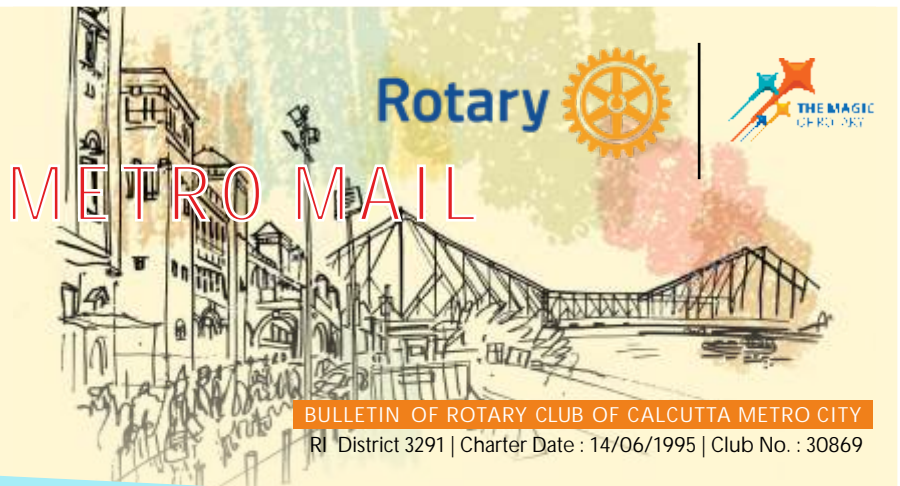


RI President: Rtn. Stephanie Urchick  
Dist. Governor: Dr. Krishnendu Gupta  
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Club Secretary: Rtn. Dipu Mullick  
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

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We are devastated, horrified, and deeply anguished as citizens and human beings by the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old intern doctor at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata. No words can mend the wound inflicted on millions of minds across the globe. Each of us feels this tragedy as a personal loss, grieving like never before. This horrific incident has united people in a shared sense of sorrow. It also brings us to a critical question: why are women still unsafe in their workplaces, even as we enter the first quarter of the 21st century?

Ensuring Women's Safety in the Workplace is a Collective Responsibility. In India, the safety of women in the workplace remains a pressing issue. Despite strides in gender equality, women continue to face challenges that threaten their dignity, safety, and right to work in a secure environment. Harassment, discrimination, and violence are not just personal grievances; they are societal failures that undermine our progress as a nation.

Women form a significant portion of India's workforce, contributing to every sector from agriculture to technology, healthcare to education. Yet, their journey is often marred by unsafe working conditions, lack of institutional support, and a culture of silence that perpetuates their suffering. The alarming rise in workplace harassment cases is a wake-up call that demands immediate and concerted action.

Organizations like Rotary have a pivotal role to play in championing women's safety at the workplace. Rotary's commitment to service above self can extend to fostering environments where every woman feels safe and respected. Here's how Rotary and similar organizations can contribute:

**Advocacy and Awareness:** Rotary can leverage its vast network to advocate for stronger enforcement of laws related to women's safety in the workplace. By organizing seminars, workshops, and campaigns, Rotary can raise awareness among employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities.

Rotary clubs can collaborate with experts to conduct training programs for both men and women in workplaces. These programs can focus on gender sensitivity, legal awareness, and strategies to prevent harassment. Empowering women with knowledge and tools to protect themselves is crucial, but equally important is educating men about the consequences of their actions and the importance of respecting women.

Establishing support systems for women in distress is another area where Rotary can make a significant impact. This can include creating helplines, offering legal aid, or setting up counselling centres. Ensuring that women have access to immediate help and support can make a substantial difference in their safety.

Rotary can collaborate with businesses to ensure the effective implementation of policies related to women's safety. This includes adherence to the Vishaka Guidelines and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. By acting as an external monitor, Rotary can help create accountability mechanisms within organizations.

Beyond safety, Rotary should advocate for gender equality in all aspects of work life. This includes equal pay, opportunities for leadership, and a work culture that values diversity. When women are empowered and their voices heard, workplaces become safer by default.

The need for women's safety in the workplace is not just a women's issue; it is a human rights issue. It is about creating a society where everyone can work without fear, where the dignity of every individual is upheld, and where progress is measured by the safety and well-being of all its members.

