

President: **Arup K Das** Secretary : **Dipti Halder** Editor : **Arup K Das**

**VOL 2 OCT - DEC 2025**

## District Governor's official Visit 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025



### From President's desk

Dear Fellow Rotarians,  
Greetings!

As we bring you the second edition of Ripples for FY 2025–26, I am delighted to reflect on a quarter that has been vibrant, productive, and filled with the true spirit of Rotary. The festive season set a positive tone, strengthening our bonds of fellowship and inspiring us to serve with renewed enthusiasm.

The induction of new members has added fresh energy and ideas to our club, and we warmly welcome them to our Rotary family. We were also privileged to host the District Governor's Official Visit at EMC, which provided valuable guidance and further motivated us to strive for greater impact.

Our various service projects during the quarter continue to touch lives and reaffirm our commitment to community upliftment and meaningful change.

I sincerely thank each one of you for your dedication, teamwork, and passion. Together, let us continue to create lasting ripples of service, goodwill, and fellowship.

Warm regards,

The District Governor Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homechaudhuri's Official Club Visit was held on 7th November 2025 along with other district officials. It was a great privilege to have Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homechaudhuri with us, who enriched the gathering with his valuable insights on Thalassemia awareness and prevention. He also expressed his satisfaction with the club's activities so far and shared guidance on the way forward.

On this occasion, our club members Rtn. Dr. Jyotirup Goswami and Rtn. Arup Das generously contributed USD 200 each towards The Rotary Foundation and handed over the cheques to the District Governor.

We were also delighted to induct Rtn. Piya Nandi and Rtn. Dr. Ronjit Boral as new members of our club. The visit concluded with warm fellowship and meaningful interactions among members.



## ROTARY: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Rotary International was founded on 23 February 1905 in Chicago, USA, by attorney Paul Harris. His vision was to foster fellowship among professionals while promoting ethical standards and community service.

The organization takes its name from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' workplaces. Guided by the enduring motto "Service Above Self," Rotary soon expanded beyond professional networking into a powerful global humanitarian movement. By 1912, Rotary had become international.

### Key Historical Highlights

- **1905** – First Rotary Club formed in Chicago with four members
- (Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey)
- **1910** – Formation of the National Association of Rotary Clubs (USA)
- **1912** – Rotary became international with clubs in Canada, England, and Ireland
- **1917** – Establishment of The Rotary Foundation
- **1922** – Official adoption of the name Rotary International

### Humanitarian Focus

Rotary's mission gradually expanded from fellowship to hands-on service. Signature initiatives include the PolioPlus program, which has helped reduce global polio cases by over 99%, and the work of The Rotary Foundation supporting education, peace, health, and humanitarian causes worldwide.

Rotary in India – A Powerful Force for Change

Rotary took root in India in 1929, with the establishment of the first Rotary Club in Calcutta (now Kolkata). Since then, India has grown into one of the largest and most dynamic Rotary regions in the world.

Today, India is home to thousands of Rotary clubs and Rotarians actively engaged in projects spanning education, healthcare, sanitation, skill development, environment, and women & child welfare. Indian Rotarians have played a pivotal role in India's polio eradication success, literacy programs, blood donation drives, disaster relief, and community development initiatives.

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Rotary in India exemplifies how local service, when guided by global values, can create sustainable and transformative impact.

### Rotary Today

Globally, Rotary connects over 1.2 million members across 33,000+ clubs worldwide, united by fellowship, leadership, and a shared commitment to building a better, more peaceful world.





# Service Above Self – Touching Lives, Creating Change

## Thalassemia Awareness Camp at Prabhu Jagatbandhu College, Andul

Thalassemia Awareness Camp was successfully organised at Prabhu Jagatbandhu College, aimed at educating young students about thalassemia, its causes, and—most importantly—its prevention.

The programme was honoured by the presence of **DG Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Homechaudhuri**, whose insightful and engaging address helped students gain a clear understanding of thalassemia as a genetic blood disorder. He emphasised the critical role of awareness, screening, and premarital counselling in preventing the disease and encouraged students to become informed ambassadors of this vital message within their families and communities.

A total of 200 students participated in the session, which was highly interactive and informative. The camp reinforced Rotary's commitment to preventive healthcare and community education, leaving a lasting impact on the young audience.



# Mental: Genius in Anguish

Rtn. Dr. Jyotirup Goswami

Reading biographies of great artists or watching films based on their lives, one is often led to believe that suffering is essential for art—and that all great artists must be a little mad. The truth, of course, is far more mundane. Genius, as the saying goes, is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. To produce great art, the creative spirit must also train itself, work to order, and possess sound business sense.

