

HILL ECHOES



Bringing Leaders Together

MARCH 2025

Rotary's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



DIVERSITY



EQUITY



INCLUSION

Rotary



It Still Matters !



Rotary
Thane Hills



MARCH 2025

MARCH IS

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH



*"Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone,
must become available to all people now."*

Jean-Michel Cousteau

Rotary's water and sanitation projects

- Building wells
- Installing rainwater harvesting systems
- Installing water purification plants
- Installing water tanks
- Teaching community members how to maintain new infrastructure
- Providing clean rainwater to students and clinics

Why Rotary focuses on water and sanitation

- More than 750 million people lack access to safe water
- More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities
- At least 3,000 children die each day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water

ROTH-INSIDE

Stephanie Urchick
RI President RV 24-25

Dinesh Mehta
District Governor RV24-25

Harshad Divekar
Club President RV24-25

A. S. Kumar
Club Secretary RV24-25

Monthly Bulletin of
Rotary Club of Thane Hills
District 3142
Club ID : 28046

Rajeev Tipnis
Bulletin Editor



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the visionary warrior king, was not only a master strategist and a fearless leader but also a champion of good governance, justice, and Swarajya. His unwavering commitment to the welfare of his people, his respect for all communities, and his administrative brilliance continue to inspire generations.

As the Rotary Club of Thane Hills, we honor his legacy of courage, integrity, and progressive leadership, which aligns with our mission of service and societal upliftment. Shivaji Maharaj's ideals remind us that true leadership lies in selfless service, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the greater good. Jai Bhavani! Jai Shivaji!

We meet every Thursday at 7.30 PM
at
Savitri Devi Thirani School,
Vartak Nagar, Thane



Partners in Service

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ROTARY CLUB OF THANE HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 24-25

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Nilesh Pitale	Blood Donation Camps & Thalessemia



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Friends

We all agree that Rotary is constantly evolving and is always proactive when it comes to serving the world at large and it changes with the changing needs of the communities. Rotary is constantly evolving and is always proactive when it comes to serving the world at large and it changes with the changing needs of the communities it serves.

But the core values of Rotary, which includes high ethical standards and service above self do not change. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is one such core value of Rotary which will certainly stand the test of time.

This issue is as always full of contents giving a Birds Eye view of happenings and proud moments and achievements of we , the hiller family. Special mention must be made of the two Hillers who have made us proud - Shirish Songadkar - for being awarded the service above self award and Paddy for being nominated as the global chair of IFRM.

Please read the article in the series of Evolution of AI by Madhumita - if we read all the articles in a row from the past issues , we are sure to not be left behind in this fast changing world.

Adventures by Jayant Nagavkar, list of major donors from Thane Hills , happenings at Innerwheel and Rotaract clubs of Thane Hills should be interesting to read .

As always , please do not forget to give your feedback and also contribute with your thoughts and ideas for the future issues of Hill Echoes

Thank you

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TRIUMPH FOUNDATION

The charitable trust of Rotary Club
of Thane Hills

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Rtn. Govind Ketan
Rtn. Samir Limaye



PROMOTING PEACE AND RESOLVING CONFLICT: A ROTARY COMMITMENT

Harshad Divekar

Club President 24-25



As we reflect on Peace and Conflict Resolution Month, we are reminded of the vital role that peace plays in our communities and the world at large. Rotary International has long been dedicated to fostering peace and resolving conflicts, and this month has provided us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to these essential goals. This is also perhaps one of the most under-served focus areas of Rotary.

Understanding Peace and Conflict Resolution

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, equality, and harmony. Conflict resolution involves addressing the underlying causes of conflict and finding sustainable solutions that promote understanding and cooperation. As Rotarians, we recognize that peace and conflict resolution are interconnected and essential for the well-being of our communities.

Current Global Changes and Volatility

- In today's world, we are witnessing significant changes and volatility that underscore the importance of peace and conflict resolution. The global economy is experiencing a regime change characterized by rising interest rates, higher inflation, and increased competition for capital.

These economic shifts have led to greater uncertainty and instability, affecting communities worldwide. Moreover, geopolitical tensions and conflicts have escalated, with numerous active conflicts around the globe. The rise of economic populism, trade protectionism, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have further exacerbated these challenges. In such volatile times, the need for effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts is more critical than ever.

Our Initiatives and Impact

We made a small beginning last year with some of our members, including IPP Govind and PP Varsha, becoming part of the Rotary Action Group for Peace. This year, we have had sessions from PP Smriti Gulwady on peace as a focus area, the Peace Center, and the Peace Scholarship. Our initiatives that address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of education, are helping to create a more just and peaceful society.

Global Efforts and Partnerships

- Our commitment to peace needs to extend beyond our local community. We should partner with Rotary clubs around the world to support global peace initiatives.

Through these partnerships, we can contribute to projects that promote peace education, support refugees and displaced persons, and advocate for human rights.

One notable example is the endowment of \$30,000 provided by PP Chandru to build the first Rotary Peace Center in India (Pune). The Rotary Peace Centers provide training and education to peacebuilders from around the world, equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to address conflicts in their communities and contribute to global peace efforts.

