

“YOU ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD...”

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Rotary
Garden Reach

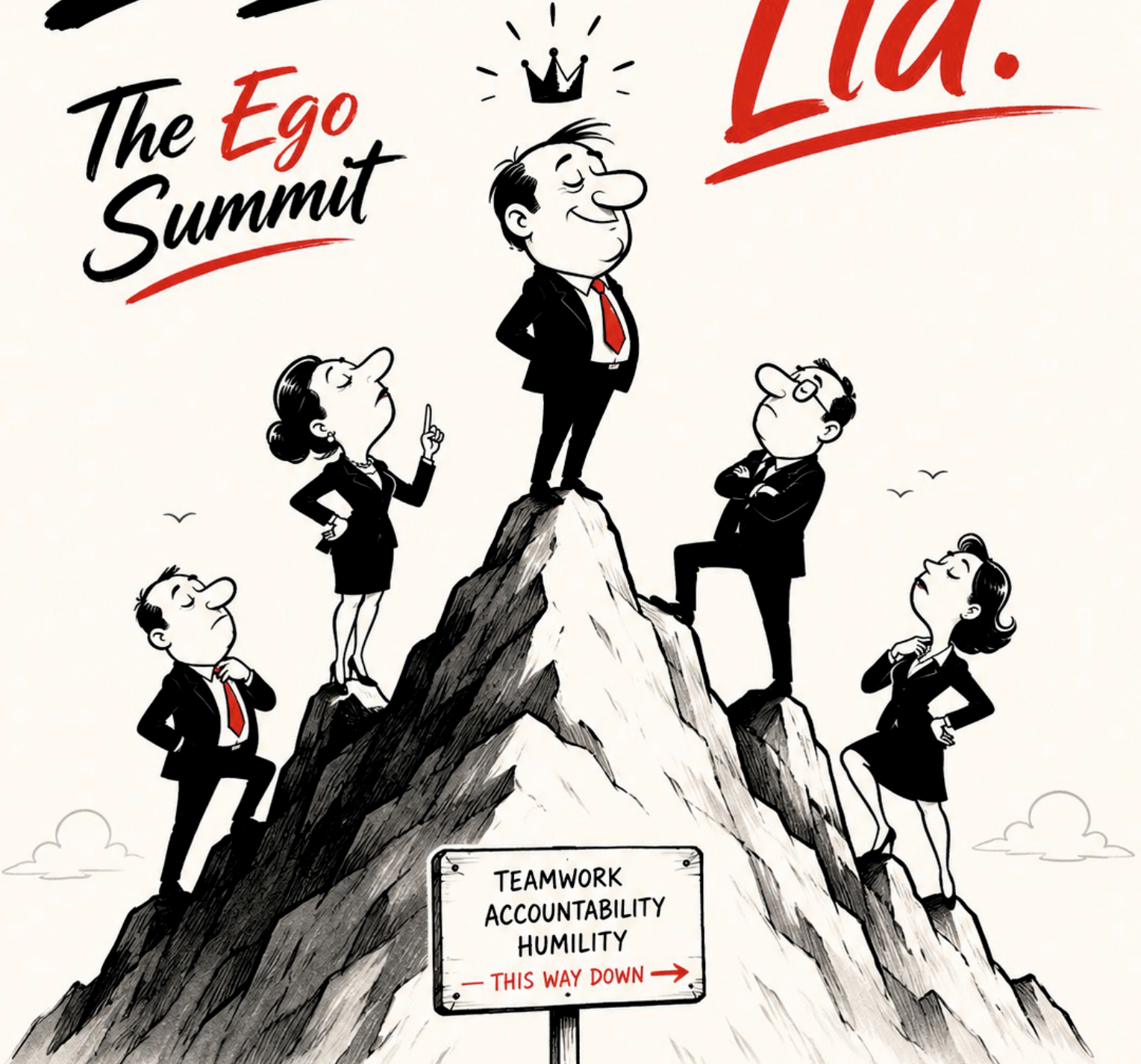


2359th RWM

Leadership

Ltd.

