



# Rose News



Bengal Rose Society News Letter Volume-3 No.1; January - June 2025

## BENGAL ROSE SOCIETY SHOW 2025

The Bengal Rose Society organized its Annual Rose Show on 10-12 January 2025. Held in collaboration with Lions Safari Park (a Project of Lions Club Calcutta North) at Lions Safari Park (near Rabindra Sarobar; Southern Avenue), the 35<sup>th</sup> show attracted heavy footfalls and the Show's content were much appreciated.



This year more than 100 pots bearing roses in profusion regaled the visitors with their charm and beauty. In the cut roses section, there were nearly 3000 exhibits competing for various prizes. While Mr. Prabir Mukherjee won the Best Pot of the Show award with his exhibit of *Aritra*, Mr. Nayan Routh (Kharagpur) won the King of the Show award with his bloom of *Red Baccara*. Mr. Sanjib Das won the prize for the Best Indian variety exhibited (*Crown Jewel*).





The Show was Inaugurated by Ms. Saloni Salvi, District Governor, Lions Club International in the presence of the officials of the Bengal Rose Society (BRS) particularly President Dr. Narendra Dadlani, Vice President Mr. Kamal Prakash, Secretary Mr. M.B. Guin and Joint Secretary Mr. Sanjay Mukherji and Lions Safari Park (LSP) specially the Chairman Mr. Ashok Mehta, Secretary Mr. Rajput and President of Lions Club Calcutta North Mr. O.P. Bangur, besides many rose enthusiasts. Mr. Sanjay Mukherji was the lead consultant responding to the queries of many media persons and rose lovers. A Press Meet was also organized, where the media personnel from print and digital media were briefed about the highlights of the Show. The Inaugural Program was addressed by the Chief Guest Mr. Hari Krishna Choudhuri, Chairman, Heritage Group & an eminent industrialist, as well as the Guest of Honour, Mr. Ramesh Chand Parekh. Mr. Choudhury also gave away this year's ViruViraraghavan Award of BRS to eminent horticulturist Mr. Keshab Chandra Basu.



**Press Meet**



**Press Briefing**

On Day 2, 11 January, a Painting Competition (based on rose themes) was held for School students, where more than 80 students participated. The students later also participated in a 'Ramp Show'. To see young school children walking the Ramp with rose bouquets in their hands was really a treat. In the afternoon that day, a 'Bonsai' demonstration was organized by Master Nripendra Nath Mondal and Master Gaurab Majumdar. The demonstration was well attended and appreciated.



**Ramp Show by School Children**



**Bonsai Demonstration**



Mr. Debashish Kumar, the Mayor in Council of Kolkata Municipal Corporation was the Chief Guest at the Prize Distribution ceremony. He was assisted by the Guests of Honour Mr. Brahmanand Agarwal, noted Industrialist, Mr. Arshad Bhiwandiwalla of Indian Rose Federation and famous mountaineer Ms. Piyali Basak.



**Prize Distribution**



**PUNE WINTER ROSE SHOW**

The Rose Society of Pune organized its Winter Rose Show on 18-19 January 2025 at Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. The Chief Guest at the Show was Mr. Ashish Naik of Naik Poultry Enterprises. The Show Inauguration was presided over by Dr. Deepak Tilak, Chancellor of the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth. The prizes were distributed by Dr. Praniti Tilak, Chairperson of the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth.



Mr. Ashish More of Mumbai won the King of the Show (*Blue Ocean*), Queen of the Show (*Joy of Life*) and the Prince of the Show (*Aahilya*), while Mr. Neelesh Apte of Pune won the 'Gulab of the Show' for his exhibit of *Bahurupi*. Mr. Neelesh also won the Most Fragrant Rose award (*Double Delight*), which he shared with Mr Chandrakant More (*Papa Meilland*). Best Indian variety at the Show was of *Kanyashree* exhibited by Mr. Purshottam Hundekar. It was heartening to find so many Indian varieties competing with the exotic varieties and winning prizes. Mr Dhananjay Kadam was declared the Best Novice and Ms. Jayashree Jabade won the award for Best Arrangement.

The Society awarded the Silver Award to Mrs. Rucha Kulkarni. At the Show, three new rose varieties Dr. *Madhav Pendse* bred by Neelesh Apte and *Anil Kumar & Vinayak Nimhan* by Pundalik Nimhan were also released by Dr. Rohit Tilak.

## **BRS PREPARES FOR INDIAN ROSE CONVENTION**

The Bengal Rose Society (BRS) which would be organising the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indian Rose Convention and the All India Rose Show is all geared up for hosting the event for the fifth time (only Society to attempt that besides The Rose Society of Pune). BRS arranged three meetings of the extended Executive Committee on 01 February, 12 April and 26 April 2025 to discuss the plans for hosting a successful event. In addition, a meeting was convened on 31 May for the Grounds Committee to work out the details and on 29 June, a Growers' Meeting was organised.







