



Let's Inspire

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 Purpose

GOVERNOR 'S MONTHLY INSPIRE GML E-BULLETIN MAY 2026

RI President-Elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola Leads Inspiring Visit

Rotary District 3141 Champions Inclusion, Equal Opportunity, and Progressive Leadership Values



**ROTARY RISES:
UNITED FOR
MUMBAI**

DR INDUMATI GOPINATHAN



Inclusion, Leadership & Service in Action

RIPE Olayinka Hakeem Babalola's Mumbai visit highlighted inclusion, women's leadership, and service excellence. Inspiring performances by specially abled children, major Rotary Foundation recognitions, and the prestigious "Service Above Self" honour made the evening a powerful celebration of purpose-driven impact.

A highlight of the evening was the conferment of Rotary's highest honour, the "Service Above Self" Award, upon Past District Governor Rtn Sandip Agarwala, in recognition of his exceptional and sustained work in uplifting tribal communities across Palghar, Wada, Dahanu, and Boisar.

RI President-Elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola received a standing ovation for his inspiring address, where he emphasized the importance of strengthening Rotary's public image across all avenues of service. He particularly underscored the need to bring more women into Rotary and actively support them in leadership roles. His engaging interaction, where he thoughtfully addressed questions and challenges, left a lasting impression on all present.

The program was seamlessly compered by Incoming District Governor Nominee Dr. Indumati Gopinathan, whose grace and professionalism added to the success of the event. The evening concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Chief Coordinator Rtn Monica Grover.

Special acknowledgment was extended to Rtn Kala Sridhar for her dedicated efforts in organizing the event and bringing together the talented children whose performances became the soul of the evening.

Rotary District 3141, under the dynamic leadership of District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, hosted RI President-Elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola at the Rotary Centre, Juhu, in an inspiring and deeply meaningful engagement centred on inclusion, empowerment, and leadership.

They went included performances by specially abled children from schools associated with Rotary followed by felicitation of donors to the Rotary foundation and service above self award, followed by finally a question answer and discussion on opportunities for women in ROTARY with RIPE YINKA. The evening witnessed a full house, with an overwhelming presence of Rotary Women Presidents, District officers and specially abled children whose extraordinary performances left the audience deeply moved.

Through expressive dance and artistic presentation, these children showcased not limitations, but resil-

ience, talent, and indomitable spirit—reinforcing Rotary's commitment to building an inclusive society where every individual is valued and uplifted.

A central theme of the evening was Rotary's strong advocacy for equal opportunity for women. The interaction highlighted the importance of encouraging women to step into leadership roles, take on responsibility, and stand shoulder to shoulder with men as equal

partners in service. This progressive vision reflects a Rotary that values leadership defined by capability and commitment, not gender.

The occasion was further elevated by the presence of RI Director Rtn K. Nagesh, who delivered an inspiring address emphasizing India's leadership within the global Rotary movement and strongly encouraging greater participation and leadership of women in

Rotary.

District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, in a powerful and passionate address, recognized outstanding contributions to The Rotary Foundation. He felicitated the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier and the Rotary Club of Bombay for their remarkable contributions exceeding one million dollars each, reaffirming Rotary's global commitment to humanitarian service.

When Rotary became 'intercontinental'

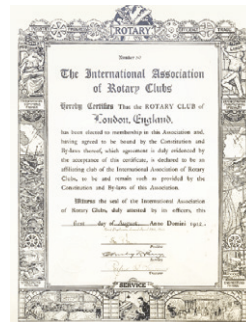
DOWN MEMORY LANE



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



'After London members organized the club, it took a year to receive its charter. Some members' questioned about joining and paying dues to what was then the National Association of Rotary Clubs, made up of only US clubs!'



Paul Harris (front row, 2nd right) with club members in Aug 1932.



RI General Secretary Chesley Perry (center) visits RC of London, Greater London, England, in 1925.



Rotary founder Paul Harris with BARC staff members.

First international club vs. first intercontinental club

Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, became the first club outside the US in April 1912, making Rotary truly international. On 1 August 1912, Rotary Club of London, Greater London, England, Club No. 50 in Rotary International, became the first Rotary club in Europe, earning Rotary the distinction of being an intercontinental organization.

Members question about joining!

After the London members organized the club, it took a year to receive its charter. Correspondence between General Secretary Chesley Perry and charter member Arthur P. Bigelow reveals some of the club members' questions about joining and paying dues to what was then the National



Association of Rotary Clubs, made up of only US clubs.

Forget the word 'national'!

General Secretary Chesley Perry (see pic) encouraged them to "forget that the word 'national' is in the name," noting that if Winnipeg, London, and others were to join, the association would "simply have to change its name to the Inter-National Association."

Dublin left 'dubbed'!

London is one of four Clubs in Britain and Ireland to be founded in 1911 on the same day, increasing the worldwide club total to 50. Within a short time, Rotary grew to have 8 clubs in England, Ireland (now Northern Ireland), and Scotland. Rotary Club of

Dublin, Ireland, was organized in 1911 and chartered in May 1913, following London. By the end of 1912, Rotary expanded into Scotland.

Following on from this, a further 108 Clubs were established in London. Rotary's presence didn't extend to mainland Europe until Rotary Club of Madrid, Spain, received its charter in January 1921!

RC London held its first meeting at Simpsons in the Strand. Today, they hold lunch meetings every Monday, and during the third week of each month, have evening meetings at the iconic Chesterfield Mayfair Hotel.

First time truly RI

Due to international expansion, National Association of Rotary Clubs became Inter-

national Association of Rotary Clubs in 1912. It was later shortened to Rotary International in 1922.

A unique approach to associate

In 1913-14, R.W. Pentland of Edinburgh club was a Board of Director. He gathered club officers in Liverpool in October 1913, seeking to enhance camaraderie and unity and to standardize practices among Rotary clubs in the United Kingdom. In May 1914, club representatives met in London and created the British Association of Rotary Clubs (BARC).

Pentland reported on BARC to 1913-14 Rotary President Russell Greiner, who supported its creation. At the 1914 Rotary Convention, delegates approved a resolution to recognize the British association.

Rotary's evolution from a US-based body to Rotary International began with Winnipeg (1912) and London, becoming intercontinental, renaming globally, and establishing unique territorial structures like RIBI.

Clubs could become members of both BARC and International Association of Rotary Clubs (now Rotary International) through two separate processes, and BARC clubs were actively encouraged to apply for affiliation with International Association, but that wasn't required for several years.

New 'territorial units'

After more than a year of discussions between the two associations, the 1922 Rotary Convention in Los Angeles,

California, USA, changed the RI Constitution to make provisions for national or territorial units that would operate as administrative units of RI and were empowered to approve applications and issue charter certificates for clubs in the designated territory.

After only five years, delegates again changed the constitution to stop creating territorial units but allowed existing units to remain. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) is the only territorial unit that remains in Rotary today.



ROTARY GOES INTERCONTINENTAL

From its early US roots, Rotary International expanded globally with Winnipeg in 1912 and London soon after, marking its intercontinental identity. The shift led to a name change and innovative structures like RIBI, shaping Rotary's international governance and collaborative spirit across continents.

Finishing Strong: Two Months to Create Lasting Impact



As the Rotary year approaches its final phase, this is not a time to slow down—but to refocus and finish with purpose. With renewed energy, let us consolidate our efforts, strengthen our commitments, and ensure every initiative reaches a meaningful and impactful conclusion.

INSPIRED MOMENTS



Dr. Manish Motwani
Dist Governor, 25-26

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Members of Our Rotary Families,

As we step into May, there is a natural tendency to feel that the Rotary year is drawing to a close. Yet, I would like us to look at this moment with renewed optimism—we still have two valuable months ahead of us. Two months to consolidate, to complete, and to celebrate the inspired work we have undertaken together.

This is the time to tie up all loose ends and ensure a perfect finish—well in time. I urge each club to review its goals, accelerate execution where needed, and bring every project to a meaningful and impactful closure. The strength of Rotary lies not just in what we start, but in how effectively and thoughtfully we complete.

May also marks the Month of Youth Service, reminding us of our responsibility to inspire, mentor, and empower the next generation. Our youth are not just participants in our journey—they are the torchbearers of tomorrow. Let us engage them more deeply, create platforms for their growth, and ensure that our actions leave behind a legacy they are proud to carry forward.

At the same time, I would like to draw your focused attention to three critical areas that will define the strength of our District going forward:

First – The Rotary Foundation (TRF), especially the Annual Fund.

Our contributions today directly empower our District down the line. The Annual Fund is the engine that fuels our service ambitions. I urge every club and every Rotarian to step forward and contribute meaningfully so that our good work continues with even greater impact in the coming year.

Second – Member Retention

We often see a trend where, as the year

concludes, some members—including those inducted during the year, and at times even Presidents—step away. Let us remind ourselves: this was never “your year” or “my year”; it was always Rotary’s year. Every member matters. Retention is not a statistic; it is a reflection of how inclusive, engaging, and meaningful our Rotary experience has been. Let us ensure that every member feels valued and chooses to continue this journey with us.

Third – Timely and Complete Reporting.

All of you have worked exceptionally hard, and it is important that this effort receives its rightful recognition. I sincerely hope that every President ensures timely reporting on Rotary Central as well as the District Citation scorecard. This is not merely a process—it is the pathway to ensuring your club earns the citations and honours it truly deserves.

Some of you may feel, “We have done the work—that is enough.” I would gently but firmly say—please do not stop there. I want every Inspired President to achieve the RI Excellence

Focus. Finish. Flourish.

With two months remaining, let's accelerate action, strengthen member engagement, support The Rotary Foundation, and ensure timely reporting. Together, we can finish strong, celebrate achievements, and create a meaningful, lasting impact across our District.

Awards and also actively vie for District Awards and Citations. It is a matter of pride—for you and for your club. Please do reach out to your AGs and ALFs for any support needed—they are there to help you succeed.

Amidst all the hard work and commitment, it was heartening to see many of us come together for the Rotary District Picnic at the stunning Grape County Resort, Nashik. As aptly expressed by Dr. Gautam Goel, “It was more like a Soul Recharge.” How true that felt! For some, it was about making new friends; for others, it was about strengthening existing bonds. The warmth of fellowship was truly evident.

The Chai Pe Charcha added another layer of inspiration, reminding us of the power of simple conversations. As Dr. Goel beautifully put it, “The best travel isn't about the destination, it is about the people you share your journey with.” These moments reaffirm that Rotary is not just about service—it is also about connection, camaraderie, and shared purpose.

As we move forward, let us carry this spirit with us—focused, energized, and united. The finish line is in sight, and together, we can ensure it is crossed with excellence, pride, and a lasting impact.

**Warm Rotary regards,
Dr Manish Motwani
District Governor 2025-26
District 3141**

Holding On to What Truly Matters

As the Rotary year gently approaches its close, this message reflects on the quiet beauty of shared moments, meaningful connections, and the lasting warmth of togetherness that defines our journey.

MAHEK'S VIBES



Dr Mahek Motwani

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

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Dear Rotary Families,
Warm greetings to all of you.

May always feels a little different. There is a quiet awareness that the year is gently moving toward its close—but at the same time, there is no rush, no noise... just a sense of wanting to hold on a little longer to what has been beautiful.

Over the past months, we have all been part of something meaningful. Not just through the projects we have supported, but through the moments we have shared—sometimes planned, often unplanned, but always memorable in their own way.

For me, one such moment was our recent time together at the Grape County Resort during the District Picnic. There was something refreshingly simple and deeply comforting about those few days. No agendas, no roles to play—just people coming together as they are.

I found myself truly cherishing the ease of it all. Conversations that didn't need a beginning or an explanation. Laughter that felt effortless and genuine. The warmth of reconnecting with familiar faces, and the joy of discovering new bonds in the most natural way. There was a certain stillness in the air—where time slowed down just enough for us to really notice each other.

Yes, I did miss seeing many more of you there. I understand that prior commitments and responsibilities may have kept some of you away, but you were certainly missed. And yet, for those who were present, there was a beautiful sense of togetherness—one that reminded me of what Rotary truly

Beyond milestones and meetings, this journey is about connection, reflection, and the quiet joy of belonging to something meaningful together.



Moments That Matter

As the year gently closes, what stays are shared smiles, quiet conversations, and bonds that grew stronger. Rotary is not just service—it is feeling connected, valued, and part of something truly meaningful together.

is at its heart.

There were moments when I quietly wished time would pause... that we could stay just a little longer in that space of shared joy and simplicity. But as always, life called us back to our routines, our responsibilities, and our roles.

And still, we returned carrying something intangible yet precious—memories that will stay with us, not just as photographs or stories, but as feelings we can revisit anytime, in quiet moments.

If we really think about it, Rotary is not just a series of meetings or milestones—it is a collection of people who, over time, become part of our lives in quiet but lasting ways.

