

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

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



**2355th RWM**

A TIMELESS CALL  
TO  
**YOUTH**



—  
SERVICE  
ABOVE  
SELF  
—

“  
Arise! Awake!  
And stop not till  
the goal is reached.  
— SWAMI VIVEKANANDA





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**LIGHT**  
OF THE WORLD...”

## Birthday Greetings

May 8th : Akanksha, Daughter of PP Naresh K Jain

May 9th : Dr. Abhishek, Son of PP Dr. Arabinda Ray

## Anniversary Greetings

May 2nd : Spouse Dr. Sarada & PP Dr. Arabinda Ray

May 9th : Spouse Shikhadyuti & PP Kumud C Kar

Spouse Rajshree & PP Sanjay Bhatt

May 10th : Spouse Kiran & PP Dr. JK Singh

## “A Call to the Youth of the Present Age” – In the Spirit of Swami Vivekananda

PP Tanu Roy

*Sisters and Brothers of this great land,*

I stand before you not to praise your age, but to awaken it. For never before has humanity possessed such power, and yet never before has it seemed so restless, so divided, so uncertain of its own purpose. You have conquered distances, but have you conquered yourselves?

Look around you—the maladies of this age are not of poverty alone, but of spirit. There is distraction without depth, opinion without understanding, and ambition without character. You measure success by wealth and visibility, yet neglect the wealth of integrity and the visibility of truth within your own soul. This is the first illness—to forget who you are.

Another danger lies in division—of caste, creed, language, and thought. You have inherited a land that taught unity in diversity, yet you allow yourselves to be fragmented by narrow identities. Strength does not lie in uniformity, but in harmony. Learn to disagree without hatred, and to stand firm without losing compassion.

There is also a silent erosion—the weakening of will. Comfort has made you complacent; convenience has made you dependent. Remember, no great nation was built by those who sought ease. It was built by those who embraced struggle with courage and conviction.

To the parents, I say: do not unknowingly nurture these weaknesses. When you value marks over morals, comparison over character, you sow seeds of insecurity and fear. Teach your children not merely to succeed, but to stand upright in truth. Let them fail, but let them fail with dignity and rise with strength.

My young friends, the remedy to these ills is not outside—it lies within you. Each one of you is a reservoir of infinite power. Awaken it through discipline, through service, through fearless thinking. Refuse to be swept away by the currents of mediocrity.

**Arise! Awake!** And purify not only your own lives, but the very fabric of society. Be the generation that restores balance—between progress and purpose, freedom and responsibility, ambition and compassion.

**The world does not need more noise. It needs awakened souls.**

*Will you be among them?*

**BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**



PEACEBUILDING  
AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION



DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
& TREATMENT



WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



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## Presidential Message

*Francesco Arezzo, President 2025-26*

Shoki Wafula did not know what to expect when he was forced to leave his birth country of Uganda for South Africa. What he found was a Rotary community that welcomed him with warmth and friendship. That experience inspired him to help create a Rotaract e-club where young leaders from around the world could connect, develop their skills, and serve together.

Today, that community includes members across multiple continents who collaborate on leadership development, peace-building, and service initiatives. For Wafula, the experience reinforced the lesson that meaningful service begins with people who feel connected, valued, and empowered to lead.

His story reminds us why Youth Service Month is so important. Through Rotaract and programs like Rotary Youth Exchange, young people build leadership skills, develop global understanding, and discover the impact they can make through service.



Rotary's Action Plan calls on us to enhance participant engagement. At its heart, that goal asks a simple question: How can we ensure that participation in Rotary is meaningful and fulfilling for everyone? Youth programs and Rotaract provide a powerful answer.

When clubs mentor Rotaractors, host exchange students, or support youth leadership initiatives, they create opportunities for members to share their experience in ways that feel personal and rewarding. These connections deepen members' sense of purpose and strengthen the bonds within our Rotary family.

They also create lasting pathways into Rotary. Thousands of young people complete Rotary programs each year, and they

carry those experiences with them throughout their lives. Many remain eager to stay connected.

Organizations such as Rotex International, an association of former Youth Exchange students, help Rotary program alumni continue serving as mentors, leaders, and advocates for our youth programs. As Rotex co-founder Hans Lee wrote in a recent reflection on Youth Exchange alumni, ***"Exchange doesn't end when you return home."***

When we welcome these young leaders into our clubs and activities, we strengthen the continuity of Rotary across generations.

During Youth Service Month, I hope every Rotary club reflects on how youth programs can enhance engagement for new and long-time members. Collaborate on service projects and invite youth voices into your planning and decision making.

Rotary's message to the world is that we can **'Unite for Good'**. Youth programs show us how that happens in practice — when generations come together, share ideas, and work side by side in service. When we invest in young people, we are not only shaping future leaders. We are building a stronger, more connected Rotary today.





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## World Cup mania envelops Rotary

*Members in the 16 World Cup host cities in North America plan events to showcase Rotary and foster international understanding*

Wing-Kai To grew up watching international soccer and idolizing its stars. As a child in Hong Kong, he followed players like Pelé, Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff, and Diego Maradona.

