



From Chalkboards to Change-Makers Rethinking Rural Education

• PINKI DALAL

On a sun-baked afternoon in a small village in Maharashtra, ten-year-old Meera sat at a chipped wooden desk in her government school. The ceiling fan hung motionless in the heat. When her teacher, Mrs. Patil, handed her a storybook meant for a second grader, Meera's eyes scanned the page hesitantly. She paused at every other word, sounding them out under her breath.

She was in Grade 5. But she could not read a Grade 2 text fluently. More than half her classmates faced the same challenge.

This is not an isolated case. It is the quiet crisis of rural education in India.

The Rural School Reality

India's literacy journey since Independence is a testament to progress—from a mere 18% literacy rate in 1951 to 77.7% in the 2011 Census. But in rural India, where over 65% of the country's 15 lakh schools are located, the ground reality is far from the celebratory headlines.

Classrooms here are often multi-grade: children from different levels learning together because there is only one teacher. Nearly 30% of rural schools still lack functional toilets for girls, pushing many to drop out. About 27% have no electricity, and 35% lack internet access—making digital learning during emergencies like the COVID-19 lockdowns almost impossible.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has for years underlined a harsh truth: more than 50% of Grade 5 students in rural India cannot read a Grade 2-level text or solve basic math problems.

It is not merely a learning gap. It is a learning crisis.



The Teacher's Struggle

Teachers are the backbone of the system—but they are also among its most overburdened members. Across the country, nearly 18% of government schools have vacant teaching posts, especially in remote and tribal areas. Teachers are often drafted into non-teaching duties: supervising elections, conducting census surveys, and filling out endless administrative paperwork.

In Mrs. Patil's school, lesson planning is squeezed between taking attendance, overseeing the midday meal scheme, and tracking student records. Teacher-student ratios often exceed the Right to Education norm of 30:1. In-service training is sporadic at best.

And yet, despite the odds, there are teachers like Mrs. Patil—committed, patient, determined to see their students succeed.

Rotary's Role: From Infrastructure to Inspiration

Rotary International has long recognised literacy as a cornerstone for peace, equality, and social progress. Through its Basic Education and Literacy focus area, Rotary clubs across India have been championing change at the grassroots:

- Building and renovating classrooms.
- Equipping schools with e-learning tools and digital libraries.
- Training teachers in interactive, child-centric methods.

- Distributing learning kits, books, and bicycles.
- Adopting and reviving underperforming schools.

These are not short-term fixes—they are long-term commitments with community engagement at their heart.

LEARN: A Model for Transformation

One standout initiative is the LEARN Project—Learning Enrichment and Resource Network—spearheaded by Rtn. Leena Shah with creative guidance from Swaroop Sampat, a trained educator and child-wellness advocate. (ref: Page no 6 & 7)

LEARN focuses on equipping teachers with tools to make learn-

ing interactive, joyful, and emotionally enriching. Storytelling, play-based learning, and the cultivation of emotional intelligence are central to its approach.

In just one year, 250 teachers from both government and non-government schools were trained under LEARN, with the potential to impact nearly one lakh children.

When Training Translates to Change

After attending a LEARN workshop, Mrs. Patil returned to her classroom armed with new methods and renewed energy. Instead of beginning the day with rote recitation, she started with a story. Math became a game. Reading turned into a group activity where older students helped younger ones.

Three months later, Meera was reading to her younger brother at home—still stumbling on some words, but not giving up.

Small victories, multiplied across hundreds of villages, are how literacy spreads its roots.

More Than Letters and Numbers.

Literacy is not just about decoding words—it is about dignity, choice, and opportunity. In rural India, where systemic gaps run deep, Rotary's work is not merely educational; it is nation-building.

When teachers are empowered, children thrive.

When schools are strengthened, communities rise.

And when literacy is embraced as a right—not a privilege—nations are transformed.

The chalk dust must keep flying. Because each time a child like Meera reads without fear, India writes a brighter page in its future.

A tradition not grand, but great-grand!

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Dr. Lucky S. Kasat

Advisor – GML 25-26

Consultant Pediatric Surgeon | TEDx

Speaker | Author

We have one in Mumbai!



*Nowroji Vazifdar
Rotary Club of
Bombay*



*Jamshyd Vazifdar
Rotary Club of
Bombay*

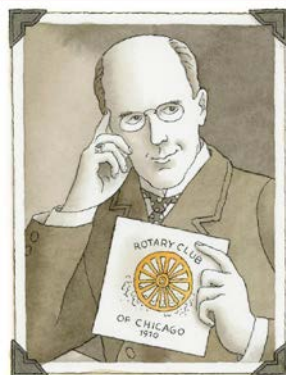
Let's start with Jamshyd Vazifdar, who, in 2013, had not yet completed 27 years of age, became the youngest person to be inducted into Rotary Club of Bombay. That's not the only reason why he created history. He represents the fourth generation of a family to have been members of the same club. His great-grandfather Nowroji Vazifdar joined the club in 1950. Son Jamshed followed - popularly known as Jimmy, he played a significant role in the blood transfusion movement in India, earning the Padma Shri award in 1973. Grandson - Jamshyd's father, Nowroze, has been a member since 1994.

9th generation Rotarian?????

Depending on how you figure it, Ann Parker, a member of Rotary Club of Iowa City, is a 9th-generation Rotarian with four Rotarians on one side of the family and five on the other! Her parents, Shack and Wilma, are past presidents of Rotary Club of Attica-Williamsport, Indiana. Both were assistant governors of District 7230 at the same time; later Wilma served in the same role in District 6560.

Even Paul Harris was proud of this family!

Luanne Arredondo's great-grandfather Ezequiel Cabeza De Baca from Rotary Club of Albuquerque was the second governor of New Mexico in 1917. Twenty years later, his son — Luanne's grandfather — joined. Then his father became another proud Rotarian, and Paul Harris was proud of their family! Paul had said to him, 'Luanne, women are not allowed in Rotary, but someday they will be.'



*Paul Harris
Rotary Club of Chicago*

Can you believe that some Rotary families go back 5 and even 9 generations!

Their family stories are as old as

Paul Harris' Rotary pin and as fresh as this year's newly inducted members!

A few of us are so proud that our parents were Rotarians. We should be!

But this 'heredity affair' doesn't start with the founder Paul Harris and Jean, because they never had children. For them, Rotary was their extended family.

An ultimatum to grandfather: join Rotary or forfeit marriage!



*Dave Stillwagon
Rotary Club of
Youngstown*

Dave Stillwagon of Ohio's great-grandfather joined Rotary Club of Youngstown in 1927. Dave is a fourth-generation Rotarian. His grandfather had followed into Rotary as he really had no choice, since the patriarch wouldn't let him marry his grandmother unless he joined Rotary!

When Paul Harris inscribed for great-grandfather!

Sir George Fowlds from Oceania met Paul Harris on a trip to the United States in 1920. Fowlds sailed home to Auckland, New Zealand, with the hopes of founding the first Rotary club in the Southern Hemisphere. However, the Australians raced first to charter Rotary Club of Melbourne in April 1921. Fowlds' must have had never thought that when he would be a great-grandfather, fourth-generation Rotarian Craig Horrocks, governor of District 9920 in Oceania, would be proud holding a copy of Harris' 1928 autobiography, *The Founder of Rotary*, with a warm inscription to Sir George: "To Honorable George, whose devotion to Rotary has been one of the highlights of the movement. Sincerely Yours, Paul, Apr 3 '28."

When family's traditions and those of Rotary make a good match

Magozaemon "Mago" Takano XVIII is a past governor of Japan's District 2620 and a member of the Rotary Club of Kofu, a city below Mount Fuji. His grandfather was a charter member. When his father joined, he taught him that the values of business are similar to those of Rotary. Takano believes his family's traditions and those of the organization make a good match. His son Yasuto followed his forefathers' example and became a fourth-generation member of the Kofu club, when it celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2020.



*"Mago" Takano XVIII
Rotary Club of Kofu*

4th generation is first Latina leader in her district's history



*Natalie Bailey (at 5 days old)
Rotary Club of Coronado*

Between California and Mexico where Marta Knight spent her childhood, she became the governor of District 5340 in California's San Diego and surrounding counties. Her grandfather Adalberto Rojo was a Rotarian in Mazatlán, Mexico, but her father, also named Adalberto was a two-time district governor based in Tijuana. Marta is a naturalized US citizen who is the first Latina leader in her district's history. She says, "I tell everyone that if they made Rotary diapers, I would have worn them; every memory of my childhood has Rotary in it."

In 2003, Marta found herself sitting next to a prominent real estate agent, Bill, at a real estate luncheon. He was wearing a suit and his Rotary pin. He reminded her of her father. He asked her if she knew about Rotary. With big eyes, she answered yes and he invited me to join. She called her mother in Tijuana: "Mamá, me invitaron a Rotary!" Bill also became was with her husband. She still remembers what her father said to her, 'Rotary gives ordinary people the opportunity to do the extraordinary: to change lives.'

When a 4th-generation 5 days old had her first Rotary meeting!

Natalie Bailey of Rotary Club of Coronado, California - yet another fourth-generation Rotarian - has got a photo of her first Rotary meeting when she was five days old! As a newborn baby, she was receiving her first Paul Harris Award, donated on her behalf by Paul Plumb, the same man who inducted her into Rotary! Her mother, Suzanne Popp, was that club's first female president.

The big challenges of being a fifth-generation Rotarian

Bryan Arredon, 19-year-old son of California's Mama Lu Arredondo says, "I began to understand Rotary's impact when I was in the eighth grade. My mom's club didn't have enough money to send two students to Teen Leadership Camp, but with the help of another club, I got to go." He and his brother Zachary Tadian, 30, wanted to join Rotary.

"One of the big challenges of being a fifth-generation Rotarian," says Zachary, "is being a fifth-generation Rotarian. We found that the traditional club didn't work for us. It wasn't engaging enough." So Mom Mama Lu said to them to follow the footsteps of their great-great-grandfather and start a club that could help lead Rotary into the future. They chartered Rotary Club of Greater San Gabriel Valley. However Bryan confesses, "It's not easy, when we go to district events, some other club presidents aren't happy to see someone my age in a leadership role, sitting at the same table with them. But we've got Mama Lu behind us, telling us to keep moving forward. She reminds us that Paul Harris was only 36 when he started Rotary. He said it would have to evolve to stay relevant, and he might be glad to see us as part of that evolution."

Lu's granddaughter, Joy, has her own pin and a dress-up outfit for meetings. 2 years old, will Joy become Rotary's first sixth-generation member?

Heavily edited from the original story in December 2019 issue of The Rotarian magazine.

One District, One Purpose: Involvement in Action

A new Rotary year brings fresh energy, new ideas, and renewed purpose. As you celebrate your club's achievements, I urge you to also explore the inspiring work happening across our District. Together, let's learn, grow, and involve every member in this journey of service and impact.

INSPIRED MOMENTS



Dr. Manish Motwani
Dist Governor, 25-26

Dear Fellow Inspired Rotarians of District 3141,

I hope you've had the chance to read the earlier editions of our District Bulletin. I'm sure many of you eagerly flipped through the pages looking for your club's photos, achievements, and stories—and rightly so! It's a proud moment to see your hard work recognized and celebrated.

At the same time, I encourage you to pause and explore the incredible work being done by other clubs across our District. Each story offers inspiration and new ideas. Let's learn from one another and grow together—as one Rotary family.

The installations so far have been enriching experiences, and I'm truly grateful for the love and support you've shown. Your plans have inspired me, and I'm equally motivated by the commitment many of you have shown toward our District Focus Areas. It feels like we've formed a Mutual Inspiration Society—where each of us is working toward the best outcomes for our members and the communities we serve!

During 2022-23, I led my club in organizing a Breast Cancer Screening Camp. What began as a single initiative grew into a district-wide movement—spanning nearly 80 clubs and over 150 camps, screening 60–80 beneficiaries at each camp. That's nearly 9,000 women screened. Of these, 33 showed signs of potential cancer and were guided toward further diagnostics. Eight were diagnosed with early-stage cancer. With the support of the Motwani Charitable Trust, we ensured every one of them received surgery—completely free of cost. Today, all of them are cancer-free.

This experience reinforced the importance of early detection and inspired me to make cancer screening a key focus area this year.

How often have we, as clubs or individuals, been approached by families seeking support for cancer treatment? And the costs involved are huge. Cancer not only affects individuals, but also takes a heavy toll on families—physically, emo-

tionally, and financially. Early detection can save lives and ease that burden.

I urge each of you to get yourself and your family members screened at the earliest. Once that's done, please commit to organizing at least one screening camp this year. At the District level, we are actively working to raise funds, and we'll keep you posted as soon as we have more to share. We are also negotiating good rates for each screening. In the meantime, go ahead and plan your detection camps. This vital project is led by Rtn Ram Kotak and Dr. Twinkle Sanghavi with their highly enthusiastic team. You'll find their contact details of the District Team in your directory, which I trust you've all received by now. Do reach out to them for any support you may need, anytime.

As you know, our District theme this year is INSPIRE. Each edition of the GML will focus on a letter from this word. This month, we begin with "I" for Involve Every Member.

Involvement is the heartbeat of Rotary.

I can
&
I will...

Every Rotarian—new or seasoned—has something valuable to offer. Let's work to involve every member, not just in meetings and projects, but also in ideation, decision-making, and celebrations. When every voice is heard and every talent is engaged, our clubs become more inclusive, enjoyable, and impactful.

While it is the responsibility of club leadership to engage members, it's equally important for every Rotarian to step forward. Don't wait to be invited—volunteer, participate, and serve! July's Club Assemblies would have revealed your club's plans—pick your area of passion and get involved.

A message to my District Team: I trust and hope all Avenue Heads are actively engaging clubs and collaborating with them on upcoming initiatives. Let's plan together, listen to ideas, and ensure that every team member is involved.

To all District Team members—please participate wholeheartedly in your assigned responsibilities. Join the meet-

Early detection saves lives!

