



**“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...”**

RID 3291, Zone-16  
**Rotary**  
Garden Reach



**2348th RWM**

**PEOPLE OF ACTION • SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**Rotary**  
INDIA



**Water,  
Sanitation  
& Hygiene**

**PROTECTING STREET CHILDREN**





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## Birthday Greetings

Mar 2nd : Abhijan, Son of PP Prosenjit Barua

Mar 3rd : Spouse Mousumi, Wife of Rtn. Anupam Pal

Mar 4th : Dr. Aayush, Son of PE Dr. BN Jha

Mar 8th : Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray

## Anniversary Greetings

Mar 6th : Spouse Gopa & Rtn. Bandaru Mohan



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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## Water, Sanitation & Hygiene: A Rotary Call to Protect the Future

Water is life. Yet for millions of children living on the streets across India and the world, clean water, sanitation, and basic hygiene remain distant luxuries. While we debate policies in boardrooms and conferences, countless children wake up every day without access to safe drinking water, toilets, or even soap to wash their hands. For them, survival itself is a daily challenge.

According to global health studies, unsafe water and poor sanitation are among the leading causes of disease and mortality among children. Illnesses such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, and skin infections thrive in environments where sanitation is poor. For street children—who already face malnutrition, exposure, and neglect—the lack of hygiene facilities becomes a multiplier of vulnerability.

This is where the mission of Rotary becomes deeply relevant.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** is one of the seven areas of focus of Rotary International. Rotarians across the world have built wells, installed water purification systems, constructed toilets, and educated communities on hygiene practices; yet the challenge of reaching children living on streets remains particularly urgent.

These children often fall outside traditional systems of schooling, healthcare, and welfare. Awareness programs conducted in schools rarely reach them. They grow up learning survival, not sanitation.

Rotarians can bridge this gap through direct community engagement.

Clubs can partner with NGOs and local municipal bodies to organise **mobile hygiene** camps in areas where street children gather—railway stations, marketplaces, construction sites, and under urban flyovers. These camps can provide basic health check-ups, distribute hygiene kits containing soap, toothbrushes, sanitary products, and educate children through simple demonstrations.

Education is most powerful when it is engaging. Street theatre, cartoons, storytelling sessions, and interactive games can make lessons about hand-washing, safe water, and cleanliness memorable. Rotarians can also involve Interactors and Rotaractors, whose youthful energy and creativity help build trust with children.

Another impactful initiative is the installation of **community hand-washing stations and portable sanitation units** in high-density informal settlements. Even small infrastructure can dramatically improve public health outcomes.

However, for a Rotarian, **'Service'** is not measured only in large projects or Global Grants; it is measured in small acts that restore dignity and health to those who need it most.

If Rotary can reach the child who sleeps on the pavement tonight and ensure that tomorrow they drink clean water, use safe sanitation, and understand hygiene, we have done more than serve—we have protected a future.

The Rotary motto "Service Above Self" calls upon members not just to serve, but to uplift humanity. If every Rotary club adopts even one urban pocket of vulnerable children and ensures access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education, the ripple effect could change thousands of lives.

Because when a child learns to wash their hands, drink safe water, and live in a cleaner environment, we are not merely preventing disease—we are protecting the future.

And the future, like water, must flow freely to every child.



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## Presidential Message

*Francesco Arezzo, President 2025-26*

Water connects us all. From a river in a remote forest to a stream running past a city neighbourhood, freshwater ecosystems sustain humanity. Yet these waters are increasingly under strain. Pollution, overuse, and climate pressures remind us that protecting freshwater is a global challenge.

Rotary has always believed change begins within communities. Now we are working to see how far the impact of community action can travel. When local service is connected, measured, and shared, it becomes a force that extends beyond geography and borders.



A water project led by the Rotary Panamá Nordeste exemplifies this idea. The project served Indigenous communities in Panama's Darién province, a region accessible only by canoe and small boat. With no roads, limited electricity, and reliance on untreated river water, families faced serious health risks.

