



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 • Hon. Secretary : NAMRATA BENGANI

• Editor Emeritus : SASHI DHACHOLIA

1715TH REGULAR MEETING

VOL 40, NO. 12

27 DECEMBER 2025

The much-awaited project

SOLAR ON WHEELS

conceived by HELP US HELP THEM, is a visionary initiative that brings mobile classrooms to street children across Kolkata, ensuring access to education regardless of location or circumstance.



This is a Helping Grant project from EIRWT-District-3291 and Inner Wheel of Calcutta Metropolitan

TODAY'S SPEAKER RTN DR POULOMI DUTTA



Topic
BREATHING TROUBLE, DRYING RIVERS:
INDIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND
THE ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS



Happy New Year!

INAUGURATION OF SCIENCE AND SKILL LAB EQUIPMENT - 14.12.2025

Under Helping Grant No. 0500 from the East India Rotary Welfare Trust (EIRWT), the Rotary Club provided Science and Skill Lab equipment at Adhigam Bhoomi School under the Help Us Help Them initiative. This equipment will be of immense value to junior students, helping them learn the basics of science through practical exposure. It will encourage hands-on learning, foster curiosity, collaboration and problem-solving, and help develop essential life skills that empower students well beyond the classroom.

Founded in 2006, HELP US HELP THEM has been providing free education to marginalized children for nearly two decades. The organisation runs the Rural Mallickpur School and the School-on-Wheels programme, which brings learning opportunities directly to street children from some of the most remote and underrepresented communities. In addition, the organisation operates a free residential learning centre, "Adhigam Bhoomi," which empowers over 1,000 children by providing them with opportunities to learn, grow and transform their lives through education. This

inspiring initiative was founded by Ms. Mukta Gupta, Founder President of Help Us Help Them.

The students of Adhigam Bhoomi showed great enthusiasm on seeing the newly installed equipment and eagerly began working with it. The project was also supported by the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan and funded through a grant from EIRWT, for which we express our sincere gratitude.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to President Rtn. Rajshree Jain, IPP Rtn. Sashi Dhacholia, PP Rtn. Dr. Naresh Goyal, PP Rtn. Dr. V. K. Nevatia, PP Rtn. Harsh V. Rungta, Rtn. Mukesh Sethi, Rtn. Arundhati Chatterji, Rtn. Rajiv Tibrewal and Secretary Rtn. Namrata Bengani. We are especially grateful to Rtn. Rajiv Tibrewal, the Primary Contact for this project, for his dedicated efforts. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the members of the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, led by their President Dr. Seema Sethi, for their valuable support in

Making this project possible.

By Rtn Rajiv Tibrewal



INAUGURATION OF SCIENCE AND SKILL LAB EQUIPMENT - 14.12.2025



INAUGURATION OF SCIENCE AND SKILL LAB EQUIPMENT - 14.12.2025



INAUGURATION OF "SOLAR-ON-WHEELS" PROJECT - 14.12.2025

The much-awaited project "Solar-on-Wheels", conceived by HELP US HELP THEM, is a visionary initiative that brings mobile classrooms to street children across Kolkata, ensuring access to education regardless of location or circumstance. With quarterly examinations conducted to monitor academic progress, the project currently benefits more than 280 street children. The organisation is now focusing on ensuring the long-term sustainability of one of these buses.

In the initial phase of the programme, every time the bus halted, it had to be recharged using conventional electricity. This resulted in high recurring costs and a significant dependence on external power sources, making operations expensive and energy-intensive. With the installation of the solar power system, this dependency has been drastically reduced. The buses can now generate their own power, substantially lowering electricity expenses while making the project financially viable and environmentally sustainable.

Under Helping Grant No. 0500 from the East India Rotary Welfare Trust (EIRWT), the Rotary Club provided solar panels on school buses serving children in Rajabazar, Park Circus, Mullick Bazar, Sovabazar, Bagbazar, Belgharia and Hastings, under the Help Us Help Them initiative.

The School-on-Wheels programme is a powerful step towards addressing the educational gap faced by street children who otherwise have no means to access formal education and often grow up uneducated and unskilled. The uninterrupted solar-powered energy supply ensures proper lighting, fans and computers, enabling quality education for longer hours. The solar equipment installed

on the buses provides seamless and sustainable energy, significantly enhancing the learning environment.

Founded in 2006, HELP US HELP THEM has been providing free education to marginalized children for nearly two decades. The organisation runs the Rural Mallickpur School and the School-on-Wheels programme, which brings learning opportunities directly to street children from some of the most underrepresented communities. In addition, the organisation operates a free residential learning centre, "Adhigam Bhoomi," which empowers over 1,000 children by giving them the opportunity to learn, grow and transform their lives through education. This inspiring initiative was founded by Ms. Mukta Gupta, Founder President of Help Us Help Them.

