



Because She Can: Rotary and the Rise of Women

Empowerment of women is one of the most essential components of achieving global equality, sustainable development, and inclusive progress. Rotary International leads the way.

● HAIMA DESHPANDE

In 2016, when Yogendra Bangar, a local schoolteacher from Thane district, Maharashtra, decided to start a school for elderly women aged between 60 and 90 years, the idea was met with disbelief and mockery. “Why would women at that age want to study?” people asked. Despite the ridicule, Bangar remained committed and established Aajibaichi Shala — the Grandmothers’ School — in Fangane village. To everyone’s surprise, attendance was full. The elderly women came dressed in bright pink saris, sitting together in one classroom, learning to read, write, and do basic math in Marathi. For many, signing their own name was a dream now finally coming true. What started as a humble idea soon turned into an inspiring model. These women, who had been denied education in their youth, were now reclaiming literacy and dignity in their twilight years.

Empowerment of women is one of the essential foundations of global equality, sustainable development, and inclusive progress. Around the world, women continue to face socio-economic hurdles, discrimination, and limited access to education, healthcare, leadership roles, and financial independence. The role of non-governmental and community-based organizations has been critical in addressing these gaps. Among them, Rotary International has stood out as a global force for service, actively working toward empowering women across diverse geographies.

Rotary, a service organization with over 1.4 million members across 46,000 clubs worldwide, has been working since 1905 on trans-



formative initiatives in healthcare, literacy, peace, and economic development. Recognizing the central role women play in community development, Rotary has increasingly focused on projects that enable and uplift women and girls. The organization itself has evolved over time. Initially an all-male institution, Rotary began admitting women in 1989 following a landmark U.S. Supreme Court judgment. Since then, women have taken on leadership, program design, and strategic roles across the organization. In 2024, Rotary elected its first female International President, Stephanie A. Urchick, marking a major milestone in its journey toward gender equity.

This inclusion paved the way for targeted initiatives focused on education, vocational training, healthcare, leadership, and protection from gender-based violence. Education remains a key pillar. Rotary has consistently supported literacy initiatives across underserved regions, especially for women and girls. Programs like Adopt-a-School, scholarship drives, and the construction

of girl-friendly infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have opened doors for thousands. In India, Rotary’s Literacy Mission has directly impacted female literacy by training teachers, providing study materials, and improving attendance among girls. Its partnership with the TEACH initiative has significantly boosted enrollment and retention of girl students across primary and secondary schools.

Rotary’s work in vocational training helps women acquire practical skills — in tailoring, handicrafts, agriculture, computing, and entrepreneurship — that empower them economically. In Uganda, Rotary clubs collaborated with communities to provide microfinance support and business training to women entrepreneurs. Similar efforts in Latin America and Southeast Asia have helped thousands of women launch small businesses, changing the course of their families and communities.

Health is another priority area. Rotary organizes camps and awareness programs to address specific

health needs of women — including maternal health, menstrual hygiene, reproductive education, and cancer screening. In several African countries, Rotary’s partnerships have supported the training of midwives and established mobile clinics in remote areas, resulting in significantly improved maternal health outcomes. These grassroots efforts help build healthy families and communities by putting women’s health at the center.

Rotary’s mission also extends into addressing domestic violence and gender-based discrimination. Clubs in Australia and the U.S. have implemented projects to support survivors of abuse — providing shelter, counseling, and legal aid. Simultaneously, educational workshops for boys and men on gender respect and equality are being conducted to reshape attitudes from a young age.

In fostering the next generation of female leaders, Rotary promotes leadership development for young women through its Interact and Rotaract clubs. These platforms nurture public speaking, team leadership, and social impact skills. Many districts also run mentorship programs that connect professional women with young girls for career and life guidance. The prestigious Rotary Peace Fellowship supports women in pursuing postgraduate studies or professional certificates in peace and conflict resolution. Several of these fellows have gone on to lead international organizations, civil society bodies, and government departments.

Rotary’s partnerships with international institutions like UNESCO, WHO, UN Women, and the Gates Foundation further scale its women-focused programs. For instance,

its work with the Gates Foundation in the fight against polio has also enabled women’s participation in healthcare roles such as vaccine delivery and health education — creating local employment and leadership opportunities for women.

An inspiring example of empowered womanhood is Dr. Madhavi G. Latha, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science, who served for 17 years as a geotechnical consultant on the Chenab Bridge project. The bridge — taller than the Eiffel Tower by 35 meters and part of the 272 km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link — is hailed as an engineering marvel. Dr. Latha advised on slope stabilization and structural safety. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world’s highest railway bridge, her contribution was rightfully recognized.

Despite the achievements, challenges remain. Cultural barriers, limited financial access, and lack of representation in decision-making continue to hinder the effectiveness of programs. Within Rotary too, ensuring that women are not just beneficiaries but active leaders remains an ongoing goal. The organization is now placing stronger emphasis on gender equity policies, inclusive club leadership, and sustainable project design that integrates the voices of women from the planning stage.

From the grandmothers of Fangane finding joy in learning their ABCs to women like Dr. Latha reshaping the skylines of India, the arc of empowerment is long — but strong. When women gain access to education, healthcare, economic tools, and leadership, communities change. And that is the quiet, powerful revolution that organizations like Rotary continue to fuel.

From Soil to Soul

DOWN MEMORY
LANE



Dr Lucky S Kasat
Advisor – GML 25-26
Consultant Pediatric Surgeon | TEDx
Speaker | Author

*"Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree,
you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing.
You are just talking."*



1932, Berlin as first 'Tree of friendship' was appropriate.

THE FIRST 'TREE OF FRIENDSHIP'

This tree plantation is significant and historic. It is the first European Friendship Tree by Rotary Club of Berlin on 17 Aug, 1932, planted by founder Paul Harris (Maple) on the Tempelhofer Feld in Berlin, which has been and still is an airport. Berlin as first tree of friendship was appropriate. In his address he talked of the ties between Germany and America and that two of the first members of Rotary were of German descent.



Paul Harris and members of Rotary Club of Tallinn, Estonia, planting in 1932.

LED BY THE FOUNDER

As Rotary's president emeritus, Paul Harris traveled extensively during the 1920s and 1930s, often accompanied by his wife, Jean. In 1932, Paul embarked on a five-week tour of European Rotary clubs and planted trees along the way to symbolize goodwill and friendship. Ever since, Rotarians have planted trees in the name of fellowship, friendship, and community service.



Paul and Jean Harris at a tree planting in Rio de Janeiro, in 1936.

TREES IN 5 CONTINENTS

Later in his tour of Europe, Harris also planted trees in Estonia, Norway, and Sweden. Planting trees became a hallmark of his travels, including in Australia, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, and New Zealand. In "My Road to Rotary," Harris recalled, "I have planted friendship trees on five continents of the world and even on some of the major islands of the seas. Our trees stood as symbols of international understanding and good-will."



Friendship tree in Lakeland, Florida, USA, in 1942.



Friendship tree in Long Beach, California, USA, 1941.



THE HARRIS' INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Paul and Jean often entertained visiting Rotarians and dignitaries in their Chicago home, "Comely Bank" and planted trees with their guests to mark the occasion. They called the garden their Friendship Garden. Paul and Jean Harris lived in the residence for 35 years, from 1912 until 1947. Paul Harris passed away on January 27, 1947. Jean Harris moved to her native Scotland, where she died.



FIRST PRESIDENT TO PLANT A TREE DURING A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Other Rotary presidents also observed the tradition. In 1931-32, then-RI president Sydney Pascall planted trees at the sites of Rotary clubs he visited, at Paul Harris' suggestion. Sydney was the first president to plant a tree during a presidential visit in the National Botanical Gardens at Cape Town.

THE PAUL AND JEAN HARRIS HOME FOUNDATION –

The residence was acquired from a private owner in 2005, on the eve of the Centennial Rotary International Convention, 100 years after it was built in 1905. By the time the Home was purchased it had experienced years of neglect. The Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation - not-for-profit charitable corporation established in 2004 - was created to purchase the Home. It manages the restoration work at Comely Bank. The next phase is the restoration of the International Peace Garden, or Friendship Garden.

Dreams ~ Plans ~ Action

Building a Culture to plan and act and convert those dreams into realities

INSPIRED MOMENTS



Dr. Manish Motwani

Dist Governor, 25-26

My Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Welcome to the New Rotary Year and the year to INSPIRE each other!

In my last message, I poured out my heart and shared my dreams with you! I am sure you all would have dreamt something similar, fully, partly or even more passionately! But dreams will remain dreams, unless we act!

Now is the time to plan and act and convert those dreams into realities. As we start the year, we need to start acting on those dreams! Plan our resources!

Your Clubs, The district teams and your board will now have geared up to start with action! This is the time to concretize plans for the full year. Your presidents will share with the plans for the year in the first club assembly. Involve yourself and share your ideas and INSPIRE each other. Your Assistant Governors will be there with you to guide you and support you!

I am sure many of your clubs would have already planned Blood donation drives, Tree Plantation programs, Monsoon picnics to bond with each other and



fellow members! Participate wholeheartedly and enjoy!

The recent tragedy at Ahmedabad tells us only one thing. Each day for us is a day

to be grateful, live the life for the day and do as much as you can for others, now! Now is the time to acknowledge the love and luck we have got and now is the time

Now is the time to plan and act and convert those dreams into realities. As we start the year, we need to start acting on those dreams! Plan our resources!

to give back! Don't keep things for tomorrow!

Lets all join to together to pray for the innocent lives lost and the tragedy being faced by their loved ones. Dr Mahek and I wish a long and fruitful life to each one of you and your families. For, we have much more to do! Lets focus on doing all we can do for others. Let's live our motto SERVICE ABOVE SELF, now, more than ever.

Long live fellow Rotarians and stay blessed.

I am eagerly looking forward to be with you in all you do!

Best regards

With all my heart,

Dr. Manish Motwani

*Your fellow dreamer, doer, and Rotarian
District Governor 2025-26*

A year begins with bold commitments

Rotary isn't built on transactions—it's built on trust. And trust is exactly what echoed across District 3141 as Inspire 25-26 made its debut with an extraordinary wave of philanthropic commitments. On 29th June, visionary Rotarians stepped forward—not with cheques, but with conviction. These are not yet funds received, but promises made with purpose, passion, and the Rotary Foundation at heart.

Renewed Promises, Renewed Purpose

Sarita & Ravi Jhunjhunwala of RC Elegant committed to an endowment of \$30,000—a thoughtful step towards fulfilling their existing Arch Klumph Society (AKS) pledge.

Fresh Pledges that Signal Deep Belief

Nikunj & Kanan Jhaveri, RC

Queen's Necklace: pledged \$100,000

Narendra Dalmiya / Strata, RC Western Elite: committed \$200,000

Divyakumar & Rashi Siraslewala, RC Bayview & SOBO: pledge to become AKS with \$150,000 already paid and balance promised **Punit Thakkar, RC Mulund: committed to AKS**

Amla Ruia pledged to become AKS 1, reinforcing her commitment to humanitarian impact

Chair's Circle Beckons

Several Rotarians announced their intention to move into the Chair's Circle of AKS, each bringing not just financial strength, but enduring Rotary values:

Harish & Bina Shah, RC Queen's Necklace – approx \$130,000 pledged

K.K. & Meena Chaudhary, RCM Royales & RC Divas – commit-



ted to Chair's Circle Lalit & Richa Chadda, RC Deonar – committed to Chair's Circle Sonal & Rajendra Agarwal – moving to AKS 2, Chair's Circle

Reaching for the Summit – Foundation Circle

In a powerful demonstration of trust in the Rotary Foundation,

the following Rotarians declared Foundation Circle-level commitments (not yet received, but pledged with clarity):

Paresh Dattani – \$1 million
Saif & Rauzat Qureishi, RC Bombay Pier – \$1 million
Noopur & Kaushal Desai, RC Bombay Pier – pledged \$500,000, with total commitment toward \$1

million

Corporate Giving With Vision

Rotary stalwart Ashok Mahajan announced a corporate commitment of over \$1 million, reinforcing the power of partnerships in philanthropy.

A Year That Begins With Intention

These commitments are not mere numbers—they are seeds. They signal belief in the Foundation's impact, in Rotary's integrity, and in Inspire 25-26 as a year that will turn pledges into purpose.

Funds may follow. But vision always comes first.

Let this be the year we lead not just by action, but by intent. For in Rotary, even a commitment is a step towards changing the world.

Together, As One Rotary Family

MAHEK'S VIBES



Dr Mahek Motwani

Aesthetic Gynecologist
and Cosmetologist

First Lady, Rotary District 3141
2025-26

Dear Rotarians and dear spouses,

In my last message, I shared my joy and excitement as Dr. Manish stepped into his role as our District Governor. Your kind and thoughtful responses warmed my heart. I do hope our Rotarian gentlemen shared the message with their spouses — because in Rotary, every family member matters.

Today, I write with an even deeper sense of purpose and togetherness. This message is not only for our wonderful spouses and partners, but for every single Rotarian — because Rotary is not just an organisation of individuals. It is a movement of families, a fellowship of hearts beating in harmony for service, friendship, and shared purpose.