In 2022–23, nearly 80 clubs organized 150+ breast cancer screening camps, reaching 9,000 women. Eight were diagnosed with early-stage cancer and received completely free surgeries through the Motwani Charitable Trust. Today, they are cancer-free. This year, let's each pledge to host at least one screening camp—because together, we can save more lives.

ings, take part in projects, and make your presence felt. And while you serve the district, remember not to neglect your own clubs—your primary responsibility is to contribute your experience and energy to strengthen your own club.

If you resonate with this message of "I for Involve," I invite you to email the editor with the words: "I pledge to involve myself and others!" The first 20 emails will receive a special goody from me—and yes, this will also tell me that you've read up to this line! Winners' names will be featured in the next GML!

September is designated as Basic Education and Literacy Month. This month focuses on Rotary's commitment to strengthening communities' ability to support basic education and literacy, reducing gender disparity in education, and increasing adult literacy. We do hope you are doing all you can in this area, this month and also for all the months!

Let no one be left behind and to help everyone find purpose and joy in service.

Dr. Mahek and I extend our warmest wishes to you and your families.

With warm Rotary regards,
Dr. Manish Motwani
District Governor 2025–26

From Festive Moments to Rotary Memories

MAHEK'S VIBES



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

Dear Rotary Families of District 3141,

As I write my third message to you, I find myself reflecting on the joy your kind words have brought me after my earlier messages. I truly hope that you not only read them but also felt the warmth behind them — and maybe even shared them with your families. After all, our Rotary story is most beautiful when told and lived together.

September in India carries a



special charm — it's a month that gently bridges the monsoon to the festival season. It

brings with it the freshness of Ganesh Chaturthi, and the upcoming Dussera, the spirit of

togetherness in our homes, and the anticipation of celebrations where every family member plays a part. To me, this is the perfect reminder of what I wish for our Rotary family: a space where everyone — our spouses, children, and even our parents — finds a sense of belonging.

If my first message was about togetherness and the second about family participation, then this one is about celebration. Not just the festivals outside, but the little celebrations we can create within our Rotary circles. A Sunday brunch where our children play together, a festive evening where our elders feel cherished, or a moment where we pause to appreciate the quiet support of our spouses — these are the sparks that make our Rotary life richer.

Let's make September a month of family inclusivity:

- Invite your spouse to your next Rotary meet, even if just

for a cup of chai.

- Involve your children in a small act of service — let them feel the joy of giving early.
- Create moments where we can learn from the wisdom of our parents or grandparents about kindness and community.

As our country gears up for its season of lights, let's first light up our Rotary homes with joy, laughter, and family connection. My hope is that every member and every family feels that they are not just witnessing Rotary, but living it together.

With each gathering, each smile, and each shared moment, we weave the threads of a stronger, warmer Rotary family. Thank you for letting me be part of this journey with you.

With warmth and enthusiasm,
Dr Mahek Motwani
First Lady, Rotary District
3141 2025–26

Rotary India National CSR Awards – 2025

• NOOPUR DESAI

Celebrating Corporates that Create Change, Not Just Profits.

In a world where balance sheets often speak louder than impact, there are companies that choose to measure success differently—through the lives they touch, the communities they uplift, and the hope they bring to countless families. These torchbearers of change are the heroes celebrated by the Rotary India National CSR Awards 2025.

First launched in 2019, the Awards have quickly become the gold standard of CSR recognition in India, honouring organizations that believe business growth and social good must go hand in hand.



From providing life-saving healthcare in rural pockets, to empowering young girls through education, to bringing clean water and sustainable livelihoods—these awards shine a spotlight on stories that restore faith in humanity.

More than Awards, a Movement

This is not just a competition; it is a movement to inspire. The Awards recognize that true impact is not about the size of a company, but about the depth of its commitment. That's why the categories span Mega, Large, Medium, and Small enterprises, ensuring every changemaker—big or small—earns the stage they deserve.

An independent jury of eminent leaders brings

credibility, transparency, and honour to the process, making the recognition even more meaningful.

The Road Ahead

The journey begins with Regional Rounds, where India's finest CSR stories will first take centre stage:

West Region: 8th Oct – Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai.

North Region: 15th Oct – Leela Ambience, Gurugram

East Region: 16th Oct – Kolkata

South Region: 17th Oct – Bengaluru

Winners from each region will converge for the Grand Finale in New Delhi on 13th November 2025, where the nation's most impactful CSR champions will be crowned in the presence of a distinguished jury and an audience of changemakers.

A Call from Rotary

Rotary believes service is the rent we pay for living on this earth. The Rotary India National CSR Awards are an extension of that belief—where we celebrate corporates that have chosen service as their legacy.

We call upon every Rotarian to reach out to corporates in your circle and invite them to be part of this journey. For companies, this is more than an award—it is a chance to gain national recognition, to inspire peers, and to stand tall as a partner in nation-building.

• **Applications close on 30th August 2025.**

• **Apply now at www.rotarycsrrewards.in**
Let us come together to applaud those who prove that when business serves society, everyone wins.

Chhoti si Asha

Transforming Lives, One word at a Time

INSIGHT & IMPACT



K P NAGESH
Rotary International Director
(2025-27)
Dear Rotarians of 3141

I still remember visiting a small village school where a young girl, barely ten, shyly clutched a torn notebook. Her name was Asha. She whispered that she wanted to be a teacher, but struggled to read even the simplest sentences. Her parents, daily wage earners, had never been to school. For Asha, the path to her dream seemed impossible—until a Rotary-led literacy program changed everything.

Within months, Asha's world transformed. With access to books, dedicated mentors, and



a safe learning space, she began reading stories aloud, her voice brimming with confidence. Today, she not only reads fluently but helps younger children in her village learn their first letters. Asha's story is proof: literacy is

not just education—it is empowerment.

Basic education and literacy are the stepping stones to dignity, opportunity, and progress. Yet millions remain locked out of these opportunities due to pover-

ty, gender bias, and lack of infrastructure. This is where Rotary's commitment becomes a lifeline.

From setting up libraries and digital learning centers to training teachers and introducing vocational skills, we work to ensure

no one is left behind. We must focus on inclusive learning especially for girls, rural children, and adults who missed early schooling—because every educated mind shapes a better future for all.

When we teach someone to read, we do not just change their life—we ignite a chain reaction of hope and possibility. A literate individual uplifts their family; an educated community transforms a nation.

As Rotarians, let us continue to be torchbearers of learning, ensuring that every child, every adult, and every dreamer has the tools to write their own story. Because when literacy spreads, so does hope—and hope, once lit, can never be extinguished.

Yours in Rotary
KP Nagesh
RI Director 2025-27
Zones 4 and 7

An Ode to Timeless Spaces

In world where trends come and go, true Luxury hues in the details that stand the test of time. The double-height space is a celebration of proportion, texture & light - where the boldness of black marble is softened by warm wood, golden accents and curated spaces.



Details & Perspectives

"Every project is a canvas and every detail is a brushstroke."

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Service Above Self: Rotary's Enduring Legacy

ECHOES OF SERVICES



PRID Ashok Mahajan
Past Rotary Foundation Trustee

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” – Albert Pike

This quote encapsulates the essence of Rotary's mission. At the heart of our organization lies the principle of “Service Above Self”, a commitment to prioritise the needs of others, fostering a legacy of compassion, integrity, and global goodwill.

The Core of Rotary: Service Above Self

Rotary's motto, “Service Above Self”, isn't merely a slogan—it's a call to action. It urges



es us to transcend personal gain and focus on the greater good. This ethos is further

reinforced by the motto “One Profits Most Who Serves Best”, emphasising that true fulfilment comes from serving others self-

lessly.

The Ripple Effect of Service

Engaging in service isn't just about the immediate impact; it's about creating a ripple

effect that resonates through communities and generations. By dedicating ourselves to the welfare of others, we contribute to a legacy that outlives us, leaving an indelible mark on the world.

Rotary's Global Impact

Rotary's influence extends far beyond local communities. Through initiatives like PolioPlus, Rotary has been instrumental in the global effort to eradicate polio, contributing over \$2.6 Billion and countless volunteer hours to vaccinate more than three billion children. This is a testament to the power of collective action driven by selfless service.

Conclusion

As Rotarians, we are entrusted with the responsibility to serve others, creating a legacy that transcends time. By embracing “Service Above Self”, we not only enrich the lives of those we serve but also cultivate a world rooted in compassion and mutual respect.

Ashok Mahajan

SMILE SERVE SACRIFICE SATISFY

When Education Heals: Life Skills Beyond the Classroom

• PINKI DALAL

LEARN: Life Skills Through Drama is more than a program — it's a movement. One that quietly but powerfully addresses what textbooks often overlook: emotional safety, self-awareness, and the strength to say no to violence, abuse, or despair. Introduced in Rotary and rooted in a deep understanding of real-life challenges faced by adolescents, LEARN introduces life skills through drama — creating safe spaces where students can express, explore, and evolve.



A Silent Crisis in Our Schools

Across India, thousands of children drop out of school not because they lack intelligence, but because they lack support. Many are burdened by poverty, trapped in child labour, or scarred by abuse — often at home. They carry invisible schoolbags packed with fear, anxiety, and confusion.

LEARN recognizes a critical truth: education cannot thrive without emotional safety.

The Beginning:

In 2007, Rtn. Leena Shah of Rotary Club of Bombay Sea face encountered a powerful idea one that would eventually become her life's mission. She reconnected with a friend, Dr. Swaroop Sampat

Rawal, once a popular actress who had gracefully stepped away from fame to pursue a higher calling: education reform.

Swaroop had designed a groundbreaking, drama-based educational approach teaching children life skills not through rote learning, but through real-life role play. Her viral video, “School Without a Schoolbag,” showed children

Aspiring for higher education

The table shows parental expectations of a child's educational attainment. About 78% of parents aspire for their girls to attain graduation or higher degrees Expected level of education of child



Dropping out: Parents of a section of girls said their daughters dropped out of school to help out in the family's earnings

Expected level of education of child	Boy (%)	Girl (%)	Total (%)
Up to elementary	4.4	3.9	4
Up to secondary	2.4	2.8	3
Higher secondary	11.1	15.2	13
Graduation	49.6	50.3	50
Postgraduation/ Ph.D	32.5	27.8	30

> About 80% of parents aspire for their children to become graduates or attain higher degrees.

> The survey included responses of 6,229 parents across 21 States of India.

in slums and government schools learning without fear, without pressure and with pure joy.

It struck a chord. Leena had witnessed too many children pushed into crime, labour, or emotional shutdown, often by their own parents. The trauma was deep. She realized: this kind of education is not optional, it's essential.

LEARN: Life Skills

Education Through Rotary

Moved to action, Leena brought the model to Rotary and gave it structure, scale, and sustainability. Thus, was born LEARN: Life Skills Education for Adolescents through the Rotary Network — a trauma-aware, resilience-building program that uses drama to teach critical emotional and life skills.

Cont... on Page 7

The Pen is Mightier

UNPLUGGED



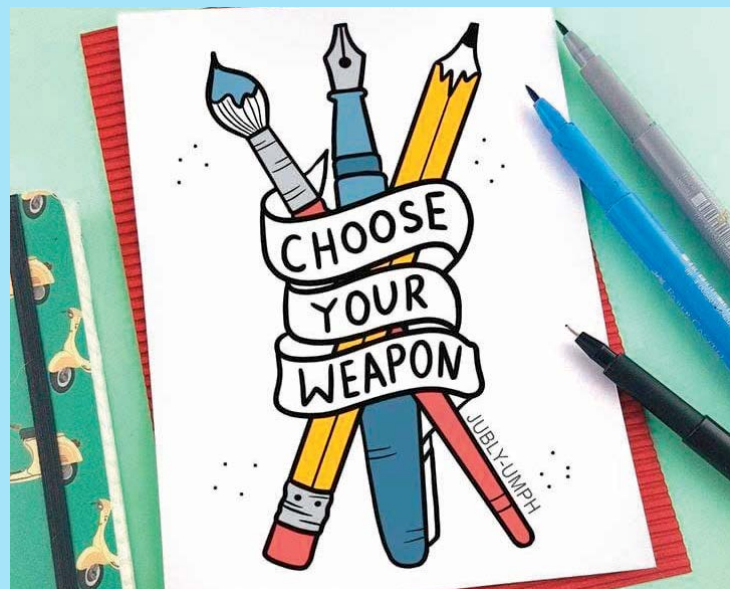
Rtn Bharat Pandya

TRF Trustee, 2022-26

RI Director, 2019-21

RI Treasurer, 2020-21

If you want one year of prosperity grow seeds, if you want ten years of prosperity grow trees, if you want one hundred years of prosperity grow people - old proverb. That is our Rotary opportunity to grow Rotary by growing the leadership of Rotary and leaders in Rotary. The pandemic opened doors of opportunities that we never imagined before. And Rotary and Rotarians rose to the challenge and did some outstanding work in our communities during and after the pandemic. Rotarians proved the fact that 'Kites rise against, not with the wind'. Challenges have made us stronger, more committed, more relevant



and effective.

The best leaders are servant leaders. They care about serving. Mahatma Gandhi said it so well "No matter how insignificant the thing you have to do, do it as well as you can, give it as much of your care & attention as you would give to the thing you regard as most important. For it will be by those

small things that you shall be judged." There are no small jobs. Each project, each activity is important and needed.

September is Basic Education and Literacy month. Helping someone to read and write effectively or acquire the basic math skills we all take for granted, improves the future of everyone in

society. We know that literacy is key to making our world more sustainable, peaceful, and secure. Parents from even the poorest families long to give a good education to their children, to make them grow up without the terrible handicaps from which they - the parents - had themselves suffered. Who can do it? It is you and I. We as Rotarians can do it.

Nelson Mandela rightly said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the World". For the young minds, education is the key to unlock the doors to their future. Rotarians and clubs do some excellent work in the field of Education whether it is providing e-learning facilities, making happy schools, providing opportunity for marginalized population to send their children to schools, offering scholarships or by offering vocational training and skill development to young adults.

