

GOVERNOR 'S MONTHLY LETTER OCTOBER 2025

Driving Economic Growth & Building Resilient Communities

• BY TEJAL GANDHI

October is designated by Rotary International as the month dedicated to Economic Growth and Community Development. This focus reminds us of our responsibility to create sustainable, long-term solutions that empower communities, rather than providing temporary relief.

At the heart of this vision lies sustainability—a shared mission of governments, corporates, NGOs, and Rotary alike. Together, we can play a pivotal role in contributing to Viksit Bharat 2047, supporting economic progress at both grassroots and national levels.

Rotary's Commitment to Sustainable Development.

- Through its initiatives, Rotary actively supports:
- Micro-entrepreneurship development and creating local work opportunities.
- Vocational education and skills training that lead to sustainable livelihoods.
- Leadership development to strengthen community-driven growth.
- Programs by the Rotary Foundation that reduce poverty, fund professional studies, and create measurable, lasting impact.

Rotary International's mission is deeply rooted in seven key areas of focus:

1. Peace and Conflict Prevention
2. Disease Prevention and Treatment
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Maternal and Child Health
5. Basic Education and Literacy
6. Economic and Community Development
7. Supporting the Environment

Projects in these areas not only address immediate needs but also create tangible, long-term economic resilience for communities worldwide.

Rotary in Action: Building Stronger Communities

Rotary clubs worldwide have become catalysts for grassroots transformation. Initiatives such as microloans for small businesses enable entrepreneurs to expand operations, create jobs, and elevate living standards for families.



Vocational training programs, a cornerstone of Rotary's mission, equip individuals with marketable skills, enabling them to become self-reliant and independent. Additionally, Rotary-led community development projects—ranging from constructing schools and healthcare facilities to installing water and sanitation systems—form the backbone of thriving, sustainable communities.

Collaboration between Rotary Districts and local clubs ensures that innovative, scalable solutions are implemented, driving meaningful economic change.

How Rotary Districts Can Foster Economic Growth

To strengthen Rotary's commitment, districts can adopt the following actionable steps:

1. **Partner with Microfinance Institutions**
Collaborate with microfinance organizations to empower local entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to start and scale region-specific businesses, promoting financial inclusion.
2. **Enhance Access Through Mobile Infrastructure**
Provide mobile services for banking, postal services, and sales platforms to



- help rural businesses expand their reach and repay loans effectively.
3. **Create Mentorship Networks**
Form groups of experienced mentors to guide entrepreneurs, providing step-by-step assistance in building sustainable business practices.
 4. **Train and Empower Local Change-Makers**
Identify, guide, and train local leaders who can act as community resources, helping small businesses grow and access opportunities.
 5. **Collaborate with Placement Centres**

At the heart of this vision lies sustainability—a shared mission of governments, corporates, NGOs, and Rotary alike. Together, we can play a pivotal role in contributing to Viksit Bharat 2047, supporting economic progress at both grassroots and national levels.

Tie up with municipal offices, NGOs, and agencies to provide job opportunities at the local level, ensuring sustainable employment generation. When implemented, these strategies create a multiplier effect: one success story inspires another, leading to community-wide transformation and self-sufficiency.

A Call to Action

October is more than a month of observation—it is a call to action. Let us come together to:

Eliminate poverty

- Increase vocational skills
- Build sustainable communities
- Foster economic growth at the grassroots level

Through Rotary's vision and unwavering efforts, we can create a ripple effect of positive change and a lasting legacy of progress for generations to come.

About the Author:

Rtn. PP Tejal Gandhi is a Certified Financial Planner with over 25 years of experience, including senior leadership roles at Standard Chartered Bank. A passionate Rotarian.



Mankind's greatest feats of endurance are also by Rotarians!

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Dr Lucky S Kasat

Advisor – GML 25-26

Consultant Pediatric Surgeon | TEDx Speaker | Author

Not one but 2 Rotary Flags on Summit



Pema Sherpa atop Mt Everest with banner of RC Darjeeling.

Rtn Jamling Norgay is the son of legendary Tenzing Norgay. This ace mountaineer is a member of RC Darjeeling, D 3240. When he knew that his cousins Pema and Pemba were planning an expedition to the Everest, he arranged two club banners - one to Pema making the ascent from Tibetan side and other to Pemba ascending from the Nepal side. Both banners were hoisted successfully in May 2016 within a gap of six days!

The first and the only family on everest



An unusual but dashing family of Rotary.

In 2008, Canadian Rtn Alan Mallory from RC Barrie area and his 3 children took on the lethal challenge of emotion, loyalty, boldness and terror and became the first family of four to set foot on Everest.

Dan Mallory, 57, had this family goal with his three children - Adam, Alan and Laura. In the last 400 feet climb, Laura, 20, stumbled in the darkness. She knew it was over. Her altitude-wracked body just couldn't go on. While her father and older brothers plodded upwards, a dejected Laura returned to the South Col to spend the night ALONE in her tent at 26,300 feet. It appeared to be the end of the family's dream. However, the next day she made it; thus making the family the first to do so in the same expedition.

5 'tall' stories of climbing Mount Everest - mankind's greatest feats of endurance by a few Rotarians, who took a piece of Rotary with them.

A Peculiar Goal of \$29,030



Mount Everest Climb to End Polio

Rtn Joe Pratt, a father of two, was a Rtn of RC of Raymond Area from Nottingham, USA for 28 years. Still, polio was not on his mind as he prepared for 2012 climb of Everest.

But that changed in 2011, when he participated in a polio immunization in Pakistan. He set a fundraising goal of \$29,030 - a dollar

for each foot of Everest's height. It took 14 months to reach this goal; finally raising > \$40,000. His team of 24 took five weeks; only 12 reached the summit, the others having turned back.

Pratt's motivation was the images of little Pakistani kids, who he felt were "depending on me." At a talk at 6 Rotary Clubs of Montana,

Rotarians & citizens were impressed with Pratt's selflessness - he'd borne the entire \$50,000 cost of his climb, never seeking any funding help. Pratt attracted \$11,000 in donations from them. He had given talks in libraries and other places. In one worst-case scenario, only one person had showed up!

The Baap Of All Summits



TRF FLAG on every summit of the Seven Summits.

Rtn Olivier Vriesendorp, 47, a father of two, of RC Amstelveen of North Holland grew up in the Netherlands that lies below sea level and has no mountains. YET he completed the Seven Summits (highest mountain on each of the world's seven continents) by summiting Mt. Everest on May 21, 2017 to raise funds for polio!

For 6 weeks before the climb, Olivier slept every night in a special tent breathing oxygen-reduced air to minimize the risk of altitude sickness during the climb. He had Rotary patches sewn to his suit and carried a Rotary Foundation flag to EACH summit.

Make-Up Attendance In Mountains



Stuart Smith

43-year-old attorney Stuart Smith, a member of the Rotary Club of Waco, Texas, USA summited in 2002. But after spending nearly two months on the mountain, he had to pack four make-ups into two days to avoid tarnishing an 11-year record of perfect attendance. His make-up tour included visits to the Rotary clubs of Kathmandu, Kathmandu, Kathmandu Mid-Town, and Patan West, all in Nepal. (He also picked up two make-ups before beginning the trek to base camp, attending meetings of the Rotary clubs of Lalitpur-Patan and Yala, both located on Kathmandu's outskirts. He completed the 7 Summits next year in 2003, with an ascent of Vinson Massif.

The most unlikely Rotaract Marriage



The most bizarre place to marry!

Pemba Dorjee Sherpa and Moni Mulepati of Rotaract Club of New Road City, Kathmandu, had limited funds - so the team left their cook and porter at Base Camp and continued, carrying their own supplies. After 45 days, they summited Everest on May 20, 2005, the centennial year of Rotary, and hoisted Rotary's flag. Then, removing their oxygen masks at 29,035 feet, Pemba Sherpa and Moni Mulepati, a higher caste Newari woman, exchanged marriage vows! No one knew about this plan!

While coming down, Moni lost her sight for 8 hours after she had removed her goggles to see better in the blowing snow. A helicopter was sent by Rotary clubs in Kathmandu to pick them up, but it crashed before landing, nearly killing them in the crash. Luckily, Moni regained her sight too.

There is a Rotary Club of Mount Everest – Club# 53985 – D 3292 in Nepal. The club members are from various walks of life and meet every Sunday

From Inspiration to Action: The Power of Networking

INSPIRED MOMENTS



Dr. Manish Motwani
Dist Governor, 25-26

**Dear Fellow Inspired Rotarians,
families and friends of our District,**

I am eager and enthused to pen my message for the October issue! But I hope you were also eager to receive the GMLs for the past three issues! Did you like it? There are many who mentioned that they liked the format and the newspaper like feel. I am glad and hope you too had a similar feeling! Let me know if otherwise!

August-September have been busy months for the Rotarians and their families. I see a lot of projects being carried out with enthusiasm and thank you to many for inviting me! Each of the projects/ activities I went, inspired me. I am sure that all of you out there are involving your members and families are doing outstanding service above self! Please keep up the good work!

Last issue I mentioned that I will talk on each letter of INSPIRE every issue. I delved into I of Inspire, now this time I will address the letter N! Friends, N stands for Networking! Most of you must have heard me talk passionately about Networking during installation speech and other occasions. I just don't want to only say about it, but I want to bring into action. I truly believe that if Rotarians can do projects together, events together or even party together, then why not collaborate professionally! With this in mind, I really want to promote and talk about Rotary Verified Business. RVB.

It is not today that I am talking of Networking for professional from nowhere. When the world was down during the Covid pandemic, I came up with the idea of Vizbiz Talks. Then, I interviewed all the Presidents and active persons in the district online, started promoting to all in the district so that people knew whom to connect and for what reason. That was the time every one needed to connect with someone for something. If Rotarians can come together for a particular cause, then the world would be a better place than it is today. This also helped membership retention. Again in 22-23, I came up with the idea of Alpha Bytes, where we started promoting Rotarians and their businesses.

This year, with a role at the helm, I thought why not take it to further?



District Election Committee Members – Rotary Year 2025-26

In accordance with the provisions outlined in Article 9 of the District Bylaws, I am pleased to publish the names of the District Election Committee constituted for the purpose of overseeing the DGND 28-29 and COL elections.

A five-member District Election Committee has been appointed to assist the District Governor in managing and supervising the District elections for the Rotary year 2025-26. The committee is as follows:

DG Dr. Manish Motwani – Chairman

IPDG Chetan Desai

IIPDG Arun Bhargava

DGE Rajan Dua

DGN Deepak Jiandani

That's when I thought of RVB. This is about walking the talk! We want to do something more from our side! We believe that it should be a Rotary by the Rotarians, with the Rotarians and for the Rotarians. RVB is a process where we Certify the Rotarians Business through a third party and it will be as credible as a Just Dial or a google certification.

The criteria for certification will be, one, does the business align with the cause of Rotary, two whether it is done ethically adhering to the Four Way Test and thirdly is the Rotarian, apart from earning, addressing social causes espoused by the Rotary. Such a certification will not only build Credibility in the eyes of the clients and vendors, but also help build business of the Rotarians. If good and kind-hearted Rotarians earn more, I am sure it will be channeled back to the cause of Rotary.

Apart from handing over the certificates, we are going to tell people about this. We will promote this certification through a large number of social media influencers so that this message reaches millions people, which will include your

target audience. You can use the certificate in your social media handles and at place of your work. You will not only be a Proud Rotarian, but you will also be a Rotary Verified Business.

So go ahead and enroll for certification! Scan the QR code to get the link for your online application. Your immediate family members too can do it!

These are my thoughts from my heart that I wanted to share in this issue and I hope they resonate well! What do you say?

We are in the cusp of Navratri and Diwali the festival of lights is just round the corner! Let each one of light a diya that lights up lives of ours and our less fortunate fellow beings! Be it humans or pet animals or street animals!

Dr Mahek and I wish you all a very happy Navratri and Diwali in advance!

Best Regards
Yours in Rotary
Dr Manish Motwani
District Governor 2025-26

Celebrating Shakti, Illuminating Rotary

MAHEK'S VIBES



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

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Spouses,

As I sit to pen this fourth message to you, my heart is filled with the spirit of the festive season that now surrounds us. With Navratri and Durga Puja in full bloom and Diwali soon approaching, there is a special energy in the air — one that speaks of light, strength, and togetherness.

In our culture, these days remind us of Durga — a symbol of courage, compassion, and resilience — and of Shakti, the divine feminine energy that nurtures and empowers. I cannot help but see a reflection of this Shakti in our Rotary family. It is present in the selfless ser-



vice of our Rotarians, in the quiet strength of our spouses who stand by them, and in the spark of our children who remind us of the future we are building.

If my earlier messages were about togetherness, participation, and celebration, then this one is about strength. Just as Durga inspires us to overcome

challenges, let us recognize the strength within our Rotary family — a strength that grows when we support one another and when men and women walk hand in hand, equally and joyfully, in the journey of service.

This season gives us the perfect opportunity to:

Celebrate Shakti at home: Let's acknowledge the strength of our spouses, mothers, and daughters. Small words of appreciation go a long way in honoring their contributions.

Bring Shakti into Rotary: Let's encourage more women to take leadership roles, and let's ensure their voices are heard in every space where service and decision-making happen.

Share Shakti with society: Whether it is through mentoring a young girl, protecting the rights of a woman in need, or supporting initiatives that give opportunities to those less privileged, let us make empowerment our shared mission.

As we approach Diwali, the festival of lights, may our Rotary homes first be lit with the glow of equality, respect, and love.

In our culture, these days remind us of Durga — a symbol of courage, compassion, and resilience — and of Shakti, the divine feminine energy that nurtures and empowers. I cannot help but see a reflection of this Shakti in our Rotary family.

When each of us feels strong and valued, our collective light will shine brighter, spreading warmth across our communities.

To every Rotarian and every spouse — thank you for being the Shakti of our District. Together, let us welcome the festive season not just with lamps and fireworks, but with renewed strength, compassion, and unity.

With love, warmth, and festive wishes,

Dr. Mahek Motwani

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

Onamadhuram 2025: Rotary District 3141 Hosts Grand Onam Celebration

Rotary District 3141, under the leadership of RCM Neo and RCM Horizons, recreated the vibrance of Kerala's famed harvest festival through Onamadhuram 2025, a grand celebration of tradition, artistry, and fellowship. The morning began on a culturally rich note as District Governor Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, First Lady Dr. Mahek Motwani, PDG Shashi Sharma, DGN Rtn. Deepak Jiandani, and Group Avenue Head Rtn. Meenakshi Khosla received a traditional welcome with the rhythmic beats of Chendai Melam.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of nearly 300 Rotarians and guests, who were treated to an array of spectacular cultural performances. Yogitha Sai Rishitha Sai's invocation dance set the devotional tone of the day,



followed by Neha Mani's elegant Mohiniyattam that mesmerized the audience. Adding to the festive charm, Rtn. Deepa Mani and her group performed a captivating Kaikottikali, while the sight of Mahabali and Kathakali characters mingling with guests, along with a graceful ladies' dance, brought Kerala's traditions to life. Both host clubs also put up impressive dance performances, reinforcing the cul-

tural spirit of Onam.