When we involve our families in Rotary, something magical happens. Meetings become moments of shared joy. Projects transform into family missions. Celebrations evolve into lifelong memories. Our children grow up witnessing the values of compassion, leadership, and global citizenship — not through lectures, but by watching us live them.

It is easy to think of Rotary as a platform for those who are officially members. But the truth is, behind every strong Rotarian



is a supportive family — and their encouragement, enthusiasm, and silent strength deserve a standing ovation. Our spouses are not just guests at events; they are co-travelers in this beautiful journey. Their smiles light up our gatherings. Their ideas often uplift our projects. Their presence gives us balance and grace.

This year, let's consciously celebrate this spirit of unity. Let's invite our spouses and children to participate, not just attend. Let's host events where generations meet — where toddlers play, teenagers express, adults bond, and elders bless.

Imagine a Rotary picnic where laughter

flows across age groups. A cultural night where families perform together. A service project where children paint walls of a school or pack ration kits — understanding, even at a young age, the power of giving. These are not mere ideas — they are opportunities to deepen our roots and broaden our canopy.

Let's also be mindful of those who may feel left out — single members, senior Rotarians living alone, or those whose families live far away. Let's extend our Rotary family's warmth to them too. A simple phone call, a shared meal, or a warm hug can mean more than words.

Working together in a spirit of family adds warmth, strength, and deeper purpose to everything we do. When spouses and families feel involved, the joy of Rotary is shared, the work becomes lighter, and the memories more beautiful.

Our world today often feels fragmented — with digital screens replacing dinner conversations, and busy schedules leaving little time for genuine connection. Rotary gives us a rare and precious chance to slow down, reach out, and reconnect — not just with our ideals, but with each other.

As First Lady of this vibrant District, I see my role not just as a ceremonial one, but as a bridge-builder — between clubs and families, between generations, and between service and celebration.

So here's my invitation to you: let's make 2025-26 a year of heartfelt inclusion. Let's celebrate festivals together, honour our elders, encourage our youth, and treasure our bonds. Let's make Rotary not just something we do, but something we live — at home, at meetings, and everywhere in between.

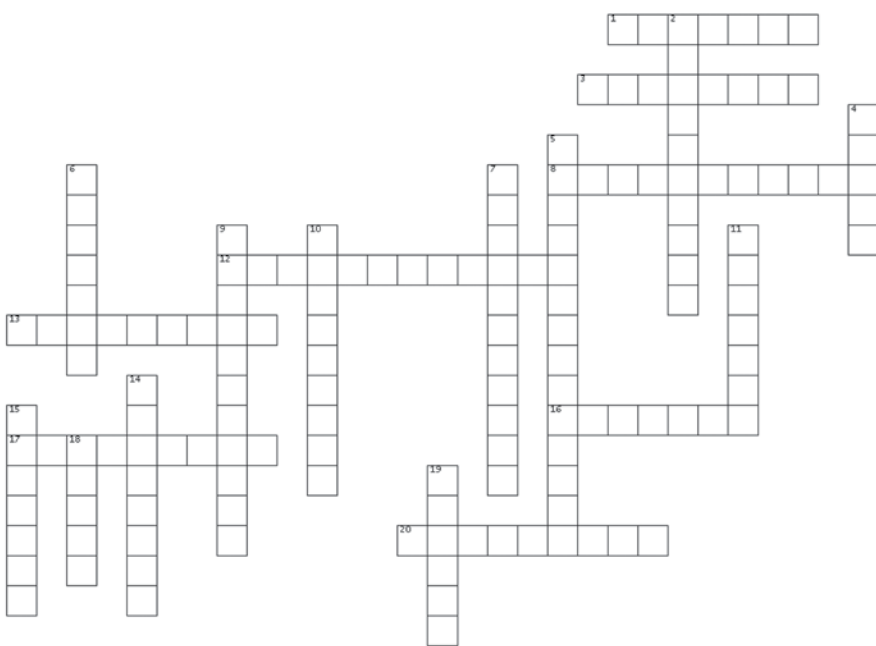
Here's to building not just better clubs, but happier homes and stronger communities — together, as one Rotary family.

**With warmth and enthusiasm,
Dr. Mahek Motwani**



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

QUOTES 'n QUIZ is a compilation of quotations by the great and famous in absorbing puzzles. It consists in solving or decoding the quotations with given clues.



10 ACROSS (KEYS UP)

1. Rotary's focus on global partnerships
2. Rotary's focus on eradicating hunger
3. Rotary's focus on clean drinking
4. Rotary's focus on literacy and
5. Rotary's focus on youth mentorship
6. Rotary's focus on vocational
7. Rotary's focus on community health
8. Rotary's focus on building
9. Rotary's focus on empowering women
10. Rotary's focus on sustainable farming

10 DOWN (KEYS DOWN)

1. Rotary's focus on global health
2. Rotary's focus on ending poverty
3. Rotary's focus on disaster recovery
4. Rotary's focus on renewable energy
5. Rotary's focus on youth exchange
6. Rotary's focus on peace and
7. Rotary's focus on local clubs
8. Rotary's focus on global citizenship
9. Rotary's focus on clean air
10. Rotary's focus on ethical practices

**Concepts and Making :
Rtn. Pinki Dalal &
Rtn. Rackhee Mehta**

This Close to History: Rotary's Legacy in Polio Eradication

INSIGHT & IMPACT



K P NAGESH

Rotary International Director (2025-27)

There are few initiatives in the history of humanity that have united the world with such resolve, persistence, and compassion as the fight to eradicate polio. For Rotary, this is not just a project—it is a promise. A promise to every child, every parent, and every community that we will not stop until polio is gone from the face of the earth.

When Rotary launched *PolioPlus* in 1985, polio was endemic in 125 countries, paralyzing more than 350,000 children annually. The world was overwhelmed by this virus that struck without warning, with no cure and devastating consequences. But Rotary dared to imagine a world free from polio—and took the lead in making it happen.

Yet, this final stretch is the hardest. It demands not only resources, but resilience. Not just commitment, but courage. The virus hides in the hardest-to-reach corners of our world. It thrives in conditions of conflict, misinformation, and health system fragility. And this is precisely why we cannot afford to let our guard down—not now, not ever.

India's story is one of our proudest achievements. Declared polio-free in 2014, India demonstrated that even the



most complex challenges can be overcome with determination and collaboration. I have had the privilege of joining countless National Immunisation Days (NIDs), witnessing firsthand the power of Rotary in action—Rotarians braving long distances and difficult conditions to ensure that no child was missed. This is the essence of Rotary: service, sacrifice, and unwavering hope.

Globally, Rotary has invested more than \$2.6 billion in the fight against polio and mobilized millions of volunteers. But our impact goes beyond numbers. We have kept polio on the agenda of world leaders. We have helped build a vast surveillance and response network that has also strengthened healthcare systems to fight other diseases like COVID-19 and measles.

**Rotary
has always
been about bringing
people together to make
a difference. The impact
we create goes far beyond
numbers—it is measured
in the lives we touch and
the communities we
uplift.**

We have created a model for public-private partnership that delivers measurable change.

World Polio Day, observed every year on *October 24*, is a chance to renew our commitment. Let us use it not only to raise funds—which continue to be matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation—but to raise awareness, especially among younger generations. Many of them have never seen polio. It is up to us to share the story—the struggles, the triumphs, and the unfinished business. The end of polio will be Rotary's gift to the world, and it will define our legacy for generations.

In Rotary, we often say, *Service Above Self*. But in our pursuit of eradicating polio, we've also demonstrated *Leadership Above Challenges*. Rotary



is not just part of the solution—we have been the heart of it.

District 3141, with its history of vibrant leadership and deep commitment to service, has played a key role in this mission. Your contributions—whether through advocacy, awareness campaigns, fundraising events, or immunization drives—are building blocks of this global success story. As a Rotary International Director, I thank each one of you and urge you to continue pushing forward.

We are *this close*—but the last mile is the most critical. Let us walk it together, with greater determination than ever before. Let us be the generation that finishes the race.

Let us be the reason no child ever suffers from polio again.



New Rotary Year – Time to Serve, Unite, and Excel

BETTER *together*



ECHOES OF SERVICES



PRID Ashok Mahajan
Past Rotary Foundation Trustee

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we stand at the threshold of a new Rotary year beginning July 1st, let us embrace this fresh start with renewed energy, purpose, and commitment. With a new District Governor at the helm — Governor Manish, whose dedication, passion, and vision have already set a remarkably high standard — it's time for every club and every Ro-

tarian to rise and shine through action.

Governor Manish has set ambitious and inspiring goals across all key areas: strengthening The Rotary Foundation, expanding impactful service activities, and nurturing deeper, more meaningful interpersonal relationships among Rotarians. These goals are not just aspirations —

Rotary has always been a beacon of hope, not by miracles alone, but through the collective strength and compassion of its members. Let us now demonstrate that Rotarians don't just serve — we lead with heart, unite for good, and uplift communities, our nation, and the world.

they are a call to action. And it is in your hands to turn them into reality.

Rotary has always been a beacon of hope, not by miracles alone, but through the collective strength and compassion of its members. Let us now demonstrate that Rotarians don't just serve — we lead with heart, unite for good, and uplift communities, our nation, and

the world.

Our District Governor has poured his heart and soul into preparing us for this moment. Now, it's our turn to turn that preparation into performance. Let's engage in meaningful service, inspire others through our actions, and prove once again that real happiness lies in helping others.

Let's all UNITE FOR GOOD. Together, let's make this Rotary year not just successful, but unforgettable.

Wishing you all an impactful, eventful, and service-driven year ahead!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Ashok Mahajan
SMILE SERVE SACRIFICE SATISFY

Rotary Membership: The Power of Connection & Commitment

UNPLUGGED

**Rtn Bharat Pandya**

TRF Trustee, 2022-26

RI Director, 2019-21

RI Treasurer, 2020-21

Oh no! Not again. I can almost hear you say. Not another article on Membership. Haven't we read / heard it all before? But let me ask you a question, "What will be the biggest issue facing Rotary in the next decade?" It's Amazing! It's the same question I have heard over last 30 years since I joined Rotary and the answer has been Membership. Membership is not just about numbers. Membership Growth is actually the momentum of our organization. It increases our human resources, develops leaders and most importantly when Rotary continues to attract & retain members it's a great testimonial to the value of Rotary Membership.

August is Membership and New



Club Development Month, a time when we can all do a little more to keep the Rotary wheel turning. I am asking each one of you to think of someone you know who is a Rotarian in deed and action. And let us tell that person about Rotary. The secret of Membership Growth lies in one word "Ask".

Don't be disheartened by a 'No'. Don't wait for the right time to bring in a new Member. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Begin Now. Begin with yourself. There is an old saying "The Best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second Best time is Now". It applies perfectly to Membership.

Today is the best time to introduce a friend to Rotary.

Retention is of prime importance. The best time to start retention is when a potential member is identified. The best way to retain is engaging and involving members. Engage members by focusing on their talents, not



just their time. Instead of asking members to give up their time, ask them to lend their talent to your Rotary club. Make it a personalized approach. We talk a lot about quality or quantity. To my mind quality means – quality induction, quality fellowship, quality assimilation, taking quality care of the family. These are essential for assimilation and retention. We need a quantity of quality in our clubs. And of course there is a lot of potential, many unserved areas where New Clubs are needed.

Membership is the future of Rotary and that is in Your Hands. Let us embrace change.

Change the Trend; Bring A Friend. And Retain the Friend. Enjoy Rotary Enjoy Yourself



POOJAA MEHHTAA DESIGNING DREAMS

With over two decades in the field of luxury interiors, Poojaa Mehhtaa has built a reputation for curating spaces that are both elegant and deeply personal. Her firm, Poojaa Mehhtaa – Designing Dreams, blends refined aesthetics with functional design, transforming homes into expressive sanctuaries.

Beyond her design practice, she is actively involved in shaping the next generation of designers, having served as a jury member at NAFDI – National Academy of Film and Design Interiors. Her work has been featured and recognised across several platforms for both creativity & excellence in execution.

Grounded in experience and driven by a passion for meaningful spaces, Poojaa continues to contribute to the evolving language of interior design.



Let's Create Something Beautiful Together
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A man with grit: Pravin Sawant

**SAPIENS
EXTRAORDINARY**



Jhankar Gadkari
Sr. Rotarian,
Corporate Consultant, Speaker

At the merging point of River Krishna and Veena lays Satara, it is the seven hills that distinguishes the city and the district from the others in Maharashtra.

The city got its importance when Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's heredity was established under Sahu Maharaj in Satara and Kolhapur.

The '7 tare' or the 7 hills surrounding the city of Satara has one more Star, very prominently placed in the global arena

Pravin Sawant the new Star arrived from one of the 1800 villages of the District Satara, born in abject poverty, his humble background turned to be the biggest stumbling block for his passion and progress.

His mother worked in the fields as a daily labourer, and his father worked as a construction worker, building homes. But they had none for themselves "I have lived and breathed through poverty all my life," says Pravin.

