

Rotary
District 3080



UNITE FOR GOOD



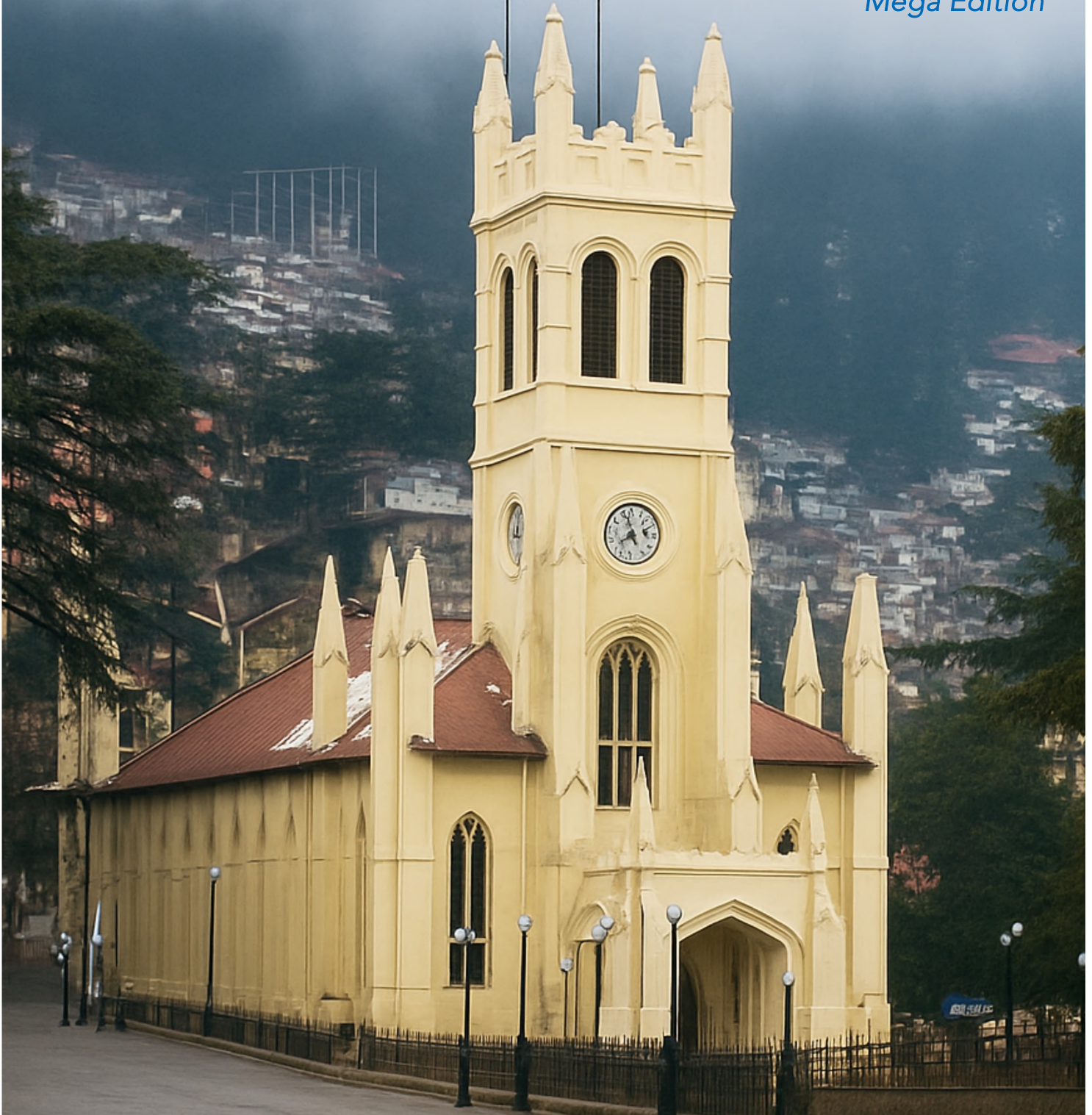
Rotary Pulse

Governor's Official Monthly Newsletter

Issue 4 | 2025 - 26

October | November

Mega Edition



ICONIC SPOTS OF DISTRICT 3080

Shimla's Mall Road is famously adorned by Christ Church, a pale-yellow neo-Gothic landmark built between 1844 and 1857, making it the second oldest church in North India. Completed as the British summer capital rose to prominence, the church's striking clock tower and stained-glass windows embody both history and faith. Consecrated in 1857, it has witnessed colonial change and remains a symbolic centrepiece for the city's heritage and architectural beauty.

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Presidential Message – October 25

October is Rotary's Community Economic Development Month, a time to spotlight our efforts to help communities build thriving, sustainable futures. This month's observance aligns perfectly with the Rotary core value of leadership.

Leadership means empowering people to guide their own progress. That is precisely what Rotary's economic development projects aim to achieve.

Take, for example, a recent initiative in southern India in which Rotary members unlocked the power of women of the Adivasi tribal groups through sewing training to earn a living and regain social inclusion. Historically, widows and abandoned women in this region lose social standing and are shunned by society or blamed for their misfortunes. Opportunities to support themselves or obtain training are minimal.

This year, the Rotary Club of Windsor Roseland, Ontario, partnered with clubs in Districts 3203 and 3234 in India — and with the Indian organization Sevalaya Trust — to provide sewing machines and training to 80 Adivasi women. They learned to stitch saree blouses, kurta tunics, and salwar suits, enabling them to support themselves and their families. Each woman received a certificate for completing the program, and the sewing-machine provider offered free long-term maintenance for the machines. The project offered vital income and dignity to women ostracized by society after widowhood.

This story is one example of Rotary leadership in action: local people guiding solutions that address their community needs. Our role is not to deliver charity or to impose outside models, but to foster self-reliance by investing in leadership, skills, and sustainable enterprise.

UNITE FOR GOOD

This October, I invite Rotary members worldwide to reflect on economic leadership in their communities. Who is stepping forward to lead local economic initiatives? Where is there untapped talent that could be supported with training or mentorship? How can your club catalyze opportunity through partnerships with local businesses, vocational schools, or savings groups?

Leadership is not always about being visible. Sometimes it means listening, working collaboratively, and amplifying the voices of others. That approach lies at the heart of Rotary's philosophy and our lasting impact on economic development.

By building capacity — whether through microcredit groups, vocational training workshops, or entrepreneurship programs — we enable communities to lead their own transformation. When people take ownership of their progress, change becomes sustainable.

Let us lead with good intention and provide support with heart. By nurturing local leadership, we can create opportunities that ripple through communities, empowering individuals, families, and societies.

Together, we can support economies that work for everyone and enact community development projects that last.



Francesco Crezzo

RI President 2025-26



Presidential Message – November 25

This November, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, I invite you to consider not only what we give but why we give. The Foundation is more than a fund for projects. It is the beating heart of our promise that service, rooted in trust and friendship, can create lasting change.

Our Action Plan calls us to increase our impact, and the Foundation is how we make this vision real. Since 1988, Rotary and our partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. We have committed more than \$2.6 billion to this cause, and last year alone we directed \$146 million toward the final push for eradication. These numbers are significant, but the true impact is not in statistics — it is in the lives of children who will never again fear polio. It is in the hope restored to families and the peace built in communities once defined by disease.

But polio is only one story among many. Each year, Rotary Peace Centers train new generations of leaders who will transform conflict into dialogue and division into understanding. In 2023-24, nearly 100 new fellows began their studies, continuing a legacy of more than 1,800 peacebuilders from over 140 countries. When we invest in them, we are planting seeds of peace that will bear fruit for decades to come.

The Foundation also touches lives through district and global grants, supporting projects large and small. A clean water well for a rural community, scholarships for young professionals, medical care in the wake of disaster — these are not temporary gestures, but steps toward dignity, resilience, and opportunity. This is how Rotary service becomes lasting impact.

And when natural disasters strike, our Foundation allows Rotary to act quickly with disaster response grants.

Our Foundation is not about what we can do alone but what we can do together. Each contribution, no matter its size, joins with others to create a collective act of faith in humanity and in the future.

The last mile of any great journey is always the hardest. We see this in our final steps toward ending polio, in our work for peace, and in every project that seeks to lift people out of despair. Yet every time we give, we declare that our work will continue regardless of the challenge.

This November, let us give with gratitude, with joy, and with hope. Through our Foundation, we Unite for Good, and in doing so, we leave behind not only projects but a legacy of peace, trust, and Service Above Self.



Francesco Crezzo

RI President 2025-26



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Editorial

My friends in 3080 and beyond,
This is a unique edition of this Rotary Year's Governor's Monthly Newsletter on several counts.

Firstly, while our GML team was still finding its feet in July—basking in the euphoria of the new Rotary Year—and all of us were busy with exciting projects at our respective Rotary Clubs, the first edition (with July's reporting) came out in mid-August.

It was called the July Edition and contained the RI President's Monthly Message for that month.

Since then, we've been playing catch-up, getting to officially read the President's message a little later than we should have—though, of course, every word from the RI President carries meaning whenever it is read.

So, to finally "match the message," we are renaming this edition as the October November Mega Edition.

From now on, each issue will be named for its respective month—naturally containing the previous month's reporting — just like your Monday newspaper carries Sunday's news!

Secondly, this issue comes with a fresh, redesigned style and a renewed visual appeal.

It is also one of the most collaborative GMLs yet — belonging not to the GML Team alone, but almost entirely to its timely and wonderfully cooperative contributors, to whom our team is immensely grateful — more than words can express.

Thirdly, a major portion of this GML was composed not in the comfort of my office, but at Max Hospital in Dehradun — nestled in the scenic foothills of Mussoorie. Perhaps that's why this edition looks cooler and feels calmer than the earlier ones—at least to me as its composer.