Looking Ahead

As Peace and Conflict Resolution Month comes to a close, we are reminded that our work is far from over. Peacebuilding is an ongoing process that requires dedication, collaboration, and a commitment to justice and equality. As Rotarians, we will continue to promote peace and resolve conflicts, both locally and globally.

We encourage all members to stay engaged and support our peacebuilding efforts. Together, we can make a difference and contribute to a more peaceful world.



SECRETARIAL MUSINGS!

“THOUSANDS HAVE LIVED WITHOUT LOVE, NOT ONE WITHOUT WATER.”

A.S.Kumar

Club Secretary 24-25



Dear Hillers,

Last month, we once again successfully hosted one of our Marquee Projects – Biz Quest – A Corporate Quiz that witnessed 30 Corporate Teams intensely competing for the Honors.

I would reckon that Biz Quest is an event at par with the best in the circuit of Quiz Universe. Kudos to our Quiz Master Sunil Gwalani who once again was the Shining Knight of RCTH who second name is Brilliance. He was ably supported by Hillers who are always so reliable and dependable.

- Come March as Summer sets in , teachers and students deal with anxiety of Exams, while many of us look forward to our Vacation Time many in rural areas look forward to having adequate water. Summer also signifies the importance of Water conservation and as many region goes through water scarcity. At Rotary – March is dedicated to Water and Hygiene and At RCTH – this month we will be initiating the development works on Check Dams at Vandre Kot – Shahpur Village in collaboration with Vasundara Sanjeevani.

- We will also be initiating construction of 3 toilet Blocks in Collaboration with Thane Zilla Parishad. Our Water Team including Sujit Gawayi, Nilesh Puranik, Atul, Nilesh Likhite, Samir Limaye have been instrumental in getting these projects off the block.

In March we would be celebrating the International Women's Day on 9th, Holi on 14th as well as continuing to pursue our on going projects of HPV Vaccination and Development of Ne Autism Center among others.

SYMBIOSIS TO GET THE NEXT ROTARY PEACE CENTER

Rotarians in India have much cause to cheer and celebrate as trustees of The Rotary Foundation have chosen the Symbiosis International University in Pune to host Rotary's ninth Peace Center.



Must Read !

<https://lnkd.in/dHksATt9>

Book review

The inspiring journey of a Rotary icon

Atul Bhide

On July 24, 1991, Dr Manmohan Singh put India on the world map by liberalising the Indian economy. Just three weeks before that, on July 1 another Indian made a mark on the international canvas. Rajendra Kumar Saboo, member of Rotary Club of Chandigarh, RID 3080, became the President of Rotary International, an organisation with presence in more nations than those which are members of the United Nations.

There could be hundreds of Rotary members with better professional success, much wealth, or better track record in community service but Saboo stands out in what he has achieved in nine decades of his existence on planet earth.

My Life's Journey: A Personal Memoir is a fascinating autobiography of Saboo, a Marwari, born in 1934 in Birlapur, on the banks of the Hooghly River, a fourth child amongst six siblings. Brought up in Calcutta, he went on to establish a successful business empire in Chandigarh and reached the pinnacle of Rotary International in 1991.

At the mere age of eight, the child, in response to Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India movement, launched and led a procession of 150 youngsters shouting 'Vande Mataram' and ended up in jail. Graduating from St Xavier's College in Calcutta, he had a unique privilege

of not just meeting the Mahatma twice but also walking along with him... with Gandhiji putting his hand on his shoulder.

The 'House of Birla' had a deep influence on the Saboo family. It was GD Birla who took Raja's father under his wings. He not only offered him a job but rewarded his hard work with more responsible positions and promotions throughout his life. The son's hard work and entrepreneurial skills were also initially supported by the Birlas. His smart move to collaborate with Graze-Becker, a German business house, laid the foundation for his professional success and today's Saboo Group of Companies is led by his two sons and grandsons.

Rotary was always a part of Saboo's life as Tara Chand Saboo, his father was a member of RC Calcutta. The son joined RC Chandigarh in May 1961, and in a few months, the then Punjab CM P S Kairon and the Union minister for industries Manubhai Shah inaugurated his Chandigarh

factory. When it comes to luminaries from government, Saboo has been privileged to rub shoulders with chief ministers, governors, cabinet secretaries, vice-presidents and even the President of India. His smart moves and right connections at high places in various governments have always supported his entrepreneurial zest, leading to not only his further professional progress but also support for the exemplary community service he has given to Chandigarh and India. As also the African continent, which has benefitted immensely from the medical missions he organised in that continent.

The several interesting anecdotes on his Rotary journey, friendship with Bollywood stars and singers, penned in an immensely readable style, showcase Saboo's versatile persona. Mother Teresa too blessed him with her love.

Saboo became club president in 1970-71 and district governor in 1976-77. His encounter with Sanjay Gandhi, his help in organising family planning camps during the Emergency period on Sanjay's request, or the chairman of Hero Group Brijmohan Lall Munjal's withdrawal in favour of Saboo for the DG's post, and many such anecdotes shared in the book, keep the reader glued to the pages of this interesting book.

