

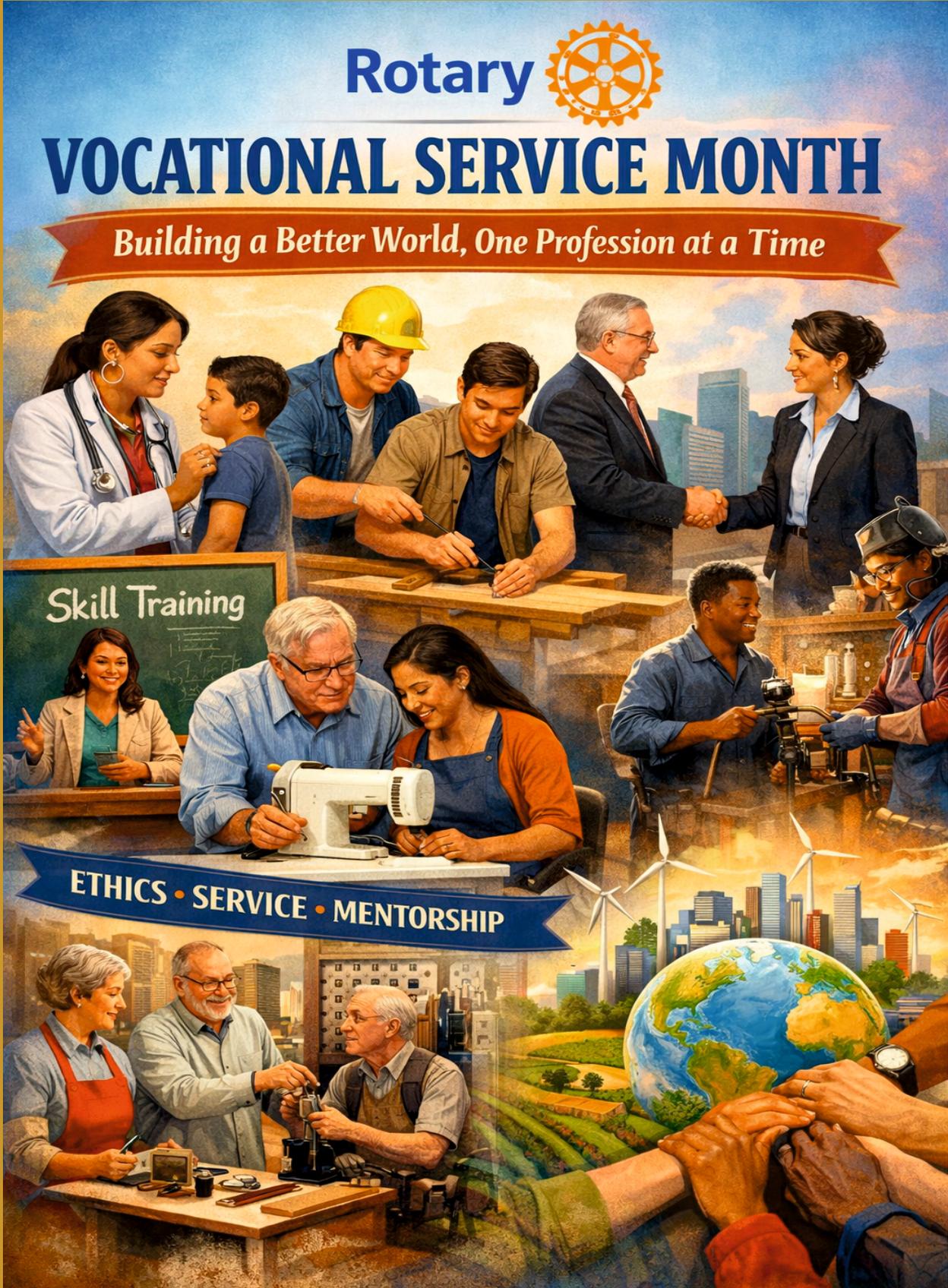


“YOU ARE THE  
**LIGHT**  
OF THE WORLD...”

RID 3291, Zone-16  
**Rotary**  
Garden Reach



2340th RWM



Rotary   
**VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**

*Building a Better World, One Profession at a Time*



Skill Training

**ETHICS • SERVICE • MENTORSHIP**



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

## Greetings on Birthday

Jan 2nd : PP DK Rao

Jan 7th : PP Subir Singha Roy

Jan 9th : Rtn. Bandaru Mohan

Jan 10th : Sulagna, Daughter of PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta

Jan 12th : Spouse Abhileena, Wife of PN Shubhayan Sengupta



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

### Building a Better World, One Profession at a Time

PP Tanu Roy

If *Service Above Self* were a business card, Vocational Service would be the fine print everyone should read— and live by.

