

GOVERNOR'S

Monthly Newsletter

October 2025



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

World Polio Day 24th October



The Power to End Polio Lies in Our Hands

With decades of dedication, Rotary stands at the forefront of the worldwide mission to end polio

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Editorial

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

The month of October is Rotary's Community Economic Development month. Community economic development is crucial for nation-building in Sri Lanka by promoting social cohesion, improving local infrastructure, and strengthening community institutions, which collectively fosters national unity and resilience.

Under the leadership of District Governor Delvin Pereira Rotary in Sri Lanka has launched several SME initiatives, focusing on capacity building, market access, and digital transformation for Sri Lankan SMEs. These initiatives aim to strengthen businesses by providing them with modern skills, financial management guidance, and connections to capital markets and potential partners, with the goal of supporting a major boost to Sri Lankan digital economy and overall economic resilience. Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo mentioned "Leadership means empowering people to guide their own progress. That is precisely what Rotary's economic development projects aim to achieve. The Story is one example of Rotary leadership in action: local people guiding solutions that address their community needs. Our role is not to deliver charity or to impose outside models, but to foster self-reliance by investing in leadership, skills and sustainable enterprise" also he invited Rotary members worldwide to reflect on economic leadership in their communities. Who is stepping forward to lead local economic initiatives Where there untapped talent that could be supported with training or mentorship. Also how a Rotary Club catalyze opportunity through partnership with local businesses, vocational schools or saving groups.

This particular issue will also cover the initiative of the district governor including the installations of Rotary presidents, district governors official visits and updates from Rotaract and Interact movement and their activities. I wish to thank the GML team, our district secretary and public image team for their support, also the district governors encouragement to put up this edition and we look forward to present the rest of edition in this Rotary year providing more information and insights.

Marshad Barry

GML Chairman of Rotary International District 3220 for the Rotary Year 2025/26

Delvin Pereira

District Governor
2025/26

Rotary International
District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives



Governor's Message



My Dear Friends in Rotary,

Take a moment to appreciate the tireless efforts of our nation's health authorities, who deserve the highest commendation for making Sri Lanka the first country in the region to be declared free of polio.

As Rotarians, we take pride in our enduring partnership in this noble cause – a partnership that has saved millions of lives and given hope to countless children across the world.

Yet, even as we celebrate this achievement, let us remind ourselves that every child still at risk anywhere in the world places all children everywhere at risk. Our mission is therefore not complete until the very last case of polio is eradicated.

Let us continue our united fight to end polio forever, making it only the second disease after smallpox to be completely wiped from the face of the earth.

Delvin Pereira

District Governor 2025/26 of Rotary International District 3220

Sri Lanka & Maldives

Team

At the heart of Rotary's impact lies a dedicated team of individuals who lead with purpose and serve with compassion. From club presidents and board members to district leaders and committee chairs, each plays a vital role in driving initiatives that create lasting change. Their collective commitment to the Rotary ideals of service, fellowship, integrity, and leadership continues to inspire members and communities alike across District 3220.



Rtn.PP.PHF Marshad Barry



Rtn.Bavvatharani Ravindran



Rtn. PP. Neluka De Alwis



Rtn PP PHF Madhurie Munasinghe



Rtr.PHF Kushal Sallay



Rtr.Tania De Silva



Rtr.Amman Thaha



Int.Seniya Rajugamuwa



Governor's Diary for October

District Governor's Diary

Installations , Official Visits (DGOV) and Important Events

October 2025 Calendar

- 04 Oct : Rotary Club of Nallur (DGOV+ Installation)**
- 05 Oct : Rotary Club of Killinochchi Town (DGOV+ Installation)**
- 05 Oct : Breast Cancer Awareness Project - Killinochchi**
- 06 Oct : POYA DAY**
- 07 Oct : Rotary Club of Colombo South (DGOV)**
- 11 Oct : 9am - SME Trade Fair - Rotary Club of Colombo**
- 11 Oct : 3pm - 6pm Blind Walk - Rotary Club of Colombo Mid Town**
- 11 Oct : Rotary Club of Colombo Central (Installation)**
- 12 Oct : Breast Cancer Awareness Project - Batticaloa**
- 17 Oct : Rotary Club of Colombo Port City Dinner Dance**
- 19 Oct : Rotary Club of Kurunegala (DGOV+ Installation)**
- 19 Oct : Breast Cancer Awareness Project - Matara**
- 25 Oct : Polio District Event**
- 26 Oct : Breast Cancer Awareness Project - Colombo**
- 26 Oct : Rotary Club of Nikaweratiya (DGOV + Installation)**
- 27 Oct : Kegalle Book Fair**
- 28 Oct : Rotary Club of Kegalle (DGOV)**
- 28 Oct : Rotary Club of Polgahawela (DGOV)**
- 31 Oct : Rotary Club of Male (DGOV)**



District Events

The Rotary Story of Hope and Humanity

Every year on October 24th, the world unites for one powerful cause: ending polio forever. For most of us, polio is now a distant memory, a word in a textbook. But for millions of families, it was once a daily fear, a shadow that could strike without warning.



