

Prakruti

A Newsletter of Rotary Club of Thane Green City

Club No. 79433 | R. I. Dist. 3142 | November - February 2025

Kindness in Action : Our Club, Our Cause

R. I. PRESIDENT
Stephanie Urchick

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Dinesh Mehta

CLUB PRESIDENT
Prasant Patro

CLUB SECRETARY
Neelam Kelkar

RIP Stephanie Urchick's Message

Building Peace with Rotary Peacebuilders



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.

Stephanie A. Urchick
President, Rotary International



Thanks

Your Support Matters

Our Gratitude & Sincere Thanks to our Generous Donors

Akshaya Kumar Moharana

Avinanda Mukhopadhyay

Brijesh Kumar Goel

Chandra Sekhar Das

Dr. Monali Ingle

K P N Menon

Pinaki Rath

Prakash Chandra Panigrahi

Santosh Kumar Mishra

Subrat Mohanty

Sukhbir Sobti

Swetlana Patnaik

DG Dinesh Mehta's Message

"Water is the driving force of all nature." - Leonardo da Vinci



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As the vibrant energy of February's peace initiatives flows seamlessly into March, we embark on our critical mission: **"WASH WINS: Rotary's March Mission."** The journey of service is never static, it evolves, building momentum with each passing month.

January's focus on health awareness through our Thalassemia sessions and February's peace-building activities have laid the groundwork for our March WASH initiatives. From witnessing 1,600 children running for health causes to inaugurating life-saving paediatric heart surgeries, we've demonstrated our commitment to holistic community wellbeing.

The water cooler installation at Hutatma Maruti Kumar Vidyalaya wasn't simply an isolated project-it was a harbinger of our March focus. Just as our environmental initiatives, from 500-tree plantations to hazardous material management workshops, reflect our understanding that clean water requires a healthy ecosystem.

As we transition to WASH projects, remember that each monthly theme is but a different facet of our enduring commitment to Service Above Self. Like the continuous flow of water, our service must remain constant, adapting to each season while maintaining its essential purpose.

As we embrace this vital mission, remember that WASH isn't merely a project - it's a profound gift of dignity, health, and opportunity for communities worldwide.

"Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." - Shirley Chisholm

In service and fellowship,
Dinesh Mehta
District Governor, RID 3142



From the President's Desk



Dear Greens

What an incredible year it has been till now! 'Awesome' is the word that instantly comes to mind. Our ongoing efforts through various projects and awareness initiatives are leaving a meaningful impact on the communities we serve. The strong fellowship within our green family is now extending to fellow Rotarians across the region and zone. Multiple co-hosted events and joint Club projects continue to strengthen our bond with the Dist. 3142 Rotary fraternity, making this journey even more rewarding.

If anything, we seem to be growing stronger and raising the bar with every endeavour we undertake. Fresh from the success of the **Tech Lab** and **Rotary Centre** projects, we poured our hearts and souls into the **Black-Tie** event - a first-of-its-kind initiative for RI District 3142. As Capt. Prasad Tendulkar aptly put it, ***"We created a space for Industry titans and Rotary champions to jointly celebrate and amplify the spirit of giving by raising a toast to a shared commitment of doing good around us."***

As we get set to move into the last quarter of the Awesome year, exciting times await us. Our 1st CSR project this year - **PET bottle reverse vending machines** - would mark a small but impactful step towards a more sustainable world. **Aranya Habitat** - our initiative that started in 2021 towards fostering a greener world has taken roots as we have been offered an additional 2 hectares by the Forest Department for expanding the urban forest at Shilphata, Mahape. Discussions are at an advanced stage for a well rejuvenation project in Sakadbhav village in Shahpur area. And, if everything goes as planned, by the time this newsletter is released, we could be celebrating our largest CSR grant yet - a grant that has the potential to transform lives and spread smiles far and wide.

Let us collectively work on all the above projects and at the same time lay greater emphasis on member growth & retention besides digging a little deeper into our pockets for the Annual Giving.

Together let us create Magic around us and have an Awesome time ourselves.

Yours in Rotary
Prasant Patro
Club President (2024-25)



RCTGC's Activities at a Glance

10/11/2024

Honouring the Nation Builders



Our first regular meeting in Rotary Center @ School 19 Rotary Hall was conducted on 10th November 2024 where DG Dinesh Mehta was the Chief Guest. The occasion was to honour accomplished people from the academic fraternity with the Nation Builder Award. Based on the evaluation criteria laid down by RI, 10 teaches from different institutions who fulfilled the criteria were felicitated with citations.

