

nsbire

When You Change Your Thoughts, Remember to Also Change Your World Ignite. Connect Transform.

The I-N-S-P-I-R-E Way Building a Culture of Connection and Purpo

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER JULY 2025



From My Heart to Yours Let's make magic happen together

By Dr. Manish Motwani, DG 2025-26

s I walk through the crowded lanes of Mumbai in the early morning, watching the city wake up with hope in its eyes, I'm reminded of why we do what we do.

The chaiwalla who remembers the day we set up a medical camp in his basti. The young girl who learned stitching at our vocationalcenterandnowrunsherownshop. The elderly man who can now clearly see his granddaughter's face after our cataract surgery camp.

- » This is Rotary.
- » Not just meetings.
- » Not just reports.
- » But lives—transformed, empowered, and

This year, I don't just want to serve with you-

- » I want to feel with you.
- » To laugh together in our successes.
- » To wipe away tears during challenges.
- » To create stories that will warm our hearts for years to come.

Why This Hurts, and Why This **Matters**

Last month, I held the hand of a 32-year-old mother during her breast cancer screening. The fear in her eyes reminded me of my own when I first held my daughter.



This year, I don't just want to serve with you - I want to feel with you. To laugh together at our successes, to wipe tears when we face challenges, and to create stories that will warm our hearts for years to come.



When her report came back negative, her smile lit up the room brighter than any Rotary pin ever could.

But friends, for every woman we screen, there are a hundred we haven't reached yet. 2. A Rotary That Welcomes With Open That's what keeps me awake at night.

Our Rotary is at a Crossroads

- » We're doing good, But Mumbai needs
- » We're known, But we need to be loved.
- » We're trying, But now, we must begin transforming.

Our Promise to Mumbai:

Simple. Powerful. From the Heart.

1. Service That Touches Souls

- » Let's measure success not in numbers, but in moments:
- » The relief in a mother's eyes when a cancer report comes clean
- -Dr. Manish DG Motwani » The pride in a young graduate's face at

their first job

» The light of hope returning to someone battling depression

- » I dream of a Rotary where:
- » My daughter's generation asks "How can » Each other's strength I join?" instead of "Why should I join?"
- » Meetings feel like family gatherings, not obligations

Every member can say, "This is where I belong."

3. Fellowship That Feeds Our Spirit

- » Remember why we joined? That shared **Take my hand.** feeling of purpose? We're bringing it » Let's walk these Mumbai streets togethback:
- More laughter during projects
- » More high-fives after successes
- » More shoulders to lean on when things get tough

District 3141's Priorities:

Our Love Letter to Mumbai Health for Every Mumbaikar

» No mother should have to choose between medicine and meals.

Skills = Smiles

» Empowering Mumbai's youth to stand tall with dignity.

Mental Peace Matters

» Beginning with our own members, and then reaching every corner of the city.

Women Lighting the Way

» Because when we empower one woman, we empower generations.

During my years as a bariatric surgeon, I've witnessed quiet transformations that change destinies.

- » Like Vivek, who once struggled to play with his children because of his weight.
- The day he showed me a photo of himself running alongside his daughter at her school sports day—without stopping for breath—wasn't just a medical achievement.
- » It was a father reclaiming his life.

That's who we are, Rotarians.

- » Mumbai's courage.

This year, I don't promise perfection.

- » I promise passion.
- » Not just plans, but purpose.
- » Not just service, but stories we'll tell our grandchildren.

er—and leave behind trails of hope.

With all my heart, Dr. Manish Motwani

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

When Rotary Spiced-up Space!

"Space, the final frontier... to boldly go where no Rotarian has gone before!"



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

A spicy space story of irradiated Rotary banners in space, the first Rotarian in space, and the first guest speaker for club meeting from space!

his is a banner of RC of Locks Heath Banner, taking a place of pride in a window of International Space Station (ISS)! Astronaut Major Tim Peake took it in a six month mission on ISS. His godmother is a member of Locks Heath club and club's publicity relations chairman. When fellow member John Hopwood found out, he asked if Major Peake would take the banner and display it. He did! Due the strict quarantine conditions on ISS, the banner was sent to mission control in Houston to assess its material. It was irradiated by NASA so that it doesn't contaminate space and then placed in a special cargo rocket before being launched into space! Tim not only messaged the Queen, he took a stunning space-walk selfie, and even told the world how to go to the loo in microgravity.

Apollo 8: However, it was not the first banner in space! Rotarian Colonel Frank Borman, a honorary member of RC of Space Center (Houston), Texas, USA - District 5890 (D 589 prior to 91-92), chartered in 1964 - took a club banner with him on Apollo VIII Lunar Mission on Dec 21-27. 1968, when they were the first humans to orbit the moon. This is a distinctive flag of RC of Space Center, depicting an astronaut in an Extra-Vehicular Activity of "Space Walk" while orbiting the Earth. Honorary Rotarian Astronaut Frank Borman presented this plaque with a photo from the mission (see the moonrise) and a RC of Space Center banner to RI in 1969. He presented the banner to RI President Togasaki in Honolulu Convention in 1969. The President responded, "We acknowledge the outstanding service by you to your fellow Rotarians to demonstrate humility and a sense of eternal values. We, your 660,000 fellow Rotarians, salute you for self-less service

far beyond the call of duty." Today it is part of Rotary International archives at RI Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Picture from NASA Archives: Apollo 8





Rotarian Samantha Cristoforetti, brought Köln am Rhein Rotary club banner to International Space Station.

SPACE CENTER

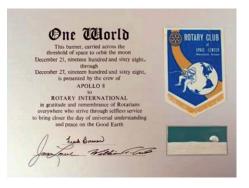
Lunar Mission Crew L to R:
Frank Borman (command pilot), William Anders, James
Lovell. Frank Borman was an hon. member in 1964 and James Lovell in 1967. When RC of Space Center (Houston) formed in 1964, a third of its 35 charter members were connected to the space program: A manager in General Electric department designed and built equipment for Project Apollo; an executive from McDonnell

Aircraft supplied the Gemini and Mer-

chief was in charge of acres of computers needed to program space flights. There was a real estate agent member who found homes for NASA families, and a veterinarian who treated astronauts' pets! Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper, the youngest of the seven original astronauts in Project Mercury, and Frank Borman,

cury capsules; and the IBM

commander of both Gemini 7, which at the time had the longest space flight, and Apollo 8, the first mis-



sion to leave Earth's orbit and circle the moon soon became Honorary members. In 1985, Owen Morris, a club member who had led the team that developed the lunar module for the Apollo missions, proposed a special foundation to work with NASA, the military, and industry leaders to nominate and select recipients for his idea of club's National Award for Space Achievement. Today, it is a black-tie gala in Houston. In 2018, William Shatner, the actor who portrayed Captain Kirk in the original Star Trek TV series and movies, received the Space Communicator Award! The club is also super active in Rotary Youth Exchange, hosting more than 60 students since the 1980s! International Space Station: Imagine a Rotary meeting where the speaker is from ISS! RC of Köln am Rhein listened to an out-of-this-world member of the club, Rotarian Samantha Cristoforetti (the 216th person to live in space station & one of the first female fighter pilots in Italian Air Force), who gave a virtual tour of her workplace while floating! Astronauts' personal items are rigorously monitored; they must meet a strict weight limit of only 3.3 pounds (1.5 kgs) total. Among her select items, Cristoforetti included the red-and-white banner of Köln am Rhein Rotary club! When she was 17, she had traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota, as an exchange student! She was selected from 8,412 other qualified applicants, after she toiled through the astronaut recruitment process & also brushed her Russian language skills too. Rotarian Samantha Cristoforetti, brought Köln am Rhein Rotary club banner to International Space Station.

Crews flying into space perform rituals that surpass even the Rotary traditions! Traditions include a screening of a Soviet-era film, a tree planting in Cosmonauts Alley, a toast with fruit juice, crew members signing their names on their hotel room doors, receiving sprinkles of holy water from an Orthodox priest, and walking out to the bus that will take them to the launch site to the famous Russian rock song "Trava u Doma," or "Grass by the Home." And this will sound familiar to Rotary members: Once on board the space station, new astronauts may receive a pin, to mark their membership in an elite club!

Ignite. Connect. Transform. The I-N-S-P-I-R-E Way

Building a Culture of Connection and Purpose



Dr. Manish Motwani

Dist Governor, 25-26

Dear Inspiring Rotarians of District 3141,

s we step into this promising new Rotary year, I invite you to embrace La theme that's deeply meaningful to me: I-N-S-P-I-R-E. Because Rotary is more than just meetings and milestones—it's about people, passion, and the power to transform lives.

Let's delve into what each letter stands for in our journey together:

Involve Members: Our clubs thrive when we know each other beyond the name tags. Our stories, strengths, and quirks create the fabric of a vibrant community. When everyone feels valued, we grow stronger. "A team that knows each other, grows together."

Nurture Projects: Be it a cherished legacy or a bold new idea, our enthusiasm breathes life into projects. Let's celebrate our past and shape the future—because "Legacy isn't what we leave behind, but what we build today."

Seek Support: Great causes need great allies. Let's invite donors, corporations, and well-wishers to stand with us. "Behind every great cause is a community that cares.

Promote Responsibility: Leadership isn't about positions—it's about purpose. When each member leads with heart, we inspire action. "Leadership isn't a title, it's a responsibility — and an opportunity to

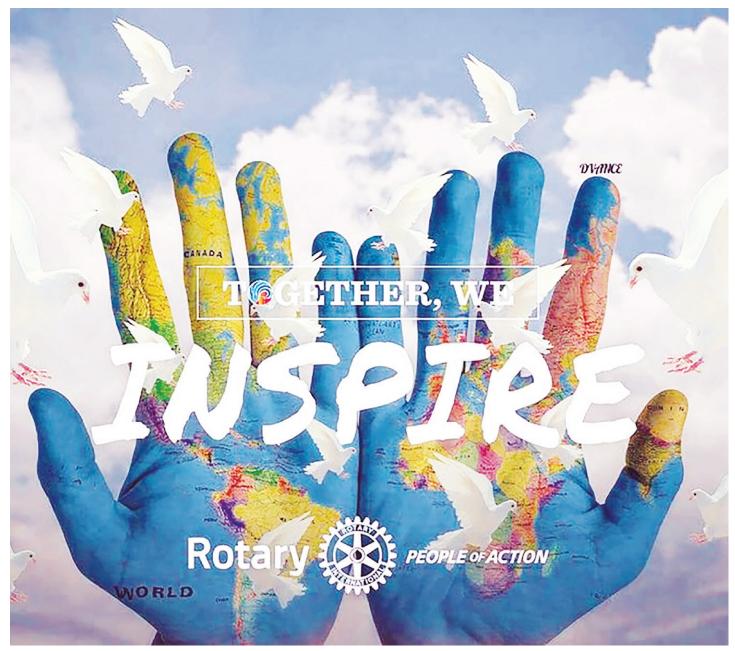
Together, We Spark Impact and Joy

Initiate Connections: Whether over coffee or at a fireside, connections create change. "Networking isn't just exchanging cards; it's exchanging dreams."

Reach Out: I'm committed to one-onone conversations with every club president—to hear your stories, challenges, and aspirations. "A conversation can plant the seed for a thousand actions."

Engage & Enjoy: Joy is the soul of Rotary. Let's serve with smiles, celebrate small wins, and treasure every moment of camaraderie. "Service with a smile is the shortest distance between two hearts."

To strengthen our bonds, we'll soon launch a District Directory—designed to





tion, where service

builds hope, and

where our collec-

tive legacy uplifts

This year, I chal-

lenge you to: Find

your spark. Fuel it

generations.

A Year of Togetherness: Strengthening the Rotary Family



Dr Mahek Motwani

Aesthetic Gynecologist and Cosmetologist First Lady, Rotary District 3141 2025-26

Hello everyone in District 3141,

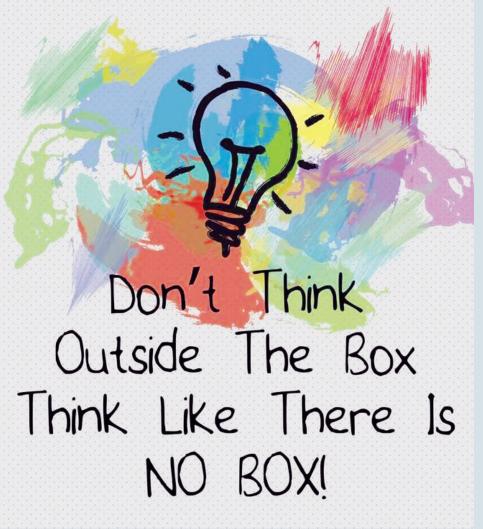
s Dr. Manish steps into his role as our District Governor, I'm filled with joy and excitement to be part of this journey with all of you. This year is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow closer, strengthen our bonds, and truly celebrate the spirit of Rotary.

