



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

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2344th RWM

UNITE FOR GOOD
Rotary 

Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution

Building Bridges Through Understanding



— Listen  Empathize  Unite —

Creating Peace, Restoring Hope



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Greetings on Birthday

Feb 4th : Lavanya, Daughter of Rtn. Dr. Mahamaya Sharma

Anniversary Greetings

Feb 4th Spouse Rita & PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta

Peace-building & Conflict Resolution - Where Listening Becomes Leadership

The world often teaches us that conflict is loud—raised voices, hardened positions, and doors slammed shut. But Rotary reminds us of a gentler truth: **peace is built quietly**, one conversation, one act of empathy, one courageous step at a time.

In a small town divided by misunderstanding, two neighbourhoods had stopped speaking to each other. What began as a minor disagreement had, over time, turned into mistrust. Rumours replaced dialogue. Assumptions replaced facts. The silence between them grew heavier than words ever could.

Enter a group of Rotarians—not as judges, not as heroes, but as **listeners**.

They didn't arrive with speeches or solutions. They came with open minds, folded chairs, and an invitation: **"Let's talk."**

At first, the conversations were hesitant. Old grievances surfaced. Voices trembled. Some spoke with anger, others with hurt. But something remarkable happened when people felt heard without interruption or judgement—the tone softened. The air changed.

The room, once tense, began to breathe again.

This is the essence of peace-building: **not erasing differences, but creating space for dignity**.

Rotary's approach to conflict resolution is rooted in a simple yet profound belief—that lasting peace cannot be imposed; it must be **co-created**. It grows when people recognise their shared humanity, even when they disagree. It thrives when dialogue replaces distance and compassion replaces suspicion.

As the weeks passed, those neighbourhood meetings transformed. People began sharing meals. Children played together again.

Joint community projects emerged—not because conflict vanished overnight, but because trust slowly returned.

Peace, after all, is not the absence of conflict.

Peace is the **presence of understanding**.

Around the world, Rotary embodies this philosophy—through peace fellowships, grassroots mediation, youth exchange programmes, and community dialogue initiatives. By empowering individuals with the skills to listen, negotiate, and empathise,

Rotary International nurtures leaders who choose bridges over walls.

Conflict resolution, Rotary teaches us, begins within. It starts when we pause before reacting, when we seek to understand before being understood, and when we remember that disagreement does not make someone an enemy.

Every Rotarian becomes a peace-builder—not only in global forums, but in homes, workplaces, and communities. In how we conduct meetings; in how we handle differences of opinion, in how we choose respect over ego.

The quiet courage to say **"I hear you"** can change the course of a conversation.

The humility to say **"Let's find common ground"** can change the course of a community.

And the commitment to say **"Peace is possible"** can change the course of the world.

In an age that often rewards division, Rotary stands firm as a reminder that **service above self is the highest form of leadership**. When we build peace—patiently, persistently, and purposefully—we do more than resolve conflicts. We create hope.

And hope, once kindled, has a remarkable way of spreading.



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



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Selvakumar — as ‘Tailor Bro’

Francesco Arezzo, President 2025-26

At last month’s International Assembly, President-elect Olayinka “Yinka” Hakeem Babalola called on members of the Rotary world to live out our Presidential message for the 2026-27 Rotary Year: **Create Lasting Impact.** This February, as we observe Peace-building and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to channel Yinka’s call to action into real change.



Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one’s family is not true peace. Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet fear often blocks that path — fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don’t understand.

Fear isn’t defeated through avoidance or aggression. Knowledge is the first step toward peace. Rotary embraces this idea. Our Rotary Peace Centers and their peace fellows, along with other peace education initiatives, demonstrate how knowledge builds trust and helps communities find solutions to conflict.

In Colombia, decades of conflict have left deep wounds. The 2025 Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale awardee,

Pathways to Peace and Prosperity, partners with the United Nations World Food Programme to expand opportunity, improve conflict resolution, and connect people with social services. Its goal is to break cycles of violence, poverty, and food insecurity so peace can take root.