The event was sprinkled with fun-filled elements such as a themed photo booth with Mahabali cutouts, a Kerala-style tea stall, and the much-anticipated Best Dressed contest. Winners included Dilip Jaya (male), President Shanta Vallury (female), and President Anshul Gadia with his wife (couple).

The Bollywood segment infused high energy as Jatin, Parag, and

Dhanashree led spirited group dancing, supported by Deepankar on the octopad. The arrival of renowned singer and composer Daboo Malik as the special guest added glamour and further encouraged the performers, making the celebration truly memorable.

A sumptuous Onam Sadya of 23 traditional delicacies, including two varieties of payasam, was served on banana leaves, symbolizing abundance and gratitude. The event was seamlessly anchored by IPP Rtn. R. Sridhar of RCM Neo, ensuring smooth flow and heartfelt connection throughout.

Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included DG Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, First Lady Dr. Mahek Motwani, PDG Shashi Sharma, PDG Arun Bhargava with Mrs. Seema Bhargava, PDG Praful

Sharma, IPDG Rtn. Chetan Desai, and DGN Rtn. Deepak Jiandani. DG Motwani appreciated the efforts of all participating clubs for organizing the first fellowship event of the Inspired Year, while Rtn. Meenakshi Khosla extended greetings in Malayalam, epitomizing inclusivity.

The co-host clubs included RCM Mulund South, RCM Chandivili, RCM Lakers, RCB Kandivli, RCM Inspire, RC Godhbunder Mumbai, and RCM Sher-e-Punjab. Together, they created a day that beautifully blended tradition, unity, and the Rotary spirit of fellowship.

Onamadhuram 2025 was not just a celebration of Kerala's harvest festival but a reminder of Rotary's enduring commitment to cultural pride, fellowship, and community bonding.

Kalpavruksha and Kamadhenu: A Legacy of Hope and Prosperity

**INSIGHT
& IMPACT**



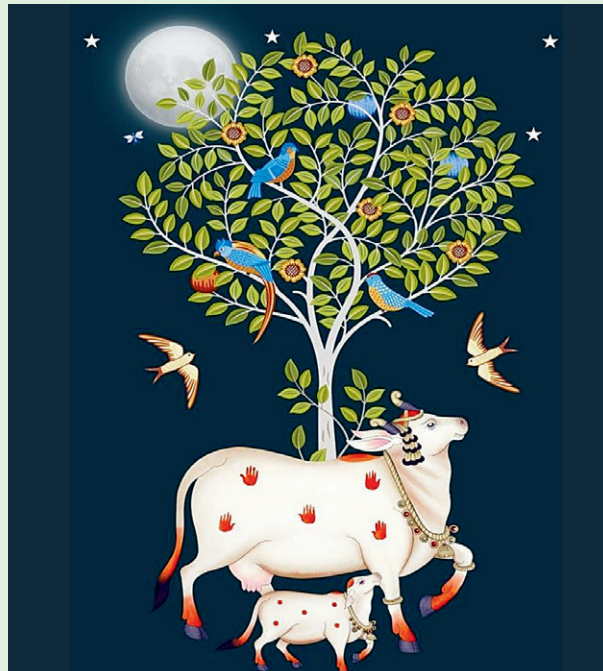
K P NAGESH
Rotary International Director
(2025-27)

ruksha and Kamadhenu projects take form, becoming symbols of sustainable community economic development.

The Kalpavruksha, the mythical wish-fulfilling tree, in our hands becomes a

Rotary has always stood for the noblest of ideals: to touch lives with compassion, to transform communities with service, and to create pathways of dignity through opportunity. Our endeavour has never been confined to temporary relief, but has always aspired towards lasting impact, towards building futures where self-reliance and pride replace vulnerability and dependence. It is in this spirit that the Kalpav-

living gift of coconut saplings. The coconut tree, known as the tree of life, gives nourishment, oil, fibre, timber and endless possibilities for cottage industries. It is a singular gift that grows into abundance. Each sapling entrusted to a family becomes a wellspring of sustenance, an enduring source of livelihood, and a green testament to our commitment to both people and planet. When



we place such a gift in the hands of a community, we are not giving charity; we are planting resilience, dignity and hope that will flourish for generations. The Kamadhenu, revered in our tradition as

the celestial cow, is another embodiment of this philosophy. By gifting cows to underprivileged women, Rotary empowers them with a tangible and transformative asset. A cow provides nourishment for the family, income through milk, and opportunities for growth through allied activities. But beyond the material benefit, it restores confidence, strengthens the role of women in society, and uplifts entire households. When a woman gains economic independence, her children gain education, her family gains stability, and her community gains strength.

Both Kalpavruksha and Kamadhenu exemplify Rotary's timeless truth: that real service does not

create dependence but enables empowerment. They remind us that our task is not to give from abundance, but to create abundance where there is little; not merely to serve, but to awaken the potential within every life we touch.

To my fellow Rotarians of District 3141, I say this with conviction: you hold the power to multiply these seeds of transformation. Each sapling planted, each cow gifted, is a step towards a more equitable, resilient and compassionate society. Let us together nurture thousands of Kalpavrukshas and Kamadhenu initiatives, so that Rotary continues to be remembered not only for its service but for the enduring legacies of hope and prosperity it leaves behind.

DESIGNING FOR WELLBEING

News, Trends & Developments in the World of interior design

Good design isn't just about how a space looks — it's about how it makes you feel. More and more, interiors are being designed with wellbeing at their core, blending aesthetics with comfort and health.

One key principle is biophilic design — bringing nature indoors. Plants, natural light, and earthy materials reduce stress and improve focus. Even small touches like a potted plant on a desk or a stone-textured wall can make a big impact on your mood.

Lighting is another silent influencer of wellbeing. Natural daylight boosts energy and positivity, while warm, layered artificial lighting creates calmness in the evening. Avoiding harsh, cold light is essential to maintaining balance at home or work.

Lastly, decluttered and mindful spaces promote mental clarity. Smart storage, open layouts, and calm colour palettes help reduce overwhelm, creating a sanctuary where you can truly recharge. Because in the end, a well-designed space isn't just beautiful — it supports the people who live in it.



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Vocation with a Vision

ECHOES OF SERVICES



PRID Ashok Mahajan
Past Rotary Foundation Trustee

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

In Rotary, we believe that work is not just a means to earn a living—it is a sacred opportunity to serve humanity. Among the five avenues of service, Vocational Service holds a special place. It is not merely a program or concept; it is the very soul of Rotary, where purpose meets profession and values guide vision.

Whatever your role in life—be it a teacher shaping young minds, a doctor healing bodies and hearts, an entrepreneur generating livelihoods, or an artist bringing beauty into the world—your vocation holds within it the power to uplift, to transform, and to inspire. When aligned with Rotary's core values of integrity, service, and excellence, your everyday work becomes extraordinary. Vocational Service reminds us



that our professions are more than careers—they are opportunities to lead with ethics, to serve with skill, and to build with character. It challenges each of us to be role models, to offer mentorship, to promote honest enterprise, and to apply our knowledge where it is most needed—in the lives of others.

Rotary clubs have a unique responsibility and opportunity here. Through career guidance

for students, skill development workshops, entrepreneurship training for youth, recognition of ethical professionals through vocational awards, and promotion of the Four-Way Test in schools and workplaces, we sow the seeds of responsibility and pride in one's work.

Let us never forget: the real test of our vocation is not in our success, but in our significance. When we use our talents to solve

real problems, to empower others, and to serve with humility, we not only build careers—we build communities and character.

To all Rotarians, I invite you to reflect on this: How does your work reflect Rotary's ideals?

To those outside our circle, we welcome you not only to serve—but to see your vocation as a vehicle for service, your career as a canvas for compassion.

In a world often driven by titles and achievements, Rotary dares to ask a deeper question:

What if your life's work could be your life's gift?

Let's live that answer—every single day.

**With Rotary spirit and gratitude,
Ashok Mahajan**

SMILE · SERVE · SACRIFICE · SATISFY



ROTARACTORS DIGEST

100 Hours, 100 Stories – A Literary Marathon

100 Hours, 100 Stories was envisioned as an amplified version of the district's cherished project, Chronicles. The challenge was clear yet ambitious: to gather 100 stories within just 100 hours. Though daunting, Team Publications embraced it wholeheartedly, determined to leave a lasting impact on the district's literary and creative landscape. To spark creativity and keep participants deeply engaged, three thought-provoking themes were introduced:

1. The Invisible Scar (Mental Health)
2. The Other Side
3. Second Chances

Participants could choose whichever theme resonated with them most, and their creativity was not confined to storytelling alone—entries were welcomed in any literary art form, including poetry, essays, reflections, or even letters.



Held from August 21st to 24th, 2025, the event surpassed expectations, receiving an overwhelming 275+ stories—a true testament to the power of expression, imagination, and the shared spirit of storytelling that binds communities together.



Amplify – Nurturing Creativity Through Theatre and Storytelling

Amplify, a quarterly initiative, is designed to provide individuals with a platform to develop and refine their literary and creative abilities.

The first quarter, held on 16th August, 2025, featured two impactful sessions:

Theatre Workshop by Mr. Atul Bali An accomplished actor, writer, and mentor trained under Barry John and Satyadev Dubey, Mr. Bali has over 12 years of experience in Indian and Marathi theatre. His workshop was both insightful and interactive, blending elements of theatre and cine-

ma. Participants were encouraged to broaden their creative expression while engaging in meaningful dialogue.

Storytelling Session by Ms. Usha Venkatraman An award-winning storyteller, TEDx speaker, author, and classical vocalist, Ms. Venkatraman's work draws upon Indian myths, folklore, feminism, and music. As a UN Women Social Impact Creator and curator of the Mumbai International Storytelling Festival, she brought unmatched depth to the forum.

Do boond jindgi ki

UNPLUGGED



Rtn Bharat Pandya

TRF Trustee, 2022-26

RI Director, 2019-21

RI Treasurer, 2020-21



Today Rotary commands respect all over the world; from Governments & also from International Organizations like UN, WHO, UNICEF & others. Why is it so? This is because Rotarians have time & again demonstrated their willingness & ability to carry out projects –big & small, low-key & high profile, inexpensive & high cost ones on a volunteer basis throughout the world. They have demonstrated their commitment & dedication to worthy causes time after time.

I believe true, lasting peace

can only come about when we are able to address the hunger, the health and literacy issues, the social ostracizing, the lack of water & sanitation and the many wants – small and big - in our communities & in our world. Rotary clubs of our district are doing just that; focusing on economic and community development by meeting

the needs of the community. By concentrating on not just meeting the needs of the community but on encouraging them to be self-reliant (this is what the many women self help groups – SHGs - are doing) Rotary is making a real difference in the community. Rotarians are empowering the underprivileged to truly come out of the rut and

march ahead on the path to progress. Kudos to all clubs for this significant work they are doing. Remember, we can't change the world at one stroke, but we can make it a brighter place by our acts of service.

October 24th is World Polio Day. Polio- the word strikes fear into the hearts of parents because this disease affects our most vulnerable and defenseless population – children under five. The polio story is the story of a dream. The dream that Rotary showed to the world when in 1982 the RI Board pledged to immunize all the children of the world. And it is the story of the 4 Cs 1. Commitment- of Rotary and Rotarians to eradicate Polio. 2. Collaboration – The story is the story of the success of Partnerships. No single entity could have done it, but together we are so close. 3. Consistency – Consistent, dedicated efforts of Rotarians and Rotary Family and friends of Rotary. 4.

Contribution – The generous, large-hearted contribution of Rotarians and friends of Rotary have been instrumental in this miracle.

We must remember that the End Polio Now campaign is not just about raising money; it is about saving children. As we approach the finish line, the last mile seems most challenging but we must continue our work and commitment to ensure a Polio free world.

Emerson once eloquently said, "Without the rich heart, wealth is ugly". Richness is not about money or possessions; it's a state of the mind. It's not how much we have that counts but what we do with what we have that matters. As Rotary opens new opportunities of service let us use the richness of our hearts to support the Polio fund. A Polio-free world will be the best gift to the children of our world. Keep Doing Good in the World. Enjoy Rotary, Enjoy Yourself

Living Rotary's Values Through Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

An interview with Zainab Patel, Member – Rotary Club of Mumbai Inspire

● KALA SHRIDHAR

Zainab Patel, a member of Rotary Club of Mumbai Inspire, is one of India's most respected transgender rights leaders and a champion of corporate inclusion. A petitioner in the landmark NALSA v. Union of India case and former DEI leader with global corporations and the UN, Zainab's life is a mirror to the systemic barriers trans people face—and a testament to what dignity, visibility, and opportunity can achieve.

What does Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mean to you in the context of Rotary?

Zainab Patel: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are at the core of Rotary's mission. They are not just an initiative, they are woven into the principle of Service Above Self. To me, DEI means ensuring every Rotarian feels valued and included, every community we serve feels respected, and every project we undertake reflects the rich diversity of our world. It is about serving with dignity and ensuring no one is left behind, aligning with Rotary



International's vision of cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture to create lasting change.

Why is DEI a priority for District 3141 right now?

Zainab: Mumbai is a city of incredible diversity but also stark inequality. Women entrepreneurs struggle for access to resources, people with disabilities face unseen barriers, LGBTQ+ individuals are often overlooked, and many communities remain marginalized. District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani has emphasized that DEI is central to our work, not an afterthought. With his leadership and the guidance of mentors like Dr. Indumati Gopinathan, we are advancing Rotary's commitment to value contributions from all backgrounds and foster equity in our communities.

What is your vision for DEI in the district?

Zainab: My vision is for every Rotary club in District 3141 to mirror the diversity of our society, with membership that reflects our communities and service projects that uplift the most marginalized. This means welcoming more women, youth, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities into our clubs and leadership roles. It means designing initiatives that prioritize those furthest behind, as Rotary International encourages, to advance equity and create an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued. At my club, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Inspire, President Shanta Vallury Gandhi has shown that inclusion is a way of being, not just a project. I want this spirit to inspire the entire district.

Kala: What practical steps are you taking to advance this vision?

Zainab: We are taking intentional steps to embed DEI into our work. We encourage clubs to recruit members from diverse backgrounds to reflect our communities more fully. We are introducing

a DEI lens for projects, asking clubs to consider who else can benefit and whose voice is missing. We are hosting workshops and discussions for club leaders, focusing on practical tools to implement Rotary's DEI principles. We also plan to celebrate clubs that lead in inclusion, sharing their successes to inspire others across the district.

