



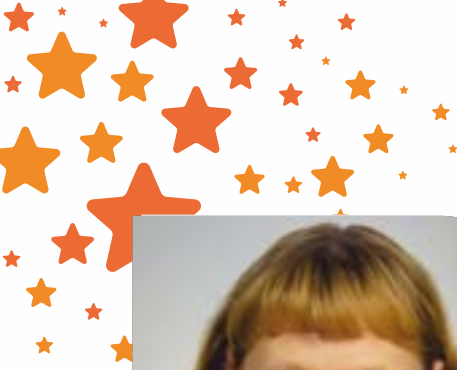
CHOWRENGHEE TIMES

2024-25

★ ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE ★

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
District 3291





Stephanie Urchick
Rotary International President 2024-25

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024-25 presidential theme is *The Magic of Rotary* and called on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives.

“Don't misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words,” Urchick told incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly on 8 January. “It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member.”

Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, said she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end.

One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, 'Show me the magic again,'" she said. “Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives. Knowing that I played a small part in that certainly changed my life.”

Prioritizing peace

Urchick urged members to champion Rotary's Action Plan, find a balance between continuity and change, and work for peace. She plans to host a presidential peace conference in 2025 with the theme “Healing in a Divided World.”

Rotary has a long history of promoting peace through its network of peace centers, Urchick noted. Located at top universities around the globe, the centers have trained nearly 1,800 peace fellows who are now working in more than 140 countries. The newest center, located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, will welcome its first class of fellows in early 2025.

“The Rotary Peace Fellowship began more than 20 years ago to equip peace and development professionals from communities around the world to become effective catalysts for ending and preventing conflict,” Urchick said. “This conference will focus on Rotary's peace efforts and provide opportunities to learn together.”

In addition to emphasizing peacebuilding, Urchick reiterated Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio. She urged the incoming governors to join or initiate PolioPlus Societies in their districts and do all they can to help end the disease.

“Contact elected officials and other government leaders. Remind them that polio is still a threat. Push them to support polio eradication,” she said. “Polio remains our top priority and requires our fullest commitment, but there is so much important work to do.”

Balancing continuity and change

Urchick also underscored the necessity of balancing continuity and change, both of which animate Rotary's Action Plan.

“The plan is all about building on our best ideas, not abandoning them,” she said. “We face a tough balancing act. We must change ourselves and stay true to who we are.” She asked the governors to do whatever is needed to make the club experience irresistible to members. “That might mean changing how things are done in your district,” she said. “If your district has been doing things one way for 50 years, it's probably time to reassess. If a club in your district isn't active or is losing members, maybe it's time to start a new club that fits better with the community. Just because a club or district hasn't changed in a while doesn't mean no one is hungry for change.” One way to make positive change, she said, is to embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within clubs.

“I hope you'll join me in opening your arms to future people of action, even if – and in some cases, especially if – they don't look or act like the typical member of your local club,” she said. “With DEI, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. It's in those moments when we are committed and focused that we are the most effective and relevant.”



ABOUT DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Dr. Krishnendu joined Rotary in 1992 and is presently a member of RC Calcutta Victoria. He became a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) in 1999, Benefactor and Major Donor (MD) Level 1 in 2012, MD Level 2 and MD Level 3 in 2017, MD Level 4 in 2018, and Member of the 'Arch Klumph Society (AKS) – Trustees Circle' in 2018. He is the first and only 'AKS' member from District 3291 till date.

Born in Kolkata, he did his initial schooling from St Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata from 1969–1973, and thereafter from Mayo College, Ajmer, Rajasthan from 1974–1981. Subsequently, he completed his MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) from Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Mangalore in 1986, DGO (Diploma in Gynaecology & Obstetrics) in 1989 and MD (Masters in Obstetrics & Gynaecology) from KMC, Manipal in 1990. He was awarded the 'University Gold Medal' being the best outgoing student in MD examinations in 1990. Dr. Krishnendu also completed two Diplomas in Surgical Pelviscopy & Hysteroscopy, and in Reproductive Medicine from Kiel, Germany in 2000. He has been awarded prestigious Fellowships from the Indian College of Maternal & Child Health (FICMCH) in 1995, Indian College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (FICOG) in 2002, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (FRCPI) from Ireland in 2018, 'Fellow Ad Eundem' (FRCOG), Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, United Kingdom in 2019, and 'ACOG Honorary Fellowship Award' (FACOG), American College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, USA in 2022. He is only the fourth Indian Obstetrician & Gynaecologist ever to receive the prestigious Hon FACOG award till date.

Dr. Krishnendu is currently Professor, Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS), Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan (RKMSMP), Kolkata, West Bengal since 2002, and Unit Head since 2017. He has over 33 years of experience in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and has been a Professor in VIMS for over 21 years. In addition, he is engaged as an Adjunct Professor, Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, KMC, Manipal since 2017 and has been honoured by his peers with two named Orations in ICOG and KMC, Manipal since 2018. 'Giving back to society' being his guiding mantra, Dr. Krishnendu has been providing voluntary service to the patients of VIMS & RKMSMP since 1997 till date.

Extremely active in the national and international academic circles, Dr. Krishnendu is currently the Deputy Secretary General of Asia & Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (AOFOG), International Lead Fellow of Examinations of RCPI, Ireland, in addition to being a member of various committees of FIGO, AOFOG, SAFOG and FOGSI. He was Chair of ICOG in 2016, Vice President of FOGSI in 2011, President of The Bengal Obstetric & Gynaecological Society (BOGS) in 2013, amongst numerous other appointments. He is on Editorial Board and a peer reviewer of numerous international and national journals of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and an Examiner and Paper-Setter for MBBS, DGO, MD / MS, DNB examinations in Obstetrics & Gynaecology since 1993 till date.

An active Rotarian for 27+ years [RC Calcutta Jadavpur: 1 year (1992) and RC Calcutta Victoria (RCCV): 26+ years (1997 till date)], Dr. Krishnendu served in various posi-



Dr Krishnendu Gupta

District Governor 2024-2025



tions in RCCV being Secretary in 2004–2005 and President during its 'Silver Jubilee Year' in 2017–2018. He has since served Rotary District 3291 in different positions in TRF and as District Secretary Projects (Medical). He is a Faculty Member of Rotary Learning Institute (RLI) and a Member of the TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers, 2018–2024. He is also the 'Founding Member – AKS Forum of India' since 2020.