As we move through May, which is also the Month of Youth Service, I find myself reflecting on the kind of world we are shaping for the next generation. Not just through what we do, but through how we live—how we include, how we care, and how we treat one another.

Our children and young adults may not always be present at every activity, but they are always observing. And

often, it is these lived values—not spoken words—that leave the deepest impression.

Even in our homes, Rotary gently finds its place—in the stories we bring back, in the friendships that extend beyond meetings, and in the quiet pride our families feel when they see service becoming a part of who we are.

And so, as these weeks unfold, perhaps this is a time to simply be present—to the people around us, to the relationships we have built, and to the journey we are privileged to be a part of.

Not everything needs to be hurried. Not everything needs to be measured. Some things just need to be felt.

What I carry most from this year is not just what we have done, but how it has made us feel—more connected, more aware, and perhaps, in small ways, more compassionate.

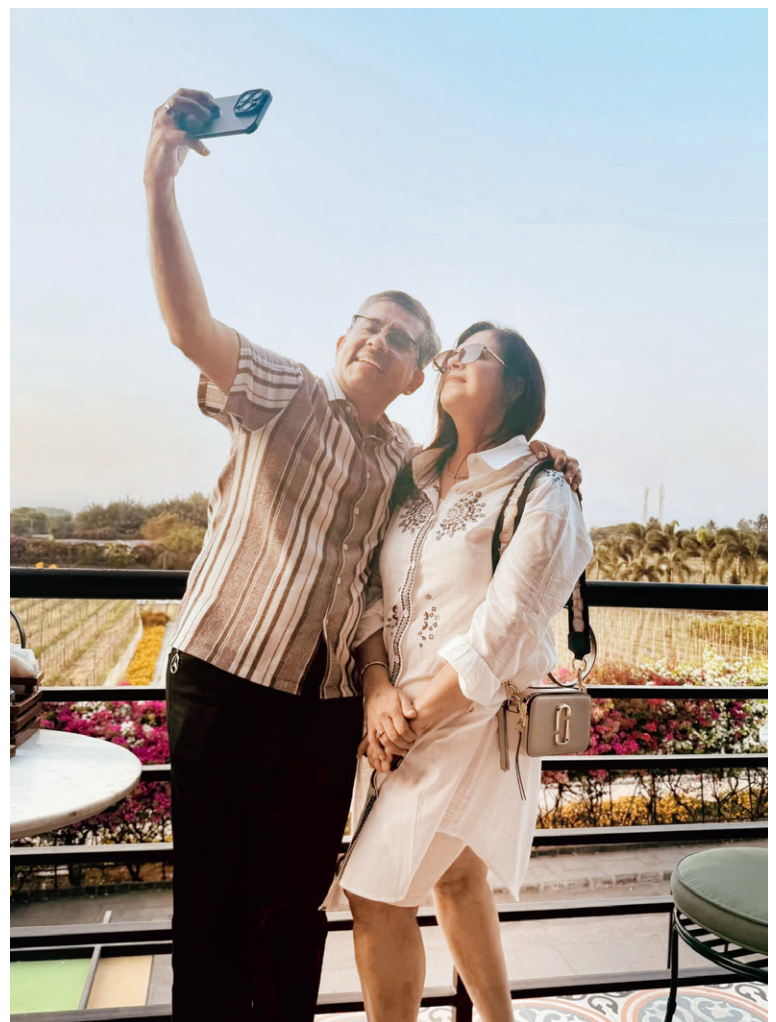
And if that feeling stays with us, then in many ways, the journey continues—well beyond the Rotary year.

With warmth, quiet reflection, and heartfelt affection,

Dr. Mahek Motwani
Aesthetic Gynaecologist and
Cosmetologist



Sometimes, the smallest moments leave the deepest imprint—and that's where Rotary truly lives.



FROM "I WISH" TO "I WILL"

ECHOES OF SERVICES



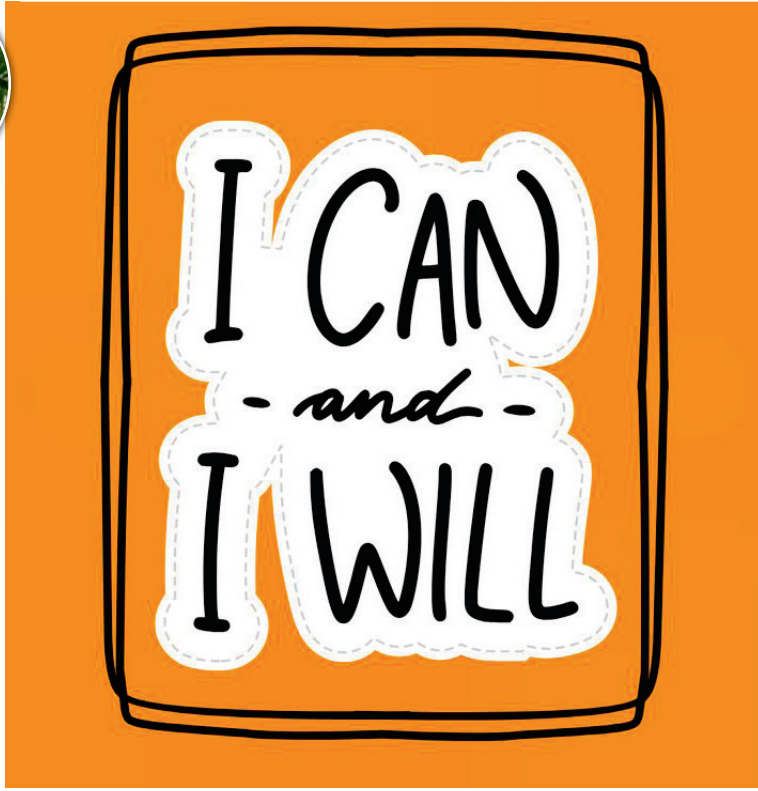
PRID Ashok Mahajan
Past Rotary Foundation Trustee

Many people go through life saying "someday" or "I wish." They dream, they hope, but they hesitate to act. What holds them back is not lack of talent or opportunity, but lack of will.

A wish is only a thought. A will is a decision. When we say "I will," we accept responsibility and take action. This is the spirit on which Rotary stands.

Who would have believed that polio—a disease that once crippled millions of children—could almost be eliminated from the world? Many may have thought it was impossible. But Rotary did not say, "We wish polio would end." Rotary said, "We will end polio." And with that will, supported by commitment, partnerships, and tireless service, history was changed.

As we look at the Rotary calendar,



ten months of this Rotary year are already behind us. It has been a period filled with service, learning, and impact. Yet, it is also a moment for reflection. There may still be unfinished projects, ideas waiting to take shape, or opportunities we have not fully explored. These remaining two months are not just a conclusion—they are a powerful chance to elevate our efforts and leave a lasting mark.

Think of this time as the final overs of a T-20 match, where every ball matters and the outcome can change dramatically. The last two overs often define the game, demanding focus, energy, and determination beyond the ordinary. In the same way, let us give more than our best—let us give better than our best. Let us act with urgency, passion, and purpose to ensure that this Rotary year ends on a high note, creating memories and milestones that we will be proud of.

Every great Rotary achievement has followed the same path—strong belief followed by strong action. When we replace "I wish" with "I will," our confidence grows, our focus sharpens, and our energy is directed toward results. We step out of our comfort zones and begin to make things happen.

Nothing is impossible when there

From "I Wish" to "We Will" — Turning intent into action, finishing strong, and creating lasting impact through determined service.

is the will to make it possible. Rotary's journey proves that determined people can achieve what once seemed unthinkable.

So, let us as Rotarians continue to think big. Let us accept challenging projects, bold ideas, and difficult goals. Let us not be afraid of the scale of the task.

Because when Rotarians say "We will", the world listens—and change happens.

Let us not wish for a better tomorrow. Let us will it—and make it happen.

Ashok Mahajan
Director, Rotary International (2007-09)
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation (2009-13)

Fireside vs. Fire-fights: Applying the Four-Way Test to Global Conflict

DR. SANGEETA AGARWAL

Dear Fellow Rotarians
Greetings of the day!

In Rotary we have the concept of fireside meetings where there is lots of bonding. At present the whole world is also by the fireside only difference is... our fire is for bonding... theirs is for bombing!

So I thought... why don't we send a Rotarian to talk to POTUS at a fireside meeting. Rotary has a simple tool — The Four-Way Test."

A Rotarian met POTUS at the fireside and told him that Lets apply the 4-way test to your actions in the middle east

First — Is it the TRUTH?

The truth we need to ask... Does Iran really have nuclear weapons? Is there a clear evidence? Is it an immediate threat? Or are we all reacting to possibilities, intelligence reports, and speculation?"

Response from POTUS was Truth is like Wi-Fi... everyone claims to have it... but the signal is always weak."

Second — Is it FAIR to all concerned?

The war "Is it fair to the civilians caught in between?"



Is it fair to the families losing their homes?

Is it fair to those school children... whose biggest worry should be homework... not air-raid sirens?

Is it fair to ordinary people... who have nothing to do with geopolitics... but pay the highest price?"

Is it fair to want to wipe out a civilization?

"Log toot jaate hain ek ghar banane mein, Tum taras nahi khaate bastiyan jalane mein."

POTUS says, "Bade bade deshon mein aisi chhoti chhoti baatein hoti hai

Third — Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Allies are cautious... European countries are distancing themselves... Everyone is issuing statements... but nobody is sending troops... This is not goodwill... and not building friendship?

World is saying "Yeh dosti hum nahin todenge..." Dosti bhi rakhenge... distance bhi rakhenge!"

Dost dost naa raha Nato..Nato naa rahaa Aur POTUS hame tera aitbaar

naa raha

POTUS responded ...we don't need any help we don't need assistance We will change the Iranian regime We will get the uranium all by ourselves And we will open the strait of Hormuz on our own. Why do we need goodwill and friendship

Fourth — Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Oil prices are rising... Every country is worried about fuel costs... Inflation is climbing... Supply chains are disturbed... Economic growth is slowing... The whole world is paying for a conflict... they didn't vote for."

"Babumoshai... zindagi badi honi chahiye... mehngi nahi."

Ali Sardar Jafri has said

"Jang khud ek masla hai, jang kya hal degi..."

POTUS replied

"Ek baar jo maine commitment kar di, uske baad toh main khud ki bhi nahi sunta".

My dear Rotarians...

If world leaders followed the Four-Way Test... There would be fewer conflicts... More conversations...

Less fire... More Fireside... And the only thing exploding... would be... laughter and applause!

Rotary says — Service Above Self.

Because sometimes... leadership is not about winning... It's about preventing everyone else from losing."

Don't break up world into pieces bring in peace.

Quoting a poem by Sahir Ludhianvi

खून अपना हो या पराया हो, मानवता का ही रक्त है आखिर ।

युद्ध पूरब में हो या पश्चिम में, विश्व-शांति का हनन है आखिर ।

बम गिरें घरों पर या सीमा पर, निर्माण की आत्मा घायल होती है ।

खेत अपने जलें या पराए हों, जीस्त फाकों से तिलमिलाती है

टैंक आगे बढ़ें या पीछे हटें, कोख धरती की बाँझ होती है

फतेह का जश्न हो या हार का सोग जिंदगी मय्यतों पे रोती है

युद्ध तो स्वयं एक समस्या है, युद्ध क्या समस्याओं का हल देगा ?

आज बरसेगी आग और रक्त, कल भूख और अभाव ही पल देगा ।

इसलिए हे शरीफ इंसानों युद्ध टलता रहे तो बेहतर है ।

आप और हम सभी के आँगन में, दीप जलता रहे तो बेहतर है ।



FAB AT 40 : A Journey of Purpose, People and Pride

● PDG NITIN MANGALDAS

There are some journeys that do not merely pass through time... they quietly shape lives, build friendships, and leave behind a legacy that speaks long after moments have faded. As I look back, with a heart full of gratitude and a mind rich with memories, the story of our beloved RCBSF feels exactly like that.

It was in April 1986 that Late Shri Pratap Oza, then Governor's Group Representative, sowed a seed with quiet conviction. He brought together about 35–40 individuals from diverse walks of life, businessmen, professionals, community leaders—with a simple yet powerful intention: to create a Rotary club that would stand on strong values, clear understanding, and a shared desire to serve.

From that gathering emerged a beginning—humble, hopeful,

and full of promise. On 12th June 1986, RCBSF was officially chartered with 27 Rotarians, each carrying enthusiasm in their hearts and a willingness to do something meaningful for society.

Forty years later, as we pause and reflect, it fills me with immense joy to see that the spirit of those early days still breathes within us. Among us, even today, stand four charter members Dr. Mahesh Kapadia, Tanvir Hawa, Dr. Rajesh Shroff, who rejoined after a brief pause, and myself. Time may have added years, but it has also deepened our connection with Rotary and with each other.

Our journey has been guided by remarkable leadership. Presidents who not only steered the club towards progress but did so with dignity, discipline, and a deep respect for Rotary's values. Punctuality was not just a habit, it became a culture. Systems



were not just followed, they were respected. And service was not just performed, it was lived.