At the Growers' Meeting, BRS released the Schedule for the event giving all the details. Mr. Sanjay Mukherji also explained each and every section of the schedule and guided the participants on how to prepare their exhibits for the Show. Mr. Amit Dey, Convenor of the Show Committee explained the preparations and sought suggestions for having a smooth functioning of the Show. Later, a senior BRS member Mr. Subir Poddar demonstrated how the cut roses need to be prepared for the Show. He discussed the practical problems faced by the growers at the time of the Show and Mr. Sanjay Mukherji suggested solutions.



We hope the efforts are in the right direction and we have a successful show.

### **BARRACKPORE HERITAGE GROVE**

The Barrackpore Cantonment Board, one of the oldest cantonments in India celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by establishing a rose garden in a erst while dumping ground. The 2500 sq, feet garden was developed with the technical assistance of Mr Sanjay Mukherjee of Bengal Rose Society and was Inaugurated by Shri S.N. Gupta, Hon'ble Principal Director, Defence Estates, Eastern Command in the presence of a large crowd including Brig. Ashish Hooda, President Cantonment Board and Ms. Jyoti Kapoor (Chief Executive Officer).





Named the Heritage Grove, the garden was established to honour the rich legacy of Barrackpore, and has more than 80 rose varieties including *Tara*, *Kanchi*, *Royal William*, *Royal Bengal*, among others. Effort was to plant Indian rose varieties to highlight the contributions of Indian rose breeders.

### IRF GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

The Indian Rose Federation (IRF) organised a meeting of its Governing Council (GC) on 10 May 2025 at Douglas Memorial higher Secondary School, Barrackpore. Fourteen (14) members of the GC participated in the meeting. In the absence of the President (who couldn't join due to a family medical emergency), Dr. Narendra Dadlani, Vice President IRF & President, Bengal Rose Society presided over the meeting.



Mr. Wilson Gidla, a GC member welcomed all the members and thanked IRF for accepting the invitation to convene the meeting at Douglas Memorial Higher Secondary School, Barrackpore.



Ms. Tanuja Benke, Joint Secretary, IRF read out the minutes of the last meeting, as also the communications from World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS).



Mr. Arshad had explained the WFRS process for organising the World Regional Rose Conventions (WRRC) and Mr. Neelesh Apte also discussed the response of WFRS to the Rose Society of Pune's request for hosting WRRC and agreed that the Society would now bid for a WRRC after 2028. Mr. Neelabh Srivastava invited everyone to the World Rose Convention of WFRS being organised in Bhopal in January 2028.

### IRF CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Indian Rose Federation organised a meeting of its Convention Committee with the officials of the Bengal Rose Society (BRS) at Kolkata to review the preparations for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indian Rose Convention and the All India Rose Show in January 2026.





The details of the arrangements were first discussed at a meeting hosted by a BRS member Mr. R.S. Kejriwal. The Convention Committee expressed happiness at the preparations made.

After the discussions, the Convention Committee visited the event site, the Lions Safari Park and the Calcutta Rowing Club to see the facilities available. The Team appreciated the preparations made and looked forward to having a good Convention and Rose Show.



### **NORTH BENGAL FLOWER SHOW**

The 41<sup>st</sup> North Bengal Flower Show, organised by the Siliguri Horticultural Society at the Kanchenjunga Stadium Mela Ground, Siliguri was organised this year on 13-15 February 2025. The biggest Flower Show of North Bengal attracts exhibitors and flower enthusiasts from the whole region, mainly Darjeeling, Dooars region and even the adjoining state of Sikkim, besides a few other North Eastern states. This Show, in addition to showcasing the beauty of floral wealth of the region, also highlights the socio-cultural values of the region. There is a concerted effort of creating awareness about preserving our environment.

An exhibit of *Lesotho Prince* (Ashok Sarkar) was adjudged the King of the Show, while a pot of Great Scott (Pulak Joardar) won the prize for the best pot rose.



**Ashok Sarkar with his rose**





*Lesotho Prince*



*Great Scott*

At this year's Show, BRS member Mr. Sanjay Mukherji was again invited to help judge the exhibits, besides guiding the flower growers about their problems and getting the best results from their efforts. The presence of Mr. Raju Bista, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from the Darjeeling region, added much value to the Show.



## TWENTIETH WORLD ROSE CONVENTION



The Twentieth World Rose Convention (WRC) of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) was convened in the city of Fukuyama (Japan) on 17-24 May 2025. It was attended by about 400 delegates representing nearly thirty countries. India had a large delegation of more than twenty delegates. The other large delegations were from Japan, USA, Australia, China, among others. This was the second time the World Rose Convention was organised in Asia (after Osaka, Japan, 2006).





