



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

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach

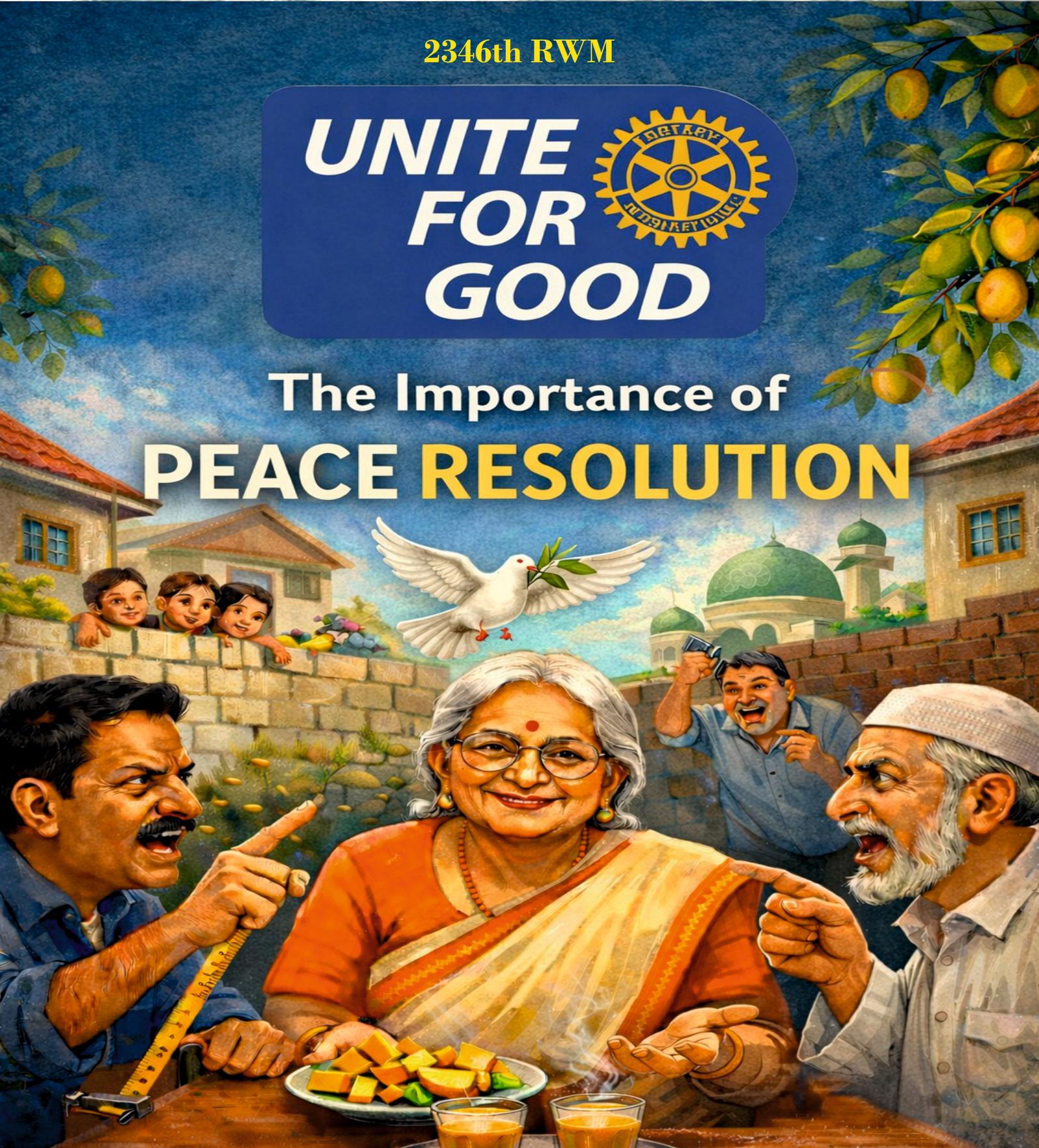


2346th RWM

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



The Importance of
PEACE RESOLUTION





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

Anniversary Greetings

Feb 17th Spouse Jyotsna & PP Tapan K Roy



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The Day Sharmaji declared War (and how Peace won anyway)

PP Tapan Roy

In a perfectly respectable Indian neighbourhood — the kind where everyone knows your salary, your son's marks, and your gas cylinder delivery date, a war broke out.