The **Ego**
Summit





**“YOU ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD...”**



PEACEBUILDING
AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION



DISEASE
PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



WATER,
SANITATION
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Birthday Greetings

May 29th : PP Dr. JK Singh

Leadership Ltd - The Ego Summit

PP Tanu Roy

At the majestic headquarters of the fictional international NGO, Global Harmony International, the marble entrance displayed a glowing slogan: **“Serving Humanity beyond Borders.”**

Ironically, most of the leadership was busy serving themselves beyond accountability.

The organisation looked impressive from the outside — glass offices, international flags, conference halls, and enough committees to govern a small continent. Delegates from around the world visited regularly, took photographs beside inspirational quotes, and left believing mankind was in safe hands.

Inside, however, the situation resembled a comedy festival sponsored by confusion.

The President, Sir Reginald Prosperwell, considered himself a “visionary leader,” mainly because he never noticed what was actually happening around him. He loved speeches, especially his own. Meetings began with phrases like “Let us transform the future together” and ended four hours later without transforming anything except the patience of the audience.

Then came the Executive Council — a remarkable team united by one sacred principle: **“Success has many fathers; failure belongs to the intern.”**

Every member specialised in a unique survival skill.

One mastered the ancient art of appearing busy while doing absolutely nothing. Another treated every project like a personal publicity campaign. A third attended only those meetings where photographers were present. One gentleman even perfected the dangerous sport of stealing ideas before they were fully spoken.

Meanwhile, the actual workers of the NGO — the volunteers, coordinators, and overworked staff — operated like exhausted stagehands in a travelling circus. They solved crises, managed events, calmed angry donors, and somehow kept the organisation alive while leadership debated extremely urgent matters such as whose name should appear first on banners.

Naturally, cracks began to appear.

Projects remained “under strategic review” for so long those beneficiaries began ageing gracefully while waiting. Funds vanished mysteriously into “administrative hospitality expenses,” which appeared to involve alarming quantities of pastries and imported tea.

Members stopped attending meetings unless lunch was included.

Even the office air-conditioner seemed emotionally exhausted and resigned every Thursday afternoon.

Still, the leadership remained optimistic.

“Team spirit is stronger than ever,” declared Sir Reginald proudly, moments before two committee heads stopped speaking to each other over seating arrangements at a charity gala.

Then came the grand annual summit — the NGO’s biggest international event.

Nobody had coordinated properly because every department assumed another department was responsible. Guest names were misspelled, microphones failed dramatically, interpreters disappeared, presentation slides showed last year’s data, and the chief guest accidentally entered through the kitchen.

The final blow came when the giant welcome banner collapsed mid-ceremony. In the silence that followed, a junior volunteer quietly whispered: **“At least the foundation revealed its condition before the building did.”**

And there it was — the perfect lesson.

An organisation rarely collapses because of one great enemy. More often, it weakens slowly under poor leadership, selfish teamwork, oversized egos, and people more interested in applause than accountability. When credit becomes more important than commitment, even the strongest institution begins to wobble like a badly arranged conference table.



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Lessons from an 83-year-old club

PP Vinay Gandhi Billapati, Rotary Visakhapatnam

When I joined the Rotary Visakhapatnam in 2019, I was 31-year-old. People had cautioned me that it was a **“very senior club.”** The average member age was around 65, and I was told members were old fashioned, overly focused on rules, and resistant to change.



However, my father — a Rotarian since 1987 — had unwavering confidence in the club and encouraged me to join. He assured me I would understand its true strength in time.

Now, six-and-a-half years later, I can report my enjoyment at the depth of experience I have found in this club. It’s true the average age of our club is around 65. But with that, comes an average of 40 plus years of service. These are not drawbacks; they are the club’s greatest strength.

Whenever a member proposes a project, it is examined by many experienced minds. They ask questions — lots of them:

How did you identify this requirement?

- Have you personally visited the beneficiary location?**
- Who are the beneficiaries and what is their background?**
- Why can’t this requirement be fulfilled by the government?**
- Why should Rotary step in?**
- What is the budget and source of funds?**
- Will the project be sustainable in the long run?**

The answers to these questions reveal how well-prepared and confident the proposer is, a process that significantly contributes to the success of our projects.

