

RI President: Rtn. Gordon R McInally
Dist. Governor: Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav
Club President: Rtn. Amrita Basu
Club Secretary: Rtn. Atreya Roychowdhury
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

For private circulation only

METRO MAIL



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

RI District 3291 | Charter Date : 14/06/1995 | Club No. : 30869



We often wonder whether world peace is a reality or a myth.

The concept of world peace has been a longstanding ideal for humanity, but achieving it remains a complex challenge, human history is marked by conflicts, wars, and power struggles among nations and groups. Diplomacy and conflict resolution have prevented some conflicts from escalating into full-scale wars. Despite efforts for peace, many conflicts persist, the latest examples being the ongoing conflicts in Israel and Palestine and the Ukraine-Russia which is now 2 years old. Globalization has interconnected nations economically, politically, and socially. Some argue that this interdependence makes it less likely for major powers to engage in full-scale wars, as it would disrupt global stability and prosperity. Environmental issues and resource scarcity can potentially lead to conflicts in the future. Competition for essential resources like water, energy, and arable land could pose challenges to peace. While world peace may seem like a distant reality considering the historical conflicts and ongoing challenges, it is not necessarily a myth.

A text book definition of modern peace will read more like one which comprises of different stages: security first (a negative peace) followed by positive peace (reducing arms and changes to trade). This form of liberal peace has become the foundation of the modern international system of states and order.

Rotary is one of the many organizations building and developing peace through its proactive actions. Rotary and its members are:

Practitioners: Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.

Educators: Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.

Mediators: Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

Advocates: Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

Rotarians refuse to accept conflict as a way of life!

(The above is Editor's personal opinion and may or may not be reflection of the Club's opinion)

RI News

Presidential Message- February 2024



I am enthused and encouraged by your embrace of mental health initiatives throughout the Rotary world. More than 1,000 of you have responded so far to an ongoing survey by the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives, offering your feedback on what Rotary can do to improve the personal well-being of members.

The top suggestions are illuminating. Rotary members are asking for more fellowship, camaraderie, conversation, cohesiveness, and connection. They also want more recognition, validation, and integration. They are seeking more service opportunities, and they want more wellness activities, including mental health speakers, awareness efforts, and education.

Our members not only appreciate the greater focus on mental health, but they also believe that making more of the Rotary experience will materially improve their lives. I find it interesting that members are not asking anything dramatically new of their club — rather they want more of what we do best. For

example, connection can be improved during meetings simply by assigning seating once each month to encourage people to speak with someone new.

Here are some great ways that we can help achieve these results and make Rotary more appealing to those considering membership. First, we need to acknowledge the importance of increasing belonging in our clubs and to encourage Rotary members to make the most of every opportunity for new and stronger connections. Public health experts worldwide are concerned about increasing levels of loneliness — the U.S. surgeon general has even declared it an epidemic. Mental health experts agree that finding groups and clubs around common hobbies and interests is a strong way to create greater connectedness. This is what Rotary is all about. We need to make sure all of our members are fully engaged and that our communities are better aware of this inherent strength.

Second, if your club has found new ways to build connection, please share your stories with us at mindhealth@rotary.org so we can make them more broadly known within the Rotary world. Your good ideas might inspire others. Post your service project stories on Rotary Showcase.

And finally, I encourage you to share feedback from surveys like this with your club and bring forward your own ideas to improve your club experience and meet your peers' expectations. The journey we have begun is about more than mental health. It is about taking advantage of the full strength of our wonderful organization and helping all members feel that they are part of a community that cares deeply about their personal well-being.

Everything you do to strengthen connections in Rotary, with each other and the people we serve, also helps improve mental health. And everything we do to improve mental health helps strengthen those connections. Let's continue this virtuous cycle.

R. Gordon R. McNally

President 2023-24

At Convention, Inspiration around Every Corner



It's a tale as old as the **Rotary International Convention**: Two members from different clubs bump into each other, start chatting, and get the spark of an idea for a project.

So don't be shy about starting a conversation with the stranger standing next to you or someone you meet over a meal at the convention 25-29 May in Singapore. After all, two people who talked at a bus stop at the 2016 convention in Seoul went on to plan a project fair in Africa.

Members regularly share stories about chance convention encounters that lead to meaningful projects — the kind that fulfill this year's convention theme: *Sharing Hope With the World*.

They have met while painting a playground during the 2012 convention in Bangkok, lingering after breakout sessions, and, of course, visiting **House of Friendship** booths. Members relish the

chance to meet new friends from other countries to find global grant project ideas, but they also run into potential project partners from their own state, province, or district.

After making a convention connection, Rotary members from countries across the world have worked with new partners on countless initiatives, including providing ShelterBoxes to refugees, launching a Rotaract multidistrict information organization, and recycling millions of plastic bottle caps to raise money to end polio.