Dr. Krishnendu has been the recipient of numerous honours and awards from Rotary International and District 3291, namely, 'Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service in 2020–2021' from TRF; 'Best Rotarian of the Year Award', 2017–2018, District 3291; 'Rotary Vocational Service Excellence Award – Rotary Ratna', 2017–2018, District 3291, and Outstanding President Award in 2017–2018. He has been recognized for his giving to The Rotary Foundation from District 3291 receiving the 'Highest Contribution to TRF Award' in 2017–2018, 2018–2019 and 2020–2021, and 'Second Highest Contribution to TRF Award' in 2019–2020.

Dr. Krishnendu has been a passionate crusader for empowerment of women and in the advocacy of adolescent HPV vaccination to eliminate carcinoma cervix since 2009, wherein he has created endowment funds in TRF in 2018 and in the RCCV Trust in 2021 to ensure sustainability of service projects in perpetuity. He has also been directly involved in the completion of three large Global Grants in the field of preventable oncology till date. Dr. Krishnendu is actively associated with 'Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vihar', a charitable school for the underprivileged and financially challenged children in a small village adjoining Kolkata, 'Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute', Thakurpukur, Kolkata, and 'Ramakrishna Mission & Math', Belur, West Bengal.

Dr. Krishnendu is an avid pianist, musician and a Charter Life Member of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians (IFRM), District 3291. He is a 'Permanent Member' of Bengal Club, Calcutta Club, Calcutta Cricket & Football Club, Lake Club, Tollygunge Club; 'Life Member' of Cricket Association of Bengal, Mohun Bagan Athletic Club, Aryan Club; 'Annual Member' of Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Agri-Horticultural Society of India, Calcutta Wine Club (Secretary: 2021–2023, Vice President: 2023–2025), Indo-Italics Wine Club. He is also the recipient of 'WSET Level 1 Award in Wines' for his keen interest in the knowledge of fine wines

His Partner-in-Service for 31 years, Dr Simran, a MBBS graduate from Mysore Medical College and MD (Anaesthesiology) from Kasturba Medical College, Manipal is a Consultant Anaesthesiologist and Intensivist, having extensive experience in cardiac anaesthesiology since 1996. Their daughter Aparajita after completing BSc with Distinction in Economics from University of Exeter, UK and double Masters degree with Distinction in Management and International Management from London School of Economics & Political Science, UK and CEMS respectively, is currently employed with Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in Prague, Czech Republic. She is married to Dr Jan Hospodka (PhD in Finance) and are blessed with a son, Kian, born in October 2021.





Dr Krishnendu Gupta

District Governor, 2024-25



Dear President Elect Gaurav Gupta,

Greetings and best wishes from Simran and my family.

It will be yet another historic day on 01 July 2024 when the second-ever lady Rotarian PERI Stephanie A Urchick from RC McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, will take over the reins of Rotary International with the wonderful theme **“THE MAGIC OF ROTARY”**.

On the very same day, as we take care of the health and welfare of our fellow Rotarians of District 3291 for one full Rotary year, you too will be taking up the mantle of your club and work towards the benefit of your members and the society at large.

I am very happy to note that you are already planning impactful and sustainable service projects based on the seven “Areas of Focus”, in addition to giving importance to the three verticals, namely, Public Image, Membership and The Rotary Foundation, which are expected to reach out and uplift the lives of the less fortunate in our community. **“THE MAGIC OF ROTARY”** will truly be seen when the members of your club enjoy and bond with one another while doing these service projects.

I am positive that your vibrant club shall bring forth this ‘magic’ throughout the Rotary Year. Imagine Rotary the way you have never done before, Be the Inspiration, Open Opportunities, Connect with each other and continue to Create Hope in the World while Making a Difference in the lives of the underprivileged, as we Serve to Change Lives!!

Simran and I, wish you and your esteemed club members the very best ahead and look forward eagerly to work together towards a wonderful, enjoyable and successful Rotary Year 2024–2025.

Thanking you.

Kind regards.

Yours-in-Rotary

Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

District Governor, 2024–2025

Rotary International District 3291



Shekhar Mehta

President Rotary International 2021-22

Dear President Gaurav

Congratulation on taking over the leadership of Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee. It is with great pleasure that Rashi and I extend our best wishes to you as you embark on this significant journey of leadership and service. Yours is an excellent Club with rich legacy of service and fellowship. Your Past Presidents and members have worked hard to take Chowrenghee to great height. I know you will strive to take it further.

As you step into this role, we encourage you to embrace the essence of service and join hands to keep fighting the social issues in our communities.

In the New Rotary Year, together we encourage each of the Club members to bring their unique virtues and passions to our Club's activities. Their ideas, energy, and dedication are what make our Rotary Club vibrant and effective.

Serving others and making it a part of our life mechanism can be life-changing. We are greater when we look beyond ourselves and do for others, it is our purpose. There are countless ways to live the life of "Service Above Self" and by finding your unique way to serve, you can enrich your life and make a meaningful impact on the world around you.

Let's celebrate our achievements, learn from our challenges, and continuously strive to be a force for doing good in the world. Our concerted efforts will help us to continue the virtuous cycle and build stronger connections to drive high performance and bolder vision.

Here's to a year of service, growth, and camaraderie! Let's Serve To Change Lives and take some time to better ourselves through The Magic of Rotary.

With regards,

Shekhar Mehta

President Rotary International 2021-22





Hiralal Yadav

District Governor 2023-24

Dear President Gaurav Gupta,

Deepali joined me in congratulating you as you don the mantle of leadership of your Club. Taking up a new responsibility is always a challenge and I am sure that you will rise to such a challenge!

I take the opportunity to thank your outgoing President Rtn. Meena Khemka, outgoing Secretary Rtn. Sangita Gulati and all your Club members for the dedicated services rendered by your Club during Rotary year 2023-24 as we Created Hope in our communities and in the world. Your club has established Rotary Joynagar Eye Hospital this year. Congratulation to the members of Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee.