Rotary, with its ethos of service, is uniquely positioned to lead this charge. By prioritizing women's safety, Rotary can help build workplaces that are not only productive but also just, equitable, and safe for all. The time to act is now. Together, we can make a difference, ensuring that every woman in India can work with the confidence that her safety and dignity are protected.

Subhojit Roy

## Presidential Message - August 2024



If we are to truly change the world with *The Magic of Rotary*, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there, and the Action Plan can help you find your way. What does that look like?

Take for instance the Rotary Club of Beveren-Waas in Belgium. It was chartered in 1974 but has evolved with the times, developing both a strategic plan and a membership plan. To find new members, the club analyzes the city's professions to help focus its search, and all new members are quickly assigned tasks and roles.

The club also mixes up meeting times, alternating between evening and afternoon sessions, making them accessible for all members.

Sometimes, circumstances force clubs to make changes. But as people of action, we know that behind every obstacle is an opportunity.

The Rotary Club of Holyoke in Massachusetts was forced from its meeting place because of rising costs after the COVID-19 pandemic, but members took this setback and turned it into a strength. The club started meeting in a library community room that was available for no charge and catering lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person but it's optional, so no one has to spend money to

attend a meeting. What a great way to work toward being "fair to all concerned."

Since making this change, the Holyoke club has gained 13 members. I suspect part of its membership growth is due to the club's sense of inclusivity — the first step toward belonging.

If you ask members what they expect from the club experience, you might find that your club doesn't meet expectations. Think of this as an opportunity to reshape your club in exciting ways, as alternative club models are making a positive impact.

For example, a Rotary Fellowship called Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide, or BREW, has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funneled 25 percent of its dues to those initiatives.

BREW is one of many examples of members pursuing belonging to improve the world.

I can't stress enough the importance of belonging. Clubs become simply irresistible when all members feel that they are exactly where they need to be. To me, belonging is the spark that ignites *The Magic of Rotary*.

As you receive feedback from club members and the community you serve, I urge you to pursue that spark. The Action Plan can help you find the path to success, and if you light your way with the spirit of belonging, that path will lead to a bright future for your club, your community, and the world.

Stephanie A. Urchick  
President 2024-25

## Sangkoo Yun is Selected to be 2026-27 Rotary International President

By Etelka Lehoczky



Sangkoo Yun, of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Seoul, Korea, is the selection of the nominating committee to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. He will be officially declared the president-nominee on 15 September if no other candidates challenge him.

Yun received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Syracuse University School of Architecture in the U.S. and an honorary doctoral degree from The University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He is the founder and CEO of Dongsuh Corp., which engineers and markets architectural materials, and the president of Youngan Corp., which operates in real estate and financial investment. He is involved in many civic organizations and has a special interest in the preservation of cultural heritage.

A Rotary member since 1987, when he was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Yun has served Rotary International as a director, trustee, committee member and chair, and RI learning facilitator. He served for eight years as co-chair of the Keep Mongolia Green Project, by Korean members of Rotary. His RI committee roles include the Board Administration Committee (2013-15, vice chair 2014-15), the International Assembly Committee (vice chair, 2020-21), and the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (regional vice chair, 2023-27). He also served on

The Rotary Foundation's Executive Committee (2019-22, chair 2020-21) and Programs Committee (2019-22, chair 2020-22).

Yun received The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award in 2021-22. He was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, awarded the Friendship Medal by the president of Mongolia, and recognized for distinguished services by the president and prime minister of Korea. He is a veteran of the Republic of Korea Army and an emeritus elder at Andong Presbyterian Church.

Yun and his spouse, Eunsun, are Rotary Foundation Benefactors, Major Donors, and members of the Arch Klumph Society, the Paul Harris Society, and the Bequest Society. They have two children.



## Donors' impact celebrated at special events during 2024 Rotary International

*Gala Dinners and Donor Forums Underscore the Transformative Power of Contributions to The Rotary Foundation*

By Etelka Lehoczky



Donors who fund much of Rotary's work around the world gathered during the 2024 Rotary International Convention to connect with others, get updates about the programs they make possible, and celebrate the impact of those efforts. Donors planning to attend the 2025 convention in Calgary, Canada, can anticipate a similar array of events.

"Whether your interests focus on education and scholarships, health initiatives, or clean water programs, Rotary has the knowledge and infrastructure to turn your philanthropic dreams into reality," 2023-24 Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Barry Rassin said at The Rotary Foundation Donor Summit, held on 27 May in Singapore. With more than 1,600 registrants, the Summit is the largest annual gathering of Foundation donors.

