



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN

Club Regn. No. : 043290002/3842 • Charter Date : 17.06.1986

METRO VOICE

<https://rccalcuttametropolitan.rotaryindia.org>

RY : 2025-2026

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

Rotary



President : RAJSHREE JAIN • Hony. Secretary : NAMRATA BENGANI

• Editor Emeritus : SASHI DHACHOLIA

1717TH REGULAR MEETING

VOL 40, NO. 14

26 JANUARY 2026

We *Welcome*

26TH JANUARY

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY



DGN RTN PURNENDU ROYCHOWDHURY
AS CHIEF GUEST AND
PRESIDENT SHRI VIJAY CHORARIA
AND MEMBERS OF MAHAVIR SEVA SADAN
FOR THE JOINT REGULAR MEETING AND
CELEBRATION OF REBUPLIC DAY

PARTNER IN SERVICE WITH MAHAVIR SEVA SADAN FOR MORE THAN 3 DECADES

- Artificial Limbs and Callipers ■ Rehabilitation of Post-Polio Syndrome Survivors
- Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy Children ■ Walker & Wheel Chair
- Sponsorship to Physically Challenged students

JANUARY IS ROTARY VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

KNOW YOUR CHIEF GUEST - DGN PURNENDU ROYCHOWDHURY

Purnendu Roychowdhury, comes from a business family and dedicated Rotarian of over two decades, was born on 11th December in Kolkata, India. A graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Calcutta University, Mr. Roychowdhury has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence across diverse professional domains, alongside an outstanding record of public service.

With over three decades of experience, Mr. Roychowdhury has made significant contributions to India's scientific instrumentation and precision weighing industry. In 1990, he was instrumental in introducing forced restoration technology for weighing systems to India through a landmark technical collaboration with Japan, establishing a vital 100% import substitute in the sector. His leadership acumen is reflected in his current roles as the Managing Director and Chairman of two distinguished companies, one with a legacy of over a century and the other exceeding seventy-five years, both headquartered in their own premises at B.B.D. Bagh East, Kolkata. His business interests have since diversified into sectors including education (nursery to Class XII schooling), hospitality, food and beverage services, air and water quality enhancement solutions, and corporate finance.

Mr. Roychowdhury's association with Rotary International began on 19th September 2000 when he joined the Rotary Club of Calcutta, Asia's longest running Rotary Club. Over the course of 24 years of distinguished service, he has held numerous pivotal positions at both the club and district levels. He was the Centennial Year President (2019–2020) in the club.

At the District level within Rotary International District 3291, Mr. Roychowdhury has undertaken key responsibilities, including Aide to the District Governor (2023–2024), Assistant District Secretary – Logistics (2022–2023), Assistant Governor for Zone 31 (2021–2022), and Zonal Secretary for Zone 16 (2020–2021). In the current Rotary year (2024–2025), he is serving as the District Paul Harris Society (PHS) Coordinator.

Mr. Roychowdhury's commitment to Rotary's ideals is further reflected in his participation in multiple Rotary International Conventions, having attended conventions held in Bangkok (2012), Lisbon (2013), Hamburg (2019), Melbourne (2023), and Singapore (2024). Recognized as a Major Donor (Level 2) to The Rotary Foundation, he exemplifies the spirit of "Service Above Self" through both philanthropy and active leadership.

Among his numerous service initiatives, Mr. Roychowdhury has played a pioneering role in implementing major humanitarian projects. Between 2000 and 2004, he successfully executed one of the largest WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) projects under a Canadian grant, resulting in the installation of 250 toilets and 120 tube wells. His commitment to public health is further demonstrated by his efforts to facilitate heart surgeries for underprivileged children

and adults at R. N. Tagore Hospital (2014 onwards), implement mass immunization drives in Howrah for over 100,000 children of migrant workers (2015 onwards), and contribute to ICU infrastructure at Mercy Hospital (2016). During the COVID-19 pandemic, he spearheaded the donation of critical medical equipment and essential protective gear to hospitals across Kolkata and Howrah.

In 2020, Mr. Roychowdhury was instrumental in the formation of the Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs, a unique international fellowship dedicated to strengthening and expanding 100 year-old Rotary clubs around the globe. As the founding member of this prestigious organization, he played a key role in defining its mission to bolster membership and enhance Rotary's presence in underserved regions, with the founding witnessed and supported by Rotary International Past Presidents Mark Maloney and Shekhar Mehta.

Beyond his Rotary Endeavors, Mr. Roychowdhury has been actively engaged in community development through the establishment and sponsorship of new Rotary clubs, including the Rotary Club of Calcutta Renaissance, Rotary Club of Uniworld City, Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary, and Rotary Club of Calcutta Sundarban. He is presently involved in the formation of a Satellite Club.

Mr. Roychowdhury's professional affiliations are equally distinguished. He holds corporate memberships with leading business chambers such as BNCCI, CII, BCCI, and FOSML. He is a respected member of prominent social institutions like the Bengal Club, Tollygunge Club, and Saturday Club. Moreover, he serves as the Vice President of Rehabilitation India, a non governmental organization committed to training and empowering physically challenged individuals since 1969.

