



*Magical
Rotary*



GML

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

MARCH 2025

Water, Sanitation, and
Hygiene Month

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Stephanie A. Urchick
RI President 2024-25



Rajendra Man Sherchan
District Governor 2024-25

**Magical Moments, Lasting Impact:
The 17th Rotary District Gathering**





GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors,

As we enter the vibrant month of April, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. April is designated as **Maternal and Child Health Month** in the Rotary calendar—a time to reflect on our commitment to improving healthcare access for mothers and children worldwide. This is an opportunity to reinforce our dedication to projects that ensure safe motherhood, child nutrition, and healthcare for the underserved.

Key Highlights of February and March:

1. Rotary District Conference (March 21st-23rd):

A resounding success, bringing together more than 1200 Rotarians and Rotaractors from across our district to engage in discussions, training, and celebration of our collective achievements.

2. World Rotaract Week & World Rotary Day:

Rotaract Clubs carried out a series of impactful projects in March, celebrating World Rotaract Week with service initiatives, awareness campaigns, and community engagement activities. Similarly, Rotary Clubs marked World Rotary Day with meaningful service projects, reflecting our shared commitment to making a difference.

3. International Collaboration: We successfully hosted delegates from partner districts, strengthening our bonds through joint projects and knowledge exchange.

4. District Membership Growth: Congratulations to clubs that have successfully inducted new members and retained existing ones, fostering a stronger Rotary family.

5. Vibrant Club workshops: We have successfully conducted the Vibrant Club Workshops in different Regions of District 3292.

April: A Month of Service and Celebration

Maternal and Child Health Initiatives: I encourage all clubs to focus on projects such as maternal care awareness programs, vaccination drives, and partnerships with local healthcare institutions to

support expecting mothers.

Rotary Fellowships and Networking: As we approach the final quarter of our Rotary year, let's strengthen our fellowship by organizing joint club meetings and interactive sessions to share ideas and best practices.

Message from the District Governor

"Service Above Self" remains the guiding light of our movement. As we move closer to the end of the Rotary year, I urge all clubs to reflect on their journey, celebrate their accomplishments, and continue to strive for excellence in service. Together, let's make a lasting impact on the communities we serve.

I sincerely thank all Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors for their unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. Your efforts inspire me every day. Let's continue to work together, creating a world where hope, health, and humanity thrive.

With warm regards,

Rtn. Rajendra Man Sherchan

District Governor 2024-25

Rotary International District 3292, Nepal-Bhutan





RI PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

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 firsthand 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.

Yours in Rotary
Rtn Stephanie A. Urchick
 President 2024-25
 Rotary International



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Nepal: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities

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Introduction:

Access to clean water, proper sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is fundamental to human health, economic development, and social well-being. In Nepal, the WASH sector has seen significant progress in recent years, yet considerable gaps remain. With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guiding development efforts, Nepal aims to ensure universal access to WASH services by 2030. This article explores the status of WASH in Nepal, compares it with other South Asian countries, and discusses the role of the government, development partners, NGOs, and international partners like Rotary International in addressing the challenges.

Status of WASH in Nepal:

Nepal has made strides in improving water and sanitation coverage, particularly after the declaration of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2019. However, sustaining these achievements and addressing disparities remains a challenge as there are slip offs of the ODF status.

Water Supply Coverage

As per government data, around 95% of Nepal's population has access to basic drinking water services. However, only 27% system have treatment facilities and 19% population have access to safely managed drinking water, meaning water that is free from contamination and available on premises. Rural areas, particularly in the hilly and mountainous regions, still struggle with inadequate water supply infrastructure and water quality issues.

Sanitation Coverage

Nepal has achieved near-universal basic sanitation coverage, with over 90% of

households having access to toilets. However, safely managed sanitation, which involves proper disposal or treatment of human waste, remains at only 28%. Many toilets lack proper waste management, leading to environmental and health risks.

Hygiene Practices

Handwashing with soap is a critical indicator of WASH success. While Nepal has improved access to handwashing facilities, gaps persist, especially in schools and healthcare centers. According to reports, only 56% of schools have basic handwashing facilities, which affects hygiene education and disease prevention.

The SDG Agenda and Nepal's Commitment:

Nepal has committed to achieving SDG 6, which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. The government's National WASH Plan aligns with this goal, focusing on improving water quality, waste management, and equitable access. However, achieving these targets requires overcoming challenges such as infrastructure gaps, financial constraints, and climate change impacts and climate-related disaster risks. Nepal's mountainous geography makes water distribution complex, while urban expansion and population growth strain existing sanitation facilities. The challenges in hygiene includes behavioral change and communication and attitudinal aspects and also capacity building at various levels.

Gaps and Challenges in WASH Implementation:

Despite progress, Nepal faces multiple challenges in WASH implementation:

- 1. Water Quality Issues:** Contamination of water sources by arsenic, fecal matter, and industrial pollutants is a major concern, particularly in the Terai region.
- 2. Inadequate Infrastructure:** Rural and remote areas lack proper water supply and sanitation infrastructure, making it difficult to sustain ODF achievements.
- 3. Climate Change Impact:** Floods, landslides and droughts affect water availability and sanitation systems, making WASH interventions more challenging.
- 4. Financing and Resource Constraints:** Government funding for WASH is limited, and private sector investment is insufficient. Moreover expenditures of project funds also slow due to procurement and other issues.
- 5. Behavioral Change and Awareness:** While toilets have been built, behavioral change regarding hygiene and waste disposal needs more emphasis.
- 6. Capacity Building:** Inadequate skilled human capital is big issue at all 3 tiers of government, specially at the local level.
- 7. Urban Sanitation Crisis:** Rapid urbanization is outpacing sanitation infrastructure, leading to poor waste management and increased health risks in big cities like Kathmandu valley, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Nepalgunj, Bharatpur, Pokhara etc..

Role of Government, Development Partners and NGOs:

Government Initiatives

The Government of Nepal plays a crucial role in WASH through policies, plans, investments, and regulatory frameworks. Key initiatives include:

- National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan (2011)
- WASH Plans
- NWASH database
- Water Supply and sanitation ACT 2022
- Drinking Water and Sanitation Regulations 2025
- Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Development Plan (2016-2030)
- Integrated WASH programs in collaboration with local governments and international donors

The government also works towards capacity building at the local level, ensuring sustainable WASH services in rural and marginalized communities.

Role of Development Partners and NGOs

Several international agencies and NGOs contribute significantly to WASH efforts in Nepal:

- UNICEF and WHO: Support government policies, provide funding, and assist in emergency WASH response, Water Safety Plans, WASH in HCFs and Wash in Schools.
- WaterAid Nepal: Works on improving WASH access in marginalized communities and schools.
- Rotary International: Plays a key role in community-driven WASH projects, funding clean water initiatives, and building sanitation facilities in schools (Girl Child Toilets) and healthcare centers.
- USAID, Asian Development Bank and World Bank: Provide financial and technical assistance for large-scale infrastructure projects.

These organizations help bridge funding gaps, introduce innovative solutions, and promote community engagement for sustainable WASH practices. There are also many organizations like SNV, UN Habitat, WHH, Wine to Water and many NGOs active in WASH sector.

Comparison with other South Asian Countries:

Nepal's WASH progress is commendable but still lags behind some neighboring South Asian countries:

- India: Has made significant progress through the Swachh Bharat Mission, achieving 100% ODF status and improving urban sanitation infrastructure. However, water quality issues persist.
- Bangladesh: Leads in innovative sanitation solutions and community-led hygiene programs, with over 98% sanitation coverage.
- Pakistan: Faces similar challenges to Nepal, including water scarcity and urban sanitation issues.
- Sri Lanka: Has one of the highest WASH coverage rates in South Asia, with almost 95% access to clean drinking water and effective sanitation management.

While Nepal has achieved good sanitation coverage, safe water and waste management systems need further development to match regional leaders like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Opportunities and Way Forward:

To achieve SDG 6 and ensure universal WASH coverage, Nepal must focus on the following:

- 1. Investment in Infrastructure:** Expanding piped water supply, water treatment systems, sewage treatment, and solid waste management, especially in urban areas.
- 2. Stronger Policy Implementation:** Enforcing regulations on water quality and sanitation to prevent contamination and improve health outcomes.
- 3. Private Sector Involvement:** Encouraging businesses to invest in WASH, particularly in water filtration technologies, chlorination system and sustainable sanitation solutions.
- 4. Climate-Resilient WASH Programs:** Developing systems that withstand natural disasters and climate impacts.
- 5. Education and Behavioral Change:** Enhancing awareness programs to improve hygiene habits, especially among school children and healthcare workers.
- 6. Partnerships with NGOs and Communities:** Engaging local communities and international NGOs like Rotary International to implement localized WASH solutions.