This noble project involves the installation of a 1.80 kW renewable energy solar power plant on the rooftop of a school bus, along with ancillary equipment including a lithium-ion solar battery. The project received generous support from the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan and was funded through a grant from EIRWT, for which we express our sincere gratitude.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to President Rtn. Rajshree Jain, IPP Rtn. Sashi Dhacholia, PP Rtn. Dr. Naresh Goyal, PP Rtn. Dr. V. K. Nevatia, PP Rtn. Harsh V. Rungta, Rtn. Mukesh Sethi, Rtn. Arundhati Chatterji, Rtn. Rajiv Tibrewal and Secretary Rtn. Namrata Bengani. We are especially grateful to Rtn. Rajiv Tibrewal, the Primary Contact for this project, for his dedicated efforts. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the members of the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, led by their President Dr. Seema Sethi, for their invaluable support in making this project a success.

INAUGURATION OF "SOLAR-ON-WHEELS" PROJECT - 14.12.2025



KNOW YOUR SPEAKER- RTN DR POULOMI DUTTA



Dr. Poulomi Dutta is an interdisciplinary researcher, education consultant, and entrepreneur from Kolkata with a Ph.D. in Business Management. An environmental enthusiast with strong environmental consciousness,

her work is rooted in sustainability, livelihood, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, and the responsible use of natural resources.

Founder & Director of Trailblazers Consultants and Co-Founder of I Next HR Consultants, she has guided over 3,000 students in India and abroad toward meaningful career paths. Through her research, writings, blogs, and her YouTube channel Equal Earth, she continues to raise awareness on sustainable development, coastal ecosystems, and the blue economy, while actively supporting education and empowerment initiatives for underprivileged communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2026-2027



Rtn Runjhun Gupta
President



Rtn Rajshree Jain
IPP



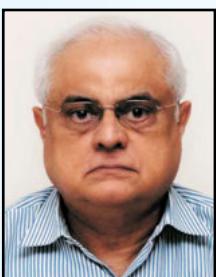
Rtn Rajiv Tibrewal
President Elect



Rtn Namrata Bengani
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Rtn Madan Mohanka
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PP Rtn Jayanta Chatterji
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PP Rtn Utpal Chatterjee
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Rtn Vivek Anand
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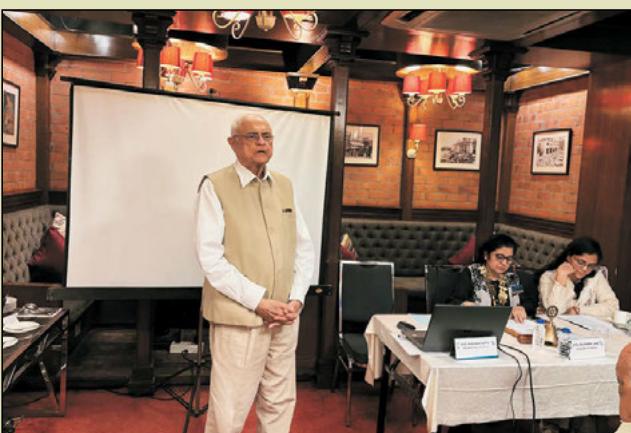
PP Rtn Raj Kumar Poddar
Director



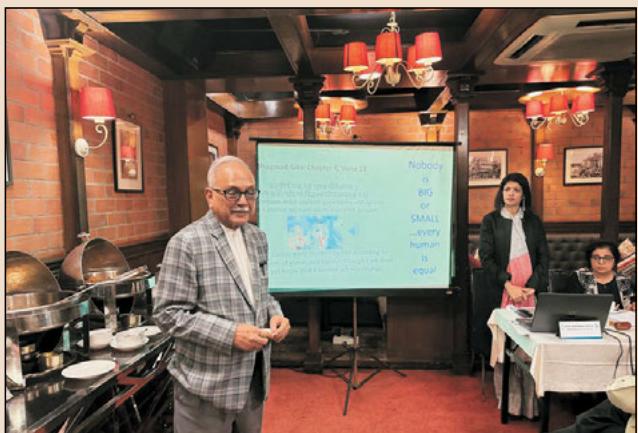
PP Rtn Sashi Dhacholia
Editor Emeritus

NOTE: ALLOCATION OF FURTHER PORTFOLIOS WILL BE DONE LATER ON

GLIMPSE OF REGULAR MEETING ON 13.12.2025



GLIMPSE OF 40TH ANNUAL MEETING ON 13.12.2025



REVIEW VISIT TO BARASAT SCHOOLS ON 15.12.2025

PP Rtn Harsh V Rungta, IPP Rtn Sashi Dhacholia, Shri Ranjit Kumar Das, Manager-CSR, Tega Industries Ltd visit 3 Schools at Joypul Nandanik Shikshyatan, Joypul,

Rotary Sarada Shishu Shiksha Niketan, Chaltaberia and at Nabapally Primary School, Nabapally to review the overall working and for new admission on these schools.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS DECLARED FOR RY-2027-2029



Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo declared on 4 December six Rotary members to be RI directors for 2027-29.