Rotary turned that fear into purpose. What began as a promise among ordinary people became one of humanity's greatest health missions. In 1985, Rotary International launched PolioPlus, the first and largest private-sector initiative to eradicate a disease. The dream was simple but audacious, a world where no child would ever again be paralyzed by polio. In the 1990s, volunteers walked through deserts in Pakistan and crossed rivers in Africa carrying vaccine coolers on their backs. In India, they travelled on bicycles and boats, calling out to parents to bring their children to be immunized. Many of these volunteers were Rotarians, teachers, doctors, farmers, students, united by compassion and service.

One story often told is that of a Rotarian named Ramesh, who spent years volunteering in northern India. He once said, "Each drop of vaccine I give is a promise kept to a child I may never meet." That simple belief reflects what Rotary stands for: doing good quietly, with faith that every small act creates ripples of change. Through its partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children in over 122 countries. The campaign transformed how the world responds to global health crises, proving that when communities lead with empathy, governments and institutions follow with action. Polio cases have dropped by 99.99 since the campaign began.

In 1988, 350,000 children were paralyzed every year. Today, only a few regions in Afghanistan and Pakistan remain affected. The virus that once terrified the world is now cornered in the smallest corners of the map. Behind every statistic is a story. There's the mother in rural Sri Lanka who once feared her daughter would never walk, now volunteering to spread awareness. There's the nurse in Nigeria who goes door to door carrying vaccines, rain or shine, saying, "If I can save even one child, it is worth it." And there's the young Rotaractor who first joined a Polio Parade, thinking it was just a volunteer activity. That day changed her life, she later became a public health advocate, inspired by the compassion she witnessed. Each of these stories reminds us that Rotary is not only an organization. It is a movement built on empathy, courage, and quiet leadership.

World Polio Day resonates deeply with those who seek meaning in service. It represents the power of purpose-driven humanity the belief that healing one child is as sacred as changing the world. For many, Rotary's fight against polio is not just a medical mission; it is a reflection of human values: hope, resilience, and unity. Although polio is nearly gone, the mission is not over. The final cases are the hardest to reach, often in areas affected by conflict, mistrust, and poverty. Rotary continues to train health workers, build community trust, and ensure that no child is left behind. The "last mile" requires not only resources but also faith, faith that humanity will finish what it started. As Rotarians often say, "We are this close."

World Polio Day reminds us that the fight for a better world doesn't end with success; it ends with compassion carried forward. On this World Polio Day, let us look beyond the numbers and see the hearts that made this journey possible. Let us remember the volunteers who crossed borders, the mothers who waited in line for their children's vaccines, and the dreamers who refused to give up. Rotary's story is proof that service can change the world, not through noise or power, but through quiet persistence and love in action. When we serve with empathy, hope becomes contagious. And one day, the world will wake up to a sunrise where polio exists only in history books, a victory written by humanity itself.

Rotary Club of Colombo North Champions Youth Creativity Through the 2025 Shakespeare Drama Competition

The Rotary Club of Colombo North (RCCN), in collaboration with the Colombo YMCA, successfully hosted the landmark 50th All-Island Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition in 2025, a dazzling showcase of Sri Lanka's young theatrical talent. This milestone event was more than a stage performance; it was a celebration of youth leadership, language, and the enduring power of literature to unite communities.



Honouring a Half-Century of Theatrical Excellence

For fifty years, the Rotary Club of Colombo North has been a cornerstone in nurturing youth creativity through drama. The competition, first conceived to promote English literature and public speaking, has since evolved into one of the country's most respected school-level cultural events. This year's edition held special significance, not only for its golden jubilee but also as a direct response to the District Governor's request for clubs to amplify youth-driven initiatives that foster communication skills, teamwork, and empathy through art.

The DG's message was clear: "Investing in the creative confidence of our youth is investing in the future of Sri Lanka." The RCCN embraced that call, transforming this Shakespearean stage into a living classroom where leadership and literature met.

The Stage Comes Alive

The 2025 competition saw participation from top schools across the island, each bringing Shakespeare's timeless stories to life through innovative interpretations. The performances ranged from the raw power of Macbeth to the tragic love of Othello and the wit of Twelfth Night. Every school delivered a fresh perspective, merging traditional Shakespearean dialogue with modern stagecraft, music, and choreography.

The event was held before a full house at the Lionel Wendt Theatre, where parents, educators, Rotarians, and theatre enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the artistry of young performers. The distinguished judging panel, composed of veteran theatre practitioners and educators, praised the competitors for their dedication, diction, and creativity.

Spotlight on the 2025 Winner

After days of intense performances and spirited competition, St. Joseph's College, Colombo, emerged as the Champion of the Boys' Final with their masterful adaptation of Othello, the Moor of Venice. Their performance earned standing ovations for its emotional depth, stage discipline, and innovative use of lighting.

