



flame

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Stephanie Urchick
Rotary International
President



Dr. Krishnendu Gupta
Rotary District 3291
Governor



Dr. Anjan Bhattacharya
Rotary Ballygunge
President



Anirban Sarker
Rotary Ballygunge
Secretary



Subhankar Chakraborty
Rotary Ballygunge
Editor

Editor : Subhankar Chakraborty

Editor's Column

Dear Readers,

Writing the last issue of Flame to be published in the year 2024 at the same time bringing joy, triumph, happiness for successful completion of many projects done by our club under the leadership of our President and his team. Yes, we are aware, we couldn't mention each and every participant's names who remain the unsung heroes in such accomplishments we all achieved together and could contribute a little to the welfare of the mankind.

We believe that our service activities and programs bring about greater world understanding and peace. Service is a major element of our mission. Through the plans and actions of individual clubs, we create a culture of service throughout our organization that provides unparalleled satisfaction for those who serve.

We are a global fellowship of individuals who are leaders in their fields of endeavour. We believe in the importance of leadership development and in leadership as a quality of our members. As Rotarians, we are leaders in implementing our core values.

We pledge and promise to dream a lot more to touch, a lot more to do for the world in the coming years to come.

Have a great year ahead.

Cheers!!

TURNING THE WHEEL OF HOPE & SERVICE



Dear Friends in Rotary,

As December casts its nostalgic glow, it brings with it a time of reflection and renewal — a season to cherish the bonds of family, friendship and the camaraderie of our Rotary family. In the quiet moments, let us marvel at what Rotary allows us to achieve: the transformation of goodwill into impact, the turning of compassion into action.

This month Rotary's focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment reminds us of the world's inequities in health. It's a stark truth: over 400 million people lack access to basic care. Yet, through our projects — eradicating polio, raising awareness on chronic conditions, and providing vital interventions — we remind the world that

Rotary's wheel never stops turning, bringing hope where it is needed most.

Our enduring emblem is more than a symbol; it is a call for action. Every spoke, every cog represents the power of collective effort of individuals who together move mountains. As this year draws to a close, let us reflect on the lives touched and the future brightened by the work we have undertaken together.

Our greatest strength lies in our members. Retention is not a passive process; it thrives on connection, inclusivity and engagement. A kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or a simple act of recognition can reignite enthusiasm and ensure that no member feels neglected or unappreciated. A wheel turns best when all its parts work together in unison.

December also brings a call to leadership. Clubs must now elect their boards, laying the foundation for the Rotary year ahead. Leadership is not simply a duty; it is a privilege, a chance to inspire and to steer the course of service. To those stepping forward, remember: your success lies not in the solitude of leadership but in the unity of purpose you inspire in others.

Rotary endures because it stands on principles that do not falter — fellowship, ethics, tolerance and service above self. As we look to the New Year, let us reaffirm these ideals, and keep our wheel turning constantly. Collectively, there is nothing we cannot achieve. Let's continue to create magic into the new year and beyond. Vidhya joins me in wishing you and your family a very healthy, happy, joyous and fulfilling 2025.

Raju Subramanian
RI Director, 2023 - 25

Rotary introduces India's first AI-integrated Anganwadi



In an ambitious project to apply one of the latest technological tools — Artificial Intelligence (AI) — to revolutionise the learning methods of Indian children from underprivileged backgrounds who attend anganwadis, which are poor children's equivalent to the plush and fun-filled playschools frequented by the rich and upper class urban Indian children, RI District 3012 has launched an interesting and futuristic project in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel (in grey sari) with DG Prashant Raj Sharma (on her left) and Manu Seth, district Social Media chair, at the Rotary Viraj Anganwadi in Morti village in Ghaziabad.

Titled the Rotary Viraj Anganwadi Project – *Nanhe kadmo ki udaan* — this project hopes to

dramatically change the basic functions of an anganwadi, which is to provide basic learning to children and address the healthcare and nutritional needs of both children and pregnant women. RID 3012 DG Prashant Raj Sharma, who is passionate and fully invested in this project, says it is common knowledge that the average anganwadi in India is lacking in so many ways — indifferent infrastructure, untrained and unenthusiastic teachers and absence of an interesting, interactive environment, resulting in failure to retain students beyond a certain stage.

To dramatically transform this dismal scenario, this project, launched in partnership with the CSR partner AMU Lines which has donated \$55,000 of the total project cost of \$225,000, aims to bring a transformational change to 100 anganwadis in Uttar Pradesh. In alignment with two of Rotary's focus areas of maternal and child health, and literacy and basic education, the first colourfully painted and

embellished anganwadi, complete with spanking new furniture and an interactive smartboard, at Morti village, about 3km from Ghaziabad city centre, was inaugurated by UP Governor Anandiben Patel.

In an interview to *Rotary News*, DG Sharma explained his vision to use various facets of technology, including AI, to ensure that the underprivileged children attending anganwadi schools get a meaningful learning experience, and the expectant mothers get what they are promised, comprehensive healthcare and nutrition. "Right now, most of the children are sent to the anganwadis by their parents mainly because they get a meal there. What they are taught there hardly matters to them. But all this will change, and is already changing as we have seen after the first Viraj Anganwadi was inaugurated this August in Morti," says the DG.



Project Vignettes – December 2024



A doctor vaccinates a girl

Cervical cancer prevention initiative
Supported by a 75 lakh donation from club member B D Agarwal, RC Belur, RID 3291, aims to vaccinate 5,000 girls against cervical cancer. Awareness drives in eight schools have reached over 2,300 parents and educators, with vaccination camps already immunising 156 girls at Swaika Girls High School, Howrah.

