



Central Chimes

Rotary Club of Bombay Central
Newsletter
JAN-MAR 2026





*Don't give up!
The hardest battles are given to the strongest soldiers.*

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From the President

My Dear Rotarians,

When I first joined Rotary, I thought it was a place to meet people, make friends, and exchange ideas. But over time, especially as President, I realised something powerful.

You do not go to Rotary. You don't sit back like in a movie theatre, watching others perform. Rotary is not a spectator sport. Rotary is something you do. You show up. You participate. You engage. And somewhere along the way—you evolve.



This quarter, our club has exemplified that spirit. From impactful service initiatives to meaningful fellowship, from thought-provoking speaker sessions to moments of pure camaraderie—we have not just conducted activities, we have created experiences. Experiences that inspire, connect, and remind us why Rotary continues to matter. This quarter, we didn't just show up, we stepped up. We made an impact where it truly matters.

We witnessed the opening of the Cath Lab—not just a facility, but a lifeline for countless patients who will now receive timely cardiac care.

We didn't just talk about sustainability, we acted upon it. Our tree plantation drive was not just an event, it was a movement. A movement where we didn't just plant trees - we planted hope, we planted responsibility, we planted the future.

At Asha Sadan Vocational Training Centre, the ongoing renovation is not just about infrastructure - it is about restoring dignity, creating opportunity, and building self-reliance.

And our SRCC project, steadily progressing, is yet another testament to what consistent commitment can achieve.

This quarter, Rotary was not only about service—it was about connection, joy, and fellowship. From the electrifying energy of our RCBC Singers Night to the vibrant colours and laughter of our Holi celebration, these were not just events—they were moments that brought us closer, that reminded us that behind every project, there is a bond that makes it all possible. And then came the power of knowledge.

We had the privilege of hosting incredible speakers—each one leaving us richer in thought and perspective. From the ever-insightful Suman Agarwal, to the wisdom and real-world experience of former Commissioner of Police Vivek Phansalkar, to the financial brilliance of Priti Rathi Gupta and Naveen Gogia. These were not just meetings—they were masterclasses in life, leadership, and learning.

As I reflect on this journey, there are a few personal thoughts I would like to share—offered not as conclusions, but as gentle reflection. I have always felt that no one truly owns a Rotary Club. It is not something we possess, but something we are privileged to be a part of. A gift, perhaps, one that comes to us with grace and leaves us with responsibility. Perhaps, the real question is not what the Club gives us, but what we are able to give back to it.

When we think about leadership, it is easy to associate it with authority or position. But true leadership, I believe, is far more subtle. It quietly asks us, how do we carry what has been entrusted to us? With pride or with humility? With control or with care? Because sometimes, the difference between simply doing a role and truly making a difference lies in that one choice. A leader, after all, is not defined by a title but by the impact they leave behind, often in ways that are not immediately visible.

In Rotary, perhaps one of the most beautiful truths is this—there is no “mine” and no “yours.” There is only ours. The moment we begin to hold on, we unknowingly limit what we can create together. But when we let go, when we trust each other, something far more meaningful begins to take shape. If there is one thought worth holding on to, it is this—a life of service has a quiet way of becoming a meaningful life. Not because of recognition, but because of the lives we are able to touch, even in the smallest of ways. In the end, it may not be what we gathered along the way that defines us, but what we were able to give, and who we were able to lift. So perhaps, as we move forward, we can continue gently and consistently to serve, to care, and to uplift. Because real progress is not always about adding more, but about ensuring that someone, somewhere, has just a little more than they did before.

And I leave you with a simple thought — sometimes, the best way to find meaning is to lose ourselves, even briefly, in the service of others.

Thank you.

Warm regards,
Rtn. Ashit Mehta

Rotary Trivia Corner

1. What is the Rotary motto?
 - a) Service Before Self
 - b) Service Above Self
 - c) People Before Profit
 - d) Unity in Service
2. In which year was Rotary founded?
 - a) 1895
 - b) 1905
 - c) 1915
 - d) 1925
3. Who founded Rotary International?
 - a) John D. Rockefeller
 - b) Andrew Carnegie
 - c) Paul Harris
 - d) Henry Ford
4. What is Rotary's global initiative to eradicate polio called?
 - a) End Disease Now
 - b) Polio Free World
 - c) End Polio Now
 - d) Stop Polio Abhigyan
5. Which of these is NOT one of Rotary's Areas of Focus?
 - a) Promoting Peace
 - b) Supporting Education
 - c) Space Exploration
 - d) Fighting Disease

From the Editor

My dear Rotarians,

If the President's thoughts are the heartbeat of the Club, then perhaps the Editor's role is simply to pause for a moment and listen to its rhythm. To observe, to reflect, and to gently bring together the many moments that define us. Because what we experience in Rotary is not just a series of activities, it is a story unfolding, one chapter at a time. And the beauty of this story is that it is never written alone. It is shaped by every helping hand, every thoughtful idea, and every quiet act of kindness.