What makes Rotary truly special to me is you — the incredible spouses, partners, and families who stand beside our Rotarians. You are the heart of our Rotary family, and I want each of you to feel seen, valued, and deeply connected.

My vision for this year is simple yet meaningful:

let's bring our families closer, build beautiful friendships, and share the joy of giving — together. Here's what I hope we can

> Connection: Through casual coffee





mornings, fun get-togethers, or even virtual meetups, let's create moments to unwind, share stories, and simply enjoy each other's company.

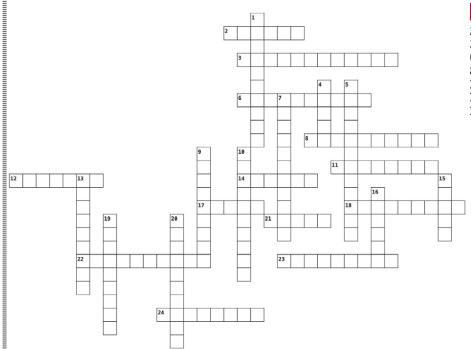
- **Support:** Let's cheer on our Rotarians in their service and also offer our own ideas and support — not just for Rotary work, but for each other's personal journeys too.
- **Celebration:** Whether it's a big win or a small moment of joy, let's come together to celebrate as one big Rotary family and create lasting memories.
- **Inclusion:** I'm especially excited to plan events that welcome our children and extended families, making Rotary a joyful experience for all ages.

By nurturing these connections, we'll not only strengthen our bonds but also enhance the impact we make in our com-

Let's come together, share what we love, and make this a truly unforgettable year. I look forward to learning from each of you and making our Rotary family stronger, warmer, and closer than ever.

> With warmth and enthusiasm, Dr. Mahek Motwani





ACROSS

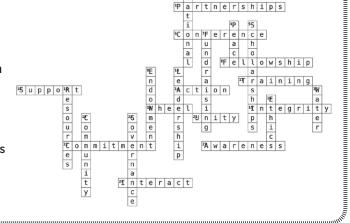
- 2. Rotary has a reach
- 3. Rotary collaborates through_
- 6. Rotarians gather annually for this
- 8. a key value in Rotary
- 11. Rotarians attend sessions for this
- 12. Rotary offers this to communities
- 14. Rotarians turn ideas into

17. Symbol of Rotary

- 18. A core value of Rotary
- 21. Rotary brings people together
- 22. Rotarians dedicate themselves to service
- 23. Promoting causes through education
- 24. Rotary for young students



- 1. Avenues of Service
- 4. A Rotary focus area 5. Rotary provides these for education
- 7. Activity to support service projects
- 9. A fund supporting long-term projects
- 10. Encouraged in Rotarians
- 13. Rotary offers these to
- communities 15. Rotary helps provide clean
- 16. The Four-Way Test promotes
- 19. Rotary clubs serve the 20. Rotary clubs follow structured



Unite for Good: A Call to **Collective Action and Impact**



KPNAGESH

Rotary International Director (2025-27)

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

s we stand at the threshold of a new Rotary year, we are reminded of the profound strength we

hold when we come together with a shared purpose. Unite for Good is more than a theme—it is a powerful call to action that captures the very essence of Rotary's spirit: collaboration, service, and meaningful change.

Rotary has always been about bringing people together to make a dif-

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.

ference. The impact we create goes far beyond numbers—it is measured in the lives we touch and the communities we uplift. As we launch this new journey, we must reaffirm our commitment to working collectively, whether it be within our clubs, across districts, or with our global network of changemakers.

Partnerships, especially with corporates through CSR initiatives, expand our potential and enable us to undertake larger, more sustainable projects. These collaborations are key to driving real impact. Now is the time to break barriers, embrace fresh ideas, and support one another in every endeavor.

Rotary District 3141 is poised for a year of dynamic growth and innovation. Let us grow our membership, build vibrant and inclusive clubs, and create an environment that inspires engagement and leadership. The power of Rotary lies in our ability to serve, lead, and inspire—

Here's to a year of bold action, strong connection, and heartfelt service.

> Warm regards, **KP Nagesh**

Women in Rotary:

From Breaking Barriers to Stealing the Show

BY PINKI DALAL

f you've been paying even half a speck of attention lately, you Imight've noticed something interesting: Women in Rotary are not just stepping up—they're practically sprinting to the President's chair, while many of the men are... well, politely cheering from the sidelines.

In our own District 3141, the Inspire year (2025-26) is already shaping up to be a she-roic saga. Female Presidents? Check. Women directors on the board? Plenty. And this isn't a slow and steady climb—it's a rocket launch that's happened within just a few dec-

Let's rewind for a moment. Back in 1905, when Rotary International was born, the idea of women as members was as welcome as a mobile phone in a meditation



ly all-boys club—by rule, not re- running it, shaping it, and fuquest. Then came 1989, the year ture-proofing it. With Stephanie Rotary finally said, "Okay, ladies, come on in!" And oh boy (or rather, oh girl), did the story change.

Fast-forward to today: womretreat. For years, it was a strict- en aren't just in Rotary—they're boys-only game.

Urchick stepping in as Rotary International's second female President in 2025, the message is clear—leadership is no longer a

of Bombay Sea Face. During a neurship, and the environment recent board meeting, someone quipped, "Maybe it's time a man became President again." And evervone chuckled—because women have been owning the role year after year with such finesse that the men are genuthan scramble for the seat. And honestly, they're loving the new rhvthm.

But this isn't just a Sea Face story—it's a global phenomenon. Across Rotary clubs worldwide, women are bringing in fresh energy, bold ideas, and a whole lot not so long ago, they weren't even allowed in the room. Now, they're the ones setting the agenda.

What's their secret sauce? A mix of empathy, strategic savvy, and their leadership, initiatives in amount of sparkle.

Take our beloved Rotary Club education, healthcare, entreprehave not just flourished—they've soared. These women lead with compassion, deliver with clarity, and dream big—while keeping their heels (or sneakers) firmly on the ground.

And here's the twist we love: inely happy to support rather the men are not sulking in a corner. They're standing beside the women, not behind them. Not because they have to—but because they want to. They recognize that leadership isn't about gender it's about impact. And that's a beautiful kind of progress.

Rotary has always thrived on of heart. It's surreal to think that evolution. But this? This is its most exciting chapter yet.

The future of Rotary is bright, balanced, and brilliantly inclusive. And guess who's holding the torch? Women—with conficommunity-first thinking. Under dence, grace, and just the right

The Power of We:

Rotary's Journey of Unity and Impact



PRID Ashok Mahajan **Past Rotary Foundation Trustee**

he theme for the 2025-2026 Rotary year, Unite for Good, is not merely a call to action—it is a guiding principle that underscores the transformative power of collective effort. Every significant movement in history has been anchored in unity, and the Rotary movement itself stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when people come together with a shared purpose.

Unite for Good—because the myth of the lone hero is just that, a myth. True progress is forged not by individuals working in isolation, but by communities aligned in purpose, resilience, and vision.

Throughout history, when people have united around a cause, they have achieved the extraordinary. Over the past century, Rotary has demonstrated the immense power of collective action—eradicating polio, expanding access to clean water, empowering the next generation, and restoring hope to communities worldwide. These accomplishments did not happen by chance; they were the result of a steadfast commitment to unity and service.

The Power of Unity

Unity is not about erasing differences; it is about embracing them. It is about recognizing that while we may come from different cultures, speak different languages, and hold diverse perspectives, we are bound by a shared aspiration—to create a better world. True unity is not passive coexistence; it is active collaboration, a commitment to moving forward together, lifting one another along

multiplies impact. Consider the fight against

History affirms that unity

nation could have achieved what Rotary has accomplished alone. The near-eradication of this disease was made

polio. No single club, district, or possible through the combined efforts of Rotarians. governments, healthcare professionals, and

is not about erasing differences; it is about embracing them. It is about recognizing that while we may come from different cultures, speak different languages, and hold diverse perspectives, we are bound by a shared aspiration—to create

a better world.

power of collaboration. Unity Begins with Us

ganizations, each

playing a critical

role in a global

movement. That

is unity in ac-

first cultivate it within our own clubs and communities. Strengthening Rotary begins with inclusivity, mutual respect, and authentic relationships. We must listen, support, and uplift one another. When we build a strong, united Rotary club, that tion. That is the spirit radiates outward, influencing the

Equally important, our service must be anchored in purpose. Every initiative whether in education, hunger alleviation, or environmental conservation—should If we are to foster be designed with sustainability and inglobal unity, we must clusivity at its core. Impactful service

is not about temporary relief; it is about creating lasting change.

As we embark on this new Rotary year, let us remember that unity is not a destination; it is a journey. It is a daily choice reflected in how we lead, how we serve, and how we bring people together.

So let us set aside personal agendas, roll up our sleeves, and commit to meaningful action. When we Unite for Good, we don't just change the world—we elevate it.

Let this be a year of unparalleled impact. Ashok Mahajan SMILE | SERVE | SACRIFICE | SATISFY



Lead the Way: Growing Rotary with Love, Integrity, and Purpose



"Concentrate

on the job at



Rtn Bharat Pandya

TRF Trustee, 2022-26 RI Director, 2019-21 RI Treasurer, 2020-21

Dear Rotary Family of 3141,

I am pleased to communicate with you through the pages of the 3141 GML Today the world needs Rotary more than ever. The needs are greater, more diverse and the challenges are greater. And as Rotarians we can Lead The Way to meet them. Let us focus on our Grow Rotary initiative. We can Grow Rotary by Growing

our Rotary Fellowship, our Membership, our Leadership and our Service. And we must focus on our Family. We have to ensure that Rotary Grows with & not at the expense of our

The power to ACT is within you. Use it. Remember two things

family.

hand, put your when you ACT ~ Act with Love: I best efforts and remember the shout of joy from an old don't worry about woman whose sight the result. was restored by cataract surgery sponsored by Rotary, when she saw her little granddaughter for the first time. That is Love in Action. Make your Love shine through your Rotary Service.

~ Act with Integrity: Our ancient texts say "The only thing that walks back from the tomb and refuses to be buried is the character of a person; what a

person is, their character lives on, it can never be buried".

Anything you want to accomplish will only be possible by Bold & Decisive Action.

my Rotary journey has been a roller coaster many ups; some downs but exciting, challenging and above all satisfying. Of the many Rotary Moments 2 stand out. First being the only doctor in my club – RC of Borivli 36 years back I was

put in charge of the Polio NIDs. We went into the slums from door to door coaxing and requesting mothers to bring their children for immunizations. As I put 2 drops of Polio into the mouth of an infant a chord was struck in me and it was the beginning of my journey from a Rotary Member to a Rotarian. Second was when I took up the Presidentship of my club, the club was going through a tough phase and I was unsure whether I could handle it all. It was then that my Dad told me "Concentrate on the job at hand, put your best efforts and don't worry about the result. And never break relationships. They are the key to success." This advice has stood me in good stead.

Madhavi joins me in wishing DG Manish and all 3141 Rotary Families the very Best and Godspeed on this journey in 2025-26 as we Unite for GOOD.

Signal Shala: Where Futures Change at Red Lights



Jhankar Gadkari Sr. Rotarian, Corporate Consultant, Speaker

Pardh' means to hunt in Marathi, and a 'Pardhi' is a hunter. Since the Mughal period, Pardhis were acclaimed hunters and would accompany the royal hunting entourage. Their skills were also acknowledged by the British, who hired them for the same sport. However, in 1871, Pardhis were among the tribes notified as "hereditary and habitual criminals" under the Criminal Tribes Act of the Raj.

Though in 1952, in independent India, these tribes were 'denotified', the sobriquet got stuck. The moniker of 'petty criminal' is still the perception among most urbanites. These are nomadic tribes and survive on petty crimes and odd jobs while moving from city to city. The Pardhis in Mumbai and Thane have an unsaid monopoly of selling odd things at every major signal and settling under bridges or flyovers.

Most of them, especially the children and women, sell small toys, sprays, flower circlets, pirated books, etc. They have barely 60–90 seconds for their sales pitch. Their targets: the car-wallahs. It is generally a heart-rending pitch, followed by a brisk sale, and the child runs back under the flyover or bridge with Rs. 200 by the end of the day. For generations, this has been happening, and most of the car-wallahs just wished for their education and future with an 'advisory' before rolling up the car window — "स्कूल क्यों नहीं जाता?"

Most of us just said it. Bhatu Sawant, a journalist, did it—bridging that overwhelming gap between knowing and doing. Getting these children into mainstream school was a herculean task for the local government. The reason was simple economics: for a child to be off the streets would result in a per-day, per-head loss of Rs. 200 to the family.

