



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

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2351st RWM



Green Begins Small

Easy Projects for a Better Planet





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

Birthday Greetings

Apr 4th : Shrijita, Daughter of Rtn. Jayanta Hati



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Green Begins Small

PP Tanu Roy

There's a quiet misconception that saving the environment requires grand gestures—massive funding, sweeping policies, or once-in-a-lifetime initiatives. But Rotary has never been about spectacle; it has always been about impact. And impact, more often than not, begins small, local, and deeply human.

Imagine this: a single sapling planted by a child today becomes shade for a community tomorrow. A cloth bag stitched by a village group replaces hundreds of plastic bags over a year. A clean pond restored by a few determined hands becomes a source of life again. These are not "projects" in the conventional sense. They are habits, seeded by intent, nurtured by community—and Rotary is uniquely positioned to lead this quiet revolution.

The beauty of environmental action within Rotary lies in its simplicity. You don't need to start with a forest; start with a street. Clubs can adopt small neighbourhood patches—parks, sidewalks, water bodies—and transform them into living examples of care. A "Green Sunday" once a month, where Rotarians, families, and local residents comes together not just to clean, but to understand their environment, can slowly reshape attitudes. Add a storytelling element—children sharing what they observed, elders recalling how things once were—and suddenly, the environment is no longer an abstract cause. It becomes personal.

This is where **Interactors** step in—not as participants, but as catalysts. Their energy is infectious, their imagination boundless. Give them ownership of micro-projects: composting in schools, zero-waste lunch campaigns, or even eco-journals documenting local biodiversity. When young people lead, communities listen. When they innovate, older systems adapt. An Interact-led "No Plastic Week" in a locality may begin as an experiment but often ends up becoming a norm.

Equally powerful are the **Rotary Community Corps (RCCs)**—the bridge between Rotary and the grassroots. RCCs understand the pulse of their communities better than anyone else. They know which pond needs cleaning, which area struggles with waste, which households are ready to switch to sustainable practices. By empowering RCCs with simple, actionable ideas—like kitchen compost pits, rainwater harvesting drums, or tree guardianship programs—Rotary ensures that projects don't remain events; they become lifestyles.

Picture an RCC-led initiative where every household "adopts" a tree, nurturing it as they would a member of their family. Or a community composting hub where waste is no longer waste, but a resource. These aren't expensive undertakings. They are shifts in thinking, facilitated by trust—and RCCs are the custodians of that trust.

What makes these projects truly powerful is their replicability. One club's modest success can inspire another across districts, across countries. A simple idea, when shared, becomes a movement. Rotary's vast network is its greatest environmental asset—not just for scaling projects, but for spreading belief.

And perhaps that's the heart of it all. Environmental work isn't just about cleaning rivers or planting trees. It's about restoring a relationship—with nature, with community, with responsibility. Rotary doesn't need to reinvent the wheel; it simply needs to turn it, steadily and sincerely. Because in the end, the planet doesn't demand heroics. It asks for consistency. **A little less waste. A little more care. A few more hands willing to act.**

And if there's one organisation that understands the power of collective small actions, it is Rotary. So let's begin—not with ambition, but with intention. Not someday, but this Sunday.



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Rotary Peace Fellow employs AI for a better world

During her Rotary Peace Fellowship, Branka Panic worked as a short-term consultant at the World Bank, joining a team that was building a model to predict the probability of famine.

The benefits of such a tool were obvious: “If a certain area will be in need of food in six months, in 12 months, we can prepare humanitarian aid more efficiently,” Panic says.

But unintended consequences of making that information available also became clear. “Our intention was to make humanitarian agencies ready,” Panic says. “But what if, by providing this signal as an open source, we were actually informing the government or any warring party out there to intentionally attack this population because they see there is vulnerability?”

The exercise illustrated both the power and the danger of using such technologies. It surfaced ethical questions to be mindful of and the sensitivities of parsing data and sharing it widely.

It also motivated Panic, 42, to found AI for Peace, a think tank dedicated to issues like these, as well as how artificial intelligence has the potential to benefit peace, security, and sustainable development. She co-authored a book of the same name.

The organization’s focus areas include humanitarian action (using AI to save lives by anticipating and targeting response efforts); human rights and democracy (using AI to identify human rights abuses and protect defenders of human rights); and human security (using AI to protect people, as well as researching potential security threats). Positive use of AI technology can strengthen societies and prevent conflict in the first place, Panic says.

AI is already being used in peace negotiations. Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders have used AI to facilitate large-scale dialogues aimed at ending the conflict in Gaza, she says. In some conflict areas, AI is breaking down language and dialect barriers. “We are using AI to say, ‘Wait a minute, we actually have quite an easy way to let people’s voices be heard in this peace process.’”

