



RI President Stephanie A Urchick – September's Message



The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood – when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played – I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I

burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club – other members of our Rotary family – feel like they truly belong.

Matri Raksha Camp on 8th September

The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata, in association with the Shree Nimbark Gauseva Trust, successfully organized the "Matri Raksha" camp on 8th September 2024, as part of the flagship initiative to combat anaemia in women. Held in the village of Naopara, North 24 Parganas, this free health camp provided anaemia screening, health check-ups, and cataract screenings for the community, benefitting 159 patients.

A dedicated team of volunteers from ILS Hospital, including Sharmila, Alok, Subhronil, and Amol, worked diligently to assist in the smooth operation of the camp. They were joined by esteemed doctors Rtn. Dr. Chitra Roy, Rtn. Dr. Saktirupa Chakraborty, Dr. Ajit Majumder and Dr. Debasmitta, who provided expert care throughout the day. In addition to the medical team, Rotarians Rtn. Abhishek Duggar, Rtn. Archana and PP Kusum also contributed

significantly to the camp's success, showcasing the spirit of fellowship and community service.

A special highlight of the day was the generous contribution from Rtn. Archana, who sponsored lunch for the patients through the Lions Food Bus, ensuring everyone was well cared for during their visit. The camp was filled with a sense of compassion and dedication, with Rotarians coming together to create a meaningful impact on the lives of the local community.

This camp is part of Rotary's Global Grant GG 1991152, an ongoing effort supported by the Rotary Club of Nidau Biel and The Rotary Foundation. With a focus on fighting anaemia, the Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan continues to make strides in healthcare access for underprivileged communities, ensuring a healthier and brighter future for all.



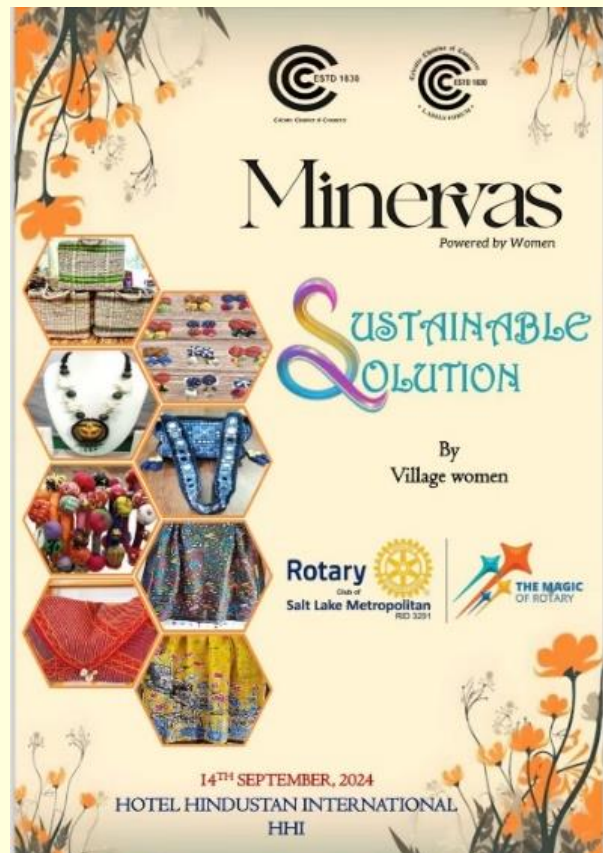
Participation at Minervas Lifestyle Exhibition on 14th September 2024

On 14th September 2024, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan showcased a unique stall at the Minervas Lifestyle Exhibition held at Hotel Hindustan International. The event proudly featured environmentally friendly, handmade goods crafted by villagers from the Sundarbans wetlands and Nadia region, under the RCC (Rotary Community Corps) initiative.

The stall displayed a variety of sustainable products such as bags, jewellerys, baaskets, fashion accessories, etc created by local artisans, symbolizing the club's ongoing commitment to promoting eco-conscious livelihoods.

Club members, including Dr. Aruna Tantia, played an active role in presenting these products to the exhibition's attendees, further strengthening the club's mission to empower underprivileged communities while supporting eco-friendly entrepreneurship.

The event not only served as a platform for the artisans to showcase their talents but also allowed the visitors to contribute towards sustainable causes by purchasing these handcrafted items.





Rotary Foundation Contribution for "Uthe Sabke Kadam" Global Grant Initiative

In an exciting and impactful development, our club is proud to support the proposed Global Grant "Uthe Sabke Kadam," which aims to provide Jaipur Foot prostheses to physically disabled individuals. Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee will lead the initiative as the host club, while our club, with Dr. Aruna Tantia as the Jaipur Foot Brand Ambassador, stands in full support of this noble cause.

As part of our contribution, we have committed USD 2500 towards the District Designated Fund (DDF) advance payment. This amount will enable the signing of the DDF for the project by the District Governor.