In Maharashtra, India, People of Action honouree Swati Herkal built peace through prosperity. Her project confronted farmers’ declining soil health, rising debt, and illness caused by chemical fertilizers. She and her Rotary partners launched a regenerative agriculture program that revitalized the land, lowered costs, and restored stability. More than 1,100 farmers now participate and over 50 villages have adopted the model.

Rotary also advances peace by restoring dignity. In Chad, Rotary Peace Fellow Domino Frank discovered that more than 1,500 women who fought in a rebellion had been erased from reintegration programs. His advocacy led to Chad’s first Rotary Foundation global grant and the creation of Corridors of Peace. More than 100 women — triple the goal — completed literacy and vocational training and formed a cooperative to support their families.

From Colombia to India to Chad, the lesson is clear: Peace is not a dream. It is the result of sustained action with a focus on true, lasting impact. To replicate these successes, Rotary clubs can take three steps: Learn from peace fellows and other peace experts in our organization, apply a peace-building lens to community assessments, and prioritize impact over ceremony.

In a world filled with fear, Rotary cannot be satisfied with half-measures and empty words. If we are truly people of action, then action must define us. Together, we can Create Lasting Impact — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

From our Leaders

This year, the family of Rotary showed the world that our commitment to service never wavers. In a time when many organizations were forced to pull back, Rotary moved forward. We adapted, collaborated, and delivered meaningful impact in communities around the world.

At the heart of this year’s success was our shared commitment to peace. The 2025 Presidential Peace Conference marked the opening of our newest Rotary Peace Centre in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Türkiye. This inspiring gathering brought people together to educate, to listen, and to strengthen our collective capacity for peace-building in the Middle East and beyond.

We continued our fight to end polio, even as the virus remains endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Rotary has stayed the





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course, working tirelessly behind the scenes with global partners and governments, navigating disruption, and identifying new sources of support. Our ability to remain focused on solutions has brought us closer than ever to a polio-free world.

This year, we also announced our fifth Programs of Scale awardee, Pathways to Peace and Prosperity in Colombia. This initiative, in partnership with the World Food Programme, helps communities recover from conflict by building economic opportunity, improving food security, and restoring hope for a better future.

And thanks to the generosity and dedication of our entire Rotary family, we received US\$569 million in gifts and commitments, surpassing our US\$500 million fundraising goal for 2024-25.

We also reached US\$2.050 billion in net assets and expectancies, exceeding our ambitious Endowment milestone of US\$2.025 billion by 2025! Rotary officially announced this goal at the 2017 Rotary Convention and in less than 10 years, we were privileged to celebrate our success at this year's outstanding convention in Calgary, Canada.

Thank you for believing in The Magic of Rotary. When our family of Rotary comes together, shares our gifts, and supports one another, there is no challenge we cannot overcome and no dream we cannot achieve.

With gratitude,

Stephanie A Urchick

2024-25 Rotary International President

Mark Daniel Maloney

2024-25 Rotary Foundation Chair



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Rotary Garden Reach gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of Rs. 25,000 by PP Dr. Sharda Ray, IWC Garden Reach, towards the Smart Board for Sanghamitra Vidyalaya at SE Railways Colony. The donation was made to the Rotary Garden Reach Charitable Trust and formally handed over to the Chair, PP Dr. JK Singh. PP Dr. Sharda Ray addressed the gathering, expressing her deep concern for children's education and emphasising that no child should be deprived of proper learning facilities. The Club places on record its sincere appreciation for PP Dr. Sharda Ray for her continued commitment to Service.

**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
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Creating a Rotary where everyone belongs

PDG Janet Kolepp, Rotary Bethlehem Morning Star, Pennsylvania

When I arrived at the Rotary Zone conference in Winnipeg, I was struck by its hopeful theme: Better Together. It felt like a gathering of shared purpose, where humanitarian impact and global fellowship took centre stage.

I know Rotary changes lives. Through clean water, education, health initiatives, and peace-building, I have seen how we reach across borders and barriers. I believe service is a path to peace. And yet, I cannot ignore that even within Rotary, not everyone feels they belong. One breakout session — **Creating a Rotary Where Everyone Belongs** — hit me hard. It asked me to look inward, to examine not just what I do, but who we are. Sometimes, who we are — our identity, our truth — is met not with welcome, but with silence or discomfort.

