



The Joy of Giving: When Someone Else's Smile Becomes Your Own

● PINKI DALAL

There is a kind of happiness that cannot be bought, owned, or even fully described in words. It's the happiness you feel when you see a spark of hope light up someone's eyes, a happiness that fills your soul far more deeply than any gift you've ever received for yourself.

Have you ever seen the trembling smile of a mother whose child has just undergone a life-saving surgery? Or heard the laughter of a woman who no longer has to carry water on her head because a simple water wheel changed her life? That joy is not about money, it's about connection, dignity, and the magic of knowing you played a small part in someone else's story. Because when you lift someone else, you rise too.

Philanthropy isn't about writing big cheques; it's about writing hope into the lives of others. And some of the world's most extraordinary lives have been dedicated to doing just that.

Andrew Carnegie : From Poverty to the Power of Possibility

Born in a one-room weaver's cottage in Scotland, Andrew Carnegie rose from factory floor to steel magnate and then spent his fortune lifting others. He gave away nearly 90% of his wealth over \$350 million. In year 1901 for building more than 2,500 libraries, funding universities, and creating research institutions that still shape the world today.

His famous words still echo: "The man who dies rich dies dis-



किसी की मुस्कुराहटों पे हो निसार

किसी का दर्द मिल सके तो ले उधार

किसी के वास्ते हो तेरे दिल में प्यार...

जीना इसी का नाम है

graced." For Carnegie, true legacy wasn't measured in steel and dollars, but in the doors opened for others to dream, read, learn, and rise.

The Tata Legacy : Building a Nation, Not Just a Business

Closer to home, Jamsetji Tata believed wealth must serve a larger purpose. More than a century ago, he imagined a nation strengthened not just by industry but by knowledge, science, and human dignity. The result? Institutions like the Indian Institute of Science, Tata Memorial Hospital, and Tata Trusts the latter now channels over ₹2,500 crore annually into healthcare, education, and rural development.

For Tata, philanthropy wasn't a side project, it was woven into the DNA of business itself. As he put it, "In a free enterprise, the community is not just another stakeholder, it is in fact the very purpose of its existence."

Bill Gates : Changing the World One Life at a Time

When Bill Gates stepped away from Microsoft, many thought he was leaving his greatest work behind. In truth, it was just beginning. Through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, he has directed more than \$59 billion into tackling some of humanity's hardest problems, from eradicating polio and malaria to improving education and sanitation in the world's poorest regions.

His approach isn't just generous, it's deeply scientific, driven by data, partnerships, and a relentless belief that every life has

equal value. It's philanthropy as problem-solving, and it's changing the arc of global health and development.

Warren Buffett : The Power of Giving It All Away

Then there's Warren Buffett, who calls himself a "compulsive teacher" and "temporary custodian" of wealth. True to his word, he's pledged more than 99% of his fortune to philanthropic causes, much of it through the Gates Foundation. Buffett also co-founded The Giving Pledge, a movement encouraging billionaires to commit at least half their wealth to good causes proving that generosity, like wisdom, multiplies when shared.

The Common Thread: Heart Over Fortune

From Carnegie's libraries to Tata's hospitals, from Gates' vaccines to Buffett's pledges, the message is clear: philanthropy isn't about money, it's about meaning. It's about using whatever resources we have wealth, time, skills, compassion to make someone's burden lighter and someone's dream brighter.

Because the joy of giving is not in what leaves your bank account, but in what enters your heart. It's the deep, quiet satisfaction of knowing that someone, somewhere, is smiling today because you cared.

So let us live not just to exist, but to matter. To give not because we have to, but because we get to. Because the most beautiful joy is not in being celebrated but in being the reason someone else smiles.

Gandhi & Rotary

Shared Ideals of Service and Humanity

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Dr. Lucky S Kasat

Advisor – GML 25-26

Consultant Pediatric Surgeon | TEDx
Speaker | Author

Long before his ideals became universal principles, Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts found resonance within Rotary. His 1925 address to the Rotary Club of Calcutta on the "Economic and Spiritual Value of the Charkha" reflected his belief in self-reliance and service — values deeply aligned with Rotary's ethos. Years later, his 1942 article "My 7 Points for a New World Order" in The Rotarian magazine offered a blueprint for a just and nonviolent world. When Rotary International marked the magazine's 75th anniversary in 1986, Gandhi's essay was honored among its finest. The following abridged version captures the enduring essence of his message for humanity.

Mahatma Gandhi was not unfamiliar with Rotary. On August 18, 1925, he addressed the Rotary Club of Calcutta on "The Economic and Spiritual Value of the Charkha," when the club still had only non-Indians as members.

Years later, Gandhi's reflections found a place in Rotary history through his article, "My 7 Points for a New World Order," published in The Rotarian magazine in February 1942. When Rotary International celebrated 75 years of the magazine in 1986, it compiled The Rotarian Reader—an anthology of 75 articles spanning 1911 to 1986. Gandhi's 1942 piece was included in this volume, and his portrait graced its cover.

Below is an abridged essence of Gandhi's timeless article — his vision for a just and nonviolent world.

1. Equal Distribution

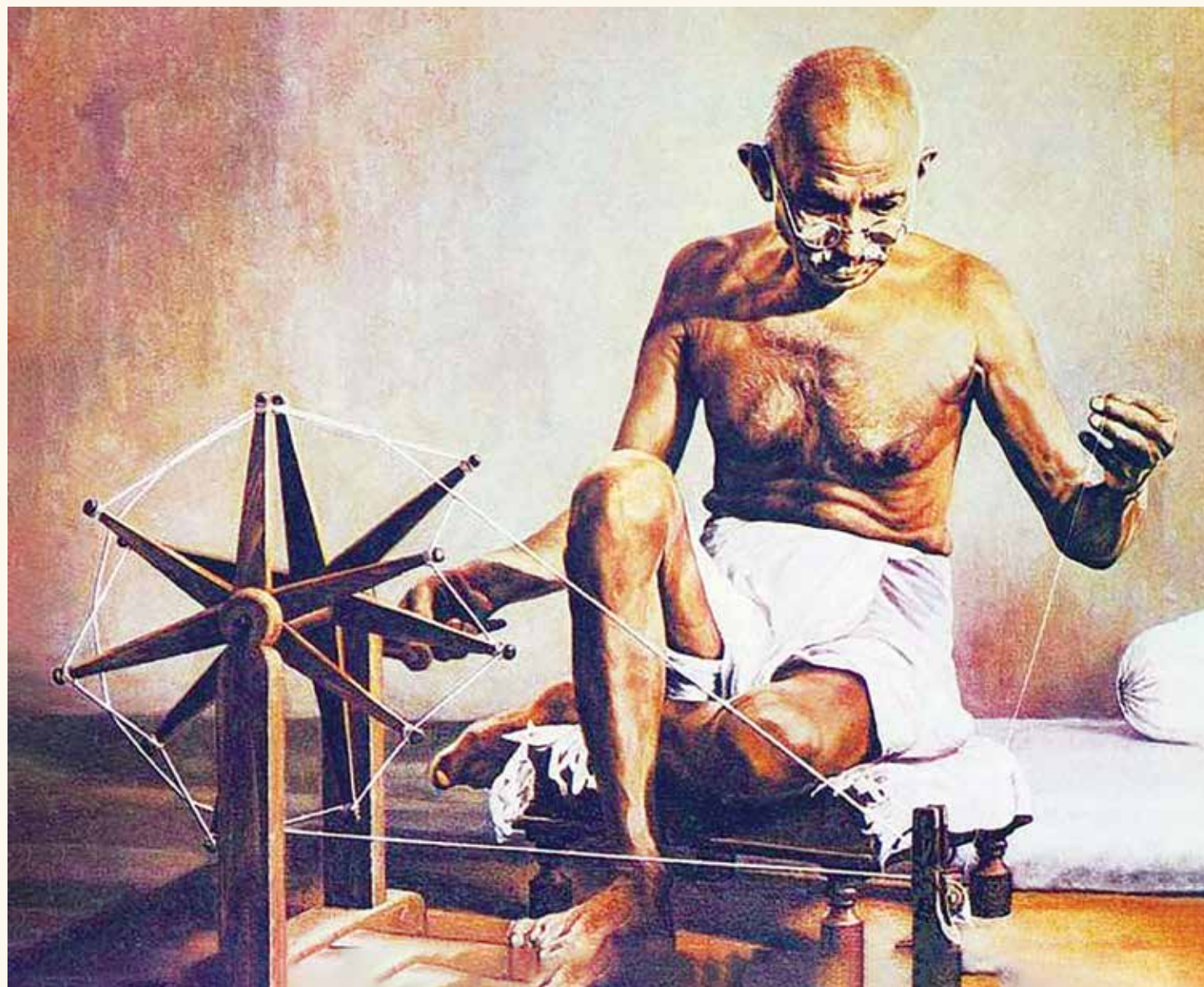
True equality means that every individual has enough to meet natural needs — neither more nor less. Gandhi argued that while perfect equality may be unattainable, society must continually strive toward it. Each step closer brings greater contentment and helps build a non-violent social order.

2. Individual Action

Change begins with one. Each person can adopt a simpler life without waiting for others. Reducing wants, renouncing dishonesty and speculation, and living with self-restraint are the first steps. Only after reforming oneself can one credibly inspire others to follow the same path.

3. The Role of the Wealthy

Gandhi opposed violent redistribution of wealth, believing it would impoverish society. In-



stead, he urged the rich to act as trustees—using what they need and holding the rest in trust for the welfare of society. Honesty and moral responsibility were key to this nonviolent model of economic balance.

4. Servant of Society

When one works and earns as a servant of society, both wealth and work gain purity. Selfless service replaces greed, ushering

in a peaceful, cooperative society where bitterness disappears and nonviolence becomes a natural outcome of conduct.

5. Ahimsa – Nonviolence

Ahimsa, Gandhi emphasized, is not merely a personal virtue but a social principle. A nonviolent society can exist only when non-violence guides public life, institutions, and relationships—not just individual behavior. It is

both his experiment and his message to humanity.

6. The Law of God

Gandhi defined religion as obedience to the law of God, which he equated with an unchanging, living moral law. Though customs and superstitions distort faith over time, the spiritual foundation endures. True religion sustains the world by aligning human conduct with divine

order.

7. Nonviolent Cooperation

If the rich fail to serve the poor and inequality grows, Gandhi advised not rebellion but non-violent withdrawal of cooperation. Since the privileged depend on the labor and support of the poor, the latter can assert their dignity and rights through peaceful, united noncooperation.

Lighting Up Young Minds — The True Spirit of Service

INSPIRED MOMENTS



Dr. Manish Motwani
Dist Governor, 25-26

My Dear Rotary Family,

As we bring you the fifth issue of our district bulletin, I can't help but pause and reflect on how swiftly time is flying! Nearly four months of this Rotary year have already gone by — and what a fulfilling journey it has been so far. Each passing week reminds me that when passionate Rotarians come together, every moment becomes meaningful and every action leaves an imprint of goodness in the world around us.

The festival of Diwali has just gone by — a time that fills our homes with light, joy, and togetherness. I sincerely hope each of you had a bright and memorable celebration with your loved ones. But more importantly, I am certain that many of you went beyond your homes to spread the true spirit of Diwali — by lighting up the lives of those less fortunate. Whether through service, compassion, or simple acts of kindness, you've brought smiles to countless faces. That, dear friends, is the true light of Rotary!

We now stand on the threshold of an exciting and significant time — the Rotary Service Week! This initiative is all about collective impact. When every club across our district undertakes a service project during the same week, imagine the ripple of goodness that will spread across our city. The goal is simple — to make Rotary visible, impactful and inspiring Rotarians and non Rotarians, everywhere. Together, we will touch many communities, uplift lives, and demonstrate what "Service Above Self" truly means in action.

This simple yet powerful act of teaching under open skies reflects Rotary's enduring spirit — where empathy meets action, and every small gesture contributes to transforming lives and lighting up communities with knowledge and kindness.



A Rotarian brings the joy of learning to children in need — spreading light, knowledge, and hope beyond classrooms.

I look forward to being personally present at as many projects and locations as possible during the Service Week. Nothing gives me greater joy

than being alongside fellow Rotarians as they serve from the heart. The week will culminate in a special way with the Happy Street celebration! Let's get max-

Rotarians continue to embody "Service Above Self" by reaching out to underprivileged communities. Through education and compassion, they are helping children discover the joy of learning and building brighter futures filled with hope and opportunity.

imum Rotarians attend along with their friends and relatives. It promises to be a celebration of Rotary spirit, camaraderie, and service.

As we continue our service journey, I urge all clubs to actively support and participate in the Pink Auto Project. This flagship initiative aims to empower women by providing them opportunities for livelihood and independence. Our target is ambitious — to support at least 1,000 women — but I have no doubt that, with your enthusiasm and collective strength, we will achieve it. Let's together make this one of the most meaningful legacies of our year.

Yes, the Rotary to-do list is long, and the needs around us are many. At times, it feels like we are stretching ourselves to the limit. But that's exactly what makes Rotary service so special. Mother Teresa once said, "Give till it hurts." And I see many of you doing exactly that — giving your time, your effort, your resources, and your hearts to causes that matter. The world needs more of that — and I'm deeply proud of every Rotarian in our district who continues to go the extra mile to make this world a better place.

Whether it is transforming rural villages into modern, self-sustaining communities, or creating opportunities for urban vocational upliftment, we are making a difference. And yet, this is just the beginning. There is so much more to do, and so many more lives to touch. Let's continue to serve with energy, empathy, and excellence — together.

Friends, as we move ahead, let's keep the Rotary flame shining bright. Let's stay connected, committed, and compassionate. And let's remember that while time may fly fast, it's up to us to fill it with purpose, service, and love.

With warm regards and Rotary cheer,

Dr Manish Motwani
District Governor, Rotary Year 2025–26

Gratitude and Giving : The Twin Lights of Rotary

MAHEK'S VIBES



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

Dear Rotary Families of District 3141,

As I write to you this November, my heart is full of gratitude — for the light that Diwali has left behind and for the warmth that continues to glow in every Rotary home. The past months have been a beautiful journey — of togetherness, participation, celebration, and strength. And now, as we step into The Rotary Foundation Month, I see this as a time to reflect on gratitude and giving — the twin lights that guide our path of service.

The Rotary Foundation has always been the heart of Rotary's goodness — transforming our compassion into action, and our contributions into life-changing projects. It reminds us that when many hands and hearts come together, even the smallest acts can touch lives across the world.

But what makes this truly special is that every family can play a part in it. The Foundation is not just about donations; it's about the spirit of giving — something that each of us can nurture at home.

Here are a few simple ways our families can join this journey:

- **Teach the joy of giving:** Encourage our children to set aside a small portion of their pocket money for a cause — perhaps to buy books for a child, or to plant a tree. When kindness becomes a habit early, generosity becomes a way of life.
- **Celebrate with purpose:** At birthdays or anniversaries, let's light a candle not just for ourselves but for someone whose life we can brighten — by contributing to a cause through The Rotary Founda-



Generosity knows no age — it flows from the heart that learns to give.



"Doing Good in the World" starts with a shared meal and a shared heart.

- tion or a your club's project.
- **Share stories of impact:** At the dinner table, talk about how our Foundation helps eradicate diseases, provide clean water, or educate young minds. When our families understand why we serve, they become our partners in every act of giving. This way, you may be not giving today. But

you are creating future givers and strengthening the givers to do much more!

- **Offer time and empathy:** Not every contribution is monetary. Visiting an elderly home, mentoring a student, or simply being there for someone in need — these are all gifts that strengthen the fabric of our community.



As families, when we participate in this spirit, we make Rotary more personal, more human, and more heartfelt. Each smile we share, each little step we take, becomes a reflection of the Foundation's purpose — Doing Good in the World.

If the first months of our Rotary year were about coming together and celebrating one

Celebrating Rotary Foundation Month as a time for gratitude and giving. She encourages families to nurture the spirit of giving by teaching children, celebrating with purpose, and offering time and empathy to make kindness a family tradition and "Do Good in the World."

another, then let November be about giving together. Let's remind ourselves and our loved ones that giving is not about abundance — it's about intention. It's about pausing to ask, "What can I do today to make someone's life a little better?" . Your motivation is more to yourself! To tell your inner soul that what you did made you feel good and proud!

