

UNITE FOR GOOD

# Presidency Times

Bulletin of Rotary Club of **Calcutta Presidency**  
Rotary International District 3291



RI President- Rtn. Francesco Arezzo | DG: Rtn. Dr. Ramnendu Homchaudhuri  
President: Rtn. Rajesh Bothra | Secretary: Rtn. Rashi Sureka | Editor: Rtn. Anju Bothra

## Francesco Arezzo President 2025-26



At last month's International Assembly, President-elect Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola called on members of the Rotary world to live out our presidential message for the 2026-27 Rotary year: *Create Lasting Impact*.

This February, as we observe Peace building and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to channel Yinka's call to action into real change. Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one's family is not true peace. Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet fear often blocks that path — fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don't understand. Fear isn't defeated through avoidance or aggression. Knowledge is the first step toward peace. Rotary embraces this idea. Our Rotary Peace Centres and their peace fellows, along with other peace education initiatives, demonstrate how knowledge builds trust and helps communities find solutions to conflict.

In Colombia, decades of conflict have left deep wounds. The 2025 Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale awardee, Pathways to Peace and Prosperity, partners with the United Nations World Food Programme to expand opportunity, improve conflict resolution, and connect people with social services. Its goal is to break cycles of violence, poverty, and food insecurity so peace can take root. In Maharashtra, India, People of Action honouree Swati Herkal built peace through prosperity. Her project

confronted farmers' declining soil health, rising debt, and illness caused by chemical fertilizers. She and her Rotary partners launched a regenerative agriculture program that revitalized the land, lowered costs, and restored stability. More than 1,100 farmers now participate and over 50 villages have adopted the model.

Rotary also advances peace by restoring dignity. In Chad, Rotary Peace Fellow Domino Frank discovered that more than 1,500 women who fought in a rebellion had been erased from reintegration programs. His advocacy led to Chad's first Rotary Foundation global grant and the creation of Corridors of Peace. More than 100 women — triple the goal — completed literacy and vocational training and formed a cooperative to support their families.

From Colombia to India to Chad, the lesson is clear: Peace is not a dream. It is the result of sustained action with a focus on true, lasting impact. To replicate these successes, Rotary clubs can take three steps: Learn from peace fellows and other peace experts in our organization, apply a peace building lens to community assessments, and prioritize impact over ceremony.

In a world filled with fear, Rotary cannot be satisfied with half-measures and empty words. If we are truly people of action, then action must define us. Together, we can *Create Lasting Impact* — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves



## ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 2025 - 2026



The Annual Sports Day at Rotary Ramkrishna Academy was a vibrant celebration of enthusiasm, discipline, and teamwork—where dedication truly transformed into victory. From disciplined drill performances to thrilling track events, the Annual Sports Meet was much more than a sporting event; it was a showcase of confidence, coordination, and excellence.

The programme was graced by the **Chief Guest, PDG Raju Rajgaria**, whose presence added prestige and encouragement to the occasion. Members of the Rotary fraternity were also present in good numbers, **cheering and motivating the students** throughout the events.

The day commenced with a **solemn Oath Taking Ceremony**, led by the Head Boy and Head Girl, followed by the respective Class Monitors. A **grand and colourful inauguration** was marked by the lighting of the diya, symbolizing the true spirit of sportsmanship. This was followed by a **welcome song by the students**, setting a warm and inviting tone for the celebrations.

A **drill performance by pre-primary students** highlighted structured movements aimed at developing coordination and basic motor skills. This

was followed by a **yoga drill by primary students**, focusing on flexibility, core strength, balance, and mental focus. A **self-defence demonstration** introduced students to personal safety, situational awareness, and proactive discipline.

The excitement continued with a series of **age-appropriate races and fun-filled events**, designed to foster physical fitness, teamwork, confidence, and mental well-being across all classes—from Nursery to Classes V and VI.

Adding to the festive spirit, the field came alive as **parents, teachers, and staff** participated enthusiastically in special events such as the **Newspaper Race, Throw Game, and Hit-the-Wicket Race**, drawing loud cheers and smiles from the audience.

Thus, the **Annual Sports Day of Rotary Ramkrishna Academy, Piyali**, held on **31st January 2026** on the school's own campus ground, stood out as a **powerful celebration of determination, discipline, teamwork, and joy**, reinforcing the institution's commitment to nurturing strong character, leadership qualities, and a true champion mindset.



## Stitching Dreams with Care: A Story of Skill, Support & True Empowerment

On **31st February**, our **Sewing Project beneficiaries** appeared for their examination after completing **six months of dedicated training**. **Geetas Circle** generously provided the fabrics required for the beneficiaries' practical examination, ensuring that all students were well prepared and confident.

In a truly heart-warming moment, one student arrived with her **one-month-old baby**. Stepping in with compassion and sensitivity, **Kakoli**, our dedicated teacher, offered to look after the baby while the mother completed her exam.

### Editor's Note



Peace building begins with small yet sincere actions, and it is truly heartening to see our club members coming forward not only to initiate meaningful projects but also to participate wholeheartedly in projects and fellowship activities. This collective spirit of service, collaboration, and camaraderie strengthens the very foundation of Rotary—promoting understanding, harmony, and goodwill in the community we serve.

What stands out is the growing sense of ownership among members, where ideas translate into action and teamwork transforms intentions into impact. By working together across projects, sharing responsibilities, and celebrating fellowship, we are nurturing empathy and mutual respect—key pillars of lasting peace.