As I look back on this quarter, I find myself wondering, what truly makes it meaningful? Is it what we accomplished?

Or is it the spirit with which it was done?

Perhaps it lies in the quieter spaces, in the effort before the event, in the conversations that go unheard, in the willingness to step forward without needing to be acknowledged. Because impact is not always visible. Often, it is gentle, consistent, and deeply felt.

This quarter has been a reminder that Rotary is not built in moments of attention but in moments of intention. In the simple choice of saying, "I will," instead of waiting for "Who will?" And that, in many ways, is what makes this Club so special. We are not just individuals coming together, we are a community bound by a shared purpose to make a difference, in ways big and small.

As an Editor, I also realise that while we document events, what we are truly preserving are values. Values of service, of humility, of togetherness. Because over time, it may not be every detail that is remembered, but the feeling this Club creates and the spirit it stands for.

So as we move ahead, perhaps we can strive not just to do more, but to mean more. To build not just projects, but connections. Not just outcomes, but lasting impressions. Because a Rotary Club is not defined by its calendar, it is defined by its character. And if this quarter is anything to go by, our character is thoughtful, our intent is sincere, and our journey—truly meaningful. Let us continue writing this story together, gently and with purpose.

Thank you.

Warm regards,
Rtn. Ashit Mehta



My bank called me today.
They said I have an "outstanding balance."

I said, "Thanks. I've been working on my posture."

From the Hon. Secretary

Dear Friends,

As we move steadily through the Inspire Rotary year, it's incredible to see how much we've experienced and accomplished together—each month adding new energy and meaning to our journey.

Being part of this board continues to be an enriching experience. There's so much to learn not just from the work we do, but from the people we do it with—the ideas, the collaboration, and the shared commitment to Service Above Self.

Our *Dhurandar* President is truly raising the bar with every passing initiative—be it impactful *Dhurandar* projects, engaging fellowships, or thoughtfully conducted meetings that keep the momentum strong and purposeful.

What has stood out most in the past few months is the wide spectrum of experiences we've shared as a club. From meaningful service initiatives of our *Dhurandar* President's dream project of creating a Cath lab at KHM Hospital, Kandivali, to helping a transgender community grow their library with books that they requested for, moments of fellowship and bonding—most memorably, the incredible cruise trip to Lakshadweep, which will undoubtedly remain a highlight for many of us and many more.

It's this beautiful balance of purpose and connection that makes RCBC so special. The ability to serve, to create impact, and to build lasting memories along the way is something I feel truly grateful for. Thank you, as always, for your constant support and encouragement. I look forward to all that we continue to build together in the months ahead.

Warm regards,
Rtn. Divya Barmecha
Hon. Secretary



Do good-quietly, consistently. Whether or not the world applauds, your soul will. That's true happiness. Rotary opens doors to serve, grow, & uplift lives. Step in. Make it count. And in the process, discover a deeper purpose. As every small act of kindness echoes far beyond what we see

Stories That Uplift, Spaces That Include



On 13 March 2026, RCBC partnered with NGO Aarohi and contributed a collection of books to a transgender shelter home and the learners associated with the Atmasanman Skill Development Centre.

This initiative was rooted in the belief that access to books can open doors to imagination, knowledge, and opportunity. The contribution supported the development of a library aimed at nurturing curiosity and encouraging education among transgender individuals and others from marginalized communities.

The collection included a wide range of genres such as adventure, mystery, romance, science fiction, autobiographies, classics, poetry, and textbooks, thoughtfully curated to engage readers at different stages of their learning journey. The effort also acknowledged and celebrated the determination of a community of readers who continued to pursue education despite various challenges.

Supporting the revival of Atmasanman marked a meaningful step toward fostering a safe and inclusive environment where learning, skill-building, and confidence could grow. Aarohi was privileged to be part of this initiative and remained hopeful that the books would inspire creativity, encourage learning, and cultivate a lasting love for reading.



Autism is not a disability—it is a different ability. With this belief, Mariposa has been working to break social stigmas while empowering children with the essential skills needed for daily life.

Their one-on-one approach ensures that every child receives personalised attention and a customised curriculum tailored to their unique needs.

