

AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTH EAST Rotary International District 3291

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Thursday, 5th December, 2024
1612th Regular Meeting

No. 10
Charter on : 12.06.1986

We meet every alternate Thursday at THE ANTELOPE, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 at 8.00 pm.

Rtn Subasish Halder
President

Rtn Swapnamita Roy
Secretary

Rtn Sukanta Khan
Treasurer

PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul
Editor



“Celebrating mothers with Rotary”



MAA PROJECT BY ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTH EAST - EMPOWERING WIDOWED MOTHERS

On December 1st, 2024, I had the privilege of being part of something truly special – the "MAA Project" organized by our Club, Rotary Club of Calcutta North East. This heartfelt initiative was aimed at supporting **700 widowed mothers** who face immense challenges in their lives. Through this project, we were able to provide these courageous women with life-sustaining kits, which included essential items such as food, chappals, umbrella, sarees, gamcha, bedsheet, biscuit packets, saal, durrie, blanket – all designed to help make their daily lives a little easier.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta North East, it was incredibly moving to see how our collective efforts came together for such an important cause. Alongside fellow Rotary members, we worked tirelessly to organize and execute the event. We were also joined by the **Interact Club of DPS Megacity**, whose young volunteers brought their energy and enthusiasm, making the day even more special. I am so grateful for the support of **Rotary family members, friends, and family**, whose involvement ensured the smooth distribution of the kits to those who needed them the most.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who donated, both in kind and monetarily, to make this project a success. The generosity of our donors was nothing short of overwhelming. Whether it was through contributions of goods or financial support, each donation played a vital role in ensuring that we were able to provide the most meaningful help to these widowed mothers. I am deeply thankful for their kindness, which enabled us to reach so many women in need.

The MAA Project wasn't just about distributing material items; it was about offering these women a sense of hope and showing them that they are not alone. The success of this project is a testament to the **Rotary Club of Calcutta North East's** commitment to serving the most vulnerable members of our society. The collective spirit of service, compassion, and support that came together for this initiative was truly inspiring.

As I reflect on this incredible experience, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude for everyone who made it possible. This event was a perfect example of how a community can come together to make a real

difference. I am grateful to have been a part of this life-changing project, and I look forward to continuing our work to support those who need us the most.

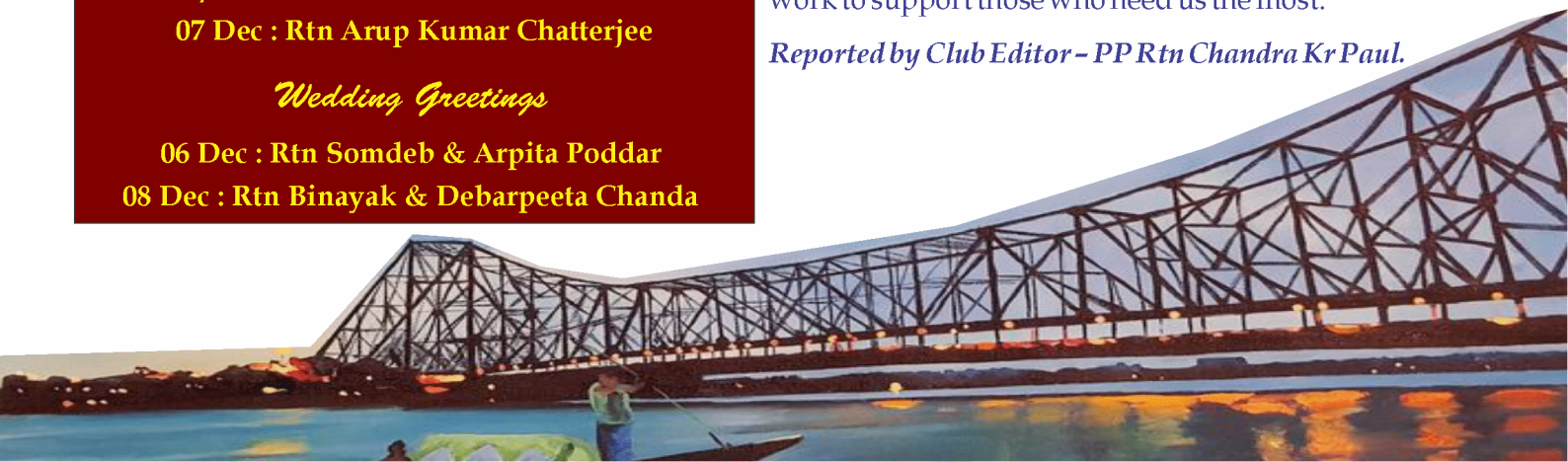
Reported by Club Editor – PP Rtn Chandra Kr Paul.

