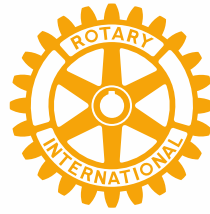




Rotary
CLUB OF PANAJI



THE

SPARK

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI



ISSUE 1 | VOL. 1 | JULY 2024

REGULAR MEETING :

Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm,
5th floor, EDC House,
Dr. Atmaram Borkar Road, Panaji - Goa

www.rotaryclubpanaji.org

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE



Tree Plantation At Auxilium High School



Tree Plantation At St. Cruz High School



Tree Plantation At Anjuman Nurul Islam High School

R. I. President :
Rtn. Stephanie A. Urchick
District Governor :
Rtn. Sharad Pai

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Rtn. Dr. Raghuvir Salkar

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Rtn. Rajesh Kunde

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rtn. Dr. Raghuvir Salkar



Dear Friends,

I hope that this message finds you well. I reiterate my sincere appreciation on being entrusted with the President's position for this Rotary Year.

We have planned a lot of activities and projects for this year. We shall strive to fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, support education, and protect the environment.

We will support Pulse Polio Immunization drive through direct participation on World Polio Day as well as through donating to the Polio Plus Fund of the Rotary Foundation. It will be our endeavour to provide clean drinking water to several schools around us, to develop menstrual hygiene management in schools, to build basic sanitation facilities in schools, support education through providing for the basic needs such as of good benches as well as for advanced needs such as of smart boards.

We also plan to donate several dialysis units and arthroscopic camera system to the Goa Medical College and Hospital through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. In fact, some companies have stepped forward in support of this cause. It is a well-known fact that Goa faces a severe shortage of dialysis units, and therefore, we hope that our efforts will benefit many over the years and save some lives.

Under Youth Service, a plethora of activities are planned which include several RYLAs, Goa clubs' sports events, All Goa competitions for the Goan youth, and many other such events. We will continue to strongly support our five Interact Clubs and work towards establishing a new one at Sunshine School. This year, we plan to donate one bicycle to a deserving girl student from each of the Interact clubs. We will work closely with the members of Rotaract Club of Panjim, and undertake joint projects.

We shall continue our well-established events of felicitating doctors, nurses, teachers, young entrepreneurs of Goa, and recognizing the services of people from different low visibility vocations. We plan to conduct blood donation drives, health camps in schools and villages.

This year's Global Grant project shall be E-Vidya. Under this project, we plan to donate 18 smart boards to three schools of Goa. Work on this project is in the planning stage, and I hope to give you updates in the coming months.

It will not be possible to achieve our above objectives without the active support from my dear fellow members. I sincerely request each one of you to extend your helping hand, in whatever manner possible, so that we can realize the goals that have been set out.

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rtn. Stephanie A. Urchick



Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is The Magic of Rotary itself.

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective.

Rotary's Action Plan can help. The Action Plan comes with tools you can use to collect feedback, assess your club's strengths and weaknesses, and address challenges.

The world is changing, and our clubs can't afford to stand still. But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic — building on one another toward a greater vision. The Action Plan can help you work toward that vision and create effective change within your club.

Following the Action Plan and addressing suggestions from the community will go a long way to fostering the sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their clubs.

That's why expanding our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is so important. Committing ourselves to each other's well-being is the first step to expanding our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times.

Peacebuilding is one of our top priorities, and one of the most effective ways we can build peace is with our Rotary Peace Fellowships, through which peace and development professionals learn how to prevent and end conflict.

We offer the fellowships through our Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities around the globe, where more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have

graduated. And thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next peace center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening another peace center is a monumental achievement, and it is my great honor to invite you to celebrate at next year's Rotary Presidential Peace Conference at the Istanbul center.

The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advances peacebuilding. Registration for the conference is officially open. I hope to see you there.

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference has great potential for our peace building efforts — but only if we have your support.

The truth is, we're not going to bring peace to the world, end polio, or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted.

I love my Rotary family and I know you do too. That's why I know that together, we can make every club and district simply irresistible. This year, let us change the world by embracing The Magic of Rotary.



With Best Compliments from
Santosh Mahanandu Naik
PANJIM - GOA

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Rtn. Sharad Pai



Dear Irresistible Magicians,

Gear up to embark on an exciting and enriching Rotary year 2024-25.

