



“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...”

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2350th RWM

Rotary



Grassroots Power:

The Role of RCCs in Advancing
Rotary's Areas of Focus



Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives



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Birthday Greetings

Mar 24th : Rajdeep, Son of Rtn. Debasis Das

Mar 29th : Rtn. Chiranjib Sha

GRASSROOTS POWER: THE ROLE OF RCCS IN ADVANCING ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS

PP Tanu Roy

Within the global framework of Rotary International, meaningful change is most impactful when it originates at the grassroots. **Rotary Community Corps (RCCs)** exemplify this philosophy by serving as vital links between Rotary clubs and the communities they aim to uplift. Their role in advancing Rotary's Areas of Focus (AOF) is not only significant—it is transformative.

RCCs are unique in their composition. Made up of local residents, they possess an intimate understanding of the challenges, traditions, and needs of their communities. This localized insight allows Rotary initiatives to be designed with precision and relevance. Rather than imposing external solutions, RCCs enable a participatory approach where communities actively shape their own development.

One of the most compelling advantages of RCC involvement is **sustainability**. Projects implemented with RCC participation tend to have a longer lifespan, as community members take ownership of both execution and maintenance. Whether it is a clean water initiative, a literacy drive, or a healthcare campaign, RCCs ensure that these efforts evolve into long-term practices rather than short-term interventions.

RCCs also enhance the efficiency and reach of Rotary projects. By leveraging local networks and resources, they reduce operational costs while expanding outreach. Their presence fosters trust within the community, making it easier to implement programs in sensitive areas such as disease prevention, sanitation, and education.

Across Rotary's seven Areas of Focus, the contribution of RCCs is evident. In Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), they promote behavioural change and ensure proper usage of facilities. In Basic Education and Literacy, they mobilize families and encourage consistent participation. In Disease Prevention and Treatment, RCCs act as credible messengers, increasing awareness and acceptance of health initiatives.

Equally important is the role RCCs play in **leadership development**. They nurture individuals who emerge as community leaders, often progressing to become Rotarians themselves. This creates a sustainable cycle of service, strengthening Rotary's mission from within.

In a diverse and dynamic country like India, where local challenges vary widely, RCCs ensure that Rotary's global vision is effectively translated into local action. Their adaptability and deep-rooted presence make them indispensable partners in service.

In conclusion, RCCs represent a shift in perspective—from delivering aid to fostering empowerment. They embody the spirit of collaboration, ownership, and sustainability. As Rotary continues its journey of service above self, RCCs will remain at the heart of its efforts, proving that the most enduring change is the one built by the community, for the community.



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**BE BELIEVE
THERE IS
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Obituary: Rtn. Sudip Kumar Dey



With deep sorrow, we mourn the passing of Rtn. Sudip Kumar Dey, former member of the Rotary Garden Reach. Rtn. Sudip had taken a sabbatical from Rotary Garden Reach, with a promise to return soon—but destiny led him onward to the Promised Land. A sincere and enterprising Rotarian, his contributions to club projects, meetings, and service initiatives remain invaluable and unforgettable. More than a fellow Rotarian, he was a dear friend and family to many of us. His warmth, commitment, and spirit will forever live on in Team Rotary Garden Reach. A promising life, gone too soon—yet remembered always. Om Shanti!



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The new Rotary Peace Centre at Symbiosis University, Pune

Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Rotary's journey began with the step and dream of one individual, Paul Harris, with a simple plan to promote friendship and a spirit of mutual cooperation — two ingredients essential for peace. The Symbiosis educational institution began with the dream of one individual — Dr. SB Mujumdar with the vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family — an important concept for peace.



On January 26, 2026, these two visions and journeys seamlessly came together when the first Rotary Peace Centre in India, and indeed in South Asia, was inaugurated at the Symbiosis International University (SIU) in Pune. This is a momentous occasion for both organisations. It reflects the shared values of Symbiosis and Rotary — of integrity, quality education, cross-cultural bonding, and understanding and developing global competencies.