As I see so many of you at events and projects, I'm constantly inspired by the warmth that fills our Rotary families. Behind every Rotarian who serves tirelessly stands a spouse, a child, a parent, or a friend who shares that same heart of compassion. You are the invisible strength that keeps the Rotary wheel moving — quietly, steadily, beautifully.

Let's continue to fill our homes and hearts with that spirit this month. Let's make kindness a family tradition. Let's celebrate The Rotary Foundation Month not just with cheques and pledges, but with conversations, small acts, and the shared belief that together, we can make the world a kinder place.

With love, gratitude, and hope,

Dr. Mahek Motwani
Aesthetic Gynecologist and
Cosmetologist
First Lady, Rotary District 3141
(2025–26)

Where compassion meets action

INSIGHT & IMPACT



K P NAGESH
Rotary International Director
(2025-27)

Dear Rotarians of District 3141,

Warm Rotary greetings!

It fills me with immense pride to see the enthusiasm and dedication with which District 3141 continues to uphold the ideals of Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Your district exemplifies purposeful service — blending compassion, innovation, and integrity to create a lasting difference.

The Rotary Foundation is not just Rotary's financial arm — it is the very heart of our movement. Every contribution, big or small, fuels transformative projects that bring education, clean

water, healthcare, and peace to communities worldwide.

I urge every Rotarian of District 3141 to continue embracing the spirit of Service Above Self by contributing generously to The Rotary Foundation. What we give always returns — in smiles, gratitude, and the deep joy of having touched lives.

Let District 3141 continue to shine as a beacon of giving, service, and leadership. Together,

let us build a world where hope flourishes and humanity thrives — one act of kindness, one contribution, and one project at a time.

**With warm regards
and best wishes,
K. P. Nagesh
Rotary International
Director, 2025-27
Zones 4 & 7**

May District 3141 continue to illuminate the Rotary spirit through its unwavering commitment to giving and service. Each act of generosity strengthens the chain of compassion that binds our global family. As we move forward, let us reaffirm our pledge to nurture hope, empower lives, and create sustainable change. Together, we can ensure that every effort, every contribution, and every moment of service becomes a step toward a brighter, more inclusive, and compassionate world.



Urban Vocational Upliftment: Skill Development Centre

• TEAM INSPIRE

Under the able leadership of Chief Principal Aide & Group Avenue Head Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan, the first project under the new “Inspire Avenue – Urban Vocational Upliftment” an initiative of DG Dr. Manish Motwani was successfully inaugurated.

On Tuesday, 30th September 2025, the Skill Development Centre – Tailoring Classes was inaugurated at Sharada High School, Sakinaka, Andheri (East) by Past District Governor Rtn. Banshi Dhurandar and Mrs. Vanita Kumar Shetty, Trustee – Vidya Nidhi Educational Trust. **This meaningful project was a collaborative effort of five Rotary Clubs:**



Dhurandar and Mrs. Vanita Kumar Shetty, Trustee – Vidya Nidhi Educational Trust.

This meaningful project was a collaborative effort of five Rotary Clubs:

- RC Mumbai Dahisar (President Rtn. Jayant Pawar)
- RC Mumbai Ghatkopar West (President Rtn. Arun Ganapathy)
- RC Chandivali Mumbai (President Rtn. Dr. Kavita



Kamaraj)
• RC Bombay Metropolitan (President Rtn. Ketki Nisar)

• RC Bombay Airport (President Rtn. Pragna Mehta)
Vidya Nidhi Foundation generously provided the premises for the Skill Development Centre at no cost to Rotary.

12 women enrolled for the tailoring classes on the very first day, and the participat-

ing clubs are committed to developing this centre into one of the finest vocational skill hubs in District 3141.

Chief Guest PDG Rtn. Banshi Dhurandar lauded the collaborative spirit among the clubs and appreciated the dedicated efforts that shaped this excellent initiative. Trustee Mrs. Vanita Shetty expressed that it was her long-cherished dream to see such a centre come alive and thanked Rotary for fulfilling it. She also assured her continued support for the centre in the future.

It was also announced by the project coordinator Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan that Adult Literacy Classes, Jewellery Making, Computer Training, and Beautician Courses will soon be launched at this centre.

Special appreciation was extended to Mrs. Sangita Hule, Instructor, for her committed support and guidance in launching the tailoring classes.



Heartfelt gratitude to the Rotarians whose presence and support added value to the event:

- **From RC Mumbai Ghatkopar West:** Rtn. Shruti Dharamsee, Rtn. Kumar Pillay, Rtn. Kavita, Rtn. Kalpana
- **From RC Mumbai Dahisar:** Rtn. Deepak Kher, Rtn. Sanjay Arora
- **From RC Chandivali Mumbai:** Rtn. Firoz, Rtn. Rachna, Rtn. Monica, Rtn. Manoj
- **From RC Bombay Airport:** Rtn. Ashmi Parikh
- **From RC Bombay National Park:** Rtn. Amol Karekar
- **From RC Bombay Pioneer:** Rtn. Anil Agarwal

Giving the World a Better Tomorrow

ECHOES OF SERVICES



PRID Ashok Mahajan
Past Rotary Foundation Trustee

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

In every corner of the world, a Rotarian stands as a symbol of compassion, action, and integrity. Guided by our timeless motto — Service Above Self — we are united in our mission to uplift humanity and create lasting change.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is at the heart of this global movement. It is the very soul of our service — transforming our collective dreams into impactful reality. From near-total eradication of polio, achieving a miraculous 99.99% reduction, to enabling education, clean water, maternal health, and peace initiatives — TRF has rewritten what is possible. Billions of dollars have been mobilized, lives have been saved, futures have



been built. Yet, our journey is far from over.

The world today faces unprec-

edented challenges. Inequality is widening. Conflicts persist. Natural resources are depleting.

The world today faces unprecedented challenges. Inequality is widening. Conflicts persist. Natural resources are depleting. The need for a powerful, purpose-driven foundation has never been greater.

The need for a powerful, purpose-driven foundation has never been greater. And the truth is: the only fuel that powers this engine of change is you — the Rotarians — and those you inspire.

We are the stewards of hope. And hope demands action.

Let us rise as one — to care for the underprivileged, to share joy and healing, to uplift those in despair, and to build peace in places torn by division. Whether through personal contributions, corporate partnerships, or mobilizing our networks, every rupee and every gesture makes a difference.



Let's remind the world that Rotary is not just an organization — it is a force for good. Let's be bold in our giving, purposeful in our outreach, and united in our mission.

Give generously. Give with heart. Help TRF do even more good in the world — because the world needs Rotary now more than ever.

Together, let's serve, uplift, and create a better tomorrow.

With Rotary spirit and gratitude,

Ashok Mahajan

SMILE • SERVE • SACRIFICE • SATISFY

Nurturing Young Champions, Celebrating Learning



A resounding success for the Rotary Club of Bombay Powai's Knowledge Quest 2025 Grand Finale! Graced by esteemed guests including DG Dr. Manish Motwani and DGN Rtn. Deepak Jiandani, this six-month-long initiative brought together bright students from Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai. Led by Rtn. Anju Ahluwalia and Rtn. Smita Madgavkar, the event powerfully demonstrated Rotary's commitment to intellectual growth and teamwork. Congrats to all the inspiring champions! #Rotary #KnowledgeQuest2025 #YouthEmpowerment #District3141

● RTN MANGESH BALKHANDE

The Rotary Club of Bombay Powai (RCBP) continues to champion youth empowerment through its flagship initiative — Knowledge Quest. What began as a local engagement has now evolved into one of District 3141's most awaited educational events, inspiring curiosity, teamwork, and a love for lifelong learning.

Under the leadership of Pres-

ident Rtn. Anju Ahluwalia and Youth Service Director Rtn. Smita Madgavkar, Knowledge Quest 2025 once again raised the bar in scale, innovation, and inclusivity — reaching students from Hindi, Marathi, and English medium schools across Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai.

From onboarding schools and managing 2000+ quiz questions to organizing qualifiers, semifinals, and the Grand Finale, every

stage reflected Rotary's hallmark of teamwork, dedication, and excellence.

Quiz Master Rtn. Pradip Mittra added his trademark energy and precision, turning each round into a thrilling test of wit and wisdom. The Qualifying Rounds on 13–14 September at Hiranandani Foundation School, Powai, set the tone for a grand finale on 21 September 2025 at A.M. Naik School, Powai. The excitement was palpable —

cheers, smiles, and trophies celebrating the spirit of learning.

The event was graced by DG Dr. Manish Motwani, DGN Rtn. Deepak Jiandani, and DGE Dr. Nilesh Jaywant, who lauded the initiative's impact and flawless execution.

Co-hosted by multiple Rotary Clubs — including Bombay Pier, Thane Green City, Bandra Kurla Complex, and others — and supported by sponsors Vega,

LexiQuest, Sugom Trust, and Dewekar Foundation, the event embodied the power of collective effort.

More than a competition, Knowledge Quest 2025 was a celebration of curiosity, confidence, and community. With each edition, RCBP strengthens its legacy of nurturing young champions — guiding them to learn, lead, and grow with knowledge, values, and purpose.

Where Corporate Intent Meets Measurable Impact

The Rotary India CSR Awards 2025, Western Zone



Award winners and Rotary leaders come together to celebrate corporate excellence and social impact at the Rotary India CSR Awards 2025 (Western Zone), held at Motilal Oswal Towers, Prabhadevi.

A Celebration of Purpose and Partnership:

8 October 2025, Motilal Oswal Towers, Prabhadevi — The Rotary India CSR Awards 2025 (Western Zone), hosted by the Rotary Club of Bombay Pier under President Rtn. Noopur Desai, was an evening that united visionaries — from corporate leaders to community change-makers.

The event saw the gracious presence of District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, Convenor PDG Sunnil Mehra, Project Head Akshay Mehta, Chief Guest Shri Motilal Oswal, and Guest of Honour Shri Sonu Sood.

Over 196 delegates — including CSR heads, business leaders, NGOs, and Rotary dignitaries — gathered to celebrate the intersection of corporate intent and measurable community impact.

CSR as a Moral Duty:

In a stirring keynote, Shri Motilal Oswal underlined that CSR is not a checkbox but a moral duty, praising Rotary for its transparent, accountable, and scalable model of execution.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Rotary Humanitarian Award 2025 to Shri Sonu Sood — a recognition of his sustained service to humanity and unwavering commitment to social welfare.

Focus Areas of Impact:

- Twenty-nine corporates were recognised across Rotary's five key focus areas:
- Basic Education & Literacy
- Disease Prevention & Treatment
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Community & Economic Development

Environmental Sustainability

From rural women's livelihood initiatives to energy-efficient cookstove programmes and last-mile health-care delivery, the awardees showcased projects with measurable, scalable outcomes.

Three Defining Outcomes:

- 1. Stronger Rotary–Corporate Partnerships:** enabling larger, multi-sector projects to reach more communities.
- 2. A Replicable Model of Best Practices:** setting benchmarks across geographies and industries.
- 3. Rotary's Credibility Reinforced:** known for transparent governance and administrative costs below 5%, Rotary stands tall as one of India's most trusted implementation partners.

Western Zone winners now advance to the National CSR Awards Grand Finale in New Delhi on 13 November 2025.

Rigour Before Recognition:

Before the applause came intense evaluation. A jury panel met in Mumbai on 4 October 2025 to assess over 150 submissions on parameters of innovation, governance, scalability, and community impact.

Jury Members:

- **Ms. Sunita Ramnathkar**, President, IMC
- **Ms. Pratibha Pai**, Founder, Chirag Foundation
- **Ms. Rashmi Singh**, IAS (Retd.)
- **Mr. Shirish Joshi**, CEO, The Brand Gym

Their deliberations produced the final list of 29 corporates across Rotary's five focus areas and four business categories — Rising Star, Small, Medium, Large, and Mega.



AWARDEES AT A GLANCE:

Community & Skill Development:

- Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
- JK Cement Ltd.
- Precision Camshafts Ltd.
- EKI Energy Services Ltd.
- Kogta Financial India Ltd.
- Z-Aksys Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Education & Literacy:

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
- Mahindra Susten Pvt. Ltd.
- Suttatti Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
- Pratham Software Pvt. Ltd.
- POSCO Maharashtra Steel Pvt. Ltd.

Environment Protection:

- Paramount Communications Ltd.
- Emerson Electric Co. India Pvt. Ltd.
- Seco Tools India Pvt. Ltd.
- Panache Green Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Healthcare:

- APAR Industries Ltd.
- Balaji Amines Ltd.
- Vulkan Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- Flagship Biotech International Pvt. Ltd.
- New Era Informatique Pvt. Ltd.
- Z-Aksys Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene:

- Fleetguard Filters Pvt. Ltd.
- Desai Brothers Ltd.
- Neogen Chemicals Ltd.
- Aditya Green Energy Pvt. Ltd.

Special Categories:

- **P Patel & Company** – Beneficiary Community Engagement
- **Landmark Cars Ltd.** – Voluntary Employee Participation
- **Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd.** – Innovative Project Idea
- **Precision Camshafts Ltd.** – Women Empowerment Award

Atul Sharma :

Courage beyond Curiosity

“Your full potential isn’t a destination; it’s a path. It’s a journey of liberation—from your own limitations and the limitations that others, often with good intentions, put upon you. Reaching your full potential takes patience, courage, self-awareness, and a whole lot of grit.”

—Kelly Labrecque

**SAPIENS
EXTRAORDINARY**



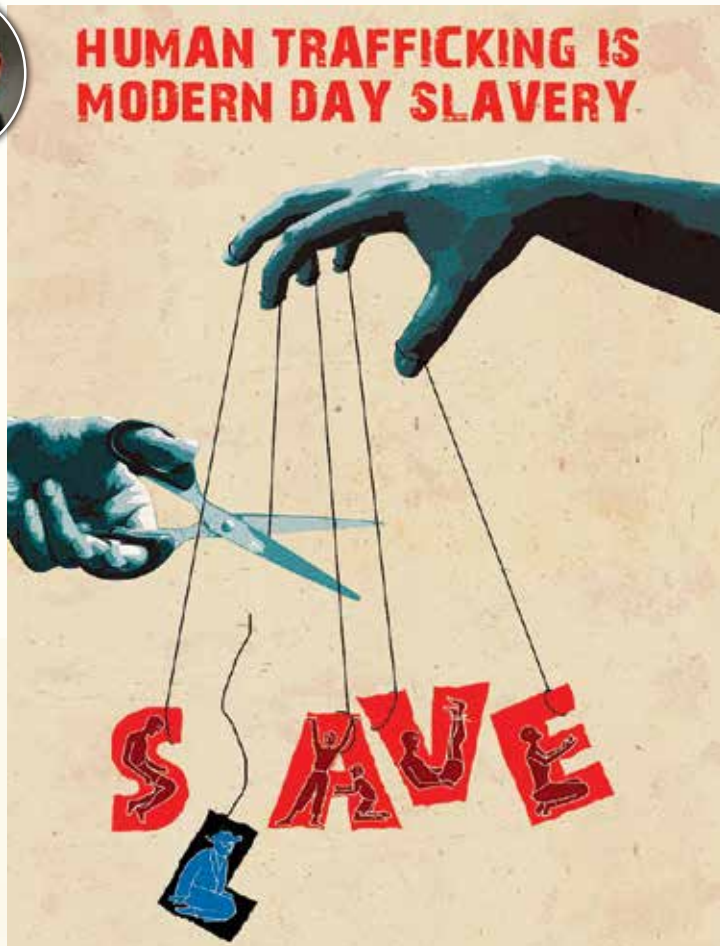
Jhankar Gadkari

Sr. Rotarian,
Corporate Consultant, Speaker

One never knows what life has in store for you, until an event or an experience.... Such things bring in an unimaginable courage in you

More than a century ago on 11th May 1857, the first spark of rebellion against the East India Company arose in the city of Meerut.

In the same city in the crowded lanes and the by lanes of the old city a young schoolgirl’s life was to take a turn that would define her destiny. This was the modern-day Rebellion, which would lead to unimaginable result and a movement that would outlive lives.



ignore her questions. Her search for answers led her to a bitter truth, these women were victims of human trafficking, trapped in brothels, many lured by false promises or dragged there through force and deceit.