With this joint effort, we are well on our way to fulfilling our contribution and making a lasting difference in the lives of those who will benefit from Jaipur Foot prosthetics. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed

Squad Olympic 2024: A Celebration of Sports and Friendship

The Squad Olympic 2024, a vibrant Friendship Sports Carnival, was presented by the Sports Authority of Squad West Bengal Board and organized by the Rotary Club of Kolkata Galaxy in partnership with the Swarnym Foundation (N.G.O.).

The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan was honored with a token of appreciation for being a supportive club in this initiative. Our esteemed member, Dr. Aruna Tantia, graced the event as the Guest of Honour, reflecting her commitment to promoting sports and community engagement.

This event celebrated the spirit of friendship and teamwork, bringing together individuals from various backgrounds and emphasizing the importance of collaboration in sports. We extend our gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the Squad Olympic 2024 a remarkable success!



Recognition of our Community Initiatives in the District Governor's Newsletter

The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan is proud to announce that our impactful initiatives, including the Matri Raksha Camp aimed at addressing women's health issues and our Organic Farming Program promoting sustainable agriculture, were featured in the District Governor's Monthly Newsletter. This recognition highlights our commitment to serving the community and fostering well-being through health awareness and eco-friendly practices.

ties. 250 pamphlets on Heart Health were distributed. DG Dr. Krishnendu Gupta

A Thalassemia Awareness Talk was held by DGE Dr. Homchaudhuri at Charuchan-

18th July: Under Project Matri Raksha, in partnership with Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata, a Mother & Child Project camp was held at Piyali which was attended by 40 women. Rtn Dr. Rina gave talk on Anemia, Cervical Cancer and Menstrual Hygiene and suggested healthy food habits. Dr. Poonam did check up of the women. Iron tablets, medicines, Sat-tu powder and Horlicks sachets were distributed. 4 members of the Matri Raksha team of ILS Hospital conducted the tests. PPH camp was also held with free testing of Height, Weight, BMI, Blood Pressure, Haemoglobin and Blood Sugar.

20th July: Inter Dist Saksham was held at Bhubaneswar with Rotary Bhubaneswar Toishali (RID 3262). Prosthetic Hands were fitted for 15 beneficiaries. DG Yagyansis Mohapatra (RID 3262) graced the camp.

Under Project Aushadi Daan, free medicines are distributed through RCC in Piyali every Sunday.



■ CALCUTTA QUEST

12th-14th July: A fair at Seva Kendra Kolkata was organized in association with Halo Heritage showcasing skilled individuals from districts including Medinipur,

Birbhum, South and North 24 Parganas. On the final day, 5 wheelchairs were donated to disadvantaged residents of Tangra slum areas.

17th July: In collaboration with Open

Women's Career Make a Lift from Rotary

Female Rotary members worldwide are finding support in their careers through networking, skill development, and leadership opportunities. Rotary offers women a platform to make professional connections, gain confidence in leadership roles, and set ambitious goals. By participating in Rotary Action Groups, Fellowships, and Friendship Exchanges, women have expanded their professional networks. Rotary's inclusive environment fosters leadership development and mentorship, inspiring many women to achieve more both personally and professionally. As RI President Stephanie Urchick noted, "Rotary is the original networking organization, built on relationship building and service."



Rotary Launches Celebrity Ambassador Program

On 19 September, Rotary International introduced its first-ever celebrity ambassador program, featuring Kat Graham, Sibongile Mlambo, Gaby Moreno, and Archie Panjabi. These ambassadors will use their platforms to promote Rotary's mission through media, events, and advocacy. Each ambassador has a personal connection to Rotary's work. Kat Graham highlighted Rotary's ability to empower ordinary people to create change, while Sibongile Mlambo emphasized Rotary's efforts in supporting refugees and fostering peace. Gaby Moreno praised Rotary's impact on education in Guatemala, and Archie Panjabi reaffirmed her dedication to Rotary's fight against polio.

■ SALT LAKE METROPOLITAN KOLKATA

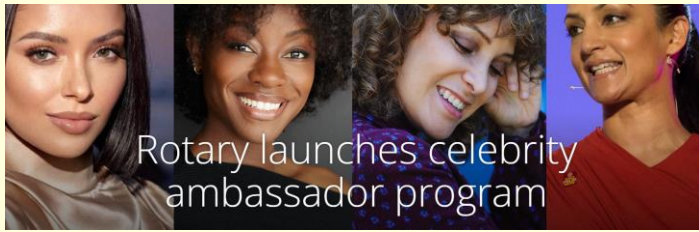
10th July: Organic farming initiative was undertaken by RCC Amta Bhagorei Janakalyan Samity to promote healthy living free from pesticides.