Saboo has made a difference to every aspect of Rotary when it comes to India. The book describes how he was instrumental in revamping *Rotary News* and got it officially recognised and certified as a Rotary regional magazine for South Asia in 1983.

Usha, his better half, was not just a force behind Saboo, but a fellow contributor and traveller in his journey as a family man, an entrepreneur and a Rotarian.

Thanks to his efforts, the RI South Asia branch office was set up in New Delhi in October 1984.

The role of 'right connections', recommendations and goodwill in climbing up the hierarchy at RI is seen throughout this book through various anecdotes. One may term it as 'politics' in Rotary. But Saboo has mined no words and has candidly shared several interesting incidents as a matter of fact, naming the individuals too. Right from his journey to DG to RI President, at every step he was able to overcome the 'politics' and emerge a winner. Unfortunately, it was an Indian Rotarian whose unscrupulous methods created drama and hindered Saboo's way up to the RI President's post. The book describes the lengthy procedure to nominate an RI President as "selection of the Pope, except for the white smoke."

This narrative tells us how as President-elect, Saboo was offered a permanent apartment by RI in Evanston. "However I chose not to accept it as Rotary was going

through financial difficulties." So he and Usha stayed at Hotel Orrington, in an upgraded suite for close to 200 days. This is one among many such examples that shows the kind of dedication with which he served Rotary. At the end of his tenure as RI President, thanks to his judicious spending, there was a surplus in RI's account.

In this autobiography, his trips as RI President, across the globe, and the UN, meeting 28 heads of nations, are shared in detail. Each of those meetings makes an interesting read. The unfortunate incident during his Presidential year, involving the then RI general secretary and Saboo's firm action on it, or his special kind gestures for the RI staff, shows his leadership as an able administrator and a warm human being.

Saboo's deep concern to 'better Rotary' is seen when he identified the need for having a standard Training Manual for club presidents, which was drafted by three senior Rotary leaders and approved by the RI Board.

In Rotary's polio eradication drive, from ideation, initial resistance of a few senior Rotarians and then to finalisation of the programme, Saboo played an active role at the highest level of RI. His dedicated efforts and persuasion of the Gol led to the initiation of NIDs (National Immunisation Days).

Post his RI Presidency, when he chaired The Rotary Foundation, he made efforts and worked for the launch of Rotary Peace Fellowship.

Even if one ignores his mammoth work for Rotary and the community from his year as club president, district governor, RI director, RI President and TRF chair, and just goes through his 30 medical missions to various nations in Africa from 1998 to 2020 and rural parts of India from 2006 to 2024, one will be amazed by the energy, efforts, dedication and warmth towards fellow human beings that Saboo has always displayed. What makes it more noteworthy is that during all those medical missions, he was past 64, and continued attending them till he turned 90. No wonder Swami Brahmeshwari of the Ramkrishna Mission calls him the "modern sanyasi".

It must be mentioned that throughout, Usha, his better half, was not just a force behind Saboo, but a fellow contributor and traveller in his journey as a family man, an entrepreneur and a Rotarian. This can be experienced on every page of this memoir. One cannot imagine Saboo without Usha.

The book, embellished with many memorable photographs, starts with a moving foreword by Past RI President KR Ravindran who is like family to the two of them.

None of us were there when the great son of India, Swami Vivekananda began his Chicago speech with the magical words "Dear brothers and sisters" that re-introduced India to the world in 1893. But here is an opportunity for all of us to know another son of India, living among us, who, almost 100 years after Swami Vivekananda, speaking in the very same city of Chicago, appealed to the world with three very simple but profound words "Look beyond yourself" and has been living his life on the same note... Rajendra Saboo.

The proceeds of this book will go to The Rotary Foundation.

The writer is a member of the Rotary Club of Thane Hills, RID 3142

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Rajendra K Saboo, Rotary International President, 1991-92. From 'Mahatma' to 'Mother', from 'Rashtrapati Bhavan' to 'White House', a must-read fascinating journey of India Inc's business tycoon and a dedicated Rotarian, who "Looked Beyond himself" to serve the community from across the globe and rose to the helm of Rotary world,

PP Atul Bhide's review - PRID Raja Sagoo's autobiography: 'My Life's Journey! A Personal Memoir' was published in **February, 2025** issue of 'Rotary News' magazine. (Page 64 & 65), which is Rotary International's official regional magazine that serves India and Nepal. It is published from Chennai with circulation exceeding 1.3 lakhs copies each month.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO SHIRISH!



A Proud Moment for RID 3142! And RC Thane Hills.

We have one more Rotarian from our Club to be bestowed the highest award of Rotary International - celebrating Rotarians who *exemplify extraordinary humanitarian service, personal volunteer efforts, and a deep commitment* to making a difference.

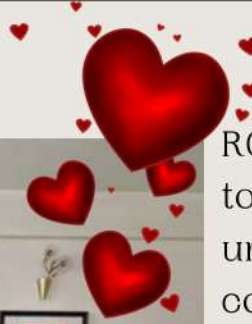
“Service Above Self Award”

- ◆ Only *150 Rotarians worldwide* receive this honor each year.
- ◆ Recognizes those who go *beyond their regular duties,* truly living Rotary’s motto: *”Service Above Self.”*
- ◆ Awarded for sustained humanitarian impact, *not financial contributions.*
- ◆ The award is nominated by *District Governors, Past RI Directors, or Past RI Presidents* and finalized by the *Rotary International Board of Directors.



