

Maitree

Vol : LXIII
Issue : 01
2nd July' 2026
RCM # 2723
Venue : Online (Google Meet)

RI President : Rtn Olayinka H Babalola | Dist. Governor : Rtn Tapas Bhattacharya
President : Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra | Secretary : Arup Dasgupta | Editor : Sharmila Sur

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Photo by James L. Bomar Jr. 1979-80 Rotary Club of Miami, Design layout by Gilbert Thien.

JULY IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH



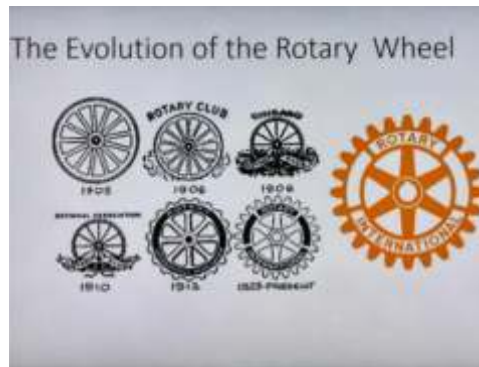
"What is the value of the life of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own, the price tag would be marked: Not for sale - this life is invaluable."

1979-80 James L. Bomar Jr

Theme of the Month

Many of us know the delightful song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but have you heard about the inspiring "Twelve Months of Rotary"? Each month, Rotary shines a spotlight on unique themes that reflect our commitment to service and community-building. July kicks off the Rotary year, welcoming new leadership across Clubs, Districts, and Rotary International. This month is aptly named "Transition Month," and we're thrilled to embrace the theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities."

These monthly themes are designed to showcase the incredible impact of Rotary's initiatives while providing clubs with valuable ideas and guidance for their programs and events. At the Rotary Club of Behala, our members are passionate, dedicated individuals who share a strong desire for community service and friendship. Joining Rotary connects you with a vibrant network of professionals who are equally motivated to make a difference in the world. Our club welcomes new members by invitation, fostering an inclusive environment where you can thrive. With 1.2 million members across more than 200 countries and territories, Rotary unites a global community of volunteer leaders committed to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Together, we're making a real difference in lives both locally and internationally, and we would love for you to be a part of this powerful journey!



*The first four Rotarians.
 From left: Gustavus Loehr,
 Silvester Schiele, Hiram E.
 Shorey, Paul P. Harris.
 Between 1905 and 1912.*

HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



PP Rtn. Pijush Ranjan Sengupta
 DOB: 19th June



PP Rtn. Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty
 DOB: 10th July



PP Rtn. Ajoy Krishna Chatterjee
 DOB: 15th July



PP Rtn. Angshuman Bhattacharya
 DOB: 15th July

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



PP Rtn. Krishnendu Bhattacharjee and Ann Sharmistha Bhattacharjee
 Date of Anniversary : 5th July

EDITOR'S DESK 2026-27



As we step into another promising Rotary year, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and renewed enthusiasm for the remarkable journey of the Rotary Club of Behala. For more than six decades, our club has remained steadfast in its commitment to the ideals of Service Above Self, touching countless lives through meaningful projects, enduring fellowship, and unwavering dedication to community welfare.

In a world that is constantly evolving, the values that define Rotary—service, integrity, diversity, fellowship, and leadership—continue to guide our path. These principles inspire us to look beyond ourselves, recognize the needs of others, and work collectively towards creating a more compassionate and inclusive society.

The past year has been a testament to the strength and spirit of our members. Through initiatives in healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, community development, and humanitarian service, we have sought to make a positive difference wherever help was needed. Every project, whether large or small, reflects the generosity, commitment, and vision that make Rotary a force for good.

As we welcome our new leadership team, we look forward to fresh ideas, renewed energy, and greater opportunities to serve. Their dedication and passion inspire confidence that our club will continue to grow in impact and relevance, reaching new milestones while upholding the rich legacy of Rotary Club of Behala.

Maitree has always been more than a club publication; it is a reflection of our shared experiences, achievements, and aspirations. Through its pages, we celebrate the efforts of our members, acknowledge our partners and well-wishers, and preserve the stories that define our Rotary journey.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to every contributor, advertiser, supporter, and member whose encouragement and participation have made this publication possible. Your continued support strengthens our resolve to serve with purpose and compassion.

As we embark on this new chapter together, let us reaffirm our commitment to Rotary's noble mission. May we continue to build bridges of understanding, nurture friendships, and create lasting change in our communities.

Wishing our incoming President, Board of Directors, and all members a successful, fulfilling, and impactful Rotary year ahead.

Together, let us serve, inspire, and make a difference.

