



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



RID 3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



February 18th, 2025 - Vol. 47 No. 30

2301st Regular Weekly Meeting
7th Board Meeting
Attendance: 17

Light

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The First ever Installation of Rotary Garden Reach Interact Club: A Milestone in Leadership & Service

February 13th, 2025 marked a historic day for Rotary Garden Reach, as the club of 48 years old witnessed the inaugural ceremony of its first Interact Club at Julien Day School, Howrah. The event was a celebration of leadership, service, and community spirit, bringing together students, teachers, and distinguished guests from our District to embark on this new journey.

The event began with a warm welcome to the esteemed guests, who were presented with thoughtful gifts as a token of appreciation. This was followed by an opening prayer led by Debjani Dutta of Class XI, invoking blessings for the newly formed club and its future endeavours.

Guiding the audience through the program were PP Tanu Roy and Ms. Pounami Chakraborty, a dedicated teacher, who took on the role of announcers for the day. The ceremony was graced with beautiful performances by the school's talented students. The Middle School Choir delivered a soulful musical performance, setting a serene and uplifting atmosphere. This was followed by a Bihu dance performance, showcasing the rich cultural diversity and heritage of India, adding vibrancy and energy to the event.

The distinguished guests, as in, Rtn. Arpita Chatterjee, District Interact Chair, Rtn. Suranjana Basu Das, District Interact Co-chair & Rtn. Tamalesh Kumar, District RYLA Advisor, took the stage to share their wisdom and experiences, inspiring the young Interactors to embrace the values of leadership, community service, and teamwork. Their words resonated deeply, emphasizing the importance of working together to make a meaningful impact. Thank you!



The most significant moments of the ceremony were the formal installation of the Interact Club Board Members. Each board member proudly received their badge of responsibility, symbolizing their commitment to service and leadership. They then took their oaths, pledging to uphold the values of the Rotary and work towards making a difference. Following this, all the newly appointed Interact members were honoured with their badges, officially marking their entry into the club. As a token of appreciation for their dedication, Certificates were distributed to everyone involved. With great enthusiasm, the President of the Interact Club officially declared the meeting open, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the school community. To commemorate this special occasion, a cake-cutting ceremony was held, with the Board members, teacher coordinator, esteemed guests, Director Mr. Terence John, Principal ma'am & Vice Principal joining in the celebration. From Rotary Garden Reach, President Rtn. Biswajit Saha, PND Shubhayan Sengupta, PP Tanu Roy & Rtn. Tamal Ray attended the ceremony.



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The Timeless Connection: "Unite for Good" & Rotary's Founding Spirit

In 1905, Paul Harris, the visionary founder of Rotary International, united with three friends with a simple yet profound mission: **"To Unite – To Do Good."**

This act of unity was not just about friendship; it was about a shared commitment to service, ethics, and making a difference in the world.

From that first moment of four friends coming together, Rotary's journey began—one of action, impact, and global transformation.



A Legacy of Goodness Continues...

Since that day, across every nation, every culture, and every generation, Rotarians have embraced the spirit of unity.

Every year, in new ways, new challenges, and new euphoria

Rotarians continue to Unite for Good, to Do Good.

From local communities to global causes, Rotary remains a force of positive change.

Unite for Good: A Continuation, not just a Theme

The 2025-26 Rotary theme – "Unite for Good" is not just a tagline—it is a reaffirmation of Rotary's origin, values, and timeless mission.

It reflects the same spirit that brought Paul Harris and his friends together in 1905.

It reminds us that goodness multiplies when we come together.

It reinforces that our collective impact is greater than what we can achieve

alone.

From Yesterday to Today, and Forever—Rotary Stands: United to Do Good.

Message from Grace Van Zyl - Chair, Rotary Action Group for Peace

For over a century, **Rotary has been a driving force for peace**, not just through words, but through meaningful action. From influencing the creation of global institutions to empowering local communities, Rotary's commitment to peace has remained steadfast.

Laying the Foundation for Peace

1917 – Rotary International President Arch C Klumph proposed an endowment fund for doing good in the world. This later became The Rotary Foundation, supporting education, health, and humanitarian aid—key pillars of sustainable peace.