One day he stumbled upon an archery event on the television where he worked, the event was archery at the Beijing Olympics.

Says Pravin "the sport virtu-



ally got me possessed and I just decided to pursue it " however the cost of the basic wooden bow [Long Bow] was out of his reach.

Pravin never allowed poverty to crush his dream; he used it as a fuel to boost his burning desire instead.

Pravin worked as a ward boy at an orthopaedic hospital in a small town called Wai which is at the foothills of Mahabaleshwar, that was the only means to support his family and his remote dream to represent India.

"I used to travel to Wai, which is 45 km from my village in Satara, to practice after finishing my night shifts as a ward boy.....

I practiced and somehow managed state level competitions, won a few state level competitions and got a job. I joined the police force under sports quota. The first thing I did after getting

the job was build a house where my parents live today," said Sawant.

Pravin who is 32, took up archery after chancing on the sport on TV during the 2008 Olympics.

"At first, I took up the game to land a job; then, I realised there's a lot more to it," says Pravin. , he did excel but repeating the success on a bigger platform proved harder due to financial constraints.

He then toyed with giving coaching, and he finally found his calling.

That was the beginning of an idea and Drishti Archery Academy took roots.

During his quest to coach Pravin was always faced with financial paucity, but someone decided to 'trust' him and his passion for these sports.

A small piece of sugar cane field was granted to him to start his academy.

He and his family cleaned and cleared the fields and Drishti started admitting students.

The academy has tin sheds with no extra amenities, except a ground to practice.

This is a gurukul of some sort.

Students wake up at 6 am, recite prayers and, an hour later, converge on the ground, wielding bows and arrows, they start aiming for the bullseye 50-70 metres

away.

The range is neither levelled, nor are there any manicured lawn as seen abroad, the harsh sunlight and seasonal rain can play spoilsport.

But nothing deters these young archers from their targets. This is what Pravin Sawant dreamt, a place where shishyas (students) eat, pray and love archery.

Pravin, who is now 32, took up archery after chancing on the sport. People found it as an impossible dream, more of a useless pursuit .But Pravin was determined and the gurukul was established in 2021.

"Right now, we are running on a no-profit, no-loss model." Say Pravin.

The grit, the determination and the commitment of one man coming from extremely frugal background finally produced results in no time.

Aditi Gopichand Swami and Ojas Pravin Deotale marshalled India to a historic win at the Asian Games and crafted a legend for ages.

The architect of these young world champions is modest and a quite Pravin Sawant—the weaver of dreams at his academy.

He did not know then that his wards [9 medals] and his

efforts were responsible to take India beyond the 100 medal tally for the first time.

Today the so-called modest hostel currently accommodates around 20 students but given its accomplishments in 2023—four Asian Games gold medals and three world championship gold medals between Ojas Pravin Deotale, 21, and Aditi Swami, 17, both of whom recently received the Arjuna Award—the interest is growing. "A big reason why people want to come here is that we adhere to the guru-shishya parampara and Pravin stays here and focuses on students," says Shedge, the Chair of the Academy.

Drishti has housed aspirants not only from Maharashtra but even Haryana and Chandigarh.

The students pay Rs 1,000 as a monthly training fee and only Rs 1,500 for lodging.

What is missing is the scale and splendour, but Drishti makes up with the zeal of its students.

Archery is an expensive game, a compound and recurve bow set costs Rs 1.5-3 lakh.

The academy steps up to help students who are talented but economically challenged.

"I couldn't experience the 52-second high when the national anthem plays during the podium ceremony, but my students are experiencing it."

Sawant still remembers his first bow which he made using bent wires from an old umbrella. We salute this Sapien Extraordinaire for his immeasurable feat.



“

At first, I took up the game to land a job; then, I realised there's a lot more to it,

- Pravin Sawant
Archery Coach



Rotary Service Week 2026: United for Impact, Visible to the World

Leadership, Logistics & Legacy:
The Making of a Mega Movement

Clubs Collaborate,
Communities Benefit

A Power-Packed Week
of Purposeful Action

Rotary Service Week (RSW) is back—with renewed energy, collective strength, and a vision to make Rotary's presence felt across Mumbai like never before. Slated from November 2 to 9, this ambitious week will showcase the strength of 15 Rotary club groups coming together to deliver impactful, large-scale community service. RSW not only revives a beloved tradition in District 3141 but also redefines how we serve—with unity, strategy, and high visibility.

ROTARY RISES:
UNITED FOR
MUMBAI



DR INDUMATI GOPINATHAN

Rotary volunteers have been serving the community for over 120 years and yet despite the impact we make, most of the community remains unaware of Rotary. Each club puts in efforts to do service projects. However, in a busy metropolis like Mumbai, the number of serving hands, heads, resources and new ideas are a challenge for service project for Rotary clubs.

Rotary service week(RSW) germinates from the idea of clubs coming together in groups to do bigger, bolder and better projects that impact the community and creates visibility for Rotary. In the past, RSW was a consistent project of Dist. 3141 till a decade ago and after a long gap is now being reactivated.

DG Dr Manish Motwani who has seen Rotary as a part of growing up with Rotary,could never forget RSW that had left a lasting impression in his mind. RSW will be a highlight in the first half of the inspired year and is scheduled from November 2 -November 8, two Sundays included.

Each day of the week will see a predecided service activity. Club groups of 6-9 clubs each will come together to execute the projects. Working with other clubs and meeting fellow Rotarians will open up new vistas of service and foster growth and openness. Like human formations in Olympics, our goal will be the big picture of 3141 as a single unit working together to create a larger-than-life projection of Rotary to the community.

Totally there will be 15 club groups covering all 5 zones of Dist 3141. They may work as a single group doing one project , group with sub-groups or all groups together in a zone depending on the scope of the activity. But no



| THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE ROTARY SERVICE WEEK ARE AS FOLLOWS | | |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------|
| November 2 | Sunday | EYECARE |
| November 3 | Monday | CYBERCRIME |
| November 4 | Tuesday | BLOOD DONATION |
| November 5 | Wednesday | BREAST SCREENING |
| November 6 | Thursday | SENIOR CITIZENS |
| November 7 | Friday | VOCATIONAL WARDS(Unsung heroes) |
| November 8 | Saturday | SPECIALLY ABLED |
| November 9 | Sunday | HAPPY STREET |

club shall work singly or all by themselves. For activities like eye-care/blood donation/Breast screening, the reach should be as wide as possible, hence a single group can have multiple camps. For an activity like Vocational awards for unsung heroes, the

event could be just one in the district involving all the Rotary clubs so that it spirals into an event of great magnitude that will attract lot of community attention, public interest and media coverage. Coordination is the key for the success of Rotary Service week.

We have a district team of 63 volunteers who are divided into two groups

1. Admin and Coordinating team
2. A Project Execution team

In addition we have a contingent of (128) Club RSW chairs. Add to that club directors, members, partners in service and family... a formidable battallion is ready!

In order to facilitate the working, the RSW team has come out with RSW handbook with details of the District teams as well as the projects that have been envisaged for the week. Various strategic partners have been roped in for activities like Eye care, Blood donation, Breast screening and Cybercrime awareness where special teams are needed to help to execute the project. All details are included in the handbook.

Dist Avenue chair PP Rajendran Unnikrishnan has worked very hard to get the book ready and inaugurated on June 29th the installation day of DG Dr Manish Motwani.

The Zonal chairs and co-chairs help coordinate meetings and communications to plan the events and get the teams together.

The Project heads for every activity make the master plans for the activity and help execution with Zonal project directors

Ultimately the success of the whole RSW lies in the execution by the Club president and the RSW club chairs. Let's brace ourselves for a giant Rotary event and put in our best to make RSW 2026 a blockbuster event

The 15 club groups that have been formed throughout the district will help scale up activities and create greater Rotary presence in the community. The groups can have multiple activities, a single large activity, a zonal activity or all groups can have a megaevent as is planned for the Vocational excellence awards for the unsung heroes.

The idea is also for clubs to mingle with each other, see fresh perspectives and methods that they can later implement in their won clubs. New connections will forge better friendships throughout the district finally creating more cohesiveness.

Ultimately the success of the whole RSW lies in the execution by the Club president and the RSW club chairs. Let's brace ourselves for a giant Rotary event and put in our best to make RSW 2026 a blockbuster eventPercolation of information to create better understanding of RSW will be a great single factor that will define Rotary Service week's performance.

Dr Indumati Gopinathan
Governor's principal Aide
Group Avenue Head,
Rotary Service week
Counsellor,
Women empowerment



Inner Wheel Impact: Service with a Smile

This month's highlights showcase the diversity of causes our members are committed to—be it health, hygiene, education, or inclusive community care. Together, we're not just delivering aid—we're building hope, dignity, and a better tomorrow.

Here's a glimpse into the inspiring work carried out by our dedicated Inner Wheel Clubs.

Project by Inner Wheel Club of Bombay Pier



Cervical Cancer Camp at Seva Sadan

81 girls benefitted with the vaccines provided.

IWC Bombay Airport Tiara



Project Category :

Family Welfare | Cardiac Care

Project date 5th July

At the Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Heart Care, @Kharghar a life-saving heart surgery was successfully completed for a 4-month-old baby girl. This noble initiative was supported by donor Sonali Parikh, whose generous contribution gave the gift of life and hope to the child and her family.

NO OF BENEFICIARIES - 1

Club Name-Iwc Bombay West



PROJECT DATE: 1/7/2025

Project Description : 8 Large size garbage bins installed at Vile Parle West station road to vegetable vendors . This will help them to keep clean roadside.

Project Category : Environment

No of beneficiaries : Many+

Club Name- IWC Palghar



Project Date: 1 July, 2025

Project Description:

A letter was received from Nutan Vidyalaya, Bahadoli, which is operated by Shri Dnyanvardhini Shikshan Sanstha, Palghar, stating the urgent need for benches for the students. Taking this into consideration and recognizing the importance of providing a comfortable and conducive learning environment, we made arrangements to supply a total of 95 wooden benches. This initiative has helped ensure that the students now have proper seating facilities, enabling them to pursue their education in a more structured and comfortable manner.

Project Category- Youth Development

No. Of Beneficiaries- 285

Club Name - Inner Wheel Club of Mulund Hills



Project Date : 8th July 2025

Project Description : Distribution of Note Books, Stationery, Sweets & Biscuits to 178 students and 9 kgs Cooker plus Serving Spoons for Kitchen at Zilla Parishad Happy School, Vikramgad AND 150 Bags & 100 Ear-rings to 250 Girls at Kasturba Gandhi Happy School, Vikramgad

Project Category - Youth Development - Education

No of Beneficiaries - 378 Students

Compiled by Jayshree Jain Bokadia,
Inner Wheel Dis Editor 25-26

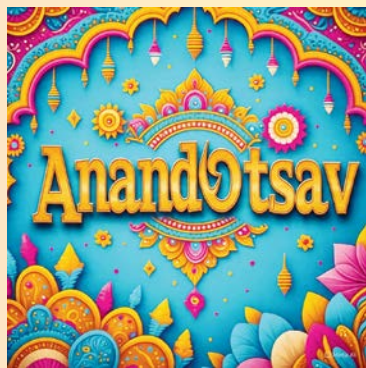
Seva Mahotsav



YUVA SHAKTI : ROTARACTORS 3141

1st July, 2025 to 12th July, 2025

Seva Mahotsav, as the name suggests, was a 12 day long culmination of Community action and service by the Rotaractors of District 3141. With over 25 acts of Service ranging from Medical awareness campaigns to visiting Old age homes to empowering the queer community, Seva Mahotsav gave Rotaractors a reason to step into the community with dedication and purpose. Over a hundred clubs joined hands to adapt their activities to local community needs, with mandatory events like Jeevandan, Annadan and Baghbaan laying a strong foundation for empathetic impact. Seva Mahotsav served not just as a celebration of acts of service, but also as a reflection of our commitment to our community.



● RTN. KALA SHRIDHAR

Marking the very first day of the Inspired Year, Anandotsav—a soulful entertainment evening for senior citizens—lit up the Balgandharva Rangmandir in Bandra with music, warmth, and community spirit.

In a unique tribute to Doctors' Day, the evening featured a spell-binding performance by The Tuning Folks—a talented ensemble of specialist and super-specialist doctors who have dedicated over 13 years and more than 110 shows to spreading joy through music. Their passion for healing extended beyond hospitals, as they captivated an audience of 700 with their nostalgic and heartfelt melodies.

The event was graced by DG Dr. Manish and First Lady Mehek, alongside PDG Shashi Sharma,



PDG Dr. Bal Inamdar, and PDG Rajkumar Bagadia. Adding glamour to the evening was the presence of celebrity Chief Guest Juhi Soni Babbar, whose attendance was made possible by Rtn. Meenakshi Khosla.

The program began at 6 PM with the National Anthem, setting the stage for an evening to remember. Retro favourites filled the air, culminating in a spirited medley of Shammi Kapoor hits—Aaja Aaja, Badan Pe Sitaare, O Haseena, and Aaj Kal Tere Mere Pyaar Ke Charche—that had the entire auditorium clapping, swaying, and



singing along.