Fukuyama symbolised the spirit of compassion, kindness and multi support nurtured through roses and kindness towards individuals and community as seen among all students and others who met the delegates at various places.



Fukuyama, the venue city was a real feast for the rosarians from across the world. Touted as the 'City of Million Roses', the city had more than 400 rose flower beds scattered throughout the city. All delegates from outside Fukuyama were welcomed by the beautiful sight of rose decorations in front of the Fukuyama Station, the central place. The Rose Park (Bara Kaen), which has also won the WFRS Award for Garden Excellence (2006) boasts of nearly 700 species and more than 7000 rose bushes.



The Rose Expo (17-19 May) was a real treat for all rose lovers. Organised in the Midorimachi Park (Rose Hill), which has pyramid shaped hill with more than 7500 roses of excess of 1500 rose varieties. This was also the venue for the cut rose and other rose exhibitions (in a nearby hall), as well as for the lunch which was served to all delegates as per their preference and choice.







The Convention began with a Welcome Reception (meet & greet) at Fukuyama castle area where delegates enjoyed dancing to local tunes dressed in kimonos. The Opening Ceremony was with excellent cultural repertoire of music and songs. There was also a Farewell Dinner (24 May) where the various awards were given away and the new EC Team took over.

Pre WRC tours were organised to UNESCO World Heritage site of Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima Mountain rose, Seto Island Sea and Japan Gardens of the Sanin region; Osaka's rose garden & Osaka Expo 2025; Kuma River Tsukushii Rose Colony etc.. Post event Tours were organised to gardens in the ancient city of Kyoto, Gifu World Rose Garden; Echigo Hillside Fragrant Rose Garden and Mt. Fuji area.





All delegates enjoyed the nicely organised and well - coordinated day tours of *Sera Kogen* – the highland surrounded by flowers; the Japanese Heritage Port town *Tomonoura* & the ancient Shinshoji Temple and the *Hiroshima* City (Atomic Bomb Dome & Peace Memorial park) and the Hiroshima Botanical Garden. Delegates also appreciated the Fukuyama Street Dining experience full of Japanese delicacies, street shows, music and shopping.



Special mention may be made of the excellent lectures delivered by eminent speakers on roses from Asia (mainly Japan & China) ; breeding disease resistant roses, genealogy of fragrance and rose conservation. An important Session was a Panel of experts discussing the rose of tomorrow.

## INDIAN DOMINATION OF WFRS

It was heartening to note that two Indians have joined the management of the World Rose Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) at the recent World Rose Convention held in Fukuyama, Japan. While, Mr. Sushil Prakash (Presently Treasurer of WFRS) has taken over as President, WFRS (first time for an Indian to get the honour), Dr. Narendra Dadlani will be the new Vice President for Central India.



The first meeting of the reconstituted Council for WFRS was convened on 24 May 2025 at Fukuyama.





## BHOPAL ROSE SHOW

The 44<sup>th</sup> Rose Show of the M.P. Rose Society was organised at Bhopal on 11-12 January. The Show was Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Mangu Bhai Patel and Ministers Mr. Narain Singh Kushwaha and Mrs. Krishna Gour were Guests of Honour. Mrs. Diane vom Berg, President of World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) was also present. At the Show visited by about one lakh persons, 5000 roses belonging to 350 varieties were displayed. There were about 500 potted roses.



The King of the Show, Queen of the Show and the Prince of the Show and several other prizes were won by one exhibitor, Ms. Prerana Prakash.



In view of the popularity of rose growing, nearly one lakh rose plants were sold by the nurseries near the Show venue.

## SUSHIL PRAKASH INVITED TO CHAIR THE INTERNATIONAL TRIALS JUDGING

Mr. Sushil Prakash, the current President of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) was again invited to judge the International rose trials in various cities in Europe. This time, in view of his expertise, he was requested to Chair the Judging Committee.



Mr. Sushil Prakash makes us Indians ,proud.



## MALWA ROSE SHOW

The 37<sup>th</sup> Malwa Rose Show was organized in Gandhi Hall, Indore on 1-2 February 2025. The Show was Inaugurated by Prof. Rakesh Singhvi. The Show was organized along with a Rose Workshop, where several experts including Mr. Sushil Prakash (Bhopal), Dr. Sabrina Zafri, Mr. Anil Jaiswal and President of the Indian Rose Federation (IRF) Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwatey guided people on how to grow and exhibit good roses.

Nearly 30,000 people visited the Show where 3000 roses of more than 350 varieties were displayed. Exhibitors represented rose growers from Indore, Dewas, Bhopal and several other towns / cities of Madhya Pradesh.