Sometime in 2015, Bhatu Sawant attended the budget meeting of the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC). With strong support from the TMC, the idea for Signal Shala was born. In 2016, they made a makeshift school under the flyover at the busiest intersection of Thane—Teen Haat Naka. To counsel and convince the parents of the children was the biggest roadblock, but the perseverance of Bhatu Sawant yielded results. Initially, only a paltry number of children attended. They showed up late or not at all—and dropped out quickly.

A shipping container was remodelled and erected under the bridge, just close to where



Marathon Swimmer of Open Water Maharashtra State, INDIA.

the families stayed (many such families of Pardhis live under major traffic signals in Mumbai, Thane, and other cities). Unfortunately, there are no census figures of street urchins, as the families do not have ration cards or Aadhaar cards—being nomadic, they have no permanent address. In Mumbai, with uncharted data, there could be more than 1,45,000 street children, as estimated in a study by charity Action Aid and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Since migrant and nomadic tribes cannot even afford the cheapest housing, they often spill into nearby cities, where they end up on pavements or under flyovers, doing odd jobs, selling trinkets, and begging at traffic signals to make ends meet.

Once the plans were firmed, Bhatu's organisation Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth, an NGO, and the TMC got to work at Teen Haat Naka. A designated space under the flyover was fenced, with a small play area set up at one end with a swing set and a slide. Today, eight shipping containers are painted brightly and attractively, fitted with fans and lights, with a capacity of almost 40 children. There is also a teacher's room and shelves against the walls.

The school runs from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM, allowing the children to help their parents during early morning and late evening rush hours. For the kids in the Signal School, there is a book library and a toy library, a wash area so they can bathe every day. There are lockers to keep their uniforms and books, so they don't get damaged or stolen on the street. There is a science laboratory and a robotic workshop. A doctor visits regularly, and a barber gives the boys a haircut every month, along with a regular manicure.

At the school, the doors and windows muffle the sounds of the traffic outside. Inside, the children sit on the floor, cross-legged in groups with a teacher, going over their mathematics, English, and other exercises. Outside, on a mat, younger children sit in a circle with another teacher.

"It was very hard initially—they were not used to sitting in one place for so long, and they would fight or curse, or just go to sleep," said Arti Param, a full-time teacher. "We also had to teach their parents the importance of sending their kids to school so their children don't have to live on the street like them," she adds.

"In the eyes of the state, they are still encroachers on the street, even if they have lived here for 20 to 25 years," says Bhatu Sawant. "And if the parents are unable to make ends meet here, they will move elsewhere, and the children's education becomes the casualty again."

"This school has been such a success, it's drawing more migrants who want this opportunity for their children," a Thane Municipal official quoted.

The Stories: Mohan Kale, 25, is a junior engineer at a civil engineering firm in Thane. His job involves structural audit of buildings, in addition to soil, water, and metal testing. A diploma-holder in electrical engineering, Kale earns a good living due to his profession. Someone who grew up on the street and often migrated, Kale has come a long way.

Another ex-student, Dasharath, graduated in economics and is aspiring to be selected in the Maharashtra Police Department. The school once won a prestigious robotics competition held in Goa, where they competed against 57 international schools. Yet another boy reached the position of Assistant Public Information Officer (PIO); he hails from Ambojwadi, a predominant Pardhi cluster.

According to the 2020 India Census, the country has over 650 million migrants and nomadic individuals. Twenty percent are children, and 40% of these children absent

themselves from school. The best part is, 75% of the children who stayed back in their native villages attended school, compared to 55% who migrated to cities with their parents

Though the cities offer hope, do they offer basic education for these children? The answer lies in these experimental institutions: মাণ্নল খাতা. Encouraging education for nomads and migrants to aim for aspirational growth, education is brought to their doorsteps.

The economic upliftment happens on the ground, on the streets—and in this case, at the crossroad, at the traffic signal.

The author applauds such Sapiens Extraordinaire. They are that spark that ignites inspiration in us: Mortals Ordinaire.

In an interview with the author, Bhatu Sawant ended the conversation with a profound remark. He felt that concepts like Signal School should only act as a bridge. "Schools like these should not exist forever. This is the bridge before these children get assimilated into the mainstream. Once that is done, the Signal School should shut down."

"The Pardhis are still blamed for any crimes that happen in the city. But education and peer influence can help these children break free from their stereotypical image," says Sachin Nachnekar in The Migration Story.

Author of the feature: 'Sapiens Extraordinaire'

Rtn. Jhankar Gadkari is from the Rotary Club of Deonar. He is a senior Rotarian with 35 years of rich Rotary experience. He is a corporate consultant and speaks extensively on a series of subjects. He has been involved in identifying and exposing extraordinary Indians at Rotary's mega conferences, leaving behind motivated and inspired Rotarians to do good to the world.

Why Rotary Needs Rotaractors: Fresh Energy for a Timeless Mission

BY PINKI DALAL

an ever-evolving world, the need for fresh ideas, new energy, and dynamic action is more pressing than ever. Rotary, a century-old organization grounded in service above self, has thrived because it has embraced change while holding true to its core values. Today, one of the most vital sources of that change comes from our youth—specifically, from Rotaractors.

The Bridge Between Youth and Rotary

Rotaract is more than just a "training ground" for future Rotarians. It is a vibrant, impactful movement that complements Rotary's vision and expands its outreach. The synergy between Rotarians and Rotaractors is not merely functional—it is essential. While Rotarians bring wisdom, experience, and a tested moral compass, Rotaractors contribute enthusiasm, adaptability, and the courage to challenge the norm.

This balance is not only desirable; it is necessary. The world is younger today than it has ever been—over 50% of the global population is under 30. If Rotary is to remain relevant and resonant, it must speak the language of this generation, and who better to translate than the Rotaractors themselves?

The Role of Rotaractors in Rotary's Growth

Rotaractors are not just participants—they are creators. They lead service projects, drive digital outreach, innovate fundraising strategies, and build meaningful connections in communities. Their understanding of emerging platforms, social media, and grassroots mobilization is unparalleled. What they may lack in years, they make up for in energy, speed, and a fearless approach to leadership.

Moreover, their projects often tackle issues that are deeply relevant today—mental health, climate action, diversity and inclusion, tech-driven education. These are areas where the older generation may hesitate, but the younger ones jump in headfirst. Through their passion, they show us new ways to serve and fresh paths to create impact.

Infusing New Blood: Why It Matters

Organizations, like living organisms, need a regular infusion of new blood to remain healthy. When Rotary welcomes Rotaractors, it is not just adding numbers—it is revitalizing its very soul. Each Rotaractor who becomes a Rotarian brings a new lens through which to view our four-way test.



They ask: "Why do we do it this way?" And sometimes, we realize—we don't have a good reason. That's when change begins.

Fresh blood does not mean rejecting the past; it means honoring the past while building the future. Rotaractors represent a generation raised in a fast-paced, digital, globalized world. They bring tech-savviness, lateral thinking, and a deep desire to make a difference. When Rotary embraces them, it stays alive, relevant, and vibrant.

Catching Them Young: The Recruitment Mindset

The question isn't why we need Rotaractors. The real challenge is how to attract and retain them. The answer lies in building relationships, not just opportunities.

Start with engagement. Involve Rotaractors in planning district events, give



them meaningful roles—not tokenism. Let them lead, make mistakes, and learn. Mentor them, yes—but also learn from them. Rotary clubs should avoid the pitfall of treating Rotaractors as a "junior wing." Instead, treat them as equal partners.

Second, speak their language. Use Instagram, YouTube, and podcasts. Be where they are, not where you wish they were. Share stories of impact, not just minutes of meetings. Give them space to be creative, to challenge norms, to pitch wild ideas. You'd be amazed at what they come up with when given a blank canvas.

Third, make Rotary a lifestyle, not a label. Today's youth are looking for more than affiliations—they want belonging. Create that. Invite Rotaractors to family picnics, professional seminars, community celebrations. Let them see the warmth



CATCH THEM YOUNG: A GLOBAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

Rotaract is one of Rotary International's most dynamic arms, offering young adults opportunities for leadership, service, and personal development. Whether it's local community service, professional networking, or global humanitarian efforts, Rotaractors stand at the forefront of change.

As of today:

Worldwide, there are over 10,000 Rotaract clubs with more than 250,000 Rotaractors. In District 3141, which covers the Mumbai metropolitan region, there are approximately 140 active clubs and around 5800 Rotaractors.

This makes District 3141 one of the most vibrant and active hubs for Rotaract, setting a stellar example in leadership, service projects, and international collaboration.

Rotaractors today are not just volunteers they are future leaders, change-makers, and bridge-builders between cultures and communities. With a perfect blend of youthful energy and Rotary values, they're shaping the world, one project at a time.

of Rotary, not just its structure.

From Rotaractor to Rotarian: Making the Leap

Transitioning Rotaractors into Rotarians should be a smooth bridge, not a bureaucratic jump. Many Rotaractors hesitate to join Rotary due to misconceptions—costs, time commitment, culture gaps. Rotary clubs need to actively address these.

Offer flexible membership models for young professionals. Include hybrid meetings to accommodate their schedules. Foster inclusive club cultures that respect different perspectives and lifestyles. When they feel seen and heard, they will stay.

More importantly, create mentorship pipelines. Pair every aspiring Rotarian from Rotaract with a Rotary mentor who will guide, support, and walk beside them in this journey. Make the leap personal and purposeful.

The Future is Co-Created

Rotary's future lies in partnership. It is no longer about "bringing" Rotaractors into Rotary—it's about co-creating Rotary with them. Let them not just be members but architects of our shared tomorrow.

After all, they are not the leaders of tomorrow—they are leaders of today. And if Rotary is to continue to light up the world, it must do so through the spark that Rotaractors bring.

Embracing Humanity Beyond Boundaries: Nitin & Harsha Mehta

JOY OF GIVING

BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

itin Mehta has been a Rotarian for 35 years. It all began when a call from a past president invited him to consider leading his club. A successful stockbroker, Nitin took up the mantle as Vision Year President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Airport (RCBA). This journey eventually saw him become a member of the prestigious Arch Klumph Society.

A pivotal moment came during the pandemic, when Nitin connected with a gentleman in the USA who wished to sponsor paediatric heart surgeries in India. Told that raising the necessary funds — and securing a matching Global Grant — would be impossible, Nitin rose to the challenge with characteristic determination. Together with his wife, Harsha Mehta, the partner club Rotary Club of Fort Wayne, USA, Rotary Districts 3141 & 5360, and with a Global Grant from Rotary International, Nitin successfully raised USD 293,000 (approximately \(\text{\text{\text{\gamma}}}\) 2.17 crore). These funds supported paediatric heart surgeries at the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Heart Care in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. Five years on, the well-established project continues to benefit young patients — not just from Maharashtra but from across India, and even as far as Ghana.

Reflecting on the experience, Nitin shared how, while 'running from pillar to post' researching, managing publicity, and navigating the extensive Global Grant application process, he was struck by the professionalism, transparency, and cost efficiency of Rotary's systems. Witnessing how carefully raised funds were



Nitin holds several impressive records from his tenure as club president. His club recorded the highest contribution to The Rotary Foundation (USD 435,000 in 2020–21) in Rotary District 3141 — ranking second in Asia and sixth globally. RCBA also executed its largest ever Global Grant projects in a single year, totalling USD 433,000.

safeguarded and judiciously utilised prompted Nitin and Harsha to make a deeply personal contribution. On 15 February 2021, the day after Valentine's Day, encouraged by his wife, Nitin transferred over USD 250,000 to The Rotary Founda-

tion in a single RTGS transaction.

Under his leadership, RCBA also funded and installed a memorial sculpture dedicated to corona warriors. Many Mumbai residents will recall passing it at the busy traffic junction in Bandra West — a striking tribute to those who worked tirelessly during the pandemic. Mounted on a black

granite pedestal, the sculpture depicts six frontline workers — a

doctor, policeman, nurse, sanitation worker, journalist, and engineer standing before globe as the 'safeguardians of life'. A multitude of human palms sym-

bolises the collective

For Nitin, the ethos of serving the vulnerable — irrespective of caste, creed, religion, or race — resonates deeply. It is this conviction that led him to become an Arch Klumph Society member. He remains passionate about what The Rotary Foundation can achieve when Rotarians prioritise service above politics within clubs.

efforts of humankind in combating the virus. The concept was envisioned by Nitin Mehta, carved by Rotarian Minali Thakkar, a noted artist, and brought to fruition under the guidance of Project Director Rahul Patel.

