



**"YOU ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD..."**

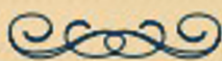
RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2326th RWM



Charter Day



*48 Not Out - Rotary Garden Reach
Keeps Scoring for Humanity.*



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Greetings on Birthday

Sept 12th ; R'tet Anika, Daughter of Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray

Sept 13th : PP Ranjit K Basu

Sept 14th : Rtn. Gautam Purakayastha

Sept 15th : Spouse Ratna, Wife of Rtn. Debasis Das

Rotary Club of Garden Reach: Honouring a Legacy, Building the Future

Rtn. Subhojit Roy, District Public Image Chair (2025-26); President, Rotary Garden Reach (2002-03)

As the Rotary Club of Garden Reach approaches a significant milestone in the next two years, it is an opportune moment for members to pause, reflect, and take pride in a legacy that has stood the test of time. The club's Charter Day, like every year, will once again remind us that the present is shaped by the sacrifices and vision of the past, and that the future will only shine brighter if we continue to build upon this solid foundation.

Few Rotary clubs in our region can claim the unmatched and pioneering legacy of Rotary Garden Reach. Established in 1977, the club has consistently been a beacon of courage and service in an area that once bore the stigma of being among the most socially and economically distressed parts of the city.

A Journey Rooted in Courage

The Garden Reach area, historically, was synonymous with the underbelly of Kolkata. As a port locality, it was plagued by crime, deprivation, and an acute lack of basic civic amenities. Healthcare facilities were minimal, education was scarce, and social awareness was virtually absent. The phrase "darkness below lights" perhaps best captures the irony of life here: a thriving industrial and port infrastructure surrounded by communities living in neglect.

It was against this backdrop that a group of visionaries—drawn from Railways, the Port Trust, Calcutta Electric Supply, private enterprises, and local entrepreneurs—came together to form the Rotary Club of Garden Reach. They were ordinary professionals who dared to bring extraordinary change.

As a child, I first encountered Rotary during those formative years of the club. I remember, at just seven years old, wandering around the BNR Officers Club every Tuesday evening, eager to sip my Cola while the Rotarians gathered in the bar section for their weekly meetings. Little did I know then that destiny would bring me into the fold of that same gathering 19 years later, this time as a member committed to carrying forward its mission.

Fighting the Polio Battle

Among the most defining contributions of Rotary Garden Reach has been its relentless fight against polio in one of the most vulnerable regions of India. Long before polio eradication became a global Rotary success story; our members braved unimaginable challenges on the ground.

In the late 1980s and 1990s, resistance to polio immunization was widespread. Ignorance, fear, and deeply entrenched religious beliefs often created hostile environments. Members were sometimes

chased away, doors were shut on them, and their sincerity questioned. Yet, they remained undeterred, walking from lane to lane, convincing families until every child received those life-saving drops.

It is no exaggeration to say that the eradication of polio in our region carries the imprint of the courage and determination of Rotary Garden Reach. To this day, it remains one of the club's proudest legacies.

A Pioneer in Thalassaemia Awareness

If today District 3291 is rallying around the cause of a Thalassaemia Free India, the roots again go back to Garden Reach. At a time when very few even spoke about the genetic disorder, Rotary Garden Reach pioneered support for patients at the Thalassaemia Society of India.

This early intervention is a reminder that service is not only about responding to what is popular but about anticipating what is necessary. It is this pioneering spirit that the present generation of members must carry forward—because Rotary Garden Reach has never followed trends, it has set them.

A Cultural and Public Image Trailblazer

Rotary Garden Reach was not only about service—it was also a hub of cultural vibrancy. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the club was known for hosting iconic legends at its events, making it a cultural hot-spot within the Rotary movement. These events enhanced Rotary's public image and fostered collaborations for causes—an approach that is widely spoken of today, but which Garden Reach had already championed more than two decades ago.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As the club now moves closer to completing five decades of service, the road ahead is both challenging and exciting. The needs of society have changed, but the spirit of Rotary remains the same: service above self, rooted in fellowship.

I remain deeply grateful to the club for honouring me as its 25th President in 2002-03 and for shaping not only my Rotary journey but also my personal outlook towards service. My heart will always remain with Garden Reach—where I first saw the light of life, and where I first discovered the light of Rotary.

The Rotary Club of Garden Reach has shown us that courage, compassion, and fellowship can transform even the most difficult of landscapes. With this legacy as its foundation, I am confident the club will continue to breach uncharted territories of service and fellowship in the years to come.



PEACEBUILDING
AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION



DISEASE
PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



WATER,
SANITATION
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY
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Presidential Message

Francesco Arezzo, President 2025-26

When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peace building. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we **Unite for Good**.



Message from the President



On this 48th Charter Day of our Rotary Club of Garden Reach, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all members, past leaders, and friends of our club. This day reminds us of the vision, dedication, and service that have brought us this far.

Let us celebrate our journey with gratitude, honour our founders and senior Rotarians, and renew our commitment to **"Service Above Self"** as we move forward together.

Wishing everyone a meaningful and joyous Charter Day!

Together we serve, together we grow—48 years and onward we go.

— Rtn. Bandaru Mohan

President, Rotary Club of Garden Reach (2025-26)

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A Garden not beyond Reach - Rotary Garden Reach

PP Tanu Roy, Club Editor (2025-26)

*Forty-eight years, a journey so bright,
Kindled by service, guided by light.
From humble beginnings to paths so wide,
With fellowship strong, and hearts as guide.*

*In every smile, in each hand we hold,
Are stories of kindness, quietly told.
Through trials and triumphs, year by year,
Rotary's spirit shines ever clear.*

*Garden Reach stands, steadfast, true,
A beacon of hope in all it can do.
Today we celebrate, tomorrow we dream,
Together we build, together we gleam.*

Minutes of the 2325th RWM held on September 2nd, 2025 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. Acting President PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta called the meeting to order and members were asked to rise for the National Anthem.
2. Charter Celebration Chair, PP Tanu Roy apprised the members of the preparations undertaken for the forthcoming Charter Night. He informed that the Chief Guest for the evening would be Mr. Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee, eminent interdisciplinary artist, and the Guest of Honour would be PRID Rtn. Anirudha Roychowdhury. PE Dr. BN Jha graciously offered to sponsor the cake for the evening.
3. Service Chair, Rtn. Abinash updated members on the proposed Blood Storage Refrigerator project for the Thalassemia Society of India. The vendor TERUMO has submitted a quotation amounting to Rs. 2, 20,000. Funding plan was proposed; balance amount to be applied for as a grant from EIRWT. The Service Chair confirmed that most supporting documents for the grant application were in place.
4. Members resolved to conduct pre-Puja clothes distribution, with the following commitments: RCC Badartala (Sept 27th): 60 sarees, 20 banyans, 20 lungis, RCC Joypur: 40 sarees, Madhyakayanpur (Sept 26th): 50 sarees (incl. 10 white), BNR: 50 sarees, Ramakrishna Gayatri Sevasram, Dongaria: 25 sarees & Bharatgarh Rotary School (Sept 20th): 55 sets of kids' outfits. The budget was estimated at Rs. 75,000, to be raised through member contributions. As of date, 12 members have contributed Rs. 34,000 towards this project.
5. The Secretary conducted the club business.
6. VP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.

ありがとうございます Gracias
Merci OBRIGADO
THANK YOU
Gracias ありがとうございます
감사합니다 Danke Grazie