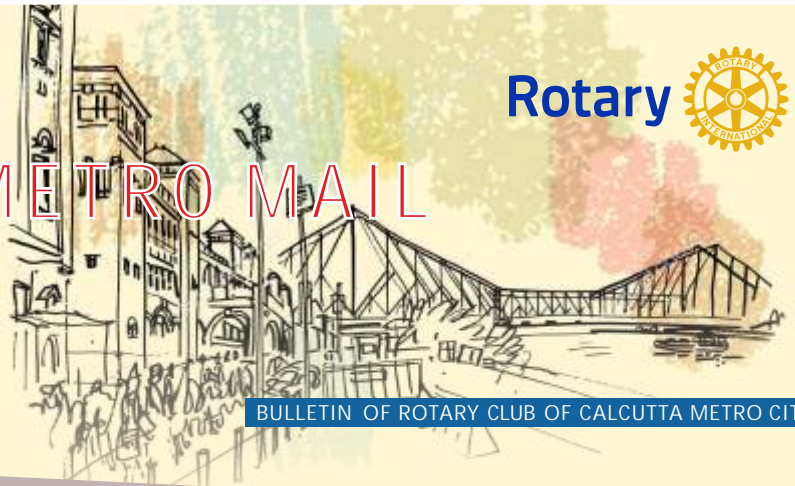


RI President: Rtn. Francesco Arrezo
Dist. Governor: Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhury
Club President: Rtn. Sunando Sen
Club Secretary: Rtn. Arindam Ghosh
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

For private circulation only



METRO MAIL



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY



As March underscores Rotary International's commitment to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), India's progress stands as a compelling mix of achievement and unfinished agenda. National programmes like the Jal Jeevan Mission have expanded tap water access to over 14 crore rural households from just 3 crore in 2019, while the Swachh Bharat Mission has facilitated the construction of more than 11 crore toilets, dramatically reducing open defecation.

Complementing these efforts, Rotary has played a vital grassroots role. Globally, Rotary has invested over \$2 billion in WASH projects, with India being a major beneficiary. Across the country, Rotary clubs have implemented thousands of projects—ranging from installing community water purification plants and school sanitation units to promoting menstrual hygiene—impacting millions, especially in underserved regions.

Yet, concerns remain. Government estimates suggest nearly 30–40% of rural water systems face functionality issues, while water contamination continues to affect large populations. The real challenge now is sustainability—ensuring that infrastructure created translates into lasting behavioural change and equitable access.

Subhojit Roy

Presidential Message - March 2026



Water connects us all. From a river in a remote forest to a stream running past a city neighborhood, freshwater ecosystems sustain humanity. Yet these waters are increasingly under strain. Pollution, overuse, and climate pressures remind us that protecting freshwater is a global challenge.

Rotary has always believed change begins within communities. Now we are working to see how far the impact of community action can travel. When local service is connected, measured, and shared, it becomes a force that extends beyond geography and borders.

A water project led by the Rotary Club of Panamá Nordeste exemplifies this idea. The project served Indigenous communities in Panama's Darién province, a region accessible only by canoe and small boat. With no roads, limited electricity, and reliance on untreated river water, families faced serious health risks.

To reach these communities, Rotarians had to rethink how supplies and services could be delivered.

Working with a partner club in the United States and a specialized water organization, they introduced solar-powered water treatment systems for an area without access to an electrical grid. Local leaders were trained to operate and maintain the system, ensuring that clean water would continue flowing long after installation crews departed.

The results were immediate. Children who once missed school due to illness returned to classrooms. No longer needing to haul water from rivers, adults gained time and strength to work and support their families. What began as a water project became a foundation for healthier, more resilient communities.

This is how we extend our reach: combine local leadership with global partnerships, technical expertise, and long-term thinking.

That same spirit is at the heart of Rotary's partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme through the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. Around the world, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are restoring waterways, protecting wetlands, and safeguarding vital freshwater sources. By collecting data to map and measure this work, we can better understand its impact and show how local service contributes to worldwide solutions.

Data is not an end. It is a tool that helps us learn and improve so that Rotary's service delivers real, measurable change. Each project entered and each waterway restored adds to a shared story of stewardship and responsibility. You can learn more and get involved at communityactionforfreshwater.org.

As we observe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month, I encourage you to reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them.

When we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, we truly Unite for Good.

Francesco Arezzo

RI President (2025-26)

Rotary Projects Around the Globe-March 2026

By Brad Webber



United States

Everett Singleton was an educator who helped integrate schools in Collinsville, Illinois, in the 1950s. When Interactors from Collinsville High School learned that Singleton's

gravesite lacked a marker, they organized a Dine-to-Donate event to raise the \$1,700 needed for a proper headstone. Honoring Singleton, who died in 1970, was second nature to the civic-minded students, says Brad Skertich, the club adviser. Singleton, who grew up in the town's Black neighborhood during segregation, served as a teacher at various schools and as a principal. "Our students have been eager to get involved, give back to their community, and help others," says Skertich, a member of the Rotary Club of Collinsville, Maryville, Caseyville.