Royal College, Colombo, claimed the First Runner-Up position, followed by St. Peter's College as Second Runner-Up, and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, as Third Runner-Up. The competition also celebrated individual brilliance:

- Best Actor - Semitha De Silva (St. Joseph's College)
- Best Villain - Nevan Perera (S. Thomas' College)
- Best Supporting Actor - Nawam Jayaratne (St. Thomas' Catholic International College)
- Best Comic Role - Heshitha Abeyratne (D. S. Senanayake College)
- Best Stage Craft - St. Thomas' Catholic International College

These young performers not only embodied Shakespeare's characters but also exemplified the leadership, discipline, and self-expression that Rotary seeks to cultivate in youth.

Rotary's Role Beyond the Stage

What truly set this year's competition apart was the seamless collaboration between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors. Members of the Rotaract Club of Colombo North handled stage management, lighting, ticketing, and coordination, ensuring that every cue and curtain call ran perfectly.☑

Rotarians served as mentors and judges, sharing insights on public speaking, emotional expression, and ethical storytelling.



Past President of the Rotary Club of Colombo North, Rtn. Lasika highlighted, "Theatre is not just performance; it's preparation for life. Through drama, our youth learn empathy, leadership, and collaboration, all values Rotary stands for."

The District Governor commended RCCN's contribution, calling the competition "a model of how service and art can merge to inspire the next generation." He emphasised that promoting literature and drama aligns perfectly with Rotary's global priorities in education, peacebuilding, and youth development.

A Lasting Legacy

As the curtains closed on the 50th edition, applause filled the theatre , not just for the winners, but for every student who took the stage. Their passion reaffirmed why this event remains a national treasure. For half a century, the Shakespeare Drama Competition has inspired thousands of Sri Lankan students to dream, act, and express , and the Rotary Club of Colombo North continues to be the guiding force behind it.

In celebrating Shakespeare's words, the competition celebrates something greater, the voice of a new generation. Through creativity, courage, and collaboration, these young actors have proven that Sri Lanka's artistic future shines bright.

As Shakespeare once wrote, "All the world's a stage." In 2025, the Rotary Club of Colombo North ensured that every young performer had their moment under its light , a stage not only for drama, but for growth, service, and the timeless spirit of Rotary.

Purpose-Driven Shopping

Rotary Colombo Fort's Pop-Up Empowers Mothers

On September 27, 2025, the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Colombo Fort hosted the highly successful "Forts' POP UP Sale 2025" at The Women's International, Colombo 7. The event was a critical fundraiser for the "Mothers in Need with Children to Feed" project.

More than just a sale, it was a platform to boost the local economy, empowering over 50 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Shoppers enjoyed special incentives, including a 50% discount from vendor Sinhagiri, and unique features like a Pop Up Coconut Special and a Monstrous Slime booth.

The day was filled with community spirit and purpose-driven shopping, with attendance from key figures including Rotary District Governor Delvin Pereira. The event successfully delivered on its promise of fellowship and impactful charity.



Rotary SME Conclave Empowers Boutique Hotels for Tourism Revival

The Rotary Club of Colombo East, in collaboration with Boutiques in Sri Lanka, recently hosted the SME Conclave Boutique Hotel Development Workshop at the 80 Club in Colombo. The event brought together boutique hotel owners, tourism SMEs, service providers, and industry experts to explore innovative strategies and tools to strengthen Sri Lanka's growing boutique tourism sector. The workshop offered practical insights into driving business growth, improving sustainability, and enhancing competitiveness in the hospitality industry. Key sessions focused on the integration of wellness and medical tourism, digital transformation through AI and technology, secure digital payment solutions, and tailored financing models for entrepreneurs. Each segment aimed to equip participants with actionable approaches to improve guest experiences, streamline operations, and adapt to evolving market trends.



Beyond the learning sessions, the conclave fostered collaboration and peer-to-peer engagement, allowing participants to exchange ideas on building stronger brand identities, elevating service quality, and positioning Sri Lanka as a distinctive tourism destination.

Supported by Global Health Asia-Pacific, Payable, and First Capital, the initiative underscored the importance of cross-industry partnerships in empowering SMEs. As tourism continues to play a crucial role in Sri Lanka's economic recovery, boutique enterprises are well placed to redefine the nation's tourism identity through authentic, personalised experiences. The workshop marked a meaningful step toward equipping these businesses with the knowledge, connections, and tools needed to thrive in the evolving global tourism landscape.



Healing Minds Matter

Rotary Strengthens Commitment to Mental Health in Sri Lanka

Rotary in Sri Lanka has taken a significant step in addressing the nation's growing mental health crisis with the launch of the next phase of its flagship initiative, Healing Minds Matter (HMM). The event was held at Elevate by Jetwing on 29 September 2025, marking a new chapter in Rotary's ongoing mission to promote mental well-being across the island. First introduced under the leadership of IPDG Rtn. Sushena Ranatunga, and now driven forward by District Governor Rtn. Delvin Pereira, Rotary International District 3220 (Sri Lanka & Maldives) continues to lead the charge in this vital cause. The project is jointly spearheaded by the Rotary Clubs of Colombo Mid Town and Colombo Port City, co-chaired by Rtn. IPP Rasini Bandara and Rtn. IPP Michael Jayawardana.