You won't be doing different things, but you will be doing them differently.

Let's elevate the public image of Rotary. It's not just about performing impactful services for our communities; we must ensure Rotary's presence is palpably felt and deeply appreciated by the society.

This will ignite our passion for taking on more need-based challenges and draw the next generation towards the Rotary movement. This will not only attract the attention of new donors but generate more members in the society.

We must fortify our Rotary Foundation, the cornerstone of our international acclaim. You can achieve this by collaborating with corporate companies through their "Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR) initiatives.

Rotary stands as a promising partner to fulfil their philanthropic needs. Readymade programs on Dialysis, Sewage Water Conversion, Diabetic Retinopathy, Dentures for the poor are a few projects planned by the District TRF/Grants team.

We all should take a pledge to illuminate our triumphs by sharing our success stories far and wide. Embrace creativity in our ventures to reach our noble goals with the magical powers within you.

With our collective commitment, conviction, and confidence, I am convinced that we will bring profound and meaningful changes to the lives of those in need.

I need not reiterate again our punch line, "Benchmarking Excellence, Cherishing Memories".

Together, we can achieve the extraordinary through The Magic of Rotary!

With warm Regards

Rtn. Sharad Pai
District Governor 2024-25

Best Wishes From

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With best compliments from

Rtn. Manguirish Salkar



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EDITOR'S SPACE

Rtn. Ar. Gurprasad Mantravadi



Dear Rotarian friends,

Thank you for reposing your faith in me as editor again. The July issue is here in your hands and filled with content I'm sure you will find pleasurable to read.

Many new faces have found the inclination to pen their thoughts in the magazine this time.

As Rtn. Mangurish Bab takes over as President of the Rotary Club of Panaji with his able and experienced team, I have the pleasure to document their work in the Rotary world with our lovely club bulletin, The Spark.

Looking forward to your articles and feedback to make this magazine the best that it can be.



With Best Wishes



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rtn. Pankaj Saraf



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The first month of the new Rotary year 2024-25 has been a vibrant and dynamic month for Our Club, marked by a series of impactful projects and engaging activities, under the dynamic leadership of Rtn. Dr. Raghuvir Salkar & the New Board of Directors.

Here's a detailed report of our activities and endeavours.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- 1) We had our First meeting on 10 July where our Club Felicitated Six Eminent Doctors for their selfless service to the society.
- 2) On 17th of July we had our First Club Assembly where the incoming board of directors presented their plans for the new Rotary Year.
- 3) On 24th of July, our Club Felicitated, 16 meritorious students from 15 schools in Panjim.
- 4) On 31st of July, our Club Felicitated Annets of our Club who have passed 10th and 12th standard.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 1) **1st July** - Tree Plantation was held at Auxilium High School & Santa Cruz High School.
- 2) **13th July**- Tree Plantation was held at Anjuman Nurul Islam High School
- 3) **20th July** - Paediatric Health Checkup Camp was held at Government Primary School, Chincholem.
- 4) **24th July**- Blood Donation Camp was held at Hotel Manoshanti.
- 5) Paediatric Health Check up Camp was held for Government Primary School Taleigao.

YOUTH SERVICE

- 1) **6th July** - Interact Club, Installation of Santa Cruz High School & Anjuman Nurul Islam High School was done.
- 2) **13th July** - Internet Club Installation of Our Lady of Mercedes.
- 3) **24th July** - Felicitation of Meritorious students of Panaji was held during our Regular Weekly Meeting.
- 4) **31st July** - Felicitation of Annets of Our Club who have passed 10th and 12th standard.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

10th July - Our Club, Felicitated Five Eminent Doctors from different disciplines for their service to the society.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Our Club collected over dollars 1600 towards Polio Plus.

First BOD of the new board was held at Hotel Delmon on 24th July.

Apart from the usual projects and activities, our first family overnight was held at Baywatch resorts over 30 Rotarians with their families attended the same.

SUMMARY:

This month has been a testament the spirit of Rotary and the commitment of our members towards service over self. I extend my gratitude to all the members, Volunteers and Supporters for their contributions. Let us continue to strive towards making a difference and creating lasting change.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think,
say or do

First: Is it the TRUTH?
Second: Is it FAIR to
all concerned?
Third: Will it build
GOODWILL and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Fourth: Will it be
BENEFICIAL to all
concerned?