What challenges do you see in this journey?

Zainab: Change can be difficult. Rotary's traditions are strong, and it can feel easier to stay within familiar networks. Reaching out to diverse communities requires courage and openness. Another challenge is shifting mindsets, DEI is not about charity, it is about creating equitable opportunities for all, as Rotary International's DEI statement emphasizes. Overcoming these habits and perspectives is essential to building a truly inclusive organization.

How can individual Rotarians contribute to this effort?

Zainab: Inclusion begins with personal action. Every Rotarian can

reflect on who in their community is missing from Rotary and invite them to join. They can design projects to reach those often overlooked, ensuring diverse voices are heard. Simple choices, how we speak in meetings, welcome newcomers, or value different perspectives, build an inclusive culture. By taking ownership, Rotarians can make DEI a lived reality, aligning with Rotary's commitment to transparency and growth in its DEI journey.

What message would you like to leave with fellow Rotarians?

Zainab: DEI is about living Rotary's values authentically. It is not about meeting quotas, it is about creating a welcoming space where everyone feels they belong, as Rotary International's DEI vision underscores. I invite every Rotarian to examine their club, their projects, and their influence, and ask, whose voice is missing? That is where our work starts. With the leadership of District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, we are turning Rotary's DEI commitment into action in District 3141.

A Portrait of Courage, Culture & Creativity

**SAPIENS
EXTRAORDINARY**



Jhankar Gadkari

Sr. Rotarian,
Corporate Consultant, Speaker

The year 2019 proved to be a reformatory step in the community called the 'the other gender'.... in specific it is a legislation, preventing discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer (LGBTIQ+)

The [+] would include any other inclination or orientation which is not covered by the above specifics ... is that not progressive?

Yes, it is a step towards inclusion and prevention of persecution ... against the persecuted for 100s of years.

There are many who suffered the wrath of a generally accepted norms of the society and the world was deprived of amazing talent and possible potential.

Bharat Jethwani, at birth and today Dr Sanvi Jethwani suffered the same and more, today Sanvi is a celebrated classical dancer, scholar, cultural leader, plus-size model, motivational speaker, and social change agent.

Her story intricately weaves her passion for the arts with her identity, resilience, and unwavering commitment to empowering others with cultural and social initiatives.

Born as **Bharat Jagdish Jethwani** in Nanded, Maharashtra, into a Sindhi business family, she pursued academic and artistic excellence from an early age.

Amid conventional societal expectations, she recognized her inner identity as female during adolescence. Despite immense societal pressures—including rejection from close family during her initial transition—her steadfast resolve and eventual acceptance led to her profound self-revelation as **Sanvi Jethwani**.

Her transition was a pioneering act in her community.

With support from Dr Deshpande and psychiatrist Dr Bole, she successfully underwent gender confirmation surgery—becoming one of the first individuals in Nanded to do so—and publicly embraced her identity.

Her journey encapsulates both personal triumph and broader messages of empathy, acceptance, and the importance of recognizing individuals beyond gender norms.

The scholarly Dr Sanvi's academic credentials are extensive and multi-



disciplinary. Her educational timeline includes:

- BCA Marathwada University, Nanded
- Diploma in Bharatanatyam Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli
- MBA and Visharad in Bharatanatyam
- Certificate in Bharatanatyam Maharashtra Educational Vocational Board
- Ph.D. in Folk Dance University of Mumbai
- Honorary Causa University of Mauritius
- Ph.D. in Management Science Marathwada University

This landscape of qualifications highlights her blend of artistic mastery and scholarly depth in both performing arts and management studies.

Former Extraordinaire & Cultural Diplomat, Dr Sanvi's footprint in performing arts spans over 500 national and international performances, including in Mauritius, Thailand (Bangkok), Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, and Malaysia.

International & National Appearances

- **International:** Mauritius, Bangkok, Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, Malaysia
- **National:** Ramoji Film City's Fundoo Fest (Hyderabad), Pune's Khoj, Nanded's Aashadi Mahotsav, Aurangabad's Lavani Mahotsav, festivals in Haryana, Visakhapatnam, Mumbai and Bhilai.

Media Appearances

- Marathi films
- BBC News Special
- E Tv Telugu and Bola TV
- Radio appearances across Akashvani Nanded, Red FM, Radio City etc

Sanvi's life is not without any tribulations and trials, she epitomises the highest amount of Grit and Focused approach towards her goals, and resist with conviction her steps to better the life of her community.

She has the courage to call herself a 'Kinnar' or a 'Hijda' but below that courage is hidden the years of suffering she and her community endured

Today she leads with the belief and confidence and is a proponent of Her

Cultural Advocacy

Dr Sanvi is not only an artist but also a powerful cultural leader and educator:

- Promoter – Indian Art & Culture, Govt. of India
- Ex-State President, Maharashtra & National Cultural Coordinator for National Integrated Forum of Artists and Activists
- State Icon for the Election Commission of India
- Chairperson for Cultural Activities, Vishwa Sindhi Seva Sangam, Maharashtra
- Board Member at HSNC University, Mumbai
- Director, Lay School of Performing Arts, Nanded
- President, Saptarang Sevabhavi Sanstha, Nanded.
- District Coordinator for Dance, Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Natya Parishad.
- Managing Director, Star Utsav Event and Promotion.
- Proprietor of Geeta Hosiery Centre & partner in Nandigram Foods; and National Executive Member, Bharat Sanskriti Team India

- Visiting Faculty for cultural activities and personality development; and folk-dance researcher with multiple cultural bodies

To continue her mission, she is cultivating her community through cultural festivals, Dr Sanvi plays a vital role in promoting inclusivity and art through events as :

- Saptarang Cultural Festival (Nanded): Annual local celebration of Indian art
- Saptarang International Festival of Indian Art & Culture: Held in different countries, promoting cultural exchange globally
- Creative online initiatives, including online dance/music competitions
- Sindhi Bhajan Competition
- Mr & Miss Nanded.
- Cultural Program for differently abled children

Her leadership in activism, culture, and education helps marginalized communities express themselves and partake in heritage.

A few of Dr Sanvi's numerous accolades include: Performed before dignitaries: Prime Minister and President of Mauritius, Vice President of India Honoured by the Speaker Lok Sabha, Four-time Best Magazine Awards as editor at SRTM University and many more.

Beyond dance and scholarship, Dr Sanvi is a plus-size model who was a runner-up in Mavens Ms. Plus Size India 2022—a bold statement on body positivity and redefining beauty standards.

She's also a state icon for the Election Commission, encouraging democratic engagement.

Dr Sanvi's story stands at the intersection of personal identity, cultural stewardship, and social inclusion. Her journey, challenges conventional norms around gender and beauty, propels folk dance and Sindhi culture into international arenas, empowers diverse communities through education, performance, and outreach Inspires acceptance, empathy, and transformation in both the arts and society, Through adversity, scholarship, artistic discipline, and advocacy, she has emerged as a beacon of creative courage and cultural unity.

However, Sanvi continues her struggle to include the LGBTIQ community to integrate them in the mainstream.

Despite the legislation her challenge, her scrap continues with the society which is yet to evolve.

She also continues her 'Lavani' on the beat of the Dholki, "Lavani" derived from "Lavanya,": beauty or grace. Yes, SHE is spreading her grace and attracting the right vibes.... truly a CHANGEMAKER OF THE CENTURY.

Vision for All: Bringing Clarity to the Community

Rotary
Service Week



ROTARY RISES: UNITED FOR MUMBAI

DR INDUMATI GOPINATHAN



As the festive season gains visible momentum with the monsoons adding their fervour, the As the festive season gains visible momentum with the monsoons adding their fervour, the RSW awaits its turn in November. Let's examine in some detail, three of the eight activities of RSW, namely, Eyecare (2nd November) Blood Donation (4th November) and Awards for Unsung heroes (November 7)

Eye Check-Up Camps

The RSW opens with the Eye check-up camp activity on Sunday the 2nd of November. Clubs are gearing up for this joint activity through the process of deliberation, discussion and delegation in their groups, making new connections.

Plans For Eye Camp

- 1 Each of the three club groups of a zone has decided on a single or two lead clubs with minimum of three eye check camps per group
- 2 At least two clubs must collaborate for each camp; no eye camp should be organised by just one



Rotary club.

- 3 Teams organise the camp at a community or eye hospital, or alternatively use a mobile eye van or a large corporate or factory.
- 4 Lead clubs are organising technical eye teams with local eye hospitals, club doctors, opticians, or district teams. Many already have their teams established.
- 5 Publicity plays a crucial role in attracting beneficiaries, regardless of whether the eye camp is community-based, hospital-based, or conducted via a

mobile eye van.

- 6 Lead clubs should keep a checklist with locations, technical team contacts, volunteer names from each club, and expected beneficiary numbers.
- 7 The groups are advised to determine in advance whether spectacles will be funded by beneficiaries or by clubs to ensure clarity on the matter.
8. Cataract cases can be referred to Rotary-affiliated eye hospitals for free or subsidised surgery.
 - Bhakti Vedanta Hospital, Mira Road East
 - L.M. Patel Eye centre, S.V. Road, Malad West
 - Lotus Eye Hospital, Juhu
 - Somaiyya Hospital, Chunnabhatti
 - Aastha Hospital, Mulund
- 9 Individuals of all age groups are eligible for screening for refractive errors and cataract. Since eye camps are on a Sunday, they cannot be done for students at educational institutions.

Some facts and tips about eye camps

- Eye camps are cost-effective, as venues like sports clubs, schools, or mobile vans are usually free; main costs cover staff meals, publicity, banners, and furniture.
- Highlighting free spectacles

draws many beneficiaries.

- Pre-camp registration streamlines logistics.
- Districts will provide editable RSW banner templates for local printing.
- Beneficiaries appreciate receiving a tangible benefit upon departing the camp. Providing a prescription note that includes relevant club names, reference to Rotary Service Week, the date, and results of the eye examination serves as a lasting record for both the club and the beneficiary.

Lead Club Responsibilities For Eyecare Camps

Get following ascertained

- List camps, locations, and technical team contacts for your club group.
- Identify participating clubs and their contact points at each camp.

Rotarians/ volunteers should be present at the blood donation camp at all times. It is recommended to prepare a volunteer timetable by the hour from participating clubs.

- Indicate expected beneficiaries per camp.
- Specify number of Rotarians from each club at each camp.
- Share these details with Dr. Haresh Asnani (Project Head, Eye Care, 9820144190) and the relevant zonal project director.

Cont. on Page 10

Blood Camp: Your Drop, their hope

Blood donation is a service initiative that supports individuals in need each year. Like eye camps, blood donation drives will be organized collaboratively by designated club groups within each zone.

Below are key guidelines and relevant information regarding blood donation camps for RSW:

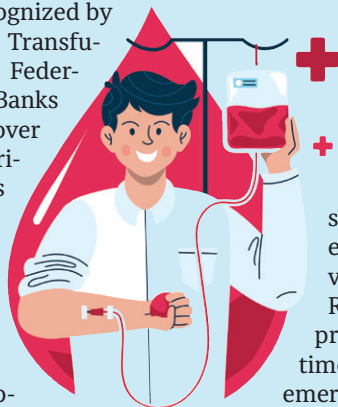
1. Select locations such as sports clubs, Gymkhanas, places of worship, community halls in under-resourced areas, bus depots, or colleges. Avoid railway stations due to higher costs, permit requirements, and the involvement of specific municipal/government Blood Bank teams.
2. A minimum of three Rotary clubs should collaborate for each camp.
3. Publicity plays a significant role in attracting blood donors.
4. If involved clubs have contacts with recognized blood banks,

they may coordinate directly with them. Otherwise, the district RSW project team (led by PP Yogesh Zaveri, 9892988114) can assist in arranging a blood bank team through the State Blood Transfusion Centre, Mumbai.

5. When the venue is provided at no cost, typical expenses are limited to nutrition for donors, blood bank team & volunteers, publicity materials, banners.
6. Blood banks recognized by the State Blood Transfusion Centre and Federation of Blood Banks are preferred over commercial or private blood banks to help ensure effective and safe practices.
7. As with eye-care initiatives, the lead club or clubs act as co-

ordinators between the group and the district. The lead club is responsible for maintaining all details of the camp and updating the Project Head with information such as the venue, expected number of beneficiaries, blood bank team requests, and clubs involved.

8. Rotarians/volunteers should be present at the blood donation camp at all times. It is recommended to prepare a volunteer timetable by the hour from participating clubs. The practice of all volunteers arriving at the start of the camp should be avoided. At least three volunteers from Rotary should be present at any given time for assistance or emergencies.



LET'S INSPIRE

APPEAL FOR SPONSORSHIP AND NOMINATION OF UNSUNG HEROES

Your sponsorship will enable us to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifices of these remarkable individuals. In return, your club will receive recognition and appreciation for its contribution to this noble cause.

NOMINATION PROCESS

We request each participating Rotary Club to identify and nominate two unsung heroes from their community by August 31st, 2025. The nomination should include a brief description of the individual's selfless contributions and impact on the community.

Join us in inspiring others through the stories of these incredible individuals. Together, we can make a difference and celebrate the spirit of **Service above Self**.

Contact us to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and the nomination process. Let's come together to honor our unsung heroes!

Rtn Deepa Goenka - North West -998674 10715
Rtn Arun Wadhwa - West -98200 67765
Rtn Jennifer Isaac - Central -99201 60817

Rtn Vaishali Shinde - North -95459 50397
Rtn Rupen Doshi - South -98201 01396
Rtn Kaajal Thadani - South -99304 82662

Honoring the unsung Heroes through Vocational Excellence Awards



....Cont. on Page 9

Join us in celebrating Rotary's commitment to service and community.

As Rotarians, we understand that meaningful service to society involves recognising both prominent contributions and the steadfast commitment of individuals who quietly create positive change within their communities. The Vocational Awards, an integral part of RSW celebrations, serve to highlight these exemplary individuals. Frequently working without recognition, these individuals exemplify Rotary's principle of Service Above Self by consistently exceeding expectations in their respective fields.

By formally acknowledging their achievements, we not only pay tribute to their dedication but also encourage broader participation in community service. Recognising these unsung heroes is paramount; they are fundamental to the strength of



our communities, diligently striving to improve the lives of those around them. Each award presented creates a far-reaching impact, fostering a culture of kindness and service.

We cordially invite you to attend this year's ceremony

at the Y B Chavan Auditorium, Nariman Point, on November 7th, as we honour these outstanding contributors.

