



JANUARY IS  
VOCATIONAL SERVICES MONTH

"TEAMWORK IS THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION. THE ABILITY TO DIRECT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IT IS THE FUEL THAT ALLOWS COMMON PEOPLE TO ATTAIN UNCOMMON RESULTS."

- ANDREW CARNEGIE



RID 3291  
**Rotary**  
Garden Reach



# Light

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

January 14th, 2025 - Vol. 47 No. 25

2296th Regular Weekly Meeting  
Attendance:16

Birthday Greetings

Jan 14th : Rtn. Tamal Roy  
Jan 15th : Spouse Kiran, Wife of PP Dr. JK Singh  
Jan 16th : Spouse Kanika, Wife of Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri  
Jan 20th : Rtn. Santosh Singh

Anniversary Greetings

Jan 15th : Spouse Puloma & PP Timir Roy  
Jan 16th : Rtn. Dr. Mahamaya & Spouse Sunil Sharma  
Jan 19th : Spouse Archana & PP Naresh K Jain

### Swami Vivekananda: His vision of Bharat and her Youth

Swamiji says "On one Side new India is saying, "If we only adopt Western Ideas, Western language, Western Food, Western Dress, and Western manners, we shall be as strong and powerful as the Western nations; on the other, old India is saying, 'Fools! By imitation of other's idea, it never become one's own; nothing unless earned, is your own.'"



Swami Vivekananda was a dreamer. He dreamt big day and night. But, the only theme of his dream was India. This one word stirred extraordinary feelings in the deepest regions of his heart.

Swami Vivekananda knew everything about India like the palm of his hand. What was the source and basis of his knowledge? He was a keen student of history and had a thorough knowledge of India's glorious past. He was immensely practical in his outlook and that helped him understand the then condition of our country. After the passing away of his Guru and mentor, Sri Ramakrishna, he had gone on a pilgrimage of the entire country on foot. He met people from every segment of the society, from the richest to the poorest, from the most learned to the most ignorant, from high caste priests to those condemned as the low caste, from Maharajas to penniless beggars. The first-hand knowledge which he gained through his explorations gave him a complete understanding of our country including the causes for its

downfall. Being a visionary and endowed with an extraordinary intellect and even a more feeling heart, he could find out the cure for India's maladies and for restoring her to her former glory. He predicted that India's future glory would far surpass her past glory.

Every year since 1985, the Government of India observes 12th January, the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day. To quote from the Government of India's Communication, "it was felt that the philosophy of Swamiji and the ideals for which he lived and worked could be a great source of inspiration for the Indian Youth."

His message was simple yet powerful. Vivekananda conveyed his ideas directly to the people, especially to the youth. His message broke through the shackles of caste and creed and spoke of a language of universal brotherhood. What he said captures the great importance of his ideas and ideals among the youth in our country today. He personified the eternal energy of the youth and their restless quest for truth.

But how to make youth realise the relevance of Swami Vivekananda in these exciting and challenging times, when on the one hand people and nations are engaged in the noble task of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth by involving them in various nation-building activities, while on the other hand there are challenges of hunger, poverty, unemployment, corruption and terrorism.

Among the various ways which Swami Vivekananda suggested to rebuild the Indian society, Education was the primary means for empowering the people. According to him "education is the manifestation of perfection already in man and that what a man 'learns' is really what he 'discovers' by taking the cover off his own soul, which is a mine of infinite knowledge." Hence, he said that our process of education should be such that it helps the students to manifest their innate knowledge and power. He advocated a man-making character-building education. He said, "We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet." He said that education must make the students self-reliant and help them face the challenges of life. He was highly critical of the so-called educated who do not care for the poor and downtrodden. He said, "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them."

Swami Vivekananda had immense faith in the youth of this country and said that they would work out his ideas like lions. "That you may catch my fire, that you may be intensely sincere, that you may die the heroes' death on the field of battle — is the constant prayer of Vivekananda."