Conclusion:

Nepal has made substantial progress in WASH, but challenges remain in achieving safe water, improved sanitation, and better hygiene practices for all. Addressing infrastructure gaps, securing adequate funding, and strengthening multi-sector collaboration will be crucial in reaching SDG 6 by 2030. With a concerted effort from the government, NGOs, development partners, and the private sector, Nepal can ensure sustainable and equitable WASH services, improving public health and overall well-being for its citizens.

Rotary District 3292 Nepal Bhutan can play a significant role with the support from Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation and can make a difference to WASH sector development in Nepal.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

1221

PARTICIPANTS

ATTENDED





Key Facts and Insights

Rotarian Madhusudan Acharya served as the District Conference Chair for the Rotary Year 2024–25. Baby Panachiyil was the Rotary International President's Representative, while District Secretary Ashok Pyakurel acted as the Master of Ceremonies.

A total of 157 Rotary Clubs from Rotary District 3292 (Nepal and Bhutan) participated.

A total of 1,221 participants attended the District Conference.

53 participants from the Rotary Club of Thamel and 45 members from the Rotary Club of Central Butwal took part.

At the Vocational Award Ceremony 2025, Ketipati Organics received the NPR 20,00,000 Gopal Kamala Rajbhandari Award for Agriculture. In Basic Education and Literacy, Ms. Neeharika Shrestha (Project Neeharika) won the Dr. Sunita and Gopal Acharya Trust Fund Award (non-Rotarian), while Rtn. Manju Karki Lamichhane (Past President, Rotary Club of Jawalakhel) received the Rotarian honor.

Rtn Uday Kumar Shrestha from Rotary Club of Chitwan won Talent Show Competition

The Rotary Club of Patan Durbar Square won Rota Quiz 2025.

Among club exhibits from 44 participating clubs, the Rotary Club of Hetauda's display was judged best, followed by the Rotary Club of Tripureswor as first runner-up and the Rotary Club of Chitwan as second runner-up.

Eleven couples performed a vibrant ramp walk, showcasing a variety of traditional attires.

The 18th District Conference in Pokhara (February 19–21, 2026) has already attracted over 550 early registrations, demonstrating strong interest.

Rtn Dr Ishwori Prasad Dhakal was selected as the District Governor for the Rotary Year 2027–28

INUGURAL & PLENARY SESSION



The historic 17th District Conference of Rotary International District 3292 (Nepal-Bhutan), themed "Magical Rotary," was held from March 21-23, 2025, at The Plaza in Lalitpur, Nepal. The event radiated hope and unity, bringing together all 158 clubs of the district in an unprecedented display of collaboration and shared purpose.

Inaugural Ceremony

The conference began with the hoisting of the Rotary flag by Chief Guest Rotary International President Representative (RIPR) PDG Baby Joseph Panachiyil, followed by the inauguration of Club Exhibits. District Governor Rajendra Man Sherchan formally called the conference to order, marking the start of this grand gathering.

The session commenced with the national anthems of India, Bhutan, and Nepal, followed by the Rotary song. A traditional welcome dance set a vibrant tone for the event.

Conference Chair Madhusudan Acharya delivered a warm welcome address, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries and participants. A special felicitation ceremony honored RIPR PDG Baby Joseph Panachiyil and spouse, along with the Council of Governors, presented by DG Rajendra Man Sherchan and First Lady Sarojani Sherchan.

Inspirational Addresses

First Lady Sarojani Sherchan shared heartwarming remarks with stories of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors. DG Rajendra Man Sherchan highlighted his goals, achievements, and vision for the district. RIPR PDG Baby Joseph Panachiyil began his address in Nepali, emphasizing Rotary's global impact.

Keynote Speaker Rtn VK Madhav Mohan and Guest of Honor, Lalitpur Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan, delivered insightful speeches. Speaker Surendra Man Shrestha presented on "The Changing Face of Money."

Vocational Awards Ceremony 2025

Chaired by Past District Governor (PDG) Dilendra Raj Shrestha, the ceremony recognized outstanding contributions in vocational service.

Plenary Session I: Membership & Development

Moderated by Membership Committee Chair Rtn Subash Sigdel, the session featured:

- Rtn Subash Sigdel presenting the current membership status of District 3292.
- Rtn Rup Singh sharing her inspiring journey from member to club president.
- PDG ARC Santosh Rijal offering his perspectives on membership growth.
- Rtn Dhruva Prasad Acharya discussing "Attracting & Engaging Members."
- Rtn Laxman Gnawali outlining strategies for future membership expansion.
- An interactive Q&A session allowed participants to share ideas and suggestions.

Evening Fellowship & Cultural Show

The day concluded with a vibrant fellowship dinner, and cultural performances, fostering camaraderie among attendees.



LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY, AND ROTARY'S IMPACT



Women in Leadership/DEI

The second day commenced with an inspiring session on Women in Leadership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Co-chair Rtn. Subidhya Khanal Dahal introduced the discussion, highlighting the progress of women in Rotary leadership. PDG AKS Jaya RL Shah traced the historical journey of women in Rotary, while keynote speaker Dr. Sharmila Parajuli Dhakal, along with Rtn. Manju Karki Lamichhane and Rtn. Nirmal Rijal, shared powerful insights on fostering diversity and inclusion within the organization.

Public Image

District Public Image Chair Amit Giri provided an update on current public image initiatives. The session featured dynamic speakers, including Miss Nepal Aashma Kumari KC, who shared valuable lessons from her journey for Rotary's brand growth. Tripti Giri, General Manager of QFX Cinemas, presented innovative strategies for enhancing Rotary's public engagement. Additionally, Dr. Gampo Dorji offered global branding insights drawn from the World Health Organization's (WHO) experience.

Service Projects

Rtn. Pawan Raman Khanal led the Service Project session, showcasing ongoing initiatives. DGE Binod Koirala emphasized Rotary's role in combating global warming, while Rtn. Rajendra Lamsal, Rtn. Ashesh Bhandari, Rtn. Sudip Koirala, and Rtn. K.B. Gurung presented impactful service projects across various sectors.

Area of Focus

PDG Jitendra B. Rajbhandary, District Learning Facilitator, moderated the Areas of Focus session. Experts including Dr. Dina Shrestha (Diabetes Rehabilitation & Research Center), Mahesh Nakarmi (Zero Waste), Dr. Tap Raj Panta (Basic Education & Literacy), and Rtn. Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti (Peace and Conflict Resolution) delivered insightful presentations on Rotary's key priorities.

The Rotary Foundation

DRFC Kumud Tripathy provided an update on The Rotary Foundation's status in District 3292. The session featured engaging discussions led by PDG Ratna Man Sakya, PDG Sanjay Giri, and ARRFC M.K. Jha, highlighting the Foundation's transformative work.

Importance of Youth in Rotary

The final session, The Importance of Youth in Rotary, was chaired by PDG Yogendra Man Pradhan. DGN Vishnu Bahadur Karkee emphasized strengthening youth participation, while DIR Itr Deepsan Adhikari and DRR Rtr. Bikram Chhetri shared updates on Interact and Rotaract activities in the district. Youth Icon Neeharika Shrestha inspired attendees with her work supporting street children, and Interactor Aayush Pokhrel shared his journey from Interact to Rotaract.

The sessions were enriched by the wisdom of distinguished speakers, fostering meaningful dialogue. District Governor Rajendra Man Sherchan honored all speakers with a Token of Love in appreciation of their contributions.

The day concluded with a vibrant fellowship dinner, featuring a talent show and cultural performances, strengthening bonds among Rotarians and guests.



RI & DISTRICT AFFAIRS AND VALEDICTORY SESSION



District Governor Rajendra Man Sherchan presided over the RI & District Affairs Session and the Valedictory Session, marking the culmination of the conference.

Promoting Rotary's Global Gathering

Rtn. Ambika Shrestha, Chair of the RI Convention Promotion Committee, presented an engaging overview of the upcoming Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada (June 21-25, 2025), encouraging participation from Rotarians.

