

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP



RID 3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



Light

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

August 20th, 2024 - Vol. 47 No. 08

**2279th Regular Weekly Meeting
& 2nd Board Meeting
Attendance: 18**

Birthday Greetings
Aug 25th Rtn. Dr. Mahamaya Sharma
Aug 26th Rtn. Anupam Pal

“Sanskaar”, Silence, And System Failure

Bharat i.e., India — the land of culture, tradition, and the perennial debate over “Sanskaar”. We boast about our ancient heritage, the land where women are revered as goddesses. Yet, in the same breath, we shrug off the rape of another woman as just another day in the “new and improved” India.

The outrage is selective, the anger is temporary, and the justice? Well, that’s eternally pending. From Nirbhaya in 2012 to Abhaya in 2024, we’ve come full circle — or perhaps we never moved at all. We march, we light candles, we scream for justice, but in the end, it’s business as usual. The predators continue to roam free, politicians continue their blame games, and society continues its charade of concern. The rape cases pile up, and so does the apathy.

Shiver ran down my spines when my eyes read the news of a Doctor being raped and brutally murdered during her working hours. What more worst can a society be? What are the safe place in a society? What are the limits of studying to move safely all around? Which profession to choose where safety is top priority?



To put some cold, hard data here: In 2021, India recorded an average of 87 rape cases per day, according to NCRB data. And those are just the reported cases. The conviction rate for crimes against women? A dismal 39.3%. So, if you’re a rapist in India, you have a roughly 60% chance of walking free. That’s better odds than you’d get in a casino.

Enough of the empty promises and the token gestures. We need real change, and it starts with acknowledging the depth of the problem. It starts with raising our voices & demanding justice. We must stop being mere spectators to this brutality and start being active participants in the fight against it. As a society, we can no longer afford to be passive spectators. We must raise our voices against every instance of injustice, no matter how small.

This incident forces us to question whether we have failed as a system. This system comprises not just the government but also parents who have failed to teach their sons about respect and modesty.

Are we truly responsible enough to create a safe environment for future generations?

***Speak**, because silence is not an option. **Rage**, because we cannot afford to be numb anymore. **Fight**, because it’s the only way we’ll reclaim our humanity.*



Message from Grace Van Zyl - Chair, Rotary Action Group for Peace

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your messages of support over the past month and for your unwavering commitment to engaging with the Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP). Your dedication is crucial as we continue to enhance our peace-building efforts.

In this newsletter, we're shining a spotlight on Peace Builder Clubs and Peace Chapters. If you're not already part of one, I hope the following insights inspire you to start or join a Peace Builder Club or Chapter. These groups have the potential to make a significant impact on global peace by fostering a culture of peace at both local and global levels.

Here are some examples of how they can make a difference:



1. Grassroots Peace Initiatives

Community Engagement: Peace builder clubs can initiate projects that directly engage local communities in peace-building activities. This could include conflict resolution workshops, dialogue sessions, and community service projects that address local tensions.

Youth Empowerment: By focusing on youth, clubs can cultivate the next generation of peace leaders. Programs like Positive Peace RYLA can equip young people with the skills and mindset to lead peace initiatives.

2. Cross-Cultural Understanding

Cultural Exchange Programs: Peace builder chapters can organize exchanges between different cultural groups to promote understanding and break down stereotypes. These exchanges could be virtual or in-person, allowing participants to learn about each other's cultures and perspectives.

Peace Fellow Engagement: Involving Rotary Peace Fellows in club activities can bring in global perspectives and academic insights, enhancing the effectiveness of peace-building efforts.

3. Sustainable Peace Projects

Economic Empowerment: Clubs can focus on projects that address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and inequality. This could involve creating job opportunities, supporting local businesses, or providing education and skills training.

Environmental Peacebuilding: Environmental degradation can lead to conflict over resources. Clubs can work on sustainability projects that both protect the environment and build peace, such as water conservation or reforestation efforts.





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

4. Advocacy and Awareness

Peace Campaigns: Peace builder clubs can lead campaigns that raise awareness about peace issues, such as disarmament, human rights, or social justice. These campaigns can use various media, including social media, to reach a wide audience.

Policy Influence: Chapters can engage with local and national governments to advocate for policies that promote peace and justice. By leveraging their networks, they can influence decision-makers and contribute to shaping a more peaceful world.

5. Collaboration and Networking

Global Partnerships: By collaborating with other peace organizations, clubs can amplify their impact. This could involve partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations working on peace and conflict resolution.

Peacebuilder Networks: Creating a global network of peace builder clubs and chapters allows for the sharing of resources, ideas, and best practices. This network can also respond quickly to emerging conflicts by coordinating efforts across different regions.

6. Education and Capacity Building

Peace Education: Clubs can work with schools and universities to integrate peace education into their curricula. This can include teaching conflict resolution, non-violent communication, and the history of peace movements.