Nitin holds several impressive records from his tenure as club president. His club recorded the highest contribution to The Rotary Foundation (USD 435,000 in 2020-21) in Rotary District 3141 - ranking second in Asia and sixth globally. RCBA also executed its largest ever Global Grant projects in a single year, totalling USD 433,000. The club's combined Global Grant projects — including the paediatric heart surgeries and oxygen plants — reached USD 433,000, while their contributions to The Rotary Foundation amounted to USD 430,500, effectively giving back nearly 100% to the Foundation to strengthen future humanitarian projects worldwide.

For Nitin, the ethos of serving the vulnerable — irrespective of caste, creed, religion, or race — resonates deeply. It is this conviction that led him to become an Arch Klumph Society member. He remains passionate about what The Rotary Foundation can achieve when Rotarians prioritise service above politics within clubs.

Beyond Rotary, Nitin continues to run his stockbroking business. He enjoys playing cards with friends, watching comedy and suspense films (both Hindi and English), and going on annual family holidays — sometimes joined by his two sons and their families. Always game for adventure, he has tried bungee jumping, racing speed cars, and even skydiving.

Charismatic and big-hearted, Nitin remains an active mentor in his home club, guiding Global Grant projects and other community initiatives.



Treasure, Time & Talent: The Shah Family's Rotary Mantra

JOY OF GIVING

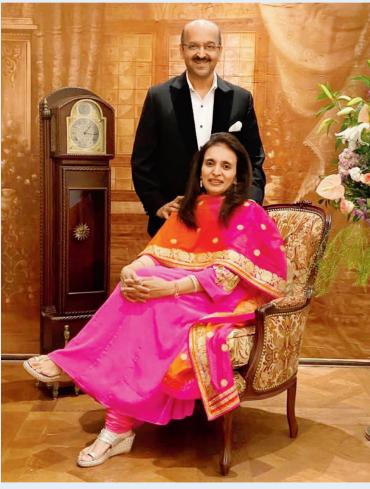
BY RAKHEE MEHTA

ome legacies are born from a single act of generosity; others are crafted over generations. For AKS Nirav Shah and his wife Devina, the Rotary journey is a family tradition woven through time. Their family has contributed over 100 cumulative years to Rotary—beginning with Nirav's late father, continuing through his sister Dr. Swati Piramal, wife Devina, daughter Supriya, and himself. Even his brother-in-law, industrialist Ajay Piramal, is an honorary Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Bombay. Service, for the Shahs, is not a choice—it's a way of life.

For Nirav, Rotary is more than a philanthropic platform; it's a mission partner that aligns with his deepest values. "Rotary is the best medium to give—whether it's your time, money, or service," he says. He's crystal clear on why he channels his donations through Rotary. "Because when you give through Rotary, you know it will be used wiselv. Unlike other avenues where funds are lost in admin or red tape, Rotary's projects are run doesn't just donate—he ensures impact.

Philanthropy, Nirav shares, was part of his upbringing. His father was an active Rotarian, and his mother was deeply engaged in rural service. Watching them serve was his first education in empathy. Later, his brother-in-law Ajay Piramal further shaped that worldview through the Piramal Foundation's work, entation by Nirav, including collaborations with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Nirav believes giving should Mandhania. come from three T's—Treasure, Months Time, and Talent. His message to young entrepreneurs is heartfelt and direct: help where you can, follow-up in whatever way you can. Giving paid isn't about size-it's about sin- The cheque cerity and continue to do it year arrived. And after year.

Among the many milestones fining moment. in his Rotary journey, one moment towers above the rest. point in my life," Nirav



For

Niray, Rotary

is more than a

Rotary is My Second Wife: Nirav Shah's Mission of Impact

million for the Rotary Club of trust Rotary—and donate to the marking the highest number ronmental sustainability. But at a Bombay with the district team's support. Of that, \$250,000 came from none other than Ratan by Rotarians—driven by passion Tata—for the TRF Annual Fund, and delivered with integrity." He a rare choice among the Foundation's five avenues. Nirav had never met Mr. Tata before. But when Tata expressed an interest in viewing his bhabhi Chamandeshwari Bogilal's vintage car collection in Ahmedabad, Nirav saw an opening. He offered to accompany him—on one condition: "Let me tell you about

> That one ask led to a pres-Akshay Mehta, and DG Gopal groundwork and off. with it, a de-

values. "Rotary is the best medium to give—whether it's your time, money, or service." "It was the highest Seven years ago, Nirav raised \$1 recalls. "To have Ratan Tata endowments of \$25,000 each—

Annual Fund—sent a message across India. People called from all over to congratulate me." The endorsement had a ripple effect. Another major donor, Manoj Israni of Blue Cross, contributed \$250,000 too.

For Nirav, leadership means leading by example. As an Endowment/Major Gifts Adviser (EMGA), he walks the talk. Each year, he donates \$26,500—symbolic of the \$26.50 that founded The Rotary Foundation over a century ago. He does so through his business, Sevenstar Re-

family trust—the Bhavnagar Charity Trust-and personally. His philanthropic platform; it's a mission partner that is not just aligns with his deepest annual—it's perpetual.

In he considers one of his most meaningful contributions, Nirav



How a Vintage Car and a Vision Won Ratan Tata's Trust



Seven Endowments, One Purpose: A Family's Gift to the Future

created by an individual donor in India. Each one commemorates a deeply personal milestone: in honor of his and Devina's parwedding anniversary, on the joyous occasions of his daughter's and son's weddings, his nephew's wedding, and most recently, in the name of his beloved granddaughter. These endowments generate \$7,000 annually, in perpetuity, and fund pediatric heart surgeries at hospitals like SRCC, Kokilaben Ambani, and Sri Sathya Sai. He says, "This is altek Pvt. Ltd., his my way of leaving a legacy—not through buildings, but by saving lives year after year."

His daughter is a Rotarian too. Nirav believes that children learn commitment not from preaching, but by witnessing values in action. "When they see their parents give, they carry it forward," he says. His only strong values and good health. If they choose to serve, even better.

He cares deeply about social ishas established seven sues and hopes more people pay attention to cleanliness and envi-

personal level, what truly brings him peace is Rotary itself. "Rotary gives me a great high," he smiles. "It's my second wife." When he ents, to celebrate their own 25th unwinds, it's usually through reading "Rotary literature"—or spending time with his granddaughter, Shanaya. "She's two now, and I read to her every day. The first five years of a child's development are everything."

He also enjoys Bollywood music, dancing, and green spaces like Hanging Garden and PDP Garden. If he could have dinner with any changemaker—past or present—it would be Ratan Tata. "He's my idol," Nirav says. "Donating 66% of your wealth—who else does that?"

As we conclude, Nirav offers his signature benediction—a message he shares with everyone he meets:

"Jai Ho – May victory be what hope for his children is that they yours. Mangal Ho - May you be lead happy, honest lives, with blessed. Anand Ho-May you be happy."

A life of service, rooted in humility, powered by purpose, and guided by joy—that is the legacy of Nirav and Devina Shah.

Inspire Presidents,

It's Your Time to Shine!

Showcase Your Club's Incredible Projects!

Your club's projects deserve the spotlight!
This Rotary year has been a testament to service and community impact, and now, it's time to showcase your achievements in the District-Wide Inspire Project Showcase.



Why Share Your Projects?

Each initiative—big or small—contributes to a better world.

From humanitarian efforts to local community transformations, your club's work inspires change. Let's document, celebrate, and amplify our collective impact.

How to Feature Your Club?

Submit the following project details:

- » President's Name
- » Club Name & Membership Strength
- » Project Name & Total Cost
- » Duration: One-time / Multi-Year
- » Status: Completed / Ongoing
- » Location & Beneficiaries
- » Key Members & Sponsors
- » Notable Attendees & Guests

No limit on number of projects
—send them all!
Let's show the breadth of our
Inspire family's service.



GML Inspire Support

For any queries—content, delivery, publishing club projects, or editorial issues—contact your Zone Editor or reach out to Pinki Dalal at 9167019000 / pinkidalal@gmail.com

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Your club's service efforts make a difference— Let's bring them home to inspire even more change!

Leading with the vision

RAKHEE MEHTA

resident Bimal Mehta of the Rotary Club of Bombay exemplifies dedication, leadership, and a vision for impactful service. With 25 years of association with Rotary, his journey reflects a deep commitment to the values and goals of the organization. His inspiration for joining Rotary began in 2000, influenced by his strong ties to the Rotary ethos. The motivation to take on this role stemmed from his desire to give back to society in a structured and meaningful way, alongside friends and fellow Rotarians.

During his tenure, Preson continuity and growth, systems to measure, track, ensuring the sustainability and communicate the soincreasing their reach and initiatives, ensuring transquality. Adapting to the parency and building trust evolving socio-econom- among donors, stakeholdic environment, he em- ers, and beneficiaries. phasizes maintaining the



President Bimal Mehta, RC Bombay

relevance and impact of sion includes enhancing Rotary initiatives. He also rural initiatives in the 40 ident Mehta aims to focus plans to implement robust villages adopted by the club, involving integrated development to improve of long-term projects while cial impact of the club's livelihoods, sustainability, and living standards. He promotes skill development and life skills education to prepare youth

preventive care and disease management in urban and rural areas, and drives environmental programs to address climate change and sustainability.

To achieve these ambitious goals, President Mehta's roadmap includes conducting comprehensive baseline and needs assessments to establish a solid foundation for project evaluation. He is committed to developing monitoring and evaluation systems to measure and optimize social impact, engaging in independent impact assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of projects, benchmarking against best-managed NGOs to adopt innovative practices, and establishing a robust system for internal audits, risk assessments, and governance to ensure transparency.

President Mehta's vi- for the workforce, imple- with Rotary, Bimal Mehta self, supports him by or- community bonds.

the last 25 years, he has led the restructuring of Vakils from a traditional print business to a global IT/ in over 35 countries. President Mehta has made significant contributions to hta emphasizes the imthe education sector, serving as a Trustee and Member of the Governing Council of Somaiya Vidyavihar University. He is also a Central Governing Council Member of the Service **Export Promotion Council** (Ministry of Commerce), reflecting his commitment to national development.

An avid history enthusiast, President Mehta enjoys exploring historical sites and learning about the past. He also plays golf and tennis, which serve as ways to unwind and stay active. His family plays a crucial role in his Rotary

ments a holistic health- is the Managing Director ganizing fellowships and care approach covering of Vakils Premedia. Over events, complementing his leadership. His extended family, including his daughter and brother-inlaw, are also actively in-ITES company operating volved in Rotary, making it a shared mission.

As President, Bimal Meportance of maintaining the club's structured and systematic approach. By focusing on sustainability, governance, and measurable outcomes, he aims to lead initiatives that leave a lasting impact on communities while fostering camaraderie among members. His leadership is a testament to Rotary's enduring values and its mission to create meaningful change.

President Bimal Mehta's journey is an inspiring example of service above self. His dedication to Rotary and beyond promises journey. His wife, coming a year of impactful initi-Beyond his involvement from a Rotary family her- atives and strengthened

A Legacy of Law, Leadership, and Service

RAKHEE MEHTA

▼ onal Nitin Doshi has seamlessly blended her distinguished legal career with an unwavering commitment to community service. As an Advocate and Solicitor, she has made a significant impact in property rights and women's legal empowerment. Founder & Law, Mahila aur Kanoon, the Rotary Club of Bombay of M/s Sonal Doshi & Co., she has also served as a partner at Kanga & Co. (1999-2005) and continues to influence corporate her journey began with policies as an Independent the Rotary Club of Mumbai Director for a public limited company since 2018. Her expertise extends to workplace safety and gender equality, serving as an external member on POSH President in 2010-2011. committees for corporations like ThyssenKrupp, L&T, and Macleods Pharmaceuticals. Beyond ad-rectors and Rotary District vocacy, she is an author, teams. In July 2024, she



Child Abuse, and Property Rights, aimed at spreading legal awareness.

A Rotarian for 17 years, South in 2007, where she quickly rose through the ranks, serving as Club Secretary in 2008-2009 and 2022-2023, and later as Club Her leadership extended beyond the club, contributing to the Board of Diwith books such as Woman brought her expertise to

Seaface, taking on the role of President and driving forward impactful initiatives. Her focus remains on empowering women and children, strengthening youth development, and uplifting underprivileged communities. Passionate about sustainable impact, she continues to expand projects in tribal areas, including water pump installations and education initiatives, while fostering greater Rotarian engagement in leadership roles.

Her commitment to ser-

vice extends beyond Rotary. As President of The Bombay City Ambulance Corps, she leads efforts to provide free ambulance services to underprivileged communities, ensuring access to critical healthcare support. Balancing a thriving professional and social life, she draws strength from her family. Her husband, Nitin Pravinchandra Doshi, a Structural Engineer and Consulting Valuer, shares her dedication to Rotary. Their daughters are excelling in the fields of law and psychology, carrying forward a legacy of intellect and impact.