Financial Transparency and Governance

- District Treasurer Gyanendra Bhari presented the Audit Report and Financial Accounts for Rotary Year 2023-24, ensuring accountability.
- Rtn. Homa Kanta Chaulagai, Chair of the District Rules and Procedures Committee,

proposed the adoption of District Conference Resolutions, reinforcing structured governance.

Vision for the Future

- DGN Vishnu Bahadur Karkee shared his reflections on Rotary's path forward.
- DGE Binod Koirala outlined his goals and vision for the upcoming term, inspiring Rotarians with his strategic priorities.

Passing the Torch

In a symbolic transition, District Conference Chair Rtn. Madhusudan Acharya handed over the Conference Flag to Rtn. Laxmi Thapa Giri, Chair of the 18th District Conference, marking the beginning of preparations for the next gathering.

Special Recognitions and Awards

- RIPR PDG Baby Panachiyil shared his impressions of the conference, followed by a memento presentation by the District Governor.
- DG Rajendra Man Sherchan honored outstanding contributors, including: Club Exhibit Winner, Rota Quiz Winner, Talent Show Winner, Highest Participation Award recipients, Conference Committees, Subcommittees, and Host/Support Agencies

Key Announcements

- The District Governor for 2027-28 was officially declared by the RI Director Nominating Committee Member.
- District Secretary Ashok Nath Pyakural presented conference statistics and key announcements, summarizing the event's success.

Closing Reflections

- DG Rajendra Man Sherchan delivered his final remarks, expressing gratitude and reinforcing Rotary's mission.
- Conference Chair Rtn. Madhusudan Acharya extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all participants, organizers, and supporters.

With the formal adjournment by DG Rajendra Man Sherchan, the conference concluded on a high note, leaving attendees motivated and united in Rotary's spirit of service.



CELEBRATING ROTARY FELLOWSHIP

The 17th District Conference came alive with an unforgettable evening of entertainment, showcasing Nepal's vibrant musical heritage and cultural diversity. The highlight of the night was a spectacular live concert featuring some of the region's most celebrated artists - Sabin Rai and The Pharaoh, Jugal and The Co-Pilots, and Prakash and The Revelations (Siliguri, India) - who performed across the first two days of the event.

A talent show, expertly coordinated by Rtn. Binita Pradhan Joshi (Rotary Club of Mahaboudha), provided a platform for Rotarians to showcase their hidden talents. Featuring performances ranging from singing to dancing, the event highlighted the diverse skills within the Rotary community, earning enthusiastic cheers and applause from the audience.

Adding a touch of elegance and tradition, a cultural ramp walk showcased Rotarians and guests adorned in stunning ethnic attire representing Nepal's rich cultural heritage. Beautifully choreographed by Rtn. Sunita Rijal (Rotary Club of Newroad City),







RAMP WALK

ELEVEN COUPLES PERFORMED
A VIBRANT RAMP WALK,
SHOWCASING A VARIETY
OF TRADITIONAL ATTIRES.
EACH PAIR HIGHLIGHTED THE
RICH CULTURAL DIVERSITY
THROUGH THEIR UNIQUE AND
ELEGANT OUTFITS.





Adding a touch of elegance and tradition, the cultural ramp walk showcased Rotarians and guests adorned in stunning ethnic attire representing Nepal's rich cultural heritage. Beautifully choreographed by Rtn. Sunita Rijal (Rotary Club of Newroad City), the event featured:

- Rtn. Sunita Rijal and Rtn. Niraj Shakya (Rotary Club of New Road City) dazzling in traditional Gurung attire
- Rtn. Binita Pradhan (Rotary Club of Mahaboudha) and Rtn. Durga Subedi (Rotary Club of Pashupati Kathmandu) embracing Tamang culture
- District Office Manager Mahesh Bir Bajracharya and Rtn. Sita Rupakheta (Rotary Club of New Road City) gracing the event in Sherpa attire
- District Governor Rajendra Man Sherchan and First Lady Rtn. Sarojani Sherchan (Rotary Club of Thamel) honoring Thakali culture (though time constraints prevented the DG from changing attire)
- Past District Governor Sanjay Giri and First Lady Rtn. Sangeeta Giri (Rotary Club of Birgunj) celebrating Limbu traditions
- DG-Elect Binod Koirala (Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail) and First Lady Bibha Adhikari Koirala radiating elegance in Nepali Daura-Suruwal and a red Cholo with gold Tilhari ornaments
- DG Nominee Vishnu Bahadur Karkee and First Lady Rtn. Niru KC Karkee (Rotary Club of Baneshwor) showcasing Rai heritage
- Past DG Santosh Rijal and First Lady Rtn. Nabanita Rijal (Rotary Clubs of Biratnagar and Biratnagar Downtown) representing Tharu culture
- Rtn. Gautam Shrestha (Rotary Club of Yala) and Rtn. Kabita Manandhar (Rotary Club of Gongabu) highlighting Newari tradition
- Rtn. Manju Dhamala (Rotary Club of Bagmati-Kathmandu) and Rtn. Uttam Mani Paudel (Rotary Club of Changu) presenting Magar culture
- Rtn. Nagesh Basnyat (Rotary Club of Jawalakhel Manjushree) and Rtn. Shristi Tripathi (Rotary Club of Gyaneshwor) in Maithili attire

The gathering stood as a true celebration of Nepal's unity in diversity, with each ensemble telling a unique story of heritage, craftsmanship, and cultural pride.

TALENT SHOW

Five Rotarians participated in the Talent Show Competition, with the winners being: Rtn. Uday Kumar Shrestha from Rotary Club of Chitwan securing first place, Rtn. Sailu Paudel from Rotary Club of Dillibazar earning second place, and Rtn. Raj Chodhary from Rotary Club of Central Butwal taking third place.

The competition showcased the diverse talents of Rotarians, with all participants delivering outstanding performances that entertained the audience. The winners were recognized for their exceptional skills and contributions to this vibrant segment of the conference.

THE ROTA QUIZ



The Rota Quiz finals were held on 23 March 2025, the third day of the 17th District Conference, at The Plaza, Lalitpur. The session ran as scheduled from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM. Six clubs had advanced to the finals after competing in zonal and regional rounds across all seven regions. The finalists were:

1. Rotary Club of Dillibazar
2. Rotary Club of Patan Durbar Square
3. Rotary Club of Pokhara Mid Town
4. Rotary Club of Tulsipur City
5. Rotary Club of Narayani Mid Town
6. Rotary Club of Surunga

However, the Rotary Club of Pokhara Mid Town withdrew at the last minute, leaving five clubs to compete in the final round.

Event Proceedings

The session was presided over by Sub-Committee Chair Lalita Thapa, who also served as one of the judges alongside PDG Jaya R. L. Shah. Rtn Jayendra Rimal acted as the Quiz Master, with AG Arjun Shrestha as the timekeeper and Regional Chair Sarita Shrestha as the scorekeeper. In her opening remarks, Chair Lalita Thapa expressed gratitude to the District Governor and the Conference Committee for their guidance and support. She particularly thanked PDG Jaya Shah for serving as a judge and highlighted the contributions of the Rota Quiz Sub-Committee. As a token of appreciation, PDG Shah presented her compiled book on Rota Quiz to the contestants. Quiz Master Rtn. Jayendra Rimal briefed participants on the competition rules and the roles of the committee members.

Quiz Structure & Performance

The quiz consisted of six rounds with a total of 49 questions:

- Rounds 1-4: 40 Rotary-themed questions
- Round 5: 10 general knowledge questions
- Round 6: Rapid-fire round

Nearly 90% of the questions were answered correctly, demonstrating the participants' strong preparation.

Winners & Awards

The final results were:

1. Winner: Rotary Club of Patan Durbar Square
2. First Runner-up: Rotary Club of Narayani Mid Town
3. Second Runner-up: Rotary Club of Dillibazar

District Governor Rtn. Rajendra Man Sherchan and DGN Rtn. Vishnu B. Karki graced the award ceremony. The winning team received a trophy and gold medals, while the first and second runners-up were awarded silver and bronze medals, respectively. All participants received certificates of participation.

Additionally, audience members who correctly answered passed questions were rewarded with chocolates and dot pens during the session.



VOCATIONAL AWARD CEREMONY



Khetipati Organics Recognized with Prestigious Gopal Kamala Rajbhandari Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence 2025

Khetipati Organics, renowned for its outstanding contributions to agriculture, has been honored with the Gopal Kamala Rajbhandari Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence 2025 in the category of Agriculture or Agriculture-Based Vocations. The organization received an award of NPR 2 million in recognition of its exceptional work.

