

JULY- DEC 2024



# BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

SERVICE

above self

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY CENTRAL



R.I. Club No. 15493

ROTARY CLUB OF  
BOMBAY CENTRAL

District - 3141

Welcome to our

# BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY CENTRAL

JULY- DEC 2024



### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear fellow Rotarians,

As we have embarked on our journey together for the year 2024-25, I'm delighted to share my thoughts and reflections with you. Our club has made significant strides in serving our community, and I'm thrilled with the dedication and passion shown by each and every one of you.

In this mid-year edition of our newsletter, we'll highlight some of our recent projects and initiatives. From supporting local charities to organizing community events, we're making a real difference in the lives of those around us.

I'd like to express my gratitude to our Board of Directors, members, partners, and supporters who have made our work possible. Your contributions, whether through time, talent, or resources, are invaluable to our mission.

As we look to the future, I'm excited to share our plans and goals for the upcoming year. We'll continue to focus on our core values of service, fellowship, and community engagement.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our Rotary club. Together, we can achieve great things!

Warm regards,  
Surangi Mehta  
President, Rotary Club of Bombay Central



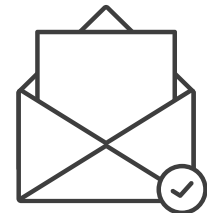
## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we celebrate 51 glorious years of the Rotary Club of Bombay Central, this edition is a reflection of our enduring spirit of service and fellowship. Our bi-annual journey has been marked by a remarkable diversity of projects — from health camps and educational initiatives to environmental drives and community upliftment. Each project reaffirms our commitment to "Service Above Self."

Equally heartening has been the warmth and camaraderie shared among members. Whether it's through fellowships, projects, medical camps and speaker meetings, our bonds have only deepened over time, reinforcing the essence of Rotary — people coming together for a greater good.

This milestone year is a celebration not just of longevity, but of legacy; a testament to the passion and perseverance of every member past and present. Here's to continuing our journey with purpose, unity, and pride.

In Rotary Service,  
Divya Barmecha  
Editor



In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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President's  
Message

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Fellowship  
Updates

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Meet the  
Board

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Project  
updates

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Did you  
know?

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Meet your  
Rotaractors

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# JULY

Rotary Club of Bombay Central



The first meeting of Rotary Club of Bombay Central (RCBC) for the Vibrant Year 2024-25, under the leadership of President Surangi Mehta, was a truly memorable occasion. We had the honor of hosting the prominent Ex-Cabinet Minister, Mr. Aaditya Thackeray, who launched the Vibrant Year with a presence that captivated the audience.

As the Minister overseeing Higher Education, Tourism, and Environment in Maharashtra, and an MLA representing Worli, Mumbai, Thackeray eloquently shared his insights on the city's resilient spirit. His leadership and vision were evident as he addressed key questions, offering thoughtful responses that highlighted his deep understanding of Mumbai's evolving challenges and opportunities.

The event was further elevated by a delicious spread of food, which received high praise from all attendees. The combination of engaging discussions and delectable cuisine created an inviting atmosphere for exchanging ideas.

Thackeray's ability to connect with people from all walks of life left a lasting impression, reinforcing his commitment to public service and the continued development of Maharashtra.







1 July, 2024

RCBC is proud to share our recent initiative to support students at a school in Panvel. As part of our effort to promote both health and education, we, in collaboration with Inner Wheel Club of Bombay Central, installed a 2-tap handwash station and a water filter to enhance hygiene and provide access to clean water and donated school bags, books, stationery, umbrellas, sports equipment, and goody bags to support students' academic and recreational needs.

This project aims to improve the overall well-being and educational experience of these young learners.



In continuation to the raincoat project for this school last year, this July of the Vibrant year of 2024-25 RCBC distributed 400 pairs of Gumboots to all the students, thus providing them with full rain protection. Following the distribution of gum boots to all 400 students, a group of enthusiastic student girls staged a captivating dance program for their peers, teachers, and Rotarians. The performance, filled with energetic choreography and vibrant costumes, featured an array of upbeat and foot-tapping music. The audience, including the Rotarians, was visibly engaged and entertained, applauding the students' impressive moves and coordination.

2 July, 2024



RCBC is excited to announce a significant upgrade to the computer lab at Sir C J Shah High School. We've replaced 15 outdated CPUs and 10 old monitors with the latest technology, along with new software and accessories. This upgrade will enhance the speed and functionality of the computers, allowing students to make full use of modern educational tools. Known for its excellent academic track record, including a perfect 100% pass rate, the school has previously benefited from projects like solar panel installations and rainwater harvesting systems.

1 July, 2024

RCBC successfully organized its 1st Mega District Blood Donation Drive today at Churchgate Station, collecting 62 units of blood. This initiative aims to support local hospitals and help those in need, showcasing the club's commitment to saving lives and serving the community.

24 July, 2024



Aarohi, which provided essential educational materials, including notebooks, stationery, files, folders, drawing books, and graph books, distributed through the Think Sharp Foundation. Additionally, Rtn. Geeta Kapadia generously donated 7 raincoats to help protect the children from the elements. In total, over 300 children benefitted from this combined effort, which aimed to improve both their educational and extracurricular opportunities.

RCBC carried out a heartfelt initiative, distributing sports equipment and educational supplies to four schools in Karjat, Maharashtra. The schools benefiting from this initiative included Raigad Zilha Parishad Schools in Vakas, Newali, Antrdvaredi, and Devpada. The sports equipment included badminton sets, carrom boards, cricket sets, toys, dart boards, ludo games, and footballs, aiming to encourage physical activity and recreation. This project was made even more impactful through a collaboration with Rtn Divya Barmecha's NGO

What's the difference between  
spring rolls and summer rolls?  
Their seasoning.