1921 – Recognizing the power of global cooperation, Rotary formally incorporated peacebuilding into its constitution, committing to international understanding and goodwill.

Shaping the Global Peace Agenda

1940 – At its Havana Convention, Rotary adopted a resolution calling for freedom, justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights—principles that influenced the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1942 – Rotary clubs from 21 nations convened in London to envision a post-war world where education, science, and culture would drive peace. These discussions laid the foundation for UNESCO.

1945 – Rotary played a pivotal role in the formation of the United Nations, with 11 official observers at the San Francisco Conference—second only to one other organization.





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Carrying the Legacy Forward

Rotary's history reminds us that peace is not passive—it is built, nurtured, and sustained through **intentional action**. Today, as members of the Rotary Action Group for Peace, we continue this mission by:

- **Empowering communities with sustainable peace projects**
- **Equipping future leaders through Rotary Peace Fellowships**
- **Strengthening Peacebuilder Clubs to amplify local and global impact**
- **Using our vocations to create solutions for conflict and inequality**

Our legacy is not just in what we have done—it is in what we continue to do. Every conversation, project, and partnership bring us closer to a world where peace is not just an ideal, but a reality.

Let's keep leading, inspiring, and taking action for peace. Together, we are peace in action.



WHO Executive Board says emergency measures needed to stop polio

Health ministries from around the world meeting at this week's WHO Executive Board in Geneva expressed serious concern about increasing wild poliovirus transmission in the last two remaining endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, noting that extraordinary measures were going on in response.

The year 2024 saw an increase in virus transmission in both countries, which share the last remaining endemic wild poliovirus reservoir in the world. WHO Member States commended the new emergency operational approaches being now implemented in both countries to turn the tide on this trend. These approaches include identifying the different operational reasons why children are not being reached, area by area; increasing co-administration of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) alongside oral polio vaccine (OPV); boosting overall immunity levels in children; and, improving access to more adequate sanitation infrastructures.

These measures reflect the unique environmental, geopolitical, programmatic and security challenges affecting both countries, which together essentially create an epidemiological 'perfect storm' for poliovirus transmission. These approaches must be underpinned by strengthened surveillance activities not just in highest-risk areas, but comprehensively across all areas of both countries, and doing more to protect polio-free areas, particularly in critical border areas, and among highly mobile population groups, in particular in three clearly identified 'virus transmission corridors' affecting both countries.

Speaking on behalf of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Regional Director Dr. Hanan Balkhy said: "I assure you, on behalf of our Region and the leaders of both endemic countries, our commitment to eradicating this virus is stronger than ever. We must reach and vaccinate every child and keep up a robust search for poliovirus, to stop further spread. Achieving this is far from simple. Pakistan and Afghanistan face immense geopolitical, infrastructural, environmental, and security challenges, creating what many describe as a 'perfect storm' for poliovirus transmission. Still, none of these challenges are insurmountable."

"In Gaza," Balkhy continued, "during a humanitarian pause last year, over 600,000 children were vaccinated against polio amid conflict – largely thanks to multi-actor, multi-level coordination and health and community workers' grit. If it can be done there, it can be done everywhere. Recently, leaders and experts from both endemic countries convened to develop emergency measures. Together, they outlined concrete steps to reach every child, no matter the obstacles, to tackle this virus resurgence and protect them. We deeply appreciate the international community's steadfast support, and we ask for your continued assistance to get us across the finish line."

Member States expressed concern about the ongoing variant poliovirus outbreaks (circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses) and urged intensified response to stop these outbreaks, including by maximizing the impact of novel oral





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polio vaccine type 2. While the engines of transmission for such strains are now in clearly identified areas, namely northern Nigeria, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, south-central Somalia and northern Yemen, Member States underscored all countries remain at risk as evidenced by recent detection of such strains in environmental samples in five European countries.

“We all need to be very clear about one thing: the global effort to eradicate polio is no longer a technical issue,” commented Dr. Razia Pendse, WHO Chef de Cabinet to the Director-General. “Medically and technically, we have everything we need to achieve success. What we need, the only thing we need, is to be able to reach and vaccinate those last remaining children who are not yet fully vaccinated. And the answer to achieving this is entirely geopolitical.”