In just one year, Healing Minds Matter has reached over 11,000 individuals, conducting mental health awareness sessions across schools, universities, factories, and rural communities, while training 310 QPR-certified Gatekeepers to identify and respond to individuals in suicidal crisis.



The new phase of the initiative introduces the Healing Minds Matter mobile app, developed in partnership with Xigenix (Pvt) Ltd, to connect users with helplines, referral networks, and mental health resources. The project also collaborates with Lanka Life Line 1375, Sri Lanka's 24/7 mental health hotline, and plans to train an additional 500 Gatekeepers while refurbishing the 10,000 sq. ft. Mental Health Wing at the University of Colombo, which will soon become the country's first Rotary Mental Wellness Center.

Reflecting on the initiative's impact, Rtn. Rasini Bandara shared, "Suicide prevention is about more than awareness—it's about compassion in action. Healing Minds Matter is our promise that no one should face their pain alone." Rtn. Michael Jayawardana added, "Our goal is to make Healing Minds Matter a lasting national movement built on care, connection, and hope."

Emphasizing Rotary's commitment, District Governor Rtn. Delvin Pereira noted, "This initiative reflects the very soul of Rotary—serving humanity where it matters most."

Rotary District 3220 Grows by 191 in Aggressive 90-Day Challenge

Rotary District 3220 is celebrating a significant victory after its focused 90-Day Membership Attraction Challenge successfully brought 191 new members into the fold.

The initiative created a surge of recruitment activity, pitting clubs against one another in a friendly competition across three categories: Small, Medium, and Large. By the end of the challenge, the district's ranks had measurably swelled, showcasing the power of a unified, strategic effort. The results of the challenge will be released on the 1st of January 2025, based on retention rates of the new members.

Building immediately on this momentum, the membership team has wasted no time in launching its next ambitious program: the *"Champions for Her."* This new, targeted campaign is specifically designed to foster greater diversity and increase *women's membership* across Rotary District 3220.

Message from Team Catalyst: Please maintain regular contact with new members and ensure they *participate in* the district orientation program for a smooth and engaging introduction in Rotary District 3220.



ICST University Park Hosts Major Blood Donation Drive in Collaboration with Rotary Club of Batticaloa

The International College of Science and Technology (ICST University Park) proudly hosted a large-scale blood donation campaign on 30 September 2025, marking a meaningful milestone in community driven healthcare support.

Organized with the wholehearted collaboration of the Rotary Club of Batticaloa Heritage and the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, the event drew an impressive 150 donors including university students, staff, military personnel, garment factory workers, and members of the public all united by a shared mission to save lives. The occasion was graced by the Deputy Vice- Chancellor of ICST University Park, senior administrative officers and faculty members, representatives from the Rotary Club of Batticaloa Heritage, and dedicated doctors and medical staff from the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital. Their presence highlighted the powerful synergy between educational institutions, service organizations, and healthcare providers.

The initiative not only replenished vital blood reserves but also fostered compassion and civic responsibility among participants. It was a heartening reminder that a single act, donating blood can make a profound difference. The Rotary Club of Batticaloa Heritage remains deeply committed to advancing such humanitarian efforts and looks forward to more partnerships that continue uplifting the community.



Rotary Focuses on Islandwide Efforts on World Cleanup Day 2025

Rotary clubs across Sri Lanka led a massive environmental drive for World Cleanup Day. Organized by Rotary District 3220, hundreds of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact members took action in this initiative. This coordinated, island-wide effort showcased Rotary's powerful commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability in Sri Lanka.





Hope on Wheel Project Rolls into Kilinochchi

On 13th September 2025, the Hope on Wheel Project reached Rupawathy Hall, Kilinochchi, marking another impactful milestone in Rotary service. This Two Million Rupees Project was jointly initiated by Rotary International District 3220 (Sri Lanka & Maldives) and RID 2982 (Salem, Tamil Nadu,



India). A total of 40 bicycles were distributed to schoolchildren from the Kilinochchi District, helping them access education with ease and independence. The project was organized by the Rotary Club of Kilinochchi Town. The ceremony was graced by Immediate Past District Governor Rtn. Sushena Ranatunga, Immediate Past District Secretary Rtn. Gamini Madanayaka, PDG Rtn. Krish Rajendran, and Rtn. PP

Jayawickrama, who distributed the bicycles to the beneficiaries. Rtn. President Dr. Gowthaman, IPP Ram Jaseelan, Past Presidents, and Board Members of the Rotary Club of Kilinochchi Town were also present, celebrating a day of hope, service, and smiles on wheels.



Rotary and NEDA Partner to Empower Sri Lanka's SME through Digital Transformation and Capacity Building

On September 6th, the Rotary Club of Cinnamon Gardens and the National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) entered into a partnership to support Sri Lanka's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through a comprehensive program focused on capacity building, digital transformation, and market access. The collaboration was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing the District SME agenda. The initiative seeks to enhance business visibility, strengthen social media presence, and provide entrepreneurs with guidance on digital payment and delivery solutions.



