

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary
Club of Thane Hills



10
TITHI

HILL ECHOES

MARCH ISSUE

Francesco Arezzo
4th President - 2025-26

Harsh Makol
District Governor - 2025-26

Samir Limaye
Club President - 2025-26

Nilesh Pitale
Club Secretary - 2025-26



**Water, Sanitation
and Hygiene**

Inside This Issue

1. Index	2
2. Reflections by President Samir Limaye	3
3. Updates by Secretary Nilesh Pitale	4
4. Editor PP Varsha Likhite speaks	5
5. Innerwheel Updates by President Nayna Gala.....	6
6. Rotaract Updates by President Sayali Korgaonkar	7
7. Updates - District.....	8-9
8. Updates - R.I.	10
9. Updates - Club	11
10. Fit and Healthy Rotary Club by Sarita Bahl.....	12-13
11. Sanity in Chaos : Keeping Calm Under the Storm by Madhavi Kanade	14
12. Demolish to Breathe by Sheetal Pachpande.....	15-16
13. Date with History by Radhika Padmanabhan	17-18
14. Life through Her Lens by First Lady Prachi Divekar	19
15. Club Projects.....	20
16. Club Meetings.....	21-25
17. DISCON.....	26



MARCH IS
www.rotary.org/donate

**WATER, SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
MONTH**

Water is life. And clean water means health.

The Rotary Foundation  

MARCH 2026



Reflections by Club President

Though February carried the theme of Illuminators and Peace, our club added its own vibrant twist — we celebrated with purpose, passion, and plenty of energy.

We began with an insightful workshop by Shweta on professional introductions and public speaking, equipping members with confidence and communication finesse.

The Valentine's Day cum Fashion Show – Brides of India dazzled with color, grace, and elegance, truly a showcase of style and spirit.

Our Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti Celebration paid tribute to the valor, values, and visionary leadership of the great Maratha warrior, reminding us of the ideals that continue to inspire generations.

Wish to highlight and reiterate immense contribution by women members and women partners in organizing each event and program. Truly our strength.

Through Ann Daan, we continued our tradition of service, reaching the poorest of the poor and visually challenged citizens with compassion and care.

The Happy Street Carnival, conducted with fellow district clubs, reflected Rotary's commitment to community well-being — spreading health, happiness, and a healing touch.

We were also delighted to host and interact with visiting Canadian Rotarians. The Rotary Family Exchange Program once again proved to be a powerful platform for fellowship and global connection — an opportunity we must continue to leverage.

February month also got opportunity to host a Club Assembly, a mandatory meeting to provide update and status about all club activities. Taking analogy of life cycle analysis, we must evaluate where we are now and where are we heading. In less than 5 years from now we shall be celebrating 40th charter day. Momentous occasion to reflect on what we achieved and where we have reached together.

By the time this bulletin reaches you, we will be gathered for the grand highlight of the Rotary calendar — the District Conference — promising grand arrangements, five-star ambiance, delightful cuisine, and electrifying musical evening fellowship.

And as March arrives, our Joy Makers are already set to create yet another memorable chapter...

From Illuminators of Peace, Makers of Joy

Because together, we don't just serve — we spread joy

Enjoy Rotary

Samir Limaye



MARCH 2026



Updates by Club Secretary

We had a wonderful and vibrant month of February filled with inspiring speakers, meaningful fellowship, and joyous celebrations.

The **Valentine's Day Fashion Show** witnessed tremendous enthusiasm, especially from our lady members, who showcased remarkable talent, confidence, and grace. The event beautifully blended elegance with fellowship, creating memories that will be cherished for a long time.

We also celebrated **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti**, remembering the great warrior king whose visionary leadership and courage continue to inspire generations even after nearly 350 years. Paying tribute through soulful songs and powerful powadas was truly moving and reminded us of the values of bravery, resilience, and good governance that remain relevant even today.

Service, as always, remained at the heart of everything we did. Under our ongoing **Aanadan Project**, we continued to touch lives by distributing groceries to over 1,000 visually disabled individuals, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to compassion and consistent service.

The **Happy Street Programme**, organized in collaboration with fellow Rotary clubs, spread joy, positivity, and togetherness within the community. Such initiatives reflect Rotary's spirit of creating happiness beyond boundaries and strengthening community bonds.

The month concluded with a theme-based **Club Assembly**, where members were given an opportunity to share their vision and ideas for the club's growth over the next five years. The thoughtful suggestions and forward-looking perspectives shared during the session demonstrated the collective leadership strength within our club.

As we now step into the vibrant month of March, we are reminded that in the Rotary calendar, March is celebrated as **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Month**—a time that reinforces Rotary's commitment to ensuring access to safe water, proper sanitation, and hygiene for all. These essential elements form the foundation of healthier and stronger communities.

March also brings with it the joyous festival of **Holi**, a celebration of colors, unity, and renewed happiness. May this festival add new charm, positivity, and harmony to our lives and to the communities we serve.

Warm regards,
Nilesh Pitale



Shraddhanjali

Smt Manik Gopal Kathardekar (Age 90) Mother in law of our Charter Member Dr Suhas and Mother of Anuja Kulkarni left for her heavenly abode on 26 February 2026.

She was admitted to Param Hospital due to some health issues. Our heartfelt condolences to Dr Suhas, Anuja, entire Kathardekar and Kulkarni families.