Established by Rotary District 3292 Nepal on October 30, 2010, this prestigious award recognizes vocational leaders and institutions in Nepal, selected by a high-level committee appointed by the district. The award fund, initially NPR 1 million, was generously donated by the family of the late Rotarian Gopal Raj Bhandari, after whom the award is named. Starting this year, the award amount has been increased to NPR 2 million.

Past Rotarian Gopal Raj Bhandari (1921–2008) was one of the founding members of the Rotary movement in Nepal, dating back to 1957. His unwavering dedication to Rotary services earned him Rotary International's highest honor, the "Service Above Self" Award, in 2001. His relentless efforts to establish a separate Rotary District in Nepal by July 2008 cemented his legacy as the Patron of Nepal's Rotary District.

Dr Suniti and Gopal Acharya Trust Fund Award

- Niharika Shrestha, a 15-year-old non-Rotarian, received NPR 100,000 for her initiative "Niharika," which supports financially disadvantaged children. She raises funds by playing the violin on the streets.

- Rotarian Manju Karki Lamichhane was also honored for her 55 years of remarkable contributions to education.

This year's awards celebrate excellence, innovation, and service across diverse fields, continuing the legacy of Rotary's commitment to community upliftment.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2027-28

ELECTION



Rotary District 3292 Nepal- Bhutan Holds Democratic Election for 2027-28 District Governor

On March 23, 2025, Rotary District 3292 Nepal-Bhutan conducted a democratic election to select the District Governor for the 2027-28 term. The two candidates were Rtn. Dr. Ishwori Prasad Dhakal from the Rotary Club of Bharatpur and Rtn. Azaj Alam from the Rotary Club of Central Butwal.

Marking a significant milestone, this was the first time in the district's history that clubs exercised their voting rights to elect their leader. A total of 149 eligible Rotary Clubs participated. RI Election Observer Kishor Kedia oversaw the process, in which Rtn. Dr. Ishwori Prasad Dhakal secured victory.

Rotary District 3292 Nepal-Bhutan extended its congratulations to Rtn. Dr. Ishwori Prasad Dhakal on his election as District Governor for 2027-28.



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I am truly humbled, honoured, and deeply grateful for the trust and confidence you all have placed in me as the District Governor for the Rotary Year 2027-28. I extend my sincere appreciation and a heartfelt humility to all Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors of RI District 3292 Nepal - Bhutan for your unwavering support at the 17th District Conference to elect me.

I am truly inspired by and deeply appreciate the guidance and mentorship of the Council of Governors and senior District leaders, whose vision, dedication, and relentless effort have laid the foundation for our continued progress. It is a privilege to continue their legacy.

With empathy, compassion, and a shared commitment to Service Above Self, I pledge to work alongside you to strengthen our clubs, foster development, and create meaningful change going forward. I fully appreciate and acknowledge each of your vital role in creating positive change, and I am dedicated to empowering and supporting you to make a lasting impact.

I am deeply committed to driving progress and fostering a culture of innovation, unity, and service in RI District 3292.

DGND Prof. Dr. I. P. Dhakal

CONFERENCE FLAG HANDOVER

In a symbolic transition, District Conference Chair Rtn. Madhusudan Acharya (Rotary Club of Thamel) handed over the Conference Flag to Rtn. Laxmi Thapa Giri (Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail), Chair of the 18th District Conference, marking the beginning of preparations for the next gathering. Members of both the Rotary Club of Thamel and the Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail were present during the handover ceremony.



DID YOU ENJOY THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE?



Rtn. Laxmi Thapa Giri
Chair-18th District Conference Committee
Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail

The 17th District Conference was a remarkable three-day event uniting Rotarians across the district. Filled with learning, sharing, and fellowship, it celebrated our collective service journey.

The energy was electric—keynote speeches, panel discussions, and project recognitions highlighted Rotary's impact. Beyond sessions, Rotarians reconnected and built new bonds, strengthening our unity.

Now, we look ahead to the 18th District Conference in Pokhara, a city of natural beauty and warm hospitality. Planning is underway to make it even more inspiring, with engaging sessions and fresh service collaborations.

Your voice matters! Share ideas, suggest topics, or help organize to shape this event. Let's meet in Pokhara to celebrate service, ignite passion, and grow Rotary's impact. Stay tuned—see you there!



Rtn Om Shanker Shrestha
President Elect, Rotary Club of Yala

It was both a privilege and an honor to attend the 17th District Conference in Pulchowk, Lalitpur - a historic milestone as this marked the first time Lalitpur hosted this prestigious event for RID 3292. As a Rotarian representing Yala, the culturally vibrant "city of fine arts," I took great pride in showcasing my hometown's rich heritage at this significant gathering.

The conference proved to be a transformative event that united over 1,200 Rotarians from 157 clubs under our shared motto of "Service Above Self." This platform enabled valuable exchanges of innovative ideas, highlighted impactful initiatives, and inspired broader adoption of Rotary's values. It also provided exceptional networking opportunities with both local and international Rotarians as well as experts across various fields.

A particularly noteworthy aspect was DGE Rtn. Binod Koirala's presentation of key priorities for the 2025-26 Rotary year, which outlined strategies to amplify Rotary's

community impact. As President-Elect, I am committed to aligning our club's goals and strategic plans with these district priorities to maximize our service to the community.

The conference made history in District 3292 by implementing a democratic voting system for leadership selection, where member clubs exercised their right to elect new leadership - an unprecedented practice in our district's history.



Rtn Pooja Pandey
President, Rotary Club of Mount Everest

I thoroughly enjoyed the District Conference. The opening Newari cultural dance set a wonderful tone, and the District Governor and First Lady's speeches were inspiring. The event was a great platform for networking, and the musical night and food were enjoyable. Incoming DG Binod Koirala's vision was impressive, and the plenary sessions on service projects and youth in Rotary were motivating. While the musical night and food communication could improve, the conference was well-organized and a success overall.



Rtn Kabin Shrestha
Past President, Rotary Club of Biratnagar

We proudly celebrated our 17th District Conference from March 21-23, 2025, in Lalitpur, Nepal—a vibrant gathering of Rotarians from across Nepal. Rotary Nepal's impact shone brightly, with NPR 1.4 billion+ contributed to social projects (2020-21 to 2023-24), transforming countless lives. Beyond service, we enjoyed fellowship through music, talent shows, and gourmet dining, reenergizing us for 2025-26.

For future conferences (like Pokhara 2026), consider adding a "Vision of Upcoming DGs" session to spotlight leadership goals. A perfect blend of purpose and camaraderie!



Rtn Luba Raj Uprety
President, Rotary Club of Surunga

The Rotary Club of Surunga actively participated in the prestigious 17th District Conference. The conference featured multiple plenary sessions offering valuable insights into Rotary's initiatives, leadership development, and community service programs. These informative sessions significantly enhanced our understanding and skills. Evening programs included fellowship



Rtn Anil Jayswal
President, Rotary Club of Birgunj Metropolis

This year, nine distinguished members from RC Birgunj Metropolis had the honor of participating in the 17th District Conference held in Lalitpur. Such gatherings consistently prove to be enriching experiences, uniting Rotarians from diverse backgrounds under one roof. The conference offered invaluable opportunities to learn about our district's achievements, exchange innovative ideas, and develop strategies to guide our clubs with greater effectiveness and enthusiasm.

Our Metropolis family swelled with pride when Past President Rtn. Prithvi Rajbhandari was recognized as a Major Donor to the Rotary family during the conference, marking a particularly memorable moment for our club.

I earnestly encourage all our members to actively participate in future conferences and Rotary events. These engagements not only amplify our collective impact but also strengthen the bonds that unite us as a Rotary family, fostering both personal growth and organizational excellence.

activities, talent shows, and cultural performances that created a vibrant atmosphere. The daily dinners provided excellent opportunities to strengthen bonds with fellow Rotarians. This conference marked several historic firsts for our club – our debut appearance in the Rota Quiz finals and our inaugural participation in voting for the 2027-28 District Governor election. The 17th District Conference proved to be an exceptionally rewarding experience, combining education, entertainment, and professional growth while reinforcing our dedication to Rotary's core values and service mission.