As we grew, so did our understanding of the community around us. Our projects evolved, not just in scale, but in sensitivity. We began to listen more,

observe more, and respond with purpose. Over the years, RCBSF has been blessed to undertake impactful initiatives across all avenues of service. Recognition came our way in the form of awards and accolades, but more importantly, in the silent grat-

itude of the lives we touched.

The past 25 years, in particular, have seen us embrace the power of collaboration through Matching Grants, District Grants, and now Global Grants. These have not only strengthened our projects but also deepened our connection with the larger Rotary world, reminding us that while we serve locally, we belong globally.

A particularly proud moment for our club came in 2003–04, when we had the honour of giving to the district one of its youngest and most dynamic leaders, District Governor Rtn. Nitin Mangaldas, a true trendsetter who inspired many with his vision and energy.

Like any living institution, our club too has seen change. Members have joined, some have moved on due to personal journeys, family commitments, health, professional transitions. Yet, through it all, the essence

of RCBSF has remained vibrant. Our membership has continued to grow, not just in numbers but in diversity, bringing in fresh perspectives, new ideas, and renewed energy.

What gives me the deepest satisfaction is seeing how beautifully generations have blended. The experience of senior members and the enthusiasm of younger Rotarians have come together in a seamless synergy. There is learning, there is respect, and above all, there is a shared commitment to serve.

And as we stand today, at this beautiful milestone, FABAT 40, it does not feel like a pause. It feels like a moment of quiet pride before stepping into the future once again. With new hopes. With fresh ideas. With possibilities waiting to unfold.

RCBSF is not just a club. It is a feeling. A bond. A legacy in motion.

Jai Ho RCBSF. Jai Ho Rotary.

Rooted in Values, Guided by Service— Urmila Katkar, President RC Virar

● K. V. PREMRAJ

President Urmila Katkar's life journey is a quiet yet compelling narrative of transition, resilience, and purposeful growth. From Satara to Boisar, and eventually to Virar, her path mirrors the journey of many individuals who evolve not by sudden leaps, but through steady learning, adaptation, and service. Beginning her professional life as a professor, she embraced the discipline of academics and the responsibility of shaping young minds. Over time, her journey expanded into the world of entrepreneurship, where she re-defined herself as a businessperson. Each phase of this journey contributed to her worldview — grounded in learning, enriched by experience, and guided by a powerful sense of responsibility towards society.

Her entry into Rotary was organic rather than planned. Observing close friends deeply engaged in community service, she was inspired by their passion, commitment, and the tangible difference they were making in people's lives. Rotary, to her, appeared not merely as an organisation, but as a platform where intent translated into impact. What drew her in was the shared purpose — individuals coming together to serve, to lead, and to grow while uplifting others. This alignment of personal values with collective action marked the beginning of her Rotary journey, one



that she now leads with conviction as President.

As a leader, President Katkar is acutely aware of the challenges that. She identifies member engagement and consistent project execution as the two most significant areas requiring focused attention. Her approach to these challenges is practical and structured. She believes that early planning sets the foundation for success, while clear communication ensures alignment and ownership. She places immense faith in teamwork — the idea that when members

feel included, informed, and valued, participation becomes natural rather than forced. Her leadership style reflects quiet organisation rather than command, collaboration rather than hierarchy.

Vision, in her view, is not about grand statements but sustained action. Her vision for the club in the coming year centres on strengthening its core through impactful projects and active member participation. She places emphasis on thoughtful planning, creating leadership opportunities within the club, and fostering sustainable membership growth. Inclusivity is a recurring theme in her vision — ensuring that every member, regardless of tenure or background, finds space to contribute meaningfully. She believes that a club grows stronger not merely by adding numbers, but by deepening involvement and shared ownership.

Living the Rotary ideal of "Service Above Self" is, for President Katkar, best communicated through action rather than rhetoric. She believes that leadership by example is the most effective form of inspiration. By being present, involved, and committed, she hopes to set a tone that others naturally follow. She also places strong importance on appreciation — recognising efforts, however small, and acknowledging the time and energy members invest. Involving everyone in meaningful work, rather

than limiting responsibilities to a few, is central to her philosophy. Service, she believes, becomes fulfilling when it is shared.

Her social vision is broad yet deeply rooted in local realities. She is keen to focus on youth education, recognising it as a long-term investment in society's future. Environmental activities, health drives, and support for senior citizens also find prominence in her priorities, reflecting an awareness of both emerging and ongoing social needs. Issues related to mental health and women empowerment resonate strongly with her, as do initiatives supporting underprivileged groups. Her approach to service is holistic — addressing physical, emotional, social, and environmental well-being in equal measure.

Inspiration, for President Katkar, begins at home. She credits her father as her greatest influence, drawing strength from the values of hard work, integrity, and perseverance that he instilled in her. These values continue to shape her decisions and leadership style. Alongside family, she acknowledges the influence of friends such as PP Mahendra Gharat and Omkar Patil, whose dedication, positivity, and commitment to service have motivated her along her Rotary journey. She values inspiration that is lived daily, quietly reinforcing purpose through consistent action.

Beyond Rotary, she finds balance in simple yet meaningful pursuits.

Leads with inclusive vision, focusing on member engagement, structured planning, and impactful projects that strengthen Rotary's core while fostering meaningful participation.

Spending time with family and friends allows her to reconnect and recharge, while music and travel offer moments of reflection and joy. Mahabaleshwar, her favourite vacation destination, reflects her appreciation for calm, nature, and quiet rejuvenation. Her fondness for Indian cuisine further underscores her rootedness in tradition and comfort.

President Urmila Katkar's leadership is defined not by flamboyance but by steadiness. Her journey reflects growth through learning, leadership through service, and vision through inclusion. As she leads her club forward, she brings with her the wisdom of experience, the warmth of relationships, and a deep commitment to making service both meaningful and enduring.

The Measure of Success: Rajendra Chhapwale's Life of Enterprise, Compassion and Purpose

A self-made entrepreneur with a deeply rooted moral compass, Rajendra Chhapwale defines success not by wealth, but by integrity, resilience, and service. His journey reflects a rare blend of enterprise, humility, and a lifelong commitment to uplifting others.

● K. V. PREMRAJ

In an age that often celebrates wealth before wisdom, scale before substance, and success before service, Rajendra Chhapwale offers a strikingly different model. A self-made entrepreneur, a long-standing Rotarian, and an Arch Klumph Society donor, he speaks not with the swagger of accomplishment, but with the steadiness of conviction. For him, success is meaningful only when it does not alter one's nature, and wealth has value only when it is used to uplift those left behind. That philosophy—simple, deeply held, and consistently lived—runs like a quiet thread through his life in business, Rotary, and philanthropy.

Grounded in Values and Spirituality Chhapwale entered business early, in his early twenties, and success came to him sooner than it does for many. Yet he speaks of that success with caution. Money, he believes, is an artificial thing; it should never be allowed to change the essential self. A person's nature, he says, is unique and God-given, and preserving that originality matters more than any outward sign of achievement. It is an outlook rooted as much in spirituality as in lived experience. He speaks often of karma, duty, and merit—of doing one's work sincerely and allowing success to follow in its own time. There is, in his worldview, no shortcut to meaningful achievement, only discipline, integrity and patient effort.

Building Business on Trust and Ethics

That philosophy shaped the way he built his business. Long before Monarch grew into a respected real estate enterprise, Chhapwale had already formed clear ideas about what lasting success required: imagination, meticulous planning, quality, fairness, and

Self-made entrepreneur, values integrity over wealth, ethical real estate practices, Rotary leader, education advocate, resilient in adversity, believes success means uplifting others.



respect for people's trust. Real estate, he understood early, was not merely about structures but about responsibility. A buyer invests hard-earned money in something that cannot easily be corrected later. That reality demanded a certain moral seriousness. He made quality his first principle, timely delivery his second, and fair dealing his third. In an industry not always known for restraint, he chose not to charge transfer fees he considered illegitimate. When disputes arose, he preferred conversation over litigation, settlement over ego, and solutions over delay. Over the years, that approach saved time, preserved relationships and, more importantly, safeguarded reputation.

Character Tested in Adversity

But the real test of character, as he tells it, came not in prosperity but in adversity. One of the most difficult phases of his career arrived during the Emergency, when changing regulations and a collapsing market created acute financial pressure just as he was transitioning from contractor to builder. In one deeply personal episode, he had to sell the flat he had hoped to keep for himself and his young wife to meet his obligations and pay suppliers. It was a painful decision, especially in the early years of marriage, but he refused to be unfair to those who had trusted him. The episode remains revealing: even in hardship, he chose duty over comfort, credibility over convenience. That instinct—to protect fairness even at personal cost—seems to define the man as much as

any business success that followed.

From Enterprise to Purposeful Service

If business gave him a platform, service gave him purpose. Chhapwale joined Rotary in the late 1980s, initially through the encouragement of close friends. In the early years, Rotary gave him fellowship, stimulating speakers and a wider world of ideas. But it was only when he stepped into club leadership in 2006–07, after an unexpected turn of events, that he says he understood the power of Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. What began as participation deepened into conviction. He saw in TRF not merely an institution,



Success with a Soul

Rajendra Chhapwale's journey blends business integrity with deep compassion. From ethical real estate practices to meaningful philanthropy through Rotary, he believes true success lies not in wealth, but in staying grounded and uplifting others through education, fairness, and service.

but an organized, professional, and trustworthy force capable of converting personal charity into large-scale, accountable impact. That faith led him and his family to establish an Endowment Fund and deepen their support over the years. He is clear that donor recognition has never been the point. Charity, he says, is not for ego, prestige, or name. Those may follow, but they cannot be the reason. The real impulse is responsibility.

Education as a Lifelong Mission

Among Rotary's many causes, one stands closest to his heart: education for deprived and underprivileged children, especially in rural and tribal communities. This is not an abstract preference for him; it is a moral conviction that reaches back to his college days. Every child, he believes, has a right to education because education alone can alter the direction of a life. He has seen bright, capable children remain trapped in menial circumstances simply because they were denied that one opportunity. Basic and secondary education, in his telling, are not acts of charity but gateways to dignity, mobility and destiny. Together with his wife, Shubhalaxmi, he has supported efforts ranging from school construction and maintenance to ashramshalas, toilet blocks and medical aid for children. The logic is practical and humane: a child who is unwell cannot study, and a child without schooling remains in darkness through no fault of his own. Through education, he says, they hope to give "a new tomorrow to today's children."

Influences that Shaped the Man

There is also something

deeply human in the personal influences that surface through his words. He credits his father with teaching him the value of demanding work and his mother with teaching him compassion—two inheritances that, taken together, seem to have shaped both the businessman and the donor. He speaks warmly of Shubhalaxmi not only as a life partner but as a steady companion in both business and service. Simplicity, he suggests, is a quality he learnt from her. Even his habits of reflection reveal a mind that has remained curious and grounded: he reads philosophy, self-development, and biographies; admires Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam; listens to classical music and old Hindi songs; and still values order, planning, and the discipline of writing things down. Balance, for him, is not a fashionable slogan but a practical art—one built on planning, delegation, and clarity of priorities.

Where Success Meets Compassion

What stands out most, however, is that Chhapwale does not separate business from ethics, or success from citizenship. He sees even his business, when conducted honestly, as a form of community service. Profit is not denied, but it is subordinated to purpose. He urges the next generation not to chase quick success or settle for small ambitions. Think long term, he says. Build merit. Stay simple. Dream big. And remember that a truly better world will not be built by impressive individuals alone, but by compassionate human beings. When asked what legacy he hopes to leave behind, his answer is tellingly unadorned: not that of a rich man, but of a compassionate one. In a time that measures lives in visible assets, Rajendra Chhapwale quietly suggests a higher standard: that the real worth of a life lies in how much light it brings to others.

A Gentle Revolution: Rotary's First Dedicated Animal Welfare Initiative Takes Root in Juhu

● RTN.AASHISH REGO

In the sunlit lanes of Juhu where the city's hum rarely pauses a quieter movement has begun.

It does not arrive with noise or spectacle. Instead, it reveals itself in small, deliberate acts: a bowl of water placed thoughtfully in the heat, a child hesitating before approaching a stray, a fleeting moment where fear gives way to understanding.

This is the work of the Satellite Club of RCBJB (Animal Welfare) the first satellite Animal Welfare Club initiated by RCBJB, and notably, India's first dedicated Rotary initiative focused on animal welfare.

At its heart lies a simple yet transformative idea: empathy cannot be taught through instruction alone it must be experienced, practiced, and lived.



PAWS & Perspective: Where Empathy Meets Action

The club's flagship initiative, "PAWS & Perspective," is more than a program it is a carefully designed framework to nurture empathy, emotional intelligence, and safety awareness among young individuals.