Our world leader for 2024-25, Rtn. Stephanei A Urchick has given us a dynamic theme "The Magic of Rotary". Her vision is that Rotary should exist everywhere in a style to suit everyone who has the desire to be part of Rotary and to help us Rotarians do good in the world. Her goal is to spread Magic in the world to heal from destructive conflicts and to help achieve lasting change, emphasizing the need for peace and continuity, including working toward diversity, equity and inclusion, while not neglecting our mission to end polio!

Rotary is a unique journey! Rotary gives us colossal opportunities to make new friends, strengthen our bonding with existing friends and together - we get the opportunity to serve mankind to the best of our abilities!

The call to "The Magic of Rotary" is there for you my friend! Let us capture the attention of the world and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations to spread magic in the lives of mankind!

My Best wishes to you and your team 2024-2025 for a memorable RY 2024-2025.

Best regards,
Yours in Rotary Service

Hira Lal Yadav
District Governor 2023-24
Rotary District 3291



Dear President 2024-25 Gaurav,

Ballari joins me in congratulating you as you take up the responsibility of leading your Club in following the theme for the year, 'The Magic of Rotary'.

District looks up to your club for some meaningful service to the mankind. I'm sure under your able leadership Rotary Calcutta Chowrenghee would gift a memorable year to the district.

As we have stepped into the second century of Rotary Service, strengthening our Clubs, our very roots, has become the order of the day! To retain members and strengthen our clubs, we must keep in mind, every Rotarian joined Rotary to contribute something for a cause and has some expectations from the Rotary Club; to retain members, make sure that every member of the club is involved and satisfied. General Secretary of 'Rotary International' & 'The Rotary Foundation', John Hewko, urged Rotarians to think out of box, embrace flexibility, and focus on engagement rather than attendance! We need to change!

You would have to devise an innovative way to run and manage the club; a new thought, how to take up Service Projects! "Be the Magician"

Ballari joins me in wishing you and your team a great happening year ahead.

With best regards,

Yours-in-Rotary Service,

Rajani Mukerji
District Governor 2013-14



Rajani Mukherjee

District Governor 2013-14



Amita Prasad
Director, Indus Valley World School

Dear Rtn Gaurav Gupta,

“The terrible twos are just a warm-up for the even more terrible threes” reads a message on an infant’s T-shirt I saw in a store the other day. The Interact Club of Indus Valley World School has turned three! But, far from being terrible, as we look back on these years that have gone by, we cannot help but feel a sense of pride and joy that it has been a terrific journey so far.

We are truly grateful to the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee for its unstinted support and mentorship. It has been a beautiful relationship - Past President Vikram Tantia was the one who convinced us to take the plunge and start the Club and held our hand as we took our first hesitant steps; Past Presidents Manisha Srivastava and Meena Khemka helped us to take on challenges with confidence – always encouraging us and supporting us. And now we are brimming with excitement as we take this very meaningful partnership forward in the coming year during your tenure as President.

Community service has become the bedrock on which our school value system rests, with the Interact Club showing the way. Being recognized at the District Interact Awards ceremony 2022-23 as the Best Club with 100 members in addition to the First Prize for community service (medical), First Prize for Care of Animals and First Prize for Care of Differently Abled Children was an honour that our young Club is truly proud of.

The number and variety of projects that we have undertaken in these last three years fills us with a sense of satisfaction and zeal to forge ahead. As educators we firmly believe that we must inculcate in our children a spirit that there is no higher religion than serving humanity. We are confident that with your support and guidance, we will continue on the path to fulfil our mission of “service above self”.

‘Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality’.

These words of Warren Bennis best describes the indispensable role of a leader in this global community. The Rotary International embodies the motto ‘Service above Self’ which its members – the future leaders – uphold with relentless efforts and perseverance. The world is in dire need of such leaders who with compassion and dedication can make a difference in the lives of people. You are a beacon of light for those young enthusiasts who would be the future torch bearers of community service.

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee has been at the forefront to guide and support the Interactors of our school in achieving the goals. Under your tutelage, our Interactors have displayed the zeal and commitment in undertaking enterprising projects which have contributed to the betterment of the society.

Wish you all the best for the upcoming Rotary year! Continue with your untiring endeavours to create a world sans hunger, poverty and illiteracy and create opportunities and privileges for the underprivileged and the downtrodden.



Gargi Banerjee
Director, Sri Sri Academy



Madhumita Sengupta
Principal, BDMI

The Interact Club of B. D. M. International is honoured to conduct activities under the aegis of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, Chowringhee. We look forward to continuing the same under the able Presidentship of Mr. Gaurav Gupta in the year 2024-25.

The Interact Club of BDMI has over 300 members who believe in the motto of ‘Service above self’ in letter and in spirit.

It is amazing to see how these young leaders in the path of hope keep creating magic and spreading smiles onto the faces of the less fortunate and work towards making this world a better place.

We thank our parent club for the constant motivation and support.

Rotary



Meena Khemka

President, 2023-24

As the Rotary Year 2023-24 comes to a close, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude. One unique aspect of Rotary is its annual change in leadership. It feels like we have just begun, and yet, it is already time to pass the baton. It has been my pride, privilege, and honour to lead our esteemed club and to serve as the 24th president of RC Chowrenghee. Thank you for entrusting me with the faith and confidence to lead our vibrant club. It has been a challenging yet immensely rewarding task, and I have strived to maintain the dignity of this high office, giving my 100 percent. This achievement would not have been possible without the love, affection, inspiration, and trust of all our club members.

I have always cherished the Rotary symbol – the Wheel. Each of you represents one of the spokes of this wheel, and when all the spokes work together, we can achieve great heights. With the guidance and help from past presidents, the support of my family, and the wholehearted involvement of all members, we have had an enriching, exciting, eventful, enjoyable, and rewarding year, making a significant difference in many lives and leaving a mark in the community.

We endeavoured to cover all seven areas of focus in our projects, which will be showcased in the AV following my speech. The fellowship programs, outdoor meetings, Rotary Retreat to Varanasi, inter-club cricket match, and in-house bowling tournament have served as the backbone of our club's vibrancy. I am delighted that we have fostered healthy comradeship among members throughout the year, creating a vibrant and vivacious environment. While basking in the glory of our achievements, let us cherish these memories, maintain, and strengthen the strong personal relationships and emotional bonds we have built.

