

Spectrum



RI District 3291

Dec 15, 2025 Semimonthly bulletin of Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 19 🗆 NO 11

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Club No 78956 Chartered On April 30, 2008

Website □ https://rcslmk.rotaryindia.org

CLUB NEWS IN PRINT MEDIA I

RCSLMK's Dr. Aruna shares news report on Women's health & cervical cancer awareness program held in Baruipur on 30 November, 2025

A major women's health and cervical cancer awareness camp was held in Baruipur on Sunday, November 30, 2025, jointly organized by the Bengal Obstetric and Gynecological Society (BOGS), Child in Need Institute (CINI), and the Rotary Club, with support from NISHTHA. The initiative aimed to strengthen awareness on cervical cancer, promote HPV vaccination, and address the alarming rise of anemia among adolescent girls, says a press release.



The camp was attended by senior BOGS representatives — Dr. M. M. Samsuzzoha, President; Dr. Tulika Jha, Honorary Secretary; Dr. Shaktirupa Chakraborty, Dr. Shabana Rose Chowdhury, Dr. Sushmita Mitra and Dr. Sharmishtha Ganguly. Malashree Sahu, Senior Manager, NISHTHA, was also present.



CINI's field team comprising of Shrabani Das, Sanchari Chakraborty, Ravi Samanta, Sayani Adhikari and Sarika Parvin, coordinated the program, which included overall health check-ups, bone density tests, anemia screening, cervical cancer awareness sessions, and hands-on CPR training. For many adolescent girls, this was their first direct exposure to information on cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine.



More than 100 women and adolescent girls underwent hemoglobin and bone-density tests. Alarmingly, 94% of girls aged 14–22 were found anemic, with the average hemoglobin level recorded at a low 10.6 g/dl. Iron and calcium tablets and sanitary napkins were distributed after the screening.

BOGS doctors highlighted the need of HPV vaccination in a high anemia prevalent community and announced that interested girls below 15 years will receive free HPV vaccines in the next phase.

CINI's National Advocacy Officer, Sujoy Roy, expressed concern over the anemia figures. He said, "The fact that 94% of girls aged 14–22 are anemic is alarming. Chronic anemia increases HPV viral load, slows viral clearance and raises the risk of progression to cervical pre-cancer. Early HPV vaccination is therefore critical."

The day-long camp also featured CPR demonstrations and health quizzes, which drew enthusiastic participation. Winners received small prizes. Serum Pathology supported the event by distributing nutritious food among adolescent participants.

Many girls shared that they initially feared hemoglobin testing, assuming it involved needles, but their hesitation eased after experiencing the painless, non-invasive test. Their excitement after learning CPR and winning quiz prizes reflected the program's impact. Organizers believe many will soon come forward to receive the HPV vaccine.

The news was covered in local print media.

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM Printed by Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editors: PP Siddartha Tantia & Priyanka Agarwal

CLUB NEWS IN PRINT MEDIA II

Rotary Club health camp in Salt Lake spots possible breast lumps, encourages early detection

Over 200 women screened for anemia PCOD and breast and cervical cancer with iron calcium and deworming tablets distributed for prevention and awareness

Source: Dec 5, 2025 issue of the Telegraph, Calcutta. Contributor: Bharati Kanjilal



A health checkup camp in New Town's CC Block. File picture

Two women who came for checkups at a breast cancer screening camp in DA Block recently were detected with possible lumps.

This was at a mega health camp held for women aged between 16 and 55. Organized by Rotary Club Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata, in association with ward 39, Matri Raksha offered free screening and awareness sessions on gynecological issues, anemia, breast and cervical cancer, as well as general checkups. "Out of the 50 women screened and counselled, we found a 21-year-old with a 5 cm tumor. It needs to be confirmed by further testing, but can be easily operated upon as the size is small," said Pragati Singhal, consultant in breast oncology, who had come for the camp. "If the lady neglects the tumor, it will aggravate. But when I told her the same, she was more worried about how to break the news at home and how they would afford the surgery."

The camp drew more than 200 women from across the ward, including the added area of Duttabad. Another lady in her mid-40s was detected with a vague lump too. "We asked everyone to do self-examination of breast and suggested mammograms for those above the age of 40," said Singhal.

