



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

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



2347th RWM

**121 YEARS of SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP**



Is it the  
**TRUTH?**

Is it **FAIR**  
to all concerned?

Will it build  
**GOODWILL &  
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

Will it be  
**BENEFICIAL** to all  
concerned?





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## Birthday Greetings

Feb 26th : Debanjali, Daughter of Rtn. Anupam Pal

### In Steadfast Fellowship: Rotary at 121

On 23rd February, Rotarians across the globe pause to celebrate a remarkable milestone — the 121st Anniversary of Rotary International. What began in 1905 as a simple idea — professionals gathering in friendship and integrity — has grown into one of the world's most respected humanitarian movements.

It all started in Chicago, when **Paul Harris, along with three friends — Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey** — met on February 23rd with a bold but simple dream: to create a circle of trust in a rapidly industrialising world. They rotated their meeting places, and from that small habit came the name **"Rotary."** Imagine that — one rotating dinner table eventually rotating the wheel of global service!

**Fun insight:** *The first Rotary emblem was literally a wagon wheel. It symbolised movement — not comfort, not prestige — but motion. The founders believed that progress required participation. Service was never meant to be passive.*

Their determination was tested early. Membership was small. Resources were limited. The idea was unfamiliar. Yet their spirit did not waver. They built fellowship before fundraising, relationships before recognition, and purpose before publicity. That formula still holds power today.

As we mark 121 years, Rotary stands at another reflective moment. Leadership in many places feels challenged. Energy fluctuates. Participation sometimes dips. Yet history offers wisdom. The founders did not build Rotary in comfort — they built it in conviction. They were not chasing applause; they were creating impact. ***When doubt arises, we must ask: Are we preserving a structure, or reigniting a spirit?***

The founders teach us **three enduring lessons:**

**First,** start small but think big. Four friends became 1.4 million Rotarians because they stayed consistent.

**Second,** adapt without losing values. Rotary evolved from weekly business networking to global humanitarian impact, yet the Four-Way Test still anchors its ethics.

**Third,** lead with service, not status. Authority fades; service inspires.

Rotary has survived world wars, economic depressions, and social upheavals because its foundation rests on timeless values — fellowship, integrity, diversity, and service above self. The antidote to uncertainty is not complaint, but commitment. Not criticism, but courage.

The 121st anniversary is not merely a celebration of age — it is a reminder of attitude. The Rotary wheel keeps turning only when Rotarians choose to turn it. If they could build Rotary without social media, digital tools, or global recognition—surely we can rebuild momentum with their same conviction.

The question before today's leadership is simple: **Will we manage Rotary, or will we move Rotary?** History suggests the answer lies in spirit — the same unwavering spirit that began on a cold February evening in 1905.



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



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ENVIRONMENT

## How to start a leadership development program

- 🌟 **Go virtual.** An online program via videoconferencing will allow you to cast a wider net for participants and facilitators while enabling flexibility in scheduling.
- 🌟 **Start small.** A relatively small cohort of six to 10 participants should be manageable yet large enough for good discussions, teamwork, and innovative outcomes.
- 🌟 **Invite expert facilitators.** Root the curriculum in Rotary themes and values and invite expert “faculty” from around the world.
- 🌟 **Focus on mentorship.** Anchor the program around facilitator-led sessions but put mentorship at the heart of the program. Mentoring creates trust, connection, and friendship.
- 🌟 **Challenge participants.** Group them in teams and ask them to propose an actionable Rotary project.
- 🌟 **Stay organized.** Use digital tools like Google Drive and WhatsApp for communication and collaboration spaces.
- 🌟 **Celebrate graduates.** Offer recognition with real enthusiasm and provide digital certificates they can attach to their LinkedIn pages.

~ Tips from the Rotary E-Club of Southern Scotland

## New Taipei City club creates happiness in name and spirit

When Roger Chin-Wei Tung was tasked in 2014 with starting a new Rotary club to attract younger members, he chose an aspirational goal for the club — and the name to go with it. “Three new clubs were being chartered in our District,” says Tung, who was a member of the Rotary Club of Lin Kou at the time. **“One chose the name ‘Elite’ and another ‘Excellent.’ I chose ‘Happiness.’ I wanted our club to create happiness, a place to form lifelong friendships and build a spiritual connection through community service.”**

Tung had seen the impact that Rotary membership could have on well-being after he began attending meetings of the Lin Kou club in New Taipei City in 2009. He initially went out of a sense of obligation to the Rotary families that supported a language immersion program he ran. “Then I realized I had found a family of like-minded people, and I quickly got hooked,” he recalls. “Along life’s journey, if you meet friends who share your interests and values, your sense of happiness grows.”