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

MADAGASCAR STORY

By: *Vedant Nilesh Shah*

Adrift in the Indian Ocean, lies a country we've heard mainly because of a movie and a few have travelled too.

Madagascar is truly one of the last undiscovered areas of the world where one can really escape the influences of the modern age and escape to places untouched by the outside world.

Recently, I had the privilege of embarking on an unforgettable journey to this enchanting island nation. I was invited by the Madagascar Tourism Board to discover its hidden treasures and promote it as a 'travel designer' for my travel firm PBA Holidays.

With over 30 countries under my belt, Madagascar effortlessly rose to the top of my list, intriguing me with its unparalleled natural beauty and I ventured to know more about the mysterious, untrodden island.

With landscapes "mars-like", thousands of endemic species of animals, and some of the world's most beautiful beaches, Madagascar is a dream destination.

I mainly found myself exploring the central region of Antananarivo and the southern region of the island called the Fort-Dauphin. A 2 hour flight from the capital city of Antananarivo 'Antana' I landed in a city called Tôlanaro.

Amidst landing I witnessed incredible aerial views of the coast along the Indian Ocean. From the city of Tôlanaro, a 3 hour scenic drive took me to the Berenty Reserve; a beautifully maintained natural reserve where you can witness more than 5 type of Lemurs that are endemic to the island.

These creatures are magnificent and I was in awe of their presence. This is one place where researchers, scientists and the best photographers visit to document these unique animals up very close.

My passion for photography took me to explore and spot these lemurs with a very well versed guide and an expert.

These creatures are super amusing; and each type has unique features. My 3 favourite ones being the Dancing Lemur, Ring-tailed lemur and the Mouse-Lemur.

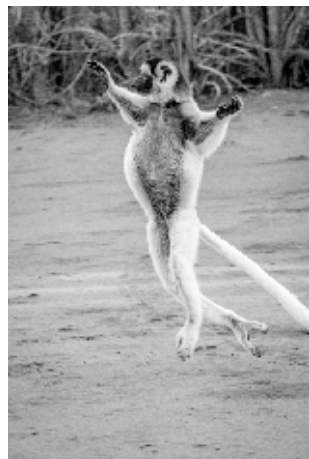
The Dancing lemurs always look like they are on the dance floor for its unusual way of moving, Ring-tailed lemurs have elegant black and white stripes on it's tail and the mouse-lemurs are one of the smallest and cutest lemurs to find.

I was staying in a cottage centrally located within the reserve and had a great time surrounded by these very smart creatures.

Everything about this island is so special that even the vegetation like their aloe vera grows in an unusual way on a trunk called the "Aloe Vaombe" and a trip to Madagascar is unfinished business without witnessing the Baobab trees.

These are how I'd imagine trees would look like if we discovered on Mars. These trees can grow as high as 8 floors tall and can have a trunk circumference of as broad as 10 meters.





Watching the sunset behind a silhouette of baobabs is an experience that lingers in my memory long after leaving Madagascar's shores.

One of my stand-out nights here was a night trek in the dry forests in search to witness the mouse-lemurs. A pitch black starry night with professional guides and rangers we went exploring with just one flashlight.

And upon walking quite deep into the forest we spotted the Sportive lemurs. These little ones are super shy and small and so it took me more than 20 minutes to get this shot here.

The middle part of my time here I headed to the Nahampoana Reserve where I was guided in a walking trail followed by a boat exploration between the rainforests of the south-east.

Later, I was welcomed to a exotic boutique property over a cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean called the Talinjoo Hotel. This is a perfect getaway for a peaceful beach-side experience amended with luxury. Each and every room here is overlooking the turquoise blue waters and is beyond imagination.

From here I was able to explore a small remote island which took us a 1 hr boat ride across 3 lakes, walking past a local village and an hour of trekking over the mountainous terrain to reach the magnificent clearest waters I've ever experienced and dipped in.

Here in the remotest part of the island we were hosted by a special lunch prepared by the gracious locals from a village close-by.

Beyond its natural wonders, Madagascar is enriched by its diverse cultures and warm-hearted people. My time here, I had the privilege of meeting a lot of Malagasy people whose hospitality and genuine curiosity left a lasting impression.