This is the need of the hour, especially for the girl child. I believe that the best ornament for a girl is a good education. This is a pow-

erful tool in her hands that has the potential to transform not just her life but the lives of entire families. If you educate a boy you educate one person, if you educate a girl you educate a family and by ripple effect an entire village / community. Ensuring quality education is the most important thing we can do for future generations. Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. Do your best. The Pen is truly mightier than the Sword. As Rotarians we must ensure that more and more of our children are able to hold and wield the pen. That is Our Rotary Opportunity. Let's do it. Enjoy Rotary Enjoy Yourself

Dr Bharat Pandya

Trustee, TRF 2022-26

RI Director, 2019-21

RI Treasurer, 2020-21

Healing Through Learning

Cont... from Page 6

The curriculum tackles:

Peer pressure, Mental health, Substance abuse, Self-esteem, Communication, Responsible decision-making.

LEARN creates not just smarter children — but stronger, safer ones.

From Teachers to Changemakers:

The initiative begins with those at the frontlines — teachers. Over 450 educators have undergone LEARN's seven-day immersive training. These trained mentors return to their schools not only to teach but to transform — becoming peer-trainers and building in-house ecosystems of support. Sessions continue across six months, ensuring the change is not short-lived — but sustainable.

- Real Impact, Real Change:
- Schools implementing LEARN have seen:
- Reduced dropout rates



- More expressive, emotionally aware students
 - Stronger student-teacher bonds
 - Greater parental sensitivity and support
- LEARN doesn't just change students. It shifts communities.

What Sets LEARN Apart:

Skill as a Method: Deep engagement and self-expression through storytelling and roleplay.

Teacher Empowerment: Skilled teachers create trusted spaces for healing and growth.

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Scalable Design: One trained teacher multiplies the message across schools

and districts.

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LEARN proves that real learning is not just academic — it's emotional, psychological, and deeply human. In a world where adolescents are navigating enormous pressures, this initiative gives them the tools to stand tall, speak up, and stay true to themselves. And it all began because one Rotarian saw the pain behind the dropout, and one educator believed nurture could heal more than Punishment

Because when a teacher is trained well, a generation is empowered.

And when education heals, a nation grows stronger — from the inside out.

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THE LEGEND

He had just stepped out of his teens when the ‘Legend was born’

SAPIENS
EXTRAORDINARY



Jhankar Gadkari
Sr. Rotarian,
Corporate Consultant, Speaker

The youngest—and the fastest. You might ask: youngest, but how the fastest?

Prabhat swam straits, channels, rough and calm seas across the globe, in freezing and warm waters. He fought off jellyfish, swam through shark zones, and conquered the wildest oceans. And he did it faster than anyone before him.

He earned the prestigious title of “Seven Oceans Champion”—the youngest and the fastest.

Today, at just 25, Prabhat holds three Guinness World Records, the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, and the Shiv Chhatrapati Award—recognitions that salute his record-breaking achievements, remarkable endurance, and unshakable mental toughness.

One of India’s most celebrated open water swimmers, this Mumbai-based athlete has shattered multiple world records and continues to inspire a new generation of swimmers with his extraordinary accomplishments and unwavering determination.

Prabhat hails from the Koli fishing community in Trombay, Mumbai. Swimming runs in his DNA.

His father, Raju Koli, a scientific assistant at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, became his first coach and mentor. His mother, Shilpa, gave up her own career to support her son’s ambitious dreams.

The family’s sacrifices were immense. They poured in every rupee—emptying savings, investing Raju’s provident fund, and ultimately selling their home to fund Prabhat’s international competitions and elite training programs.

Growing up in a traditional Koli neighbourhood, Prabhat was instinctively drawn to the water. As his father often said, he was a “total water baby.” Generations of fishermen in his ancestry gave him a natural affinity and deep respect for the sea.

At just 10 years old, Prabhat won his first international medal in an open water swimming event. By 12, he had completed the 81-kilometre India National Open Water Swimming Competition in the Bhagirathi River, West Bengal. These early feats laid the foundation for what would become a groundbreaking career—16+ years, 20+ international tournaments, and a spot in world swimming history.



The Seven Ocean:

The Oceans Seven is the swimming world’s answer to the Seven Summits of mountaineering—seven of the most dangerous and challenging open water channel swims on Earth. Prabhat began this journey in 2015, attempting the English Channel at just 16. Each swim demanded intense physical conditioning, years of planning, and incredible mental resilience.

complete the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming, and the first Asian to conquer several elite routes:

- Germany to Switzerland
- Jersey to France
- Cape Town coast, South Africa

His 66 km circumnavigation of Jersey Island in just 10 hours, and his participation in the 20 Bridges Manhattan Swim, only reinforced his stature as a world-class swimmer.

CHANNEL	Distance	Time	Age
English Channel (England–France)	33.5 km	13h 14m	16
Catalina Channel (California)	32.3 km	10h 30m	17
Molokai Channel (Hawaii)	42 km	17h 22m	18
Tsugaru Channel (Japan)	19.5 km	9h 52m	18
North Channel (Ireland–Scotland)	35 km	10h 41m	19
Strait of Gibraltar (Spain–Morocco)	14.4 km	4h 22m	20
Cook Strait (New Zealand)	23 km	8h 41m	23 years, 7 months, 5 days

The final swim—the Cook Strait—was the toughest. Facing 30-knot winds and relentless waves, he swam through rough seas for nearly nine hours to reach the finish. That moment cemented his place in history as the youngest and fastest swimmer to complete the Oceans Seven. He became just the 22nd person in the world to achieve this feat.

Prabhat didn’t stop there.

He is also the youngest swimmer to

In 2018, he was awarded the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award by President Ram Nath Kovind, and later, the Shiv Chhatrapati Award from the Maharashtra government.

The Regime:

Prabhat’s training is as intense as his swims.

Each challenge demands a unique plan—long open-water swims for stamina, pool sessions for tech-



nique, and land-based training for strength.

For frigid waters like the North Channel, his coach introduced a high-fat diet to help him bulk up for insulation.

During preparation for the Ice Swimming World Championship, he trained in Nainital, where water temperatures hovered between 7°C and 8°C.

The Mental Toughness: Patience.

His adaptability—training the body for every climate and condition—has been key to his consistent success.

“Every swim has a different story, angle, and perspective,” Prabhat says.

The Ocean is unforgiving. The mental fortitude to focus for hours in turbulent, freezing waters has been central to his triumphs. Patience, pain endurance, and psychological conditioning have been as critical as physical fitness.

During the North Channel swim, Prabhat endured multiple jellyfish stings and a dangerous bout of hypothermia just miles from the finish. The Kaiwi Channel in Hawaii—his most dangerous crossing—involved battling extreme currents and unpredictable marine life.

Financial hurdles were equally intense. With no formal ranking system in open water swimming, sponsorships were hard to come by. The family’s decision to sell their home reflects the immense personal cost of his journey. To widen support, Prabhat also diversified into ice swimming, attracting new backers and global attention.

In January 2025, Prabhat earned India’s first medal at the 6th World Ice Swimming Championship in Molveno, Italy.

He secured a bronze in the 250-meter freestyle (age group 25–29), in waters as cold as 1.1°C.

In 2024, he became the only Asian selected for Epic Swim Maui, an elite, invitation-only, 20-day, 250-kilometre expeditionary swim around Maui, Hawaii.

This groundbreaking event merged athletic endurance with environmental science, supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and completing the first-ever circumnavigation of Maui by swim. “No Indian has done that in Open Water Swimming,” Prabhat said, referring to his 19 international and 20+ national events. His success has transformed the sport’s profile in India, drawing attention to open water swimming and inspiring countless young athletes.

Now pursuing an MBA in Sports Business Management, Prabhat is committed to his role as both athlete and ambassador—continuing to compete in ice swimming, advocate for ocean health, and raise the bar for Indian swimming.

Legacy in Making :

At just 25, Prabhat Koli stands among the world’s greatest open water swimmers.

From the shores of Trombay to the wildest oceans, his journey is a testament to grit, family sacrifice, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

His achievements have brought pride to the Koli community, a group traditionally known for fishing—not international sports. His parents’ sacrifices—giving up a home, careers, and financial security—speak volumes of their belief in him.

With three Guinness World Records, an Oceans Seven crown, a global ice swimming medal, and several pioneering firsts, Prabhat Koli is a trailblazer in every sense.

As he continues to set records and redefine boundaries, his story will inspire generations to chase the extraordinary—proving that with talent, training, and tenacity, even the wildest waters can be conquered.

Let's Drive Change Together – Rotary Pink Auto Project



My Dear Inspired Rotarians and Families,

Rotary has always stood for creating opportunities where they are needed the most. The Pink Auto Project is one such opportunity — to empower needy women from marginalized sections to lead a better life for themselves and their families.

Pioneered by one of our clubs, Rotary Club of Deonar, this initiative has already proved to be a life-changing project for its beneficiaries. Encouraged and inspired by its success, we now aim to scale it across our district — with the goal of achieving at least 1,000 Pink Autos in the Inspire Year.

Please reach out to your friends, well-wishers, your colleagues at your place of work, your network and participate whole heartedly. We seek your whole-hearted participation. Your role will be two-fold:

- 1 Identify deserving women beneficiaries in your community.
- 2 Mobilize support — from corporates in your network, large-hearted donors, fellow Rotarians, and friends — to fund the project.
- 3 You can do both the above; either of the above, but participates!

Support and work with your Presidents and the Club! Reach out to corporates in your connect! Most corporates earmark their CSR funds for Women's Empowerment, Vocational Upliftment, especially for the women, Environment Sustainability and here is a project that takes care of all three! Your Club can do a CSR India Grant;



thereby you will also be contributing to the Rotary Foundation.

For your information, each Pink Auto costs just Rs.3.20 Lakhs, all-inclusive. Includes Cost of Bajaj RE CNG with Pink Hood, Driver Training, License, and Permit. They will also be trained on financial management and commercial skills, customer centricity and self- defense.

To make your efforts easier, our District team of Women Empowerment under Avenue Chair Preeti Shah. Counselor are ready to support you in any which way. Inspire President Alka Murali, who is taking lead in this project and Dr Indumati Gopinathan have created an effective Project Toolkit. Your Club President will have received this by now. It provides full guidance that includes everything that you will need to succeed. For any support, please reach out to them or to directly me.

Let's come together to ensure every Pink Auto becomes a vehicle of dignity, livelihood, and hope.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Dr Manish Motwani
District Governor 2025-26
District 3141

Pink Auto costs just Rs.3.20 Lakhs, all-inclusive. Includes Cost of Bajaj RE CNG with Pink Hood, Driver Training, License, and Permit. They will also be trained on financial management and commercial skills, customer centricity and self- defense.



Rotary
District 3141

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

LET'S
INSPIRE



APPEAL FOR SPONSORSHIP AND NOMINATION OF UNSUNG HEROES

We invite Rotary Clubs to join us in celebrating the selfless contributions of unsung heroes in our community. Your support can help recognize and honor individuals who tirelessly work behind the scenes, making a profound impact on the lives of others.



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Platinum: ₹50,000
Diamond: ₹25,000
Gold: ₹10,000
Silver: ₹5,000

EVENT DETAILS

Date: November 7, 2025
Venue: YB Chavan

DG Manish Motwani
District Governor
2025-2026

Rtn Indumati Gopinathan
Rotary Service Week
Group Avenue Head

Rtn Rajendran Unnikrishnan
Rotary Service Week
District Avenue Chair

Rtn Nargis Gaur
Rotary Service Week
Project Head

ZONAL CHAIRS

Dilip Shah South	Shashank Thakare North	Chetan Kotak Central	Shelza Choudhary North West	Pushpa Suryamurthy West
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To make your efforts easier, our District team of Women Empowerment under Avenue Chair Preeti Shah. Counselor are ready to support you in any which way. Inspire President Alka Murali, who is taking lead in this project and Dr Indumati Gopinathan have created an effective Project Toolkit.

Rotary Verified Business – Building Trust, Celebrating Ethics

● DR. NILAM GADA

In a world where trust is the true currency of enduring relationships—both in life and in business—Rotary has always stood as a symbol of ethics, service, and integrity. Today, Rotary District 3141 proudly takes this legacy forward with the launch of the Rotary Verified Business (RVB) program—a prestigious recognition for ethical, socially responsible, and value-driven enterprises led by Rotarians or their immediate family members.

This is not merely a certificate. It is a mark of credibility, an assurance that your business embodies Rotary's Four-Way Test, vision, and mission. Think of it as an independent values-based endorsement—a trusted stamp that says your work is rooted in fairness, honesty, professionalism, and positive community impact.



Why RVB Matters

In today's competitive marketplace, a business stands apart not only for its products or services but for the principles it upholds. More than ever, customers and partners seek organisations whose values align with their own.

The RVB mark proudly communicates:

- You place ethics above

shortcuts.

- You believe in fairness and truth.
- You contribute to society beyond commercial gain.

Displayed at your workplace, it becomes an instant trust-builder—signalling that this is a business with heart, vision, and integrity.

Who Can Apply

RVB is open to all Rotarians

of District 3141 and their immediate family members—spouse, children, or parents—who own or represent a business or professional service.

The Process in Brief

Application Fee: ₹2,000 for Rotarians ₹ 2,500 for immediate family
Early Bird Offer: First 50 applicants get a full refund—certificate free
Processing Time: 3–5 weeks after submission
Validity: 2 years

Apply: tinyurl.com/Rotary-VerifiedBusiness

Every application is carefully reviewed by the RVB Committee through a self-declaration form, evaluated against Rotary's Four-Way Test and core values. Successful applicants receive their certificate at a District event or their own club meeting—celebrating this achievement among peers.

What RVB Is—and Isn't

RVB is an honorary recognition for ethics, fairness, and community contribution. It is not a legal license, financial guarantee, or a replacement for regulatory compliance. Instead, it highlights the service-oriented mindset that distinguishes your business from the rest.

Beyond Business: Creating a Legacy

The RVB program is more than a recognition—it is a movement to weave Rotary's principles into the fabric of commerce. When businesses display the RVB mark, they don't just promote their services—they stand as ambassadors of ethical leadership, strengthening both the marketplace and our Rotary community.

By supporting RVB-certified enterprises, we foster a network of mutual trust and shared values, reinforcing Rotary's mission to make

business a force for good.

A Call to Action

Whether you are a professional, entrepreneur, or business leader, RVB is your opportunity to showcase your business as a model of Rotary ideals in action. We urge club leaders to share this initiative widely and nominate deserving businesses—together, let's build a network of Rotary-verified enterprises that set benchmarks for ethics, trust, and service.

