



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

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



**2349th RWM**



# The Invisible Thread

— Connecting Water, Sanitation & Hygiene —

**Rotary**



Improving  
Clean Water Access



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

## The Invisible Thread: Connecting Water, Sanitation & Hygiene – A Perspective on Building Healthier Communities

PP Tanu Roy

In every thriving community, there exists an unseen yet powerful connection—one that determines health, dignity, and opportunity. This connection lies between **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**. Often addressed individually, their true strength emerges only when they function together as an integrated system.

To understand this better, imagine water as a lifeline—pure, essential, and life-giving. Access to safe drinking water is often the first milestone in community development. It quenches thirst, supports livelihoods, and sustains daily life. However, water alone cannot guarantee health.

Without proper sanitation, even the cleanest water sources are at risk of contamination. Poor waste disposal, open defecation, and inadequate drainage systems allow harmful pathogens to infiltrate water supplies. The result is a silent cycle of disease—particularly affecting children and vulnerable populations. Sanitation, therefore, acts as a protective barrier, preserving the purity of water and the safety of the environment.

Yet, even with water and sanitation in place, one critical element remains—hygiene. Simple practices such as hand-washing with soap, safe food handling, and personal cleanliness play a decisive role in breaking the chain of infection. Hygiene transforms infrastructure into impact. It is the behavioural bridge that ensures long-term health outcomes.

Together, these three elements form an **“invisible thread”**—interdependent and inseparable. If one is weak or missing, the entire system falters. Clean water without sanitation leads to contamination. Sanitation without hygiene fails to prevent disease. Hygiene without access to water becomes impractical.

For members of Rotary International, this understanding brings both responsibility and opportunity. Rotary has long championed WASH initiatives across the globe, but the need of the hour is **integration over isolation**.

Providing a bore-well is impactful—but ensuring safe waste management around it makes it sustainable. Constructing toilets is essential—but driving behavioural change ensures their usage. Conducting awareness programs, especially among children and underserved communities, creates lasting transformation.

Rotarians, as community leaders, are uniquely positioned to implement holistic solutions. By combining infrastructure with education and advocacy, they can address not just symptoms, but root causes. Special focus on street children and marginalized groups can further amplify this impact, bringing dignity and health to those who need it most.

Ultimately, WASH is not just about facilities—it is about futures. A child with access to clean water, proper sanitation, and good hygiene is more likely to stay healthy, attend school regularly, and realize their full potential.

As we continue our journey of service, let us remember:

**Water gives life. Sanitation protects it. Hygiene sustains it.**

When woven together, they form the invisible thread that binds communities to a healthier, brighter future—and it is through Rotary’s commitment that this thread can reach every corner of society.



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

**BE BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**



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



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

## It starts with Water

Holger Knaack, TRF Trustee Chair

Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$230 million to support thousands of water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives. Behind these numbers is Rotary’s unique approach.



Rather than offering one-time fixes, we train communities to manage systems for generations, moving beyond charity to lasting change. Erica Gwynn, manager of Rotary’s water, sanitation and hygiene area of focus, shares her perspective:

*I have worked with hundreds of members, providing technical support to improve the sustainability and impact of their projects.*

*During site visits, I am struck not only by their dedication but by how far-reaching their impact truly is — oftentimes in ways no one anticipated.*

*In northern Uganda for RI work, I met a Rotary member who had been a child soldier in the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army and escaped. During the conflict, he said, schools and healthcare facilities became places of refuge. Years later, after joining Rotary, he wanted to give back. He volunteered to improve water and sanitation in those same schools and facilities, which were once again centres of refuge — this time for the health, safety, and vitality of the entire community.*

*In Maharashtra, India, I witnessed how our Programs of Scale grant initiative, Partners for Water Access and Better Harvests in India, is bringing irrigation to a traditional farming region that gave women a voice. Though the women couldn’t own land, the water project enabled them to engage in silviculture, or care for forests, and other income-generating activities. They became knowledgeable about farming techniques, increasing their economic agency and dignity.*

*It’s no coincidence that water challenges are most acute in areas affected by conflict. In Haiti, I have seen how these projects are central to rebuilding resilience in communities recovering from instability and violence. I see the same theme playing out everywhere: These projects deliver so much more than clean water. They boost Rotary’s other areas of focus and are a source of safety, pride and hope.*

Indeed, water projects improve health, foster economic opportunity, and amplify education through increased school attendance, especially for girls who no longer spend hours fetching water. And they fight poverty.