I'm sure you'll enjoy reading this edition and the upcoming works from our team. I hope the articles and projects featured here—from both our seasoned and new clubs and our active, experienced Rotarians—bring positivity and inspiration to all of us.

United we stand and divided we fall. So, let's Unite for Good, look for the good around us, and spread the goodness within us!

I hope you read through this GML Edition and exclaim, "GOOD!"

With love to our readers, and heartfelt thanks on behalf of my team for taking the time to go through our efforts,

Yours in Service,



Soheb Malik

Soheb Malik

District Editor 2025-26

Message from The District Governor



As the glorious autumn gives way to winter's calm, our Rotary calendar marks two deeply meaningful occasions — October, celebrated as Economic and Community Development Month, and November, commemorated as Rotary Foundation Month. Both these themes lie at the very heart of Rotary's spirit — empowering people, transforming communities, and building hope that endures across generations.

From vocational training centres to micro-financing models, from supporting rural entrepreneurs to mentoring youth for employability, every effort by our clubs is weaving a fabric of dignity and self-reliance. These are not just service projects; they are partnerships in progress — tangible expressions of our commitment to build stronger, more resilient communities.

As we move into November, our focus turns to the Rotary Foundation — the very soul of Rotary's service. Each contribution to the Foundation is an act of faith in humanity's better future. I urge every Rotarian to deepen their relationship with the Foundation — whether through generous giving, active involvement, or simply by sharing its stories of hope.

Let this season remind us that Rotary's strength lies not in numbers or resources, but in the sincerity of hearts that choose to serve. Together, let us continue to be the change-makers who nurture potential, empower communities, and sustain peace.

As the District Governor, I feel immense gratitude for the vibrance, unity, and creativity of our clubs. I see in every Rotarian of District 3080 a spark that keeps the Rotary flame alive.

With regards and Rotary fellowship,

Ravi Prakash

Ravi Prakash

District Governor 25-26

Message from The First Lady

Dear Rotary Family,

As we step into the closing months of the year 2025, my heart is filled with gratitude and admiration for the dedication, compassion, and togetherness that define the Rotary spirit across our District.

Behind every project that creates livelihoods or nurtures small entrepreneurs lies the collective strength of Rotary families—of spouses and children who stand beside our Rotarians, contributing in quiet yet powerful ways. When we support our partners in their Rotary endeavours, we don't just help them serve—we become partners in transformation. Together, we have seen how small efforts blossom into livelihoods restored and lives uplifted.

As we move into the Rotary Foundation Month, we celebrate the heartbeat of Rotary — the Foundation that transforms compassion into action. It is a reflection of our collective kindness, a reminder that giving is not measured by the size of contributions, but by the sincerity with which we give. I truly believe that every Rotarian family member, by nurturing generosity and empathy at home, becomes a quiet ambassador of the Foundation's values.

This festive time of the year brings us the joy of Diwali and other celebrations that symbolize light, faith, and renewal. May those very lights remind us of the radiant difference Rotary makes when families serve together with hearts aligned in purpose and joy. As spouses and partners of Rotarians, let us continue to spread warmth, strength, and hope wherever we go, ensuring that the light of Rotary shines in every home and every heart it touches.

With affection and warm wishes,

Shalini Prakash

Rtn Shalini Prakash

DG Partner



Message from District Secretary Publications

Dear Rotary Friends,

Rotary is not just an organization — it is a way of life, built on friendship, fellowship, and the joy of serving others. Each act of kindness we perform, no matter how small, becomes a ripple that touches lives and strengthens our shared humanity.

As Rotarians, we are united by a common belief that service brings purpose and compassion gives meaning to life. When we work together with sincerity and dedication, we not only transform communities but also enrich our own lives with deeper fulfilment and happiness.

This year, our efforts in the field of publications — including the release of Rotary Hand Book “Beacon,” The Vital Link, a book for AGs and ALFs, District Directory, and the monthly issues of GML — have been guided by the same Rotary spirit of excellence and dedication. I sincerely hope these publications have been informative, inspiring, and well received by all Rotarians of our District.

Let us continue to uphold the ideals of Rotary — to serve selflessly, to lead with integrity, and to spread goodwill wherever we go. Together, let us make every month a celebration of Service Above Self.

With warm Rotary regards,

Rajiv Bhatia

District Secretary Publications



Message from District Executive Secretary

The first four months of Rotary Year 2025-26 have been truly inspiring and enriching.

Working closely with more than 120 Club Presidents and Secretaries, together with our dedicated District Team, has been a remarkable journey of teamwork, learning, and impactful service.

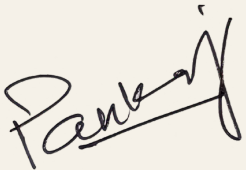
Every club has shown commitment, creativity, and enthusiasm in implementing projects that strengthen our public image and benefit our communities. This collective spirit is the true strength of our District.

A heartfelt appreciation to our District Governor Rtn. Ravi Prakash, whose able leadership and calm guidance have kept us aligned and motivated.

We are equally grateful for the mentorship and wisdom of DLF Rtn. Ajay Madan, whose experience continues to inspire us to raise our standards.

My sincere acknowledgements to Action Plan Champion Rtn. Mujeeb Malik, whose strategic direction and consistent support have helped in aligning our efforts with the broader District and Rotary goals.

Looking ahead, I feel confident that our unity, commitment, and shared purpose will continue to create meaningful impact throughout the rest of the Rotary year.



Pankaj Pandey

District Executive Secretary



Rotary Year 2025-26 - A Reflection

Through the Lens of PDG Ajay Madan, Dist. Learning Facilitator



My journey as District Learning Facilitator for Rotary District 3080 has been a profound voyage of discovery, collaboration, and dedicated service—a journey anchored in the timeless core values of Rotary and fuelled by our shared commitment to impactful projects across the district. From day one, my mission has been clear: to enable, educate, and empower each tier of our leadership—Assistant Governors, Assistant Learning Facilitators, Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, and the District Team—so that the seeds of Rotary knowledge blossom with vigour in every corner of our diverse region.

With my experience, I know that lasting change begins with informed leadership. From facilitating orientation sessions for Assistant Governors and Assistant Learning

Facilitators, to organizing workshops for Club Presidents and Secretaries, my focus has been on blending Rotary's core principles—Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership—with practical learning modules. My style is to not only update participants on policies and projects, but also to encourage open dialogue, collaborative problem-solving, and an ever ongoing celebration of local club successes.

Digital platforms have become powerful allies in this mission. The pandemic years especially underscored the value of online training—webinars, e-modules, and interactive forums—as accessible and effective methods for ongoing leadership development. Social media engagement plays a central role, connecting Rotarians across clubs and zones, amplifying project stories, and sharing best practices. The feedback and fellowship fostered through these virtual channels have inspired fresh ideas for community outreach and united members in shared purpose.

I have been constantly at the task of asking my Assistant Governors and Assistant Learning Facilitators to develop their skills and extend support to frontline club leaders. Each Club President and Secretary benefits from personalized guidance, ensuring they feel empowered to execute projects, manage club operations, and uphold Rotary's standards of transparency and service. This approach builds a resilient pipeline of leadership, enhancing clubs' capacity to tackle challenges and deliver impact.

... Rotary Year 2025-26 - A Reflection

The proof of Rotary learning lies in the projects that touch lives. Guided by knowledge gained in trainings and digital sessions, District 3080 clubs have achieved several notable milestones in these past four months. As District 3080 evolves, so too must our approach to learning.

The future promises even greater collaboration, innovation, and outreach—through hybrid learning events, expanded mentorship. Our vision is clear: to nurture leaders who not only understand Rotary's principles, but also embody them in action.

As I reflect on our shared journey, I am convinced that the future of Rotary District 3080 is bright and limitless. Through digital engagement, and unwavering commitment to Rotary values, we will continue weaving a tapestry of service, fellowship, and leadership. This monthly publication stands as a testament to this spirit: documenting achievements, inspiring dialogue, and celebrating the Rotarian pursuit of knowledge and service.

Let us march forward together, as torchbearers of Rotary learning and champions of impactful service, lighting the path to a better tomorrow for all.

Ajay K
Ajay Madan

Commemorating World Polio Day

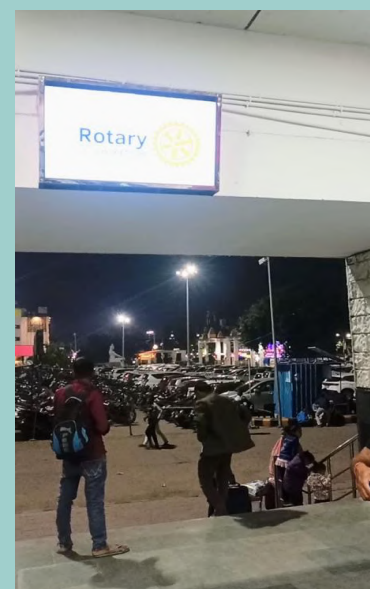
A Unique Initiative of Polio Awareness and Rotary Branding

In observance of World Polio Day on 24th October, a polio awareness film was screened at all railway stations of Roorkee, Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttarakhand.

The film was shown continuously for 24 hours on World Polio Day, repeating every 5 minutes.

It is estimated that over 10,009 passengers passing through these stations saw the film.

This initiative was made possible by the tireless efforts of District Executive Secretary Rtn Pankaj Pandey.



The District in Action

Mega Rally from Roorkee Old City to Civil Lines on World Polio Day



Rotary International's tireless mission to eradicate polio has become an integral part of the global movement, symbolizing hope and resilience in the face of adversity. **For over 35 years, Rotary has been at the forefront of this crusade, dedicating itself to a polio-free world.** India's remarkable achievement of being declared polio-free by WHO in 2014 stands as a testament to the organization's unwavering commitment. However, the risk of polio resurgence persists, fueled by reported cases in neighboring Pakistan and Afghanistan. In this context, regular immunization and surveillance emerge as crucial components in maintaining India's polio-free status and bolstering global eradication efforts.