Gynecologist Dr. Aruna Tantia, who is also founder-chairperson of the club, shared that according to their survey across 65 camps in the state covering 5,400 women, they have found 66-70 per cent of them anemic. "Because of excessive menstrual bleeding, many women suffer from anemia without even being aware of it. This is true across urban and rural areas. It leads to weaker mothers and stunted children — a cycle that can be broken by awareness, diet, and early detection," she said.

At this particular camp, they found many women with Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD), and irregular and painful periods. "But compared to other camps, anemia cases weren't as severe. Many had high blood pressure and sugar, which they were not aware of. "We have distributed free iron tablets for two months to women with low hemoglobin, and calcium to those with severe body pain. Deworming tablets were given too, as worms are another cause of anemia," said Tantia.

DB Block homemaker Mousumi Saha had come with her daughter Anisha, who is a Class X student at Salt Lake School. "We wanted to come today as the camp is especially for women's health. I appreciate how they are sensitizing the community, sharing precautions and ensuring timely intervention," she said.

Councilor Rajesh Chirimar recalled that such a camp was held earlier at the same venue about two years ago. "Back then, 144 women out of 150 were diagnosed with severe anemia. The team intervened and followed up on their condition periodically," he said. "Today's camp is being managed primarily by women, with just a few men providing support."

CLUB EVENT I Health Camp for Tribal Children

RCSLMK organized on Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 10.00 AM, a health camp for tribal children at Adhigam Bhoomi School for Tribal children, Amgachia, near Joka.



The school is a free secondary residential learning center for girls, accommodating 1000 of them, aged 6 to 16 years.



Total 200 children were examined by RCSLMK president Dr. Saktirupa Chakraborty, club member Dr. Rajesh Goel and Dr Sancheti. A very dedicated dentist, a physician and two sisters assisted the medical team.



The atmosphere was elegant. Cleanliness and ambience was heavenly. Students get opportunity to learn diverse performing arts, among others, music, dance, flute, percussion instruments, paintings. A huge playground enriches the campus.



Warm hospitality was remarkable. We were served with snacks tea, fruits, and a very healthy veg lunch. We were gifted with books of their own publications.



CLUB EVENT II

"Matri Raksha": The 80th Fighting Anemia Camp of RCSLMK held on December 7, 2025 at Konnagar



The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata successfully conducted the 80th Matri Raksha Camp in association with Rotary Club of Serampore on 07.12.2025 at Kanaipur High School, Naity Road, Kanaipur, Konnagar, West Bengal 712234.



A total of 136 women were screened for hemoglobin levels, sugar and BP by our trained technical team under Matri Raksha camp. All women were thoroughly examined and counselled by gynecologists PP Dr. Chitra Roy and Dr. Debasmita Mukhopadhyay. Based on clinical assessment, women received free iron supplements, calcium and deworming tablets for 1–3 months.



- •According to per data analysis, 46 (34%) women had hemoglobin levels below 12 gm/dl. with 13 (9.56%) categorized as having severe anemia (≤ 10gm/dl).
- •Further, as per data compiled, 13 women (9.56%) were diagnosed with diabetes (DM) and 17 women (12.5%) found hypertensive (HTN), were referred to physicians for further management.



The Matri Raksha team comprised of PP Dr. Chitra Ray, Dr. Debasmita Mukhopadhyay, Sharmila, Kanchan, and Aloke.

At the same camp, an awareness session on menstrual hygiene, abnormal uterine bleeding, breast and cervical cancer were conducted.

Further, cervical and breast cancer screening were carried out by Cittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI), ensuring a comprehensive women's health initiative under the health camp project.



Over above medicinal supports and clinical advises, each beneficiary received a booklet that carry general health, hygiene and nutrition references.

CLUB EVENT III

"Matri Raksha": The 81st Fighting Anemia Camp of RCSLMK held on December 14, 2025 at Dattapukur



The 81st Health Camp was conducted very successfully at Kashimpur, Dattapukur, Barasat, at the Bagan Bari of Dr. Ajit Mujumder, addressing women's health issues, general medicine, and eye care on 14th December, 2025. This joint initiative by Rotary and Indian Medical Association North West (IMA NW) beautifully demonstrated the strength of a symbiotic relationship.



A total of 191 consultations were provided during this camp; 61 women screened their hemoglobin, sugar, BP and received gynecological consultations. All women received free iron supplements, calcium and deworming tablets for 1–3 months as per clinical assessment.