This discovery ignited in her a fire that would burn for a lifetime.

Determined to do more than just witness injustice, Atul founded Sankalp = [Mental Resolve] Samiti, an NGO committed to rescuing women and children from the clutches of trafficking. What began as a single-woman effort grew into a movement.

To date, she has rescued over 535 girls from brothels—pulling them from lives of exploitation and giving them the chance to rebuild. These rescues have taken her deep into red-light districts such as the infamous GB Road of Delhi and Kabadi Bazaar of Meerut, where danger is ever-present, and trust is hard-earned.

Each operation is not just a physical rescue but a battle against fear, psychological con-

ditioning, and a system that too often fails the vulnerable.

Rebuilding Lives

Atul Sharma’s mission extends far beyond freeing victims. Under her leadership, Sankalp Samiti provides:

- **Rehabilitation & Counselling** – Helping survivors heal from deep emotional and physical trauma.
- **Education & Skill Development** – Ensuring independence and self-reliance.
- **Healthcare & Legal Aid** – Addressing immediate needs and protecting rights.
- **Awareness Campaigns** – Preventing trafficking by educating communities and empowering women.

During the pandemic, Atul launched Project “Aanchal”, a rural women’s employment initiative. By introducing eco-friendly products like Gau Kashtra (cow dung logs), she created both a source of income for women and a solution for environmental conservation.

The danger she faces everyday.

The Unflinching Courage of Atul Sharma

Atul Sharma: A Modern-Day Rebellion Against Trafficking

Atul Sharma’s life-defining moment began in the crowded lanes of Meerut when, as a young girl, she saw and then investigated the lives of women in brothels. Discovering they were victims of human trafficking ignited an unwavering commitment to justice. She founded Sankalp Samiti to rescue and rehabilitate victims. To date, she has saved over 535 women and children from exploitation in notorious red-light districts like Delhi’s GB Road. Her mission extends to providing holistic support—counselling, education, and legal aid—to ensure survivors achieve self-reliance. Facing constant danger from criminal networks, Atul also tackles begging mafias and launched “Aanchal” during the pandemic to empower rural women economically with eco-friendly products. She believes the real success is when there are no victims left to rescue, proving that one person’s resolve can spark a lifelong movement of hope and change.

Atul’s work is not without peril. Many rescues involve confronting gang leaders, corrupt officials, and dangerous networks. She recalls one rescue vividly, a 16-year-old girl who had spent seven years in confinement, so isolated she didn’t even know what year it was.

“The system didn’t fail her—it never existed for her in the first place,” Atul says.

Her fight also stretches to dismantling begging mafias—rackets that exploit children, often through abduction and mutilation, turning their suffering into profit.

The Story of numbers .

- 535+ rescues of women and children
- Hundreds of survivors rehabilitated
- National and grassroots recognition as one of India’s most fearless voices against trafficking

The Ongoing Battle

Human trafficking remains one of India’s most urgent crises, es-

pecially child sex trafficking. Atul Sharma’s mission is not just to rescue but to reform—to ensure that society, law enforcement, and policy evolve to protect the vulnerable.

Her voice cuts through the silence, urging action and responsibility. As she says, “Every rescue is a victory, but the real success will come when there are no victims left to rescue.”

A Beacon of Hope

In the war against trafficking, Atul Sharma stands as a rare combination of courage, compassion, and persistence. Her work through Sankalp Samiti continues to inspire not just survivors but also an entire generation of changemakers who believe that even in the darkest corners, light can be found—and spread.

Atul Sharma is not just changing lives; she is saving them.

If you wish to Donate : Sankalp Foundation.

Bank name: Indian Overseas Bank.

AC No: 280301000001627.

IFSC: IOBA0002803



Atul Sharma, the courageous founder of Sankalp Samiti, whose life’s mission has been to fight human trafficking and rescue over 535 women and children from exploitation. Her work stands as a modern-day rebellion, dedicated to rebuilding lives and spreading hope in the darkest corners.

During her early school days, on her daily route, she first noticed heavily made up group of women calling out, and smiling at the passersby. Her mother’s warning was clear: “Don’t look at them.” But curiosity made her look back.

Who were these women? And why did they stand there every day, dressed in finery yet surrounded by an air of sadness?

By the time Atul Sharma was around 14, she could no longer

Rotary Service Week: A different perspective

ROTARY RISES: UNITED FOR MUMBAI



DR INDUMATI GOPINATHAN

As festivities abound, the Rotary Service Week of the inspired year looms large and is easily, the most eagerly awaited event by the Rotary community of district 3141 under the leadership of district governor Dr. Manish Motwani. Before I go any further I must admit that District avenue chair Rajendran Unnikrishnan and I have had a very enriching and interesting journey towards the RSW planning and execution which began with the printing of the RSW hand book for which Rajendran has been majorly responsible.

While the main goals of the RSW are to create visibility in the community at large and execute bigger and better service projects across the district, there are a lot of other out-of-the-box benefits that come with Rotary service week. These include

- Interactions with neighboring clubs right from the stage of planning to execution and the after discussions. This will forge bonds for future joint club activities and meetings.
- New Rotarian friends and the realization that the whole Rotary community is one and clubs are vital functioning units to help in administration of the district
- Valuing the importance of coordination and meticulous planning. The cru-

Rotary Service Week 2025 shines with impactful initiatives — from district-wide women's health camps and vocational excellence awards to Happy Street events — celebrating unity, service, and community engagement across District 3141.



Dr. Indumati Gopinathan

Rotary Service Week 2025 unites District 3141 clubs in impactful service, community visibility, and fellowship under the inspiring leadership of DG Dr. Manish Motwani.



Rajendran Unnikrishnan
RSW Avenue Chair

Unique initiatives like vocational excellence awards, women's health camps, and Happy Street events make RSW a grand celebration of service, unity, and innovation.



North - Rtn Shashank Thakare



Central - Rtn Chetan Kotak



North West- Rtn Shelja Choudhary



South - AKS Dilip Shah



West - Pushpa Suryamurty

cial follow up exercises to the run up is a valuable lesson that will be learnt for life

- Mastering not just one's own club but also the art of coordinating with other leaders and working together as a team.
- Understanding newer perspectives of other clubs in working out service projects. After all every club, usually gets used to their own working patterns and reach a plateau that is scarce for new new ideas.
- Focused attention given to specific areas every day in a rath-

er mandatory manner by the lead clubs and the participating clubs establishes new connections with various institutions and NGOs and this will go a long way in founding a sustainable long term association that may be the start of a new global grant or CSR India grant

- Getting involved with a project that has never been attempted by the club before
- Interacting with the district team of 64 Rotarians closely and enjoying the process of discussions and slow blossoming of ideas

UNIQUE FEATURES OF RSW

- A first of its kind, district vocational excellence awards for unsung Heroes with nominations invited from all the Rotary clubs in the district. This will be a grand function at Y.B. Chavhan auditorium, Colaba with a perfect Pot Pourri of entertainment and a very interesting awards program. The event is scheduled on Friday, 7th of November. Clubs are enthusiastically registering volunteers and also escorting their nominees for the function.
- A trans district health check up

centres on women's healthcare covering Breast and Cervix with the district also partially funding the cervical cancer screening. This involves coordination with various medical agencies and health care givers across Mumbai. A rigorous training program has been given to the technical team

- Happy street in every zone to create that perfect ripple on a Sunday morning to draw attention of the community to Rotary. This will also get together all the rotarians from each zone to have outdoor fellowship

Rotary Friendship Flag Exchange – Fellowship Beyond Borders

● RACKHEE MEHTA

At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview, members were deeply inspired by industry stalwart Mr. Keyur U. Joshi, co-founder of MakeMyTrip, who spoke about how travel is not merely about movement but about opening hearts and expanding minds. He emphasized that the true foundation of any lasting success—whether in business or in service—is built on transparency and teamwork. These values, he noted, lie at the core of Rotary as well, where collaboration, honesty, and shared purpose drive impactful service.

His reflections created the perfect backdrop to highlight one of Rotary's most cherished traditions—the Rotary Friendship Flag Exchange. Rtn. Dhaval Doshi, International Director of RC Bombay Bayview, encouraged members to proudly carry their club flag when



travelling abroad, reminding them that Rotary is a global family of over 1.2 million members across more than 200 countries. Though each club functions independently, all are bound by a common mission: Service Above Self. When a Rotarian presents their flag overseas, they carry their identity, their club's ethos, and the spirit of service. When they return with another club's flag, they bring back fellowship, new ideas, and inspiration. The exchange is far more than a ritual—it is Rotary's silent handshake, a

symbol of peace, friendship, and unity across borders.

Last year, members of RC Bombay Bayview travelled to Bhutan, where they experienced the profound depth of Rotary fellowship. They had the honour of meeting members of the Rotary Club of Bhutan, including distinguished Rotarians such as the former Foreign Minister and former Tourism Minister. They were warmly hosted by Club Secretary Rtn. Rinzi Om and Rtn. Sonam Tobgay, associated with the Ministry of Tourism, whose rafting company graciously helped



organise an unforgettable river experience. Flags were exchanged, but more importantly, cultures were shared. Bayview members learned about Bhutanese traditions and enjoyed authentic local snacks, leaving with memories that went far beyond formality. It was an evening that truly reflected the essence of Rotary—where strangers become friends, and friends become family.

This year, RC Bombay Bayview continues its journey of global fellowship, as members prepare to travel to Japan with the hope of meet-

ing fellow Rotarians there as well. Each such interaction strengthens international bonds, opening doors to future collaborations, joint service initiatives, and cultural understanding. In recognition of his alignment with Rotary values, Mr. Keyur Joshi was inducted as an Honorary Rotarian of RC Bombay Bayview and presented with Rotary friendship flags. He now carries the privilege and responsibility of being a global ambassador of Rotary during his future travels, further extending the reach of service and fel-

lowship.

For members wishing to engage in a Flag Exchange, the process is simple:

- Search for Rotary clubs in your travel destination using the Rotary Club Finder App or Rotary.org
 - Reach out to the host club and request to attend a meeting
 - Introduce yourself and your home club during the visit
 - Exchange flags as a gesture of goodwill and friendship
 - Build connections that may lead to international cooperation, joint projects, global grants, and youth exchange programs—living proof of Rotary's global fellowship
- As Keyur Joshi reminded us, travel transforms the traveller. Rotary teaches us that fellowship transforms service. Through every exchanged flag, we reaffirm that no matter where we go in the world, we are never strangers—we are Rotarians.

Start-Up Sutra 1.0: Borivli Sparks Entrepreneurship

● K.V.PREMRAJ

Rotary has always been about service that transforms lives. Rotary Club of Borivli proved that service can also spark dreams of enterprise. From 15th to 17th August 2025, the club hosted its signature project of the year — Start-Up Sutra 1.0: RYLA – Be an Entrepreneur — a three-day residential workshop that combined the spirit of Rotary with the energy of youth.

Inspired by a transformative RYLA, Past President Ashish Tapiawala attended in Madurai, he envisioned bringing the experience to Mumbai in association with Rotary Club of Virudhunagar and Punch Gurukulam, Rotary Club of Borivli under President Ketan Tapiawala launched Start-Up Sutra 1.0.



Thirty-three participants — fifteen girls and eighteen boys — plunged into an immersive journey of ideation, teamwork, resilience, and business pitching. Days began with meditation and aerobics to sharpen focus, and nights stretched late into brainstorming, with barely a pause for rest. The air crackled with energy as young minds dared to dream.

The programme was graced by an inspiring lineup of speakers. District Governor Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani encouraged participants to chase big visions. Rtn. AKS Nikunj Jhaveri shared his powerful "rags to riches" story of building a thousand-crore conglomerate. Rtn. AKS PDG V.R. Muthu, Chairperson of Idhayam, spoke on the power of quality and excellence,

while IPDG Chetan Desai engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue with Rtn. Jhaveri. Adding to the impact, Power Speaker Uday Karelia narrated his journey of perseverance and success. Each story made entrepreneurship feel less like a distant dream and more like a tangible path.

The grand finale brought with it excitement and recognition. Certificates, med-

als, and prizes were distributed, but the true reward lay in the spark of confidence glowing in every participant's eyes. A thrilling announcement added to the buzz: the top ten participants would compete in the Race to Singapore, with the top two earning an opportunity to undergo advanced training in Singapore.

Impact was visible instantly. Within just eight days, two participants who had met at the workshop collaborated to launch their own start-up. This is the magic of Rotary — creating spaces where young people not only learn but also take bold action.

Such a project would not have been possible without generous support from sponsors including Dr.

Umesh Khanna, the Mumbai Kidney Foundation, Mr. Dilip and Mr. Abhishek Choudhary, and AKS Muthu of Idhayam, who has championed 49 such RYLAs to date. For Borivli, this was a first, but certainly not the last.

Start-Up Sutra 1.0 has now become a brand, with Version 2.0 already awaited. It has shown that Rotary can be the launchpad where young minds are given wings of courage, creativity, and commitment. As one participant remarked at the valediction, "We came here with ideas. We leave with belief."

For Rotary, that belief is the greatest service of all — because the future truly belongs to those who dare to start up.

From our hearts to their futures : Meena & K. K Choudhry

JOY OF GIVING

● UMA JAJODIA

When you meet Rtn. K.K. Choudhary and his wife Rtn. Meena Choudhary, what strikes you first is not the scale of their giving but the simplicity with which they speak about it. For them, generosity is not a grand gesture—it is a way of life, deeply rooted in values passed down from their families and carried forward through Rotary. Together, this couple has joined the distinguished Arch Klumph Society (AKS), Rotary's highest recognition for donors whose contributions cross the \$250,000 mark. But ask them how they reached here, and they'll tell you it was never planned—it was simply the natural outcome of giving, year after year, with consistency and conviction.

A Rotary Journey That Began with Curiosity

K.K.'s Rotary journey began over two decades ago, thanks to a friend's invitation to a local club meeting. "I was immediately drawn to the sense of purpose, camaraderie, and the shared commitment to making the world a better place," he recalls. Meena, ever supportive, encouraged him to take the plunge. What started as a way to give back to the local community soon opened his eyes to Rotary's global reach—from polio eradication to women's empowerment.

Meena's own path in Rotary found its anchor in

Rtn. K.K. and Rtn. Meena Choudhary's journey to the Arch Klumph Society reflects humility, purpose, and lifelong giving. Guided by family values, they've transformed lives through Rotary—proving that true wealth lies in sharing success through service and compassion.



"Rtn. K.K. and Rtn. Meena Choudhary with their family — celebrating togetherness, values, and a legacy of giving."

her membership with the Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas, where she has actively supported education and service initiatives. Together, they embody what many describe as a "Rotary couple": different clubs, same purpose, united by service.

The Road to AKS

Interestingly, the Choudharys never set out with the ambition of becoming AKS donors. "It was a byproduct of donating every year," K.K. admits with characteristic humility. Yet behind this simplicity lies deep intent: each contribution was made with the belief that Rotary multiplies impact. "Every dollar given through Rotary is multiplied through partnerships, local engagement, and global networks," he says. "I know my contribution is helping create healthier communities, supporting education, and building peace."

Their motivation crystallized during projects supporting paediatric heart and

orthopaedic surgeries. Seeing young lives transformed through timely medical intervention left an indelible mark. "That moment showed me what sustainable impact really looks like," he reflects.

Causes Close to the Heart

For the Choudharys, three causes stand out—education, medical support, and rural development. Their passion for education stems from a simple truth: it is the greatest equalizer. "We've seen how literacy changes lives. From supporting single-teacher schools in villages to adult education in Rajasthan, each project carries a ripple effect," K.K. explains. One story still moves him deeply: an elderly woman, newly literate through Rotary's programs, proudly told him she could now read newspapers and write letters. "She said she no longer depended on her children. Her next dream? To become a teacher herself."

Moments like these remind them that impact is not measured only in numbers but in dignity restored and hope renewed.