On World Polio Day, October 24, Rotary clubs worldwide unite in their pursuit of a common goal, participating with renewed enthusiasm and a deep

sense of responsibility. RID 3080's District Project Team spearheaded efforts to plan and execute impactful events, guiding clubs to make a meaningful difference. **District Rotary Action Plan Champion, Rtn. Mujeeb Malik, underscored the importance of addressing concerns & misconceptions surrounding polio vaccination, particularly among the less literate and economically weak sections of the minority community.**

To tackle these challenges head-on, **RID 3080 Projects Team, in collaboration with Rotary Club Roorkee Midtown, orchestrated a comprehensive Polio Awareness Program and Rally at Roorkee, Uttarakhand,** in association with the esteemed Madarsa Rehm-ania Arabiya of Roorkee. A diverse panel of renowned Islamic scholars, Rotary leaders, and medical professionals converged at the seminar, collectively emphasizing the imperative of polio vaccination and

dispelling prevalent myths and misconceived notions. DG Ravi Prakash shed light on Rotary's monumental efforts in Polio eradication, urging community leaders and elders to forge personal connections with the masses, alleviate fears, and quash misconceptions.

The event culminated in a vibrant rally, weaving through Roorkee's old town, old market, and civil lines area, with a spirited **contingent of 170 boys & girls, teachers, and Rotarians marching the 4 Km route, armed with determination & placards.**

The Walkathon, led by DG Ravi Prakash and Club President Dr. Vikas Tyagi, received resounding appreciation from the public and garnered extensive coverage in print and social media, amplifying the message of a polio-free world.

The District in Action

A Decade of Gratitude | AAP HAIN TOH HUM HAIN

Rotary District 3080 proudly celebrates the 10th successful year of Project “AAP HAIN TOH HUM HAIN” — a heartfelt initiative that continues to bring Diwali joy and sweets to our brave soldiers posted at the Siachen border.

What began as a humble act of gratitude has grown into a district-wide movement of love, unity, and service.

This annual tradition allows Rotarians to send festive warmth to those who stand guard over our nation, reminding them that the country remembers their sacrifice, especially during the festival of lights.

The ceremonial flag-off from Raj Bhavan, Chandigarh, once again marked the start of this meaningful journey. His Excellency, the Governor of Punjab, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, graciously presided over the occasion, flagging off the trucks carrying Diwali sweets and goodwill from thousands of Rotarians. The event was followed by a delightful gathering at Rotary House, where Club Presidents, District Officers, donors, and volunteers came together to celebrate the spirit of fellowship and service.



Heartfelt gratitude goes to PRIP R. K. Saboo and Rtnne. Usha Saboo for their continued guidance and to Rotary Club Chandigarh for their steadfast support in sustaining this noble initiative. Their vision and encouragement have made “AAP HAIN TOH HUM HAIN” a symbol of enduring compassion and collective effort.

As we celebrate a decade of this cherished project, **District 3080 salutes every club, volunteer, and donor who helped make this year’s edition a success. Through shared effort and boundless goodwill, we continue to make Diwali brighter for our heroes at the borders** — proving once again that when we say, “AAP HAIN TOH HUM HAIN,” we mean it with all our hearts.

District's Response to Uttarakhand Disasters

The Rotary Way

Rehabilitating Disaster-Affected Families in Uttarakhand

In the aftermath of the recent disaster that severely impacted the Dharali region, Rotary International District 3080 has joined hands with Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, under the spiritual guidance of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, to launch a significant humanitarian initiative – the construction of a sustainable, eco-friendly model village comprising 40-50 homes for affected families.

The project envisions not just housing rehabilitation but the comprehensive restoration of community life. It will provide safe shelter, livelihood opportunities, education, healthcare, and sustainable living for those who lost everything to the calamity.

A high-level coordination meeting was held to finalize the rehabilitation roadmap. Rtn MLA Shri Pradeep Batra, District Secretary Rtn Pankaj Pandey, Rtn Alope Saraswat (President, Rotary Hardwar), Rtn Vikas Garg (Assistant Governor, Rishikesh), and Shri Arun Saraswat joined hands with local authorities in extending their support.



...District's Response to Uttarakhand Disasters

Relief Outreach in Rudraprayag

Under the guidance of District Governor Rtn Ravi Prakash, Rotary District 3080 has actively supported Rudraprayag district by **delivering essential relief material** worth Rupees 4 Lakhs to disaster - affected families. This **collective effort** was undertaken by **multiple Rotary Clubs including Roorkee Midtown, Roorkee Greater, Hardwar, Haridwar Royals, Ranipur, Rishikesh Royal, Rishikesh Central, Rishikesh Divas, Alaknanda Valley and Doon Ganga Chidderwala.**

Altogether, **50 disaster-affected families across various gram panchayats of Rudraprayag** received comprehensive aid packages. Each family was provided **blankets, tarpaulins, emergency solar torches, ration kits, hygiene items, and medicines.**

This initiative was coordinated under the leadership of Rtn Ved Vrat Sharma, with active participation from Rtn Sunil Bijlwan, Rtn Naval Kishore Joshi, Rtn Dhanesh

Uniyal, Rtn Pradeep Mal, Rtn Om Prakash Badani, and Rtn Dhanraj Butola. The tireless efforts of District Executive Secretary Rtn Pankaj Pandey made this project a reality.

The team is thankful to Shri Shiv Prasad Kandpal and Shri Vinod Ghildiyal, whose collaboration with local communities ensured smooth on-ground implementation. The enthusiasm of local villagers during the relief program reflected deep trust and appreciation for Rotary's humanitarian service.

This united effort exemplifies the spirit of Rotary's motto – Service Above Self. By transforming compassion into action, District 3080 continues to stand beside communities in distress, rebuilding lives with hope, resilience, and dignity.



The District Driving A Healthier Tomorrow

HPV Vaccination Drive

Rotary District 3080's historic four-day HPV Vaccination Mega Camp unfolded as a landmark event, spanning Khanpur, Roorkee, Dharmapur (Vikas Nagar), and Haridwar — and delivering a **life-changing impact to nearly 1,700 girls** from underprivileged backgrounds. **This initiative stands as the District's largest-ever single campaign against cervical cancer and a proud testament to the collective spirit of its Rotarians.**



Launching Hope in Khanpur

The campaign began at National Kanya Inter College, Khanpur, where 475 girls from BPL families received the HPV vaccine — a shield against the risk of cervical cancer. The occasion ignited genuine hope in the village community as parents and locals witnessed the powerful reach of Rotary's mission at the most grassroots level. The energy and trust flowing through the campus proved that community engagement is truly the backbone of lasting service. The day was orchestrated by the efforts of Rtn Sanjay Singh.



Expanding the Mission in Roorkee

On Day 2, the drive moved to Anand Swaroop Arya Saraswati Vidya Mandir in Roorkee. In a single day, 510 girls from 15 schools received vaccinations, pushing the cumulative total to 985. Esteemed guests including Shri Pradeep Batra, MLA, and Shri Deepak Shet, SDM Roorkee, graced the occasion, amplifying Rotary's mission in the public eye. Their endorsement and presence underscored the importance of official cooperation and created an environment where young girls could be protected with confidence. The success was propelled by hard work and collaboration, notably with Dr. Noopur Khare (CPAA), Dr. Sangeeta Lodha (RID 3030), and devoted club presidents, volunteers, and health professionals who made every dose possible.

Reaching New Heights in Dharmapur

With undiminished enthusiasm, the third day saw the camp arrive in Dharmapur, where 466 additional girls were vaccinated — raising the total to 1,451. The event was characterized by tireless teamwork between Rotary's local clubs, volunteers, and healthcare partners. Every child vaccinated strengthened the campaign's promise of "Preventing Cervical Cancer through Vaccination and Awareness," and marked a new district record in life-saving outreach. Special gratitude was directed to Dr. Neena Sablok, District HPV Project Chair, and the Vikasnagar Rotary network for logistical and motivational support that brought the vision to life.

...The District Driving A Healthier Tomorrow



Culmination in Haridwar: A Grand Finale

The campaign drew to a close at Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar, with a final flourish. There, 250 more girls were vaccinated, taking the tally to approximately 1,700 across the campaign. The event, organized jointly with CPAA and Rotary District 3030, was blessed by Prof. (Dr.) K. Hemlata, Vice Chancellor, whose support affirmed Rotary's role as a partner in public welfare. District Governor Rtn. Ravi Prakash personally acknowledged the outstanding coordination and leadership of Zone 19 clubs, as well as the vital contributions of district secretaries, club presidents, and volunteers. The last day demonstrated the transformative power of service, dedication, and united action.

Behind every successful vaccination lay months of preparation, awareness drives, and persistent advocacy — led by Rotarians in every locale. Convincing families, garnering consent, and educating communities demanded compassion and resilience. The tireless work of clubs at every venue showcased Rotary's commitment to fighting not only disease, but also social barriers to healthcare access.

Rotary District 3080's Mega Camp is now etched in history as a shining example of service above self. By vaccinating nearly 1,700 girls from the most vulnerable sections, these efforts are paving the way for an HPV-free future and preventing countless cases of cervical cancer. The initiative stands as a rallying point for collaboration, compassion, and lasting change — stretching beyond numbers to touch families, generations, and communities.

As the final day ended, the rallying cry for "Rotary For HPV Free India" echoed through every club and school visited. The campaign's legacy will inspire future drives and prove that, with persistence and partnership, Rotary can reach where hope and health are needed most. **The clubs, volunteers, medical partners, and dignitaries involved deserve heartfelt thanks for helping craft a safer, brighter tomorrow.**

Rotary District 3080 stands tall, proud, and united — in service, in spirit, and in purpose.