Rtn Shiva Gyawali
President, Rotary Club of Butwal Downtown

The 17th District Conference united national leaders, governors, and past presidents who shared valuable insights on economic development, leadership, and professional growth. Attendees participated in networking sessions, interactive discussions, and expert-led workshops, while outstanding Rotarians received well-deserved recognition for their contributions.

The event highlighted youth engagement and celebrated women's leadership through inspiring success stories. A business exhibition showcased Rotary initiatives and corporate partnerships, complemented by free health checkups for participants. Clubs presented their achievements and future goals, demonstrating Rotary's impactful work.

A historic first occurred when two candidates contested district leadership elections, creating unprecedented excitement as club presidents cast deciding votes. Plans were unveiled for next year's conference in Pokhara.

While the program excelled in content quality, attendance, and digital management, challenges included high registration fees, space limitations, and election-related disruptions that overshadowed some excellent sessions. Food service and crowd distribution also needed improvement.

The conference successfully reinforced Rotary's commitment to service while providing valuable networking opportunities. Despite organizational challenges, it left participants inspired to advance Rotary's mission of goodwill.





THANK YOU

ESTEEMED COMMITTEE
AND SUB-COMMITTEE
CHAIRS, CO-CHAIRS,
AND DISTINGUISHED
MEMBERS OF THE
DISTRICT CONFERENCE
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE,

IT IS WITH PROFOUND
GRATITUDE THAT I
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
EXEMPLARY
DEDICATION AND
UNWAVERING
COMMITMENT EACH OF
YOU HAS
DEMONSTRATED
THROUGHOUT THE
PLANNING AND
EXECUTION OF OUR
RECENT DISTRICT
CONFERENCE. YOUR
COLLECTIVE EFFORTS,
FROM INCEPTION TO
CULMINATION, HAVE
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN
ACHIEVING OUR SHARED
OBJECTIVES WITH THE
UTMOST
PROFESSIONALISM AND
EXCELLENCE.

BEST REGARDS,
MADHU S ACHARYA,
CHAIR, DISTRICT
CONFERENCE



President-Elect Learning Seminar

Birganj, Nepal

March 7 & 8, 2025

The President Elect Learning Seminar (PELS) 2025 was held on March 7th and 8th in Birganj, Nepal, bringing together over 200 participants for an enriching experience. The event was guided by a distinguished team of facilitators, including DG Rajendra Man Sherchan, DLF Chair PDG Jitendra Bahadur Rajbhandary, ARC PDG Sanjaya Giri, PDG Santosh Rijal, DGN Vishnu Bahadur Karkee, DGE Binod Koirala, and several others.

The seminar kicked off with a dynamic opening plenary session featuring national anthems, Rotary songs, and inspiring speeches from esteemed leaders. The agenda was filled with engaging discussions on building strong clubs, enhancing public image, and advancing humanitarian service. Breakout sessions provided an opportunity for in-depth conversations on leadership, strategic planning, and effective club management.

On the second day, parallel sessions focused on strategies for attracting members and empowering young leaders. A plenary session explored the impact of digitalization and social media in shaping Rotary's outreach. The seminar concluded on a high note, with participants expressing their appreciation for the interactive sessions and sharing uplifting stories of community service.





My Transformative Experience at the 2025 Rotary International Assembly

Binod Koirala, District Governor, 2025-26
Rotary International District 3292 Nepal-Bhutan

Recently, I participated in the Rotary International Assembly, which was exclusively for District Governors-Elect and their spouses. The 2025 RI Assembly was held at the Risen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Florida, from February 9th to 13th. The assembly was one of the most productive and transformative experiences of my life.

I gained many key takeaways from the event, but the following points were the most memorable and important to me:

1. The true international spirit of Rotary was on full display in Orlando. After the RI Convention, this may have been the largest international gathering of Rotarians. Although the number of delegates at the Assembly was smaller than at the RI Convention, we had numerous opportunities to meet and interact with batchmates and facilitators during breakout sessions and coffee breaks, which was both fascinating and exciting.
2. President Mario was outstanding in his delivery, interactions, and the way he presented himself. I feel lucky to be serving under such a true, magnetic leader who has a clear vision. And what a personality... a true hero!
3. Mario's Presidential message was 90% focused on membership development, with no mention of the Foundation. This reveals a clear sense of focus and direction.
4. The Assembly's format was amazing, with a strong emphasis on breakout sessions where we had the opportunity to meet leaders from around the world. These sessions were fully facilitation-based, with only about 20 participants per group, ensuring everyone could speak and share their opinions. Language barriers—especially for Japanese participants—were noticeable, but translations were available via headsets in mixed-language groups. I exchanged nearly 100 business cards and built friendships with Rotarians from across the globe.



5. The "Cohort Experiment" was also new to us. Each of us was placed in a small group of five DGEs. My group consisted of two Taiwanese members, one from the USA, and one from the Netherlands, in addition to myself. We were encouraged to meet at least once per day and initiate discussions. We felt that this could serve as a template for PELS and other district events.

6. There were no lengthy presentations and no lengthy introductions. No one spoke for more than 10 minutes, and no introduction took more than one minute. The planning and choreography were brilliant and impressive. Each speaker spoke from a pre-prepared text displayed on a set of prompters visible through three ceiling-mounted screens, ensuring that no one got the impression they were reading from a script. All nine plenary and eight breakout sessions started and ended precisely on time.

7. The cultural evening and food festival night were amazing events to learn about different cultures from various parts of the world and experience diverse cuisines under one roof.

8. No fanfare in introducing the past RI Presidents—it was a very elegant event that lasted just five minutes. No frills, no mementos, no decorations.

9. The Rotary Action Plan and three-year goal setting lacked structure. It was suggested that each district appoint Rotary Action Plan Champions or District Chairs, who would play a vital role in creating awareness and promoting the advancement of these plans at the district level.

10. The three-year goal setting was promoted as the way forward to ensure continuity of vision, ideas, and projects. The core committee for the three-year goal setting would consist of the DG, DGE, DGN, DRFC, Membership Chair, Public Image Chair, and ad hoc members as deemed appropriate. We believe this is vital to the stability and continuity of the Rotary Action Plan.

These are my top 10 takeaways from the RI Assembly. Obviously, there are more, but I thought these would inspire us to take action, grow, and serve.

Prior to the RI Assembly, I visited a few clubs in New Jersey, New York, and Virginia and had the opportunity to give presentations about Nepal and the Rotary movement here. Furthermore, I had the chance to interact with students at the University of Virginia (UVA) and meet with a dean and trustees of the university. This has opened an opportunity to establish a relationship with the university, gain their support for research-based work, and anticipate visits from their students and faculty to Nepal.

In a nutshell, the RI Assembly and my extended visit to various Rotary clubs and other stakeholders in the USA have opened more opportunities to exchange ideas internationally and gain further support for Nepal through Rotary connections.

[Let's unite for good, unite for our own growth, and unite to serve our communities.](#)



CLUB ACTIVITIES

MARCH 2025

Support to Shree Manakamana Bahira Residential Secondary School, Gorkha

RC Kathmandu West | February 28, 2025

Since 2009, the Rotary Club of Kathmandu West has been supporting the school by fulfilling various needs, including providing computers, furniture, toilets, and more. In the same year, the club initiated the Cowshed Project to empower village mothers group. Under this project, a mothers' group was formed, where each member is responsible for raising a calf. Currently, the group has 51 members, and every member has received a calf, enabling them to double their income. Additionally, the club donated Rs. 15,000 to the mothers' group to help cover rental expenses.

On February 28, 2025, the club also launched a grant of Rs. 200,000 for the school, contributing Rs. 150,000 towards it. Of this amount, the Rotary Club of Kathmandu



West contributed Rs. 125,000, while Arun Joshi contributed Rs. 25,000, along with donations of biscuits, chocolates, and juice. Arun Joshi further organized a lunch program for the community. Additionally, the club provided scholarships to five students from the same school.

DG Official Club Visit and Charter Day Celebration

RC Lalitpur Midtown | February 13, 2025



During the DG Visit and fourth Club Assembly, all five chairpersons presented their respective reports, followed by insightful and encouraging remarks from DG Rtn. Rajendra Man Sherchan, who deeply appreciated the club's flagship Egg Bank project as an outstanding initiative to provide essential nutrients to children, showcasing a strong commitment to their health and well-being. The 17th edition of the Rotary Club of Lalitpur Midtown's souvenir was unveiled, and the 17th Charter Day was celebrated with a cake-cutting ceremony. President Rtn. Ramesh Shrestha shared his thoughts on the successful DG visit and Charter Day celebration, expressing gratitude to all members for their contributions and inviting feedback to further improve future events, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and continuous improvement in enhancing the club's activities and impact.

