



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

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



RID-3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

2336th RWM

✨ **Heartiest Welcome** ✨



to
District Governor
Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri

and
First Lady of the District
Dr. Bandana Homchaudhuri



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PEACEBUILDING
AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION



DISEASE
PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



WATER,
SANITATION
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

A December to Remember: Healing, Humour & Humanitarian Spirit

PP Tanu Roy

December—the month Rotary dedicates to **Disease Prevention & Treatment**—brought with it not only a pleasant winter breeze but also the much-anticipated Official Visit of our District Governor to Rotary Fort Bharat. The excitement was palpable as members fine-tuned preparations, rehearsed welcomes, and silently prayed that everything—from microphones to banners—would behave for at least one evening.

As the District Governor arrived, the club greeted him & the First Lady with warm applause (and perhaps a hint of nervous relief). DG's gracious smile set the tone for an inspiring and insightful visit that beautifully highlighted the club's contributions to Rotary's December theme.

The members proudly walked the DG through an exhibition of the club's year-long contributions to December's theme, each project reflecting Rotary's commitment to building healthier communities.

Free Medical Camp

Rotary Fort Bharat organised a comprehensive health camp serving over 600 residents. Check-ups, diagnostic screenings, and consultations were provided completely free. As one member humorously noted, "Vitamin C oranges attracted beneficiaries... and also a few overly enthusiastic monkeys—but Service above Self extends to nature too!"

Vaccination & Immunisation Drive

The club partnered with local health clinics to ensure routine immunisations for children. Creative persuasion techniques were deployed—from stickers and chocolates to a gentle debunking of myths ("No, the vaccine will not give you superpowers—but staying healthy might feel like one!").

Rotarians conducted awareness programs focusing on maternal health, anaemia prevention, menstrual hygiene, and nutrition. Attendance soared whenever "free haemoglobin test" was mentioned—though the phrase "diet control" mysteriously cleared the room.

The District Governor appreciated both the seriousness of the initiatives and the humorous realities of community engagement.

During the DG's address, the microphone briefly rebelled, refusing to cooperate. Without hesitation, the Governor projected his voice with confidence and remarked, **"Even if the mic fails, a Rotarian's voice always reaches where it must."** DG's words—and his optimism—earned enthusiastic applause.

One of the highlights of the visit was the unveiling of the club's visionary health initiative:

Mission: Healthy Garden Reach 2027

A long-term project focused on:

- **Community health screening vans**
- **Telemedicine access for underserved families**
- **School Health Ambassadors trained to promote hygiene**
- **First-aid & basic medication kits for local households**

The District Governor commended this forward-thinking approach, calling it **"a shining example of Rotary's spirit of service combined with innovative problem-solving."**

The visit concluded, as all good Rotary occasions do, with warm fellowship and delicious food. The DG commended the club's dedication, creativity, and even the unplanned monkey-inclusive Vitamin C programme.

As the DG departed, the Fort Bharat members stood proud. They had celebrated service, forged inspiration, and reaffirmed Rotary's mission—while learning, once again, that banners have wings and microphones have moods. *December's theme reminds us that good health is a human right—and Rotary's role is to bring access, awareness, and assurance to every corner of the community. Rotary Fort Bharat continues its journey with renewed enthusiasm, ready to serve with humour, heart, and hope.*



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Advice from the top

You are not the leader of your district... the most important person in the Rotary world is always and only the club president," said RI President Francesco Arezzo to the governors-elect at the valedictory of Rotary's annual training programme organised on the sidelines of the Rotary Zone Institute.

"The heart of Rotary lies not in offices but in clubs. It is the club president who has to go in his community to find new members, raise funds, identify community's needs and plan the projects that can transform it. Our job, your main job, is to support your club presidents," he said, and urged the incoming governors to invest time in knowing, meeting and befriending every president. "If you support the presidents well, it will be a great year for all of us. Leadership in Rotary is not about power; it is about purpose, people and principled action."