With a vision rooted in service, leadership, and fellowship, Sonal Nitin Doshi continues to champion meaningful change, ensuring that every initiative she undertakes leaves a lasting imprint on society.



Pres. Sonal Nitin Doshi, RC Bombay Sea Face

Five Decades of Dedication

BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

ayant Sanghvi, President of the Rotary Club of Bombay West (Santa Cruz), has been an unwavering member of Rotary for nearly five decades. Having joined in 1977, he has witnessed the club's growth, and is delighted with its strong sense of kinship, along with members' responsibility and passion for service—qualities he demonstrates in abundance. Now semi-retired, Mr. Sanghvi's involvement in the family business. Sanghvi Writing Industries, which contributed significantly to India's pen industry, has been a major part of his professional life. Notably, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar wrote India's Constitution using Wilson fountain pens manufactured by them.

Mr. Sanghvi fondly recalls his father, Dwarkadas Sanghvi, a pi- hvi family's commitment to edu-

Mr. Sanghvi's approach to Rotary is grounded in practicality, service, and a deep respect for education. Over the years, he has contributed generously to the club's medical and educational initiatives. One of his most cherished roles was serving as Medical Centre In-Charge at the Rotary Club's Popatlal Prabhudas Charitable Medical

Celebrating 50 Years of
Service Above Self —
A Legacy of Leadership, Fellowship, and Lasting Impact.

Pres.Jayant Sanghvi, RC Bombay West

father's legacy was always about

hard work and excellence. I trav-

elled with him across the world,

and he passed on a strong sense of

duty and service to me." The Sang-

oneer of the pen industry. "My cation and social welfare is evident in their support of institutions like the Dwarkadas Sanghvi College of Engineering and the Amratben J Sanghvi College of Commerce and Economics.

> Mr. Sanghvi joined Rotary on his father's recommendation. "Rotary membership was offered to my father, but he asked me to join. He told me I was representing our industry and family in the club," he recalls. This sense of duty towards central to his lifelong commitment to Rotary.

As an engineering graduate, Mr. essential to the club's continued

Sanghvi's approach to Rotary is grounded in practicality, service, and a deep respect for education. Over the years, he has contributed generously to the club's medical and educational initiatives. One of his most cherished roles was serving as Medical Centre In-Charge at the Rotary Club's Popatlal Prabhudas Charitable Medical Centre in 2009-10. The centre, managed by the club through its Rotary Service Public Charitable Trust, regularly conducts medical camps focusing on specialties like dental care, eyesight, diabetes, cancer, and cardiac care.

Mr. Sanghvi's charitable efforts extend far and wide, with a generous donation of Rs 50 lakh to the Rotary Dwarkadas J Sanghvi Medical Centre in Vile Parle West. This contribution helped establish a vital medical centre for underserved communities. He is also a dedicated supporter of the KDN Shruti School, founded by the Rotary Club of Bombay West, which provides free education and special training for hearing-impaired children.

In his vision for Rotary, Mr. Sanghvi is looking forward to expanding the club's outreach with education and medical services, particularly in rural areas. He is family and community has been committed to increasing membership, as he believes fresh perspectives and renewed energy are

success. Over and above that he is focused on harnessing the collective strength of the club and its service partners—Inner Wheel, Interact, and Rotaract.

Mr. Sanghvi's leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic has been exemplary. He took charge of the vaccination programme at the club's Santa Cruz Centre, in collaboration with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), providing free vaccinations for five months to those in need. His unwavering focus on medical projects and his commitment to increasing membership—believing that fresh perspectives and energy are essential to the club's continued successhas made a significant impact.

In his personal time, Mr. Sanghvi enjoys meeting friends and watching cricket and tennis on TV. He is also proud of his many championships in table tennis and carrom board, which he won throughout his school and college years. His achievements in these games remain fond memories, a testament to his determination and love for competition.

Mr. Sanghvi's long-standing dedication to both his family and the Rotary community has left a lasting legacy. Through his leadership, he continues to inspire others with his commitment to service and his vision for a better, more equitable future.

A Visionary Leader Driving Change

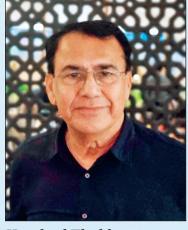
BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

Centre in 2009-10.

arshad Thakker is a trailblazer in innovation, leadership, and social responsibility. As the President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid City (Parel) and Managing Director of Quality Systems & Equipments Pvt. Ltd., he has left an indelible mark on both his industry and community.

In his professional realm, Harshad has emerged as a pioneer in manufacturing wire and welded mesh for construction and poultry farming. He introduced India's first automated poultry management system and recently undertook a monumental project, producing 100,000 metric tonnes of sheet metal casting welded mesh for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), which will be used for soundproof barriers.

Harshad describes himself as "very optimistic," emphasiz-



Harshad Thakker RC Mid city

commitments and thoughtful planning. His personal philosophy, "Think twice while planning. Once you decide, move forward and don't stop till you're finished," has been a cornerstone of his success.

Harshad's presidency at the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid City ing the importance of honoring was serendipitous. When the pri-

or presidential candidate stepped down, Harshad embraced the role to inmates at Mumbai Central with vigor, inspired by his team Prison. Harshad is working with and the enduring example of his brother, Ajit Thakker, a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface.

Beyond his professional and philanthropic commitments, Harshad is a devoted family man. He is married and has a son and daughter, with his son actively participating in the family business. Harshad balances his responsibilities with hobbies such as cricket, table tennis, watching historical films, and enjoying the timeless melodies of Mukesh.

to addressing social challenges, particularly the hardships faced by marginalized communities. He is focused on supporting farmers in Vidarbha, especially in Amravati and Nanded, through sustainable initiatives like backyard farming and buyback programs in collaboration with local Gram Panchayats.

His compassion also extends correctional authorities to implement programs including motivational seminars, wellness activities, vocational training, tree planting, and legal aid. These initiatives aim to rehabilitate inmates and equip them for a brighter future.

Under Harshad's leadership, the Rotary Club is set to increase its membership by 20 and host a major fundraiser in August featuring a popular Hindi film music troupe. This fun-filled evening will support the club's charitable Harshad is deeply committed endeavors. Guiding Philosophy

> For Harshad, giving back to society is a moral imperative. "Measure twice, cut once, and always believe in yourself," he says, reflecting his meticulous and optimistic approach. Known for his friendly, sensitive, and committed nature, Harshad inspires those around him with his enthusiasm and dedication.



Whether through his innovative professional contributions or his unwavering commitment to social service, Harshad Thakker is a true force for change, continually striving to leave the world better than he found it.

Leading with heart

BY RAKHEE MEHTA

oopur is a dynamto service and philanthropy. With over two year as a Rotarian, she baldecades of experience in ances humility with confisocial work, she has made a significant impact through nonprofit initiatives. Her she has identified three journey with Rotary began key focus areas: healthin 2021, and in just a few years, she has emerged as an inspiring leader, driven by the belief: "We have to give back, and we make free camps, mobile clinics, more money so that we are able to give back more to society.'

the presidency stems from and equip youth and womher strong belief in collec- en with job-oriented traintive action. Having wit- ing to achieve financial innessed the transformative power of Rotary, she saw this role as an opportunity to drive meaningful change. A pivotal moment in her initiatives, including blood journey was meeting District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, whose mentor- and mental health pro-

her commitment to service.

Despite being relatively new to Rotary, Noopic leader dedicated ur's dedication has set her apart. Now in her fourth dence, making her an effective leader. As President, care, rural development, and vocational skilling. Her initiatives aim to provide quality healthcare through and awareness programs, bridge the urban-rural divide by improving infra-Her decision to take on structure and education, dependence.

> Under her leadership, the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier is implementing impactful donation drives, vaccination awareness campaigns,



ship further strengthened grams. Rural development Pres.Noopur K Desai, RC Bombay Pier

villages, promoting sustainable farming, and fostering micro-entrepreneurship. Vocational skilling programs are being strengthened through partnerships with training centers in IT, tailoring, handicrafts, and hospitality. Her vision is to create self-sufficient communities where healthcare, education, and financial independence are fundamental rights rather than privileges.

Beyond Rotary, Noopur has been deeply involved in philanthropy. Her family's initiatives include the Govardhan Skill Center in Vada, which empowers underprivileged communities. She also leads Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives at Apar Industries, ensuring that community service remains a core corporate priority. A firm believer in seva (service), she attributes her values to Hindu philosophy.

An avid reader of non-fiction, self-help, and moti-ference in the lives of those vational books, she finds who need it most.

efforts focus on adopting immense joy in spending time with her 1.5-year-old grandson. With her son managing a manufacturing plant in the Middle East, she seamlessly balances her professional, philanthropic, and personal life.

> Interestingly, Noopur describes herself as an "accidental Rotarian." Initially hesitant to join due to her existing commitments. she became deeply engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic when a friend became club president. Actively participating in meetings and initiatives, she soon realized the profound impact of Rotary.

Today, she stands as a testament to the power of leadership and opportunity. Under her guidance, the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier is set to achieve remarkable milestones, leaving a legacy of service, empowerment, and transformation. Her presidency is not just about leadership—it's about making a lasting dif-

Redefining Life and Leadership through Rotary

BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai pore and London. Inspire, is living proof that reinvention is not only possible—it is a powerful path to fulfillment after a successful corporate career. leadership roles in corporate banking and human resources, she now lives on her own terms, focused on creating a lasting social her. impact.

Fresh from a transformative experience at the sacred Maha Kumbh event, Shanta spoke to GML about need. Seeking a platform the serenity and renewed sense of purpose it brought her. She describes herself as authentic, passionate, and impactful—qualities her personal belief: "If my that have defined both her mind can conceive it and she became its President. professional life and her Rotary journey.

With deep affection for

ness consultant, and their hanta Vallury Gandhi, two daughters, who are well-established in Singa-

Currently, she serves as an Independent Director on the boards of five companies. However, it is her unwavering dedication to Having transitioned from empowering marginalized communities—particularly transgender individuals and persons with disabilities—that distinguishes

During the pandemic in 2020, Shanta and a group of friends began distributing food to those in dire to expand their efforts, Shanta turned to Rotary—a space where action and leadership could align with my heart can believe in it, I know I can achieve it."

She went on to found the both London and Mumbai, Rotary Club of Mumbai In-Shanta balances her life spire with a clear mission: ty (CSR) in District 3141.

with her husband, a busi- to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), empower persons with disabilities (PWD), and support member of Rotary in Dishealth, the environment, and sustainable community development.

> She credits leaders like Rajendra Agarwal (RC Queen's City), Nikunj Zaveri (RC Queen's Necklace), and Sandip Agarwalla (RC Bombay) for rallying behind the vision of her club.

One of Shanta's most impactful initiatives involves supporting trans individuals in transitioning out of sex work and into lives of dignity and inclusion. As Charter Secretary of her club, she executed this mission with full commitment, fostering strong district relations. Within six months of the club's inception, By 2021, she had already served as Avenue Chair for DEI and Co-Chair for Corporate Social Responsibili-

Under her leadership. the club inducted Zainab Patel, the first transgender trict 3141. Together, they launched the first Transcafe in Lokhandwala-a space run by trans individuals to meet their unique needs and aspirations. For Shanta, the goal is clear: to empower people—especially transgender and differently-abled individuals-to boldly say, "I am also relevant."

Zainab Patel, now DEI Avenue Chair (2025-2026) for District 3141, notes that Transcafe is a non-profit model that is now expanding to other Indian cities.

RC Mumbai Inspire also supports three key NGOs: a vocational training center in Nalasopara; Adhar (The Association of Parents of Special Adults) in Badlapur; and a facility in Nasik that provides lifelong care for disabled adults. The club also provides scholarships



Shanta Vallury Gandhi, RC Mumbai Inspire

Visawa Vidya Mandir and ship. Guru Tegh Bahadur High School in Andheri West.

A passionate advocate for women in the workforce, Shanta remains committed to mentoring and inspiring the next generation. This year, her priorities include promoting financial literacy among girls and women, supporting education, and new heights.

to deserving students at expanding club member-

She speaks warmly of her Rotary journey, highlighting the strength found in collaboration and the extended family she has gained. With her signature energy, clarity of vision, and commitment to inclusion, Shanta Vallury Gandhi is poised to lead her club to

INTERVIEWS **=**



Shaping Change, Inspiring Service

BY RAKHEE MEHTA

'n the realm of Rotary, leadership transcends titles—it's about inspiring change, fostering community, and leaving a lasting impact. Sonali Shah, President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview, exemplifies this ethos with vision, dedication, and heart. Her journey from an engaged member to a transformative leader reflects her resilience, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to service.