MARCH 2026



Message by Club Bulletin Editor

Hillars,

Glad to present the March 2026 edition of Hill Echoes bulletin in the TiTen year. It gives an update of projects, meetings and activities done in Feb 26 as well as what is coming in March 2026. We have also covered information related to Rotary International, District as well as interesting articles by members n spouses.

March is designated as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Month in the Rotary International calendar. This month highlights Rotary's focus on providing sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure to communities, as well as promoting hygiene education. It also features World Rotaract Week mid-March.

Key Themes & Actions for March:

WASH Projects : Clubs focus on building wells, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and improving sanitation.

Global Impact: Over \$180 million has been invested by The Rotary Foundation in over 2,500 water and sanitation projects.

World Rotaract Week: Celebrates the service and leadership of Rotaractors.

Look forward to inputs, content, feedback. I am just a call , mail , sms away !

PP Varsha Likhite

Bulletin Editor RY 2025-26

varshalikhite@rediffmail.com

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2026 - VOCATIONAL SERVICES MONTH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Holi Celebrations at Shelters Restaurant	4	5 Women's Day Felicitation at Thirani	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Joint Meeting with Rotaract - Thirani	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Gudhi Padwa Evening Program	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Guest Speaker Thirani	27	28
29	30	31				

RI THEME

RCTH OFFICIAL MEET

FELLOWSHIP & FESTIVALS

PROJECTS

EVENTS

DIST. EVENT & PROJECT

MARCH 2026

Inner Wheel Updates

By Innewheel Club President Nayana Gala



A Month of Compassion, Care & Impact February was a deeply meaningful month for IWCTH, marked by service initiatives that touched lives across age groups—from children to senior citizens—through health, education, awareness, and care.

The month began with the donation of six beds to Ganesh Vridhhashram, delivered on 23rd January. This act of kindness was made possible through the generous financial support of a friend of Nayna, our member Mansi Lal Sawant, Sashi Agarwal, and the compassionate contribution of Dr. Pushpa and Dr. Seetha, who donated beds from their hospitals. Their support has added comfort and dignity to the lives of elderly residents.

Our Chai, Charcha aur Connect 8.0 session, themed “Paisa Yeh Paisa,” focused on financial awareness as an essential form of self-care for women in their 50s and beyond. Rajashree Parab shared practical insights, encouraging members to engage confidently with money matters.

Under Project Drishti, 36 cataract surgeries were successfully completed this year, supported by contributions amounting to Rs.79,200. A special moment was the cheque handover to Dr. Wavikar at Dr. Wavikar Hospital, with heartfelt appreciation for Girija, whose leadership made this initiative impactful.



The Surakshit Bachpan sessions continued with Sessions 4 and 5, reaching 70 girls through engaging, two-hour interactions led by Neena. The programme achieved remarkable 100% attendance, reflecting its relevance and impact.



Masti Ki Pathshala 9.0 addressed menstrual hygiene for students and menopause awareness for



teachers, led with clarity and empathy by Dr. Uma Bansal, supported by dedicated members. Finally, our



Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Project marked a milestone with seven successful surgeries in February, including our first surgery at Jupiter Hospital. With 15 surgeries completed so far and a goal of 25, we continue working towards saving young hearts and building hopeful futures. February truly reflected service in action—rooted in compassion, collaboration, and commitment.



MARCH 2026

Message by Rotaract Club of Thane Hills President

Sayali Korgaonkar



When Magic Happened

February felt different this year. Maybe it was the hint of spring in the air, or simply the incredible energy everyone brought to every initiative. The month was filled with laughter, collaboration, and moments that truly stood out. ICYE – Chaloo Thane | February 14th–16th When Chandigarh Met Thane Four enthusiastic Rotaractors from Rotaract Club of Chandigarh University Central of Rotaract District 3080 visited as part of this cultural exchange between our districts, and we were delighted to host them.

Day one introduced them to Thane, beginning with the serene evening aarti at ISKCON Temple, followed by visits to The Walk and Grand Central Garden. Watching them experience our city with fresh excitement made the day special.

Day two was dedicated to Mumbai. From the lively chaos of Colaba Causeway to a peaceful sunset at Marine Drive, the experience blended energy and reflection. Sharing stories by the sea reminded us how quickly strangers can become friends. ICYE – Chaloo Thane stood as a celebration of connection, and the spirit of fellowship.



RED – Rotaract Entertainment Destination | February 14th–15th Our Time to Shine

RED weekend brought creativity and chaos in equal measure. At the district's annual arts festival, our club showcased strong representation across multiple events. Our Board of Directors and the General Body Members actively represented the club across multiple categories, including poetry, monologue, street play, story completion, fashion show, and group dance. Their participation reflected preparation, versatility, and strong stage presence, contributing significantly

to the club's overall performance at RED. President Rtr. Sayali, serving as (ACL) for the event, ensured smooth coordination while also actively participating in events, demonstrating commendable leadership and involvement.

Rtr. Shruti and Rtr. Sujal our general body member represented the club in Mr. & Miss RED, with Rtr. Sujal securing the Runner-Up title for Mr. RED - a proud moment for the team. RED once again proved to be a vibrant platform for expression, confidence, and district camaraderie.