21st July 2024

RCBC proudly completed its first medical camp in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Medico Marvels and IIT Bombay. This successful event focused on enhancing community health, benefiting over 200 patients. The medical team conducted vital screenings such as BMI checks, blood pressure monitoring, lung function tests, diabetes screenings, and family planning awareness. Additionally, sanitary pads and sanitizer kits were distributed to promote hygiene and health safety. Attendees received not only essential medical assessments but also valuable health education and resources, making the initiative a remarkable success for the community's well-being.



26 July, 2024

Rotary Club of Bombay Central conducted the investiture ceremony for the interact clubs for Vibrant year at Sir. C. J School. The three Interact clubs are:

Bai RFD Panday Girls School  
Sundutta School  
Sir. C. J School

Closing with 80 projects last year, this year Interact Club of Sir. C. J School aims for 100 projects this year including organizing inter school competitions and social projects. We wish them the best and support them to the best of our ability!





## INSTALLATION CEREMONY

RCBC's Formal Installation Ceremony began with the official installation of President Surangi Mehta and her dynamic Board for the 2024-25 term, signaling the start of an exciting new chapter for the club. However, what followed was nothing short of extraordinary. The event quickly transformed into a vibrant celebration, seamlessly blending fashion, music, and captivating performances, creating an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

The highlight of the day was the glamorous RCBC Vogue ramp walk, featuring models from among the club's members, their spouses, and several distinguished district dignitaries. These participants graced the runway in exquisite haute couture, setting a dazzling tone for the evening. Their elegance and style elevated the event, showcasing the beauty of both fashion and camaraderie.

The ceremony also featured a variety of live performances, including jugal-bandhi singing performance by our own Rtn. Neha Shah and Tejas Jhaveri, adding to the lively atmosphere. The audience was mesmerized by the diverse talents and creativity on display, as the performances seamlessly flowed, creating a harmonious blend of music and movement. From the stunning fashion showcases to the powerful musical acts, every moment was a reflection of the energy and enthusiasm that RCBC embodies.

The sensory experience was further enhanced by gourmet cuisine, carefully curated by our very own Rtn. Mukesh Shah. His culinary expertise added another layer of enjoyment, delighting guests with exceptional flavors and fine dining. The event radiated joy, excitement, and unity, as members and guests celebrated together, marking the beginning of an inspiring year under President Surangi Mehta's leadership. This memorable Sunday was not only a testament to RCBC's commitment to excellence but also a day filled with love, laughter, and celebration—a day to remember forever!

# Meet some of our

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	SURANGI MEHTA
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Rtn. Surangi is a devoted Rotarian with over a decade of impactful service. She has held key positions, including Chairperson of Medical Avenue (2018–19, 2022–23) and President of the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay Central (2021–22). A Trustee of the Mehta Charitable Trust, her commitment to philanthropy runs deep. Guided by the teachings of the Bhagavad Geeta, she pursues personal growth through meditation. Her diverse interests include culinary arts, dance, literature, and exploring cultures through her love for travel.



VICE PRESIDENT	PANNKAJ GHADIALI
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Rtn. Pannkaj, a Chartered Accountant by profession, was introduced to RCBC by PDG Jagdish Khanna in 1984. He has held several positions on the Board, including Treasurer, and served as the 25th President in RY 1998-99. A Major Donor to Rotary International, he has graciously accepted the role of Treasurer for RY 2025-26. His spouse, R/Anne Harsha, is a Past President of both the Rotary Club of Bombay Seaface and the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay Central.

HON. SECRETARY	RAJESH SHAH
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Rtn. Rajesh is a seasoned management consultant and advisor to global & medium size enterprise, with decades of corporate leadership behind him. A global traveler and passionate foodie, he now channels his energy into a more balanced, purposeful life—combining wellness, soulful Bollywood music, and experimental healthy cooking. His journey has evolved from work-centric to one of passion and fulfillment. Shilpa, his warm-hearted wife, adds joy with her flair for cooking and elegant taste.



# Meet some of our

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. JT. SECRETARY	ANIL MEHTA
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Rtn. PP Anil is a distinguished Commerce and Law graduate, became a rank holder in both CA exams. With over 45 years of experience, he specialized in audit and was a partner at leading CA firms. Anil served on RCBC's Board for 10 years, including as Club President during the Rotary Centennial year, winning 24 District awards. Anil (a multiple PHF), spouse Ila, son Kushal & grandson Megh (world's youngest, 15 days old) are all Paul Harris Fellows.



HON. TREASURER	ASHIT MEHTA
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Rtn. Ashit completed his schooling from Campion School, Mumbai with distinction and graduated from Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics. A Chartered Accountant since 1981 and a Law graduate (LL.B) since 1982, he is the COO of B M Mehta & Co., a fourth-generation firm founded in 1938 by his late grandfather and now led by his son, Pratik. An avid investor for over 40 years, he is passionate about travel, mosaic art, and supporting education, healthcare, and elderly care initiatives.

DIR. CLUB SERVICE	DR. SUNIL VASANI
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Rtn. PP Dr. Sunil is a Consultant Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeon, Professor of Oculoplastics, and Medical Director of Eyes R Us Ophthalmic Hospital. Passionate about cricket and music, he blends his expertise in medicine with his love for sports and the arts. Dr. Sunil served as President of RCBC in RY 2021-22, making a lasting impact. His dedication to both his profession and personal interests makes him a well-rounded and influential figure in ophthalmology.





# Meet some of our

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIR. MEDICAL	SONAL GUPTA
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Rtn. Sonal, a B.Com graduate, briefly contributed to her husband Vanit Gupta's 130-year-old family business in special steels and ferro alloys. She is now the co-founder of Ivara Designs, a gifting and design studio that reflects her creative passion. An avid traveller, yoga enthusiast, movie buff, and devoted grandmother, she has also been a dedicated Rotarian for over 25 years. She has held key positions on the RCBC Board and has achieved notable milestones, including multiple Golden Heart Fellows and a PHF Major Donor Level 2 distinction.



