

RI Dist 3291

**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

Rotary year 2025-26



**PROUD TO BE A  
ROTARIAN**

**CHECK  
THE T**  
STRIKE OFF THALASSEMIA



**Rotary**  
Club of Calcutta Empathy



**Club Bulletin for May 2026**



The Official Bulletin of Rotary Club of Calcutta Empathy, Rotary International District 3291

# Empathy

## Message from the President

### AI & Rotary: Service Above Self in the Age of Intelligence

The world is entering a new era shaped by Artificial Intelligence (AI). From healthcare and education to agriculture and governance, AI is transforming the way societies function. While technology has always influenced human progress, AI stands apart because it imitates aspects of human intelligence itself — learning, reasoning, predicting, and even creating. As this transformation unfolds, an important question emerges: *How can humanity ensure that intelligence serves compassion, ethics, and inclusion rather than division and exploitation?*

This is where the philosophy of Rotary becomes deeply relevant. Guided by the motto “Service Above Self,” Rotary International has spent more than a century promoting humanitarian service, ethical leadership, peace, education, and community development. In the age of AI, Rotary’s mission acquires renewed significance. Technology alone cannot solve human problems unless it is guided by values. AI needs conscience, and Rotary represents a global conscience rooted in service.

Rotary has always adapted to changing times. From literacy campaigns and polio eradication to water sanitation and youth empowerment, the organization has embraced innovation while remaining anchored in human values. In the same spirit, Rotary can become a bridge between emerging technology and community welfare. Rather than fearing AI, Rotarians can guide its application toward meaningful service.

One important role Rotary can play is promoting digital literacy and AI awareness. Many people still do not understand how AI works or how it affects their lives. This lack of understanding creates fear, misinformation, and vulnerability. Rotary clubs can organize workshops, seminars, and public awareness programs that explain AI in simple and accessible language. Such initiatives can help students, senior citizens, small business owners, and rural communities become informed participants in the digital future.

Education is another area where Rotary and AI can create transformative impact. Millions of children around the world still lack access to quality education. AI-powered learning platforms can provide personalized instruction, language translation, and skill development at low cost. Rotary clubs can partner with schools, technology companies, and educational institutions to bring AI-assisted learning to underserved communities. By doing so, Rotary can help reduce educational inequality and prepare young people for the jobs of tomorrow.

Healthcare is equally significant. AI has the potential to revolutionize disease detection, telemedicine, and public health planning. Rotary’s long-standing commitment to health initiatives, particularly the global fight against polio, demonstrates the organization’s ability to mobilize communities for large-scale impact. In the future, Rotary could support AI-driven health camps, rural telemedicine programs, and predictive healthcare systems that identify disease outbreaks before they spread. Such efforts would combine technological efficiency with Rotary’s human-centered approach to care.

AI can also strengthen Rotary’s environmental mission. Climate change remains one of humanity’s greatest challenges, and intelligent technologies are increasingly being used to monitor ecosystems, optimize energy consumption, and manage waste. Rotary clubs involved in environmental sustainability projects can use AI tools

for water management, tree plantation monitoring, pollution tracking, and disaster preparedness. Technology, when aligned with environmental stewardship, can amplify Rotary's commitment to protecting the planet. At the same time, Rotary must advocate for ethical AI. One of Rotary's foundational principles is the Four-Way Test, which asks: *Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?* These questions are remarkably relevant to the development of AI systems. Before deploying intelligent technologies, societies should ask whether they are truthful, fair, inclusive, and beneficial. Rotary can encourage policymakers, businesses, and educators to adopt ethical frameworks that prioritize human dignity over profit or control.

The issue of employment deserves special attention. AI-driven automation may replace repetitive tasks across industries, creating uncertainty for millions of workers. Yet technological change also creates new opportunities. Rotary can help communities transition through vocational training, skill development, and mentorship programs focused on future-ready careers. By supporting entrepreneurship and lifelong learning, Rotary can ensure that people are not left behind in the age of intelligence.