A key aspect of the partnership is capacity building, which includes conducting workshops and programs to help entrepreneurs develop vital skills in areas such as digital marketing and business management. The digital transformation component focuses on helping SMEs adapt to the digital economy through content creation, social media development, and the facilitation of digital payments and transactions. In terms of market access, the partnership aims to assist entrepreneurs in improving their market reach, including obtaining certifications like the "Made in Sri Lanka" logo and developing efficient delivery solutions.

The initiative also emphasizes mentorship and support, with Rotary clubs organizing regional workshops and mentoring programs to provide hands-on assistance to entrepreneurs across the country. A collaborative approach is central to the partnership, with Rotary working alongside organizations such as Dialog Finance, the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), and the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) to provide a comprehensive support system for SMEs.

Among the specific initiatives under this partnership is the B500 Project, launched by the Rotary Club of Cinnamon Gardens in collaboration with NEDA and Dialog Finance, which guides entrepreneurs through the entire business transaction journey – from creation to delivery. Another major initiative, the ICTA–Rotary SME Conclave, focuses on strengthening 35 selected SMEs through capacity building and improved market access, ultimately contributing to Sri Lanka’s digital economy. Additionally, regional workshops are being conducted by Rotary clubs across the island to address specific local needs and empower entrepreneurs within their respective regions.



Clean Up Sri Lanka 2025

A Nationwide Effort for a Greener Tomorrow



On the 20th of September 2025, thousands of volunteers across the island came together for Clean Up Sri Lanka 2025, a nationwide initiative organized by Shraddha TV. The campaign was further strengthened with the active participation of Interact, Rotaract, Rotary, and other school clubs and societies.

This year's program covered almost every major zone including Colombo, Kandy, Kurunegala, Gampaha, Galle, Matara, Ratnapura, and Jaffna. From bustling city streets to coastal belts, volunteers worked tirelessly to clear and collect waste, with municipal councils ensuring proper disposal afterwards.

What made this year's effort remarkable was the unity it showcased. Schoolchildren, university students, professionals, and community leaders all stood shoulder to shoulder with one shared goal, creating a cleaner and healthier environment.

More than just a cleanup, Clean Up Sri Lanka 2025 served as a powerful reminder that protecting the environment is a responsibility we all share. The initiative concluded successfully, leaving behind not only cleaner surroundings but also a renewed determination among Sri Lankans to work towards a greener future together.



Rotary Clubs Bring Vision to Kolonnawa Community

The Rotary Clubs of PanColombo and Colombo Central joined hands on October 1st to bring the gift of sight to the residents of the Kolonnawa Divisional Secretariat area. Through this joint initiative, 100 individuals in need were screened for vision problems, and custom-made spectacles were distributed to those requiring corrective lenses.



The project was made possible through a donor identified by Rotary PanColombo, while Rotary Colombo Central contributed generous donations to meet the project's needs and ensure its successful implementation. In addition to providing spectacles, the program identified 24 individuals who were referred to hospitals for cataract surgeries and further medical care.

This collaborative effort reflects Rotary's continued commitment to improving community health and uplifting lives through practical, compassionate action.



Rotary Club of Kandy Hill Capital Empowers Young Women in Kandy

The Rotary Club of Kandy Hill Capital, together with Rotary District 3220, continues its heartfelt mission to empower young women through its ongoing Girl Empowerment Continues project. On September 11, 2025, the club successfully conducted another meaningful session at Christ Church, Kandy. The program supported 38 dedicated Advanced Level students, guiding them as they prepare for their upcoming exams and for life beyond the classroom. Each student received a thoughtful gift pack filled with stationery and T-shirts, symbolizing encouragement and care from the Rotary family.



More than just material support, the event offered mentorship and practical knowledge designed to help these young women grow in confidence and resilience. The workshop focused on key areas that truly matter to their wellbeing and future success. Students learned how to strengthen their academic skills and prepare effectively for their A/L examinations. They were also introduced to stress management techniques to handle exam pressure with calm and clarity. In addition, an important discussion on period hygiene, responsible disposal, and self-care reminded them of the importance of health, dignity, and confidence.



The event was filled with warmth, learning, and inspiration. Members of the Rotary Club of Kandy Hill Capital expressed gratitude to all facilitators, volunteers, and supporters who made the session possible. Through initiatives like Girl Empowerment Continues, the club reaffirms its belief that when girls are educated, supported, and inspired, communities grow stronger. Each session is not just an activity but a step toward shaping a generation of confident, compassionate, and empowered young women who will lead with purpose and kindness. Together, the Rotary Club of Kandy Hill Capital is helping light the way to a brighter and

Wheelchair Assembling Project Inaugurated at Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injury Association, Mankulam

A new chapter of service and empowerment unfolded as Rotary launched a Wheelchair Assembly Plant at the Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injury Association, Mankulam, a joint initiative with RI District 3234 (Chennai, India) and the Rotary Club of Kilinochchi Town. Valued at INR 1.3 million, this impactful project provides opportunities for spinal cord injury patients to earn a livelihood and support their medical needs, aligning with Rotary's focus area of Community Economic Development. The ceremony was graced by



District Governor RID 3220 Rtn. Delvin Pereira, First Lady Rtn. Lucille Antoinette Pereira, District Secretary PP Dinesh Kumar, District Governor Rtn. AKS Vinod Saraogi, Rotarians, Presidents from Chennai, President Dr. Gowthaman (RC Kilinochchi Town), Past Presidents, Rotarians, and members of the Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injury Association. The day concluded with a warm fellowship at Reecha, celebrating unity, compassion, and the spirit of Rotary service.