DIR. PUBLIC RELATIONS	DIVYA BARMECHA
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Rtn. Divya is a Montessorian, bakery and patisserie chef, and painter. She runs an NGO called Aarohi, which sets up libraries and distributes toys and medicines. Constantly exploring her diverse interests, Divya embraces a variety of skills with creativity and dedication. A Rotarian for the past four years, she has made significant contributions to her club's growth and initiatives, actively participating in community service and inspiring others with her commitment to positive change.

DIR: CSR	DATTARAM SHINDE
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Rtn. Dattaram is a qualified Company Secretary, Cost Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Law Graduate, and MBA (Sales & Distribution) from Symbiosis, Pune. He is also a Certified Mediator by IICA. With a successful corporate career at Godrej Group and Shapoorji Pallonji Group, he now co-runs Arti Dattaram & Associates with his spouse, Arti. Dattaram's extensive professional expertise is complemented by his passion for traveling and music, which he enjoys in his leisure time with his family.



# AUGUST

Rotary Club of Bombay Central

RCBC's first club assembly under President Surangi Mehta's leadership, was a cultural delight, with members and their spouses looking absolutely enchanting in South Indian attire. The South Indian-themed event was a resounding success, as attendees dazzled in traditional Veshti Dhoti, Kanjivaram saris, and lehengas, bringing vibrant colors and elegance to the gathering.

The event took an exhilarating turn when a surprise flash mob performance by our very own members and their spouses took everyone by surprise. The lively and energetic dance had the entire room on their feet, joining in the fun and creating an atmosphere of excitement and joy. This unique blend of tradition and modern fun made the club assembly an unforgettable experience. The perfect balance of cultural elegance and spontaneous celebration brought everyone together in a truly special way.



## Vanakkam!



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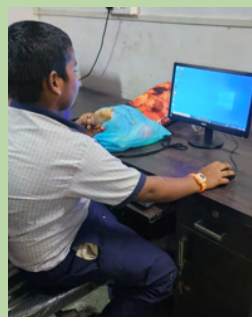


10 Aug, 2024

RCBC, in collaboration with the Forest Department, Maharashtra and local ZP School kids, successfully planted approximately 300 saplings along roadsides, open lands, and hill slopes at At-Shirawali, Group Gram Panchayat Kumshet, Mangaon. on 10th August, 2024 A special thanks to Rtn Dattaram Shinde for his invaluable support in making this event a success.

3 Aug, 2024

Rtn. Sonal Gupta sponsored a dinner for 500 underprivileged cancer patients and their families at the Cancer Transit Camp, Hanuman Tekdi, Wadala. This initiative aimed to provide comfort and support to those facing difficult times.



14 Aug, 2024

RCBC is excited to announce a significant upgrade to the computer lab at Sir C J Shah High School. We've replaced 15 outdated CPUs and 10 old monitors with the latest technology, along with new software and accessories. This upgrade will enhance the speed and functionality of the computers, allowing students to make full use of modern educational tools. Known for its excellent academic track record, including a perfect 100% pass rate, the school has previously benefited from projects like solar panel installations and rainwater harvesting systems.



9 Aug 2024

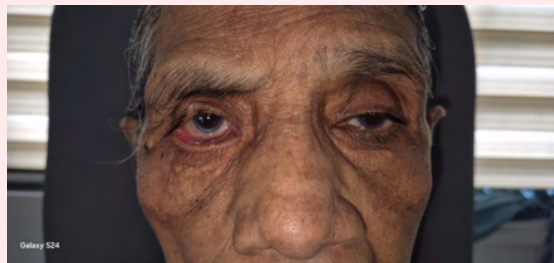
RCBC hosted a captivating High Tea event titled "Health Over Hype," featuring a fitness quiz led by renowned Cardiologist Dr. Maulik Parekh, a specialist in non-surgical treatments for aortic valve stenosis at Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital. The interactive quiz focused on fitness and heart health, with Dr. Parekh debunking common health myths and offering expert advice on maintaining a heart-healthy lifestyle. The event, enriched by a delicious tea spread was a success, engaging participants in meaningful discussions and providing valuable health insights. It was a fun, informative afternoon that fostered a strong sense of community.

# SEPTEMBER

Rotary Club of Bombay Central



RCBC recently hosted a 1-month cricket training camp at Priyadarshini Park, offering young participants the chance to develop skills and boost confidence. Led by Coach Panav Kothari, Assistant District Coach from Western Australia, the camp provided expert guidance. Sponsored by SC Sports, each participant received sports kits, and Dr. Sunil Vasani sponsored the venue. Sixteen children from SMILE NGO and Light of Life Trust gained invaluable experience, reflecting RCBC's commitment to empowering youth.



RCBC proudly shares the success of a recent surgical intervention led by Dr. Sunil Vasani at Eyesrus Ophthalmic Eye Hospital. The patient, who had lost the lower eyelid and eye due to cancer, underwent a complex procedure where Dr. Vasani removed the cancerous tissue, reconstructed the lower eyelid using cartilage from the patient's left ear, and placed an artificial eye. The total cost of the procedure was ₹60,000, restoring the patient's confidence and appearance.



Our very own Rotarian, Dr. Sunil Vasani, performed a free surgery to provide a patient with an artificial eye made of Medpor. This remarkable prosthesis not only looks natural but also moves like a real eye! The total cost of this project was over ₹60,000. Dr. Vasani is set to perform another free eye prosthesis surgery soon, continuing his dedication to restoring dignity and transforming lives. Together, we are making a meaningful impact!



Rotarian Anne Sulochana Srinivasan and Rotarian Dr. Srinivasan made a generous contribution by funding the college fees for 17 deserving students (15 girls and 2 boys) from the MSWC foster care center for the 2024-2025 academic year. These students, hailing from single-parent families facing financial difficulties, typically lose support at age 18. In addition, RCBC provided snacks and gifts to all the students,



# OCTOBER

Rotary Club of Bombay Central



RCBC hosted an engaging session with Justice Mr. M.S. Karnik of the Bombay High Court on the intriguing topic of "Humor in Law." Joined by esteemed lawyers Mr. Gaurav Joshi and Mr. Pranav Badheka, the discussion explored the role of humor in legal arguments and keeping judges in good spirits. The session was filled with hilarious anecdotes, including the classic mishap of leaving mics on during video calls and a memorable case involving someone trying to change their date of birth for an advantage. A big thank you to all for reminding us that laughter is essential in law!