What I admire most about our experienced members is their approach. They ask questions, they listen patiently, they allow the proposer to explain, and when the answers are convincing, they readily give their approval. If they feel something is not workable, they say so openly. Yet, if a member still wishes to pursue the project using personal resources without club funds, there is no objection.

I have known several instances where projects were taken up, ignoring the advice of experienced Rotarians, and despite the best of intentions and great effort, eventually failed. Experience, it turns out, is a silent teacher.

While some of our experienced members are less able to travel to beneficiary sites, what they lack is made up for in their ability to assess feasibility, sustainability, and long-term impact — often more accurately than we realize.

When a project is genuinely feasible and sustainable, funding is rarely a problem. Our experienced Rotarians step forward, mobilise resources, arrange funds, and ensure that projects are completed on time.

When club members question a President if meetings don’t start on time, or if there are delays on project, or deviations from board agendas, these are not irrelevant questions. They are crucial to the smooth functioning and long-term success of any Rotary club. And they are perfectly aligned with The Four-Way Test. Our club practices that test daily, in a practical and meaningful manner. That, I believe, is the reason for its sustained success over the last 83 years.

Irrespective of whoever the President is, our membership continues to grow steadily. We undertake impactful projects across all avenues of service, aligning with the seven areas of focus. We contribute meaningfully to The Rotary Foundation every year. And we have committed leaders lined up for the next three years.

I feel truly happy and content to be part of a club enriched with experienced Rotarians who guide us with wisdom, clarity, and commitment. I would encourage others to not immediately write off clubs with a large number of experienced members. They are that club’s greatest strength and may be essential for any Rotary club that aspires to grow, serve, and sustain.



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Nobel Laureate Malala at the Rotary Convention

Malala Yousafzai began her activism at age 11 when she anonymously blogged about life under the Taliban in Pakistan’s Swat Valley, particularly the ban on girls’ education. Over the next few years, she advocated publicly, giving speeches and interviews and attracting media attention and awards.

At age 15, she was shot in the head by the Taliban for speaking out. After months of surgery and rehabilitation in the United Kingdom, she founded Malala Fund to continue her campaign to see all girls in school. A year later, she received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work for education and equality. Yousafzai graduated from Oxford University with a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in 2020.

She is the best-selling author of three books and an investor in women’s sports.



Rotary, Rotaract empower extraordinary change

Roshan Karki, Rotary Rudramati Kathmandu & Rotaract Manohara

I joined Rotaract in April 2010, without fully realizing how profoundly it would shape my life. What began as a simple desire to serve soon evolved into a lifelong commitment to leadership, friendship, and community impact. More than a decade later, I remain actively involved in both Rotaract and Rotary, carrying forward the same passion that first brought me into the movement.



My journey began with the Rotaract Manohara as a Charter member. Like many young members, I joined to learn, connect, and contribute. Over time, Rotaract became far more than a club – it became a training ground for leadership and service. I had the privilege of serving as Club President in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15, experiences that taught me responsibility, teamwork, and the power of collective action. Most importantly, they showed me that leadership is not about titles, but about serving others with purpose.

As my involvement deepened, so did my vision. In 2023-24, I served as district Rotaract representative for District 3292 (Bhutan and Nepal). This role challenged me to think beyond individual clubs and focus on nationwide impact. During my tenure, we organized nationwide cleaning campaigns, uniting Rotaractors across districts to care for our environment. Seeing young leaders come together with a shared mission remains one of the most fulfilling moments of my Rotary journey.

Another defining milestone was our nationwide blood donation campaign. Blood donation is one of the simplest yet most powerful acts of service, and the response was extraordinary. Together, we successfully collected 1,385 units of blood. That number represents lives saved, families supported, and communities strengthened. It reinforced my belief that when service is well-organized and driven by passion, its impact can be truly transformational.

While continuing my Rotaract journey, I also embraced Rotary. In March 2019, I joined the Rotary Club of Rudramati Kathmandu, marking a new chapter in my service life. Rotary broadened my perspective, allowing me to work alongside experienced professionals who shared the values of integrity, fellowship, and Service Above Self. I served as club secretary in 2020-21, gaining deeper insight into organizational leadership, governance, and sustainable service practices.