Equally important is the joy with which these activities are undertaken. Fellowship moments remind us that peace is also built through connection, laughter, and shared purpose. As we move forward, let us continue to engage, inspire one another, and remain committed to building a more peaceful and inclusive society through Rotary's ideals.

**Rtn. Anju Bothra - Club Editor**



## Youth Health Programme:

### Dental Awareness Programme for Adolescent Girls organised by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency

A highly successful and interactive **Dental Awareness Session** was conducted at **St. Teresa's School**, addressed by **Dr Kamlesh Kothari**. The session saw the enthusiastic participation of **over 400 girls from Classes VII to XI**.

The session covered key topics such as **oral hygiene practices, common dental concerns during adolescence, the importance of timely dental check-ups, braces, alignment issues, dental appearance, and prevalent myths related to dental health**. Age-specific adolescent dental development issues were explained in a clear, practical, and relatable manner.

Students participated actively through questions and discussions, particularly on topics related to braces and dental aesthetics. **Prizes and words of appreciation were given by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency** to students for insightful questions and correct responses, adding to the enthusiasm.



## World Cancer Day: Cervical Cancer Prevention & Women's Health Screening Camp

On the occasion of **World Cancer Day**, the **Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency**, in association with **Pulse Diagnostics** and **Mahila Samity**, organized a **Cervical Cancer Prevention Camp** at **Terapanthi Bhavan**.

During the camp, **cervical Pap smear tests were conducted for 150 women**, facilitating early detection of cervical cancer at precancerous or early stages and enabling timely and effective medical intervention.

In addition, **BMI and body composition analysis** was carried out using a specialized machine to assess body fat, muscle mass, and overall Body Mass Index (BMI). This initiative helped raise awareness among women about holistic health, preventive screening, and the importance of early diagnosis.

The camp was **efficiently organized and witnessed enthusiastic participation**, reflecting a strong collective commitment towards women's health and cancer prevention.

Special appreciation and thanks to **Rashmi Surana** for taking the initiative and Rtn. Dr. Rina Malpani playing a key role in the successful execution of this meaningful program.



## Thalassemia Awareness Programme:

### Empowering Youth for a Healthier Tomorrow

Thalassemia is **100% preventable**—what it truly requires is **awareness**, a cause that remains a key focus of **Rotary District 3291**. With timely knowledge and a little caution, no child need be born with thalassemia.

Our District Governor, **Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri**, an orthopaedic surgeon by profession, is deeply and passionately committed to spreading this crucial awareness. His tireless efforts and personal involvement may well mark the beginning of eradicating this painful disorder from our society.

In alignment with this vision, the **Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency** organized a **Thalassemia Awareness Programme** for senior students at **St. Agnes Secondary School** on **2nd February 2026**. The programme reached **around 250 students**, with **DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri** personally addressing the gathering, explaining the importance of prevention, and patiently answering students' questions with clarity and empathy.

An **informed youth today ensures a healthier generation tomorrow**—and Rotary remains steadfast and committed to this vital mission of prevention through education and awareness.



## 229 RWM of RCCP and FELLOWSHIP

A memorable Joint Fellowship was hosted on Valentine's Day, **14th February**, aboard the charming barge "The Bengal Paddle", which sailed into an evening filled with joy, camaraderie, and togetherness. The fellowship brought together members from **Rotary Club of Belur, Rotary Club of Mayfair, Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, and Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency.**

The 229 RWM of RCCP was formally called to order by Club President **Rtn. Rajesh Bothra**. Presidents of all participating clubs shared insights into their respective Signature Projects, highlighting impactful initiatives and fostering inter-club learning. This was followed by a warm exchange of flags among the club presidents and secretaries, symbolising friendship and Rotary fellowship.

The evening then flowed seamlessly into celebration, with live music, spirited dancing, and delicious food. Beyond the enjoyment, the fellowship provided a wonderful opportunity for members to interact informally, strengthen bonds, and get to know fellow Rotarians from other clubs, reinforcing the true spirit of Rotary fellowship and togetherness.



### AGELS - Training Seminar for Incoming Assistant Governors and Zonal Coordinators

was held on **8 February** at the iconic and historic **Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.**

From our club, **PP Pradeep Jain** (Assistant Governor – Administration), **PP Abha Lunia** (Zonal Secretary – Administration), and **PP Dr. Rina Malpani** (Assistant Governor – Service, Medical) attended the seminar. The session proved to be highly enriching, equipping them with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas that they look forward to implementing in their respective roles.



## Happy Birthday

<b>Vinod Bhandari</b>	<b>24 Feb</b>
<b>Sunila Poddar</b>	<b>29 Feb</b>

## Happy Anniversary

<b>Praveen Kothari &amp; Preksha</b>	<b>3 Feb</b>
<b>Alok Kumar Agarwal &amp; Sangita</b>	<b>4 Feb</b>
<b>Dr. Ramesh Agarwalla &amp; Mitali</b>	<b>15 Feb</b>
<b>Asha Gupta &amp; Dinesh</b>	<b>15 Feb</b>
<b>Anju &amp; Pradip Bothra</b>	<b>19 Feb</b>
<b>Rashmi Surana &amp; Abhay</b>	<b>23 Feb</b>

**Website link:** <https://rccalcuttapresidency.rotaryindia.org/NA> | **Join us on:** [f /Rotary-Calcutta-Presidency-Dist - 3291](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Calcutta-Presidency-Dist-3291)

**We have regular meetings twice a month at Cosmopolitan Club over Breakfast.**