Training Programs: Offering training in mediation, negotiation, and peace-building strategies to community leaders, law enforcement, and other stakeholders can help prevent and resolve conflicts at the local level.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Impact Assessment: Regularly assessing the impact of peace projects helps to ensure that they are effective and sustainable. Clubs can use this data to improve their initiatives and demonstrate their value to potential partners and donors.

Learning and Adaptation: By learning from both successes and failures, peace builder clubs can continuously refine their approaches to peace-building. This adaptability is crucial in responding to the changing dynamics of conflict.

These examples illustrate the profound potential of Peace Builder Clubs and Chapters to create lasting change by addressing both the symptoms and root causes of conflict. By promoting a culture of peace, these initiatives can have a global resonance.

I hope these insights inspire you to take ACTION in practical ways, contributing to a more peaceful world.





PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



WATER AND SANITATION



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT



On our Independence Day, August 15th, 2024, President Biswajit along with CLF PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta, PP Tanu Roy with R'let Devarsh, Rtn. Abbas A Halder with daughter Farheen and our new member Rtn. Santosh Singh visited Ramakrishna Gayatri Sevashram at Dongaria, Budge Budge. Rotary Garden Reach conducted 'Drawing Competition' for the kids and an 'Essay Competition' for the women of the village who has enrolled for Adult Literacy classes. Certificates were given to the winners of both categories. In total we had 100 participants. Members had arranged for community lunch for one and all.





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

Sangkoo Yun – RI President, 2026-27: Vision and Goals for Rotary



Our Vision is Rotary as the Premier Platform for Global Humanitarian Services

I would like Rotary to be the foremost clearinghouse and information hub acting as a vital connecting conduit for all individuals, institutions, and businesses committed to serving humanity. Rotary will become the platform for all matters related to humanitarian services, seamlessly integrating and disseminating information, resources, and connections. Also, by providing easy access and user-friendly platform position Rotary as the primary source of service both online and offline. This will enhance Rotary's adaptability, boost our participant engagement, and significantly expand our reach.

Our Strength is Serving Humanity

I would like Rotary to prioritize delivering tangible value to its members through service activities. At the same time, Rotary should ensure prospective members to experience benefits of service prior to joining Rotary. I would like Rotary to foster inclusivity by inviting non-Rotarians to participate in our service activities, fund raising, and international events where world renowned speakers are featured.

Our Promise to Empowerment & Simplification

I would like to raise greater regional autonomy delegating more authority and responsibility - and simplify policies and policy documents to make them easily adaptable, relevant with time, resilient, and sustainable so long as they align with our core values, vision, and mission.

I would encourage districts and countries to launch Member Benefit Programs in collaboration with local enterprises, providing tangible monetary benefit to members.

Our Impetus to Collaborative & Impactful Projects

I would request District Governors to coordinate with their peers to design and implement greater socially impactful humanitarian service projects which will promote Rotary and positively affect multiple communities.

Once **Polio Plus** is completed, I would like Rotary to launch new signature corporate project to maintain our global recognition, enlist additional partnerships with global institutions and enhance Rotarian's identity.

The new Rotary's Service Project Center is now live

Chonticha Yurai, Grants & Service Product Manager at Rotary International

A Rotary International-USAID WASH project provided a rainwater collection tank and menstrual hygiene management training to a community in Uganda. This project is making a real difference in the lives of these girls. Share information about your service projects on Rotary's new Service Project Center!

Managing and sharing information about your service project is now a faster, easier, and better experience with Service Project Center, Rotary's new service project hub.

Dynamic and with new features, Service Project Center allows you to log projects, find opportunities for collaboration with other clubs, and find inspiration for your club's next project. You'll also be able to:

- ☀ **Manage your projects from any mobile device**
- ☀ **Easily share projects by email and social media platforms**
- ☀ **Manage your club's service projects if you are one of the club officers.**
- ☀ **Add project locations using Google Maps**

Service Project Center represents a significant development in Rotary International's continual efforts to support our clubs and the communities they partner with. Added features help you tell your club's project stories, giving





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

you greater credibility with potential members, partners, and donors. And you'll have more opportunities to include photos and details, better capturing your work and talking about it more transparently.

And these improvements are just the beginning! Future enhancements will include project pins on a map, project search by language, easier access to resources to help your club with service goals, and more!

With the launch of Service Project Center, Rotary Showcase has been retired. All projects previously available on Rotary Showcase have been moved to Service Project Center.

Visit [Service Project Center](#) regularly to share more about your club's service projects, find best practices, and connect with other clubs, members, and the public.

