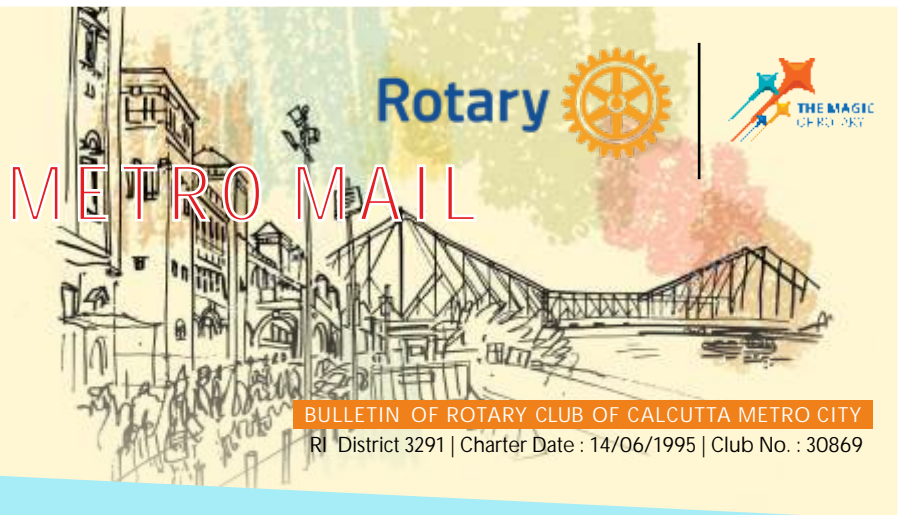


RI President: Rtn. Stephanie Urchick
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Rotary International faces a membership challenge that resonates deeply within the Indian context, where its mission for humanitarian service and community development has made significant strides. In India, Rotary's presence is vibrant, with a long-standing tradition of service, from tackling polio to championing education and healthcare. However, maintaining and expanding this membership base presents a challenge, particularly as younger generations seek platforms that

resonate with their evolving values of sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation. Rotary must address the perception that it is an organization for the older generation. India's youth, a major demographic, need to be more actively engaged through programs that align with their passion for technology, entrepreneurship, and social impact. Moreover, diversity is crucial. Rotary's leadership, traditionally seen as male-dominated, must reflect the changing fabric of Indian society by promoting more women and underrepresented groups to leadership roles.

Collaborations with corporate and educational institutions can also bring fresh perspectives and talents into the fold, appealing to professionals eager to contribute to community service alongside their careers. By modernizing its approach and embracing digital platforms for communication and recruitment, Rotary India can harness the potential of a dynamic and growing membership base to meet the country's unique developmental needs.

Subhojit Roy

Rotary Projects around the Globe- August 2024

By Brad Webber



Belize

The Rotaract Club of Belize City is renovating a rural school and a Rotary club-sponsored park as part of its youth-focused agenda. In April, club members met at the Hattieville Government Preschool to paint restrooms and complete other beautification work. A later phase will include new toilets. “We’ve been able to replace chalkboards in 10 classrooms with whiteboards and to donate a printer and other school and hygiene materials,” says Kristoff Nicholson, immediate past president. The club partnered with a telecom provider and raffled off smartphones to help pay for the project. It also received a District 4250 grant of \$1,000. In March, club members replaced basketball and goal nets and painted benches and a playset at Love Park in Balama, another element of the project, Nicholson says.



Colombia

In January, the Rotary Club of Cúcuta-Ciudad de Arboles purchased about \$600 of school supplies and delivered 100 sets of notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, and more to students in the city. It’s about 350 miles northeast of Bogotá. Club members also visited with students in the neighborhood of Las Delicias, says Dora Patricia Lobo, a past president of the club. “The hustle and bustle and joy of these students when they receive their school package warms our souls and encourages us to continue,” Lobo says. More than 1,400 students have benefited since the project began.