Aimed at schools and colleges, the initiative moves beyond conventional awareness campaigns. It equips participants to:

- Recognise and interpret animal behaviour
- Understand communication beyond words
- Respond safely and compassionately to both pets and strays
- Delivered through interactive, age-sensitive workshops, the program uses animals as a powerful lens to build essential life skills respect for boundaries, thoughtful decision-making, and humane citizenship.

A quiet Rotary-led movement in Juhu nurtures empathy through animal welfare, shaping kinder communities and emotionally aware future leaders.



Because when a child learns to understand a voiceless being, they often begin to understand the world and themselves with greater depth.

Early Steps: Planting the Seeds of Awareness

The journey has already begun on the ground.

On 1st February, an Animal Empathy Talk was conducted for special children and their parents during the club's annual event. It created a rare, inclusive space where learning was gentle, engagement was meaningful, and connection felt natural.

It was more than an event. It was the planting of a seed.

Water Bowl Initiative: Compassion in Its Simplest Form

As Mumbai's summer intensifies, survival becomes a daily challenge for stray animals.

Responding with urgency and simplicity, the club has mobilized resources for 100 water bowls, now being placed across key locations in Juhu.

Each bowl is more than a utility.

It is a quiet act of kindness small in scale, yet immediate in impact.

A Milestone Moment: Official Chartering

The initiative reached a defining milestone with the official chartering of the Animal Welfare Club on 17th February at Juhu Gymkhana, in the presence of District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani.

This moment marked more than the formation of a club.

It signaled the beginning of a movement one that expands the very scope of Rotary service.

Looking Ahead: Classrooms as Catalysts

With schools reopening in June, the Animal Empathy Awareness Program is set to expand across educational institutions.

The vision is clear and compelling:

to nurture a generation that leads not only with intellect, but with awareness, responsibility, and compassion.

Beyond Animals: Building Kinder Communities

While the initiative begins with animals, its impact extends far beyond.

By fostering empathy through real-world interaction, it contributes to:

- Safer communities, with reduced human-animal conflict.
- Kinder social attitudes, rooted in respect for all life
- Emotionally aware future leaders, capable of compassionate decision-making
- The goal is not mere coexistence but conscious coex-



istence.

but by how deeply we choose to care.

Rotary's Expanding Circle of Care

Through this initiative, Rotary steps into a wider, more inclusive role embracing humane education, civic responsibility, and compassionate leadership.

It is a reminder that progress is not defined only by what we build,

In the end, this is more than an animal welfare initiative. It is a shift in perspective. A re-learning of instinct. A gentle revolution unfolding one act of empathy at a time.

**Aashish Rego is
Chairperson – Satellite Club
of RCBJB (Animal Welfare)**

Harmony, Heart & Rotary Spirit in One Memorable Evening



The fellowship of RC Bombay Seaface held on 12th April at Vanita Vishram School Auditorium turned into an evening to truly cherish one that beautifully blended music, memories, and meaningful connections. As more than 20 members stepped forward to share their musical talents, the stage became a reflection of the warmth and hidden brilliance within our own Rotary family.

Each melodious performance carried not just notes, but emotions that resonated with everyone present. The evening was gracefully compared by Rtn. Dr. Pankaj Parekh, whose effortless style kept the energy flowing, while IPP Rtn Minal Turakhia's thoughtful co-



ordination ensured everything came together seamlessly. What made the evening even more special was the generous dinner hosted by PDG Nitin Mangaldas. Celebrating his birthday amidst fellow Rotarians and his school friends added a deeply personal and nostalgic touch. It was heartening to see friendships old and new coming together, reminding us that Rotary is not just about service, but also about bonds that feel like family. As the evening drew to a close, it left behind more than just applause; it left smiles, shared laughter, and a sense of belonging. Truly, it was not just a fellowship, but a celebration of togetherness that will linger in

Melodies, memories, and meaningful connections came alive in a heartwarming celebration of Rotary fellowship and joy

our hearts for a long time. Indeed, this memorable evening stands as yet another feather in the cap of President Sonal Doshi, reflecting her spirit of bringing people together and creating moments that matter.

Healing with Purpose: RCSF Strengthens Cancer Care with Life-Saving Equipment Donation

On Sunday morning, 5th April, RCSF successfully handed over a Bio Safety Cabinet used for the safe preparation of chemotherapy drugs and infusion pumps to Heal Park Clinic at Motibai Dalvi Hospital. The clinic is run by renowned oncologist Dr. Sachin Trivedi.

The occasion was attended by several Rotarians from our club and other clubs,



along with family members and friends of Nileshbhai. This impactful project was fully funded by Rtn. Nilesh Suchak in loving memory of his wife, Juhi, a true warrior who fought cancer with immense courage. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Nileshbhai for this generous contribution. These essential medical equipments will significantly benefit numerous cancer patients undergoing treatment at the facility, making this a truly meaningful initiative. The project was conceptualized by Dr. Shalini Soni of our Banganga Clinic and IPP Minal, and efficiently coordinated by PP Dr. Meena Kothari. We sincerely thank them for their efforts.

A special note of appreciation goes to PP Dr. Pankaj Parekh, whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in the successful execution of this project.

Healthcare Support – Certificate in Nursing Care Course



Under the dynamic leadership of Inspire DG Dr. Manish Motwani, the Team Urban Vocational Upliftment, guided by Group Avenue Head Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan, extends its heartfelt gratitude to Inspire President Rtn. Ketki Niser of the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan for her generous contribution of ₹ 1 lakh.

This valuable support will enable 10 students to pursue the Certificate in Nursing Care Course (1-year), accredited by the Maharashtra State Board of Skill, Vocational Education and Training, thereby creating meaningful career opportunities in the healthcare sector.

Tech Mahindra Foundation, the CSR arm of Tech Mahindra Limited, has been steadfastly working since 2007 to uplift underprivileged communities through impactful initiatives in Education, Employability, and Disability. With a presence across 12 major cities in India, the Foundation operates a strong network of 100 SMART Centres, training nearly 20,000 youth annually.

Additionally, Tech Mahindra Smart Academies in cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Vizag provide industry-aligned, skill-based training.

The Tech Mahindra Smart Academy for Healthcare, Mumbai offers specialized paramedical and allied healthcare courses for young women



Gratitude, Gratitude, Gratitude!

UNITE FOR GOOD

Under the dynamic leadership of Inspire DG Dr. Manish Motwani, Team Urban Vocational Upliftment, under the guidance of Group Avenue Head Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan, expresses its heartfelt gratitude to

Inspire President
Rtn. Ketki Niser
of Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan.

for generously sponsoring

₹ 1 Lakh

towards **10 students** for the

"Certificate in Nursing Care Course"
(1 Year)

which is accredited by the Maharashtra State Board of Skill, Vocational Education and Training.

Congratulations and sincere appreciation to
Inspire President Rtn. Ketki Niser
for this impactful initiative.

TECH mahindra FOUNDATION

Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan
Group Avenue Head
Urban Vocational Upliftment.

above 18 years. Equipped with hospital-simulated labs, industry-relevant curriculum, and experienced faculty, the academy plays a vital role in preparing students for a rewarding career

in the noble healthcare sector. Congratulations and sincere appreciation to Rtn. Ketki Niser for this impactful and inspiring initiative.

Pink Auto & Smart Classroom Initiative Empowers Women and Enhances Education



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar, under its CSR initiative supported by SITA Information Networking Computing (India) Private Limited, successfully implemented a meaningful community development project at Sharada High School, Sakinaka, Andheri East.

The initiative focused on two key areas—women empowerment and educational advancement. As part of the project, two Pink Autorickshaws were donated to support women in building sustainable livelihoods, providing them with an opportunity to achieve financial independence and self-reli-

ance. In addition, four Smart Classrooms were set up at the school, significantly enhancing the quality of education by integrating digital tools and modern teaching methods into everyday learning.

The introduction of Smart Classrooms is expected to create a more engaging and interactive environment for students, enabling better understanding through audio-visual aids, structured digital content, and improved access to knowledge. This step aligns with the broader vision of bridging the digital divide and preparing students for a technology-driven future.

The Pink Autorickshaws




were handed over to Mrs. Draupadi Roadge and Mrs. Madhuri Kamdi, both residents of Mira Road. This initiative is aimed at empowering them with a steady source of income while promoting safe and women-friendly transport options within the community.

With a total project cost of ₹12 lakhs, the initiative reflects Rotary's continued commitment to creating lasting social impact. By addressing both economic empowerment and educational development, the project stands as a holistic effort towards uplifting communities and fostering inclusive growth.



SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB'S IMPACT

Have a story worth Sharing? We'd love to hear from you

-  Outstanding project? Go all out - NO WORD LIMIT. Include details of President, Directors & members.
-  Exceptional fellowship moment? Share HD Photos + Short Write-up.
-  Work hard, Celebrate harder..... Photo toh banta hai, dost!

Rotary
RI Dist 3141



inspired.gml@gmail.com

Milestone of Dedication: Rtn. Jaipal's 505th Award Celebrated

It was a moment of immense pride to witness Rtn. Jaipal being honoured at a grand Rotary event held last evening. The award was presented by District Governor Dr. Motwani in the presence of District Governor Elect Rajan Dua, along with several distinguished members of the Rotary fraternity.

This recognition marks yet another milestone in Rtn. Jaipal's extraordinary journey of service. With this honour, he has now received his 505th award an inspiring testament to over 54 years of unwavering dedication to society and Rotary. His achievements stand as a powerful example of sustained commitment, selfless service, and meaningful impact, motivating fellow Rotarians and the wider community alike.

During the event, Rtn. Jaipal delivered a deeply inspiring address, sharing reflections from his journey and experiences within Rotary. His words



resonated strongly with the audience, reinforcing the enduring values of service, perseverance, and leadership. Equally noteworthy is the unwavering

support of his spouse, Shefali, whose constant encouragement and strength have played a vital role in his journey. Her presence as a steadfast pillar

behind his success was warmly acknowledged and appreciated by all. The evening concluded on a celebratory note, with members expressing

heartfelt admiration for Rtn. Jaipal's accomplishments and looking forward to coming together to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

Rotary Club of Palghar Launches Competitive Examination Training Centre to Empower Students



The Rotary Club of Palghar, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sanjay Mahajan, marked a proud and inspiring milestone with the launch of the Competitive Examination Training Centre at the Sonopant Dandekar Shikshan Mandali (SDSM) College Auditorium, Palghar.

This landmark initiative aims to provide structured guidance and quality resources to students preparing for competitive examinations, thereby opening doors to greater academic and career opportunities. With an impressive capacity to benefit approximately 1,800 students annually, the centre is poised to become a significant catalyst for educational advancement in the region. The project has been made possible through the generous support of RCBA President Rtn. Pragna Mehta and several esteemed donors, including Influx Healthtech Ltd., Sai Service Pvt. Ltd., Prag-



na Mehta and family, Akry Organic Pvt. Ltd., GUFIC Group, RCBA Cricket Team, Sumant Naik and family, Jasma Engineering LLP, and Suchi Bhatia with Malvika Paul. Their contributions reflect a shared vision of investing in education and empowering the youth.

The training centre stands out for its modern infrastructure, including well-equipped

computer systems, air-conditioned facilities, and thoughtfully designed interiors, creating an ideal environment for focused learning. Such a high-quality facility is a rare and commendable addition to Palghar Taluka.

The event also witnessed excellent fellowship and support from the Sonopant Dandekar Shikshan Mandali, whose col-

laboration added great value to the initiative. This project represents more than just infrastructure—it is a step toward building aspirations, nurturing talent, and shaping future leaders. With such impactful initiatives, the Rotary Club of Palghar continues to create meaningful opportunities that will leave a lasting imprint on generations to come.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu Launches Project Tejaswini: A Step Toward Empowering Women



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu (RCMJ), led by President Rtn. Ananthalakshmi Ramesh, marked a heartfelt beginning to Project Tejaswini on 21 March 2026 at MVM International School, Andheri West—an initiative aimed at empowering women through simple yet meaningful skill development.

The first session brought together 25 women for a Mehendi (henna art) workshop, conducted with the support of the MVM Women's Wing. What made the session special was not just the learning, but the energy in the room—filled with curiosity, laughter, and a genuine eagerness to try something new. Many participants were picking up a cone for the first time, carefully tracing patterns, encouraging one another, and celebrating small successes.

As the session progressed, basic designs turned into more confident strokes, and hesitant hands transformed into creative expression. The workshop created a space where women

could learn at their own pace, connect with each other, and feel a sense of achievement. For many, it was more than just a skill—it was the beginning of a possibility to earn, contribute, and grow independently.

Led by Rtn. Ananthalakshmi Ramesh and Rtn. Mukul Jain, with over 100 man-hours contributed by Rotarians, the initiative reflects a deeply personal commitment to community upliftment.