Residing in Kolkata with his wife, Mrs. Sucharita Roychowdhury, Mr. Purnendu Roychowdhury continues to inspire through his dynamic leadership, professional achievements, and unwavering commitment to humanitarian service. His life's work stands as a testament to the transformative impact of vision, dedication, and community engagement.



WE CARE ABOUT ANIMALS WHO CANNOT SPEAK- INAUGURATION OF COWSHED AT CHHAYA ANIMAL HOSPITAL & SHELTER ON 17.1.2026

Our Rotary club recently had the privilege of visiting Chhaya Animal Hospital & Shelter, a remarkable five-acre property dedicated to the rescue, treatment, and long-term care of animals in need. From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed warmly by the trustees, setting the tone for a meaningful and enriching experience. The refreshing fresh-cut daab water served on arrival was a thoughtful gesture that instantly made everyone feel comfortable and cared for.

The shelter is home to several animals, including over 450 dogs, along with cows, bulls, calves, goats, monkeys, birds, and horses. Among them, the horses had been rescued by the Kolkata Police after suffering injuries, and were now receiving proper medical attention and rehabilitation at Chhaya. Walking through the expansive property, it was heartening to see how each animal, regardless of its condition, was treated with dignity, patience, and compassion.

One of the most impressive aspects of the visit was the shelter's well-equipped treatment and care centre. Facilities such as a fully functional X-ray unit, operation theatre, and dedicated kitchens ensure that animals receive timely medical care along with proper nutrition. The trustees explained the systematic process through which injured animals are assessed, treated, and closely monitored during recovery. It was inspiring to witness how professionally and thoughtfully the entire operation is managed.

Chhaya's commitment to sustainability added another layer of admiration. The shelter runs on solar power, using renewable energy to support its daily operations. This environmentally responsible approach reflects the organisation's long-term vision of combining compassion with conscious living.

The dedication of the trustees and workers was visible throughout the premises. Their tireless efforts, often carried out quietly behind the scenes, have created a safe and nurturing environment for hundreds of animals. Whether it was feeding, cleaning, providing medical care, or simply offering comfort, their compassion truly brought the shelter to life.

During the visit, our club also conducted its regular Rotary meeting at the premises, making the experience even more meaningful. The trustees personally guided us through the property, patiently explaining the daily operations, challenges, and the emotional commitment involved in running such a large-scale animal welfare centre.

The visit concluded with insightful addresses by the speakers, followed by light refreshments, giving everyone the opportunity to interact, reflect, and express their appreciation. The atmosphere remained warm, engaging, and deeply inspiring throughout the evening.

A special note of gratitude goes to Rtn. Gaurang Jalan, a trustee of Chhaya Animal Hospital & Shelter, whose efforts made this visit possible. His dedication to animal welfare and service truly reflects the spirit of Rotary. We are grateful to our Ex-Metropolitan PP Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel, who initiated this project and arranged funds under CSR with Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd.

Our time at Chhaya was more than just a visit - it was a powerful reminder of how compassion, commitment, and collective effort can transform lives. The experience left all of us inspired, humbled, and grateful to witness such meaningful service in action.

By Rtn Nabanita Sen



A view of banner



Founder Trustee Sharada Ramakrishnan in her address

INAUGURATION OF COWSHED AT CHHAYA ANIMAL HOSPITAL & SHELTER ON 17.1.2026



Chairman- Trustee Rtn Raju Bharat delivering the speech



Trustee PP Rtn Gauran Jalan addressing the audience



President Rtn Rajshree Jain in her address



A view of audience



A view of all Trustees of Chhaya Animal Hospital & Shelter



Another view of audience



A view of Metropolitans in front of Cowshed



Chowshed for Cows

INAUGURATION OF COWSHED AT CHHAYA ANIMAL HOSPITAL & SHELTER ON 17.1.2026



Another view of Cowshed includes Calves



Dogs under care



Dogs under Rehabilitation



Horses under care



Cows under love & Care



Metropolitans in Horses Shed



Inner Wheel of Calcutta Metropolitan also participated



A view of Fellowship

GLIMPSE OF REGULAR MEETING ON 17.01.2026



A GRAND FELLOWSHIP BY RTN RENU TODI WITH SPOUSE PAWAN TODI ON 04.01.2026

Some evenings linger in memory long after they end - and the fellowship hosted by Rtn. Renu Todi was one such occasion. Set in her beautiful and welcoming home, the evening felt less like a formal gathering and more like a warm, easy celebration of togetherness.

Guests naturally gravitated toward the garden, where the glow of the bonfire created a cozy, relaxed atmosphere. Conversations flowed effortlessly, laughter filled the air, and the space soon became alive with cheerful exchanges and shared moments.

Adding to the charm was a thoughtfully curated lavish food spread that quickly became one of the highlights of the night. From comforting favourites to indulgent

treats, every dish reflected the care and generosity with which the evening had been planned.

What truly stood out, however, was the sense of connection. The fellowship offered everyone a chance to unwind, engage in meaningful conversations, and enjoy the simple pleasure of good company. It was an evening that reminded us how special these moments of togetherness can be.

