

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Official Visit



RID 3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



Light

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

March 4th, 2025 - Vol. 47 No. 32

2303rd Regular Weekly Meeting
Attendance: 15

Birthday Greetings

Mar 2nd : Abhijan, Son of PP Shweta & PP Prosenjit Barua

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

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

Mar 8th : Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray

Anniversary Greetings

Mar 6th : Spouse Gopa & PE B Mohan

On Marching Music Day, we remember **Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja** – one of India's most famous marching songs, the anthem of the Indian National Army (INA).

Marching Music Day is celebrated annually on March 4th. Note the clever play on words: "March Fourth" sounds like "March Forth", honouring the tradition and impact of marching music in bands, parades, and performances worldwide.

Marching music has deep roots, dating back centuries to military and ceremonial traditions. Early forms of marching bands were used to coordinate troops in battle, with drums and brass instruments providing signals on the battlefield.

Over time, these ensembles evolved into a form of entertainment and artistic expression, appearing in civic parades, sporting events, and competitions.

Marching Music Day was established to recognize the dedication, discipline, and artistry of those who participate in marching bands, drum corps, and related musical ensembles.

It celebrates both traditional military bands and modern competitive groups that perform elaborate field shows. Marching Music Day is a time to appreciate the skill, precision, and passion of musicians who bring energy and excitement to crowds everywhere.

March Forth and Do Something Day



Chase Your Dreams!



Whether in a local parade, a halftime show, or an elite drum corps competition, marching music continues to inspire and unite people through rhythm and movement.

Indian films have featured many marching songs that evoke patriotism, unity, and discipline. These songs are often used in military-themed movies, sports films, or motivational sequences. What is your favourite marching song?



PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
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RI President Stephanie A Urchick – March's Message

March is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and **Hygiene Month** — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on The Magic of Rotary and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic first-hand in the Dominican Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, “Show me the magic again.”

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — alongside local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realized that what seemed like a small act could change residents’ lives. That is The Magic of Rotary.



This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary’s work with USAID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines, and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary’s impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we’re advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This program equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.

As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more people in need.

Whether it’s joining forces with local organizations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilizing your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

The Magic of Rotary shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it’s from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let’s harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.



Celebrating 100 Years: Rotary Club Creates Interactive Board Game

In celebration of their Centennial year, **Rotary Nairobi Magharibi** has taken a unique approach by creating a custom board game titled *“Who Knows Rotary Best?”*

This is not your average board game. “Who Knows Rotary Best?” is designed to be an engaging and educational tool for various Rotary Club events. It can be used at quiz nights and member training sessions.

More Than Just Fun: A Learning Experience Disguised as a Game

“Who Knows Rotary Best?” is a cleverly disguised learning experience. Inspired by classic card games, charades, and dice mechanics, the game offers a refreshing way to revisit and solidify knowledge about Rotary.

The game caters to both seasoned Rotarians and newcomers. With over 400 questions encompassing Rotary’s foundation, leadership, core values, and even some fun trivia, players can expect to learn and expand their knowledge about the organization.

The game has been developed by Florence Kamaitha, the Projects Director and Alex Kareso, the Family of Rotary Director who together through their dockets saw the need to bring a twist to how we connect as members and to learn more about Rotary through fun and games while achieving the training aspect.

“We are marking the Centennial year in style with a game that is both enjoyable and informative,” explains Rtn. Kamaitha, “This is our club’s first contribution to the Centennial celebrations, and we are confident it will spark even more creative ideas across Rotary Clubs as we commemorate this milestone.”

“Who Knows Rotary Best?” goes beyond mere entertainment. It is a culmination of dedicated research, collaborative effort, and a deep-seated passion for the Rotary mission. The game promises a trifecta of fun, learning, and the opportunity to give back.

“We envision this game becoming a staple at Rotary events,” says Alex Kareso. “Not only will it provide a light-hearted learning experience, but it will be used to raise funds for our club’s signature project, the Free Surgical and Cataract Camps.”

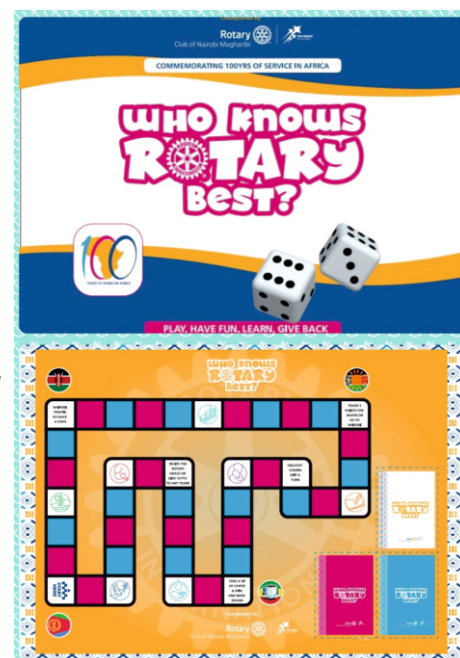
A Look at the Game

“Who Knows Rotary Best?” is a complete board game experience. Players will find a game board, dice, tokens, and a deck of 400 cards. These cards are divided into two categories: multiple-choice questions and charades. The multiple-choice questions come with clearly marked answers, ensuring ease of play. All questions are valued at 10 points.