By giving to our Foundation and volunteering in water projects, you are part of this success. Everything we do opens an opportunity for someone, somewhere.



**"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD..."**

Rotary Garden Reach hosted "Rainbow RYLA" 2025-26, held from March 13th-15th, 2026, at Dhyan Ashram, DH Road, Bishnupur; the lead host being Rotary Budge Budge.

44 participants from 4 Schools: including 31 of Sanghamitra Vidyalaya (BNR South Colony), 13 others from The BSS School, Children's Welfare Association School, and Maheshwari Girls' School attended.

District dignitaries – DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, DGE Tapas Bhattacharya, DGN Purnendu Roychowdhury, PDG Rajani Mukerji, District RYLA Chair Timir Roy, DICC Arpita Chatterjee, were present. On behalf of Rotary Garden Reach PP Mousumi along with Debasis Bhattacharyya coordinated the students' participation. Proudly enough, the Sanghamitra Vidyalaya students came out with flying colours!



-Report by PP Mousumi Bhattacharyya

### Service transcends barriers

The spirit of service transcends caste, religion, discrimination, time and boundaries as it is a noble and sacred act, said RI Director M Muruganandam, speaking at the Charter Presentation of a new club — Rotary Salem Divine Hearts — exclusively made up of disabled members.

He noted that by joining Rotary, the Charter Members *"have demonstrated to the world that we too can render impactful service to society."* Muruganandam praised the efforts of AG K Vasumathi, and Kamaraj Pillai, President of the sponsoring club, Rotary Salem Gymkhana, its Secretary Suresh Babu and members, for coming together to form a first-of-its-kind club in RI District 2982.

In his address, DG P Sivasundaram said the Charter Installation event of the club reflected the theme 'Ability beyond Disability' and the new club is a towering example of Rotary's DEI principles. P Manikandan was installed as Charter President, Zakir Hussan as Secretary and C Vijayakumar as Treasurer. The new club has 16



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT



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

charter members.

The event was attended by DGND S Suresh Kumar, PDGs R Govindarajan, Dharmesh Patel, DRFC M Srinivasan, District Membership Chair Rajesh, Service Projects Chair Gowri Shankar, and Genesis Foundation, Chairman Karlin Ebe, a Rotarian.

## **From silence to smiles: Rotary's gift of hearing to Parwati**

Nandita Sisodia

Recently, I met Parwati, a domestic worker in her 40s. People around her often thought she wasn't paying attention or didn't understand instructions. When I spoke to her, I discovered the truth — Parwati was hard of hearing. For years, she had silently struggled, misunderstood by neighbours, employers, and even family.



I immediately took her to an ENT specialist, who recommended a hearing aid. But the device was expensive and completely beyond her means. Given her family situation, there was no way she could afford it. I discussed the matter with my husband, Pradeep Sisodia, vice president of the Rotary Chandigarh Midtown, Chandigarh, India, and we decided to reach out to our Rotary family. The response was overwhelming — members came forward generously, and within no time, the funds were arranged. The very next day, Parwati underwent testing and was fitted with the hearing aid.

### **Transformation**

The moment she heard clearly, her face lit up with an incredible smile. Tears filled her eyes as she whispered to me:

**“Didi, you have changed everything in my life.”**

Today, Parwati works with renewed confidence. Her family and employers are delighted by the transformation. She can communicate clearly, follow instructions, and engage with the world with joy. This experience reminded me that when compassion is combined with collective effort, even the impossible becomes possible. I am grateful to my Rotary family for making this miracle happen and proud that together; we could bring back not just hearing, but hope, confidence, and joy to someone's life.

## **Fascinating Stories of India's Top 5 Mangoes**

*From royal roots to colonial tales—find out how India's favourite mangoes got their unique names.*

Ever picked up a mango and wondered, “Hey, why is it called that?” Well, you're in for a treat because these names have some interesting stories behind them!

One of the most anticipated things about summer in India is the sweet, juicy, and luscious mangoes. But have you ever stopped to think about how these mango varieties got their names? Each one has a unique history, and today, we're diving into some of the most intriguing ones.

While everyone has their favourites — be it **Dasheri, Badami, Chaunsa, Himsagar**, or even the more local varieties — mangoes are cherished across India. But if mangoes were influencers, the Alphonso mango would undoubtedly

PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION

DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT

WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE

MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH

BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY

COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT



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

have the most followers.