Laughter, nostalgia, and applause echoed through the packed hall, making Anandotsav a vibrant celebration of music and commu-



nity bonds.

The event was led by RC Mumbai Divas and supported by various clubs of District 3141. Heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Indumati, Kala

Sridhar, Arvind Gadia, Pushpa Suryamurty, and Rakhi Sunil for their invaluable contributions in bringing this magical evening to life.

A Grand Celebration by Rotary District 3141 at Palghar to Honour Senior Citizens



● RTN. KALA SHRIDHAR

Under the dynamic leadership of Inapire DG Dr. Manish Motwani, Rotary District 3141, through the Rotary Club of Palghar organized a heartwarming and vibrant event titled 'Anandotsav' on 1st July 2025 at Vitthal Mandir Auditorium, Palghar, to honour and celebrate the invaluable contributions of senior citizens – the true pillars of our society.

The event was hosted by Rotary Club of Palghar, with Rotary Club of Borivali East and Rotary Club of Boisar-Tarapur as Gold Co-hosts, and Rotary Clubs of

Umroli, Dahanu, Wada, Manor Highway, Virar, Vasai, Ghodbunder Mumbai, Mira Road, and Borivali Wonders as Silver Co-hosts. Valuable support also came from the Inner Wheel Club of Palghar and the Rotaract Club of Palghar.

Speaking on the occasion, Rtn. Bhagwan Patil, District Non-Medical Avenue Head and Chief Coordinator, said, "We are beginning the new Rotary year by seeking the blessings of our senior citizens. Their experience and wisdom are our guiding light."

Rtn. Sanjay Mahajan, the newly elected President of Rotary Club of Palghar, shared his sentiments

and said, "To start the year with the blessings of our elders is a matter of great pride. Their presence is our greatest strength." He also outlined the club's upcoming initiatives.

District Secretary Rtn. Amit Ramakant Patil elaborated on the vision behind Anandotsav, emphasizing the importance of honouring and celebrating the elderly.

One of the key highlights was the felicitation of Shri Gajanan Namjoshi Guruji, a distinguished elder from Palghar, recognized for his lifelong service to astrology, Vedic rituals, and cultural preservation. He was honoured

with a shawl, turban, and memento. Ms. Preeti Shinde was also felicitated for her excellence and contribution to classical dance.

The audience was captivated by a soulful performance of "Geet Ramayan" presented by Rutuja Nrityalay, Palghar. A special performance by the senior citizens of Anand Vruddhashram added joy and emotional depth to the evening.

Participants included members from Anand Vruddhashram, Vatsalya Senior Citizens Group, Vitthal Mandir Bhajan Mandal, and many senior Rotarians. All senior attendees were presented

with memorable gift items.

The event featured welcome tea and snacks, followed by a delicious dinner.

A total of 300 attendees, including 200 senior citizens and 100 members from various Rotary Clubs and Inner Wheel Clubs, participated in this meaningful celebration.

'Anandotsav', held under the Inspire Year 2025–26, was a touching tribute to senior citizens and a powerful start to a year focused on compassion, respect, and community service.

(With inputs from CC Bhagwan Patil and DS Amit Patil).



DEEP FOCUS

Rotary District 3141 Welcomes Governor Dr. Manish Motwani: A Journey of Inspiration Begins



A Legacy of Leadership | Rotary District 3141



A Powerhouse of Rotary Legacy



PASSING THE TORCH OF LEADERSHIP : IDG RTN. CHETAN DESAI WELCOMES DGE DR. MANISH MOTWANI WITH THE COLLAR OF RESPONSIBILITY — A SYMBOL OF TRUST, SERVICE, AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FOR ROTARY DISTRICT 3141.



WITH A SMILE AND UNSHAKABLE COURAGE DG DR. MANISH MOTWANI EMBRACES THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP WITH GRACE, DETERMINATION, AND A HEART READY TO SERVE. A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR ROTARY DISTRICT 3141.



A WARM WELCOME, A HEARTFELT WISH IDG RTN. CHETAN DESAI EXTENDS HIS HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO DG DR. MANISH MOTWANI, WELCOMING HIM TO A YEAR OF INSPIRED LEADERSHIP AND IMPACTFUL SERVICE IN ROTARY DISTRICT 3141.



DG Dr. Manish Motwani launches GML INSPIRE with Rtn. Pinki Dalal as Editor-in-Chief, Rtn. Premraj KV as Editor, and Rtn. Kishor Parekh handling Management.

K V PREMRAJ

On June 29th, 2025, at the majestic ISKCON Auditorium in Juhu, Mumbai the baton of leadership of Rotary District 3141 for the Rotary year 2025-26 passed to the inspirational Dr. Manish Motwani. Accompanied by the graceful First Lady Dr. Mahesh Motwani and family members along with well-wishers and Rotarians, Dr Manish Motwani was installed as the Governor.

After the meeting was called to order and the rendition of the National Anthem, the Masters of Ceremony, AKS Rtn. Dilip Shah and AKS Rtn. Noopur Desai, took the stage and seamlessly guided the proceedings for the rest of the day.

The Chief Guest, TRF Trustee and PRID, Dr Bharat Pandya and Dr Madhavi Pandya; PRID Ashok Mahajan and Nayantara; RID Raju Subramanian and Vidya; Past TRF Trustee, Gulam Vahanvaty, Shashi

Kumar Sharma, Sunil Mehra, Sandeep Agarwala along with outgoing Governor, Chetan Desai and Jwala were warmly welcomed. The galaxy of past District Governors present and Dr Motwani's family members and friends were acknowledged and welcomed.

A sacred and symbolic moment followed with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries. The serene invocation song, rendered beautifully by Rtn Mahi Amit Patil and Rtn Keya Nilesh Patil of Rotary Club of Palghar, set the spiritual tone.

One of the highlights was the heartfelt welcome and felicitation of the College of Governors from Rotary District 3141 and 3142 and esteemed guests. Each of them was honoured personally by Governor Dr. Manish Motwani with a ceremonial stole. True to his values of personal connection and gratitude, Dr. Motwani also made it a point to individually

acknowledge and felicitate each Arch Klumph Society member present in the hall—an emotional and memorable gesture that was deeply appreciated by all, despite time constraints.

Outgoing District Governor Rtn. Chetan Desai's emotional address, recounting the achievements and milestones of his Rotary year. In a gesture of humility and sporting spirit, he ended his speech with the hope that the incoming team would set even greater records—an embodiment of Rotary's true collaborative spirit.

The ceremonial collaring of Dr. Manish Motwani by Rtn. Chetan Desai officially ushered in the new leadership. After the collar was placed around Dr. Motwani's neck, the rousing "INSPIRED" theme song filled the hall, energizing the audience and affirming the promise of a vibrant new year ahead.

In a refreshing change from the

formal norm, the introduction of Governor Dr. Motwani was delivered informally and affectionately by his mentor and friend, Dr. Bal Inamdar. His heartfelt anecdotes and insights painted a vivid portrait of a leader deeply committed to service, innovation, and impact.

In his acceptance speech, Dr Manish echoed the words of Victor Hugo, "Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come". He emphasized the timely potential of Rotary's mission, envisioning a transformative and globally inspiring future for the district.

Dr Manish, a seasoned Rotarian celebrating his 25th year of service, expressed profound gratitude towards his family, especially acknowledging the pivotal role played by his parents—Rtn. Ramesh Motwani and Dr. Malti Motwani—in nurturing his dedication to Rotary. With humility and humour, he shared person-

al anecdotes, highlighting how his modest initial commitment evolved into a fully dedicated leadership journey.

Dr Manish outlined a sharp vision for the district, stressing teamwork, collaboration, and innovation. He exhorted the Presidents, calling them the beating hearts of the district and when they demit office on 30th June 2026 they should be smugly satisfied with their performance. Tapping of CSR funds was the key. Clubs were urged to approach Corporates with projects, intent and will to enhance level of work.

Dr. Manish recognized the strong legacy and foundational contributions of past leaders, affirming that the respect and recognition District 3141 enjoys globally is a testament to their dedicated efforts.

Dr Manish revealed glimpses of some landmark projects planned during the year.



HAPPY MOMENTS... START WHEN HEARTS ALIGN IN SERVICE, WHEN HANDS UNITE FOR A CAUSE, AND WHEN LEADERSHIP RISES WITH PURPOSE. WELCOME, DG DR. MANISH MOTWANI!



HAPPY REUNION | साथी हाथ बढ़ाना ROTARY BONDS REKINDLED, FRIENDSHIPS RENEWED, AND HEARTS ALIGNED ONCE AGAIN. A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING MARKED BY UNITY, WARMTH, AND SHARED PURPOSE - TOGETHER, WE RISE TO SERVE!

The first one was of setting two Rotary hospitals ---Rotary Heart hospital and Rotary Eye hospital. These would be state of the art hospitals which would become functional in this Rotary year. Rotarians would be proud when these are commissioned as the treatment here would rival that of any hospital in our vicinity.

Cancer screening with breast and cervical cancers being high priority items. To fight these scourges, a fund of Rs.4.50 crores have been arranged by PRID Ashok Mahajan. Clubs exhorted to spread awareness and arrange for camps.

Pink autos was another significant project which would promote women empowerment for which corporates would be willing to provide CSR funds. With this one project, corporates can claim credit for having empowered women, helped vocational upliftment and environmental sustainability.

Creation of 25 modern villages was also on the agenda. Tourism to promote rural culture was on the anvil. Apart from this, a top-class sports stadium was also planned in a village. Four and a half acres of land has already been procured for this venture.

Rotary verified business was an innovate idea to be explored. For the first fifty applicants, this verification would complimentary.

Management of mental health and lifestyle diseases was also a priority item. Curbing ECHO (Early Child Hood Obesity) to be given importance.

These ambitious ventures are designed to amplify Rotary's societal impact through effective community engagement and strategic corporate collaborations.



MOC RTN. DILIP SHAH AND RTN. NOOPUR DESAI LIT UP THE STAGE WITH THEIR CHARM, WIT, AND EFFORTLESS CAMARADERIE — SETTING THE PERFECT TONE FOR A MEMORABLE EVENING!

Closing his inspirational address, Manish reiterated the powerful sentiment behind Rotary's inspired song and made the Presidents recite it with verve and gusto.

During his address, Dr. Manish emphasized the spirit of unity and family within Rotary District 3141, highlighting the sentiment, "Home is where the heart is," and proudly declaring District 3141 as both his home and heart. The installation was not only ceremonial but deeply reflective, punctuated by wisdom from ancient philosophy and Rotary's core principles.

Before the Chief Guest Dr. Bharat Pandya, Past Rotary International Director and Trustee of The Rotary Foundation took centre stage, those who had committed to donate more \$25000 were felicitated. A commitment of \$3.50 million was garnered.

Dr Pandya then delivered an inspiring keynote address. In his eloquent and encouraging style, he spoke about leadership rooted in values and results and

expressed confidence that District 3141 under Dr. Motwani's leadership would rise to even greater heights. His address served as both validation and inspiration for the path ahead.

Dr. Pandya recognized the strong legacy and foundational contributions of past leaders, affirming that the respect and recognition District 3141 enjoys globally is a testament to their dedicated efforts. With approximately 6,500 Rotarians across 124 clubs, many exceeding 100 members, District 3141 stands out as a global leader in Rotary's expansive network.

He passionately spoke about Rotary's continued dedication to eradicating polio providing updates on the latest position in hot spots of Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are closer to eradicating polio than ever before as only one gnome of the virus is in existence. Improving lives worldwide through initiatives focused on peace, healthcare, education, and vocational training continues to be corner-

stones of Rotary ethos. The announcement of a new Peace Centre at Symbiosis University, Pune, was celebrated as a significant milestone for Rotary in India.

Reiterating the profound importance of Rotary's core areas of focus—membership growth, retention, and Foundation giving—Dr. Pandya set an ambitious yet achievable goal for the district: reaching a membership of 10,000 Rotarians within the next three years.

On Foundation giving, Dr. Pandya highlighted the incredible generosity of District 3141, with the promised contributions of \$3.5 million at the start of the year. Dr Pandya noted considering our latent potential, this was just 'the tip of the iceberg.' Dr Pandya recalled how our District continued to be in the forefront of giving to the Foundation over the years.

The morning also witnessed the launch of the inaugural edition of the Governor's Monthly Newsletter (GML), in an eye-catching tabloid format. Unveiled

by the Governor and Rtn. Kishor Parekh along with the editorial team—Editor-in-Chief Rtn. Pinki Dalal and Editor Rtn. K.V. Premraj—this bulletin represents another first for the district. This year, every Rotarian will receive a physical copy of the bulletin, creating a direct and personal communication channel that reinforces transparency and connection. The GML will also be shared with select 3500 non-Rotarians. The District Directory was also released. This too would be distributed to each Rotarian.

The Governor's Core Team was then called on stage and felicitated—a dedicated group entrusted with executing the INSPIRED vision with precision and passion. Their presence signalled the leadership bench strength supporting the Governor.