18th July: 49th Camp of Matri Raksha was held in association with Rotary Calcutta Presidency at Rotary Ramkrishna Academy (Piyali, Kalaria, Canning, South 24 Parganas). 41 women were screened for Anaemia, BP and Sugar by paramedical team and consulted by doctors. Each



patient received free Iron supplements for 2 to 4 months including Deworming tablet and Calcium supplements.

20th July: 10 Cataract surgeries were sponsored for poor patients at Hooghly Eye Hospital.



Rotary Weekly Meeting (RWM) on 7th September 2024

The Rotary Weekly Meeting held on 7th September 2024 commenced at 6:30 PM at JC-25, Salt Lake, with President Rtn. Sunil Singhi ringing the opening bell. The meeting began with warm greetings among the Rotarians present, followed by an informal yet meaningful discussion on a variety of topics.

The members delved into several important matters, starting with the preparations for the upcoming Matri Raksha Camp, which will include a special focus on eye screening for women. Reflections on the success of the previous Matri Raksha camp were also shared, and the President provided insights into additional medical and non-medical camps planned for the near future, ensuring the club's ongoing commitment to community welfare.

A highlight of the meeting was the enthusiastic participation of new member Rtn. Abhishek Duggar, whose dynamic and enterprising spirit was evident as he proposed innovative fundraising projects. His fresh ideas were met with appreciation, and his eagerness to contribute to the club's growth through meaningful initiatives was welcomed by all.

The evening also saw an exchange of thoughts and experiences related to Rotary services and activities, allowing members to share their perspectives on ongoing and upcoming projects. Although PP Dr. Aruna Tantia, a key driving force behind the club's initiatives, was missed, the camaraderie among those present made for a pleasant and productive evening. The meeting concluded with President Rtn. Sunil Singhi officially closing the session, and members enjoyed snacks, tea, and a chance to further bond over fellowship.

Members present included President Rtn. Sunil Singhi, Secretary Rtn. Dr. Ajit Majumder, PP Kusum Chamaria, Rtn. I.K. Bagri, Rtn. Dr. Chitra Roy, Rtn. Dr. Shakti Rupa Chakraborty, and new member Rtn. Abhishek Duggar. The gathering was both productive and enjoyable, filled with insightful discussions and the promise of impactful

future projects.



Rotary Weekly Meeting (RWM) on 14th September 2024

On 14th September 2024, a brief yet productive Rotary Weekly Meeting (RWM) was held at a coffee shop within the venue of the Minerva exhibition. Several of our fellow Rotarians gathered around 4:00 pm to visit the exhibition before adjourning for the meeting. The meeting officially commenced at 4:15 pm, presided over by President Rtn. Sunil Singhi.

After exchanging pleasantries, discussions focused on upcoming projects and recent activities. Attendees included President Sunil Singhi, PP Dr. Aruna Tantia, PP Kusum Chamaria, Dr. Ajit Majumder, Rotarian Meenal Chaudhary, and Rtn. Abhishek Duggar. Key topics of discussion included the next Matri Raksha program, with the date and venue to be communicated soon.

Rtn. Abhishek Duggar took the lead in proposing a new fundraising initiative, which was warmly received by the members present. There was also a review of the recently completed Eye and Matri Raksha camp held at Gaushala, Naopara, Madhyamgram. The camp was deemed highly successful, with organizers expressing their happiness and satisfaction with the outcomes.

Towards the end of the meeting, President Sunil Singhi extended an invitation to a breakfast meet, tentatively scheduled for 22nd September at his residence, with a formal invitation to follow. The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm, with the next meeting's date to be announced later.

This RWM served as a great platform for members to stay updated on ongoing projects, while continuing the fellowship and camaraderie that defines our Rotary spirit.

RWM & Fellowship Meeting at President's Residence on 22nd September 2024

A vibrant Rotary Weekly Meeting (RWM) was held on 22nd September 2024 at the residence of our esteemed President, Rtn. Sunil Singhi. The morning began with Rotarians, including Assistant Governor (AG) Purojit Roy, arriving between 8:30 to 9:00 am, warmly welcomed by President Sunilji and his family with refreshing fruit juice, setting a delightful tone for the gathering.

The meeting officially commenced at 9:00 am, with President Sunil calling the members to order. Secretary Rtn. Dr. Ajit Majumder provided a detailed account of the past week's activities, particularly the Minerva Exhibition, where handmade materials supported by our club were showcased. Additionally, the outcomes of the Matri Raksha and Eye Camp were presented, with all details recorded for future reference.

Rotarian Abhishek Duggar led an engaging discussion on the proposed fundraising program, which is planned to be completed before the year's end. Both President Sunil and Rtn. Abhishek suggested hosting the next Matri Raksha camp at a designated industrial site to maximize the number of beneficiaries and meet our goals. The discussion also delved into sourcing funds to support these initiatives, with members exploring potential avenues. Rtn. Anshul joined the meeting virtually from Mumbai, actively participating in the discussions and contributing valuable insights.