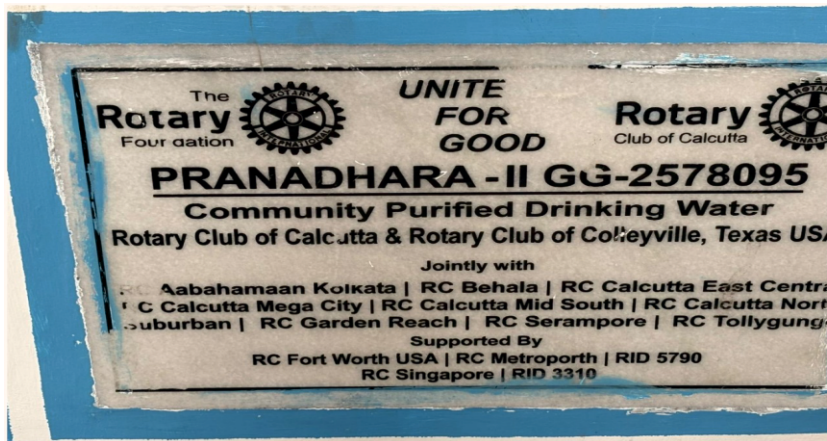
With a well thought-out selection process, including Expression of Interest from 17 institutions in six Asian countries, to rigorous evaluation criteria including 20 indicators and site visits, the selection of SIU is a matter of pride, prestige and joy for Rotary in India. The fact that Rotarians from 22 districts were present at the inauguration speaks greatly about the commitment of Rotary and

Rotarians in India to this peace centre. Compliments and thanks to the two host districts — 3131 and 3141, and the team who guided and helped in the application process, to Symbiosis and its committed leadership, and to the Rotary staff, for making this happen.

The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2024 was estimated to be \$19.97 trillion or \$2,455 per person. This is a grave reality and a greatly concerning issue. Rather than react to violence, we in Rotary believe in creating conditions conducive to peace — focusing on healthcare, water, sanitation, literacy, economic development and a holistic approach to what we call 'Positive Peace'. Rotary's peace centres and Peace Scholars programme are an important step in our work for peace. By supporting emerging leaders and empowering them in conflict resolution and sustainable development, Rotary creates impact at the local and global level.

To paraphrase Arch Klumph: 'If we build temples, churches and mosques they will crumble into ruins, if we erect monuments time will deface them; but if we work with minds of men and women and imbue in them a spirit of compassion, integrity, cooperation and service, we are doing something that will endure as long as this civilisation exists.' Rotary's peace-building efforts are aimed at just that — transforming mindsets and unleashing the potential within each individual — to make a difference in our world.

The new peace centre represents an opportunity to aspiring young men and women to become peace scholars. But it also represents an opportunity to have a more peaceful, equitable, compassionate world in India and in Asia. Amen to that. Enjoy Rotary.



On March 15th, 2026, a 500 LPH TATA SWACH water filtration plant was successfully installed at RCC Joypur, Amta (Joypur College, Howrah), benefitting an institution with nearly 3,000 students.

The occasion was graced by esteemed members of Rotary Calcutta and Rotary Garden Reach, with the distinguished presence of PRID Anirudha Roy Chowdhury. Among other dignitaries present were PP Tapan Roy, IPP Biswajit Saha, PP Timir Roy, and President Rtn. Mohan Bandaru.

This impactful initiative would not have been possible without the valuable contributions of PP Raj Kumar Agrawal & Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury of Rotary Calcutta.

The project marks a significant step towards ensuring safe and clean drinking water for the students, reinforcing Rotary's commitment to community welfare and sustainable service.

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World Cup fever provides unique opportunity to showcase Rotary

Wing-Kai To, Rotary Bridgewater, Massachusetts

When I grew up in Hong Kong during the 1970s and 1980s, my childhood heroes were not Willie Mays, Bill Russell, or later sports legends like Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Wayne Gretzky, or Joe Montana. Instead, I idolized soccer stars such as Pelé, Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff, and Diego Maradona. Staying up late to watch the World Cups filled me with awe.