**RCTH Team-
“Service Above
Self”
recognition
recipients**

Kind Hearts !



breakfast meeting with Dr. Mrs. Renuka Desai at PP Atul's residence

RCTH extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Renuka Desai for her unwavering support to our community projects with generous donation of \$35,000 this year as well.

- \$10,000 allocated for the construction of check dams,
- \$25,000 Allocated to building much-needed toilets in ZP schools, .

RCTH also commend PP Atul's efforts in maintaining strong connections with her and ensuring continuous support from her club in the USA.

MAJOR GIVING

Major Contributors in 24-25

Above 25,000 US\$

Tripathi, Dharm Prakash	RC Hiranandani Ivan	\$100000.00
Shetty, Chandrahas & Bharti	RC Thane DownTown	\$45,187.67
Chandrasekharan, V.	RC Thane Hills	\$31,976.19

Above 10,000 US\$

Chandak, Milan	RC Smartcity Navi Mumbai	\$10,235.94
Tale, Ajay Namdeorao	RC Ambarnath North	\$10,000.00

Above 5,000 US\$

Likhite, Nilesh & Varsha	RC Thane Hills	\$8,100.00
Naik, Vidyadhar Upendra	RC Thane Hills	\$6,012.05
Kumar, Baljinder S.	RC Hiranandani Estate	\$5,000.00



TECH DISRUPTIONS!

Information and Cognition: The Information processing

In our previous issue, we explored data transformation, loading, and search in AI within the data science lifecycle. Search and query processing in AI combine information retrieval, natural language processing (NLP), and machine learning to understand user intent and extract relevant data efficiently.

The **rise of generative AI (GenAI)** is revolutionizing this space, shifting from traditional keyword-based searches to more intuitive, context-aware interactions. Below are key advancements driven by GenAI:

Key Shifts from AI to GenAI

- **From Keywords to Context:** Traditional search depends on matching keywords, while GenAI, powered by large language models (LLMs), understands user intent, even in conversational queries.
- **NLP Enhancements:** GenAI enables users to interact naturally, eliminating the need for specific keywords.
- **Generating Direct Answers:** Instead of providing a list of links, GenAI synthesizes information from multiple sources to deliver concise, precise answers.

- **Personalized Search Experiences:** By analyzing a user's search history and preferences, GenAI tailors search results for a more relevant experience.

- **Semantic Search:** GenAI enhances semantic understanding by recognizing the meaning and relationships between words, improving accuracy and depth in search results.

Advancements in AI-Augmented Query Processing

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG):

RAG improves LLM performance by integrating real-time external knowledge, mitigating issues like hallucinations and bias. This method allows AI models to retrieve and incorporate fresh, relevant information before generating responses.

Cache-Augmented Generation (CAG):

CAG optimizes efficiency by caching previously generated outputs, reducing computational costs and latency. It is especially useful for repetitive queries and is seen as a complement or alternative to RAG.

GenAI's Impact on Query Processing

- **Enhanced Understanding of User Intent:** GenAI comprehends nuances, idioms, and implied meanings, leading to more accurate search results.



- **Improved Information Retrieval:** It processes vast datasets, including text, images, and videos, to deliver comprehensive and relevant insights.
- **Conversational Search:** Users can refine queries and engage in follow-up interactions, making searches more dynamic and interactive.
- **Content Summarization and Synthesis:** GenAI condenses lengthy documents and synthesizes data from multiple sources, presenting clear, informative summaries.

The Future of Search with GenAI

GenAI is making search more intelligent, intuitive, and efficient, transforming how users interact with information. However, it is crucial to implement it ethically, ensuring it does not reinforce biases or misinformation.

In our next issue, we will delve deeper into GenAI solutions and their imperatives.

ROTARY FELLOWSHIP GROUPS NEWS

Heartiest Congratulations to Rtn. S Padmanabhan (Paddy) on Being Nominated as IFRM - Global Chair 2025

This is a proud moment for RCTH as well as the entire Rotary District 3142 as one of our own passionate Rotarians Rtn S Padmanabhan has been nominated as Global Chair. We extend our warmest congratulations to Rtn. Paddy on his well-deserved nomination as the **Global Chair of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians (IFRM) for 2025**

Paddy, your passion for music, dedication to Rotary's ideals, and commitment to fostering fellowship through the universal language of music are truly inspiring. Over the years, you have played a pivotal role in bringing Rotarians together through music, strengthening bonds, and amplifying Rotary's impact across the globe.

We are confident that under your guidance, IFRM will continue to thrive and expand, touching more lives and uniting Rotarians through the power of music.

Once again, congratulations!

With warm regards,

DG Dinesh Mehta



Rtn. S Padmanabhan being felicitated at DISCON for being nominated as Global Chair for IFRM

Shakeelbhai distributing cricket kits to Thane Hills members ,

Kit is Sponsered by ShakeelBhai

Cricket- the winning team of RC Thane Hills



ROTARY PRE LEARNING MEET 2026-27



Pre learning Fellowship meet was held at Nasik for the proposed district team for RU 26-27. As expected RC Thane Hills dominates the District Team with many key positions!