AG Purojit Roy praised the club's ongoing community service projects and proposed that we also explore literacy programs in various forms. This suggestion was well-received by the members, and ideas are already in motion for implementing such projects.

Furthermore, the next Matri Raksha camp, along with a planned saree distribution to those in need, will be announced shortly. One of the highlights of the day was the induction of two young and enthusiastic members, Nitesh and Shruti Toshniwal, into the Rotary family. AG Purojit Roy had the honor of inducting them, and we warmly welcome Rotarian Nitesh and Rotarian Shruti to

our club.

The meeting concluded with President Sunil adjourning the formal proceedings and inviting everyone to enjoy a delicious breakfast. The Singhi family's warm hospitality left a lasting impression on all attendees, making this fellowship a truly memorable experience. A heartfelt thank you to President Sunil Singhi and his family for hosting such a wonderful event.



Interact Club of DPS New Town - New Board Installation Ceremony on 30th September 2024

The Interact Club of DPS New Town held its new board installation ceremony on 30th September 2024 at 10 am. The event marked a significant milestone for the young leaders stepping into their new roles for the upcoming year. President Rtn. Sunil Singhi and Past President Rtn. Kusum Chamaria graced the occasion by badging the newly appointed board members, instilling in them the spirit of service and leadership that defines Rotary's mission.

Rtn. Dr. Rajesh Goel also attended the ceremony, lending his support and encouragement to the Interactors. The event was a wonderful showcase of enthusiasm and commitment from the young members, who are eager to contribute positively to their school and community through various initiatives. The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan remains proud to guide and mentor these future leaders, and we look forward to seeing the impactful projects they will undertake in the coming year.



Ethical Standards in Public Relations for Rotary

Maintaining high ethical standards is essential for protecting the integrity of our Rotary Club. Here are key principles to guide our public relations efforts:

1. **Transparency and Honesty** – Communicate openly and truthfully, providing accurate information without exaggeration.
2. **Diversity and Inclusivity** – Represent all community voices and perspectives, promoting inclusivity in all communications.
3. **Brand Integrity** – Adhere strictly to Rotary branding and visual identity guidelines for consistency and authenticity.
4. **Non-Political Stance** – Keep communications neutral, avoiding political affiliations or bias.
5. **Informed Consent** – Obtain permission before using individual or community stories in public materials.
6. **Accuracy and Accountability** – Ensure facts and figures are verified, and remain responsive to community feedback.
7. **Compliance with Laws** – Follow all legal regulations governing public relations and fundraising.

By following these core principles, we strengthen Rotary's reputation and trust within our community.

Responsibility as a Rotarian

As Rotarians, we have a shared responsibility to uphold Rotary's values and actively contribute to the betterment of our communities. Key responsibilities include:

- 1. Commitment to Service:** Participate in local and global projects that create lasting positive change.
- 2. Ethical Leadership:** Uphold Rotary's Four-Way Test, ensuring integrity, fairness, and respect in all actions.
- 3. Engagement and Fellowship:** Actively engage in club activities and foster strong relationships with fellow members.
- 4. Promoting Rotary's Mission:** Serve as an ambassador for Rotary by sharing our mission of "Service Above Self" and inspiring others to join.
- 5. Personal Growth:** Embrace opportunities for leadership and personal development through Rotary's various programs.

Let's all strive to fulfill our responsibilities with passion, commitment, and integrity, ensuring that our work makes a lasting impact on our communities and beyond.

Social networking
Rotary is a great way to expand your social circles, meet new people and make lasting friendships, all while having fun and making a difference.

Enhance your understanding
Events such as the annual Rotary Conference and the international Convention offer opportunities to be inspired by guest speakers and develop your global understanding.

Enjoy rewards
Rotary Global Rewards, our member benefits program, offers discounts on products and services. It's Rotary's way of helping our members spend less so they can do more.

Be part of a global community
With 1.2 million members in 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries, Rotary is a global network of neighbours, friends and problem solvers making a difference in our communities.

What Is Rotary?

Develop your skills
You can share your personal and vocational skills, take up leadership roles, as well as learning from fellow members on activities such as project planning, communications and service delivery.

Business opportunities
Rotary was founded over 100 years ago as a business networking group, and this still plays a part in Rotary today. Making connections with other members can enhance your professional life.

Work with leading organisations
Rotary's reputation has allowed us to establish relationships with leading national and international charities, putting us at the forefront of change.

OUR CLUB UPCOMG CALENDAR

9th -11th October, Wednesday-Friday: Rotary Club Awareness Stall at IB Block Park

20th October, Sunday: Matri Raksha Camp at Baruipur

Diwali Get Together (To be announced)

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