## "Humor in Law"



October 25th, 2024

RCBC had the privilege of hosting Mr. Shreyas Nambiar, who shared fascinating insights into the evolving world of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies. Mr. Nambiar introduced cutting-edge AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, and NotebookLM, demonstrating their impact on everyday tasks. He highlighted the growing demand for AI and tech jobs and stressed the importance of continuous learning. The session explored technologies like Machine Learning, Augmented Reality, and the Internet of Things, offering a thought-provoking glimpse into a future where we control devices with our thoughts.



19th Oct, 2024

RCBC successfully completed an artificial limb distribution project at Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, KEM Hospital. We provided artificial limbs to 80 individuals, helping them regain independence and confidence. Each limb cost approximately ₹6,500. Special thanks to Rtn. Nikhil Parikh for his generous donation of ₹5 lakh, made in memory of his late father, Babulal Parikh. This donation will continue to support the provision of artificial limbs and calipers to those in need at KEM Hospital.



RCBC's Diwali celebration was a resplendent night of tradition, camaraderie, and vibrant festivity. Members gathered in beautiful ethnic wear, embracing the colors and styles of the season—gold, red, royal blue, and green illuminated the evening. As the music played, everyone danced and sang, creating an enchanting atmosphere. The event was a memorable celebration that truly captured the essence of Diwali and the spirit of Rotary. It was a perfect blend of culture, music, and unity, making it a night to remember for all who attended.

23rd October 2024

RCBC's Artificial Limbs Project at the Mahavir Viklang Center (Jaipur Foot), KEM Hospital, Parel, was a transformative initiative aimed at restoring mobility and independence to those in need of prosthetic limbs. This project was graciously sponsored by Dina Ben and Rtn. Chetan Shah, who chose to honor their son's birthday through this noble act of giving. Their support brings hope and new possibilities to those benefiting from the program.

Our members and spouses had the privilege of engaging with renowned advertising expert, actor, and director Bharat Dabholkar. With a remarkable career spanning iconic brands like Amul, Frooti, and Videocon, as well as theatre and film, Mr. Dabholkar shared invaluable insights on effective communication. His wit, sharp intelligence, and work with Amul ads, blending humor with social commentary, captivated the audience. His humility and infectious humor left a lasting impression, inspiring all attendees and highlighting the power of creativity and communication.



# NOVEMBER

Rotary Club of Bombay Central

## NATIONAL INTEGRATION PROJECT

For the past 50 years, the Rotary Club of Bombay Central has been committed to a wide range of humanitarian, intercultural, and educational initiatives aimed at improving lives. As part of our Golden Jubilee Celebration, we are proud to support the 'National Integration' Project, a District 3141 initiative designed to promote peace in the valley by empowering communities in Kashmir.

With the invaluable support of the Indian Army, we are constructing a Vocational Training Centre in Kupwara District, Kashmir. This center will offer training in key areas such as computer skills, LED bulb manufacturing, tailoring, carpet weaving, and embroidery, along with small-scale industries.

The total project cost is approximately ₹38 lakhs, and the facility will include four training rooms, each dedicated to helping women develop skills for sustainable livelihoods.

This project aims to educate children, provide medical support, and empower women to build brighter futures for their families and communities.



RCBC had the privilege of hosting Mr. Amit Das, a renowned HR executive and Director-HR & CHRO at Bennett Coleman & Company Ltd., the parent company of Times of India Group.

During the session, Mr. Das shared global statistics highlighting the critical role HR plays in shaping successful organizations. He discussed the shift from VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) to BANI (Brittle, Anxious, Nonlinear, Incomprehensible) and how businesses can adapt in a rapidly evolving environment. He also highlighted that the average lifespan of Fortune 500 companies has decreased from 30 years to just 14 years, emphasizing the need for a mindset shift from "hiring and firing" to "hiring and retiring."

Mr. Das also provided valuable insights on improving owner-driven businesses by leveraging HR practices to reduce workplace chaos and enhance employee satisfaction. The session left the audience inspired and equipped with practical wisdom, showcasing the transformative power of HR in today's business world.

Rtn Dr. Sunil Vasani performed a life-changing surgery for a woman with a tumor affecting her lower eyelid and extending to her nose. While other hospitals recommended removing her eye and surrounding tissues, Dr. Vasani reconstructed her eyelid and nose with implants. The total cost of the surgery was nearly ₹4 lakhs, and after three surgeries, the results were nothing short of amazing, restoring both her appearance and confidence.

# DECEMBER

Rotary Club of Bombay Central

December 2, 2024

RCBC organized a highly successful medical health camp at Omega NGO, Virar, benefiting residents from

**3** impactful NGOs:

- Sharan Home,
- Omega Foundation, and
- Tripta Wellness.



## THE POWER OF THREE

1

Over 70 beneficiaries, ranging from ages 2 to 90, received essential health services, including physiotherapy assessments, screening for skin and nutritional disorders, blood glucose testing, ECG tests, and pulmonary function tests. A team of six doctors from Rotaract Club of Medico Marvels, led by Dr. Yash Takodara, collaborated with Rotarians and Rotaractors to provide comprehensive care.

2

This initiative, in partnership with Rtn Divya Barmecha's Aarohi NGO, also included thoughtful donations: a mini library for all 3 NGO's, board games, and more.

3

RCBC donated sports equipment, blankets, medical supplies, ration for a month, fans, shoes and socks, diapers, snacks for all three NGO's and more.