Interior Designer and the Club's First Lady, Maitreyie Patro, was felicitated for her relentless commitment and dedication in designing & creating the Rotary Center in just 40 days. President Prasant Patro was also felicitated for his untiring efforts in co-ordinating between the 3 participating Clubs – RCTGC, RCTLG & RCTN – and the Designer. We also took this opportunity to felicitate our own Greens who had generously donated for creating the Rotary Center. Sameer & Karishma Chheda of Parikrama Travels were also felicitated for wonderfully planning & organising the Club's 1st international picnic fellowship. Chief Guest DG Dinesh Mehta handed out all the above felicitations in the presence of FL Jyoti Mehta, DGND Chandrahas Shetty, Membership Chair Ravi Iyer, AG Sachin Athavale and a few of Prasant's co-Presidents.

2 new members – Dr. Alkesh Patil and Capt. Trilok Bandhu Gupta were also inducted in to our Club at the hands of DG Dinesh Mehta on this day.

Compiled by Bulletin Editor, Natassha Reddy, our Club's quarterly E-bulletin, Prakruti, was unveiled by DG Dinesh Mehta on this occasion.



14/11/2024

Children's Day Celebration: A Joyful Event for Marginalized Children



On November 14th, 2024, our Club in collaboration with the Vihang Charitable Trust, hosted its annual Children's Day celebration, bringing joy to marginalized children. This event marked the eighth consecutive year of organizing this meaningful occasion, which has become a much loved tradition in the community.

The celebration included a variety of entertainment activities, such as games, music, dance, and a drawing competition - all designed to bring smiles to the faces of the children. As part of the festivities, gifts were distributed, and a special breakfast was provided to ensure that every child felt cared for and appreciated.

While attendance for this event typically ranges between 200 to 800 children, depending on the circumstances, this year's celebration saw around 200 children in attendance, due to the ongoing election period. Despite the smaller turnout, the event was filled with happiness and excitement, leaving a lasting positive impact on the children and their families.

The club's dedication to organizing this annual celebration for marginalized children underscores its commitment to giving back to the community, providing opportunities for joy and growth, and fostering a spirit of kindness and generosity.



PP Devendra Shah

5/12/2024

District 3142 celebrates PATRAKAR DIWAS



Several Rotary Clubs from Thane and Navi Mumbai co-hosted this event demonstrating Rotary's appreciation for the tireless efforts of the journalists spanning across multiple decades. District Governor Dinesh Mehta was the Chief Guest and senior journalist Shri Prashant Dixit was the Guest of Honor. The event was a celebration of the power of journalism practiced by the men and women who report the happenings around us truthfully and with courage. On this occasion, eighteen outstanding journalists were felicitated.

Rotarian Milind Ballal was honoured for his achievement as the Chief Editor of Thane Vaibhav, a prestigious publication in Thane. Thane Vaibhav has been a cornerstone of Thane's community for five decades and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year.

PP. Prachi Vaidya



8/12/2024

Polio NID

Our Director-Polio, Sangeeta Telang & Director-Youth, Mohan Telang organized snacks for the polio centre staff who travel door to door to administer the polio vaccine to the infants and little kids.



9/12/2024

Eye Vision Camp: A Step Towards Better Vision for Students



On December 9th, 2024, the club successfully organized an Eye Vision Camp for the students of Bal Vidya Mandir Secondary School and Adarsh English School, catering to children from standard 5th to 10th. This initiative was made

possible through a partnership with the Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust, which aimed to provide free eye check-ups and eyeglasses to students in need.

At Bal Vidya Mandir, a total of 179 students underwent eye screening, and it was found that 61 students had weak vision. Meanwhile, at Adarsh English School, 115 students were checked, with 44 students identified as having vision issues. The camp not only offered professional eye care but also ensured that students who required corrective eyewear received free glasses, helping to improve their learning experience.

This event highlights the importance of vision care in the overall health and well-being of students, ensuring that no child is held back from their education due to visual impairments. The club and the schools extend their heartfelt gratitude to the Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust for their generous support and for making this valuable service available to the students free of charge. Their partnership is a testament to the power of community collaboration in creating positive change.