Sonali's Rotary story began in 2018 as a passive participant, but her perspective shifted when she backbone of her leadership ership philosophy is simple joined the Board of Directors. Her first leadership role as Public Image Director allowed her to amplify the club's visibility and strengthen member engagement. Later, as Admin Director, she deepened fostering meaningful con-



Pres. Sonali Shah, RC Bombay Bayview

nections that became the ber participation. Her leadcollaboration and empow-

firm believer in the Club an impact. Leadership Plan (CLP), she

style—one centered on yet powerful: a thriving club is built on empowered members. She cultivates an Now, as President, Sonali environment where everyisn't just guiding the club; one has the opportunity to she's shaping its future. A lead, contribute, and make

The Rotary Club of Bom-

seasoned expertise. With over 155 members and an average age of 52.4 years, the club thrives on diversity—of professions, experiences, and ideas. Under Sonali's leadership, this vibrant community remains deeply committed to service while nurturing the bonds that make Rotary more than just an organization—it's a family.

Healthcare holds a special place in Sonali's heart. Inspired by her father's battle with vision loss, she passionately supports eye care initiatives, including cataract surgeries and vision screenings for the underprivileged. Her impact extends further-advocating for infant heart surgeries, improving dialysis access, promoting mental health awareness, and empowering women through education, financial literacy, and fellowship within the club, champions mentorship, in- bay Bayview stands out leadership training. Her clusivity, and active mem- for its dynamic blend of vision of service is holistic,

needs and long-term community well-being.

Yet, Sonali understands that while service is the heart of Rotary, fellowship is its soul. Drawing from her experience as Admin Director, she continues to organize engaging events that strengthen camaraderiebe it fellowships, speaker sessions, or fireside chats. Her guiding mantra, "Work hard, celebrate harder," ensures the club remains a space where meaningful friendships flourish alongside impactful service.

Sonali's leadership is also deeply personal. As a sin-



youthful enthusiasm and addressing both immediate gle woman living with her mother, she embodies resilience, independence, and strong family values. Her diverse professional background in e-commerce, real estate, and nutrition has honed her adaptability and strategic thinkingqualities that seamlessly translate into her Rotary leadership.

> Looking beyond her presidency, Sonali envisions a legacy of leadership—a culture where every member feels seen, valued, and inspired to lead. She strives not just for completed projects but for lasting impacts that strengthen the club and the community it

> In Sonali Shah, the Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview has found more than a president—it has a leader who leads with purpose, empowers with passion, and envisions a future where service and fellowship go hand in hand.

The power of Purpose

BY PREMRAJ KV

'ayant Pawar, the newly inducted President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar (RCMD), is a man whose life reflects dedication, perseverance, and a deep commitment to service.

Born and raised in Pune, Javant graduated from Fergusson College and earned an MBA in Marketing from Pune University's PUMBA. He began his career in the corporate world, working introduced by Dr. Shrikant Bhoywith leading companies like MRF Tyres, Garware Paints, and S M Foods. His last corporate role was as Sales and Distribution Head for Private Labels at Big Bazaar, where he sharpened his leadership and strategic skills.

After 15 years in the corporate sector, Jayant pursued entrepreneurship and launched Trident Net Holidays (Trident Timeshare Pvt. Ltd.), a travel company that blends his business acumen with a passion for travel. The venture thrived, built on his customer-centric approach and adaptability in an ever-changing industry.



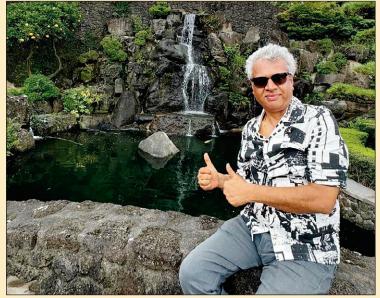
ar. Rotary's ideals of service and fellowship resonated with him, and he quickly became an active member. Over the years, he has seen firsthand the positive impact Rotary has locally and globally. His decision to serve as President in 2025 stems from his desire to contribute more meaningfully to this

One of his key goals is to attract younger members to RCMD. With a largely senior membership, Jayant aims to revitalize the club by making it more appealing to the next generation. His plan includes society-centric projects in Jayant joined Rotary in 2016-17, Dahisar to enhance Rotary's visi-

bility and relevance, helping draw in passionate, service-minded individuals.

For Jayant, leadership means balancing vision with execution. His focus is on building stronger fellowship among members while expanding the club's reach. He believes a vibrant and connected club culture is essential for both member retention and growth. With the support of his core team and the Board of Directors, Jayant is set on delivering impactful, well-planned initiatives that align with Rotary's values.

This year, Jayant has identified health—particularly disease prevention and treatment—as a ishq. A passionate traveler, he community impact.



Pres. Jayant Pawar Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar

major focus. He plans to lead ef- continues to explore new destiforts such as vaccination drives, awareness campaigns, and support programs for underserved communities, ensuring Rotary plays a tangible role in improving public health.

Outside Rotary, Jayant finds joy in travel, music, reading, and spending quality time with his family—wife Vidya and son Tan-

nations, with Vietnam currently being a favorite for its rich culture and history.

With a heart rooted in Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," and a clear vision for the future, Jayant Pawar is poised to lead the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar into a new chapter—one marked by service, connection, and lasting

Leading with Purpose and Compassion

BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

7ith over 40 years experience at Mahindra & Mahindra as Deputy General Manager in financial accounting, Pragna Mehta na practitioner. She draws brings strong leadership and professional acumen to her role as President of the wise and strongly believes Rotary Club of Bombay Airport (RCBA). Her husband, in accolades but in the also a Mahindra veteran lives one touches and the and now a business consultant, is a Rotarian him- well-travelled, she continself and a strong supporter ues to cherish Indian cuiof her Rotary journey. Their sine, with Thai food as a two grown-up children currently reside in the United States.

years, previously serving as Director of Youth Services, TRF, Vocational, Membership, and Club will inspire positive change and build a more inclu-

deep-rooted values of empathy, inclusion, and community service.

A woman of many interests, Pragna is a skilled singer, a passionate gardener, and a Level-5 Ikebainspiration from Sudha Murty's Wise and Otherthat true success lies not love one spreads. Though close second.

Pragna's primary focus this year is senior citizen Pragna has played a key welfare. She advocates for role in RCBA for many improved standards in old age homes through better healthcare, nutrition, and engaging environments. She also stresses the need Secretary. Her motto for for increased funding and the year—"Together, we stricter regulations to uplift senior care.

Aligned with the UN



Pres. Pragna Mehta, RC Bom Airport

Goals, her leadership em- cation is another cornerand economic empowerment. RCBA is actively engaged in Global Grant proin environmental action.

Women's empowerment

phasises environmental stone of her vision. RCBA sustainability, healthcare, conducts workshops in nursing, English speaking, sewing, computer skills, self-defence, and résumé jects in health, sanitation, writing, along with confiand water management. dence-building sessions. She is particularly keen to The club also runs safety involve Interact members awareness sessions like bad-touch" ʻgood-touch, for young girls. Notably,

"Together, we will inspire positive changes and build a brighter. more inclusive future"-reflects her commitment to service and unity.

extended to the transgender community, promoting inclusive growth.

Palghar district—covering Maswan, Ganjad, and Ranshet—aims at empowering women in tribal villages with vocational training and self-sufficiency.

In the field of education, RCBA has built and supports two schools in tribal areas. The Adivasi Ashram Shala at Maswan houses 400 students, while a modern school in Ganiad serves 700 children, both featuring solar lighting, sive future"—reflects her Sustainable Development through skill-based edu- these initiatives are being automated kitchens, and impact.

holistic infrastructure.

Healthcare remains close to Pragna's heart. The club's paediatric heart surgery initiative has supported over 500 children in four years, with a 99% success rate. This year, they aim to support 150-180 more surgeries.

Under her leadership. RCBA continues to foster youth development through 13 Interact and 7 Rotaract clubs. Signature RCBA's rural outreach in events like the Mumbai Walkathon and the installation of AEDs at railway stations, led by Dr. Akshay Mehta, further reinforce the club's commitment to public health.

> Pragna leads with compassion and conviction, believing that while one person can't do everything, a committed team can do wonders. She embodies the Rotary spirit—serving with heart, leading with vision, and creating lasting

From Kagwad to Rotary Leadership

Accountant, is the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park.

Born in the small village of Kagwad, on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border, Rajagouda's journey from humble beginnings to Rotary leadership is extraordinary. Kagwad, with limited opportunities, shaped his values. His father, an agricultural labourer with meagre earnings, was a pillar of support in the community—helping others despite their own financial constraints. This spirit of giving left an indelible mark on Rajagouda, teaching him the power of service and community.

was a privilege few could access, Rajagouda defied the odds. Determined to better his life and uplift others, he pursued academics college—a milestone achieved in 1995, nearly three decades after the college was established. His success inspired 20 more students from his village to follow

As President of the Rotary Club of National Park, ajagouda S Patil, a Chartered Rajagouda aims to ensure members stay aligned with Rotary's true objectives. He anticipates challenges like shifting focus from service to personal interests, which can dilute impact.

Armed with just ₹6,000 painstakingly saved by his mother—Rajagouda moved to Mumbai in the early 1990s. The city's fast pace was a stark contrast to Kagwad's simplicity, but he adapted quickly, immersing himself in studies and work. While Mumbai became home, his heart remained tethered to his roots. Today, he channels a significant part of his income to support Kagwad, believing that professional success In a region where education is most meaningful when it creates lasting change.

His Rotary journey began with a strong sense of purpose, shaped by his father's selflessness. A with zeal. He became the first meeting with Rotarian Unnikr-Chartered Accountant from his ishnan, whose unwavering commitment to service inspired him, led Rajagouda to join Rotary. He recognized Rotary as the ideal platform to extend his values and make a tangible difference.

As President of the Rotary Club

of National Park, Rajagouda is focused on aligning members with Rotary's core objectives. Aware of the risk of members shifting focus to personal interests, he plans to promote selfless service, transparency, and inclusivity through ongoing discussions and active engagement.

His vision is rooted in grassroots impact. He aims to address pressing community issues like education, healthcare, clean water, and waste management. His approach emphasizes collaboration, strong member involvement, and sustainable projects that deliver measurable outcomes.

In his personal life, Rajagouda strives for balance between ambition and well-being. He mentors and supports others, drawing peace from helping people grow. His empathy and passion for uplifting lives continue to inspire fellow Rotarians to embrace



Pres. Rajagouda S. Patil, RC Mumbai National Park

compassion and service.

For relaxation, Rajagouda returns to the banks of the Krishna River in Kagwad—his favourite retreat. The calm waters and cultural connection offer him peace and help him recharge.

He prefers wholesome vegetarian food, enjoying traditional Indian dishes, fresh salads, and flavourful curries for both nourishment and simplicity.

wife, Sujata, and daughters Ankita munities it serves.

and Nikita, who now live in Aus-

His life story is a powerful testament to perseverance, community, and the impact of purposeful leadership. From a modest village to leading a Rotary Club in a premier district, Rajagouda exemplifies how determination and a heart for service can bring about transformative change. His leadership promises to leave a lasting Rajagouda's family includes his legacy within Rotary and the com-

From Back to School to Greener Futures

The Rotary Club of Mulund Hill View is celebrating a remarkable milestone—24 vears of dedicated service to the community. As the Club enters its 25th year, the incoming President steps into this esteemed role with great pride and responsibility.

This leadership transition is marked by a strong commitment to uphold and build upon the legacy of previous leaders. At its core, the driving force behind this presidency is the belief in the joy of giving and the desire to create a meaningful impact in the community. The incoming President, known for a natural inclination toward problem-solving and collaboration, aims to use these strengths to promote growth, enhance teamwork, and implement sustainable community initiatives aligned with Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self."

The newly appointed President has been associated with Rotary since January 26, 2014, completing 11 impactful years. Over this period, the Rotary journey has served **Pres. Kashmira Ganatra** as a platform for growth, learning, RC Mulund Hill View



and unwavering service to society.

The following initiatives have been identified as core focus areas during the current term: Education, Tree Plantation and Botanical Garden Projects, E-Waste students, the Club Management, Rotary Ki Rozana is working to bridge Roti, and Nourish Mom - Feed the Future & Nutri Kids.

Education is recognized as a **help young learners** transformative force capable of reshaping lives, communities, and nations. In many cases, children potential. are forced to discontinue their education due to financial hardships. The Club is dedicated to ensuring that economic barriers do not deprive children of their right to education.

By offering financial assistance to underprivileged students, the Club is working to bridge educational gaps and help young learners realize their full potential. This investment not only impacts individual lives but also nurtures future change-makers within so-

Since 2017, the Rotary Club of Mulund Hill View has been successfully executing the "Back to School" project, with a structured ucational support to many more process that has positively affect- deserving students.