The meeting also emphasized the importance of strengthening routine immunization services and disease surveillance everywhere, done in close coordination with all partners, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Health authorities emphasized the importance of implementing all activities to not only achieve a polio-free world, but also to sustain it through integrating and successfully transitioning the polio assets, tools and infrastructure into existing national health systems and to help build strong, resilient and equitable health systems, and preparing for the post-certification era through intensified and accelerated containment activities and eventual cessation of oral polio vaccines use from routine immunization programmes. Successful development of an appropriate post-certification strategy will be critical to achieve this.

Closing the discussions, Rotary International, the civil society partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, called for steadfast dedication to the effort. “We have overcome every setback through collaboration and unity of purpose that is rare in our fragmented world,” said Dr Pierre Hoffmeyer, Rotary International representative to the United Nations in Geneva. “Let us all remain united and unwavering in our commitment to end polio.”

EXTENDING ROTARY ACROSS THE WORLD

When peace was declared in November 1918 at the end of the first World War, there were Rotary Clubs only in North America, Cuba and the British Isles. In the next few years there was interest shown in Rotary in several European cities and, often by British expatriates in parts of the British Empire, and in South America. Clubs had already been started in Manila and Shanghai in 1919 and Tokyo in 1920. Johannesburg was in the process of formation when in 1921, the **RI Extension Committee drew up a 3-part plan: -**

- ✓ **Countries to be surveyed and approved for Rotary**
- ✓ **Cities**
- ✓ **Selection and appointment of proper organizers for these countries and cities**

To meet this interest and to help join up the far-flung future clubs with mainstream Rotary, the Board appointed ‘Special Commissioners’ to deal with Extension. During the 1920s and 1930s, several of the people designated as ‘Commissioners for Extension’ were also Vice Presidents, although it is not clear which post came first. Jim Davidson for example was VP in 1926/27 Eduardo Moore 1928/29; Willem de Cock Buning 1930/31, and 1931/2, (Director); Frederick James 1933/4 (Director); Paul Thorwall 1934/5; Armando Pereira 1937/8.

Some of the ‘developers’ were given alternative titles, **‘Ambassadors’** or **‘Representatives’**: Some merely received authority for the work they were asked to do. One such was past President of RI Arch Klumph.

Although not called a ‘Commissioner’, Klumph was appointed and agreed to organize the Rotary Club of Mexico City which he did in April 1921. The committee also agreed to send two Canadians, Colonel J. L. Ralston of Halifax and James Davidson of Calgary to Australia and New Zealand. In 1921 They were to be given expenses but neither pay nor compensation for this work.

The committee also acknowledged the work of Angel Cuesta of Tampa in organizing the Madrid RC; of John Bain Taylor of London in Paris, of Kisanji Fukushima in Tokyo, and of Herbert Coates in South America. RGHF Senior Historian and History Co-Chair Basil Lewis, UK, 24 August 2008.

There are several other Rotarians who were given posts as ‘Special Commissioners’. The names above do not form a complete list and below we show others who are believed to have held official posts in the IARC or RI. This is still incomplete and the names of others would be welcome.

- **Montague M Bear, Chicago: He gave Rotary its wheel 1905**
- **Frank Collins, Portland: He gave us “Service Above Self” 1911**
- **Arthur Sheldon, Chicago: he suggested a motto – 1911**
- **Sir Frederick James, Honorary Commissioner for Rotary International for the Middle Asia Region. First District**





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Governor from RC of Madras

- **John Innes of Leeds**, who was Treasurer of RIBI. Special commissioner in East Africa 1929
- **AC Wentworth-Lewis**, India and Ceylon 1925-28. 'Special commissioner for India and Ceylon 1925-1928
- **FJ Mitchell**, served as **Honorary Commissioner for India and Ceylon** from April 1925 to February 26, 1928
- **Federico P Pezet**, served in the Diplomatic Service in Lima, Peru. His posts included Peruvian Minister in Panama and from 1920-1923 Ambassador to the USA. He was appointed as an Honorary Commissioner for Central and South America from April 1919 to July 1919, and he was largely responsible for the Panama City Club.
- **Guillermo Q Carvalho**, Veracruz, Mexico. He was created a Special Commissioner for Mexico and Central America from September 1927 to September 1929 and as a Special Commissioner for South America from October 1929 for one year. During this time he started the Santa Marta Rotary Club in 1930 in Colombia.