He drew inspiration for the **Rotary Club of Formosa Happiness** (“formosa,” meaning “beautiful” in Portuguese, is the name explorers gave Taiwan in the 16th century) from Taiwan’s growing corporate movement to promote a culture of well-being. In 2013, encouraged by the government, about 1,600 Taiwanese companies signed a declaration to improve workplace happiness and address public dissatisfaction with working conditions. “While productivity and competitiveness matter, many companies realized that happy employees perform better,” says Tung, the club’s charter president. “At Rotary, we came to the same conclusion — happy members create stronger clubs. Since our success will be measured by member happiness, we coined a term for it: **“happi-tivity.”**”

The club’s guiding slogan captures that spirit: **Create a happy city, build international connections through service, inspire the younger generation, and ignite passion in Rotary.**

That philosophy continues to shape the group under Club President Ryan Yu-Tsung Chiang, a second-generation Rotarian who works in the long-term care industry. Since taking office in July, Chiang has emphasized a family-centred approach to social activities and service.

Most of the club’s 56 members are working professionals with families and children, so the members design social events and service projects with a strong family focus. “Members and their families are encouraged to participate together,” he explains. “When spouses meet and collaborate on projects, their shared interests strengthen bonds, and happiness multiplies.”

For example, during the summer when children are off school, the club organizes baseball outings or two-day trips to Sun Moon Lake — activities that attract members and their families. In the fall, one of the club’s signature programs, Children of Happiness, provides after-school tutoring and companionship for students from underprivileged families.

Each year, the club allocates roughly 30 percent of its budget to social events and 40 percent to community service. And Chiang has combined the categories, integrating fun and service to strengthen participation and camaraderie.

This family-centred approach has doubled or even tripled participation. “We now get over 100 participants per event,” Chiang notes. “When families are willing to participate, they create an incentive for the members to engage in club



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PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

projects.”

Rotary members are building meaningful connections, but so are their families. “Our children make new friends, and that creates a larger network,” Chiang says. “Sometimes, when a member can’t attend an event, their spouse comes instead.”

The club’s after-school tutoring program, for example, is primarily run by members’ spouses and children. Chiang’s wife chairs the program, and his children volunteer as tutors. “At a time when our society faces a loneliness epidemic,” Chiang says, “we’re creating happiness and connection, not just for members, but for their families. It’s multi-layered.” The club has also sponsored Taiwan’s Special Olympics basketball team for several years, covering travel expenses for international competitions, purchasing uniforms and supplies, and hosting games with members of the community. “Through sports, these young athletes gain confidence and purpose in life,” Chiang says. “When they return home with medals, we celebrate them as heroes. It’s deeply rewarding to see their happy faces.”

Chiang also uses family-oriented activities to attract new members, especially young couples who often struggle to balance family and civic commitments. “We’re the perfect club,” he says. “We make it easy for them to volunteer without sacrificing family time.”

That approach is paying off: Chiang has already met his goal of 10 percent membership growth this year. And the Formosa Happiness club is preparing to sponsor another club — Formosa Harmony — dedicated to the same ideals of service, community, and joy.

“Service enhances happiness,” Chiang says. “Giving back while you’re still able brings spiritual fulfilment. When you involve your family, that fulfilment deepens.”

## The Path to Impact

### Long-term change demands a strategy beyond just supplying books, computers, or vaccines

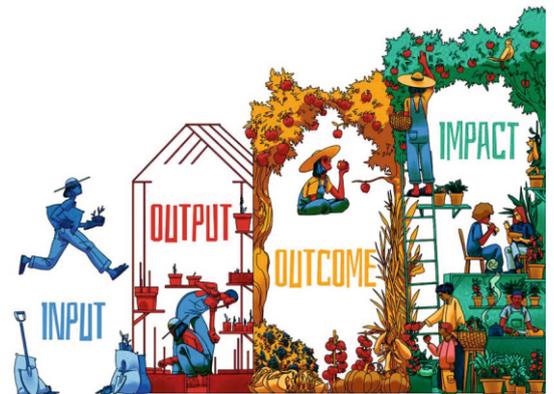
Your club wants to install a latrine block at a school or provide computers and books for classrooms. Great, but why?

Rotary’s “building blocks to impact” approach to project design could help you formulate the answer. It’s a way to visualize your project strategy — the path to your goal, also known as your theory of change.

“Sometimes we think about what we do — supplying books, for instance — as the terminal activity, when in fact what we’re trying to accomplish is healthier kids who can read so they become happier, healthier adults,” says Barb Spangler, a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers and of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, Florida. “The idea is to help people take their thinking from nuts and bolts to: What do we really want to get done?”