Bringing Rotary to Life: Gameplay

- *Gather your fellow Rotarians! The game allows for 2-5 teams, each represented by a coloured token.*
- *Get ready to move! Teams take turns rolling the dice and advancing their tokens across the board. The board itself features squares in three distinct colours, white, blue and pink.*
- *Landing on a square trigger a card draw! Teams will pick a card that matches the colour of the square they landed on. The team lead will ask a question from the card and read out the choices. A correct answer gains 10 points. He can continue drawing till time runs out.*
- *Time is of the essence! Each round is timed with a one-minute timer, keeping the gameplay dynamic and fast-paced.*
- *The first team to reach the coveted 500 points mark is declared the champion!*

This innovative board game is a call to action for all Rotarians. Grab a game for your club and support your Rotaract clubs with one too! Let us celebrate 100 years of service in Rotary together, through this interactive and meaningful game that paves the way for a future generation of informed and passionate Rotarians.



Water : the key to health and dignity

Anirudha Roychowdhury, RI Director, 2023-25

Water is essential to life. It sustains communities, supports livelihoods and prevents disease. Yet, millions around the world still lack access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), leading to severe health risks and social inequalities. Safe water and proper sanitation are not just necessities — they are fundamental human rights that pave the way for healthier, more prosperous communities.



Rotary is committed to addressing this global challenge. Through our WASH initiatives, we have installed water purification plants in Indian villages, water tanks in Nepal, and solar-powered water treatment systems in the Amazon basin, South America. Schools in Guatemala now have proper toilets and washing stations, ensuring better hygiene for students, while rainwater harvesting systems help communities manage water more sustainably. These projects are transforming lives, reducing illness and creating lasting change.

Rotarians play a crucial role in making these efforts successful. Across the world, they are implementing WASH programmes, advocating for sustainable water management, and collaborating with local leaders to expand access to safe water and sanitation. Their dedication is turning challenges into opportunities for growth and development.

You can also be part of this mission. By working with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG), Rotarians can access expertise, resources and a global network dedicated to sustainable WASH solutions. Together, we can ensure that clean water and sanitation become a reality for all.

Learn your priorities from Rotary's Action Plan: RI President

There are 45,000 Rotary clubs around the world, and it's not possible for me to get to all of them. But I got here on a Sunday night to commemorate them and I thank you for making time to be here. And you've chosen to do so because you love Rotary as much as I do," said RI President Stephanie Urchick, addressing a multi-district Presidential conclave organised in the backdrop of the Zone Institute at Kochi.

Thanking the *District Governors from RI Districts 2982, 3202, 3203, 3204, 3211 and 3212*, who had come together to organise the event for working so hard on growing their membership, she said all leaders should follow their example to ensure that "we have a future. For this we must continue to grow our organisation. The why is fairly simple. We are a membership organisation that does service. And when we have more members, we can do more service."

Addressing the crucial issue of "how to do this" she said the "simple and easy answer was that since they had an Action Plan available at Rotary International, they should simply follow it. "I do know that you have very strong Action Plan champions in your zone, in your districts, and hopefully in your clubs. Let me share some thoughts on the priorities contained in that Action Plan to help you understand what your club should be doing with it."

This was to make their clubs irresistible; "people in such clubs are less likely to leave, and people who are not yet with us, see us doing amazing things and enjoying Rotary, and they'll say, I want to be a part of that."





Stephanie said that this Plan was not a directive from RI saying clubs should do only this or that; she hoped each club would want to embrace this priority in the Action Plan and “learn from it how to go from good to great, or maybe, from not so good to even better. But it’s not mandatory. We want clubs to embrace it and say, this is something I can use to help move the club into a good future.”

The four priorities of the Plan were on “increasing our impact, which is about measurement, helping our clubs learn to measure, do projects, and then measure again. Too often I have worked with clubs who say, well, we’ve done this project, we’ve been doing it for 30 years, and we just keep doing it.”

But the important question was “are you measuring its impact? And sometimes the answer is no. So, it’s important that our clubs learn to measure things,” she said. This was like going on a diet. You’d have to weigh yourself before, decide how many kilos you wanted to lose and then do whatever required to lose that weight. “And then you get on the scale again to see if it worked. But the kilos you lost is not the impact, but how this loss is going to affect your health in the long term.”

Thus, in a school project, the impact was not about 800 students having desks or a school. The impact was the students who would now get an education, graduate and then get jobs and lead a good life.

The second priority was to expand Rotary’s reach, by using the new models and new ways to meet. “Not everyone will be attracted to our traditional clubs. I did; I love my club in McMurray, Pennsylvania. I will stay in it forever.” But her club members realised that not everyone in their city wanted to meet in the mornings, ring bells, take attendance and do traditional things. For those who wanted a different style, her club formed a satellite club; “we now have teachers and others who cannot make the morning meeting. As it’s also focused on service, instead of coming to meetings, they go out into our community and provide service.”