Because in Rotary, we don't just do business—we do business the right way.

Apply today. Let your work speak for itself. Let your values shine through.

For queries, contact:

Rtn. Anish Soneja – rton.anishsoneja@gmail.com

Rtn. Nilam Gada – drnilamgada@gmail.com | **WhatsApp: +91 9167845488**

Empowering Young Minds: Rotary's Ideal Study App Transforms SSC Learning

● KALA SRIDHAR

Rotary International places a strong emphasis on promoting literacy and basic education worldwide, seeing it as a foundation for peace, poverty alleviation, and community development.

Rotary supports a wide array of literacy initiatives including:

- Early childhood and primary literacy programs, such as the Imagination Library, providing books to young children to foster a love of reading.
- Adult literacy classes to help adults gain job-relevant reading skills, with special focus on marginalized populations and women—who often face higher rates of illiteracy in low-income countries.
- Training teachers and coaching educators to ensure



that learning outcomes are prioritized, not simply enrolment, with examples like the Guatemala Literacy Project and teacher training innovations in Nepal.

- Combating gender disparities in education by setting up literacy centres and offering vocational skills to women and girls.
- Support for refugees and marginalized groups to access education.
- Large-scale projects such as India's Literacy Mission, aimed at "total literacy and

quality education".

Rotary's approach emphasizes Community involvement, innovation, and sustainability.

Initiatives called "light-house" literacy projects are designed to be easily replicated so their success can be spread across regions. The organization's Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (BELRAG) actively helps clubs plan and evaluate effective literacy projects.

One of the most important projects under this Avenue for

our District is the Ideal Study App

Ideal StudyApp- Empowering SSC Students for Academic Excellence

"Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom...."

— Holy Writings

Under the farsighted leadership of District Governor Rtn Dr. Manish Motwani, we have launched the Ideal Study app — a powerful learning tool designed to help SSC students achieve stress-free academic success.

This initiative offers comprehensive study support at an incredibly affordable cost, ensuring that every student has access to the resources they need to excel.

The Ideal Study app provides:

- Study techniques and tips

- Correct textbook answers with full references
- Informative video lessons
- MCQs, worksheets, and practice sets
- Guidance on writing high-scoring answers
- Career guidance post-Class 10

By offering maximum practice sets, students gain confidence, reduce exam fear, and aim for outstanding results — with some achieving up to 96% marks.

Impact and Affordability

Retail Price: ₹1500

Rotary Special Price for Students: ₹65

This is not just an app — it's an academic lifeline for students, bringing happiness to families while embodying Rotary's commitment to literacy and youth empowerment.

Benefits for Rotary Clubs By supporting this initiative, clubs can:

- Enhance Public Image

– Club name displayed prominently on the app's first page, exit screen, and footer.

- Deliver Community Service – Direct impact in education and literacy.
- Receive Liberal Citation Points – Recognition for service work in education.

Group Avenue Head Nargis Gaur and her team have already impacted hundreds of students, distributing the app through member clubs and schools. The heartfelt appreciation from schools, parents, and students is a testament to the difference we're making. Thanks to the Clubs for supporting this project. Till date, the Team has distributed nearly 12000 apps supported by 36 clubs of our Dist.

Together, we are empowering young minds, guiding their future, and strengthening communities through education.

ROTARY SERVICE WEEK : The March Ahead

ROTARY RISES: UNITED FOR MUMBAI

DR INDUMATI GOPINATHAN

As the concept of RSW percolates amongst the clubs, there is a buzz of synergy that is building up among the club groups. The week from November 2nd to November 7th is now firmly etched in people's minds.

The role of a lead club is being elaborated below to dispel doubts. As we are aware there are totally 15 club groups, three each in each of the five zones. Each group has a lead club for every activity; some have two lead clubs. All clubs need to keep the flame of RSW alive by announcements at every meeting and also getting the board aligned to the execution of RSW.

The role and responsibility of a lead club:

- The most crucial role is coordination and getting together the clubs in the group
- Meetings of the club presidents/RSW club chairs is important for discussion on total number of projects and role of each club with point of contact club and activity wise.
- The clubs with greater resources, membership and expertise shall assume the "Big brother" role
- Getting the budget ready and the exact involvement of other clubs in the same
- Get details of project being done by other clubs in the group
- See that two clubs at least could get together for a project
- Participation by clubs could be in the form of expertise, local project logistics, Media, volunteers, sponsorship
- Being the link between the District Project execution team and the club group
- Making a blueprint of the whole group activity for the day

The lead clubs play an important role in the following



activities

- Eye care
- Blood donation
- Cancer screening
- Senior citizens
- Activities for people with disabilities

An exception to being a lead club applies to CYBERCRIME AWARENESS where each club can individually do at least two programs for the following segments

- School
- College
- Senior citizens
- General populations in a gated community

Frequently asked questions:

Why is CYBERCRIME an exception to the lead club rule?

Since almost every Rotary club is associated with a school, a Community, Rotaract or senior citizens group it was felt that this would help spread the awareness amongst a larger population. Since the district has the plan to get the resources through training or the trained, the more the awareness camps the better. Every club is nominating two volunteers to get trained for a simple, easy online session to conduct the CYBERCRIME awareness activity.

Which activity does the whole zone take part in one program?

Happy street is a Zonal activity where all the three groups of a zone come together on Sunday, November 9th to celebrate the victory of Rotary service week through vibrant activities in a street chosen in the zone.

Which activity does the whole district take part in one event?

Vocational excellence awards for unsung heroes will be the mega event on Friday, 7th November where all 124 clubs of the district come together. Each club nominates two unsung heroes and from the pool of nominations, 20 awardees will be chosen. Three of them will be from each zone and the remaining five will be based, based on merit alone, exclusive of zone. Besides nomination, clubs could also participate by way of sponsorship in various categories, though not mandatory.

What if there are two clubs that take lead for an activity?

They share the responsibility of coordination and execution of the group's activity jointly

Does a lead club have to undertake the financial responsibility of the entire activity?

The emphasis of a lead club is coordination between all the clubs in the group and being accountable for the group. Finance is a part, but not the sole responsibility of the lead club alone. Two clubs doing a project together can share the financial responsibility of the project cost.

Are these series of ongoing meetings important?

For a collective activity like RSW, it is very important to keep the progress monitored. For a large group to be on the same page it takes a longer time for the participants to get complete clarity. For ex-



ample : All lead clubs may not get finalised at the same time. Group discussions always help find solutions.

The presidents have a lot going on, is RSW a pressure?

On the contrary, it should be viewed as a pleasure and a stimulating exercise in collective activity with hitherto relatively unknown clubs. The club RSW chair and relevant Board of directors should be delegated the responsibility of the RSW week participation. The activity has a specific goal, specific period and special teams and all are in it together. Once the concept is clear and roles understood and game plan is ready, it should ease off all pressures.

What is the role of clubs that are not lead clubs?

- Joining club/clubs to execute a project activity for the day
- Share volunteers with other clubs
- Help with logistics
- Get resources like sponsors, media, expertise
- Keep home club informed

In a zonal activity like Happy Street, depending on the geographic location and proximity of the street, for the sake of convenience, the clubs could certainly participate in another zone. This can be decided in the group meetings with the information being shared with the Zonal chairs and the project execution teams. Since the activity is limited to 4-5 hours, it is logical to attend the nearest event in Happy Street. For other activities, the clubs try and perform in the zone.

10. Is there a minimum number of projects per club group?

- Eye care : 3 camps
- Cancer screening : 2 camps
- Blood donation: 2 camps (Avoid railway stations)
- Senior citizens : 3 camps
- Activities for disabled : 2 camps

Hope most of the doubts have been clarified in the write-up. For all queries please contact me directly.

Dr Indumati Gopinathan

M.D

Group Avenue Head, RSW
25-26, Governor's principal Aide, Counsellor Women empowerment, Counsellor TRF II

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ROTARACTORS DIGEST

“Directors Training Session 2025-26: Empowering Leaders with Purpose, Clarity



The Directors Training Session was an impactful and insightful event curated to equip Club Directors, Core Team Members, and Office Bearers with the essential knowledge, skills, and confidence needed for the Rotaract year ahead. Held on 6th July at H.R. College, Churchgate, the session served as a platform to help members understand their respective avenues and responsibilities in depth. Directors were introduced to their Key Responsibility Areas (KRAs) through engaging real-time event simulations and practical planning exercises that reflected real-life challenges.

Each avenue conducted targeted training sessions designed to guide members through role-specific expectations, execution techniques, and leadership responsibilities. The session also aimed to inform attendees about the wide array of opportunities available within the District—be it for General Body Members, the Board of Directors, Core Team Members, or Club Presidents.

The training encouraged open communication, collaboration, and camaraderie between the District Council and Club Leaders. It created a positive and motivating environment where learning was not only informative but also enjoyable. This session wasn't just about training; it was about inspiration, growth, and stepping into leadership roles with clarity, purpose, and enthusiasm.

Dashak – A Decade of Legacy, A Spark for the Future



Dashak marked a milestone—celebrating ten years of Rotaract District 3141's impact and legacy. Held on 26th July at Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, the 10th District Assembly brought together over 900 attendees including 45 Presidents, 31 Secretaries, 654 Club Members, Rotarians, and dignitaries such as RSA MDIO President PHF Rtn. Rtr. Darryl Dsouza and multiple PDRRs.

The day began with collaring and the national anthem, followed by emotional farewells from outgoing DRR PHF Rtn. Rtr. Adv. Nikhita Sunil and her team. DRR Rtr. Yashwardhan Chauhan took charge, unveiling his inspiring theme—SPARK, symbolizing every Rotaractor's power to ignite change.

Incoming DRRE and Chairman Zones Rtr. Shreehari Nair shared his vision for the year ahead. The event concluded with AARA Night, celebrating achievements and honouring excellence. Dashak was truly a spark of pride, purpose, and new beginnings.

GOALS 2025-26: Igniting Leadership with Purpose and Passion



GOALS is the flagship outbound training program of Rotaract District 3141, curated especially for newly elected Presidents, Secretaries, and Council Members. Designed to prepare the incoming leadership for the year ahead, GOALS 2025-26 was successfully conducted from 18th to 20th July at VITS Kamat, Silvassa.

The two-night, three-day retreat welcomed a vibrant gathering of 86 attendees, which included 26 Presidents, 22 Club Secretaries, 5 Vice Presidents, 3 Joint Secretaries, 8 District Executive Members, 17 District Council Members, and 5 Facilitators. The event served as a platform for participants to gain clarity on their roles, develop team synergy, and align with

the district's vision.

The training was spearheaded by three dynamic and experienced facilitators—PDRR Rtn. Pankaj Phatarphod, PDRR Ojas Joshi, and PDRR Rtn. Vinit Parikh—who shared valuable insights, real-life experiences, and actionable strategies to help participants thrive in their respective roles. Adding to the inspiration and depth of the sessions were keynote addresses by PDG Rtn. Sandeep Agarwalla and Rtn. Ashmi Parekh, whose words sparked motivation and purpose. GOALS 2025-26 proved to be an empowering experience that combined learning, leadership, and lasting connections, truly setting the tone for an impactful and purposeful Rotaract year ahead.

Inner Wheel Impact: Service with a Smile



This month's highlights showcase the diversity of causes our members are committed to—be it health, hygiene, education, or inclusive community care. Together, we're not just delivering aid—we're building hope, dignity, and a better tomorrow. Here's a glimpse into the inspiring work carried out by our dedicated Inner Wheel Clubs.

Inner Wheel Club of Chembur

Date: 02 August 2025 |

Location: Govandi

In partnership with Lend A Hand India Foundation, the club provided vocational training

in electronic gadget usage to deaf and mute students, enabling them to gain skills for independence, employment, and inclusion in their 10th-grade exams.

Category: Rights of Child | Beneficiaries: 31



Inner Wheel Club of Bombay

Date: 23 July 2025

Under the Help a Girl Child – Ashramshala Project, the club supported 30 girls, empowering them to dream big and achieve more through community care and support.

Category: Status of Women – Care of Women and Girls | Beneficiaries: 30



Inner Wheel Club of Kalina

Date: 23 July 2025 | **Venue:**

BMC Shala, Sunder Nagar, Kalina

Provided a one-year internet connection, benefiting 350 students and supporting their educational growth.

Category: Youth Development – Education | Beneficiaries: 350



IWC Bombay Sea Coast

Date: 31 July 2025

Venue: People's

School, Goa
Conducted a Sparsh session for 5th and 6th graders with a PowerPoint presentation and recap using books.

Category: Youth Development – Welfare | Beneficiaries: 65



IWC of Vasai

Date: 27 July 2025

Organised a plastic waste collection drive to promote responsible disposal and reduce community plastic pollution.

Category: Environmental Protection | Beneficiaries: Many



Inner Wheel Club of Borivli

Date: 30 July 2025

Organised a Rakhi and paper bag making workshop for special children, filling the day with creativity, joy, and lasting memories.