Arezzo reminded delegates that Rotary's five core values — service, diversity, integrity, leadership and fellowship — must never be lived in isolation. "Service without integrity is not good service. Service without fellowship, without the joy to work together, is not Rotary service."



Recounting his visit to Pakistan, he delivered an emotional plea for finishing Rotary's 35-year struggle to end polio. He recalled seeing a wall of photographs — portraits of 68 health workers killed while vaccinating children — and learning that over 1,000 workers worldwide may have lost their lives in the campaign. "We have 1,000 martyrs. In their memory, we are obliged to finish this campaign."

What moved him even more was the paralysed three-year-old girl he met in Rawalpindi. "Her smile was a

scream. It asked me, 'Why didn't you finish your campaign earlier? I would have been running with my friends.' I cannot see another child paralysed by polio."

Calling peace the third goal of his year, Arezzo said, "We have to work for world peace not just with our peace centres or youth exchange programmes, but also with our projects. If we want our projects to create peace, we must do something different." He urged Indian districts to take Rotary beyond their borders. "Ninety-nine per cent of your global grants are in India. India has grown. Now it is time to work abroad, in Africa, even in Pakistan, to create peace," he said.

He ended with a personal metaphor about leadership as a climb up a mountain, only to realise the true work remained at the base. **"To be a great leader, I had to come down again and stay with Rotarians. That great white light at the top? It was only the flashlight of the photographers,"** he smiled.

Past RI President KR Ravindran reflected on the four values that shape a "superior president": integrity, humility, compassion and courage. Speaking about integrity, he recalled visiting the Lego factory founded by Ole Kirk Christensen, a carpenter who once specialised in making wooden toys. Christensen insisted that every toy receive three coats of varnish, not because customers would notice, but because he would. "He believed only the best was good enough. That is why Lego remains one of the world's most trusted brands; its true legacy lies in integrity, in excellence without shortcuts."

He urged the incoming leaders to remember that spirit: "Don't forget the third coat — whether in the accuracy of your reports, the transparency of your accounts, or the promises you make. Integrity is not what we say; it is what we do when no one is watching."

Humility, he said, is equally critical. He narrated the story of US Supreme Court Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, who lovingly accepted her Alzheimer-stricken husband's newfound bond with another patient. "That is humility at its highest, excellence without ego."

Compassion often comes from unexpected places, said Ravindran, as he spoke of his granddaughter Tessa, who befriended a neighbour's medically fragile child without seeing illness or limitation. "Where adults see limitations, children see possibilities."

But compassion must be balanced with courage. Ravindran recounted the tense moment during Rotary's post-tsunami school-building project in Sri Lanka when militants demanded a 10% cut. He refused, despite threats. "I was trembling... but courage is not lack of fear; it is choosing to do the right thing despite it." He reminded governors-elect that leadership tests come quietly, often when compromise feels easier.

"Integrity tells you to do it right. Humility tells you it's not about you. Compassion urges you to see the person, not the problem. And courage tells you to stand firm even when your voice is trembling," he summed up.

RI Director M Muruganandam stressed accountability, ambition and disciplined execution. "You are the representatives of your districts. There are expectations from your clubs, from all clubs, and from regional leaders. You are the torchbearers." He urged the DGEs to set audacious, measurable goals, recalling his own ambitious milestones as governor (2016–17) — from \$1 million to TRF to 10,000 organ donations and 14 Guinness World Records. "Take your assignment seriously. For you, 2026–27 is your year. Spend your time, energy and resources for that year."



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He reminded them that leadership is never about comparison with others. "Compare only with yourself — yesterday's version and today's version." Calling communication the governor's most powerful tool, he advised leaders to consult the college of governors and build a strong team spirit. "Aim high. Be a multimillion-dollar district. Bring more AKS members. And let's reach 300,000 members by 2030, that is Mission 2030," he said.