After 24 years in Rotary, I have gained immensely, especially during my presidency. It has made me more confident, compassionate, caring, and giving, and has blessed me with a circle of caring friends and well-wishers. I am grateful for the continuous support and motivation from DG Hiralalji, senior Rotarian Vishnuji Dhandhanian, senior Rotarian Binodji Khaitan, AG Tanu Roy, and ZS Indra Goenka, who have been guiding lights, directing our course towards new peaks of excellence.

Our newly formed RCC Amragori Juba Sangha has been the lifeline of our endeavors. I have learned that relying on RCC leaders is crucial. Under the strong support of Shankar Khan and his RCC team, we were able to undertake challenging projects that would have otherwise been impossible.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my Board of Directors, Chairpersons, managing committees, and all club members for their committed efforts and worthy contributions. Your support has enabled me to discharge my responsibilities as the President of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee to my utmost satisfaction.

Friends, it is time to bid farewell, but we should never say goodbye in Rotary, because like any rotating wheel, our endeavour to serve the community must continue.

Congratulations to the new leader, President Gaurav Kumar Gupta. It is now your turn to meet the challenges and opportunities of the days ahead. Find your voice, shape your ideas, and test them against the realities of the world. I wish you the very best and assure you of my full support.

In closing, let us always remember Rotary's official mottoes : "Service Above Self" and "One profits most, who serves best." These mottoes have been our guiding light, inspiring us to work diligently and selflessly for the betterment of our community and beyond. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." May we continue to embody this wisdom, striving together to create a brighter future for all.

Thank you once again,
Gratitude and Regards.



Gaurav Kumar Gupta
President 2024-25



Born and raised in Kolkata, Gaurav is a third generation tea planter born in a family of teaproducers, popularly known as the Chaiwalas. Having completed his education from La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata and a Bachelors of Commerce degree from St Xavier's College, he went on to complete a Business Diploma program from Harvard University, USA. Soon after completing his education he got involved with the family business and has been managing it for the past 32 years. The company owns the Kolony Tea Estate, in Assam producing top quality teas for the domestic as well as the export markets. Having spent a substantial portion of his childhood in Assam, Gaurav gained an appreciation and respect for the natural beauty of the region. This experience has instilled in him a deep understanding of the significance of preserving the environment and its resources. Apart from the tea business the group has also been associated with real estate and have recently diversified into a hospitality venture relating to tea tourism.

He was introduced to Rotary by his close friend, Vikram Tantia and became a member of Chowrenghee in 2021. After joining Rotary, he realized that the opportunity to assist others leads to a profound sense of personal fulfillment and satisfaction in one's own existence. He wishes to now give more of his time and energy to causes which will have a meaningful social and environmental impact. The encouragement and motivation proffered to him by the members of Chowrenghee have imbued him with the confidence necessary to assume the role of Club President this year.

Gaurav is also married to Ritu, also born and brought up in Kolkata and has two sons, Pranav and Akshit. Ritu was instrumental in the setting up of Add Life Gym & Spa, a first of its kind venture in Kolkata in 2002, before moving towards other enterprises. She has been a committee member with FLO, and is also a member of the Ladies Study Group and Pushpa Bitan. She was awarded the first prize for a floral exhibit at WAFA 2020 at Jaipur. Both their boys graduated from the Emory University, USA and have now joined the family business. The elder son, Pranav got married to Mahima in January this year, and the family is elated with this new addition. Mahima is a management graduate from the University of St Andrews in Edinburgh and is also part of the hospitality business.

Gaurav possesses a keen adoration for the fine arts and has been learning vocal Indian Classical music since childhood. He is an avid reader with a particular interest in history and Urdu literature. He has also been part of "Calcutta Heritage Collective", a voluntary organisation involved with restoration, preservation and reusability of the built heritage of our city through knowledge awareness programs and seminars. He has been a Trustee in this organisation for the past five years. Gaurav and Ritu share a mutual affinity for travel and exploration, extending their journeys both within India and internationally. With each venture, their primary objective is to acquire fresh perspectives and expand their intellectual horizons. Through their travels, they cultivate a profound appreciation for the interconnectedness of humanity and the intrinsic beauty of the natural world.



Gaurav Gupta

I am filled with enthusiasm and it is with a profound sense of responsibility that I embark upon my tenure as the President of our esteemed Club, supported by the able guidance of my team and the Board of Directors. My vision for the club is to uphold the highest standards of excellence in all our endeavours, be it service projects, member engagement, fundraising initiatives, and strategic planning.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to outgoing President Meena. Your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have been an inspiration to us all. Your esteemed leadership has propelled our club to unprecedented success, and we are grateful for your exceptional contributions.

I would like to convey my profound gratitude and extend my cordial wishes to the members of the Board and the office bearers of 2024-25. I believe that with the individual commitment and dedication of each of you, we will be able to accomplish a year of remarkable service. The encouragement and guidance of all the Past presidents of our club has also been a valuable resource for me.

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that I convey my sincere thanks to the esteemed Rotarians of our prestigious club. I firmly believe in the power of teamwork and collaboration. Our club is a close-knit community, and when we work together, we can accomplish remarkable feats. Let us bring our diverse perspectives and ideas to the table and create a ripple effect of positive change.

One of my primary goals as President is to enhance our members' involvement in all the Club activities and improve the Club experience. My objectives for the upcoming year are centred around active involvement in the service projects we organise, as well as regular attendance at meetings, fellowship gatherings, celebrations, and fundraising events.

The broad areas of the Service Projects we wish to undertake this year as follows:

GLOBAL GRANT PROJECTS:

Uthe Sabke Kadam - Feet for All - Phase 3

Your Club will be entering the third phase of the highly successful program Uthe Sabke Kadam - Feet for All with the support of our international partners from

Rotary



Finland and in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mayfair, Mahavir Seva Sadan and Young Indians. Our objective is to conclude the second phase of Uthe Sabke Kadam by August of this year. Planning for the third phase has commenced and discussions are underway to include one additional Rotary Club as a partner from District 3291 and another Rotary Club and District from the United Kingdom.

Ancillary to this program we will continue with the program **Udaan Zindagi Mein**, which provides assistance to beneficiaries to facilitate their reintegration into society through employment, vocational training, and educational pursuits.