Canada

The Rotary Club of Chilliwack Mt. Cheam in British Columbia aced its volleyball tournament in November, attracting 28 teams to a fundraiser that the club has hosted since 1995. "Many

local businesses participate by registering a team, and they have their staff come out and play," says Kim Ashley, the club's president. "Each player brings a new toy to donate to Chilliwack Community Services as part of the Christmas Sharing Program." The project supports the club's foundation, which focuses on the needs of children, including dental work, medical assessments, and counseling. In all, the matches have raised more than \$300,000 and collected 15,000 toys over the past 30 years.

- \$1K to \$3K- Average headstone cost in U.S.
- 1900- Volleyball introduced in Canada



England

An event to celebrate Indian culture featured local luminaries with Bollywood connections and raised about \$2,200 for the Rotary Club of Maidenhead Bridge's service work. Attendees included Chittal Shah, choreographer to celebrities, and vocalist Atul Pushkarna, both of whom now reside in the United Kingdom. Ten of the club's 55 members are from India or have Indian heritage. "The laughter, dancing, and genuine sense of connection in the room showed just how powerful cultural celebration can be in bringing people together for a good cause," says Lisa Hunter, charter president of the club. The November event helped fund a Parkinson's disease support group and a trip by the club's vocational training team to Uganda for a maternal and child health initiative.



Malta

The Rotary Club of Gozo has discovered a formula for civic and social media engagement: Tell community members just how much they're appreciated. After rolling out the glitzy Pride of Gozo Awards in 2022, the club saw a burst of interest in the work of Rotarians on Gozo, one of Malta's three populated islands. "The event is our showcase of the year," says Tom Welch, a past president of the club who proposed the ceremony, which is supported by the Times of Malta newspaper and a government ministry. "While not a fundraiser, it raises our profile: a touch under 40,000 views on Facebook, 600 new followers, and over 2,000 engagements. It also provides us with a collection of wonderful speakers and drives membership growth."

- 1.9 million-People of Indian ethnicity who live in England and Wales
- 41,000-Population of the island of Gozo



Japan

The Rotary Club of Tokyo Hiroo embarked on a melodic mission in October, collaborating with the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills in California to bring the music therapy program Music Mends Minds to people with Alzheimer's. Over several visits, club members brought drums, cowbells, and other percussive instruments to care facilities and encouraged participants to clap along as the Rotarians struck up tunes. "Music Mends Minds helps older adults with memory loss reengage," says Miyuki Ochi, president of the club. "Watching older adults' faces light up through music is one of the greatest joys of our service."

This story originally appeared in the March 2026 issue of Rotary magazine.

Barcelona Selected to Host Rotary International Convention 2029



Five-day event will welcome up to 20,000 participants from more than 140 countries and generate an estimated €68 million for the local economy

BARCELONA (Mar. 9, 2026) – Rotary International has announced Barcelona as the host of its annual international convention, to be held 2–6 June 2029 at the world-class Fira de Barcelona venue.

The membership service organization's annual convention is expected to draw up to 20,000 Rotary members and participants. According to Rotary International, the event is projected to generate an estimated impact of €68 million for the local economy, with further benefits expected as delegates extend their stay in Barcelona and travel elsewhere in Spain and the wider Iberian region.

The 2029 convention will mark the second time Barcelona hosts Rotary's flagship global event, following the city's first Rotary International Convention in 2002, which attracted more than 16,800 registered participants from around the world.

Often described by attendees as a "mini-United Nations," the Rotary International Convention brings together participants from more than 140 countries for plenary sessions, workshops, an exhibition of humanitarian projects, and cultural and networking events.

The 2002 convention in Barcelona featured Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. More recent gatherings have welcomed global leaders including Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and human rights advocate; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization; and Graça Machel, internationally recognized for her work in women's and children's rights.

The successful bid was led by Rotary members in Barcelona, with support from Rotary leaders across Spain and Portugal, local clubs in the metropolitan area, and key city partners including the Barcelona City Council, the Barcelona Convention Bureau, and Fira de Barcelona.

The convention will add to Barcelona's strong tradition of hosting major international events. "The choice of Barcelona to host the Rotary International Convention once again confirms the attractiveness and solvency of the city," said Jaume Collboni, Mayor of the City of Barcelona.

'Success is collective,' says recipient of Rotary's 2026 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award

Egyptian Rotarian has elevated female leaders, promoted microloans, and helped build an 800-student school

By Etelka Lehoczky



Mayan Raslan, the 2026 recipient of Rotary's Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award, believes that success isn't genuine if you achieve it alone.