On 11 March 2026, Rotarian Nikhil and Sangita Parikh generously adopted a child, supporting the annual expenses of ₹2 lakh. Deeply moved by the impact of the initiative, Sangita Parikh further pledged to adopt one more child for the following year.

A small step, creating a lasting difference.

The Power of Mindful Living



On 9th January 2026, RCBC had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Suman Agarwal — Oxford-certified Nutritionist, Fitness Expert and renowned Food Guru — for an energizing and highly insightful session. With over 24 years of experience and 20,000+ transformed lives across the globe, including industrialists and Bollywood personalities, Suman shared powerful takeaways on health, longevity and mindful living.

The session highlighted how simple daily choices, regular health monitoring and timely check-ups can

dramatically improve well-being and reduce one's dependence on medicines. Her philosophy of blending food with science, along with insights from her bestselling books and wellness products, left members inspired and motivated.

The evening was further enriched by the presence of visiting Rotarian Romi Mallick from Cherry Hill Rotary Club, New Jersey. A packed house, enthusiastic participation and meaningful learning made it a truly impactful and memorable meeting.

A Heart-Rending Triumph of Compassion



In March 2026, RCBC's SRCC Children's Hospital project was an electrifying crusade that shattered the chains of poverty and disease for underprivileged children. In this dramatic mission, 7 brave young souls have received life-saving treatments and surgeries, totaling Rs 2,75,000/- in medical expenses. The heroic interventions included:

- *Post BMT (Bone Marrow Transplant)* for a 1-year-old male.
- *Surface Lesion Excision* for a 5-month-old female.
- *Chemotherapy* for a 14-year-old female battling cancer.
- *Excision of Brain Abscess* for a 3-year-old female.
- *Chemotherapy* for a 16-year-old male fighting cancer.
- *Pericardial tapping* for a 15-year-old female.
- *Chemotherapy* for a 9-year-old male.

The project is still roaring ahead, lighting up more lives with hope and healing, as RCBC continues to fund and support these vulnerable children on their journey to recovery and brighter futures.

Leadership in Uniform: An Evening with Shri Vivek Phansalkar



On 25 February 2026, the evening with Shri Vivekji Phansalkar, former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, proved to be both inspiring and deeply engaging for all in attendance.

Shri Phansalkar, a seasoned and respected officer with decades of experience in public service, brought with him a wealth of knowledge shaped by years of leadership in one of the country's most demanding policing environments. His address reflected not only his professional expertise but also his grounded perspective on duty, integrity, and public responsibility.

He spoke with remarkable clarity and ease, drawing upon real-life experiences that offered the audience a rare glimpse into the complexities of policing and governance. His storytelling was compelling and immersive, seamlessly blending insight with anecdote. Each narrative held the audience's attention, as he recounted situations that highlighted both the challenges and the human dimensions of his role.

What stood out was his ability to connect—his words carried authenticity, and his measured use of warmth and gentle humour kept the atmosphere lively while reinforcing meaningful takeaways. Through his experiences, he underscored the values of discipline, resilience, and empathy that define effective leadership in uniform.

The session left the audience not only informed but also deeply appreciative of the dedication and thoughtfulness required to serve and safeguard a city like Mumbai.



What did one DNA
say to the other
DNA?

"Do these genes
make me look fat?"



What is your Drishtikon?



10 members and spouses of RCBC who attended Drishtikon 2026 on 7th and 8th of February, 2026 returned thrilled and inspired! The conference pulsed with vibrancy, featuring powerful speakers and immersive sessions. The highlight was the spectacular Fashion Show where Rotarians took centre stage! President Rtn. Ashit Mehta, PP Rtn. Nilima Singh, Hon. Secretary Rtn. Divya Barmecha, and First Lady Fanny rocked the ramp, showcasing Rotary's vibrant spirit. They even danced to Disco Dandiya and Staying Alive, getting the audience cheering! DJ Aqueel kept the energy high, and speakers like Radhanath Swami, Navneet Munot, and Deepak Vohra inspired the crowd. The event was a grand celebration of learning, leadership, and Rotary pride - thoroughly enjoyed and fondly remembered!



To Invest or not to Invest.. That is the Question!

On 13th March, we had an engaging and insightful conversation on finance and investing with our distinguished speakers Naveen Gogia and Priti Rathi Gupta, moderated by Rima Kapadia and our President Rtn. Ashit Mehta.

Naveen Gogia, with decades of experience in capital markets and wealth management, shared a simple yet powerful truth: investing should be as boring as watching a plant grow. True wealth creation, he explained, comes from patience, discipline, diversification, and long-term conviction rather than chasing quick gains or market excitement.