Free Cervical Cancer and Breast Cancer Screening Camp

RC Pashupati-Kathmandu | March 8, 2025

Marking International Women's Day, the Rotary Club of Pashupati Kathmandu organized a Free Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening Camp on March 8 at H.P.N. Clinic, Suryabinayak Bus Stop, Bhaktapur.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about women's health and encourage early detection of cervical and breast cancer—critical steps in preventing and treating these

diseases. A large number of women from the local community participated, benefiting from free medical examinations and expert counseling provided by qualified healthcare professionals.

This impactful event underscored Rotary's commitment to improving community health and empowering women through accessible healthcare services.



Mindfulness Session

RC Narayani Midtown | March 4, 2025

On March 4, 2025, the Rotary Club of Narayani Mid Town organized a mindfulness session at Hotel Royal Century, facilitated by senior Art of Living teacher Pawan Nepal.

During the session, Pawan Nepal emphasized the importance of yoga, meditation, and mindfulness in promoting mental

and physical well-being. Attendees also participated in a short pranayama (breathing exercise) session.

A total of 32 Rotarians attended the event, gaining valuable insights into holistic wellness practices.



Rotary Club of Devdaha Serves Devotees on Maha Shivaratri

RC Devdaha | February 26, 2025

On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri, the Rotary Club of Devdaha organized a free distribution program at Lokeshwor Temple on February 26, 2025, providing water, tea, and prasad to thousands of devotees. The initiative aimed to ensure the comfort of worshippers during the religious festivities.

The program successfully served over 5,000 devotees throughout the day, made possible through the generous support of individual donors and Devdaha Adhyathmik Prasthithan, demonstrating strong community collaboration.

With a total budget of NPR 168,000, the initiative covered expenses for water, tea, prasad, and event management. Distinguished attendees included the Mayor of Devdaha Municipality, Rotary Club of Devdaha President Bishnu Prasad Pathak, Secretary Narayan Bhandari, and other dedicated Rotarians who ensured the program's smooth execution.

The primary beneficiaries were devotees visiting Lokeshwor Temple for Maha Shivaratri celebrations. Given the high footfall during the festival, access to drinking water and refreshments proved immensely beneficial for attendees.



Water Sanitation and Hygiene Assistance

Rotary EClub of Namobuddha | March 25, 2025

To commemorate Rotary Month's focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), the Rotary E-Club of Namobuddha, in collaboration with the Interact Club of Kathmandu University High School (KUHS) Dhulikhel, distributed community water filters, stationery, sports equipment, and hygiene supplies to Janajagriti Basic School in Namobuddha-2.

The school building was entirely destroyed by devastating landslides on Asoj 11 and 12, forcing classes to be held in Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs). Though a small effort, this initiative sought to restore hope and encouragement among the students.

Shital Dahal, Principal of Janajagriti Basic

School, expressed that the materials provided by the Rotary Club were of tremendous value.

The program was attended by distinguished guests, including the Ward Chairperson of Namobuddha-2, the Chairperson of the School Management Committee, the Principal of KUHS, Rotary District 3292 WASH Co-Chair Situ Sainju, local social activists, and guardians. The supplies were formally handed over to the students and school administration.

Charter President Ganga Luitel and the WASH Committee Co-Chair pledged ongoing support for the school in the coming days. The total budget for the initiative was NPR 155,000.



RCHG Supports KIOCH's Vision for a 200-Bed Children's Hospital in Nepal

RC Himalayan Golfers | February 27, 2025

Dr. Bhagwan Koirala hosted the Rotary Club of Himalayan Golfers (RCHG) at the Kathmandu Institute of Child Health (KIOCH) site in Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, for their 127th Weekly Meeting. The event included a site visit and a detailed presentation on KIOCH's progress and vision. District Governor (DG) Rtn. Rajendra Man Sherchan and Assistant Governor (AG) Rtn. Dinesh Shrestha were also present, underscoring the initiative's significance.

A renowned cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Koirala envisions a network of multi-specialty children's hospitals across all seven provinces to ensure no child is denied medical care due to financial constraints. Under KIOCH, this initiative aims to provide world-class pediatric services at government-subsidized rates, making healthcare affordable and accessible for every child in Nepal. His mission is to build a sustainable healthcare system where no child is deprived of essential medical treatment.

As a nonprofit organization, KIOCH requires substantial funding to realize its ambitious goals. The project is currently supported by contributions from the Nepalese government, Corporate sponsors, private sector, and Individual donors.

Given Rotary's extensive global and local network, its partnership could play a pivotal role in mobilizing resources for KIOCH's mission. The project aligns perfectly with Rotary's principle of "Service Above Self," highlighting the power of collaborative humanitarian efforts.

Despite Nepal having several specialized hospitals, pediatric care remains critically underserved, with fewer than 3,000 beds for nearly 10 million children. To bridge this gap,

KIOCH is constructing a 200-bed children's hospital in Kathmandu. While the Clinical & Research Building is already operational (providing OPD, lab, and administrative services), the main hospital buildings are nearing completion.

KIOCH has already demonstrated impact through its first satellite hospital in Damak, which has treated over 127,000 children, including emergency and ICU cases. The hospital also collaborates with the Koshi Province Government to offer free treatment for children under 10.

During the meeting, an equipment brochure was shared, and discussions centered on securing Rotary global grants and forging strategic partnerships to further the cause.

Recognizing KIOCH as a transformative initiative for Nepal's children, the Rotary Club of Himalayan Golfers (RCHG) has pledged support through Rotary's domestic and international networks.



Handover of Global Grant “The Visionary Project”

RC Biratnagar Downtown | March 25, 2025

This visionary project involved the construction of new toilets and the repair of existing ones, the installation of a water station, the repair of the boundary wall, the painting of school walls and the outdoor play area, and the development of the Montessori area, office area, and mid-day meal area. Additionally, it included the installation of lights, fans, and other wiring work, the installation of two computer sets, various repair works, furniture installation, as well as awareness programs and hygiene kit distribution.

At the handover ceremony, representatives from non-Rotary organizations such as

Biratnagar Mahanagarpalika, the Department of Education, Ward No. 1, and the School Management Committee were present, along with Assistant Governor Rtn. Biju Thapalia and fellow Rotarians.

The Global Grant number is 2453359, with the Rotary Club of Dona Paula 3170 as the international partner. The total project cost is 40 lakh rupees. This initiative will benefit 150 students, teachers, and staff, as well as the

entire school community of Shiv Adharbhat Vidyalaya.

Projects like this, which transform schools into Happy Schools, enhance learning, boost confidence, improve health, empower students, strengthen communities, and break cycles of poverty—fostering a brighter future through quality education and holistic development.



District Governor Official Visit

RC Burtibang Dhorpatan | March 29, 2025

On March 29, 2025, District Governor Rajendra Man Sherchan made his official visit to the Rotary Club of Burtibang Dhorpatan. This significant event highlighted the club's strong commitment to Rotary's ideals and its impactful service initiatives in the region.

We commend President Rtn. Gyanashyam Sharma, Secretary Rtn. Khagendra Maan Pun, Charter President Rtn. Shanta Raj Sharma Neupane, and all club members for their exemplary efforts in organizing this successful visit. Their dedication truly reflects Rotary's spirit of service above self.

May this achievement serve as inspiration for continued progress as you carry forward your noble mission of community service with excellence.



RO Filter Installation

RC Tilottama, Rupandehi | March 3, 2025

The Rotary Club of Tilottama, Rupandehi, has installed an RO filter under its Water and Sanitation Service initiative to provide clean drinking water at Shri Santoshi Mata Gurukul Vidya Ashram, located in the Nilkantha Dham premises, Dipnagar, Ward No. 7, Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City.

According to the consumer committee, approximately 150+ people will benefit from this service daily.



USA-Nepal Humanitarian Service Award Ceremony

RC Patan Heritage, Mahabouddha,
Rudramati, Patan,Yala, RAC Patan
Heritage, Rudramati, & Yala |

March 8, 2025

The 35th anniversary of the USA-Nepal Humanitarian Service Award Ceremony was celebrated at St. Xavier's School in Jawalakhel. The event was organized by RID 3292 & RID 7475 and hosted by RC Patan Heritage, RC Mahabouddha, RC Rudramati, RC Patan, RC Yala, RAC Patan Heritage, RAC Rudramati, and RAC Yala.