The building blocks to impact can also be used in reverse. Maybe you already know your “why” for an initiative — your club wants every person in a region to have access to clean water, for example. But how will you achieve it? The building blocks planning tool “is a way to take ambitious long-term goals and back them down into building blocks to see how it happens,” Spangler explains.

Once you’ve visualised the building blocks, you can use them to determine what kind of data you’ll need to track your project’s progress. “How will we know we did what we thought we did?” Spangler says. If your efforts aren’t going as planned, use what you’ve learned to refine your strategy and improve your future projects.



## Why February 23rd is a Special Day in India and the World?

In India, February 23rd blends culture, politics, cinema, and social change. It feels like a day where history and modern identity meet. One important remembrance is the birth anniversary of Gadge Maharaj, a respected social reformer from Maharashtra. Gadge Maharaj was born in 1876 and dedicated his life to cleanliness, equality, and service. He would walk into villages carrying a broom, cleaning streets himself. His actions spoke louder than speeches. Even today, many connect his message to national cleanliness movements.

The date has also gained renewed attention with tributes to C. Rajagopalachari, often called Rajaji. As India’s last Governor-General and a freedom fighter, he remains an intellectual symbol. Commemorative events like Rajaji Utsav have strengthened February 23rd as a day of reflection on India’s post-colonial identity. Administratively, February 23rd 1952, saw the enactment of the Employees' Provident Funds Act. This law changed financial security for millions of salaried workers. It created structured retirement savings and social protection. Many families today rely on benefits

**BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**



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shaped by that decision.

Globally, February 23rd is observed as World Peace and Understanding Day. It marks the founding of Rotary International in Chicago in 1905 by Paul Harris and three friends. What started as a small meeting became a global humanitarian network. Today, Rotary members work in health, education, water safety, and conflict resolution. This day reminds people that peace starts in small rooms, with small conversations.

February 23rd, 1954, marked the first large-scale vaccination of children using the polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk. Polio once paralyzed thousands of children yearly. This moment signaled hope. Over time, mass immunization nearly eliminated the disease in many parts of the world. A quiet medical day, but life-changing.

Traditionally, February 23rd, 1455, is linked to Johannes Gutenberg and the printing of the Gutenberg Bible. Movable type changed everything. Books became accessible. Ideas traveled faster. The Renaissance and scientific progress accelerated. Knowledge stopped being locked away.

February 23rd is layered. It carries reform in India, royal celebration in Japan, patriotism in Russia, carnival in Guyana, independence in Brunei, medical breakthroughs in America, and global peace efforts through Rotary. It gave us poetry, cinema, music, science, and human rights voices. It witnessed war and healing. It saw invention and remembrance. Few dates carry such contrast. When you look at February 23rd again, it feels different. Not just another square on the calendar. It holds stories of courage, creativity, struggle, and celebration. And somehow, all of it fits into one single day.

### **The gold medallist & Munich survivor**

On the morning of September 5, 1972, Kamaljeet Sandhu stepped out of her quarters, in the games village in Munich, but something felt wrong. Over the day as the horrific events unfolded it would forever change Kamaljeet’s life!

On December 13, 1970, the mood in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, was sombre. It had been raining cats and dogs since morning but by late afternoon it had stopped, just in time for Kamaljeet to make a run for glory.



The 1970 Asian Games had 150 participants from India, out of which only two were women, Kamaljeet Sandhu and Manjit Walia. Kamaljeet was picked up for the 400-meter sprint. But who is Kamaljeet Sandhu? Let’s start at the beginning.

Kamaljeet grew up in a large house in Chandigarh, one of 4 sisters. Her grandfather was a veterinary in the army and her father Mahinder Kora had played centre-forward for the Khalsa College hockey team.

Mahinder Kora’s love for sports was limitless; whenever he found time he would gather his girls and some children from the neighbourhood and head off to the fields. It’s where Kamaljeet’s love for sports grew and she did a bit of everything sprinting, jumps basketball.

In 1969, her final year at the Government’s women’s college in Chandigarh, her teacher put her name for the 400-meter sprint at the national open athletics meet in Jalandhar. It was strange that Kamaljeet had not run more than 200 meters at college events.

But Kamaljeet ran anyway and it turned out to be eventful but perhaps not in the usual way; 50 meters before the finish she slumped to the ground and couldn’t finish the race. But it was more than enough to catch the attention of the national coaches.

One of them was Raja Karan Singh who asked Kamaljeet to train with Ajmer Singh, who had won medals at the 1966 Asian





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Games. It was an unusual arrangement, a young woman training with an older male athlete, but her father was more than thrilled about the opportunity.