A heartfelt thank you to Rtn. Renu Todi and Pawan Todi for hosting such a warm, effortless, and memorable evening.

By Rtn Nabanita Sen



A GRAND FELLOWSHIP BY RTN RENU TODI WITH SPOUSE PAWAN TODI ON 04.01.2026



KOLKATA HOSTS THE SECOND EDITION OF FESTIVAL OF INCLUSIVITY FOR CHILDREN

Lake Road in South Calcutta was converted into a riot of colours as more than 300 children from differently-abled schools, cancer affected children, and mainstream schools came together to showcase their skills and talents and share a common platform on 18.1.2026. With them came their teachers, friends, family, as hundreds of people from all walks of life arrived during this daytime celebration of inclusivity.

Initiated by Rotary Club of Calcutta Newbies and Calcutta Elevates, in collaboration with Samaj Sebi Sangha and Noble Mission of South Calcutta, Open Door - Festival of Inclusivity, is a first of its kind street carnival and a very special program on the bigger purpose of inclusivity of children. The initiative was co-led by Rotary Clubs of Calcutta New Horizons, Calcutta Sunderbans, Calcutta Metropolitan, Millennium City, Nagpur Friends, Tiaong-Hiyas, Grand Khulna and Satellite Club of Calcutta Colts.

The festival had a performing arts stage, magic shows, bagpipe bands, art corners, game zones and a showcase area where different NGOs and other organisations displayed their activities in their stalls.

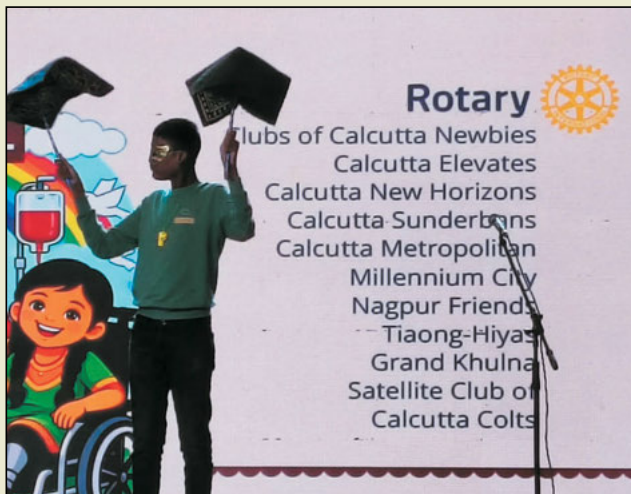
The event was graced by MLA Debashis Kumar, and Councillor Ward No. 86 Saurav Basu. Other notable

names that visited included Rotary District 3291 Governor Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Hom Chaudhuri, actors Judhajit Banerjee, Suranjana Ray, Jayasree Mukherjee, Indranil Mullik, Sayantani Mallik, Biswajeet Ghose, Sonalee Chowdhury, Somasree Bhattacharya and media personality Sharmistha Goswami Chatterjee.

At the festival, Samaj Sebi Sangha installed an 40ft canvas for an Inclusive Painting activity where all the visitors, volunteers and participating children immersed themselves to paint a colourful story of creativity and inclusivity. Said Arijit Maitra, General Secretary, Samaj Sebi, "This canvas is symbolic to Samaj Sebi's unrelenting service to the society. Our Durga Puja is at our core, but it is these collaborations that makes us who we are and keeps us going".

The event was supported by various organisations who voluntarily joined the cause. Leading the mission of hope was Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) team from Kolkata. More than 50 TCS employees gave volunteering hours in this program. They distributed 300 goodie bags to the differently-abled children, other than helping them whenever needed.

By PP Rtn Subir Dutta



"AND" PODCAST TALK SHOW ON 07.01.2026

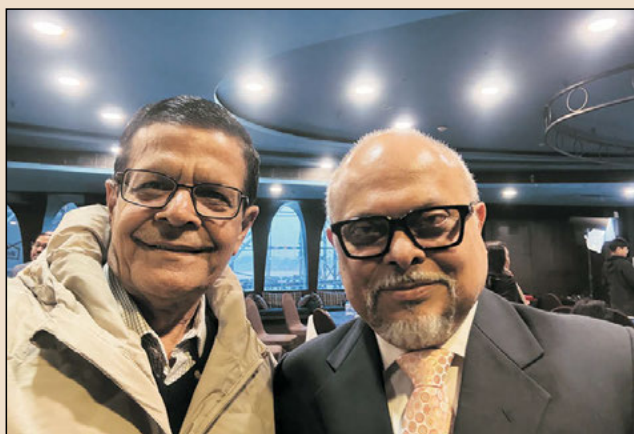
A Day to remember when IPDG Rtn Dr Krishnendu Gupta, DG Rtn Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri, DGE Rtn Tapas Bhattacharya and DGN Rtn Purnendu Roychowdhury with their respective spouses assembled for a day long shooting and recording on 7.1.2026 by AND (Aspiration of Nilanjan Sen & Deo Kishan Mohta) PODCAST talk show initiated by Rtn Nilanjan Sen and Rtn Deo Kishan Mohta of RC of Budge Budge of RI District-3291.