A Georgia club's article about a global grant with a club in India to build toilet facilities captures the convention's influence: "This all began at the Atlanta RI Convention in 2017." What seed of an idea will you find in Singapore this spring?

This story originally appeared in the February 2024 issue of [Rotary magazine](#).

Minneapolis-St. Paul set to host Rotary's 120th international convention in 2029

The largest convention Minneapolis will host in 2029



Rotary International today announced Minneapolis-St. Paul as the winner of the provisional bid to hold its annual international convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center, May 26-30, 2029.

More than 15,000 Rotary members and participants from around the world will gather in the Twin Cities to connect, learn from each other and various experts, and share ideas for bringing positive, lasting change to communities across the globe. The event is expected to inject an estimated \$30.4 million in both direct and indirect business sales, and will utilize hotels in Minneapolis, Bloomington, and St. Paul, as well as most of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

"I am excited to welcome Rotary members from across the globe to the Twin Cities and the State of Minnesota for their international convention in 2029," said Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. "Rotary members

do incredibly important work to improve lives and strengthen communities here and throughout the world."

"Minneapolis is the right city to host the 120th Rotary International Convention and Rotary is a fabulous organization to welcome," said Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey. "With more than 15,000 attendees and strong values of service, diversity, and leadership – this event will have an enormous impact on our community and we look forward to showing off our world-class city."

The winning bid was led by Rotary clubs in Minnesota and Iowa. "We're thrilled that Minneapolis will once again host Rotary's biggest gathering," said Tom Gump, Chair, Host Operating Committee, 2029 Rotary International. "We look forward to working with Meet Minneapolis Tourism Bureau, the Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Bloomington and the State of Minnesota to plan the largest Rotary event in Minneapolis since the last convention we hosted in 1974."

"Abundant in fresh water, nature, and cultural diversity, Minneapolis – the City of Lakes, is the ideal location for our members and participants to connect and celebrate our friendships, cultures, and shared commitment to making a positive difference in the world," said Rotary International President Gordon McNally.

Rotary members throughout the world develop and implement sustainable, community-driven projects that fight disease, promote peace, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children, grow local economies and protect the environment. More than US\$5.5 billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation—Rotary's charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service—to support these and other initiatives over the last 100 years.

More than US\$2 Million Collected for Turkey, Syria after Earthquake

The largest convention Minneapolis will host in 2029

By Arnold R. Grahl



A year after the most powerful earthquake in nearly a century devastated parts of Turkey and Syria, Rotary members have helped people rebuild with container homes for hundreds of families, hospital equipment, and other essential support.

A special disaster relief fund created by The Rotary Foundation, now closed to contributions, raised more than US\$2 million from donors around the world and funded about 60 grants that have allowed Rotary members to provide shelter, medical care, and other necessities.

The earthquake on 6 February 2023 killed more than 55,000 people and affected 15 million others across southern Turkey and northern Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people are still living in temporary settlements in Turkey and are enduring a second winter without homes or access to clean water and sanitation facilities. In Syria, the earthquake exacerbated a humanitarian crisis where millions of people

were already in need due to conflict, economic crisis, and epidemics.

Many clubs and districts have organized humanitarian initiatives guided by Rotarians in the affected areas. The three districts in Turkey worked together to implement projects totaling US\$10 million.

Immediately after the earthquake, Rotarians in Turkey set up three tent cities to provide temporary shelter for 2,000 families. The districts have since used US\$50,000 disaster response grants coupled with other funds to establish two container cities while providing support for a third container city built by the local government in Ankara.

Each container city includes units from large shipping containers for 110 families equipped with beds, mattresses, air conditioning units, water heaters, refrigerators, toilets, a bathtub, and kitchens. The Rotarians also built mobile kindergartens and prefabricated schools, a medical clinic, and a laundry facility in or near the container cities.

Refik Kutluer, president of the Rotary Club of Ankara International, says his club arranged for six children whose limbs were amputated from injuries suffered in the earthquake to receive prosthetic limbs at hospitals in the United States. The treatments were provided at no cost to the families.

"All these children have returned home and are again able to walk," Kutluer says. "They continue to express their gratitude to Rotary saying that after the earthquake, they felt hopeless, but now they have been restored to life."

The Ankara International club also provided a mobile science laboratory and classroom for Ata College, almost completely destroyed by the earthquake. The school lost 26 students, two teachers, and two staff members in the quake. Classes are being held in prefabricated buildings.

"All the students are earthquake victims trying to heal while attending classes," Kutluer says. "The school is like a home to them, and they are thankful for those who have reached out with love and respect."

Rotary and Rotaract members have also purchased essential equipment for a hospital in Antakya. Using two US\$50,000 grants, District 2430 provided an ultrasound machine that hospital administrators requested as well as equipment to perform colonoscopies and endoscopies.