Anugrah Vidya Mandir School at Ambarnath is school for underprivileged children. It caters to 500 children specially adivasi and orphans. Rotary club of Bombay central constructed a classroom for pre school children to provide safe conducive learning environment. And also donated Digital board for secondary class to enhance the quality of education with modern technology.



7th December 2024

As part of our ongoing efforts, we provided 20 benches to an Adivasi school in Ambernath, benefiting 200 students. This initiative creates a comfortable, dedicated space for learning, enhancing the educational environment. Additionally, we distributed essential stationery supplies to empower students to actively engage in their studies. We remain committed to improving educational opportunities for underprivileged communities, helping to build a brighter future for young learners.





# HERE'S SOME NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT

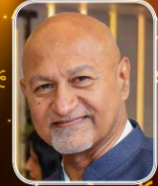
## Congratulations!

Rtn. Deepak Jiandani of RC Mumbai Mulund East is declared elected as DGND of RID 3141

Total Valid Votes: 206

Votes cast in favour of:

Rtn. Deepak Jiandani: 138  
Rtn. Dilip Shah: 63  
Rtn. Deepa Goenka: 5



## KLARION KALL OF KASHMIR

'Samavesh' under Project National Integration [ PNI ]

WRITTEN BY Rtn. JHANKAR GADKARI  
MEMBER OF TEAM PROJECT NATIONAL  
INTEGRATION  
AVENUE CHAIR, SANSKRITI

THE week of 11th to 17th August 2024 will be permanently imprinted in the minds of the 120 plus Rotarians of RID 3141.

The entire contingent under the leadership of District Governor Chetan Desai and the Lead for Project National Integration (PNI) Deepak Jiandani, landed at Sheikh Ul Alam International Airport, Srinagar at around 10 am on the 11th of August 2024.

One could feel the excitement amongst the Rotarians, as they were warmly received by Prez Vinay Khetawat, members of the Rotary Club of Western Elite, and Farokh and his team from Arika Travels. Nine plush 16-seaters were lined up for the group, and after morning breakfast with dry fruits, the contingent was on its way to Pahalgam- a three-hour journey through the picturesque vale of Kashmir. All along the journey to our destination in Pahalgam, we witnessed heavy army presence ensuring enhanced security and a peaceful environment.

### 11TH AUGUST

We checked into the Hotel Hilton, and the stay and meals were very comfortable. This scenic valley was like a heaven on earth set amidst the wilderness of the



Vibrant Rotarians  
Weave Magic at

## MUMBAI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION



INFORMATION COURTESY  
GIRISH AGARWAL  
AVENUE CHAIR  
COMMUNITY SERVICE (RAILWAYS)



Mumbai, India - 2nd October 2024 - In a remarkable display of community spirit and dedication, Rotary International District 3141, Mumbai, transformed Mumbai Central Railway Station, a bustling

hub catering to both local and national trains, into a beacon of cleanliness and hope. This transformation took place during the "Swachhata Pakhwada" on 2nd October 2024, under the

passionate leadership of District Governor Rtn. Chetan Desai.

"This initiative not only highlights our commitment to cleanliness but also demonstrates the power



WORLD  
POLIO DAY  
24 OCTOBER

## CONGRATULATIONS!

We are thrilled to announce that Rtn. Manish Gyani, District Coordinator : TRF Support during this Vibrant year, has been appointed as the "Assistant End Polio Now Coordinator" for Zone 4-West for RY 24-25. This marks the second consecutive year that Rtn. Manish has been entrusted with this prestigious role. In this capacity, he will oversee Polio related activities and fundraising efforts across six Districts in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.





## UDAAN: The 20th District Interact Conference

CONTRIBUTED BY PANKAJ PHATARPUR, AVENUE CHAIR FOR YOUTH SERVICES AND DISTRICT INTERACT CHAIR



The Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu successfully organized the 20th District Interact Conference at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hall, Vile Parle (East) on September 20, 2024.

This prestigious flagship event of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu witnessed enthusiastic participation from 23 schools across Rotary International District 3141, with around 500 students in attendance. The event was supported by 44 dedicated volunteers from the Rotaract Club of Valla College. In addition, 15 Rotarians from various clubs and 23 members of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu were present, offering their support and guidance.

Despite the challenges posed by

a new format and last-minute changes to the venue and dates, the event was a phenomenal success.

The event was graced by District Governor Rtn. Chetan Desai, who delivered an inspiring address to the participants and attendees. The keynote speaker, Dr. Anjana Vinod, captivated the young audience with her thought-provoking speech.

Throughout the day, several exciting competitions took place, judged by a panel of 12 distinguished judges. The competitions included:

**Dhruv Taal:** Folk Dance Competition  
**Drumbeat:** Skit Competition  
**E-Bulletin:** Newsletter Competition  
**Interact Service Projects:**

**Presentation Competition**  
**Vand Vivand:** Team Debate Competition  
**Kalakar Haat:** Painting Exhibition  
**Drums & Strings:** Solo Instrumental Music Competition  
The event was spearheaded by Youth Director Rtn. Sumana Menon, whose leadership, along with the guidance of Vibrant President Rtn. Subhashish Mazumdar, ensured the smooth execution of the day's activities. Their efforts were instrumental in maintaining the high energy and spirit of UDAAN.

This 20th edition of UDAAN stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Juhu. It continues to set new benchmarks and inspire the youth, solidifying its significance in the community.

EDITED BY SREE NANDY

Interact

## Leadership, Tradition, and Innovation: ROTARACT'S JOURNEY IN OCTOBER



CONTRIBUTED BY: AAYUSHI THAKKAR, CHAIRWOMAN PUBLICATIONS, ROTARACT DISTRICT 3141

### MIPS



The Model Indian Parliamentary Session (MIPS) was a mock parliament for Rotaractors, offering hands-on experience with legislative debates. Participants were trained by Adv. Rtn. Yash Savla at SPIT College, Andheri, where they learned parliamentary procedures.