## Vocational Service ideas for YOUR Club

What Vocational Service projects are your Rotary Club doing? What are your plans?



Vocational Service focuses on:

- ✓ Adherence to and promotion of the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public.
- ✓ The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not just those that are pursued by Rotarians.
- ✓ The contribution of your vocational talents to solving the problems of society and meeting the needs of the community.

During January, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects.

Following are some suggested activities to undertake during Vocational Service Month:

- ☼ Devote the first meeting in January to examining the second Avenue of Service, including The Four-Way Test and The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions. After expanding members' awareness, solicit their input in planning projects for the remainder of the year. Invite an "Ethics" speaker to speak at one of your Club meetings.

- ☼ Introduce a "mini-classifications talk" series in which each member gives a five-minute talk on his or her vocation. Schedule one speaker for the

beginning of each meeting until everyone has made a presentation. The purpose of these talks is to promote vocational awareness among Rotarians and help them recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations.

- ☼ Present a vocational award to someone in the community who has exemplified outstanding professional achievement while maintaining very high ethical standards. Promote the presentation within the community, and consider making it an annual January event.

- ☼ Invite experts to give a presentation on the vocational needs of the community and develop a project in response to those needs. Possible projects could focus on developing character, providing career information to youth, mentoring small businesses, or organizing workshops that provide employees with new skills.

## The goal is accessibility and advocacy

Three players kick a soccer ball around the pitch listening for the rattle it makes while it rolls. As they run, they repeat the word "voy" (Spanish for "I'm going") to avoid collision. The players have varying levels of visual impairments, so they wear blackout masks over their eyes to put them on even footing. Behind the goal, a sighted person calls out directions. Suddenly, a player breaks free and kicks the ball toward a corner of the net, where it sails past a sighted goalie.

"The thing I like most about blind football is when I score because our goalies are all sighted," explains Gad Reuben Tumusiime, a member of Strong Spirits, a team in the Blind Football Uganda league. "Blind football is actually a stepping stone to our freedom as disabled people in the country because everyone is surprised when they see us play."

Jagwe Muzafaru, a member of the **Rotary Club of World Disability Advocacy**, created the football organization in 2021 to give players a sense of independence, raise their profile, and provide them new opportunities. The most recent example of this was a player who was offered an internship at a TV station through his role setting up media for a match.

Muzafaru, who has a visual impairment, fell in love with the sport during the 2016 Paralympics. After college, he volunteered with the Uganda Paralympic Committee before securing equipment from the Tokyo-





PEACE AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND  
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND  
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BASIC EDUCATION AND  
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE  
ENVIRONMENT

based **International Blind Football Foundation** to start his own league, which he administers and coaches. He learned about the Rotary club after a founding member, Ken Masson, discovered his story online and invited him to join. “Being in this club has helped me link to different people in different places of the world,” Muzafaru says. “It has been very motivating and makes me feel like I can do more, even outside of Uganda.”

Masson was a member of a small Rotary club in Massachusetts for about 30 years when his district formed a task force to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. Before he retired, Masson had worked for a social services agency where he found jobs for people with intellectual disabilities, and he wanted to make sure the district’s task force included discussion of helping those with disabilities.

## This year, become a regular Donor

**Mark Daniel Maloney, TRF Trustee Chair**

January marks a fresh start, a time to take stock of what we have achieved and plan for future success.

It is important to remember that we are in the middle of a major year for fund development. The Rotary Foundation has set an ambitious goal to grow Rotary’s Endowment to \$2.025 billion by this year, 2025. This will only be possible through the generous support of every person reading this message.

January is also Vocational Service Month, when we recognise how vital each member’s professional calling is to the work Rotary accomplishes.



During the Arch Klumph Society weekend in October, Gay and I were inspired by the diverse vocations represented among some of our most generous supporters. They included teachers, engineers, healthcare professionals and builders. Uniting them was a shared commitment to building a better world through The Rotary Foundation.

