

THE TOWNLANDER



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

VOL.07 # ISSUE NO.7 # FOR MEMBERS ONLY # JANUARY 2026

PRESIDENT: CHANDRA KHONA

EDITOR: HARSHA BADKAR

FROM PRESIDENTS DESK:



RTN. CHANDRAPRABHA KHONA

Greetings from president to all the dear fellow Rotarians and friends.

The new year 2026 has started with bang. Our flagship project in focus area WATER is taking shape.

On 26 th January, the republic day saw the much awaited projects of helping tribals, farmers and villagers when five of us visited Chary village. This village is adopted by our club. We inaugurated the solar pump and witnessed the pressure in flow of water reaching the farms and fields where drip irrigation is done. It was a pleasant scene to see the standing crops of seasonal vegetables. The extra water is stored in farm lake. The second Solar pump will be inaugurated next month at Pimpleshet. I urge the members that we should adopt more villages and install solar panel based pumps near perennial water bodies and supply water through pipelines to all the

farms of a village. By this gesture we provide irrigation to farmers helping them to grow more crops after monsoon thereby improving their economic well being and preventing their migration.

Friends I urge all of you to donate funds for this project.

FROM EDITORS DESK:



Dr. Harsha Badkar

Create Lasting Impact

As we step into the new year, Rotary International's 2026-27 theme, "Create Lasting Impact," inspires us to unite and serve with purpose. The Rotary Club of Downtown Sealand has already begun the year with meaningful initiatives that reflect commitment and compassion. Rotarians across the world dedicate countless hours to service, and our members continue to support projects both financially and physically. Let us pledge to continue to unite for the good cause and create lasting impact in the lives of those around us this new year. Here's to a year of service, compassion, and making a difference!



A great loss to our club was the sudden demise of our devoted member Rtn Rani Kapoor on 21 Jan 2026. She was President of our Club in 2013 -2014 when she impressed the whole district with her enthusiasm by overcoming all her personal difficulties and problems. As president she did many meaningful projects which included donation of Rs80000 under Chatrachaya scheme of district to build Kutir for underprivileged at Dahanu, starting Rotaract club of Wilson college, donating dialysis machine to Somaiya hospital costing 6 lakhs, donating 6 rooms for cancer affected children at Saint Jude's centre at Parel and sponsoring girls to learn computer at YB Chavan Centre. Rtn Rani Kapoor was a dedicated Rotarian, a wonderful, lively and extremely helpful person. She lived a life with positivity and had magnetic aura. Her absence leaves a void in our hearts. She will be deeply missed by her fellow rotarians.

-Dr Bimal Malhotra

PROJECTS IN ACTION

Donation of Wheelchairs & Walking Sticks

Date: 1st January 2026

The year 2026 commenced with a service-oriented initiative by our club. On 1st January 2026, the club donated two wheelchairs and two walking sticks to the ECHS Polyclinic, Malad, a primary healthcare facility catering mainly to retired Armed Forces personnel.

The ECHS Polyclinic functions as a mandatory registration centre for ex-servicemen before they receive treatment or are referred for further medical care, including hospitalisation. The donated mobility aids will benefit a large number of patients visiting the clinic, thereby improving accessibility and comfort for senior beneficiaries.

The wheelchairs and walking sticks were formally handed over by PP Preeti Shah.

The project was sponsored by AKS Rtn. G. L. Modi ji.



Date: 11th January 2026

Project: Veterans Day Parade

President Rtn. Chandraprabha Khona and Secretary Rtn. Azgar Lala actively participated in the Veterans Day Parade, a heartfelt tribute to our nation's veterans. Our club also acted as a supporting club for this event, contributing ₹3,000, kindly sponsored by Rtn. Bankim Khona.



Date: 17th January 2026

Project: Fire Safety Demonstration

A Fire Safety Demonstration was organized by PE Rtn. P. Ramu Gadkar and Dr. Bimal on 17th January 2026 at 11:15 AM at Hume High School. The event benefitted 50 staff members who learned crucial fire prevention and control techniques. Rtn. Ramu Gadkar, along with two of his staff members, conducted the session voluntarily.

The demonstration was widely appreciated for its clarity and practical approach, providing essential training to handle small fires effectively.



Donation of Toys and Books

The Rotary Club undertook a meaningful community service initiative with the donation of toys and books at a Doorstep Anganwadi, under the guidance and initiative of Dr. Bimal Malhotra. The project aimed at supporting early childhood development by providing educational and recreational materials to underprivileged children. The toys and

The project directly benefited 100 children, creating a positive learning environment and reinforcing Rotary's commitment to basic education and literacy. The smiles and excitement of the children reflected the immediate impact of the initiative.



Drawing Competition

The Rotary Club organised a Drawing Competition at St. Joseph's School, Umerkholi with the objective of creating awareness among students about the ill effects of tobacco consumption. The theme "Say No to Tobacco" encouraged students to express their understanding and concerns through art, making the message impactful and relatable. A total of 100 students participated enthusiastically. The club awarded seven prizes to recognise creativity and strong anti-tobacco messaging. The competition successfully combined art with health education, sensitising students and reinforcing positive lifestyle choices.



Inauguration of Solar Pump & Tree Plantation at Chary Village

Date: 26th January 2026

On the occasion of Republic Day,

members of the Rotary Club visited Chary Village in Palghar District for the inauguration of a solar pump installed by the club.

The solar pump has enabled smooth and continuous water flow for drinking, domestic use, and agricultural purposes. Pipelines have been laid to channel water from the solar pump to farms and fields, facilitating drip irrigation and supporting year-round cultivation of seasonal vegetables. It was a heartening sight to see crops such as dudhi, turai, gilka, and methi already thriving.

As part of the same initiative, the club also undertook a tree plantation drive, planting coconut, mango, cheeku, jamun, and other saplings in the surrounding area, reinforcing the club's commitment to environmental sustainability and long-term community development.



Mental Health & Well-being Session for Mothers of Children with Haemophilia

The Rotary Club, in collaboration with the Haemophilia Society – Thane Chapter, organised a thoughtful session focusing on mental peace and emotional well-being for mothers of children suffering from haemophilia. The initiative aimed to provide emotional support and practical guidance to caregivers facing

continuous stress and responsibility. An engaging talk on mental health and stress management was delivered by Dr. Amol Bhusare, Psychiatrist from Thane, whose insights were well received and appreciated by all present. The programme was efficiently coordinated by Rtn. Geeta Gadkar, followed by a Haldi Kumkum activity that added warmth and positivity to the gathering. The event concluded with fellowship over lunch, fostering comfort, bonding, and encouragement among the participants.



CLUB MEETING

Date: 7th January 2026

Club Assembly

The Club Assembly of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sealand was held on 7th January 2026 at the Radio Club at 6:30 PM. The meeting witnessed strong participation from the Board and members, who shared their plans and vision for service projects for the remaining months of the Rotary year, ensuring coordinated and structured planning.

The assembly was graced by Assistant Governor Rtn. Preeti Gada as the guest, who addressed the gathering with valuable guidance and encouragement for upcoming initiatives. The session concluded positively, emphasising teamwork, clarity of goals, and a collective commitment to impactful Rotary service.



Fireside Meeting

A Fireside Meeting was organised on 24th January at Paradise Lounge, Radio Club, providing an informal platform for fellowship and learning. The session was graced by PDG Rahul Timbadia, who delivered an insightful talk on Youth Service, emphasising leadership development, community engagement, and strengthening Interact, Rotaract, and RYLA initiatives. His perspectives were well appreciated by members. The evening concluded on a warm note with fellowship, as snacks were generously hosted by IPP Dr. Arun Sawant, enhancing camaraderie and interaction.



Joint Meeting, Spouse Night & Vocational Excellence Award

A Joint Meeting and Spouse Night was organised on 28th January 2026 by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Downtown Sea Land in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bombay Sea Face. At West End Hotel at 6:30 PM

During the meeting, the Vocational Excellence Award was presented by each club to Advocate

General Mr. Milind Sathe in recognition of his outstanding legal profession maintaining high ethical standards. The evening strengthened inter-club fellowship, celebrated professional excellence, and encouraged spouses' participation in Rotary activities.



CONGRATULATIONS

- Rotaract Club of Navneet College was successfully formed and officially recognised by Rotary International, with the charter and framed certificate received.
- The club received the Trophy for Best Project in Water Management (courtesy Rtn. Shabbirbhai).
- The club was also honoured with the Annual Fund Challenge Award – Zone 4, led by Rtn. Preeti Shah, Director.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Club sincerely expresses its gratitude to all supporters and contributors whose generosity and involvement made the month's initiatives successful:

- AKS Rtn. G. L. Modi ji for donating ₹11,360/- towards two wheelchairs and two walking sticks.



RTN. CHANDRA KHONA
PRESIDENT



RTN. ASGAR LALA
SECRETARY

- PP Rtn. Bankim Khona for sponsoring the Veterans Day Parade and providing transport for the Chary Village project visit.
- PE Rtn. Ramu Gadkar for rendering his vocational service through Fire Safety demonstrations.
- Rtn. Tejal, Rtn. Nirmala, Rtn. Amul, and Rtn. Neeta and Rtn. President Chandraprabha Khona for donating toys and books, along with thanks to the Management of Doorstep Anganwadi.
- Principal, St. Joseph's School, Umerkhadi for support in conducting the drawing competition.
- AG Rtn. Preeti Gada for her attendance and guidance at the Club Assembly.
- Rtn. Sonal Doshi, President – RC of Bombay Sea Face, and the Trustees of RCBSF Charitable Trust for the CSR Grant for construction of public toilets at Kherdi Village and support for the Joint Meeting.
- Rtn. Harsha Badkar, PP Dr. Bimal Malhotra, and Rtn. Shailendra Sharma and Rtn. President Chandraprabha Khona for initiating the Rotaract Club of Navneet College.
- Dr. Amol Bhusare for addressing mothers on Mental Peace, and Rtn. Ann Geeta Gadkar for organising the Thane mental health project.
- PDG Rtn. Rahul Timbadia for addressing the Fireside Meeting on

THE EDITORIAL TEAM



RTN. DR. HARSHA BADKAR
EDITOR

- Youth Service.
- IPP Rtn. Arun Sawant for hosting the Fireside Meeting, sponsoring the December Bulletin (₹1,500/-), and supporting the Tree Plantation Project at Chary Village.
- IPP Arun Sawant, PP Preeti Shah, Rtn. Azgar Lala, Rtn. Amul Desai, and Rtn. President Chandraprabha Khona for attending the Chary-Palghar project visit.
- Mr. Milind Patil, Owner – Visawa Resort, for hospitality and lunch on 26th January.
- Dr. Milind Sathe, Advocate General, for addressing the Joint Meeting on the evolution of the Constitution.
- Rtn. Shabbir Rangwala Rs 75000/- for dialysis patients project.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY

Birthdays:

- Rtn. Dr. Bimal Malhotra – 4th
- Rtn. Rajesh Shah – 7th
- Rtn. Susila Goenka – 26th
- Rtn. Victor – 28th
- Rtn. Doli Parikh – 31st

Wedding Anniversaries:

- Rtn. President Chandraprabha Khona & Rtn. Bankimji Khona – 9th
- Rtn. Sadeqya & Rtn. Ashok Patil – 24th



RTR. REVATHI RAMESH
PRESIDENT, RCWC



RTR. KRISHNA DHAKAL
PIS DIRECTOR, RCWC