By offering financial assistance to underprivileged educational gaps and realize their full

ed the lives of numerous students.

In the previous year alone, fees were paid for over 200 students, enabling them to continue their education. With this foundation in place, the Club now aims to expand the initiative and support up to 500 students in the upcoming

To realize this ambitious target, the Club is actively working to secure CSR funding. With support from socially responsible organizations and individuals, the Rotary Club of Mulund Hill View is well-positioned to significantly expand its impact and extend ed-

Driving Change, Building Futures

BY PARUL SHAH

nder the dynamic leadership of President Rtn. Mitesh Gala, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Ghatkopar continues its legacy of transformative service. With a rich history of humanitarian efforts, the club remains steadfast in its mission to create meaningful change in the community.

Rtn. Mitesh Gala, a second-generation Rotarian, grew up immersed in the spirit of service. His father's active involvement in Rotary since 1985 deeply influenced his own journey, leading him to formally join the club in July 2015. Since then, he has played a pivotal role in various initiatives, truly embodying Rotary's ethos of "Service Above Self."

This year, the club is focused on three key areas: financial empowerment, mental health, and strengthening Rotary's public image. Efforts toward financial independence include skill development programs, employ- RC Mumbai Ghatkopar



Pres. Mitesh Gala

To enhance Rotary's visibility, initiatives are underway to promote its contributions, including the installation of a permanent Rotary signage in Ghatkopar.

ment opportunities, and soft loans for small businesses. Mental health awareness is being prioritized through school-based counseling centers and impact assessments. To enhance Rotary's visibility, initiatives are underway to promote its contributions, including the installation of a permanent Rotary signage in Ghatkopar.

A well-structured plan is in place to achieve these goals. Dedicated directors oversee each focus area, project plans are set for completion by March 2025, and collaborations with external organizations help ensure effective execution. With strategic fund-



raising and timely implementation, the club is committed to delivering tangible results.

Under Rtn. Mitesh Gala's leadership, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Ghatkopar is set to make a lasting impact. The community is encouraged to be part of this movement, joining hands in the pursuit of progress and positive change.

Transforming Communities is the Misson



Pres. Hemang Bhatt, RC Mumbai Nariman point

BY RAKHEE MEHTA

dedicated Rotarian for 18 years, Hemang Bhatt began his journey at just 25, rising through key leadership roles with vision and commitment. Now, as president of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Nariman Point, he is focused on driving impactful change, expanding service initiatives, and strengthening the club's legacy.

He attributes his professional growth and success to Rotary. which introduced him to influential businessmen and corporate leaders who shaped his outlook. "At the age of 25, I was one of the youngest Rotarians at the club. I met a lot of people—most of them were influential businessmen or corporate leaders. Being around them helped me understand their mindset and decision-making process," says Hemang.

With Mumbai's rapid urbanization leading to rising pollution and shrinking green spaces, Hemang has made urban plantation his top priority. He envisions a

restore and expand green zones in collaboration with government officials, local communities, and environmental experts. By planting trees in urban spaces, increasing green cover in residential and commercial areas, and promoting sustainable practices, his goal is to balance population growth greening initiative to with environmental well-being, restore and expand green ensuring a healthier, more livable city for future generations.

Beyond Rotary, he is a seasoned entrepreneur with 25 years of experience, having established multiple restaurants and QSR outlets across malls and high streets. His brands include HAS Juices and South Bombay, and he is an associate partner with Bhagat Tarachand.

Under his leadership, the club aims to scale annual donations while championing impactful projects like Childhood to Livelihood, Homegrown Social Initiatives, Happiness in Urban Living, and Old Age Care. He is particularly committed to strengthening financial and psychological sup-

massive greening initiative to With Mumbai's rapid urbanization leading to rising pollution and shrinking green spaces, **Hemang has made urban** plantation his top priority. He envisions a massive zones in collaboration with government officials, local communities, and environmental experts.

> port for employees' children, ensuring they receive quality education and career opportunities.

> Hemang's wife, Ekta Bhatt, has been a pillar of support, managing accounts and administration in their businesses. They have a son and a daughter.

A visionary leader and passionate connector, Hemang blends business acumen with community leadership, ensuring his presidency leaves a lasting the C2 project, which provides impact—both within Rotary and across Mumbai.

A Beacon of Dedication:

BY RAKHEE MEHTA

unil Talwar, President of the Rotary Club of Malabar Hill, has been an active member of the Rotary community for over 30 years. He is a dedicated family man with a wife, two daughters, one son, and four grandsons, eagerly awaiting the arrival of his fifth grandchild. With a passion for travel, he takes five holidays a year, frequently visiting Shimla and cherishing family gatherings.

A seasoned businessman, Sunil Talwar is a partner at SK Files and Tools, a manufacturer of engineer's files. Established in 1996, the business operates from Barotiwala, in Solan, Himachal Pradesh. His company, known for its in-house hot and cold rolling mill, ensures precise geometry and high-quality control in its products. His dedication to excellence is evident in his business's reputation and steady growth.

Sunil's journey with Rotary began three decades ago as a Charter Member of the Rotary Club

he has also been associated with the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Panchkula before finally becoming an integral part of the Rotary Club of Malabar Hill. Within just eight to nine months of rejoining, he was elected as the incoming President, a testament to his leadership and commitment. His primary focus lies in medical projects, aiming to bring tangible benefits to society through well-executed healthcare initia-

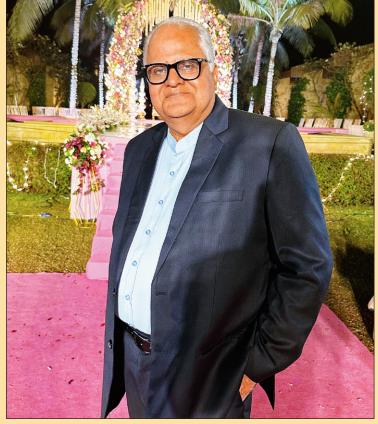
As he prepares to take on the role of President, Sunil envisions strengthening medical projects by collaborating with private hospitals, where execution can be more efficient and effective. Under his guidance, the club will continue impactful projects such as the Helping Hand Project and support to various medical initiatives ensuring better healthcare accessibility.

With a membership of approximately 63-68 individuals, Sunil is focused on attracting younger members, specifically in the of Bombay Pier. Over the years, 40-49 age group, to infuse fresh engaged membership base.

Sunil is focused on attracting younger members, specifically in the 40-49 age group, to infuse fresh energy and sustain the club's growth. Leadership continuity is also a priority, with Presidents already lined up for the next three years, ensuring the club's longterm vision is maintained

energy and sustain the club's growth. Leadership continuity is also a priority, with Presidents already lined up for the next three years, ensuring the club's longterm vision is maintained.

Sunil Talwar remains dedicated to community service, emphasizing well-monitored and impactful initiatives. As the incoming President, he aims to drive the Rotary Club of Malabar Hill towards innovative healthcare contributions, sustainable development, and a stronger, more



Pres. Sunil Talwar, RC Malabar Hill

Empower. Elevate. Transform

¶en years ago, as a Rotaractor, Rtn Onkar Sarang witnessed the transformative power of Rotary's projects—a understanding of the sysseed of inspiration that has now blossomed. The ability to drive meaningful change and address pressing community needs was to the struggles that often a profound privilege. With a talented and passionate team, he is committed to was not hindered by a lack leveraging this opportunity to create a lasting impact opportunity. Women, buras President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Island City.

His Rotary journey, spanning five years as a Rotaractor and a return in 2019 as a Rotarian, has been profoundly fulfilling, reinforcing his belief in the power potential for transformawith a shared purpose. His primary focus during his

BY SASHIKALA CHARLES cal areas: women's empow- beauty, baking, hospitality, dren, regardless of their erment through vocational courses and children's education in underserved communities. These priorities stem from a deep temic challenges faced by marginalized populations.

As an avid reader and an empath, Onkar was drawn go unseen. The potential of women and children of ability, but by a lack of dened by financial dependency, were often forced to abandon their dreams, while children, deprived of quality education, found porary relief but sustaintheir paths to a brighter future blocked before they even began. These experiof collective action and the ences urged him towards action, believing that emtion when individuals unite powerment begins with opportunity.

When women gain voca-

tailoring, or mehendi they gain more than just a trade; they gain confidence, dignity, and financial independence. This autonomy allows them to break free from cycles of limitation and contribute meaningfully to their families and communities. Similarly, providing children with quality education is an investment in their future and in society. By ensuring access to resources and opportunities, they are empowered to dream, achieve, and uplift those around them.

The goal is not just temable, long-term impact. Through vocational training initiatives for women and educational support for children, he envisions self-sufficient communities where women become financially independent

background, have access to knowledge, growth, and a future full of possibilities.

His vision extends beyond completing projects within a year; it is about building self-sustaining systems that thrive beyond his tenure. This involves establishing mentorship programs, forging structured partnerships for funding and resources, and ensuring that trained beneficiaries mentor new batches, creating a ripple effect of empowerment.

To achieve these goals, a well-defined roadmap is essential, focusing on expanding skill development programs that align with market demands, strengthening educational support by improving access to quality resources and mentorship, and building sustainable systems through structured partnerships.



Pres. Onkar Sarang RC Mumbai Island City

nity ensures that projects ensure lasting change that align with their needs and aspirations, while fostering a culture where trained beneficiaries become mentors helps sustain longterm impact.

By strengthening the foundation of the Club and tenure will be on two crititional skills—whether in entrepreneurs and chil- Engaging with the commu- its projects, the aim is to

grows year after year. For Onkar, service is not just about helping but about empowering people to rewrite their own stories with dignity and hope. It is about creating a world where opportunity is not a privilege, but a right.

Rooted in Service, Focused on Impact

BY PARUL SHAH

The Rotary Club of Mulund, with a rich legacy of over 38 years, continues to be a beacon of dedicated service and community impact. The inspirational work carried out by past presidents and members has set a strong foundation for continued excellence.

With over 25 years of association with Rotary, the club's new leadership brings both experience and commitment. Having served actively as a Rotary Ann and later as a Rotarian, the current President draws motivation from this longstanding involvement to lead with purpose.

The central focus for the year is to create awareness and initiate meaningful action in the areas of education and health. Recognizing that both are vital pillars of economic and social development, the club



aims to make a tangible Pres. Ambika Dani, RC Mulund



The central focus for the year is to create awareness and initiate meaningful action in the areas of education and health. Recognizing that both are vital pillars of economic and social development, the club aims to make a tangible difference—especially for underprivileged children.

difference—especially for to ensure better health- tify needs and implement underprivileged children.

Several Adivasi Padas in served communities. the Mulund area lack access Addressing this gap by providing essential study materials is a top priority. Parallelly, regular health camps will be organized

care access in these under- effective solutions.

are being leveraged to iden-future.

With focused vision and To execute these initia- collaborative spirit, Rotato basic educational tools. tives, the club is strength- ry Club of Mulund West ening its partnerships with continues its journey of local schools. Existing rela-service—empowering tionships with teachers and communities and shaping educational institutions a healthier, more educated

INSTALLATION





RC MUMBAI KANDIVLI WEST

Sai palace Grand -Ballroom, Malad West - Link Road

On 25th May 25, The Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West witnessed a graceful Installation Ceremony as Rtn Jayesh Majithia took charge as President for the year 2025–26, alongside his dynamic Board of Directors – Amrish Doshi, Mitesh Shah, Sejal Doshi, Nirav Vakharia, Vipul Gaglani, Deepak Israni, and Bhavin Toprani, Rajendra Bhatia, Raghunath Prabhu, Vrajesh Shah, Reema Wahi, Prasanna, Shashikala, Parag Storewala, Jyoti Pai, Dharmesh Sheth The event was graced by Chief Guest DGE Rtn Manish Motwani and First Lady Mahek Motwani, with dignitaries including Indumati Gopinath, DS Rtn Aparna Garud, Acting Assistant Governor Rtn Shelza Chowdhary, and Rtn Deepak Chowdhary adding immense prestige to the occasion. The atmosphere brimmed with enthusiasm, commitment, and the spirit of Rotary.