"When you succeed, let others rise with you," she says. "If you're alone, this is not success."

That ethos has guided Raslan throughout her career as a project manager and in her work as a fundraiser for Rotary and other organizations. A member of the Rotary Club of Cairo Royal, Egypt, she's committed to elevating other women to leadership roles.

That's part of why she was chosen to receive the award named for Sylvia Whitlock, the first female Rotary club president who went on to lead change for women around the world through Rotary. The award honors people who, like Whitlock, have worked to advance women in Rotary.

Mayan Raslan of the Rotary Club of Cairo Royal, Egypt, is the recipient of the 2026 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award.

Raslan "has a special talent for recognizing potential in others and gently, yet powerfully, encouraging them to take on greater roles," says Mohamed Delawar Aly, a member of the Rotary Club of Sheikh Zayed ECO, Egypt, and a former district governor. "Her example has motivated so many to embrace leadership roles they may not have initially seen for themselves."

Raslan learned the importance of service early on.

Raslan, who earned a Ph.D. in Management and Administration from Cairo University, has lent her talents to an array of nongovernmental organizations, government bodies, and financial institutions. In addition to serving in numerous leadership roles in Rotary since she joined in 1999, she is the president of the Egyptian Feminist Union, president of the Alliance for Arab Women, and a trustee of the Banque Misr Foundation for Community Development.

Raslan worked to promote women as governor of District 2451 from 2016-17. To expand female membership, she announced a special award for clubs that increased the number of women members by 25%. Today, the district's membership is 54% female. But she made her biggest impact with a districtwide women's empowerment committee.

Raslan demonstrated her commitment to shared achievement when she led a multiyear project to build a school in the Fayoum Governorate, near Cairo. She had worked with clubs in her district on other projects in Fayoum, but when the governor of the area asked in 2016 whether Rotary could build a school, she was daunted.

The school opened in 2020 with two classes of kindergarteners. It has more than 800 students today and was honored in the Egyptian government's 2025 Egyptian Schools Competition. For Raslan, it's the ultimate proof that all true achievements are shared.

District News



Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Conference 2026
Organized by: Rotary International District 3291

Join Us for Two Days of Service, Leadership & Fellowship
Be part of an inspiring gathering of Rotarians and RCC Members as we celebrate community service, share impactful in-person and strategic guestwork leadership.

MARCH | SAT & SUN | 2026
28 29

Hotel Deepak, Frazer Gunj, Bakkhali, West Bengal 743357

- Registration Charges
 - Rotarians: ₹500 per person
 - RCC Members: ₹100 per person
 - A.C. Rooms for RCC Members: ₹500 per person
- Registration includes:
 - of Lunch
 - of Evening Snacks
 - of Dinner
 - of Breakfast
 - of Lunch
- Payment Details
 - Account Name: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL 24-26
 - Bank: SBI, Bank
 - A/C No.: 40880300000
 - IFSC: SBIN0000003
- For Enquiry & Registration
 - Bakkhali Centre Day
 - 98308 40297
 - Hemanta Bose
 - 98304 72089

Let's Unite at Bakkhali for a Stronger Community Tomorrow!
Service, Connection, Fellowship & Action.

RCC Conference 28th & 29th March Bakkhali

Club News



On 8th March, our club, in association with RC Domkol Murshidabad, handed over a cheque of ₹24,000, donated by our club and club members, to Rotary Beldanga Eye Hospital at Beldanga, Murshidabad for eye cataract surgery of 4 needy persons. Same time, a cheque of ₹30,000, donated by our club's Honourary member Ms. Anita Shankar was handed over for eye cataract surgery of 5 needy persons.

My heartfelt thanks go out to Ms. Anita Shankar, club members and the club for the generous donations for this noble cause.

PDG Rtn Shyamashree Sen, Rtn Tilak Dasgupta and President Rtn Sunando Sen were present at the Eye Hospital for the hand over of the cheques.

Forthcoming Programs

22nd March '26, 5pm- DG's OCV,
Venue : Outram Club.



An evening hosted by Big Leap Initiative Foundation
in collaboration with Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Thursday, 2 April 2026
12:00 - 2:00 PM | RCC, 8th Floor
Bakkhali Gunj, Kolkata
Free admission for all participants.

PERFORMANCE BY OUR CHILDREN
MEET THE ARTISTS
PARENT CLINIC
CREATING SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

WORLD
AUTISM
ACCEPTANCE
DAY

WAAD- 2nd April '26-5pm, Kolkata
Centre for Creativity

Swayam Siddha XVII, Venue: ICCR,
Postponed till further notice

Happy Birthday

PP Rtn Bandana Das for 24th March!!



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