The cause? A mango tree.

It belonged technically to Sharmaji, but one ambitious branch had crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha' and was dropping mangoes into Khan Sahib's courtyard. Now in any sensible civilisation, this would be considered divine distribution. But in our mohalla, this was seen as cross-border aggression.

Sharmaji claimed sovereignty.

Khan Sahib invoked emotional attachment.

Both quoted property law like seasoned Supreme Court lawyers.

The Great Escalation

Uncles who hadn't walked beyond the paan shop in years suddenly became strategic experts. "First they take mangoes, tomorrow they will take the whole compound!" one warned dramatically.

Aunty No. 3 declared economic sanctions — no more sugar borrowing. Children were instructed not to play cricket across the boundary. Tension was high.

The crisis peaked when Sharmaji measured the branch with a measuring tape at 6:00 am; because in India, all serious disputes are handled before breakfast.

Enter: The Voice of Peace

Just when it seemed like India's next big war documentary would be filmed in our colony, Dadi intervened. Dadi — veteran of family property disputes, wedding negotiations, and four decades of electricity board complaints — calmly placed two steel plates on the table.

On one: Mango slices.

On the other: Chai.

"Beta," she said, "If you fight, you lose mango and peace. If you talk, you get both." Silence! Because that is India's ancient superpower, not just missiles, not just markets but mediation over masala chai.

Why Peace Resolution Matters (Beyond Mangoes)

India's civilisational DNA has always leaned toward dialogue. From the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi to the constitutional vision of BR Ambedkar, we have believed that real strength lies not in crushing the opponent, but in convincing him to share tea. Peace resolution is not weakness. It is strategic wisdom.

When conflicts escalate:

- ❖ Energy is wasted.
- ❖ Relationships are damaged.
- ❖ Progress halts.

When disputes are resolved peacefully:

- ✓ Trust is built.
- ✓ Communities stay intact.
- ✓ Resources are saved.

And most importantly — dignity remains untouched. India, as a nation, understands this deeply. We are diverse in language, food, politics, and cricket loyalties — yet we remain united. That unity is not accidental. It is negotiated daily, patiently, sometimes loudly, but ultimately peacefully.

The Treaty of Mango-istan

After chai and reflection, Sharmaji and Khan Sahib reached an agreement:

- *Mangoes falling on either side would be shared.*
- *The branch would be trimmed after the season (because priorities).*
- *Children's cricket rights were restored.*
- *Peace prevailed.*

Not because one side surrendered. But because both sides understood something very Indian: **Winning an argument is temporary. Winning a relationship is permanent.**

The Larger Lesson

In homes, in businesses, in politics — conflicts are inevitable. But escalation is optional.

A strong India is not one that seeks conflict.

A strong India is one that resolves it wisely.

Peace resolution preserves growth.

Peace resolution preserves unity.

Peace resolution preserves the mangoes.

And in a country where even cricket matches require diplomatic stamina, that is saying something. So, the next time a branch crosses your boundary — literal or metaphorical — remember: Before you declare war, declare tea; **in India, peace is not passive. It is powerful.**



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One family, One vision

Rotaract is not the future of Rotary. Rotaract is the present of Rotary,” said RI President Francesco Arezzo, addressing district Rotaract leaders at the Tejas zone institute in Delhi.

He explained that Rotary functions in a rapidly changing, fluid society, which is **“very different from the world of our founder Paul Harris.”** While Rotarians often recognise change only after it has occurred, Rotaractors “live the change, feel the change and understand what is changing.” Rotary therefore needs Rotaract to remain relevant, to understand new forms of communication and evolving community needs. At the same time, Rotaract needs Rotary’s experience, because “the future comes from our past.” Calling it a win–win relationship, he urged Rotary and Rotaract to plan, study communities and execute projects together. “We are great together; we cannot survive alone.”