The Warmth of a Greeting

PP Kapil Gupta, District Greetings Chair

Over the past several months, as I looked back on my simple yet deeply fulfilling responsibility as District Greetings Chair, I realized that a greeting is never just a wish. It is a gentle tap on the shoulder saying, "You are remembered." It is the invisible thread that joins hearts across cities, clubs, and communities. In Rotary, where service is our foundation, a heartfelt greeting becomes an act of service in itself — service through warmth, connection, and fellowship.

When I began this assignment, I thought it would merely mean sending a few messages each morning. But soon, I discovered that each greeting carried a story, a smile, a moment of solitude transformed into companionship. Every birthday and anniversary wish opened a small window into the life of a Rotarian — sometimes joyful, sometimes nostalgic, but always human.

There was a day, not too long ago, when I sent a birthday message to a Rotarian. He called me later that evening, his voice filled with emotion and happiness. The greeting reminded him, he said, that Rotary is not just an association — it is a family. It was simple, but in that moment, it carried the warmth of presence across miles. Greetings, I realized, are small investments in happiness with returns that multiply silently.

Then there was another Rotarian, who responded over a call saying "Your message reminded me that I belong somewhere". I think that moment quietly defined the essence of Rotary fellowship for me. Sometimes, our greetings become the light that reaches someone's quiet corner, assuring them they are part of something larger than themselves.

During these months, I also noticed the subtle power of consistency. Every morning, when I opened my list of birthdays and anniversaries, it felt like receiving an invitation to celebrate life



itself — in all its variety. Each name symbolized an act of service, a community built, a smile restored. Sending greetings became a morning meditation of gratitude and connection. I often imagined these wishes traveling beyond digital screens — transforming into warm thoughts at breakfast tables, laughter during commutes, and shared conversations at club meetings.

Each response deepened my faith in the value of genuine human connection — the very soul of our organization. These exchanges rekindled something timeless: the belief that when we reach out with sincerity, goodwill finds its way back in beautiful, unexpected forms.

For me, greetings are not formality but fellowship in its most heartfelt form. They remind us that leadership is not only about projects, but about presence — showing up, even digitally, in someone's moment of joy. When we celebrate one another, we strengthen the invisible circle that holds our district together.

As I look forward to many more months of this delightful duty, I carry with me a quiet lesson — that service doesn't always need grand stages or large gatherings. Sometimes, it lives in a short message that says, "We care." And perhaps, that is how Rotary truly keeps hearts connected — one greeting at a time.

The RCC Journey of 4 Months & 100 Clubs

PP Dr Sanjiw Kr Saini, District RCC Chair



Today, we're going to talk about a Rotary initiative that, for one reason or another, has generally escaped our attention. This versatile Rotary initiative is the RCC.

RCC stands for Rotary Community Corps. It is a group of non-Rotarians who partner with Rotary clubs to implement service projects and address community needs. Essentially, these are community members who are not part of Rotary International but are actively involved in service work with Rotary clubs.

After assuming the charge of District Chairman RCC on 1st July 2025, it was felt that this initiative of Rotary can be effectively used in various projects and works for the welfare of the society.

And then began a process of communicating with all the club presidents and secretaries in the district, and having lengthy discussions about how to create RCC within their clubs and how it could be used in various projects and social programs.

While discussions were going on about all this, suddenly one day an incident happened.

When I came out of the house in front of a nursing home, perhaps a woman was having some dispute with the staff of the nursing home. Perhaps she had to make

some changes in the arrangement of staying with her patient regarding time.

The words she said touched my heart. She was saying that there is a sense of uniformity in the daily routine of you people. You have to go to your work in the morning and come back in the evening, but it is the women who have to face most of the daily adversities related to home, household routine and society, hence we know better than you what our needs are.

From this sentence, I suddenly realized what we really need for social welfare and who can be the people who can be helpful in this social welfare work despite not being Rotarians, so after discussing with everyone with this suggestion, this time we gave priority to women's on the posts of presidents of RCC Clubs of the district and the result was that today we have successfully formed 100 new RCC clubs between 1st July 2025 to 3rd November 2025.

We not only built them but also are running various types of projects in the district, mainly permanently developed sewing centers which are encouraging women to become self-reliant.

This year, all RCC clubs are contributing to all Rotary Club projects and activities, and have also participated in various programs such as blood donation camps, polio drops programs, school development, and RYLA.

By integrating RCC and forming RCC Clubs, many aspects of Rotary and the success of various projects can be taken to new heights and the main objective of Rotary is to help the lowest section of the society, provide them health benefits and help in education, all these works can be done easily through RCC.

A Half Century of RYLAs

Teena Virk, District RYLA Chair

RYLA intrigued me ever since I joined Rotary. It was perceived to be an extensive and complex project, to be executed by the most experienced members.

Weeks into months went into its preparation. From camp site, to number of students to be accommodated, to food, adventure, entertainment and visiting speakers etc. Huge organisational expertise and effort went into this —annual affair.

This is one type of RYLA, benefitting a few who can afford to pay.

Last Rotary year, 2024-25, I was appointed Director Youth Service in my club. A full RYLA committee, with mentor, chairperson, co-chair, 8/10 members was under my responsibility. My mind was fully challenged to comprehend the utility of a committee, for only doing one, albeit two RYLAs in a year. That is, when the research scholar, lying dormant in me, woke up. And voila, my intensive reading revealed RYLAs and RYLAs in so many different formats. My club RYLA committee was on a roll!

RYLA, a pilot youth program of Rotary, is meant for developing leadership, motivating youth in all aspects, activities and learning in life and must be available to young people from all kinds of schools, strata's of society and from all economical backgrounds.

RYLA is:

Half day | Full day | Weekend RYLA
Project based RYLA and Residential RYLA
spread over a couple of nights and days.

It can further be:

One club or institute based
Inter — school / college / club / zone /
district based.

I was fortunate to get RYLA as a portfolio in our district 3080, under DG Ravi Prakash,

young gentleman, who showed or expressed no apprehension, at my ability to carry it through. I suspect though, at some point, he must have thought, this English speaking Madam Teena, is only interested in holding an odd international RYLA.

The next was the challenge to reach out to 120 club presidents for RYLA discussions. The phone from, 'A Teena', from Chandigarh, wasn't the easiest introduction. My language soon turned to trilingual. From a little English to more Hindi (bless my primary education in a ashram school) and with Punjabi thrown in, made it far more acceptable.

The journey of imparting RYLA knowledge, began with the initiative of AG-Zone 4, Mukesh Aggarwal and AG-Zone 3, Kartik Sharma, both under ALF, Rajesh Bansal. Most presidents under their supervision, attended and listened carefully. They



...A Half Century of RYLAs

interacted actively to understand the many new RYLA formats. Close on their heels was a meeting arranged by AG Harpreet Rekhi & AG Gurpreet Singh, Zone-7&8, with most of their presidents. AG Manu Aggarwal, organised a successful and very interactive zoom session with most of the zone-1 presidents.

ALF Rtn. Surinder Sharma took active interest in organising a meet and teach session with all the presidents in both the zones 11 & 12, under his leadership, at Panipat.

AG-Shailesh Dewan, trusted my voice and arranged a successful meeting at his residence in Ambala, with presidents in his Zone-9.

My past experience has taught me that there is a season of RYLAs.

July to October, a few in November and an odd one in December holidays. Then April, May, June. This is centered around the children's examination routine.

Thus RYLA teaching started in April, in order to hit the ground running from 1st of July 2025.

Keeping the above calendar in mind, with no days to go slow, the effort began, to get in conversation with each president.

I BELIEVE WE MUST PASS ON OUR ROTARY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE FREELY AND DILIGENTLY EVERY YEAR TO ALL CLUB LEADERSHIP.

How else will all learn and perform to record breaking levels.

Individual connect took me to Karnal to meet ALF Gaurav Tuli, President Gautam and Mr. Jain.

Interesting was mapping Haryana, like never before. My knowledge was GT road Ambala, Karnal, Panipat. Now I was on a road to meet Rotary Ladwa, thanks to District Rotaract Chair Amit Singhal. Then came the dear boys at Rotary



Kurukshetra. President Pawan was most expressive about the pleasure of meeting 'A' district chair. Mona his loving wife, his parents, children and secretary Rupinder all became family through RYLA.

Thanesar president was out of station. I would have really liked to meet him.

Shahbad Markanda was a blind date. I knew I was meeting a learned man. Dr. Ghumman invited me to a school where he had a function that day. On reaching the school the guard told us the function is over and all have gone. Then came Dr. Ghumman to receive me and I learnt he owns and runs the school and college. We had a great interaction.

Great talking to all in Himachal. Waiting for the promised invite to Theog and Rampur Bushahr.

...A Half Century of RYLAs



President Karan, Rotary Shimla got the fundamentals first and got the RYLA 2025-26 to a super start. President Puja, Shimla Hill Queens gave it further push, with President Abha, Rotary Chandigarh joining the RYLA bandwagon.

Pushing the initiative further were President Dr. Alope Saraswat, Hardwar and President Tarun Jain, Jind.

President Naresh called to invite me to Cheeka. Not me, not anyone in my family knew where it was. Teena's adventures took her to Cheeka, where I felt like a visit to a family.

Rotary has done that to me. This Rotary District 3080, no longer feels huge or strange. Only family.

President Vikas Singhal, Narwana, President Deepak, Rotary Panipat Midtown, President Jagdeep Singh, Rotary Baddi, President Dr. Joginder, Rotary Ambala Industrial Area, Rotary Chandigarh Central, President Vebhu Bhatnagar, Deepak Aggarwal, President Rotary Mussoorie, President Harpal Singh, secretary Rajeev and Rtn. Dr. Sheelu from Rotary Kankhal absolutely understood the RYLA in new format and got to serious work. Their efforts are keeping the flag flying.

