heroism of consistent service. Let this month be not one of mere commemoration, but of renewed commitment. Organise health awareness campaigns. Mobilise for screening initiatives. Partner with local healthcare institutions. Empower communities not only to survive, but to flourish.

Let us remember that every act of compassion we extend, every hour we give, every child we protect, draws us nearer to a world more just, more healthy, more humane.

Let us be Rotarians not just in name, but in action, stewards of hope, architects of enduring change.

In fellowship and service,

Warm regards,

Ria Mookerjee

Editor, RC Ballygunge

Project on 24th October – The World Polio Day

On the momentous occasion of 24th October 2025, The World Polio Day, the Rotary Club of Ballygunge stood shoulder to shoulder with fellow Rotarians in reaffirming our collective commitment to a world free from poliomyelitis. As one of the co-hosting clubs of the district-level event held at Rotary Sadan, our presence was not ceremonial but deeply participatory. With inspiring leadership from Past Presidents of our esteemed club, PP Ashif Shah and PP Amitava Chakraborty, who led from the front with the gravitas and passion befitting the moment, our club honoured not only Rotary's legacy but its enduring obligation to the future of humanity.

World Polio Day exists to illuminate the path we've travelled and the distance yet to cover. It is a solemn reminder that while the virus has been vanquished from most of the globe, it still survives in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the two final frontiers of resistance. The gathering at Rotary Sadan bore testament to this shared urgency, honouring those who paved the way and igniting the resolve of those who must now finish the task.

Yet the campaign's final chapter is not one of quiet celebration but of vigilant action. To secure a polio-free world, we must not waver. We must maintain high immunization coverage, conduct meticulous surveillance, and remain poised to act should the virus reemerge. The work demands more than memory; it demands momentum. Rotary Club of Ballygunge, through its presence and active engagement in this landmark event, has recommitted itself to that momentum, ensuring that our service continues to be not only enduring, but transformative. For until polio is eradicated everywhere, it remains a threat everywhere, and so, our work marches on.

Indeed, World Polio Day serves as a global touchstone, not merely a date of reflection, but a day of renewed mobilisation. It

reminds us of what has been achieved through scientific excellence, cross-sector collaboration, and the resolute will of global citizens. Rotary, as a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, has been at the vanguard of this effort for over 35 years. Since our very first immunisation campaign in the Philippines in 1979, we have witnessed a staggering 99.9% reduction in polio cases worldwide. This has only been possible through the synergy of global health institutions, the unflagging dedication of healthcare professionals, especially senior doctors at the frontline and the relentless commitment of Rotarians across 122 countries.

To our fellow Rotarians and our esteemed colleagues in the medical fraternity, especially those who have shouldered the noble task of treating and rehabilitating polio patients, this is a pivotal moment. The final push requires not only vigilance, but vision. We must secure and sustain high immunisation rates, fortify surveillance systems, and ensure rapid response capabilities. But above all, we must continue to fund this historic endeavour. Kindly contribute generously to the Rotary Polio Fund. This is our legacy to the world. Let us ensure that it is not merely admirable, but absolute. The end of polio is within our grasp; let us close this chapter with the unity, urgency, and humanity that defines the very best of Rotary.



Serious



Smiling

Minutes of the 2532 Regular Meeting held on 09th October 2025
At Cozy Room, International Club, Kolkata

1. The President called the 2532ndRWM 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 started the meeting by giving appreciation to the members who participated the 'Puja Parikrama' in which 19 clubs participated. President further requested PP Ashif Shah to say something about the Parikrama. PP Shah in his address highlighted specially on the 'Brails' given to the pandals. Many dignitaries of the society were present during the inauguration of the occasion. Press and media covered the entire occasion. It was a delightful experience, as added by the President.
4. The President requested Rtn. Tanulal Chakraborty to say something about the Parikrama, who has expressed his views about the program in nutshell.
5. The President thereafter proposes a few projects like 'Chess Competition amongst Blind People', Totto Distribution etc.
6. The President invites and encourages new members to join RLI Sessions.
7. The President further invited members to come up with thoughts about upcoming 'Shantihi' project, which can be discussed in later half of the year.
8. The President announced a seminar to be conducted on 'Finance' to be held at Rotary Sadan, which will be primarily organized by PP Ashif Shah.
9. The President expressed serious concerns about the pending SAD in view of the dues to be paid to the District and RI.
10. Club's editor Rtn. Ria Mookerjee proposed to organize a Drawing Competition amongst the Children of Rural areas, which can be organized in a Rural School on November 14, 2025 (Children's Day).
11. PP Jayanta Chattopadhyay proposed to organize a project for "Distribution of Van Rickshaw".
12. Discussion held on opening a new bank account, signatories and other ancillary issues, which can be placed before the Board Meet to be held shortly.
13. Diwali Meet has been proposed to be on hold for the time being.
14. The Minutes of the last meeting could not be confirmed due to lack of coram.
15. The Secretary announced the happy announcement.
16. The Secretary, handed over to the President for business.
17. The President invited all to join the upcoming projects and meetings.
18. The President terminated the meeting.

Happy Announcements

Birthdays in October