AI for Peace works with peace-builders to build their knowledge and familiarity with artificial intelligence to become an active voice in designing, developing, and implementing new applications, she says. “We also work with data scientists, who quite often never thought about peace-building before, and we want them to become a little bit of peace-builders themselves,” she adds.

In fact, Panic says everyone has agency to shape the future of AI and how it’s used — not only the experts and data scientists. While it can feel intimidating to participate for those who aren’t technology-minded, it’s important that individuals with varying perspectives have a say, Panic adds. “Everybody needs to be part of this conversation,” she says. *“Rotarians as well.”*



Born in Belgrade, Serbia, Panic lived through conflicts in the Balkans, an experience that shaped her worldview and motivated her to become a peace-builder. She recalls the NATO bombing of her country, when school stopped and people had to live in basements and shelters. “These things tend to leave a mark,” she says. For her, it set her on a mission: to do all she could to prevent people from having to live through similar conflicts.

Panic became an activist while in high school, joining the Otpor (“Resistance”) movement against the authoritarian regime of Slobodan Milošević, former president of Serbia and Yugoslavia. The group organized daily peaceful walks in resistance of Milošević, who eventually resigned and was charged with war crimes



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committed during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

Protesting in 1999 and 2000, however, was done without much technology, she points out. In contrast, subsequent grassroots movements, such as the Arab Spring in the early 2010s, were able to benefit from social media tools to coordinate. “At the very beginning of my interest in technology, we started seeing how social media has been used to actually strengthen that type of activism,” she adds. “This was super empowering.”

With her Rotary Peace Fellowship, she was able to delve deeper into technology and AI to enrich her peace-building background. Rotary District 2483 in Serbia and Montenegro supported her fellowship, and the connection changed her life, she says.

Panic is now a Rotarian herself and is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Global Partners in Peace, an e-club for peace fellows and peace activists. The club hosts speakers who talk about their peace-building, humanitarian, and development work, and members live all around the world, from Mexico (where she lives, in San Miguel de Allende) to Chile, Nepal, and the Philippines.

With her husband, Panic opened a “peace house,” which she describes as “a place where artists, thinkers, neighbours, diplomats, technologists, travellers, and unexpected guests can meet around one table.” Gatherings spark conversations among people of different backgrounds, an effort to turn “everyday encounters into small acts of peace,” she says.

The house is part of Panic’s ethos of stopping conflicts before they start. AI for Peace intentionally focuses on prevention of conflict and building resilience; it doesn’t focus on the ethics of AI in weapons of war but rather how to address root causes of human suffering and vulnerability.

“This is the niche that we decided to cover,” Panic says. “There are a lot of things to do in building peace or sustaining peace or making sure that wars don’t happen at all.”

Restoring Rotary’s relevance in communities

Leonardo Gonzalo Mangoldt, DG (2025-26), RID 4851 (Argentina)

At the beginning of my term as Governor, I realised that the main challenge in my district was not simply increasing membership. The real challenge was restoring Rotary’s relevance in our communities.

Our district covers ten provinces in Argentina and includes very different social realities: large cities, small towns, rural areas, and remote mountain regions. In many places Rotary had been present for decades, but over time some of the clubs had become insular, old, and resistant to change. In other communities, Rotary had disappeared altogether.

I observed something that is likely happening in many parts of the world. Clubs were trying to solve the membership problem by finding people to fill chairs at meetings. But communities are not looking for meetings — they are looking for meaningful ways to serve and belong.

That reflection changed the question for our leadership team. “How do we recruit more members?” became, instead, **“How do we create more opportunities for service and belonging?”**

This led us to take a different approach. We started visiting cities without Rotary clubs and organising open informational gatherings with young professionals, teachers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. In many cases, we discovered that the issue was not a lack of interest in Rotary but a lack of awareness. When people understood Rotary’s purpose and its impact, the response was immediate.

At the same time, we discovered small clubs of three or four members operating as a satellite club that were on the verge of collapse. For years, the tendency had been to keep these tiny groups alive. But instead of looking at these small





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groups as a failure, we looked at them as an opportunity. We sought to give each a new identity that would create service opportunities that would attract people to want to join. Changing the narrative was essential – the community saw the birth of something new rather than the loss of a club.

We also learned that sometimes Rotary already exists outside Rotary. After meeting with health and education professionals, we realized they already had a network and a desire for service. All they needed was to be drawn together as a Rotary club. This led to the creation of our first issue-based e-club.