POWERFUL PERFORMANCE BY SAINI KRISHNAMURTHY!



In power Lift category, Saini - Daughter in Law of Our Rtn. Paddy won silver medal at the Nationals held in Phagwara, Panjab

Congratulations Saini - we are proud of you!

March 2025

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HAPPENINGS AT INNERWHEEL CLUB OF THANE HILLS

February Fiesta: A Month of Impact & Inspiration!

What a fantastic February! We've had a jam-packed month of transformative workshops, fundraising, community service, and joyful fellowship.

Living the Full Life Workshop

On February 2nd, we hosted a life-changing workshop, jointly with RC Thane Hills. "Living the Full Life," led by the incredible Lata Gwalani. This event not only empowered women but also raised ₹35,000 for our project to donate Jaipur Foot to the underprivileged.

Mass Marriages Event

On February 3rd, we attended a remarkable mass marriages event at Village Safale, where 130 couples tied the knot. Our club proudly sponsored 7 of these weddings, making it an unforgettable experience. This event was a testament to the power of community and the importance of supporting marginalized families.

Dental Camp for Jidd School

We organized a dental camp for the children of Jidd School, distributing toothpastes courtesy of IDA and rosy apples to promote healthy eating habits. Each child received a thorough dental checkup and guidance on oral hygiene.

Inner Wheel Triennial Conference

Our members, PDC Sunita Jain and PP Sarmistha Choudhary, represented our club at the Inner Wheel Triennial Conference in Delhi from February 7-9. Which provided a platform for Inner Wheel members from across the world to come together, share ideas, and learn from each other's experiences.

Joyful Journey Seminar

Sunita Jain also organized a unique online national seminar, "Joyful Journey - Renewing Life with Self-Love and Growth," on February 12th. This seminar focused on promoting self-love, self-care, and personal growth among women.

Supporting Our Adopted Old Age Home

We continued our commitment to our adopted Old Age Home at Vasai, donating monthly groceries and diapers. This ongoing initiative is a testament to our club's dedication to supporting vulnerable members of our community.

Self-Love Fellowship

Our February GBM was a fun-filled celebration of self-love, featuring insightful talks from our doctor members. It was a refreshing break from the internet info overload and a wonderful opportunity to connect with each other.



Neena Manchanda
Club President
Innerwheel club of Thane Hills



Living full life workshop



GBM - February



Mass marriage
event



Dental Camp at Jidd

ROTARACT CLUB OF THANE HILLS

February Highlights: Impact, Growth & Celebration

February was a month of purpose for the Rotaract Club of Thane Hills, blending social impact, learning, and club traditions.

We kicked off with **Chasing Shadows**, a DigiComm initiative promoting gratitude through daily social media prompts. This boosted engagement while spreading positivity. The Blood Blueprint brought essential health check-ups to 30+ senior residents at Upvan Old Age Home, reinforcing our commitment to community welfare.

Career development took center stage with Sponsor Scoreboard, an insightful session by Rtr. Manali Kanthi on securing sponsorships through networking and strategic fundraising. Members gained valuable takeaways for sustaining impactful projects.

Our much-needed club retreat, **Ecstasy 5.0**, took us to a Lonavala villa, where bonding and a lively pool party strengthened friendships. The highlight was the release of Core Team 2025-26, marking a new leadership phase.

For **Mahashivratri, Parivartan 2.0** encouraged donating milk to underprivileged children instead of temple offerings. We fortified and distributed 300+ liters to 400 children, ensuring faith translated into nourishment.

As February ended, we reflected on a month of service, learning, and joy. With renewed momentum, we look forward to creating an even greater impact in the months ahead.



C'EST LA VIE!

SUCH IS LIFE!

What If Life Had No Colours?

By Sarita Bahl

What if you wake up on Holi morning, grab your gulal, and step outside, ready to paint the town **red, blue, green**, and every shade in between and find that world has gone grayscale?

The sky is a dull gray, the trees look like they've been photocopied, and even your neighbor's dog, who usually looks like a walking rainbow, is now a sad, monochrome blob.

Welcome to No Colour Holi—the most depressing festival ever.

A world without colours would be like a pizza without cheese, a Netflix series without drama, or a Monday without coffee—utterly pointless. Holi, with its explosion of hues, is basically life's way of saying, **"Hey, stop taking yourself so seriously and throw some colour around!"**

Without colours, Holi would just be a bunch of people awkwardly throwing water at each other while yelling, "This is fun, right?" Spoiler: It's not.

Think about it. Colours are the spice of life.

Red is the drama queen of the palette, always making a statement. **Blue** is the chill friend who calms everyone down.

Yellow is that one overly cheerful person who's somehow always in a good mood. And green? **Green** is the overachiever, symbolizing nature, growth, and envy (because let's face it, we've all been jealous of someone's Holi outfit).

Without colours, life would be like a bad sitcom—flat, predictable, and painfully boring.