Cricket Day | February 22nd

When Three Clubs Became One Team The month concluded with a collaborative cricket event alongside the Rotaract Club of Thane and the Rotaract Club of Thane Downtown at Orchid School, Manpada. The evening was filled with teamwork, and plenty of laughter. The event strengthened inter-club bonds and reminded everyone that fellowship often grows strongest in simple, joyful settings. Looking Back February showed us that when friendship meets shared purpose, something meaningful unfolds. From welcoming new connections to celebrating talent and bonding on the field, each moment felt genuine. As we step into March, we carry forward this energy - real friendships, shared passion, and the joy of growing together. "The best moments happen when we stop trying to be perfect and start being present."

Rtr. Sayali Korgaonkar

President Rotaract club of Thane Hills

MARCH 2026

UPDATES District



Information & Update-13

11 Feb 2026 | Rotary Center, Thane

A warm fellowship meet-and-greet was held to formally welcome 8 visiting Canadian Rotarians, hosted jointly by three clubs (RC Dombivali Saudamini, RC Thane North & RC Thane Northend) District 3142. The Rotary Family Exchange Program is a wonderful initiative that allows Rotarians to travel abroad and stay with host families, fostering global friendships and cultural understanding. As a gesture of appreciation, Mandar Bhalerao, Kirti Vadalkar, and Vijay Wani shared their enriching experiences of hospitality, culture, and bonding with host families. Co President Mamta Vanjani was graceful master of ceremony. Few rotarian showcased musical and traditional dances performances.

Our Canadian guests expressed their admiration for India's food, art, culture, and warmth. This meaningful exchange program typically spans two weeks and truly builds connections at a human level. DG Harsh Makol graced occasion and shared his own memories of Rotary Family Exchange and Rotary Youth Exchange as young annet and later as Rotarian.

Program ended with dinner. Visiting Canadian Rotarians are leaving back home in next 2 days with loads of fond memories.



MARCH 2026

🔔 UPDATES District

UNITE FOR GOOD Rotary Dht 3142 10 TITEN

DG Harsh Makol, Dist. Core Team & Dist. Membership Team presents

प्रवेश ऊर्जा Pravesh Urja

Welcoming New Energy into Rotary Zonal Membership Seminar for NEW MEMBERS from Rotary Clubs in Thane and Bhiwandi

Saturday, 7th March, 2026
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

📍 Rnest Banquets

Check Nika: 50 Bally Rd, Wagle Estate, Thane West.
Registration charges ₹250/- per member

Host Club - Rotary Club of Thane North

Ninad Pradhan Convener	Mamta Varjani President	Nisha Kapila Secretary
---------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------

UNITE FOR GOOD Rotary District 3142 10 TITEN

DG Harsh Makol, Dist. Core Team & Dist. Membership Team presents

प्रवेश ऊर्जा Pravesh Urja

Welcoming New Energy into Rotary Zonal Membership Seminar for NEW MEMBERS from Rotary Clubs in Navi Mumbai

Sunday, 8th March 2026
Time: 8 am – 11:30 am

Venue: Yogi Executive, Plot No - 31/A, Sector-22, MAFCO Road, VASHI-400703

Host club
Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Sunrise

Dr. Bhawanjyoti Convener	Dr. A. S. Gaur President	Dr. Geetika Mehta Secretary
-----------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

Rotary UNITE FOR GOOD 10 TITEN

DG Harsh Makol, District Core Team & Membership Team invites you for

प्रवेश ऊर्जा

Welcoming New Energy into Rotary Zonal Membership Seminar

Sunday 8th March 2026
Time: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Venue: KM Science College Auditorium, Khadakipada, Kalyan

Dr. R. D. Desai, Chairman
Dr. R. S. Patil, Secretary

Dr. Neelha Nair, Treasurer Dr. Dr. Ramesh Kurle, Secretary

Host Club: Rotary Club of Sarapure Grand City

Registration Charges Only ₹250/- Per Member

📍 Sarapure Grand City

MARCH 2026

 **UPDATES** R.I.



MyRotary Log in	&	Guest Log in
01 All details are auto-populated from the MyRotary account, reducing manual entry and errors		01 A new Rotary membership ID is created in donor's name
02 Contributions are correctly credited to individual member's Rotary account, their club and district		02 Contributions get recorded under RI Headquarters with no credit to donor's club/district
03 Correct credit ensures appropriate and timely recognition, with no need of corrections		03 Contribution corrections take longer and cannot be carried forward after the close of the Rotary Year

For a detailed step-by-step guide, please [CLICK HERE](#)

If you have any queries, please contact Rotary International South Asia Office at:
 Email: ri@southasia.rotary.org Phone: 011-42290101-5CE

Your Convention Expert Continue to Curate

LIST OF CITIES-WAYS TO WELCOME YOU ALL

-  **2026** | Taipei, Taiwan (June 13-17)
-  **2027** | Dubai, UAE (June 1-7)
-  **2028** | Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA (May 27-31)
-  **2029** | Singapore (March 6-10)
-  **2030** | Chicago, Illinois, USA (May 25-29)
-  **2031** | Dublin, Great Britain & Ireland

RIWIS is now accepting contributions for Taipei, Taiwan – 2026

Rotary Congratulations



PRITI C. BASKER

RI Awards Month
 Distinguished Priti C. Basker, Past District Governor RI District 3000, will be awarded the following:
Member - Meritorious RI Governance, 2020-2023
Member - Best District and Service, District 3000 - 2023
 Priti has been a successful and highly visible leader in the RI District 3000, having completed her first year in the 2020-2021 Rotary year with a record-breaking success.

