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President's Message for Rotary Year 2025-26



To My Respected Past Presidents and My Esteemed Fellow Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Ballygunge

As we find ourselves poised in the wonderful month of July; a month consecrated within the Rotary calendar to the vital cause of **Maternal and Child Health**, I deem it both a privilege and a sacred duty to draw our collective attention to the profound significance of our endeavors in this domain.

The well-being of mothers and the flourishing of children form, incontrovertibly, the bedrock upon which resilient societies and radiant futures are constructed.

This month, therefore, invites us, indeed impels us to direct our energies toward initiatives that seek to diminish the scourge of maternal and infant mortality, to amplify access to indispensable healthcare services, and to propagate enlightenment on the imperatives of nutrition and immunization.

In this sacred labour, each gesture of service, each act of compassion, may reverberate across generations, transforming the destinies of families both within our midst and far beyond.

Let us, then, with renewed ardor, consecrate ourselves anew to this cause, as an integral manifestation of Rotary's enduring covenant with humanity.

The theme "**Unite for Good**" stands as a luminous reflection of Rotary's cardinal virtues, **service** and **collaboration**, evoking a summons both noble and urgent: that members, irrespective of origin or station, might converge in fraternal purpose to effectuate enduring and beneficent transformation. This theme, imbued with the spirit of unity and the potency of collective endeavor, affirms a timeless truth, that the amplitude of our impact is vastly multiplied when hearts and hands move in concert.

In championing causes as vital and varied as public health, educational upliftment, and economic fortitude, Rotarians, through their solidaric action, extend Rotary's benevolence to the very margins of human need, local in presence, yet global in consequence. Collaboration, far from a mere procedural convenience, is indeed the lifeblood of the Rotary experience; it is through the regular communion of minds, the forging of genuine friendships, and the confluence of diverse aptitudes that noble visions are transmuted into transformative deeds.

The call to unite is, thus, more than a thematic pronouncement, it is a philosophical imperative, a moral lodestar that reaffirms our unwavering dedication to goodwill, fellowship, and ethical stewardship. In unison, we labor not only to serve, but to illuminate the path toward a world more just, compassionate, and harmonious.

United in purpose and animated by Rotary's clarion call: "**Rotary Opens Opportunities**", we may forge avenues toward healthier, more hopeful lives for mothers and children alike.

I urge each of you, Respected Past Presidents and all other venerable co-sojourners in service, to lend your whole-hearted participation to our forthcoming projects and outreach endeavors.

May the spirit of altruism that hallmarks our noble club continue to illuminate our path.

With warm regards and in fraternal fellowship,

Dr. (CA) Joydeep Mookerjee

President, Rotary Year 2025-26

Rotary Club of Ballygunge

Editor's Message for Rotary Year 2025-26



Dear Rotarians, Friends, and Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the July edition of our Rotary Club of Ballygunge monthly bulletin! This month marked a spirited beginning to our Rotary Year, highlighted by the successful Installation Ceremony held at Hotel Niharika. It was a momentous event as President Joydeep Mookerjee took office, inspiring us all with a call not merely to serve, but to lead purposefully, passionately, and innovatively. The evening, graced by distinguished guests and dignitaries, was a testament to our unity and shared vision.

Our District's goals for this year focus on crucial community health initiatives, specifically targeting the eradication of Thalassemia and Cervical Cancer through proactive screenings, awareness campaigns, and free HPV vaccination programs. Let us embrace these ambitious objectives with renewed vigour and commitment, ensuring lasting impacts in our communities.

Here's to a year of remarkable leadership, collective impact, and meaningful change.

Warm regards,

Ria Mookerjee

The Editor Flame

Minutes of the 2527 Regular Meeting and Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Ballygunge, held on 10 July 2025, at 1st Floor Banquet Hotel Niharika, 5 A J C Bose Road, Kolkata - 700020

The meeting registration opened at 6.30 PM

Meeting started at 7.55 PM

The meeting, as was coupled by the Installation Ceremony of the New Board for 2025-2026 was managed by Emcee PP Amitava Chakraborty

- PP Amitava greeted all dignitaries, guests, club members and visiting Rotarians at the beginning and requested Installation chair PP Bhomra Chatterjee to deliver the welcome speech.
- Emcee then requested the Installation Chair, the IPP and the President and all dignitaries present to come forward to offer flowers in a bowl, marking an auspicious beginning of the event and also to build peace and good will among all.
- PP Amitava then requested IPP Dr Amlan Bhattacharya, President Joydeep Mookerjee, Jt. Secretary 2024-2025 Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Secretary 2025-2026 Subhankar Chakraborty, DGN Purnendu Roychoudhury, and DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri to take seats at the dais.
- PP Amitava then announced the commencement of the business session.
- IPP Dr Amlan K Bhattacharya called the meeting to order, followed by the National Anthem sung in chorus and an AV played on screen
- At the onset, IPP Dr Amlan greeted all present and mentioned his experience and a brief of projects done in 2024-2025, which are memorable to him.
- Felicitations of the two Charter Members of Rotary Ballygunge took place, and the honours were done by all present on the dais.
- Jt. Secretary Jayanta Chattopadhyay requested Executive Secretary (RY 24-25) PP Ashif Shah to present a report of club activities, which PP Ashif did through a presentation on screen.
- PP Ashif also announced an ongoing project of "Scholarship" to needy meritorious students at RKM Belur Vidyamandir and RKM Narendrapur College, that is headed by PP Indrani Gupta and requested PP Indrani to speak on it.
- PP Indrani elaborated on the "Late Sachin Gupta Memorial Scholarship Programme" and also conveyed that this programme shall continue for four years with her singular help and donation.
- PP Amitava introduced President Joydeep, highlighting his professional and Rotary achievements.
- PP Amitava then announced the changeover ceremony, and IPP Dr Amlan installed President Joydeep in the chair, with the giving of collar, charter and other essentials. This ceremony was presided by DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri. Exchange of gifts took place between the Presidents.