Values That Shape Giving

Both K.K. and Meena trace their philanthropic spirit back to their families. "My

parents gave generously even when they had little," K.K. shares. "They showed me that kindness is a form of wealth." These values, coupled with his humble upbringing, have shaped a philosophy of giving that sees generosity not as sacrifice, but as priority. "Success only has meaning when it is shared," he adds.

The Family Effect

Their journey has also left a mark on their family. Conversations at home often circle around service, legacy, and the joy of giving. "It has deepened our family's commitment to social value," says K.K. Professionally, it has influenced him too, teaching him to lead with empathy, purpose, and a focus on the long term.

On Philanthropy and the Future

In a world grappling with challenges as vast as climate change, inequity, and conflict, the Choudharys see philanthropy as the bridge between possibility and reality. "Governments and institutions can only do so much. Philanthropy allows for innovation and targeted solutions that meet people where they are," K.K. observes.

Looking to the future, they hope younger generations of Rotarians embrace giving not as obligation but



With unwavering belief in Rotary's mission, Rtn. K.K. and Rtn. Meena Choudhary embody generosity as a way of life. Their path to the Arch Klumph Society showcases quiet dedication to education, healthcare, and rural upliftment—creating lasting impact through humble, consistent giving.

as joy. "Philanthropy is not just for the wealthy—it's for anyone who believes in dignity and wants to contribute to a better future," they emphasize.

Words for Fellow Rotarians

When asked what message they would share with Rotarians considering stepping up their level of giving, K.K. is clear: "Don't wait for the perfect time. Even one act of generosity can change lives. When you step up, you inspire others—and together, we amplify impact."

A Legacy in One Line

If their journey could be summed up in one sentence, K.K. offers words that are both simple and profound: "You will not get another life. Do your best."

In the end, the story of Rtn. K.K. and Rtn. Meena Choudhary is not about titles or thresholds—it is about consistency, humility, and a lifelong belief that success finds its highest purpose in service. Their journey reminds us of all that the true measure of wealth is not what we keep, but what we give away.

Stronger Minds, Brighter Classrooms



• PINKI DALAL

On 3rd and 4th October, the halls of Juhu Gymkhana transformed into a space of empathy, creativity, and healing. This was the site of Project LEARN (Life Skills Education for Adolescents through Rotary Network) a powerful Rotary initiative aimed at preparing children not just for academics, but for life itself.

Conceptualised and driven by PP Rtn. Leena Shah of the Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface, and supported by RC Bombay Metropolitan, RC Mumbai Elegant, and RC Mumbai Elegant Plus, LEARN focuses on an often-overlooked aspect of education: emotional well-being. Through drama-based pedagogy and practical training, it equips teachers to help students build resilience, navigate stress, and express themselves with confidence.

Why LEARN Matters

In today's fast-changing world, children face enormous pressures — from academic stress and peer pressure to emotional trauma and abuse. Traditional classrooms, fo-



cused solely on marks and memory, often fail to address these deeper issues. LEARN was created to change that.

At the heart of the program is the belief that mental health is as important as mathematics. By empowering teachers with tools to nurture emotional intelligence, LEARN turns classrooms into safe, supportive environments where children learn to understand and manage their feelings, communicate effectively, and make thoughtful decisions.

Drama as a Tool for Transformation

Leading the training was Dr. Swaroop Sampat Rawal — a renowned

BEYOND THE SYLLABUS LIES THE TRUE CLASSROOM
where lessons of empathy, resilience, and courage prepare children not just for exams, but for life.

actor turned educationist, known for her groundbreaking work in drama-based life skills education. Through stories, role play, and creative exercises, Dr. Swaroop demonstrated how drama can go beyond entertainment to become a powerful teaching tool.

Her short film *School Without a Schoolbag* illustrated the emotional burdens children carry — fear, neglect, violence — and how these affect their learning. “Before we can teach facts, we must heal hearts,” she said, underlining the essence of LEARN.

Teachers as Changemakers

More than 50 teachers participated in the workshop, learning how to integrate life skills into everyday lessons. They were not just trained to teach — they were inspired to become mentors and



emotional anchors for their students.

As one participant shared, “LEARN has changed the way I teach. Even subjects like Physics and Chemistry have become more meaningful because my students are now engaged, expressive, and curious.”

The results speak for themselves. Schools implementing LEARN report stronger teacher-student bonds, fewer dropouts, and more confident, resilient children. With over 450 teachers already trained, the ripple effect reaches thousands of young lives.

Mental Health at the Heart of Education

The importance of LEARN becomes clear when we look at the numbers. “Some years ago, one in ten children suffered from mental health issues,” Dr. Swaroop noted. “Today, it's four or five out of ten.” Her solution is simple but powerful: “We need a counsellor in every classroom — and the best way to achieve that is to train teachers.”

The project aligns perfectly with Rotary's district focus on mental health, and leaders like DG Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, PDG Rtn. Bal

Inamdar, PDG Rtn. Shashikumar Sharma, Dr. Indumati Gopinathan, and AG Rtn. Navneet Ajmera lent their support, underscoring the project's transformative potential.

A Lasting Impact

For many participants, LEARN was not just a workshop — it was a revelation. Ananya Kulkarni, a teacher from The Modern School, summed it up beautifully:

“Swaroop Ma'am is an inspirational teacher who listens and motivates. After attending LEARN, I saw my shy students open up and dull ones turn enthusiastic. It has been an unforgettable experience.”

Building a Stronger Tomorrow

LEARN is more than a project — it's a vision for the future. A future where schools nurture not just intellect but also empathy, resilience, and courage. Where teachers are not just instructors but mentors. Where education does not end with information but begins with transformation.

Because when education heals, children thrive. And when children thrive, so does our society.

Project LEARN, conceptualised by PP Rtn. Leena Shah, empowered over 50 teachers through drama-based life skills training led by Dr. Swaroop Sampat Rawal. Supported by RC Bombay Seaface and partner clubs, the initiative fosters emotional intelligence, resilience, and mental well-being among students—transforming classrooms into spaces of healing and growth.

From Courts to Confidence: The Hi 5 Journey of Changing Lives

“Sports has the power to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

● PINKI DALAL

When Sundar and Usha founded Hi 5 Youth Foundation in 2015, they didn't set out to create just another NGO — they set out to spark a movement. A movement that would use the power of play to transform young lives, one bounce at a time.

Both accomplished professionals, R.Sundar and Usha had long dreamt of contributing meaningfully to the social sector. Education seemed the natural route, yet the couple found themselves asking: “Kuch alag karte hain?”

Something different. Something that would ignite curiosity, confidence, and character, not just in classrooms but on playgrounds.

That's when they chose sports and more specifically, basketball as their medium for change.

Why Basketball? Why Not !

For Sundar, basketball wasn't just a game, it was personal. His two sons grew up playing the sport in the U.S., continuing to coach schoolchildren through college and their early careers. Watching them mentor younger players showed the couple the deep impact young coaches can have on children.

Beyond this emotional connection, basketball made perfect sense for India's underprivileged communities: it's a small-team sport, needs minimal equipment, requires limited space, is inclusive for both genders, and is non-contact, ensuring safety.

Thus began the journey, from zero to champions.. turning tribal boarding school students and municipal schoolchildren into confident athletes who could compete with, and defeat, elite private-school teams.

From Playground to Life Lessons

At Hi 5, sport is not recreation, it's education. Every child trains for an hour each day under young, full-time, professionally trained coaches. From beginners to advanced players, every batch of 20–30 children learns discipline, teamwork, focus, and resilience.



By their second year, these children start competing and winning against private and international schools. Those victories are not just about points on a scoreboard; they are triumphs of spirit.

“That's the turning point,” Sundar shares. “When a child from a tribal school beats a private-school team, something shifts. They start believing in themselves. Suddenly, no challenge feels too big.”

The Power of Play: Changing Lives Beyond the Court

The true magic of Hi 5 happens far beyond the basketball court.

In tribal communities, where early marriage for girls was once common, Hi 5's programs have rewritten futures. Today, most of these girls complete school, pursue higher education, and become the first in their families to attend college. Over 90% of Hi 5's children are first-generation college-goers, many studying on sports scholarships.

A tribal girl who once trained at Hi 5 now coaches at her alma mater, a mother, a mentor, and her family's primary breadwinner.

A group of boys from Mumbai's urban slums now coach under-13

Hi 5 Youth Foundation uses basketball to transform lives across eight states in India. It builds confidence, prevents early marriage, and creates first-generation college-goers.

champion teams.

“Communities have been transformed because of basketball,” Sundar says with quiet pride. “What begins on the court ripples outward, first changing the child, then the family, then the entire community.”

A Decade of Dreams and Determination

From a handful of children in 2015 to over 4,000 players across eight states, Hi 5's journey has been extraordinary and not without challenges.

“The hardest part was getting people to believe in the power of

BUILDING CHAMPIONS, SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORTS

“Hi 5 has just begun,” he says. “The full bloom will come in the next 20 years. This academy will not only shape champions but also create opportunities in the sports industry.”

sport,” Sundar reflects. “We kept listening to children, parents, and teachers and fine tuning our program. We approached it professionally, with a curriculum and a clear pathway to excellence.”

That commitment has built more than players, it has built character.

Looking Ahead: The Next Leap

As Hi 5 enters its next decade, Sundar's dream grows bigger a Hi 5 Basketball Academy with a college-like campus that nurtures both athletic and personal excellence.

“Hi 5 has just begun,” he says. “The full bloom will come in the next 20 years. This academy will not only shape champions but also create opportunities in the sports industry.”

He believes India is at an inflection point, where sport will soon be recognized as both a profession and a catalyst for social mobility. The children of Hi 5, he says with conviction, “will be the ones shaping the future of sport in India, while lifting their families up the economic ladder.”

A Legacy of Hope and Change

Ten years on, Hi 5 Youth Foundation stands as a testament to the transformative power of play.

Here, every dribble teaches discipline. Every pass builds trust. Every game fosters leadership and self-belief.

From remote tribal schools to crowded city slums, Hi 5's children are not just learning basketball, they're learning to dream, to strive, and to rise.

And as Nelson Mandela said and as Hi 5 proves every day...

“Sports has the power to change the world.”

ROTARACTORS DIGEST

Creativity Takes Center Stage at Amplify Q2



Following the success of Quarter One, Amplify Quarter Two returned on October 4th, 2025, at M. L. Dahanukar College. This edition was packed with fresh themes of gamification, and improv.

The event kicked off with Mr. Bhagyesh Patil, who introduced participants to improvisation through interactive activities like the Mannequin Challenge, encouraging creative, spontaneous thinking. The energy was infectious.

Next, Mr. Parth Doshi dove into the world of gamification and its real-life applications. Participants applied their learning by designing and presenting original game ideas for stimulation.

The interactive, insightful sessions were met with overwhelming positive feedback. Team Publications of RID 3141 is thrilled, and Rotaractors are already eagerly anticipating Amplify Quarter Three.

Learn A New Sport (L.A.N.S)



L.A.N.S (Learn A New Sport) is an initiative where we aim to teach participants a new sport every quarter. This year, we are giving clubs the opportunity to conduct L.A.N.S themselves, and for Quarter 1, the initiative was carried out by Rotaract Club of K.C. College, Rotaract Club of UPG, Rotaract Club of Mumbai Nova, Rotaract Club of Bombaypier, Rotaract Club of Parleshwar Genz, and Rotaract Club of MLDC. We began Quarter 1 with Archery at Airport High School, Vile Parle, which saw an excellent response with over 100 participants. The event was made possible through the efforts of our Club Sports Director, who gained valuable experience in managing a large-scale activity, while our team focused on promotions to ensure strong participation. The day was not only about learning a new sport but also about building focus, discipline, teamwork, and strengthening the bond between the organizing clubs. This successful start has set a positive tone for the upcoming quarters, and we look forward to more such impactful sporting experiences.



Modern Indian Parliament Session (MIPS)



The Model Indian Parliamentary System (MIPS) 2025 transformed Sydenham College into a vibrant Parliament on 5th October 2025, where Rotaractors took on roles of ministers, speakers, and opposition leaders, experiencing democracy in action.

The excitement began well before the main day with a full-fledged election simulation. After registrations, participants were divided into five parties — Indian Progressive Congress (IPC), Bharat Navnirman Party (BNP), Lok Kalyan Dal (LKD), Navbharat Sena (NBS), and Nagrik Ekta Party (NEP) — each crafting manifestos and campaigning for votes. Elections were conducted online via coded Google Forms to ensure fairness. With no clear majority (IPC and BNP – 72 seats each, LKD – 60, NBS – 54, NEP – 42), coalition talks led to a government formed by IPC,

LKD, and NBS.

A training and oath-taking session, led by Mr. Hriday Adani, oriented participants on parliamentary procedures. The central discussion revolved around the Digital Integrity & Accountability Bill, 2025, addressing fake news, deepfakes, and digital media misuse. On the main day, the atmosphere was electric with the National Anthem, Question Hour, Resolution Hour, and spirited debates between the government and opposition. Participants experienced authentic voting processes — voice vote, show of hands, digital, and paper ballot. In a dramatic conclusion, the opposition blocked the bill, exemplifying democracy's unpredictability. The day ended with felicitations and awards, leaving participants enriched by a true taste of leadership, learning, and democratic spirit.

Jashn-e-3141: A Celebration of Cultures & Connections



Jashn-e 3141 was a multi-district exchange successfully hosted by Rotaract International District 3141.

With 3 International Districts from Paris, Germany and Uganda and 15+ Domestic Districts from various parts of India participating to witness Aamchi Mumbai transform into the grandiloquent land of Ganpati Pandals and monsoon magic, Jashn-e-3141 brought together the Rotaract Clubs of Mumbai to host the incoming Districts, allowing one of the greatest Cultural amalgamations to take place in India. Rotaractors from various Districts

took turns exploring Mumbai's must-visit Ganpati Pandals, rich architecture and traditional and new-age icons with their Bombay counterparts. The event was highlighted at the Jashn-e DRR's Dinner, which was held on 30th August at FM Banquet, Goregaon West, to officiate the Welcome of Rotaractors from various districts to RID 3141. The Dinner was graced by 12 District Executive Council Members, 33 District Council Members, 71 Club members, 05 Rotarians, 03 Alumni and 46 Other District Members, making it a grand total of over 170 Members present.

Jashn-e-3141: A Celebration of Cultures & Connections

Navrotsav, held on 14th October 2025 at Friend's Academy, Mulund, was a super fun pre-Garba event filled with music, dance, and lots of festive vibes. Planning started well in advance with registrations from many clubs, HOD applications, and proper role allocations to keep things smooth. On the event day, the team reached early, set up stalls, stage, sound, decor, and even a photo booth for all to enjoy.

The evening began with Mataji's Aarti, and soon the floor was rocking with Garba and Dandiya. Clubs danced their hearts out, enjoying every moment. Exciting announce-

ments like REIZEN, RED, and TMS were done on stage, along with RED State bifurcations live. Performances were judged by experts from Soni School of Garba Dance, and winners were awarded in categories like Male & Female Best Dancer, Male & Female Best Dressed, and Best Dancing Duo. Gift hampers and mementoes made it even more special.

The night ended with a grand DJ party and an open dance floor where everyone joined the fun. The event was attended by over 50 District Council Members, 125 Rotaractors, 1 Rotarian and 50 Guests, making it a grand total of 131 members present.

Mega Orientation



This Mega Orientation, over 181 enthusiastic Rotaractors came together under the banner of RID 3141, ready to embark on their journey into the world of Rotaract!

The day began with unmatched energy as new members were introduced to the spirit, purpose, and power of Rotaract. Guided by the torchbearers of RID 3141 and a dynamic team of 25–26 leaders, the event set the stage for inspiration, learning, and fellowship.

Adding immense value to the experience, alumni of RID 3141 joined us for an enlightening panel discussion, sharing their wisdom, stories, and passion that continue to shape our movement. The open Q&A session saw eager minds interacting, clarifying, and engaging with leaders, leaving everyone motivated to take their first steps as Rotaractors with confidence.

Mega Orientation 2025 was more than just an introduction; it was the first chapter of a journey. For every first-time Rotaractor present, it marked the beginning of friendships, opportunities, and a commitment to serve, learn, and grow together.

Goa RYLA: A Grand Success!