Vocational Service Month reminds us that the skills we list on LinkedIn or proudly display on office doors are not meant only for profit margins and quarterly reviews. They are powerful tools to build *trust, dignity, and opportunity* in the world around us. Whether one is an entrepreneur, teacher, doctor, engineer, artist, or homemaker, every vocation carries within it the potential to quietly change lives— sometimes without a press release or a PowerPoint presentation.

At its heart, Vocational Service asks a deceptively simple question: *"How can I use what I do every day to make the world a little better?"*

#### Ethics: The Most Valuable Skill Set

In an age where "terms and conditions apply" often hide more than they reveal, ethical practice has become both rare and revolutionary. Vocational Service places ethics front and centre— not as a sermon, but as a lived example.

Fair pricing, honest advice, transparent dealings, respect for employees, and compassion for customers are not old-fashioned ideas; they are future-ready values. When professionals choose integrity over convenience, they don't just protect reputations— they restore faith. And yes, ethical business may not always make headlines, but it builds something far more enduring: credibility.

As Rotarians often joke, *doing the right thing may not always be the easiest path— but it's the one with the least paperwork later.*

#### Service Through Skill, Not Just Sympathy

Vocational Service goes beyond charity. It is about empowerment. Teaching a young person a trade, mentoring a start-up entrepreneur, guiding a student through career choices, or helping someone rediscover confidence in their abilities— these acts create ripple effects that last for generations.

A donated meal feeds for a day. As hard skills feed a family for a lifetime.

By opening doors to vocational training, ethical entrepreneurship, and professional mentorship, Rotarians help communities stand taller, not lean longer.

#### Humour, Humanity, and Humility

Vocational Service also gently reminds us not to take ourselves too seriously. Titles may impress at meetings, but it's our conduct outside the conference room that truly defines us. A lawyer who explains patiently, a doctor who listens longer, a businessperson who chooses fairness over shortcuts— these are everyday heroes, often without capes, sometimes without even visiting cards.

And let's be honest— nothing keeps humility intact like real service. The moment you teach, mentor, or serve, you realize that learning flows both ways.

#### Building a Better World

When vocations are guided by conscience, communities thrive. When ethics shape enterprise, peace quietly takes root. When professionals serve with sincerity, the world doesn't just progress— it heals.

Vocational Service Month is not about adding another activity to the calendar. It is about aligning our work with our values, our success with significance, and our professions with purpose.

Because when we work ethically, serve willingly, and lead responsibly, we don't just build businesses or careers— we truly **Build a Better World.**

**BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**



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## Presidential Message

Francesco Arezzo, President 2025-26

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.



This is what Rotary’s Vocational Service Month celebrates each January — the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn’t just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.

The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn’t assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled

mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn’t be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a non-profit offering counselling and support services alongside vocational training.

That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world’s children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity.

The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support.

But support doesn’t mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary’s values creates lasting change. The question isn’t whether you have something to offer, it’s how you’ll use your skills to serve.

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone’s life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

Let integrity guide you. Let **The Four-Way Test** light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.



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## Presidential themes and Annual messages

For seven decades, Rotary members enthusiastically awaited the incoming Rotary International President's announcement of their theme. The President announced the theme at the International Assembly, an annual learning event for incoming leaders.

The tradition of crafting a theme is credited to **Percy C Hodgson, Rotary's President in 1949-50**. When Hodgson addressed the International Assembly in 1949, he impressed upon the incoming leaders that they had a "glorious opportunity to impart Rotary knowledge" and that "lack of Rotary knowledge can be a deterrent to the successful operation of a Rotary club." Hodgson's 83-word theme, which included a list of four objectives, was substantially longer than the punchier themes of later years, but it captured his hope that incoming leaders have essential knowledge of Rotary.

Other early themes include **Rotary Is Hope in Action** (Joaquin Serratosa Cibils, 1953-54), **Kindle the Spark Within** (Nitish C Laharry, 1962-63), and **Good Will Begins With You** (Ernst G Breitholtz, 1971-72) Through their themes, presidents encouraged members to celebrate and support an annual program of service and focused interests.

In the decades that followed, RI Presidents introduced theme logos, lapel pins, ties, and scarves. Limited-edition theme ties were introduced in the 1990s and scarves first appeared in 1998-99. Many designs incorporated the theme logo for the year. Others, such as those selected by William Boyd from New Zealand and Sakuji Tanaka from Japan, used colours or imagery that reflects their home country.



### A new approach

Although the annual theme and logo had special meaning to many Rotary members, they had little significance to non-members and affected their understanding of Rotary. To avoid confusion with Rotary's official mottos and vision statement, presidential themes and theme logos were retired at the end of the Rotary Year 2024-25.