Gangoh is a chapter by itself. After months of Conversation, doubts, apprehensions, three day RYLA actually happened. But where is Gangoh? On an unchartered, under construction highway, bypassing Yamunagar, three hours on a early morning departure brings you to a different world called, Gangoh.

Involved Rotarians, involved Rotarian families, involved Gangoh students, staff and all of the town, under President Vikas and AG Narender Tayal. It took me an hour coming and going, everyday, through small villages and orchards and some very broken roads, to reach Gangoh from my place of stay. The last day was a program till midnight and Narenderji & Seemaji became my hosts. From being 'Gods own place', Gangoh became extension of a home.

Rotary Poanta Sahib, under President Anshul Goyal, superbly supported by senior Rotarians Kavita Garg, Gurmeet & Narinder Narang and their band of young members was a great experience of well executed RYLA after months of deliberations. President Shubhangi of Rishikesh Divas and President Deepti of Roorkee Elite were also a great support for me and for RYLA

President Manish Jain, Rotary Nahan hosted a great meeting at his residence, to meet President Sona, Rotary Nahan Sangini, President Amit Attri, Rotary Nahan Sirmour. President Amit Attri organised a multi 12 day RYLA and a RYLA Utsav, over 10 days in collaboration with a local body. October was an outstanding month with 11 RYLAs in 13 days.

Pehowa was another memorable trip. President Amit, Dipika, secretary Gaurav and Kritika all putting in huge efforts for a memorable first RYLA.

Following this was a new format of adventure RYLA. A Cyclothon from New Chandigarh to Sadhupul in Himachal.

...A Half Century of RYLAs



Rotary Chandigarh President Abha with interact club of Bhavan Vidyalay, & Rotary Parwanoo, under President Puneet Kapoor, managed bigger halts, well supported by Rotary New Chandigarh, Rotary Kasauli and Rotary Solan on the way. Appreciation is also due for Dr. Nirmal Dhiman for the First RYLA in Morinda.

President Raj Kumar Batra, Rishikesh Royale, Rotary Chandigarh Classic President Viren and Dr. Ramneek, followed by President Sunil Sharma of Rotary Dehradun Shivalik, wrapped up October, with their first RYLA.

October ended with 15 RYLAs. Taking the total to 51!!!

It has taken a lot of convincing to old set minds to accept the big picture and its

endless scope. Publication of half day RYLA in Rotary news put a stamp on this formats authentication.

Looking forward to RYLA at Saharanpur and the start of residential RYLA in winter at Mussoorie. Wishing, an enterprising President, shall do a project based RYLA, SOOOOOON!!!!

A journey, of full connect, to teach RYLA Concept and formats. Teaching minute to minute details, suggesting topics, suggesting designs for posters, banners, certificates etc. to guiding how to upload. It has been a satisfying journey full of new experiences, full of convictions and full on, imparting of knowledge. In return finding loads of love and respect.

RYLA HO JAAYE!!!!

Spearheading Rotary Shahabad Markanda

Club President Rtn Dr. Raghbir Singh Ghumman

Chartered on 24th February 1975, Rotary Club Shahabad Markanda is one of the most vibrant and service-oriented clubs in District 3080. The foundation of the club was laid under the guidance of District Governor M. L. Manchanda and his special representative Mr. S. P. Sachdeva, with 22 charter members who came together with the shared vision of "Service Above Self." **Over the last five decades, the club has earned a distinguished reputation for impactful community service, and in 2025 proudly celebrates its Golden Jubilee Year.**

The club's work is guided by the Five Avenues of Service through which members continue to address the needs of society with dedication and compassion. The club has organized hundreds of impactful initiatives including blood donation camps, eye and dental check-ups, health awareness programs, tree plantation drives, blanket and sweater distribution, and stationery donations to underprivileged students. Notably, the club also runs a Dialysis Centre, making affordable healthcare accessible to the needy.

With a strong focus on skill-building and women empowerment, the club established computer training centres, tailoring schools, and beauty parlour training centres, enabling hundreds of youth and women to become self-reliant. Celebrations such as Doctor's Day, Teacher's Day (National Builder Award), and Charter Day to honour professionals and uphold ethical standards in vocations.

The club has consistently supported schools with essential resources such as computers, printers, inverters, fans, and water coolers. Through RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), inter-school competitions, declamation contests, and awareness lectures, the club has encouraged leadership, confidence, and social responsibility among the younger generation.

Members of the club celebrate national festivals and cultural events together, strengthening bonds of fellowship and unity.

Rotary Club Shahabad Markanda stands as a beacon of service and humanity. As it enters its Golden Jubilee year, the club continues to uphold its legacy.

Dr. Raghbir Singh Ghumman is a distinguished educator with over 35 years of experience, shaping students into accomplished professionals nationwide. He has received top honors, including the Haryana Shiksha Ratan Award, FAP National Awards, and Best Teacher recognition. As a dedicated social worker and Rotarian, he has held Key Club & District roles, earning accolades for commitment to service and leadership.



Leading Rotary Shimla Hill Queens

with Heart and Vision **Club President Rtn Puja Goyal**



My journey with Rotary began with a deep desire to serve and bring positive change to my community. As a proud Charter member of Rotary Club of Shimla Hill Queens, this club became a second family, a source of inspiration, purpose and strength.

Serving as the 5th President is an honour that carries profound responsibility and pride. Leadership meant more than managing projects; it meant connecting with people, inspiring hope and fostering unity among our members and those we serve. Every initiative was driven by a shared commitment to kindness and selfless service.



Reflecting on the last four months, our club successfully completed 136 projects impacting over 8100 beneficiaries with nearly 2000 volunteer hours contributed. These projects have addressed critical needs in disease prevention and treatment, community economic development, education and literacy, youth services, water sanitation hygiene, maternal and child health and enhancing our public image.

Each project has been more than just an assignment they have been stories of hope restored and dignity upheld. Providing nutritious food to tuberculosis patients meals to cancer patients at IGMC, school supplies to children and health camps for underserved populations turned statistics into deeply personal moments of connection. Through these experiences compassion grew not only in those receiving but also within our hearts.

The newly adopted district theme Humanity Unites Mankind "HUM", offered a resonant guiding principle. It served as a reminder that beyond all differences shared humanity binds us compelling service motivated by empathy and unity. This message inspired every member to work harmoniously stay united and continuously strive to enhance our collective impact.

Leadership I have learned is as much about inspiring others as it is about guiding. It's about empowering every member to find meaning and pride in their service. Seeing this spirit flourish within the club through every smile, every handshake, every community touched has been profoundly rewarding.

The role of President and Charter member is more than a title. it's a lifelong commitment to uphold the values of Rotary Service Above Self. The journey ahead is filled with hope and possibility. The foundation of compassion, collaborative spirit and motivated action, built so far, paves the way for even greater community transformation.

I feel grateful for the unwavering dedication of all members, volunteers and partners who bring life to our mission. Together inspired by HUMANITY UNITES MANKIND we will continue nurturing lives with kindness building bridges where there are divides and moving forward as one united force for good.

This journey is marked by humility and empowerment driven by the belief that every small step can bring us closer to a better more caring society. With heartfelt gratitude for the past and enthusiasm for the future Rotary Club of Shimla Hill Queens will persist in serving with open hearts and visionary leadership building a brighter tomorrow.

from Rotary Karnal Midtown's

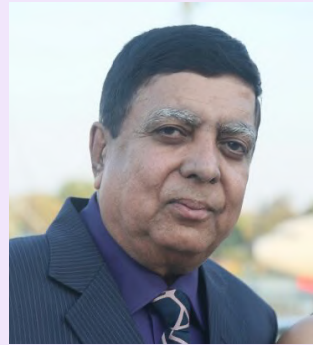
Club Secretary Rtn Vinod Kumar Kalra

I am Past President Rtn Dr. V. K. Kalra, presently serving as Club Secretary of Rotary Club of Karnal Midtown. By profession I am a veterinarian.

We had the Club's Installation Ceremony where new board of directors were introduced to support and guide the Club President. To start fruitful year Gau (Cow) Pujan was performed and fodder was served to cattle. We were not concerned about numbers rather We were careful in choosing the projects. We had tree plantation and lectures on global warming in rural areas.

In Manglora Govt school water motor and water storage tanks were presented. As national festival independence day was celebrated with students of school. We donated computer for poor children. National builder awards were given to deserving teacher's on occasion of Teacher's day.

Charter day of the club was celebrated where charter members were felicitated. All attention was given to schools for hygiene and sanitation. From time to time Bhandaras were organised and food was served to labour and poor people and to inmates of annathalay. Stationery was distributed to students of slum area. As rabies day falls on 28th September We arranged free anti rabies vaccine for stray and pet dogs.



One more project which touches our heart is Blood donation camp which was organised in illustrious way. Our members donated Blood. Mrs Renu Bala Gupta, Mayor was Chief guest. She felicitated the donors.

To increase the bonding amongst members DIWALI FESTIVAL was celebrated with verve, We had fun and frolic.

One thing common in all projects is that all projects were covered with highlights by media. I am thoroughly enjoying my work with the cooperation of all our Club members.

Challenges faced by The Tech Team

PP Sandeep Luthra, District Webmaster

It is an absolute honour to serve RID 3080 as District Webmaster and also as a member of the Tech Team during the current Rotary year. I would like to share some key learnings of the Tech Team, from our recent training work around the My Rotary Platform and the Rotary India App.

The aim is to help current and incoming Club leaders integrate these tools smoothly for better club management and communication with the District. With this in mind, below are the primary challenges we've encountered — along with our reflections and suggestions:

Varied levels of digital literacy

We have observed that while some incoming officers were very comfortable with digital tools, others had limited experience.

Resistance to change / familiarity with legacy methods

Many clubs are accustomed to paper records, Excel sheets or WhatsApp groups. Though we emphasized that the new tools are not extra work, but genuine time-savers and transparency boosters. However, the acceptance levels were varied.