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 2025 was held from 19th to 21st September at the vibrant Neelam's The Grand, Goa, bringing together 72+ participants from various districts along with 12+ Rotarians for an inspiring three-day experience.

The event featured 7+ power-packed activities, from workshops and team challenges to cultural exchanges and networking sessions, each designed to spark leadership and collaboration.

With its scale, energy, and flawless execution, Goa RYLA 2025 proved to be one of the most dynamic and memorable youth leadership gatherings of the year.

Building a Strong Rotary 3141 – Membership & Public Image Seminar

● TEAM INSPIRE

Held on Sunday, 12th October 2025 at Rotary Service Centre, Juhu, The Rotary Club of Bombay West, as Lead Host, successfully organized the District 3141 Seminar on Membership and Public Image on Sunday, 12th October 2025, at the Rotary Service Centre, Juhu. Themed “Building a Strong Rotary 3141,” the seminar drew together an enthusiastic gathering of district leaders, club presidents, and Rotarians from across Mumbai to explore ideas and strategies to strengthen Rotary’s two vital pillars — Membership and Public Image.

The morning began with registration, breakfast, and lively fellowship that set the tone for a day filled with learning and inspiration. President Rtn. Jayant Sanghvi extended a warm welcome to all present, emphasizing that collaboration and innovation were the cornerstones of Rotary’s continued growth. District Governor



Dr. Manish Motwani, in his keynote address on “Unite for Good and Let’s Inspire!”, spoke passionately about how the organization’s visibility and vitality stem from active member engagement and authentic storytelling that connects communities to Rotary’s mission.

The seminar unfolded with a series of insightful and engaging sessions. PDG Rtn. Subhash Kulkarni, in his address on “Public Image and Membership – Beyond the Banner,” spoke about how these two aspects are intertwined, each reinforcing the other. District Membership Avenue Head Rtn. Saurabh Sonawala and Public Image Avenue Head Rtn. Ravi Jaswani, along with team

members Rtn. Chetan Kotak, Rtn. Vipul Shah, Rtn. Ashish Tapiawala, and Rtn. Mona Shah, conducted practical sessions on recruitment, retention, and the creation of new and satellite clubs. Rtn. Bhavin Toprani’s session on “Public Image – Do’s and Don’ts on Social Media” drew much attention for its relatable, hands-on approach to digital communication. The seminar also included an impactful segment by PP Rtn. Harminder Singh Patheja, Organ Donation Avenue Chair, who sensitized the audience on the importance of organ donation and encouraged pledges for the cause.

The seamless execution of the seminar reflected the efforts of a cohesive and com-



mitted team from the Rotary Club of Bombay West and District 3141. Convener President-Elect Rtn. Tejas Sura, Co-Convener Vice President Rtn. Dr. Usha Jayachandran, and the support team comprising PP Rtn. Aslam Merchant and PP Rtn. Rajul Doshi worked hand in hand with district leaders to ensure a flawless experience. Their combined leadership, along with the guidance of District Avenue Heads Rtn. Saurabh Sonawala and Rtn. Ravi Jaswani, created an atmosphere that was both professional and warm.

The event saw participation and support from numerous clubs across the district, whose partnership contributed to the success

of the day. Appreciation was extended to the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Bombay West for their unwavering encouragement and backing. Convener Rtn. Tejas Sura, in his concluding remarks, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Co-Convener Rtn. Dr. Usha Jayachandran, PP Rtn. Rajul Doshi, PP Rtn. Aslam Merchant, Rtn. Hima Dalal, PP Rtn. Samapti Patel, Rtn. Isha Nisar, and PP Rtn. Harminder Singh Patheja for their tireless efforts in planning, logistics, and coordination.

The seminar received warm appreciation from participants and district dignitaries alike. District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, along with several at-

tendees, lauded the Rotary Service Centre, Juhu, for its excellent facilities and welcoming ambience. The event not only strengthened the spirit of Rotary fellowship but also highlighted the potential of the Service Centre as a preferred venue for future district gatherings. President Rtn. Jayant Sanghvi’s constant presence throughout the proceedings was noted and applauded as a mark of dedicated leadership and commitment to the Rotary ideal.

The Membership and Public Image Seminar proved to be more than just a forum for ideas — it was a celebration of Rotary’s spirit of unity, learning, and collective action. It reaffirmed the belief that when Membership and Public Image work in harmony, Rotary becomes truly visible, vibrant, and valued. With teamwork and enthusiasm as its foundation, Rotary District 3141 continues to move forward with confidence and purpose, steadfastly building a strong Rotary that inspires, includes, and unites.

NYAY 2025 – WHERE LAW MET THEATRE

Nyay 2025 – Inter-Collegiate Law Drama Fest

Rotary Club of Bombay Pier in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Balasaheb Apte College of Law organised “Nyay” - The Law Colleges Drama Festival 2025 with a twist on 12th October 2025 at D.M. Harish School of Law, Worli.

It was a delight to see the Chagla Family Members in full attendance which included Mrs Nalini Chagla, Dr Leena Chagla, Dr Adil Chagla and Mr Manoj Agarwal.

Our esteemed judges were Rtn Madhoo Shah, Rtn Ishwar Nankani and Mr Kishu Daswani.

Chief Guest - Counsel Daraius Shroff, Guest of Honour - Rtn Anil Harish and DG Rtn Dr Manish Motwani

The other Dignitaries included: Vice Chancellor - Professor Hemlata Bangla, Estate Manager - Mr Suresh Kanodia, Director DM Harish School of Law - Dr Bindu Variath, Head of Dept, DM Harish



School of Law – Dr Anju Singh and Registrar Ms Bhagwan Balani.

The competition was organised in fond memory of Late Barrister Shaukat C Chagla who was the counsel for Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Trophy was sponsored by the family.

It was a confluence of law, culture, creativity and humour celebrating the dynamic spirit of legal education beyond the classroom.

The Master of Ceremonies was Rtn PP Rupen Doshi and the event was wonderfully conducted by the

Rotaractors of Rotaract Club of Balasaheb Apte College of Law.

Nyay was a legal drama competition where 9 teams of 10 participants per team performed a 10-minute skit on pressing social and legal issues using a mix of wit, humour and bollywood. Each Team had one designated participant as the “Team Leader” to represent the team. Each team was assigned a unique “Team Code”.

The acts presented by the participating teams revolved around the law based topic as assigned to

the respective teams. It was mandatory for the performing teams to include at least one Court Room Scene pertaining to the theme in their performance.

The Performing teams were judged and marked by a “Panel of Judges”. The scores allocated were Dialogue Delivery 20 marks, Originality 15 marks, Humour 15 marks, Acting Prowess 20 marks, Understanding of Underlying Legal Issue 30 marks. Total 100 marks.

The winners as declared by the judges were: Winner: Team 9 - D.M. Harish School of Law (Team Name: Courtroom Crusaders) Runners-up: Team 5 - University of Mumbai Thane Sub-campus (Team Name: Vakil Lok) Special Appreciation: Team 6 - SVKM’s Pravin Gandhi College of Law (Team Name: League Eagle)

Best Actor: Mihir Sawant -

Team 5 (University of Mumbai Thane Sub - campus) Nyay, being in its maiden year, was a super success and attended by President Rtn Noopur Desai, PDG Rtn Ajay Gupta, PE Rtn Amit Gupta, Rtn PP Mayuri Bhasin, Rtn PP Rupen & Neha Doshi, Rtn Methoo Surty, Rtn Suhit Jhaveri, Rtn Ian Periera, Rtn Anjali Poonawala, Rtn Poonam Utamchandani, Rtn Jyothi Rao, Rtn Ishwar Nankani, Rtn Madhoo Shah, Rtn Ruzbeh Mistry, Rtn Munaf Bandukwala and Partner Gunita Chadha.

Congrats to President Rtn Noopur Desai, Rtn PP Rupen Doshi, Rtn PP Mayuri Bhasin, Rtn Amit Gupta and Rtn Shamika Shetty, President of Rotaract Club of Balasaheb Apte College of Law and her Team Members. This will be a year-on-year program with better participation and improved performances by the Rotaractors.

INTERVIEWS

From Supporting Spouse to Inspiring President : Pres. Ketki Niser

• RTN. RACKHEE MEHTA

For Ketki Niser, Rotary has always been a part of life. As the spouse of a Charter Member, she has been connected with the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan since its very beginning, 40 years ago. She found her own space in Inner Wheel, where she served as President and won awards for her leadership. Over the years, she supported many club projects and Presidents, quietly contributing in the background and learning how meaningful service could transform lives.

In 2023, encouraged by friends in the club, Ketki formally joined Rotary as a member. At first, she carried a hesitation about her English fluency — but her fellow



Pres. Ketki Niser, RC Bombay Metropolitan

Two-Term President Unites Compassion and Action for Community Transformation

Rotarians reassured her, and she soon realised that what truly matters is the sincerity to serve. Language, she discovered, is only a tool; what counts is the heart.

In 2024–25, she took on the mantle of President, and when the incoming President could not continue due to medical reasons, Ketki stepped up once again in 2025–26 to lead the club with grace and positivity. Her leadership has been marked by compassion and action. The club has worked on pediatric heart and onco-surgeries, dialysis technician training, organ donation seminars, computer literacy for tribal children, toilet blocks, and upcoming initiatives like financial lit-

eracy for women, cornea grafting, and skin grafting surgeries.

Yet Ketki believes Rotary is not just about projects. It is also about fellowship, friendship, and family. With around 40 members, the club enjoys a close-knit bond, strengthened by tours and get-togethers that bring joy alongside service.

Her journey as President has been transformational — broadening her horizons, giving her the confidence to speak and lead, and allowing her to build lasting connections across the district. Always smiling and ever ready to help, Ketki embodies the true spirit of Rotary: **service with happiness.**



From Naval Discipline to Rotary Leadership : Pres. Ramesh J. S Chandra

A Journey of Vision, Integrity, and Service Beyond Titles

• RTN. RACKHEE MEHTA

Rtn. Shri Ramesh J.S. Chandra, President of the Rotary Club of Marine Drive, Mumbai (2025–26), is a proud Veteran Submariner of the Indian Navy. A specialist in Electronic Warfare Systems and NBCD (Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Damage) Control, he served on INS Vagli and INS Chakra, India's first nuclear submarine, and contributed to submarine modernisation projects in Russia. He also holds a degree in Nuclear Science from the Institute of Defence Studies, Vladivostok.

During his naval career, he rose to become Head of

the Electrical and Electronics Faculty of the Submarine Squadron at Vishakhapatnam and Mumbai. For his service, he was honoured during the President of India's Submarine Colours Award Ceremony as part of the Submarine Veterans.

After voluntary retirement, he joined the Merchant Navy as a Marine Engineer, sailing across the world and representing his company in shipyard takeovers and trials in China, Korea, the UK, and Germany. Rtn. Chandra's Rotary journey began in 2016 with the Rotary Club of Bombay Kandivali, where he served as Vice President and was recognised as "Most Prom-

ising Rotarian of the Year" (2017). A Rotary Friendship Exchange to Scotland further strengthened his fellowship bonds. In 2024, he joined the Rotary Club of Marine Drive to remain connected with his naval fraternity, and was soon entrusted with the role of President.

As President, his focus area is Youth Empowerment. Passionate about motivating students to pursue careers in defence, he proudly notes that seven students he mentored are now serving in the Armed Forces. He is also supporting blind skaters, some of whom are set to represent India at international events. Two of his protégés, 12-year-old twins, have already achieved a world record in push-ups.

His club's current initiatives include: Renovation of two schools in Karjat through CSR support, Support to Old Age Homes with medicines and essentials, Benches for



Rtn. Shri Ramesh J.S. Chandra

President 2025–26 | Rotary Club of Marine Drive, Mumbai

schools in Central Mumbai, Vocational support through Ramakrishna Mission and similar institutions, Youth competitions such as elocution, painting, and defence orientation programs, Organ donation awareness and environmental projects

The Rotary Club of Marine Drive, though a young club of just four years with 34 members, thrives on fellowship. Meetings are often held in an intimate, potluck-style setting that strengthens camaraderie and bonds. Membership is steadily growing under his leadership.

Rtn. Chandra has also been honoured with several prestigious recognitions, including the Ample Mission Award (2024), Best Professional Safety Award (2025) and Think Big Maharashtra Award (2025).

A man of discipline and humility, he brings the same courage and commitment that defined his naval journey into Rotary leadership. As he steers his club with vision and fellowship, he continues to inspire members and youth alike, leaving a mark of integrity, resilience, and service that goes beyond titles.

Rtn. Shri Ramesh J.S. Chandra, Veteran Submariner and Rotary Club of Marine Drive President (2025–26), focuses on youth empowerment, defence motivation, school renovation, and community welfare—blending naval discipline, global experience, and Rotary fellowship in impactful leadership.

INTERVIEWS

Innovating Through Service: Saurabh N. Mehta

● K.V.PREMRAJ

Rtn. Dr. Saurabh N. Mehta is a dedicated professional with over two decades of experience in technology, education, and community service. With a passion for innovation, he strives to bridge academia, industry, and technology to create lasting impact. Holding a B.E., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electronics Engineering, his expertise spans Wireless Networks, Embedded Systems, IoT, and Educational Technology. His career reflects a deep commitment to empowering others and driving progress through technology and education.

As the Chief Administrative Officer at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Dr. Mehta plays a key role in fostering collaboration between academia and industry. He integrates cutting-edge technology into education, designing curricula aligned with industry needs and preparing future-ready engineers. Beyond imparting technical proficiency, he focuses on shaping students



Saurabh N. Mehta, RC of Upper Kandivali

into thoughtful leaders capable of making a meaningful difference.

Dr. Mehta's journey with Rotary began when he witnessed the inspiring work of its members in community service, education, and youth development. Deeply moved by Rotary's values and vision, he saw in it an opportunity to contribute more meaningfully to society while furthering his own growth as a leader.

For him, technology is not merely a tool for advancement—it is a means of achieving social change. As President of the Rotary Club of Upper Kandivali, he envisions leveraging his technological expertise to design innovative solutions for local community challenges. His focus areas include education and STEM initiatives for underprivileged children, with programs that

emphasize digital literacy and mentorship. Through these, he aims to open new avenues of opportunity and inspire young minds to thrive in an increasingly tech-driven world.

Health and wellness are also close to Dr. Mehta's heart. Believing strongly in the power of technology to improve quality of life, he has championed initiatives such as medical camps, mental health awareness sessions, and wellness drives. His vision is to integrate modern tools and digital platforms to enhance healthcare accessibility for underserved populations.

Equally passionate about sustainability, Dr. Mehta has long advocated for community projects that focus on environmental responsibility—ranging from clean water initiatives and construction of overhead tanks to IoT-based systems that monitor and improve infrastructure efficiency. His belief that technology and sustainability can go hand in hand drives his efforts toward creating resilient, self-sufficient communities.

A believer in mentorship and team empowerment, Dr. Mehta fosters an inclusive environment where every Rotary member feels valued and engaged. He encourages participation by delegating leadership roles, promoting collaborative projects, and nurturing emerging leaders through mentorship. He is committed to building innovative fundraising models and partnerships to sustain and expand the club's long-term impact.

Dr. Mehta's love for technology extends into his personal life through his keen interest in ham radio. To him, amateur radio communication is both a hobby and a public service tool—especially vital during emergencies. His engagement with the ham radio community reflects his dedication to using technical knowledge for humanitarian causes and inspiring others to do the same.

When not immersed in his professional or Rotary pursuits, Saurabh enjoys mentoring students and exploring advancements in embedded systems and measuring instruments. He

also finds joy in simple pleasures—watching movies, reading, and engaging with fellow Rotarians through networking and fellowship. These moments help him stay grounded while nurturing his lifelong passion for technology and service.

Saurabh loves greenery and mountains. He prefers walking on trails and enjoying quiet surroundings, often visiting Matheran. Though not a foodie, he enjoys authentic South Indian, Maharashtrian, and Gujarati cuisine, with a special fondness for traditional home-cooked meals.

He lives with his wife Kajal, son Shaurya, and mother Bharti. Rtn. Dr. Saurabh N. Mehta truly embodies the spirit of Rotary—blending innovation with service and using his expertise to address community needs. His vision for the Rotary Club of Upper Kandivali is one where technology becomes a force for social transformation. As he leads the club into the coming year, he remains deeply committed to the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self.