Another priority was getting to know the members and their special interest, Stephanie said. “Ask the new members: Do you like our projects? Is there a project you would like to do that we haven’t done yet? What can you tell us about yourself that we can’t see on your application? Too often, when clubs do not get to know their members, those members are not satisfied and they take off; often we don’t know why they leave.” To retain members, club leaders will have to work on the club culture to ensure value in a Rotary Club experience for the member.

The last priority was to adapt and be flexible. Even though Rotary was an organisation built on traditions, yet some





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changes, even while retaining the traditions required, were necessary. These changes pertained to different kinds of meeting models. The important thing was to be “inclusive and equitable, create an environment that people walk in and say, I belong or fit here. This is where I want to be.”

Also, added Stephanie, Rotary was regional, “so look at your environment. Your club president will know what works in the club; it is here that DEI comes in. Internationally, by 2030, we want to see 30 of our membership as female. We also want indigenous people, the handicapped etc. Diversity is not only about gender. It’s age, perspective of thought, race and socioeconomic status. So as club presidents and governors, find those underrepresented groups that we should go after,” added the RI President.

Addressing the conclave RI Director Anirudha Roychowdhury urged Rotarians in India to stop taking the local issues they face to RI leaders. “Mails go with copies to the RI President, General Secretary, and so on, and when these issues crop up in Evanston, we feel embarrassed. I urge you to address and solve such issues locally.”

Answering a question from the overflowing hall, Stephanie said, “In Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7, there are amazing Rotarians doing amazing things. But when there are a handful of individuals engaging in bad behaviour, as the Director said, it creates a negative perception. Mind you, they are just a handful. Our constitutional documents are very clear that when we serve in Rotary, we should not campaign or engage in electioneering for any position. It should be our performance that gets us to the next level. We should be judged on the job we have and the way we do it.”

But with just a handful Rotarians from these zones indulging in “bad behaviour, when that comes to the boardroom, it colours the view of all Rotarians in the zones. We also have small groups indulging in bad behaviour in other parts of the world, and there too the entire area suffers. I sometimes wonder if people understand what the word ‘integrity’ means.”

Answering another question on the ‘decommissioning’ of the annual theme, Stephanie said that was not an accurate word to use. “The theme has not been decommissioned. What has changed is the way it’s being prepared. So instead of it being an annual theme, it is now being called President’s Message. So, President-elect Mario at the International Assembly in February, will deliver his message, which will be short. He will have ties, scarves, collars that he’s selected. What he will not have, is a graphic.”

This was being done because “we want the world to recognise our master brand; just as when you see the golden arches, you know that’s McDonald’s, and the checkmark is Nike. Now we have so many different logos and pins; one for Interact, one for Rotaract and one for Rotary, and we have a President’s theme. This can be confusing for people. Some want people to see the master brand and say this is the best service organisation in the world.”

Answering another question on her views on India, she said this was her fifth visit here and she was “very impressed. I’m delighted to see the amazing work that’s being done and note that you have such a good track record in attracting members, and are role models for the rest of the world in how to attract members. But we need to retain members.”

She added that when perusing monthly membership information, which is usually for three years, she had found that in every zone except one, there was a dip happening every Dec 31, and July 1. This dip represented members who were no longer paying dues and had left. “The good news is that we recover because we invite more people. But if we could deal with retention in a stronger way, this graph would change.”



Minutes of the 2302nd RWM held on February 25th, 2025 at Rotary Sadan, Chowranghee

1. President Biswajit Saha called the RWM to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. Discussion on DG Visit on March 4th, 2025. Finalization of documentation and other arrangements for the official visit was discussed. It was decided that a contributory dinner would be arranged. President Biswajit urged all members present to encourage other members to attend the DG's visit without fail.
3. Medical camp & tree plantation drive on February 18th, 2025 at Parnasree Greens. President provided an overview of the Medical Camp and Tree Plantation Drive, organized under Rotary's February focus area: "Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution." PP Dr. Arabinda was requested to elaborate on the event.
4. The President reiterated that due to the abnormal hike in BNROC hire charges, the club has been using Rotary Sadan as an alternative venue. PP Dr. Arabinda suggested Club House at Parnasree Greens as another possible venue.
5. Proposed Water Purifier installation at BNR North Colony (Kali Temple Premises). PN Dr. BN Jha proposed the installation of a water purifier as part of the club's charitable activities. The previous and current cost estimates were presented by the President. The matter remains pending until PN Dr. BN Jha addresses it in the next meeting. PP Kumud emphasized the importance of prioritizing the project, considering the upcoming discussions with BNROC management.
6. PE B Mohan shared his experience of visiting two Rotary Clubs in Birgunj, where he exchanged club flags and introduced them to Rotary Garden Reach. He provided insights into the activities of the Birgunj clubs.
7. Club Secretary conducted the club business.
8. On confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.