A new tradition of an annual presidential message that is consciously aligned with our vision statement and Action Plan began in 2025-26 with **Unite for Good**, inspiring members, participants, and the public to join together and be people of action. This shift creates stronger name recognition for Rotary with the public, while retaining cherished aspects from the past for members. The president still announces the annual message at the International Assembly. Presidential ties and scarves (popular attire among district leaders for the year and donors to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund) are still made, but without a one-off logo.

## Ribbon of Commitment

### Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee

Ask 10 people why they give to The Rotary Foundation, and you will get 10 different answers ranging from "to help the needy"; "I want to share" to "the feel-good factor" and more. One thread runs through all answers — Giving allows you to look beyond yourself. Giving brings you love, joy, happiness, inner peace and self-worth. It expands your horizon and exposes you to a different way of thinking and an altruistic way of living.

Giving to The Rotary Foundation is a way to support service projects around the world and in your own community addressing some of the world's most critical challenges. In fact, TRF allows you to contribute to a vast, highly efficient global network of community volunteers (Rotarians) who are dedicated to 'Doing Good in the World'.

We give to TRF to fulfil our promise of eradicating polio. The journey has been long and challenging, but today we are closer than ever to a polio-free world. This is the time to redouble our efforts. Because the End Polio Now campaign is not just about raising money; but it is about children receiving drops of vaccine across the world... and ensuring that future generations of children will be free from polio forever.



Supporting the Annual Fund today allows us to do global grants tomorrow. During the past 107 years, the Foundation has spent over \$5 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

Supporting the Endowment Fund ensures a bright tomorrow for our Rotary Foundation. By increasing our endowment, we can ensure that Rotary can do good in the world well beyond our lifetime.

My friends, when we give to TRF we do not know who will benefit from our giving, and in which part of the world. But one thing is sure that the blessings of the beneficiary will come back to you again and again.

Thank you, dear readers, for your dedication to Rotary. Rotary members like you are the heart of our organisation, and your acts of caring, kindness and generosity play an essential role in advancing TRF's mission.

So here I am with a bouquet of thanks for your support; but I am also here with a ribbon to remind you of your on-going commitment and hope that you will give to TRF again this year and every year.

*Happy New Year to all of you and your families...*





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Annual Sports of Bharatgarh Rotary School was held on January 4th, 2026 at Bharatgarh number 5, 24 Parganas (S). The children were very happy and enthusiastic to participate in the sports activities. After the events, they received wonderful prizes and a delicious lunch packet, which brought big smiles to their faces.

There are 52 children studying in our school. Most of them come from tiger-affected families, and many have lost either their father or mother. When we were able to make them laugh and feel happy, our own happiness became double.

To support their better education and future, one computer was donated to the school. This small step will help them learn and grow with confidence.

We kindly request everyone to pray to God for these children, so that every child achieves success in life and builds a bright future.

On behalf of Rotary Garden Reach we are indebted to our generous sponsors without whom this event would not be possible.

- Report by IPP Biswajit Saha



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**Minutes of the 2339th RWM held on December 30th, 2025 at Port View  
Restaurant, Hide Road**

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. In the absence of the Secretary, PN Shubhayan Sengupta, PP Mousumi Bhattacharyya officiated as Secretary for the meeting.
3. It was informed that two computers received from Rotary Club of Calcutta Welfare Trust will be donated on January 4th, 2026 as follows:
  - One computer to RCC Champa Mahila Samity for their Girls Ashram (Classes VIII, IX & X)
  - One computer to Bharatgarh Rotary School

Sri Amal Nayak requested support for payment of the Computer Teacher's salary. After discussion, members decided that the said payment will be arranged by Sri Amal Nayak. It was further informed that the regular salaries of two teachers at Bharatgarh Rotary School will be paid by PP Kumud Kar and PN Shubhayan Sengupta from January 2026 onwards.

PP Rtn Prosenjit Barua informed the house that sports activities at Bharatgarh Rotary School will commence on Januray 4th, 2026 at 10:00 am.
4. As desired during the previous RWM, an Extended Annual Meeting was held on the sidelines under the Chairmanship of PP Dr. JK Singh and other senior members.
5. PP Sanjay Bhatt displayed the Appreciation Certificate received during the Shiksha Labh Function held at Rotary Sadan on December 17th, 2025.
6. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray informed the members about an appeal received from the Maharaj of Mayapur ISKCON for: Provision of drinking water facilities for pilgrims & Donation of two wheelchairs for needy and elderly visitors.
7. Acting Secretary, PP Mousumi conducted the club business.
8. 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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