It's the one day you can smear purple on your boss's face, turn your best friend into a walking rainbow, and blame it all on "festive spirit."

Holi hai!



SPITI: A HIMALAYAN WINTER ODYSSEY

“Spiti : Where the Himalayas meet Heaven”....Rtn Jayant Nagavkar

“Mountains are not stadiums where I satisfy my ambition to achieve, they are the cathedrals where I practice my religion”...Anatoli Boukreev

In January 2025, my wife Nileema Grateful for the locals' warmth and I set off to experience Spiti's and resilience, I deeply respect magical winter, despite my recent those who thrive in this meniscus tear. Our journey began unforgiving terrain. People come with a flight to Delhi, followed by into our lives for a reason, and an overnight bus to Shimla, where shared adventures create lifelong we bonded with fellow travelers bonds.

over kullad chai at a roadside As I bow to the mighty Himalayas, dhaba. A scenic drive through I promise to return each year, Kinnaur led us to Sarahan, where drawn by Spiti's beauty and the we enjoyed a bonfire and music spirit of the mountains.

before visiting the ancient Bhim Kali Temple barefoot in freezing cold.

Traveling through the stunning Sangla and Chitkul, we entered Spiti via Khab Bridge, marveling at frozen waterfalls and snow-laden monasteries. In Kaza, we braved -20°C temperatures, warmed by wood-fired homestays and butter tea. We explored Dhankar, Kibber, Chicham Bridge, and Hikkim, witnessing Spiti's raw beauty and treacherous winter roads. A skidding car on black ice reminded us of nature's power.

On our return through Kalpa, we saw the majestic Kailash Kinnaur. A landslide blocked our path, but teamwork helped us clear the road. In Shimla, we bid tearful goodbyes, cherishing the friendships forged in the Himalayas.



Chohan Bridge



At Komic Village



Where Heaven Meet Earth



Body
Body

Kay Monestry



Giant Buddha
at Langza



Frozenwaterfall



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SERVICE PROJECTS BY RCTH

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Date : 08th February 2025

Project: Blood Donation

Jointly organised by RC Thane Hills and RC Thane Horizon

Supported by Rtn Radhika Padmanabhan

Venue : RR Auditorium., RR Educational Trust

MHADA , Mulund



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Date : 28th February 2025

Project : Annapoorna project at Yogi Hills,

in collaboration with "The Help the Blind Foundation."

Contributions from : Satish Shetty, Pawan & Natasha Adnani, Radhika, Govind, AS Kumar, Prashant Ojha, PP Chandru, Yamini Kundetkar, Shashi Revankar

Project Chair: Prashant Ojha

Number of Beneficiaries : Around 1000 blind individuals from nearby districts gather at yogi hills every new moon day, and our generous donors provided food packets and groceries. These essentials will sustain them and their families.



BizQuest

powered by  YES BANK

2025 - QUIZZING FOR A CAUSE

The Rotary Club of Thane Hills successfully hosted the third edition of BizQuest on 15 February 2025 in association with the FIIL. This high-energy corporate quiz aimed to support the Triumph Foundation's blood bank, helping children with Thalassemia.

With 28 corporate teams from Genpact, IMTC, DHL Express, Hindustan Times, Tata Capital, Yes Bank, Bluestar, and more, the event strengthened corporate ties and fundraising efforts. YES Bank was the proud sponsor, and we extend our gratitude to Mr. Parixit Sharma, Cluster Head of YES Bank, for his invaluable support.

Quizmaster Sunil prepared 580+ questions, leading to an intense competition where 12 teams advanced to the semifinals, and six teams battled in a thrilling final. Special thanks to Kumar for securing sponsorships, Sujit Uchil for flawless coordination, and Lata Gwalani for her stellar presentation. Appreciation to Gururaj, Sucheta, and Sonali for precise scoring, Saloni's team for sound and LED, and Pawan Adnani for delightful catering.

A heartfelt thank you to PE Sameer for his steadfast support. BizQuest 2025 was a perfect blend of knowledge and purpose—proving that business minds don't just compete; they contribute!



March 2025

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SERVICE PROJECTS BY RCTH

Water & Sanitation /

Community Service

★ Exciting News! *Right To Go* is Back ★

Our signature project, Right to Go, is back and making waves! 🚀

Rotary Club of Thane Hills is thrilled to announce that our Sanitation Champion, Atul Bhide, with the incredible support from the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, USA, has secured a generous grant of \$25,000 for Rural School Sanitation project! 🏠📄

A huge thank you to Atul for his unwavering dedication and hard work. Your efforts are making a difference in the lives of many. 🙌👏

Let's continue to support and cheer for this amazing initiative!