I was fascinated by the fierce competition between European and Latin American teams, showcasing Brazil's beautiful game, the tactical brilliance of Germany and Argentina, and the concept of total football from the Netherlands. While Italy relied heavily on defence for success, the rise of France and Spain over the past three decades has added to this elite group of nations.

Over the years, the tournament has expanded venues and participation, welcoming teams from around the world. For the first time ever this summer, the World Cup will host an expanded number of teams (48) at matches in three countries — Canada, the United States, and Mexico. As the world converges in North America, we have a unique opportunity to share our common values of friendship, cooperation, and appreciation for our global community.



There is a good bit in common between the efforts of Rotary members to build goodwill and understanding and the goodwill that gets engendered through athletics like the World Cup. Since late last year, many clubs in or near host cities have come together to discuss ways to highlight key areas that align with Rotary's mission, including hospitality, preventing human trafficking, home hosting, volunteering, and promoting our brand to the world.

Peace poles, home hosting, and candlelight vigils

This grassroots effort aims to complement FIFA's official volunteer network in many host cities. The Rotary Club of Roswell near Atlanta, Georgia, is working with the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and the city of Atlanta to

install a Rotary Peace in Freedom Plaza next to the capital and hold a candlelight vigil to raise awareness of human trafficking. Volunteers are expected to join with UPS in packing 100,000 dignity bags for trafficking survivors.

Additionally, leaders in Rotary District 5710 (Kansas, USA) near Kansas City have been organizing efforts to connect local Rotary members with visiting Rotarians coming to attend the matches there. This could include home hosting, sharing meals, getting together for coffee, playing tour guide, or other connecting opportunities.

Rotarians in District 5030 (Washington, USA) around Seattle are partnering with Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking (BEST) to provide specialized anti-human trafficking training and support to businesses near key event zones and fan zones throughout the state.

Rotarians in District 7950 (Rhode Island, Massachusetts, USA) near Boston, which will host seven matches, have formed a district Peace/World Cup Committee to organize events around the matches.

Unparalleled reach

The FIFA World Cup is the most-watched sporting event in the world. In 2022, the final match between Argentina and France, where Lionel Messi finally lifted the trophy, attracted an astonishing 1.5 billion viewers worldwide. (In comparison, the 2025 Super Bowl reached a peak audience of 137.8 million.) When it comes to a global celebration, the FIFA World Cup stands alone, surpassing even the Olympics. As a global organization, Rotary is well positioned to raise awareness of our work, celebrate fellowship among members worldwide, and ensure that vulnerable people are protected throughout the World Cup.

My personal goal is to join the volunteer community organized for the FIFA World Cup. I participated in the try-outs late last year, alongside hundreds of thousands of other volunteers. If selected, I will be excited to take on one of the two dozen roles supporting the tournament. I have also secured tickets to the match between Scotland and Morocco, and I am getting ready to cheer for both teams.



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'Success is collective,' says recipient of Rotary's 2026 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award

Egyptian Rotarian has elevated female leaders, promoted microloans, and helped build an 800-student school

Mayan Raslan, the 2026 recipient of *Rotary's Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award*, believes that success isn't genuine if you achieve it alone.

"When you succeed, let others rise with you," she says. "If you're alone, this is not success."

That ethos has guided Raslan throughout her career as a project manager and in her work as a fundraiser for Rotary and other organizations. A member of the Rotary Club of Cairo Royal, Egypt, she's committed to elevating other women to leadership roles.

That's part of why she was chosen to receive the award named for Sylvia Whitlock, the first female Rotary club president who went on to lead change for women around the world through Rotary. The award honours people who, like Whitlock, have worked to advance women in Rotary.



Raslan "has a special talent for recognizing potential in others and gently, yet powerfully, encouraging them to take on greater roles," says Mohamed Delawar Aly, a member of the Rotary Club of Sheikh Zayed ECO, Egypt, and a former district governor. "Her example has motivated so many to embrace leadership roles they may not have initially seen for themselves."

Raslan learned the importance of service early on.