Now living in the United States, Kai To is a member of the Rotary The Bridgewater, Massachusetts, USA, and no less enthusiastic about international soccer. He hopes he'll be selected as one of hundreds of volunteers when the 2026 FIFA World Cup comes to Gillette Stadium near Boston.

“I will be excited to take on one of the two dozen roles supporting the tournament,” says Kai To, a professor of history at Bridgewater State University. “I have already secured tickets to the match between Scotland and Morocco and am getting ready to cheer for both teams.”

The World Cup, the most-watched sporting event in the world, will be hosted by three countries for the first time. An expanded field of 48 teams will play from 11 June to 19 July in the metro areas of 16 cities in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. In Canada, those areas are Toronto and Vancouver. In Mexico, they are Guadalajara, Mexico City, and Monterrey. And in the U.S., they are Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The games provide a unique opportunity for Rotary clubs to offer hospitality and promote Rotary’s work on the global stage.

**Larry Lunsford, Rotary International’s President-nominee**, began connecting Rotary leaders across host cities in late 2025 in an effort to promote Rotary-led events before and during the tournament. Since then, a host city leadership committee made up largely of past District Governors has been meeting to ensure that Rotary has a strong, coordinated presence in every World Cup host city.

### Offering hospitality

Lunsford is encouraging districts to use Rotary Friendship Exchanges to connect Rotary soccer fans from around the world with local members willing to host them.

“It’s the top of the mountain of the way Rotary districts in the World Cup cities can engage with this exciting event,” says Lunsford, a member of the Rotary Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA. “I am proud of what we have going on in Kansas City, and I am hopeful that districts in each of the areas will get involved.”

Rotary Friendship Exchanges support Rotary’s peace-building efforts through in-person and virtual visits. The exchanges offer Rotary members and their family and friends the opportunity to visit and host one another in their homes and clubs. Rotary Friendship Exchange chairs in each district decide on the details.

Ben Martin, the Rotary Friendship Exchange chair for District 6040, which includes part of the Kansas City metro area, began contacting his counterparts in Argentina, Austria, Algeria, Curacao, Ecuador, and the Netherlands, and Tunisia— countries whose teams will either play in the Kansas City area or have set up training facilities nearby. So far, 20 members from two districts in Argentina plan to participate in exchanges. The district has found about two dozen members willing to host them.

Not every district has a Friendship Exchange chair, but clubs have other ways of showing hospitality to visiting members. Local and visiting members can join community-led viewing parties and attend the many World Cup-related events together.

“It’s going to be fascinating for us. Argentina is the defending World Cup champion,” said Stephanie Meyer, a member of the host city leadership committee and a past governor of District 5710, which includes part of the Kansas City metro area. “We’re expecting a lot of excitement around the game.”

### Promoting peace





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PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Some members are working with community leaders to erect Peace Poles before or during the World Cup. The city government of Atlanta has agreed to install a pole there, with state and city officials in attendance. Rotarians in all three World Cup venues in Mexico are also planning peace pole ceremonies. In District 7950 (Rhode Island and Massachusetts, USA), Rotarians have formed a peace and World Cup committee to organize events in conjunction with the seven matches being held near Boston.

### Fighting human trafficking



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

Large sporting events like the World Cup can lead to increased incidents of human trafficking. Ending this practice has been the focus of groups like the **Rotary Action Group Against Slavery**. With help from the action group, the Rotary Roswell, Georgia, USA, near Atlanta, is training local law enforcement officers and service providers to recognize the signs of trafficking and assist people who may be trafficked. A candlelight vigil is planned in a major Atlanta park, and volunteers from the shipping company UPS will join Rotary members and other participants in packing 50,000 bags of essential supplies for people who have been trafficked.



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

In Seattle, Rotarians are partnering with Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking to provide specialized training and support to companies located near matches and other events around the state. In Mexico, members in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey are collaborating with the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery to train service providers and prevent trafficking.

“Human trafficking is just one component of our World Cup planning,” says Dave McCleary, global chair for the action group and past president of the Rotary Roswell. “We see the World Cup as a real opportunity to showcase Rotary, whether it’s having an event, having a peace pole installation, or helping protect vulnerable individuals from trafficking.”



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

The World Cup host city leadership committee has created a **World Cup Volunteer Opportunities** form for Rotary members who want to serve on the committee or learn more. Members can also write to [rotaryworldcup@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryworldcup@gmail.com) for more information.

### RID MMM appointed Campaign Chair of Paul & Jean Harris Legacy Society



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY

**RI Director M Muruganandam** has been appointed Campaign Chair of the Paul and Jean Harris Legacy Society for 2026-27. The Legacy Society is an exclusive circle limited to 23 people who will contribute \$250,000 towards the renovation of the home of Rotary’s founder Paul Harris and his



spouse Jean in Chicago.