Category: Care for Special Children | Beneficiaries: Not specified



Leading with Heart: The Rotary and Business Journey of Rtn Vijay Jatia

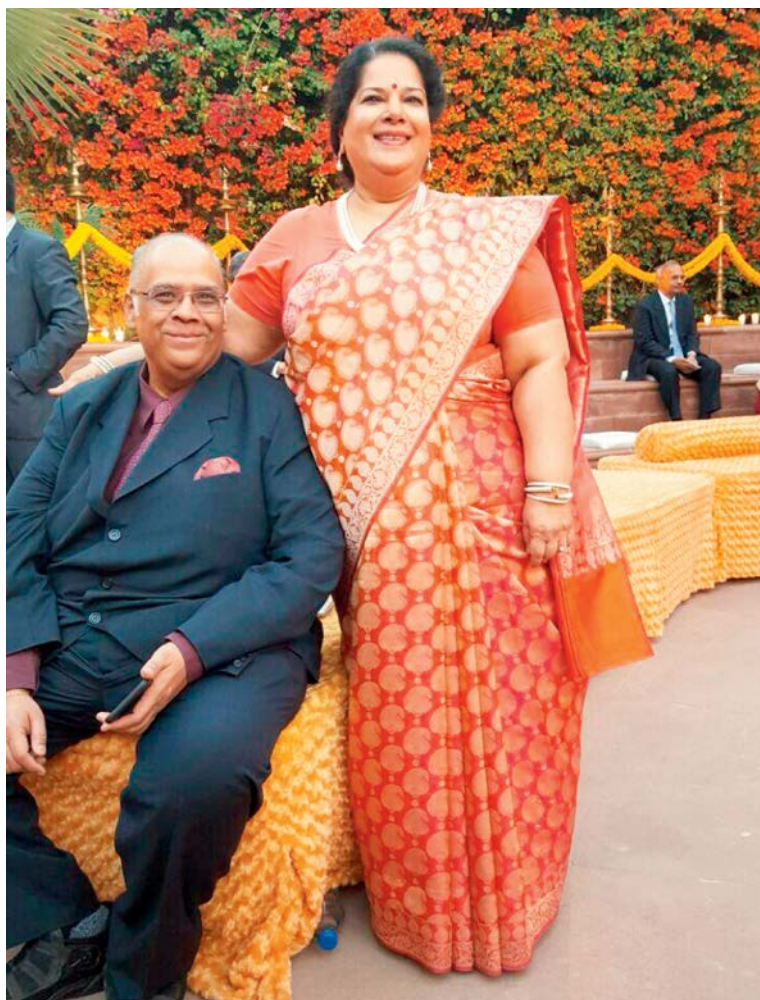
JOY OF GIVING

● K.V.PREMRAJ

In the world of Indian industry, where scale and strategy often eclipse sentiment, Vijay Jatia stands apart. As Chairman and Managing Director of Modern India Ltd., he brings over five decades of experience, but what defines him most is not his corporate title—it is the values that underscore his leadership. Through the highs and lows of his career, Vijay Jatia has remained grounded in the belief that people—not processes—are at the heart of sustainable success. “I’ve gone through multiple business cycles,” he reflects. “Those ups and downs were the real learning periods. They shaped who I am.”

Modern India Ltd. today may be a closely held enterprise, but there was a time when the company had thousands of shareholders and was grappling with significant losses. Vijay Jatia recalls this era not with regret, but with resolve. “We could not serve our shareholders well during that time, and that weighed on us. But eventually, we made sure they were treated fairly. That sense of responsibility became part of our ethos.” That same sense of fairness extends within the organization. He deliberately avoids the term “employees,” instead choosing to call them his team. Many members of this team have remained with the company for decades, a testament to the culture he has nurtured. “If you take care of them, they will take care of you,” he says simply.

The inclusive and empathetic environment he has fostered has not gone unnoticed. Modern India Ltd. has been certified as a ‘Great Place to Work’ three times, based entirely on feedback from the team. Vijay Jatia, too, has earned distinction. For two consecutive years, he has been named among the Top 50 CEOs in the Economic Times’ Great People Manager Study—an honour he modestly attributes to his colleagues. “Without my team, I am no one,” he says, reiterating a leadership philoso-



phy rooted in humility.

His commitment to industry extends beyond his company. Over the years, Vijay Jatia has been actively involved with institutions such as FICCI and the Indian Merchant Chambers. His journey began even earlier with associations in the Western Regional Chairman and solvent extraction industries, where he served in leadership roles including a two-term presidency at the All India Cotton Seed Crushers Association. These experiences, he notes, provided both learning and opportunities to contribute. “When you get involved in such institutions, you grow. You network. And more importantly, you give back.”

That spirit of contribution found fuller expression in Rotary. Introduced to the organization by a friend, Vijay Jatia was struck by the scale and sincerity of the work being done. Though it took several months to gain membership in the Rotary Club of Bombay, he eventually joined in 1992. His early involvement was enthusiastic, but

business commitments later required him to step back. It was only when a vacancy arose—following a president-elect’s withdrawal due to health reasons—that he was called back to serve. He accepted, and in 2018–19, he assumed the role of Club President, re-engaging with the Rotary mission with renewed purpose.

Among the many impactful projects led under his stewardship, one that remains particularly close to his heart is the Paediatric Heart Surgery initiative. Launched during his presidency, the project has since provided life-saving surgery to over a thousand children, with ongoing funding secured to continue this work for the foreseeable future. The success of this initiative, like so many others, was built on trust and clarity of vision. Vijay Jatia recounts his initial hesitation about fundraising—until he reframed the act not as asking for money, but as inviting others to do good. “At the most, they’ll say no,” he reasoned. That clarity of purpose led to large contributions,

Devote your time, share your talent, and if possible, give financially too.” He calls it the 3T philosophy—Time, Treasure, and Talent. It is a mantra he lives by.

often from non-Rotarians, who resonated with the transparency and impact of the projects.

His stature within Rotary is underscored by his membership in the prestigious Arch Klumph Society (AKS), representing one of the highest levels of giving to The Rotary Foundation. Yet, even here, he remains modest. “Our family has always believed in giving back,” he shares. Their contributions include two schools in Rajasthan and continued support to institutions like Bombay Hospital. An emotional moment that still stays with him occurred when a CISF officer at an airport recognized his son—not for his surname, but because he had studied in one of those family-funded schools. “Good things come back,” Vijay Jatia says, his voice laced with quiet pride.

Within the Rotary framework, he also served as a counsellor during the Alpha year—a role with no fixed duties, but one he embraced with full commitment. Whether supporting high TRF collection drives or stepping in for urgent projects, he credits the year’s success to strong teamwork, especially with PDG Sandip Agarwala, who initially brought him into leadership roles within the club.

For Vijay Jatia, Rotary is distinct among philanthropic organizations for its lean administrative structure and member-driven passion. Unlike large global charities burdened by heavy overheads, Rotary maximizes the direct impact of every rupee. This efficiency and transparency, combined with deep personal involvement, are what make it special for him.

Asked what advice he would give to young

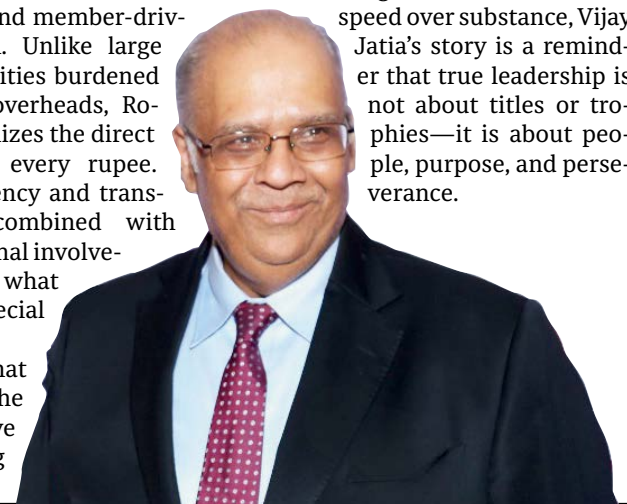
professionals considering Rotary, he speaks with characteristic clarity: “Eat, drink, have fun—but also contribute. Devote your time, share your talent, and if possible, give financially too.” He calls it the 3T philosophy—Time, Treasure, and Talent. It is a mantra he lives by.

Despite juggling business interests across multiple sectors, he finds that Rotary enriches his work rather than competes with it. “You just need to manage your time,” he explains. “I treat Rotary as an arm of my business. It enhances and complements what I do.”

Outside the boardroom and Rotary meetings, Vijay Jatia is a devoted family person, supported by his wife, three sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren. “They have stood by me, especially during my Rotary years. Without them, I could not have achieved anything.”

A self-described foodie and vegetarian, he enjoys exploring new cuisines and traveling to destinations his family prefers. Yet, whether at home or abroad, in business or service, one principle remains unwavering: do good, sincerely, and wholeheartedly. “If your cause is right and your heart is in the right place, people will support you,” he says.

In an age that often celebrates speed over substance, Vijay Jatia’s story is a reminder that true leadership is not about titles or trophies—it is about people, purpose, and perseverance.



NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

MEGA MEDICAL CAMP & BREAST CANCER SCREENING – DHARAVI



On 10th August, at Kamraj Nagar, Dharavi, Project Head Ashok Doshi led a multi-specialty medical camp serving 287 beneficiaries. Inaugurated by PP Dr. Rajendra Agarwal, the camp offered breast cancer screening, general health checks, orthopedic consultations, eye examinations, physiotherapy, Ayurveda, homeopathy, and PFT testing. Doctors including Dr. Anjali Patil, Dr. Sarosh Mehta, and Dr. Jinesh Upadhyay spearheaded specialized services, while free medicines were distributed. At 56,705, this initiative brought vital healthcare to a community with limited access to affordable hospitals, leaving beneficiaries better informed, guided, and hopeful.

RAKSHA BANDHAN – SMILE BOX ANNAPURNA



On 8 August 2025, 65 specially-abled children at Jyotirmay Foundation, Vile Parle, were treated to snacks, affection, and a magical afternoon under RCMSEP's "Smile Box" Annapurna initiative. Sponsored by Ms. Sunita Krishnadas in celebration of her birthday, the 7,500 event featured magician Veer Paswan, whose tricks filled the room with laughter and wonder. Beyond nutrition, the celebration boosted emotional well-being, inclusion, and community bonds.

RC MUMBAI SHER-E-PUNJAB – POWER, PRIDE & PLENTY OF SMILES

From life skills for teenage girls to laughter for specially-abled children, this club proves that service can be both empowering and joyful. Under President Rtn. Minishaa I Oberoi, RC Mumbai Sher-e-Punjab recently delivered two heartwarming and high-impact projects.

Smart Girl Workshop – Building Confidence for Life

On 29–30 July 2025, Project Head Rtn. Sunita Sharma led a 2-day workshop at Guru Nanak English High School for 72 students of Classes 7–9. Expert trainer Mr. Ratnakar Mahajan from Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana guided sessions on self-awareness, communication, self-esteem, women's health, and decision-making. A parent interaction session strengthened family bonds, while the 15,000 program equipped girls to face adolescence with confidence and resilience.

RCC Presidents Installed in Inspiring Ceremony Attended by DG Dr. Motwani

The installation ceremony of Presidents and teams from all five RCCs was held on Thursday, 17th July 2025, at Zilha Parishad School, Shelu, Karjat Taluka. The event was graced by District Governor Rtn Dr. Manish Motwani, accompanied by DS Rtn C. K. Mohan and AG Rtn Satish Shah. Led by Rtn V. Kannan, the RCCs have transformed rural communi-

ties over the past 25 years. Rotary Club of Deonar was represented by 8 members, while 35 RCC members and two special guests—the Raigad District Health and Education Officers—were present. Presided over by Rtn Alka Murli, the ceremony celebrated community leadership and reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to grassroots development and sustainable progress.



Fellowship, Inspiration, and Patriotism Mark Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar's Recent Activities



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Dahisar organised a delightful overnight monsoon picnic on 26th–27th July 2025 at the scenic Golden Valley Resort, Godbunder Road, Thane. A total of 37 members participated, enjoying fellowship, camaraderie, and the refreshing monsoon ambience.

Adding a special touch to the event, the club invited 19-year-old author of three books, Mr. Parth Dubey, as the keynote speaker. His engaging session

inspired members with insights on youth perspectives, creativity, and writing.

Continuing its commitment to community engagement, the club also celebrated the 79th Independence Day at Vidyamandir High School, Dahisar. Club President Rtn. Jayant Pawar was honoured to serve as the chief guest and hoist the national flag. The ceremony was marked by patriotic fervour, student performances, and a shared sense of pride in the nation's journey.

Inspire Muskaan: Agrand celebration of Empowerment, Enterprise & Service by RC Mumbai Western Elite

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Western Elite hosted its flagship annual lifestyle exhibition at NESCO Hall, Goregaon East, blending entrepreneurship, empowerment, and service. With a project cost of 25 lakhs, the event benefitted over 5,000 people and saw enthusiastic participation from 120+ exhibitors and thousands of visitors. Members from other Rotary Clubs across the district also joined, making it a vibrant, collaborative affair.



Organised by the Club's Women Empowerment Team, the exhibition served as a major fundraising initiative, with proceeds directed

towards impactful service projects. The event was inaugurated by RI District 3141's First Lady, Rtn Dr. Mahek Motwani, and supported by

RC Bombay North – Championing community Health through awareness & action

Under the leadership of President Kamal Chokshi, the Rotary Club of Bombay North recently executed two impactful healthcare initiatives, addressing both disease prevention and early detection.



Thalassemia Awareness & Screening Camp

Led by Project Head Anuradha Shah, this camp at Lilavati Lalji Dayal School, Prarthana Samaj, Mumbai, aimed to raise awareness about Thalassemia among students. Over 225 students registered, with 202 undergoing blood testing—facilitated by 25 members,

doctors, and paramedics, including six pathologists. Blood samples were analysed within four hours, and all medical personnel were felicitated with certificates. The initiative, costing 30,975, ensures that young adults understand the importance of pre-marital blood testing to prevent the spread of this genetic disorder.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Greens – A Basket of Joy for Tribal Children



On 10th August 2025, under President Rtn. Bharath Jadhav and Project Head Rtn. Shilpa Bhansali, RC Mumbai Greens joined District 3141 and the India Humanity Foundation to spread smiles among 100 children from tribal communities in Yeoor Hills. A team of members — Rtn. Bharath Jadhav, Rtn. Poonam Panjwani, Rtn. Shweta Mohite, Ann. Rahul Mohite, Annet Shreyas Mohite, Rtn. Saumil Mody, Rtn. Amol Telavane, and Rtn. Pooja Telavane — distributed biscuits and fresh fruits worth 2,000. This simple yet meaningful act aimed to provide nourishment while fostering care, inclusion, and human connection. The initiative was inspired by

Rtn. Shilpa Bhansali's visits to an old age home, where she observed these children regularly coming on Sundays. Recognising their limited access to treats and healthy snacks, the club sought to make a small but heartfelt difference. While the food nourished their bodies, the interaction, warmth, and attention nourished their hearts. Each packet delivered was more than just a snack — it was a message that these children are valued and supported. Through such efforts, RC Mumbai Greens reinforces Rotary's belief that even small acts of kindness can create lasting impact, strengthening communities one child and one smile at a time.

sponsors, with Sejal Realty as Title Sponsor. A massive promotional campaign boosted visibility—digital hoardings lit up 20+ Mumbai locations, 100+ housing societies aired promotions for 10 days, 50+ banners were displayed across Goregaon and Malad, and newspaper ads in the Times of India and Navbharat Times ensured wide coverage. Adding to the impact, NGOs received free stalls to showcase products and raise funds, making the event a resounding success.

NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

INSPIRE MUSKAAN: A GRAND CELEBRATION OF EMPOWERMENT, ENTERPRISE & SERVICE BY RC MUMBAI WESTERN ELITE



The Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO, under the leadership of President Rtn. Sargam Thakkar, organised an ENT Camp at Arthur Jail, Mumbai, benefiting 30 inmates and valued at 5,000. Sponsored by the club members, the initiative was executed by Rtn. Rakesh Jhaveri in collaboration with doctors from the Rotaract Club of Mumbai Medico Marvels, providing essential ear, nose, and throat check-ups and treatment, reflecting Rotary's commitment to delivering compassionate healthcare to underserved communities.

RC SKYCITY BORIVALI EXTENDS SUPPORT TO YOUNG CANCER WARRIORS



In a heartwarming act of compassion, RC Skycity Borivali handed over a generous cheque of 10,51,000 to Access Life, an NGO that offers temporary housing and holistic care for children undergoing cancer treatment. This noble initiative was further amplified by the matching donation from Rtn. Sanjiv Parikh of RC Queens Necklace, doubling the impact.

Such remarkable support will go a long way in easing the burden for families during a critical phase of their children's lives. Kudos to RC Skycity Borivali and Rtn. Sanjiv Parikh for their extraordinary generosity and commitment to service! This project will undoubtedly bring hope and support to many families in need.

A REEL TREAT WITH REAL IMPACT



Sometimes, healing looks like a movie day out. Youth Director, Rtn. Sapana Sanghvi sponsored and personally accompanied the patients of Manav Foundation—a centre supporting individuals with mental illness—for a special screening of Sitare Zameen Par.

It was more than just a film. It was laughter, tears, popcorn, and a moment of inclusion that made everyone feel seen and celebrated.

Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface Spreads Smiles with Notebook & Rain Gear Drive

Notebook and Rain Gear Distribution by Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface. On 2nd August 2025, the Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface conducted a heartfelt service project dedicated to supporting families of differently abled individuals. The initiative focused on providing essential educational and monsoon supplies to those in need, creating a ripple of joy and gratitude among the beneficiaries.

A total of 21 school-going children were given notebooks to aid their studies, while 52 umbrellas were distributed to the families—especially for the parents, many of whom are differently abled. The thoughtful gesture aimed to offer both encouragement to the children and practical relief to the caregivers during the ongoing monsoon season.

The event was held in a room made available by Mr. Avdhoot Rane, who, despite his own physical challenges, continues to be a strong and compassionate force for the differently abled community. His quiet dedication and consistent efforts added a special dimension to



the event. President Rtn. Sonal Doshi and her partner Rtn. Nitin Doshi were present.

The project benefited 52 individuals and was carried out at a total cost of ₹ 40,000. The warmth, smiles, and glow of happiness on the faces of those present reaffirmed the impact of small acts of kindness and the spirit of Rotary in action.

ROTARY CLUB OF BORIVALI (EAST)

Felicitation Ceremony for SSC/HSC Toppers – Borivali & Dahisar

On July 27, 2025, Rotary Club of Borivali (East), led by President Devendra Bhatt and Project Head Rtn. Vinod Bhargava, felicitated the 1st and 2nd rankers of the SSC and HSC March 2025 examinations from various schools in Borivali and Dahisar.

A total of 44 students securing the 1st position and 46 students achieving the 2nd position were honoured for their academic excellence. The event was hosted at JBCN International School, Dahisar



West, with Chief Guest PDG Prafull Sharma presenting certificates of appreciation and encouraging the students in their future pursuits. PP Girish Mittal was instrumental in facilitating the school venue for

the event at no cost.

This initiative recognised and celebrated the hard work, discipline, and achievements of young scholars, setting a benchmark for academic excellence in the community.

A VISION BEYOND SIGHT – ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DIVAS BRINGS LIGHT TO 36 VISUALLY IMPAIRED YOUTH



During the sacred month of Shravan, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Divas (President Rtn. Sunita Goyal, Project Head Rtn. Vinita Agarwal) undertook a transformative initiative—the AI Glasses Project—to empower visually impaired youth with cutting-edge assistive technology.

On 5th August 2025, at Khar Education Society, Jyoti AI Glasses were distributed to 36 young beneficiaries, each blind since birth. These advanced digital glasses help users sense, navigate, and interact more independently with their surroundings—restoring almost 90% vision to 36 youth, some of whom were totally blind at birth.

This impactful ₹ 5,94,000 project was made possible through the generous contribution of Rtn. Savita Agarwal, supported by dedicated

volunteers. RCMD partnered with Karuna Seva Trust, Shiv Sena Medical Help Cell, and Aarogyadutt Foundation to bring the initiative to life. Distinguished guests Dr. Pravin Munde, Hon. Shri Mangesh Chivate, and Guruji Shri Kaushik Trivedi graced the occasion, sharing in the joy as beneficiaries and families experienced hope and independence.

The need for this project was identified by Rtn. Vinita Agarwal, whose active involvement in community service helped highlight the life-changing potential of assistive devices for the visually challenged.

Through this initiative, RCMD has not just provided vision—it has given confidence, dignity, and a brighter future to 36 young individuals.

Compiled by Rtn. Rackhee Mehta

Bring Light in the Dark Life of Tribal and Farmer Families– Palghar District



As a part of RCBN's ongoing Rural Development program, the project titled "Bring Light in Dark Life of tribal and farmer families" continues to make a meaningful impact in the remote regions of Palghar district.

The second event under this initiative was successfully conducted on 27th July 2025, marked by the distribution of 383 solar lamps. The activity covered seven padas (hamlets) from the Mokhada district of Palghar. A dedicated team of club members, including President Kamal Chokshi and Vice President Ashok Doshi, personally visited three of the padas, interacted with the villagers, and handed over the solar lamps to them.

In addition to the distribution, a training workshop was conducted for local youth on the assembly and testing of these solar lamps. This was facilitated by IRDO, the manufacturer of the lamps, further empowering the community with skill development.

The goal for the year is to reach and benefit 3000 families under CSR, spreading sustainable light and hope to rural households.

Mastering Time, Shaping Futures



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo successfully conducted a Time Management session aimed at empowering young minds with essential life skills. The session focused on helping students understand the value of goal setting, effective time planning, and maintaining a balanced routine that includes study, play, rest, and time to contribute to their families.

The engaging and interactive sessions were facilitated by Rtn. Meera Ramachandran, Rtn. Mahek Wadhwa, and Rtn. Rakhi Desai, who effectively conveyed the importance of managing time wisely for academic success and personal growth. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation, leaving a meaningful impact on the 412 beneficiaries.

This initiative aligns with the club's commitment to youth development and holistic education through the Interact platform.

NEWS THIS MONTH #3141

MEDICAL & DENTAL CHECKUP CAMP



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Kalakar conducted a successful medical and dental checkup camp at Aquinas International School, Goregaon West, on 1st August 2025. This health-focused initiative was designed to address the well-being of school children through early screening and preventive care. The camp included dental and eye checkups conducted by specialists to identify and advise on common oral and vision issues. A paediatrician was present for general body checkups, ensuring a thorough evaluation of each child's overall health. Additionally, a qualified nutritionist engaged with the students to guide them on healthy eating habits and the importance of a balanced diet in their growing years. A total of 80 students benefited from the camp. The event was executed under the dynamic leadership of Club President Rtn Poojaa Mehhta, Club Secretary Rtn Suparna Chakravarty, and Project Chair Rtn Dr Vaishali Das. The project reflects the club's commitment to community health and child welfare, reinforcing Rotary's mission to serve and uplift.

EYE CHECK UP FOR STUDENTS OF SSS SCHOOL GHATKOPAR BY RCM NEO



Under the leadership of President Anand Bhadkamkar, Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo organized an Eye Check-Up project under the Medical avenue at SSS English Medium School, Ghatkopar. The check-ups for all secondary students were conducted on July 15 and 21, followed by the distribution of spectacles on August 11.

A total of 324 beneficiaries were served through the project, which involved an investment of 3,24,000, 6 volunteers, and 25 hours of dedicated service. The camp was coordinated by Rtn Hemang Jangla and attended by Rtn Kaka Sridhar, Rtn Daksha Bhagwat, and Rtn Arun Wadhwa.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BORIVALI WONDERS

Under the leadership of President Rtn. Jayant Bhatia, carried out three impactful community service projects. The first was the "Cycle Donation at Zilla Parishad School, Dahnu," where 24 students received bicycles, enabling them to travel to school more easily. Valued at 1,21,000, this project was supported by Samarpan Exotica CHS, Borivali, and executed with the efforts of Rtn. Jayant Bhatia and Rtn. Kalpesh Munjyasara.

The club also organized a "Blood & Organ Donation Drive" at Borivali Railway Station, benefiting 25 recipients directly. While the overall event saw 91 blood donors, the Rotary Club of Borivali Wonders contributed 12 blood

Beyond the finish line: A special donation!

The air at the Kandivali swimming pool was electric, filled with the cheers of spectators and the splashes of young athletes competing in the Special Olympics Bharat national swimming tournament. From August 3rd to 5th, 2025, special children from all over the country gathered not just to compete, but to celebrate their strength, determination, and the sheer joy of the sport. Each powerful stroke and beaming smile told a story of courage and resilience, reminding everyone present of the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Amidst the excitement, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West, came together for a noble cause, pooling their resources to raise a donation of INR 51,000. On August 4, the check was handed over at the event, not just as a financial contribution, but as a symbol of their unwavering belief in these children. The donation was presented to Mrs. Medha Kirit Somaia, the Chairperson of



Special Olympics Bharat, by President Jayesh Majithia, Secretary Parag Storewala, and other key directors.

The story isn't only about a donation amount; it's about the people who made it happen and the lives it will touch. It's a reminder that every small act of generosity contributes to a much larger wave of support, helping to create a world where every child, regardless of their abilities, has the chance to shine. We thank Rtn Reema Wahi for her involvement in this Project.

Rotary Downtown Sealand Champions Health and Safety in July 2025

In July 2025, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand, under the leadership of President Rtn Chandra Khona, undertook two impactful community service projects.

The first was a Breast Cancer Screening initiative conducted at Byculla Jail and BDD Chawl. Valued at Rs 17,500, the project reached 150 beneficiaries, providing early detection opportunities and raising awareness about breast health. A follow-up cost will be added to ensure continuity of care. The project saw the active participation of 20 Rotarians, who worked towards creating a healthier and more informed community.

The second initiative was a Seminar on Domestic Violence held at Navneet College. Valued at Rs 5,000, the program benefited 50 participants, aiming to educate and empower



them with knowledge about their rights, available resources, and the importance of speaking out against abuse. Ten Rotarians contributed their time and efforts to make the seminar a success.

Both projects reflect the club's dedication to addressing critical social and health issues while making a tangible difference in the lives of those they serve.

PALKI DINDI YATRA OF LORD VITTHAL

Under the leadership of

President Rtn Ram Narayan Goyal, celebrated the holy festival of Ashadhi Ekadashi at Sewa Ashram Vidyalaya, Boisar, with a project value of Rs. 40,000 benefiting 400 people. The Palki Dindi Yatra of Bhagwan

Vitthal, held on Sunday, July 6, saw active participation from devotees, Rotarians, school staff, about 300 students, and local dignitaries including Boisar City Police Chief Shirish Pawar.

After worshipping the Padukas of Lord Vitthal and Mother Rukmini in a decorated palanquin, students in traditional Marathi attire led the procession with drums, cymbals, and bhajans, spreading messages like "Save the environment," "Save water," "TB free India," and "Thalassemia free India." The Yatra concluded at Seva Ashram School under the



security of Boisar Police.

The event was organized under the guidance of the school's core team and the Rotary leadership, with PP Rtn Chandrakant Kothawade as Project Director and contributions from Vinayak Padamwar, Jagdish

Bhute, Secretary Shailesh Agarwal, and Smita Jadhav. Rotarians including Sandeep Raut, Ramesh Mittal, Satyendra Singh Shekhawat, Rakesh Mishra, Kishore Mahale, Vaishali Shinde, Baban Singh, Santosh Shinde, Dr. Praveen Vaishya, Dr. Darshan, Dr. Sonam Khandejod, Santosh Bang, Kamlesh Hambir, Mukesh Bhatia, Rakesh Acharya, Anil Jagdale, Sunil Salvi, Chaman Lal Jain, Laxman Jadhav, Deepak Shinde, First Lady Savita Goyal, Swayamprabha Mishra, Sunita Kothavade, Vijayamala Bhute, Ratna Bang, and Dnyaneshwari also joined the celebration.

RC MUMBAI SOUTH CUFFE PARADE RYLA on Disaster Management



The Rotary Club of Mumbai South Cuffe Parade, led by President Rtn Errick Elavia, organized a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program on disaster management on August 6, 2025, in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force. Around 200 senior students from Lady Engineer High School, along with teachers and staff, attended the event, which featured practical demonstrations on earthquake response, CPR techniques for infants and adults, and injury management with emphasis on the golden hour, including hands-on training in creating bamboo stretchers. Engaging activities such as interactive quiz sessions, live demonstrations, and skill-based exercises kept participants involved, while snack boxes were distributed at the end. Supported by the Government of Maharashtra, the initiative proved to be an educative morning well spent, equipping young participants with essential knowledge and practical skills in disaster response and management.

-Rtn. Nargis Gaur

Interactors Shine at 15th District Learning Assembly - SANSKAR

The 15th District Learning Assembly for Interactors, SANSKAR, was held on 1st August 2025 at Mayor Hall, Juhu Lane. The event began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by inspiring lectures from eminent District Dignitaries, including DG Dr. Manish Motwani and PP Ashmi Parekh (GAH Youth Avenue).