"My mother was a very big shot in social work in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq," she says. "When she helped found a Lions club in Egypt, I was maybe 20 years old, but I worked with her. I really loved it."

Raslan, who earned a Ph.D. in Management and Administration from Cairo University, has lent her talents to an array of nongovernmental organizations, government bodies, and financial institutions. In addition to serving in numerous leadership roles in Rotary since she joined in 1999, she is the president of the Egyptian Feminist Union, president of the Alliance for Arab Women, and a trustee of the Banque Misr Foundation for Community Development.

Raslan worked to promote women as governor of District 2451 from 2016-17.

To expand female membership, she announced a special award for clubs that

increased the number of women members by 25%. Today, the district's membership is 54% female. But she made her biggest impact with a district-wide women's empowerment committee.

"The number of women in leadership positions in the district was very low," Raslan says. "So I appointed women as chairs and co-chairs for projects and committees. We also included men, but in supportive roles."

Raslan's actions provoked a response from some male club members.

"They said, 'Oh, what about us? We want a men's commission.' But, of course, it was all in fun," she says. "They understood what I was doing."

The women's empowerment committee has provided microloans to female heads of households, sponsored vocational and leadership training, and shown women how to create CVs and prepare for the job market. Initially a one-year task force, it's now a permanent district committee.

Raslan believes social service must have a long-term impact. Whether she's helping design a Rotary project or consulting with another organization, she insists that every initiative make broad structural changes.

"I go in with my terms," she says. "I say, for example, 'If you want us to refurbish an intensive care unit, I need all the women who are working in the hospital to be trained, to be helped by loans.' I always put this as a main factor in any project that I'm asked to help."

Raslan demonstrated her commitment to shared achievement when she led a multiyear project to build a school in the Fayoum Governorate, near Cairo. She had worked with clubs in her district on other projects in Fayoum, but when the governor of the area asked in 2016 whether Rotary could build a school, she was daunted.

"He was speaking to me, and I was seeing nothing. Where would I even start from?" she recalls. "But one of my old friends in Rotary, an engineer, said, 'Why are you worried? Let's talk to someone who's already built a school.' And that was the first step."

The school opened in 2020 with two classes of kindergarteners. It has more than 800 students today and was honoured in the Egyptian government's 2025 Egyptian Schools Competition. For Raslan, it's the ultimate proof that all true achievements are shared.

"As you are rising as a leader, give opportunities to others. Leaders create leaders," she says. "Success is collective. It's never just individual."



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Minutes of the 2349th RWM held on March 17th, 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 President updated members about the successful installation of the Community Drinking Water Purifier Machine at Panchanan Roy College, Joypur, Howrah on March 15th, 2026. The project was executed with the support of the Rotary Calcutta under a Global Grant.
The event was attended by the College Principal, Professors, support staff, and members from Rotary Calcutta and Rotary Calcutta Megacity.
PRID Anirudha Roychowdhury graced the occasion.
Lunch was hosted by the college authorities after the program.
3. PP Mousumi briefed the members on the RYLA program held at Dhyanaashram, where Rotary Garden Reach was the host club. Sanghamitra Vidyalaya had 31 students participating while BSS Children Welfare School & Maheshwari School – remaining participants. Students from Sanghamitra Vidyalaya received awards. It was decided to organise a felicitation ceremony for these students at a future RWM, in consultation with school authorities.
4. An appeal was received from RCC Joypur to conduct a medical camp on May 3rd, 2026 for approximately 100 beneficiaries. Members suggested postponing the camp to the second week of May 2026, considering election results scheduled on May 4th, 2026.
5. PP Mousumi Bhattacharyya proposed organising Project Virangana at BNROC.
6. PE Dr. BN Jha shared insights from the Leadership Skills Program at IIM Joka. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray suggested aligning such programs more closely with Rotary objectives for better outcomes. He also proposed organizing a Basic Life Support (BLS) Training Program at BNROC in the near future.
7. The President informed that the Board Meeting will be held on March 24th, 2026 at BNROC.
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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