Creatives courtesy PP Shilpi Mehra, RC Bombay Pier

Twenty awardees will each receive Rs 21,000, trophies,

and participation certificates. A non-Rotarian judging panel will select winners to ensure fairness. Three top heroes from each zone and five others from the district will receive special recognition. If your nominee is not among the

top 20, you may still honour them with a Vocational Excellence Award at your club. All nominees will receive a District certificate. Club Presidents are asked to ensure full participation at the event, which seats 587 people. The day will be with

Rotarians, awardees, their families, CSR partners, media, and other stakeholders present. We look forward to your strong support.

- 20 winners will receive cash prizes, trophies, and certificates.
- Final awardees include three top heroes from each zone plus five others from the District.
- Nomination deadline via Google form is now September 15th.
- Sponsorships offer premium seats, stage recognition, and project exposure.

For any assistance, information or google link please contact Project head for Unsung heroes awards, PP Nargis Gaur(RC of Mumbai South Cuffe Parade) 7400038249

Please check here for more details about RSW activities in the next issue.

Dr Indumati Gopinathan

M.D

Group Avenue Head, Rotary service Week

9th Eye, Skin & Organ Donation Seminar Inspires Many

A powerful session with expert doctors, DG Dr. Manish Motwani & Live Beyond Life Foundation – motivating Rotarians to pledge and save lives.

The 9th Eye, Skin & Organ Donation Training and Awareness Seminar, organized on 30th August at the Rotary Service Centre and sponsored by the Live Beyond Life Foundation, witnessed enthusiastic participation with over 75 attendees. The seminar was graced by DG Dr. Manish Motwani and Dr. Bharat Shah of ZTCC as Guests of Honour. The

A powerful seminar with expert doctors and the Live Beyond Life Foundation motivated Rotarians to pledge and save lives. DG Dr. Manish Motwani urged all district clubs to become 100% pledged clubs.



meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Jayant Sanghvi, followed by a heartfelt Welcome Address from PP Rtn. Harminder Singh, Managing Trustee of Live Beyond Life Foundation, whose dedication to this cause is widely

recognized.

On the occasion, DG Dr. Motwani inaugurated the bimonthly newsletter Sanjeevani, presented by Editor Manpreet Patheja and Co-editors Nirmala Deora and Shefali Shah.

Key Takeaways from the Seminar:

Dr. Bharat Shah explained the complexities of organ transplants, highlighting the long waiting list of patients and the need for lung size compatibility. He contrasted Eu-

rope's opt-out system with India's opt-in pledge model.

Dr. Quresh Maskati, renowned ophthalmologist, emphasized that corneas can be donated up to six hours after death and even benefit two patients, with no rejection risks. Rtn. Dr. Sunil Keswani, Director of Airol Skin Bank, spoke about the acute need for skin donation for burn victims, which can be done within 12 hours after death, irrespective of age.

DG Dr. Manish Motwani proposed that all district clubs work towards becoming 100% pledged clubs and suggested using a Google form for organ donation pledges.

The programme concluded with PP Rtn. Harminder Singh extending gratitude to the speakers, LBL trustees, and participants. Attendees shared glowing feedback, calling the event "well-structured," "meticulously executed," and "a very positive beginning."

The seminar successfully inspired greater awareness and commitment to the noble cause of organ donation.

From Pain to Purpose: The Giving Journey of Anil and Neha

"True giving is like the fragrance of a flower — it spreads naturally, without asking for anything." — **Anil**

JOY OF GIVING

● BY RACKHEE MEHTA

Some life journeys begin not with ambition, but with anguish. For Anil, it started in 2010, when his mother was diagnosed with cancer. Watching her endure pain and suffering left a lasting impression — one that quietly transformed into purpose. In 2012, just as he was preparing to step in as President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Peninsula, that personal pain became the seed of something larger. It was no longer just about moving forward in life; it was about reaching outward.

"I felt the urge to do something meaningful," Anil reflects. "That time transformed how I saw giving — it stopped being optional and became something I felt deeply compelled to do."

Neha, his partner in life and purpose, had already been raised in a world where giving wasn't a choice — it was a way of life. Her great-grandfather, widowed early, had dedicated his life to building schools, hospitals, and water stations in memory of his late wife. "That spirit of gratitude shaped me deeply." So when Anil started contributing to causes, Neha was not just supportive — she was proud. "It felt right. We were doing something for the community, together."

For Anil, giving isn't about writing a cheque. It's about impact, about knowing that someone's pain is eased, someone's life is changed, because you chose to act. "You're just a medium," he says. "True charity happens when you give with a clean heart, without looking for returns. Yet it always returns — in the form of blessings, of fulfillment."

Their connection to Rotary, though strong today, began with hesitation. They joined early in their marriage but left after feeling out of place among older members. It was only when they wanted to give more seriously — and sought a trusted platform — that they found their way back. A friend suggested rejoining Rotary instead of simply donating. "We knew they were transparent and committed. It felt right," says Anil. Today, he is an active member of the Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview — a platform that has become an essential part of their giving journey.

Once reconnected, their focus became clear: medical causes. The emotional link to cancer made it personal, but the practicality of healthcare projects — equipment,



Their giving isn't just financial — it's generational.



They involve their two daughters in site visits and decision-making, ensuring that the next chapter of their legacy is already being written.

infrastructure, real systems in place — made it effective. "You donate a machine and there's already a setup — doctors, patients, protocols. You know it's being used well," Anil explains. Over time, they also contributed to education, sanitation, and water conservation, but the medical space remained close to their heart. In every project, they stay involved — visiting sites, negotiating costs, and ensuring transparency. "Every rupee should be used

well," Anil adds.

Their giving isn't just financial — it's generational. They involve their two daughters in site visits and decision-making, ensuring that the next chapter of their legacy is already being written. During the COVID pandemic, their younger daughter chose to create her own path. She launched a baking initiative — The Baking Story — to raise funds on her own terms. Refusing family support, she raised ₹5 lakhs inde-

pendently and completed several projects through her Rotaract Club. "That's what we want to pass on," Neha says. "Not just wealth, but values."

And when they're not giving, they're exploring. As a family, they've travelled to over 85 countries. Travel, Anil says, is their way of staying energized, connected, and joyful. "It's how we unwind. New cultures, new memories — that's what keeps us alive."

At the core of it all is balance. Anil believes it's the secret to a good life — whether it's your meals, your ambitions, or your time. "You need time for friends, family, society, and yourself. Whoever manages that balance lives a truly happy life."

Today, the couple lives contentedly, grounded by love and purpose. One daughter is stepping into the jewellery business, the other into fashion jewellery. As a family, they are close-knit, social, and deeply rooted in shared values. "We've been blessed," Anil says simply. "Giving is just our way of saying thank you."

There's no talk of statues, awards, or rewards. For Anil and Neha, the real legacy is the invisible one — the kind that lives on in hearts, in habits, in the quiet choices their children make when no one is watching.

As they see it, it's not just about giving money. It's about giving meaning.

INTERVIEWS

A Journey of Service, A Vision for Tomorrow

● BY UMA JAJODIA

For Mr. Himanshu Ruia, service is not just a responsibility—it's a legacy, a calling, and a deeply rooted commitment that has shaped his journey within the Rotary movement. As he prepares to take on the mantle of President of the Rotary Club of Westend, he brings with him a legacy of humility, empathy, and an unshakeable drive to make a meaningful difference.

Professionally, Himanshu is a dynamic force in the paper industry, representing Indian paper mills and importing specialty grades of paper for diverse needs. Yet beyond his business acumen lies a man who never shies away from responsibility and who approaches both leadership and life with grace and grounded compassion. "Humble and empathetic"—two words he chooses to define himself, speak volumes of the leader he aims to be.

Service has always been

a part of his story. Coming from a family with over 35 years of Rotary association—his father a dedicated member of RC Bombay West—Himanshu's journey began young. He was an active Rotaractor during his college years and has since been an involved member of RC Mumbai Westend for the past six years. Now, stepping into the role of president feels less like a new beginning and more like a natural progression of a life shaped by Rotary's values.

When asked what inspired him to accept this leadership role, his response is simple yet profound: "To serve and make a positive impact." For Himanshu, the presidency is an opportunity not just to lead, but to connect, grow, and further align himself with Rotary's ideals. "Networking, connections, personal growth, and a passion for Rotary values" are the driving forces that fuel his vision for the year ahead.

That vision, while still unfolding in public form,



Pres. Himanshu Ruia, RC of Westend

is anchored in two heart-felt areas: medical welfare and animal welfare. These are not just pet causes—they are carefully considered priorities, identified through thoughtful dialogue with club members and aligned with Rotary District's medical thrust areas.

"After speaking to various members, these focus areas

have been nailed down," he explains. In particular, he believes that if executed with precision and collaboration, the initiatives under animal welfare could become a game changer for Mumbai's pet-owning community. Simultaneously, aligning the club's work with district-level medical initiatives ensures not only greater impact, but strong-

Professionally, Himanshu is a dynamic force in the paper industry, representing Indian paper mills and importing specialty grades of paper for diverse needs. Yet beyond his business acumen lies a man who never shies away from responsibility and who approaches both leadership and life with grace and grounded compassion.

er partnerships and visibility.

Himanshu's roadmap is quietly strategic. Behind the scenes, detailed discussions are already underway with State Government agencies and the BMC. Though he remains cautious about disclosing specifics prematurely, his tone carries quiet confidence and a sense of steady determination. "If everything aligns, the work we're planning has the potential to leave a lasting impact," he shares.

This thoughtful, collaborative approach defines his leadership style. He listens before acting, respects every perspective, and envisions service not as a one-man mission but

a collective movement. "To the best of our abilities"—a phrase he uses often—captures both his humility and his unwavering intent to do justice to the role.

As the Rotary Club of Westend prepares for a new year, it does so with a leader who embodies both tradition and transformation. Himanshu Ruia is not here to chase applause—he is here to enable change. His presidency promises to be one of action, alignment, and authenticity—rooted in Rotary ideals and guided by a vision that sees beyond the now.

For Himanshu, the journey has just begun. And for those walking alongside him, it's a journey worth being part of.

A Jewel of Leadership

● BY UMA JAJODIA

With an artistic soul and an entrepreneurial spirit, Ms. Deepika Sharda steps into her new role as President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Royales with poise, purpose, and passion. Known to her loved ones as "Dee," Deepika brings to the presidency not only a wealth of professional experience but also a deeply personal drive to serve.

A proud daughter of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Deepika's journey is rooted in creativity. From her early years as a trained classical dancer and theatre enthusiast under veterans like Sulabha Deshpande and Neeraj Kabi, to becoming a successful jewellery designer and exporter, she has always followed the rhythm of her passion. Today, her stylish yet accessible jewellery line travels the world, with regular showcases in international exhibitions from

the Middle East to Las Vegas.

But beneath the sparkle of her profession lies a grounded, spiritual individual with a strong belief in divine purpose. "Whatever is happening, there is a wider site in the Almighty's hands," she says with conviction. A devout reader of scriptures like the Bhagavad Gita and Shiv Puran, Deepika brings a thoughtful, introspective lens to both life and leadership.

Her Rotary journey began six years ago, and ever since, she has been closely involved in projects and club activities, observing the challenges and triumphs of past presidents. "The various challenges this role brings always amazed me," she reflects. "Finally, I took up the challenge and said yes."

As she prepares to lead, Deepika has defined clear focus areas for her term: rural development in all its dimensions — including farmer welfare, skill de-



Pres. Deepika Sharda, RC Mumbai Royales

velopment centres for youth, and healthcare infrastructure like clinics and hospitals in under-served areas. Her reasoning

is straightforward yet deeply moving. "Just 100 kilometres away from Mumbai, life takes a 360-degree turn. While we live in the comfort of urban blessings, rural communities are starved of basic necessities — sanitation, electricity, food, schools. That disparity touched my heart and soul."

At the core of her presidential agenda is the District's Model Village Project — a comprehensive initiative that aims to uplift entire rural communities through sustainable development. Under her stewardship, the club will actively support and drive this project, alongside several other initiatives that align with Rotary's larger goals.

Balancing ambition with humility, Deepika doesn't shy away from acknowledging that her journey is still unfolding. "There's still so much to learn... the journey to my destination is ongoing," she says, quoting lines

that echo her signature blend of poetic resilience and grounded wisdom.

Beyond her Rotary role, she continues to be a dynamic force — juggling the demands of a global business, a thriving family life, and her passion for the arts. A theme creator and natural host, she thrives in bringing people together, whether through festive celebrations or thoughtful service.

For the Rotary Club of Mumbai Royales, the year ahead promises not only impact but inspiration. Under Deepika Sharda's leadership, the club will not only work toward measurable change but also embrace the spirit of service with elegance, empathy, and unyielding commitment.

As she often reminds herself — "Aasman ke paar ki udaan abhi baaki hai."

Indeed, the journey is far from over — and under her direction, the best is surely yet to come.

INTERVIEWS

Leading with Purpose, Serving with Passion

● BY RACKHEE MEHTA

A dynamic leader with a vision for impactful service, Sargam Thakkar has played a pivotal role in shaping the Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO since its inception. Chartered during the COVID-19 pandemic, the club faced unprecedented challenges, but Sargam's leadership ensured resilience and growth. She initially took on key roles as PR Chairperson and later as Director of Membership, where her innovative 'bubble meetings' fostered stronger member connections during lockdowns. Now, as President for the 2025-2026 term, she is focused on strengthening the club's mission, enhancing community engagement, and expanding medical and social initiatives.

As PR Chairperson, she led communication and outreach efforts, later playing a crucial role in stabilizing membership. As Honorary Secretary and President-Elect, she streamlined operations and drove strategic planning. Under her leadership, the club successfully raised over ₹1 crore for oxygen cylinders during the COVID-19 crisis and champi-



Pres. Sargam Thakkar, RC Mumbai SOBO

oned critical medical projects, including pediatric heart surgeries, spina bifida surgeries, and spine surgeries in collaboration with the Spine Foundation. Dedicated to creating lasting impact, she continues to strengthen the club's position as a leading "Spine Club."

With a focus on structured growth, Sargam aims to imple-

ment Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to streamline operations and define member roles clearly. She is committed to expanding medical initiatives, particularly in spine surgeries, encouraging hands-on volunteering over financial contributions, and exploring the possibility of a new flagship project. Her lead-

ership vision includes hosting a district conference and inter-club networking events to foster collaboration while also championing women empowerment initiatives through international partnerships.

Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO stands out for its diverse and inclusive membership, with most

members being first-time Rotarians at the peak of their careers. The club fosters a collaborative, non-divisive atmosphere, ensuring meaningful service beyond community distinctions.