This was a great concept where Past & Future District Governors spell out their vision and what's make them to join Rotary. It was engrossing session with IPDG, DG, DGE and DGN. Listening to them was a great source of inspiration. We are thankful to Rtn Nilanjan Sen and Rtn Deo Kishan Mohta for this wonderful initiative.

Hope to see more action from them. They will broadcast these 4 sessions of stalwarts very soon



"AND" PODCAST TALK SHOW ON 07.01.2026



CELEBRATION OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S BIRTHDAY

12th January is the birthday of great Indian monk, philosopher Swami Vivekananda. We admire him as a spiritual leader and philanthropist. Swami ji born as Narendranath Dutta on January 12, 1863 in Kolkata. He was a brilliant student and eventually became a great disciple of Shree Ramkrishna Paramhansa. Later, he became a key figure in Indian spirituality and Vedanta philosophy.



His life and work continue to inspire us even today. We celebrate his birthday as National Youth Day in India to inspire millions of young spirits with his teachings and ideologies.

Like every year, this year too, we the PLC (PACE Learning Centre) family have celebrated Swami Vivekananda's birthday with utmost gratitude and admiration. Teachers as well as students took part in this celebration. We have arranged a Special Assembly to commemorate the day.

Teachers and students have decorated the portrait of Vivekananda with flower and garlands. The program was inaugurated by PLC teachers singing a song (ANANDALOKE MANGALALOKE by Tagore). Under the guidance of teachers, Senior students have prepared speeches on Swamiji's life and work in both English & Bengali.

As his contribution to society is remarkable and awe-inspiring, we took an oath that we would follow his path for the rest of our life.

By Ms. Monalisha Sinha Mondal
(English Teacher)



Rotary



**SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES**

Rotary District Conference RID- 3291 at Eastside Pavilion, Nicco Park Kolkata**DAY-1 January 10, 2026**

The Eastside Pavilion at Nicco Park transformed into a vibrant confluence of ideas, leadership, and service as Rotary District 3291 hosted its much-anticipated District Conference "Ramdhanu 2026." True to its name-Ramdhanu, symbolising a rainbow-the two-day conference reflected diversity in thought, inclusivity in service, and synergy in action.

A Ceremonial Beginning

Day One commenced with grandeur as dignitaries arrived in a formal parade, followed by flag hoisting, inauguration of the Club Exhibits Pavilion, and a solemn rendition of the National Anthem. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp and a captivating inaugural dance by the Kohinoor Sen Barat Group set a culturally rich and energetic tone for the conference.

Conference Chair Rtn. Santanu Dutta welcomed delegates, after which District Governor Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri outlined the vision of Rotary as a catalyst for sustainable social transformation. The presence and address of Rotary International President's Representative (RIPR) PDG N.S. Saravanan added global perspective and inspiration.

Synergy in Service: Rotary Meets Lions

One of the most significant highlights was the panel discussion "Synergy in Service," featuring Lions International President A.P. Singh and Past Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta. Moderated by PDG Ravindra Prakash Sehgal, the session underscored inter-organizational collaboration, reinforcing that humanitarian service transcends institutional boundaries when united by purpose.

Business Sessions that Inspired Thought Leadership
The Jaamvant Transformation: How India Becomes Bharat The first Business Session featured an electrifying keynote by Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra, who articulated India's transformation through economic strength, technological innovation, renewable energy, infrastructure growth, and strategic governance. Drawing from history, geopolitics, and contemporary policy, he emphasized that India's ascent to global leadership lies in self-belief, strategic thinking, and collective will.

Leadership & Engagement in the Non-Profit Sector In the second Business Session, PDG K.A. Kuriachan and Mr. Jaiprakash Kabra explored leadership rooted in ethics, humility, and community engagement. Their insights highlighted people-centric leadership, youth empowerment, and the importance of aligning Rotary initiatives with real societal needs to create sustainable impact.

Plenary Sessions: Knowledge, Health, and Humanity
Extra Sensory Perception The first Plenary by Mr. Deepak Rao was both entertaining and enlightening. Through live demonstrations and audience interaction, he explored ESP, cognitive science, and the power of the human mind, leaving delegates amazed and introspective.

Health Care: Prevention is the Key - Thalassemia A deeply impactful session led by PDG Dr. Ulhas Kolhatkar, with insights from Dr. Suvendu Sen, focused on Thalassemia prevention. Emphasizing awareness, diagnostics, and universal screening, the session echoed a powerful message from DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri-that prevention must reach every corner of society to ensure no child is born with Thalassemia.

Rotary's Public Image, Communication & Branding Advertising legend Bharat Dabholkar, the creative force behind iconic campaigns like Amul, captivated the audience with his call for emotional storytelling over statistics. He stressed target-group communication, creative simplicity, and originality. The session culminated in the Lifetime Achievement Award being conferred upon him by Rotary District 3291.

Life Beyond Cancer

A moving presentation highlighted the Life Beyond Cancer initiative of the Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust. Through a documentary on young cancer survivor Aradhya and messages from filmmaker Ashok Viswanathan and brand ambassador Rituparna Sengupta, the session reinforced the importance of early detection, CSR support, and collective responsibility to ensure no child succumbs to cancer due to lack of resources.