President's Announcements :

- The President thanked the club for giving him the opportunity to serve in the President's chair for this Rotary Year and expressed his thoughts on the year ahead.
- The President mentioned that this is our moment, not to simply serve, but to lead. We do not wait for change to arrive; we become the change. The world does not remember those who hesitated; it remembers those who stood up. And we, as Rotarians, stand not just with hands extended in service, but with heads held high, ready to inspire, to innovate, and to impact. Let our projects not just build infrastructure, but ignite inspiration. Let our meetings not merely record minutes, but create movements. In this Rotary year, I request you not for participation; I request you for purpose, and for passion.
- The President also added that we are not a group of dreamers hoping for better days; we are architects of those very days. Our resolve must echo louder than doubt, and our unity must outshine every challenge. We are not just members of the Rotary Club of Ballygunge; you all are ambassadors of transformation. And under this banner of Rotary, let us write a year that generations will remember; not for the problems we faced, but for the courage with which we answered them.
- The President urged members of the Rotary Club of Ballygunge to walk this path together, as collaborators, as changemakers, as friends.
- He then introduced the Rotary Ballygunge Board for RY 2025-2026
- Emcee Amitava then called for felicitations, started by the DG and followed by all dignitaries and Innerwheel members and respected guests.

Other matters

- Following the felicitations, the Souvenir published on this occasion was released, assisted by Souvenir Editor Sabari Bose.
- Emcee Amitava then requested for the New Member induction to start. Sri Jitendra Agarwal, by profession a chartered accountant, Moonmoon Gupta, by profession a registered valuer, both proposed by Joydeep Mookerjee, and Rishika

Singh, by profession a corporate manager, proposed by Jayanta Chattopadhyay, were inducted to our club membership by DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri, First Lady Bandana Homchaudhuri, DGN Purnendu Roychoudhury and PDG Shyamashree Sen. DG Dr Ramendu also advised spouses of members to join.

- President Joydeep then announced about future Polio and Annual fund TRF giving.
- The emcee then requested DGN Purnendu Roychoudhury to speak to the audience. The DGN spoke on his experiences at Rotary and also appreciated PP Amitava Chakraborty for his administrative contributions in the district governance, both as OCV and as DES in the last several years, and especially mentioned his successful role as the DES 2024-2025.
- The emcee thanked DGN Purnendu and called for the AV introduction of DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri and requested the DG to deliver his thoughts.
- DG Dr. Ramendu, in his inspiring address, underscored the critical need to strengthen Rotary through enhanced membership engagement and increased contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Yet, the most passionate and compelling part of his speech was reserved for a cause close to his heart—the eradication of Thalassaemia, a devastating genetic blood disorder that continues to afflict countless children and families across India and beyond.

Dr. Ramendu vividly articulated the urgent district-wide focus on eliminating Thalassaemia through proactive screening, public awareness, and community-based preventive action. He explained that Thalassaemia is not merely a medical condition—it is a humanitarian crisis in slow motion, often inherited silently when both parents are carriers of the gene. Each year, thousands of children are born with this disorder, sentenced to a lifetime of chronic pain, fatigue, repeated blood transfusions, and severely compromised quality of life. For many, childhood becomes a corridor of suffering, hospital visits, and emotional trauma. Parents are left battling hopelessness, medical debt, and the constant fear of losing their child. This tragedy, however, is preventable. Through simple blood tests and screening programs, especially among young adults before marriage or conception, Thalassaemia can be identified at the carrier stage. If both partners are carriers, genetic counselling can help avoid passing on the disorder. Prevention is the only viable cure, and it begins with awareness, education, and the courage to act decisively.

Dr. Ramendu called upon all Rotarians to take up this mission with empathy and urgency. He urged clubs to organise mass Thalassaemia screening camps, school and college awareness drives, and collaborations with healthcare institutions to ensure that no child is condemned to a life of pain for lack of information. “Let our legacy be a generation free from Thalassaemia, born of informed choices and empowered communities,” he said.

In the same spirit of health advocacy, he also touched upon Rotary’s relentless global campaign for the eradication of Polio, as well as the growing emphasis on Cervical Cancer Vaccination, both of which are equally critical to securing a healthier, more resilient future for humanity.

Secretary's announcement

- Joint secretary Jayanta Chattopadhyay asked for the adoption of minutes of the last Regular Meeting, which was accepted by the members on the floor and then announced the tentative date of the next regular meeting and the number of members and guests present.
- Emcee Amitava then requested PP Shubrato Chakraborty to deliver the formal vote of thanks.
- President Joydeep terminated the meeting at 9.20 PM