The RIWIS Management Committee
 and District 3000 RIWIS Management Committee

MARCH 2026

 **UPDATES** Club**Information and Update-14****14th February 2026**

Happy to share . . . Happy to announce
Congratulations PP Atul !

Rotary Club of Santa Monica graciously donated
USD 20,000.00.(About 18 Lakh rupees). We
received confirmation from FCRA account.

Rtn Dr Renuka Desai a USA citizen and having roots
in Mumbai, India has been supporting our club and
cause of water, sanitation and hygiene for many
many years.

For over 13 years our PP Atul Bhide has been championing cause of water, sanitation and hygiene.
Thank You PP Atul for nurturing relationship for social cause .

**Information and Update-15**

Happy to announce confirmation about donation of Rs. 50 Lakhs received from Smt.Rajshree Birla ji.
Members may recall similar amount being donated by Smt Rajshree Birla ji at the beginning of
Rotary Year 2025-26. On behalf of club, foundation and many beneficiaries of Thalassemia Day
CareCenter & Blood Bank, we take this opportunity to extend our gratitude.

These financial supports are lifeline for our continued community service. Such support is
testament of our good work. Credit goes to entire staff at Blood Bank who work relentlessly under
guidance of PP Ravi Iyer and PP Shirish Songadkar to make it successful.

As always our club and foundation remains indebted to PRID Shri Ashok Mahajan ji for his guidance
and support.

Information and Update-16

Alan Electronic Systems Pvt Ltd, Ambarnath recently donated 4 lakh rupees for our Blood Bank and
Thalassemia Day Care Center. This is second year in succession to have received support.On behalf
of Triumph Foundation we extend gratitude to the management of Alan Electronic Systems Pvt Ltd.

These are examples of leveraging professional connections to do good for society. Thanks to PP Ravi
Iyer and his persuasion, foundation secured help. Find a purpose and means will follow.

Encouraging and appealing to Hillers to pay a visit to our Blood Bank at Orion Plaza, Kapurbawadi,
next to Cine Wonder Mall, Ghodbunder Road, Thane.

MARCH 2026

Fit and Healthy Rotary Club

Rtn Sarita Bahl



Last December during my strength training I fractured my wrist. I slowed down, adapted, and continued with my focus on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The mantra that I follow is – 3 days of strength training, 2 days of cardio, 8 hours of sleep, and 120 grams of protein. And I thought—what if RCTH were to apply this mantra to their projects and activities?

The 3 Days of Strength Training: Building the Core of the Club

Strength training is not about appearance; it is about function. In Rotary, strength lies in foundational discipline.

This is where clubs build:

- Clear project ownership
- Financial transparency and cost discipline
- A shared understanding of community needs
- Capability within the club

When strength training is skipped, clubs compensate. The same few members lift every project, every year. The result? Fatigue disguised as commitment.

If a project collapses when one Rotarian steps away, the club doesn't need motivation—it needs muscle.



The 2 Days of Run: The Cardio of Participation and Execution

Running builds stamina. For Rotary, this is active participation—the heart rate of the club.

Cardio shows up as :

- Members participating in execution, not just attending meetings
- Regular check-ins during project rollout
- Willingness to stay engaged after the inauguration photo

Healthy clubs make participation normal, expected, and enjoyable—not heroic.

A Rotary club that stops moving doesn't recover. It stagnates.



The 8 Hours of Sleep: Reflection Before the Next Project

In fitness, sleep is when repair happens. In Rotary, sleep is reflection.

Healthy clubs pause to ask:

- What actually worked?
- What drained energy without delivering impact?
- What should we stop doing next year?

Sleep—like reflection—creates clarity.

A tired club doesn't need more projects. It needs better judgement.



The 120 Grams of Protein: Feeding the Club Right

You cannot build muscle on empty calories. Rotary projects are no different.

MARCH 2026

Protein, for clubs, is high-quality inputs:

- Real data from the community
- Honest member feedback
- Partnerships with NGOs and experts
- Willingness to hear uncomfortable truths



Healthy clubs actively seek substance over comfort.

If all feedback tastes sweet, the club may be surviving on junk food.

The Real Work: Showing Up When It's Inconvenient

Anyone who has trained knows the truth: the plan is easy to write. Living it is harder.

For Rotary, the real work is:

- Preparing when meetings feel routine
- Participating even when it's not your project
- Speaking up when something isn't working
- Letting new members lead—and learn



This is where sustainable clubs separate themselves from well-meaning but tired ones.

Member Participation: The Ultimate Fitness Multiplier

A fit Rotary club is not president-dependent.

It thrives when :

- Members feel ownership, not obligation
- New members are quickly involved in execution
- Senior members mentor instead of carrying everything themselves

Like fitness, Rotary success is not about one heroic year.

It's about showing up—consistently, together, and with purpose.

That is the mantra for a fit and healthy Rotary club.

Rotary clubs don't lose members because of workload. They lose them because of lack of meaning



MARCH 2026

Sanity in Chaos : Keeping Calm Under the Storm

Madhavi Naik Kanade



Thank God She Never Took That Flight

During my time with Virgin Atlantic Airways, after my first promotion, I temporarily moved into Document Check Verification to understand the depth of the role. After training from the British Deputy High Commission, I realized it was not just about checking visas and passports. It was about profiling, instinct, and accountability. Our name sticker behind each cleared passport meant personal responsibility a wrong clearance could cost the airline GBP 2,500.