To reach these communities, Rotarians had to rethink how supplies and services could be delivered. Working with a

partner club in the United States and a specialized water organization, they introduced solar-powered water treatment systems for an area without access to an electrical grid. Local leaders were trained to operate and maintain the system, ensuring that clean water would continue flowing long after installation crews departed.

The results were immediate. Children who once missed school due to illness returned to classrooms. No longer needing to haul water from rivers, adults gained time and strength to work and support their families. What began as a water project became a foundation for healthier, more resilient communities.

This is how we extend our reach: combine local leadership with global partnerships, technical expertise, and long-term thinking.

That same spirit is at the heart of Rotary's partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme through the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. Around the world, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are restoring waterways, protecting wetlands, and safeguarding vital freshwater sources. By collecting data to map and measure this work, we can better understand its impact and show how local service contributes to worldwide solutions.

Data is not an end. It is a tool that helps us learn and improve so that Rotary's service delivers real, measurable change. Each project entered and each waterway restored adds to a shared story of stewardship and responsibility. You can learn more and get involved at [communityactionforfreshwater.org](http://communityactionforfreshwater.org).

As we observe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month, I encourage you to reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them.

When we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, we truly Unite for Good.



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**Rotary Garden Reach jointly with Rotary Budge Budge organised a Medical Camp at Dalhousie Athletic Club, Maidan Area for ‘Malis and Support staffs’ of all the sporting clubs in Maidan area on March 8th, 2026. Total 106 males & 1 female from City Club underwent medical examination for BP, Blood Sugar, ECG and cardiology check-up, Eye and Dental check-up, General Hygiene check-up. Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri, PE Dr. BN Jha had attended from Rotary Garden Reach and our honourable guest, Dr. Vidyarthi. Technicians from Ekbalpore Nursing Home, courtesy Rtn. Gautam Purkayastha and medical team from Rotary Budge Budge attended this camp. Rotarians from Rotary Garden Reach and Rotary Budge Budge were present. Food packets were served to all persons underwent medical examinations.**

### Make & Keep Commitments

MMuruganandam, RIDirector, 2025–27

“Make a commitment and keep that commitment” is one of my favourite sayings — a principle I practise and preach everywhere I go.

When you make a commitment, your purpose is defined. When you keep that commitment, your character is revealed.

The higher your commitment, the deeper your sense of fulfilment. In Japanese philosophy, it is called Ikigai — the reason for being. The stronger our commitment to meaningful service, the more complete our **Ikigai** becomes.

As a Rotary member, you are already committed to Service Above Self.

Let us begin with simple, tangible commitments. Make a commitment to attend your club meetings regularly. Show up. Participate. Engage.

Rotary thrives not merely on ideas, but on presence.

Commit to bringing in new members — individuals who will carry forward the torch of service. Every new member brings fresh energy, fresh networks and fresh possibilities.



BE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD



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If you are in a leadership role — at the club or district level — raise the bar consistently. As we march towards the third quarter of this Rotary year, it is time to stand by and adhere to whatever you had committed to, in your capacity as a Club President, District Governor, or in any other designation, in the beginning of your tenure, and honour it within the stipulated time.

Strive for positive membership growth. Strengthen your support for The Rotary Foundation. Enhance your public image so that communities clearly see Rotary as a force of credibility and impact. When people see results, it speaks volumes about your leadership.

Why do I emphasise making and keeping commitments so strongly? Because commitment shapes you. It refines your communication, sharpens your decision-making, and strengthens your delegation skills. It teaches teamwork, builds resilience and transforms intention into identity.

As the philosopher Ayn Rand said, "The sight of an achievement is the greatest gift a human being could offer others." Achievement is not accidental. It is the outcome of promises honoured.

Making a commitment to a noble cause is an expression of humanity. Keeping that commitment, despite challenges, distractions and obstacles — that is an expression of something higher. It is the discipline that elevates service into leadership and leadership into legacy.

Rotary does not grow merely because of positions held. It grows because of promises kept.