All the above 'developers' were working before 1939. However, several people had similar responsibilities in reviving and spreading the ideas and ideals of Rotary after the war, For example French PDG Leon Laugel of D1680 continued to be involved in spreading Rotary for 3 more years after his term of office. He was given the title of 'Administrateur Presidentiel du Rotary International en Ukraine'. The first two clubs, Kiev and Lviv were established in 1992 and this has increased to 40 clubs in 2008/9. Another more recent 'developer' was Danish PDG Carsten Leth who worked on revival and expansion in Lithuania and was given a similar title to that of PDG Laugel.

Primary Greatness vs Secondary Greatness in a Rotary Context

In Rotary, the difference between Primary Greatness and Secondary Greatness is evident in leadership, service, and impact.

Primary Greatness in Rotary – Rooted in Service & Integrity

A Rotary leader who embodies Primary Greatness:

- Focuses on the long-term impact of service projects rather than personal recognition.
- Works to empower others, ensuring sustainable and inclusive leadership.
- Leads with integrity, transparency, and ethical decision-making.
- Places service above self, aligning with Rotary's core values.

Example:

A club president initiates a water conservation project for a rural village. Instead of just donating resources for publicity, they work with the community to create a self-sustaining water management system. The success of the project is measured by the lasting impact, not by media coverage or awards.

Secondary Greatness in Rotary – Focused on Status & Recognition

A Rotary leader driven by Secondary Greatness:

- Seeks leadership roles primarily for prestige rather than genuine service.
- Focuses on high-visibility projects that gain quick recognition but lack sustainability.
- Prioritizes titles, awards, and personal recognition over collective impact.
- May lead with a short-term mindset, focusing on what looks good rather than what works best.

Example:

A district leader organizes a grand event with high-profile speakers, media coverage, and impressive branding. However, the event lacks meaningful engagement, and the outcomes do not contribute to long-term service or member growth. The effort is more about personal visibility than Rotary's mission.

Finding the Balance in Rotary Leadership

Rotary thrives when leaders prioritize Primary Greatness—service-driven leadership, ethical decision-making, and sustainable impact. While Secondary Greatness (awards, recognition) can follow, it should be a by-product of genuine service, not the goal.

Based on "Primary Greatness: The 12 Levers of Success", book by Stephen Covey





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Minutes of the 2300th RWM held on February 11th, 2025 at Rotary Sadan, Chowranghee

- 1. President Biswajit Saha called the RWM to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem. He then wished congratulated all Rotarians present for having our “2300th RWM”.**
- 2. A minute of silence was observed in memory of our Charter Member, Late Amar Ghosh.**
- 3. The President informed that, for the first time, the RWM was conducted at Rotary Sadan. The club is exploring alternative venues for future meetings.**
- 4. The President announced the formation of the first Interact Club under Rotary Garden Reach at Julien Day School, Howrah. The Induction Ceremony is scheduled for February 13th, 2025 at the school premises. All members were requested to attend. The invitation has been shared in the official group.**
- 5. A visit to Bharatgarh School is scheduled for February 16th, 2025 to inspect the records and assess the utilization of new tables and benches provided by the club.**
- 6. Evaluation of RCC Clubs under us was discussed. PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta will provide the necessary evaluation formats in the next meeting. Meanwhile, the President will collect performance reports and activity records from RCC coordinators.**
- 7. A medical camp for seniors and others at Parnasree Green is scheduled for February 23rd, 2025. The camp will be organized in collaboration with Balananda Hospital & Research Centre and doctors from our club. The necessary application has been submitted to the hospital. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray is the coordinator of this project.**
- 8. Rtn. Arindam Roychowdhury of Rotary Calcutta has proposed a Global Grant (GG) project under “Shikha Labh III” to provide science labs with tables and equipment to selected schools. The cost per club is USD 525. The Club Secretary discussed the matter, but no final decision was taken.**
- 9. An application was received from Friends of the Need Society, Madhyamgram to conduct a medical camp in the second week of March 2025. Members discussed the feasibility and agreed to gather more information regarding logistics arrangements before making a decision.**
- 10. Club Secretary conducted the club business.**
- 11. On confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.**