Two short skits by Interact Clubs delivered powerful messages, adding a creative touch to the proceedings. Fun games kept the participants engaged, while a special workshop was conducted for moderators. Two Interact Club Presidents proudly introduced District Dignitaries from the dais, and the Interact Club of Mumbai Juhu presented an impactful project. The day concluded with the National Anthem.

The event benefited 12 students—7 from Chandulal Nanavati School, 3 from M P Shah School, and 2 from NSM School. The club contributed Rs. 1,000 towards registration fees and Rs. 12,500 for co-hosting Sanskar and Udaan. President Pragna Mehta, IPP Apurva Patel, PP Ashmi Parekh, Rtn Ann Urvi Kothari, and Rtn Bijal Merchant attended, with Director Bijal Merchant leading the initiative.

INSTALLATION



ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY SEA FACE

The installation of President Rtn. Sonal Doshi was held on 20th July at the MCA Lounge, BCA Club, Churchgate, in the presence of DG Dr. Manish Motwani, PDG Bal Inamdar, PDG Shashi Kumar Sharma, PDG Arun Bhargav, DGE Rajan Dua, Indumati Gopinath, Monica Grover, Saurabh Sonawala, Rtn. Nirav Shah, Rtn. Dilip Shah, AG Navneet, DS Aditya Singh and Co-presidents from across the district. The event began with the traditional lighting of the lamp and was seamlessly compered by Rtn. Bhuvan Ajmera and Rtn. Kalpana Khira. A standout moment was a witty and unique courtroom skit titled "Doshi vs Doshi," performed by President Sonal Doshi and Rtn. Nitin Doshi, directed by Rtn. Gopi Ajmera. DG Manish Motwani shared his dream projects, including the women's empowerment initiative Pink Rickshaw, which received an enthusiastic response from members. President Sonal announced a contribution of USD 15,000 to TRF, and Rtn. Yogesh pledged 1 lakh. The incoming Board comprises President Rtn. Sonal Doshi, IPP Rtn. Minal Turakhia, Vice President Rtn. Tejaswini Modak, Club Secretary PP Dr Meena Kothari, Club Treasurer Rtn. Dhiren Shah,



Director Club Service I – Fellowship Rtn. Pinki Dalal, Director Club Service II – Membership PP Purna Mehta, Director Club Service III – Meetings Rtn. Parul Mody, Director Community Service I – Medical PP Dr Pankaj Parekh,

Director Community Service II – Non Medical Rtn. Preeti Joshi, Director Partners in Service PP Dr Gool Ghadiali, Director Vocational Services Rtn. Tejal Gandhi, Director International PP Arun Shah, Director Special Projects Rtn. Bhuvan

Ajmera, Sergeant at Arms Rtn. Nisha Shah, and Club Learning Facilitator PDG Rtn. Nitin Mangaldas. The event concluded on a high note with delicious food, laughter, and the warmth of true Rotary fellowship.

ROTARY CLUB MUMBAI CITY

The Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Mumbai City was held on 24th July 2025 at 7:30 pm at Hotel Sai Palace, Malad. Rtn Dr. Trupti Agarwal took charge as President, with a dedicated team comprising Rtn Niddhi Janwani as Secretary, Rtn Pragati Pannase as Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn Anil Kainya as Club Mentor and Medical Director, Rtn Vivek Narsaria as Non-Medical Director, Rtn Sunita Kainya handling Women Empowerment, Rtn Milind Seth leading Vocational Services, Rtn Mukesh Shah managing Club Administration, and Rtn Ramkant Parasampuria as Membership Director.



ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI NEO

The installation ceremony of President Anand Bhadkamkar of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo was conducted on 25th July at the Mahogany hall, The Club with great enthusiasm and camaraderie. Taking over the reins for the Rotary year, President Anand Bhadkamkar was joined by a dynamic Board of Directors committed to driving impactful service and fostering fellowship within the club. The board comprises Jyoti Hariharan, R Sridhar, Narinder Madan, Meera Ramachandran, Alok Ranjan Pandey, Dattatray Bhagwat, Arun Wadhwa, Kala Sridhar, Mehek Wadhwa, Daksha Bhagwat, Rita Rego, Rahul Jain, N S Hariharan, Hemang Jang, and Rakesh Kumar. The event marked a promising beginning to a year of purposeful initiatives and vibrant club engagement.

INSTALLATION



RC MUMBAI WEST END

The Installation Ceremony of The Rotary Club of Mumbai Westend was held on the evening of 27th July 2025 at the elegant Colonial Hall, The Club. The event commenced at 7:00 PM, gathering Rotarians, guests, and well-wishers for a memorable celebration of leadership and service.

Rtn. Himanshu Ruia was formally installed as President for the Rotary year, taking the mantle with enthusiasm and a strong vision for the club's continued growth and impact. The occasion also marked the introduction of a committed and dynamic Board of Directors, comprising:

Aditya Ajmera, Nikhil Rajpuria, Jaisai Chachhia, Rohit Agarwal, Somik Shah, Abhay Agarwal, Bharat Jhunjhunwala, Jitendra Kamra, Vishal Sethi, Pankaj Ruia, and Jayesh Goyal.

A high-resolution group photograph captured the spirit of unity and purpose that defines the club's ethos. With a robust leadership team and a renewed sense of commitment, The Rotary Club of Mumbai Westend steps into the new Rotary year ready to make a meaningful difference through impactful projects and service.



ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI VERSOVA

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova was held on Sunday, 3rd August 2025, at The Club, Colonial Hall. The evening commenced at 6:30 PM, bringing together members and guests in a warm celebration of leadership, fellowship, and service. Rtn. Pawan Choudhary was installed as the President for the year, taking charge with vision and commitment to lead the club into a new chapter of impactful service.

A strong and diverse Board of Directors was also introduced, representing a blend of experience, passion, and dedication.

The newly installed Board includes:

Manish Khemka, Bhakti Sachdeva, Sushil Daga, Sourabh Poddar, Lalit Mutreja, Ashok Gupta, Kavita Khetan, Rajesh Agarwal, Madhu Jain, Manpreet Arora, Sai Barde, Geeta Dhandhanai, Dharmesh Bothra, Suresh Murarka, Atul Singhania, Ranjeet Dudeja, Yogesh Kedia, Shalini Agarwal, Prasan Bachhawat, Manish Goenka, and Aashish Rai. With this vibrant team at the helm, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova is set to embrace the Rotary year with renewed energy, community spirit, and a strong drive to make a difference.

ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI LAKERS

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Lakers was held on the evening of 9th July 2025 at the stylish Nox, Westin Powai. The event commenced at 7:00 PM and brought together members and guests for a night of celebration, fellowship, and fresh beginnings.

Rtn. Eakta Menon was formally installed as President for the Rotary year, stepping into the role with great enthusiasm and commitment. The event also marked the induction of a dynamic and diverse Board of Directors, each bringing their own strengths and dedication to the club's mission.

Rtn. Palvi Aggarwal was acknowledged as Immediate Past President, while Rtn. Vaibhav Laddha took charge as Secretary and E-Admin. Rtn. Mukesh Shah assumed responsibility as Treasurer, ensuring strong financial stewardship.

The club's service avenues will be led by Rtn. Nimish Agarwal (Director – Medical), Rtn. Manju Udasi (Director – Non-Medical), and Rtn. Manish Soni (Director – CSR). Membership growth and engagement will be



spearheaded by Rtn. Raj Dabburi, while Rtn. Aafreen Iyer will lead Public Relations and branding efforts.

Club administration will be managed by Rtn. Manish Bansal, with Rtn. Jasmine Chhatwal heading Youth initiatives. Rtn. Namrata

Wanwari will steer Vocational Service, and Rtn. Chetna Lal will lead International Service. Rtn. Vikram Swaroop will guide the club's efforts towards The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Rtn. Ravi Jaswani, as Club Advisor, will provide strategic guidance and mentorship to the

team throughout the year. With an enthusiastic leadership team and a vibrant vision for service, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Lakers embarks on a new year committed to creating lasting impact through Rotary ideals.

INSTALLATION



RC OF MUMBAI KALAKAR

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Kalakar was held on the evening of 2nd August at the elegant Lavender Bough, Ghatkopar. The event commenced at 6:00 PM, bringing together members, guests, and well-wishers to celebrate a new Rotary year filled with purpose and promise.

The club proudly installed Rtn. Poojaa Mehntaa as the President for the year, whose vision and vibrant energy are set to lead the club into a year of impactful initiatives and creative endeavors. The newly inducted Board of Directors comprises a dynamic mix of experienced and enthusiastic Rotarians who bring a wide range of skills to the table.

Rtn. Suparna Chakravarty Mukherjee was installed as Club Secretary and President-Elect, while Rtn. Haima Deshpande, the Immediate Past President, took on multiple roles as Director of Community Service, Club RSW Chair, and



Foundation Chair. Rtn. Anasuya Banerjee will oversee E-Administration and Events, ensuring

smooth operations and vibrant programming. The club's medical and international outreach

efforts will be led by Rtn. Dr. Vaishali Das, while Rtn. Dibyendu Sensharma steps in as Director of Membership. Rtn. Madhumita Manna takes charge of Youth and Vocational Services, reinforcing the club's commitment to nurturing future leaders.

Supporting the leadership team are Rtn. Sree Nandy as Vice President and Club Learning Facilitator, Rtn. Malabika Bose who will handle responsibilities as Treasurer, TRF Director, and CSR Director, and Rtn. Madhubanti as Director of Club Services.

The installation evening was marked by camaraderie, celebration, and a shared sense of commitment to Rotary values. With such a multifaceted team at the helm, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Kalakar is all set to blend service with creativity, and impact with inspiration, in the year ahead.



RC MUMBAI BRAVEHEARTS

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Bravehearts was held with elegance and enthusiasm on 27th July at JW Marriott, Sahar. The morning began with a warm breakfast at 9:00 am, followed by the formal proceedings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Leading the club into the new Rotary year was President Rtn. Zeenat Hasta, whose poise and purpose set a strong tone for the year ahead. The ceremony also introduced the incoming Board of Directors: Rtn. Krishna Anand (Vice President), Rtn. Tasneem Mun (Immediate Past President), and Rtn. Suklakhana Herekar (Honorary Secretary), with Rtn. Manek Z Chitalwala as Honorary Joint Secretary.

Rtn. Renu Sakhrani will oversee financial responsibilities as Treasurer, and Rtn. Alifia Shetty will serve as Sergeant at Arms. The club's avenues will be led by:

Rtn. Khuzem Sakarwala (Membership), Rtn. Alok Dayal (The Rotary Foundation), Rtn. Tasnim Topiwala (Club Service), Dr. Sanjay Helale (Community Service – Medical), Rtn. Shabbir Bootwala (Community Service – Non-Medical), Rtn. Kalpana Padode (Vocational), Rtn. Nazneen Sakarwala (International), Rtn. Bhakti Sharma (Public Image), Rtn. Tasneem Loliwala (Youth), Rtn. Ajay K Gupta (Environment). A high-resolution group photograph captured the vibrant spirit and fellowship of the Bravehearts as they embark on a year of meaningful service.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY QUEEN CITY

The Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City held its installation ceremony at the Legacy Room, Hotel St. Regis, Mumbai, on Monday, 21st July 2025, from 6 PM onwards.

The newly installed President is Dr. Phd & D.Litt Shhyam R. Singhania, supported by a distinguished Board of Directors comprising Shhyam R. Singhania, Hiren Gosalia, Akhil Tody, Rajendra Agarwal, Ramesh Poddar, Alok Mohatta, Ajay Agarwal, Suresh Todi, Rakesh Agrawal, Sandeep Bajoria, Anupama Jalan, Sushil More, Anil Goenka, Vijay Singhal, Arun Gupta, and Ralph Jhirad. A high-resolution group photograph of the board has also been shared for your reference.



INSTALLATION



ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI JUHU ELLITE

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu Ellite held its installation ceremony on 4th August 2025 from 7:00 pm onwards at The Club. The event marked the formal induction of Rtn Rashmi Gupta as President for the new Rotary year. The evening witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of members and guests, celebrating the club's commitment to service and fellowship. The newly appointed Board of Directors for the year includes Jayesh Khemka as IPP, Anuj Gupta as Secretary, Ankit Khetan as Treasurer, Pankaj Goenka as CSR Director, Bharat Chandgothia as Fellowship Director, Anup Ramuka as Sergeant In Arms, Dr Ajay Bajaj as Medical Director, Ajay Gupta as Non Medical Director, Sushil Agarwal as PR Director, and Sanket Khemuka as TRF Director. The ceremony was marked by warmth, camaraderie, and a shared vision for impactful community service in the year ahead.



ROTARY CLUB OF NATIONAL PARK MUMBAI

The installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of National Park Mumbai, under the leadership of President Mr. Rajagouda Shankar Patil, was held at Evershine Millennium Paradise, Evershine Club, near Gundecha School, Thakur Village, Kandivali East, Mumbai. The new Board comprises Mr. Amol Karekar as Vice President, Mr. Ajay Bhartav as Secretary, Mr. Mahendra Kataria as Treasurer, Mr. Suresh Naidu as IPP, Mr. Milind Garud as P.E., Mrs. Priti Khanvilkar as Director Community Service Medical, Mrs. Vaishali Barve as Director Club Training, Rtn. Rakhee Sunil as Director TRF, Mr. Rajendra Kewat as Director International Service, Mr. Girish Waingankar as Director Strategic Planning & District Communication, Mr. Ajay Madane as Director Club Service, Mr. Sanjay Aher as Director District Focus Area, Mr. Pramod Gothai as Director Vocational Service, Mr. Rajesh Mhatre as Director Community Service Non-Medical, Mr. Milind Gothai, Mr. Sanjay Tari as Director Membership, Mr. Ranjit Bijoor as Director Youth Service, Mr. Satish Dipnaik as Sergeant at Arms, and Mr. Shailesh Vatsaraj as P.I. & E-Admin.

