

Rotary



Spectrum



RI District 3291

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Minervas Powered by Women

RCSLMK participates in an Exhibition



Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata (RCSLMK) supported and put up a stall among 30 with and for its NGO partners, with a banner, *“Sustainable Solutions”* at the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce and Ladies Forum organized *MINERVAS, a Lifestyle Exhibition powered by women* held at Hotel Hindustan International on September 21, 2023 from 11.00 hours onward.



Nicely decorated the *“Sustainable Solutions”* stall put up by RCSLMK, displayed, among others, the unadulterated ghee, honey and straw baskets from Sundarbans brought by Ms Nupur of Young Indians, Kolkata; hand-painted envelopes and book marks created and brought by talented artist Ms Dipshikha Guha; intricate colorful personal collection of jewelry and self-made designer fabrics and garments brought by Rtn Meenal Chaudhary; variety of attractive handicrafts made by women of East Kolkata Wetland

brought by Rtn Amrita Chatterjee and tribal wares and handicrafts from Manab Seba Ashram, Adibasi Para, Haringhata, Nadia brought by their president Bidhan Sarkar. The *“Sustainable Solutions”* stall put up by RCSLMK attracted many visitors, that included among many others, Ms. Agnimitra Paul, a fashion designer turned politician who serves as the Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, West Bengal and Ms. Alokanda Roy, a celebrated Indian classical dancer, choreographer, trainer, dance educationist and therapist, and a social reformer.



The *“Sustainable Solutions”* of RCSLMK was manned by club president Kusum Chamaria, Past President Dr Aruna Tantia, Rtn Meenal Chaudhary, Ms Dipshikha Guha, Ms. Nupur and Rtn Amrita Chatterjee.

Kishan Kejriwal, Rajendra Khandelwal, Dilip Jaiswal from Calcutta Chamber of Commerce and Shamlu Dudheja, Usha Uthup, Agnimitra Paul, Alokanda Roy, Manjula Jain and Swati jointly inaugurated the exhibition by lighting lamp of togetherness. Ms Usha Uthup did Ganesh Bandana.



There were 29 other stalls with displays vary from Clothes, Silver, candles, Sarees, Lifestyle products, Vastu compliant products with free consulting, Aroma, organic food and such other life-style products.

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

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Rotary History and Anecdotes

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – *across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

Rotary International is a global service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to *provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.*

Rotary started with the vision of one man - **Paul Harris**. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905,

Over last 118 years, Rotary, like other surviving institutions, has changed itself to remain inclusive and contemporary *without compromising its dynamism and relevance.*

In this section, the editorial team of Spectrum would like to touch upon and share certain pertinent anecdotes from the rich history of Rotary. We appreciate and welcome considered opinion and views of our valued readers.

Rotary and Polio, the largest global public health initiative in the history

Polio and its eradication initiative led by Rotary

The eradication of polio is one of Rotary's longest standing and most significant efforts. Along with its partners, Rotary helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries and thereby polio cases got reduced by 99.9 percent worldwide and Rotary won't stop until the disease ends for good.

The biologic principles for the global eradication of poliomyelitis are as follows: Poliovirus causes acute, non-persistent infections, virus is transmitted by infectious humans or their waste, survival of virus in the environment is finite, humans are the only reservoir, and immunization with polio vaccine interrupts.

“The strategy for the eradication of polio rests on immunizing every at-risk child until there is no one left for the disease to transmit to, and the disease eventually dies out.”

Let us now take a look at the history and major milestones towards polio eradication.

An Egyptian stela of 1580-1350 BC portrays a priest with withered leg, suggests that Polio exists for thousands of years, In the year 1759, British physician Dr. Michael Underwood made first clinical description of polio as, *“Disabilities of the lower extremities.”* In 1840, Dr. Jacob von Heine, through systematic investigation developed the theory that the disease might be contagious.

In 1894, the first major documented polio outbreak in the USA occurred in Vermont; where 18 deaths and 132 cases of permanent paralysis were reported. Between 1905 and 1907 Swedish Pediatrician Ivar Wickman suggests that polio is a contagious disease that can spread from person to person, and also recognizes different clinical types of polio. In the year 1908, 2 physicians in Vienna, Karl Landsteiner and Erwin Popper, discover that polio is caused by a virus.