#RightToGo #SanitationForAll #Grateful

RC THANE HILLS IS ON LINKEDIN

Contact : 7506246993
Email ID : jaymendon@yahoo.com

Rotary Club of Thane Hills

Rotary

Rotary Club of Thane Hills
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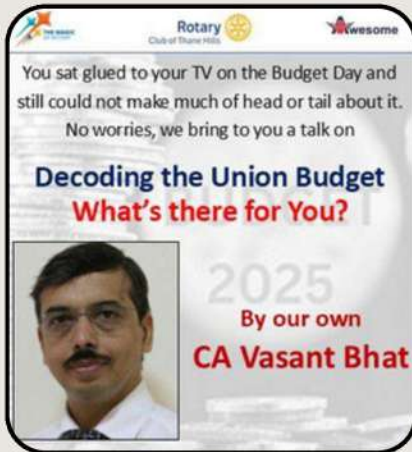
Rotary Club of Thane Hills + Follow
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🌟 Celebrating the Strength, Grace, and Power of Women! 🌟
On this special occasion of International Women's Day, let's take a moment to appreciate the incredible contributions of women in ...more

Follow
us!

RCTH WEEKLY MEETINGS

06.02.2025 - Weekly Meeting : Discussions on Budget 2025



13.02.2024 - Weekly Meeting

SPITI WINTER ODYSSEY

A Journey of Resilience,
Mindfulness & Gratitude
By Jayant Nagavkar



March 2025

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RCTH WEEKLY MEETINGS

20.02.2025 - Weekly Meeting

KNOW YOUR POWER
&
CHANGE YOUR REALITY

By Sayali Kelkar



Club Monthly Report For February 2025
Sun, 09 Mar 2025 07:00:51 PM

Club Name	Thane Hills	Prepared By	Advanshan Subramanian
Club ID	28046	Assistant Governor	Jayanta Dey
Designation	Club Secretary	No. Of Meetings	3
No. Of Members	120		
Average % of Attendance	15.67		

TBF Contribution	
Current Month	This Year: 23844.00

Regular					
Sr. No.	Meeting Type	Date	Title	Attendance	Attendance(%)
1	Regular	06 February 2025	Weekly Meeting - Visant Bhat	19	16.24
2	Regular	13 February 2025	Weekly Meeting	20	17.09
3	Regular	20 February 2025	Weekly Meeting Speaker Session	18	13.68

Community Service										
Sr. No.	Date	Title	Area of Focus	Category	Sub Category	Cost	Direct Beneficiaries	Man Hours	Rotarians Involved	Rotarian Involved
1	08 Feb 2025	Blood Donation Camp for Thalassemia Patients	DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT	Blood donation camps	Number of units collected	00	15	5	1	0
2	15 Feb 2025	Biz quest - A Corporate	DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT	Advocacy and awareness	Health issues - Campaigns	225000	55	200	10	0
3	18 Feb 2025	HPV for Cervical Cancer	DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT	Vaccination/Information Centres	Cervical cancer	637546	434	30	3	0
4	28 Feb 2025	Annadhan for Blind people at Yogi Hills	COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Annadhan (Annapurna)		170000	1000	60	10	0

Members			
Member count as on last month	Members Deleted/Terminated	Members Added	Current No. Of Members
120	0	0	120

Additional achievement/participation/hosting of events/projects above club if any:

Note: Agenda/MCM added in meeting & Photographs added in Club Meetings will not be shared to the District, only the content displayed here will be shared to the District.

Thane Hills'
**MONTHLY
REPORT**

ME-MY-MINE



Conceived and curated by:
Atul Bhide
Club President 2013-14

Vocation plays important role in Rotary membership. Through this new column, we will get to know our fellow Hillers beyond his/her profession. It's all about personal likes, dislikes and core aspects that shape our character. Welcome to a journey to re-discover a friend.

Name: Anil Joshi

RCTH Member since: 18/10/2014

Invited to RCTH by Rtn: Vijay Shetty



1. **A family activity I enjoy the most:** Travelling
2. **My favourite book:** Satya na Prayog (Gandhiji)
3. **Movie that I can see again and again:** 3 idiots
4. **My fav movie actor M & F:** Om Puri & Rekha
5. **Sport that I love to play:** Cricket
6. **My fav sports star(s):** MS Dhoni
7. **My first stage appearance:** 4th Standard
8. **My favourite way of relaxing:** Sleeping
9. **Best Gift I have ever received:** My 2 daughters
10. **Fav subject during school & fav teacher:** Gujarati Language and Nirmala Teacher
11. **Professionally, I would have loved to be:** Chartered Accountant
12. **One quality I wish to imbibe in me:** Punctuality
13. **I am inspired by:** My Nirmala Teacher
14. **Two things that I like about myself:** Being Patient & Emotional
15. **My greatest high-five moment:** 10Th std cricket match
16. **The craziest thing I have ever done:** Dudhsagar trek
17. **If given a chance, I would love to make a call & speak with (dead or living person):** My Teacher
18. **I joined RCTH because:** Fellowship
19. **This year as a Rotarian I plan to:** be a part of upcoming projects (if time permists)
20. **When was the last time you did something for the first time and what was it:** Dudhsagar trek at the age of 56
21. **My Edu Qualification & Vocation:** Bachelor Of Commerce & supplier of building materials