Day-2: January 11, 2026- Building the Future

Day Two opened with sessions on Finance & Resolutions, followed by Membership - Unite for Good, led by RIDN Gurjeet Singh Sekhon, emphasizing growth through unity and inclusiveness.

The Rotary Foundation Plenary highlighted End Polio, philanthropy, and legacy-building through generosity, reinforcing Rotary's enduring global mission.

Subsequent sessions addressed:**Redefining Medical Care in the Era of Innovation****Technology: The Human Edge in the Age of AI
Motivational Session - Unquit Forever**

Interact: Ignite the Future, showcasing inspiring youth performances Sustainable Environment, a thought-provoking panel on climate and ecological responsibility A Meaningful Conclusion The Valedictory Session brought reflections from leadership, announcement of election results, recognitions, and the formal handover to DG-Elect Purnendu Roychowdhury, marking continuity and renewed commitment. The conference concluded with music, camaraderie, and a shared resolve to serve humanity with compassion and innovation.

Ramdhanu 2026: A True Rainbow of Service More than a conference, Ramdhanu 2026 was a celebration of Rotary's spirit-where service met vision, leadership met empathy, and action met purpose. Against the vibrant backdrop of Eastside Pavilion, the event reaffirmed Rotary District 3291's role as a beacon of social transformation in an ever-changing world.

By Rtn Poulomi Dutta

DAY-1 GLIMPSE OF DISTRICT COFERENCE ON 10.01.2026



DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri addressing the audience



A P Singh, President, Lions Club International (2025-2026) on Day-1



Ambassador Dr Deepak Vora stole the Business session



Business session by Jaiprakash Kabra



PDG K A Kuriachan Antancy



Deepak Rao in the Plenary session



Bharat Dabholkar in the Plenary session



A view of delegates more than 900 registration

DAY-2 GLIMPSE OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON 11.01.2026



RIDN Gurjeet Singh Sekhon as Chief Guest for Day-2



The Child Prodigy-Raul John Aju exciting session with audience



Raul John Aju-A Child Prodigy stole the event on Day-2



Graphic of PRID Anirudha Roychowdhury & DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri



Dipanjan Chakraborty, Ex-Deputy Commandant of the National Security Guard



Display of District Conference Newsletter dt 11.1.2026 by DG edited by Rtn Sashi Dhacholia & Rtn Poulomi Dutta

DAY 1-2, HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP on 10.01.2026 & 11.01.2026



Metropolitan Attending District Conference-2026



President Rajshree Jain with DG and other Metropolitans

DAY 1-2, HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP on 10.01.2026 & 11.01.2026



Metropolitans with DG and other Rotarians



Rtn Shipra Mehta, IPP Sashi Dhacholia, PE Runjhun Gupta and Rtn N Ramakrishnan- Secretary to DG Office



IPP Sashi Dhacholia with RIDN Gurjeet Singh Sekhon & PDG Ravi Sehgal



Metropolitans in attendance at Conference



President, PE and Metropolitans enjoying the feast



With Rotarians of various Clubs



More than 900 Delegates in attendance



President Rajshree Jain with District Officials

REPORT ON EMCEEING THE FASHION SHOW AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE JAN 2026

Rotary District Conference is an initiative by the leaders of the term to get together all the Rotarians of the clubs under the district 3291 to work together in creating a fellowship at District level where people come together in various capacities to showcase the strength of comradery rightfully with the theme uniting for good.

Like last year, this year too, the conference had a list of distinguished speakers, awards, announcements, elections, but for me the change was being asked to emcee the fashion show, with Rotarians walking the ramp choreographed by Nicola Gomes, a supermodel, who has been part of the glam world in the past. She came forward to help coordinate irrespective of the age group or any previous ramp experience of the participants.

A total of 38 participants from 20 clubs came together to give life to 5 themes defining Bollywood era starting from the black n white, to the 70's theme, to the Bollywood romance with chiffon, to the big fancy Bollywood weddings and ending with the contemporary theme showcasing latest modern trends. Nicola Gomes, walked as the show stopper. We also got to walk the ramp with the closing walk by DG Rtn Ramendu Homchaudhuri along with the first lady Boudi Bandana Homchaudhuri, who walked in spite of the fractured foot showing amazing commitment.

It was my privilege to write the script aligning with the theme for the entire fashion show. Rtn Shampa Ghosh, Rtn Amrita Paul, shortlisted all the candidates and Rtn Shampa Ghosh and Rtn Bulbul Kundu took care of managing all logistics. They all sportingly agreed to

play along and we had fun presenting it all together along with my co-host Rtn Pranay Agarwal, from Rotary Club of Mahanagar.

The most beautiful thing to see was all the senior Rotarians performing with complete joy, enjoying their performance with everyone supporting and cheering for each other regardless of the age or the clubs they belonged to. In the sound of applause, it was a proud moment representing Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan.

Heartfelt gratitude to Rtn Madan Mohan Mohanka, Rtn Jayanta Chatterji, and Rtn Sashi Dhacholia for being there and even taking pictures, as all the support truly counts as great encouragement. Thank you, Metropolitans and Rotary District 3291 for this memory to cherish.

