

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

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METRO MAIL



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY



Maternal & Child Health — Rotary's Month of Purpose, Not Optics

Maternal and Child Health (MCH), one of Rotary International's core focus areas, remains a defining test of global equity. Despite progress, nearly 287,000 women still die annually from pregnancy-related causes worldwide, with gains slowing in recent years. The Sustainable Development Goal targets reducing maternal mortality below 70 per 100,000 births by 2030, yet disparities persist.

India presents a story of both success and unfinished business. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined to around 80 per 100,000 births in 2023, with infant mortality at 25 per 1,000 live births. Government and institutional efforts have saved thousands of mothers annually, yet gaps in rural access, adolescent pregnancy, and nutrition remain critical.

Locally, especially in states like West Bengal, challenges mirror national trends—urban-rural divides, late referrals, and inconsistent antenatal care. Rotary clubs, deeply embedded in communities, can bridge these last-mile gaps.

The lacuna lies not in intent but in integration—health, nutrition, sanitation, and awareness still operate in silos. The possibilities, however, are transformative: universal screening, digital tracking of high-risk pregnancies, and grassroots behavioural change.

This MCH Month, Rotary must move beyond camps to continuity—adopt districts, track outcomes, and align with public health systems. The last mile is not medical; it is managerial, social, and deeply human.

Subhojit Roy

Rotary Projects Around the Globe - April 2026

By **Brad Webber**



Mexico

Within hours of deadly floods and landslides that struck Mexico in October, Rotary members were responding. In hard-hit Poza Rica, Rotary and Rotaract members brought residents to safety, ploughed mud-laden streets, and moved house to house to clean properties. The effort was supported by clubs throughout District 4185 and by neighboring districts and others abroad. The Rotary Club of Poza Rica joined the nonprofit Planet Water Foundation to install four water towers and a water block in the neediest area and deliver purified water elsewhere. The club also coordinated with World Central Kitchen to provide hot meals. Still, “we desperately need help to get back on our feet and return to our normal lives,” says club member Pepe Badillo. “The houses were a total loss. Everything was destroyed, from a single plate to the bedrooms on the second floor.”

Canada

Members of the Rotary Club of Kelowna in British Columbia placed 220 crosses personalized with the details of fallen soldiers in a Remembrance Day tradition the club has co-led with the Okanagan Military Museum Society since 2018. The Field of Crosses is accessible for 10 days beginning 2 November. Rotarians’ “dedication extends to coordinating lighting, ceremonies, and educational programs produced by the museum that connect the community, especially students, with the stories behind the names,” says Club President Robin Smith. The project strikes a personal chord: “We have a number of members who have served with our military,” Smith says, “and this allows us to honor them and the hundreds of others from the Kelowna community who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.”

- **100,000 -Homes damaged by October floods in Mexico**
- **75-Countries where Canadians killed in WWI and WWII are buried**

Latvia

The monthly soup kitchen at Saint Saviour’s Anglican Church has been a mainstay in Latvia’s capital since 2001. For the past several years, the Rotaract Club of Riga International and, more recently, its sponsor Rotary club have supported the initiative, which serves as many as 60 visitors per session. “One shift prepares large pots of soup, porridge, and warm tea while another welcomes and serves guests when they arrive,” says Kim Leandersson, a past president of the Rotary Club of Riga International. “Ingredients are planned and purchased by our members, with our club covering the modest costs and occasional donated products from bakeries adding something extra. It’s regular, hands-on service where you see the impact immediately. Cooking, serving, and sharing a meal may sound small, but for many of our guests it means warmth, dignity, and being seen.”

India

The city of Thane, northeast of Mumbai, is recognized for its arts and culture scene. It’s home to drama troupes, an art expo, international film festivals, and comedy venues. What it was lacking, says Atul Bhide, of the Rotary Club of Thane Hills, was a large showcase for aficionados of the written word. To amend that, the club (which also sponsors a book-reading initiative for youth) launched the Thane Literature Festival. Over two days in November, bibliophiles toasted 22 authors and poets who read from their work and participated in panel discussions. The event honored journalist and writing coach Bachi Karkaria with the Thane Literature Festival lifetime achievement award, and judges critiqued entries in a short-story contest. “Encouraging reading habits and love for literature for Gen-Next is also our motive behind this literature festival,” says Bhide.

- **1 in 12 People worldwide who face chronic hunger**
- **\$9billion- Value of India’s print book market in 2020**

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

Rotary International Moves Barcelona Convention to 2027

BARCELONA (April 6, 2026) – Barcelona, Spain, has been selected to host Rotary’s international convention, which is often described by attendees as a mini-United Nations conference, on 26–30 June 2027 at the Fira de Barcelona. This decision enables the city to bring the Rotary community together two years sooner than was recently announced in March.

Based on previous events, the Rotary convention is expected to attract up to 20,000 participants from over 140 countries and generate more than €68 million for the local economy. The Rotary convention in 2027 was originally scheduled to take place in Dubai. Rotary postponed it to a later year due to the current uncertainty in the region. Leaders of the global membership service organization expressed gratitude to its partners in Barcelona for their flexibility and collaboration in accommodating this change.

“With enthusiasm and energy, we are prepared to pivot quickly to host the international convention in 2027,” said Sergio Aragón, chair of the Barcelona Host Committee and a member of the Rotary Club Barcelona Diagonal. “We look forward to welcoming our international guests and delivering an exceptional experience.”