PP Devendra Shah

21/12/2024

Thalassemia awareness and screening camp



Thalassemia awareness and screening camp was organised at Dnyan Ganga Education Trust, Kasarvadavli along with 6 other Rotary Clubs. Rtn Dr Lucky Kasat was the speaker for the session. President Prasant Patro along with Presidents of RC Thane Northend, RC Thane Uptown, RC Hiranandani Ivan, RCT Thana West, RCT Thane Skyline and RC Thane attended the camp along with a few other Rotarians.

21/12/2024

Fun Fair



Rotary Club of Thane Green City brought the holiday spirit to life this year with a vibrant Christmas Funfair, full of festive cheer, exciting games, and mouth-watering food stalls. The event, held at Rotary centre, School No. 19, was a hit among families, children, and people of all ages.



Food lovers were in for a treat with an impressive array of food stalls that catered to all tastes and preferences. Food items ranging from chaats, hot dogs, Punjabi and Gujarati delicacies and variety of sweet dishes.

The funfair wasn't just about food – there were numerous games and activities that kept children and adults entertained throughout the evening. Popular carnival games kept the crowd engrossed and entertained.



The event was also a great opportunity for people to come together and enjoy the warmth of the holiday season. Members from the Rotary Club worked tirelessly to ensure everything worked smoothly.

The Rotary Club of Thane Green City's Funfair has set the stage for more such events in the future, and attendees are already looking forward to more such festivities.

Rtn. Tejal Mehta

11/01/2025

CPR: The Beat of Humanity



We organised a CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) training for our club members. At Rotary Center. CPR is an essential technique that we as civilians can & should learn to help save lives in any unforeseen event. Senior Freelance Anaesthesiologist Dr Rajan Joshi along with Dr Prachi Gawand who is also an Anaesthesiologist jointly conducted this training. They presented the Dos and Don'ts of the technique and also gave

practical hands-on training to all the members who attended the session. Dr. Joshi also shared the song that he has written on CPR for which he was given the National Award.



18/01/2025

Makar Sankranti : A New Dawn, A New Beginning

Sankranti Haldi Kumkum was organised along with a delicious traditional menu. Fun games, fellowship and delicious food marked the occasion.



25/01/2025

Amrit Mahotsav Awards

Samvidhan Ka Amrit Mahotsav Awards function was held at Satkar Residency by the District team to recognise the efforts of the Rotary Clubs in accepting and working towards the Amrit Mahotsav targets. DG Dinesh Mehta along the District officials and a large number of Awesome Presidents were present on this occasion. RCTGC got a participation award for Amrit Mahotsav challenges taken. RCTGC was represented by President Prashant, PP Neelam Kelkar, CP Uday Bhagwat, PP Sangram and Archana Joshi.



15/02/2025 & 16/02/2025
Pack a Picnic, Make Memories



Our overnight picnic was organised at the resort "Outpost" in Alibaug on 15th and 16th Feb 2025. We travelled by M2M Ferry to Mandwa and then the fun activities started – board games, treasure hunt, visit



to the beach, singing, dancing – the celebrations went deep into the night. A wonderfully crafted event by Admn Director Tejal Mehta and her team comprising of Pravin Chavan, Sumir Sahni &

Yogesh Sovani. The overall ambience, location, rooms, food and the fun activities were thoroughly enjoyed by the 24 participants who bonded well over the 2 days.



23/02/2025
Peace Seminar



In a world increasingly marked by conflict and division, the concept of peace has never been more vital. Rotary Club of Thane North hosted a transformative District seminar titled "**Peace Seminar, 'शांती पर्व'**" aimed at fostering dialogue, understanding, and actionable solutions to promote peace at local and global levels. The event, led by the

Rotary Club of Thane Northend along with Rotary Club of Thane Green City and a few more Rotary Clubs brought together community leaders, peace advocates and engaged citizens - all united by a shared vision of a more harmonious world. A surreal candlelight march set the tone for the unveiling of the : **The Vision of Peace**

"Peace starts with us-our actions, our words, and our commitment to understanding one another,".

Distinguished speakers Rukmini Iyer (Peace Scholarship), Ajay Vaidya (Peace in Governance), Milind Patre (Peace through Academics), Col. Manas Dixit (War, Anti- War & Peace), Dr Ulka Natu (Exploring Inner Peace) and Dr Rahul Joshi (Harmony in Peace) showcased their Vision of Peace.

This holistic approach framed the discussions that followed encouraging participants to reflect on their roles in cultivating peace within their communities.