Project Tejaswini is envisioned as a continuing journey, with more such workshops planned to introduce practical, income-generating skills. The idea is simple yet powerful—to create opportunities that are accessible, sustainable, and truly life-changing. This first step may have been small, but the smiles, confidence, and hope it sparked speak volumes. With initiatives like these, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu is helping women believe in their potential and take meaningful steps toward a more independent and fulfilling future.

“Dil Maange More” — A Relentless Pursuit of Purpose

A LEADER'S TRUE POWER LIES IN UNDERSTANDING OTHERS, INSPIRING CHANGE, AND STANDING FIRM IN VALUES.

The appreciation he received was transformative. “The appreciation I received... it changed something in me,” he says “That’s when I realised—service gives a different kind of satisfaction.”

That realisation became a lifelong commitment.

Service moved from being an activity to becoming an emotion.

Over the years, his Rotary journey has been both steady and remarkable. From Club President (1982–83) to District Governor (1993–94), from RI Director (2007–2009) to Trustee of The Rotary Foundation (2009–2013), his rise has been built on consistency, credibility, and commitment. His contributions span across membership development, polio eradication, COVID response, and major healthcare initiatives.

Through visionary leadership and unwavering commitment, Rotarian Ashok Mahajan has helped facilitate over approximately ₹155+ Crores for PolioPlus and allied service projects, while enabling a magnanimous contribution of more than ₹250 Crores to Rotary foundation and district 3141 for Rotary initiatives.

He has received Rotary’s highest recognitions, including the Service Above Self Award and Distinguished Service Award. Outside Rotary too, his work in paediatric heart surgeries, TB eradication, and cervical cancer prevention has earned appreciation from both the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra.

A Leader Who Elevated Every Role He Held

Ashok Mahajan’s Rotary journey is remarkable not just for the positions he held, but for how he redefined them.

As Club President of RC Mulund in 1982–83, he brought a new energy and

Elevating Every Role, Expanding Every Vision

From club leadership to global platforms, he redefined every responsibility he held. With bold thinking, intellectual depth, and a focus on scale, he transformed routine roles into powerful avenues of impact, inspiration, and lasting influence, setting new benchmarks for leadership excellence.

intellectual vibrancy. He invited some of India’s most prominent public figures—including Jayawantiben Mehta, Ram Jethmalani, Subramanian Swamy, and Mrinal Gore —to speak at club meetings.

For a suburban club, this was extraordinary.

Meetings became more than routine gatherings—they became platforms for thought leadership, dialogue, and inspiration.

As District Governor in 1993–94, his vision expanded further.

Twelve new clubs were formed.

A record \$256,000 was raised for The Rotary Foundation—then the highest in India.

Participation across Rotary programmes reached unprecedented levels.

But what truly distinguished his leadership was his philosophy:

“Small projects are good. But lasting impact needs scale.”

His district conference reflected that thinking and became a landmark event.

The speaker lineup read like a national stage—T. N. Seshan, K. P. S. Gill, Karan Singh, M. S. Swaminathan, alongside film icons like Shatrughan Sinha, Dev Anand, and Poonam Dhillon.

Then came the moment that made history....

T. N. Seshan, during his speech, declared:

“This evening, I may be arrested”

The room froze.

The media erupted.

The statement became national headlines.

room fell silent.

By the next day, it was everywhere—newspapers, television, discussions.

The conference was even featured on BBC.

Without chasing publicity, Ashok Mahajan had brought Rotary into the national spotlight—simply by creating a platform that mattered.

The Polio Mission: Where Leadership Became Legacy

Among his many contributions, the Polio Eradication initiative stands as his most defining legacy.

This was not just a health campaign. It was a battle against fear, misinformation, and deep-rooted resistance.

This was not just about vaccines not a medical campaign alone—it was a social battle. In regions like Bhiwandi, Govandi, Malegaon, and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, resistance polio vaccination was intense. Rumours spread faster than facts. Misinformation spread fear—claims that vaccines caused infertility or were part of a conspiracy.

Volunteers were attacked. Stones were thrown. Ashok Mahajan chose not to confront resistance with authority—but with empathy.

He engaged ulemas, religious leaders,



To motivate and discuss with the Muslim Ulemas and govt. health officials for Polio programme, a visit was made to Malegaon.

community influencers, and local stakeholders. He engaged in dialogue—not as an outsider, but as someone willing to listen. He even drew upon his knowledge of the Quran to connect better.

“Speak in their language, and they will listen,” he would say.

In Bhiwandi, a late-night meeting with over 300 community members changed the course of the campaign. The solution came from within the community itself—door-to-door vaccination, using autorickshaws by trusted

individuals. The results were transformative. Cases dropped from 48 to 3—and then to zero.

In Malegaon, meetings were held in the most difficult environments—even in crematoriums, amidst ongoing funerals. It was not easy. But persistence slowly built trust. And slowly trust replaced fear. Across India, similar efforts multiplied. And eventually, India became polio-free—but behind that milestone were countless such conversations..

Transformative, Service, Commitment, Leadership, Integrity, Scale, Vision, Impact, Polio, Trust, Transparency, Empathy, Resilience, Community, Legacy, Contribution, Humanity, Action

Building Trust That Endures

One of the most remarkable aspects of his journey is his ability to build and sustain trust.

His association with the Aditya Birla Group and Rajashree Birla exemplifies this.

When he first approached her for support for Polio, he hesitantly asked for ₹50 lakh. What followed was unexpected.

She immediately issued two cheques of ₹51 lakh each—one from Hindalco and one from Grasim.

“I went with expectation,” he recalls. “I returned with belief.”

But the real story lies in what followed.

He ensured complete transparency. Every rupee was accounted for. Every activity documented. Every outcome reported.

He involved her in the work—not just as a donor, but as a participant.

She didn’t just fund the initiative—she became part of it. Visiting booths, interacting with children, even administering polio drops herself. She became a part of the journey

Over time, this trust evolved into a long-term commitment—\$1 million annually for nearly two decades.

“People don’t give money to projects,” he often says. “They give money where they trust the person.”

Time, authority, power, wealth, and even health may not always stand by us. But kindness, honesty, trust, true understanding, and a spiritual path never fail. In the end, it’s not what we have, but who we are—so choose values that stay, not things that fade.

A Thinker, A Writer, A Philosopher in Action

Beyond leadership and service, Ashok Mahajan is deeply reflective.

His writings and thoughts reveal a philosophy that is both simple and profound:

- “An ounce of practice is worth more than a ton of ideas.”
- “Change does not begin with intention—it begins with action.”
- “True success is measured not by what you achieve, but by what you contribute.”
- “You must stir up the humanity within people—one at a time.”



Beyond Achievement: A Calling to Lead the World

When a leader does not merely rise through the ranks but redefines the very essence of every role he undertakes, the question of “what next” transcends curiosity, it becomes a collective expectation.

Rtn. Ashok Mahajan’s journey is not a tally of positions held, but a legacy measured in lives transformed, institutions strengthened, and trust cultivated across boundaries. His rare ability to translate vision into meaningful, measurable, and lasting impact sets him apart. From fortifying the very core of The Rotary Foundation to championing initiatives that have reshaped public health, deepened community confidence, and amplified global giving his work reflects both extraordinary depth and far-reaching influence.

What he brings cannot be acquired overnight credibility forged over decades, relationships built on unwavering transparency, and a leadership philosophy that seamlessly blends purpose with execution. His understanding of Rotary is not confined to structure or administration; it is intuitive, experiential, and profoundly human.

At a time when Rotary International stands at the cusp of greater scale and responsibility, it calls for a leader who is both visionary and grounded one who can inspire across continents while remaining deeply anchored in Rotary’s timeless values.

In Rtn. Ashok Mahajan, this rare confluence already exists.

His elevation to the presidency would not simply be a recognition of a life devoted to service, it would be a decisive step toward entrusting Rotary’s future to a leader who has consistently expanded its horizons, strengthened its credibility, and inspired its people.

For a man who continues to believe that “there is always more to be done,” this is not merely the next step, it is the step that the moment demands.

*There are lives that inspire
And then there are journeys that stay with you—
nudging you to believe that service is endless, and so is your potential.*



These are not abstract ideals. They are lived truths.

His belief in creation over contemplation is especially powerful:

“Be the creator of hope... You have the ability to create confidence, happiness, and peace—go create it.”

This is where he transcends leadership. He becomes a creator of possibility.

A Life Anchored in Simplicity and Values

Despite global recognition, his personal life remains deeply grounded.

He lives in a four-generation joint family—a source of strength, support, and continuity. Every member of his family is a Paul Harris Fellow, reflecting shared values of service.

A devoted follower of Shirdi Sai Baba, his spirituality is quiet yet deeply influential.

His idea of relaxation is not withdrawal—but engagement. Reading. Reflecting. Meeting people. Visiting hospitals. Tracking the progress of children who have undergone surgery.

These are not obligations. They are his sources of joy.

Even his social media presence reflects purpose—quiet reminders rather than loud declarations. His happiness does not come from rest—but from relevance

His thoughts often read like guiding principles:

“Leadership is not a position—it is responsibility.”

“Service is not an activity—it is a way of life.”

“If your intention is right, support will



come automatically, specially from somewhere least expected.”

The Restlessness That Defines Greatness

After everything he has achieved, one might expect contentment.

Instead, there is a quiet restlessness. Not

dissatisfaction—but a constant urge to do more.

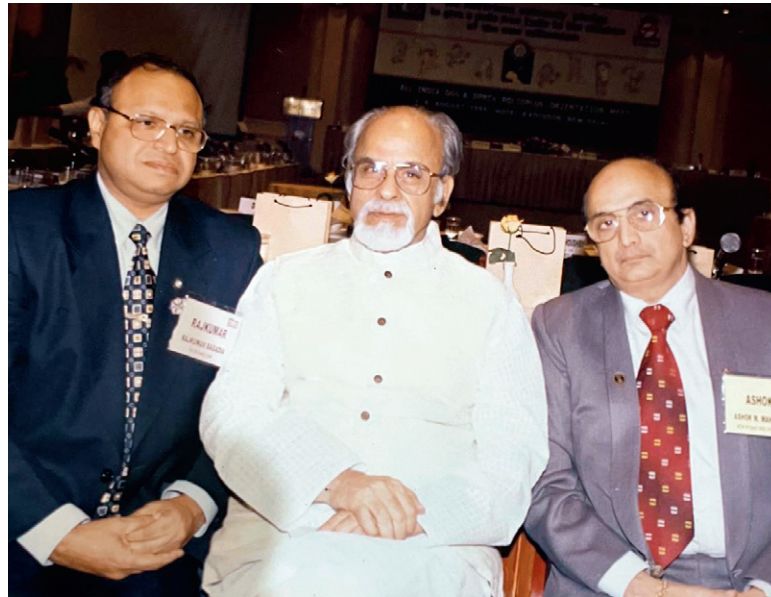
“I feel I can still do better,” he says. It is this inner voice that defines him. A voice that refuses to settle. A voice that pushes forward. A voice that says—there is still more to be done, still more to give through Rotary.

Grounded in Simplicity, Guided by Purpose

Despite global recognition, his journey remains deeply rooted in simplicity and purpose. In a world that often celebrates achievement, he quietly celebrates meaning. Living within a four-generation family, he draws strength from togetherness and shared values of service. His life is a gentle reminder that true greatness is not in how far one rises, but in how deeply one remains connected—to people, purpose, and principles.



*There are lives that inspire
And then there are journeys that stay with you—
nudging you to believe that service is endless, and so is your potential.*



Greatness is not in what you have achieved, but in the quiet determination to keep serving, keep growing, and keep giving—long after the world believes you have done enough, with humility, purpose, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to others. It is in the choices you continue to make when recognition fades and expectations rest. It is in showing up, not for applause, but for impact. Because true service is not a chapter—it is a lifelong calling that continues, quietly shaping lives beyond measure.



The Man Behind the Legacy

Beyond accolades and achievements lies his greatest pride—his family. Rooted in love, values, and togetherness, he has built not just a legacy of service, but a home where respect, warmth, and generations grow stronger together, shaping character, nurturing bonds, and inspiring future generations with timeless values.



Rotary Club of Palghar Creates Safe Commuting Space with Bus Stop Inauguration at Haranzwadi

The Rotary Club of Palghar, led by President Rtn. Sanjay Mahajan, in collaboration with Inner Wheel President Mrs. Vinita Patil, marked a meaningful milestone with the inauguration of a bus stop at Haranzwadi Naka on 24 February 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Generously sponsored by the Sarita & Suresh Bhupal Bahirsheth Trust, this thoughtfully designed bus stop is more than just a structure—it is a symbol of care, safety, and comfort for school students and daily commuters. For children who previously had to wait for their buses under harsh sunlight or during heavy rains, this initiative brings much-needed re-



lief and protection, ensuring a safer and more dignified daily routine.

The project was spearheaded by Project Chairpersons Sagar

Patil and Sampada Kashikar. Special appreciation was extended to Mr. Sagar Patil and his family for their generous support in bringing this project

to life. Their contribution has created a lasting impact for the local community, especially for young students.