One September afternoon, an elderly Gujarati lady approached my counter. Her documents were completely genuine, nothing fake, nothing forged. Yet as I began routine questioning, her answers did not align. Initially, I assumed it was a language barrier. But the more I spoke to her, the stronger my intuition became... something was not right.

The flight was closing. She grew angry. She started shouting and getting upset with me.

Yet in the middle of that chaos, I chose to pause the rush.

Trusting my instinct, I called the BDHC airport representative. With a Gujarati-speaking colleague mediating, we continued questioning her calmly despite the rising emotions.

Slowly, the truth unfolded.

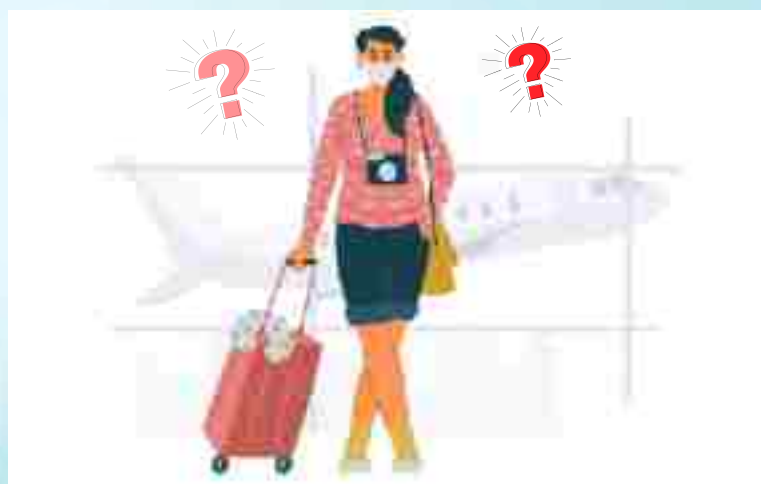
She was not a criminal. She was a victim — unknowingly walking into a human trafficking trap. She had been cheated. She had sold everything in Gujarat and paid nearly 30 lakhs to an agent who had promised her success in the UK. To her, we were the villains standing in her way — the ones breaking her dream.

She was offloaded while the flight departed on time. When the full reality was explained to her in her own language, her anger turned into tears. Before being taken further by the authorities, she said, *"I thought you were my enemy... but now I thank God for sending you. I may have lost my money, but I am still free."*

Later, I received a letter of appreciation from the British Deputy High Commission for proper profiling and protecting the airline from financial loss.

But if I can be honest, her gratitude meant far more than any official recognition.

Sometimes you must step into chaos to protect someone's sanity.



MARCH 2026

Demolish to Breathe

Rtn. Sheetal Pachpande



What if we woke up today to find that the blueprint we've followed for the last century was fundamentally flawed? That the way we built our homes was never the right way?

The materials we chose were nothing but a slow poison. We thought we were ascending, but we were actually marching toward the grave faster than anyone dared to admit. These thoughts lingered in my mind before I slept last night, and my dream became a manifestation of that heavy conscience—a vision of what happens when the Earth finally sends us the bill.

In this dream, I saw a world where the "harsh reality" was actually a return to grace: where breathing clean air and drinking pure water were valued more than any material luxury.

The Great Retreat

I woke with a heavy heart, the phantom scent of dusty drywall mixing with the fragrance of damp earth. In my vision, a "New Environmental Policy" had been launched. It wasn't a suggestion or a minor carbon tax; it was a mandate for survival.

The "Development Notices" had been flipped. Instead of clearing forests to build condos, we were tearing down skyscrapers to plant trees. The policy headline was simple and terrifying: Demolish to Breathe.

We weren't building up anymore; we were moving back. I saw entire city blocks—once symbols of our industrial pride—being dismantled piece by piece. We didn't throw the debris away. Instead, we hauled the wreckage to the flat plains to construct "artificial mountains."

Reclaiming the Foundation

This was the great realization: we had to rebuild what we lost a century ago, reclaiming a civilization that existed before we were blinded by 5G and the relentless hum of technology.

- Concrete & Brick: Ground into dust to form the base of new hills.
- Glass & Steel: Repurposed to reinforce slopes and prevent erosion.
- Empty Foundations: The hollow shells where buildings once stood became "Hope Gardens"—the last sanctuary for our seeds.

The Currency of Oxygen

The saddest part wasn't watching the monuments of our vanity fall; it was watching the people. I saw lines of survivors clutching small pouches of "Conserved Seeds," mostly scavenged from kitchen scraps, because the forests were almost gone.

In this world, oxygen was more valuable than money. Planting a tree wasn't a hobby; it was a prayer. People who used to forget to water a tiny succulent on their desk were now guarding saplings with their lives. It was a brutal irony: after spending centuries building towers to touch the sky, we realized we had forgotten how to breathe the air at the top.

The 20-Year Silence

Nature doesn't have a "Fast Forward" button. Under the new policy, once the buildings were gone and



MARCH 2026

the saplings were in the ground, there was a mandatory twenty-year wait. Humans had to live in the shadows of these emerging forests and relearn how to exist:

- Live by the Seasons: No more artificial lights defying the night.
- Build with Nature: Creating homes that integrated with the canopy, not against it.
- Embrace Humility: Taking only what the land could afford to give back.