Embedding the platform/app into club workflow

It's one thing to demonstrate how to use the tools; it's another to integrate them into your regular club operations — meetings, attendance, member updates, reporting to the District. There was a hesitation on the part of club leaders to map their club's weekly/monthly routines to the new platform/s.

Data accuracy and regular updating of digital records

The tools only add value when membership lists, contact information and project records are kept up to date. This requires major effort in digitation of these records in the first stage, followed by regular updates, both of which are



perceived by Club leaders as “additional” workload.

Communication flow between club and district

The platform/app facilitate club ↔ district communications. In practice, we've seen clubs miss important announcements due to lack of proper monitoring of these channels.

Technical issues & support infrastructure

Challenges such as older smartphones, limited internet connectivity, forgotten passwords or un-applied app updates are real.

Aligning club officers' roles and responsibilities with the tool

Confusion often arises when the club hasn't clearly defined who (President, Secretary, committee chairs) uses which parts of the platform. Aligning roles helps maximise usage.

Sustaining behaviour beyond the initial training

One-time training alone is not enough. Follow-up check-ins, refresher modules

... Challenges faced by The Tech Team

and peer-mentoring to maintain momentum throughout the year is a necessity.

Measuring and showing value / useful metrics

It is important to delve upon “how will you know the tools are helping you?” — for example fewer missed communications, better member engagement or streamlined reporting. Early wins matter.

Time constraints of club officers

Presidents and Secretaries already carry heavy workloads. In Clubs where delegation of roles / acceptance of roles is less, Club leaders find administrative tasks overwhelming and ignore the digital platforms to a varied extent.

Ensuring compatibility with other technology / avoiding duplication of effort

Many clubs use alternate tools of digitization (WhatsApp, Excel). This causes an unwanted hindrance in using the prescribed Rotary platforms.

Lack of continuity in the tech leadership at Club and District level

A consistent observation is that when a club’s tech-lead or digital-champion changes frequently or lacks a proper hand-over, institutional knowledge about the platform/app setup is lost. This undermines district-level training efforts. Appointing a stable tech-lead at both administrative levels will help in documenting processes and enabling

smooth hand-overs.

Need to orient broader club membership, not just President/Secretary

While training incoming Presidents and Secretaries is essential, the platform/app will only become effective if the wider board (committee chairs, officers) and ultimately the full member base are oriented. Without this “percolation,” usage may remain limited.

From the Tech Team’s viewpoint, successful adoption of My Rotary and the Rotary India App depends on aligning workflows, roles, data stewardship, communication culture and continuity. When these factors are well-addressed, clubs and the district benefit from smoother communication, higher data integrity and more effective service delivery.



A Night That Opened My Eyes...

My experiences at Rotary Dinner in The Dark

For the past 13 years, **Rotary Club Chandigarh Shivalik** has been organizing a unique and deeply meaningful experience — “**Dinner in the Dark**”. This year marked the 13th season, held at Sip n Dine Restaurant, Chandigarh on 29th October. We drove all the way to Chandigarh just to be part of this extraordinary event — and it turned out to be one of the most unforgettable evenings of my life. The concept behind this dinner is simple yet powerful: to experience, even if for a short while, what it feels like to live without sight — the way visually impaired individuals do every day. **The dinner takes place in a completely dark room - not a single ray of light, no glowing exit sign, nothing. Just pitch darkness and heightened senses.**



We were a group of 12, divided into four smaller groups. Each group was guided by a visually impaired person. Our group leader, Mohit, who works as a General Manager at a Nationalised Bank was a true inspiration. Before entering, we were given clear instructions: to form a line, place our right hand on the left shoulder of the person in front of us, and drag our feet slowly to avoid stumbling. Once inside, we were guided to our seats and told to find our tables by touch. It was both challenging and fascinating.

The real adventure began when the dinner was served. We had to find the juice jug and pour it into our glasses purely by instinct. **Eating without sight made us realize how much we rely on vision for comfort and confidence. Yet, in that darkness, our other senses came alive — taste, touch, smell, and hearing became our guides.**

I was fortunate to be seated next to my husband on my right who had a stranger on his further right. Throughout the meal, the gentleman beside him seemed to struggle with instructions. My husband kept helping him patiently. When the lights were finally turned on, we realized that our neighbour was quite old and was using a hearing aid. In that moment, a wave of emotion hit us — we felt both grateful and deeply moved. Imagine dining in darkness with both sight and hearing impaired; it was humbling beyond words.

The evening wasn't just about dinner — it was about awareness, empathy, and gratitude. The organizers engaged us in activities that heightened our other senses: feeling textures, identifying food by taste and smell, and listening to an audio-described movie scene from Laal Singh Chaddha. It was the iconic feather scene, beautifully narrated for the visually impaired. Listening to it rather than watching it gave the scene a new kind of beauty — painted by imagination rather than sight.

This experience left a profound impact. It wasn't about sympathy, but empathy — understanding how capable, smart, and adaptive visually impaired people truly are.

As the evening ended, I walked out with a heart full of gratitude — thankful to Rotary Club Chandigarh Shivalik for creating such an eye-opening experience, and thankful to God for all that we often take for granted. A special thanks to Rtn Govind Miglani and Rtn Brig. D. S. Dhillon for their warm welcome and affection extended to all of us who had travelled all the way from Roorkee, Haridwar, and Rishikesh to be a part of this evening.

Rtn Aqsa Malik Rotary Club of Roorkee Upper Ganges

A Champion's Story

An interview with Rtn Hari Om Verma

Q. Can you describe your childhood and family background?

A. I was born in Harnaul, a village in Haryana, into a family with no land or property. My father worked seasonal jobs, primarily supervising labour in sugarcane fields for a local sugar mill during the rainy season, which lasted 4–5 months. As a poor family, I contributed by working as a daily wage labourer during my school holidays, earning Rs. 5 per day and walking 4–5 km each way for work. My mother also supported the family by stitching clothes for villagers, and I assisted her with the maintenance of her sewing machine, which I would take to Yamuna Nagar on a bicycle. I also helped her in sewing whenever I had time.

Q. What was your early schooling like?

I started my education at the village school, often attending without shoes or a uniform due to financial constraints. Sometimes we couldn't afford the school fees, which was 2 Anna. I relied on the kindness of fellow villagers to pay my fees. As the eldest sibling, I repaired cycles after school to earn some money and, by eighth grade, began teaching mathematics to younger children, charging Rs. 10

per month—a substantial contribution to my family's expenses. I was always consistently ranked first in my class until high school.

Q. How did you pursue higher education, given your circumstances?

A. **Excelling academically helped me secure admission in Mechanical Engineering. I often walked to college until my high school headmaster noticed my circumstances and generously gave me Rs. 100 to purchase a bicycle, enabling easier commutes. Although I had completed my engineering course with top honours but, due to my family's financial constraints, I had to seek immediate employment locally.**

Q. What was your first job experience like?

My first job was at a factory in Yamuna Nagar, earning Rs. 150 per month. I worked diligently, gaining appreciation and the opportunity to be trained by German engineer Mr. Dietrich Lauterbach in



machinery design. Together, we developed a hydraulic steering system for boats at Kakinada Port. Despite starting at a low position, my hard work made a lasting impression, and I still share a respectful relationship with the company owners even today.

Q. Can you tell us about your professional journey in Chandigarh and your family beginnings?

A. In 1972, I moved to Chandigarh and joined Punjab Tractors Ltd. as a design engineer, contributing to India's first indigenous tractors. I earned Rs. 600 monthly and sent half to my parents. I married in 1976 with minimal formalities, and my wife soon joined the Chandigarh Institute of Hotel Management, eventually retiring as Vice Principal after 31 years. We have two sons, born in 1977 and 1980.

...An interview with Rtn Hari Om Verma

Through dedication, I attained the top position again in my field of study. To meet expenses, I undertook very small contractual assignments in design from home and travelled in lower-class buses during official tours to save money.

Q. How did your career evolve with new opportunities and challenges?

A. For a better salary, I moved to Parwanoo, commuting daily while taking part-time assignments in Mohali. In 1983, I was appointed Project Manager for India's first color TV picture tube factory, a collaboration with Hitachi Ltd. of Japan. This marked the start of frequent travels to Japan, where I earned unprecedented respect for my technical expertise and commitment, being the only Indian allowed to enter the Hitachi factory at any time.

Q. Can you elaborate on your technical achievements and their impact?

A. I led the overhaul and commissioning of a second-hand Hitachi plant from Finland, exceeding all production expectations. Under my leadership, we produced 700,000 picture tubes annually, well above

the plant's original capacity. This success not only impressed the Japanese and Finnish teams but also earned recognition from management for saving Rs. 60 crores through indigenous development—although financial rewards from the company were not forthcoming.

A notable exception was a Rs. 200,000 gift from the MD for my house construction.

Q. What were some major turning points and challenges in your career?

A. In 1991, a change in plant leadership led me to resign from my secure job at JCT Group. **Despite initial support, the company demanded the return of their monetary gift, withholding my dues and leaving me jobless and penniless. The family endured hardship, even spending days without basic furniture. Recovery only began when I sold a residential plot and reinvested the amount I had got, slowly rebuilding our lives.**

Q. How did you transition into entrepreneurship, and what opportunities followed?

A. The former chairman of Punjab Tractors offered me a semi-business proposal for developing India's first automatic vending machines with a royalty arrangement. Simultaneously, I received lucrative assignments from another acquaintance for import substitution in medical devices. **Within two months, I was engaged in three significant ventures, earning more than four times my previous salary — all from unforeseen opportunities.**

Q. What is your current professional status and contribution to industry?

A. For over 32 years, I've been the Managing Director of RAMANI Group, with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities. My work focuses on design, manufacturing, and export of high-tech equipment and industrial automation systems, championing "Make in India." My innovations have reached developed countries globally, earning accolades and bringing pride to India.