Let us therefore commit — consciously and consistently. And above all, let us keep every commitment we make — to Rotary, to our communities, and to ourselves.

Because when we do this, we do not just build projects. We build trust. We build credibility. We build a community committed to Unite for Good.

### Rediscovered 'Charter' inspires next 100 years of Service

Stuart Locke, President, Rotary Middletown, USA

Something truly remarkable occurred for our club in November. Our original charter, lost for more than 100 years, was discovered by a real estate agent as they were clearing out an old home in Middletown to sell it. The charter was buried in a pile of garbage in the basement and the agent had the smarts to recognize that the framed document might be worth saving.

Our club was chartered on 12 May 1925. According to newspaper accounts from the time, the inaugural dinner was attended by more than 300 Rotarians and guests from throughout southwest Ohio. Many prominent people in Middletown were involved in the founding of our club.

At our 16 December meeting, we had the excitement of donating our rediscovered charter document to the



Middletown Historical Society, where it will go on display. It's in remarkably good shape, with no water damage or such.

I have been a member of our club for 36 years and seen plenty of highs and lows. Like most service clubs, we have



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The struggle to retain membership continues and fundraising are always a focus. But our members are committed and have a true heart of service.

### Supporting education

Many years ago, we established our own 501(c)(3) foundation to provide scholarships to local educational institutions, primarily Miami University Middletown. Our most significant fundraiser involved selling fruit (grapefruit and oranges) in early December to the Middletown community. For many years, we raised over \$20,000.

While our foundation closed five years ago, we were able to give \$750,000 to Miami University in an endowment fund for scholarships. Another \$230,000 went to Cincinnati State for the same purpose. Our endowment will enable students to receive a substantial amount of funding for their college education. We were awarded a special award in 2024 from Miami University for our donation to their foundation.

Ten years ago, we chartered an Interact Club at Monroe High School that continues to expand and now has over 30 members. They hold fundraisers and participate in District 6670 Rotary projects and activities. We are now trying to re-establish a Rotaract club at Miami University Middletown, and potentially a new Interact club at Middletown High School.

### Toward the next century of service

Our 50-some members are busy throughout the year with many activities and fundraisers, including concerts at the Sorg Opera House in Middletown, annual participation in Earth Day, and multiple service projects with the Middletown Salvation Army. We also build beds for the Butler County Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization and continue to award college-scholarships to needy students every year.

We celebrated our centennial earlier this year. Receiving our rediscovered charter document was an exciting reminder of our roots and commitment to serve. Our members are excited for our next century of Service Above Self.



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### Rotary International Zones

Every Rotary year, the Rotary International Board of Directors makes minor changes to the list of zones based on decisions to merge or create new Districts or grant District requests to change zones. In addition, the Board conducts a comprehensive review at least every eight years to comply with RI Bylaws that districts and clubs be divided into 34 zones of approximately equal number of Rotarians.

*In 2025, three Board-approved regional workgroups developed rezoning proposals for Asia, Europe/Africa, and the Americas, which were then consolidated into a single, worldwide plan that was approved by the Board at their January 2026 meeting.*

*Rezoning is gradual, and the changes will take effect over time. The first official use of the new zones occurs between March and July of 2026, when the new zone structure will be used to select committee members for the Nominating Committee for RI President meeting in August 2026.*

*During the 2026-27 year, the new zone structure is also used by districts to select members of the Nominating Committee for Directors that would serve in 2029-31 for their committee meeting in September 2027.*

*More information regarding sectioning, pairing, and director election rotation will be made available after the April Board meeting. Maps will also be available later in 2026.*



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## The Father behind Sanju Samson's rise

When India lifted the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 trophy after a dominant victory against the New Zealand national cricket team, one name stood out throughout the tournament — Sanju Samson.

Under the bright lights of Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, Samson played a defining knock of 89 runs off 46 balls, the highest individual score ever in a T20 World Cup final. His innings powered India national cricket team to a massive 255/5, eventually leading to a 96-run victory over New Zealand and securing India's third T20 World Cup title.