60 men and women were examined by physicians Dr. Surendra Daga and Dr. Manitosh Ray and 70 patients underwent eye screening for cataracts. Around 45 patients were diagnosed with cataracts and will undergo surgery at Renuka Eye Hospital, sponsored by Ann Mita Mujumder, while the remaining patients will be provided with power spectacles.

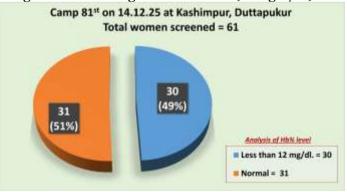


The team was warmly hosted with home-cooked food by Mrs Mita Majumder and as a thoughtful parting gesture, everyone received a hamper of vegetable from Dr. Ajit Majumder.

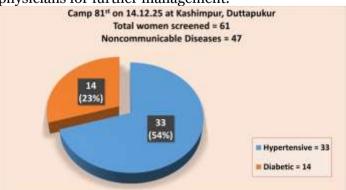
D1. Ajt Majunder.

Data analysis revealed:

•As per data analysis the camp, 30 (49%) women had hemoglobin levels below 12 gm/dl. with 10 (16.4%) categorized as having severe anemia (≤ 10gm/dl).



•As per data analysis the camp, 14 patients (23%) were diagnosed with diabetes (DM) and 33 patients (54%) were found hypertensive (HTN) and referred to physicians for further management.



CLUB NEWS I

RCSLMK members inspire Indian Medical Association (IMA) officials to participate in Club's Matri Raksha program

Dr. Om and PP Dr. Aruna Tantia attended the multispecialty CME of IMA North West (NW) on Emergency management of a young women with acute pain in abdomen.

CME of IMA refers to *Continuing Medical Education programs organized by the Indian Medical Association*, which are educational events for doctors to update knowledge, earn credits, and network, with recent examples. These sessions cover various medical topics and are crucial for maintaining professional skill.

PP Dr. Aruna adds further that she met Dr. Surendra Daga, Editor IMA and Dr. Abha at the CME of IMA. Both of them expressed their desires to participate in an upcoming Matri Raksha Camp.

Dr. Surendra Daga got himself actively involved in the 81st Matri Raksha Camp held on December 14, 2025.

Birthdays of members in December & January

IPP Sunil Singhi on December 4, 2025
PP Siddharth Tantia on December 12, 2025
Prez Dr. Saktirupa Chakraborty on Dec 16, 2025
Dr. Ajit Kumar Majumder on Jan 2, 2026
PP Uma Shankar Agarwal on Jan 9, 2026
VP Indrakumar Bagri on Jan 10, 2026
Ashok Kumar Surana on Jan 10, 2026
PP Dr. Aruna Tantia on Jan 19, 2026
Shruti Toshniwal on Jan 26, 2026
Nitesh Toshniwal on Jan 31, 2026

Anniversaries of members in December & January

Shalini & Rohit Bagrecha on Dec 5, 2025 Rajul & IPP Sunil Singhi on Dec 9, 2025 Punam & Rajesh Chirimar on Dec 10, 2025 Dr. Deepayan Dey & Amrita Chatterjee on Jan 16 Sushila & Ashok Kumar Surana on Jan 19, 2026 Rahul & Meenal Chaudhary on January 29, 2026

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

January is Vocational Service Month

15 December: Last day for early registration discount for the Rotary International Convention

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM
Printed by Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata •
Editors: PP Siddartha Tantia & Priyanka Agarwal
For private circulation only •Web site: https//rcslmk.rotaryindia.org • Email ID - rotary.slmk8@gmail.com

RI ANNOUNCEMENT I

Rotary member Michael McGovern selected chair of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's oversight board

Michael K. McGovern, a member of the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA, has been selected to chair the Polio Oversight Board, the governance body that provides strategic direction and unified leadership for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

McGovern's appointment is a significant milestone for Rotary International, which cofounded the GPEI in 1988 and has contributed more than US\$2.9 billion — along with countless volunteer hours — toward ending polio worldwide. In his new role, McGovern will help coordinate the work of the GPEI's partner organizations and steer efforts to safely and sustainably reach the goal of a polio-free world. He will also continue to chair Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee; a role he has occupied since 2014.