Kamaljeet then represented India in smaller events in Singapore and Malaysia and won. However, the Asiad was a different challenge. The favourite for the 400 m was Chi Cheng, a Taiwanese, who had won bronze at the 1968 Mexico Olympics 80-meter hurdles.



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT

Kamaljeet took the lead at the first bend, but Chi Cheng slowly crept up on her and took the lead. But then Cheng who was carrying a small injury fell, leaving the field open for Kamaljeet's victory. She became the first Indian woman athlete to win an individual gold medal.

Kamaljeet's miracle run was all over the news; she made it to the front page of the Times of India and Hindustan Times. She was the only member of the contingent photographed upon their return home. More was to come.



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE

Kamaljeet's best time in 1971 was 56.3 seconds, a good 4.3 seconds slower than Colette Besson of France who had clocked a gold-winning time of 52 seconds at the 68 Olympics. The next stop was the Olympics in Munich in 1972.

Kamaljeet got opportunities to train abroad but she was not getting ahead of herself. 'I thought if I could make it to the finals – the first Indian woman in an Olympic final – that would be my history, my place in it.'



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH

But she was initially not selected. It ultimately took an intervention from her father who had gone to meet the President of the IOA Raja Bhalindra Singh. Kamaljeet made it to Munich and walked with the team on Opening day.

The uncertainty leading up to the games, however, meant that she was very far from her best. On September 2, she finished 7th out of 8 contenders clocking in at 57.74, 4 seconds slower than her time in Bangkok.

But her Olympic journey was not over yet, three days later as she stepped out to have breakfast, she noticed a man in dark clothes wearing a ski mask looking out of one of the balconies, a picture that would haunt her and the rest of the world for years to come.



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY

Gunfire was heard, Kamaljeet and many like her were told to stay put. For several hours nobody knew what was going on exactly. The next day statements were made by the German Police, 17 people were killed 11 Israeli athletes, five Palestinian terrorists, and one policeman.

For Kamaljeet, the horrifying events at the Munich Olympics only fuelled a sense of irrelevance in her. Months after she came back home she retired from track athletics, she was only 25 at the time. But she did shine one more time, many years later.



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

India was hosting the 1982 Asiad and before the games, the Union Minister in charge Vidya Charan Shukla had called for a meeting of coaches and bureaucrats. Kamaljeet who was attending the meeting as a coach is said to have spoken her mind. 'We could easily double our medals if the women do well'. India did double their medal tally with the women winning 14 of them. Among the medal winners was a young sprinter from Kerala P.T. Usha, who would go on to create history at the LA Olympics a couple of years later.



ENVIRONMENT

Kamaljeet held the record in both the 200 and 400 meters for almost 10 years. Some whispered behind her back for being too snobbish or privileged, but for her to compete at the highest level at such a young age was no mean feat. She ran so that others could run faster.



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## **Minutes of the 2346th RWM held on February 17th, 2026 at Port View, Hide Road**

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 (due to urgent work), PP Mousumi was requested to officiate.
3. The President informed the members about the Medical Camp scheduled on February 22nd, 2026 from 10:30 am at Matua Mission, Kalikapur Road. General Hygiene, Cardiology, CBS, BP tests will be conducted by doctors from Balananda Hospital. Eye check-up will be undertaken by Susrut Eye Foundation.
4. The President informed that the 2nd dose of Cervical Cancer Prevention Vaccine was successfully administered to 50 girl students of Sanghamitra Vidyalaya, Garden Reach on February 16th, 2026.
5. A medical camp will be held on March 1st, 2026 for Malis and support staff of Maidan Sports Clubs (expected attendance: approx. 100 persons). General Hygiene, Cardiology, Blood Sugar, and BP tests by doctors from Balananda Hospital and Dental care and Eye Check-up will be undertaken by Rotary Budge Budge through their medical professionals.  
The President requested members to attend the camp in large numbers.
6. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray raised the proposal for providing a wheelchair to I S K C O N Mayapur.
7. Rtn. Amar Saha proposed the installation of a Water Purifier at Matua Mission during the Medical Camp on February 22nd, 2026. The proposal was unanimously approved.
8. The 7th BOD Meeting will be held on February 25th, 2026 at Dalhousie Athletic Club, after the Regular Weekly Meeting.
9. The President informed that Computer classes commenced at Bharatgarh Rotary School from February 14th, 2026, as informed by Mr. Amal Nayek of Champa Mahila Samity.
10. Acting Club Secretary PP Mousumi conducted the club business.
11. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.



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WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7.30 P.M. AT B.N.R. OFFICERS' CLUB, GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA - 700 043

CONTACT : PP TANU ROY • Mobile : +91 98317 28880 / roytanu@hotmail.com

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