The RI Bylaws provide that if the general secretary does not receive a duly proposed challenge to the selection of a zone's nominating committee for director by 1 December, the president shall declare the selection of the nominating committee to be the director-nominee from the zone.

There were no proposals of additional candidates from the following zones. Therefore, in accordance with the RI Bylaws, President Arezzo declared the following Rotary members to be the directors-nominee from their respective zones to serve on the Board beginning on 1 July 2027:

ZONE-4

Gurjeet Singh Sekhon - Amritsar Civil Lines, India

ZONE-15

Birgitta E. Radermacher - Bergisch Gladbach, Germany

ZONE-19

Stephen Martin - North Wales and Northwest England Passport Club

ZONE-24A

Paulo Eduardo de Barros Fonseca - São Paulo, Liberdade, Brazil

ZONE-26

John Chase - Boulder City, Nevada, United States

ZONE-30

Mike Kelly - Mason-Deerfield, Ohio, United States

The general secretary received challenges to the nominating committee's selection in Zone 10A (Philippines). No candidates in Zones 6 (Bhutan, eastern India, Nepal) and 12 (southern Republic of Korea) received the required number of votes to be nominated during their respective zone's committee meeting.

An electronic ballot is being prepared for clubs in these zones to select their respective director-nominee. The ballot will be distributed by 31 December and will run until 1 February per the RI Bylaws.

15-Dec-2025

CONGRATULATIONS METROPOLITANS

WHO HAVE JOINED DISTRICT-3291 TEAM FOR RY-2026-2027
AND THEY ARE PP RTN UTPAL CHATTERJEE, PP RTN GAURANG JALAN,
PP RTN DR NARESH GOYAL, IPP RTN SASHI DHACHOLIA
AS PER AVIALABLE INFORMATION
AND RTN RUNJHUN GUPTA AS PRESIDENT ELECT



LIFE IS A LONG JOURNEY
BETWEEN HUMAN BEING
AND BEING HUMAN.
LET'S TAKE ATLEAST ONE STEP
EACH DAY TO COVER THIS
DISTANCE.

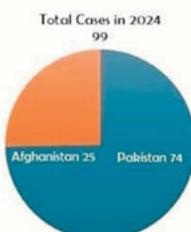


Rotary
Service Above Self

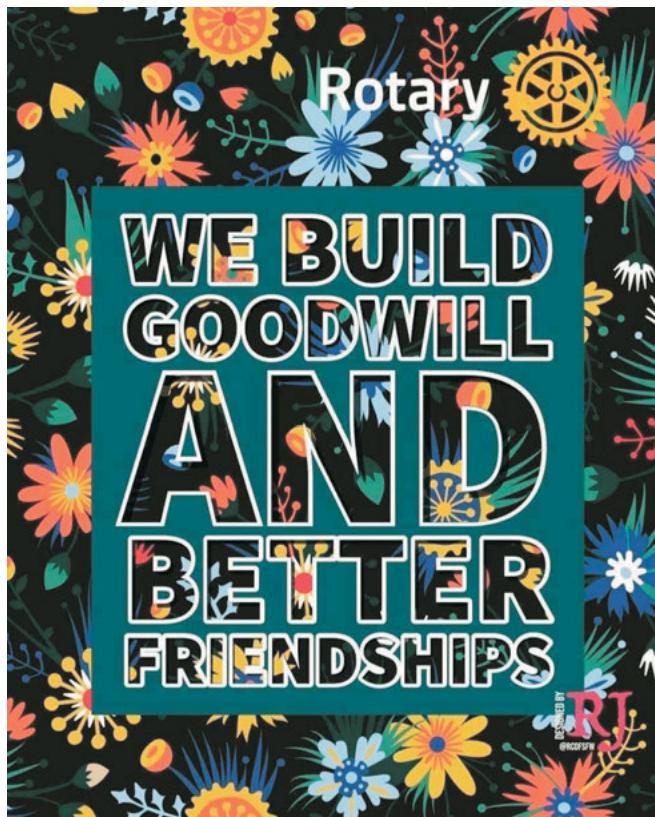
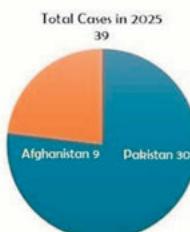