The Rotary Pink Pledge

Turning Awareness into Action



Every October, the world turns pink to symbolize solidarity and hope in the fight against breast cancer. In Sri Lanka, this movement has been given a structured, action-driven identity through the Rotary Pink Pledge, an initiative by Rotary International District 3220 that calls communities to move beyond awareness and take measurable steps toward early detection and prevention. The Rotary Pink Pledge (RPP) was launched by Rotary District 3220, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, to unify clubs under a single health advocacy goal during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The campaign encourages Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs to “turn pink with purpose,” pledging not only to raise awareness but also to support practical health interventions such as screening

programs and educational workshops. At its core, the RPP aims to empower women with the knowledge and confidence to perform self-breast examinations and to promote early detection through clinical screenings. The initiative works closely with partners such as the Indira Cancer Trust, Nawaloka Hospitals, and the National Cancer Control Programme of Sri Lanka, ensuring that awareness efforts are tied to medical support systems.

From Pledge to Practice

Across the island, Rotary and Rotaract clubs transform towns and campuses into hubs of pink energy every October. Activities range from free breast cancer screening camps and awareness walks to panel discussions and survivor storytelling sessions. The campaign’s website and social media platforms highlight the importance of monthly self-examinations for women over 20, encouraging preventive health as a shared responsibility.

For instance, the Rotaract Club of APIIT and several other youth-led Rotary clubs recently joined hands to host events where participants learned how to conduct self-checks and access affordable screenings.

These interactive sessions have helped normalise conversations around women's health, often a taboo subject in certain communities. The Rotary Pink Pledge has succeeded in mobilising thousands of volunteers and drawing public attention to breast cancer prevention. Its visibility has inspired collaborations between medical institutions, private sector sponsors, and civil society organisations.

However, an investigative look reveals challenges that need addressing if the movement is to deliver long-term impact. Despite its reach, there is limited publicly available data on the number of screenings conducted, early detections made, or follow-up treatments provided through the campaign. Experts suggest that future editions should incorporate data collection to measure the initiative's true health outcomes. Additionally, sustaining momentum beyond the pink-themed month remains a hurdle. Without year-round engagement, awareness can fade as quickly as the colour itself.

Access to screening facilities in rural and low-income regions also remains a concern. While urban clubs have successfully organised multiple health camps, the outreach in underserved communities is uneven. To avoid what public health advocates term "pinkwashing" – awareness without tangible results, Rotary's model must ensure inclusivity and follow-up support.

Partnerships for Progress

The campaign's partnership-driven approach is one of its strongest assets. By collaborating with hospitals, cancer trusts, and community leaders, Rotary bridges the gap between advocacy and action. Many clubs now integrate self-exam demonstrations into school programs, women's groups, and even workplace wellness drives. The involvement of youth volunteers has also given the movement renewed energy. Rotaractors have become key agents of awareness, using digital platforms such as Instagram and TikTok to spread life-saving information in creative, relatable formats.

The Road Ahead

To ensure that the Rotary Pink Pledge remains more than a seasonal campaign, experts propose three strategies:

- **Data-Driven Impact:** Establish a transparent system to record and share screening statistics, detection rates, and community feedback.
- **Rural Inclusion:** Deploy mobile screening units and collaborate with rural Rotary clubs to extend services beyond cities.
- **Year-Round Advocacy:** Introduce a "Pink Pledge Follow-Up" programme with quarterly health sessions and survivor networks.

By embedding breast cancer prevention into broader public health education, the campaign can evolve into a continuous movement for women's wellbeing.

The Rotary Pink Pledge stands as a model of how community-driven initiatives can champion public health. Its success lies not only in the number of pink ribbons worn but in the lives potentially saved through awareness, detection, and timely action. As Sri Lanka continues to strengthen its healthcare system, such grassroots efforts powered by volunteers and partnerships are vital in bridging the gap between information and intervention. In a world where awareness often fades with the calendar, the Rotary Pink Pledge reminds us that the true colour of hope is action.

Kilinochchi Goes Pink

Sri Lanka Launches Historic Breast Cancer Fight

Kilinochchi, Northern Province– A wave of pink swept over Kilinochchi on October 5th, 2025, as over 1,000 participants and nearly 500 spectators gathered for Sri Lanka’s first-ever nationwide TLC Triathlon. This massive awareness campaign is dedicated to fighting breast cancer through early detection. The unprecedented event united students, families, and community members, all carrying one critical message: every woman above 20 must perform a self-breast examination once a month.

Touch · Look · Check: The TLC Mission

The TLC Triathlon (Touch · Look · Check) is an accessible relay with short distances: a swim, cycle, and run/walk. Teams of three participated in pink, receiving medals to carry the message back to their homes and villages. The launch was supported by key dignitaries, including Governor Nagalingam Vedhanayagam and senior officials, highlighting the collective commitment to this cause.