Minutes of the 2511st RWM held in The International Club, Kolkata on 21/11/2024

- 1) President called the 2511th RWM to order.
- 2) President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members and guests present.
- 3) President informed that four sewing machines to be handed over to beneficiaries on 30th November 2024.
- 4) President informed that the Nomination Committee Chairman will be IPP Rinku Das Chowdhury.
- 5) IPP Rinku Das Chowdhury was requested to prepare the Balance Sheet of FY 23-24 for presenting the same in forthcoming AGM for approval.
- 6) President informed that 5th December 2024 is the tentative date of the forthcoming AGM
- 7) President informed that a Board Meeting will be convened on 29th November 2024
- 8) Ria Mookerjee proposed projects regarding drawing competition during Christmas among underprivileged children. Ria also proposed tree plantation jointly with corporates like TCS etc.
- 9) President handed over to the Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee., for the happy announcements.
- 10) Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee welcomed the members to join the RWM and to participate in important matters concerning the club.
- 11) The Minutes of the last meeting was confirmed.
- 12) Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee, handed over to the President for business.
- 13) President terminated the meeting (RWM 2511).

Members Present : 07

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF ROTARY CLUB OF BALLYGUNGE

Venue : Cosy Room of Calcutta International Club

Date : 05/12/2024

The President requested members to assemble and called the AGM to order.

1. The Nomination Committee Chair IPP Rinku Das Chowdhury has been appointed to form the upcoming Board for the Rotary year 2025-2026. It is proposed to call a Special AGM to discuss the formation of Board for the Rotary Year 2025 - 2026.
2. The President requested IPP to present the accounts for the previous year for member's approval. The accounts presentation was done formally and discussed with all members. Book of accounts accepted and confirmed by all member present in AGM.
3. The same Auditor as previous year is reappointed as Auditor for current year.

The President terminated the meeting.

Report prepared by :

Rtn. Anirban Sarker.

Secretary

Rotary Club of Ballygunge.

Rotary Year 2024 - 2025.

Minutes of the 2512th RWM held in the Cosy Room of International Club, Kolkata, on 05/12/2024

- President called the 2512th RWM to order.
- The President requested all to rise for the National Anthem which was sung in chorus.
- The President announced as informed earlier the AGM of RCB will be conducted today after completion of RWM.
- The President announced the Board Meeting (2nd) decision to conduct the RWM on a fortnightly basis, as discussed and decided the RWM shall be held on the 2nd and 4th week of every month on Thursday commencing January 2025. As pointed out by senior members; to convey information to our RI District 3291 regarding changes of our RWM and amendment of our Club By-Laws will be completed formally. It has been further decided the contribution of SAD will be reduced by Rs.500/- in effect of the fortnightly RWM.
- President announced a Health Check-up Project has been planned to be conducted in Mohammedan Sporting Club (MSC); Maidan complex in the month of December 2024 or January 2025 in association with Manipal Group.
- President announced on 29th December another project will be conducted in our RCC, Hallan. They have approached RCB to contribute to their Eye-check up camp arranged by them. It has been finalised RCB will contribute by engaging a team from Rotary Club of Hooghly for Eye check-up in RCC premises.
- The President declared one more project is in the preliminary stage "Donation of cycle rickshaw" proposed by Rtn.Jayanta Chattopadhyay. President requested Rtn.Jayanta Chattopadhyay to elaborate on the project. Members decided to give project responsibility to Rtn. Jayanta Chattopadhyay to make all necessary arrangements.
- President announced the suggestion received from Rtn.Ria Mookerjee to conduct a Drawing Competition for children has been accepted and requested Rtn.Arjun Pal to extend a helping hand in arranging the project successfully.
- The President declared RCB Flagship Project "SHANTIHI" will be conducted on 22nd February 2025 in association with NIP in a conference room inside the Indian Museum. PP Ashif Shah is coordinating with NIP on the project details. PP Nasir Uddin Ahmed has proposed a contribution towards the financial requirements of the project. Further details on the project shall be discussed in the upcoming RWM.
- President declared one more project is in the preliminary stage covering the Literacy Project arena of Rotary Services, where we will distribute some computers/systems/desktop peripherals to a school. The project has been proposed by PP Sanjoy De and he has consent to donate 4 computers.
- President requested IPP Rinku Das Chowdhury to elaborate on the project discussed with NIPHA Group. The project is about loan facility to Transgenders. The details of the project will be shared & discussed on a later date after consultation with NIPHA Group in detail.
- The President announced that the Rotary Club of Calcutta has donated 4 sewing machines to RCB as part of their project. The same will be distributed to the beneficiaries after finalization of date and venue.
- The President requested Rtn.Joydeep Mookerjee to discuss The District project of Blanket distribution on a 50-50 contribution of RCB-District basis, the project has been accepted and will be conducted after proper selection of beneficiaries. The Secretary proposed to conduct the project in one of our RCC.
- The President shared the fixture of "Sammelan" District Conference 2025 to be held on 3rd, 4th and 5th of January 2025 in the East Side Pavilion of Nicco Park. He also requested members to register and join the Seminar.
- President handed over to the Secretary for Club Business.
- The Secretary welcomed and thanked the members for joining the RWM followed by AGM and announced the Club Business.
- All Minutes of the previous meetings confirmed by members.
- Secretary handed over to the President for further proceedings.
- The President requested members to come forward with suggestions/thoughts/feedback, if any.
- Rtn. Sabari Bose suggested discussion on our Annual Picnic, President informed members, Rtn. Subhankar Chakraborty has been delegated the responsibility to arrange the venue for the picnic.
- President terminated the meeting.

Members Present : 20

Guest : 01

Happy Announcements