A Champion's Story

...An interview with Rtn Hari Om Verma

Q. What personal experiences shaped your outlook on life and social service?

A. The sudden passing of my wife in 2021 deeply affected me and shifted my perspective on life's fragility. Recognizing the hardships we overcame together, I decided to dedicate my resources to helping the poor and needy, notably through Rotary and other social organizations, finding fulfilment in bringing relief and smiles to those struggling like I once did.

Q. Share some details

about your role in Rotary and your contributions to Rotary.

A. I've been a proud member of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Uptown, District 3080, for six wonderful years now. My Rotary journey has been truly rewarding, allowing me to serve in meaningful ways while growing personally and professionally. I've had the honour of contributing as a Major Donor Level 2 and Endowment Fund Holder, and I'm also part of the Paul Harris Society and a Paul Harris Fellow +2. Supporting the Polio Fund

has been especially close to my heart.

At present, I'm serving as Additional District Secretary for 2025-26 and preparing to take on the role of Club President in 26-27.

I look forward to continuing my service and inspiring others through impactful Rotary projects.

KULA/NEWS

CHANDIGARH TRIBUNE, SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005

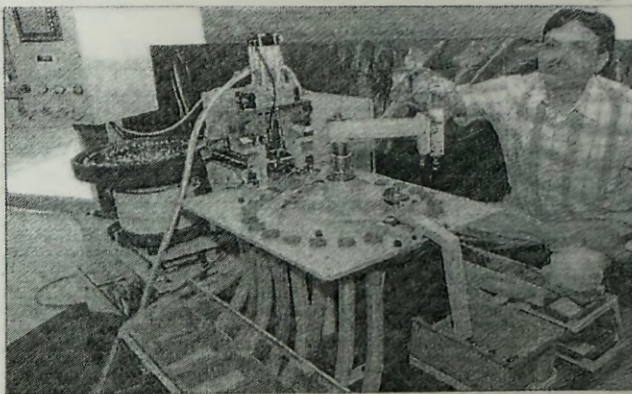
Verma's unique machine puts P'kula on world map

RUCHIKA M. KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANCHKULA, July 9
Fourteen years ago he had started out with a small capital but determination to succeed in the field of designing machines. With clientele like General Motors, Suzuki, Subros, Gates and Phillips, and a Bharat Udyog Ratna award under his belt, Mr Hari Om Verma has brought Panchkula on the international industrial map.

Operating from a non-descript building in the Industrial Area here, this mechanical Engineer had won accolades worldwide for designing a simplified version of Crimping Machine (used for manufacturing power brakes), which has been adopted by General Motors in its manufacturing units all over the world. To add another feather to his cap now, Verma has designed a simplified version of an automatic shoe clearance checking machine for Subros, world leaders in car air-conditioning manufacturers.

This new innovation by Verma's company — Ransani Automation Systems — automatically checks the mechanical accuracies of an assembled car air-conditioning compressors. The accuracies are manufactured within one thousandth of a millimeter (micron), with absolute results on a computer controlled touch screen. This is



Hari Om Verma exhibits his automatic shoe segregation machine for AC compressors at his unit in Panchkula. A Tribune photograph

for the first time that such a machine has been designed, claims Mr Verma. Until now, the shoes used in the compressors were segregated manually, requiring more time and workforce, and less accuracy. "This machine is based on inspection standards of Japanese car air conditioner manufacturer — Subros. This tests the main parameters of any air-conditioner compressor — torque required to rotate the shaft for engine load, checking clearance between shaft and the end-bearings and checking the clearance between the rotary plate and bearing shoe slot of the five

pistons in the compressor one-by-one. These tests are done within 60 seconds of time per assembly. After all these tests, the complete data with readings in microns is displayed on the coloured touchscreen," explains Mr Verma. Various instrumentation gadgets such as laser sensors, safety light curtains, large size PLC controller etc have also been used.

Mr Verma was earlier an employee of Punjab Tractors Limited. A mechanical engineer by qualification, he quit his job to set up an independent unit (more of a laboratory for designing machinery outsourced by

multinational companies. "My big break came in 1997, when General Motors gave me a design for a crimping machines. They had designed for four machines to make the power brake, which I simplified and included all functions in one machine. The officials of General Motors were skeptical when I sent my own design. Only a Britsher, Mr Barry Smith, liked my designs and gave me a go ahead. This machine reduced the time taken for making power brakes from 140 seconds to 28 seconds, thus also increasing production," he says.

Rtn Verma's business is An ISO 9001:2015 certified company, that has receiving the prestigious National Award in 2000 from then Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Over the years, they have been recognized among India's Top 100 SMEs multiple times (2014, 2016, 2022, and 2023) and honoured with the CII Industrial Innovation Awards in 2017 and 2020. Their innovations include several machines introduced for the first time in the world. In 2020, they earned the Quality Champion Silver Award and the STEVIE USA International Business Gold Award. Further recognitions include the SME Empowering India Award 2021, the Engineering Export Council's Export Award, and two MSME National Awards in 2022 presented by Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi for excellence in manufacturing and exports.

A “Visionary” Hero...

PP Rtn Harpreet Singh Rekhi



Rtn Harpreet Singh Rekhi, a distinguished social activist and Past President of Rotary Club Kharar, stands as a prominent figure in the realm of community service, championing the cause of blood and eye donation with unwavering dedication. Rekhi's credo — **“Donation of blood during lifetime and donating eyes after death”** — encapsulates a lifetime commitment to giving and has inspired countless others throughout the region.

Born in September 1963 in Kharar, Harpreet Singh Rekhi recently turned 62, yet his passion for serving others has only grown stronger with time. Rekhi began his blood donation journey in 1987 and has, to date, donated blood an impressive 63 times. This consistent act of generosity reflects a deep sense of responsibility toward society, motivating peers and newer generations to join the movement for voluntary blood donation.

His impact is particularly notable within Rotary District 3080, where he actively promotes the life-saving practice to fellow Rotarians and residents alike.

Harpreet Singh Rekhi's activism extends powerfully into promoting eye donation—a cause close to his heart. **He has emerged as a relentless “Eye Donation Motivator” under the visionary theme of “Gift of Sight,” committing to donate his own eyes after death and inspiring others to do the same.** Rekhi introduced the practice in his own family, having facilitated the donation of eyes from his late father, mother, elder brother, and brother-in-law. His outreach spans neighbourhoods and communities, where he gently approaches bereaved families to inform and motivate them about eye donation, often in the face of misconceptions and resistance. The process is challenging; only about 1 in 20 families agree to donate, yet Rekhi persists, undeterred by obstacles, convinced that even a single donation can brighten the lives of two recipients through corneal transplantation.

Due to Rekhi's tireless efforts, eyes of 80 individuals have been donated after their deaths through partnerships with institutions like PGI Chandigarh. He stresses the urgency of eye donation, which must occur within 8 hours of death, reminding the community that a single act can transform two lives. His presentations and awareness campaigns, delivered at various functions and programs, have motivated thousands toward the noblest cause—the gift of vision after death.

Rekhi's approach is hands-on and deeply personal; he frequently visits grieving families, offering both information and empathy as he advocates for eye donation. While sometimes met with reluctance, his advocacy never wavers, and he takes pride in every new commitment to the cause. His energetic door-to-door campaigns and presence at condolence meetings distinguish him as a leading voice for both blood and eye donation throughout the district.

As an ardent motivator among fellow Rotarians of District 3080, Harpreet Singh Rekhi encourages community members to notify local eye banks promptly in the event of a death, thus hastening the fulfilment of hope for those awaiting sight restoration. Through continuous awareness, compassion, and perseverance, Rekhi exemplifies service above self, inviting all to participate in the humanitarian act of giving life and sight to others.

CLUBS IN ACTION

Rotary Club of Chandigarh

Visit to Paraplegic Rehab Centre



End Polio Now Celebration at AIMS Mohali



Rotary Club of Chandigarh Central

Mega Mammography Screening Camp



Rotary Club of Dehradun Central

End Polio Now Bike Rally



Stationery Distribution and Talk at School



Blankets Donation



Rotary Club of Doon Shivalik Hills

RYLA



Foodgrains Donation



Blood Donation Camp



Rotary Club of Hardwar

Mega Tree Plantation Drive



Tulsi Plants to 101 Devotees



Talk on Menstrual Health



Juice & Biscuits at School



Project Nanhe Deepak



Diwali Celebrations



Ganga River Cleanliness Drive



Rotary Club of Haridwar Central

Project Nanhe Deepak



Blood Donation Camp with wide Rotary Visibility



Rotary Club of Kalka Heritage

Diwali Mela - Community Econ. Development



Sweets Distribution to Soldiers



Rotary Club of Karnal

Diwali Dinner



Talk on Winter Precautions



Shoes & Bags to Students



Rotary Club of Karnal Midtown

Anti Rabies Vaccination



Diwali Celebrations



Bhandara



Rotary Club of Kharar

Blood Donation Camp



Three Eye Donations



Rotary Club of Mohali Midtown

Installation of Rotary Wheel at a School



Free Cataract Surgeries



Rotary Club of Morinda.