- 35.6%- Share of Belize’s population younger than 15
- 96%-Literacy rate in Colombia



Liberia

The Rotary Club of Monrovia is helping train young women to establish micro enterprises to make and sell reusable sanitary pads and address “period poverty.” With financial support from the Rotary Club of Loveland, Colorado, the Liberian Rotarians paired with the nonprofit **Dignity:Liberia** and held two training sessions for 200 women earlier this year in Monrovia, the capital, and in Kakata, a semirural community. “The high, recurring cost of pads makes them out of reach for many families that struggle to make ends meet,” says Monique Cooper-Liverpool, a past president of the Monrovia club. “This leads thousands of girls to miss classes so often that they eventually drop out of school.” The initiative grew out of a partnership between the two clubs to advance reproductive care and treatment for fistulas, an injury often caused by prolonged labor during childbirth.



Northern Ireland

Volunteers led by the Rotary Club of Belfast made improvements to the courtyard garden of a senior home in January. The team of Rotarians, community members, and people in transitional employment through the judicial system cleared weeds, constructed raised garden platforms, and filled them with soil. Cold temperatures scaled back their plans, but it was still a “rather back-breaking” effort, says club member Jenny Boyd. A District 1160 grant of about \$1,250 was used to underwrite the expense. Karen Blair, a past president and project leader, recruited colleagues from her law firm to get a little dirt under their fingernails. “This project allows all members to be involved in a very hands-on activity,” Blair says. “And even those with no gardening ability can participate by chatting with the residents over coffee.”

- \$24.4 billion-Global sanitary napkin market in 2021
- 1828-Belfast Botanic Gardens and Palm House founded



Thailand

About 1,500 drowning deaths occur each year in Thailand, one of the highest rates per capita in the world. While the Thai government is working to prevent fatalities, drowning remains the leading cause of death for those 15 and younger in the country, which has thousands of miles of coastline. On the island of Samui, a popular tourist destination, there are no public swimming pools, says Adam Preston, immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan. Club members received training from the Rotary Club of Global Water Safety and Drowning Prevention and in 2019 started Swim4Life, a series of lessons for children ages 10 to 12 at an international school’s pool. Three Samui-Phangan club members offer basic instruction alongside 15 community members who serve as assistant teachers. Nearly 100 children had completed the course as of April. The children, from public schools, “have gone from being scared of the water to being able to swim 25 meters,” Preston says.

This story originally appeared in the August 2024 issue of Rotary magazine.

Global Partnership a Dream Come True for Clean Water Advocate

By Arnold R. Grahl



Lis Bernhardt

Image credit : Sarah Waiswa

Bernhardt arrived in Geneva sponsored by the Rotary Club of Valparaiso, Indiana, in her hometown. With her undergraduate degree in international studies from Northwestern University near Chicago, she intended to focus on conflict resolution and the rights of minorities.

As an intern with UN Volunteers during the summer between her first and second year, she was part of a program where nongovernmental organizations and other civil society groups in developing countries could apply for online volunteer assistance for projects like building a website, translating documents, or writing a funding proposal. Her job was to vet applications, including one from the Navajo Nation in the United States.

Though the group's application was rejected, its plight stuck with her. She remained in contact and visited the Navajo Nation. The example became the basis for her master's thesis that explored the disconnect between the environmental and socioeconomic tracks of development.

After short stints with Amnesty International and as a consultant for UN Volunteers, Bernhardt joined the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change in Bonn, Germany, serving as a program officer and head of external relations. In 2009, she took a job with a UN-Water program in Bonn and later moved to UN-Water's office in New York where she contributed to writing the sustainable development goals on water and sanitation.

As influential as that work was, she began to get an itch for the implementation side "to help make these sustainable goals a reality." Moving to Kenya in 2016, she joined the Freshwater Ecosystems Unit at UNEP. It was there in 2018 that she was part of the reception for a Rotary International delegation, including incoming President Barry Rassin, that was exploring a partnership. Wheels were already in motion for the environment to become one of Rotary's areas of focus.