Beyond her work with Rotary, Sargam is a seasoned educational consultant, guiding students through college applications with "Success Stories Educational Consulting." An entrepreneur since the age of 17, she founded Gubbara Bouquets, later launching Sargam Designs Jewelry and co-founding Topsons Uniforms. Over the years, she has built a strong reputation for helping students craft compelling admissions narratives. A firm believer in personal growth, she credits Rotary and a philosophy class for shaping her perspective, helping her navigate challenges, and guiding her toward her 'true north.'

As President, Sargam's mission is clear: to build a structured, impactful, and deeply engaged club. With a strong strategic vision and passionate leadership, she is set to elevate the club's contributions, leaving a lasting legacy of meaningful change.

Empowering Through Skill

● BY PARUL SHAH

Seema Kshirsagar has taken charge as the President of Rotary Club of Mumbai – Bhandup with a clear mission and unwavering dedication. Known for her strong sense of responsibility, Seema was nominated by the club's Past President and accepted the role as a natural extension of her passion for leadership and service.

Since joining Rotary in 2021, Seema has been an active member, aligning her professional background with Rotary's goals. A fashion designer by profession, she has been deeply involved in skill development initiatives since 2015. Her experience and insights have shaped her presidential focus areas—skill development and women empowerment.

Guided by the belief that "हुनर है तो कदर है" (If you have skill, you are valued), Seema envisions a society where women are not

Seema envisions a society where women are not confined to traditional domestic roles but are equipped with practical skills that make them self-reliant. Her goal is to help women gain respect and recognition in their homes and communities through economic independence.

confined to traditional domestic roles but are equipped with practical skills that make them self-reliant. Her goal is to help women gain respect and recognition in their homes and communities through economic independence. This, she believes, is a vital step towards the nation's overall progress.

The impact she seeks is both personal and collective: enabling women to become financially independent through training and capacity-building. By helping beneficiaries acquire skills that translate into income-generating opportunities, the Rotary Club aims to create a ripple

effect of empowerment across families and communities.

Seema's vision for the year is rooted in collaboration and outreach. She plans to partner with other Rotary clubs to expand training programs and reach a wider demographic, particularly in rural areas. By focusing on employment generation and vocational empowerment, the club hopes to make a tangible difference in the lives of many.

Under her leadership, Rotary Club of Mumbai – Bhandup is poised to not only continue its legacy of service but also to drive meaningful change where it matters most.



Seema Kshirsagar, RC Mumbai Bhandup

INTERVIEWS

Driven by Service, Fueled by Purpose. Ashit Mehta, RC Bombay Central

● BY RACKHEE MEHTA

Ashit Mehta's Rotary journey began not with ambition, but with intent—to give back. A third-generation Chartered Accountant, he joined the Rotary Club of Bombay Central five years ago seeking connection and purpose. That quiet decision has now culminated in an impactful milestone: club president.

Though the role arrived earlier than expected, Ashit stepped up without hesitation. "Being president gives you the platform to connect with the right people, institutions, and organisations to bring your service ideas to life," he says. "That's what inspired me to say yes."

The transition came with challenges. "It's been an overwhelming few months—getting the committees going, membership drives, speaker sessions—but we've got a solid foundation now," he shares. His first speaker meeting as president was a standout: Member of Parliament Supriya Sule addressed the club

with honesty and warmth, leaving everyone captivated. "She didn't feel like a politician—just a grounded, honest person."

Ashit's vision for the year is anchored in healthcare. His flagship initiative involves installing a Cath lab in a Kandivali hospital—a project already progressing through trustee discussions. He's also supporting the Khimchand Laxmichand Deaf and Dumb School in Bhavnagar, his hometown, by funding hearing aids for 50 children annually and donating digital smart boards for their classrooms.

While the figures reveal impact, it's the heart behind them that defines Ashit. Last year alone, he personally contributed over ₹15 lakhs toward causes like women's empowerment, including support for a girls' college and vocational centre in Palitana. In Mumbai, he backs SVRR, an NGO working with mentally challenged individuals. Two looms have already been donated to help them learn skills like weaving and file-making—five more are planned this year.

In Mangaon, the club continues its solar electrification mission, bringing light to municipal schools still in near-darkness. "We've done seven schools so far, but there are many more left," he says. Alongside solar power, schools receive e-learning kits, and plans are underway for tree plantations, water ponds, and possible expansion into Palghar.

Beyond service, Ashit is focused on engagement within the club. Each director—medical, non-medical, vocational—was personally asked to call members before forming their committees. "I want people to feel involved, to feel like their contribution matters," he says. It's working: the club inducted eight new members, targeting 15 for the year. "We've stabilised after a few rough patches. And with future presidents lined up for the next three years, we've got continuity in place."

Ashit juggles roles with energy and humility. "I'm very hands-on, maybe too much at times," he laughs. "I've managed treasurer duties and now I am charged up



Ashit Mehta, Rotary Club of Bombay Central

in the president's role too." He's learning to delegate, crediting Rotary for teaching him to let go.

Outside Rotary, Ashit is embracing travel after retiring from his CA practice. "I've got a few international trips lined up this year. My directors have promised to hold the fort. That kind of trust is a gift."

He also finds peace in his artistic hobbies—creating mosaic art, decorating glass bottles, and assembling intricate ROKR mechanical kits. These projects, built during the pandemic, are

his therapeutic escape. His repurposed liquor bottles now brighten homes as one-of-a-kind art pieces.

Ashit lives on Marine Drive with his wife, who manages the family's investments. Their son, also a CA, is married to a dentist, and their granddaughter Kiana is the apple of Ashit's eye. Their daughter, also in Mumbai, is a devoted pet parent—he fondly refers to their family dog as his "grandchild" too.

A cancer survivor, Ashit holds that chapter with quiet strength. He plans to support a cancer hospital, but wants assurance of transparency and long-term impact before moving ahead. "It's a cause close to my heart," he says. "But I want to be sure it'll make the right kind of impact."

What sets Ashit apart is his quiet devotion to service over status. "I never wanted to be president for the title," he reflects. "I said yes because I wanted to serve. That's my selfish reason." In that selfless intent, Ashit is not just leading the Rotary Club of Bombay Central—he's lifting it.

Ketal Tapiawala: Forged in Resilience, Led with Purpose

● K.V. PREMRAJ

The provided article paints a powerful portrait of Ketal Tapiawala, the President of the Rotary Club of Borivili, whose journey to leadership was forged not in the traditional arenas of power, but in the crucible of personal hardship. Her story is a testament to the fact that true strength often emerges from quiet, everyday battles.

Ketal's life was profoundly shaped at the tender age of thirteen when her father's sudden death left her family with only 20 paisa. She watched her mother, a tenth-pass homemaker, transform into a resilient breadwinner, securing a job as a clerk to raise three children with dignity. This period instilled in Ketal a deep understanding of what true resilience looks like: not defiance, but "grace under pressure." This core lesson became the bedrock of her character, and it's a fire that, as the article notes, "burns to this day."

Her early life was marked by a pragmatic approach to preparing for the future. While pursuing



Ashit Mehta, Rotary Club of Bombay Central

her B.Com degree, she simultaneously acquired practical skills like stenography and typing, preparing herself to contribute early. Though fate, in the form of marriage, led her to Mumbai and away from a government job, her adaptable nature allowed her to wear many hats—from working in the share market and as a school clerk to assisting her husband in business. When mother-

hood called, she wholeheartedly chose to focus on family, demonstrating a profound sense of purpose and priority.

The Evolution to a Purpose-Driven Leader As her children grew, Ketal's inner spark for service found a new avenue. She returned to learning, completing a teacher's training course and exploring her passion for art. This period of personal growth and self-discovery ultimately led her to a deeper purpose: service to the community.

Her leadership journey began in 2007 with Inner Wheel, where her dedication quickly shone through. She became Club President in 2014-15 and served as a Zonal Coordinator, building a solid foundation of experience. This prepared her for her next chapter with the Rotary Club of Borivili, a club renowned for its impactful projects and high standards.

Now, as the third woman President of the club, Ketal approaches her role with a clear sense of accountability. She understands the weight of the position, stating, "It's Borivili Club—people expect a lot." Yet, her calm assur-

ance and purpose-driven goals show that she is more than ready for the challenge.

Her presidency is anchored by two core pillars: water and youth development. Ketal's commitment to water solutions stems from her firsthand observation of the suffering of rural women who carry water over long distances. She is not interested in temporary fixes but in providing sustainable, long-term infrastructure like borewells and piped connections. Her plan to "adopt an untouched village in Palghar" with a fellow Rotarian reflects a deep commitment to creating lasting, community-owned change.

Similarly, her focus on youth empowerment is born from a visionary perspective. "If we don't invest in the youth today, we are not building a future at all," she asserts. Her initiatives, from scholarships to skill development programs, aim to equip young minds with the tools they need to thrive, ensuring a brighter future for society.

A Leader Rooted in Authenticity What makes Ketal Tapiawala's story so resonant is her authen-

ticity. Despite her demanding schedule, she remains deeply rooted in her home life, managing her household herself. This grounding in simple, daily tasks keeps her connected to the very people she serves and highlights her belief that leadership is not about escaping everyday responsibilities, but about integrating them into a larger purpose.

Her passions outside of Rotary, such as painting and her handmade chocolate business, "Chocobrella," further reveal her multifaceted personality. She finds joy in the little things and does not seek accolades or applause. Her journey from a thirteen-year-old girl facing uncertainty to a poised and purposeful leader is a powerful reminder of the enduring power of resilience, vision, and heart-led leadership. She leads with the quiet strength of her mother, the steadfast support of her husband, and an unwavering commitment to making a tangible difference in the world. Her story is not one of a sudden transformation, but of a steady, unwavering, and authentic progression.

INNER WHEEL DIGEST

Golden Jubilee Celebration "Amara"

District 314 hosted the Golden Jubilee Celebration "Amara" on 22/8/25, marking 50 remarkable years. Founder Association President was Raksha Mehta. International President Kay Morland visit was a highlight. The celebration began with a grand ride of IP Kay Morlene and Association President Jyoti Mahipal in a vintage car, welcomed by Inner Wheel members in traditional Maharashtra attire with dance. The FASHION BOULEVARD exhibition showcased diverse stalls. A spectacular dance show depicted Maharashtra's history, pride,

and notable personalities like Madhuri and Sachin in "AAMCHI MUMBAI" style. Attendees wore golden/yellow sarees. Highlights included: release of a coffee table book and history book, launch of a privilege card, a rapid-fire round by PAP PDC Pushpa Suryamurthy, and a visit to Wakdi village. The evening ended with a felicitation ceremony of PAPs with musical journey, followed by a super entertaining Bollywood musical evening. IP Kay emphasized "Step up and lead by example." The event was a grand success, leaving lasting memories.



Inner Wheel District 314 Hosts Grand MELANGE West Meet

The Inner Wheel District 314 organized a vibrant West Zone Meet MELANGE at Hotel Sahara Star on 23rd August 2025 and the event was chaired by District Chairman Lakshmi Singh. The event kicked off with a photo session of all districts, followed by a flag march showcasing district pride. A dynamic group activity - a drum circle - got everyone energized. Chairman Lakshmi Singh welcomed attendees. Speakers like Devdutt Pathnaik spoke on mythology's relevance, there was a chat show on women in armed forces, talks by Rajinder Singh ("Waterman of India") and Bittu Sahgal (wildlife advocacy). Baftaana presented a fashion show featuring upcycled clothes. The evening turned into a Bollywood spectacle with glamorous performances to popular songs, showcasing "the true Mumbai way" with everyone dancing beautifully. Overall, the event was a grand success.



INSTALLATION



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI MULUND EAST

Installation ceremony on 6th June 2025 at 7.30 PM at Dwarka Residency, Wagle Estate, Thane. President Rtn Ambika Dani assumed office along with an accomplished Board of Directors comprising Rtn Ananthlakshmi Iyer, Rtn Suyash Tripathi, Rtn Sangita Lad, Rtn Avinash Patil, Rtn Sadhna Patil, Rtn Deepak Jaindani, Rtn Ujwala Jiandani, Rtn Kashinath Sagumale, Rtn Vijay Dani, Rtn Subir Ghosh, Rtn Mahesh Payyanvar, Rtn Nivedita Payyanvar, Rtn Akshay Angadi, Rtn Vinay Kulkarni, Rtn Vikram Kadam and Rtn Dr Sagar Morankar. The evening marked a spirited start to the new Rotary year with enthusiasm and commitment to service.



ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI GHATKOPAR

Installation ceremony held on Saturday, 12th July, at Jasmine Hall, Ghatkopar Jolly Gymkhana. Rtn. Mitesh Laxmichand Gala was installed as President, supported by a dynamic Board comprising Rtn. Jaydeep Modi (Club Secretary), Amita Lodaya (Club Service), Apoorva Shah (Vocation Service & E-Admin), Trupti Shah (Community Service - Medical), Radhika Pradhan (Community Service - Non-Medical), Hirachand Dand (International Service), Bharat Shah (Youth Service), Viren Gohil (The Rotary Foundation), Harish Vadodaria (Club Trainer), Laxmichand Gala (Club Advisor), Yogesh Zaveri (Public Image), Ravi Shinde (Membership), Himat Doshi (Outbound), Sudha Navandhar (CSR), Amar Ravjiani (Fellowship), and Nitin Parab (Strategic Planning). The event celebrated leadership, fellowship, and a renewed commitment to service

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIVALI

Under the leadership of President Dr. Kavita Kamraj, held its installation ceremony on 3rd June 2025 at the Myntra Dining Hall, Powai. The event commenced at 7:30 pm and marked the beginning of a new Rotary year with renewed enthusiasm and commitment to service. Dr. Kavita Kamraj, along with the Board of Directors comprising Surabhi Prakash, Monika Mathur, Nutan Bhalla, Manoj Janghiani, Tonmoy Gope, Dr. Chandra Sankar, Dr. Rachna, Firoz Begun, Himanshu Nautiyal, Manish Wasan, Pooja Nautiyal, Meena Kakkad, Kunal Kaushal, Shilpi Goyal and Rachna, pledged to carry forward the club's mission of community service and impactful projects. The evening was filled with camaraderie, vision sharing, and a spirit of dedication as the new team took charge, setting the tone for a year of purposeful initiatives.



INSTALLATION

**RC MUMBAI ROYALES**

An evening of celebration, gratitude, and vision! Our installation ceremony on 5th July was graced by DG Dr. Manish Motwani, distinguished PDGs, and our wonderful Rotary family at The club. Special thanks to IPP Prashant Surana for his leadership and dedication. Together, we now begin writing another purposeful and proud chapter of Royales! The new team for 2025-26 includes Vice President Rtn. Pradeep Pansari, Treasurer Rtn. Nirmal Tulsiyan, Secretary Rtn. Shashi Chhachhia, TRF Chair Rtn. Prakash Ruia, Club Trainer Rtn. Sangeet Modi, Fellowship Director Rtn. Deepak Raniwala, Medical Services Rtn. Jai Prakash Gupta, CSR Initiatives Rtn. Bharat Kedia, Non-Medical Services Rtn. Sandeep Mittal, and Vocational Services Rtn. Pradeep Biyani. Here's to a year filled with service, fellowship, and impact!

**ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY HARBOUR**

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Bombay Harbour was held on 7th September at the beautiful Bellesimo Banquet. The evening marked a significant milestone in the club's journey as it welcomed new leadership and reaffirmed its commitment to the ideals of Rotary – Service Above Self. The event was graced by the presence of District Governor Rtn. Manish Motwani, who attended as the Chief Guest. In his address, DG Motwani inspired members with his vision for Rotary, emphasizing innovation in service, meaningful projects, and collective efforts to bring lasting impact to communities.

The installation program began with a warm welcome to distinguished dignitaries, guests, and fellow Rotarians, followed by an invocation and ceremonial proceedings. The newly inducted leadership pledged to carry forward impactful initiatives in areas such as healthcare, education, environment, and social upliftment.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI PARLESHWAR

The installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Mumbai Parleshwar was held on 11th June 2025 at Juhu Club Millennium.

Rtn. Dr. Hemant Mondkar was installed as the President for the year 2025–26, along with the new Board of Directors. The occasion was graced by fellow Rotarians, dignitaries, and guests, celebrating the beginning of another impactful year of service and fellowship.



INSTALLATION



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI COASTLINE

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Coastline, led by President Rtn Kavit Sethi, held its installation ceremony on 8th July at Otters Club, Bandra. The board of directors for RY 2025-26 includes Secretary Sandeep Manubarwala, Joint Secretary Anuj Shah, Treasurer and Fundraising Director Rohan Shah, Immediate Past President Nishant Mehta, President Elect Kautilya Cyclewala, Vice President Eklavya Rishi, Club Trainer Abhay Bhatia, Chief Advisor Gaurav Sathaye, Club Mentor Dr. Animesh Sahetya, Asset Building Projects Advisor and CSR Director Siddharth Sathaye, PR and Projects Director Dhvani Doshi, Medical Director Dr. Monika Bhatia, Non-Medical Director Hemabh Shivpuri, Sergeant-at-Arms Karan Gandhi, Director of International Affairs Vivek Chinoy, and Youth Director Siddhant Patel.



ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY METROPOLITAN

The Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan held its installation ceremony on 29th July 2025 at Birla Thakkar, Chowpatty. The event commenced at 6:30 pm in the presence of members, dignitaries, and guests, marking a new Rotary year with renewed commitment to service and fellowship.

Rtn. Ketki Niser was formally installed as President for the year, with a dynamic Board of Directors taking charge of various portfolios to strengthen the club's projects and initiatives. Rtn. Nayna Desai assumed the role of President Elect, Rtn. Namrata Poddar as Secretary, and Rtn. Rajen Mehta as Joint Secretary.

The financial responsibilities were entrusted to Rtn. Nimish Shah as Treasurer, while Rtn. Bhavna Mehta took over as Sergeant at Arms. The club's focus areas were well represented, with Rtn. Vrajesh Desai leading Club Fellowship & Membership, Rtn. Nita Doshi overseeing Community Service Medical, and Shamoon Karachiwala along with Rtn. Heena Mehta handling Community Service Non-Medical. Public Image will be enhanced under the guidance of Rtn. Meeta Mehta, while Rtn. Snehal Shah will head Vocational Service, and Rtn. Gaurav Gopani will look after International Service. Youth Service is led by Rtn. Raksha Kothari, CSR by Vinay Kotak, and District Focus Area by Rtn. Mangala Desai. E-Administration will be managed by Rtn. Kiran Makawana.

RC BOMBAY CENTRAL

The board meeting was held on Sunday, 20th July 2025 at 10:00 AM at The Rooftop, Trident Hotel, Nariman Point, under the leadership of President Rtn. Ashit Mehta. The meeting was attended by the Board of Directors, including President-Elect Rtn. Chandresh Ambani, Vice President Rtn. Mukesh Sanghvi, Immediate Past President IPP Rtn. Surangi Mehta, Honorary Secretary Rtn. Divya Barmecha, Treasurer PP Rtn. Pankaj Ghadiali, Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn. Mukesh Shah, Director – Club Administration & Fellowship PP Rtn. Dr. Sunil Vasani, Director – CSR Rtn. Dattaram Shinde, Director – Medical Rtn. Rajesh Shah, Director – Non-Medical PP Rtn. Nirupama Khandke, Director – Membership Rtn. Rupaal Maniklal, Director – TRF PP Rtn. Sonal Gupta, Director – Youth Rtn. Allen Oliver Kotian, and Director – Public Relations Rtn. Kartik Jhaveri. The board members actively participated in the meeting, focusing on the club's initiatives, service activities, and plans for continued growth and community impact.



UDAAN – 21ST DISTRICT INTERACT CONFERENCE

UDAAN 2025: Empowering Youth through Creativity, Leadership, and Fellowship



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu ushered in the 21st edition of its flagship initiative, UDAAN, with grace and grandeur. For over two decades, UDAAN has remained more than just an annual event—it has become a movement, a platform where young Interactors gather to learn, express, and soar. Recognized by the District Governor for citation points, the conference continues to stand apart as a one-of-a-kind celebration of thought, leadership, and youth empowerment.

This year's conference was attended by 340 Interactors from 24 clubs, supported by 62 spirited

Rotaract volunteers. Adding a special dimension, 22 students and 3 teachers from Adivasi Ashramshala, Ambivali, Shahapur, travelled over 120 km to Mumbai to experience the vibrancy of UDAAN. In the true spirit of service, RCMJ extended a donation of sports goods worth ₹15,000 to their school, weaving fellowship with compassion.

The day commenced with an inspiring inaugural address by District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, whose words set a tone of purpose and aspiration. The sessions that followed were thought-provoking and deeply rel-

evant to today's youth. Ms. Delnaz Irani, certified NLP and Gestalt practitioner, engaged the audience with insights on personal growth and resilience, while Rtn. Dr. Kruti Abhayankar, President of the Rotary Club of Addiction Prevention, spoke powerfully on the challenges of digital addiction, emphasizing awareness and practical steps for recovery.

UDAAN 2025 unfolded as a celebration of creativity, intellect, and talent. Interactors spoke with conviction on themes such as self-compassion and artificial intelligence, while melodies of classical music filled the auditori-

um with Sur Sargam. The art segment, Kalakari Haat, brought to life vibrant expressions on water conservation, space exploration, and wildlife protection, while pre-judged events like Expression and Power Deck showcased the clubs' flair for communication and project management. The grand finale came with Dheentaal, a spirited group dance competition on the theme of patriotism, which electrified the stage and united the audience in pride.

Every event was meticulously judged by distinguished professionals, and the felicitation of judges with artwork created by a

differently-abled artist living with muscular dystrophy added a deeply meaningful touch. The prize distribution that followed was not only a recognition of talent but also a reaffirmation of Rotary's commitment to nurturing young leaders.

Co-hosted by RC Bombay Airport, RC Mumbai North Island, RC Mumbai Kandivli West, and RC Mumbai Mahim, this edition of UDAAN was a shining example of collaboration and fellowship. As the curtains drew on the day, one truth stood clear—UDAAN continues to be a flight of imagination, inspiration, and purpose for the youth of District 3141.

ROTARY'S GIFT OF HEALTH

RC MUMBAI KALAKAR HOSTS MEGA MEDICAL CAMP BENEFITTING 110+ LIVES



RC Mumbai Kalakar organized a Mega Medical Camp on 14th September 2025 at Pancholi Hospital, Ghatkopar (East), benefitting more than 110 individuals from the local community. The camp witnessed the presence of Club President Rtn. Pooja Mehntaa, IPP Rtn. Haimadesh Pandey, Project Chair Rtn. Dr. Vaishali Das, along with Rtn. Chandrasekaran and Rtn. Madhumita, while volunteers from Laxmichand Golwala College extended valuable support. The camp offered free health facilities such as blood sugar and blood pressure checks, TSH testing by Metropolis, ECG with

physician's consultation, breast cancer screening by Dr. Falak from Tata Memorial Hospital, and mammography by ICTC under Dr. Deep Vora. The impact was noteworthy as five individuals were detected with very high blood sugar, seven women were found with breast lumps awaiting mammogram guidance, and four to five elderly participants showed ECG changes requiring further cardiac evaluation. The initiative truly reflected Rotary's motto of Service Above Self by providing preventive healthcare and timely medical guidance to the underprivileged with compassion and collaboration.

Safe Spaces, Stronger Communities: RCBB's Porta Cabin at Mumbai Central



• BY RACKHEE MEHTA

The Rotary Club of Bombay Bay View (RCBB), under the leadership of President Rtn. Sonali Shah and guided by Project Head Rtn. Vidya Moorjani, has once again transformed compassion into action by inaugurating a fully equipped Porta Cabin at Mumbai Central Railway Station. The initiative provides a safe, dignified, and comforting space for lost children, women in distress, and women police officers tirelessly serving at the station.

Meeting an Urgent Need

Mumbai Central, one of the city's busiest transport hubs, witnesses lakhs of passengers daily. Sadly, many children are reported lost here every week, and women in distress often remain vulnerable until formal procedures begin. The absence of a secure and humane environment has long posed

a challenge. RCBB responded with foresight, investing ₹2,65,000 to create a Porta Cabin offering immediate relief. This calming space reduces fear and trauma for women and children before they are escorted to the police station.

Supporting Women Police Officers

Beyond serving citizens, the initiative supports the 125 women police officers posted at Mumbai Central. The cabin is thoughtfully equipped with a functional bathroom and a private changing space, giving officers dignity and relief during long, demanding shifts. By caring for law enforcement personnel, RCBB strengthens their capacity to serve the community more effectively.

A Humane First Point of Contact

The Porta Cabin now functions as a humane first point of contact for vulnerable individuals. Expected

to assist over 20 lost or abandoned women and children every month, it fosters trust between citizens and police while easing the strain on public services.

Building on Success

This is not RCBB's first achievement. Last year, a similar Porta Cabin was set up at Churchgate Railway Station, earning wide appreciation from commuters, police, and railway authorities. Inspired by its impact, RCBB has now extended the model to Mumbai Central, with plans to replicate it at other major stations across the city.

Service with Compassion

The Porta Cabin at Mumbai Central is more than infrastructure—it is a lifeline of dignity, trust, and care. By serving both vulnerable citizens and women in uniform, RCBB has set a benchmark in community service, embodying Rotary's vision of "Service Above Self."

Dear Inspire President,

Thank you so much for your response and enthusiasm for the GML. It means a lot to us!

I have just a small request to make the process smoother for everyone:

1. Please submit only one project per month, along with one photo of the project.
2. We won't be able to accommodate multiple projects or pictures in the same month. If more than one is received, only one entry will be selected without any further discussion.
3. Kindly send your submission either through the Google form or by email to inspired.gml@gmail.com by the 15th of every month.

I hope this makes things clear and helps us manage everything easily. We truly appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing your wonderful projects each month!

Wishing you happy reading and all the best,

Pinki Dalal, Editor-in-Chief – GML Inspire 2025-26



Dr. Manish Motwani
Dist Governor, 25-26

ROTARY GREEN GOLD FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM – CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY



Rotary Club of Deonar and Rotary Club of Palghar proudly partnered in the Rotary Green Gold Farmer Training Program, a multi-district initiative held on 11th and 12th September 2025 at Krishi Vidnyan Kendra (KVK), Baramati. This unique effort brought together eight Rotary clubs from Districts 3131, 3141, and 3142, fostering collaboration and collective action for farmer empowerment. A total of 85 farmers from Karjat, Palghar, Pune, Satara, and Baramati benefited from the seminar. Notably, RC Deonar mobilized 33 participants, the highest number from any single club.

As its name suggests, Green Gold focused on equipping farmers with the tools and knowledge to practice sustainable, chemical-free, and eco-friendly farming. Eminent experts conducted sessions on modern farm preparation, seed selection, crop care, and advanced harvesting techniques. Farmers gained valuable insights into organic practices that enhance yield while nurturing soil health, thereby ensuring resilience against the challenges of climate change and modern agriculture.

The program's impact extended beyond technical knowledge. It instilled confidence, encouraged environmental stewardship, and strengthened community well-being by promoting healthier, more sustainable food systems. The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback underscored the importance of such initiatives in securing the future of farming. Encouraged by its success, Rotary clubs now aspire to make Rotary Green Gold an annual flagship program. With an expanded vision, the initiative aims to reach more farmers across Maharashtra and beyond, sowing the seeds of prosperity, sustainability, and hope for generations to come.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY AIRPORT ORGANISES JOB PLACEMENT DRIVE (ROJGAR MELA)



The Rotary Club of Bombay Airport, under the leadership of President Rtn. Pragna Mehta, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Mumbai Goregaon West and the Vedanta Foundation, successfully organised a Job Placement Drive (Rojgar Mela) at Nutan Maharashtra Vidyalaya, Goregaon West. The initiative was designed to bridge the gap between unemployed youth and potential employers by providing access to entry-level jobs. The drive focused on students who had completed their 10th and 12th standards, as well as recent graduates,

thereby directly contributing to financial empowerment and socio-economic upliftment. The event was graced by Shri Subhash Desai, Former Minister of Industries, Government of Maharashtra, who served as Chief Guest. He lauded Rotary's efforts in supporting employment initiatives that open doors of opportunity for young aspirants. A total of 203 candidates were interviewed by 12 participating corporates and banks. The first round of interviews was conducted on-site, with shortlisted candidates invited for follow-up interviews at respective company offices.

The project was led by President Pragna Mehta, Secretary Manish Kothari, PP Rajesh Agarwal, Director Dr. Niteen Dedhia, alongside the enthusiastic support of Rotarians, Rotary Anns, and the school's management. As the first-ever job placement initiative by RC Bombay Airport, the Rojgar Mela provided invaluable learnings in planning and execution while making a tangible difference. More importantly, it showcased Rotary's ability to not just serve but to transform lives by turning aspirations into employment and unemployment into hope.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DAHISAR HONOURS RTN. RAJENDRAN UNNIKRISHNAN WITH BEACON OF SERVICE AWARD



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar proudly conferred the Beacon of Service Award – Service Above Self upon Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to Rotary ideals and impactful community service. The award was presented by District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani and First Lady Dr. Mahek Motwani at a special gathering held at Paradise Hall, Borivali, on Sunday, 14th September 2025. The event witnessed the enthusiastic presence of over 125 members, adding warmth and fellowship to the occasion. In his acceptance, Rtn. Rajendran expressed

heartfelt gratitude, calling the honour not just a personal milestone but a reflection of the encouragement, fellowship, and inspiration he has consistently drawn from the Rotary family. He acknowledged the support of his Club President Rtn. Jayant Pawar and fellow members for recognizing his efforts and motivating him to pursue the true spirit of Service Above Self. This recognition serves as a reminder that Rotary's strength lies in its people—dedicated members who, through passion and service, continue to make a lasting difference in society.