- Chief Guest: Michael J. Harkar, Public Affairs Chief, U.S. Embassy
- Program Chair: PDG RID 7475 Rtn. Dr. Tulsi



Maharjan

- Special Guests: Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan, and DG RID 3292 Rtn. Rajendra Man Serchan

This prestigious event honored outstanding individuals for their contributions to society:

- Dr. Rohit Ranjitkar – Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust
- Mayor Chiri Babu Maharjan – Leader of Lalitpur
- Past District Governor Jaya RL Shah
- Ms. Narayan Devi Pradhan – Classical Performer

•Rtn. Shiva Bhakta Rajbhandary

The celebration concluded with a fellowship dinner featuring the traditional Newa Bhoje cuisine.

On March 18, 2025, proceeds from the 35th anniversary of the Humanitarian Award Ceremony, totaling Rs. 501,000, were donated to the Bhaidega Temple Renovation Committee in support of the temple's restoration.

Free Health Camp and Non-Food Item Support Program

RC Chitwan February 12 & 19, 2025



The Rotary Club of Chitwan successfully organized a cardiac screening program for school children at its club building on February 12, 2025. The initiative aimed to detect heart diseases at an early stage, specifically targeting students from community schools.

The screening was conducted in collaboration with the Rotary Punnyarn Ujelidevi Cardio Care Center under the leadership of Past District Governor and Past Club President, Rtn. Rabindra Piya. A total of 31 students from Balkumari Secondary School underwent heart checkups, including echocardiography and other diagnostic tests, performed by Senior Cardiologist Rtn. Dr.

Manoj Shrestha.

Similarly, on February 19, 2025, the Rotary Club of Chitwan organized a Heart Screening Program for senior citizens at its club building. The event was graced by Chief Guest Rtn. Hari Prasad Subedi, Assistant Governor of Zone 38, and presided over by Club President Rtn. Bhanu Sharma. The session was conducted by President-Elect Rtn. Ram Chandra Adhikari.

During the event, Chief Guest Rtn. Hari Prasad Subedi highlighted Rotary's longstanding commitment to social service, while Rtn. Dr. Manohar Pradhan, Chairman of Rotary Punnyarn Ujelidevi Cardio Care



Center, emphasized the importance of early detection for effective heart disease treatment. President Rtn. Bhanu Sharma reiterated Rotary's dedication to global heart health initiatives and shared that the club has been actively conducting various health-related programs. The heart screening program for senior citizens was launched in honor of National Democracy Day.

The screening benefited 20 senior citizens from Gaidakot, with Senior Cardiologist Rtn. Dr. Manoj Shrestha performing echocardiography and other essential tests. This initiative aims to raise awareness about heart health, facilitate early diagnosis, and refer patients to appropriate medical

Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Program

RC Biratnagar Fusion | March 6, 2025

Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is essential to the well-being and empowerment of women and adolescent girls. On any given day, more than 300 million women worldwide are menstruating. In total, an estimated 500 million lack access to menstrual products and adequate facilities for menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

To manage menstruation effectively, girls and women require access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, affordable and appropriate menstrual hygiene materials, information on good practices, and a supportive environment where they can manage menstruation without embarrassment or stigma.



While menstruation is a normal and healthy part of life for most women and girls, in many societies, menstruators continue to face challenges due to cultural taboos and discriminatory social norms. The lack of information about menstruation leads to unhygienic and unhealthy practices, fostering misconceptions and negative attitudes that contribute to shaming, bullying, and even gender-based violence. For generations of girls and women, poor menstrual health and hygiene have exacerbated social and

economic inequalities, negatively impacting their education, health, safety, and overall development.

To address this issue, we conducted an awareness program at Sarbajanik Madhyamik School, Biratnagar, for students in grades 7 to 10. A slideshow was used to explain best practices, the Do's and Don'ts during menstruation, and other essential information to support them during their cycle. Additionally, we provided the school with sanitary pads worth NPR 5,000.

Sister Club Agreement

RC Patan Heritage |
March 8, 2025



On March 8, 2025, during our 146th regular meeting, we celebrated a significant milestone—the formal signing of the Sister Club Agreement between the Rotary Club of Patan Heritage, RID 3292 Nepal, and the Rotary Club of Mental Health Advocates, RID 7475 USA.

School Bags with Learning Materials Distribution Programme

RC Himalaya Patan | March 2, 2025



On 2nd March 2025, Rotary Club Himalaya Patan conducted a School Bags Project at Shree Saraswati Secondary School, Kavreplanchowk, distributing school bags, tracksuits, essential learning materials, and sports gear to students. The initiative aimed to promote education and physical fitness, particularly for children from underprivileged backgrounds.

The project was a tremendous success,

bringing joy and smiles to 150 students while equipping them with the necessary tools for academic and athletic growth. With an investment of approximately Rs. 200,000, the program not only provided essential resources but also inspired students to strive for excellence in their studies and sports. The school principal and students expressed heartfelt gratitude for the generous support, highlighting the project's positive impact on their educational journey.



Free School Eye Health Camp

RC Kapilvastu | February 23, 2025

On the occasion of the 120th World Rotary Day, the Rotary Club of Kapilvastu organized a free school eye health camp at Rastriya Secondary School, Shivaraj-5, Chandrauta, Kapilvastu, in collaboration with Chhande (Kalebabu) Narayani Eye Hospital, Bahadurgunj, Kapilvastu.

A dedicated medical team, led by Outreach Coordinator Mr. Hari Bhandari, provided efficient and effective eye care services. A total of 751 beneficiaries, primarily students and school staff, availed themselves of the services. Participants expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Rotary Club of Kapilvastu for organizing such a beneficial program on their school premises and hoped for similar initiatives in the future.

The program was successfully completed with a total expenditure of Rs. 20,000/- (Twenty Thousand Rupees Only).

Free Cervical Cancer Screening Test

RC Bagmati Kathmandu | March 12, 2025

The Rotary Club of Bagmati Kathmandu, in collaboration with Nagarjun Municipality and the Nepal Cancer Relief Society (Kathmandu Branch), organized a one-day free cervical cancer screening (VIA test) on 12th March 2025 at Nagarjun Municipality, Ward No. 7.

Nagarjun Municipality and the Rotary Club of Bagmati Kathmandu have jointly agreed to conduct at least four cervical cancer screening programs within the municipality this fiscal year, with plans to expand the initiative to every ward. This event was the second of the four planned screenings.

The program was supported by the Lions Club of Kathmandu Ashoka and technically assisted by a six-member team from the Nepal Australia Cervical Cancer Foundation, led by its secretary, Dr. Kasturi Malla.

A total of 126 women were screened. Among them, 5 tested positive and received thermocoagulation treatment, 30 had general infections, 3 were diagnosed with polyps, 3 had prolapse, and the remaining 85 were found normal.



Heritage Walk and Cleaning Campaign Program

RC Matribhumi Baluwater |

February 23, 2024

On the occasion of Rotary Day 2025, the Rotary Club of Matribhumi Baluwater proudly presents the "Heritage Walk and Cleaning Campaign Program." This event aims to explore and preserve Nepal's rich cultural heritage while promoting environmental responsibility. The walk will start from Nepal House, Baluwater, leading to the Bhatbhateni Temple, Naxal, where we will conduct a cleaning campaign to restore its beauty and sanctity. As part of our commitment to community service, we will also donate cleaning materials and two large water containers to the temple. Join us in this meaningful initiative to celebrate history, culture, and sustainability!

History of the Temple:

The Bhatbhateni Temple, also known as Nepaldevi Temple, is a revered Hindu shrine located in Naxal, Kathmandu. It is dedicated to Goddess Bhatbhateni, believed to be a powerful form of Durga. The temple holds deep historical and cultural significance, with legends linking it to the Malla period. According to local folklore, the temple was built after a farmer discovered an idol of the goddess, which later became a site of devotion. The temple's traditional Newar architecture, intricate wood carvings, and spiritual ambiance make it an important heritage site in Kathmandu. It continues to be a place of worship, especially during Dashain and other Hindu festivals.