Youth engagement is another critical dimension. Young people are both the creators and the most affected stakeholders of future technologies. Rotary youth programs such as Rotaract and Interact can encourage innovation challenges, ethical AI discussions, and community technology projects. Instead of treating AI merely as a commercial tool, youth can be inspired to see it as an instrument for humanitarian progress. This aligns perfectly with Rotary's mission of developing leaders who combine knowledge with compassion.

Another important aspect is inclusivity. AI systems are often built using data that may exclude minority communities, developing nations, or marginalized populations. Rotary's global network, spread across cultures and countries, offers a valuable perspective on diversity and inclusion. Rotarians can advocate for AI systems that reflect cultural sensitivity, accessibility, and fairness. Technology should not only serve the privileged; it must uplift humanity as a whole.

The partnership between AI and Rotary also presents opportunities for improving Rotary's own operations. Intelligent systems can help clubs analyze community needs, optimize fundraising campaigns, improve volunteer coordination, and measure project outcomes more effectively. AI-driven communication tools can connect members across continents and encourage global collaboration. By responsibly adopting technology internally, Rotary can increase its impact and efficiency while remaining focused on service.

The future will not belong solely to those who develop the most advanced technologies. It will belong to those who use technology wisely and ethically for the benefit of humanity. AI can accelerate progress, but only human values can determine the direction of that progress. Rotary's philosophy of "Service Above Self" provides a moral compass for navigating this new age.

## Moments from May '26



## Key Updates

- EIRWT application is formally submitted and duly approved by EIRWT. The next step is to submit the money from MGIS and RCCE along with signed documents.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 was the World Thalassaemia Day. Our club was associate co-host for the summit organized by the district.
- Planning has commenced for 4<sup>th</sup> Installation ceremony of the club. Details to be furnished soon.
- RC Calcutta Empathy hosted the RLI Post Graduation course for the first time in Kolkata.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Vaccination Camp [HPV for Cervical cancer] was conducted at Deshabandhu Balika Vidyapith, Narkeldanga, where 51 beneficiaries were vaccinated.
- COLS to be scheduled at the earliest.

## Members' Corner

### Rain

Surojit Roy

The grey clouds steadily congregate on the far western horizon,  
The huge communion soon initiates the crackle of the lightning,  
The million volts dazzle all across the dark sky mimicking arson,  
Silvery thunders wavering through the evening sky make a rare sighting,  
The nimbus clouds sew a grey and black mold on silhouette dyed crimson.  
Clouds in its varied kind, decked in myriad weaponry, obsessed with charging,

The coconut trees, standing in uncanny monotony, bend like the archer's bows,  
Age old banyan trees, with prop roots like a beard, swivel like a disgruntled child,  
The gushes of wind storm towards the stiff incline as if recognized the old foes,  
Devastation from the naive breeze is its wild avatar, else surreptitiously mild  
The squall of wind gush through the acres, shearing through greenery, as it mows,  
The drops of drizzle mature to a storm, flooding through cities, parish and wild.

The hot sultry sun makes the cloud perspire to condense the cool moisture,  
Such laden droplets through humid and stifling weather, settles down on earth,  
The incessant downpour leads to resuscitation of life, that is the rule of nature,  
Boon of rain transforms to bane sacrificing lives, once it exceeds its rightful girth,  
The small drop that quenches thirst of the feral, may drown scores of wild creature,  
The same rain that obliterates miles of villages also supports our hearth.

The spoils of the war, evident from the small streams and conduits across lanes,  
These are the travails of the paper boats that make way till they perish before long,  
The downpour makes the dilapidated house more so, while sludge chokes the drains,  
The cuckoos break to a soiree, the joy of the wet leaves expressed through a song,  
The monsoon rain in all its grandeur upholds the promise of granaries full of grains,  
The grey sky, sudden lightning, brisk downpour, all arrive after a wait of a year long.

## Announcements

RCM 1 – 05<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. / RCM 2 – 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. / Board - 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 p.m.