TEACHING TRADITIONS RESPONSIBLY-ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI SHER-E-PUNJAB'S ECO-FRIENDLY IDOL WORKSHOP



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab (RCMSEP), under the leadership of Inspire President Rtn. Minishaa I. Oberoi, organized an Eco-Friendly Ganesh Idol Making Workshop on 25th August 2025, addressing both environmental concerns and youth skill development. Ganesh idol immersion during Ganesh Chaturthi is a long-standing tradition, but with it comes the challenge of environmental damage. Most idols are made from Plaster of Paris and coated with synthetic paints that release harmful toxins into water bodies, harming aquatic life and reducing oxygen levels. To counter this, RCMSEP brought together students from three institutions to learn sustainable alternatives while engaging their creativity.

The workshop, conducted by Rtr. Shraddha Purohit, saw participation from 259 beneficiaries: 100 students from Guru Nanak High School (Classes V & VI), 87 students from R.C. Maruti High School (Class IX), and 70 students along with 2 teachers from JES College of Commerce, Science & IT. The initiative was a collaborative effort with the Interact Clubs of Maruti Veers and Guru Nanak Bravehearts, and the Rotaract Club of JES College Parivartan.

Aligned with Rotary's focus areas of Community Economic Development and Environment, and through the Avenue of Vocational Service, the workshop not only taught eco-friendly idol making but also instilled awareness of the harmful effects of PoP idols.

With eager participation and heartfelt enthusiasm, students embraced the concept of celebrating traditions responsibly. The project beautifully showcased how Rotary can empower young minds to protect the planet while keeping cultural values alive — truly nurturing a generation that values both devotion and sustainability.

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NEWS THIS MONTH COMPILED BY RACKHEE MEHTA & SASHIKALA CHARLES

PALGHAR ROTARY HOSTS MONSOON CYCLE RALLY ON DRUG AWARENESS



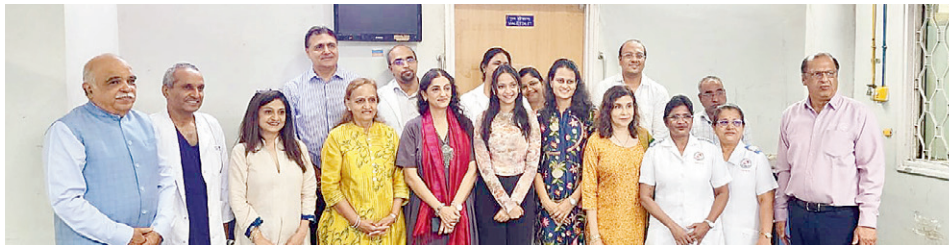
The Rotary Club of Palghar, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sanjay Mahajan, organised its annual Monsoon Cycle Rally on Mahim Road, Palghar. With the powerful theme "Say No to Drugs," the event aimed to spread awareness among the younger generation about leading a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. More than 200 students from Class V to IX participated with enthusiasm and were divided into four competitive groups, showcasing energy and determination. Valued at ₹90,000, the rally received generous support from Yash Foundation, Palghar Milers, PP Adv. Jayesh Avhad, Gurukrupa Caterers, Rtn. Adv. Santosh Yadav, Rtn. Amar Bajpei, Ann. Shilpa Bajpai, Rtn. Sagar Patil, Rtn. Anil Billava, Rtn. Naresh Bajpei, Rtn. Hitesh Jain, Rtn. Arvind Gandhi, and Rtn. Salil Karanjikar. The highlight of the programme was the prize distribution ceremony. Winners from each group proudly received brand-new bicycles sponsored by Yash Foundation, while second and third place winners were presented with attractive prizes. Participants up to fifth place received cups, and all participants were honoured with certificates, encouraging sportsmanship and confidence. The event was graced by Chief Guest Deepa Tai Pimple, Police Inspector Shri Parad, Club Secretary Rtn. Manish Pimpale, Project Chairman Rtn. Anil Billava, and several Rotarians. The rally beautifully combined fitness, camaraderie, and social responsibility, leaving a lasting impact.

A STEP TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE



The Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park embarked on a mission to combat plastic pollution. Under the leadership of President Mr. Rajagouda Shankar Patil, the "Say No to Plastic" project came to life at the Omkareshwar Temple. Fuelled by a generous donation of Rs. 15,000 from Rtn. Dr. Vaidehi Rawandkar, the initiative aimed to instill a sense of environmental responsibility. A team of dedicated Rotarians, including Rtns Bhadresh Bhatt, Kailash Lodha, Milind Gotal, and others, worked tirelessly to execute the project. They distributed cloth bags and educated 101 beneficiaries—temple visitors and locals—about the harmful effects of single-use plastic. The project's success was a testament to the collective effort and the club's unwavering commitment to a greener, cleaner community. The air around Omkareshwar Temple felt a little fresher, a little lighter, thanks to this small but significant step towards a plastic-free world.

TRANSFORMING CARE: ROTARY MUMBAI SOBO RENOVATES MALE GENERAL WARD AT TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



The Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sargam Thakkar, has undertaken one of its most ambitious healthcare initiatives — the renovation of the Male General Ward at Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, Mumbai. Partnering with the Rotary Club of Bombay Worli, the project underscores Rotary's unwavering focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment. The project, valued at 15 crore, involves a full-scale renovation of a 72-bed Male General Ward, covering civil work, flooring, roofing, electrical wiring, toilets, pantry, nursing stations, passages, painting, and the installation of furniture and accessories. Once completed, it will directly benefit over 50,000 patients annually, ensuring that those battling cancer receive care in a safe, clean, and dignified environment.

The initiative is being funded through the generous support of Rashi Siraslewala and family (1.32 crore+), with architectural expertise led by Rtn. Priti Doshi, financial and material sourcing managed by Rtn. Rajiv Punater, and overall supervision by President Rtn. Sargam Thakkar and Rtn. Niharika Malik. The project commenced on 21st August and is expected to be completed by 20th November 2025. This renovation is more than just infrastructure—it is an investment in hope. By upgrading facilities for both patients and healthcare staff, Rotary SOBO is not only improving physical spaces but also strengthening the spirit of healing. It is a shining example of Rotary's ability to turn compassion into lasting impact, proving that when service meets vision, lives are transformed.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOISAR TARAPUR EXTENDS NUTRITION SUPPORT TO MDR-TB PATIENTS

Rotary Club of Boisar Tarapur conducted the second phase of distribution of high-protein nutrition packets for MDR-TB patients on 18th September 2025 at 9 am at Shri Ram Mandir. Under the guidance of Inspire President Rtn. Ramnarayan Goyal and Project Coordinator Rtn. Dr. Parag Kulkarni, nutrition support was extended to 30 patients. The event was graced by President Ramnarayan Goyal, Project Director PP Rtn. Vinayak D. Padmavar, Coordinator Rtn. Dr. Rajesh Yadav, Rtn. Omprakash Mishra, Mr. Pankaj Verma of Bhageria Industries, and TB Officer (Health) Mr. Vishwas Raut. The initiative was financially supported by Bhageria Industries Limited along with Rtn. Dr. Digambar J. Jhavar, Shri Maruti Raghunath



Kadam, Rtn. Rakesh Acharya, Rtn. Anil Jagdale, Rtn. Amit Mahajan, PP Rtn. Vinayak Padmawar, Rtn. Sunil Salvi, Rtn. Kamlesh Hambire, and Rtn. Vinod Patankar. Inspire President Ramnarayan Goyal thanked all dignitaries

for their presence and encouraged the patients to take medicines regularly and follow a nutritious diet, while Rtn. Dr. Rajesh Yadav guided them on speedy recovery and overcoming the disease with positivity and care.

RC MUMBAI ROYALS PLANTS 1,100 FRUIT TREES IN MUKHADA VILLAGE

Under the leadership of President Rtn. Deepika Sharda, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Royals undertook a significant environmental initiative by planting 1,100 fruit-bearing trees in Mukhada village, reaffirming the club's commitment to sustainability and rural development. The drive was carried out with the support and guidance of Mr. Rajesh Choudhary, whose contribution proved invaluable in ensuring the project's success. The plantation project was



aimed not only at restoring ecological balance but also at supporting the livelihoods of the local community.

By planting fruit trees, the initiative promises long-term benefits—providing shade, improving soil fertility, reducing carbon footprint, and eventually generating nutritional and economic value for the villagers. Club members expressed gratitude to all donors and well-wishers whose generosity made the drive possible. The collective effort highlighted the power of collaboration and the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR MAHALPADA



The Zilla Parishad School in Mahalpada, Vikramgad, Palghar, once had crumbling walls and worn-out classrooms, a stark contrast to the bright dreams of its 253 students and six dedicated teachers. To give it a new life, the Rotary Club of Bombay Mahakali Heights, led by President Rtn. Dr. Saroj Anand, launched the project "Renovation of ZP School Mahalpada." Spearheaded by Rtn. Dr. Saroj Anand, with strong support from Rtn. Sunil Anand and Rtn. Ameeta Shetty, the project secured 11,00,000 through the generosity of CSR partners and friends. This investment transformed the school with fresh paint, sturdier structures, and new classroom equipment. The real success was seen in the smiles of students returning to an upgraded, inspiring environment — a project that stood as a symbol of hope, collaboration, and commitment to community development.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WADA – MUSKAAN 25



The Rotary Club of Wada recently marked the fourth successful year of its flagship initiative, Project Muskaan 25, bringing smiles to over 200 students across six local schools. True to its name, which means "smile," the project distributed comprehensive school kits to empower learning. Each kit contained a school bag, notebooks, writing pads, crayons, and a pen pouch, ensuring students have the essential tools to feel confident and prepared for the academic year. The project's success is a testament to its innovative, crowdsourced funding model, which united the community for a common cause. This remarkable public effort was led by Club President Rtn. Rhushikesh Patil, whose vision has been central to the project's growth. The meticulous on-ground distribution was expertly managed by dedicated project chairs, Rtn. Swapnil Rodage, Rtn. Swapnil Ghagas, and Rtn. Mandar Pashte. More than just a distribution drive, Project Muskaan 25 is an investment in the community's future. By removing financial barriers to education, the Rotary Club of Wada provides not only supplies but also hope and confidence. The project is a powerful example of the "Service Above Self" motto, demonstrating the lasting, positive change Rotary continues to create in Wada.

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RC OF MUMBAI JUHU ELITE



In the bustling heart of Mumbai, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu Elite, under the leadership of President Rtn. Rashmi Gupta, embarked on a project that touched the lives of six young Adivasi students at Chapekar English High School, Panvel, on 16th July 2025. The "Stationary Kit Distribution" project, valued at INR 30,000, was more than just an act of charity; it was a beacon of hope. For these children, a simple notebook or a new pen can be a luxury. The stationary kits, brimming with essential supplies, made their faces light up with happiness. The success of this initiative was a collective effort of Rtns Rashmi Gupta, Dr. Ajay Bajaj, and Anuj Gupta, Aniket Khetan, Jayesh Khemka, and Anup Ramuka. Special recognition goes to Rtn Dr Ajay Bajaj and Rtn Dr Nishi Bajaj, whose hands-on involvement ensured the project's seamless execution to support the children's education.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS, ENRICHING FUTURES



The club led by Pres Kashmira Ganatra, successfully completed Back to School (Phase 1) at Zilla Parishad School, Dahanu, benefiting 450 students with a project value of Rs. 6,25,000. The initiative included inaugurating Classes 9 and 10, sponsoring teacher salaries for one quarter, and distributing textbooks, notebooks, and food items to students, along with a month's supply of foodgrains and pulses for the school. Teachers received jumbo masala hampers, and students enjoyed a creative clay workshop conducted by Harshita. Supported by Mahima, Sneha, and other generous donors, the project reflected the club's strong commitment to education and community upliftment.

ROTARY SION IGNITES YOUNG MINDS ON NATIONAL SPACE DAY



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Sion, in collaboration with Dr. Homi Bhabha State University, celebrated National Space Day 2025 on August 22-23 at the Institute of Science, Fort, engaging over 1,500 students from across Mumbai with an inspiring showcase of India's space achievements, including Chandrayaan-3. Led by a youth-driven team featuring Rtn. Prof. Anish Gawande and Rtn. Prof. Neha Nakashe, and inaugurated by Rtn. Kiran Shetye with Dr. Rajanish Kamat as Chief Guest, the event featured a scaled ISRO exhibition, 7D Moon



landing experience, mobile planetarium, and hands-on activities like astro-art and satellite model-making. Presented in English, Hindi, and Marathi, the exhibition blended science and creativity, sparking curiosity and making space exploration accessible. Widely covered in leading newspapers including Hindustan Times, Times of India, The Free Press Journal, Pudhari, Loksatta, and Gujarat Samachar, the event underscored Rotary's commitment to youth empowerment and nation-building through education, inspiring students to envision a future in space science.

RC BOMBAY QUEEN CITY OPENS FREE HOMEOPATHY CLINIC



The Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City, led by Shhyam R. Singhanian, inaugurated a Free Homeopathy Clinic at Shivaji Vidyalaya, Kalachowki, Mumbai, benefiting the local community and residents. Sponsored by the Ravindra Patni Foundation with support from Sadhana Patni, the project cost Rs 10,000 and aims to provide accessible healthcare. The event saw the presence of Adhiraj, Neha Jain, Shekhawat, Sadhana Singhanian, Hiren Gosalia, Mala Gosalia, Akhil Tody, Deepika Tody, Anupama Jalan, Mahesh Jalan, Arun Kumar Gupta, Pawan Sureka, Ralphy Jhirad, Girish Agarwal, Vinay Khandelwal with his son Kanishk, Sakshi from Enarr, along with school teachers and students, reflecting strong community participation and Rotary's commitment to public welfare.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY WORLI LAUNCHES PHASE II OF PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDIC PROJECT

The Rotary Club of Bombay Worli inaugurated Phase II of its flagship initiative, Late FT Khorakiwala Little Hands & Feet, on 12th August 2025 at SRCC Children's Hospital, Haji Ali. Dedicated to children with orthopedic challenges, the project aims to restore mobility, confidence, and brighter futures through life-changing surgeries. The launch was graced by RI Foundation Trustee Dr. Bharat Pandya, District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani, district dignitaries, and family and friends of Rtn. Taizoon and Edith Khorakiwala, whose generous contribution drives this mission. With a commitment of INR 2.50 crores, the initiative will enable 1,000 pediatric orthopedic surgeries. Special gratitude was expressed to SRCC Hospital and the Khorakiwalas for their steadfast support in transforming young lives.