Successful Installation of Two Demo Street Lamps at Chhabdi Barahi Mandir Entrance

RC Damauli | March 29, 2025



The Rotary Club of Damauli, pleased to announce the successful installation of two demo street lamps at the entrance of Chhabdi Barahi Mandir. This project showcased the strong teamwork and dedication of our Rotarian members, who came together to support and complete the initiative.

The installation was carried out with the participation of President Rtn. Jeewan Kumar Shrestha, Rtn. Dinesh Kumar Shrestha, Rtn.

Ramesh Kumar Shrestha, Rtn. Surja Kumar Malla, Rtn. Tara Malla, Rtn. Narayan Malla, and Bickey Shah. Additionally, local community members provided valuable technical support.

The Rotary Club of Damauli is now planning to install a total of eight street lamps within the Chhabdi Barahi Mandir premises, aiming to complete the project by April 15, 2025.



The estimated project cost is Rs. 3,20,000/-, which will be fully funded by the members of the Rotary Club of Damauli. Manpower for plumbing and base preparation will be provided by Chhabdi Barahi Mandir Bikash Samiti.

Gift of Vision

RC Tripureswor | March 30, 2025

On March 30, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Rotary Club of Tripureswor (RCT) and the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, Nepal Eye Bank (TIONEB). This partnership paves the way for a transformative project aimed at restoring sight through corneal transplant surgeries.

The initiative is designed to provide the gift of vision to 20 patients over two fiscal years: 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. With its scalability, this project has the potential to make a lasting impact on individuals in need of vision restoration.



9th Charter Day Celebration

RC Panauti | March 17, 2025

The Rotary Club of Panauti marked its 9th Charter Day with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to service. This milestone event was held alongside the club's 403rd Regular Weekly Meeting, chaired by President Rtn. Mani Prasad Sapkota.

Chartered on March 17, 2016, under the leadership of Charter President Rtn. Prof. Dr. Suman Raj Tamrakar, the club has consistently upheld Rotary's values of service, leadership, and community engagement. Governor's Special Representative Rtn. Ashok Shrestha and Club Advisor Rabindra Puri played pivotal roles in its establishment and growth.



Know Your District Governor 2027-28



Rtn. Prof. Ishwari Prasad Dhakal is a visionary leader, accomplished academician, and dedicated Rotarian. Born in Gorkha, Nepal, he earned his SLC (Luitel High School), I.Sc. (ASCOL), Bachelor's (Patna, India), Master's (Haryana, India), and Ph.D. in Veterinary Medicine (Rakuno Gakuen University, Japan). With over 50 research papers and two textbooks, his academic excellence and innovative solutions define his leadership. A committed Rotarian, his legacy blends scholarship and service.

As Vice-Chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University (2015–2019), Prof. Dhakal revolutionized Nepal's higher education. He expanded AFU to seven constituent colleges, forged 30+ global partnerships, and led 200+ faculty, 400 staff, and 4,000 students. His tenure embodied sustainable growth, internationalization, and Rotary's ideals of service and leadership.

Prof. Dhakal excels beyond academia, leading as Chairman of Nepal Polytechnic Institute, Kalyan Breeding, and other agribusiness ventures. His innovative leadership and team management have driven success across sectors. As former Vice President of the Nepal Veterinary Council and a poultry industry consultant, he has significantly contributed to Nepal's socio-economic growth.

Prof. Dhakal exemplifies Rotary's spirit through transformative service. A founding member and past president of Rotary Club of Bharatpur, he championed impactful projects like a Global Grant-funded daycare center for underprivileged children in Chitwan (2016–2020). His leadership in designing and executing such initiatives truly embodies "Service Above Self."

Prof. Dhakal's Rotary leadership spans multiple district roles including Assistant Governor, Adult Literacy Program Chair, Additional District Secretary, District Advisory Council Member, RI Presidential Citation Chair, Public Image Co-Chair and District Chair for Sustainable Development Goals. He has driven impactful projects like water initiatives in Dang, healthcare in Chitwan, and education in Gorkha, demonstrating exceptional resource mobilization and sustainable community development.

Prof. Dhakal is a Major Donor and Paul Harris Society member, passionately supporting Rotary's global mission. His active participation in international conventions and networking bridges local initiatives with global opportunities, strengthening Rotary's impact in Nepal.

Prof. Dhakal's visionary leadership has also extended to promoting collaboration between Rotary Clubs worldwide. He played a vital role in establishing Sister Club relations between the Rotary Club of Bharatpur and clubs such as Patan Durbar Square (Nepal) and Ping Chen Landseed Rotary Club (Taiwan). His efforts have strengthened Rotary's global fellowship and created avenues for cross-border partnerships in service and development projects.

Prof. Dhakal has earned Nepal's highest honors, including the Crown Prince Science Award and Vidyabhushan (Ka), recognizing his exceptional contributions to science, education and national development.

Prof. Dhakal inspires as a Rotary trainer (COTS, RYLA, AGTS) and Foundation Technical Advisor, driving sustainable projects globally. His personal initiatives – scholarships, school construction, and education campaigns – reflect his compassionate leadership and commitment to inclusive development.

Prof. Dhakal enjoys family life with wife Shanti and daughters Sophia and Isha. His travels to 23 countries have broadened his global outlook, enhancing his cross-cultural collaborations.

District Governor's Calendar

APRIL 2025



DATE	DAY	EVENT
01	Tuesday	DG Visit of RC Pashupati Kathmandu
06	Sunday	DG Visit of RC Bhadrapur
10	Thursday	DG Visit of RC Biratnagar Midtown
11	Friday	DG Visit of Biratnagar Fusion
11	Friday	DG Visit of RC Itahari
12	Saturday	DG Visit of RC Dharan Ghopa
12	Saturday	DG Visit of RC Biratnagar
13	Sunday	DG Visit of RC Kathmandu
15	Tuesday	DG Visit of RC Nawalparasi
15	Tuesday	DG Visit of RC Devdaha
15	Tuesday	DG Visit of RC Tilottama Rupandehi
16	Wednesday	DG Visit of RC Butwal Chautari, Manigram, & Resunga Gulmi
16	Wednesday	DG Visit of RC Manigram
16	Wednesday	DG Visit of RC Resunga Gulmi
17	Thursday	DG Visit of RC Palpa Tansen & Rampur
17	Thursday	DG Visit of RC Rampur
24-28	Thur-Sunday	Bhutan Visit
30	Wednesday	DG Visit of RC Central Lumbini
30	Wednesday	DG Visit of Lumbini Siddharthanagar
30	Wednesday	DG Visit of Eclub of Medico Fusion Hybrid Club

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

What an extraordinary and magical Rotary month it has been! We came together to celebrate the spirit of fellowship, compassion, learning, and service at the vibrant 17th District Conference in Lalitpur, Nepal. Under the outstanding leadership of District Governor Rajendra Man Sherchan and Conference Chair Madhusudan Acharya, along with their dedicated team, the event was a resounding success, leaving lasting memories for all who attended.

Much like the Maha Kumbh Mela in India, where people from across the globe gather, our District Conference saw an incredible turnout of 1,221 participants, reflecting the unity and enthusiasm of Rotary in our region. This special issue of GML is dedicated to capturing the essence of this remarkable event.

A historic moment unfolded during the conference as District 3292 embraced democracy in leadership selection for the first time. Member clubs exercised their voting rights to elect new leaders—an unprecedented step that marks a significant milestone in our district's journey. March also brought focus to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Month. In this edition, we feature an insightful article by Rtn. Dr. Dinesh Manandhar titled "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Nepal: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities," shedding light on critical issues and pathways for improvement.

As we prepare for the 2025-26 Rotary year, District Governor-Elect Binod Koirala and his team are already in motion, building on the momentum of recent training events like the Train the Trainer, Assistant Governor

Learning Seminar (AGLS) & President-Elect Training Seminar (PELS) and the District Training Assembly underway in Kathmandu and Pokhara. This is our opportunity to take Rotary's mission to even greater heights.

Over the past nine months, GML has been published consistently, featuring club activity reports from 135 clubs from July to March. This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of Rotary clubs across the district. Your contributions, news updates, and feedback have been invaluable in showcasing the transformative work of our district.

Life is beautiful in Rotary—where magical movements create lasting impacts. Let's continue this journey together, strengthening our bonds and expanding our service to communities near and far.

—Magical Movements, Lasting Impacts

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Gautam Shrestha

Chair 2024-25

District Publication & GML Sub-Committee

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2024-25

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ROTARY NEWS / RISAO