Cervical Cancer Vaccination Program

A novel Global Grant project, with the Rotary Club of Belur as the host club and three additional participating clubs, will be implemented within the Disease Prevention focus area for the vaccination against Cervical Cancer. The project aims to target approximately 1200 female beneficiaries aged 9-14 years old. The program will commence at the onset of the 2024-25 fiscal year and has received formal approval from the Foundation.

Furthermore, we anticipate initiating the second phase, aiming for an increased scope and scale of the project.

Project 'Unnati'

Your club has already undertaken the development of Amragori Village in Howrah since 2023-24 however since the community has still many requirements we will continue with improving and facilitating the following projects:

- Fruit Tree Plantation activities will be scaled up for the Economic development of the beneficiaries as well as tackling climate change
- Community baths and tubewell to be constructed as part of the Water and Sanitation activities and also to ensure comfort privacy and enhance health and hygiene
- Continuance of the Annapurna Yojana, a monthly food distribution program for the residents of the Amragori Vriddhashram
- Launch of Anjali Yojana to take care of the monthly needs of 6 mothers in the Old Age Home

Rotary Joynagar Eye Hospital

The new premises of the hospital commenced operations in January 2024. All our equipment for the hospital has been installed under the Global Grant Scheme in collaboration with our international partners from the United Kingdom and Singapore and we have a target of 5000 surgeries planned for 2024-25.

A Vision centre is being planned at Joynagar in partnership with the Human Development Centre, for

providing a backward integration to our Rotary Joynagar Eye Hospital.

Street Solar Lights

Solar street lights improve visibility and safety in public areas, streets, and pathways, reducing the risk of accidents and criminal activities. 50 solar street lights are being planned in Amragori, Amtalla, Joynagar and Nepalgange.

Project 'Stree'

The vocational training program for the production of reusable "Stree Sanitary Pads" and the existing handicrafts division will be maintained at our RCV Uluberia. This not only promotes hygiene and works towards disease prevention, it also provides income augmentation to the women employed in this initiative. We will try to expand our vocational training activities by including stitching of Jute bags.

Pre and Post-Natal Care

A pre and post-natal care facility is being planned at Joynagar promising to bring much-needed support and care to mothers and children. This facility aims to provide comprehensive and compassionate healthcare services, catering to the unique needs of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. The centre will provide a subsidised package of all essentials required by expectant mothers and for the infants after delivery.

RCV Uluberia

Your Club will continue supporting the Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya, situated in Uluberia to provide primary education to nearly 300 children upto Grade V, and our scheme **Adopt a Child - Fulfil a Dream** will provide the necessary assistance. The popular **Mid-day meal scheme** will also be continued.

Your Club also intends to recommence the adult literacy program at Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya, and offer evening classes.

Life Beyond Cancer

Your Club will continue supporting the Life Beyond Cancer initiative dedicated to the survival and well-being of paediatric cancer patients. The club plans to scale this to provide support to 50 children.

Dialysis Centre

Your club will start a new initiative to offer subsidised dialysis treatment to the marginalised sections of society in partnership with the Kolkata Swasthya Sankalpa. This centre is situated in the heart of the city and offers 750-800 dialysis per month.

New Generation

We will continue working with our three Interact schools, BDMI International, Sri Sri Academy and Indus Valley World School and there are plans to add one more Interact Club in a new school this year. The RYLA will be organised at Sri Sri Academy this year.

Other Programs

Camps relating to awareness for Thalassemia, Mental Health, Blood Donation, Hearing Aid donation, Eye camps and Prosthesis camps will be conducted at Amragori and Amtalla at regular intervals.

Our club will continue supporting the Blind Schools by providing them with Braille paper and school uniforms.

The aforementioned projects represent either a continuation of our ongoing endeavours addressing emergent challenges within our communities. My aim is to maintain support for the activities of our RCCs in Uluberia, Amragori, Kumirmari and Amtalla. The list of the service projects do not end here and there is so much more to do - borrowing words from Robert Frost, I can only say this:

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

But I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep"

To foster a spirit of bonding and enhance the Club experience, a Retreat for Chowrenghee members is being organised in November this year, called "**Awadh se Ayodhya Tak**" to explore the historical and cultural legacy of Lucknow and Ayodhya.

Our respected DG Dr Krishnendu Gupta has always referred to us as the "**Magical Presidents**" in all his communications. Sir, with your guidance and support I will strive to spread the **Magic of Rotary** as enumerated by our RI President, Stephanie Urchick, "with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member added."

Furthermore, I wish to express my profound appreciation to the esteemed District Officials of District 3291 for their invaluable counsel and prompt assistance whenever necessary.

I also take Inspiration from a shloka from the Rig Veda, "*Atmano Mokshartham, Jagat hitaya cha*" which was often repeated by Swami Vivekananda - All work is an opportunity for doing good to the world, for one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world. Rotary offers this exceptional and highly regarded platform to engage in altruistic service with a focus on selflessness, promoting the well-being of communities and individuals through various initiatives.

I would also like to take a moment to thank my dearest friend, PP Vikram Tantia, for introducing me to the magical world of Rotary. The profound impact that becoming a Rotarian has had on my life cannot be overstated.

Once again I express my sincere gratitude to all of you for the honour you have bestowed upon me and that with all our efforts I eagerly anticipate what can be a very successful year ahead.

About Secretary



Aditi Saraogi comes from a joint family in Kolkata which has its roots deep in spirituality and charity with her ancestors starting an eye hospital, ayurvedic clinic and being benefactors of a school in their native hometown, Rajgarh in Rajasthan. Infact, during her childhood her grandfather would keep telling the entire family that 'the left hand should never know what the right hand gives' ! She is the youngest of her siblings, a brother and sister who live in Kolkata and Chandigarh respectively.

She has done her schooling in La Martiniere for Girls, followed by Economics in St Xaviers College and later her masters in Advertising and Communication through Delhi School of Communication and then changed fields to study ceramics under Mansimran Singh in Andretta and further with Ray Meeker in Pondicherry.

Today Aditi is a ceramic artist and has been part of numerous shows and residencies in India as well as in France, Latvia, Australia and China. She is also one of the pioneers behind AFSA- Fired Arts in Kolkata, which promotes fired arts such as ceramics, glass and metal. She has also worked on many commissions for hotels, corporates, restaurants and private individuals.

