

THE TOWNLANDER

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

VOL.09 # ISSUE NO.9 # FOR MEMBERS ONLY # MARCH 2026

PRESIDENT: CHANDRA KHONA

EDITOR: HARSHA BADKAR

FROM PRESIDENTS DESK:



**RTN. CHANDRAPRABHA
KHONA**

Greetings from president to all the dear members of the club and friends,

In my message in the last bulletin I did mention that we are planning for bigger projects. Yes friends, our club has adopted a village called Maan in VIKRAMGADH under INSPIRED MODEL VILLAGES — WATER PROJECT. Our club has already initiated this project of providing flood irrigation to 11 farmers at Maan village. The perennial river is flowing through this village. Therefore the site at this village is identified by the district team and suggested to us. On site visit by us we are satisfied to take up this project. Pragati Pratishthan, the NGO has co ordinated with all 11 farmers, and gram panchayat and Sarpanch and agreed to maintain this project for three years. The prices for solar pump and pipes with

manufacturers and or their dealers are at good price. Another big project is Pink Auto Project under women empowerment projects. The details will be put on chat to collect donations. Please donate generously. Thank you.

FROM EDITORS DESK:



Dr. Harsha Badkar

As a responsible citizen in today's world, we Rotarians have a very important role to play. In these uncertain times, with the wars taking place in different parts of the world, every Rotarian needs to carry a share of responsibility.

The Rotarian values of Compassion and Solidarity are highly crucial today. Hence our projects may be guided by the principles that enable the citizens to respect diversity, promote tolerance, empathy, and understanding towards others. Upholding human rights & equality,

local NGOs, contribute ideas to governance platforms and promote Peaceful Dialogue.

At the individual level, we may stay Informed, verify sources, keep up with reliable news, understand how global events affect local communities, and avoid spreading misinformation.

Every small action count, and together we can create a ripple effect of positivity. As Rotarians let us do our bit by trying to be an engaged, caring citizens, stepping up to protect our planet, as conflicts rage across the globe. Let our actions be a beacon of hope!

the citizens may be encouraged to speak out against discrimination, promote inclusion and respect cultural differences, participate in civic life, vote, attend community meetings, join

CLUB PROJECTS



Sanitary Disposal Machines Installed at SNDT University

The Rotary Club successfully undertook a hygiene and sanitation initiative at SNDT University, Marine Lines, with the installation of two sanitary napkin disposal machines. The project, organised by PE Ramu, aimed at promoting menstrual hygiene and improving sanitation facilities for students.

The project was completed at a cost of ₹10,325 and is expected to benefit approximately 300 students. The initiative was generously supported by donor AKS GL Modi.

Members present at the project included Rtn. Preeti Shah, Rtn. Bimal Malhotra, Rtn. Ramu Gadkar, and President Chandra Khona.



Field Visit to Palghar: Project Review & Future Developments

A field visit was conducted to Palghar district by Rtn. Preeti Shah and President Chandra Khona to assess ongoing projects and plan upcoming initiatives.

At Chary village, the team reviewed the check dam constructed by the club, which currently holds a substantial amount of water. Farmers expressed their satisfaction, stating that the water is expected to last until the monsoon, enabling them to continue cultivation.

The visit also included inspection of the solar pump installation benefiting four farmers, with visible improvements in agricultural output. Further, a site visit to Maan village was conducted for the upcoming "Inspired Model Village – Water Project." The team interacted with officials from Pragati Pratishthan NGO and local representatives, reviewing the perennial river that will serve as a sustainable water source.

As part of the project progress, pipes for the flood irrigation system have already been delivered to the site. The initiative will benefit 11 farmers, covering approximately 11 acres of land, with installation of a 5 HP solar pump expected shortly.

The club is also exploring expansion of irrigation support to nearby farmers who currently lack pipeline connectivity. Feasibility and cost assessments are underway to extend the benefits of the project to a larger group of beneficiaries.

Additionally, the team visited the Zilla Parishad School in Maan village, where students warmly welcomed them. Discussions with school authorities opened up opportunities for the club to undertake educational and developmental initiatives.

Spouse Night Celebration: A Musical Success

The club hosted a Spouse Night on 11th March at West End Hotel, which turned out to be a memorable and enjoyable evening.

The event featured a musical performance by Mr. Vicky Darji, whose melodious voice created a vibrant atmosphere. The evening, organised by

Rtn. Bimal Malhotra, Rtn. Asgar, and Rtn. Ajay, saw enthusiastic participation, with members enjoying music, dance, and fellowship.



Successful Completion of Pre-OCV Meeting

The Pre-OCV meeting held on 25th March was successfully conducted, with all required documentation compiled and presented efficiently.

Special appreciation was extended to Methoo for her dedicated efforts in organising and preparing the club's documents. AG Rtn. Preeti Gada commended the club for its well-maintained records, impactful projects, membership growth, fellowship initiatives, TRF contributions, and public

image activities.

Support from Rotaractors, including IPP Hejal and President Revathi, played a key role in facilitating the process.



FIRESIDE MEETING

The ninth fireside meeting of our club was held on 27 March 2026 at Royal Bombay Yacht Club, Colaba. Rtn Saurabh Sonavala from RC of Bombay Pier was invited as speaker. He has held many positions in Rotary District such as AG, DS, CC Chief Avenue Chair in many avenues.

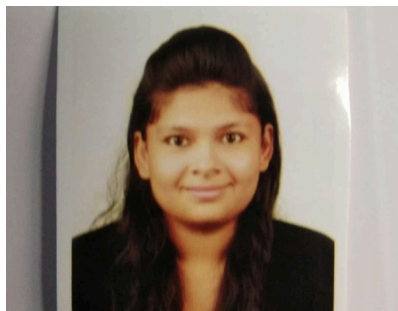
Currently he is governor's Special Aide and Group Avenue head for Membership. He spoke on membership and TRF as well. There was very interesting interaction among those present. Senior members Shabbir bhai Rangwala, AKS G L Modi, Preeti Shah, new members Grishma and Amul amongst others shared on a very interesting topic, why they chose to be rotarian. The input by them was Fellowship, to promote business, to give back to society by doing charity, to send their children abroad in youth exchange program, to serve the less privileged members of the society etc. Rtn. Saurabh thereafter briefly explained on TRF giving which was appreciated by all 16 members who attended the

meeting The meeting was followed by high tea which was sponsored by Rtn PP Bharat Dawda, Director for Membership Avenue.



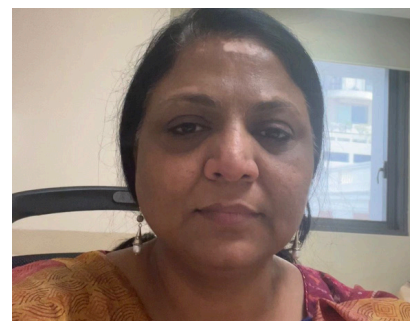
NEW MEMBERS

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand is pleased to announce the induction of four new members. We warmly welcome them and look forward to their meaningful contributions towards the club's service and fellowship.



Grishma Shah is an Assistant Professor at Navneet

College, bringing academic expertise and a passion for education.



Dr. Shweta Bansal is a Hematologist, Pediatric Oncologist, and Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist, bringing exceptional medical expertise and dedication to healthcare.



Vijay Gupta is the Vice President at Reliance Retail Limited, contributing extensive industry knowledge and leadership.



Sanjay Shedmake serves as the Principal at SNTD University, contributing strong leadership and valuable experience in the field of education.

GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand extends its heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all individuals and partners whose generous support, time, and dedication have significantly contributed to the success of our initiatives:

- We thank AKS GL Modi for supporting the sanitary disposal machine project at SNTD University, enhancing student hygiene and well-being.
- We appreciate President-elect Ramu for organising and leading the initiative, along with members for their support.
- We thank Sanjay Shedmake, Principal, and Dr. Amol Ubale, Professor at SNTD University, for their support in making this initiative possible.
- Our gratitude to Rtn. Preeti Shah and President Chandra Khona for actively undertaking field visits, closely monitoring ongoing projects, and engaging meaningfully with local communities to ensure impactful implementation.
- We extend our thanks to the farmers and villagers of Chary and Maan for their cooperation, trust, and active participation, which remain vital to the success, acceptance, and sustainability of our projects.

- Special appreciation to Pragati Pratishtan NGO for their continued support, strong groundwork, and unwavering commitment towards the implementation and maintenance of the Model Village initiative.
- We thank Rtn. Bimal Malhotra, Rtn. Asgar, and Rtn. Ajay for organising the Spouse Night, creating a warm, engaging, and memorable experience for all members and their families.
- Special appreciation to Mr. Vicky Darji for his soulful musical performance, which added vibrancy, joy, and a celebratory spirit to the evening.
- We acknowledge with gratitude the guidance and expertise of District Avenue Chairs Rtn. Nafisa Khorakiwala and Rtn. Upendra Kulkarni, whose direction has been invaluable in shaping and strengthening the Model Village and water projects.
- Heartfelt appreciation to Methoo for her dedicated efforts in meticulously preparing and organising documentation for the Pre-OCV meeting, ensuring a smooth, structured, and successful review process.
- We extend our gratitude to Rotaractors IPP Hejal and

President Revathi for their consistent support, coordination, and active involvement in club activities.

- We sincerely thank PP Bharat Dawda for graciously hosting the Fireside Meeting, fostering discussions and strengthening fellowship within the club.
- We also appreciate PP Bharat Dawda for generously sponsoring the printing cost of the February Bulletin, supporting effective communication and documentation of club activities.

BIRTHDAYS

Warm wishes to our wonderful members celebrating their special days this month:

- 3rd March – Rtn. Meera Bafna
- 6th March – Rtn. Trupti Kotadia
- 16th March – Rtn. Neeta Toprani
- 17th March – Rtn. Amul Desai

May your birthdays be filled with happiness, good health, and continued success.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Rtn. CHANDRA KHONA
PRESIDENT



Rtn. ASGAR LALA
SECRETARY



Rtn. DR. HARSHA BADKAR
EDITOR



Rtr. REVATHI RAMESH
PRESIDENT, RCWC



Rtr. KRISHNA DHAKAL
PIS DIRECTOR, RCWC