After many conversations, Bernhardt's bosses at UNEP wanted to collect data before ironing out an agreement. Bernhardt got together with Joe Otin, then Rotary's representative to UNEP, and together they launched a pilot project, called Adopt a River for Sustainable Development, in District 9212 covering Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan. Bernhardt and her colleagues worked with Rotary members in 20 clubs as they "adopted" nine rivers to collect garbage, catalog pollution information, hold community engagement events, and meet with responsible parties to discuss solutions. They performed a type of research known as citizen science, driving the creation of a long-range plan for each river.

Looking back, Bernhardt credits her scholarship year with her desire to work with Rotary members.

She remains enthusiastic about the partnership's potential.

"Water is so valuable to everything we do," she says. "Not a day goes by that we don't use fresh water in some way. We drink it to live. It is embedded in the food we grow. It makes our industry go. It is essential for every kind of energy we use. Water is so present and so essential in all these processes."

This story originally appeared in the September 2024 issue of Rotary magazine.

Club health check

To see how your club is doing and find remedies to any problems, check out Rotary's club health check, which assesses club well-being in several areas:

Club experience: Members who have a positive experience are more likely to stay, and their enthusiasm is contagious.

Service and social events: Service and fun with fellow members are the main reasons people join and stick with a club.

Members: A healthy club is one that is growing and changing; having members with diverse perspectives and experiences fuels innovation and gives your club a broader understanding of your community's needs.

Image: A positive public image improves your club's relationship with the community and prospective members.

Business and operations: Leadership development, strategic planning, and succession planning are ways to fortify your club.

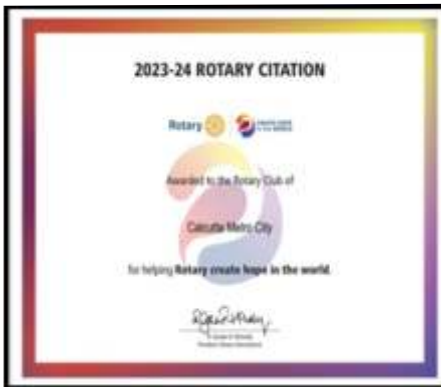
District News

“Silent Protest March for Justice and Peace”



A “Silent Protest March for Justice and Peace”, starting from the North Gate of Victoria Memorial was held on Friday, 30 August 2024 between 5.00 – 6.30 PM. The march led by the DG Dr Krishnendu Gupta, DGE Dr Ramendu Homchowdhury and DGN Tapas Bhattacharya attracted over 200 Rotarians who walked for almost 2 kms from the North Gate of Victoria Memorial to the Birla Planetarium crossing Academy of Fine Arts, Rabindra Sadan, the silent walk expressed the collective anguish, pain and protest against the heinous crime against the rape and murder of the junior lady doctor of RG Kar Hospital.

CLUB NEWS



RC CMC Receives RI Citation for RY 2023-24



RC CMC Supports Mental Health Initiatives of District Action Group For Mental Health Initiatives



RC CMC Thalassaemia Awareness Program

Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City conducted its monthly awareness program on Thalassaemia at the Indian Institute of Mother & Child. PP Rtn Subhojit Roy who is also the Dist Advisor of the Thalassaemia Committee enlightened the assembly. PP Rtns Jharna Mitra and Arindam Ghosh also represented the club. A very effective session was conducted with 42 young girls and boys and adults. The session concluded with an oath of making India thalassaemia free country and each one of the participants were requested to convey to a minimum of 10 persons about thalassaemia. Participants also included students from Italy, Finland, Switzerland who were explained in details about the campaign and how they can also help the process of eradicating thalassaemia from India.

Greetings

Belated Birthday Greetings to Rtn Devasruti Banerjee for 26th August!

Happy Birthday PP Rtn Jharna Mitra on 10th September!