I wrestle with this: how do I hold together the noble ideals of Rotary alongside the painful truth that even in spaces built for service, belonging is not guaranteed? How do I reconcile the hope of humanitarian work with the heartbreak of human rights violations?

There is not a tidy answer. But maybe that is the point.

For me, belonging is not a slogan — it is a commitment. It is the courage to name what is broken, even in the places I cherish. It is humility to listen, to change, and to make room. It is recognizing that peace is not just something we deliver; it is something we must embody.

After the conference, before leaving Winnipeg, I visited the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Walking through its halls was a reckoning. The museum gathers the weight of injustice and resilience into one space. Genocide, exclusion, systemic oppression — layer upon layer of human suffering and resistance. To see it all at once was staggering. I found it hard to breathe under the enormity of it.

I left Winnipeg with a deeper resolve. To keep asking. To keep noticing. To keep making space — for truth, for discomfort, for each other.

Because maybe being **better together** starts with being **braver together**.



The **Vocational Excellence Awards** were presented on January 27, 2026, honouring individuals whose vocational commitment has created lasting social impact.

BC Jindal Foundation, Howrah, was recognised for his work with marginalised women; **Shri Ram Upadhyay** for tutoring 200+ students in and around the SE Railways Colony for over 35 years; and **Shri Harashit Mahato**, Coordinator, Rotary Bharatgarh School, for his contribution to education for underprivileged children.

Letters of Appreciation were presented to Prof. Amitava Bose, Shri Gautam Ghose, and Shri Surajit Chanda for their unwavering and sustained support to Rotary Garden Reach over the years. The event was graced by Rtn. GM Kapur, District Mentor, whose presence added distinction to the occasion.



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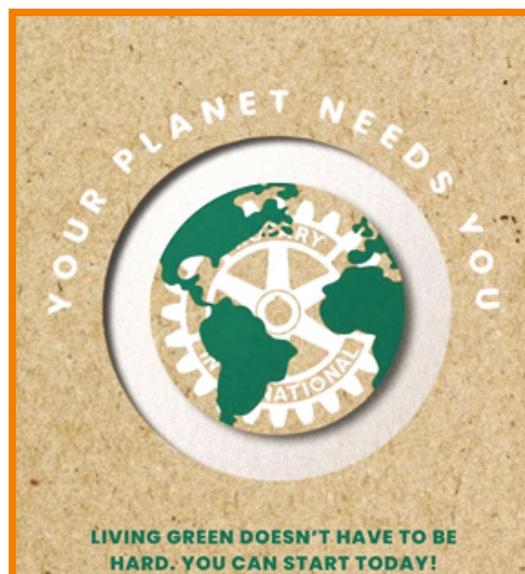
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Minutes of the 2343rd RWM held on January 27th, 2026 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. Members observed a minute of silence in remembrance of Paul Harris, founder of Rotary International, on the occasion of his 79th Death Anniversary.
3. The President briefed the house about the Festival Cricket Match scheduled on February 8th, 2026 at BNR Grounds, Garden Reach. Participating Rotary Clubs are Calcutta Mega City, Calcutta South City Towers, Central Calcutta & Garden Reach. This cost will be shared equally among the participating clubs. Lunch charges will be calculated on a per-head basis.
4. Medical Camp will be organised on February 15th, 2026 at Matua Mission, Kalikapur Purbapally. The camp will include: General health check-up, Blood pressure and Blood sugar tests & Eye check-up. Balananda Hospital and Susrut Eye Hospital will be approached to provide medical support.
5. PP Dr. Sharda Ray, IWC Garden Reach, donated 25,000 towards a Smart Board for the students of Sanghamitra Vidyalaya. Members appreciated her generous contribution. Spouse, PP Dr. Arabinda Ray conveyed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the club.
6. The Vocational Excellence Awards Ceremony was conducted successfully. Chief Guest, PP GM Kapur presented awards to the recipients. These individuals were recognised for their selfless service to humanity. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Club Secretary, PN Shubhayan Sengupta.
7. Secretary PN Shubhayan conducted the club business.
8. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.



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