The main event took place on 6th October 2024 at Singhad College of Commerce, Powai. Judges for the session were Rtn. Anand Ramnani and Rtn. Paritosh Rungta, with Mr. Anas Dhorajiwala as the speaker. The debate centered around "The Skill-Based Census Act of 2004."

Participants assumed roles as government, opposition, and independents, engaging in stimulating discussions on national issues. Despite their efforts, the government fell. MIPS helped develop leadership, critical thinking, and teamwork, giving participants valuable insights into governance and policy-making.

### NAVROTSAV



Navrotsav was a vibrant celebration of Navratri held on 2nd October, 2024 at Param Keshav Baug hall, bringing together Rotaractors and non-Rotaractors for an evening of Garba, fostering unity and cultural exchange. The event aimed to promote participation in a fun, traditional setting while raising awareness of the Rotaract movement.

The evening began with a lively three-hour Garba session, filled with energy and excitement. Beverages, food stalls, and a

photobooth, organized by the host clubs, added to the entertainment. During the session, awards and felicitations were presented, and the host clubs were acknowledged for their support. The event concluded with a DJ party and a closing ceremony.

### STARTUP



The Start Up Meet on 22nd September 2024 was an event where over 400 attendees, including entrepreneurs and industry experts, gathered for a day of innovation and collaboration. Featuring keynote speeches from Rushabh Vasa, Shubham Pille, Jay Maroo, and Devansh Lakhani, the event provided valuable insights and real-world experiences. Engaging activities like entrepreneurial bingo kept the energy high, offering a vibrant platform for networking, idea-sharing, and addressing business challenges.

## SAMANVAY DISCON: THE MAKING OF A MILESTONE IN COLLABORATION

WRITTEN BY: RITN VINAY VYAS, CONVENER

The recently concluded joint conference of Rotary Districts [3141 & 3142] was a resounding success, bringing together Rotarians from diverse backgrounds to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and celebrate the impact of Rotary's service projects. The event was attended by over 1,700 Rotarians, community leaders, and distinguished guests.

In December 2023, just before the International Assembly in Orlando, US, District Governors Chetan Desai (3141) and Dinesh Mehta (3142) embarked on a short trip to the United States with their families. During this time, they had the opportunity to connect on a deeper level and discussed the idea of organising a joint District Conference on a grand scale.

Recognising the need for an exceptional venue, the only location that came to mind was the prestigious Jio World Convention Centre at BKC, a setting befitting their vision for Discon 2025. Even while they were still in the US, the DGs shared this idea with their Discon Core Teams, sparking enthusiasm and excitement.

On 27 December 2023, the first joint meeting of both district teams was held in Thane. The proposal for a joint conference was met with great enthusiasm, and the



teams began brainstorming various aspects of the event.

A crucial step in the preparation was selecting a name that would encapsulate the essence of unity and collaboration. The team deliberated on several potential names, including:

Sammelan, Sanyojan, Milaap, Drishti, Udaan, Synergy, Confluence

After much discussion, a unanimous decision was made to name the conference "Samanvay", symbolising harmony, coordination, and synergy between the two districts.

The official launch of Samanvay - Discon 2025 took place at the Discon 2024 conference held at NESCO, where it was introduced with great excitement and anticipation.

To ensure the seamless execution of this grand event, several strategic meetings were held at Fountain Hotel, Ghodbunder Road, a central location for both districts. These meetings served as a platform for in-depth discussions, meticulous planning, and the delegation of responsibilities. Various teams were formed to manage different aspects of the conference, ensuring that all elements were handled with precision and expertise.

The conference featured an inspiring lineup of keynote speakers who shared insights on leadership, innovation, and service. In addition to self-development, the event provided valuable opportunities for networking and fellowship.

The District Governors expressed their gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to the conference's success. They emphasised the importance of such joint initiatives in fostering unity and amplifying Rotary's impact worldwide.

As the conference concluded, attendees departed with renewed enthusiasm and a shared commitment to driving positive change. Plans for future collaborations and initiatives were set in motion, ensuring that the spirit of service and camaraderie continues to thrive.

## Inner Wheel IMPACT

The mission of the Inner Wheel is to foster initiatives, services, and exemplary practices aimed at enhancing the lives of women and children worldwide. This is achieved through a global network of members who voluntarily serve with dedication and compassion.

CONTRIBUTED BY: JYOTI KOTAK, DISTRICT EDITOR, IW DISTRICT 314



IWC Palghar set up Ramanujan's Mathematical Garden at the Surya Valley School to make learning mathematics a fun and engaging activity for children through a play-and-learn approach. Total cost: INR 90,000.



IWC Mumbai Green City supported the Narayan Sewa Sansthan, a nonprofit in Udaipur that aids polio-affected and differently-abled individuals regardless of religion, region, caste, or gender. The club donated INR 50,000 towards providing prosthetic limbs and improving the mobility of those in need.



IWC Mumbai Mariman Point donated kits, including school bags, raincoats, pencil pouches, sandals, and water bottles, to 214 students at the Abhinav Education Society, a primary school in the tribal area of Borivli National Park. The total amount spent was INR 2,51,046.



IWC Bombay Pier sponsored 100 nutritional kits for adult cancer patients with nasal tubes and distributed 600 play dough boxes to paediatric cancer patients at the Tata Hospital. The projects benefitted 100 adults and 300 children, with a total cost of INR 84,500.

SS Bottles were distributed by IWC Borivli to rickshaw drivers and BEST bus drivers at the Poirar Bus Depot to help "Protect Nature and Save the Future."



EDITED BY SREE NANDY



## RIPE MARIO in the City of Dreams

Touching Lives: At SRCC Hospital



FROM THE WALL OF DG CHETAN DESAI

On the morning of September 24, 2024, I had the privilege of visiting SRCC Hospital in Worli alongside RI President-Elect Mario César Martins de Camargo, RID Raju, PDG Rajendra, and a group of enthusiastic Rotarians. We chose

to showcase this remarkable project to Mario, a facility that has transformed lives through over 5,000 surgeries in just seven years. This initiative holds a special place in my heart.

The visit was profoundly inspiring, as we witnessed the unwavering

dedication of Rotarians and the exceptional staff at SRCC. A truly magical moment unfolded when a young beneficiary—a little girl whose life had been changed by this initiative—embraced Mario in a heartfelt hug, symbolizing the gratitude of thousands of families touched by this project. This unforgettable experience reaffirms the incredible power of Rotary to create lasting change. Together, we can continue to bring hope and healing to countless children, one precious life at a time.

## TEACH INITIATIVE IN ROTARY DISTRICT 3141



Rotary International has consistently and strongly emphasised Basic Education and Literacy, recognising it as one of its core focus areas. Within District 3141, the TEACH initiative is a powerful expression of this commitment. Launched to transform education through a multi-dimensional approach, the TEACH initiative is making significant headway.

## UNVEILING NEW HORIZONS: THE VIBRANT TRF SEMINAR

The Vibrant TRF Seminar held on September 13th was another feather in our cap. With TRF Trustee Dr Bharat Pandya gracing the event, we celebrated the generosity of our donors and the power of The Rotary Foundation in transforming lives. The seminar not only raised a remarkable \$115,000 for the Vibrant Anganwadi project but also reinforced the ethos of giving and the unparalleled impact of Rotary's global grant model.

Kudos to President Dr Susan, Convenor Amit of lead host club RC Bombay Powai and DC TRF Manish and his team for orchestrating an unforgettable seminar. Their dedication ensured that every Rotarian present felt inspired and equipped to contribute towards Rotary's mission of doing good in the world

## "Celebrating Peace Through Words" THE ROTARY WRITING FOR PEACE AWARD AT LITERATURE LIVE – THE MUMBAI LITFEST

INFORMATION COURTESY: RAJIV PUNATER, ASSISTANT GOVERNOR, DISTRICT 3141

THE Rotary Writing for Peace Award recognised renowned writer Urvasi Butalia at The Mumbai LitFest on Sunday, 17th November 2024, at NCPA Mumbai.

This prestigious event also celebrated the power of literature with a dynamic weekend of engaging sessions, book launches, and captivating performances featuring over 125 speakers and performers from 13 countries. Esteemed figures like Gulzar, Jane Goodall, Pico Iyer, Christopher Merrill, Farukh Dhondy, Arundhati Subramaniam, and William Dalrymple added brilliance to the festival. Key highlights included the Great Debate, the Lifetime and Poet Laureate Awards and the Sultan Padamsee Awards for Playwriting.

The Rotary Writing for Peace Award, established in 2022 by Rotary District 3141's Peace Avenue, was instituted by Rotarians Rajiv Punater along with Mahera Goel and Ravi Budhiraja. Partnering with Tata Lit Live!, the award honours writers who promote peace and goodwill, amplifying the message of harmony in challenging times.

This year's recipient, Urvasi Butalia, was celebrated for her pioneering work in women's rights and social justice. As the co-founder of Kali for Women and Zubaan, India's first feminist publishing house, Butalia has given voice to untold stories of marginalised women. Her seminal book, *The Other Side of Silence*, shed light on the experiences of



women during the Partition of India. Her other works, including *Speaking Peace and Breaching the Citadel*, explore themes of gender, justice, and conflict. Beyond her literary contributions, Butalia's activism has raised awareness about domestic violence, discrimination, and gender inequities. A recipient of the Padma Shri, she continues to inspire with her unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

The award was presented by Chief Guest District Governor Chetan Desai, alongside Rotary SOBO Charter President Rajiv Punater, Rtn Mahera Goel, Rtn Ravi Budhiraja, and Antoine Lewis from the Mumbai LitFest.

Aligned with Rotary International's focus on peacebuilding and conflict prevention, the Rotary Writing for Peace Award celebrates the transformative role of literature in creating a more equitable world. Together, Rotary and the Mumbai LitFest amplify the global call for peace and unity through this inspiring initiative.



To order the Vibrant District  
Directory scan the code:



# Did YOU KNOW?

**SOME  
INTERESTING  
FACTS..  
SOME  
FUN..  
AND SOME  
THINGS WE  
ARE VERY PROUD  
OF..**

**#RCBC**



RCBC, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, is honored to support the '**National Integration**' Project, a District 3141 initiative aimed at fostering peace and empowerment in Kashmir. Under the leadership of President Surangi Mehta and Project Coordinator Nirupama Khandke, this project seeks to uplift and transform the lives of local communities in the region.

With the invaluable assistance of the Indian Army, we are constructing a state-of-the-art Vocational Training Centre in Kupwara District, Kashmir. This centre will offer a wide range of skill-building opportunities, including:

- Computer literacy training for women
- LED bulb manufacturing
- Tailoring, carpet weaving, and embroidery
- Small-scale industries

The total cost of the project is approximately **₹38 lakhs**. The facility will consist of four specialized training rooms, each designed to equip women with the skills needed to achieve sustainable livelihoods and economic independence.

This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to:

- Educating children for a brighter future
- Providing essential medical support to the community
- Empowering women to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Through this project, we aim to create lasting impact and promote unity, peace, and self-reliance in Kashmir.



There are more than 1.2 Million Rotarians all over the world in more than 35,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries in all geographic areas.



RCBC has has a female membership of 29%



The largest Rotary Club is the Oklahoma City Downtown Club with over 600 members.



The Rotary Club of Bombay, Mumbai's first Rotary Club, was formed on 19th March 1929.



The most recent member in the RCBC family is Rtn. Nikhil Parikh

# Meet Your Rotaractors

PRESIDENT	YASH TAKODARA
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Rotaract Club of Mumbai Medico Marvels

Yash Takodara is a passionate medical student and founder of Mediculture Foundation, certified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. A natural leader, he serves as the Charter President of Rotaract Club of Mumbai Medico Marvels, where he plans and executes large-scale multidisciplinary health camps with precision and empathy. Known for his strong coordination and problem-solving skills, Yash bridges healthcare and creativity: he is also a music artist with original tracks streaming on Spotify and Amazon Music, reflecting his multifaceted personality.