RI Director KP Nagesh highlighted the importance of nurturing the next generation early, while also strengthening Rotary’s own diversity. He noted that women’s membership in Rotary in India currently stands at around 17 per cent, with a focused push to reach 30 per cent. While gender balance is not a concern in Rotaract and Interact, he emphasised the need to introduce Rotary’s values and vision to young people at an early age, ensuring continuity of leadership and service.

If the Rotary wheel is to rotate for decades to come, Rotaract and Interact must be central to Rotary’s strategy, said RI Director M Muruganandam. “When we dream together, think together and work together, growth is not an option, it is an outcome,” he added. He called for innovative club models, and proposed the 1:2:3 approach — each Rotarian to introduce two Rotaractors and three Interactors, and each Rotary club to sponsor two Rotaract and three Interact clubs.

A panel discussion titled **Unite to Grow**, moderated by both the directors, highlighted the advantages of the collective strength of Rotary, Inner Wheel, Rotaract and Interact.



District Rotaract Representative (RID 3192) Janice Philip described Rotaract as the momentum behind Rotary’s impact. “Rotaractors bring speed, agility and the ability to start anything from scratch,” she said. As digital natives, Rotaractors can provide visibility and scale by harnessing technology to run synchronised initiatives across districts and countries. She proposed a shared annual service calendar focusing on key causes such as polio eradication, health, environment, cervical cancer prevention and women’s empowerment. Emphasising integration at the club level, she said, “It is no longer Rotary and Rotaract. It has to be Rotary with Rotaract.”

Janice also highlighted Rotaract’s growing commitment to TRF, including aspirations to collectively contribute to the Polio Fund and work towards a Rotaract-led Arch Klumph Society–level contribution in India, with support from Rotarians and Inner Wheel members.

RID 3011 District Interact Representative Aahana Roy shared how joining Interact at age 12 instilled in her empathy and social awareness. “Interact taught me that even two minutes with someone can mean the world to them,” she said, recalling visits to NGOs supporting the elderly and children. While Interactors bring spark and creativity, Rotaractors bring innovation, and Rotarians, vision. “Rotary is the soil, Rotaract is the sunlight and Interact is the seed that brings tomorrow’s hope,” she noted. Aahana advocated mentorship opportunities and greater involvement of Interactors in Rotary initiatives to build confidence and leadership early.

Jyoti Mahipal, national president of Inner Wheel, showcased how Inner Wheel complements Rotary’s mission through impactful projects such as Sparsh Ek Ehsaan, which addresses child abuse awareness, along with human milk banks and



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cervical cancer vaccination initiatives. Sharing her personal journey, she said Inner Wheel transformed her from a shy homemaker into a confident leader. “What I could not do professionally, I could do through Inner Wheel,” she said, recalling how initiatives such as the Praram Montessori House and Gyan Jyoti scholarship programme that she had initiated as President are now permanent projects of her Inner Wheel club. Inner Wheel is not just about service, but about lifelong friendships, confidence and purpose, she noted.

Three major collaborations were announced at the institute by session chair PDRR Karthik Kittu — a partnership between Rotaract South Asia Multi District Information Organisation and the Rotary Environment Foundation to promote Project Dakoju Dhanyavad focusing on large-scale tree planting and ecosystem creation across villages; a partnership with the Head Held High Foundation to create 10–20 model AI villages across India by empowering rural communities with AI literacy; and with Culkey Foundation and GoI’s Ministry of Tourism to empower local artisans and self-help groups to strengthen livelihoods through art, culture and eco-tourism.

Sustaining Dignity

A villager in Odisha has the word ‘Rotary’ tattooed on his forearm – his way of thanking the Rotarians of Rotary Jajpur, RI District 3262, who gifted him a wheelchair. “He is now confident of setting up a small tuck shop and earning a living with dignity,” says DG Manoj Kumar Tripathy who was instrumental in bringing together **Project Madadgar** (Helping People), a large-scale livelihood enhancement initiative executed with the collective strength of 125 Rotary clubs across RID 3262.