A special segment was reserved for recognizing generous AKS donors and project sponsors. Among them, Rajiv Mathur received heartfelt appreciation for his exemplary support and sponsorship of the Unified Critical Care project—one of the district's most impactful healthcare initiatives. CPR workshop are being planned throughout the year. Apart from that Home Health care and creation of neighbourhood ICUs are on the anvil.

Sponsor, Bright Advertising was acknowledged.

This was followed by District announcements where leaders were given stage time.

Nikunj Jhaveri was hand-picked to spearhead the district projects on hospitals. He exhorted the Presidents to scout for CSR donors and Doctors within their span of influence to be part of this critical initiative.

Rtn Indumati Gopinathan gave details of the Rotary Service week from Nov 2nd to Nov 9th, 2025. This included two Sundays. This is proposed to be the highlight of the first half of the year. A handbook designed by Avenue Chair Rtn Rajendran Unnikrishnan was to be unveiled and shared with each Club. This would contain the details of strategic partners, activities to be conducted during the week.

AKS Anil Jain and Akshay Mehta announced the start Rotary Majors. This was the formation of an exclusive club for Major Donors. The opportunity for fellowship and networking amongst the elite of Rotary was available for all Major Donors. A minimum of four exclusive events were planned.

Rtn Ganesh made the announcement of the District Conference to be held on 7th and 8th February 2026 at Sahara Star. Details were shared including special privileges for those who opt for Patron's subscription for the Discon.

Following the district announcements, Krishna Kumar Choudhary proposed the formal Vote of Thanks. He expressed gratitude to every individual and team who contributed to making the day a success. The meeting was adjourned—closing the ceremony but opening a new, ambitious chapter for Rotary District 3141.

The installation of Dr. Manish Motwani as District Governor was more than a ceremonial event—it was a launchpad for a movement. A movement built on vision, anchored in values, and driven by action. As the crowd dispersed, there was one resounding sentiment in every heart: We are INSPIRED.

+

Saving Lives in Transit: Jeevandhara Blood Donation Drive



STATION-WISE COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- » Churchgate – 60 units
- » Dadar – 81 units
- » Chembur – 57 units
- » Ghatkopar – 81 units
- » Borivali – 91 units
- » Andheri – 104 units
- » Goregaon – 60 units
- » Mulund – 76 units
- » Palghar-Boisar – 206 units
- » Wada – 38 units



In a powerful display of community service and humanitarian spirit, Rotary District 3141 launched Project Jeevandhara, a mega blood donation initiative held simultaneously across multiple railway stations and locations in Mumbai, collecting an outstanding 816 units of blood in a single day. The campaign spanned from Churchgate to Wada, mobilizing Rotarians, citizens, and partner organizations for a day of health awareness and social impact.

Churchgate: Awareness, Action & Artistry

- » Churchgate witnessed a flurry of impactful activities. Five projects unfolded simultaneously, including:
- » Live announcements by Rotary Presidents urging commuters to donate blood.
- » A powerful Nukkad Natak, highlighting the importance of organ donation.
- » A CPR demonstration, equipping passersby with basic emergency response skills.
- » Active participation by Rotary leadership to set an example.
- » Donors were gifted Rotary-branded umbrellas, adding a touch of gratitude and visibility to the drive.
- » **Ghatkopar:** United for a Cause
- » The camp at Ghatkopar, led by Rotary Club

of Mumbai Ghatkopar, collaborated with:

- » **Platinum Host:** RC Mumbai Lakers
- » **Gold Host Clubs:** RC Mumbai Kalakaar, RC Bombay Powai, RC Mumbai Ghatkopar West

Out of 120 registered donors, 81 units were successfully collected – a testament to teamwork and efficient organization.

Each location, coordinated by dedicated host clubs, saw enthusiastic participation, flawless logistics, and heartening community response.

A Collective Commitment to Saving Lives

From Mumbai's bustling Churchgate to the quieter town of Wada, the unified action of Rotary clubs and volunteers proved what co-ordinated service can achieve. The spirit of Project Jeevandhara was not just in numbers, but in lives touched, awareness created, and hope rekindled.

Live Beyond Life Foundation: Adding Purpose to Every Drop

Amplifying the impact of the blood donation drive, Live Beyond Life Foundation brought awareness on organ donation to the forefront.

Rtn. Harminder Singh, Managing Trustee, and Harshad Rathod, Secretary of the Foundation, personally visited various camps, engaging blood donors in meaningful conversations about the power of organ donation. Many individuals pledged to donate their organs, giving new meaning to their selfless act of donating blood. Their presence brought purpose, education, and compassion to the day's effort.



Mega Blood Donation Camp by RC Boisar Tarapur with TIMA & MPA

206 Bottles Collected – Sets New Record in Dist. 3141

● **RTN. RAM NARAYAN GOEL**
President, RC Boisar Tarapur

On Doctors' Day, July 1, Rotary Club of Boisar Tarapur, in association with TIMA and MPA Palghar Taluka, organized a Mega Blood Donation Camp at TIMA Hall under the Jeevandhara theme.

With support from Maharashtra Blood Bank Palghar, the camp saw the collection of 206 bottles of blood — the highest in Rotary District 3141. DG Rtn. Manish Motwani congratulated



ed President Rtn. Ram Narayan Goel and applauded the club's effort.

Key attendees included TIMA

office-bearers and MPA's Dr. Vikas Patil (President), Dr. Umesh (Secretary), and Dr. Geeta Raju, along with many doctors. The camp, guided by Inspire President Rtn. Ram Narayan Goel, ran from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Industries and institutions across the region contributed significantly. Gangwal Foundation alone arranged 86 units, breaking its own record. Thanks to Rtn. Santosh Shinde's tireless efforts, several organizations sent employees to donate.

Donors were appreciated with certificates, umbrellas, and nutritious snacks.

Rotary members who donated included: Mrs. Swayamprabha Rakesh Mishra, Rtns. Smita Jadhav, Santosh Shinde, Dr. Darshan Khandejod, Rakesh Acharya, Sanjay Gohil, Amit Mahajan, Vinod Patankar, Mrs. Radha Patankar, Sunil Salvi, Anil Jagdale, and Dr. Sunil Oswal.

Among other present were Rtns. Ramesh Mittal, Sandeep Raut, Rakesh Mishra, Jagdish

Bhute, Kishore Mahale, Kothawade, Vaishali Shinde, Praveen Vaishya, Kaushal Srivastava, Babankumar Singh, Suman Mittal, Sonam Khandejod, Rakesh Jain, Naman Kanoi, Santosh Bang, Dr. Rajesh Yadav, Vikram Shekhwat, and several distinguished citizens of Boisar-Tarapur.

Special thanks to Dr. Parag Kulkarni, Rtns. Shailesh Agrawal, Rakesh Acharya, Anil Jagdale, Vinayak Padmwar, Smita Jadhav, and Mukesh Bhatia for ensuring the success of the project.

A Life of Graceful Giving

Dilip Shah's Journey from Humble Beginnings to Purposeful Philanthropy

JOY OF GIVING

BY RTN RACKHEE MEHTA

There are people who live as if life is a ledger—measuring worth by what they accumulate. And then there are those like Dilip Shah, who move through the world like a quiet poem—measuring life by what they can give away.

When you meet him, it isn't the resume of titles, or the years of service, or the reach of his philanthropy that strikes you first. It's his stillness. A kind of humility that feels rare in its sincerity.

"We never had the luxuries of life," he says with a gentle shrug. "So we can resonate with people who are in need. We understand the difficulties they face—often quietly, without being able to share their pain."

Born and raised in Mumbai, Dilipji was the youngest of four siblings. His older sisters and brother were born in village homes, but he was the first to be born in a hospital. A small detail, but one that quietly echoes the transformation he has witnessed—from modesty to meaning.

Generosity wasn't a lesson taught in words. It was the language of his home. "Despite our financial constraints, I saw my parents help people throughout our community. That was just how things were in our family—sharing was caring, and we were always encouraged to do something good for others."

Years later, that quiet instinct to help others found a larger stage when he joined Rotary International.

"Before Rotary, I was helping people, yes—but on a personal scale, one-on-one. Joining Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Garden in 2013 changed everything. Suddenly, the projects had a wider impact and touched lives in ways I had never imagined."

He remembers moments that redefined his understanding of privilege. "You go out for dinner and spend ₹5,000 without blinking, and yet your domestic help struggles to make that in an entire month. How can you not be affected by that contrast?"

What drew him to Rotary wasn't just the breadth of the work, but the clarity of its purpose. "Every



person spends from their own pocket to support the project. Even at the international level, administrative costs are minimal—around 8 to 8.5%. Compare that to other organizations where it can go up to 40% or more. That really drew me in."

Behind every act of giving stood the quiet strength of his family. With his son and daughter-in-law settled in the U.S., and his wife Bhavini deeply involved in service through the Inner Wheel Club, their shared values became the compass for their lives.

"At some point, we asked ourselves—why are we running after money? What are we saving it for?"

His son, he says with emotion, gave him his blessing in the simplest words: "Papa, we don't need anything. Do whatever you feel is right with your wealth. We will be pleased if it can enrich and uplift someone's life!"

Among the many causes he supports, one that stays closest to his heart is St. Jude's Child-care Centre, which helps children undergoing cancer treatment in Mumbai. "Some of these children



are just newborns. They come from remote areas and need a place to stay during their treatment. Supporting this cause is about giving them a future—a chance to live."

He avoids labels, letting his compassion lead the way. "We don't limit ourselves. Anything that comes our way and feels meaningful, we take it up. There's so much to do. We can't reach everywhere, but we try."

Before this chapter of his life, Mr. Dilip was both a professor and a practicing chartered accountant. "I must have taught over 15,000 CA students and



20,000 commerce graduates," he estimates. But when his professional goals had been fulfilled and his family settled, he began to shift his energy fully toward service.

Ask him about legacy, and he answers with a clarity that needs no embellishment: "If I can inspire even one person to do good, I think I've done my job. That's all. Do good, and pass it on."

He hopes the younger generation will carry the torch in their own way—not just with money, but with time, skill, or simple presence. "Bring a smile to one person every day. That's all it takes to make this world a better place."

These days, he finds joy in the little things—a good Bollywood tune, a bit of dancing, and above all, the laughter of his three-and-a-half-year-old grandson. "He's too young to understand now, but when the time is right, I trust that the values my son holds will pass

on to him too."

He laughs softly when asked how he relaxes. "Does a person involved in philanthropy really need to unwind? Helping others gives its own kind of joy."

And so, in the rhythm of his days—between music, memories, and moments with his grandson—Mr. Dilip continues his quiet giving, like a river that flows not for applause, but because it must. There is no ledger keeping score, no monument in his name, only lives touched, wounds eased, and futures made a little brighter.

"If I can inspire even one person to do good," he says, "that is enough."

Perhaps that is the true legacy: not one etched in stone, but in the soft imprints left on hearts, in kindness passed hand to hand, like a lamp lit from another. In Dilipji's world, wealth is not what you hold—but what you release into the world with grace.

FIRESIDE CHAT

Leadership Lessons from Narayana Murthy

TEAM INSPIRE

The Rotary Club of Bombay hosted a distinguished fireside chat with one of India's most respected thought leaders, NR Narayana Murthy, who was conferred the prestigious Ramkrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance by Rtn Shekhar Bajaj. The session was conducted by PDG Sandeep Agarwal, whose thoughtful and incisive questions brought out candid and profound reflections from Mr. Murthy. The event drew an audience of over 250 individuals, including industry stalwarts led by Hon. Rtn Deepak Parekh, members of the Ladies' Wing of IMC, and professionals across generations.