Aditi is a keen sports person with golf and swimming and she enjoys classical music and playing the piano. She is also a practicing Pranic Healer. Aditi is a nature lover and along her path, at times she pauses to smell the flowers!

"Life is an echo! When you give something it comes back to you many, many times." - Master Choa Kok Sui

I am grateful and happy the Rotary Club of Chowrenghee is giving me this opportunity to give something back to society and to help others. It's great to be part of a club with a 25 year old legacy of meaningful service to humanity. I feel inspired by our members who do so much of selfless work month after month with a continuous smile.

I do hope that along with President Gaurav I am able to create "the magic of Rotary" and that can motivate others too.

A big thank you to Gaurav for making me a part of his team and to all the members of our esteemed organization for their everending support.



Aditi Saraogi
Secretary

BOARD ROTARY CHOWRENGHEE

BOARD 2024-25



President
Gaurav Gupta



Immediate PP
Meena Khemka



Vice President & Editor
Vidhi Beri



Secretary & Co-editor
Aditi Saraogi



Executive Secretary
Rohit Kedia



Treasurer
Sadhana Agarwal



Co-treasurer
Vikram Tantia



Club Learning Facilitator
Nita Sethia



Sergeant At Arms
Gaurav Himatsingka



CICO
Vivek Kariwal



Advisor
Sangita Todi



Advisor
Sangeeta Sood

DIRECTORS

COMMUNITY SERVICE (MEDICAL)
 COMMUNITY SERVICE (NON MEDICAL)
 CO-DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICE (NON MEDICAL)
 MEMBERSHIP
 PUBLIC RELATIONS
 TRF & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
 CO TRF DIRECTOR

Rajni Jhunjunwala
 Manisha Srivastava
 Vineet Bagaria
 Ritu Almal
 GM Kapur
 Vikram Tantia
 Urmi Basu

MANAGING COMMITTEE

CLUB ADMINISTRATION
 CO CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Jayshree Sanghavi
 Vidhi Beri

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



Global Grant Flagship Project - Uthe Sabke Kadam – Feet for all
 Project worth – Rs. 6050630
 No. of beneficiaries – 1214
 No. of Calipers – 200
 No. of hand prosthesis – 35
 No. of leg prosthesis - 1065



Global Grant Project - Joynagar Rotary Eye Hospital
 Project size of Chowrenghee – US \$ 32,060.00
 Cataract Surgery target for the first year – 5000
 OPD equipment installed and working fully



Blood Donation Camp
 No. of donors – 250
 Project worth – Rs. 10,600



Project Paediatric Cancer Treatment – jointly with “Life Beyond Cancer”, RI District 3291
 No. of beneficiaries – 12
 Donation – Rs. 1,00,000



Dental Camp
 No. of student beneficiaries – 129
 Project cost – Rs. 3,000



Eye Camp
 No. of IOL surgeries – 47
 Spectacles distributed to 91 patients
 Project cost – Rs. 42,750.00



Polio awareness at Puja Pandals
 Project cost – Rs. 2,000.00



Diabetes awareness



Hope & Light to Paediatric Cancer Patients TMC
 No. of beneficiaries - 50
 Project cost – Rs. 30,000.00



Project “Udaan Zindagi Mein – Give Wings to life”
 No. of beneficiaries – 10
 Project cost – Rs. 80,000.00



Weekly Homeopathy Dispensary at Shibtalla
 No. of beneficiaries – 43
 Project cost – Rs. 7,000.00



Weekly Homeopathy Dispensary at Uluberia
 No. of beneficiaries – 661
 Project cost – Rs. 32,300.00

PROJECTS 2023-24



Weekly Allopathy Dispensary at Sundarbans
 No. of beneficiaries – 340
 Project cost – Rs. 18,000.00



Cervical Cancer Awareness and Prevention Project - In collaboration with RC Belur, Narayana Hospital, RC Singapore Heartland, RC Chowringhee, RC Hooghly, RC Calcutta East Central, Chandannagar and Young Indians.
 Sanctioned Project Budget : Rs. 36,40,000.00



Polio Immunization
 No. of beneficiaries – 40 students at RCV
 Polio drive participation with Finland District - 1430



Hearing Aid Camp
 No. of beneficiaries – 10 children
 Project cost – Rs. 1,34,000.00



Thalassemia Awareness and diagnostic
 No. of beneficiaries – 200 students
 Project cost – Rs. 1,34,000.00

PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



Project “Veerangana” Yoga, Meditation and Self Defence
 No. of beneficiaries - 45 students
 Project cost – Rs. 6,000.00

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Global Grant – Gift of Water
 No. of beneficiaries – 20,000
 Project cost – US \$ 2,12,000
 Features : Target 500,
 Toilets completed 465,
 Community bath 16, fully done
 Tubewells – 28, fully done

Project “Unnati”
 Tubewells – 2
 Project cost – Rs. 2,70,000.00
 In collaboration with “Bees Trees and Water”



Project “Unnati”
 Private household rural toilets – 50
 Project cost – Rs. 9,00,00.00



Project “Unnati”: Submersible tubewells – 2
 Project cost – Rs. 2,81,676.00



Project “Unnati” : Community baths – 2
 Project cost – Rs. 2,50,000.00



WASH Project in collaboration with RC Belur, Bay area 'Probashi' and a club from California

PROJECTS 2023-24



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



Medical Check-Up and awareness camp – Mother and Children
No. of beneficiaries – mothers 30, children 100; Project cost - Rs. 5,000



Project “Nabadisha” - Medical check-up of children dwelling on the streets
In collaboration with District 3291 and Karaya Police Station; No. of beneficiaries – 60
Project cost – Rs. 15,000.00

INTERACT CLUB

Our three interact schools have performed exceedingly well and have been recognised for their areas of exemplary performance. At the Annual Interact Meet 2023-24 :

B.D.M International

- 1st prize- In the category - Working with NGO's
- 2nd prize- In the category Community Service Non Medical
- Trophy for Club with maximum Interactors above 100



Indus Valley World School

- Best Interact Club President
- Best Interact Club Report
- First prize in the category of traffic safety
- Trophy for Club with maximum Interactors above 100



Sri Sri Academy

- 1st Prize for 'Care For The Elderly'
- 1st Prize for 'Interact Promotion and Public Image Branding'
- 2nd Prize for 'Traffic Safety'
- 2nd Prize for 'Women Empowerment'
- A trophy for Clubs with Membership over 100



They resolve to remain committed to the cause of service and strive to engage with and touch the lives of many more people.

BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



Mid Day Meal at Rotary Chowreghee Vidyalaya
No. of beneficiaries – 310 students daily
Project cost – Rs. 5,60,000.00



Craft activity at Rotary Chowreghee Vidyalaya
No. of students – 21
Project cost – Rs. 5,000.00



RYLA Participated RYLA at BDM International School
5 NGOs participated, 111 participants



Sit & Draw activity under EAZY school 2
No. of beneficiaries – 30 students
Project cost – Rs. 1,000.00



Science Mela at Rotary Chowreghee Vidyalaya
No. of beneficiaries – 310 students
Project cost – Rs. 5,000.00



Teachers training at Rotary Chowreghee Vidyalaya in collaboration with Indus Valley World School
No. of beneficiaries – 25 teachers
Project cost – Rs. 12,000.00

PROJECTS 2023-24



Adult Literacy Mission under RILM
Adopted 9 "Vidya" centres
 No. of beneficiaries – 265
 Project cost – Rs. 1,35,000.00



Sports day at RCV Karate squad at RCV
Distribution of bags and uniforms to students
 No. of beneficiaries – 265
 Project cost – Rs. 1,35,000.00



Usage of Smart Projectors at RCV
Elevating the quality of classroom education



Rotakids Club
First Rotakids club at RCV and first in District 3291
 Launched by PDG Bhat of Dist. 3170
 Involving students of IV & V



Donation of sports equipment at Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya
 No. of students – 245
 Project cost – Rs. 8,000.00



Mental Health Literacy/ Emotional Literacy
Conducted by Rtn. Sourish Choudhary
In collaboration with Mental Health Initiatives and Sound and Mind Foundation
 Volunteers participated – 90



Club sponsors child's education at RCV under the project "Adopt a Child – Fulfil a Dream";
 Collected 13.4 lacs

RCV building upgraded and painted
 Project cost – Rs. 3,14,780.00
 Sponsored by Rtn. Anil Kishorepuria



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Project Annapurna Yojana at Vriddhashram, Amoragori
 No. of beneficiaries – 300
 Project cost – Rs. 60,000.00



Project "Stree" – women empowerment and Green menstruation
 No. of reusable pads distributed – 1,000 In Sundarbans and Correctional Home
 Women empowered – 40; Project cost – Rs. 2,00,000.00



PROJECTS 2023-24



Maronottor Chakkashudaan and Dehadan Awareness Campaign
 No. of beneficiaries – 500
 Project cost – Rs. 10,000.00



Blanket Distribution
 No. of beneficiaries – 230
 Project cost – Rs. 50,800.00



Blind School Visit of Calcutta Blind School
 No. of beneficiaries – 50 students
 Project cost – Rs. 10,000.00
 Braille paper, wall clock and goodies were given

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT



Plantation of Mango Trees
 No. of beneficiaries – 500
 Project cost – Rs. 62,000.00



12 Solar street light lamp at Amragori
 No. of beneficiaries – 500
 Project cost – Rs. 2,00,000.00



FELLOWSHIPS



Denim & Diamond's Fellowship at 145 café & bar



Diwali Fellowship at Rtn. Vrinda Kanoria's residence



Barge Party on Vessel Desire



Charter Celebration at Vintage Asia, Mariott Hotel



Friendship Cup Double Wicket Cricket Match with RC Presidency



Rotary Retreat – Finding Kavi Baranasi



Donation To Foundation



Rotary Friendship Exchange



Bowling Match at Nicco Super Bowl

CHOWRENGHEE'S FUNDRAISER



Parampara Boulevard



Unnati – Hope with Art



Parampara Pret

COTS

The COTS (Club Officers Training Seminar) was held on June 8, 2024 at the Bengal Rowing Club. This was the 947th meeting for Rotary Chowringhee presided by outgoing President Meena Khemka. The training was conducted by Assistant Governor Dilip Kumar Chowdhury alongside Zonal Secretary Amitabh Mohan. It was a pivotal event aimed at preparing incoming officers for their roles. The training covered a diverse range of topics essential for effective club management and leadership.

Key insights included flexibility in meeting venues and encouraging family memberships with reviewed fees. Practical considerations such as GST registration for the club were addressed, demonstrating the club's commitment to operational transparency and compliance.

District officials stressed the importance of involving the incoming team and preparing comprehensive online documentation, particularly for incoming presidents. ZS Amitabh Mohan, noted for his leadership and his background in mental health, led engaging exercises that emphasized pushing limits and discovering limitless potential within oneself.

The training also touched upon significant international endeavours, including the recent Singapore trip, emphasizing the club's positive contributions and global engagement. PE Gaurav Gupta expressed his vision to uphold the highest standards of excellence in all endeavors be it service projects, member engagement, fund-raising initiatives, or strategic planning.

A highlight of the meeting was the discussion of book launch for the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) project, including the provision of 300 umbrellas. This initiative underscores the club commitment to community service and sustainability.

Overall, the officers training program underscored the club's dedication to excellence in Rotary service, fostering leadership, innovation, and collaboration to drive meaningful change locally and globally.



GRANT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2024: SINGAPORE

Visiting a RI Convention was an amazing experience. Once there, one realises the expanse of Rotary in the world and the great work done by this Organisation, in the last 119 years of its existence. It was a proud moment when we saw at the Opening Ceremony, the 221 flags of all the Countries where Rotary exists today. The ambience at the Opening session was electrifying as more than 14,000 Rotarians cheered the opening of the 115th RI Convention.

As part of the Convention, all Rotarians would be wearing their registration badges round their neck. This badge became such a wonderful identification that whenever we saw Rotarians wearing this badge, be it in the Metro, restaurant, Mall, other open areas, we would greet each other and make a conversation. Suddenly our door of Rotary had opened wide and we were connecting with people all over the world, majority of them, meeting for the first time.