The initiative reflects a shared commitment to building safer public spaces and improving everyday life for citizens. Small yet thoughtful interventions like these go a long way in strengthening community infrastructure and care.

Through this project, the Rotary Club of Palghar has once again demonstrated how collective effort and compassion can create meaningful change—making everyday journeys safer, more comfortable, and filled with reassurance for the next generation.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas Extends Lifeline Support through Cancer Care Initiative



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas, carried out a deeply compassionate initiative through its Charity Project for Cancer, offering critical medical support to a patient in need on 29 March 2026 at HCG Cancer Hospital, Borivali.

Spearheaded by Project Head Rtn. Neena Jain, & Rtn. Nikita Chandgothia, the project focused on providing timely financial assistance for chemotherapy treatment. With a contribution of ₹1,00,000, the initiative ensured that a cancer patient could receive essential care during one of the most challenging phases of life.

The need for this intervention was identified and RCMD, stepped forward with empathy and urgency to make a meaningful difference. Their effort reflects how initiatives, when combined with compassion, can create a powerful and life-changing impact.

Though the project supported a single beneficiary, its significance goes far beyond numbers. For the patient and their family, this assistance brought not only access to treatment but also hope, reassurance, and emotional strength. It served as a reminder that even in difficult times, support and kindness can come from unexpected places.

The initiative highlights the importance of timely intervention in healthcare and reinforces the value of standing by those in need. It is a testament to the spirit of giving and the belief that no act of kindness is ever too small.

Through this thoughtful effort, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas has demonstrated that true impact lies in touching lives with empathy and care—offering strength, hope, and dignity when it matters the most.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas Supports Education of Young Girls through Meaningful Charity Initiative

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sunita Goyal, undertook a heartfelt Charity Project for Education on 2 April 2026, reaffirming its commitment to empowering young minds and shaping brighter futures.

Led by Project Head PP Rtn. Pooja Poddar, the initiative focused on supporting the education of underprivileged girls at SWES School, Santacruz West. With a contribution of ₹50,000, the club sponsored the annual school fees for five girl students, ensuring continuity in their education and easing the financial burden on their families.

While modest in scale, the project carries deep significance. For these young girls, access to uninterrupted ed-

ucation opens doors to confidence, independence, and opportunity. The joy and excitement seen on their faces served as a powerful reminder of how even small acts of kindness can create meaningful transformation.

This initiative not only supports academic growth but also nurtures hope and aspiration, reinforcing the importance of investing in education—especially for young girls who are the foundation of stronger, more inclusive communities.

Through this thoughtful effort, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas continues to make a difference where it matters most—by enabling dreams, encouraging potential, and helping shape a future filled with opportunity, dignity, and promise.



Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas Transforms Learning Spaces through Infrastructure Redevelopment in Pune



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sunita Goyal, successfully implemented a landmark project—Infrastructure Redevelopment at Dharamveer Bhalrajya Balak Prathamik Vidya, Pune—on 28 March 2026, creating a meaningful impact on rural education.

Spearheaded by Project Head PP Rtn. Uma Jajodia, the initiative focused on building a more conducive and inspiring learning environment for children. With a total project investment of ₹32.5 lakhs, the redevelopment brought in essential facilities including a computer centre, benches, LED television, sports equipment, library resources, RO water filters, and school uniforms.

The project directly benefits 115 children, providing them with access to improved infrastructure that supports both academic and overall develop-

ment. The need for this initiative was thoughtfully identified in coordination with Mr. Sangram from Equitas, ensuring that the intervention addressed real and pressing requirements of the school.

Beyond infrastructure, the highlight of the event was the joy and enthusiasm of the children. Their performances—filled with music, dance, and heartfelt expression—reflected the true impact of the initiative. The smiles on their faces captured the essence of what such projects aim to achieve.

This redevelopment goes beyond physical upgrades; it creates a space where children can learn with confidence, explore their potential, and dream bigger. Through this impactful initiative, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas has laid a strong foundation for brighter educational journeys and a more hopeful future for these young learners.

Tiny Performers, Timeless Values: Shishuvihar Marks Its 74th Annual Day



The 74th annual function of Shishuvihar Sanstha's Balmandir was celebrated on April 15 with great enthusiasm, where children showcased value-based activities learned throughout the year through visual presentations, along with engaging performances like songs, action

dances, and a play. The efforts of the institution in nurturing children's talents were widely appreciated, and selected parents, senior participants, and supportive rickshaw drivers were felicitated. The program was graced by Chief Guest Shri Neeleshbhai Suchak from RC Mumbai Midcity

Growing Green Together: Highlights from the Vasundhara District Seminar

The Vasundhara District Seminar, themed Recycle, Recharge, Respect Nature, marked a vibrant culmination of workshops on kitchen gardening, mushroom cultivation, and microgreens, while also introducing creative practices such as making natural food colours from edible flowers. The event brought together 375 members and featured an engaging competition where participants showcased their learnings with impressive creativity. A significant highlight was the release of a biodiversity book, developed in collaboration with the Indian Women's Scientist Association (IWSA) on the concept of a "Learning Garden, Living Museum," unveiled by Shri Siddhesh Kadam, Chairman of MPCB. Insightful sessions included D. Stalin's eye-opening talk on environmental concerns, particularly mangrove destruction, and Susieben Shah's perspective on women in politics. Adding a touch of elegance, Tisser presented a unique fashion show featuring floral de-



Sustainability in Action

- The seminar brought together creativity and environmental responsibility through hands-on workshops, inspiring participants to embrace eco-friendly practices like recycling, urban gardening, and mindful living for a greener future.
- From microgreens to upcycling, the event showcased practical solutions for sustainable living, encouraging communities to adopt simple yet impactful habits that contribute to environmental conservation and conscious everyday choices.
- A dynamic mix of workshops, creativity, and collaboration inspired attendees to rethink lifestyles, promote sustainability, and actively contribute to protecting the environment.



signs using Indian and upcycled fabrics. The seminar also offered lively elements like lucky draws, shopping, and concluded on a joyful note with Bhajan Clubbing. The successful execution of this multifaceted event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of Project Chairman PDC Dr. Shobha Ahuja, Co-Chairman PDC Pallavi Choksi, ESO PDC Sunita Jain, and their committed team.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab Builds Lifesaving Awareness through CPR Training Workshop



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab, organized an impactful CPR Training Workshop on 14th March 2026 at Tolani College of Commerce, Andheri East, Mumbai, empowering students and teachers with essential lifesaving skills.

Aligned with Rotary's focus on Disease Prevention & Treatment and Basic Education, the workshop was conducted by renowned Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Akshay Mehta, who shared expert knowledge and practical guidance on responding effectively during medical emergencies. The session covered critical topics such as the difference between a heart attack and cardiac arrest, recognizing warning signs, per-

forming CPR correctly, and the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

What made the session particularly valuable was its hands-on approach. Participants actively practiced CPR techniques on a dummy, gaining confidence and clarity in handling real-life situations. The interactive format encouraged students to ask questions and engage deeply, making the learning experience both informative and memorable. A detailed presentation further simplified complex concepts, ensuring better understanding for all attendees.

The workshop benefited 150 students and teachers, addressing a vital gap in emergency preparedness within educational

institutions. The need for such training was identified through ongoing engagement with schools and colleges, recognizing the importance of equipping young individuals with practical health and safety knowledge.

Conducted as a voluntary service initiative, the program reflects the club's commitment to spreading awareness and building safer communities through education.

By empowering individuals with the ability to act confidently in critical moments, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab has taken a meaningful step toward creating a more aware, prepared, and responsive community—where knowledge has the power to save lives

Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview Enhances Dignity and Safety for Women Police Officers at Bandra Station



The Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview, successfully completed a vital infrastructure project at the Bandra Railway Police Station, Bandra West, Mumbai, aimed at improving the working conditions of women police personnel.

Aligned with Rotary's focus areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Maternal and Child Health, Community Development, and Environmental Support, the project involved the renovation of restrooms, a police cabin, and the creation of a dedicated safe space for women officers. The initiative was completed at a total cost of ₹11,40,000 and benefits ap-

proximately 145 women police personnel.

The need for this project was identified through direct understanding of the challenges faced by women officers in high-demand environments, where access to clean, private, and secure facilities is often limited. Recognizing the importance of dignity, hygiene, and well-being in such roles, the club undertook this initiative to create a more supportive and inclusive workspace.

The upgraded facilities are designed to be durable, low-maintenance, and practical for daily use. By providing a hygienic restroom, a functional cabin, and a safe, private space,

the project significantly enhances comfort and efficiency for women officers as they carry out their demanding duties.

This initiative not only addresses immediate infrastructure needs but also reflects a progressive step toward gender-sensitive workplace environments within public service systems.

Through this meaningful contribution, the Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview has reinforced the importance of creating spaces that respect, support, and empower those who serve the community—ensuring that care and dignity are extended to those who dedicate themselves to public safety every day.

Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park Creates Joyful Experiences for Specially Abled Children through Unique Picnic Initiative



The Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park, organized a heartwarming picnic for specially abled children at Nivant Agro Experience, Wada, creating a day filled with joy, inclusion, and unforgettable memories.

A total of 34 specially abled children, accompanied by 12 caretakers, 2 doctors, and 3 teachers, participated in this unique initiative. The thoughtfully planned outing provided a safe and engaging environment where the children could relax, explore, and simply enjoy themselves.

The venue offered a variety of experiences—from a clean and comfortable stay to adventure activities, a swimming pool, and a lively rain dance, all of which brought immense excitement to the children. Surrounded by lush greenery, mango orchards, and vegetable farms, the natural setting added to the charm of the day. Activities like tractor and cart rides and the scenic view of the Vaitarna riverfront further enriched the experience.

Delicious and varied food options ensured that everyone's preferences were catered to, while the well-equipped hall and playground created opportunities for music, games, and bonding. The simple joys of enjoying fresh mangoes and cucumbers became special highlights for many of the children.

The event saw the presence of First Lady Mrs. Sujata Patil, Rtn. Ajay Madne (Owner, Nivant Agro Resort), Rtn. Padma Ladge, Rtn. Sanjay Tari (Charter President), Rtn. Rajesh Mhatre, and Mr. Sunil Rawool, along with other members who contributed generously to make the day possible.

President CA Rajagouda Patil expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ira Gurukul Education Trust, Nivant Agro Resort, and all supporting members for their efforts in creating such meaningful happiness.

This special initiative was more than just a picnic—it was a celebration of inclusion, care, and shared joy, leaving behind smiles that will be cherished for a long time.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West

Nurtures Future Entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Mindset Program

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West successfully concluded the Entrepreneurship Mindset Program (EMP) for the fourth consecutive year, reinforcing its commitment to shaping young minds and preparing them for the future. This year's program impacted 160 students across four schools, culminating in a vibrant Grand Finale after three and a half months of learning, mentoring, and growth.

The initiative was designed with a clear vision—to encourage students to move beyond a job-seeking mindset and embrace the possibilities of becoming job creators. In an ever-evolving world, the ability to think entrepreneurially, solve problems creatively, and take



initiative is more important than ever. The EMP focused on building these essential life skills through structured sessions, mentorship, and practical exposure.

The Grand Finale was a celebration of this journey, where

students showcased their ideas, confidence, and innovative thinking. Their presentations reflected not only creativity but also a strong sense of purpose and self-belief, highlighting the transformation they underwent during the program.

The event was attended by the Rotarians, and Rotary Anns, whose presence and encouragement added to the significance of the occasion. Special appreciation was expressed for the trainers and Rotarians whose dedication ensured the program's smooth execution and meaningful impact.

The success of the Entrepreneurship Mindset Program stands as a powerful reminder that when young minds are guided and empowered, they can dream bigger and think differently. Through initiatives like these, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West continues to inspire confidence, creativity, and a spirit of innovation—laying the foundation for tomorrow's changemakers.

Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan Supports Healthcare Careers through Nursing Care Course Initiative

The Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan, under the inspiring leadership of President Rtn. Ketki Niser, has taken a significant step toward strengthening healthcare capacity and creating livelihood opportunities through its support for the Certificate in Nursing Care Course.

With a generous contribution of ₹1 lakh, this initiative will enable 10 students to pursue a one-year Nursing Care certification, accredited by the Maharashtra State Board of Skill, Vocational Education and Training. The program is designed to equip students with essential skills required in the healthcare sector, opening pathways to stable and meaningful careers.

This impactful initiative is part of the larger efforts of Team Urban Vocational Up-



liftment, led by Inspire DG Dr. Manish Motwani and guided by Group Avenue Head Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan, who have been consistently working toward enhancing employability among youth.

The training will be delivered

through the Tech Mahindra Smart Academy for Healthcare, Mumbai, an initiative of the Tech Mahindra Foundation, which has been actively transforming lives since 2007. With a strong presence across 12 cities and a network of over 100

SMART Centres, the Foundation trains nearly 20,000 youth annually in areas of education, employability, and skill development.