District News

Rotary
District 3291
International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians
UNITE FOR GOOD

MUSICAL TALENT HUNT

FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

Organized by
International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians
IFRM 3291 - SUR SANGAM

Date: April 17th & 18th 2026
Last Date of Application: 10th April, 2026

Venue: India Valley World School Auditorium
400 Agy Nagar, Kolkata - 700 044, E. M. Bypass, Near Parkasia Hospital

NO REGISTRATION FEE
For further details please see attachments

Supported by RI Dist 3291 Interact Council

Rotary
UNITE FOR GOOD

বৈশাখী সন্ধ্যায়

শুভ নববর্ষ

6:00 pm Onwards
Friday, 24th April, 2026
Urbana Club House
Registration fee - Rs. 500 Only (individual)

QR Code

Rotary
District 3291
UNITE FOR GOOD

DLA 2026

District Learning Assembly
Host
Rotary Club of Belur

17th May 2026
Sunday

- Registration: 8:30 - 9:30 am
- Inaugural Session: 9:45 - 11:35 am
- Coffee Break: 11:35 - 11:55 am
- Breakaway Session: 11:45am - 1:45 pm
- Lunch Break: 1:45 - 2:45 pm
- Closing Session: 2:45 - 4:45 pm
- TEA TIME

Venue
HYATT REGENCY KOLKATA

Registration Fee: ₹2200

Tapas Bhattacharya
District Governor
2024-27

ADG Debashish Mitra
District Learning Facilitator
2024-27

Bhrajit Dugar
HOST PRESIDENT
2025-26

Club News

District Governor's Official Club Visit



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City hosted the District Governor Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri on his Official Club Visit on 22nd March 2026 at the Outram Club. It was a very informal meeting of minds, and he spoke eloquently on his plans, vision and work going on in the District during his tenure. Club President Rtn

Sunando Sen, Club Secretary Rtn Arindam Ghosh, Club Learning Facilitator PDG Shyamashree Sen, Mr Utpal Panda, Hony. Secretary Thalassaemia Society of India was inducted as the Honorary member of the Club. Rtn Jharna Mitra offered the formal vote of thanks.

(Reported by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy)

World Autism Awareness & Acceptance Day Observed



On 2nd April 2026, World Autism Awareness & Acceptance Day, our club partnered with Big Leap Inclusive Foundation in a program of song, dance, yoga and poetry beautifully performed by 24 neuro divergent students of Big Leap Inclusive Foundation at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) Auditorium, who collaborated in this program by providing their auditorium free of charge. Friends FM 91.9 was the radio partner for this program and did a live coverage of the program.



There was a panel discussion conducted by PP Rtn Sunetra Dasgupta on Autism Awareness and Acceptance with Ms. Angira Chakraborty Dasgupta (Expressive Art Therapist), Dr. Abhishek Hansa (Clinical Psychologist), Ms. Ashmita Sarkar (Applied Psychologist), Ms. Sumana Ghosh (Parent of a neuro divergent student) and Ms. Oritri Basu (Parent of a neuro divergent student). They shared their thoughts and experiences.

The program was anchored by Ms. Prapti Dasgupta, daughter of our club's PP Rtn Sunetra and Rtn Tilak Dasgupta.

Our club's PP Rtn Bandana Das introduced the program and PDG Shyamashree Sen delivered the Vote of Thanks at the end of the program.

I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt thanks to our club's PP Rtn Bandana Das and PP Rtn Sunetra Dasgupta, both Founder Directors of the Big Leap Inclusive Foundation, for organising such a meaningful and insightful DEI program.

I also convey my thanks to KCC for their collaboration, Friends FM for the Radio coverage, the entire staff of Big Leap Inclusive Foundation for their dedicated work, Mr Debasish Roy for taking all the beautiful photos and sharing with us, Mr Suhit Das of CUBE for arranging the refreshments for the students, and Ms. Prapti Dasgupta for conducting the program so beautifully.

I further thank our club members PDG Shyamashree Sen for her presence and for delivering the Vote of Thanks and PP Subhojit Roy for arranging the Radio Partner Friends FM for this program.

PP Amrita Basu, Rtn Tilak Dasgupta, Rtn Shankar Das and President Rtn Sunando Sen of our club were also present at this program.

(Reported by President Rtn Sunando Sen)

District Women & Girls Empowerment Centre Inauguration



On 23rd March 2026, our club participated as a Host Club at the inauguration of the District Women & Girls Empowerment Centre at 17 Raja Dinendra Street. The Centre is being operated by Mukti, an NGO doing social welfare work, on 2 floors of a building at 17 Raja Dinendra Street. Rotary District 3291 will be a partner at this Centre with RC Aabahamaan

Kolkata acting as the lead club.

Two rooms at the Centre, one with computers for computer training and one room with sewing machines for stitching & embroidery training, were inaugurated by DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri.

The computers and sewing machines, donated by Rotary Clubs of RID 3291, will be used by the staff of Mukti to impart computer and sewing training to the underprivileged Women & Girls living in slums of the neighbouring 18 Wards of KMC.

A presentation was made by Mukti informing the members of the numerous Rotary Clubs present about the condition in the neighbourhood slums. The presentation was followed by discussion on how Rotary Clubs can help in empowering the Women & Girls at the Centre.

DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri in his talk praised Mukti for

the work they are doing for the upliftment of the underprivileged, and requested the Rotarians present to help in whichever way they can make the Centre a place to be proud off.

(Reported by Club President Rtn Sunando Sen)

Greetings

Happy Birthday to Rtn Atreya Roychowdhury for 28th April!

Happy Anniversary to PP Rtn Amrita & Shovik Basu for 28th April!

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary



**STRIKE OFF
THALASSEMIA**

Edited & Published by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy

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