Earlier in October, at a special dinner hosted in Evanston by RI and the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation, Muruganandam was recognised as the Society’s first member to contribute this amount.

During 2026-27, he will also assume the responsibilities of RI Vice President.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### A record Rotary medical mission in Shivpuri



ENVIRONMENT

On March 24th, 2026, RI District 3053 created history by entering the India Book of Records for the **‘largest free multi-specialty medical camp organised at a single venue.’**

**A total of 2,82,577 OPDs were recorded; 1,42,788 laboratory –investigations were conducted; and 3,623 surgeries performed over a week (Mar 17-24)** at a health camp at Shivpuri organised by the district, along with Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Swasth Sewa Mission, and the MP government. Rotary Gwalior led the initiative, and it was supported by Rotary clubs Shivpuri, Shivpuri Crest, Guna, Guna Royal and Ashoknagar.



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From diagnosis of complex eye-related, dental and orthopaedic ailments, to advanced medical consultations and free high-tech robotic surgeries, the camp provided various services to patients, including children, from rural and remote areas.

Union Minister for Communications and Development of NE Region Jyotiraditya Scindia, reacting to this achievement, stated that the record is not just about numbers or scale, but the result of collective effort and service.

High-tech equipment and expert medical teams ensured timely and quality care for every patient, said Rohit Jain, President, Rotary Gwalior, adding that this initiative particularly benefitted people who usually had to travel to bigger cities for treatment. Access to large scale medical facilities at one location made healthcare more accessible and convenient.



### **RIPE Babalola lays down ambitious goal for Rotary**

RI President-elect Olayinka Babalola, accompanied by RI Director KP Nagesh, began his visit to Chandigarh with a brunch meeting with Usha and PRIP Rajendra Saboo at their residence. Later, he addressed incoming club leaders at the Presidents and Secretaries-elect Learning Seminar (PELS and SELS) held at Zirakpur, on the foothills of the Shivalik range in Mohali district, near Chandigarh.

**“For Rotary to grow, all Rotarian must be able to tell their stories — how Rotary has impacted or transformed them,”** he said, urging leaders to strive for excellence in advancing Rotary’s ambitious Vision 2030. The goal is to reach 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors worldwide by 2030, marking Rotary’s 125th anniversary.

RIPE Babalola commended RID 3080’s initiatives for the coming Rotary year, announced by DGE Rita Kalra. These include AI functional literacy for youth in the Chandigarh Tricity, entrepreneurship opportunities for women, expansion of Happy Schools, and health programmes focusing on TB elimination, cervical cancer awareness, and mobile screening for non-communicable diseases.



A special postal cover commemorating his visit was released by the Chandigarh postal department. The seminar, organised by DGE Rita along with PDG Arun Mongia, brought together over 500 club leaders from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In Jaipur, Babalola and Nagesh participated in the PELS of RID 3056 and attended a dinner hosted at the iconic Rambagh Palace, in the company of DG Arun Bagadia, PDGs Ajay Kala and Balwant Chirana, RID 3012 DG Amita Mohindru and PDG Sharat Jain.

The incoming RI President was captivated by Jaipur’s architectural splendour, including the famed Hawa Mahal and other heritage landmarks, during a city tour hosted by DG Arun Bagadia.

The Rotary leaders also attended the PELS and SELS hosted by DGE Amit Gupta of RID 3012. Traditional Rajasthani folk performances, soulful music and the rhythmic beats of the grand naubat created a vibrant and memorable cultural evening.

Addressing the presidents and secretaries-elect, Babalola emphasised purposeful service, strong leadership, and the importance of creating sustainable change through Rotary initiatives to ensure lasting impact. PRID Raju Subramanian also addressed the session.



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## **Minutes of the 2354th RWM held on April 21st, 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. A tree plantation drive will be held at Bharatgarh Rotary School on April 25th, 2026 at 9 am. PE Dr. BN Jha has kindly agreed to contribute Rs. 2,500 towards saplings. The fencing cost of Rs. 2,000 will be borne by the school authorities.**
- 3. Poila Baisakh er Adda. The programme was a grand success, coordinated by Rtn. Santosh. The inaugural song was rendered by spouse Dr. Sharda Roy. 22 members and guests attended the event.**
- 4. The project for donation of a Blood Storage Unit to The Thalassemia Society of India has been sanctioned by the Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust. Total Project Cost: Rs. 2, 50,160. Club Contribution: Approx. Rs. 1, 25,000. Donations received Rs. 40,000 from an anonymous donor and Rs. 40,000 sanctioned by the Club Trust.**
- 5. The President proposed collection of the 2nd seed money of Rs. 2,500 from members. Collection of balance 2nd Semi-Annual Dues at the earliest; it was also proposed to organise a fundraising to bridge the funding gap for the Thalassemia project.**
- 6. The RWM scheduled for April 29th, 2026 stands postponed due to Vidhan Sabha Elections. The next RWM will now be held on April 30th, 2026, followed by 9th Board Meeting.**
- 7. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.**



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ENVIRONMENT

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

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