In the 30-minute conversation, Mr. Murthy offered valuable in-



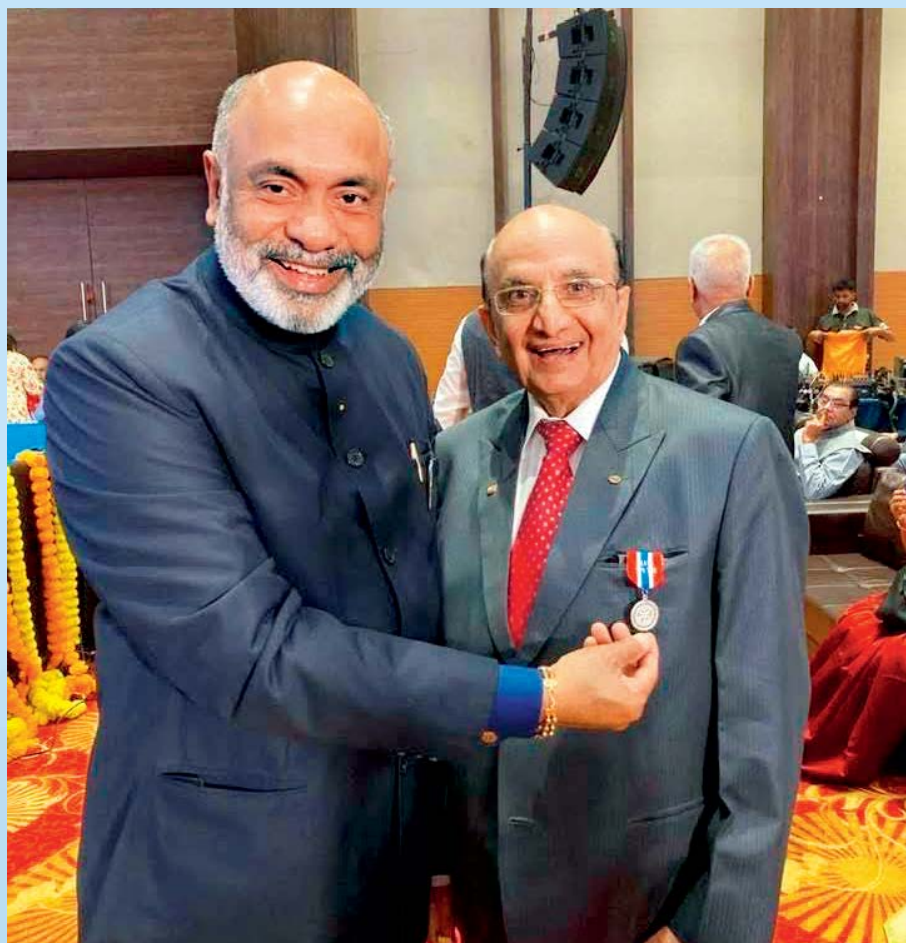
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sights into good governance, corporate management, ethical leadership, and life principles. His responses, marked by sincerity and clarity, were received in pin-drop silence, as the audience absorbed his wisdom with deep appreciation. A short but meaningful Q&A session followed, further enriching the dialogue.

Mr. Murthy's emphasis on "fairness" as a guiding value deeply resonated with Rotary's 4-Way Test. The session culminated in a standing ovation, reflecting the admiration and gratitude of all present.

It was a truly remarkable afternoon—marked by record attendance, engaging conversation, and timeless takeaways—made possible under the leadership of President Bimal Mehta and the moderation of PDG Sandeep Agarwal.

A Medal, a Memory, and the Magic of Rotary Fellowship



During the District Learning Assembly in Rotary District 3170, a memorable moment unfolded when PDG Gaurish Kumar from Goa presented a Rotary medal to senior Rotarian Ashok Mahajan. The gesture, rich in emotion and camaraderie, was a heartwarming reminder of the enduring fellowship Rotary nurtures. Adding to the warmth of the moment were the famed Goan cashew nuts shared by PDG Gaurish—though it was the spirit behind the medal that truly stood out. The occasion reflected the core Rotary values of Smile, Serve, Sacrifice, and Satisfy, leaving behind a cherished memory woven with gratitude and connection.

Rotary's 15,000 km Roadmap to Cervical Cancer Awareness



In a remarkable show of commitment to women's health, DG Manish officially launched the "4 Corners" national cervical cancer vaccination and awareness drive, spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier.

One car - 15,000 km. 26 cities. 38 days. This epic journey, in partnership with 22 Rotary Clubs, AOGIN, and Beautiful Tomorrow, aims to raise crucial awareness about cervical cancer prevention across India.

Behind the wheel is none other than Rtn. Priya Rajpal—an experienced road warrior who once drove from Bombay to London via China and Russia—now steering this mission with unstoppable determination.



COMPILED BY RTN. RACKHEE MEHTA

RC Borivli's Green Drive Reduces Pollution, Promotes Safe Medicine Disposal



On July 1, 2025, the Rotary Club of Borivli, under the leadership of President Ketan Tapiawala and Project Head Rtn. Chetna Shinde, launched an impactful eco-sustainability initiative at Rustumjee Heritage, Malad West—installing community collection boxes for unused medicines and old newspapers.

This thoughtful initiative delivers significant environmental and public health benefits. By promoting the safe disposal of unused medicines, the club is helping prevent pharmaceutical contaminants from entering water systems—reducing pollution, protecting aquatic ecosystems, and combating antibiotic resistance. It also reduces the risk of accidental poisoning or misuse, particularly among children and the elderly—making homes safer and communities more responsible.

At the same time, the newspaper collection box—already 30% full within days—diverts recyclable waste from landfills, where decomposing paper generates harmful methane emis-

sions. Recycling one ton of newspaper saves approximately one ton of wood and cuts air pollution by over 70%. Residents are encouraged to contribute clean, dry newspapers, supporting local upcycling initiatives like Green City, which also create livelihoods in the informal sector.

With an investment of just ₹14,000, this simple but strategic project is set to benefit more than 250 individuals—from recyclers and eco-workers to low-income families receiving redistributed medicines, and the broader community gaining from a cleaner, more mindful environment.

What began as the installation of two humble boxes has quickly become a symbol of collective responsibility and action. By embedding sustainability into daily routines, RC Borivli has inspired a culture of care—empowering households to make safer choices, support circular economies, and contribute to a healthier planet. This is environmental stewardship in action—accessible, impactful, and deeply human.

Rotary club of Bombay Seaface

A Salute to Bravery & Strategy : At our RCBSF Speaker Meeting held on the afternoon of 12th July at IMC, Retd. Navy Commander Saurav Purkayasth took us deep into the world of modern warfare—from cyber threats to narrative battles.

His gripping stories of Operation Sindoor, the 26/11 terror attacks and other thrilling stories. The session ended with a standing ovation, a powerful reminder of the courage and commitment that protect our nation.



Rotary club of Bombay



Hope Flows in Chinchpada: Solar-Powered Irrigation Brings Sustainable Change

In the heart of Palghar district lies the small tribal village of Chinchpada—where life once revolved around uncertainty. Unpredictable rainfall, lack of irrigation, and limited opportunities had long pushed families, especially young men, to migrate in search of livelihood. But today, that story is changing—thanks to a Rotary-led initiative that's bringing not just water, but hope.

Under the leadership of President Rtn. Bimal Mehta and driven passionately by Project Chair Rtn. Vinti Gajree and Co-chair Rtn. Seena Sanghi, has rolled out a Solar-Powered Water Irrigation Project that's transforming the

future of this village.

By installing a solar-based lift irrigation system, the team has enabled irrigation of over 100 acres of farmland—giving farmers the confidence to plant more, harvest better, and dream bigger. From growing multiple seasonal crops to exploring high-value horticulture like Sonchafa, cashew, and mango, agriculture in Chinchpada is now a source of stability and pride.

But this project is not just about farming. It's about keeping families together. With assured income and access to water, villagers now have fewer reasons to leave their homes behind. Migration has reduced, and community life is thriving again.

And for the village's children, it's also meant safer access to education.

Boats arranged as part of the initiative now ferry over 100 students to school across flooded areas during monsoons—improving attendance and ensuring their safety and well-being.

The project—costing ₹39.88 lakh and impacting 689 lives—was designed after deep community engagement and surveys, in partnership with the Gram Panchayat and local implementation teams. It stands as a shining example of what happens when empathy meets action.

Rotarians, volunteers, and on-ground partners came together not just to solve a problem, but to co-create a future with the people of Chinchpada. And that's the true power of service.

Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview Brings Care to Children with Intellectual Disabilities

The Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview, under the leadership of President Sonali Shah and Project Head Rtn. Vidya Moorjani, conducted a diagnostic medical camp for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Dhule, in collaboration with the Samarpan Multi Disability Rehab Centre at Kasturba Hospital.

India has over 260 million individuals affected by intellectual disabilities, yet awareness and access to care—especially in rural areas—remain limited. With more than 12% of Indian children between the ages of 2 to 9 experiencing neurodevelopmental disorders, the need for structured intervention is critical.

Drawing on her two years of volunteering with Jai Vakeel Foundation, Rtn. Vidya Moorjani identified the urgent requirement for accessible, multidisciplinary care in underserved areas. The Foundation's ongoing work in Dhule and Nanded provided a strong base for outreach, diagnostics, and support.

The Rotary-supported camp benefitted 410 children and in-

cluded a team of trained specialists—pediatric neurologists, ophthalmologists, EEG technicians, speech therapists, dietitians, and psychologists. Each child received a detailed assessment, counseling, therapy guidance, and where required, assistive devices such as mobility aids and orthotics. The camp also ensured a three to six-month supply of nutritional and neurological medications.

Follow-up counselling and progress assessments will be conducted every six months, ensuring continued support and care. This comprehensive approach, combining medical treatment, rehabilitation, and emotional support, has offered hundreds of families a ray of hope—and access to services that are otherwise unaffordable or unavailable in rural India.

With a total project cost of ₹8,45,000, this initiative aligns with Rotary's focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment and underscores the club's commitment to inclusion, health, and dignity for all—especially for those most often left behind.





Rotary Club of Mumbai North End

A CAMP THAT CARED: 81 WOMEN SCREENED FOR BREAST CANCER

In a heartfelt initiative by the Rotary Club of Mumbai North End, led by President Shivshankar Agarwal and Project Head Sangeeta Khetan, a free breast cancer screening camp was held on July 4th and 5th, 2025, at Amar Society near Milan Subway, Vile Parle West.

The camp offered free mammography and clinical checkups, benefitting 81 women—many of whom had never had access to such screenings before. More than just a medical event, it became a safe space where women could

learn, ask questions, and feel cared for.

Backed by the Club Trust and supported by Rtn. Mohan Agarwal and a spirited team of volunteers, the camp reflected the club's deep bond with the local community. Awareness was spread through posters and word-of-mouth, but it was trust and compassion that brought women in.

Early detection can save lives—and through this small but powerful act, Rotary Club of Mumbai North End helped bring that hope one step closer to home.



The Rotary Club of Mumbai North End's free breast cancer screening camp empowered 81 women with vital early detection, awareness, and compassionate care.



Rotary Club of Palghar

RAIN RELIEF WITH HEART: ROTARY CLUB OF PALGHAR DISTRIBUTES UMBRELLAS TO ANGANWADI WORKERS

In a thoughtful act of support during the monsoons, the Rotary Club of Palghar, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sanjay Mahajan, completed a meaningful initiative—Project Aarambha-31: Rain Relief Drive—by distributing umbrellas to Anganwadi workers at Chahade, Palghar.

These frontline workers, who tirelessly care for children and families in the community, often continue their duties rain or shine. Recognizing their commitment and daily challenges during the rainy season, the club gifted 120 sturdy umbrellas to help them stay protected and comfortable while doing their vital work.

Spearheaded by Project Head Rtn. Amit Rajpurohit, the one-time drive was executed with precision and compassion. The total project cost was ₹2,880, supported generously by Rtn. Mahesh Thakkar.

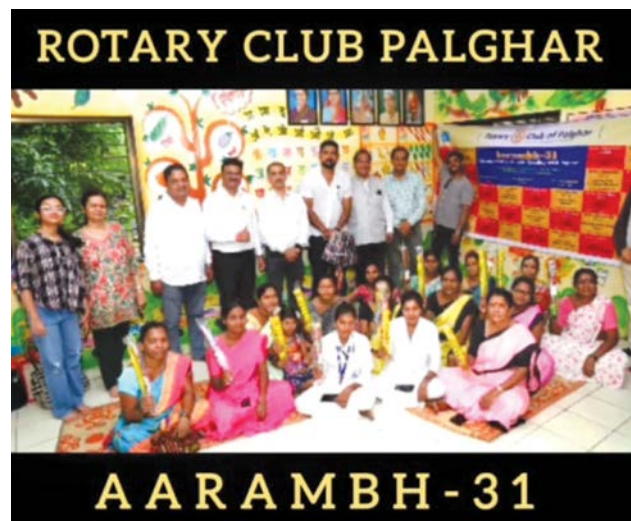
The distribution event



saw the active involvement of several key members including Secretary Rtn. Manish, PP Mayur Kashikar, Project Chairman Rtn. Sampada Kashikar, PP Padam Sharma, and PP Ninal Shah, all of whom came together to show appreciation for the unsung heroes of the community.

In a simple yet impactful gesture, the club brought smiles to those who often work quietly in the background—proving that a little shelter from the storm can go a long way.

In a heartwarming gesture, 120 umbrellas were distributed to Anganwadi workers by Rotary Club of Palghar to support them during monsoons.



Rotary Club of Dahisar



On 1st July 2025, Rotary club of Mumbai Dahisar felicitated SIX doctor's from Dahisar on doctors day & participated in the District Blood donation drive. On 2nd July SSC Toppers were felicitated from THREE schools in Malad and Goregaon & Note Books were distributed. On 4th July ANNADAN was given at RADHIKA OLD AGE HOME celebrating the Birthday of PP Rtn. Vinod Thakkar. On 5th July 42 SSC/HSC Toppers from



schools in Dahisar were felicitated & on the same day SIX farmers were donated 3000 saplings of Jasmine at Charni Post Village WADA District - Palghar.

Rotary Club of Bombay North (RCBN)



The Rotary Club of Bombay North (RCBN), under the leadership of President Rtn. Kamal Chokshi and with a membership strength of 105, successfully conducted a one-time medical camp at the Press Club of India. The project, which incurred no cost, was aimed at providing essential health check-ups and preventive care services to members of the media community. The initiative was overseen by District Officer Rtn. Nargis Gaur and was shared by Rtn. Firoz Kachwalla, Past President and Chief Functionary Trustee.