Birthday Greetings

07 Dec : Tanusree Rakshit
W/o Rtn Saumendra Mohan Rakshit
07 Dec : Rtn Arup Kumar Chatterjee

Wedding Greetings

06 Dec : Rtn Somdeb & Arpita Poddar
08 Dec : Rtn Binayak & Debarpeeta Chanda



'WHEN,' NOT 'IF': PROGRESS CONTINUES TOWARD ENDING POLIO

On World Polio Day, Rotary International leaders and public health experts reiterate their commitment to global eradication

By Etelka Lehoczky and Arnold R. Grahl

Eradicating polio around the world is still an attainable goal, Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick and public health experts said as they commemorated World Polio Day in the city where the vaccine was developed.

"I know it is a question of when polio will be eradicated, not if," Urchick told the audience at a livestream event on 24 October in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

"Our Action Plan talks about improving our impact. That's really where our polio eradication program shines," Urchick added. "Millions of children won't get this crippling disease. Billions of U.S. dollars won't be spent on ancillary health care costs as a result of this disease. We have made so much progress."

World Polio Day raises awareness and funds for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's work to eliminate the disease. Since Rotary and its partners formed the GPEI in 1988, the number of wild polio cases has decreased by 99.9%. The event highlighted Rotary's continuing efforts toward complete eradication.

Polio remains endemic in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2024, increased case counts of wild poliovirus and the first case of paralytic polio in Gaza in 25 years served as a reminder that until the disease is fully eliminated everywhere, it remains a threat to children everywhere.

Despite the challenges, Michael K. McGovern, chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, said he remains confident as ever that global eradication is within reach. "We're in a bumpy period, but we're going to get this done by continuing to focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan and doing the things that were done so successfully by Rotarians," he said.

The event included videos featuring polio vaccination workers in the field. Urchick said she was inspired by them during a visit to Karachi, Pakistan, earlier this year.

"Men work diligently to immunize thousands of children every day at traffic checkpoints, while women go house to house to reach families directly," Urchick said. "Some workers literally climb mountains to vaccinate children in remote locations, and their determination never wavers."

The livestream event was part of a two-day Rotary zone institute. RI Director Patrick Eakes, who convened the institute, said Pittsburgh was a perfect location because it's where Dr. Jonas Salk developed the vaccine. "We realized we were in a unique position," said Eakes, a member of the Rotary Club of Crescent (Greensboro), North Carolina, USA.

Dr. Peter L. Salk, president of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation in La Jolla, California, and a part-time professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, talked about what drove his father to develop the first inactive polio vaccine.

"He just never let go," Salk recalled. "It was his personality to have a dream and get things done."

Salk said his father wanted to make a difference in the world from a young age and became interested in science. After working in the U.S. state of Michigan on an influenza vaccine, he came to Pittsburgh in 1947 to work at the virus research lab and received a grant for polio research from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. That led to his work developing the inactive polio vaccine.