"Serving as chair of the Polio Oversight Board is an honor and a responsibility," says McGovern. "We stand closer than ever to achieving a world free of polio. Together with our partners and the millions of volunteers who make this work possible, we will finish the job."

The transition comes at a critical moment in the polio eradication endgame. While global polio cases have dropped by more than 99.9%, challenges remain in areas with limited health infrastructure, persistent conflict, or complex access issues. McGovern will play a vital role in aligning strategy, ensuring accountability, and guiding resource allocation for the GPEI's partners. These include Rotary International, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Gates Foundation, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and many national governments.

McGovern has been a Rotary member since 1986. He has served as director and vice president of Rotary International and trustee and vice chair of The Rotary Foundation. He will begin his two-year term as Polio Oversight Board chair on 1 January 2026.

8-Dec-2025

RI ANNOUNCEMENT II

Rotary Foundation establishes fund to aid Sri Lanka

The Rotary Foundation Trustees established a new Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund in December 2025 to support immediate relief efforts for people affected by the devastating cyclone in Sri Lanka. Donors can give directly to relief efforts led by Rotary members.

Contributions will be accepted until 31 March 2026. District 3220 can apply for grants from the funds until

3 December 2026 or until the funds have all been allocated. Any contributions that haven't been spent by then will be transferred to the Disaster Response Fund, to be made available for disasters worldwide.

How to contribute?

You can give online, by check, or by transferring District Designated Funds:

- To contribute online, visit https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund
- To give by check, make it payable to The Rotary Foundation or to an associate foundation and include a completed contribution form. In the DESIGNATION/PURPOSE section, choose Other and write the fund name (Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund).
- To allocate District Designated Funds, district leaders can use the DDF contribution form.

How to raise money to support these fund? Anyone can start a fundraiser for the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund on Raise for Rotary. Remember that:

- Raise for Rotary currently accepts 12 currencies and is available only in English.
- Donations made through fundraisers for the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund on Raise for Rotary will be credited and recognized as described below.
- Any fundraisers on a third-party platform such as Facebook or GoFundMe won't offer these specific fund options and aren't eligible for Foundation credit and recognition.

How contributions are credited and recognized? Gifts to the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund:

- Count toward a donor's total cumulative giving
- Factor into Paul Harris Fellow, Paul Harris Society, Major Donor, and Arch Klumph Society recognition
- Help the donor's club achieve the 100% Foundation Giving Club banner
- Are not credited toward a club's Annual Fund giving, toward per capita or SHARE calculations, or toward generating DDF

<u>Learn more</u> about how gifts to the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund are credited and recognized.

How to apply for disaster response grants?

Disaster response grants from the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund are available to District 3220 to support communities affected by the storm. The district governor and district Rotary Foundation chair of this district need to complete the disaster response grant application, which is available on the Grant Center. The maximum grant amount is \$50,000, based on the availability of funds, and the district may have two open grants at a time.

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ROTARY STORY OF THE FORTNIGHT Journey of self-empowerment leads to Rotary

By Jonathan Black

If this were a movie it would be a Hollywood salute to grit and gratitude, an inspirational biopic in which a determined woman survives life in a homeless shelter and repays the service organization that rescued her. Here is Janelle Hall, mid-2008, in her worn pink shelter robe, jobless after a turn mopping floors at a laundromat, a refugee from an in-law's tiny apartment with her then-husband and four young children.

"Hours from the street" is how Hall describes the day she and her family got admitted to the shelter in Clifton, New Jersey. This was shortly after a Rotary district governor had called on Rotarians to set up a program to help families like hers battered by the Great Recession, and one volunteer, Bonnie Sirower, who was a board member at a nearby YMCA, was told about Hall.

"She was looking for a hand up, not a handout," says Sirower, who was part of a team of Rotary members from District 7490 that spent weeks with Hall and others in need as part of the district program. They provided Christmas presents for her children, a wardrobe for job interviews, a bus-pass to get her to those interviews, and then leads to a service organization that offered not only a job but child care for Hall's kids, free. "It was like divine intervention," says Hall.

The daughter of immigrant parents from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, Hall had flunked out of college, overwhelmed with challenges — small children, an emotionally abusive husband, and "bad decisions." So, with this chance for a second chance, the Rotary team helped locate a possible college and paid for her application fee.