A Mission Powered by Partnership

This national initiative is an integral part of Rotary’s Pink Pledge, a movement aimed at combating breast cancer and ensuring access to essential screening and treatment services. The success of the Kilinochchi launch was made possible through a vital collaboration with Indira Cancer Trust, Rotary Club of Killinochchi Town, local health authorities and community organizations. This multi-sectoral approach ensures that the message of early detection reaches every corner of the island and is integrated into existing health structures.

The Road Ahead

Kilinochchi marks the beginning of a month-long historic campaign that will span the island:

12th October: Batticaloa (East)

19th October: Matara (South)

26th October: Colombo (West)

With immense community spirit and powerful partnerships, Kilinochchi has sent a powerful message: Sri Lanka is united in the fight against breast cancer.

Batticaloa Steps Up Sri Lanka Continues Breast Cancer Fight

Batticaloa, Eastern Province– Following the successful launch in Kilinochchi, the wave of pink swept into Batticaloa on October 12th, 2025, for the second stage of Sri Lanka’s nationwide TLC Triathlon. Over 800 participants and hundreds of spectators gathered to champion the cause of breast cancer awareness through early detection,

The event brought together students, families, and community members from the East, reinforcing the critical message that every woman above 20 must perform a self-breast examination once a month.

Touch · Look · Check: The TLC Mission Continues

The TLC Triathlon (Touch · Look · Check) engaged teams in the accessible relay of a 250m swim, 6km cycle, and 3km run/walk. Participants, clad in pink, received medals, committing to take the life-saving message of vigilance back to their homes and villages across the Eastern Province. The Batticaloa event saw strong support from regional dignitaries and health officials, underscoring the government and community's shared dedication to this public health campaign.

A Unified National Effort

This regional event is a key part of Rotary’s Pink Pledge initiative, which is dedicated to combating breast cancer. The staging in Batticaloa was made possible through continued collaboration with Indira Cancer Trust , the Rotary Clubs of Batticaloa , Batticaloa Heritage , Batticaloa City , Paddiruppu , Rotaract Club of Batticaloa , local health authorities, and community partners. This unified, multi-sectoral approach ensures that early detection awareness is effectively integrated into communities nationwide.

Next Steps on the Pink Pledge Journey

Batticaloa successfully carried the baton, demonstrating the East’s commitment to the cause. The nationwide campaign now moves to the Southern and Western provinces:☒

19th October: Matara (South)

26th October: Colombo (West)

With powerful community turnout and solidarity, Batticaloa has firmly established that Sri Lanka is united in the fight against breast cancer.



Installations & Governor's Visits

Rotary Club of Colombo Port City DGOV

3rd September

The Rotary Club of Colombo Port City held their DGOV on the 3rd of September 2025. The club also achieved a remarkable milestone by inducting 16 new members to the club.



Rotary Club of Colombo Central DGOV

4th September

The Rotary Club of Colombo Central hosted the District Governor's Official Visit (DGOV) for Rotary Year 2025–26 on 4th September 2025 at the 80's Club of Colombo.

The visit commenced with a meeting attended by District Governor Rtn. Delvin Pereira, District Secretary Rtn. Dinesh Kumar, Assistant Governor Rtn. Michael Jayawardana, and the Club's Board of Directors, including President Rtn. Hidaya Shanker Muthuramalingam and other key office bearers.

The occasion was highlighted by the participation of Interact Clubs from St. Joseph's College, S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Ananda College, Nalanda College, and Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, whose vibrant presentations added energy to the program.

The evening continued with an engaging Club Assembly, followed by fellowship and dinner, embodying the spirit of Rotary. The Club extends sincere thanks to all members, new inductees, and District leadership for their contribution to a memorable DGOV.



Rotary Club of Anuradhapura DGOV & Installation

7th September

The Rotary Club of Anuradhapura successfully held its 44th Installation Ceremony, marking another significant milestone in the club's rich history of service and fellowship. The event took place on Sunday, 7th September 2025, at the Seedeve Banquet Hall, Anuradhapura, commencing at 6.30 PM.

The ceremony witnessed the formal installation of Rtn. Eng. Pubudu Tharanga as the Club President for the Rotary Year 2025/26, along with his newly appointed Board of Directors. Under the Rotary theme "Unite for Good," the new leadership pledged to continue strengthening the club's community impact and uphold the spirit of Service Above Self.

The evening was graced by Rtn. PHF. Delvin Pereira, District Governor 2025/26 of Rotary International District 3220, who attended as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Ayodya Bulathsinhala, Lecturer at the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa, who participated as the Guest of Honour.

The event, attended by Rotarians, dignitaries, and well-wishers, featured moments of inspiration, recognition, and fellowship. Guests enjoyed an elegant evening that celebrated leadership, commitment, and unity within the Rotary family. The 44th Installation Ceremony stood as a proud reflection of the Rotary Club of Anuradhapura's enduring dedication to service, collaboration, and community development in the region.