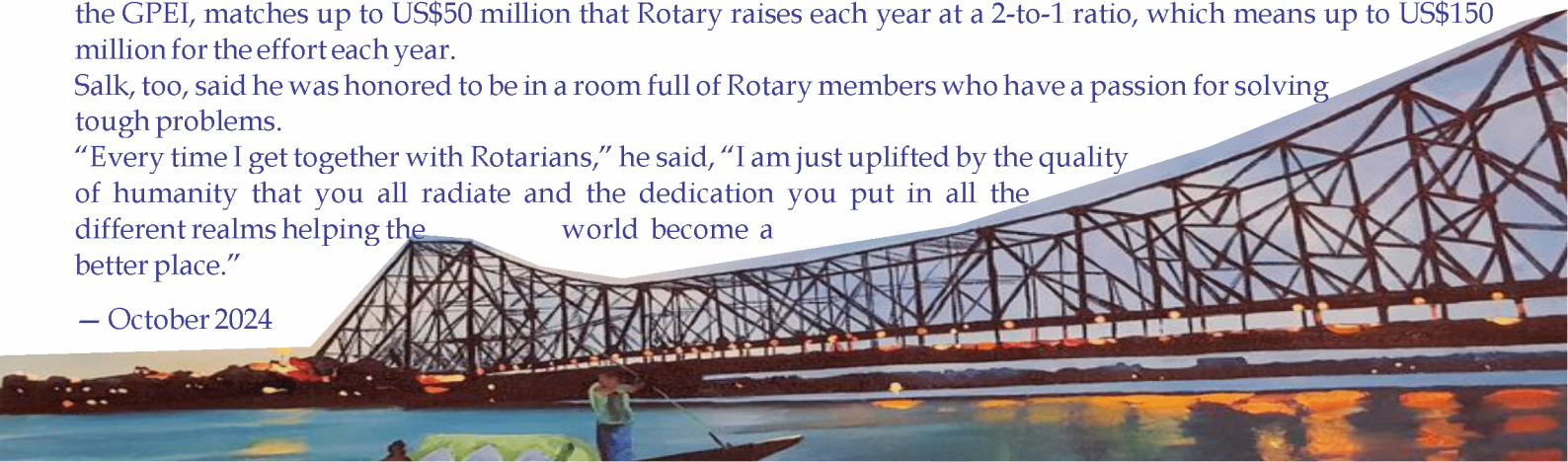
Other presenters at the livestream event included 2016-17 RI President John Germ. Several members of Rotary's eradication effort also sent video messages.

In a video shown at the event that was originally recorded for the 2023 Rotary International Convention, Gates Foundation co-founder Bill Gates lauded the commitment toward eradication. "When polio is eradicated, it will be one of the biggest advances in public health in human history," said Gates. The Gates Foundation, a partner in the GPEI, matches up to US\$50 million that Rotary raises each year at a 2-to-1 ratio, which means up to US\$150 million for the effort each year.

Salk, too, said he was honored to be in a room full of Rotary members who have a passion for solving tough problems.

"Every time I get together with Rotarians," he said, "I am just uplifted by the quality of humanity that you all radiate and the dedication you put in all the different realms helping the world become a better place."

— October 2024





**Peacebuilding
and Conflict
Prevention**



**Disease
Prevention
& Treatment**



**Water,
Sanitation
& Hygiene**



**Maternal &
Child Health**



**Basic Education
& Literacy**



**Community
Economic
Development**



Environment

Minutes of the 1611th Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta North East held at The Antelope, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 on 21.11.24 at 8.00 PM.

- ❖ President Rtn Subasish Halder called the meeting to order followed by National Anthem.
- ❖ President then, informed about the upcoming “Rotary Foundation Seminar” will be held at International Management Center, Alipore, on 24th Nov, 2024. He had requested all the member to register and attend the Seminar along with Him and the Club Secretary.
- ❖ President then informed about Club participation in “ Anmol Shaishab”, organised by Rotary Club of New Ballygunge in collaboration with Rotary International District 3291 and District Interact Council on 30th November 2024 at Kalakunj, Kolkata. The Club decided to participate as Associate Host and pay the amount accordingly.
- ❖ President updated the member regarding Project “MAA” and requested Club members to contribute towards the same.
- ❖ President then called upon PE Rtn Angana Paul for the announcement of the upcoming Annual meeting scheduled on 11th December 2024. She invited all the member to be present along with their spouse. She expressed her wish to sponsor the fellowship dinner in the Annual meeting.
- ❖ Then, the Secretarial Business was done by the Club secretary Rtn Swapnamita Roy. The next Regular meeting will be held on 5th December 2024.
- ❖ Finally President terminated the meeting with no other agenda left and invited all the members to join for fellowship.
- ❖ Fellowship is sponsored by Rtn Rathindra Nath Dey and the refreshment is sponsored by PP Rtn Ramprasad Chattopadhyay.



This issue of RLDD is sponsored by : PP Rtn Saumendra Mohan Rakshit