Lighting the Way: RC Mumbai Greens Supports Children of Blind Parents with School Kits



On July 5, 2025, Rotary Club of Mumbai Greens, led by President Rtn. Bharath Jadhav and Project Head Rtn. Gauri Rane, in collaboration with RC Mulund Hills, brought joy, dignity, and hope to 75 children at the National Association of the Blind, Reay Road.

The project focused on a group often overlooked—children of blind and visually impaired parents—by providing them with complete educational kits, including school bags, pencils, and pencil boxes. The goal was simple: ease their journey in education and show them they're not alone.

The event was filled with heartfelt smiles and emotional moments, as parents watched their children receive the tools they need to thrive. For many, it wasn't just about notebooks and pencils—it was about being seen, supported, and empowered.

At a cost of ₹ 70,000, the project was more than a donation; it was a gesture of inclusion. Rtn. Shilpa Bhansali and Ann Kiran Rane were also part of the team that ensured everything ran smoothly.

In a world where access can define a child's future, this act was a quiet yet powerful reminder that education is the strongest form of upliftment. With care and collaboration, RC Mumbai Greens has helped light the path forward—one child, one kit, one future at a time.

Rotary Club of Bombay Powai

The Rotary Club of Bombay Powai, under the leadership of President Rtn. Anju Ahluwalia and Project Head Rtn. Smita Madgavkar, organized a Meritorious Student Felicitation Event on 12th July 2025 at Hiranandani Foundation School, Powai.

Focused on Basic Education and Literacy, the event celebrated the academic excellence of 96 high-achieving Class 10 and 12 students, along with the dedicated teachers who played a crucial

role in their success. With 49 Rotarians contributing over 500 man-hours and a total project cost of ₹49,750, the initiative was a meaningful response to a community-identified need to recognize academic and teaching excellence. Attended by over 250 people, the event fostered motivation among students, strengthened Rotary's ties with educational institutions, and reinforced the Club's commitment to promoting education



A Bag Full of Hope: RC Mumbai Mulund East Uplifts 500 Young Learners

On July 10, 2025, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Mulund East, led by President Ambika Dani, brought smiles and a sense of possibility to 500 children at Vidyadeep School, Vikhroli West, through its heartwarming book and bag distribution drive.

Headed by Rtn. Shaline Serpes, the project focused on supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds—children whose enthusiasm for learning often clashes with the reality of financial hardship. Understanding their needs through school visits and discussions with staff, the club stepped in with a simple promise: every child deserves the tools to learn.

Each student from the pre-primary and primary sections received notebooks, pencils, and school bags. While the materials themselves were modest, the message behind them was powerful—that education is for all, not just the privileged.



The total cost of the project was ₹ 20,000, but the value was felt in every wide-eyed thank you and excited grip on a new notebook. For many, it was their first school bag. For some, their very first pencil of their own.

This act of kindness reminded everyone that sometimes, all it takes to spark a brighter future is a book, a bag, and someone who cares.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab



On July 9, 2025, a quiet act of kindness brought new comfort to 125 children with special needs at SOPAN, an autism support centre in Andheri East. The Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab (RCMSEP), led by President Rtn. Minishaa I Oberoi and Project Head Rtn. Kiran Srivastava, donated 16 large floor mats to create a safer, more nurturing learning space.

SOPAN (Society of Parents of Children with Autistic Disorders) is

a haven for children with autism, physical, and mental disabilities. When Ms. Neha, a dedicated teacher at the centre, shared the need for mats—so the children could sit and learn more comfortably—Rtn. Kiran, along with Rtn. Baljeet Kaur and Rtn. Surjit Ahluwalia, responded without hesitation.

At just ₹6,200, this simple contribution made a big difference. These mats now line the classroom floors at the Natwar Nagar Municipal School, where SOPAN is based—giving the children a clean, soft space for therapy, play, and learning.

For the children, the mats mean fewer bruises, more comfort, and the freedom to move, stretch, and engage. For the staff, it's a boost in morale and a reminder that they're not alone in their mission.

RC of Mumbai South Cuffe Parade



The Rotary Club of Mumbai South Cuffe Parade organized a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Career Fair at Lady Engineer High School, with participation from students of Pandey Girls High School.

The event saw 150 students engage in sessions focused on leadership development and career

exploration, with expert guidance from institutions on fields like digital careers and forensic psychology. Held at a project cost of ₹10,000. The program was graced by Rtn Nargis Gaur, Rtn Sonal Somaiya along with Pres Rtn Errick Elavia, Rtn Nayan Shah, Rtn Shyam Lohia, and Club Secretary Rtn Rajesh Dubey



YOUR PROJECTS DESERVE THE SPOTLIGHT—SUBMIT TO INSPIRE TEAM TODAY!

Dear Inspire Presidents,
Here's your chance to shine!

Feature your club's impactful projects in the Inspired Governor's Monthly Newsletter (GML) and let your good work inspire the entire district. You can submit up to 2 projects every month—just ensure your entries reach us before the 15th

How to submit:

- » Option 1: Fill out the Google Form (your AG can assist if needed)
- » Option 2: Email your project details to inspired.gml@gmail.com
- » Please include the following for each project:

Club Name | President Name Project Head

- » Members involved (with roles: funds/logistics/volunteers, etc.)
- » Host/Co-host Clubs (if any)
- » Project Title | Area of Focus (choose from Rotary's 7)
- » One-line Objective | Description (within 1000 characters)
- » Project Location | Start & End Dates
- » Total Cost () | No. of Beneficiaries
- » How the community need was identified
- » Impact after completion
- » 2 project images

PLEASE FOLLOW THE FORMAT FOR SMOOTH PROCESSING

And if in doubt—just pick up the phone and speak to your Zonal Editors! They're here to help:

- » Rackhee Mehta – RC Bombay Bayview | 9930556570 | rackheemehta@gmail.com
- » Premraj KV – RC Borivali | 9820313494 | premrajkv@gmail.com
- » Sashikala Charles – RC Kandivali West | 9820449505 | sashicharles@gmail.com
- » Bhavin Toprani – RC Kandivali West | 9820090239 | indiatravelite@gmail.com
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Let's lead by example.
Your projects deserve the spotlight!

INSTALLATION



RC NARIMAN POINT

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Nariman Point successfully hosted the installation ceremony for its Inspire Board of Directors for the Rotary year 2025-26 on Sunday, 22nd June 2025, at the Rendezvous, Taj Hotel, Apollo Bunder. Led by Club President Rtn Hemang Bhatt, the newly appointed board includes Rtn Aditya Nemani as Immediate Past President, Rtn Mandar Sharma as Club Secretary, and Rtn Naresh Gupta as Vice President and President Elect. Rtn Ashish Chitlangia takes charge as Club Treasurer, with Rtn Jagdish Tanna as Fellowship Director and Rtn Deepak Malhotra as Sergeant At Arms. The Medical and Non-Medical portfolios are overseen by Rtn Devang Mehta and Rtn Ajay Shah respectively, while Rtn Suraj Saraogi will serve as Director, Vocational, and Rtn Ashok Paranjpe as Director, Membership. Other key positions include Rtn Devang Kanakia as Director, TRF; Rtn Rajiv Agarwal as Director, CSR; Rtn Manoj Laddha as Director, Fund Raising; Rtn Vivek Khetan as Director, C2L; and Rtn Vipul Shah as District Coordinator & Club Trainer. Additionally, Rtn Ashish Jalan will lead PR and the Millennial Summit. The evening was marked by camaraderie, commitment, and a renewed pledge to service, setting the tone for a vibrant and impactful Rotary year ahead.



RC BOMBAY UPTOWN

The Rotary Club of Bombay Uptown, under the dynamic leadership of President Dr. Arti Sharma, held its Installation Ceremony on 16th June 2025 at Matunga Gymkhana from 6:00 pm onwards. The event marked the formal induction of the new Board of Directors for the Rotary year, with Suman Agarwal as Immediate Past President and Lalit Sukhani taking charge as President Elect and Club Executive Secretary/Director. The board includes Asmita Vartak as Club Treasurer, Dr. Arun Garg as Sergeant At Arms and Club Learning Facilitator, Ajit Shah as Club Foundation Director, and Vijaya Ramaswamy as Chairman - CSR. The Community Service wings are led by Nimit Shah and Tejaswini Jhobalia, while Nutan Shah oversees Club Service. Rita Dalvi serves as District Thrust Area Director, Sheela Mane as Club Membership Director, and Animesh Mehta as Membership Director/Chairman. Nitin Gupta leads International Service, Malvika Sukhani heads Youth activities, Neena Kalra directs Vocational Guidance, and Mahadev Sastry serves as Club Public Chair & E-Admin. The event was a celebration of leadership, service, and the club's commitment to making a meaningful impact in the community.

RC MARINE DRIVE

The Rotary Club of Marine Drive Mumbai proudly hosted its annual Installation Ceremony, marking the commencement of a new Rotary year filled with purpose, service, and leadership. The event celebrated the formal induction of Rtn. Ramesh JS Chandra as President, alongside the new Board of Directors comprising Rtn. Arvind Katakdhond as Immediate Past President, Rtn. Nayan Rawal as President Elect and Membership Director, Rtn. Mukund Halshikar as President Nominee, Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Godbole as Vice President, PP Rtn. Bharti Gurjar as Club Secretary, Rtn. Shreya Waingankar as Club Treasurer, Rtn. Shraddha Golvankar as Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Sumitra Hirlekar as Club Service Director, Rtn. Dr. Prashant Ratnaparkhi as Community Service (Medical) Director, Rtn. Arunraj Pai as Community Service (Non-Medical) Director, Rtn. Dilip Gurjar as Vocational Service Director, Rtn. Archana Thite as Youth Service Director, Rtn. Rustom Billimoria as International Service Director, Rtn. Deepali Javeri as Public Image Director, PP Rtn. Mahesh Hirlekar as TRF and CSR Director, and PP Rtn. Ramon Abrol as Club Trainer and Executive Secretary. The newly installed team brings together a wealth of experience, dedication, and energy to drive the club's mission forward with impactful initiatives in community service, youth development, and international fellowship, signaling a promising chapter of service above self.



INSTALLATION



ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI MAHIM

The installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Mahim was held on 14.6.2025 at Ashford Chambers, Citylight Hall, Mahim, Mumbai. Pres Shaila Rege assumed the role of President during this occasion.

The Board of Directors for the term includes IPP Vidula Kshirsagar, Secretary Sunita Padwal, Treasurer Vandana Rajhansa, Executive Secretary Shobha Karnik, Sergeant at Arms Arati Dhavale, Membership Chair Pradnya Sabnis, and TRF Director Dhananjay Patwardhan.

Service Avenue Directors are as follows: Service Projects Non-medical is led by Varsha Parulekar, Youth Service by Seema Patole, Public image by Chittaranjan Datar, Club Service by Lalit Rege, Fellowship by Manoj Kshirsagar, Rural projects by Kishore Parulekar, Learning Facilitator is Vidya Kulkarni, and International by Uma Sahasrabudhe.



Club of Bombay
Celebrating 96 Years of Service



INSTALLATION CEREMONY & FIRST MEETING OF INCOMING PRESIDENT

RTN BIMAL MEHTA
ANNUAL MEETING (25-26)



ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

The Rotary Club of Bombay held its official Installation Ceremony on 1st July 2025 at 11.15 am at the Regal Room, Trident, Nariman Point. The event celebrated the induction of the new leadership team for the Rotary year.

Presiding over the Club is President Bimal Mehta, joined by an esteemed Board of Directors that includes IPP Satyan Israni, PE Manish Reshamwala, PN Vineet Suchanti, Honorary Secretary Farhat Jamal, Joint Honorary Secretary Rhea Bhungara, Honorary Treasurer Manish Sampat, PP Vijay Jatia, Rtn. Pradeep Chinai, Rtn. Sherebanu Baldiwala, Rtn. Siddharth Bhimrajka, Rtn. Renu Basu, Rtn. Akhil Sanghi, Rtn. Swati Jajodia, Rtn. Mudit Jatia and Rtn. Jaymin Jhaveri.

RC MUMBAI NORTH ISLAND

The grand Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai North Island (RCMNI) is scheduled to be held on 27th June 2025 at 7:30 PM at the prestigious Hotel Sahara Star. Leading the club for the year is President Rtn. Narendra Panani, supported by a dynamic Board of Directors comprising Rtn. Rashesh Kamdar (Secretary), Rtn. Mehernosh Engineer (Treasurer), Rtn. Harneet Anand (Immediate Past President), Rtn. Harishchandra Mehta (Sergeant At Arms), Rtn. Mahendra Madhani (Director - CSR), Rtn. Harish Choksi (Director - Membership), Rtn. Bhupendra Shah (Director - Club Trainer), Rtn. Ramesh Sahajwani (Director - TRF), Rtn. Pushpa Suryamurty (Director - E-Admin), Rtn. Ashok Varma (Director - Community Service I), Rtn. Mahesh Kakwani (Director - Community Service II), Rtn. Raji Grewal (Director - Women Empowerment), Rtn. Suhas Ambiyee (Director - Vocational Service), Rtn. Rajendra Chhapwale (Director - Club Advisor), Rtn. Jayendra Mehta (Director - Club Service), Rtn. Dilish Doshi (Director - International Service), Rtn. Hasib Rahman (Director - Rural Service), Rtn. Hiren Gandhi (Director - Fellowship), and Rtn. Anil Khanna (Director - New Generation), all set to drive the club towards another impactful Rotary year.



