



**FROM THE
EDITOR DESK..**

The month of February bears a special significance for Global Rotary movement. World Understanding and Peace Day is observed every year on February 23, marking a pivotal moment in history—the founding of Rotary International.

This day commemorates the very first Rotary meeting, initiated by Paul Harris in Chicago on February 23, 1905. Harris, an attorney, envisioned a professional group that would rise above political and religious divisions, focusing instead on fellowship and community service.

This initial gathering laid the foundation for what would become Rotary International, a name adopted as the organization expanded beyond the United States to embrace a global mission. Over time, this evolution has reflected Rotary’s deepening commitment to international service and peacebuilding. World Understanding and Peace Day not only honors the origins of an organization dedicated to humanitarian service worldwide but also serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for peace and mutual understanding among all nations and communities.

During World War II, Rotary members looked for ways to create a stable and peaceful world. In 1940, convention delegates adopted a statement, Rotary Amid World Conflict, which emphasized that “where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary cannot live nor its ideal prevail.” Walter D. Head, then Rotary International’s president, remarked that there must be a better way to settle international differences than violence and called on Rotarians to find it.

The continuous and devastating strife in Middle East is threatening World Peace as never before in post World War II era. There is large scale loss of life , property and scarce resources. Rotary International with its global reach in 200 countries should play a definitive role in promoting peace at this crucial juncture.

with Rotary Greetings!

Diganta Charaborty
Editor

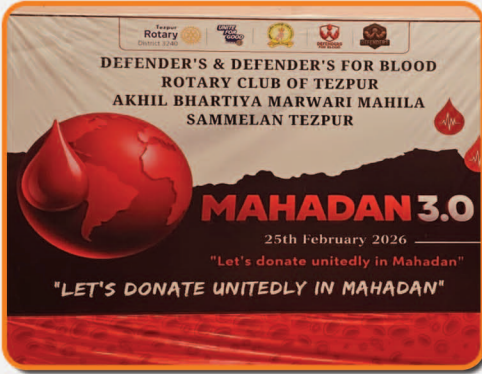


ROTARY PEACE CENTER AT SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL DEEMED UNIVERSITY, PUNE

The Rotary Peace Center at **Symbiosis International Deemed University** in Pune, India, expands our global network dedicated to advancing peace through education and leadership. Each year, up to 40 Rotary Peace Fellows will gain the skills to foster dialogue, understanding, and lasting impact across Asia and beyond. Programs like this reflect Rotary's commitment to strengthening understanding and shared responsibility in an interconnected world.



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