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RI President 2025-26



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## Enhancing Belonging and Engagement at Rotary

**A**t Rotary, we believe that creating a culture of belonging is essential to who we are. Our strength comes from the connections we build, the respect we show, and the opportunities we create so that everyone can thrive. Belonging, engagement, and accessibility are at the heart of how we grow together and create lasting change.

Everyone is welcome in Rotary. Discover how Rotary and Rotaract members are taking action to make their clubs and communities more diverse, equitable, and inclusive on the Rotary 360 blog. Resources for Rotary members are available on My Rotary.

If you want to lend your voice and make a difference in your community, join us.

Our diversity, equity, and inclusion statement, first adopted in 2019 and strengthened in 2021, remains a foundation for the evolution of our commitment:

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.

We believe that all people hold visible and invisible qualities that inherently make them unique, and we strive to create an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong.

In line with our value of integrity, we are committed to being honest and transparent about where we are in our DEI journey as an organization, and to continuing to learn and do better. (Courtesy [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org))



Release of the Souvenir at *Pratidhwani*.





## Pratidhwani- glimpses



## Needless Excitement

**H**ad an exciting time catching the train. I had carefully planned to board my 3.50 pm train. Called an Uber cab at Camac street at 2 pm. Was expecting to reach Howrah at 2.50 pm leaving a margin of an hour. The cab came in minutes. Went to hotel to pick my luggage. Got caught in a maze of no entries. After picking baggage realised my iPad was left at my friends home. Went back to friends home to recover my bag. Again caught in no entries. The driver had no clue about Kolkata. He suggested we take the new bridge to avoid jam at strand road. I gave the nod. He was an amateurish driver with 5 star rating. He stopped every where to ask the way to Howrah station. My eyes were on the clock ticking faster than ever. The idiot crossed the Howrah station n entered Howrah bridge. I told him to take a u turn. He argued it is prohibited. I told him to do it carefully n take a chance. Then he took another wrong lane n got stuck there. The estimated fare of 104 ₹ climbed to 400. I threw money in the cab n ran with my suitcase. It was 3.47. Only 3 mins to catch a notoriously punctual train. I looked for a porter n found him twenty metres from train. Luckily he had a trolley in which he put the suitcase n ran like crazy. I followed him breathlessly. It was 3.50. Train was ready to leave any moment. Fortunately 1st AC is at the tail of the train which saved considerably time. I entered the compartment n paid the porter who got down from the train in motion. I had a sigh of relief.



Honestly I had prayed for my train when caught in a jam at 3.40 pm. I seldom pray. He had no problem granting me a rare wish. Thank u God for being there for me as ever.

After the train left the platform I told my self, 'cheer up man, u have fully recovered from the effect of food poisoning. U have just proved u r fighting fit! Cheers!!!

That's one of the many reasons I love to travel by train. U have a chance till the last moment. No such luck in air travel. The whole thing was so exciting even though needlessly so.

Taking the risk of a u turn on Howrah bridge was a crucial decision. It worked. Don't tell Mamata. I have never spoken

*Contributed by Rtn. Gangadhar Jatiani*

## GREETINGS

*Rtn Kailash Varma celebrates his birthday on 23rd January.*

*Rtn KS Elangbam and Anne Berylda celebrate their anniversary on 28th January.*

*Rtn Law Skhemjingmut and Anne Monika celebrate their anniversary on 29th January.*

*Members of the Rotary Club of Shillong wish them many happy returns of the day.*