Donation Lucky Draw



Rotary Club of Mussoorie

RYLA



Diwali Celebration at ITBP



RYLA



Sweets Distribution



Rotary Club of Nahan

Blood Donation Camp



Uniforms Donation



Donation of Winter Needs



Honouring The Policemen



Honouring Young Sportsmen



Rotary Club of Panchkula

Multiple Blood Donation Camps



Mobile Bhandara



Dental Screening Camp



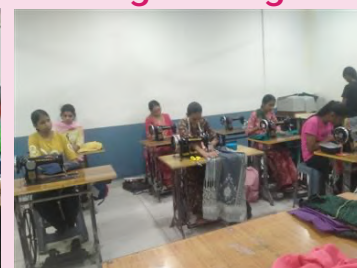
Mammography Camp



Free Tuition for underprivileged



Stitching Training



Interact Installation



Rotary Club of Paonta Sakhi

Breast Examination Lecture HPV Vaccination Awareness



WINS Talk



HPV Vaccination Drive



Rotary Club of Parwanoo

Sports Meet



Har Ghar Roshan Diwali



Karwa Chauth



Sports Meet



Grand Volleyball Competition on Dussehra



Dussehra Celebrations



Pollution Awareness Rally



Medical Camp



Rotary Club of Rishikesh Divas

Assistance to Widow



Honouring Hockey Player



Diwali Entrepreneurs Mela



Rotary Club of Rishikesh Royal

The Water



Rotary Club of Roopnagar

Skit on Eve teasing Problem



Composting Awareness



Hydration Awareness



Mega Medical Camp



Rotary Club of Roorkee Elite

Medical Camp with Max Hospital Vaishali and Rotary Roorkee Greater



Rotary Club of Roorkee Midtown

Multiple Cleanliness Drives



Diwali Celebrations



Rotary Club of Saharanpur Central

Bone Mineral Density Camp



Donation of Computer, LED Lights and Bags to a School



Diwali Celebrations



Rotary Club of Saharanpur Harmony

Sweets Distribution at Vegetable Market



Grand Diwali Meet – Rotary Fellowship



Rotary Club of Shahabad Markanda

Polio Immunization



Mass Marriage of the needy



Blanket Distribution



TARA



Blood Donation Camp



Self Employment Seminar



Drawing Competition



Diwali Celebrations



Rotary Club of Silvercity Mohali

Snippets of Langar Sewa – an Ongoing Club Project



Rotary Club of Shimla

Blood Donation Drive



E-Waste Collection



Kangaroo Bag Distribution



Traffic Awareness and Public Image



Peace Walk



Philately RYLA



Dental Camp



World Polio Day



@Orphanage



Candle Sale



Rotary Club of Shimla Midtown

Project Manthan



Rotary Club of Shimla Hill Queens

Blood Donation



Utthaan



Prashray



World Sight Day Project



Sale of Handmade Candles



Prashray Project



Multiple World Polio Day Talks



Shoes Distribution to the needy



Rotary Club of Theog Hills

Snippets from Mega Eye Check-up Camp



Rotary Action Group **WASH**



The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group is a group of Rotarians whose purpose is to support Rotary clubs to effectively plan, finance, implement, monitor and evaluate water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, where they are most needed in a collaborative, cost-effective, timely, and sustainable manner, true to the principles of Rotary International.

Water is Life — a common saying among the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG). For us, this isn't just a saying; it's a guiding principle. Water is the foundation of life, essential for the survival of humans, plants, and animals. Without it, life simply cannot thrive.

However, water is more than just a necessity. When combined with sanitation and hygiene, it plays a vital role in all of Rotary's areas of focus.

Why water, sanitation, and hygiene matters

Hand washing with soap is one of the best ways to prevent disease transmission. Many rural communities in low-income countries lack access to soap or do not know how to use it properly. Rotary's WASH initiatives aim to address this gap. That's why we call it WASH – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene together build healthier households and communities.

Access to clean water and proper hygiene ensure safer childbirth, reducing the risk of infections for newborns and mothers. In healthcare settings, WASH significantly lowers the chances of hospital-acquired infections, benefiting patients undergoing surgery or recovering from accidents.

For education, clean water and sanitation make a tremendous difference. Girls are more likely to stay in school when they have access to hygienic washrooms during their menstrual cycles. Female teachers also experience fewer absences when proper facilities are available.

Beyond personal well-being, water is crucial for economic growth. Many businesses rely on a clean water supply—whether for cooking, baking, or operating hydraulic equipment. In some regions, water shortages due to climate and environmental changes have led to conflicts over this valuable resource.

Empowering Change: Join the WASH Movement

Access to clean water is more than a necessity—it is a catalyst for health, safety, education, and economic prosperity. Rotary members worldwide support WASH initiatives and collaborate with communities to improve access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for a sustainable future.

You don't have to be a water expert to bring safe water to a community. **The WASH Rotary Action Group provides the resources and supports you need. We have over 100 ambassadors worldwide ready to help you start a WASH program or apply for a Rotary Foundation grant to support an eligible program.** In addition, over 100 The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers are involved in WASH and can provide you with technical assistance.

For more information on how you can bring safe water to your community, please visit www.wash-rag.org.

Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians **IFMR**

The International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR) is one of Rotary International's official fellowships, bringing together Rotarians around the world who share a passion for motorcycling and fellowship.

Founded in 1992, IFMR connects Rotary members who enjoy the freedom of the open road and the camaraderie that comes with shared rides and service. Members organize local, national, and international rides, often combining their love of motorcycles with Rotary's ideals of friendship, service, and goodwill.

Through their journeys, IFMR members promote road safety, fellowship across borders, and community service, often using their rides to raise funds or awareness for humanitarian causes.

IFMR organizes local, regional, national, and international rides, often linked with Rotary events, conventions, and community service activities. These rides are not merely for leisure—they frequently support charitable causes, promote road safety awareness, and help raise funds for Rotary projects in areas such as education, health, and disaster relief.

The fellowship is divided into regional chapters worldwide, each conducting its own events while maintaining strong international coordination. Members from different countries often meet during Rotary International Conventions, where IFMR organizes fellowship rides and networking gatherings.

IFMR in India

In India, IFMR has grown steadily, attracting enthusiastic Rotarians from almost every Rotary district. The Indian chapter, known as IFMR India, conducts numerous rides, rallies, and social initiatives throughout the year. Members come together from different parts of the country, united by their shared love for motorcycles and their commitment to Rotary values.

The group frequently organizes pan-India rides that connect major Rotary events and destinations—such as rides to the Rotary Zone Institute, District Conferences, and service project sites. These journeys often combine fun, fellowship, and philanthropy, as riders carry Rotary's message of peace, understanding, and service wherever they go.

As members often say:

“We ride for fellowship, we ride for service, and we ride for Rotary.”



Interesting Rotary Projects Around the Globe

Canada

When leaders at the Rotary Club of St. Thomas in Ontario noticed a lack of engagement, the club adapted by adjusting its schedule to allow more time for service. The result has been astonishing, with an energized mission and growing interest by prospective members, says Barbara Warnock, immediate past president of the club. The club now meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, with the other Wednesdays designated for volunteering at two local organizations: Grace Café, a street mission and soup kitchen, and Harvest Hands, which collects edible foodstuffs that would ordinarily have been discarded.

Scotland

The Rotary Club of Elgin supports numerous initiatives for youth, including a Rotaract club, an Interact club, and several RotaKids clubs, which are a program of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland to build citizenship and leadership skills in children under 12. At the Greenwards school, RotaKids clubs are a go-to activity, reports teacher Kirstin Mustard, one of four club leaders. In February, the RotaKids held a rummage sale, collecting about \$100 for The Rotary Foundation. In June, they sponsored a walk that raised about \$3,200 for Harry's Hat, a charity for the condition hydrocephalus, a buildup of water in the brain.



Italy

There may be no better way to spotlight (literally!) polio awareness than through the can't-miss illuminations of global landmarks. Those monuments have included the Sydney Opera House, London's Houses of Parliament, Rome's Colosseum, the Egyptian pyramids, Scottish castles, and more. For World Polio Day 2024, the Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the Pisa area teamed up with community leaders to turn the floodlights on the Leaning Tower of Pisa. "This is a commitment that we wanted to share together precisely to reach a wider audience," the club presidents noted in a statement. They've showcased historic buildings for about 25 years and the city's signature tower over the past five. The clubs also had a video about polio eradication shown on monitors at the Pisa Airport.

Stop-Press Addition...

RI President @ 3080 | Detailed Coverage in Next Issue



The Rotary Quiz

Rtn Upasana Mittal, RC Roorkee Midtown

1. Where was the first Rotary Club established?

- a) New York b) Chicago c) London
- d) Toronto

2. How many members does Rotary International approximately have worldwide?

- a) 500,000 b) 800,000 c) 1.4 million
- d) 2 million

3. What is the name of Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio?

- a) End Polio Now b) Stop Polio Forever
- c) Polio Free World d) Zero Polio

4. Which month is celebrated as Rotary Foundation Month?

- a) October b) November c) February
- d) May

5. Which Rotary program focuses on young professionals aged 18–30?

- a) Interact b) Rotaract c) Youth Exchange
- d) RYLA

6. Who introduced the Four-Way Test?

- a) Paul Harris b) Herbert J. Taylor c) Arch Klumph
- d) James Davidson

7. The Rotary Foundation was established in which year?

- a) 1917 b) 1928 c) 1945 d) 1950

8. What is the highest honour a Rotarian can receive?

- a) Paul Harris Fellow b) Arch Klumph Society Member
- c) Service Above Self Award d) Presidential Citation

9. What was the main purpose of the very first Rotary meeting in 1905?

- a) Social networking b) Business exchange
- c) Professional fellowship d) Community service



10. Who was Rotary's first general secretary?

- a) Chesley Perry b) Paul Harris c) Arch Klumph
- d) Herbert Taylor

11. The Rotary Foundation's first donation was made by Arch Klumph in 1917. How much was it?

- a) \$10 b) \$26.50 c) \$100 d) \$1,000

12. What year did the PolioPlus program officially begin?

- a) 1978 b) 1985 c) 1990 d) 1995

13. Which Rotary program began first:

- a) Youth Exchange b) Interact
- c) Rotaract d) RYLA

14. What is the Rotary Citation primarily awarded for?

- a) Attendance record b) Club excellence in goals and impact
- c) Fundraising d) Membership growth only

15. Which year saw the first Interact Club formed?

- a) 1958 b) 1960 c) 1962 d) 1965

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