Adding a powerful dimension to the conversation, Priti Rathi Gupta spoke about the transformative role women will play in India's financial future. Through her platform LXME, she has been empowering women to move from saving to investing, encouraging financial independence and confidence. As more women participate actively in financial markets, they will not only strengthen their own futures but also contribute significantly to India's economic growth and prosperity.

The evening concluded with members enjoying a delightful high tea spread while continuing conversations sparked by the session.

More than just a discussion on money, the evening reminded us that meaningful wealth is built quietly over time—through knowledge, patience, and the courage to stay invested in the long term.

on 14th Jan, the inauguration of Asha Sadan repairs and renovation of Vocational training Centre was overwhelming.

Huge thanks to everyone who made it happen. Gratitude to our philanthropic Rotarians making dreams come true for the kids & teens at Asha Sadan - 'House of Hope' for the less fortunate.



Trees for life: Rayta Panjrapole



On 22 March 2026, RCBC marked a significant milestone under its Trees for Life initiative with the completion of 250 tree plantations at Rayta Panjrapole as part of Phase 2.

The plantation drive took place on the auspicious occasion of Navratri and began with the Navkar Mantra and Ganesh Vandana. As the first saplings were planted, the effort symbolized not just the act of planting trees, but the nurturing of life, hope, and a greener future.

Each tree was carefully planted and nurtured using organic fertiliser, cow dung, and adequate watering. The plantation was

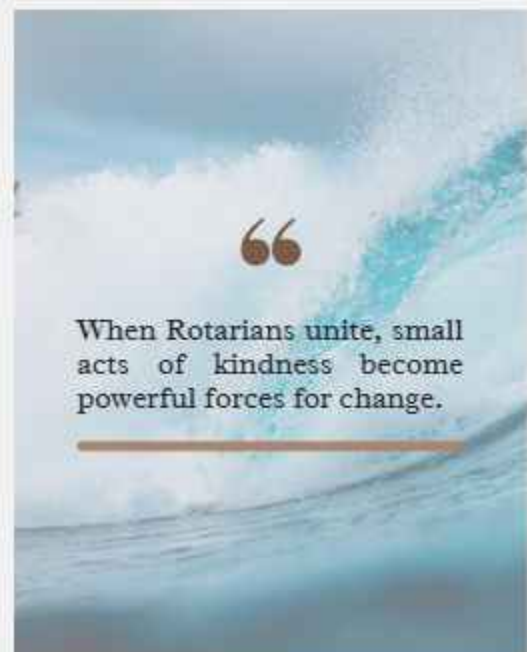
thoughtfully planned, with fruit-bearing trees such as mango and coconut planted within the premises, and sacred, shade-giving trees like peepal, vad, and ashoka placed along the periphery.

The team also shared a simple meal with the Panjrapole staff, whose warmth and gratitude underscored the meaningful impact of such initiatives.

With this effort, spearheaded by Rtn. Pushkar Ghia, the total number of trees planted under the initiative reached 500. The project reflected not only the scale of the achievement but also the potential for further expansion, both at this location and across other Panjrapoles. Beyond the numbers, the initiative focused on the life that would grow from these efforts—the shade that would shelter someone, the air that would be cleaner, and the habitat it would create for birds and other living beings.

Sudoku Challenge:

5	1	6			3	4	2	
7			2		4		8	
	2	8	5	7				1
1			3	6			4	
2	3						7	6
				9	1	3		
	4				7	5	6	
3		1				2		
	8				9			3



Ae Watan Tere Liye



It was truly a night to remember at the iconic Bombay Gymkhana on 22 January 2026—an evening that blended music, emotion and fellowship into an unforgettable celebration.

Set on the eve of Republic Day, the theme “Ae Watan Tere Liye” lent the evening a stirring patriotic spirit. From the very first note, there was a palpable sense of pride in the air, making each performance deeply meaningful and resonant.

The evening unfolded across three thoughtfully curated rounds—patriotic, romantic and disco—each bringing its own distinct flavour. The patriotic segment moved hearts and evoked a sense of national pride; the romantic melodies created moments of warmth and nostalgia; and the high-energy disco finale had everyone tapping their feet and soaking in the infectious energy.

What made the evening truly special was that the stage belonged to our very own Rotarians and spouses. Hidden talents came alive as eight melodious singers delivered one remarkable performance after another. With passion, confidence and sheer joy, they captivated the audience, leaving them spellbound and cheering for more.

The evening was seamlessly anchored by Rtn. Rekha Solanki, whose graceful compering, warmth and effortless charm ensured a flawless flow, keeping the audience engaged and entertained throughout.