Rotary Club of Nallur DGOV & Installation

12th September

The District Governor's Official Visit to the Rotary Club of Nallur was held on 12th September 2025. The program commenced with meetings with the President, Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect, and the Board of Directors, followed by a short comfort break. In the evening, the Rotary Club of Nallur proudly celebrated a remarkable milestone with its 13th President's Installation Ceremony, held at J Hotel, Ariyalai, Jaffna. Rtn. Anton Dickson was ceremoniously installed as the 13th President for the Rotary Year 2025–26. The event was graced by District Governor Delvin Pereira as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour PP. PHF. Rtn. Sarada Rammani from Tamil Nadu, District Secretary PP. Dinesh Kumar, and Assistant Governor PP. Bavvatharani Ravindran. Over 100 Rotarians and well-wishers gathered for an inspiring evening of fellowship and celebration. The club extends sincere appreciation to IPDG Sushena Ranatunga, Sun Matches Pvt Ltd, and Manitha Neyar A. Ramesh for their generous support. Under the Rotary theme "Unite for Good," the club looks forward to a year of impactful service and unity.



Rotary Club of Jaffna DGOV

13th September

The District Governor's Official Visit (DGOV) to the Rotary Club of Jaffna was successfully held on 13th September 2025 at Tilko Hotel, Jaffna. The occasion was graced by the presence of the District Governor, District Secretary, Assistant Governor, and club board members. It was a productive and insightful session, during which the District Governor shared strategic guidance and valuable recommendations for the Rotary Year 2025–2026. The discussions covered the review of club bylaws, annual budget, goal setting, and updates on ongoing projects and initiatives.



Rotary Club of Kandy Heritage DGOV & Installation

14th September

Rotary Club of Kandy Heritage DGOV and the 18th President's Installation Ceremony was held on 14th of September 2025 at the Oak Ray Regency Hotel in Kandy.



Rotary Club of Colombo West DGOV

17th September

On 17th September 2025, the Rotary Club of Colombo West warmly welcomed District Governor Rtn. Delvin Pereira (2025/26) and First Lady Rtn. Lucille Pereira for the District Governor's Official Visit at Hilton Colombo.

The evening showcased a blend of inspiration, leadership, and fellowship. Highlights included engaging sessions with Interactors and Rotaractors, as well as an insightful address by the District Governor, reflecting this year's Rotary theme: "Unite for Good."

The event brought together members, youth leaders, and distinguished guests, creating an atmosphere of shared purpose and community spirit. Organizers, including the Club President, Secretary, Board, and various committees, were recognized for their meticulous planning and seamless coordination.

The visit underscored the Rotary Club of Colombo West's ongoing commitment to service, unity, and making a meaningful impact in local communities.



Rotary Club of Cinnamon Gardens DGOV

23rd September

On September 23, 2025, the Rotary Club of Cinnamon Gardens successfully hosted the District Governor's Official Visit at Cinnamon Lakeside.



Rotary Club of Colombo DGOV

27th September

On 27th September 2025, The Rotary Club of Colombo had the honor of hosting District Governor Delvin Pereira, along with District Secretary PP Dinesh Kumar and Assistant Governor PP Numan Zarajudeen, at the City Club Meeting Room and Ivy Room, Cinnamon Grand for the clubs DGOV.





Rotaract Updates

Avenue Directors' Training Seminar 2025

The Avenue Directors' Training Seminar (ADTS) for Rotaract in RID 3220 took place across all four zones, bringing together club leaders to align, learn, and lead with purpose. The initiative kicked off with Zone 1 and Zone 4 on Saturday, 19th July 2025, from 8.00 AM onwards via Zoom.



Throughout the day, sessions for each avenue were held under the guidance of the District Steering Committee, ensuring that every avenue director gained a clear understanding of the year's guidelines, procedures, and goals. Adding further value, experienced guest speakers were invited to share their insights and real-world experiences from their respective avenues. The virtual event spanned nine sessions and saw an impressive participation of around 720 Rotaractors from across the zones.

Following this, the focus shifted to Zone 2 on the 23rd of August at the University of Peradeniya, where participants engaged in an interactive physical session. The in-person format fostered collaboration, lively discussions, and stronger connections among avenue directors, making it a memorable and impactful experience.

Finally, the ADTS series concluded with the session for Zone 3, held virtually via Google Meet on the 13th of September from 8.30 AM onwards. With this, the 2025 ADTS successfully came to an end, having united Rotaractors across all four zones through a blend of virtual and physical engagements.





Interact Updates

Interact Re-Ignite 2025

Lead, Serve, Inspire

The spirit of Interact was reignited at Northern Uni SLIIT Auditorium on 6 October 2025, as Interact Re-Ignite 2025 brought together passionate young leaders from Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mannar for a day filled with learning, leadership, and inspiration. The event empowered Interactors to lead with purpose, serve with compassion, and inspire through action, reigniting enthusiasm for community service and teamwork. Engaging sessions, motivational talks, and interactive workshops created a powerful atmosphere of growth and unity. Heartfelt thanks go out to all Interactors, Rotarians, facilitators, and guest speakers whose dedication and energy made the day truly unforgettable. Together, we continue to build the next generation of leaders who embody the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self.



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