Over 1,000 individuals across Odisha were supported with tools that enabled economic independence, confidence and sustainable income. Sewing machines, wet grinders, hearing aids, wheelchairs and artificial limbs were distributed to beneficiaries. What set the project apart was not only its scale, but also “the meticulous planning that ensured the right support reached the right hands.”



Beneficiaries were identified through special government-supported camps organised by Rotary clubs across the district. Aadhaar cards were used to verify identity, BPL cards to confirm economic status, and PWD certificates to validate physical disabilities. “We wanted to ensure that every item distributed had the potential to change a life,” says Tripathy.

Under the project, 100 women received sewing machines, helping them improve tailoring skills, start home-based enterprises and supplement their family income. Another 100 women were given wet grinders, opening up opportunities in food preparation and small catering ventures.

The true impact of Madadgar unfolded during the DG’s visit to a remote village. When he visited the home of a woman who had received a wet grinder, she welcomed him with a warm smile, and a small bowl of freshly ground masala.

“This is from the grinder Rotary gave me,” she said proudly. “It was a simple gesture, but one that captured the essence of Madadgar,” he smiles.

For many others, the project restored mobility and independence. Wheelchairs and artificial limbs brought renewed confidence to beneficiaries who had long depended on others for basic movement. Tripathy recalls being deeply moved when an elderly man, fitted with an artificial limb, ‘walked’ up to him and said that he was standing unaided for the first time in years.” Equally touching was the experience of a woman who received a hearing aid. Having lost her hearing in an accident, she told him she had “forgotten the world of sound. When she said she felt alive again, hearing voices and everyday sounds, it was humbling and heart-warming,” he recounts.

The project also addressed preventable blindness, with 100 cataract surgeries performed for those who could not afford treatment. For them, it meant returning to work, recognising loved ones again, and reclaiming everyday joys long taken for granted.

The total project cost was ₹35 lakh which was met through District funds (₹14 lakh) and club contributions. All materials were procured at subsidised rates from vendors. The project was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar on Dec 23 by the State Labour Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, local MLA Sushanta Rout and other district officials. Distribution activities continued for a week across RID 3262.

Encouraged by the impact, the DG has charted out similar initiatives in the months ahead. “District clubs are now working on providing e-autos in association with Bajaj India, pink auto rickshaws and pushcarts to help women further enhance their family income,” he says.

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3 keys to overcoming resistance to change in your Rotary club

Michael McQueen is a bestselling author and sought-after media commentator who has appeared in Forbes, The Guardian, and on CNN

We all know that change is essential. We spend a lot of time talking about what needs to change in Rotary and how that change ought to happen. But the truth is this: nothing changes until minds do.

You can have the best change strategy in the world.

But if you can't get people to willingly open their minds, you'll never get lift-off.

The good news?

While opening people's minds is by no means easy, it is possible. (There are) three research-based keys for doing just this:

1. Aim for Affinity

The essence of this first principle is simple: people won't listen to you until they like you. You've got to win people over to you before you have any hope of winning them over to your view.

This isn't just about charm or charisma, it's about affinity.

More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle wrote about this in his work on rhetoric and persuasion. He said that the most powerful tool of influence wasn't logic or emotion, it was ethos. Credibility. Trust.

And today, neuroscience backs that up.

Professor Paul Zak from Claremont Graduate University has spent decades studying what he calls the neuroscience of trust. He discovered that when people feel connected, when they laugh together, sing together, or even walk in sync, their brains release a chemical called oxytocin.

That little burst of connection changes the way we perceive one another. We begin to feel safe, open, and receptive.

The next time you're trying to bring someone along on a change journey, don't start with your argument, and start with your connection. Share a story. Go for a walk together. Find common ground. Because the mind follows the heart, not the other way around.

