

# Spectrum

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**Bulletin of Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata** 

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### RI President Stephanie A Urchick – September's Message



With World Polio Day on 24 October, I'm proudly rooting for Rotary as we team up around the world to End Polio Now.

I had the honor of attending a Strike Out Polio event in July at PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates MLB team. The Rotary Club of Delmont-Salem hosted the event, which raised \$1.3 million for PolioPlus.

Later in the summer, I joined members of our Rotary family in supporting the Más Millas Menos Polio (More Miles Less Polio) bike ride. Felipe Meza Chávez and his team rode all the way from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, to One Rotary Center in Evanston, Illinois, to raise money and awareness. The ride took 12 days, and Felipe and his team collected more than \$100,000 to support the fight against polio. It was a joy to greet them as they arrived in Evanston.

And I was thrilled to see Team End Polio raise global awareness around the 2024 Paris Olympics. This world-class roster of athletes, global leaders, and polio eradication supporters came together to advocate for a world where no child has to live in fear of being paralyzed by polio. Some of the athletes on Team End Polio are polio survivors themselves, adding weight to their advocacy.

These are just a few examples of the many ways Rotary has teamed up recently to End Polio Now. It is vital that we continue to seek out and recruit teammates in polio eradication, especially after the challenges our eradication efforts have faced this year.

The Rotary world was heartbroken to learn about the tragic passing in August of Aidan O'Leary, director for polio eradication at the World Health Organization.

I knew Aidan and worked with him directly. He was a tireless advocate in the fight against polio and a kind, genuine man. We will remember him both for his advocacy and his warmth.

But where there is hardship, there is also hope. I feel hopeful whenever I consider the countless ways Rotary supports the fight every day to eradicate polio.

As people of action, we don't have the luxury of giving in to despair, even in the face of tragedy. The best way to honor Aidan's memory is by teaming up and reaching our goal to End Polio Now.

We made a promise to the children of the world and their families. It is incumbent upon us, together with our global partners, to end this threat once and for all.

There are so many ways we can team up to eradicate polio. You can donate to the End Polio Now campaign, join or initiate a PolioPlus Society in your club or district, or take inspiration from the fundraisers I mentioned above.

I encourage Rotary members around the world to continue to seek out new teammates, so that together, we end polio.

### Rotary Club Awareness Stall at IB Block Park on 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

From 9th to 11th October 2024, our club organized an impactful awareness program at IB Block Park, Saltlake, where we set up a dedicated stall to showcase Rotary's various services. Over the course of three days, members gathered to share the initiatives, achievements, and projects our club has passionately undertaken in the last two years.

The event offered a platform for our members to connect with the community, spreading awareness about Rotary's mission and the positive changes we have achieved together. Through shared experiences and discussions, we aimed to inspire others to join us in making a meaningful impact. With engaging displays and real-life stories, the stall highlighted our commitment to service and our collective vision for a better community.

Special thanks to all members who participated and

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contributed to making this event a success.

## Cataract Surgeries at Hoogly Eye Hospital on 17th October, 2024

On October 17, 2024, a total of 14 cataract surgeries were successfully performed at Hoogly Eye Hospital. This impactful initiative was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Mr. Pawan Kumar from the USA. Thanks to his support, patients received the life-changing gift of improved vision, underscoring the importance of community-driven healthcare initiatives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Kumar for his contribution towards restoring sight and enhancing the quality of life for those in need.



### District Governor's Citation Awarded to Our Club

We are thrilled to announce that the Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata has received the prestigious *District Governor's Citation* for the year 2023-24. This honor recognizes our club's outstanding performance across all Five Avenues of Service, reflecting our dedication to creating hope and positive change in the world. This award is a testament to the commitment, hard work, and passion of each member who has contributed to our projects and initiatives.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this achievement possible, and let's continue our journey of service and impact!



### ECO Action Club Recognition for Environmental Commitment

We are proud to share that the Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan has been recognized as an *ECO Action Club* by the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) for the Rotary year 2024-2025. This honor celebrates our commitment to environmental service and sustainability, positioning our club as part of the global movement w

orking to stabilize our climate and protect our planet.

As members of ESRAG, we are dedicated to championing eco-friendly initiatives that align with Rotary's commitment to sustainability. Let's continue to lead by example and inspire positive environmental change in our community.



## **Puja Parikrama for Senior Citizen** on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

On October 10, 2024, Rotary International District 3291 hosted the 18th annual Puja Parikrama for Senior Citizens, a cherished tradition that brings the festive spirit of Durga Puja to our community's elderly members. Held at 10:00 am, this event provided senior citizens the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Puja celebrations across Kolkata.