Designing Impact: Pres. Sagar Gharat

● TEAM INSPIRE

Rtn. Sagar Gharat, a consulting architect by profession, has made remarkable strides not only in his career but also in his Rotary journey. Over the years, his dedication to both his profession and community service has inspired many. His story is a shining example of how passion and purpose can align to create a meaningful and lasting impact.

Sagar embarked on his Rotary journey three years ago with the Palghar Rotary Club, where he quickly distinguished himself as an active and committed member. Originally hailing from Umroli, Sagar has always maintained a deep connection with his roots. Over the past two years, he has actively involved his friends and the people of Umroli in various Rotary initiatives and entertainment programs. These engagements not only showcased Rotary's unique

approach to service but also highlighted the fellowship, impactful projects, business relationships, and opportunities for holistic growth it offers to its members.

The enthusiasm of Umroli residents steadily grew, and they began expressing a strong desire to establish their own Rotary Club. Their interest and determination motivated Sagar to take action. Together, they sought guidance from Rtn. Rakesh Mishra, who identified Sagar as the ideal leader to spearhead the initiative, given his experience and active participation in the Palghar Club.

Initially, Sagar hesitated. "Being a member of the Palghar Club, I wasn't sure how I could take on the responsibility of establishing and leading another club," he admitted. However, his fellow members at the Palghar Club had unwavering faith in him and encouraged him wholeheartedly. Their support and confidence inspired Sagar to

embrace the challenge, leading to his appointment as the President of the newly established Rotary Club of Umroli while continuing his valuable contributions to the Palghar Club.

The journey to establish the Umroli Rotary Club began with an interest meeting organized by Sagar and attended by 47 eager participants. Distinguished members of the Palghar Rotary Club, including President Arun, Rtn. Milind Patil, Rtn. Rakesh Mishra, and others, delivered impactful speeches on Rotary's avenues of service, fellowship, and business growth opportunities. The event inspired everyone present, leading to the official establishment of the Umroli Rotary Club.

Initially, the community suggested the local Sarpanch as the club's President. However, recognizing Sagar's experience and dedication, they unanimously endorsed him as their leader. This marked

the beginning of Sagar's dual journey as an active contributor to both the Palghar and Umroli Rotary Clubs. His vibrant leadership and commitment to service earned him praise from fellow Presidents and members alike.

Education and skill development remain Sagar's primary focus areas. He is particularly passionate about improving the quality of education in his hometown. The school where he studied is currently in poor condition, forcing students to travel to Palghar and Boisar for better facilities. Determined to change this, Sagar has already donated ₹5 lakh to construct new classrooms and aims to transform the school into a well-equipped institution. His vision includes expanding the school to cover grades from kindergarten to 10th, providing comprehensive education in Umroli itself.

Sagar has actively engaged with the school trustees, who have entrusted him with



Pres. Sagar Gharat, RC Palghar

architectural planning and documentation to bring this vision to life. With support from local authorities, including the Gram Panchayat, and the cooperation of both past and present Sarpanches, the project is steadily moving forward. Land allocation for the school expansion has been approved, and Sagar is determined to see his dream realized.

"Umroli is growing, and the demand for quality education is increasing. My roadmap is

clear, and I'm committed to making this vision a reality," Sagar shared. His leadership exemplifies Rotary's ethos of service above self, blending professional expertise with a heartfelt dedication to community upliftment.

Rtn. Sagar Gharat's inspiring journey exemplifies how one individual's dedication and leadership can spark a ripple effect, fostering positive change in communities and embodying the true spirit of fellowship and service.

INTERVIEWS

Empathy Meets Impact: Sharbani Banerjee

● RACKHEE MEHTA

Sharbani Banerjee's Rotary journey began just three years ago—but what she has achieved in that short time is a testament to her commitment and leadership. Inducted into the Rotary Club of Lokhandwala Kandivli in July 2022, she has been a proud and active member ever since. Her rise to President in such a brief span reflects her dedication, people-centric mindset, and infectious positivity.

When asked what inspired her to take on the mantle of President, Sharbani says, "I believe I have certain leadership qualities and connect well with people. As a communication skills trainer for over four years, I've always believed in creating engagement and building meaningful relationships. Rotary gives me the platform to do just that—and more—serve communities, support causes, and connect with like-minded individuals." Her personal motto, "United we stand, together we rise," beautifully captures her vision for Rotary.

Before becoming President, Sharbani served as Secretary in the "Vibrant Year." Though much of that year was spent abroad with her children, she remained deeply involved. "Maybe they saw something in me—empathy, openness, and the willingness to serve—that



Sharbani Banerjee, RC of Lokhandwala Kandivli

made them feel I was ready for this responsibility," she says with humility.

Now as President, she is focused on strengthening member participation, building relationships, and leading sustainable projects with lasting impact. With the club's current membership at 23, she sees great potential. "I'm working toward creating a more engaging environment where every member feels included and valued. Inclusivity is key."

To boost participation, she is introducing Fireside Meetings—informal gatherings that include

family members. While the club meets twice a month, she plans to add one online meeting during the monsoon and start monthly firesides. "These gatherings foster connection and strengthen the Rotary bond." She also plans to revive Speaker Meetings by inviting thought leaders and collaborating with other clubs. "The more our members engage, the stronger their sense of belonging becomes."

Under her leadership, the club has taken on impactful initiatives—supporting Rotary hospitals, conducting cancer screenings, vaccination drives, and celebrating Rotary Service Week with projects promoting women's empowerment and education through the TEACH program. Mental health awareness and addiction prevention are also close to her heart.

Environmental sustainability is another focus. An e-waste collection drive, in partnership with the Interact Club, is in progress. "The youth bring enthusiasm and fresh perspectives, especially on tech-driven and environmental issues. It's important to engage them."

Among the club's flagship projects are the Mid-Day Meal Program and Different Strokes and Expressions. The meal program has provided food to over 300 children at a BMC school since 2002,

while the art competition—running since 1998—brings together more than 300 children from 15+ schools each year. "These aren't just events—they're part of our identity as a club. I'm committed to strengthening them further."

While the club's work spans diverse causes, Sharbani's personal focus is clear—women empowerment. She speaks passionately about breaking gender stereotypes, improving mental health, and helping women achieve financial independence. "If you empower a woman, you empower a family—and ultimately, society."

Her women-centric initiatives include vocational training, spoken English classes, and financing Pink Autos—self-driven autos by women, for women. She also promotes breast cancer screenings and awareness campaigns. "Health is often overlooked, especially by women. Mental health remains taboo in many circles. I want to change that narrative—help women become more confident, self-reliant, and aware."

When not immersed in Rotary or teaching, Sharbani finds joy in nature and movement. Long walks, yoga, and casual fitness sessions with a local women's group keep her grounded. "I find peace in greenery. Nature has always been my escape and my healer." She also enjoys cooking and admits that a bit of shopping

now and then lifts her spirits.

Professionally, she holds an M.Sc. in Biology and a Diploma in Computer Applications from NIIT. She ran her own coaching classes for over a decade before completing her PG Diploma in Teacher Training. Since 2020, she has been successfully conducting communication skills training for young professionals.

Sharbani credits her family as her strongest support system. Her husband recently retired after 35 years at ONGC as General Manager of Production. Her elder daughter, an NMIMS graduate, works as a healthcare administrator at UHN Hospitals in Toronto, while her younger daughter, an electronics and telecom engineer, is a senior tracking engineer at Paramount Plus in New Jersey.

Despite her many commitments, Sharbani remains fully devoted to Rotary. "It fills me with purpose, pride, and positivity." She hopes to foster greater collaboration among club presidents. "Rotary is not about working in silos—it's about coming together, sharing ideas, and building something greater than ourselves."

With empathy, optimism, and people-first leadership, Sharbani Banerjee is not just leading her club—she's inspiring transformation. Her presidency promises to be a year of connection, compassion, and meaningful change.

Inspiring Leadership, Lasting Impact: Pres Jiten Mehta

● BY PREMRAJ KV

Jiten Mehta, the Charter President of Rotary Club Sky City, Borivali, embodies leadership, vision, and dedication. A first-generation entrepreneur, his inspiring journey from humble beginnings to success reflects his unwavering commitment to growth and service. His 18-month tenure, extending until June 2026, promises a lasting impact on both the club and the community.

His entrepreneurial journey began with a clear vision after graduating in 1987. Gaining experience in a small firm, he launched his own business in 1989, building a successful enterprise while laying a founda-

tion for future generations. Believing in the power of giving back, he played a key role in forming consortiums within industry associations to help scale businesses. This passion for service naturally led him to Rotary, where he found the ideal platform to channel his dedication to social causes.

Leading a newly chartered club comes with its challenges, particularly since many members are first-time Rotarians. Understanding the need for awareness and engagement, Jiten has focused on fostering a strong sense of community through regular interactions, fellowship events, and impactful projects like medical camps

and blood donation drives. His leadership style is rooted in collaboration, ensuring that every member feels valued and empowered.

Jiten envisions a club deeply connected to its mission of service, with a strong focus on women empowerment, gender inclusivity, and education. For him, the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" is not just a phrase but a way of life. His signature project during his tenure will focus on empowering women and supporting girl education—causes that hold deep personal significance for him. Aligning with this year's theme of inclusivity and diversity, he is determined to make a meaningful impact.

Despite his demanding Rotary commitments, Jiten maintains a healthy work-life balance. A music lover and avid traveler, he is known for organizing gatherings among friends and family. His strong family support system—including his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren—keeps him motivated in both his business and social endeavors.

Guided by integrity, transparency, and commitment, Jiten Mehta leads with the conviction that Rotary Club Sky City will thrive under a shared vision of service and growth. His leadership promises not just impactful projects but a lasting legacy of empowerment and community engagement.



Pres Jiten Mehta, RC Sky City, Borivali

INTERVIEWS

A Legacy of Invisible Blessings : Pres. Rtn. Ramakant Tibrewala

● RTN. RACKHEE MEHTA

For President Rtn. Ramakant Tibrewala, service is not a choice—it is the rhythm of his life. Born and raised in Mumbai, he grew up with a question that his father asked every morning: “What have you done today for someone who cannot repay you?” Decades later, that quiet question still guides every decision he makes, whether in high-level boardrooms or remote village lanes.

He first entered Rotary in the 1990s with RC Bombay North End, but he was never the Rotarian of speeches or ceremonies. His service lived in silence—building hospitals, aiding tribal schools, sending relief during calamities—without ever stepping into the spotlight. Rotary, to him, was never about presence at meetings, but presence in

someone's moment of need.

In 2025, he founded the Rotary Club of Mumbai World Towers, not as a social circle but as a moral movement. Surrounded by Mumbai's skyline of luxury, he saw something unsettling: seniors isolated behind glass, youth drifting despite privilege, communities rich in resources but poor in connection. He envisioned a club that would not just donate, but deeply intervene in human loneliness and dignity.

As President, his first commitment was to redefine care for the elderly. He launched a comprehensive medical assurance program for members and their spouses above 60, partnering with premier hospitals like Reliance Foundation, Jaslok, Breach Candy, and Hinduja. With digitised records, dedicated doctors, and a 24-hour emergency



**Pres. Rtn. Ramakant Tibrewala,
RC Mumbai World Towers**

line, he ensured that no elder would ever stand alone at a hospital gate. “Age,” he often says, “must never feel like exile.”

For the youth, he believes they do not need sermons—they need sincere listeners. He created mentorship circles led by national leaders and top financial experts,

offering Rotarian children honest conversations about choices, ethics, and ambition. He even formed a Cultural Knowledge Circle for children under fifteen, where they reflect on Indian mythology and narrate weekly podcasts on Spotify—rooting ambition in identity.

Yet, his most profound work lies far from the skyscrapers—in a forgotten village in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He adopted a barren land and rebuilt it, not through charity, but through shared labour with villagers. What was once cracked earth is today a thriving model of rural transformation: rainwater systems that replenish life, solar power lighting every night, 30-foot paved roads, a school for 71 mentally challenged children, a Vedic Vidyalaya blending tradition with modernity, a gaushala preserving indigenous breeds, tree plantations and libraries where rural children now dream without limits. These initiatives were inaugurated by DG Dr. Manish Motwani, in the presence of RC Mumbai World Towers members who witnessed service far deeper than donation.

Despite leading over

36 global businesses, he seeks no tribute. He shuns grandeur. His dream is not to build something to be remembered, but something that makes strangers whisper blessings. “Before I leave,” he says softly, “I want to leave behind a reason for someone to smile without knowing my name.”

Under his leadership, RC Mumbai World Tower is not drafting projects—it is scripting purpose. From water conservation to national plantation drives and cooperative rural models, every initiative carries the audacity to become a movement.

In an age hungry for applause, he remains devoted to anonymity. A man who builds not monuments, but meaning. A Rotarian who turns an old question into daily prayer: What have you done today for the world beyond yourself?

A Leader with Focus and Impact : Trivankumar Karnani

● BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

Trivankumar Karnani, who serves as the President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Bandra for the 2025-2026 term, is a prominent criminal litigation lawyer practicing in the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court of India. Trivan, a graduate of Mumbai University, has built an impressive career not only in law but also in various social causes. He is the founder of the Mumbai North-Central District Forum (MNCDF), a popular and effective citizen welfare and grievance redressal platform in Mumbai, and serves as the Chief Legal Officer for Planet for Plants and Animals, an organization focused on environmental protection and animal welfare. Trivan's life motto is to live for a cause rather than for applause, constantly striving to make a meaningful impact rather than seeking recognition.

His efforts during the pandemic earned him the 2022 Angel of the Year award from The Free Press Journal's 'Angels of Mumbai' pro-



**Trivankumar Karnani
RC Bombay Bandra**

gram. Recognizing his dedication, a friend introduced Trivan to the Rotary Club of Bandra, where he became a member after the pandemic. **His leadership in the Rotary Club, which he will guide as President, will be centered on two key principles: Focus and Impact.**

During his presidential term, Trivan plans to continue the club's ongoing projects while also expanding and improving them. These projects include

Adv. Trivankumar Karnani, President of Rotary Club of Bombay Bandra (2025-26), is a distinguished criminal lawyer and social reformer committed to environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and community upliftment through impactful initiatives in healthcare, education, and civic collaboration for lasting social impact.

large-scale beach and mangrove cleanups, promoting animal welfare for stray dogs and cats, urban foresting, health awareness programs, and medical camps. He also aims to create deeper collaborations with the civic administration and health department to assist the underprivileged. His focus will be on helping disadvantaged communities gain access to healthcare, education, and employable skills, thus improving their overall quality of life.

Trivan is deeply passionate about environmental protection and animal welfare. His efforts have included raising awareness about legal issues affecting animal-resident conflicts in housing societies and conducting feeding

programs in colleges. His plans for the future include a Reflective Collar Drive for stray dogs and cats, further bolstering his ongoing animal welfare initiatives. This protects the lives of stray dogs by making them more visible to drivers at night, thus preventing them from being hit by speeding vehicles. These actions reflect Trivan's belief in creating a compassionate society, one that values the lives of all living beings.

A strong advocate for community service and environmental sustainability, Trivan is also committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), particularly in the areas of edu-

cation, healthcare, and environmental protection. He believes that environmental sustainability is a shared responsibility which everyone must take seriously. In his view, this sense of duty extends beyond individual rights, which are enshrined in Articles 12-35 of the Constitution of India, to the fundamental duties outlined in Article 51. He encourages all citizens to familiarize themselves with Article 51 to understand their responsibilities toward protecting the environment and striving for excellence, both individually and collectively.

Trivan's approach to leadership is rooted in his belief that service to society should be driven by compassion and a sense of duty. As President of the Rotary Club, Trivan aims to inspire others to join him in his mission to foster compassion, sustainability, and social equity. His presidency promises to be a year marked by meaningful contributions to the welfare of the environment, animals, and the underprivileged, all while staying true to his values of focus, impact, and responsibility.

NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

NEWS THIS MONTH COMPILED BY RACKHEE MEHTA & SASHIKALA CHARLES

RC OF BOMBAY BAYVIEW EMPOWERING FUTURES – SUPPORT TO CSA



The Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview continues its mission of meaningful impact by supporting Catalysts for Social Action (CSA), a 22-year-old NGO dedicated to transforming the lives of children living in Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Focused on Rotary's Areas of Focus—Maternal & Child Health and Basic Education & Literacy—this project reaffirms the club's commitment to nurturing vulnerable lives and building resilient futures.

Children living in CCIs often face disrupted childhoods, limited access to quality education, poor health outcomes, and a lack of family support. As they transition into adulthood, many are unprepared for independent living due to gaps in life skills, employability training, and emotional support. Without structured aftercare, care leavers are highly vulnerable to unemployment, exploitation, and social isolation. CSA addresses these critical gaps by providing holistic care within CCIs and creating individualized aftercare plans that focus on education, health, life skills, and livelihood opportunities, ensuring children and young adults move towards sustainable, independent futures. Under the leadership of President Sonali Shah and Project Head Vidya Moorjani, with dedicated support from members the club contributed time, resources, and strategic support to strengthen CSA's programmes. This initiative directly benefits seven young individuals, empowering them with access to healthcare, nutrition, education, vocational training, and emotional guidance.

Through this intervention, Rotary Bombay Bayview is not only addressing immediate needs but also laying the foundation for lasting transformation. By supporting CSA, the club champions a powerful message—every child deserves not just care, but the opportunity to thrive. This project is a testament to Rotary's belief that when we invest in a child's future, we invest in a stronger, kinder society.

ROTARY'S MEGA EDUCATIONAL DRIVE EMPOWERS UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS



RAJENDRAN UNNIKRISHNAN

Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar in Association with Rotary club of Vasai and Rotary Club of Mira Road Donated 81 Laptops – A Major Educational Initiative for Students Under the leadership of President Rtn. Jayant Pawar, Secretary Rtn. Prakash Kamthe, and Project Coordinator CPP Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar successfully carried out a large-scale educational project by distributing 81 laptops to 81 underprivileged students across Mumbai and Navi Mumbai and Palghar.

The distribution ceremony was held at Vidyamandir School Auditorium in Dahisar. The event was graced by Chief Guest Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, Rotary International District 3141 Governor, whose inspiring address

motivated both the students and Rotarians present.

This impactful project received valuable support from:

- Aura Pharmaceuticals – Mr. Santosh D'Souza, Managing Director.
- SymSon Pharma Pvt Ltd - Dr P S Rao, Founder and Managing Director.
- * Exponentia.AI – Rtn. Dr. Sanjeev Gandhi, Director.
- Navami Industries Pvt Ltd - Mr Rajesh Panchamiya- Managing Director.
- * System Plus Pvt. Ltd. – Mr. Nikunj Jhaveri, Founder and Chairman.
- * 56 Large hearted donors

This initiative by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar jointly with RC Vasai and RC Mira Road stands as a true example of community service – empowering education and transforming the lives of deserving students.

ROTARY CLUB OF PALGHAR HONOURS EDUCATORS ON TEACHERS' DAY

The Rotary Club of Palghar marked Teachers' Day with deep reverence by hosting the Vidyarthi Priya Guru Gaurav program at Vitthal Mandir Hall, Palghar. The event was dedicated to recognising educators who illuminate the path of knowledge and character for young minds.

Two eminent personalities, Mr. Anant Bhangale, Principal of Eklavya Government ITI, and Mr. Mahesh Gaikwad, Headmaster of the Residential School for Blind & Mentally Challenged Children, Zhadpoli, were conferred with the Dipstambh Award for their remarkable service in the fields of education and social upliftment. Their dedication stands as a beacon of inspiration for the community.



In addition, nine devoted teachers from various schools were honoured with the Vidyarthi Priya Guru Gaurav award, acknowledging their commitment to nurturing students with care, discipline, and moral values. The program was further elevated by a profound keynote address from Dr. Mahabagwat Prabhuji of ISKCON, Wada, who spoke on the Values of the Bhagavad Gita in

Education, emphasising the role of duty, wisdom, and compassion in teaching.

With a project investment of 84,000, benefitting 60 individuals and supported by 90 man-hours of dedicated service, the Rotary Club of Palghar reaffirmed its enduring commitment to honouring those who shape the future through education.

SPREADING FESTIVE JOY WITH PURPOSE: RC BOMBAY SEAFACE



On 27th September 2025, at the IMC, the Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface (RCBS) celebrated Rotary's motto – Service Above Self – through its annual Vocational Excellence Awards – Unsung Heroes. Honouring individuals who transform lives with dedication and compassion, this year the club felicitated three remarkable women: Mrs. Smita Shah, President – Society for the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Divyang (SVRR); Mrs. Nilamben Zaveri and Mrs. Jayashree Sanghavi, Founders – Akshar Gyan; and Mrs. Jaya Tawde, Trustee – Yusuf Meherally Vidyalaya.

The hall resonated with applause as members recognized these unsung heroes. Within 24 hours, RCBS members raised 9.60 lakh to support the awardees' causes, including 6 lakh from Rtn. Jitendra Mehta and 2.10 lakh collectively from other members.

The giving spirit extended through Akshar Gyan's Diwali initiative, distributing 300 boxes of kajukatri to parents of underprivileged students in Ghatkopar, a project worth 1.40 lakh. Adding a lasting impact, Rtn. Jitendra Mehta pledged 1.20 lakh annually for five years to support the education and welfare of 12 children, ensuring the light of this Diwali shines for years to come.

RC SHER-E-PUNJAB: HONOURING THOSE WHO PROTECT US



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab extended heartfelt support to local guardians in uniform through a meaningful initiative at the MIDC Police Station, Andheri East. Led by President Rtn. Minishaa I. Oberoi, with project heads Rtn. Satinderpal Singh Ahluwalia and Rtn. Arun Bhoocher, the club aimed to improve the daily working environment of police personnel and enhance the experience of citizens visiting the station.

During a need assessment, club members identified the requirement for functional seating and safe drinking water. In response, they donated ten office chairs, a three-seater bench, and a Kent water filter, improving comfort, hygiene, and creating a more welcoming setting for officers and visitors alike. President Minishaa, along with Rotarians Surjit, Satinderpal, and Arun, oversaw funding, logistics, and execution. Senior Inspector Ravindra Vani and his team expressed deep appreciation, noting such gestures boost morale and strengthen community ties.

With a total project cost of 56,900, the initiative impacts nearly 200 people daily, honoring those who safeguard peace and order.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI NATIONAL PARK – GOODNESS MELA - LIGHTING LIVES, BEYOND SIGHT

The Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park celebrated Diwali in its most meaningful form through Project Goodness Mela, an inspiring initiative dedicated to honouring and uplifting underprivileged visually impaired individuals. Rather than marking the festival with fireworks, the club chose to illuminate lives with compassion, dignity, and human connection.

The Goodness Mela offered a heartfelt opportunity to meet, interact, and celebrate with these remarkable individuals—whose courage and spirit remind



us of the deeper light of Diwali. Rotarians spent time engaging

with them, sharing festive joy, and distributing thoughtful gifts,

ensuring they felt seen, valued, and included.

This initiative was more than a celebration—it was a message. A reminder that true Diwali is not in the spark of a cracker, but in the spark of kindness we ignite within society. By creating an atmosphere of warmth and goodwill, the Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park demonstrated that even a small act of care can bring profound happiness.

Through Project Goodness Mela the club proved that the greatest goodness is not celebrated, but shared.

NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

NEWS THIS MONTH COMPILED BY RACKHEE MEHTA & SASHIKALA CHARLES

ROTARY CLUB OF PALGHAR CELEBRATES SHAKTI WITH RAS & GARBA



The Rotary Club of Palghar, led by President Rtn. Sanjay Mahajan, hosted a vibrant Navratri celebration at M.N. Dandekar Hall—an evening filled with devotion, dance, and unity.

The celebration began with Aarti of Ambamata, followed by an inspiring Garba performance by senior citizens from Anand Old Age Home, some over 80 years old, whose joyful spirit touched every heart.

Rotarians, Inner Wheel members, and Rotaractors then joined in lively Ras and Garba, celebrating the power of Shakti. Competitions, prizes, and festive camaraderie added to the joyful atmosphere. A heartwarming fellowship, hosted by senior members, brought everyone together.

Powered by collective contributions, the Project Chairpersons PP Ninal Shah and IWC PP Priti Shah ensured a memorable celebration where culture met service—truly embodying Rotary's spirit of togetherness.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: RC BOMBAY NORTH LEADS MENTAL HEALTH DIALOGUE



On World Mental Health Day, the Rotary Club of Bombay North, under the leadership of President Kamal Chokshi, hosted a powerful panel discussion at Y. B. Chavan Centre, Nariman Point. Led by Project Head Dr. Dhanraj Popat, with support from Rtn. Suresh Gandhi, the session explored the crucial theme: "How Societal Factors Shape Mental Health."

The event drew an audience of over 175 participants, reflecting the growing urgency around mental well-being. Esteemed panelists delved into social pressures, stigma, and the need for compassionate communities. The impact rippled far beyond the hall—more than 15 newspapers covered the event, and 4 news channels broadcast the discussions, amplifying Rotary's message across the city.

With a project cost of 28,42,200, this initiative was not just an event but a movement—uniting media, citizens, and experts to bring mental health into the public conscience. Through this effort, RC Bombay North reaffirmed that healing begins when conversations do.

DIL SE DOSTI – CPR TRAINING



RC Mumbai Dahisar On Sunday, 31st August 2025, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar successfully conducted a CPR Training Program for residential housing societies in Dahisar.

The live demonstration on life-saving techniques was highly appreciated by the residents present.

This initiative aimed to build stronger connections with the Dahisar residential community while also creating awareness and

encouraging new memberships.

The session was well-received, with 100+ residents, Co-Presidents, and club members actively participating. The training was ably conducted by Rtn. Dr. Surendra Soneji and Rtn. Dr. Jyoti Soneji.

Encouraged by the response, RCMD plans to organise at least five more such training camps during the Inspire Year for the benefit of the Dahisar community.

RC BOMBAY WEST REUNITES HEARTS AT KDN SHRUTI SCHOOL ALUMNI MEET

RC Bombay West marked World Deaf Day with a milestone—the first-ever Alumni Meet at KDN Shruti School for the Deaf on 27th September 2025. The event united alumni, former principals, teachers, staff, and Rotarians, creating a heartwarming reunion filled with pride, gratitude, and nostalgia. PP Rtn. Dr. Ramesh Oza and club members warmly welcomed former students back to their second home, celebrating the school's legacy and enduring bonds.

The meet featured sessions



on financial literacy, investments, and SIPs by Rtns. Mahesh Kokate and Nilesh Samant, while Sol's Arc Organization offered guidance on employment and training opportunities. Each alumnus received a KDN Shruti School keychain from VP Rtn. Dr. Usha

Jayachandran, symbolizing belonging. Laughter, memories, and renewed connections made the day more than a reunion—it was a celebration of identity, resilience, and the enduring KDN Shruti family spirit, opening a proud new chapter for many reunions to come.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY HEALTH: TWO MEDICAL AID CAMPS BY ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY WEST

Rotary Club of Bombay West reaffirmed its commitment to community healthcare through two impactful initiatives — a large-scale Multi-Specialty Medical Camp and a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Drive for underprivileged beneficiaries.

The medical camp, held at the club premises, saw an impressive 231 patients availing free health services. Essential diagnostic tests such as Blood Sugar, Bone Density, Blood Pressure, ECG, and Eye Check-ups were conducted, with



subsidised spectacles provided through Dwarkadas Sanghvi Trust. A dedicated team of doctors from General Practice, Orthopaedics, Gynaecology, Dermatology, and ENT offered consultations till 1:30

pm. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Kavita Rege, Inner Wheel District Coordinator, felicitated by President Rtn. Jayant Sanghvi. Distinguished dignitaries MLA Shri Ameet Satam and MLA Shri Parag Madhusudan Alavani graced the event, along with PDG Rtn. Praful Sharma and Rtn. Manish Gyani. Doctors and medical staff were honoured with token gifts for their dedicated service.

Furthering its preventive healthcare mission, the club, in

collaboration with RC Seacoast and Inner Wheel partners, organised a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp at Sane Guruji School for 140 girls (aged 9–14). Led by Dr. Surendra and Dr. Jyoti Soneji, the drive was coordinated by Rtn. Manish Mehta and Dr. Bhavna Patel, with generous support from Rtn. Mahendra Wadhvani and multiple Rotary and Inner Wheel clubs.

These initiatives highlight Rotary's enduring spirit of service and compassion.

A FEAST OF COMPASSION: ROTARY MARINE DRIVE SERVES SMILES AT RADHIKA OLD AGE HOME



On 17th September, the Rotary Club of Marine Drive, Mumbai continued its heartfelt Project Annapoorna with a special lunch and high tea at the Sunanda Foundation's Radhika Old Age Home in Bhayander. Over 104 senior residents—42 bedridden and 63 mobile—were personally served with care, comfort, and companionship.

From noon to evening, Rotarians spent time interacting with the elders, not just serving food, but offering presence, laughter, and gentle conversation. Each meal carried a quiet assurance: You are remembered. You are valued. The afternoon was made sweeter with biscuits from the India Humanity Foundation, and treats like Rosogullas and Bhajiyas lovingly donated by Rtns. Ramon Abrol and Brahma Avatar. For many residents, these simple delights brought rare moments of celebration.

The visit was led with compassion by President Rtn. Ramesh J. S. Chandra and First Lady Chandrakala, whose personal involvement added warmth and reassurance to every interaction.

Project Annapoorna remains a shining example of Rotary's promise—to serve with dignity and love. With every smile shared and hand held, Rotarians reaffirmed a powerful truth: service is not only about feeding the body, but nourishing the soul.

As the day ended, it left behind full hearts, moist eyes, and a quiet reminder—when we give our time with love, we become family to those who have none.

RAG FOR MENTAL HEALTH – DISTRICT 3141 LAUNCHES ITS FIRST YOUTH INITIATIVE



Rotary District 3141 took a significant step in nurturing young minds with the launch of the first initiative by the Rotary Action Group for Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI) on 19th September 2025 at Lala Lajpat Rai College, Mahalaxmi. In collaboration with Rotary Clubs of Mumbai Coastline and Virar, the programme addressed the often-unspoken emotional struggles of youth.

Over 100 commerce undergraduates

attended the session, "Equipping Self with Life Skills for Mental Wellness." Keynote speaker Dr. Aditi Udeshi, psychiatrist and CBT therapist, shared practical guidance on managing stress, embracing vulnerability, building resilience, and seeking help without stigma. Interactive exercises encouraged students to reflect on emotions, stress triggers, self-awareness, and mindfulness, while also learning to support peers.

The event saw active engagement through candid questions on academic pressure, social anxiety, and digital stress. District Chair Rtn. Aditya Mehta emphasized: "This is the beginning of a movement. Mental health must become a conversation we are unafraid to have."

RAGMHI's inaugural event sets the stage for ongoing initiatives empowering youth with resilience, courage, and hope.

NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

LIGHTING HOPE, ONE LAMP AT A TIME -SOLAR LAMP DISTRIBUTION PROJECT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY NORTH



In the quiet settlement of Gangodi Village in Palghar, nightfall used to bring everything to a silent halt. With frequent power cuts and no street or pathway lighting, evenings were cloaked in darkness, making even basic movement difficult and rendering children helpless when it came to continuing their studies after sunset. It was here that the Rotary Club of Bombay North chose to extend a beacon of hope.

Under the leadership of President Rtn. Kamal Chokshi and guided by Project Head Rtn. Ashok Doshi, the club undertook a meaningful project—distribution of solar lamps to the villagers of Gangodi on 5th October 2025. Supported by the dedication of members Dr. Sonal and Rtn. Rajendra Agarwal, this initiative, executed at a cost of 1,00,000, aimed at addressing a fundamental need: light.

For the villagers, these solar lamps are more than a convenience; they are a lifeline. In homes where children once struggled to read after dusk, study time has now been restored. Families no longer have to rely on kerosene lamps or remain idle as darkness descends. Women and elders can step outside with a sense of safety, and pathways once feared after sunset now carry the gentle assurance of light. The project has brought not just illumination, but dignity, comfort, and opportunity to the community.