A special note of appreciation goes to First Lady Fanny and President Ashit Mehta, whose vision, passion and meticulous efforts brought this evening to life. Their attention to detail and commitment to excellence ensured that every element—from concept to execution—was perfectly orchestrated. It came as no surprise that the event was widely hailed as one of the finest evenings in RCBC's history.

The atmosphere throughout the night was electric—filled with laughter, applause and the unmistakable warmth of Rotary fellowship. It was not merely a singing evening, but a beautiful reminder of the incredible talent that exists within our community beyond professional identities.

Adding to the experience was a sumptuous culinary spread paired with excellent beverages, which perfectly complemented the lively conversations and joyous spirit of the evening.

More than anything, the evening stood as a celebration of togetherness—where bonds deepened, talents shone and memories were created to last a lifetime.

Sudoku Answer:

5	1	6	9	8	3	4	2	7
7	9	3	2	1	4	6	8	5
4	2	8	5	7	6	9	3	1
1	5	7	3	6	2	8	4	9
2	3	9	8	4	5	1	7	6
8	6	4	7	9	1	3	5	2
9	4	2	1	3	7	5	6	8
3	7	1	6	5	8	2	9	4
6	8	5	4	2	9	7	1	3



I tried to be normal
once.

Worst two minutes
of my life.

Dhurandhar President arranges First Day, First Show

On 18 March 2026, the President and First Lady Fanny arranged a special screening of Dhurandhar II - The Revenge as a First Day, First Show experience for members.

President Rtn. Ashit Mehta secured early access to the film, making it possible to host a preview screening prior to its official theatrical release. Attendees were seated in some of the best seats in the theatre, ensuring a premium viewing experience.

Each guest found a 500 ml bottle of mineral water placed at their seat at the beginning of the movie. A snack pack was also provided prior to entry into the theatre, which included popcorn, a samosa and a soft drink.

During the intermission, refreshments were served at the seats, including chutney cheese sandwiches and corn cheese balls. In the second half of the film, guests were served Magnum ice cream at their seats, adding to the overall experience.

The evening combined cinema with thoughtful hospitality, creating a memorable and well-curated outing for all those present.



Cruise to Lakshadweep – A Journey We Will Never Forget



For four magical nights, our Rotarian members and spouses set sail on an unforgettable voyage to the pristine paradise of Lakshadweep and what a journey it was. From the moment we stepped onto the cruise, it felt as though time slowed down and joy took over.

Endless horizons of turquoise blue, golden sunsets melting into the sea and mornings greeted by gentle waves created the perfect canvas for relaxation and togetherness. Each day unfolded with laughter-filled breakfasts, leisurely strolls on deck, music, dance, games and long conversations that flowed as freely as the ocean around us.

What truly made this cruise extraordinary, however, was not just the destination—but the bonding. Members and spouses connected beyond meetings and agendas, friendships deepened, new relationships blossomed and the Rotary





spirit shone brightly in every shared moment. Evenings were alive with fun, celebration, and camaraderie while nights carried stories, smiles and memories etched forever in our hearts.

To our dear members who could not join us—this was one cruise where the sea conspired with friendship to create magic. You were missed, and yes... this is one experience you will wish you had not skipped. The laughter, the togetherness, the sheer joy of being one big family at sea, these are memories we will fondly revisit for years to come.

This Lakshadweep cruise was not just a holiday, it was a reminder of how beautiful life becomes when shared with the right people. Here's to many more journeys, many more such moments and many more reasons to say, "I'm so glad I was there."



Holi Sundowner



The Holi Sundowner at US Club, Colaba on 6 March 2026 was a vibrant celebration of colour, music and togetherness—an evening that truly lingered in memory.

Set against a stunning sunset, the festivities began with a beautiful Phoolon ki Holi, where members were welcomed with showers of flower petals, creating a magical and joyful atmosphere.

Adding to the charm was the celebration of Women's Day, with enthusiastic participation from lady members and spouses, filling the evening with laughter and spirited camaraderie.

As the night unfolded, live music set the tone for high-energy dancing, with members celebrating with unrestrained joy. Flowing beverages, a lavish spread of food and a delightful paan counter brought the evening to a perfect close.

Thoughtfully curated by Past President Rtn. Nilima Singh and Wing Commander R K Singh, with support from the First Lady and President, the evening marked the revival of a cherished tradition after five years.

A celebration not just of Holi, but of fellowship, joy and unforgettable moments.





ROTARY

teaches us that progress is
built through persistence,
empathy, and community