A Call to Un-Build

This dream has changed me. It made me realize that while we think we are powerful because we can move mountains, we are only truly great when we learn how to put them back.

We must stop treating nature as a background for our lives and start seeing it as our life-support system. It is time to learn the art of "un-building." If we don't, the universe will do it for us—and it won't give us twenty years to prepare.

In this age of AI, we must use our intelligence to reconnect with the earth. If we can master a smartphone or assemble complex furniture, we can surely figure out how to foster a green reserve. Every patch of green is an oxygen tank for our future.

Think. Reflect. And let us act together—before the bill comes due.



MARCH 2026

A Date with History

Radhika Padmanabhan



A date with history:

It's been 37 years since I started living in Maharashtra; but I never could travel to one of the most visited places in the state – Yes, the Ajanta and Ellora caves always remained elusive to me. Nevertheless, a trip to these tourist spots finally materialised recently. With my sister in law and a dear friend, I decided to set on a journey to these UNESCO

World Heritage sites, located off the city of Aurangabad (now called the Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar).

After travelling to Aurangabad by the Vande Bharat Express followed by a comfortable night sleep, we kick started with Ellora caves. These rock cut temples are of mainly three categories: Jain temples (caves no. 31,32,33 and 34), Buddhist temples (caves no. 1 to 10) and Hindu temples- notable being the very famous Kailash temple complex(cave no. 16). The intricate sculptures can leave you dazed given the time period of the creation of the masterpieces, the finesse of the end products and the magnificent location of the caves.



The Kailash temple complex is the crowning glory of Ellora. The largest of the 34 caves at Ellora ,it represents a top-down excavation method. One cannot help marvel at the dexterity of the countless artisans who have

breathed life into the alluring sculptures over innumerable years.

The Ajanta caves, located about 100 km off Aurangabad, are equally fascinating. They are much older than the Ellora caves and are known for their stunning paintings as well as sculptures.



All the 30 temples at Ajanta are out and out Buddhism related . A few temples represent Hinayana Buddhism while most of them are symbols of Mahayana Buddhism. There are the Chaityas (prayer halls) tastefully done with the sculptures of Gautam Buddha in different poses, as well as those of Bodhisattvas. Besides, there are also the Viharas or Monasteries, the residential areas of the monks. The Chaityas and Viharas are very proficiently built; the paintings on their walls and ceilings carry the popular Jataka Tales (stories of the Buddha in his previous births). Sadly, many of these sculptures and paintings have succumbed to the ravages of time. The Indian Government, through its



MARCH 2026

Archaeological Department, is making concrete efforts to preserve the artefacts and paintings and is leaving no stone unturned in restoring them to the maximum extent possible.

All the temples, belonging to both Ajanta and Ellora, are cut out of basaltic rock in the Sahayadri hills. Imagine the patience of the craftsmen who employed just a hammer and a chisel to carve them skilfully. Mind boggling, isn't it?



Besides, Ajanta and Ellora, we also visited the Grishneshwar Mandir (12 th Jyotirlinga), the Taj Mahal look alike- Bibi ka Makbara and the Daulatabad or Devgiri Fort(through we didn't have the courage to climb it up!).

The complex and intricate artwork of the Ajanta and Ellora caves is something every Indian should be proud of. Standing the test of times, these are concrete evidences of the glory our rich heritage. Besides inspiring architecture elsewhere in the world for centuries, they remind us of how advanced and civilized our Indian society was, even in days of yore!

It is our duty to value these ' la crème de creme' pieces of Indian cultural history and take pride in visiting them and spreading information about their eminence and grandeur.



The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood.

— Paul P. Harris —

MARCH 2026

Life Through Her Lens

Jayshree Mane

1. Describe yourself in two words

Ans- caring, positive

2. What's a life lesson you have learned the hard way

Ans- The sorrows and pain which life gives are yours to suffer till the end! Nobody can help you with it!

3. What creative activity makes you lose track of time

Ans- singing

4. What's your comfort food—and the story behind it

Ans- Bengali sweets - juicy and with mild flavour - my father would restrict on eating sweets which resulted in more craving

5. If your life were a book, what would be its name

Ans- Looking within

6. Rotary project is closest to your heart, and why

Ans- school adoption! Even if few children get benefited and get properly educated the final impact is on building a better society!



Compiled by IP First Lady
Prachi Divekar



2. What's a life lesson you have learned the hard way

Ans- ज्यो दिखता है, वह वही होता नहीं.

3. What creative activity makes you lose track of time

Ans- Reading, writing, watching selected movies

4. What's your comfort food—and the story behind it

Ans- Veg sattvik thalis specially at Pune city's dining halls.

They give complete pleasure.

5. If your life were a book, what would be its name

Ans- Be Thyself

6. Rotary project is closest to your heart, and why

Ans- Rotarians RCTHs join together whatsoever to execute/deliver each project to the bestest.



Urmila Yadav



1. Describe yourself in two words

Ans- Sincere and honest

2. What's a life lesson you have learned the hard way

Ans - Patience

3. What creative activity makes you lose track of time

Ans - Teaching

4. What's your comfort food—and the story behind it

Ans - sandela laddu, my Grandfather used to get it for me.