My service journey has since expanded beyond national boundaries. I currently serve as a Council Member of South East Asia Rotaract Information Centre MDIO and have the honour of serving as Chair of the Nepal Summit 2025. This role allows me to contribute at a regional level, connecting leaders across South East Asia and strengthening collaboration within the Rotaract movement.



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What makes my journey unique is that I never had to choose between Rotaract and Rotary. I remain actively engaged in both. Rotaract keeps me connected to youth energy, innovation, and grassroots action. Rotary provides long-term vision, mentorship, and wider community reach. Together, they form a complete and powerful service ecosystem.

If there is one lesson my journey has taught me, it is this: service does not end with age, position, or title — it evolves. Rotary and Rotaract are not just organisations; they are platforms that empower ordinary people to create extraordinary change.

Earn a pin, exchange bracelets in Taipei

From reconnecting with long-time friends to sparking new conversations, inspiration happens when Rotary members come together. International Convention is an opportunity for new experiences and fresh perspectives, and this year in Taipei, the Rotary International social media team wants to help you share it all.



Outside the House of Friendship at TaiNEX 1, on the fourth floor, near door L, you'll find a series of in-person events and online activities designed to bring members together, while celebrating the stories only you can tell. Stop by, introduce yourself to the team, and discover how your voice can help share our mission with audiences around the world.

Limited-Edition Convention Pin

- ✓ **What:** Don't miss your chance to collect an exclusive convention enamel pin, with a new design available each day.
- ✓ **Where:** TaiNEX 1 | 4F, outside the House of Friendship (L area)

- ✓ **When:** Sunday, 14 June – Tuesday, 16 June | 14:00–16:00 Wednesday, 17 June | 12:00–14:00

Pick up a printed bingo card (available in English and Chinese) from a Rotary social team member at convention, or access a digital version in all Rotary languages.

These pins are perfect for commemorating your time in Taipei long after your flight home by adorning a hat, bag, shirt, or anything you can stick it to.

With approximately 100 pins available each day, early participation is strongly encouraged. Once they're gone, they're gone.

Here's how to earn yours:

- Follow Rotary International on Instagram
- Complete one bingo-style activity from the convention bingo card
- Share your post tagging Rotary International and using the hash-tag #Rotary26

Friendship Bracelet Exchange

- **Where:** TaiNEX 1 | 4F, outside of the House of Friendship (L area)
- **When:** Sunday, 14 June | 13:00–14:00
- **What:** Make new friends and exchange bracelets! Bring a bracelet (or a few!) to trade with members from around the world.

Don't have a bracelet to share? No worries, the social media team will have plenty on hand so everyone can participate.

Whether you're an experienced creator or just getting started on your social media journey, come say hello and help us show the world what Rotary looks like when we come together.



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Minutes of the 2358th RWM held on May 19th, 2026 at BNROC, Garden Reach

- 1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.**
- 2. President Bandaru requested PP Mousumi to officiate as the Club Secretary.**
- 3. President Bandaru informed about the successful installation and inauguration of the Interactive Panel TV (Smart Board) at Sanghamitra Vidyalaya on May 19th, 2026. The Interactive Panel Board was jointly inaugurated by PP Dr. JK Singh and Inner Wheel Garden Reach PP Dr. Sharda Ray in the presence of around 20 students of the school, the Principal, Vice Principal, teachers, and members of the Rotary Club of Garden Reach. This project, was the first undertaken under the banner of Rotary Garden Reach Charitable Trust.**
- 4. President further informed the House that the Blood Storage Refrigerator for The Thalassemia Society of India had been dispatched from Trivandrum and was expected to reach Kolkata on May 26th, 2026. Upon arrival, the same would be installed at the Society premises.**
- 5. PP Prosenjit Barua informed that some sponsors were willing to contribute towards the development of the approach road to Bharatgarh Rotary School. The House appreciated the gesture and welcomed the initiative.**
- 6. Family corner & Club business was conducted by PP Mousumi.**
- 7. 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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