PRID Raju Subramanian, the general trainer for the incoming leaders, reminded them that focus should never be on personal visibility. "The Rotary Wheel, its beneficiaries, and the service it delivers, matter the most. This is particularly important during your public image activities."

RID 3192 DGE Ravishankar Dakoju appealed to his co-governors to join for three pan-India projects: to plant one crore saplings across the country, to get government support to make it mandatory for residential societies to provide water facilities for birds and animals, and to urge Rotary clubs in every district to adopt and transform tribal schools.

Rotary Unites 1.4 million dedicated members across 200 Countries

Rotary International is an extraordinary global community of individuals who come together to address the world's most pressing challenges. With a vast network of 1.4 million members spanning across 200 countries and territories, Rotary members—neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers—are united by a shared vision of making a lasting impact on their communities and the world. This unique organization embodies the spirit of service and exemplifies the power of collective action. From local community projects to global humanitarian initiatives, Rotary strives to build a better, more inclusive world where people actively contribute to solving real-life problems.

Empowering communities through Service

One of the organisation's most impressive accomplishments is its on-going commitment to the fight against polio. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by Rotary, has made remarkable strides toward eradicating this devastating disease. Thanks to years of concerted effort and collaboration with international organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), polio cases have decreased by over 99%, and the world is closer than ever to achieving polio-free status.

But beyond its international achievements, Rotary's impact is felt on a much more localized level. Clubs around the world focus on grassroots efforts that make tangible differences in their communities. These local projects are tailored to address the specific needs of each area, whether it's creating safe drinking water, providing sanitation facilities, or offering vital healthcare resources. Through these initiatives, Rotary members show that change starts at home—by improving conditions in their own communities, they inspire others to do the same.

The Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan (RCHD) is a shining example of the power of local action within the Rotary movement. has a rich history of fostering fellowship, friendship, and dedication to the Rotary Foundation. The club's members consistently work together to improve the lives of those in need, both locally and globally. One of the club's standout initiatives is its focus on supporting healthcare services, specifically through its efforts to improve eye care in Hyderabad.

Through events like the annual **"Golf for Charity"** tournament, RCHD raises funds to support the Eye Centre at Ramdevrao Hospital. This charity event plays a pivotal role in providing advanced surgical equipment and enhancing eye care services for the underserved communities of Hyderabad. The funds raised from these events go directly toward improving the hospital's facilities, ensuring that more people have access to critical eye care.

Speaking on the occasion, the **President of Rotary Deccan, Anu Khendry** said, "This year is our 9th edition of the 'Rotary Golf for Charity Tournament'. We have received wonderful support from over 120 charitably inclined golfers as well as sponsors. This generosity of our sponsors through donations and substantial commitments from their CSR funds will be directed to Rotary Deccan's service activities, principally to strengthening eye care services and providing advanced surgical equipment at the eye care centre at the charitable Ramdevrao Hospital, Kukatpally, Hyderabad. We thank the sponsors and look forward to their continued support in the efforts of the Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan in making sustainable changes to the lives of those in need."



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Interact Club of Julien Day School, Howrah at the Fund-Raising Carnival

On Sunday, December 7th, 2025, Interact Club of Julien Day School, Howrah proudly participated in the Fund Raising Carnival organized by Little Sisters of the Poor (St. Joseph's Old Age Home).

With eager smiles and energetic teamwork, our student volunteers set up and managed an engaging games stall, featuring two crowd-favourite activities — **"Feed the Clown"** and **"Flip the Bottle."** Throughout the day, students displayed remarkable enthusiasm, dedication, and a spirit of compassion. Their commitment to the Rotary motto **"Service Above Self"** shone brightly as they encouraged participants and managed the stall with responsibility and joy. Importantly, all money collected from the stall was donated to the Old Age Home, contributing to the welfare and care of the elderly residents. This meaningful gesture helped students understand the deeper value of service and empathy.

This experience stands as a beautiful example of community engagement and the power of young minds to make a positive impact.