For very small clubs, we worked to set concrete membership goals and provide close district support. Once a club has visible projects and its board feels supported, the level of motivation within a club returns. Membership does not grow through weekly meeting attendance; it grows around meaningful impact.

Even conflict sometimes presents opportunities. In one instance, a long-standing clash of viewpoints led us to create a new club, letting new leaders emerge and expanding our presence in the community instead of forcing a solution on the “problem.”

So far, we have formed eight new Rotary clubs and three Interact clubs. Rotary has returned to communities where it no longer existed.

But the most important lesson was not numbers. It was this. Communities have a deep desire for service. People want to help, participate, and belong to something meaningful. When Rotary offers an open and safe place to do that, membership grows naturally.

Million Solar Panels Challenge

Rtn. Jaideep Malaviya, Team Member – MSPC & Ex-International Director – Renewable Energy, ESRAG

Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydro and biomass are the alternative sources that need to be substitute this harmful fossil electricity. Solar energy has become affordable and cheaper to fossil based electricity just needs to harnessing the sunlight.

Rotary’s fight against polio stands as a monumental achievement in global health, channelling and leveraging over \$20 billion of Rotary funds. The next challenge is to achieve Million Solar Panels Challenge (MSPC) that will avoid in excess of 7.5 million tons of carbon.

The Solar panels generate direct current type electricity that can be directly used to charge battery for use during dark hours or using inverter converted to alternating current and fed in the existing electricity grid. Today solar energy costs pay back in less than three years.

Let’s seize this opportunity to forge a lasting legacy and demonstrate the true power of Rotarians. The time to act is now; and pledges to give a clean air to the future generation. Plan a Solar energy project by seeking financial assistance under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Come be a part of this initiative of MSPC by Rotarians / Rotaractors/ Interactors and support to check climate crisis by going net-zero. India is already world’s third largest market in solar energy and has potential to be the leader in MSPC initiative. Just log in your data of panels you have installed whether on your homes or office or factory or your work place. If your Club has undertaken any Solar Photovoltaic project or Donate to Rotarian solar partners who can deploy solar for those less fortunate. Log your panels at <https://esrag.org/million-solar-panel/> . Get recognised as a ‘Solar HERO’!

Rotary ESRAG Annual Report

MILLION SOLAR PANEL CHALLENGE

Solar Panels Reported to Date

121,640

ESRAG's Million Solar Panel Challenge

973,120

ESRAG CO2e



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Corrigendum

Rainbow RYLA, March 13th-15th, 2026

Rotary Garden Reach hosted Rainbow RYLA 2025-26, at Dhyana Ashram, Konchowki, Bishnupur, South 24 Pgs. Lead host being Rotary Budge Budge.

44 participants from 4 Schools: including 31 of Sanghamitra Vidyalaya (BNR South Colony), 13 others from The BSS School, Children's Welfare Association School, and Maheshwari Girls' School attended. District dignitaries – DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, DGE Tapas Bhattacharya, DGN Purnendu Roychowdhury, PDG Rajani Mukerji, PDG Prabir Chatterjee, DPIC Shubhojit Roy, District RYLA Chair Timir Roy, DICC Arpita Chatterjee, GML Chair Ashif Shah & other district officials were present. On behalf of Rotary Garden Reach PP Mousumi along with Debasis Bhattacharyya coordinated the students' participation. Proudly enough, the Sanghamitra Vidyalaya students came out with flying colours!

Minutes of the 2350th RWM held on March 24th, 2026 at PVR, Hide Road

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. The President then requested all members to observe one minute of silence in memory of our former Rotarian, Late Rtn. Sudip Kumar Dey.
3. The President proposed organising a Poila Baisakh Adda on April 22nd, 2026. Venue options: BNROC/Dalhousie Athletic Club/Port View Restaurant, subject to availability.
4. The President emphasised the need for a fundraising programme to meet last quarter expenses. PP Biswajit Saha proposed organising a Drama/Theatre Event.
 - Two theatre groups were suggested: Gangadhar and Anweshak.
 - Probable venue: Tapan Theatre
 - Tentative timeline: April 2026
5. PP Mousumi Bhattacharya updated the members on the progress of the Virangana Projects.
6. Smart Board Donation – Sanghamitra Vidyalaya. The President informed that a meeting with the Headmaster of Sanghamitra Vidyalaya is scheduled on March 31st, 2026.
7. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray informed that Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray has authored a book titled: "Love in the Times of Cancer – Ten Stories", currently released on Kindle.
8. In absence of the Club Secretary, PP Mousumi conducted the club business.
9. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.

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

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