Building peace requires patience and empathy. For over a century Rotary has been a driving force for peace, not just through words but through meaningful action. As we look forward, Rotary's role in peace building will only grow stronger. With new initiatives, expanded partnerships & innovative programs, Rotary remains dedicated to its mission of creating a more just, peaceful and safer world and we as Rotarians deem it as a continuous journey and not a destination



21/02/2025

"Philanthropy Sparkles in Black Tie"

"There is greatness in giving." - Mahatma Gandhi



Against the backdrop of shimmering lights and formal attire, Rotary District 3142 made history on February 21, 2025. The first-ever Black-Tie Dinner, hosted by Rotary Club of Thane Green City, wasn't just another glamorous evening - it was a celebration of those who've discovered the profound joy of giving back.

Picture this: industry titans and Rotary champions gathered under one roof, raising glasses to a shared commitment of community

service. The air buzzed with possibility as CSR leaders, Major Donors, and potential philanthropists connected over a common cause.

The evening was graced by none other than Padma Bhushan Smt. Rajashree Birla, whose presence elevated the occasion to something truly special. Alongside her, Rotary stalwarts PRID & TRF Trustee Dr. Bharat Pandya and PRID Shri Ashok Mahajan added their considerable gravitas to



the gathering.

"We weren't just hosting a dinner," shares Capt. Prasad Tendulkar, the event's Convenor, with a smile. **"We were creating a space where the spirit of giving could be celebrated and amplified."**

The night unfolded with traditional lamp lighting, followed by DG Dinesh Mehta sharing real-life stories of how Rotary-CSR partnerships have transformed lives. You could see faces in the audience light up as they heard about beneficiaries whose futures had been reimaged through these collaborative efforts.



In his illuminating presentation, Capt. Tendulkar revealed the remarkable growth in CSR-Rotary partnerships-from 60 companies in 2021-22 to 166 in 2023-24, with funding surging from \$2.8 million to \$8.1 million. Even more impressive? RID 3142 alone has contributed \$400,000 and is ambitiously striving toward a \$1 million target.



When Dr. Pandya took the stage, the room fell silent. His words resonated as he spoke about the intrinsic joy of giving. "Rotary embodies two powerful words: **'Hope'** and **'Opportunity'**," he said, his voice carrying to every corner of the venue. **"Hope"** represents the aspiration for a brighter, more compassionate world where individuals can thrive and communities can flourish. **Opportunity** signifies the chance to turn this vision into reality."

Perhaps the most poignant moment came when Smt. Rajashree Birla addressed the gathering. With characteristic elegance, she invoked the wisdom of Swami Vivekananda: **"Take only one idea and work on it sincerely with commitment."** She shared how the Birla Group embraces



"compassionate capitalism," emphasizing that when corporations serve greater social causes, they simultaneously strengthen communities and their own organizations.

The evening wasn't without its recognition of exceptional generosity. AKS Donor Rtn. DP Tripathi received well-deserved accolades for his substantial contributions to the Polio Fund and TRF. The host club and co-hosts were also celebrated for orchestrating such a meaningful gathering.

As conversations flowed over a gourmet dinner, you could feel something special in the air - a collective energy of people united not just by their means to give, but by their genuine desire to make a difference.

In a world often divided by differences, this night stood as testament to what can be accomplished when compassion and commitment come together. The Black-Tie Dinner wasn't just an event; it was a milestone marking the beginning of even greater collaborative philanthropy.

"Transforming hope into reality, one project at a time."



President Prasant Patro

Jagruiti Palak Sanstha



RCTGC has over the years been proving medicines to the specially-abled children of Jagruiti Palak Santha. Continuing this initiative, we have had our Club members and their relatives sponsoring these medicines on a monthly basis.



Meeting / Events/ District participation synopsis till date


Club Assembly	1
Annual Meeting	1
Regular Meetings	10
Speaker Meetings	3
Fellowship : Club	9
Fellowship : Intra-club	6
District Events	5
BOD Meetings	6
Trust Meetings	4

District Co- Hosting & Participation till date

Mangla Gaur	30th Aug. 2024
RYLA	14th & 15th September 2024
Onam	22nd September 2024
1st TRF Seminar	23rd September 2024
2nd TRF Seminar	23rd November 2024
Health Fiesta	16th February 2025
Samvidhan Ka Amrit Mahotsav Awards	26th January 2025
Shiv Jayanti Utsav	19th February 2025
Peace Seminar - Santi Parbha	23rd February 2025

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