Tips from a Rotary, Toastmasters Webinar

How to inspire others through storytelling

Do you have an answer ready if you are asked, Why Rotary? Even seasoned Rotary members struggle to answer this seemingly basic question if we're honest with ourselves, especially when speaking with prospective members. We inundate prospects with lists of what we do and proud accounts of how we do it, instead of helping them figure out why they might want to check out our next club meeting or service project in the first place.

Don't feel bad. Simon Sinek, a notable speaker and author on business leadership, points out, the way our brain processes language can make finding our "why" difficult. Sharing effective stories is one way we can get around this anatomical roadblock. My journey in Rotary and Toastmasters has convinced me that telling effective stories is imperative for our growth as membership organizations. We all have stories to tell – those inspiring Rotary "moments." And we can all learn to be better, even great, storytellers.

In April, I had the privilege of moderating a joint webinar produced by Rotary International and Toastmasters International, Connect & Inspire Through Storytelling. The distinguished panelists agreed that we must express ourselves through stories more often.

Nikita Williams, a Toronto Rotarian and Toastmaster, observed that good stories connect across every demographic and cultural boundary. Nikita emphasized creativity and personal adaptation. She compared selecting story elements to share to the process of choosing toppings for a pizza. Maybe even include pineapple!

Verity Price, the 2021 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking shared a clever mnemonic device to help us remember the elements of a great story – HOME. A

Hero faces an
Obstacle, then finds a
Mentor, and
Emerges successfully.

She also emphasized the importance of simplicity, editing, and practice.

According to Verity, the elements of a great story are like the number of blocks in a winning Jenga tower, just enough to keep it structurally sound.

In another analogy, Verity talked about making breakfast for her son. She may keep the first pancake for herself, because it's usually not one of her better efforts. Similarly, the first attempt or two at sharing your story may not be ready for prime time, but practice can make it perfect.

Mike Carr, 2020 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking, urged us to emphasize the humanity and humour in our stories, making what you say relatable to your audience up to the point of envisioning themselves as the hero of the stories you tell. The more vulnerability and authenticity you can bring to your story, the better, he advised.

So, here's our call to action, as Nikita puts it. We all have stories to share, so we must find our unique voices and tell our stories in every space that we're in.

To practice and get inspired, why not make it an agenda item at your next Rotary meeting to ask members to share their Rotary moments? You and the members of your club will then be ready to share a great story with a prospective member who asks, "Why Rotary?"





PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

Nine Reasons to join Rotary

- 1. Friendship** In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friendship and fellowship. It is one of two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.
- 2. Business Development:** The second original reason for Rotary's beginning is business development. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help each other and collectively help others.
- 3. Personal Growth & Development:** Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.
- 4. Leadership Development:** Rotary is an organisation made for leaders. Leadership: - learning how to motivate, influence and lead leaders.
- 5. Citizenship in the Community:** Membership in a Rotary club makes one a better community citizen. The average Rotary club consists of active citizens of any community.
- 6. Continuing Education:** At Rotary there is a program designed to keep one informed about what is going on in the community, nation, and world. Each meeting provides an opportunity to listen to different speakers and a variety of timely topics.
- 7. Fun:** Rotary is fun a, lot of fun. Each meeting is fun. The club projects are fun. Social activities are fun. Serving others is fun.
- 8. Public Speaking Skills:** Many individuals who joined Rotary were afraid to speak in public. Rotary develops confidence and skill in public communication and the opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.
- 9. Citizenship in the World:** Every Rotarian wears a pin that says "Rotary International." There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome – even encouraged – to attend any of the 46,000 clubs in over 200 nations and geographical regions. This means instant friends in both one's own community and in the world community.

Minutes of the 2278th RWM held on August 13th, 2024 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

- 1. President call the meeting to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.**
- 2. A minute of silence was observed for our ex-CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharya & for Dr. Moumita Debnath.**
- 3. 2nd Board Meeting to be held on August 20th, 2024. Hosts PP Tanu and Rtn. Shubhayan.**
- 4. Flag hoisting Ceremony & associated issues for August 15th project discussed for Dongaria, Budge Budge. PP Dr. Sumanta will be donating food packets for 55 children and PP Tanu committed to give drawing kits for the children.**
- 5. President informed that the required documents for the 'Society Registration' has been submitted.**
- 6. PP Timir informed that the documents for opening bank account for Rotary Garden Reach Trust has been submitted.**
- 7. Charter Day Anniversary on September 11th, 2024. Committee Chair PP Tapan Roy and Co-chair PN Dr. BN Jha & Rtn. Abbas Halder.**
- 8. The Club Secretary conducted the Club business.**
- 9. On confirmation of the minutes, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.**

WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7.30 P.M. AT B. N. R. OFFICERS' CLUB. GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA - 700 043
CONTACT : PP TANU ROY • Mobile : + 91 9831 72 88 80 / roytanu@hotmail.com

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY