

THE TOWNLANDER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI DOWNTOWN SEALAND R.I.DIST.3141

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FROM PRESIDENTS DESK:



**RTN. CHANDRAPRABHA
KHONA**

Wish you all happy Deepawali. May the New Year bring you all peace, success, happiness and prosperity. As the monsoon season recedes, it is once again time for us to focus on impactful and sustainable projects that create lasting change. Our club's flagship initiative has always been the construction of check dams, a project that has brought tangible benefits to rural communities by improving water storage, irrigation, and livelihood opportunities.

During the year 2020–21, when our club celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year, we proudly constructed two check dams at Behrampada 1 and Behrampada 2 in Ghanegahar Village, Palghar District. The total cost of these projects was approximately ₹12,50,000, entirely contributed by the generous members of our club. In the same year, our club also successfully applied for a Global Grant for the construction of five additional check dams, made possible through the

magnanimous donation of Rtn. Shabbirbhai Rangwala. These five dams were completed at a cost of more than ₹47,00,000. This year marks the 55th year of our club's journey, and with the rising cost of construction, we have decided to take up a new phase of the project — the desilting and repair of old check dams that were built many years ago. Over time, these structures have accumulated silt and require maintenance to restore their full water-holding capacity. By undertaking desilting and necessary repairs, we can significantly increase the storage of water in the streams, thereby benefiting a greater number of villagers and farmers who depend on these resources. To begin with, we plan to take up the desilting and repair of two check dams, with an estimated cost of ₹10,00,000 and above. This project will not only rejuvenate existing infrastructure but also extend the life and impact of our earlier efforts. I sincerely appeal to all members to contribute generously toward this meaningful cause and continue our tradition of service that transforms lives.

FROM EDITORS DESK:

Rotary Service Week: An Opportunity to Unite for Service

As Rotarians, we are committed to making a positive impact in our communities and around the world.

To reaffirm our dedication to service, we are excited to celebrate Rotary Service Week, an annual event that brings together Rotarians to showcase the power of service.

During this week, we will be organizing various community service projects and outreach initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to the Rotary ideals of Service Above Self. From supporting local blood banks to promoting Cyber Crime awareness programs, our efforts will make a tangible difference in the lives of those we aspire to serve.

Rotary Service Week is an opportunity for us to come together as a club, share our passion for service, and inspire others to join us in making a difference. We invite all members, their families, and friends to participate in our events and activities, and to experience the joy of service.

Let us use this occasion to reflect on the impact we can make when we work together towards a common goal. Let us strive to embody the Rotary spirit of service, compassion, and community.



Dr. Harsha Badkar

SPOUSE NIGHT WITH VETERAN ACTOR BOMAN IRANI



The much-awaited Spouse Night was held on Monday, 29th September 2025, at Bellessima Hall, Opera House Bridge, as a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Bombay Central. The evening was graced by the presence of veteran Bollywood actor Mr. Boman Irani, who was felicitated with the Vocational Excellence Award for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema and society.

Mr. Irani's one-and-a-half-hour talk on his inspiring life journey — from theatre to films — captivated the audience with his characteristic warmth, humour, and wisdom. His

anecdotes and reflections offered deep insights into perseverance, purpose, and passion, leaving everyone inspired and uplifted.

The evening saw an impressive turnout of 120 members and spouses, who thoroughly enjoyed the event marked by laughter, fellowship, and meaningful interaction. The club expressed heartfelt gratitude to Rtn. Shabbirbhai Rangwala for his generosity in hosting the evening and to Vocational Service Director Rtn. Bankim Khona for his dedicated efforts in making the event a grand success. A special note of appreciation was also extended to Rtn. Ashit Mehta, President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Central, for his support and presence that added to the spirit of togetherness and collaboration.

The event was a true celebration of Rotary fellowship and excellence, beautifully captured through photographs that reflected the joy, unity, and camaraderie shared by all present.

CLUB MEETING



FIRE SIDE MEETING

A Fire Side Meeting was held on 27th September at the residence of Rtn. Preeti Shah. Club Facilitator PP Rtn. Bankim Khona imparted Rotary knowledge on the Objects of Rotary and the 4-Way Test. Members present interacted enthusiastically, participated in discussions, and enjoyed the session. Special thanks to Rtn. Preeti Shah for graciously hosting the meeting and serving delicious chaats.

CLUB PROJECTS



Speaker Meeting with Brigadier Ajit Shrivatsav (Retd.)

An enlightening speaker meeting was held on Wednesday, **8th October 2025**, at the Radio Club with Rtn. Brigadier Ajit Shrivatsav (Retd.) from the Indian Defence Forces. He delivered a powerful and emotionally charged talk titled "Operation Vijay — Vellore Reignited: Kargil — A Womb to Tomb", offering a first-hand insight into the courage, discipline, and sacrifice of India's soldiers during the Kargil War. His detailed narration evoked a deep sense of pride and respect among members, who gave him a standing ovation in honour of his patriotism and service. The evening served as a reminder of the valour of our armed forces and their unwavering dedication to safeguarding the nation.



Vertical Library Donation Project at Doorstep School

The club successfully completed another impactful educational initiative with the donation of a Vertical Library containing 50 books to the Doorstep School at Cuffe Parade on 13th October 2025. The project, organised by Rtn. Dr. Bimal and attended by President Rtn. Chandraprabha Khona, was carried out at a modest cost of ₹2,500. The children's excitement and curiosity while exploring their new books made the effort truly worthwhile. This initiative underscores the club's commitment to literacy and the belief that education is the key to empowerment and progress.



Diwali Celebration and Spouse Night

The festive spirit came alive on Wednesday, 15th October 2025, when members of the Rotary Club of

Mumbai Downtown Sealand gathered at Mayfair Hall, West End Hotel, to celebrate Diwali with joy, colour, and fellowship. Themed around Ethnic Elegance, the evening radiated warmth and festivity as members and their spouses came dressed in vibrant traditional attire. Professional game host Ms. Kalpana Dharamshi kept the energy high with a series of fun and interactive games that brought out the friendly competitive spirit of all participants. The Diwali celebration was organized by Director of Club Service Rtn. Preeti Shah, Secretary Rtn. Asghar Lala, and President Rtn. Chandraprabha Khona. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various games, as well as to the best dressed male, female, and couple, adding to the festive excitement. In the true spirit of Diwali, the Rotaractors present were also given gifts as a token of appreciation for their support and participation. The evening concluded with laughter, music, and fellowship, leaving everyone with cherished memories of a joyful and vibrant celebration.



Disaster Management Training at Jai Hind College

In its ongoing efforts to promote community preparedness and enhance safety awareness, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Jai Hind College, organised a comprehensive two-day Disaster Management Training Program for the college's staff on 14th and 15th October 2025. The initiative was jointly planned by Club President Rtn. Chandraprabha Khona and Professor & NSS Coordinator Mr. Balakrishnan Rangoli, with the full support of Principal Dr. Vijay Dabholkar, who ensured smooth coordination and also graced the inaugural ceremony.

The inauguration was attended by Rotarian Ramu, Rotarian Dr. Vimal Malhotra, President Rtn. Chandraprabha Khona, NSS Coordinator Mr. Balakrishnan Rangoli, Principal Dr. Vijay Dabholkar, and the Disaster Management Team comprising Mr. Rajendra Lokhande (Dy. Chief Officer, Disaster Management Dept., BMC), Mr. Vishal Singh (Instructor), and Mr. Mahendra Khambalekar (Disaster Management Dept., BMC). The first day covered topics such as

hazard identification, disaster mitigation, and first aid principles, while the second day focused on firefighting demonstrations, stretcher drills, emergency carrying methods, and rescue techniques, as outlined by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai's Disaster Management Department.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Principal Dr. Vijay Dabholkar, President Rtn. Chandrababha Khona, NSS Coordinator Mr. Balakrishnan Rangoli, and the Disaster Management Team. President Khona felicitated Mr. Rajendra Lokhande, Mr. Vishal Singh, and Mr. Mahendra with mementos, followed by Principal Dabholkar felicitating President Khona, the team, and Rtn. Santosh from the club. The principal appreciated the club's initiative, thanking the team for bringing such impactful training to campus. President Chandrababha Khona expressed her gratitude to Principal Dabholkar, Professor Rangoli, and the team for their exceptional cooperation. Certificates were distributed to all participants by Mr. Lokhande, Principal Dabholkar, and President Khona, after which a lunch sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand concluded the successful event. This collaborative effort between Rotary and Jai Hind College NSS Unit exemplified the shared vision of building a safer and more resilient community through education, preparedness, and service.



Rtn. Chandra Khona
President



Rtn. Asgar Lala
Secretary



Rtn. Dr. Harsha Badkar
Editor



Rtr. Revathi Ramesh
President, RCWC



Rtr. Krishna Dhakal
PIS Director, RCWC

GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand extends heartfelt thanks to the following for their generous support and contributions:

1. Rtn. Shabbirbhai Rangwala – for hosting the Spouse Night on 29th September 2025 at Bellessima Banquet Halland contributing ₹74,559.

2. Rtn. Ashit Mehta, President of RC Bombay Central – for the joint meeting held on 29th September 2025.

3. Brigadier Ajit Srivatsav – for addressing our members with his inspiring talk.

4. Doorstep School – for partnering with our club for a community project.

5. Mr. Vijay Dabholkar, Principal, Jai Hind College – for collaborating with our club on the two-day Disaster Management Training on 14th–15th October 2025.

6. Mr. Balakrishnan Rangoli, NSS Coordinator, Jai Hind College – for his coordination and support in executing the program.

7. Mr. Rajendra Lokhande, BMC Disaster Management Dept. – for leading key sessions on preparedness and mitigation.

8. Mr. Vishal Singh, Instructor – for conducting sessions on first aid and emergency response.

9. Mr. Mahendra Khambalekar, BMC Disaster Management Dept. – for demonstrating rescue and safety drills.

10. Mrs. Kalpana Dharamshi – for organizing engaging games during the Spouse Night.

11. Rtn. Preeti Shah – for hosting the Fireside Meeting at her residence.

12. Rtn. Bankim Khona – for sharing Rotary knowledge on The Objects of Rotary and The Four-Way Test.

13. Rtn. Dr. Bimal Malhotra – for sponsoring the September bulletin printing cost of ₹1,500.

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Warmest wishes to our wonderful members and spouses celebrating their special day this month! May the year ahead bring happiness, health, and continued success in every endeavour. Rotary joins in celebrating you!

- Mrs. Bina Ravindra Agarwal – 4th October
- Rtn. Nirmala Mittal – 20th October
- Rtn. Dr. Jyoti Chordia – 21st October

THE EDITORIAL TEAM