A year after the earthquakes, Rotary members are continuing to respond.

Club News



RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) for tribal school girls was recently organized by Rotary Calcutta Samaritans and other clubs. Rotary Calcutta Metro City was one of the supporting clubs and this gave us an opportunity to visit a tribal school in a remote village, Nayagram located in East Medinipur.

50 tribal girls aged 10- 14 years formed the RYLA camp at Nayagram School and they heard about Thalassaemia for the first time in their lives. PP Rtn Subhojit Roy addressed the students on thalassaemia.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City was represented by PDG Shyamashree Sen who also spoke to the RYLA campers on leadership, PP Rtn Sunando Sen alongwith PP Rtn Sunando Sen.

Project Thalassaemia



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City made a contribution of Rs 50,000 to Thalassaemia Society of India for procurement of lab reagents and blood test materials for the treatment of 350 patients under TSI.

Ramawatar Maheshrajka Charitable Trust donated the amount facilitated by the club. Our club's total donation for treatment of thalassaemia patients stands at Rs 2,50,000 in 1 year.

The club was represented by PP Rtns Subhojit Roy & Arindam Ghosh and Mr Utpal Panda received the donation on behalf of the Society.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City is currently spearheading a National campaign to sensitize all elected representatives in India to spread the message in their respective constituencies apart from the major corporate houses.

In a major development Mr Ratan Tata responding to our appeal has expressed his desire to take the proposal forward.

23rd February'24

Rotary
CALCUTTA METRO CITY DISTRICT

Rotary Peace Dialogue
Peace for the World is the Dream for All

Dr Prof Sanjoy Mukherjee
Dr Anitara Mookerjee
Deepak Kapur

ZOOM ID: 717 154 6431
PASSCODE: EndPolio
Friday, 23rd February 2024, 7pm

Coming Up

25th February'24

Blood Donation Camp at Hooghly in support of the thalassaemia patients

29th February'24

Thalassaemia Awareness Program at IIM&C, Sonarpur with Rtn Dr. Biplabendu Talukdar as the speaker.

**END
POLIO
NOW**

NID on 3rd March 2024

Welcome our new member Navneet Banerjea to Rotary Calcutta Metro City!

Medical Insurance Tips from the Expert

PP Rtn Dipu Mullick

Why should Medical Insurance be a mandatory action for every individual?

Fundamentally, Medical Insurance protects an individual against unforeseen medical emergencies, as well as depletion of wealth. Here is an example may be considered in this context:

At the time of unforeseen medical emergencies which of the following options would an individual depend upon:

- A) Investments
- B) Savings
- C) Assets
- D) Relatives/friends financial assistance
- E) Medical Insurance

Obviously, Medical Insurance is the best option to depend upon

According to the National Health Profile 2020, only 27% of the population of India is covered under some form of Medical Insurance scheme (Ref TOI opinion 30/06/2023). The cost of healthcare in India is increasing rapidly and without adequate insurance, it is becoming alarmingly difficult to afford quality healthcare for the majority in India. Hence maximum coverage is desirable at this moment.

Are senior citizens eligible for fresh medical insurance policies?

Yes, there is an option of unlimited entry age for this even with the pre-existing diseases(PED).

How can NRI's who decide to return to India after their retirement at an advanced age be covered under the insurance policies?

Yes, they can be covered under medical insurance in India. However, the coverage depends upon the physical status inclusive of PED's of the individual aspirant.

What are the fine prints that laymen miss while buying a medical insurance policy?

There are 3 types of parameters of self-declaration while buying medical insurance policies

- A) BMI (Body Mass Index)
- B) Proper medical history
- C) Lifestyle habits

Clarity and proper disclosure of these above information ultimately affects the qualitative value of the Insurance coverage

Very often we find the insured person does not get 100% coverage despite paying premium on time for years, your advice.

Most of the insurance plans have co-payment option for the insured person above 61 years of age. But, there is also an option of obtaining 100% of the claimed amount against the additional premium payment while buying the policy. It is also very important to look after all the benefits of the plans that offered while buying the insurance policy.

Happy Birthday

Navneet Banerjea for 12th February

Md Firoz for 20th February

No challenge is Too Big for Us

For more than a century, we've bridged cultures and connected continents. We champion peace, fight illiteracy and poverty, help people get access to clean water and sanitation, and fight disease. Our newest cause is to protect our planet and its resources.

1.4
million

WE CONNECT PEOPLE

1.4 million members
worldwide

47
million

WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

Approximately 47 million
volunteer hours each year

\$333
million

WE FUND SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

\$333 million awarded for
global service initiatives in
2020-21

Edited & Published by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy

Designed by : DARK HORSE : 9831050155