The Healthcare Academy in Mumbai offers industry-relevant paramedical training, supported by hospital-simulated labs and experienced faculty. It particularly focuses on empowering young women above 18 years, enabling them to step confidently into the healthcare workforce.

This initiative is more than a scholarship—it is an investment in aspiration, dignity, and a better future. By enabling access to quality skill-based education, the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan is helping shape a generation of skilled healthcare professionals ready to serve and succeed.

Rotary Club of Bombay North Lights Up Lives with Solar Lamps Distribution in Mokhada

The Rotary Club of Bombay North, under the leadership of President Rtn. Kamal Chokshi, successfully implemented a transformative Solar Lamps Distribution Project in the tribal regions of Khadse, Songawadi, and Medha in Mokhada. Spearheaded by Project Head VP Rtn. Ashok Doshi, this initiative brought sustainable lighting solutions to communities with limited access to electricity.

With a total project cost of ₹5,00,000, the club distributed 500 solar lamps, directly benefiting 500 families. The project addressed a critical need in



these rural areas, where unreliable or absent electricity often disrupts daily life, education, and livelihood activities.

The impact of the initiative has been both immediate and far-reaching. The solar lamps are now being used for night farming, children's education, household activities, and even as street lighting, significantly improving safety and productivity after sunset. For students, access to reliable lighting has created better study conditions, while farmers can now extend their working hours, enhancing their income opportunities.

The project was made possible through the contributions of five dedicated club members, whose commitment ensured its successful execution. By introducing clean and renewable energy solutions, the initiative also promotes environmental sustainability while reducing dependence on traditional fuel sources.

This effort reflects a thoughtful approach to community development—addressing basic needs while creating long-term positive impact. It not only improves quality of life but also empowers communities with tools for

500 solar lamps illuminate lives, empowering 500 tribal families sustainably

progress and self-reliance.

Through this initiative, the Rotary Club of Bombay North has illuminated more than just homes—it has brightened possibilities, strengthened resilience, and brought renewed hope to hundreds of families in Mokhada.

Social Media Premier League: Where Creativity Meets Consistency and Clubs Turn Content into Impact



The Social Media Premier League brought together 48 clubs for a journey that was competition, partly creativity and partly consistency. It was not about posting stuff on social media. It was about understanding how social media works trying out ideas and showing up every week. Each club had its style, which made the whole league feel exciting and full of new ideas. The league had a structure.

Every week teams had to do 3 tasks, 3 medium tasks and 1 hard task. This gave them a chance to play to their strengths and also try things. Teams submitted their work on the day of each week using Google Forms. This kept the momentum going. Some weeks had tasks, on social media platforms, which tested how adaptable teams were and how well they could change their approach. What made it more fun was

the power-up concept. Teams did not just have to complete tasks. They had to think smart and use their power-ups at the time to stay competitive. This added an element making the league feel more like a game while still focusing on learning and execution. By the time it reached the Final Showdown it was clear how much everyone had improved. From posting to more engaging content the progress was visible. The Social

Media Premier League was not a league. It was a space where clubs explored, improved and enjoyed creating content.

**Number of clubs : 48
Top Three:**

- 1 Rotaract Club of Bombay Mid-Town
- 2 Rotaract Club of Borivali Heights
- 3 Rotaract Club of Mumbai Mulund South

Rotaract Skill Program and Oracle 2.0

Rotaract Skill Program (RSP) and Oracle 2.0 together created a well-rounded and enriching experience for participants by blending skill-building with meaningful storytelling. While RSP provided a dynamic platform to explore practical and creative skills—from fitness and art to communication—Oracle 2.0 brought depth through honest conversations with experienced Rotaractors, offering real insights into lead-

ership, growth, and the Rotaract journey. Together, the events not only encouraged participants to step out of their comfort zones but also helped them reflect on their own paths, fostering confidence, inspiration, and a stronger sense of purpose within the community. **Statistics:**
Club attendance - 32
DCM Attendance - 20
Alumni Attendance - 4
Guests - 1



Rotaract Institute of Orators

The event began with a lively coloring activity that helped participants relax and interact with one another. This was followed by an inspiring address from Chairman Rtr. Malcolm Vakhari, who set the tone for the session. The CP address by Rtr. Gungun Deka, Rtr. Faiz Baigh, and Rtr. Shah Alam Khan further motivated the audience and added depth to the session. After the CP address, chocolates were distributed, adding a cheerful touch and energizing the participants. The session then became highly engaging as partici-

pants were encouraged to interact with everyone present, creating a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. The speakers organized fun and unique activities such as the three-legged race and the five-legged race, which were new experiences for many and brought excitement and laughter. Everyone actively participated, making the session energetic and memorable. In addition to the activities, informative segments were conducted on effective communication techniques. The P.R.E.P Method (Point, Rea-

son, Example, Point) and the Past-Present-Future method for structuring speeches were explained through PPTs, examples, and interactive exercises, making the learning both practical and enjoyable. The event concluded on a memorable note with the distribution of special congratulatory cards and certificates, appreciating the efforts and participation of all participants, and ended with a group photo capturing the joyful moments of the day. Speaker names:- Rtr. Taher Lokhandwala, Al. Monishka Agrawal



Rc Bombay Harbour : A Collective Step Towards Dignity

On 14th April 2026, on the auspicious occasion of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti, the Rotary Club of Bombay Harbour (President: Rtn. Jaipal Shah, Secretary: Rtn. Srigopal Pachisia) joined hands in a meaningful service initiative at Digambar Padvi Primary & Secondary Ashram Shala School, Ambiste, Taluka Wada, District Palghar. Led by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar in association with LEAP India Limited, and supported by generous contributors including Mr. Taranjet Singh, Ratna Nidhi Foundation, Mr. Vivek Govilkar, and Sterling Industries, the project became a powerful example of collaboration creating real impact.

For nearly 58 years, over 500 students at the school had lived without proper sleeping facilities. This initiative transformed that reality by providing 120 two-tier bunk beds, 500 bed-sheets, 550 blankets, 940 library books, 6 library cupboards, science laboratory equipment with 2 cupboards, and a wall fan. Alongside this, the boys' and girls' hostels were freshly painted, creating a cleaner, brighter, and more welcoming space for the students. The project has directly benefited 520 children, giving them not just comfort, but a renewed sense of dignity and care.

The Rotary Club of Bombay Harbour proudly participated as a Co-host, contributing 8 two-tier bunk beds with mattresses at a total cost of ₹94,400, benefiting 32 students. The project



was inaugurated by Mr. Sunu Mathew, Managing Director, LEAP India Limited, along with Mr. Shankar Pardi, Secretary, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Palghar District. In his address, Mr. Mathew encouraged students to stay focused on education and appreciated the organisers for delivering a much-needed and impactful initiative. The seamless execution of the project was made possible with the dedicated support of the school management, teachers, and especially Mr. Deshmukh Sir.

With a total project value of ₹16,00,000 and the coming together of eight Rotary clubs to provide 120 bunk beds, this initiative stands as a remarkable milestone of collective effort. It also received wide recognition, being featured in leading newspapers such as Loksatta, Navrashtra, Sakal, Prahar, Sagar, Agra Lekh, and Tarun Bharat. More than the scale, what truly stands out is the difference it makes in everyday lives—bringing comfort, dignity, and hope to hundreds of students who will now rest better and dream bigger.

A Year Woven with Celebrations, Culture & Connect

Rotary District 3141 – Events & Festivals 2025–26

MEENAKSHI KHOSLA

The Rotary year 2025–26 was a vibrant celebration of traditions, festivities, and fellowship each event bringing with it a unique energy, yet bound by the common spirit of togetherness and participation.

Onamadhuram – 7th September 2025

Led by RCM Neo & RCM Horizons under President Anand Bhadkamkar & President Sunil Bhandari, this grand celebration saw an overwhelming presence of nearly 300 Rotarians and guests. From graceful Mohiniattam and Kaikottikali to electrifying musical segments, the evening beautifully blended tradition with entertainment, culminating in an authentic Onam Sadya that delighted every attendee.

Grand District Dandiya – 18th September 2025

Under the dynamic leadership of President Shilpi Chokshi, RCM Gen X curated an evening pulsating with rhythm and colour. With a packed dance floor and enthusiastic participation in large numbers, the event turned into a lively celebration of Navratri, where energy, music, lot of prizes and camaraderie were at their peak.

District Diwali Dhamaka – 17th October 2025

Hosted by RCM Mulund South and President Sapnesh Neema, this glittering celebration brought together 200+ members for an evening filled with music, laughter, and festive sparkle. The vibrant ambience and seamless execution made it a true celebration of joy and Rotary bonding in the presence of 12 Past District Governors.

Bridge & Mahjong Competition – 30th November 2025

RCM Cosmopolis, led by President Pushkar Chaudhari, introduced a refreshing format with this unique event. With 60 keen participants competing and an engaging after-party attended by over 100 Rotarians and guests, the evening struck a fine balance between strategy, recreation, and fellowship.

Pickleball Tournament – 7th December 2025

Spearheaded by RCM Rising Stars under President Anshul Gadia, this first-of-its-kind initiative witnessed spirited participation from multiple clubs, with players and supporters coming together to celebrate fitness, fun, and healthy competition in true Rotary style.



Christmas Celebration & Beer and Wine Festival – 21st December 2025

Hosted by RMB Mumbai Guild under Chairperson Prashant Gupta, the festive evening brought together 135+ Rotarians in a warm and elegant setting. With live music, festive décor, and meaningful recognition of Rotary Verified Businesses, the celebration perfectly blended joy with purpose & magnificent dinner service with spectacular platters.

ROTAL – Rotary Talent Hunt – 4th & 11th January 2026

Under the able leadership of President Shaila Rege, RCB Mahim presented a spectacular showcase of talent with 120+

participants across diverse categories. The multi-stage format, culminating in a grand finale witnessed by a large and appreciative audience, celebrated creativity, confidence, and the artistic spirit of Rotary.

Makar Sankranti Kite Flying – 11th January 2026

Hosted by RCM Ghatkopar and President Mitesh Gala, this festival of kites saw enthusiastic participation from members and families, filling the skies with colour and the atmosphere with warmth, laughter, and festive cheer.

District Holi – 3rd March 2026



Jointly hosted by RCB Juhu Beach & RCB Mulund Valley under President Bhavana Pandya & President Sanjay Patel, the celebration drew a vibrant and spirited crowd, immersing everyone in colours, music, and joyous revelry, truly capturing the essence of Holi.

District Eid Celebration – 22nd March 2026

RC Bombay North, under President Kamal Choksi, curated a soulful and culturally rich evening that saw warm participation from members across the district. The Qawwali mehfil and traditional Bohri thaal experience created a beautiful atmosphere of unity, grace, and heartfelt fellowship.



A big thank you to all the host clubs & co-host clubs for their generous support & Rotarians for attending the events in large numbers.

All the above events were privileged to have the gracious presence, inspiring leadership, and constant encouragement of

our District Governor Dr Manish and First Lady Dr Mahek, which added immense prestige and significance to every occasion

Meenakshi Khosla
Group Avenue Head Events & Festivals Inspire

OCV

OCV 2026: A Milestone Review with DG Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani



The Official Club Visit (OCV) by the District Governor (DG) is a pivotal event in the President's tenure, serving as an in-depth review of the club's projects, activities, records, and financial accounts as per district guidelines.

RCMM's OCV took place on 28th March 2026 at Laxmi Narayan Baug, Dadar.

The closed-door session was graced by DG Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, AG Rtn. Prakash Ruia, CC Rtn. Kanderp Khandwala, TRF Head Rtn. Dilip Shah. The meeting was paperless and all the documents were uploaded on RI site. DG Rtn Manish Motwani reviewed the club's audited and unaudited accounts and commended the systematic documentation and uploading of all the projects on RI site. DG Rtn Dr. Manish Motwani emphasized on the importance of Membership Growth and executing larger projects with CSR funding.

Following the discussions with RCMM team, Rotaractors from Ramnarain Ruia College, and King Circle Matunga (RCKCM) joined the session. DG Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani was highly impressed with their enthusiasm and initiatives.