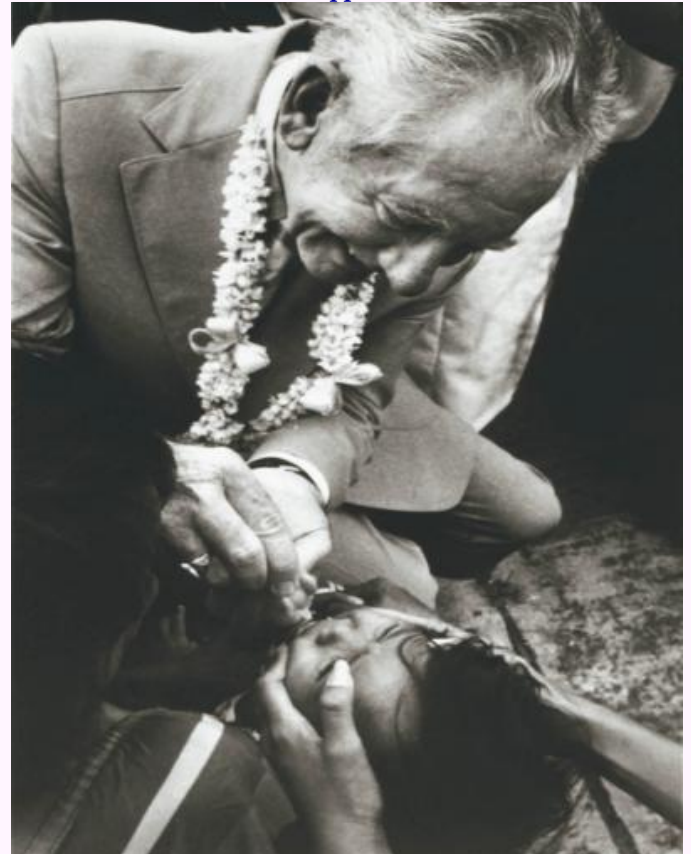
“Throughout the 19th century known as “Infantile Paralysis” but in 1908 Austrian physicians Karl Landsteiner and Erwin Popper announced that the disease was viral and it was named poliovirus.”

In 1916, a major polio outbreak in New York City kills more than 2000 people. Across the USA, polio takes the lives of about 6000 people, and paralyzes thousands more.

Philip Drinker and Harvard University's Louis Agassiz Shaw Jr. invent, in 1929, an artificial respirator for patients suffering from paralytic polio - the iron lung.

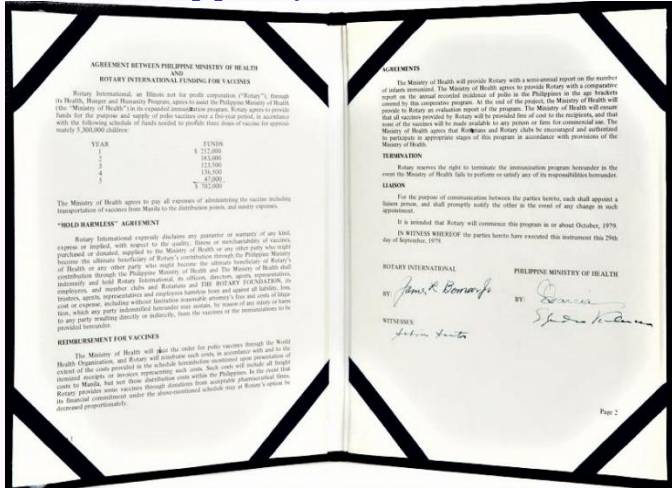
In 1955, a vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk is declared “safe and effective.” Five years later, in 1960 the US government licenses the oral polio vaccine developed by Dr. Albert Sabin.

It may be pertinent to add that the Pasteur Institute of India, developed and produced, for the first time in India, indigenous trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) in 1970. In the year 1979, Rotary International begins its fight against polio with a multi-year project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines.



James L Bomar Jr RI president, 1979-80, on September 29, 1979, put the first drops of vaccine into a child's mouth, he ceremonially launched the Philippine poliomyelitis immunization effort - Rotary's first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant project.

The project's success led Rotary to make polio eradication a top priority.



The 1979 agreement between Rotary International and the Philippine Ministry of Health for a joint multi-year effort to immunize children against polio.



Representatives from Rotary International and the government of the Philippines sign the agreement that starts Rotary International's first polio project.

In the year 1985 Rotary International launches PolioPlus, the first and largest globally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative, with an initial fundraising target of US\$120 million.

Finally, in the year 1988, World Health Organization joins hands with Rotary International, the founding member, jointly launch the *Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)*. There are an estimated 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries.

Finally, the initiative is spearheaded by the following organizations in the form of multi-stakeholder governance with their roles stated herein:

- **WHO (World Health Organization)**, who are responsible for planning, technical direction, surveillance and eradication certification
- **Rotary International**, whose responsibilities include fundraising, advocacy, and volunteer recruitment
- **The CDC**, who are in charge of deploying scientists and public health experts to WHO and UNICEF
- **UNICEF** is in charge of the distribution of the vaccine and helping countries develop communication and awareness strategies.
- **The Gates Foundation** provided a large portion of the funding.

Key tactics used by the GPEI include strengthening childhood immunization through oral vaccines, conducting surveillance through investigation of acute flaccid paralysis cases among children under 15 years old (in order to

determine areas where the virus is truly eradicated), and conducting "mop up" campaigns in areas where cases of polio have been identified.

The International Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication announces in 1994 that polio has been eliminated from the Americas.

It was recorded in the year 1995 that health workers and volunteers immunize 165 million children in China and India in 1 week. Rotary launches the PolioPlus Partners program, enabling Rotary members in polio-free countries to provide support to fellow members in polio-affected countries for polio eradication activities.

A record 550 million children – almost 10% of the world's population – receive the oral polio vaccine in the year 2000. In the same year, the Western Pacific region, spanning from Australia to China, is declared polio-free.