By PE Rtn Runjhun Gupta



LEG FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES - OUR JOURNEY

LEG FOR LEGLESS

One of Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan's (RCCM) flagship project since its inception, 39 years ago, has been the "LEG FOR LEGLESS" project along with its partners in service - Mahavir Seva Sadan (MSS).

Let's have a brief look at the journey of RCCM and MSS in the last 4 decades together.

More than three decades ago a small group of young persons decided that they should assist people with physical challenges. After a long relentless search, the best they could find was the 'JAIPUR FOOT'. After visiting Jaipur and under of Sri D.R.Mehta the program was launched in a small workshop at 5, Kabir Road Kolkata on 23rd January 1985. That this technology was the best, is now evident since even after 35 years, this prosthesis is being used the world over AND has won numerous prizes. It has completed almost 35 years of selfless service to underprivileged and physically challenged. The main objective of MSS is the social rehabilitation of Physically Challenged persons to enable them to regain their dignity and self-respect and bring them to the main stream of society. These people started earning their livelihood and supporting their families while earning their due respect and honour in the society.

MSS is a pioneering service organization in Eastern India for fulfilling all the requirement of orthopedically challenged persons particularly for manufacture, fitment and free supply of Artificial Limbs, Callipers, Moulded / Surgical shoes etc. Not only do we provide the prosthetics free of cost we also provide lifelong service and free replacements.

The characteristic of MSS is that the people who are manufacturing the artificial limbs are themselves beneficiaries who have been provided limbs by MSS and are working with full dedication and commitment towards their fellow brethren.

It is a unique feat in today's world that both RCCM and MSS have been associated for more than 39 years. Incidentally both started their activities in the same year and are continuing the "Leg for Legless" project with same vigour and spirit. The credit goes to Shri J S Mehta of MSS and PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi and Dr. V. K. Nevatia of RCCM, who together carried this flagship project smoothly. We are grateful to all of them. MSS has transformed from a very humble beginning with a small workshop to today's multi-storied building with myriad facilities which offer free of cost services for the lifetimes of all beneficiaries.

Our achievement in this project is that every year in January and August we sponsor and provide FREE artificial limbs, callipers to Polio victims, prosthetics hand and scholarship to the physically challenged persons to take life forward. Several camps were held for Polio corrective surgery. We have also distributed wheel chairs, tricycles to those in need. The meritorious children of many of their families were also given cash scholarships to support their education.

The major factor is that we guarantee lifelong service to the beneficiaries, who are provided with artificial limbs, callipers to Polio victims and prosthetics hand, free replacement in case any damage in future.

So far, projects involvement both completed/open is approx. US\$ 503,001 which comes to INR- 3.50 crores on current Indian value with the help from Rotary International, International and Indian partners and various District of Rotary throughout the world.

Our own PP Rtn Dr V K Nevatia, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Medical Director of Mahavir Seva Sadan has played very important role in executing the project. He deserved big salute from all of us. Late PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi, as usual, played a fatherly role for our association with MSS. A big salute to him.

REHABILITATION OF POST-POLIO SYNDROME SURVIVORS

When India prepares to be certified as a polio free country after the statutory period of 3 years of zero reporting, this project aims at addressing the huge footprints this dreaded disease has left behind. This Humanitarian project is designed to address the needs of polio survivors in West Bengal, Assam and other states of North Eastern region of our country, India. Hundreds of polio survivors live in West Bengal and in the neighbouring states. Many of these survivors with different degrees of disability are living in despair with little hope of any future life that is meaningful and worthwhile. The socio-economic factors made it worse for them. They are dependent on their family for support for the whole life, the family who is already overburdened with a large family to support. Many of these families are large with only a few bread earners. This project will help address this problem. The project will correct their disability to the extent possible or provide other kind of support to make them able to live independently.

Our challenge came while doing the project "Rehabilitation of Post-Polio Syndrome Survivors" to locate patients for Polio Corrective surgeries but thanks of Lions Club, we were able to complete the project in time and it was a huge success. This is first time in Kolkata that both Rotary and Lions came together to do the project to serve the mankind.

REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN

This project is to address the sufferings of those who are physically and mentally challenged because of diseases like cerebral palsy.

There are several children born with disability since birth. Their brain got affected while they were in womb because of their mother getting affected while they are pregnant. These children suffer from cerebral palsy which leads to many disabilities including retarded mental development, inability to perform day to day work on their own. They are dependent on someone who can help them to survive. This project will help them by addressing their diseases. This project will provide rehabilitation to these children by expert technician with the help of machines so that they can become independent and lead normal life.

We have also commenced with the ground breaking of our "Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy Children" which will provide necessary equipment for rehabilitation of Cerebral Plessey children and to provide vocational training to the staff to handle the necessary equipment. This project will start soon.