The regular club meeting was then called to order by President Rtn. Shaila Rege, and she presented the club's achievements and expressed gratitude to DG Rtn. Dr. Motwani and all dignitaries for their support and guidance. This was followed by address by DG. Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani. He praised the diverse range of RCMM's projects, covering all Rotary focus areas and 100% compliance. However, DG reiterated the need to execute larger projects with CSR funding and increasing the members to 75. He insisted on opening of dispensary in slum area so that the slum dwellers can be prevented from various diseases. His expectations for next year are RCMM should execute projects worth 5 cr. And membership growth to 75 as club completes 25 years of existence. He handed over Rotarian Verified Business Certificate to Rtn Sameer Tamhane

OCV of Rotract club of Palghar



Under leadership of president Rtn.Sanjay Mahajan and Secretary Rtn.Manish Pimpale hosted it's Official Club Visit on 8th March 2026 at 6.00 PM at "YE Nivant Resort" in presence of District Governor Rtn.Manish Motwani and District dignitaries beginning with close door meeting Board interaction followed by presentation from Innerwheel club Intract club and Rotract club of Palghar and Club Assembly where Club President Rtn Sanjay Mahajan shared the club's work and future plans, the District Governor appreciated the effort and perfect documentation and certified the club as 100%compliance and offer valuable guidance, emphasized retention and fellowship ,making the visit engaging and motivating for all



OCV of Rc Bombay Pier




The Official Club Visit of District Governor Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani to the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier, held on 1st April 2026 at ITME Banquet Centre, Nariman Point, was an evening that beautifully blended reflection, recognition, and renewed purpose. The visit began with a closed-door interaction with the club leadership, reviewing administration, finances, and overall performance while aligning future goals with district priorities. DG Dr. Motwani commended Bombay Pier as a role model club, appreciating the scale and impact of its service initiatives. The current Rotary year was acknowledged as one of the club's finest, marked by impactful PAN India projects, strong membership growth, active engagement, significant TRF contributions, and 23 CSR India Grants, along with vibrant fellowship meetings and firesides that strengthened camaraderie. He also outlined key focus areas for the months ahead, including the pink auto-rickshaw livelihood project, HPV vaccination drive, membership retention, and the open-

ing of a dispensary for the lower-income group, while appreciating the valuable contributions of the satellite club, Rotaractors, and Partners in Service. The formal programme commenced with the National Anthem, prayer, and the Four-Way Test, followed by President Rtn. Noopur Desai sharing the club's vision and achievements, remarks by AG Rtn. Els Reynaers, and an introduction of the DG by DS Aditya Singh. DG Dr. Motwani's address was deeply motivating and well received. The evening also witnessed the induction of four new members—Chetan Raichura, Shivani Apte, Zeenat Phophalia, and Mustafa Shums—along with the presentation of Rotary Verified Business Certificates, and the release of Panache Magazine and the much-awaited Club Roster. With an impressive attendance of 130 and an atmosphere filled with warmth and fellowship, the Official Club Visit stood not just as a review, but as a true celebration of leadership, service, and shared purpose



SHOWCASE YOUR CLUB'S IMPACT

Have a story worth Sharing? We'd love to hear from you

-  Outstanding project? Go all out - NO WORD LIMIT. Include details of President, Directors & members.
-  Exceptional fellowship moment? Share HD Photos + Short Write-up.
-  Work hard, Celebrate harder..... Photo toh banta hai, dost!

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Honoured Once, Overlooked Now: The Dabbawala Story

PINKI DALAL

In the bustling heart of Mumbai, where millions navigate the chaos of daily life, a remarkable group of men operates with an efficiency that rivals even the most sophisticated logistics companies. These men, known as the Mumbai Dabbawalas, have been delivering home-cooked meals to office workers with near-perfect accuracy for over 130 years. Their unique and highly efficient system has earned global recognition, making them one of the most studied and admired workforce groups in the world.

THE DABBAWALAS: A CALL TO SUPPORT OUR UNSUNG HEROES



For over a century, Mumbai's dabbawalas have served the city with unmatched precision, discipline, and dedication—becoming a global symbol of operational excellence. Yet today, this iconic community faces serious challenges, from declining demand to post-pandemic hardships. Their unwavering commitment has never faltered, even in the toughest times. Now, it is our turn to stand by them. By supporting the dabbawalas—through inclusion in welfare initiatives, collaborations, or simply choosing their services—we not only preserve a legendary system but also uplift thousands of hardworking families who have quietly powered Mumbai for generations. Let us not allow this timeless legacy to fade. Let us support, sustain, and celebrate the dabbawalas.



The Legacy of the Dabbawalas

The Mumbai Dabbawala Association was founded in 1890, thanks to the vision of a Parsi banker who sought a reliable way to have his homemade food delivered to his office. He approached Mahadeo Havaji Bachche, who launched the service with just 100 men. Over time, this small initiative evolved into a massive network, with 5,000 dabbawalas delivering nearly 200,000 tiffins every day across Mumbai.

The system operates like a well-oiled machine, running with incredible precision despite using minimal technology. Their success lies in a simple yet highly effective coding system that ensures every lunchbox reaches the right recipient on time.

A System of Perfection: The Dabbawala Code

One of the most astonishing aspects of the dabbawalas is their 99.99% accuracy rate—a statistic so impressive that even Harvard Business School has studied their methodology. Their system works as follows:

- Collection:** Each dabbawala picks up tiffins from customers' homes in the morning.
- Sorting & Coding:** The lunchboxes are coded using a unique alphanumeric and color system to indicate the pickup and delivery locations.
- Transportation:** The dabbawalas are transported via a combination of bicycles, handcarts, and Mumbai's local trains.



- Delivery:** A second dabbawala collects the correct tiffin at the destination station and delivers it to the recipient's workplace.
- Return Journey:** After lunch, the process is reversed to return the empty tiffins back home.

This entire operation takes place within a few hours, ensuring that fresh, home-cooked food reaches every customer on time, every time.

Discipline and Dedication: The Backbone of the Dabbawalas

Most dabbawalas come from rural Maharashtra, particularly from the Varkari sect, which

emphasizes honesty, hard work, and devotion. Their values shape the culture of their work:

They never go on strike, ensuring that their customers receive their meals even during major city disruptions.

Despite their physically demanding job, they rarely take a day off, working six days a week.

Their income is modest, with most earning between ₹15,000–₹20,000 per month, yet their dedication remains unwavering.

Their efforts have caught the attention of global leaders like Prince Charles and Richard Branson, both of whom have personally met with dabbawalas to learn about their unique system.

Challenges in the Modern Era

While the dabbawalas have maintained their reputation for over a century, the modern era presents new challenges:

Competition from food delivery apps like Swiggy and Zomato has led to a decline in customers. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted their business, forcing many dabbawalas to return to their villages.

The rising cost of living in Mumbai makes it harder for dabbawalas to sustain their livelihoods.

Since the pandemic, the dabbawala community has been going through an extremely difficult phase, struggling to sustain their livelihoods. Once celebrated globally even invited

with honour by Prince Charles to his wedding with Camilla their dedication earned admiration across the world. Yet today, closer to home, their hardships largely go unnoticed.

It's time we change that. We must consciously include the dabbawala community in our welfare initiatives and extend our support to those who have served the city so tirelessly for decades.

To adapt, they have embraced technology, launching digital dabbawala.com, which allows customers to order food online. They have also partnered with restaurants and cloud kitchens to expand their services beyond traditional home-cooked tiffins.

More Than Just a Delivery Service

The Mumbai dabbawalas are not just food couriers they are also active in social initiatives, including:

- Feeding the underprivileged by redistributing leftover food.
- Supporting education for poor children.
- Assisting in disaster relief efforts, especially during Mumbai's frequent floods.

Their commitment to community service highlights their role as social changemakers, making a difference beyond just food delivery.

A Timeless Institution

In an era dominated by automation and artificial intelligence, the Mumbai Dabbawalas stand as a testament to the power of human efficiency, discipline, and teamwork. Their model, built on trust and precision, continues to inspire businesses, management students, and logistics professionals worldwide.

As Mumbai evolves, the dabbawalas remind us that some traditions, rooted in dedication and human connection, are truly irreplaceable.

Catch them young ..

OPINION



Pinki Dalal

AUTHOR | NOVELIST |
FORMER EDITOR | TRAVELER
BLOGGER | ROTARIAN

A reflection for every Rotarian who has ever looked around the meeting table and wondered, where are the young faces?

There is a moment many senior Rotarians across India will quietly recognise. You are sitting at your weekly club meeting perhaps in a hotel banquet hall in Mumbai, a community centre in Coimbatore, or a modest club room in Patna. The agenda is familiar. The faces around the table are warm, trusted, and deeply committed. But they are also, largely, the same faces that have been there for ten, fifteen, even twenty years.

Outside that room, a different story is unfolding. A 23-year-old is organising a flood relief drive through Instagram. A 19-year-old engineering student is building low-cost prosthetics. A 26-year-old in Chennai is teaching spoken English to auto drivers on weekends voluntarily, cheerfully, without recognition.

The energy is out there. The willingness is out there. The question Rotary in India must ask is simple: are we making space for it?:

India is, in the most literal sense, a young country. The median age is around 28, and over 65% of the population is below 35. This is a generation that is educated, connected, opinionated, and far more socially aware than it is often given credit for. Yet social organisations in India including Rotary have struggled to fully channel this energy. The

reasons are not mysterious. Many clubs carry an unspoken culture of seniority. Decision-making can feel top-down. Young people are welcomed as volunteers, but rarely as equal voices. And so, quietly, they drift toward startups, social media activism, or informal community groups spaces where they feel heard.

This is not a criticism. It is a diagnosis.:

Because what is at stake is significant. The challenges India faces malnutrition, school dropouts, water scarcity, mental health, unemployment, gender inequality are too complex for any single generation to solve. Rotary brings credibility, networks, and experience. Young people bring time, technology, and fearless energy. Without each other, both are working with one hand tied behind their backs.

The encouraging truth is that the bridge already exists:

Interact clubs, often underestimated, are quietly shaping socially conscious young citizens. In a small town in Rajasthan, an Interact club organised a sanitary pad drive for girls in government schools—not because an adult instructed them, but because a 16-year-old noticed her classmates missing school during their periods. In Mumbai, Interactors run a weekly reading programme for children near a railway slum consistently, through summer and monsoon.

These are not token gestures. These are young people learning that showing up matters.

Rotaract clubs across India are equally inspiring. From mental health awareness campaigns reaching thousands of students, to skill-training workshops for domestic workers, to agricultural initiatives supporting small farmers Rotaractors are identifying needs, building part-



nerships, and executing projects with remarkable agility.

Then there are Rotary Youth Exchange alumni young Indians who have lived abroad and returned with a new lens.

They ask simple but powerful questions:

Why is waste not segregated? Why is punctuality not valued? Why can't systems work better? These are not abstract ideas to them. They have seen alternatives, and they want change.

These young people are not waiting to be invited. They are already leading.

So why are more not staying?

Because the system often does not fit their lives. A young professional today is balancing work, long commutes, family responsibilities, and often a side hustle. A rigid weekly meeting with formal structure

and lengthy discussions is not naturally appealing. This is not about laziness, it is about relevance.

There is also a difference in mindset. Many young Indians today are action-oriented. They want to see tangible impact quickly, not out of impatience, but because they are used to fast-moving environments. They want to do, not just discuss.

Most importantly, they want recognition:

When young people feel like guests rather than members, when their ideas are politely dismissed because "this is how it has always been done". When their contributions go unrecognized.

they disengage. Not dramatically. Quietly.

At the same time, social media and peer networks offer imme-

diacy. A young person can raise funds, mobilise volunteers, and create awareness within hours without any formal structure. Rotary must therefore offer something deeper: mentorship, continuity, global reach, and sustained impact.

This requires more than cosmetic change. It calls for a genuine cultural shift.

Make room at the table literally. Invite Rotaractors into discussions not as observers, but as participants. Let young members lead projects, co-chair initiatives, and take ownership. Responsibility builds belonging.

Rethink engagement formats. Some of the most vibrant clubs are those that mix formal meetings with informal interactions, field visits, and flexible participation. When a young member sees the direct impact of a project, connection replaces obligation.

Align with causes young people already care about climate, mental health, digital literacy, gender equity, rural entrepreneurship. Rotary has the infrastructure to amplify these efforts meaningfully.

Tell real stories. Young people respond to authenticity, not polished messaging. A simple, honest story of impact travels further than any formal report. Social media is not a threat it is a bridge.

And above all mentor, don't manage. The experience senior Rotarians carry is invaluable. When shared with openness rather than authority, it becomes a powerful force. Guidance, not control, is what builds the next generation.

Recognition matters too. Not grand awards, but genuine acknowledgment. A simple moment of appreciation can anchor a young member's commitment far more deeply than we realise.

To the young Indians reading this you do not need to wait to

be "established" to serve. You do not need perfect clarity or resources. You just need to begin. Rotary offers platforms. Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and countless clubs that are ready for your energy and ideas.

India has 1.4 billion people, many people still struggling with basic needs. That is not a reason for despair it is a reason to act.

The generation before us built institutions without the tools we take for granted today. They showed up, and they made a difference.

Now it is our turn.

And to senior Rotarians you have built something remarkable. The networks, the trust, the impact, these are enduring contributions. But every institution reaches a point where it must evolve.

The young are not a disruption. They are continuity.

Open the door a little wider. Pull up a few more chairs. Make the table bigger.

Because somewhere out there, a young person with the desire to serve is simply waiting to feel that they belong.

The world was not built by those who waited. It was built by those who served.

Inspire

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