Marina Bay Sands at Singapore has a world class facility to hold a Convention of this scale. The House of Friendship and the Rotary Village was a great platform to know more about Rotary, connect with other Clubs and learn about several new projects. The opening session each day was brilliantly planned with very good speakers. During the day, we attended the various break out sessions that were extremely informative covering a wide spectrum of topics. The grand closing ceremony came as a perfect end on the 5th day. Rotarians left Singapore, hoping to meet again at Calgary in June 2025.



CLUB ASSEMBLY - JUNE 22 AT BRC



BEHIND THE SCENES - 2023-24



MEETING WITH THE 23-24 BOARD



CONVENING POST BREAKOUT SESSIONS AT RI SINGAPORE CONVENTION



INCOMING OFFICERS TRAINING 24-25

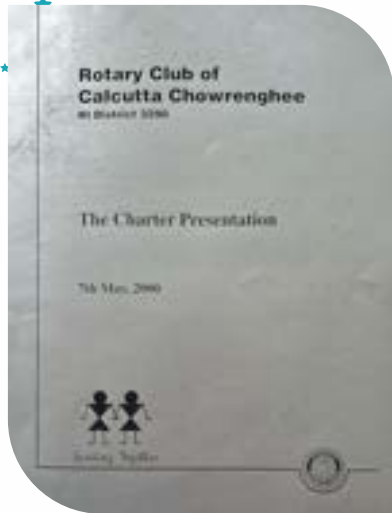


DISTRICT TRAINING CONFERENCE 24-25



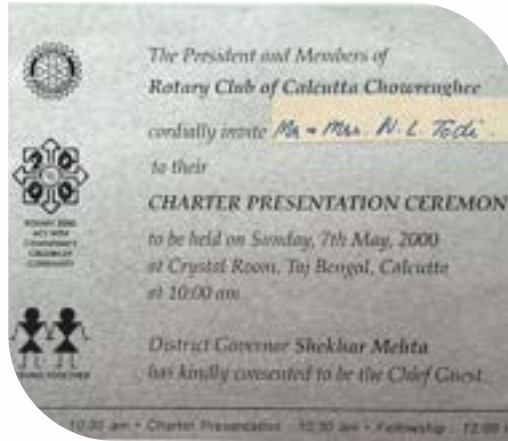
Reminiscences

CHARTER DAY



The **first** club of its kind celebrating women's empowerment

The **first** official document, the **first** official invitation



Chowrenghee

What's in a name?

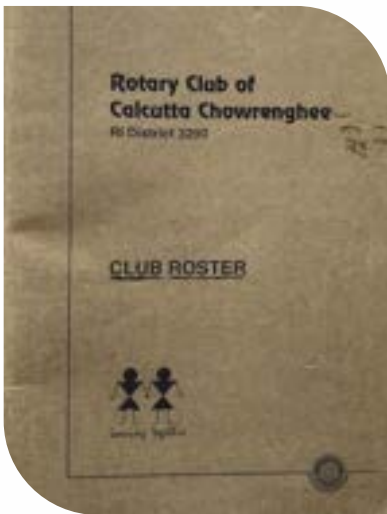
Reflecting on the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee's journey, the meaning behind its name has profoundly shaped its mission and values. Three possible roots for "Chowrenghee" each mirror the activities and ethos of the club:

The word Chowrenghee possibly has three roots. One is the Urdu word 'chourangi' meaning crossroads, another is 'chau rangi' meaning many coloured and finally there is the legend of Chourangi Nath, the Nath Yogi who inspired the building of the Kali Temple, around this area.

As the club celebrates its silver jubilee, it recognizes the profound influence of its name. Navigating crossroads, painting its mission with many colours of service, and embracing a spiritual path have enriched the club's journey.

Looking back, memories of successes, lives transformed, and shared joy fill our hearts. The relationships built within the club and with the community testify to the enduring spirit of Rotary. The fun, camaraderie, and sense of belonging experienced over the years have made the Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee an integral part of our lives.

Celebrating 25 years is not just a milestone but a reflection of a journey well-traveled, rich with purpose, colour and spiritual fulfilment. The name "Chowrenghee" perfectly encapsulates this journey, inspiring the club to new heights in community service and personal growth.



The **first** roster, the **first** round of awards



RI Theme



“Getting a prosthesis, given a chance to educate one’s self, giving toilets & wash basins for basic hygiene, improving the lives of the less privileged of society, is all a result of the magic that is Rotary!!!”

Jayshree Sanghvi

“The Magic of Rotary encapsulates the spirit and dedication of Rotarians in making a tangible, positive difference in the world. Rotary’s work exemplifies service to humanity at its best.”

Manisha Srivastava

“Rotarians believe they have that secret power to make impossible things happen when they open doors of hope and possibilities for so many. This is the Magic of Rotary.”

Sangita Todi

“The theme of 2024-25, The Magic of the Rotary inspires positive change and fosters meaningful connections across communities worldwide. Through its diverse array of themes, Rotary International encourages members to embrace collaboration, service, and leadership to address pressing global challenges and make a lasting impact which is nothing short of Magic.”

Gaurav Gupta

“The magic of giving is the Magic of Rotary. Enrich yourself by giving your time, your money, your love.”

Gaurav Himmatsingka

“The magic of Rotary is that it empowers us to become the change we want to see brought about in the world.”

Vidhi Beri

Birthdays & Anniversaries

“Fun is one of the most important and underrated ingredients in any successful venture”



Birthdays of the Month

May		
4th	Chamaria Aditya	
25th	Khettry Abhenav	
28th	Ginodia Rajeev	
		June
3rd	Punwani Rita	
12th	Jain Praduman	
12th	Kejriwal Pawan Kr	
15th	Jayaswal Nutan	
18th	Beri Vidhi	
20th	Kejriwal Leena	
28th	Vineet Bagaria	



Anniversaries of the Month

May		
12th	Khettry Abhenav & Sakshi	
18th	Himatsingka Gaurav & Payal	
		June
	1st Gulati Sangita & Jagdish	
	6th Kedia Rohit & Radhika	
	17th Didwania Alka & Pawan	

Peace and conflict prevention/ resolution



Disease prevention and treatment



Water and sanitation



Maternal and child health



Basic education and literacy



Community Economic Development



Environment



SEVEN AREAS OF FOCUS

PRESIDENT: GAURAV K GUPTA ★ SECRETARY: ADITI SARAOGI ★ EDITOR: VIDHI BERI