Report by Ms. Pounami Chakraborty, Teacher Coordinator, Interact Club of Julien Day School, Howrah

CIGMA funds Rs. 33.34 lakh Classroom block under Rotary Happy School Project

The Rotary Bangalore Lakeside and Rotary Bengaluru South Samarpane, in partnership with CIGMA India, conducted the Bhoomi Pooja (ground-breaking ceremony) for the construction of a new classroom block at the Government Higher Primary School, Koloru Village, Doddaballapura Taluk. The initiative forms part of the Happy School Project under Rotary's focus area of Basic Education and Literacy.

With a CSR contribution of approximately Rs. 33.34 lakh from CIGMA India, the project aims to upgrade essential school infrastructure and provide students with a safer, more engaging learning environment. The effort supports the broader goal of strengthening access to quality education in rural communities.



The Happy School Program focuses on improving infrastructure and co-scholastic facilities in state-funded schools to make them secure, cheerful, and conducive for learning. Enhancing these basic conditions is known to positively influence enrolment, attendance, retention, and overall learning outcomes.

The ceremony brought together employees of CIGMA India, Rotarians from both participating clubs, and members of the Koloru Village Panchayat, representatives from the education department, school management, and students. The gathering reflected collaborative community participation and a shared interest in supporting educational development in the region.

Projects like the Happy School initiative reinforce Rotary's commitment to strengthening basic education and literacy. Enhancing school facilities creates long-term benefits for students and helps build a foundation for better learning outcomes." The event concluded with a vote of thanks acknowledging all contributors, including CIGMA India, village leaders, school authorities, and parents. Community members expressed optimism that the new classroom block would significantly benefit the academic growth and well-being of children in Koloru Village.

The DG's visit reminds us that Rotary brings people together; especially people who otherwise only meet on WhatsApp.



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Minutes of the 2335th RWM held on December 3rd, 2025 at BNROC, garden Reach

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. PP Mousumi, Executive Secretary, would officiate as Secretary in the absence of Club Secretary Rtn. Shubhayan Sengupta.
3. PP Mousumi briefed the members regarding the preparations for the DG's OCV as per the checklist provided by the District Secretary (Admin). Necessary arrangements are underway and members were requested to extend full cooperation.
4. It was informed that 49,601 has been remitted to Rotary Foundation India towards the club's contribution for the Global Grant project "Prandhara". The implementation of the project is scheduled for January 2026.
5. The Annual Picnic will be held on January 18th, 2026 at Rohini Gardens, Nodakhali (on Route Bus No. 75). The expected attendance is around 40 heads. A Committee was formed & Rtn. Debasis Das was selected as the Chairman of the same.
6. The Daspur Medical Camp will be conducted on December 14th, 2025. One vehicle will be hired by the club for members to travel together. Technicians from Ekbalbore Nursing Home will accompany the camp and will travel in the vehicle of Rtn. Abbas Ali Halder.
7. Sports Day will be celebrated at Bharatgarh Rotary School on January 4th, 2026. Members were encouraged to attend in large numbers to motivate and support the students.
8. A joint initiative by Rotary Calcutta Midown & Rotary Garden Reach in regard to Cervical Cancer Awareness & Vaccination Drive at Sanghamitra Vidyalaya, Garden Reach. Awareness Camp is on December 11th, 2025 and the Vaccination will be on December 13th, 2025, conducted by Serum Institute.
9. The Annual Meeting will be held on December 16th, 2025, followed by the 5th Board Meeting. Selection for the following positions will be undertaken based on applications received:
 - President for 2028–2029
 - Secretary for 2026–2027
10. PP Sanjay informed that the 2nd SAD installment will be payable in January 2026, as an advance intimation for members. He also updated that Rotary Calcutta has proposed a joint meeting and a friendly cricket match, and Rotary Club of Megacity has expressed similar interest.
11. Club Executive Secretary, PP Mousumi conducted the club business.
12. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and the vote of thanks was proposed by PP Dr. JK Singh. President 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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