5. If your life were a book, what would be its name

Ans- Life is a gift

6. Rotary project is closest to your heart, and why

Ans - Triumph run, I like to spend the time with special creation of God.

Rohini Suryavanshi

1. Describe yourself in two words

Ans- संयत(moderate), समाधानी (contended)

Aneetha Satish

1. Describe yourself in two words

Ans- Blissfully Grateful

2. What's a life lesson you have learned the hard way

Ans- People use you and what you can give n give

3. What creative activity makes you lose track of time

Ans- Dancing

4. What's your comfort food—and the story behind it

Ans- Sambar the Tambram one. I grew up with my neighbour amma rolling out a hot chapati n a tumbler of piping sambar for me most evenings. This is the lingering fragrance. The nostalgic memory is still a comfort

5. If your life were a book, what would be its name

Ans- She lives

6. Rotary project closest to your heart, and why

Ans- It's difficult to narrow down amongst Rcth's vast plethora; yet to name a couple - it would be *triumph run* for bringing joy to parents n kids. Lately the *eco quiz* for nuturing young minds both create lasting impacts.



MARCH 2026

Club Projects



Project 29 — Ann Daan

Tuesday, 17 February 2026 | Yogi Hills, Mulund

Yet another Amavasya (no-moon day) observed in the true spirit of service — a tradition dedicated to sharing with those in need.

Despite it being a working day and many volunteers unable to spare time, the commitment to serve remained unwavering. Over 1100+ needy, poor, and blind citizens from across Maharashtra attended and were served.

Month after month, the trio Pawan, Satish, and Prashant continues to be the strong glue binding nearly one-fourth of our club through this noble project — a shining example of dedication, consistency, and compassion.

Service sustained by spirit, strengthened by teamwork.

Team TiTEN



MARCH 2026

Club Meetings

Club Meeting-31 : 5th February | Thirani

You think you know - How to introduce yourself??

Guest Speaker-Shweta Ojha

Our very first club meeting of February month focused on a deceptively simple yet powerful subject — how to introduce oneself. Whether we are professionals, business owners, homemakers, or students, introducing ourselves —formally or informally—is something we all do repeatedly. Yet, we rarely pause to learn how to do it effectively.

Our Ann Shweta Ojha , an accomplished professional who works closely with CXO-level executives, shared valuable insights and practical techniques .

The idea was simple: get inspired, implement, and create impact. Unfortunately, many Hillers missed this opportunity to learn small but effective tools that can make a meaningful difference in both personal and professional interactions.

We firmly believe that even if we take forward just 5% of what we learn from our guest speakers each year, it can lead to a significant transformation over time. The choice, ultimately, is ours. Yes, there are countless options today for education and entertainment . But what Rotary offers is a unique, curated package —learning, fellowship, and personal growth, all rolled into one.

Attendance(28) was poor, and the meeting certainly deserved better .

Hiller had privilege to meet and listen to Dr Bhanu Dhakan (Phd in Economics, Ex Principal of College & Mother of Sonu). Two times Club President of Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown . A club with 160 members and strong credentials of doing projects and service. Those who managed to attend are truly beneficiaries. It was amazing vocational service example.



Special Guest Speaker Session

Sunday, 8th February 2026

The Sahayog Mandir Auditorium witnessed a full-house, overpacked gathering(200+) for an enlightening discourse by Mr. Nilesh Oak —a noted Indology researcher, scholar of Mythology and Vedic Wisdom, and a Chemical Engineer from UDCT.

Nilesh Oak is currently a Researcher and Faculty member at Dartmouth University, Massachusetts, USA .A USA citizen for over 3 decades. Travels extensively across world conducting sessions.

Subject: Time, Region, Geography, and Context of the Ramayan and Mahabharat .

The session was led by the Rotary Club of Thane Hills and Rotary Club of Thane , with strong collaboration from TiTEN Co-Presidents of Rotary Clubs Creekside, Greencity, Royale, Urbania, Premium, Downtown, and Pride .

MARCH 2026

Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe (Ex MP Rajya Sabha) and DG Harsh Makol graced occasion and shared their views.

Sincerely thank PP Nilesh Likhite, PP Varsha , PP Rajesh Salaskar,PP Shirish, Shailesh Mulye, Sameer Korde, Aniket Kanade, CS Nilesh Pitale, Shreerang Date, PP Sucheta, and Ann Neela & Mrunal for joining*

Mr. Nilesh Oak, with his engineering background, brought a scientific and analytical approach to the exploration of mythology and Vedic knowledge, making the session insightful, evidence-based, and deeply engaging. Thanks for Dr Meenal and Dr Kanchan Jayawant's presence for entire event.

We will be sharing video recording soon.



Weekly Club Meeting - 32

Valentine's Day Celebration & Fashion Show

Kuvega Music Enclave, Thane | Friday, 13 February 2026

An electrifying evening filled with the vibrant energy of Hillers! A colorful ensemble of women, unlimited fun on the dance floor, and the infectious enthusiasm of Chandru Sir set the tone for a memorable celebration.

Hillers worked extensively on look, attire and mannerisms for all four categories

- Brides of India
- Bridesmaids
- Men
- Couples

Temporarily there was ruckus when dance floor was captured by few. Later it turned out to be our own Hiller's boys group making presence felt and showcasing their happiness and talent.