Our own Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan was honored to be one of the host clubs, working alongside other Rotary clubs in Kolkata, including Calcutta Belur, Rabindra Sarobar, Behala, New Ballygunge, and many more. The Salt Lake Metro led as the primary host club, supported by a wide network of dedicated clubs and volunteers.

Supported by the Welfare of Senior Citizens District Committee and organized in collaboration with PRANAM Kolkata Police and Jagat Mukherji Park Durgotsav, the event escorted senior citizens on a memorable tour of the city's vibrant Durga Puja pandals. This initiative is a shining example of Rotary's commitment to social welfare and community service, spreading joy and warmth to our cherished elders.











# Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, to host 2028 Rotary International Convention

Rotary has announced that Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, will host the 2028 Rotary International Convention from 27-31 May. This annual event attracts thousands of Rotary and Rotaract members from around the world, providing an opportunity to explore the Twin Cities' community service projects and vibrant culture. Originally slated for 2029, the convention was moved to 2028, allowing for an additional location in 2029 before Rotary's 125th anniversary in Chicago in 2030.

# Rotary Foundation receives highest rating from Charity Navigator for 16th consecutive year

For the 16th year in a row, The Rotary Foundation has received Charity Navigator's highest rating—four stars—recognizing its financial efficiency, accountability, and transparency. Charity Navigator, the largest independent charity evaluator in the U.S., awards this rating based on nonprofits' impact, accountability, finance, community culture, and leadership. "The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible," said Michael Thatcher, Charity Navigator's CEO, applauding Rotary's operational excellence.

## Rotary commits funds to polio outbreak response in Gaza

Following a polio case detection in Gaza, Rotary committed \$500,000 to support polio outbreak response efforts. Amid reduced immunization rates due to the ongoing crisis, the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated a two-round vaccination campaign, reaching 95% of eligible children in the first round in September. However, the final phase, aimed at vaccinating 119,279 children in northern Gaza, has been postponed due to safety concerns. Rotary's contribution, through the Polio

Outbreak Response Fund, underscores its commitment to eradicating polio globally.

### **Know the History of Rotary**

Rotary International was founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, a Chicago attorney, who sought to create a professional club that transcended social and economic boundaries. The first Rotary club convened on February 23, bringing together four of Harris's friends to discuss business and community service. They quickly adopted the motto "Service Above Self," emphasizing the importance of helping others.

Over the years, Rotary expanded rapidly. By 1910, there were 16 clubs in the United States, and the first international club was established in Winnipeg, Canada. Rotary's mission evolved to include not only fostering professional networking but also addressing critical social issues. The organization introduced key initiatives, including the eradication of polio, and developed various programs focused on health, education, and community development.

Today, Rotary International boasts over 1.2 million members in more than 35,000 clubs worldwide. It is recognized as a leading service organization dedicated to improving communities and promoting global peace and understanding. Through its diverse projects and partnerships, Rotary continues to make a significant impact, embodying the spirit of service that started over a century ago.



### **Rotary Action Groups**

Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) are specialized, international groups within Rotary that bring together members passionate about specific areas of service. These groups are composed of Rotarians, family members, and participants from around the world who share expertise and interest in causes like water and sanitation, health, literacy, peace, and environmental sustainability.

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RAGs support clubs and districts by offering guidance, resources, and project assistance to help address critical global issues. They operate independently but collaborate closely with Rotary International, providing invaluable knowledge and resources to help strengthen service projects. Joining a Rotary Action Group is an excellent way to connect with like-minded members, amplify your impact, and gain deeper insights into areas of service that inspire you.



#### **OUR CLUB UPCOMG CALENDAR**

**November** 

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#### **GREETINGS**

Happy Birthday
Sanjay Agarwal on October 5, 2024

Happy Birthday
Ansul Agrawal on October 7, 2024

Happy Birthday
Chitra Ray on October 15, 2024

Happy Birthday
Meenal Chaudhary on November 1, 2024

Happy Anniversary
Mrs Archana and Mr Mukesh Goyal on
November 21, 2024

Happy Anniversary
Dr Aruna and Dr Om Tantia on November 27,
2024

Happy Anniversary
Mr Indra Kumar and Mrs Sushila Bagri on
November 31, 2024

### Congratulations to Dr. Aruna Tantia and Dr. Om Tantia!

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Aruna Tantia and Dr. Om Tantia on the joyful arrival of their granddaughter! This precious addition to the Tantia family brings with her a world of love, laughter, and cherished moments.

May this new chapter be filled with happiness and delightful adventures as you embrace the joys of grandparenthood. Wishing you all many wonderful memories together!