THE ROTARY CLUB BORIVALI WONDERS

The Rotary Club Borivali Wonders, led by President Rtn Jayant Bhatia, announced its Board of Directors for the year. The team comprises Jayant Bhatia as President, Rashmi Shukla as Secretary, Gopal Sathe as Club Trainer, Dharti Joshi as I.P.P, Dr. Kishor Chavan as Medical Director, Nilesh Apraj as Non Medical Director, Pradeep Shukla as Membership Director, Kalpesh Munjyasara as Vocational Director, Harshad Negandhi as Sargent Arms, and Yogesh Shah as TRF Director and Rotary Service Week Chair. The installation ceremony will be held on 7th August 2025 from 6 pm onwards at Garden Groves Restaurant and Banquet, Bhattad Road, near Hotel Grand Ville, opposite Kora Kendra Ground, Borivali West.



INSTALLATION



THE RC OF MUMBAI INSPIRE

The club held its installation ceremony on Sunday, 10th August 2025, at Mahogany, The Club, D N Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai. The event commenced at 11 am in the presence of members, guests, and dignitaries, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and renewed commitment to service.

Rtn. Shanta Vallury Gandhi was formally installed as President for the year, supported by a dynamic Board of Directors. Rtn. Alpa Shah took charge as Immediate Past President and Membership Director, while Rtn. Sumit Dutt assumed the dual role of Secretary and Fellowship Director. The responsibilities of President Elect, Youth Director, and Joint Secretary were entrusted to Rtn. Chaitali Chatterjee, and the financial stewardship to Treasurer Rtn. Rajiv Gupta. Rtn. Rajesh Purandhare was appointed Sergeant



at Arms, and Rtn. Raman T S will head Public Relations and Marketing. Vice President Rtn. Zainab Patel will lead Vocational Service and Women Empowerment, while Rtn. Suresh Notani will co-lead Fellowship

alongside Rtn. Sumit Dutt. Medical Service will be managed by Rtn. Jay Lakhani and Mr. Surinder Bhalla, with Non-Medical Service entrusted to Dr. Milind Kulkarni and Rtn. Rajiv Gupta.

The occasion was marked by inspiring speeches, the sharing of the club's vision for the year, and a high-resolution group photograph capturing the spirit of unity and service that defines the Rotary Club of Mumbai Inspire.



RC OF ADDICTION PREVENTION

Rotary Club of addiction prevention ushered in the new Rotary year with its installation ceremony on 4th June at Tummy Temptation, Mulund, Mumbai.

President Rtn. Dr. Kruti Abhyankar assumed office alongside a dynamic Board for 2025-26, comprising Vice President Rtn. Dr. Nilam Gada, IPP & CLF Rtn. Dr. Siddharth Udeshi, Treasurer Rtn. Samuel Prakash, PE & Sergeant at Arms Rtn. Vijay Rao Cavale, Club Membership Chair Rtn. Yajuvendra Khajekar, Club Foundation Chair Rtn. Dr. Alefiya Khambaty, Community Service (Medical) Chair Rtn. Dr. Trupti Pai, Community Service (Non-Medical) Chair Rtn. Dr. Sadhana Edvankar, International Service Chair Rtn. Manpreet Negi, Public Image Chair Rtn. Dr. Jaina Patwa, Youth Service Chair Rtn. Dr. Soham Biswas, and E-Admin Rtn. Kalpana P. The evening marked a spirited beginning, filled with fellowship and a renewed commitment to the club's mission of service and addiction prevention.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY MAHAKALI HEIGHTS

The Rotary Club of Bombay Mahakali Heights held its installation ceremony on 22nd May 2025 at 7 pm at Sher-e-Punjab Gymkhana, Andheri East.

Rtn Dr Saroj Anand assumed the role of President, also serving as Membership Director. Sunil Anand took charge as Vice President and TRF Director. Ameeta Shetty was appointed as Club Secretary and Director of Public Relations, while Gurdeep (Babli) Bhamra became Treasurer and Medical Director. Purna Ramteke stepped in as President-Elect, taking on the responsibilities of Director Youth Service and Director E-Administration. Malcolm Braganza assumed the role of Joint Treasurer, and Francis Barretto became Director International. Avneet Kaur was assigned as Non-Medical Community Services Director, while Faninder Kachra took up the position of Sergeant-at-Arms. Mayuresh Srivastav was entrusted with the Vocational portfolio.

The event marked a vibrant beginning to the new Rotary year for the club, with the Board of Directors poised to lead various service avenues with commitment and enthusiasm.



INSTALLATION



RC BOMBAY HILLS SOUTH

The Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South hosted the installation ceremony for its Inspired Board of Directors for the Rotary Year 2025-26 on the early afternoon of 14th June at the Rendezvous, Taj Mahal Hotel. Led by the Inspired Club President Rtn Dr. Rajgopal, the newly appointed BoD includes: Dr. Rajgopal Thirumalai - President, Rtn Neeraj Dhawan as Immediate Past President, Rtn Rajinder Loona as Secretary and President Elect 2026-27, Rtn S Ramnath as Vice President and CSR coordinator, Rtn R Sankarnarayan as Treasurer, Rtn Vaijayanti Shende as Sergeant at Arms and PR, Rtn Hemant Jain as Membership Director, Rtn Ravi Budhiraja as Youth Service Director. Rtn Meenakshi Kumar, Rtn Rajendra Bhinge, Rtn Reeva Budhiraja. The early afternoon was marked by camaraderie, commitment, and a renewed pledge to service, setting the tone for an inspiring Rotary Year ahead.



ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI SHER-E-PUNJAB

The Installation Ceremony of the Inspired President, Rtn. Minishaa I Oberoi, of Rotary Club of Mumbai Sher-E-Punjab was held on 30th May 2025 at Hotel Sai Palace in the presence of Inspired District Governor Dr. Manish Motwani and First Lady Dr. Mehek Motwani, Past District Governors, Co-Presidents, senior District Avenue team members, Club members, and esteemed guests. President Minishaa I Oberoi outlined her ambitious vision for the year, inspiring all with her clarity of purpose, while DG Dr. Manish Motwani lauded the achievements of the past year and encouraged the club towards greater success. The Board of Directors for the year comprises Minishaa I Oberoi, Jotinder S Ahluwalia, Naresh Khatri, Deepak Wadhwa, Sunita Bedi, Aarti Jadhav, Seema Bhoocher, Satinderpal S. Ahluwalia, Kiran Srivastava, Surjit K Ahluwalia, Pinky Rajgarhiya, Sukarma Khanna, Dr. Sunita Sharma, Jasbeer Nagi, Inderjeet S Oberoi, and Jasjit Kaur Bhatia.

ROTARY CLUB OF BANDRA

The installation ceremony of the new team of Rotary Club of Bombay Bandra was held on 26th July at 11:00 am at Veranda, Khar. The event marked the formal induction of the Board of Directors for the year 2025-26 under the leadership of President Adv. Trivankumar Karnani. The new Board comprises Club Secretary Faiyaz Rangwala, Treasurer MP Singh, Immediate Past President Rahul Rohra, E-Admin and CSR Director Rahul Totlani, Fundraiser Vishal Rupani, Joint Secretary and CSR Director Rachna Chhachi, Membership Director Sayed Husain, Sergeant at Arms and Youth Director Abbas Shahiwala, Community Service Non-Medical Director Ratan Mukhi, Community Service Medical Director Dr. Takroo, TRF and Vice President Brij Mehra, and Joint Sergeant at Arms Madhu Jain. The club looks forward to a dynamic and impactful year ahead under the guidance of its newly installed leadership team.



INSTALLATION

**RC BOMBAY MIDCITY**

The installation ceremony of the Inspired Board of Rotary Club of Bombay Midcity for the year 2025–26 was held on 25th June 2025 at Emara Banquet Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. In the presence of members, dignitaries, and visiting Rotarians, Rtn. Harshad Thakker was installed as the Inspired President for the year. The evening unfolded with a spirit of celebration, commitment, and fellowship, reflecting the vibrant ethos of the club. The new team stepping into leadership roles includes Rtn. Ajay Mishra as Immediate Past President and Director CSR, Rtn. Nilesh Suchak as Inspired Secretary, and Rtn. Bharat Shah as Inspired Treasurer. Rtn. Ashok Kothari took charge as Director Club Admin and Fellowship, Rtn. Archana Bhingarde as Director Public Image and E-Admin, Rtn. Dr. Laila Dave as Director Medical, and Rtn. Mahesh Bilimoria as Director Non Medical. Rtn. Paurus Kohina assumed the role of Director Vocational, Rtn. Sanjiv Swarup as Director Membership, and Rtn. Meghana Bilimoria as Director Youth. Rtn. Sunita Gupta was appointed Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Bharat Parekh as Director TRF and Thrust, and Rtn. Kunjaan Popat as Director Club Advisor, Trainer and ALF. The club looks forward to a year of impactful projects, meaningful service, and strong fellowship.

**RC BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX**

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Bandra Kurla Complex held its Installation Ceremony on the 28th of July, 2025, at Galaxy, MIG Cricket Club, Bandra East. The occasion marked the formal handover of responsibilities to the incoming team led by President Rtn. Suyog Gangavane.

The event was conducted with grace and Rotary spirit, highlighting the Club's commitment to service and leadership. The newly installed Board of Directors for the year includes: Rtn. Suyog Gangavane - President, Rtn. Mohit Vaidya - Secretary, Rtn. Geeta Borkar - Treasurer, Rtn. Sachin Shigwan - SAA & Director - Community Service Non-Medical, Rtn. Manisha Ghevade - Director - Community Service Medical & District Thrust Areas, Rtn. Rahamohan M. - Director TRF & Membership, Rtn. Gaurang Rajwadkar - Director - Youth & International Service.

The ceremony was marked by enthusiasm, camaraderie, and a collective sense of purpose. The high-resolution group photograph attached captures the energy and unity of the newly formed leadership team, as they prepare to lead with vision and dedication in the year ahead.

**ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI SOUTH CUFFE PARADE**

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Mumbai South Cuffe Parade was held on the evening of 31st July 2025 at the elegant venue of The Ambassador Hotel, Churchgate. The event commenced at 7:00 PM and was graced by Rotarians, dignitaries, and well-wishers who gathered to witness the ceremonial transition of leadership and celebrate the club's continued commitment to service. Rtn. Errick Elavia took over as President for the Rotary year with great enthusiasm and a clear vision for impactful projects. The event reflected the club's vibrant spirit and its dedication to creating meaningful change in society. A highlight of the evening was the presentation and felicitation of the newly appointed Board of Directors, each of whom pledged to contribute their expertise and energy toward the year's goals.

The 2025–26 Board includes Rtn. Errick Elavia, Rtn. Dr. Keiki Mehta, Rtn. Tehemton Dalal, Rtn. Rajesh Dubey, Rtn. Arun Agrawal, Rtn. Tarun Gadia, Rtn. Mahendra Sandesha, Rtn. Kamal Kothari, Rtn. Satishchandra Maheshwari, Rtn. Nayan Shah, Rtn. Sonal Somaiya, Rtn. Sujata Dalvi, Rtn. Nargis Gaur, Rtn. Harshad Kapadia, Rtn. Shivprasad Khator, and Rtn. Bharathi Bathijaa.



When Nature Speaks Louder Than Us: A Wake-up Call from the Jungles of India

OPINION



Pinki Dalal

AUTHOR | NOVELIST |
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India's forests are more than just green landscapes, they are living, breathing ecosystems that regulate our climate, safeguard biodiversity, and nurture ancient wisdom. Among them, the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stands as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity.

Stretching over 1600 km across six Indian states, the Western Ghats are home to over 7,400 species of plants and animals, including many found nowhere else on Earth. These forests are not just rich in flora and fauna—they're oxygen factories, generating up to 40% more oxygen per acre than many other forest regions. The forests also regulate monsoons, store freshwater, and help balance carbon emissions. According to a recent report by the Indian Institute of Science, the Ghats absorb over 60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

The region is also the cradle of India's ancient spice trade—black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg all grow here in abundance. These spices, rooted in forest ecology, support local tribal communities and biodiversity in equal measure.

But while the Southern forests struggle quietly, the Northern hills are screaming.



Let's stop pretending we have time.

Let's start listening before nature goes silent.

In Uttarakhand, once called Devbhumi or the Land of the Gods, calamity after calamity has become the new normal. Cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, and collapsing roads are increasingly common. The 2023 Joshimath land subsidence crisis was not an accident—it was a symptom.

Modernization has come at a cost. Widespread deforestation for highways, hydropower dams, and hotels is disrupting natural drainage systems and weakening the fragile

Himalayan terrain. According to the Forest Survey of India, India lost over 668 sq km of forest cover between 2019 and 2021 alone, much of it in ecologically sensitive zones.

Locals and environmentalists have repeatedly warned: cutting trees, altering river courses, and building blindly in seismic zones will invite disaster. And now, it's here.

Nature isn't turning violent; we are disrupting its balance. And when nature responds, it doesn't knock—it crashes.

The time to act is not tomorrow. It is now.

We must:



- Strengthen the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) recommendations.
- Ban construction in eco-sensitive zones.
- Return to indigenous knowledge systems of coexisting with forests.
- Shift to eco-tourism instead of unsustainable hotel chains.
- Empower local forest communities to become guardians of their environment.
- The forests of India, from the thick spice-laden groves of the Western Ghats to the alpine meadows of the Himalayas, are sacred. But they are not invincible.

Rotary India: A Role Beyond Tree Planting

Amid this crisis, civil society must step up. One such force with both scale and credibility is Rotary India. While tree plantation drives are a step in the right direction, today's challenge demands a deeper ecological engagement.

Rotary, with its vast network across rural and urban India, can:

→ Adopt and restore forest patches, especially in buffer zones and de-

- graded lands,
- Support forest-based tribal livelihoods, like honey, herbal products, and sustainable spice farming,
- Fund wildlife corridors to reduce human-animal conflict,
- Promote eco-education among youth, especially through Interact and Rotaract clubs,
- Develop climate-resilient villages, with green infrastructure and low-carbon technology,
- Collaborate with local bodies to restore wetlands, riversides, and urban lakes,
- And most importantly, act as eco-watchdogs, advocating against construction in fragile zones.

In Uttarakhand, for instance, Rotary can work with local communities to promote eco-tourism models, train youth as green guides, and discourage overbuilding in high-risk areas.

This is not just about protecting trees. It's about preserving the equilibrium that sustains life—our air, water, soil, food, and climate.

The Forest is Still Whispering. Are We Listening?

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