So many of us bring the insight of our professions into Rotary through Vocational Service. The Rotary Foundation’s Cadre of Technical Advisers exemplifies this. These Rotary members use specialised skills to guide project planning, grant applications and evaluations, ensuring the projects you fund and implement are sustainable and effective.

The work of The Rotary Foundation, from safe water initiatives to literacy programmes, depends on regular giving by our members. One convenient solution for many is Rotary Direct, which provides a simple way to make monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions. This empowers Rotary to plan effectively, respond promptly to urgent needs, and continue transforming lives.

The Paul Harris Society, which honours those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually, also strengthens the Foundation. Paul Harris Society

members, like Klumph Society members and Rotary Direct contributors, embody the spirit of sustained giving.

When setting your personal goals for this year, remember that by supporting The Rotary Foundation, you extend your impact worldwide. Every contribution — no matter the size — adds to the momentum driving meaningful change. So, as we enter 2025, let us reaffirm our commitment to The Rotary Foundation.

By combining our efforts and our giving with others in our great organisation, we can truly say that no matter what our vocation or where our location is, we are contributing to a global force for good.

Thank you for all you do.







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## REUNION OF PAST MEMBERS - Renews Rotary Bonds

By Rtn. Nitin Kapur, President (2024-25), Rotary Chandigarh Midtown / Excerpted by PDG Mukesh Arneja, RID: 3012

*One of the most rewarding experiences I've had as Club President was our recent Alumni Meet. It was all about reconnecting with the past to build an even brighter future for our club.*

*As I took on the role of President, I thought a lot about the incredible legacy of our club. Over the years, we've had many amazing members contribute their time, energy, and passion to our shared mission. But as life goes on, some of our members have had to step away. I've long thought about finding a way to bring them back into the fold. I wanted to remind them of the Rotary spirit that first brought us all together.*

*I decided to reach out to every former member, personally calling them and inviting them to our Alumni Meet. I knew these were the people who had once been the heart and soul of our club. I believed that, deep down, the Rotary spirit still burned within them. Those phone conversations were some of the most fulfilling I've ever had. It was clear that many former members missed the camaraderie, fellowship, and sense of purpose that Rotary offers.*

### **Former members recall Rotary's magic**

*When our Alumni Meet finally came around, **I was thrilled to see eight former members walk through the doors.** The room was filled with familiar faces, and it felt like no time had passed at all. This gathering gave the alumni a chance to connect again – not just with the club, but with each other. As they shared their stories, it was clear that the essence of Rotary had never left them.*

*One member talked about the fellowship they longed for and the friendships Rotary nurtured. Despite the demands of a busy life, they were eager to revive those relationships. Another member, who had taken a break due to work commitments abroad, expressed how much they missed being part of our projects. Their passion was palpable.*

*By the end of the evening, **I was overjoyed to welcome six alumni back into our Rotary family.** Seeing them re-join was a powerful affirmation of the enduring impact Rotary has on all of us. The excitement in the eyes of our returning members suggested that together, we would achieve even greater things.*

*But that's not all: **Our Rotary family grew from 84 to 90 members** in just one day! It was a milestone that filled me with pride and hope for the future. I could see the excitement in the eyes of our returning members. I know that we're going to achieve even greater things together.*

*District Governor Nominee, Dr. Rita Kalra shared inspiring updates on our current projects and initiatives. Her words resonated deeply with everyone in the room, reminding us that being a Rotarian is more than just a title – it's a lifelong commitment to service and community.*

### **Returning members bring renewed energy**

*This Alumni Meet was about more than just reconnecting with the past; it was about building on our legacy and looking forward to the future. **It reaffirmed the power of Rotary** – its ability to bring people together, inspire us to make a difference, and always feel like home.*