Beautifully curated by Sonu , with caring guidance from Anuradha and seamless coordination by Anuja Kulkarni.



MARCH 2026

Special thanks to PP Vikram, PP Govind, and Pawan for their wonderful support during happy hours and dinner .

The magic of love truly came alive when Aniket and Madhavi renewed their wedding vows, lovingly overseen by Father Joseph

Young annet Suzannah Kunder and annet Selestino Kunder charmed everyone with their innocence and spirited participation .

A grand turnout of 88 Hillers and guests stands testimony to the event's success . Full marks to the Illuminators Group for taking the program from concept to flawless execution.

Club Meeting - 33
Thursday 19th February 2026
Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti Celebration
Thirani School , Thane

People, Passion, Projects, Participation, Partnership and Paramapara have always guided our engagements—and this was yet another memorable evening.

We came together to celebrate the valor, values, and vision of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj , whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Kudos to Facilitator PP Govind and the Illuminators Group for presenting such an inspiring and beautifully curated program. A big shout-out for SONU DHAKAN.

Highlights of Event :

Lathi Kathi Self Defense Demonstrations by girls from Karjat

Lejhim by Hillers and Anns

Powada by Thirani School Students

Group Songs by Hillers

Bal Shivaji & Jija mata

Impressive total attendance of 70 , however urge more members to step forward and attend events . Every group puts in tremendous effort, and the best reward for hard work is an engaged audience. Such acts establish our sense of association, our affinity and allegiance .

Our club remains committed to offering wholesome , enriching content that strengthens both our fellowship and our foundation.

Every fellowship and program also highlighted discovery of new talents within our club , reflecting the depth and potential of our members.



MARCH 2026

Club Meeting | 34 Club Assembly 26th February 2026 | Thirani School

Update about club activities as on February 2026.

Envisioning Thane Hills

We collectively planted an aspirational seed through a powerful session on envisioning the future of our club. Envisioning is about clearly defining where we want to see ourselves, guided by our core values and driven by missionary zeal. It was heartening that 16 Hillers came forward with their thoughtful views and bold ideas on how they see our club evolving.



Key Takeaways from the Session

Leadership Pipeline – A structured and continuous grooming of future leaders.

Transition Management – Ensuring smooth handovers with documented processes and continuity of vision.

Bridge Between Old & New – Creating mechanisms to integrate senior wisdom with fresh perspectives.

Triumph Foundation Visibility – Building greater visibility, size, and stature for Triumph Foundation.

Own Premises – A dream to have a dedicated space we can proudly call our own.

Rs.15 Crore Annual Project Size – Scaling up impact with ambitious, measurable goals.

Hillers for Healing – Focus on sustainable and impactful healing projects.

Service-Oriented Membership – Attracting and nurturing members driven by service above self.

30% Women Membership Target – Strengthening diversity, balance, and inclusive leadership.

100% PHF by 2030 – Commitment toward every member becoming a Paul Harris Fellow.

Culture of Open Dialogue – Creating a climate of transparency, trust, and healthy discussions.

Superior Participation – Higher engagement across meetings, projects, and initiatives.

Revisit Budgeting Exercise – Strategic financial planning aligned to long-term growth vision.

Sustainable & Scalable Projects – Moving beyond tokenism toward measurable, long-term impact.

MARCH 2026

Environment Focus – Superior allocation of time, resources, and leadership attention to environmental projects.

Youth-Focused Approach – Structured opportunities for younger members to lead, innovate, and grow.

Way Forward

Members' suggestions and ideas will now be systematically processed and translated into action through focused work on:

Benchmarking against best-performing clubs and institutions

Process Streamlining for efficiency and accountability

Infrastructure (On Office) Strengthening for long-term capacity building

Resource Optimization – financial, human, and knowledge assets

Setting Clear Norms & Governance Systems

Adopting Proven Best Practices

This session was not just a discussion — it was a declaration of intent.

The seed is planted. Now comes the responsibility to nurture it with commitment, collaboration, and consistency.

Meeting ended with Rotary Anniversary cake cutting and fellowship.

Together, let's build the future of Thane Hills — stronger, sustainable, and future-ready.

Group of our Members
for March Month →
JOYMAKERS



MARCH 2026

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

 Rajat Sharma Chief Editor India TV	 Deepak Vohra Former Ambassador	 Mahesh Manjrekar Actor/Producer/Director	 Devdutt Pattanaik Writer
 Bharat Dabholkar Advt Professional	 Maj. Gen. Yash Mor India Army	 Virender Sachdev BJP Delhi President	 Amrita Rao Film Actress

HOTEL SAHARA STAR
28TH FEB & 1ST MARCH

Get ready to witness powerful conversations, bold ideas, and inspiring journeys all under one roof!

An extraordinary lineup of speakers including :

- * Rajat Sharma – Chief Editor, India TV
- * Mahesh Manjrekar – Actor | Producer | Director
- * Bharat Dabholkar – Advertising Veteran
- * Virender Sachdeva – BJP Delhi President
- * Deepak Vohra – Former Ambassador
- * Devdutt Pattanaik – Author & Mythologist
- * Maj. Gen. Yash Mor (India Army)
- * Amrita Rao – Film Actress

Hotel Sahara Star | 28th Feb & 1st March

This is not just a conference. It's a movement of dreamers who dare to do.

#TitenDiscon #DreamDareDo #Rotary3142