PRESIDENT	VAISHNAVI RANA
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Rotaract Club of Sophia College for Women

Vaishnavi began her Rotaract journey in 2020 as a Board of Director, later advancing to Vice President, and now proudly serves as the 9th President of her club. This year, she revamped their flagship event—Phoenix, led the club to international milestones, organized their first-ever medical camp, and initiated a dedicated avenue for LGBTQIA+ initiatives. As a Rotaractor, she represented the Mumbai division at Rotasia as a finalist. Her journey has transformed her into a pioneering leader, guided by the advice: "Be desperately passionate, and keep going even when nothing seems right."





# EVENT SUMMARY OF OUR ROTARACTORS:

Rotary Club of Bombay Central

EVENTS conducted by

Rotaract Club of Sophia College for Women

1. Gen. Shaala- Director's training- HRD avenue

2. Glimpses- PR initiative

3. Sevamahotsav- Community service avenue

4. Biz-Bazaar- PR initiative

5. Blinding Lights- Club Service avenue

6.Card Identity- Entrepreneurship Development avenue

7. Glow Up Diaries- Digital communications avenue

8. Flavorful Frames- PR initiatives

9. Nahi Peedi- Diwali Tales- Editorial avenue

10. Diwali Meme Mania- Club service avenue

11. Spookalyaan- Social Media Avenue

12. Sugandhasparsha- Internatival Service Avenue

13. Takes 2 to Bingo- HRD avenue

14. Literary loop- Editorial Avenue

15. Bridging the Gap- Community Service Avenue

16. Imperfections: Inner Child Healing- Community service Avenue

17. Safe Allies- LGBTQIA+ avenue

18. ArtShala: School Painting- Community Service Avenue

19. Craftique- Editorial Avenue

20. Chromatic Chronicles- Social media Avenue

21. Melodic Outreach- Community Service Avenue

22. Red voices:AIDs awareness- Community Service Avenue

23. Glamping Getaway- Club service Avenue

24. Advent Calendar- HRD avenue

25. CineVibe- Club service Avenue

26. Heritage Harmony - International Service × Comm serv Avenue

27. Friendship Garage- Club Service Avenue

28. Walk the Talk - Entrepreneurship Development Avenue

29. Quill Chronicles- Editorial Avenue

30. ColdplayFomo- Club service Avenue

31. Threads Of Hope- International service Avenue

EVENTS conducted by

Rotaract Club of Mumbai Medico Marvels

1. Installation

2. Project Arogyadham - Andheri

3. Project Swasthya Parikshanam - Aarey 4. Project Sanjivani Aarogyam -Jogeshwari, Mumbai

5. Project Kumarshakti - Bandra

6. Project Arogyasmridhi - Bhayandar

7. Project Aarogyaveda - Ghatkopar

8. Project Arogyadham Bhiwandi (Kalher)

9. Project Swasthyaparikshanam Aarey Colony, Mumbai

10. Project Arogyaseva - Panvel

11. Projects Medico Milan - Ghatkopar

12. Project Swasthyasampada - Borivali

13. Project Jyoti Punarjan - National Burns Centre Airoli

14. Project Muskaan - Snehasadan Orphanage, Andheri

15. Project Hasya Chikitsa

16. Project E- Vidya

17. Project Vaidya Vibhushan

18. Project Swarakshak - Nair Hospital

19. Project Aarogyam - Colaba

20. Project Uchai - Kalsubai Mountains

21. Project Medico Udyam - Juhu Beach

22. Project Dhrushti Abhiyan

23. Project Rogahar - Govandi Mumbai

24. Project Swastha Ujjivanam - SVDD School, Ghatkopar

25. Project Aarogyakriti - Grant Road

26. Project Jivan Raksha - Worli

27. Project Swastha Pratibha - Govandi

28. Project Beach Bonanza Juhu Beach

29. Project Dharmanjali - Iscon Temple, Juhu

30. Project Annapurna Seva - Dadar



# EVENT SUMMARY OF OUR INTERACT CLUBS:

Rotary Club of Bombay Central

## C.J SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

### ACTIVITIES



**Interschool Sports Day**



**District level Elocution Competition**



**Sex Education Session**




**Visited Shepherd Widows Home**


- Celebrated International Yoga Day
- Participated in 'RANGOTSAV' painting competition
- Participated in Essay competition
- Participated in Inspired Award online science exhibition
- Organized a seminar on Sex Education
- Organized Drug Free Mumbai Campaign.
- Celebrated Raksha Bandhan celebration
- Organized a workshop Health & Hygiene
- Participated DSO and Athletics Kids Cup
- Participated in Elocution competition
- Participated the interclass science project competitions
- Participated in the Interschool Quiz
- Participated in the Computer Quiz

## PANDAY SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

### ACTIVITIES




**The Annual Interschool Cultural Competition 'We Are the World'**



**LUNCH EVENT FOR ENTIRE SCHOOL**



**The Spell Bee competition was organized in the month of July 2024**



**Organized The Career Fair**

- Organized a lunch event for the entire school.
- The Interact club for the year 2024-2025 was officially installed on 26th July 2024.
- Panday School Students participated in the YMCA Inter-School Quiz competition.
- Organized 'We Are the World' The Annual Interschool Cultural competition

## SIR COWASJEE JEHANGIR HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

### ACTIVITIES



**Tree Plantation Drive**



**Medical Camp**



**Plastic Collection Drive**



**Career Guidance Workshop**

- Organized a Tree Plantation to promote environmental awareness
- Organized a Plastic Collection Drive
- Organized a Competition on Food Without Fire.
- Organized a Debate Competition
- Organized Medical Camp.
- Organized an exciting event "Fun and Fair"
- Organized a Career Guidance Workshop for students.