LEG FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES - OUR JOURNEY - FROM ARCHIVES

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS & CALLIPERS



REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN



LEG FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES - OUR JOURNEY

REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN



PROVIDING WHEEL CHAIR, WALKER AND TRI-CYCLE



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN PROJECTS FOR PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS (as on 20.01.2026)

SI no	MG/GG no	Name of the Project	Project Cost in \$		Project Cost in INR		Remarks
MATCHING GRANTS				LEG FOR LEGLESS			
1	7155	Calipers and shoes for Polio victims	18000		792000		CLOSED
2	13990	Artificial limbs	20000		900000		CLOSED
3	18865	Jaipur limbs and Polio Calipers	19084		877864		CLOSED
4	21660	Artificial limbs and Calipers	48000		2256000		CLOSED
5	23521	Artificial limbs and Calipers	34000		1632000		CLOSED
6	70741	Artificial limbs and Calipers	54479		2621488		CLOSED
7	77399	Artificial limbs and Calipers	60827	254,390	3106134	12,185,486	CLOSED
GLOBAL GRANTS							
1	15-28467	Leg for Legless	55419		3436000		CLOSED
2	14-11658	Rehabilitation of Post Polio Syndrome Survivors	144343		8805000		CLOSED
3	19-80213	Rehabilitation of CP Children (Celebral Palsy Children)	107144	306,906	7500000	19,741,000	OPEN
		Total	USD \$	561,296	INR	31,926,486	

METROPOLITANS CONGRATULATES

Our Heartiest Congratulates to Rtn Brotindro Mullick being successfully elected as District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) for the RY-2028-2029 and PDG Rtn Prabir Chatterjee as Council of Legislation (COL) representative for the RY-2026-2029.

We wish them all success.



DGND Rtn Brotindro Mullick



PDG Rtn Prabir Chatterjee

Forthcoming Events

CLUB

- 31.01.2026** Vocational Excellence Award Ceremony and Regular Meeting at The Calcutta Swimming Club at 2.00 PM
- 14.02.2026** Regular Meeting
- 28.02.2025** Regular Meeting

DISTRICT

- 08.02.2025** AGELS at Williamson Magar Hall, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS



30.01.2026
Rtn Vivek Bajaj
& Ann Jyoti



31.01.2026
PP Rtn Harsh V Rungta
& Ann Nidhi



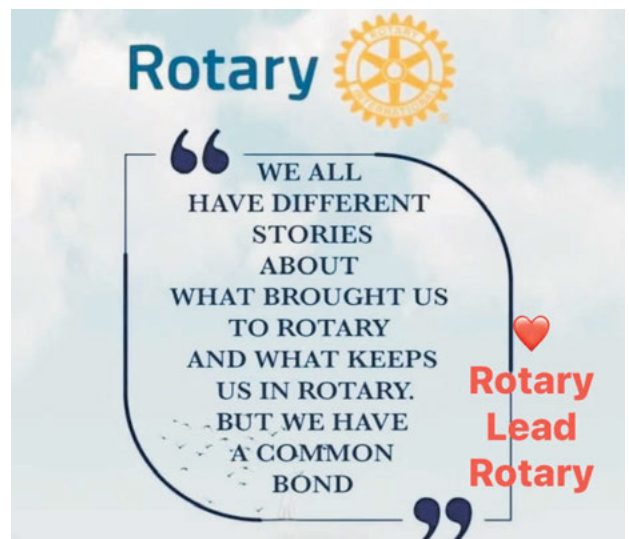
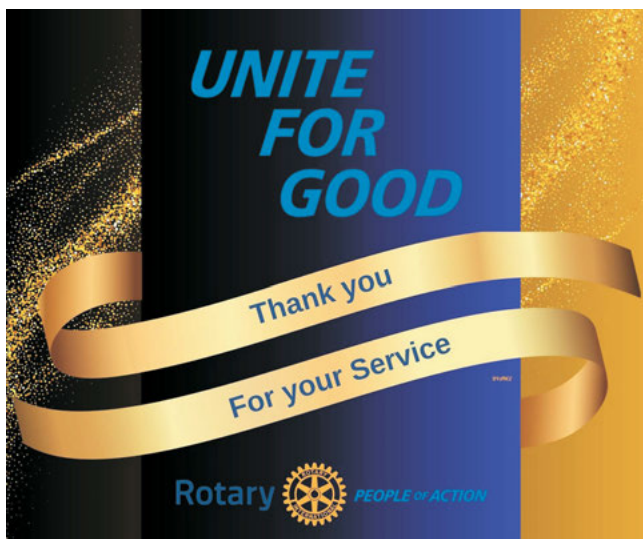
31.01.2026
Rtn Namrata Bengani
& Spouse Meghant Banthia



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



18.1.2026
Rtn Nisha Singhaia





Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill - they are reclaiming their futures. This training programme provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience and hope.

This is what Rotary's Vocational Service Month celebrates each January - the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn't just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.

The California automotive programme has been such a success because it was built on integrity. -Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognised that technical skills alone wouldn't be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a nonprofit offering counselling and support services alongside vocational training.

That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world's -children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity.

The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support.

But support doesn't mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary's values creates lasting change. The question isn't whether you have something to offer, it's how you'll use your skills to serve.

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in -California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.