2. Lessen the Loss

There is one emotion that is always involved when someone resists change — fear. ... The fear that causes us to shut down and resist new things is actually the fear of loss. And typically, there are three losses that trigger resistance most frequently:

- ☀ **The loss of Power — when change makes us feel sidelined or less significant.**
- ☀ **The loss of Familiarity — the discomfort of leaving behind what's known and predictable.**
- ☀ **The loss of Dignity — the fear of looking foolish, being seen as out of touch, or losing face.**
- ☀ **The key in helping people to embrace change is not to push harder and sell the change, it's to lessen the loss.**

That might mean asking for advice instead of giving instructions. It might mean involving people early in the process so they can take ownership. Or it might simply mean giving them a choice, even a small one, so they feel in the driver's seat of change. If people don't feel they have agency or choice, they'll instinctively resist rather than engage.

3. Reframe Reality

You don't change minds by winning arguments — you change them by helping people see things differently. Your reality is not the reality.

One of the most powerful ways to open someone's mind is simply to help them see things from a different perspective. To get them to a point where they say — either out loud or to themselves — I'd never seen it that way before.

And one way to do this that I often teach leaders is called the **Rate and Reflect approach**. It comes from some research done at Yale University over the past few decades. The technique centres on asking another person two very specific questions in a specific order. The first question is:

"On a scale of one to ten, how ready or willing or interested are you in (whatever the change you're asking them to consider)?"

Let's say they answer "three" or even "two" if they're really resistant. Most people would assume the next question would be, "Why didn't you give a higher number?"

But the power of the Rate and Reflect approach is to ask the opposite: "Out of curiosity, how come you didn't choose a lower number?"

That one question flips the focus. Instead of thinking about all the reasons they don't want to consider or embrace what you're suggesting, they have the chance to reflect on even the small part of them that sees merit in the idea or suggestion.



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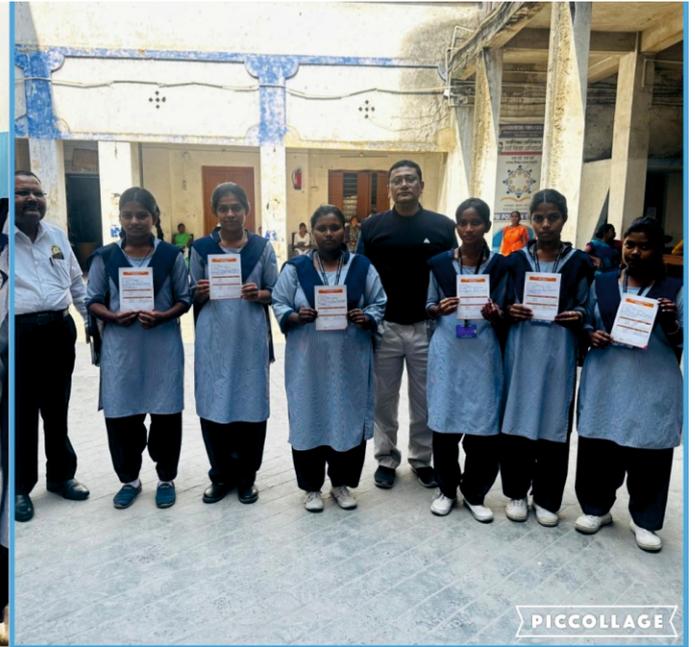
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PICCOLLAGE

Inner Wheel Garden Reach and Rotary Garden Reach jointly administered the 2nd dose of Cervical Cancer Preventive Vaccination at Sanghamitra Vidyalaya at BNR Colony on February 16th, 2026 at the school premises from 11 am onwards. Total 49 girl students were administered. Club President Rtn. Bandaru Mohan, PP Dr. Minu Jha (IWC), PE Dr. BN Jha & PP Kumud C Kar attended the do.

English Football and a Heritage Ghat

When Wayne Rooney made his debut for England against Australia in 2003, he broke a 124 years old English record. However, he was probably unaware of the history that can be traced back to India's indigo plantation and the iconic **Prinsep Ghat** of Calcutta.