Other events included The Rotary Foundation Unity Ball and the Inspiration of Hope Dinner. In addition, two Arch Klumph Society ceremonies honored 18 new or elevated members from 11 countries for their contributions of US\$250,000 or more to the Foundation. These special ceremonies are often a highlight of a donor's Foundation giving.

Rotary donors can have a significant impact on the world, said Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect and Past RI President Holger Knaack. By making global grants from the Foundation possible, donors help bring about substantial change.

The program for the donor summit also featured a panel discussion about Rotary's work against polio, a key priority for four decades. It featured Aidan O'Leary, the World Health Organization's director for polio eradication, and was hosted by Amanda Drury, a news anchor with CNBC from Sydney, Australia.

"Rotary members around the world are truly helping to write the story of polio eradication, a story marked by milestones and steady progress," Drury said. "In fact, this year marks one decade since the [World Health Organization's] South-East Asia Region was certified polio-free. This region includes India, once thought to be the country that would be the last to finish the job."

The panel also included Rotary Foundation Trustee and Past RI President Jennifer Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland in Ontario, Canada, and Past District Governor Stella Anyangwe, an epidemiologist and member of the Rotary Club of Pretoria West, South Africa.

The next day featured two gala dinners. The Rotary Foundation Unity Ball was held at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore's celebrated nature park, and honored Arch Klumph Society and Legacy Society members. The annual event is named for the Unity Building, where the first Rotary club meeting was held on 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The Inspiration of Hope Dinner, held at the Hilton Singapore Orchard, welcomed Level 4 Major Donors, Level 5 and 6 Bequest Society members, and donors who elevated their giving or commitment levels in 2023-24.

## District News

### Independence Day observed at the Alipore Jail Museum



Rotary District 3291 organized a program to commemorate the 78th Independence Day at the historic Alipore Jail Museum on 15th August with a felicitation program of family members of freedom fighters for their valiant sacrifice for the country's freedom struggle. Patriotic songs by the IFRM were sung on the occasion and speeches by District Governor Dr Krishnendu Gupta and other dignitaries. The felicitated members also spoke about the family legacy and the contributions made towards India's Independence struggle.

# CLUB NEWS

## Membership Development Month observed with PDG Ravi Sehgal



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City hosted PDG Ravi Sehgal as the club's Guest speaker on 10th August at the Outram Club on the occasion of the Membership Development.

District Membership Chair PDG Ravi Sehgal, who was introduced by PDG Shyamashree Sen, spoke about membership growth and appreciated the club's pro active role with the induction of 4 new members since 1st July. He presented lapel pins and inducted 2 new lady members in Devasruti Mukerjee (proposed by PP Rtn Rajnish Kapur) and Bandana Mullick (Proposed by PP Rtn Bandana Das). Rtn Jinit Haria (was proposed by Rtn Sunando Sen) and Rtn Sohini Roychowdhury (proposed by PDG Shyamashree Sen) were re inducted in the club.

Mr Suhrid Chanda of Harri Mitti gave a presentation on Tree plantation initiative. President Sunando Sen conducted the proceedings with Club Secretary Dipu Mullick. PP Rtns Anand Sharma (Dist Chair) and Pushpita Sharma (Dist Chair) along with PP Rtn Hemanta De, President, RC Calcutta Lansdowne were present on the occasion.

PP Rtn Subhojit Roy offered the formal vote of thanks.

## Independence Day Observed with a Difference & Tree Plantation



The 78th Independence Day was observed by Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City in association with Big Leap and Rehabilitation Centre for Children at their Behala Sakherbazar campus with the specially-abled students and their mentors and teachers. The flag hoisting was followed by rendition of the National anthem and patriotic songs and a cultural program by the specially-abled students.

The students along with the club members and officials of RCFC and the local Councillor planted saplings of various trees as part of the club's tree plantation program.

PP Rtns Sunetra Dasgupta and Bandana Das coordinated the entire programme seamlessly and other members present were PP Rtns Subhojit Roy, Arindam Ghosh, Rajnish Kapoor along with Rtns Shanker Das, Tilak Dasgupta and Dipanwita Banerjee.

## Greetings

*Happy Birthday Shankar Das for 19th August!*

*Happy Birthday Sunando Sen for 28th August!*



Edited & Published by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy

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