"There weren't any computers at the shelter, forget a laptop," remembers Hall. "I wrote my essay with a pencil on purple copy paper. My acceptance letter was mailed to the homeless shelter and I still have it today."

Three years later she graduated from William Paterson University. Soon after getting a job, a coworker said, "C'mon, Janelle, why don't we get ourselves a master's degree!"

In Hall's biopic the pages begin flying off the calendar: a master's degree in public administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2013; a doctorate in public policy and administration in 2020 from Walden University, where another coworker urged they both enroll for a PhD. "Guess who got her degree first?" Hall says with a grin.

Hall is now an adjunct faculty member at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. She has been honored by local and state officials for her contributions to her community. She has written a motivational book titled The Daughter of Destiny, which maps her history and offers "8 steps [that] can lead you to personal empowerment."



From homelessness to family turmoil, Janelle Hall faced many challenges. Now she's focused on helping others. Image credit: Roshni Khatri

In her own climactic, destined moment of self-empowerment, Hall became the executive director of the United Passaic Organization, a broad-based service group for the city that helps families in need — and the very organization that once helped pay her rent years ago when she was struggling. Her story, not surprisingly, has compelled attention, especially among Rotary members. Early in 2024, for example, there she was addressing 300 people at a Rotary presidents-elect learning seminar in Whippany, New Jersey.

Janelle Hall

- PhD in public policy and administration, Walden University, 2020
- Adjunct faculty, Seton Hall University, 2023present
- CEO, United Passaic Organization, 2021-present

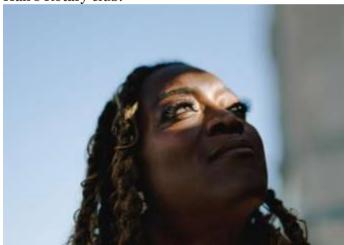
"Let me introduce myself," she told the audience, whereupon she removed the pink bathrobe she'd pulled on earlier, the very robe she had worn in the homeless shelter, to reveal a striking blue dress and her proud empowerment. "I am a homeowner and college professor. I sit on the Board of Governors at Fairleigh Dickinson. I have my own business called Beyond Inspired. I am the CEO of the very organization that I once received services from."

With each accomplishment the room erupted in cheers, almost drowning out her conclusion: "And all the accomplishments I shared with you are thanks to the magic of Rotary."

"It took her almost an hour to leave the ballroom after her speech," Sirower reports. "Everybody kept wanting to talk to her. And she made a promise to me at that time that she would start her own Passaic Rotary club to replace the one our district had lost during COVID."

Within months, Hall had recruited 25 members and soon after, in February 2025, the Rotary Club of Passaic was officially chartered with Hall now serving as its president.

The club has already hosted its first retreat and is planning an international service trip to the Dominican Republic, which won't be Hall's first trip out of the country. In 2024 she was part of an organized trip to Ghana that she describes as a "quest for spiritual growth" and part of efforts "to reunite ... Africans and the global diaspora." The most meaningful part for her turned out to be a visit to an orphanage where Hall distributed 250 schoolbooks donated by a childhood friend and school principal, Tiffany Crockett, who is also a charter member of Hall's Rotary club.



Janelle Hall helped charter the Rotary Club of Passaic in February and serves as its president. Image credit: Roshni Khatri

"You surround yourself with change agents. You want to challenge one another," Crockett says in describing her longtime relationship with Hall.

Hall's own journey has had no shortage of challenges. She says her husband did not physically abuse her but chipped away at her sense of self in other ways: verbal abuse, denial of control, restriction of access to friends, and a growing isolation. At age 21, "young [and] inexperienced," Hall married a man nearly twice her age. "My family essentially disowned me because of the choice I made," she writes in The Daughter of Destiny. She nevertheless kept her father company in the months before his death from leukemia in 2019 and helped her siblings take care of their mother, who had Alzheimer's, until she died in 2021.

There is much to be thankful for. Her children are grown; three of them are currently in college. Hall

herself has "taken back ownership of my name." "My divorce is final!" she writes in her book. "When the judge banged his gavel, he gave me full custody of my destiny."

"Your journey in life is how you use your success to help others," Hall says. "Things may seem dim or dark for a reason. It's up to you to be a beacon so others can understand that darkness is just temporary." Roll credits. Close curtain.

This story originally appeared in the December 2025 issue of *Rotary* magazine.