The exhibit of *Calcutta 300* was crowned the King of the Show, while the Queen of the Show prize was bagged by *Ingrid Bergman*. An exhibit of *Lovely Fairy* won the prize for the Princess of the Show.

Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwatey, President, IRF gave away the Prizes.



## RANCHI ROSE SHOW

The Rose Society of Ranchi organised its Winter Rose Show (100<sup>th</sup>) on 11-2 February 2025 in collaboration with Ranchi Club, at its Multipurpose Hall. The Show was Inaugurated by Prof. S.C. Dubey, Vice Chancellor, BAU, Ranchi.





The Show was organised under various categories including the cut roses, rose arrangements, paintings and photographs, rose craft, etc. Among the cut roses, a bloom of *Prima Donna* (Nakshatra Van) won the King of the Show, while *Elina* (Raj Bhawan) was the winner for Queen of the Show. In fact, Raj Bhawan won maximum prizes. Other major winners included, Hazel Davis, Gopal Sahu and Paras Hospital.



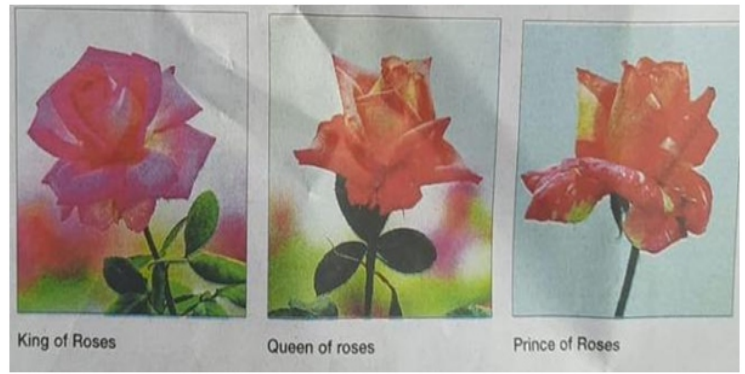
**Hon'ble Governor, Jharkhand appreciating the Raj Bhawan Team**

### **VIDARBHA ROSE SHOW**

The Vidarbha Rose Society organised its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Rose Show on 19 January 2025 in the Maharana Pratap Hall, Shankar Nagar, Nagpur. The Show which attracted large number of rose lovers, was Inaugurated by Mr. Prashant Kokde (EC Member of PDKV, Akola).



About 200 exhibitors participated in the Show, where besides cut roses, competitions were also held for rose arrangements, rose garlands, rose paintings, rose photographs and rose products. The King of the Show was won by an exhibit of *Louis Estes*, The Queen by *Folklore*, Prince by *Manas* and Princess by *Marmalade Skies*.



### **HOWRAH FUL MELA (HOWRAH FLOWER FAIR)**

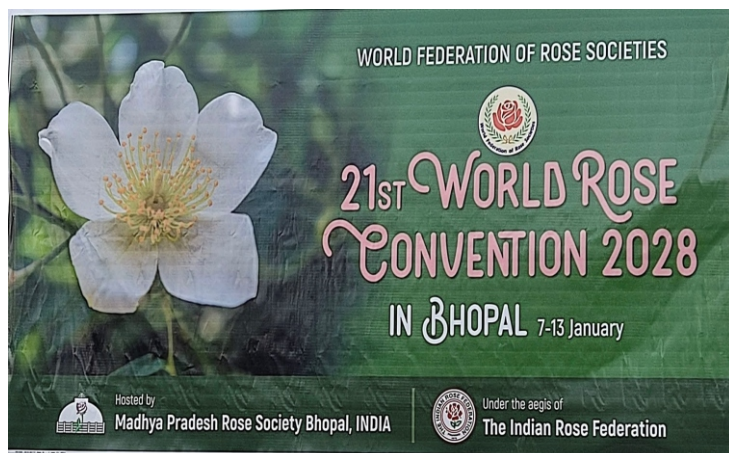
The Annual Howrah Ful Mela, one of the largest in the city, was organised this year on 9-12 January 2025 at Dhapar Ground, Kadamtala (Howrah).





Inaugurated by State Minister Mr. Arup Roy, the fair attracted huge crowds on every day of the Show, particularly in the afternoons. The Show was full of very nice exhibits of roses, seasonal flowers, cacti, etc.

Bengal Rose Society congratulates its member Mr. Probir Mukherjee for winning the top prize in roses at the event with his exhibit of *Lo and Behold*.



## 42 nd All India Rose Convention and Rose Show 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026



**Organised by : Bengal Rose Society**  
in Collaboration with **Lions Safari Park**  
under the aegis of **Indian Rose Federation**

**Venue: Lions Safari Park**  
**Southern Avenue, Dhakuria**  
**Rabindra Sarovar Area, Gate No.10**

*Kolkata 700029*

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