The transformation is subtle yet profound. With each lamp lit, a silent promise has been made—that Rotary stands with those who are forgotten by the grid, ensuring that no dream is ever lost to darkness. In Gangodi, the night no longer marks an end. Instead, it now carries the glow of new beginnings.

Dear Rotarian Friends,

We look forward to featuring your club activities and signature projects in GML Inspire. You may send two to three projects each month. Please ensure your submissions are:

- » Numbered and arranged in order of priority.
 - » Sent together in one email to Inspired.gml@gmail.com | cc.pinkidalal@gmail.com
 - » Accompanied by high-resolution photographs (out-of-focus images will not be printed).
- As you know, the deadline is the 15th of every month for Rotary Clubs, Inner Wheel, and Rotaractors. Kindly send your entries within the given timeframe — we're here to showcase your good work!

Happy reading!

Read Inspire, Get Inspired!

SPREADING FESTIVE JOY WITH A PURPOSE! RC BOMBAY SEAFACE



As part of our Diwali initiative, Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface distributed sweets to parents of underprivileged students in Ghatkopar. After covering three schools earlier, today we reached out to the parents of Chanda Ramji School.

President Rtn. Sonal Doshi and

Director – Non-Medical Projects Rtn. Preeti Joshi led the activity along with Akshargnan founders Neelamben Jhaveri and Jaishreeben Sanghavi and their dedicated team of teachers. Parents were sensitized about the importance of education and discipline, making it not just a sweet distribution but a meaningful

engagement. The atmosphere was truly festive and filled with joy!

A heartfelt thanks to our donor members for their generosity — this project, valued at 1,40,000.

Akshargnan extended warm thanks to each one of us for making this Diwali brighter for many families.



ROTARY DIVAS ILLUMINATE DIWALI WITH DIGNITY AND JOY

This Diwali, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas chose to celebrate the festival of lights not with fireworks, but with acts of service that illuminated lives across generations. Led by President Rtn. Sunita Goyal and guided by Project Head PP Rtn. Vidhi Gupta, the Diwali Charity Project exemplified Rotary's spirit—where giving is the greatest form of celebration.

The initiative began at Lifewins Senior Citizens Home, Mira Road, where 30 elders were embraced with warmth, care, and companionship. Beyond gifts, it was laughter, conversation, and shared memories that filled their day with festive joy, reminding them they are cherished and not forgotten.

The project extended to young hearts with school kits distributed to 105 rural children, providing footwear, bags, and study mats—tools to step into the future with confidence. At SWES School, Santacruz, 212 children received art kits, nurturing creativity and making



Diwali a festival of colours, brushes, and dreams waiting to take shape on paper.

With a total commitment of over 2,98,500 across all initiatives, the project was more than resource distribution—it was a movement of compassion, carefully designed to

touch lives at every stage. Driven by PP Rtn. Vidhi Gupta and supported by dedicated members and volunteers, the Diwali Charity Project proved that true illumination lies in service. As diya lit homes across the city, the Rotary Divas lit hearts—with kindness, inclusion, and hope.

RC MUMBAI SHER-E-PUNJAB: NOURISHING DIGNITY, EMBRACING INCLUSION

In a profound act of compassion and inclusivity, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab, under the leadership of President Rtn. Minishaa I. Oberoi, undertook a heartfelt initiative titled "Nourishing Dignity: Supporting the Transgender and HIV-Affected Community." Guided by project heads Rtn. Minishaa I. Oberoi and Rtn. Seema Bhoocher, the club continued its ongoing commitment to embracing marginalized communities through meaningful service.

The project was carried out at the Humsafar Trust in Kalina, a renowned institution dedicated to the welfare of



transgender individuals, HIV-positive persons, and families affected by socio-economic challenges. Recognizing the multiple struggles faced by these communities—ranging from social exclusion and discrimination to health

and nutritional deficiencies—the club distributed 50 nutritional ration kits, each valued at 800. These kits were thoughtfully curated to support better health and well-being. Organised during the auspicious period of Shradh Pitru

Paksha, the initiative was rooted in the cultural ethos of tarpan, honouring ancestors through acts of charity and kindness. By extending care to those often overlooked, Rotary Sher-E-Punjab beautifully connected tradition with humanity. The beneficiaries were visibly moved, expressing deep gratitude for this gesture of recognition, acceptance, and respect. Members including Minishaa, Seema, and Shonali Kewalramani contributed through funds, logistics, and personal involvement, ensuring the project was carried out with dignity and sensitivity. With a total cost of 40,000,

the initiative impacted 50 individuals directly, offering not just nourishment for the body, but affirmation for the soul. Beyond immediate relief, the project created a ripple of awareness, advocating for empathy and equity towards communities who live on the margins. By addressing their basic needs while embracing them with warmth, Rotary Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab reaffirmed that true service lies in upholding dignity, fostering inclusion, and ensuring no one is left unseen. In this gesture of giving, the club did more than provide ration kits—it offered belonging, respect, and hope.

NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

ROTARY DIVAS LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER WITH LIFE-SAVING SCREENING CAMP IN VERSOVA



The morning air in Versova was charged with a palpable mix of apprehension and hope. This was the scene of the Rotary Divas Breast Cancer Screening & Awareness Camp, an urgent mission in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Versova. 111 women—housewives, working professionals, and seniors—lined up, each taking a crucial step toward prioritizing her health. The volunteers offered comforting smiles; the doctors, expert hands. The impact was swift and profound. Among the participants, six women were identified with abnormalities. This was not a moment of dread, but of early intervention. These six would immediately receive the necessary medical support and guidance, proving the core message: early detection saves lives. As the sun set, the organizers felt the true weight of their noble cause. Every volunteer, participant, and doctor had woven a brighter future, spreading the light of courage and hope throughout the community. The Project held at Vivek Vidyalaya, cost was Rs. 39000/-, generously donated by Rtn Poonam Jain.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI NATIONAL PARK LAUNCHES STATE-OF-THE-ART MEDICAL CENTER OFFERING AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE



Rotary club of Mumbai National park through rotary medical center is an opportunity to serve the community at very concessional rates.

This is not just the medical center, well equipped with eyecare, blood check up, dental clinic and OPD consultation also. The Rotary medical center was inaugurated by Our District Governor Dr Manish Motawani along with inspired club president Rtn CA Rajagouda shankar patil, club secretary Rtn Ajay Bhartav, Treasurer

Rtn Mahindra Kataria, project Chairman IPP Suresh Naidu along with members, BoD and team Anjani Health care and polyclinic were present.

With this the club is able to serve 365 days and in the days to come there will be many more such centers will come. DG Dr Manish Motawani. Appreciated the efforts put in by the club and members. The co presidents from district were also present and it was a grand opening ceremony and big step towards service to the society.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT: ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI KANDIVLI WEST EMPOWERS EDUCATORS TO FIND STRENGTH, PURPOSE, AND JOY



The air in the hall buzzed with anticipation as 42 dedicated principals, trustees, and teachers gathered for the one-day workshop, entitled "The Ripple Effect." The event, jointly organized by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West and the Rotary Club of Bombay North West Malad, as a tribute to the teaching community, focused intensely on building inner strength.

District Secretary Rtn. Deepak Chawla set a warm, reflective tone at the inaugural ceremony, honouring the educators' profound societal contribution. The workshop served as a reminder that while teachers nurture young minds, they too deserve

time to nurture themselves. Through mindful exercises, self-reflection activities, and interactive sessions, participants explored ways to balance emotional well-being with professional responsibility.

The day's agenda included inspiring talks, laughter therapy, and experiential learning modules that encouraged teachers to rediscover their inner calm. Real-life anecdotes shared by facilitators helped participants connect deeply with their own emotions, while group activities fostered a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.

Presidents of both Clubs,

Rtn. Sashikala Charles, RCMKW, and Rtn. Pankaj Gupta, RCBNWM, highlighted the beauty of the Ripple Effect teachers have on a student, classroom, school, home, and community, thereby emphasizing the need for de-stressing and building inner strength to find happiness.

Throughout the day, the intensive sessions provided tools not for classrooms, but for the soul. Esteemed facilitators shared insights on emotional resilience, mindfulness, and the power of positive communication—elements that form the foundation of a healthy learning environment. The joy and energy in the room

were palpable as participants engaged wholeheartedly, their laughter and reflections echoing the spirit of renewal.

By the closing ceremony, the participants felt rejuvenated, ready to return to their schools with renewed purpose. PDG Rtn. Chetan Desai congratulated the group, emphasizing the workshop's lasting impact. "This Ripple Effect," he urged, "must be continued."

Each teacher left knowing the transformation they felt within would soon reach hundreds of students—one powerful ripple at a time, spreading hope, confidence, and compassion across every classroom they touch.



ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY BAYVIEW'S ANIMAL RESCUE VAN – A LIFELINE FOR VOICELESS SOULS

The Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview has extended its service beyond humanity with a profoundly compassionate initiative—donating an Animal Rescue Van to Empathy Unlimited Welfare Foundation, the only active animal welfare organisation in the KDMC region. This project exemplifies the club's unwavering commitment to empathy, service, and social responsibility, upholding the belief that true humanity embraces every living being.

Led by President Sonali Shah and Project Head Vidya Moorjani, and supported by dedicated club members who contributed time, resources, and effort, this mission of mercy was carefully planned and executed with heartfelt purpose. Empathy Unlimited cares for over 400 animals daily and treats thousands each year through its no-fee model. However, the absence

of a dedicated rescue vehicle hindered their ability to respond swiftly to injured and distressed animals, especially for urgent on-site treatments. Recognising this critical need, the Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview rose to the occasion to empower their cause. The donation of this rescue van is far more than a logistical aid—it is a lifeline on wheels. It will enable rapid response, reduce suffering, and significantly enhance the organisation's capacity to save lives across the region. Through this initiative, countless abandoned, injured, and voiceless animals will now receive timely care and a chance at survival.

With this impactful project, the club has reaffirmed a profound message: compassion has no boundaries. The Animal Rescue Van stands as a moving symbol of Rotary's enduring values—service, empathy, and action with heart.

When Giving Becomes Worship

“Giving” is often seen as an act of charity or generosity toward others but its deepest meaning extends far beyond that. True giving begins with gratitude and harmony toward Mother Earth, the greatest giver of all. This reflection reminds us that caring for nature is not just kindness it’s our shared responsibility and the purest joy of giving.

OPINION

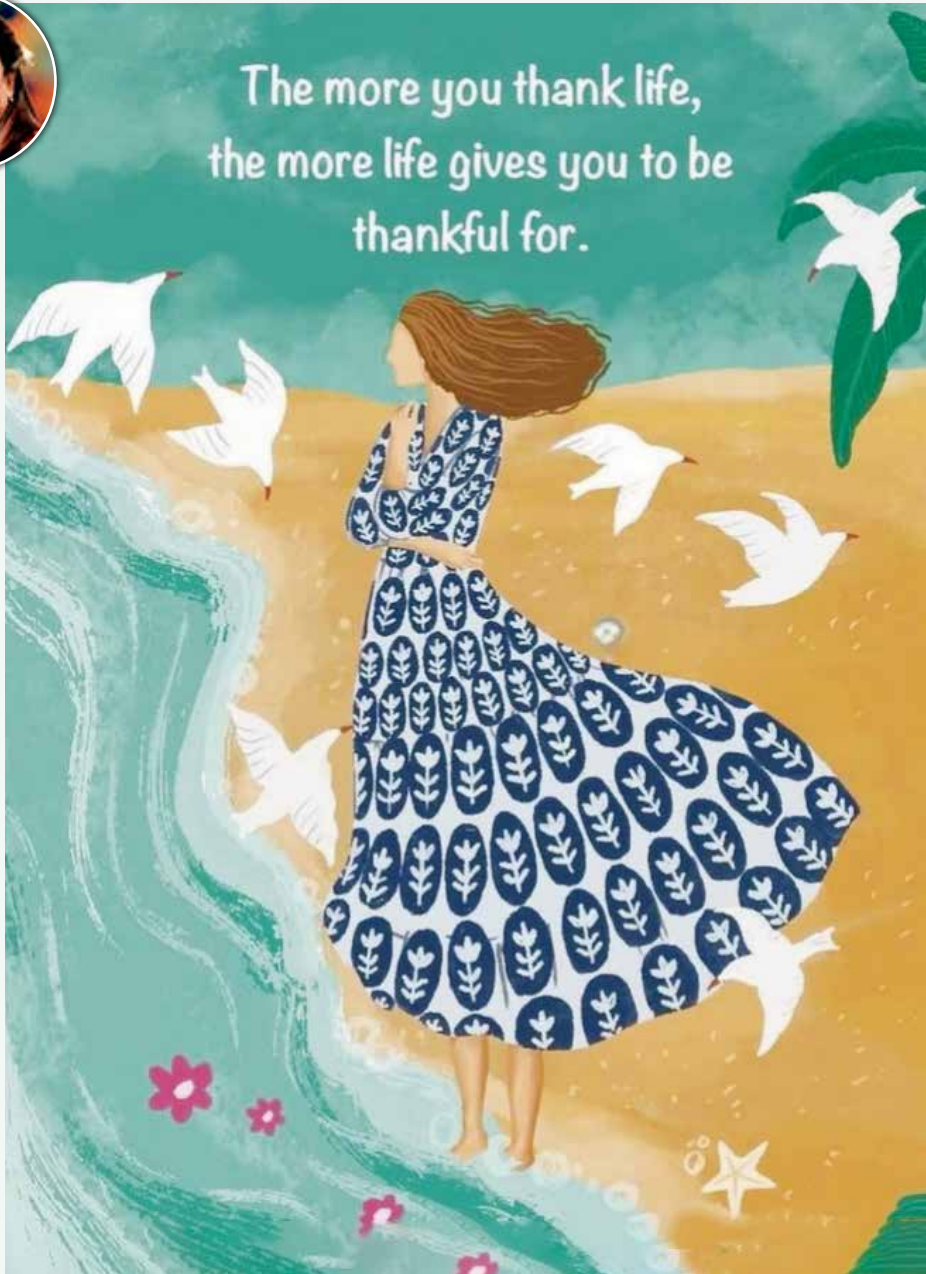


Pinki Dalal
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When we speak of “giving,” our minds often turn to charity, donations, and financial generosity. Yet the truest joy of giving lies far beyond money. It lies in living with gratitude and harmony, especially with the greatest giver of all, Mother Earth.

Every day, nature gives without asking. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food that sustains us, the sunlight that warms us, all flow freely from this planet. The trees offer oxygen, the seas cradle life, and the soil nurtures growth. Nature’s giving is endless, unconditional, and selfless.

And what do we give back? Deforestation. Plastic waste. Polluted air and poisoned seas. For minerals, we dig deep and scar the land. For progress, we choke the skies with smoke. For convenience, we drown oceans in plastic. We destroy the very forests that keep us alive and the balance that sustains every species, including our own.



Even the smallest creatures understand how to live in balance with their surroundings. They take only what they need and

True giving goes beyond charity — it means nurturing Mother Earth through gratitude, balance, and mindful acts that restore and protect her endless generosity.

leave nature unharmed. Yet we, the so-called intelligent species, behave as if the planet exists only for our use. In our pursuit of comfort and growth, we have forgotten our duty to preserve what gives us life.

The joy of giving, therefore, must begin with giving back to nature. This doesn’t demand extraordinary effort, small, mindful acts can make a lasting impact. Plant a tree. Refuse plastic. Reuse, recycle, and reduce waste. Respect the natural order. Remember that the Earth is not a resource to be consumed, but a living system to be protected.

True charity begins with the planet itself. When we care for nature, we give to every living being not only to those who live today, but also to generations yet to come. Each act of conservation, each thoughtful gesture, is a gift that keeps multiplying.

Let us broaden our idea of giving. It is not only about offering wealth, but also about offering respect

to the soil that feeds us, the rivers that sustain us, the air that gives us breath. Let progress never come at the cost of the planet’s health.

Because when we give back to nature, we rediscover our most human quality gratitude. The Earth gives us everything; it’s time we return the favor. That, indeed, is the purest joy of giving.

Inspire

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