INSTALLATION



THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY KANDIVALI

The Rotary Club of Bombay Kandivli, under the dynamic leadership of President Rtn. Prashaant P. Mishra, held its Installation Ceremony on 15th June 2025 at Evershine Club, Thakur Village, Kandivli East, Mumbai, beginning at 10:15 am. The event marked the formal induction of the Board of Directors for the Rotary year. Rtn. Sanjay Patkar serving as Vice President and Rtn. Anubha Goyal taking charge as Club Secretary. Rtn. Jay Makhija served as Sergeant At Arms. Rtn. Vijay Vyas as Club Admin, Rtn. Jatin Lakhani as Membership Director, and Rtn. Sunit Shah as Fellowship Director. Community Service initiatives are led by Rtn. Sonal Doshi and Rtn. Avdesh Gupta. Environmental efforts are spearheaded by Rtn. Shakti Awasthi, and the Medical Services are jointly directed by Rtn. Bandana Guha and Rtn. Dr. Amit Shriwas. Vocational service is managed by Rtn. Ashish Pandey, CSR by Rtn. PP Anuj Ajmera, and The Rotary Foundation (TRF) by Rtn. PP Ravichandran S. Rtn. Lalit Agarwal leads Youth Activities, Rtn. PE Laxman Prasad oversees Public Image and Relations, and Rtn. Atul Ghadigaonkar serves as E-Director. The ceremony was a vibrant celebration of leadership, service, and the club's ongoing dedication to community upliftment and Rotary ideals.



ROTARY CLUB OF MULUND HILLS

The Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Mulund Hills was held on 29th June 2025 at 7:30 pm at Hotel Satkar Grandeur, Wagle Estate, Thane. Adv. Varsha Kolhatkar was installed as President in the esteemed presence of Chief Guest DG Rtn Dr. Manish Motwani. The event witnessed a remarkable attendance of 110 Rotarians and guests. The evening was graced by PDG Rtn Kumar Kewalramani, PDG Rtn Jayant Kulkarni, PDG Rtn Bal Inamdar, DGND Deepak Jiyandani along with several District dignitaries and co-presidents. The office bearers and board of directors for the year 2025-2026 include Rtn. Vinod Chaube as Vice President and President Elect, Rtn. Pravin Loke as Club Secretary, Rtn. PP Sanjay Dwivedi as Treasurer, Rtn. K.V. Natrajan as Joint Secretary, Rtn. PP S. K. Sengupta as Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. PP Dr. Anoop Gupta as Bulletin Editor, Rtn. Dr. Dharendra Kumar Patil as Director-Membership, Rtn. PP C. K. Suri as Director-Club Administration & E Admin, Rtn. Dr. Haresh Mangalani as Director-Medical Project, Rtn. Kailas J. Satnekar as Director-Non-Medical Project, Rtn. Disha Nagda as Director-New Generation, Rtn. Kishor L. Shah as Director-Vocational Service, Rtn. President Rajnikant R. Parikh as IPP & Director-International Service, Rtn. Vijay Narula as Director-Focus Area, Rtn. PP Shripal Daftari as Club Learning Facilitator, and Rtn. PP R. K. Shah for TRF. The Extended Board includes Rtn. PP Ashish Kanodia as Director-CSR, Rtn. PP Shripal Daftari as Director-District Event Coordinator, and Rtn. PP Ajay Parikh as Director-Polio Plus. The event marked the beginning of a promising year ahead with a committed team dedicated to Rotary ideals.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DIVAS

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas recently held its Installation Event, marking a new chapter under the leadership of President Rtn Sunita Goyal. The newly inducted Board of Directors includes Rtn Puja Vaid as Club Secretary, Rtn Priyambada Mittal as Treasurer, Rtn Savita Agarwal as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Rtn Sonali Desai as Immediate Past President. Supporting the leadership team are Rtn Priti Lohia as Vice President, Rtn Nupur Lohia as President Elect, Rtn Roli Choudhary as Medical Director, Rtn Asha Pansari as Non Medical Director, Rtn Shikha Goyal as Vocational Director, and Rtn Manju Banka as Club Administration. Also serving on the board are Rtn Neena Jain as Membership Director, Rtn Suruchi Kabra as International Director, Rtn Preity Kedia handling PR & Communications, Rtn Kavita Agarwal as Youth Director, and Rtn Meena Khetan as TRF Director.



INSTALLATION



RCM SOBO



The Inspire Club hosted its annual installation ceremony at ISKCON, Juhu on the morning of 29th June 2025 at 9:00 AM. The event marked a formal transition in leadership and

set the tone for the club's goals and aspirations for the year ahead. Sargam Thakkar assumed office as Inspire President, taking over from Immediate Past President

Rajeev Goenka. Supporting the new presidency are Niharika Malik as Honorary Secretary, Avinash Pandya as Joint Secretary and e-Admin, and Sanket Jain as Treasurer and President

Elect. The Board of Directors for the new term includes Nishrin Shums and Zohra Chitalwala as Directors of Club Service, Els Reynaers and Pushpraj Nadar as Directors of Projects, and

Saurav Purkayastha as Director of Membership and Engagement. Youth initiatives will be led by Director Sapana Sanghvi, while public communications and visibility will be overseen by Mahera Goel as Director of PR and Public Image. Corporate Social Responsibility and International Service are entrusted to Director Rajiv Punater. The Rotary Foundation and Club Training will be guided by Director Monica Grover. Environmental initiatives will be led by Director Premal Sanghvi. Finally, discipline and coordination will be ensured by Sergeant-at-Arms and Chairperson of Rotary Service Week, Rakesh Jhaveri. The ceremony was highlighted by inspiring speeches, symbolic handovers, and a shared commitment to uphold Rotary principles and strengthen community engagement. With renewed energy and a clear vision, the new leadership team sets forth to make meaningful contributions throughout the year.



RC MUMBAI GHODBUNDER

In a remarkable display of fellowship and community spirit, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Ghodbunder held its installation ceremony at the elegant Majestic Suites in Dahisar. The event, which took place on the morning of June 21st, marked the beginning of the 2025-26 Rotary year and the formal induction of the club's new leadership team. Presiding over the new term is Club President Rtn. Ujjwala Ravsaheb Babar, joined by key leaders including New Club Advisor Rtn. Amit Patil, Secretary Rtn. Kunal Vivek Gore, Treasurer Rtn. Santoshkumar Ashok Mahadik, and Vice President Rtn. Mehul Jagdish Mane. The team also includes Rtn. Mithilesh Jadhav as Membership Chair, Rtn. Vimal Pravinchandra Joshi as President Elect, and Rtn. Ashutosh Vishwanath Thakur as Immediate Past President. Rtn. Afzal Babubhai Payak oversees Club Administration, while Rtn. Ravindra Raghuwanshi takes on duties as Sergeant-at-Arms and CSRP Chair. Public Image Chair Rtn. Purva Ravi Dayma leads communications, with Vocational Service guided by Rtn. Brian Pascal Nunes and the Foundation chaired by Rtn. Prabhudas Golla. Medical Community Service is handled by Rtn. Bhushan Bhaskarrao Wanjari, Non-medical Community Service by Rtn. Arti Khuman, and Youth Service is directed by Rtn. Ashish Chandrakant Pawar.

RC GOREGAON WEST

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Goregaon West, under the leadership of President Gauri Sandeep Sawant, proudly presents its Board of Directors for 2025-2026: Darshan Shah (Club Secretary), Sakharan S. Girap (Vice President & Director Medical II), Vishnu Maheshwari (Director Membership), Prem Murarka (Director Public Relations), Ashok Bhimra (Director Medical), Bhavesh Shah (Director Non-Medical), Pushkaraj Kole (Sergeant-at-Arms), Avadhoot Kamat (Club Trainer), Sandeep Sawant (Club Treasurer & Director International Services), Vikas Puri (Director Youth Services), Anil Singhee (Director TRF), Anad Jain (Director CSR & Fundraising), Namrata Goenka (Director District Thrust Area), Rupendra Lahoti (Club Service), Uday Kumar Desai (Director Vocational Services), and Vijay Walanju (E-Admin). The installation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 18th June 2025, from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Royal Challenge Restaurant & Bar, D Rose Hall, Yashodham, Film City Road, Goregaon East, Mumbai.



Retention Starts Where Ego Ends

A brutally honest take on politics, puppets, and the real path to retention.

OPINION



Pinki Dalal

AUTHOR | NOVELIST |
FORMER EDITOR | TRAVELER
BLOGGER | ROTARIAN

*Some leave with silence,
Some with sass.
Some with grace,
Some just bypass.
Some came for service,
Some came for show.
Some stayed to grow,
Some just won't let go.*



The 'Yes Man' Obsession:

Some members don't want a president. They want a puppet. A polite, obedient, rubber-stamp president who says "Yes" faster than they hear the question. If a president shows spine or originality, they label it as ego. Suddenly, phrases like "Not inclusive" or "He doesn't listen" begin floating around WhatsApp groups. The real issue? The president didn't let them pull the strings.

Backseat Drivers in Overdrive:

They've passed the baton, but refuse to let go of the GPS. They want to guide everything — from project themes to the design of the invite. They won't come to planning meetings, but will have plenty to say once the event is over.

Their favourite line? "In my year, we used to...":

Yes, we know. And thank you. But this is not your year anymore. Leadership doesn't mean dragging the past into every present.

The IPP FOMO Syndrome:

The "Immediate Past President" title is supposed to come with dignity. But for some, it comes with with-

drawal symptoms.

June 1st hits, and suddenly, they're hyperactive. Suggesting project names, demanding font changes, asking for edits on the president's speech. If allowed, they'd be the de facto president for the next year too — without the official burden, but with full control. You can spot them easily — they hover like clouds. Constant, heavy, and ready to rain on the new team's parade.

WhatsApp warrior:

They don't attend meetings. They don't volunteer. But they are Olympic-level active on WhatsApp. They'll react to every message, debate on every flyer, and vanish when it's time to lift a table or make a phone call. They'll text "YIR" in bold, but have never stepped into a single service project. Their keyboard deserves a Paul Harris Fellow pin — they've typed more than they've served.

Pose Pirates:

You must have experienced this. You'll find them in the first row for photos, and the last row when it's time to do actual work. They are the reason why some projects look like

wedding receptions and some service days feel deserted.

Recognition Deficit Disorder:

Here's a subtle killer. There are members who show up, put in real effort, and never ask for anything — except a thank you.

But when that thank you goes to someone louder, someone closer to the committee, or someone who posted it first on Instagram — the quiet workers quietly exit.

Not because they're hungry for limelight — but because they were invisible when it mattered. Sometimes, people don't leave because of what we did. They leave because of what we didn't do.

The Chair-Huggers:

Most deadly race in everywhere. And then there are those who've been sitting on the same Rotary chair for years — as if it's their ancestral property. They've held the same title for years in a row. Any attempt to give the role to a new member is met with full-blown drama. They behave as if their child has been kidnapped. New members? Full of ideas and energy? Oh no, they haven't "earned" it yet.

Apparently, passion is not as important as seniority.

But retentions isn't about rotating food menus and repeating names. It's about giving responsibility. Giving trust. Giving space. Sitting on a chair with glue is not service. It's insecurity with a name tag.

Politics in a Service Space:

Some members leave because they came for service and found politics. Petty rivalries. Secret groups. Power plays that could rival a TV soap opera. They wanted to do good. Instead, they got stuck in a cycle of approvals, arguments, and people

blocking progress just to protect their "zone." You won't see them complain. They'll just fade away — quietly, gracefully, and permanently.

So What's the Real Reason? :

Truth is — people leave not just because of what Rotary is, but because of what we turn it into. Too much control, too little collaboration. Too much protocol, too little people-connect. Too much old guard, too little new blood.

Rotary is not a club of perfectionists. It's a community of passionate people who want to do good — without ego, without drama, and without needing a standing ovation every time.

Want Retention?:

Give opportunities. Share the mic. Pass the baton — actually. Celebrate effort, not just position. Make space at the table for the ones who bring work, not just wine. Let's stop overthinking why they leave. And start focusing on why the right ones stay. Because in the end, Rotary doesn't need everyone. It needs the right ones — with the right intent.

Welcome new members with warmth, give them wings with responsibility, and treat them as equals — not outsiders. Sadly, groupism and years-long chair-holding build silent walls where bridges should be.

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BY BOOK POST

IF UNDELIVERED
PLEASE RETURN TO,

DR MANISH MOTWANI

AASTHA HEALTH CARE,
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TO