In the highlands of Antananarivo - the capital city, I immersed myself in the vibrant markets where artisans sell intricately woven textiles and handmade crafts. Each piece is a testament to the craftsmanship passed down through generations.

Before my trip, like many travellers, I encountered concerns about safety in Madagascar. Media reports often highlight challenges, especially of the crime rate being high. But, my personal experience painted a different picture.

Throughout my stay and internal travel, I felt welcomed and safe, surrounded by warm locals who were eager to share their heritage.

On my return flight, I spoke with fellow travellers who echoed similar sentiments of having enjoyed a trouble-free and enriching experience in Madagascar. While it's of course important to stay cautious regardless of where one travels, my firsthand encounter reassured me that Madagascar is a destination where the rewards far outweigh any



perceived risks.

Madagascar is more than just a travel destination; it is evidence to the wonders of our natural world and the resilience of its people. From the allure of its pristine beaches to the awe-inspiring biodiversity that defines its landscapes, every moment spent on this island is a revelation.

Being an avid travel promoter myself, I am committed to showcasing Madagascar's splendour to the world, inviting discerning travellers to embark on their own life changing journey of discovery.

Let go of the misconceptions! Embrace adventure, and uncover the magic of Madagascar - a destination that promises memories to treasure for a lifetime.

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INSTALLATION EVENT - ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI - 30TH JUNE 2024



INSTALLATION EVENT - ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI - 30TH JUNE 2024



INSTALLATION EVENT - ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI - 30TH JUNE 2024



NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED



INSTALLATION EVENT - ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI - 30TH JUNE 2024



PROJECTS AT A GLANCE



Interact Installation At Santa Cruz High School



Interact Installation At Our Lady of Merces



Felicitation of Meritorious School Students

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE



Felicitation of Annets Excelling in Boards



Doctors Felicitation



Blood Donation Camp at Manoshanti

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE



Pediatric Health Camp at Govt. Primary Schools of Chincholem & Taleigao

CLUB ASSEMBLY



Family Overnight at Baywatch Beach Resort, Sernabatim

BUSINESS CORNER

Rtn. Prashant Kaisare



The love story of Dattaraj Salgaocar, Mukesh Ambani's childhood friend, and Ambani's youngest sister Deepti, began in Mumbai's first Skyscraper, Usha Kiran.

Located on Carmichael Road, one of the city's most exclusive residential areas, this building housed both families. Deepti lived on the 22nd floor while Dattaraj resided on the 14th.

After the untimely passing of Dattaraj's father, Vasudev Salgaocar, founder and chairman of the V M Salgaocar Group of Companies, Dhirubhai Ambani, the patriarch of the Ambani family and founder of Reliance, became a mentor to the young Salgaocar. Dhirubhai and Vasudev were young Salgaocar.

Dhirubhai and Vasudev were great friends, often bonding over plates of hot onion bhajis and Camparis. Dattaraj's frequent visits to the Ambani home led to a close friendship with Mukesh and Anil Ambani, and eventually, he fell in love with their sister Deepti. "I met Deepti, we fell in love and told our families, who agreed [with the relationship] immediately... It was the first wedding in her family, but the last wedding in mine, because I am the youngest of seven children," Dattaraj recalled in an interview with DNA.

A Grand Wedding and Move to Goa

The couple got married in 1983 and moved to Goa in January 1984. They settled into Dattaraj's sprawling ancestral home in Chicalim, close to Dabolim Airport. Designed by architect Rallino Souza, the mansion features exquisitely landscaped gardens.

Luxurious Properties in Goa

Apart from their Chicalim mansion, Dattaraj and Deepti own several other luxurious properties. They have a beach-facing house in Candolim and another home in Dona Paula, near Panjim. Perched on a cliff, the Dona Paula home offers a mesmerizing 360-degree view of the Arabian Sea. While the exact prices of these properties have not been disclosed, their prime locations suggest they are worth multiple crores.

Sports Ventures

In 1974, the Salgaocars formed the Salgaocar Cricket Club

under the V M Salgaocar Corporation banner. Over the years, the club's team won major tournaments like the GCA

Premier Division, the Bandonkar Trophy, and the Dhargalkar Trophy. Dattaraj served as the President of the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) from 1994 to 1997.