During the year 2003, the Rotary Foundation raises \$119 million in a 12-month campaign. Rotary's total contribution to polio eradication exceeds \$500 million. Six countries remain polio-endemic – Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan.

From the year 2004 onward, in Africa, synchronized National Immunization Days in 23 countries target 80 million children, the largest coordinated polio immunization effort on the continent.

By the year 2006, the number of polio-endemic countries drops to 4 - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan.

By year 2009, Rotary's overall contribution to the eradication effort nears \$800 million. In January, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledges \$355 million and issues Rotary a challenge grant of \$200 million. This announcement will result in a combined \$555 million in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

In the year 2011, Rotary welcomes celebrities and other major public figures into a new public awareness campaign and ambassador program called "This Close" to ending polio. By the end of the year Rotary's funding for polio eradication exceeds \$1 billion.

In the year 2012, world saw India surpasses 1 year without a recorded case of polio and is removed from the list of countries where polio is endemic. Polio remains endemic in just 3 countries. Rotary surpasses its \$200 Million Challenge fundraising goal more than 5 months earlier than expected.

India rolled out the Pulse Polio Immunization Program on 2 October 1995 with a campaign, "Do Boond Zindagi ki". Within two decades, India received 'Polio-free certification' from World Health Organization on 27 March 2014.

By the year 1994, India goes 3 full years without a new case caused by the wild poliovirus, and the World Health Organization certifies the South-East Asia region polio-free. Polio cases are down over 99% since 1988.

By the year 2019, Nigeria goes 3 full years without a new case caused by the wild poliovirus.

The World Health Organization certifies the African region wild polio-free in the year 2020.

There has also been success in eradicating certain strains of the virus; of the three types of wild polioviruses (WPVs), the last case of type 2 was reported in 1999 and

its eradication was declared in September 2015; the most recent case of type 3 dates to November 2012 and this strain was declared as globally eradicated in October 2019.

Reported Global Wild Poliovirus Cases in last few years

Year	Afghanistan	Pakistan
2020	56	84
2021	4	1
2022	2	20
2023 till today	5	2

World Polio Day: One Day, One Focus, Ending Polio

World Polio Day was established on October 24, 1985 by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who was the lead medical researcher of the team that developed a vaccine against polio.

Every year on 24 October, world observes World Polio Day to raise awareness of the importance of polio vaccination to protect every child from this devastating disease, and to celebrate the many parents, professionals and volunteers whose contributions make polio eradication achievable.

World Polio Day 2023 celebration will be based on the theme: *“A healthier future for mothers and children”*

Communities, Rotarians, civil society, governments and partners around the world organize events to mark the occasion and draw attention to the opportunity to rid the world of an infectious disease once and for all, including at a special event at WHO’s European Regional Office with keynote speakers from partners and the Global Certification Commission for Polio Eradication.

Upcoming Anemia screening and treatment camps under Global Grant 1991152 titled “Matri Raksha”

The 30th camp shall be on Sunday September 24, 2023 at Uttarpara in association with Rotary Serampore

The 31st camp shall be on Sunday October 1, 2023 at Patharghata, Newtown

The 32nd camp shall be on Sunday October 15, 2023 at Kulpi, in association with Rotary Kolkata Galaxy

The 33rd camp shall be tentatively on Sunday October 22, 2023 at Patharpratima, in association with Rotary Kolkata Galaxy



We are a network of Rotarians throughout the world who have a special interest in acting upon the mission and goals of Rotary International related to

- Alleviate illiteracy;
- Enhancing literacy teaching and learning globally, and
- Helping to provide materials and equipment for literacy education at different levels.

Like all Action Groups, it is an autonomous association of likeminded Rotarians, partners of Rotarians, and Rotaractors working in partnership with Clubs and Districts on literacy projects of mutual concern.

BelRAG’s Mission and Goals

- Increasing general awareness of the severity of illiteracy throughout the world; its effect on the quality of the lives of individuals, families, communities and nations from generation to generation.
- Increasing awareness among Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts of ways they can implement basic education and literacy projects that strengthen the capacity of communities to provide education and literacy to all.
- Assisting Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary Districts to increase the scale and effectiveness of their participation in the alleviation of illiteracy and its consequences - supporting the pursuit of the Object of Rotary by providing programs for both children and adults and reducing gender disparity in education.
- Actively collaborate with Rotarians to establish partnerships for projects involving the other areas of focus.

What Strategies will LitRAG use to achieve its Goals?

The following strategies are among those that will be used to achieve BelRAG’s goals.

- Publicize the extent and consequences of illiteracy in terms of human experience and welfare using a website, newsletters, pamphlets, diverse other publications, displays, and conferences;
- Attract and involve Rotarians, their partners and Rotaractors as BelRAG members;
- Develop support systems for Rotary literacy activities, including the nomination of project advisers, and Develop productive relationships with appropriate non-Rotary organizations and agencies, e.g. International Reading Association

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

TAILPIECE

The word “BelRAG” stands for “Basic Education & Literacy Rotarian Action Group”

Over 776 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That’s 17 percent of the world’s adult population.