### **Meet the Alphonso – named after a Portuguese General!**

Let's start with the king of mangoes. The Alphonso is actually named after Afonso de Albuquerque, a Portuguese general who came to India in the 15th century. Known for establishing Portuguese colonies across Asia, he also earned the title 'Conqueror of Goa'.

While the Portuguese were primarily after spices, they also played a key role in cultivating mangoes in Goa! Today, the finest Alphonsoes come from Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, making them one of the most sought-after mango varieties.

### **The Langda: a farmer's legacy**

Moving east to Bihar, we find the Langda aam, which has a rather unusual name. Legend has it that this variety got its name from a Varanasi farmer who had a limp (langda means limping in Hindi). Despite his disability, he tended to his orchard with great care, producing exceptionally delicious mangoes.

Over time, people began calling the mangoes from his trees 'Langda Aam' in recognition of his dedication. Today, this variety remains a favourite across North India.

### **Dasheri: Born in a royal garden**

Next up is the Dasheri, a mango with a rather regal history. This variety gets its name from Dasheri village near Lucknow, where it was first grown in the royal garden of the Nawab of Lucknow.

Today, these long, yellow mangoes are loved across North India.

### **Chausa: A sweet victory**

The Chausa mango got its name after a battle! When Sher Shah Suri emerged victorious at the Battle of Chausa, he was so overjoyed that he named this super-sweet mango after it. Now, that's one unique way to celebrate a win!

### **Badami – as the name suggests**

Sometimes, the simplest explanations are the best ones. The Badami mango from Karnataka got its name because it resembles an almond ('badam' in many Indian languages).

And just like almonds, this mango is rich, sweet, and absolutely delightful!

Isn't it amazing how each mango has its own story? These aren't just random names — they are little pieces of India's history that we can actually taste. So, the next time you enjoy your favourite mango, it will make the experience even sweeter.

Because in India, mangoes aren't just fruits — they are a whole summer celebration!



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

**BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**



"YOU ARE THE  
**LIGHT**  
OF THE WORLD..."

## Minutes of the 2348th RWM held on March 10th, 2026 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden

### Reach

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. It was informed by PE Dr. BN Jha that a District Leadership Symposium will be held on March 15th, 2026 at IIMC, Joka.
4. Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri briefed the house that the medical camp was successfully conducted with the support of Ekbalpur Nursing Home staffs, Members of Rotary Budge Budge, GRSM Rotary Eye Hospital & Rotary Annelei Dental Clinic. A total of 108 patients attended (107 male and 1 female).
5. A proposal for a joint meeting with Rotary Budge Budge was received. The President informed that a similar proposal has also been received from Rotary Calcutta.
6. The installation of a water filter at RCC Joypur, is scheduled for March 15th, 2026. President Rtn. Mohan will coordinate the project. PP Abhijit Koley and PP Tapan Kumar Roy will attend the inauguration of Prandhara II at Joypur Panchanan Roy College.
7. Proposal to co-host a programme at ICCR was discussed and will be approved subject to availability of funds.
8. A proposal by PP Mousumi to organise a self-defense workshop for Sanghamitra School girls was discussed and supported in principle.
9. Rtn. Amar Saha briefed the house on Medical camp conducted & water filter installation. Both initiatives were highly appreciated by the Matua Mission, Kalikapur.
10. Rainbow RYLA Camp (March 13th-14th, 2026) at Dhyana Ashram, Joka. Our Club is a host club and contribution approved: 10,000 and 34 students will participate.
11. PE Dr. BN Jha led an engaging discussion on "Good Manager vs Bad Manager", with active participation from members.
12. Acting Club Secretary PP Sanjay conducted the club business.
13. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.

Rotary  
DISTRICT 3291



**DTLS 2026**

CREATE  
LASTING  
IMPACT

District Team Learning Seminar  
Host

Rotary Club of Calcutta North East

5th April  
Sunday

- Registration  
9:00 am - 10:00 am
- Inaugural Session  
10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Tea/Coffee Break  
11:00 am - 11:15 am
- Breakaway Session  
11:15 am - 11:15 pm
- Closing Session  
1:15 pm - 1:45 pm
- Lunch & fellowship  
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Venue  
THE SPRING CLUB  
KOLKATA

Tapas Bhattacharya  
District Governor  
2026-27

PDG Debasish Mitra  
District Learning Facilitator  
2026-27

Angana Thakur  
Host President  
2025-26

Registration  
Fee  
₹ 1500/-