Rtn. Sharmila Sur

Editor, Maitree, Rotary Club of Behala

RI NEWS

Rotary International's most recent major update is the conclusion of its annual global convention in Taipei, which drew over 38,000 attendees from 140 countries. The week-long event featured global service commitments and keynote speeches from leaders like Malala Yousafzai regarding peace and education.

Polio Eradication: During the Taipei convention, global health experts provided promising updates on Rotary's flagship polio eradication efforts, heralding it as "the rare good news story" in global health. **Water & Sanitation in Haiti:** Rotary announced a major new initiative to scale proven water and sanitation programs in Haiti. **Rotary Peace Centers:** Rotary recently expanded its educational footprint by inaugurating a new Peace Center at Symbiosis International University in India and developing community peacebuilding programs in Colombia. **Convention Relocations:** Rotary International announced that its upcoming international convention scheduled for Barcelona has been moved to 2027. **Upcoming Leadership:** Nigerian leader Dr. Tunji Funsho was named to lead Rotary International, making him the second African to hold this position.

"It is thrilling to see the internationality of our organization in one place," says Brenda Waugh, a district governor-elect from Scotland, a member of the Rotary Club of Annan & District, and a first-time convention attendee. "I enjoyed the fun and fellowship, and I'm proud to be part of this massive international organization."

The convention's opening and closing ceremonies dazzled audiences with large-scale productions combining traditional Taiwanese dance, drumming, and acrobatics with contemporary staging. Italian singers and musicians also captivated attendees with spectacular operatic arias and beloved classics, including "Caruso."

With large Rotary promotional billboards at Taoyuan airport and in Taipei's subway stations, short TV clips in taxis, and extensive daily media coverage, the convention has enabled Rotary to raise awareness of its global and local impact in Taiwan, where membership has grown exponentially.

Looking ahead

The convention also set up Rotary's annual leadership transition. On 1 July, Olayinka H. Babalola will begin his term as Rotary International president for 2026-27, while Larry A. Lunsford will serve as president-elect. Nearing the end of his year of service, Arezzo emphasized the importance of continuity in Rotary leadership.

"I like the image of a relay race," he said. "No runner owns the race. The most important moment is not the running — it is the passing.

"Rotary is a relay. We receive. We carry forward. We pass it on. And every generation of Rotarians must leave the organization stronger, kinder, and more hopeful for the generation that follows."

- Gundula Miethke contributed to this story.

District News

Changeover Ceremony 2026

Rtn Tapas Bhattacharya was installed as the District Governor of 2026-'27.



3rd Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Calcutta Elite was held at The Spring Club, EM Bypass, Kolkata on 1st July 2026.



Rtn K.R. Ravindran, Past President of Rotary International, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT
Rotary **Project Navjeevan** 
- Save a Child; Save a Life

A RI District 3291 Designated Flagship Project
Nodal Club - RC Calcutta Labanhrad

Every child deserves the gift of life. Through Project Navjeevan, we invite every Rotary Club to come forward and save the life of at least one child by supporting life saving Paediatric open heart surgery.

This presents the finest opportunity for every club to translate Rotary's motto, Service Above Self, into a life-changing reality.

OUR APPEAL
We earnestly request each Rotary Club to pledge and contribute towards the treatment of at least one child. Your support will not only save a precious life but also bring hope to an entire family.

RECOGNITION
All clubs that pledge and contribute on or before 26th June 2026 will be honoured on stage by DGE Tapas Bhattacharya at the Installation ceremony on 1st July 2026.

26th June 2026 (Friday)
Time: 5:00 PM onwards
ICCR, KOLKATA
(Shrikanth Chatterjee, the Cultural Relations)
Kolkata, West Bengal

Together, let us give children a new beginning through Project Navjeevan.

Project Navjeevan is the RI District 3291 Designated Flagship project of RY (2026- 27). RC Calcutta Labanhrad is the Nodal Club.



On 1st July President Rtn Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra visited R.N. Tagore Hospital, Mukundapur to save a child by supporting life saving paediatric open heart surgery.

Club News

1st July Project at Eye Care & Research Centre



One Indirect Ophthalmoscope, one 20D Lens, one Ophthalmoscope with Handi and a Wheel Chair for the O.T patients were donated to Eye Care & Research Centre, which is the first Eye Hospital in Kolkata established in 1984.

On the occasion of its Foundation Day, Past President Rtn Dr Siddhartha Chakraborty, who was the Guest of Honour, delivered his address on "Organ Donation", with a special reference to 'Eye Donation'.