Boleyn Ground, February 12, 2003. In a friendly loss to Australia, Rooney, then 17 years and 111 days old, received his first cap, becoming the youngest player to represent England. He also broke a remarkable century-old record.

Flashback to one and a quarter centuries ago, April 5, 1879. The English team was playing Scotland at Lambeth. A certain student of Royal Military College made his debut for England. A proficient half back who could kick the ball in any position.

England triumphed 5-4, and the young man made history. He was merely 17 years & 252 days old, making him the youngest player in England's history at the time. The name was James FM Prinsep.

If James Prinsep is not exactly a household name, it is his family that would interest a storyteller. We go back another century in time, to the 1770s. A young cloth merchant from London just arrived in Calcutta, practically penniless. But he had a big dream.

He was John Prinsep. With time, he developed a close friendship with Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of Bengal, and it

was Hastings who secured a profitable control for Prinsep on the production of indigo.

Prinsep first began producing indigo in 1779 at a factory in Barasat, Kolkata. After Prinsep established his indigo company, he quickly began to dominate the market. He is widely regarded as the pioneer of indigo trade in India that left a notorious legacy for years to come.

The penniless fabric trader became one of the richest men in India in a few years thanks to his near-monopoly of the indigo industry. He had seven sons, and this also marked the beginning of the illustrious Prinsep family of Calcutta.

James Prinsep, his son, was an English scholar and the first editor of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He is most renowned for his work decoding the Kharosthi and Brahmi scripts of ancient India.

The aristocratic Anglo-Indian family had a significant impact on India's history and produced numerous scholars, artists, and imperialists over the years. In 1861, James FM Prinsep – great grandson of John Prinsep was born in India.

James carried the name of his famous grandfather. After spending his early years in India, he moved to England to further his education, entered Royal Military College, developed his football skills, won the FA Cup & became the youngest player to ever represent England.

A ghat along the Hooghly River bank in Calcutta was built in 1841 during the British Raj to honour the rich history of the Prinsep family and the illustrious scholar James Prinsep. They named it Prinsep Ghat as it still stands today.

Prinsep Ghat is a popular heritage site in Kolkata, but only a few would imagine the family's lost connection to a long standing record of English football, only to be broken by the enigmatic 17-year-old Wayne Rooney.



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Minutes of the 2345th RWM held on February 10th, 2026 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. The Medical Camp scheduled on February 15th, 2026 at Matua Mission, Kalikapur has been postponed to February 22nd, 2026 due to Maha Shivaratri.
3. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray briefed the house regarding the Festival Cricket Match on February 8th, 2026 at Calcutta Rangers Club. The match was played with great enthusiasm and camaraderie. Ground and other arrangements were excellent.
4. The second dose of Cervical Cancer vaccination is due on February 16th, 2026. The Principal of Sanghamitra Vidyalaya has been informed and necessary arrangements are being made.
5. Life Beyond Cancer approached the club for Associate Sponsorship charges of ₹ 10,000. Contributions received from President ₹ 5,000, PP Naresh Jain ₹ 3,000 & PE Dr. B.N. Jha ₹ 2,000. Rotary Garden Reach paid via cheque ₹ 10,000 to Life Beyond Cancer Society.
6. Shri Amal Nayek of RCC Champa Mahila Society has informed that Bharatgarh Rotary School's computer classes will commence from February 14th, 2026. Teacher's Salary is ₹ 3,000. Rotary Garden Reach to assist with 50% (₹ 1,500), balance to be managed by the School. PP Tapan Kumar Roy generously offered to reimburse ₹ 1,500 to the club.
7. Members warmly welcomed PP Naresh Jain, who attended the meeting after a long absence due to health issues. He has now fully recovered.
8. Club Secretary Pn Shubhayan conducted the club business.
9. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.



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WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7.30 P.M. AT B.N.R. OFFICERS' CLUB, GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA - 700 043

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