A HEART-WARMING FEAST!



Nestled within the serene National Park, the Rotary Club of Mumbai National Park, embarked on a heart-warming initiative: the "Shravan Mahautsav Annadan." Under the leadership of President Mr. Rajagouda Shankar Patil, a feast was prepared at Chinchpada, Bal Gurukul, to nourish 51 beneficiaries. Rtn Kailash Lodha was instrumental in bringing this `15,000 project to life along with Rotarians Satish Dipnalk, Ajay Bhartav, and Pankaj Daptardar alongside First Lady Mrs. Sujata Rajagouda Patil and Mrs. Meena Lodha. Together, they wove a tapestry of community spirit and selfless service, making the Shravan Mahautsav a memorable event of giving and receiving.

SOBO CLUB BRINGS STORAGE SOLUTIONS TO TALOJA ANGANWADIS



The Rotary Club of Mumbai, SOBO, under the leadership of President Rtn Sargam Thakkar, embarked on a heart-warming mission. Their project, "Support to Anganwadis in Taloja with Metal Storage Trunks," aimed to bring a bit of order and security to the lives of young children and their teachers. The challenge was simple: the 25 anganwadis in Taloja MIDC lacked proper storage, leaving essential supplies vulnerable. The Club provided sturdy metal storage trunks to the value of Rs 1,17,500, funded entirely by the Club's own members, offering a safe place for books, toys, and learning materials. The impact was immediate and profound, touching the lives of 750 children and their teachers. Rotarian Rajiv Punater, was instrumental in the execution of this project, revealing that a small, well-placed effort can make a world of difference.

ROTARY MULUND SOUTH SPREADS FESTIVE CHEER AT MENTAL HOSPITAL

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Mulund South, led by Sapnesh Neema, celebrated Project Rakshabandhan at the Regional Mental Hospital, Thane, bringing joy and care to 756 inmates through rakshis, hygiene kits, and snacks. With 84,000 raised through crowdfunding and the dedication of Rotarians including Anju Jumde, Bhavesh Thakkar, Mamata Nakman, Laxmi Muraraka, Rameet Sawhney, and Sonali Khattar, the

event included traditional Raksha Bandhan rituals, antakshari, and heartfelt interactions. While 81 inmates participated in the celebration after medical clearance, hygiene kits were distributed to all patients, ensuring no one was left out. Supported by 48 donors and attended by over 180 people, the initiative showcased Rotary's spirit of compassion, inclusion, and service, leaving a lasting impact on the hospital community.



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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY QUEEN CITY LAUNCHES FREE HOMEOPATHY CLINIC AT KALACHOWKI



The Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City, led by President Rtn. Dr. Shhyam R. Singhania, has taken a meaningful step toward community healthcare by inaugurating a Free Homeopathy Clinic at Shivaji Vidyalaya, Kalachowki, Mumbai. Supported by the Ravindra Patni Foundation and graciously sponsored by Hon. Rtn. Smt. Sadhana Patni, the project—valued at 10,000—aims to provide holistic medical support to the residents of the locality and the general public. The launch event witnessed the presence of several eminent Rotarians and dignitaries, including Trustee of Shivaji Vidyalaya Shri Adhiraj ji, Dr. Neha Jain, Dr. Shekhawat, President Rtn. Dr. Shhyam R. Singhania and First Lady Ann. Sadhana Singhania, as well as senior club leaders and members. The clinic stands as a testament to Rotary's ongoing efforts to serve the community with compassion and foresight. By offering free homeopathy services, the club not only addresses healthcare needs but also strengthens its bond with the local community, ensuring that the spirit of Rotary touches lives where it matters most.

EXTENDING COMPASSION BEYOND BOUNDARIES – ANIMAL RESCUE VAN DONATED BY RC BOMBAY BAYVIEW



Rotary Club of Bombay Bayview, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sonali Shah and Project Head Rtn. Vidya Moorjani, took a significant step towards animal welfare by donating an Animal Rescue Van to Empathy Unlimited Welfare Foundation. Valued at 7,79,744, this project will benefit more than 5,000 distressed animals annually. Empathy Unlimited is the only animal welfare organization in the KDMC region, an area where government infrastructure for animal care is absent. Operating from its Thakurli Centre, the foundation currently houses over 400 animals and treats thousands each year, offering free medical support, shelter, and rehabilitation. However, the rising demand for on-spot treatment and emergency response had far outpaced its capacity. The absence of a dedicated rescue van meant delayed interventions, often putting vulnerable animals at greater risk. With the addition of this van, Empathy Unlimited can now respond swiftly to distress calls, transport injured animals

RC BOMBAY SEAFACE HOSTS VOCATIONAL AWARDS NIGHT HONOURING CINEMA ICONS

Braving massive traffic disruptions across South Bombay caused by Manoj Jarange Patil's morchha, the Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface successfully hosted its much-anticipated Vocational Awards Night at the historic Wodehouse Gymkhana. The evening turned into a celebration of Indian cinema, recognizing three eminent personalities whose contributions have shaped the industry. Subhash Ghai, the legendary filmmaker known for classics like Karz and Pardes; Mohit Suri, the contemporary director whose musical hits and blockbuster Saaiyaara crossed the 500-crore mark; and Komal Nahta, one of India's most respected film critics, were felicitated for their enduring influence and integrity. In a candid, engaging conversation, Komal Nahta drew out fascinating stories from Subhash Ghai and Mohit Suri, offering the audience insights into the creative process, professional milestones, and the personal challenges behind Bollywood's glamour. The interaction brought together cinema enthusiasts across generations, making the evening both nostalgic and inspiring. The awards ceremony was conducted with warmth and dignity. PP Yogeshbhai Parikh felicitated Subhash Ghai, PP Leena Shah



honored Mohit Suri, and PP Tanveer Hawa presented the award to Komal Nahta. Heartfelt introductions by PP Harsha Ghadiali, R'ann Falguni Shah, and Parul Mody added a personal touch. The presence of AG Navnit Ajmera and his partner Forum further enriched the occasion. The program concluded with a gracious vote of thanks by Rtn. Manishi Vora. A curated dinner and cocktails, thoughtfully organized by Club Service Director Parul Mody and SAA Nisha Shah, rounded off the evening. What began as a logistically challenging day transformed into a memorable celebration of art, community, and resilience—highlighting the spirit of Rotary and its ability to turn obstacles into moments of togetherness.

RCMMS DONATES NST MACHINE TO PANCH RASTA MATERNITY HOSPITAL

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Mulund South (RCMMS), under the leadership of President Rtn. Sapnesh Neema, has carried out a landmark service project by donating a vital Non-Stress Test (NST) Machine to the IDS Mulund Maternity Hospital. The initiative, valued at 62,280, is part of the club's yearly flagship project, Ek Onkar. The hospital, which manages nearly 300 deliveries annually, had been operating without an NST machine, a crucial device for monitoring fetal heart rate and ensuring the well-being of babies. RCMMS stepped in to bridge this gap, ensuring that more than 500 expectant mothers each year will now have access to safer pregnancies and improved maternal care. The funds were raised through a successful crowdfunding campaign, with generous



contributions from both medical and non-medical Rotarians. The machine was inaugurated by District Governor Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, who lauded the club's focus on healthcare. Project Chairperson Rtn. Dr. Aparna Padgaonkar played a pivotal role in the initiative. This donation is a gift of hope and safety to hundreds of mothers and their newborns, reaffirming Rotary's mission of creating lasting change.

RC BOMBAY CENTRAL BRINGS COMFORT & CARE TO BOMBAY PANJRAPOLE, MUMBAI'S OLDEST ANIMAL SHELTER

Under the leadership of President Rtn. Ashit Mehta, Director Rtn. Nirupama Khandke, and the dedicated RC Bombay Central (RCBC) Non-Medical Projects Team, the club inaugurated a meaningful initiative at Bombay Panjrapole, Bhuleshwar — Mumbai's oldest and largest animal shelter. The project addressed immediate infrastructural needs while laying the foundation for long-term impact. RCBC funded and installed 14 new ceiling fans and lights, inspected in collaboration with the contractor and confirmed to be in excellent working condition. Additionally, the club extended last-mile funding of 80,000 for the pregnancy shed, with its formal inauguration scheduled for 30th September. Looking ahead, discussions were held on refurbishing older sheds and structures, with RCBC assuring continued support to transform this into a landmark project for years to come. The day was not only about service but also about celebration and fellowship. RCBC members gathered to celebrate the birthday



of Rtn. Geeta Kapadia, singing joyfully before feeding cows at the shelter. In a heartwarming coincidence, a calf born on 30th August was named "Geeta" in her honour, creating a memory that beautifully connected compassion with celebration. This initiative stands as a testament to Rotary's spirit of Service Above Self, blending infrastructure development with humane care. With teamwork, dedication, and empathy, RCBC continues to create ripples of kindness in the community. As the club looks forward to expanding this project, it reaffirms its commitment to making a lasting difference where it truly matters.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY HILLS SOUTH SUPPORTS EDUCATION OF DIFFERENTLY-ABLED CHILDREN



The Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South (RCBHS), under the leadership of President Rtn. Dr. Rajgopal, continues its commitment to inclusive education through its ongoing support to the Society for the Education of the Challenged Children (SEC) at Kamshet, Naigaon. In a recent initiative, President Dr. Rajgopal, accompanied by members of the Board of Directors, handed over a cheque of 7,50,000 to SEC. This contribution will go toward strengthening educational facilities and programs for physically and mentally challenged children, ensuring they receive the resources and opportunities they need to grow, learn, and thrive. The project reflects RCBHS's dedication to creating lasting impact in the field of education, especially for those who face greater challenges in life. The support not only provides financial assistance but also reaffirms Rotary's belief in empowering every child with dignity and access to learning. With this initiative, RCBHS has once again showcased how Rotary service extends beyond immediate aid to building futures. By nurturing the potential of differently-abled children, the club is investing in a society that values inclusion, compassion, and equal opportunity for all.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS, ENRICHING FUTURES



In the "inspired year," the Rotary Club of Lokhandwala Kandivali, led by President Sharbani Banerjee, completed a meaningful project. Titled "Distribution of British learning certification Accredited teachers training diploma courses," this initiative provided ten deserving beneficiaries with valuable diplomas. The project, which CSR funds funded, was an initiative started by Rtn IPP Priya Shenoy in the club's "vibrant year." The successful distribution was a collaborative effort, headed by Rotarians Ranjit Bijoor, Anu Shrivastava, Sharbani Banerjee, and Arun Kale, showcasing the club's commitment to empowering the community through education.

Threads of Change: How Rotary Weaves Hope into Communities

OPINION



Pinki Dalal

AUTHOR | NOVELIST |
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BLOGGER | ROTARIAN

On a misty morning in a small village in Maharashtra, a group of women huddle over sewing machines, their laughter filling the air as needles dance rhythmically over fabric. Just a year ago, many of these women relied solely on seasonal farm wages to feed their families. Life was uncertain, their dreams often out of reach. Today, they are proud entrepreneurs, running a bustling tailoring co-operative that supplies uniforms to nearby schools.

Their transformation was sparked by a Rotary-led vocational training program—an initiative that believed in their potential before they even believed in themselves. Rotary didn't just hand them tools; it handed them dignity, skills, and a reason to hope.

This is the magic of Rotary's vision: change that begins quietly, often in small rooms, but grows to uplift entire communities. Across 200+ countries, Rotary clubs are building ecosystems where opportunity thrives—not through charity, but through empowerment and collaboration.

Empowerment on Wheels: The Rotary Pink Auto Project

In the heart of Mumbai, another ripple of change is rolling



through the city streets. Women clad in pink dupattas confidently steer their bright pink auto-rickshaws, navigating the city's chaos with poise. These are not just drivers—they are trailblazers.

The Rotary Pink Auto Project gives marginalized women the chance to own and drive auto-rickshaws, providing training, licensing, and even financial support. With the kind gesture, a life transforms: a woman who once hesitated to step out of her home now commands her own vehicle, her own income, and her own destiny. She becomes a beacon of courage for her daughters and a symbol of respect in her community.

Literacy: A Gift Beyond Words

In a crowded classroom in Mumbai, 45-year-old Savita holds a

book and reads aloud for the very first time. Her hands tremble, but her eyes shine with pride. Through Rotary District 3141's Adult Literacy Program, powered by TCS's Computer-Based Functional Literacy system, women like Savita learn essential Marathi words. For just ₹850 per person, this simple intervention rewrites lives. Many clubs conduct training programs in basic computing and accounting. Which would be beneficial for the basic job.

Literacy isn't just about reading signs or filling forms—it's about reclaiming confidence, making informed decisions, and breaking free from dependence. It's about a mother finally being able to help her child with homework or a woman confidently navigating a marketplace alone. A young,

deserving student is receiving training in basic computing and software applications, equipping them with the skills required for clerical and administrative roles

Entrepreneurs, Farmers, and Leaders

Rotary's vision stretches far beyond city streets and classrooms. In Kenya, a microloan project transformed women vendors into thriving business owners, doubling their earnings in a single year. In India, farmers learned drip irrigation and organic practices, bringing food security and dignity back to their homes.

These initiatives prove a powerful truth: economic transformation doesn't always begin with huge investments. Sometimes, it starts with a single seed—an idea, a loan, a training session—that blooms into self-sufficiency.

Women: The Heart of Change

Across Rotary's global initiatives, one common thread runs strong: women are at the center of transformation. When a woman earns, she invests back into her family's education, nutrition, and health. When a woman leads, a community rises.

In Nepal, after a devastating earthquake, a Rotary-backed poultry cooperative run entirely by women became a lifeline for entire villages. They rebuilt not just their homes, but their confidence, proving resilience is grown from the ground up.

A Future Built to Last

Rotary's approach is not about quick fixes. Each project is designed to endure—to outlive

grants, volunteers, and even Rotary itself. Whether it's teaching soil conservation to farmers or introducing digital marketing skills to youth, these programs ensure that communities stand strong on their own feet long after the initial support ends.

From remote villages to bustling metropolises, Rotary's economic development efforts tell a powerful story: service has the power to spark revolutions of hope.

- Rotary is not just creating jobs. It is shaping futures.
- Not just building roads, but paving paths to dignity.
- Not just teaching skills, but planting seeds of confidence and pride.

Because change doesn't always come in loud declarations or sweeping reforms. Sometimes, it begins in a humble tailoring unit, a pink auto weaving through traffic, or the trembling voice of a woman reading her first sentence.

And from these small, quiet beginnings, entire communities rise.

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