Wild Poliovirus updates as of 10 December 2025

No WPV1 case was reported this week from anywhere



Total cases in 2025: 39
Total cases in 2024: 99
Total cases in 2023: 12
Total cases in 2022: 30
Total cases in 2021: 06
Total cases in 2020: 140



Rotary WORLDWIDE MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

As of 30 November 2025

Global Rotary Totals

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Start of year (1 July 2025) | 1,124,681 |
| Current (30 Nov 2025) | 1,169,035 |
| Net Growth | +44,354 members |

Key Global Insights

- Positive membership growth for first 5 months of 2025-26
- Asia (Zones 4-7 & Asia Pacific) continues to be the largest contributor to global growth
- Africa shows strong acceleration and emerging leadership
- North America & Western Europe still facing declines, but stabilization signs visible

Top Performing Regions

- USA & Canada (Zones 26-33): combined negative growth in several districts
- Western Europe (Zones 13, 17, 18): continued membership challenges

Takeaway Message

- Rotary is growing again worldwide, reaching over 1.169 million members, driven by:
 - Strong leadership
 - Club flexibility engagement & attraction of young professionals

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A STRONGER ROTARY.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF.



| Registration Category | 26 June - 15 December 2025 | 16 December 2025 - 31 March 2026 | 1 April - 17 June 2026 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Club Member, Non-Member or Guest age (31 or over) | USD \$ 475 | USD \$ 575 | USD \$ 675 |
| Club Member, Non-Member or Guest age (30 or under) | USD \$ 175 | USD \$ 225 | USD \$ 275 |
| Guest age (5-18) | USD \$ 20 | USD \$ 30 | USD \$ 40 |
| Guest age under 5 | Free | Free | Free |
| Saturday House or Friendship | USD \$ 60 | USD \$ 60 | USD \$ 100 |

Forthcoming Events

CLUB

28.12.2025 Fight Thalassemia- Drive for a Cause, Car Rally Treasurer Hunt from Lions Safari Park at 10.00 AM, an initiative by Lions and Rotary

04.01.2026 Picnic at Bowreah Jute Mills Ltd and Regular Meeting

17.01.2026 Inauguration of Cowshed Project at Chhaya Animal Hospital & Shelter at 10.30 AM situated at Aswathberia, PO: Chandaneswar, PS: Bhangore, South 24 Parganas

26.01.2025 Joint Regular Meeting with Mahavir Seva Sadan at 11.00 AM at their venue. Guest Speaker is DGN Rtn Purnendu Roychowdhury. Breakfast will be served at 10.30 AM

31.01.2026 Vocational Excellence Award Ceremony and Regular Meeting

14.02.2026 Regular Meeting

28.02.2025 Regular Meeting

DISTRICT

9.1.2026 to 11.1.2026 Rotary District Conference- 2025-2026 at East side Pavilion, Nicco Park, Kolkata. Registration Charges upto 15.12.2025: Rs.3000/- Food not included with Registration charges

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

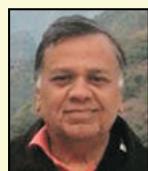
BIRTHDAY GREETINGS





30.12.2025
Rtn Namrata Bengani

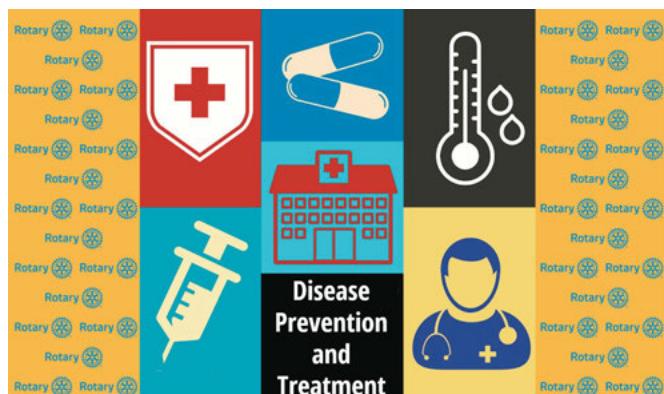
01.01.2026
Rtn Suraj Ratan Mundhra



02.01.2026
Rtn Shipra Mehta



DISTRIBUTION OF DRY RATION AT NABADIGANTA LEPROSY COLONY ON 25.12.2025



**IT DOES NOT MATTER
IF YOU ARE A ROTARIAN OR NOT,
you have benefited from Rotary!**

*Rotarians are making the world a
safer, healthier and better place to be.*

If you only knew
*what the "Rotary Foundation" has done,
you would consider it your favorite charity.*

The
Rotary
Foundation



Sponsored by : RTN NABANITA SEN

We meet every Saturday at 2.00 pm at The Calcutta Swimming Club, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001
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