Name: Amit Choudhury

RCTH Member since: 17/11/2018

Invited to RCTH by Rtn: Vikram Mane



1. **A family activity I enjoy the most:** Family Gathering where everyone comes together to cook, share laughter and enjoy delicious meal, creating beautiful memories filled with love and togetherness.
2. **My favourite book:** The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey
3. **Movie that I can see again and again:** Sholay
4. **My fav movie actor M & F:** Amitabh Bachchan & Aishwarya Rai
5. **Sport that I love to play:** Cricket
6. **My fav sports star(s):** Virender Sehwag
7. **My first stage appearance:** Business Development presentation to Franchisees of Motilal Oswal
8. **My favourite way of relaxing:** Spending time with loved ones
9. **Best Gift I have ever received:** My son Ayush & daughter Trisha
10. **Fav subject during school & fav teacher:** Geography & Gyan Mishra
11. **Professionally, I would have loved to be:** Business Coach
12. **One quality I wish to imbibe in me:** Overcoming Procrastination
13. **I am inspired by:** T. Harv Eker (Well-known entrepreneur, motivational speaker & Author)
14. **Two things that I like about myself:** High Self-esteem and determined mindset
15. **My greatest high-five moment:** Winning the best Associate of the year Award in FY 2004-05
16. **The craziest thing I have ever done:** Booking a flight on a whim and travelling to new place without a plan
17. **If given a chance, I would love to make a call & speak with (dead or living person):** My Grand Mother
18. **I joined RCTH because:** Community Service, Networking, Friendship & Fellowship
19. **This year as a Rotarian I plan to:** I would like to participate some club events this year, make a financial contribution to support projects, and dedicate some time different initiatives.
20. **When was the last time you did something for the first time and what was it:** Last month, I started my Yoga and Pranayama sessions, which I have continued since then.
21. **My Edu Qualification & Vocation:** MBA, Real Estate Advisory

Name: Anuradha Sukhathankar

RCTH Member since: 18/08/2023

Invited to RCTH by Rtn: Dr Anagha Kharkhanis



1. **A family activity I enjoy the most:** Road Trips
2. **My favourite book:** As the crow flies by Jeffrey Archer
3. **Movie that I can see again and again:** Andaz Apna Apna
4. **My fav movie actor M & F:** No personal Favourites
5. **Sport that I love to play:** Badminton
6. **My fav sports star(s):** Steffi Graf and Michael Schumacher
7. **My first stage appearance:** was in Nursery as Little Miss Muffet
8. **My favourite way of relaxing:** Reading at book
9. **Best Gift I have ever received:** My Grandmother's earrings that she gave me before she passed away.
10. **Fav subject during school & fav teacher:** English. Iyer Ma'am for introducing me to the world of books.
11. **Professionally, I would have loved to be:** Wedding planner / Event planner
12. **One quality I wish to imbibe in me:** Patience
13. **I am inspired by:** My Mother
14. **Two things that I like about myself:** Empathetic and Approachable
15. **My greatest high-five moment:** Receiving an appreciation letter from the President of India's office for my commitment towards my work.
16. **The craziest thing I have ever done:** Impromptu trip to the Oktoberfest at Munich
17. **If given a chance, I would love to make a call & speak with** (dead or living person): My Idol, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
18. **I joined RCTH because:** I wanted to be with like-minded positive people and do my bit for society through our service projects.
19. **This year as a Rotarian I plan to:** Be a part of more service projects.
20. **When was the last time you did something for the first time and what was it:** Paragliding at Bir in December 2023.
21. **My Edu Qualification & Vocation:** PGDCM from Symbiosis. Worked in Aviation for almost 15 years and now an entrepreneur - FWS functional fitness. A Fitness trainer by profession.

Name: Koshy John

RCTH

Member since: 24/01/2008

Invited to RCTH by Rtn: Vikram Mane



1. **A family activity I enjoy the most:** A simple dinner & conversation
2. **My favourite book:** The Bible
3. **Movie that I can see again and again:** Passion of Christ
4. **My fav movie actor M & F:** None as such
5. **Sport that I love to play:** Jogging
6. **My fav sports star(s):** Sachin Tendulkar
7. **My first stage appearance:** Elocution competition at School Level
8. **My favourite way of relaxing:** Eating home cooked food with my family
9. **Best Gift I have ever received:** Oxford Dictionary received from Headmaster at School.
10. **Fav subject during school & fav teacher:** Science and Mrs. Rachel Varkey
11. **Professionally, I would have loved to be:** I love what I do in my current profession (Marketing)
12. **One quality I wish to imbibe in me:** Humility
13. **I am inspired by:** The Life of Christ
14. **Two things that I like about myself:** Systematic & Punctuality
15. **My greatest high-five moment:** My first foreign trip to Europe with wife and a family trip to Canada
16. **The craziest thing I have ever done:** Started an initiative to set up a School at a remote tribal area in Assam. This Tribal school is running well
17. **If given a chance, I would love to make a call & speak with (dead or living person):** My Father who passed away in a motor accident
18. **I joined RCTH because:** I wanted to serve the community in whatever way I can
19. **This year as a Rotarian I plan to:** Help the underprivileged
20. **When was the last time you did something for the first time and what was it:** Ventured into horticulture farming for the first time in 2020.
21. **My Edu Qualification & Vocation:** Masters in Management from Bajaj Institute (JBIMS), MFSM (Bombay Univ.), PGDFT (IIFT) Delhi. Remains to be a Marketing man.