HOLGER KNAACK
RI Trustee Chair 2025-26

When we think of global projects at Rotary, we often think of the cooperation between two clubs or districts that goes into Rotary Foundation global grants. These efforts form the backbone of our international grant activities. Yet we have also seen how larger projects can have even greater impact by attracting significant partners and long-term funding. These initiatives are measurable and visible, attracting yet more partners and new Rotary members who see the work in action.

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, one of the Foundation's Programs of Scale, embodies this vision. I asked Dolapo Iufadeju, a Rotarian from Nigeria and co-founder of the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, to share why this model has been so successful:

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, which began in 2022, aims to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths by 25 per cent. We focus on training doctors, midwives, nurses and community health extension workers in emergency obstetrics, neonatal care, respectful maternity practices, and long-acting reversible contraceptives.

The most vital aspect is community engagement. We conduct dialogues with traditional, religious and youth leaders. We are organising joint medical outreach and home visitations. State ministries of health are increasingly adopting these approaches as part of their primary healthcare interventions using the template and methodologies Rotary developed.

Our electronic data-tracking system allows better monitoring of maternal and child deaths. Notably, our community-based system now tracks maternal deaths during home deliveries, something previously unmeasured.

Most significantly, maternal deaths dropped by 20 per cent and neonatal deaths decreased by 28 per cent in supported facilities, while postnatal clinic attendance increased by 10 per cent.

I am also a member of the action group and have followed this project for over 20 years, long before it was awarded a Programs of Scale grant. In November I observed the dedicated work there of the teams with midwives and health workers.

This evolution shows what's possible when Rotary dedication meets strategic partnerships. The programme's success prompted Nigerian philanthropist Sir Emeka Offor to contribute \$5 million, allowing the initiative to expand. Other countries are interested in this model.

Every contribution you make to The Rotary Foundation strengthens its power as a global force for change that channels your generosity into lasting transformation.



Olayinka H. Yinka Babalola urges members of Rotary to Create Lasting Impact

Rotary International president-elect emphasizes effective action and 'embracing the world with open arms'

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola called on members to Create Lasting Impact by making their clubs more welcoming, carrying out impactful projects, and allowing their Rotary experiences to transform them personally.

"Rotary has changed us. It has shaped who we are and made us better people," Babalola said at Rotary's International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 12 January. "We often talk about changing the world. We talk about ending polio, about building peace. We do not think enough about how Rotary transforms us."

Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, described how joining a Rotaract club as a teenager enlarged his perspective beyond the limited, privileged outlook he'd once had. That change in awareness came from observing the lasting impact his club had in the community, particularly from teaching people to read and write.

"As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future," he said. "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact." Change and impact are not the same, he added: "Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures."

Understanding impact

Rotary members have made an impact by expanding early childhood education in Knysna, South Africa, and increasing access to prenatal care in Nigeria, Babalola said. The Rotary Club of Knysna empowered local women to open and manage early childhood education centers.

"The project has reached thousands of children and families, and it will continue to provide education in those communities for generations," Babalola said. "We can recreate this kind of impact in other parts of the world, and in doing so we can earn the trust and recognition of our neighbors in the communities we serve. And when more communities trust Rotary, more people want to join."

Babalola also described the wide-ranging impact of Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria. The initiative to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates received a US\$2 million Rotary Programs of Scale grant in 2022.

"Before Rotary's intervention, many women avoided prenatal care, which is essential to ensuring a safe birth for both mother and child," he said. "After working with Rotary, systems were put in place to help expecting mothers receive prenatal care. The community was involved. Attendance went up. Mortality went down. That project [will] transform lives across Nigeria for decades."

Extending a welcome

Babalola urged members to take a more open, welcoming attitude toward newcomers to their clubs. He described how, when he was a Rotaract club member eager to join a Rotary club, the president of the Rotary club treated him with scorn.

"He said, 'What audacity! You cannot just join. You need an invitation,'" Babalola recalled. "I could have walked away. Instead, I said, 'I didn't know a child needed an invitation to enter his parents' home.'"

While things have changed since that time, Babalola said, they haven't changed enough. Some clubs close themselves off instead of "embracing the world with open arms," he said. Young people aren't necessarily treated with respect, he added, and people with different ideas and backgrounds aren't always made to feel welcome. He urged members to think about how they could better welcome others. "You never know whose Rotary story might begin - or end - based on the way you make them feel at a meeting or service project," he said.

Another way members can focus on personal change, he said, is to aim to do better than their best. He urged district leaders to examine their past successes in raising funds, planning projects, and recruiting members. Then, he said, they should challenge themselves to surpass their past triumphs.

"When we change ourselves, we change our clubs and districts," he concluded. "When we change our districts, we change the communities we serve. And when we change our communities, we create lasting impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

Rotary President-elect Olayinka Babalola revealed the 2026-27 presidential message, Create Lasting Impact, earlier today:

"As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future," he said. "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact."

Sponsored by : RTN POULOMI DUTTA

We meet every Saturday at 2.00 pm at The Calcutta Swimming Club, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001
Published by : Rtn Sashi Dhacholia, Mobile : 98310-14640, E-mail : sashidhacholia@gmail.com (For Private Circulation Only)
<https://rccalcuttametropolitan.rotaryindia.org>