



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro South, R.I. Dist. 3291

15th March, 2025 Meetings: Commune, 7B, Chowringhee Terrace, Saturdays 3.30 p.m. Vol.:33 - No.10

March – Water Sanitation & Hygiene Month

RI President's Message March 2025

March is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on The Magic of Rotary and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic firsthand in the Dominican Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, "Show me the magic again."

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — alongside local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realized that what seemed like a small act could change residents' lives. That is The Magic of Rotary.

This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary's work with USAID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines, and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary's impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we're advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This program equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.

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What Is your Rotary Club doing to focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in March 2025?

Clean water, sanitation and good hygiene is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives. We don't just build wells and walk away. Rotary members integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene into education projects. When children learn about disease transmission and practice good hygiene, they miss less school. And they can take those lessons home to their families, expanding our impact.

Clean water is a basic human right that many are often denied. There are 2.5 billion people in the world that lack access to improved sanitation and 748 million people that don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives.

In 2015, the United Nations introduced their new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and promote prosperity while protecting the environment and addressing climate change. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation encourages us to address universal access to drinking water and sanitation along with improved water management to protect ecosystems and build resiliency. *

Rotary members are committed to reaching the water and sanitation SDG through projects like building wells, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and teaching community members how to maintain new infrastructure.

During March, Rotary Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month, we're celebrating our commitment to create healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

MINUTES OF 1272ND REGULAR MEETING, DG VISIT AND CLUB ASSEMBLY HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2025 AT COMMUNE, 7B. CHOWRINGHEE TERRACE, KOLKATA 700020 FROM 16-00 HRS

At the outset, PP Rtn. Anirudha Guha welcomed the members and District Guests present at the meeting and requested DG AKS Rtn. Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, Club President Rtn Debasish De and Club Secretary Rtn Snehasish Bhaumik to take the chairs at the top table and handed over the proceedings to President Debasish De.

President Debasish De escorted the District Governor (DG) to the top table and took their seats, along with Secretary Snehasish Bhaumik.

President Rtn Debasish De called 1272nd Regular Meeting to order and requested all members to stand for the National Anthem led by Rtn Sabyasachi Hajara.

President Debasish De welcomed the District Governor AKS Rtn. Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, District Executive Secretary, Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty and Addl District Secretary Rtn. Dr. Bhaswati Ray to the meeting. President read out the club report for the period starting from 1st July, 2024 and confirmed the minutes of 1271st Regular Meeting held on January 18, 2025. He requested the Secretary to conduct the club business.

Secretary Snehasish conducted the club business and handed over the proceedings back to President Debasish De.

The President once again expressed joy and pleasure to welcome District Governor AKS Rtn Dr. Krishnendu Gupta.

President handed over the proceedings to the District Governor for his address.

The District Governor addressed to house on the various issues including the Strategic Plan, Membership, The Rotary Foundation, District Activities and conducted an open house discussion.

At request of the Governor, DES, Rtn Amitava Chakraborty informed about a few corrections in the documentation which need to be updated and uploaded in the Rotary portal.

Rtn Dr. Bhaswati Ray conveyed her good wishes to the members at the meeting.

President thanked District Governor & District Guests and initiated the presentation of mementos.

The presentations were done by PP Rtn Parneli Banerjee.

As there being no other business, President requested President Elect Rtn Sabyasachi Hajara to propose a formal vote of thanks.

President Elect Rtn Sabyasachi Hajara proposed the vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation.

President Debasish De terminated the meeting.

Vote of Thanks was proposed to the Chair.

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As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more people in need.

Whether it's joining forces with local organizations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilizing your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

The Magic of Rotary shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it's from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let's harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.

Stephanie A. Urchick

President 2024-25



Forthcoming Events

Rangoli – District Holi Meet on Sunday, March 16, at Eastern Metropolitan Club, Kolkata with musical performance by Saptak. Registration Rs. 1500 per head

Friday, March 21, Visit to Bamon Mollar Chak with 20 member team from Rotary Singapore led by DGE Rtn. Dr. Shahul Hameed and Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar.

Sunday, March 23, PELS 2 for Rotary year 2025-26 at Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Jadavpur.

Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro South

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