*As we move forward, we carry with us the renewed energy and expanded perspectives our returning members bring. Their homecoming strengthens our club and enriches our collective ability to serve our community and fulfil the Rotary mission. This reunion stands as a beautiful reminder of the lasting connections nurtured through Rotary and the timeless appeal of our organization's core values. It reinforces **the idea that once you're a Rotarian**, you're always a Rotarian – a sentiment transcending time and distance.*





## Let's renew our support to TRF

**Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee**


As we enter 2025, it is time to reflect on our past achievements and gear up for the future. With a tremendous past which has made The Rotary Foundation as a force for doing good in the world it is now time to focus and strengthen it to play an increasingly important role in the future. Whether it is polio eradication (and we will get there), Programs of Scale, peace and goodwill, or building the \$2.025 billion Endowment Fund by 2025, truly TRF is touching lives and transforming communities and countries, thanks to the commitment, passion and support of Rotarians like you dear reader.



Thank you for your sterling support to TRF. When we give to the Foundation, we can make a larger impact together as a Rotary family than we could do alone. Your contributions become the grants that fund the projects, which transform people's lives and create lasting change. So, I request you to:

### **Support the Annual Fund:**

- Increase the number of donors by 20 per cent; 28 per cent of Rotarian donors contributed to the Annual Fund in 2023-24. Fifty per cent from the previous year were repeat donors, and 50 per cent of them did not contribute. Encourage repeat contributions.
- Encourage and ensure 100 per cent club contribution to TRF. In 2021-22 we had three districts with 100 per cent clubs contributing to TRF, in 2022-23 there were eight districts and in 2023-24, 10 districts. In 2024-25 already 12 districts have achieved 100 per cent club contribution. That is very good. Congratulations to these districts.
- Don't forget the small donors. Significant achievements are made by small steps in the right direction. Recognise these donors at club events, club installations and club visits.
- Lead by example by making your contribution to the Annual Fund.
- Encourage more Rotarians to join the Paul Harris Society.

 **Support the Endowment Fund:** The EF ensures a bright tomorrow for our Rotary Foundation. The goal is \$2.025 billion by 2025. When we reach the goal, it will enable us to have about \$50 million in spendable earnings every year. Imagine how much good we can do. So please contribute to the Endowment Fund. By increasing our endowment, we can ensure that Rotary can do good in the world well beyond our lifetime.

Arch Klumph once remarked, "We should be ambitious for Rotary." Let us channel our ambition by working through and supporting the Foundation. Remember 'there is no exercise better for the heart than reaching out and lifting others up.' That is the magic of The Rotary Foundation.



### *Minutes of the 2295th RWM held on January 7th, 2025 at Zoom House, Golpark*

1. President Biswajit Saha called the RWM to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. President Biswajit raised the issue of Annual Picnic to be held on January 6th, 2025. Around 35 members are expected to attend. Estimated cost was worked out to be Rs. 35,500 including meal & beverages. It was decided that Rs. 1000 will be contribution from each member and other expenses will be borne by the Club.
3. President Biswajit informed the members about the arrival of the Rotary Mobile Cancer Detection Bus to Kolkata. It was inaugurated on January 5th, 2025 at the District Conference and handed over to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cancer Hospital in presence of the Hon'ble DG and RID and other distinguished dignitaries. Rotary Garden Reach was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of participation in the GG no: 24599824.
4. Rtn. Subhajit was asked to share his experience about the District Conference. Being a new member, he had few productive inputs to which the club responded positively.
5. PE Bandaru Mohan announced his Board for the Rotary Year 2025-26.
6. Abnormal hike in the usage charges of the BNROC for conducting Regular Weekly Meetings. President requested Club Secretary, PE Mohan to update the status on the meeting held with President, BNROC at his office on January 2nd, 2025. Members deliberated on this issue for a long time at the meeting and decided that Rotary Garden Reach will have their weekly meetings at BNROC only and if needed.
7. Club Secretary conducted the club business.
8. On confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.