Yet, in all honesty, mental illness and neurological disease have played no small part in the creation of great art, and music is no exception. The Romantics may have cultivated their wild reputations—with flowing hair, laudanum addiction, and a surfeit of mistresses—but one of their foremost figures, Robert Schumann, had to grapple throughout his life with genuine mental illness.

Schumann was plagued by recurring bouts of deep depression, culminating in his attempt to drown himself in the Rhine. Following this tragic episode, he spent the last five years of his life confined to an asylum, denied contact with his wife and family, with only his devoted friend Brahms allowed limited access. His condition has been retrospectively diagnosed as either bipolar disorder or neurosyphilis. While Victorian critics vehemently resisted the latter diagnosis due to stigma, modern understanding reminds us that illness is never a punishment—merely an unfortunate accident of life. As we now confront cancer and AIDS with empathy and science, we can better understand an era when syphilis was an incurable and devastating disease, a silent killer that destroyed lives indiscriminately.

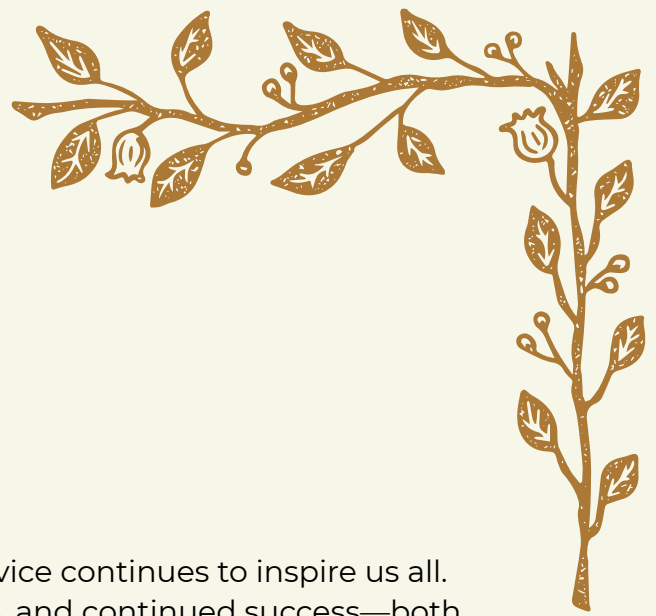
Regardless of diagnosis, Schumann's musical achievements remain extraordinary—in spite of, or perhaps even because of, his illness. His mercurial musical personality has often been interpreted as bipolar, with compositions reflecting sharp contrasts in mood and character. His productivity came in intense bursts, mirroring manic phases, while in later life he was tormented by musical hallucinations, sometimes believing his own compositions to have been dictated to him in dreams by his beloved Schubert. His Violin Concerto, in particular, is almost unbearably painful to hear—an effort to preserve artistry and love through obsessive repetition of musical ideas. Neurologists and lay listeners alike sense his inner demons struggling for dominance in this work. Suppressed for nearly a hundred years by friends and family, it remains, for me, one of the most heroic and awe-inspiring compositions ever written: a desperate fight for life, measured in minims and crotchets.

Schumann was not alone. Hugo Wolf, a late Romantic master of the German art song, spent much of his tragically short life in an asylum. Bedřich Smetana, the Czech nationalist composer, became deaf, blind, and mentally ill in his later years, also as a consequence of neurosyphilis.

Moving into the twentieth century, Maurice Ravel composed some of the most colourful and voluptuous music ever written, yet in person he was a curiously elfin, asexual figure. The latter part of his life was ravaged by a neurodegenerative disorder—possibly Pick's disease—which left him unable to compose, speak coherently, or even recognise everyday objects. And yet, his immortal Boléro, with its hypnotically repeated theme, appears almost borne of the disease itself. Neurologists have pointed to its relentless repetition as reflecting a yearning for stability amid fractured consciousness and impaired concentration—hallmarks of Pick's disease.

These great composers transcended their illnesses to create enduring art. At times, the very nature of their suffering shaped the patterns and structures of their music. Though illness ultimately claimed victory over their bodies and minds, their true triumph lies in the fact that their heroic struggles—and their art—will never be forgotten.





## We extend warm birthday greetings to

- Rtn. Dr. Ronojit Boral - 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Rtn. Arup Das - 11<sup>th</sup> November
- Rtn. Sudeshna Banerjee - 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- Rtn. Shibaji Bakshi - 24<sup>th</sup> November
- Rtn. Piya Nandi - 28<sup>th</sup> December
- Rtn. Dipti Halder - 31<sup>st</sup> December

Your dedication to Rotary ideals and selfless service continues to inspire us all. May the year ahead bring you health, happiness, and continued success—both in service and in life.



## We wish Happy anniversary to

- Rtn. Biswajit Ray - 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- Rtn. Parth Pratim Pal - 14<sup>th</sup> December

## District Diwali Meet - Nov 2025