Beyond cricket, Dattaraj capitalized on his passion for football by co-founding FC Goa in the Indian Super League alongside Virat Kohli, Venugopal Dhoot (Chairman of Videocon Industries Limited), and Shrinivas Dempo (Chairman of the Dempo group). However, he stepped down from ownership in 2016.



Patron of the Arts

In 2009, Dattaraj established the Sunaparanta Goa Centre for the Arts, a non-profit initiative promoting local artists. The Centre is located in Altinho hills of Panjim and features exhibition galleries, a library, a multi-functional space for workshops and lectures, an open-air amphitheater, and a cafe. Deepti serves as the vice-chairperson and advisory board member.

Other Roles and Achievements

Dattaraj Salgaocar, also a photographer and wildlife conservation activist, holds various prominent positions: Chairman of the V.M. Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education.

President of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law

Vice President of the Goa International Centre Founder
Member of the Brookings India Initiative

Private Life

Dattaraj and Deepti, along with their children Vikram and Isheta, maintain a low profile despite their extensive involvement in various industries and cultural activities. Their wealth and influence continue to grow, cementing their status as prominent figures in Goa and beyond. ○○

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Rtn. Rajesh Patel



Financial markets are broadly defined as any marketplace where securities trading occurs, including the stock market and bond markets, among others. Financial markets include any place or system that provides buyers and sellers with the means to trade financial instruments, including bonds, equities, the various international currencies, and derivatives. Financial markets can also be broken down into capital markets, money markets, primary vs. secondary markets, and listed vs. OTC markets. Financial markets trade in all types of securities and are critical to the smooth operation of a capitalist society.

When financial markets fail, economic disruption, including recession and rising unemployment, can result.

How do financial markets work?

Despite covering many different asset classes and having various structures and regulations, all financial markets work essentially by bringing together buyers and sellers in some asset or contract and allowing them to trade with one another. This is often done through an auction or price-discovery mechanism.

What Are the Main Functions of Financial Markets?

Financial markets exist for several reasons, but their most fundamental function is to allow for the efficient allocation of capital and assets in a financial economy. By allowing a free market for the flow of capital, financial obligations, and money, the financial markets make the global economy run more smoothly while

allowing investors to participate in capital gains over time.

Advantages of Financial Markets

Financial markets offer several benefits, including:

- Access to diverse investment opportunities
- Liquidity and ease of trading
- Price transparency and efficient price discovery
- Risk management through hedging and diversification
- Facilitation of capital formation and economic growth

Disadvantages of Financial Markets

While financial markets provide numerous benefits, such as liquidity and investment opportunities, they also come with certain disadvantages, including:

- **Volatility and market fluctuations:** Financial markets are subject to volatility and fluctuations in asset prices, which can lead to potential losses for investors.
- **Information asymmetry:** Some participants may have access to privileged information, creating an imbalance of knowledge and potentially disadvantaging other market participants.
- **Market manipulation:** Financial markets can be susceptible to manipulation and fraudulent activities, impacting the integrity and fairness of the market.
- **Systemic risks:** Financial markets are interconnected, and disturbances in one market can have ripple effects on others, potentially leading to systemic risks and financial crises.

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Investor Bias and Irrational Behaviour: Investor behaviour in financial markets can be influenced by emotions, biases, and herd mentalities, leading to irrational decision-making and market inefficiencies. Despite these disadvantages, financial markets are crucial in supporting economic growth and providing individuals and institutions with opportunities to participate in wealth creation and capital allocation.


What is the purpose of financial markets?

Financial markets may seem confusing, but essentially, they exist to bring people together, so money flows where it is needed the most. Markets provide finance for companies so they can hire, invest, and grow. They provide money for the government to help it pay for new roads, schools, and hospitals.

Measures to be taken while investing in the Financial Market

1. Buy stocks that you have studied.
2. Assess your risk-taking ability.
3. Diversify your portfolio.
4. Be realistic about your return expectations.
5. Monitor your investments periodically.
6. Draw a personal financial roadmap.
7. Create and maintain an emergency fund.
8. Avoid circumstances that can lead to losses.
9. Do not blindly believe in others opinions.
10. Do not swim against the current in the stock market.





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