Behind every champion athlete is often a family that shoulders sacrifices, risks, and unwavering belief. For Indian cricketer Sanju Samson that pillar of strength was his father, Samson Viswanath — a former Delhi Police constable and footballer whose bold decisions helped shape his son's journey to the international stage.

### The father behind the cricketer

Born on 11 November 1994 in Pulluvila, a coastal village near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Samson spent much of his early childhood in a police residential colony in North Delhi. His father, Viswanath, served in the Delhi Police and had earlier represented Delhi in the Santosh Trophy football tournament. Discipline and sporting values were therefore part of the household from the very beginning.

Viswanath played a crucial role in nurturing his son's cricketing ambitions. Even during his busy work schedule, he would arrange practice sessions for Sanju and his brother with the Delhi Police cricket team, ensuring they faced stronger and older players who would sharpen their skills early on.

Coaches who saw young Samson in those days recall how his father never missed a match and constantly motivated him to improve.

However, the path to professional cricket was not straightforward. When Samson struggled to secure opportunities in Delhi's competitive junior cricket circuit, his father took a bold step — moving the family to Kerala so the boys could pursue cricket there.

Soon after, Viswanath even opted for voluntary retirement from the police force to devote more time to his sons' training. The move brought financial and personal challenges, but the family remained committed to Sanju's dream. Over the years, Samson has repeatedly credited his father for instilling resilience and confidence in him. One lesson that stayed with him, he once shared, was his father's advice to “carry yourself **like a leader.**” That mind-set helped him handle pressure during high-stakes matches and develop the composure that now defines his batting.

That composure was on full display during the 2026 T20 World Cup. Samson emerged as one of India's standout performers, scoring crucial runs throughout the tournament. In the high-pressure final against New Zealand, he delivered an impressive knock of 89 runs, anchoring the innings and helping India stay competitive in the title clash. Across the tournament, he consistently delivered impactful performances, including a memorable 97-run innings against the West Indies, demonstrating his ability to perform on the biggest stage.

Today, Samson's journey from a police colony in Delhi to representing India at the highest level stands as a testament to perseverance — not just his own, but also his family's. His father's sacrifices, whether organising early practice sessions or walking away from a stable career, laid the foundation for a cricketing career that continues to inspire aspiring athletes across the country.

**In many ways, Sanju Samson's success is not just the story of a talented cricketer — it is also the story of a father who believed in his son's dream long before the world noticed.**



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## Minutes of the 2347th RWM held on February 25th, 2026 at Dalhousie Athletic Club, Maidan

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. Due to the absence of Secretary PN Shubhayan, PP Sanjay was requested to officiate.
3. At the request of the President, Rtn. Santosh briefed the members about the Medical Camp conducted on February 22nd, 2026 at Matua Mission, informing the house about the activities and participation during the camp.
4. The President informed the members that the Medical Camp for the Malis at Maidan, scheduled for March 1st, 2026 had been postponed to 8th March 2026 due to shortage of manpower and supporting staff at the venue.
5. President Bandaru announced that PE Dr. BN Jha, had been conferred with a prestigious award by the American Cardiologist Association. The President and members congratulated PE Dr. BN Jha for this notable achievement and wished him continued success.
6. Acting Club Secretary PP Sanjay conducted the club business.
7. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.

The Rotary Foundation

**ATTENTION!**  
Trustee Dr. Bharat and RRFCs from Zones 4, 5, 6 & 7 present to you,

**ANNUAL FUND  
50:50 MILESTONE  
award**

for Annual Fund contributions made till 31-Mar-2026

**Eligibility Criteria for the Award:**

For Clubs	For Districts
At least 50% members contributing a minimum of \$50 each towards Annual Fund by 31 March 2026.	At least 50% clubs contributing a minimum of \$500 each towards Annual Fund by 31 March 2026

*In case of any queries, please reach out to your Zone RRFC or RISAO!*