ROTARY CLUB OF WADA

The installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Wada began with warm fellowship, setting a joyful and connected atmosphere among members and guests. A soulful bhajan by Rtn. Sharvari Jadhav invoked divine blessings and marked a serene beginning to the event. Newly installed Club President Rtn. Rhushikesh Chandrakant Patil delivered a heartfelt and inspiring address, outlining his vision for a stronger, more impactful club through meaningful projects and collaboration. His words received much appreciation and set a positive tone for the year ahead. The event also marked the formal installation of the new Board of Directors, comprising Rtn. Amey Ashok Patil as Secretary, Rtn. Nilesh Ravindra Mokashi as President Elect and Vice President, Rtn. Prafulla Bhimraj Bokand as Membership Chair and Immediate Past President, Rtn. Shashikant Durgude as Treasurer, Rtns. Rakesh Ramchandra Thakare and Uttam Mitharam Patil as Sergeants at Arms, Rtn. Shashank Kamalakar Thakare as Club Trainer, Rtn. Swapnil Ashok Rodge as Young Leaders Contact, Rtn. Rupali Prafulla Bokand as Chairman – Sanitation, Rtn. Manjit Suresh Patil as Chairman – Health Curative, and Rtn. Sameer Vishnu Gavhale as Director – Youth Service. With this enthusiastic and dedicated team, the club embarks on a new Rotary year committed to impactful service and vibrant community engagement, upholding the spirit of "Service Above Self."







ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI MAKABO

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Makabo hosted its vibrant Installation Ceremony on 27th May 2025 at the Gossip Corner Banquet in Dahisar West, where Mr. Bipin Kulkarni was formally installed as President for the Rotary year 2025–26. The event marked a proud moment as the newly appointed Board of Directors took oath to support the club's journey of service and leadership. The board includes Sanjay Aggarwal, Shubhada Manjrekar, Navin Mishra, Harendra Prasad, Rupali Pathak, Mahesh Khona, Kosha Desai, Yogesh Dhandaria, Pawan Awasthi, Kapil Khandelwal, and Ashok Goenka. Attended by members, dignitaries, and families, the ceremony reflected Rotary's spirit of unity and purpose, concluding with cheerful fellowship and a renewed commitment to impactful service.

INSTALLATION



ROTARY CLUB OF LOKHANDWALA

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Lokhandwala (RCLK) was held on 24th May at the elegant Jayaleela Banquet in Goregaon, Mumbai. The morning began with fellowship and registration from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, followed by the formal installation which commenced at 11:00 AM. Sharbani Banerjee was installed as the President for the Rotary year, supported by a dynamic team of Board members including Priya Shenoy (Immediate Past President), Nitin Jain (President Elect, Secretary, and Director Public Image), Dipesh Arumugam (Treasurer), Phanish Shetty (Sergeant at Arms), Arun Kale (Director Club Services), Rashmi Das (Director Membership), Sanjeev Kotkar (Director Vocational Services), Anuja Saha (Director Community Service – Medical), Annu Shrivastava (Director Community Service - Non-Medical), Neetu Kaul (Director International Services), Ambujam Iyer (Director Youth Services), and Mehul Rajapouria (Director Rotary Foundation). The event was marked by grace, camaraderie, and renewed commitment to service, as members gathered to welcome the new leadership and celebrate the spirit





ROTARY CLUB OF UMROLI

The Rotary Club of Umroli held its Installation Ceremony on 1st June 2025 at the Rotary Community Centre, Umroli, beginning at 4 PM. Rtn. Sagar Ramesh Gharat took charge as President, supported by a dedicated team including Vibha Vandesh Patil as Club Secretary, Janvi Mitesh Patil as Joint Secretary and E-Admin, Meena Vishwas Wani as Club Treasurer, Prabhakar Pandurang Patil as Vice President and Director - Membership, and Yatin Sudam Vaze as Sergeant-at-Arms. The Board of Directors further comprises Anil Bhaskar Tare
(Club Administration), Dhananjay Rambhau
Patil (Public Relations), Nidin Renu Devan (New Generation/Youth), Nitin Sudam Vaze (Service Project - Medical), Kalpesh Narendra Patil (Service Project - Non-Medical), Bhushan Tukaram Patil (Service Project – Vocational), Nayanit Devendra Raut (Service Project – International), Bhautesh Jaywant Patil (Rotary Foundation), Sudhir Mangesh Jadhav (CSR), and Hareshwar Kashinath Jadhav (Thrust Area). The ceremony was marked by a strong sense of fellowship and commitment to service

INSTALLATION

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI ICONIC





The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Iconic for the year 2025–26 was held on Thursday, 5th June 2025 at 7:30 PM at Hotel Regal Enclare, Khar West, Mumbai. Rtn Anil Tinani took charge as President along with his enthusiastic Board comprising IPP Methew, Secretary Amla, Treasurer Sham, Director Community Medical Ria, Director Community Non-Medical Mustapha, Director Club Service Rashi, Director International Service Sunil, Director Training and TRF Dilip, Director 1 and Vice President Sudhit, Director 2, Joint Secretary and CSR Chitranjan, and Sergeant-at-Arms Nalini.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI JUHU

On Monday, June 9, 2025, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu celebrated its 26th Presidential Installation of Pres. Anathlakshmi Ganesh with precision and grace. The evening commenced with a vibrant fellowship hour attended by district dignitaries, including Chief Guest Inspire DG Dr. Manish Motwani and First Lady Dr. Mahek Motwani, along with PDG Sunnil Mehra and DS Mahima Menda. The presence of 14 Past District Governors, 17 district officials, 7 co-presidents, and several esteemed Rotarians added grandeur to the occasion. . DG Dr. Motwani's inspiring keynote showcased his sharp insights and gracious leadership. Other notable attendees included Principal Chief Coordinator KK Choudhary, CC Kanderp Khandwala, RSW Chair Indumati Gopinathan, DS Arvind Gadia, AG Vidhi Gupta, and GAH Membership Chair Saurabh Soonawala. Gupta, and GAH Membership Chair Saurabh Soonawala. The evening also saw the induction of the new Board of Directors: Secretary Rtn. Vinayak Vaze, Treasurer Rtn. Prabhakar Nair, Club Admin Rtn. Parvathy Chandran, Membership Chair Rtn. Tejas Shah, Public Image Chair Rtn. Shilpa Bhagnari, Foundation Chair Rtn. Ramesh Rathi, Service Chair Rtn. Yogesh Shah, Youth Service Rtn. Nupur Jhangiani, CSR Chair Rtn. Kavita Bhatia, Editor Rtn. Nidhi Parekh, Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn. Ramesh Krishnan, IT Chair Rtn. Renu Sharma, Events Chair Rtn. Aarti Daga, and Vocational Chair Rtn. Amit Kapoor. The evening concluded on a high note with delightful dinner and fellowship.





ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI HORIZONS

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Horizons held its grand Installation Ceremony on 23rd May 2025 at 7:00 PM at the elegant Brijwasi Palace Hall, Goregaon East, Mumbai. The evening was filled with pride, warmth, and celebration as Rtn. CA Sunil Bhandari was installed as President for the Rotary year 2025-26. The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr Manish Motwani, first lady Dr. Mahek Motwani, Rotarians, dignitaries, and guests, who witnessed the formal induction of a dynamic Board of Directors comprising Shivani Bhatia, Suresh Agrawal, Vinod Goyal, Ramesh Nagori, Sushil Kanodia, Rajkumar Agrawal, Leela Jaya, Raj Kanodia, Alka Bhandari, Daksha Bastawala, Archana Shah, Purvi Chandarana, Mayur Pethani, Rinku Kanodia, and Dilip Jaya. The atmosphere reflected the club's commitment to service, leadership, and fellowship, setting a spirited tone for the year ahead.

Echoes of True Peace



Pinki Dalal AUTHOR | NOVELIST | FORMER EDITOR | TRAVELER BLOGGER | ROTARIAN

th Of May. Tensions between India and Pakistan had reached their peak, the atmosphere was thick with hostility. Traditional and social media platforms on both sides were ablaze with a war of narratives, and every new narrative was more toxic, corrosive and aggressive than its predecessor. Amidst this digital battlefield, I came across a series of disturbing posts by a Pakistani Rotarian (just a Facebook acquaintance) boasting of India's supposed devastation. His tone was triumphant, as if their forces had single handedly annihilated our Indian army, weapons and aircrafts.

Then comes a silent piercing intervention. An Indian Rotarian, based in the US, posed a single, pointed question: "Are you a Rotarian?" That was all. No retorts, no rants—just one question. What happened next surprised me. The boasting stopped and silence followed. Those five words had stripped the conversation of its venom. He didn't respond. He just could not.

That moment revealed something profound to me. The power of a simple question. The weight a single word—"Rotarian"—can carry. Because being a Rotarian is not just about pins and meetings. It is about values.



About self-restraint. About a higher code of conduct that we choose to live by — even when emotions run high and borders are burning. And that, right there, is the quiet, dignified strength of Rotary.

What can a group of Rotarians in polos and pins possibly do in a war zone?

- » We do not paradrop in with UN peacekeepers.
- » We do not carry guns. We carry school bags.
- » We do not build borders. We build belief.
- » We don't take sides unless it's the side of humanity.

Before we go global, let's understand, conflict zones don't always mean wartorn countries. Conflict zones may exist right next door.

- » A village divided over caste.
- » Communities not talking post riots.

- About self-restraint. About a » Children being taught hate higher code of conduct that faster than alphabets.
 - » Peace is not a place it is a process.
 - » And Rotary's brilliance lies not in chasing peace treaties but building peace habits.

The question is What Does Rotary Actually Do in Conflict Zones?

We Educate. Not with fancy degrees but with dignity. A girl with a school bag today is one less victim of radicalisation tomorrow.

Rotary clubs in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Turkey and beyond have built schools, funded teachers, and trained women to lead. Because when you give people the power of purpose, they drop their weapons.

We Bring Water. Does this sound boring? Tell that to communities who have fought over a bucket of wa-

ter.

- » Rotary's clean water projects from Israel, building schools in West Bank, Palestine to Sub-Saharan Africa have done more to cool tempers than global summits.
- » We give platforms. For youth from opposite sides of a conflict to talk and interact.
- » To dance, to argue, yes, even that is healthy. Rotary's Peace Fellowships train young minds to become diplomats of compassion. Because peace is not found in paperwork—it's practiced in people.

A quick case-study:

In Uganda, children were being abducted and turned into child soldiers by rebels. Rotary did not send tanks. They sent trauma counsellors. They started art therapy. They work on peace building and conflict resolution. They trained local youth in vocational skills. The rebels had their guns while the Rotary had its crayons, sewing kits, and counselling rooms. And guess who made the long-lasting impact? Rotary did.

That is our secret:

- » We heal quietly.
- » Rotary does not take sides. Not because we are cowards, but because we're brave enough to stand in the middle.\We talk to everyone. We serve all. We offend no one except maybe the ones profiting from division.
- »Rotary's neutrality is its greatest weapon. And we wield it with wisdom.

The most important ques-

tion is, can service really bring peace?

Short answer: No.

Long answer: Not overnight. But service builds trust. And trust is how peace begins.

History teaches us that anything built over night without a solid moral, legal and just foundation does not last long. E.g. The treaty of Versailles. It was so harsh and humiliating that it sowed the seeds for another terrible war. But real peace takes time to build, it comes only after deep pain, reflection and shared purpose. And prosperity surely follows. E.g. The European Union. It's the most successful union of nations over the past half a century. They learned this and earned this the hard way, after two devastating wars which brought terrible grief to the entire world. Hence real peace takes time to build. It requires a lot of healing on all sides, and healing can only come through selfless service.

The world is tired of speeches; It is time for action.

- » A toilet in a refugee camp speaks louder than a politician's podium.
- » A mobile health van at a border tells mothers their babies' matter — no matter which side they were born on.

There are so many NGOs. NGOs and Governments change. Aid dries up, But Rotary clubs remain, In villages. In cities. In deserts. In the hills.

Peace revolutionary Rotary: Serving peace just in theory, but in practice. And maybe, just maybe—that is how we change the world. Quietly. Boldly. Together.

TEAM GML INSPIRE

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- » Haima Deshpande
- » Rakhee Mehta
- » Bhavin Toprani
- » Parul Shah
- » Sashikala Charles

WANT TO SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB'S ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS?

We'd love to hear from you!

If your project is outstanding, go all out—there's no word limit. For projects, send us a brief write-up including details of the President, Directors, and participating members.

Done something exceptional in fellowship? We're all ears! Just make sure to include HD pictures and a short write-up.

Remember, work hard, party harder... photu to banta hai, dost!

Check page no 12

GOT A SPARK OF BRILLIANCE, A DOSE OF INSPIRATION, OR A SMILE-WORTHY STORY?

Whether it's an offbeat idea, a fresh take on Rotary values, a solution to a world issue, or a feel-good piece that lights up the reader's day—this space is your stage.

Think of it as an open mic for minds that care. If it uplifts, informs, or inspires, we want to hear it.

So, why hold back? Hit the keys. Make us think, make us laugh, make a difference. We're all eyes and ears—bring it on!

Refer to page 12 for the Zone Editor.

BY BOOK POST

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO,

DR MANISH MOTWANI

AASTHA HEALTH CARE, OPP CHHEDDA PETROL PUMP, MULUND COLONY, OFF LBS RD, MULUND WEST, MUMBAI 400082 TO