Moreover as 1st July being the Doctors Day, PP Rtn Siddhartha Chakraborty, Dr Apurba Ghosh, who is the Executive Director of the Institute of Child Health and all the Ophthalmologists of Eye Care and Research Centre were felicitated.





Looking Back - Some more golden moments to cherish from RY (2025-26)



Charter Ceremony of New Interact Cub



Formation of Interact Club— Charter Ceremony of Interact Club at Lakshmi Pat Singhania Academy was held at the school premises. President Rtn Sanghamitra Duttgupta delivered the inaugural speech. The newly inducted President was handed over the Charter, Collar, Bell, Gravel and Hammer. The newly elected President along with the Board of Members took an oath and were pinned with the Badges. The Director, Principal, Teacher in Charge and Board members from the school were handed over a sapling each by Rotary Club of Behala. District Interact Committee Chair Rtn Arpita Chatterjee gave her speech and

was felicitated with a sapling. The program was well attended by the students of the school. Their next meeting will be held in July'26.



The last meeting of Rotary Club of Behala held at Malik Guest House at 6.30pm on 18th June 2026, terminating with lovely "Cake Cutting" ceremony at the end of the meeting.

Thanksgiving Ceremony



Thanksgiving Ceremony was the ultimate fellowship beautifully organised by our President Rtn Sanghamitra Duttgupta at A C Pavilion at Calcutta Club on 30th June'26. Most of the members attended with their spouse.

Family Corner



Dr. Sayantani Ghosh Hazra, daughter of President Rtn Sakuntala successfully completed a six month Online Certification programme on "Executive Programme for AI in Healthcare"(batch 1) held by Centre for Biomedical Engineering of IIT, Delhi. She received. This programme formed part of the NBEMS AI in Healthcare Initiative, which achieved a Guinness World Record for Most viewers of an Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare lesson livestream on YouTube.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of #2722 Regular meeting of Rotary Club of Behala that was held at Manik Guest House at 7pm on 18th June 2026

1. President Rtn. Sanghamitra Duttagupta calls #2722 meeting to order.
2. National Anthem was sung in unison.
3. President Madam requested everybody present to observe a minute's silence for the departed soul of PDG Rtn. Prabhat Krishna Rohatgi who left for his heavenly abode on 17th June.
4. On 5th June, Joint Board Meeting was held between incoming and outgoing Executive team of RC of Behala at **Cosy Corner** at DKS Club. Number of members presents were 13.
5. On 6th June, President Rtn Sanghamitra Duttagupta and Secretary Rtn Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra attended the RCC Award at Rotary Sadan. Mr Swapan Chakraborty of Sri Ramakrishna Ashram at Chandanpiri and Mr Animesh Naiya of Dhosa, Chandaneshwar Bratyaj and Samity (DCBS) were present. Both the RCCs received Certificates of Appreciation.
RCC Chandanpiri won awards on "Service to Senior Citizens" and another on "Water and Sanitation."
RCC at Dhaka's won District Governor's Recognition for the project on "Thalassemia" as well on "Vocational Training & Skill Development."
6. The first Club Assembly and Club Officers Learning Seminar (COLS) was held at Studio, 1st floor of Hyatt Centric, Ballygunge's. PDG Rtn Probir Chatterjee and IAG Rtn Deo Kishan Mohta delivered respective matters. Members present were 13. It was very well arranged by incoming President Rtn Shakuntala Ghosh Hazra.
7. On 19th June, the Charter Ceremony of Rotary Interact Club at Laxmipat Singhania Academy will be held at the school premises from 10.45 to 11.45am during school hours. Every members were requested to join the Ceremony.
8. President Rtn Sanghamitra Duttagupta informed that on 21st June, the World Yoga Day will be celebrated at Srib Krishna Nagar High School at Our RCC Dhosa. 500 student will be participating and each student will be awarded a Certificate of Appreciation, sponsored by Rotary Club of Behala.
9. Secretary Rtn Shakuntala Ghosh Hazra conducted the Club Business.
10. Next RCM will be held on 2nd July on "Google Meet."
11. Minutes of last meeting was confirmed.
12. Incoming President (2026-27) Rtn Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra announced the dates of the upcoming Projects and Programmes.
1st July'26— Project on Eyecare at Eye Care and Research Centre at 10.30am.
11th July'26— 63rd Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Behala will be held at Vivanta by Taj at 6.30pm.
13. President Rtn Sanghamitra Duttagupta announced and requested every members with their spouse to attend the Thanksgiving Ceremony that will be held at the AC Pavilion at Calcutta Club at 7pm.
14. A lovely fellowship followed by 'Cake Cutting' ceremony at the end of the meeting.
15. President Rtn Sanghamitra Duttagupta terminated the meeting.



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT