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# THE SPARK



**President Elect Rtn Sadashiv Gaonkar with his BoD for Rotary Year 2026-2027.**

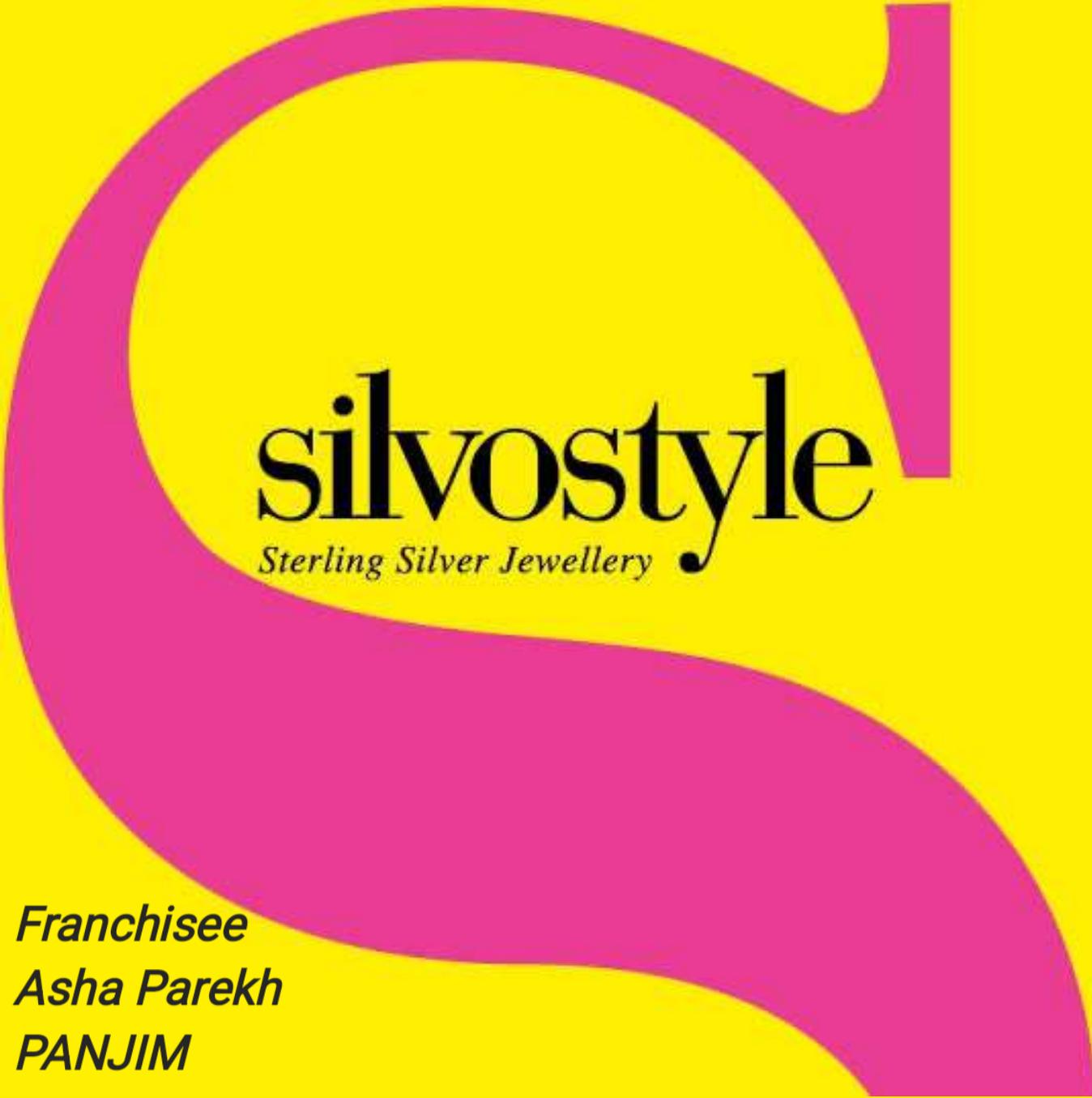
ISSUE 06

DECEMBER 2025

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Rtn. Prashant Kaisare*

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R.I. Dist. 3170



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**SERGEANT AT ARMS**  
Rtn. Sandeep Phaldesai

### Six Months of Service to the Community

**A**s I sit down to write this message on the 1st of January, 2026, I take this opportunity to wish each and every member of our Club a very Happy New Year 2026.

With the completion of the first six months of the Rotary year 2025–26, I pause with a deep sense of gratitude, pride, and renewed vigour. These months have been a fulfilling journey of service, fellowship, and collective effort—made truly meaningful by the unwavering support and commitment of our members.

The month of December was particularly eventful and impactful. We successfully organized two RYLA programmes—one at our Interact School, Santa Cruz High School, and the other at Polytechnic, Altinho. In association with the Madhav Madhavi Mahendra Memorial Trust, we donated seven ovens to Jan Shikshan Sanstha, supporting skill development and self-reliance.

We also conducted a Dental Camp for the students of Anjuman Nurul Islam School, Cujira, reaffirming our commitment to community health. On the 19th of December, we organized our Annual Drawing Competition on a mega scale, with participation from over 1,000 students—the highest ever—making it a truly memorable event.

After these rewarding yet demanding activities, we came together to celebrate fellowship and camaraderie at a wonderful Christmas Night at Yaki Zushi, Sangolda—an evening that perfectly reflected the spirit of Rotary.

As we step into the second half of the Rotary year, let us carry forward the same enthusiasm, unity, and dedication that have defined our journey so far. Together, I am confident that we will continue to serve our community with purpose and passion.

Once again, wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year.

Warm regards,  
**Prashant Kaisare**  
President, RCP  
Rotary Year 2025–26

Disclaimer : All efforts have been made to provide comprehensive and accurate information to the readers. The editor does not warrant the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of this information and materials and expressly disclaims liability for any errors or omissions or delays in updating this information and materials. In no event will the Editor, Club, Rotary International be liable for any damages arising in connection with this magazine or use thereof. The editor reserves right to edit material for clarity or length copies are meant for fellow Rotarians and others without being commercial in nature and all insertions are done in Good Faith for reading pleasure only. Not for Sale, for internal communication only





## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

*Rtn. Deepak Gopani*

**F**estive Greetings and wishing all the Members a very happy, joyful HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026.

### Weekly Meetings Highlight

**3rd December:** The 22nd Weekly Meeting was held, during which a Georgia Tour Report was presented by Rtn. Parag Sardesai, sharing insights and experiences from the tour.

**10th December:** The 23rd Weekly Meeting featured Vocational Talks by our new members, Rtn. Abdul Razak and Rtn. Clyde Barreto, who spoke about their professional journeys and vocations.

**17th December:** The 24th Weekly Meeting included an informative talk on the Mhadei River, delivered by guest speakers Shri Solano D'Silva and Shri Gasper D'Souza, highlighting environmental and regional concerns.

**24th December:** The 25th Weekly Meeting was the Annual General Body Meeting for Rotary Year 2025-2026, which was conducted successfully with active participation from the members.

The meetings throughout the month were well attended and enriching, contributing positively to the club's fellowship and knowledge-sharing objectives.

### Youth Service Report

During the month of December, the club successfully conducted the following projects focusing on youth development and leadership:

A RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) programme was conducted on Saturday, 6th December, at Santa Cruz High School.

The programme featured the following resource persons: Shri Sagar Sakordekar, who gave an insightful introduction to Vedic Mathematics.

Shri Divyanand Deshbhandari, who spoke on the importance of focus and effective time management.

Rtn. Sameer Kapadi, our own club member, who conducted interactive and fun-based activities aimed at improving leadership, communication, and teamwork skills among the participants.

On 9th December, the club organized the second RYLA programme, a first-of-its-kind initiative specially designed for Government Polytechnic students, with the objective of inspiring and empowering them to become future entrepreneurs.

The session was conducted by EDII representatives, with talks delivered by Mr. Minguel and Ms. Durva Sukthankar, who served as speakers and trainers.

Special credit goes to Youth Director Rtn. Prashant Kuncolienkar, along with Ms. Manisha Sajane, who were the driving force and conceptualized this unique RYLA programme at the Polytechnic Institute.

Both projects were well received and aligned with Rotary's focus on youth leadership, skill development, and entrepreneurship.

### Community Projects Report

The club actively undertook the following community service projects during the month of December, focusing on health care and livelihood support:

On 13th December, the club organized a special Dental Health Camp at St. Cruz High School using a fully equipped Mobile Dental Bus.

Qualified dentists provided dental check-ups and treatment on-site. The camp was well attended and received strong support, with the active participation of several Rotarian members, contributing to its overall success.

On 17th December, the club distributed seven (7) OTG ovens to Jan Shikshan Sansthan at Vidhya Prabhodini High School, Porvorim.

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Contact- Deepak 9922094665

This initiative was undertaken to support their baking and cooking skills training programme, enabling hands-on livelihood opportunities and skill development for the trainees.

These projects reflect the club's continued commitment to improving health, education, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

On 19th December, at Mahaveer Park, the club successfully organized its Annual Project – Drawing Competition on the occasion of Goa Liberation Day. The competition was conducted for children across different age categories and witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 1,000 children.

The event was graced by the presence of Honourable Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Pramod Sawant, as the Chief Guest, who encouraged and motivated the young participants with his inspiring words.

The success of the programme was the result of the dedicated efforts of Event Chair Rtn. Dinesh Sinari, along with Rtn. Bhalchandra and Rtn. Carlito, and was well supported by many other Rotarian members who contributed their time and efforts.

**Fellowship Report – Annual Rotary Christmas Nite**

On 27th December, the club celebrated its Annual Rotary Christmas Nite at Yaki Zushi, marked by a joyful and fun-filled fellowship evening. The event was well enjoyed by members and their families in a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

As aptly quoted by our senior Rotarian Rtn. Anil Sardesai:

“Great fellowship-filled evening, great food—especially the starters—great music, wonderful elite crowd. What else do you need? Let's make it happen again.”

The evening was widely appreciated by all those present. Children had a delightful time with Santa

Shailu, adding cheer and excitement to the celebrations. Special thanks to Our President Rtn Prashant Kaisare , Rtn Cero and team for the fun filled event.

Warm regards,

**Deepak Gopani**  
Secretary, RCP



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**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

*Rtn. Dhilan Shah*

As **SPARK – Issue 6** finds its way to you, it also marks a meaningful pause in our Rotary journey — **six months of reflection, responsibility, and shared purpose**. Serving as the Editor during this period has been both a privilege and a profound learning experience. Each issue has allowed me to witness, document, and celebrate the many ways in which the **Rotary Club of Panaji** continues to touch lives, strengthen communities, and nurture fellowship.

These six months remind us that Rotary is not only about projects completed or meetings attended, but about **intent, impact, and inspiration**. Behind every initiative lies a story of commitment; behind every photograph, a moment of service; and behind every success, the quiet dedication of our members. As we move into the **second half of the Rotary year**, I look forward to building upon this foundation and creating content that not only informs, but also inspires and connects.

I sincerely encourage every member to become a storyteller of their Rotary journey. Your experiences, insights, reflections, and creative expressions have the power to motivate others and add depth to our collective narrative. With your contributions, *SPARK* can evolve into a vibrant platform that captures the true soul of our club — dynamic, compassionate, and forward-looking.

The arrival of **New Year 2026** offers us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and realign our goals with purpose. It is a reminder that new beginnings are shaped not by time alone, but by the intentions we set and the actions we take.

**New Year Quote for 2026:** *“The future is not created by chance, but by conscious choices made with courage, compassion, and commitment.”*

As we step into 2026, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all our members and their families for good health, happiness, harmony, and continued success. May the year ahead inspire us to serve more meaningfully, lead

more mindfully, and strengthen the bonds that make Rotary a family.

Let us continue to **ignite ideas, spark conversations, and create lasting impact** — together.

Yours In Rotary

Rtn. DHILAN SHAH  
**Editor – SPARK**  
**Rotary Club of Panaji**



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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



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2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



## Where Quality Meets Consistency – JAMSON ENTERPRISES

*By Muzaffar Kadri*

**Contact:** +91 9370063588

**Email:** [muzu@jamsons.ins](mailto:muzu@jamsons.ins)

**Website:** [www.jamsons.in](http://www.jamsons.in)

### 1. Background

Jamsons was founded by **Mr. Muzaffar Manzoor Kadri**, a Computer Engineer and Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. What began as a small home-based IT service initiative in 2000—supported by his late father **Mr. Sayed Manzoor Kadri**—has grown into one of Goa's most trusted and fast-growing names in the **Telecom, IT, Distribution, Mobility, and Automotive** sectors.

In 2002, Mr. Kadri opened his first multi-brand IT retail store in Panjim, marking the beginning of Jamsons' retail journey.

### 2. Profile of Mr. Muzaffar Manzoor Kadri

With over two decades of leadership, **Mr. Muzaffar M. Kadri**, Proprietor of Jamsons Enterprises and Jamsons Computers Pvt. Ltd., has transformed the organisation into a diversified business group operating across multiple verticals.

After completing his studies in 2001, he worked briefly with an IT company in Mumbai. Driven by entrepreneurial passion, he returned to Goa to start his own venture by providing onsite computer servicing—this became the foundation of **Jamsons Enterprises**.

### Growth Journey (2002 – Present)

- **2003:** Acquired first commercial space at St. Inez, Panjim; focused on sales & service of assembled computers.
- **2004:** Secured Tally Distribution for Goa, marking entry into IT software distribution.
- **2008–2010:** Expansion into branded PCs. Due to strong distribution performance, **Dell** approached Jamsons for Goa distributorship.
  - **2010:** Opened first **Dell Exclusive Store** in Panjim.
- **2013:** Signed exclusive **Lenovo Distribution** for IT products in Goa.

- **2013 onward:** Entered the booming **Telecom & Mobility** sector.
  - Early association with **Apple** for high-end smartphones.
  - Landmark partnership with **OPPO**, becoming the premier distributor for Goa, later expanding to **Sindhudurg (Maharashtra)**.

### Vision & Challenges

The Telecom, IT & Mobility industries evolve rapidly. Jamsons continues to strengthen its retail, service, and distribution capabilities through innovation, expansion, customer-centric systems, and strong vendor relationships.

### 3. Products & Services

Distribution Portfolio (Past & Present)

Brands handled by Jamsons include:

**Dell, Lenovo, HP, Microsoft, Tally, Lava, IteL, Tecno, OnePlus, Samsung, Apple, Voltas, Gulf Oil, TVS Tyres, Amaron Batteries**, and more.

### Current Business Operations

- **8 Mobile Retail Stores** across Goa (expanding further).
- **2 Dell Exclusive Stores** – Panjim & Margao.
- **2 Lenovo Exclusive Stores** – Panjim & Margao.
- **OPPO Distribution** for Goa & Sindhudurg.
- **Automotive Division:** Distribution of
  - **Gulf Oil India Pvt. Ltd.** (No. 2 lubricant brand in India)
  - **TVS Tyres**
  - **Battery business** supplying exclusively across Goa
  - Serving **650+ automotive dealers** in Goa region.
- **IT Service Centres** – Panjim & Margao.

- **Construction Division – Jamsons Estates Pvt. Ltd.** (launched 2022)
  - Successfully completed **2 residential projects**
  - Currently developing **2 new projects**
  - A challenging vertical initially, now a strong and growing division.
- Previously authorised service centres for **HCL, Asus, Dell & Lenovo.**

## Warehousing Facilities

- **Verna Industrial Estate, Goa**
- **Kudal, Maharashtra**

These warehouses support smooth and efficient supply-chain operations.

### 4. Manpower & Branch Network

Jamsons and its allied companies employ **60+ professionals**, including:

- **11 dedicated Service Engineers**
- Skilled teams across **Retail, Distribution, Service, Logistics, and Construction**

The organisation continues to expand with strong systems, customer service excellence, and leadership-driven growth.

### 5. New Verticals & Expansion

Post-2020, Jamsons diversified into high-growth sectors:

#### Automotive Division (2020 onwards)

- Added **Gulf Oil India Pvt. Ltd.** (Top 2 lubricant brand in India)
- Added **TVSTyres**
- Added **Battery distribution**
- Supply network expanded to **650+ dealers across Goa**
- Strong reputation for service, availability, and coverage.



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## Construction Division

- Entered the real estate sector in 2022.
- Successfully completed **two projects.**
- Currently executing **two more projects.**
- Gradually transformed a challenging division into a strong business vertical with effective systems and project management.

- A seasoned businessman, Muzaffar Kadri brings a wealth of experience and a grounded perspective to contemporary business discourse. His views reflect years of learning from both success and adversity. For further details, he may be contacted on his mobile number +91 93700 63588 or email ID - Muzu@jamsons.in



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# SELECTION: A LEGACY OF TEXTILES, TRUST, AND TOGETHERNESS SINCE OCTOBER 1976 CELEBRATING 50 GLORIOUS YEARS IN 2026

*By Deepak Gopani*

**F**rom an 800 sq. ft. shop near Hindu Pharmacy in the heart of Panaji, Selection began its remarkable journey in October 1976. Founded by my father, Late Shri Gagoomal Gopani, along with his eldest son Shanker Gopani, the store was built not just with fabric and furnishings, but with hard work, family unity, and deep respect for customers. As the customer base grew year after year, my brothers Kishin, Vashu, Mohan, and myself, Deepak, joined the business—strengthening the foundation of what would soon become a trusted Goan institution.

Five decades later, Selection stands proudly as one of Panaji's most loved textile and garment destinations — today expanding across 1580 sq. ft. of textiles on the ground floor and 1000 sq. ft. dedicated to garments on the upper level. The store continues to uphold a legacy rooted in honesty, service, and an ever-evolving understanding of customer needs.

## **Humble Beginnings and Early Challenges**

When the store first opened its doors, it offered mostly Gwalior suiting materials. This became so central to the family's identity that the brothers were fondly known as "The Gwalior" wherever they went—whether to outings, weddings, or community gatherings.

But the early years brought challenges with Strong competition from well-established shops with loyal regulars clientele. Yet, determination and warmth guided every interaction. Customers from all walks of life appreciated the family's personal attention, sincerity, and ever-present smile.

In time, strong bonds also grew with neighbouring shopkeepers—daily greetings turned into lasting goodwill, a defining part of Selection's culture even today.

## **Hard Work: The Foundation of Growth**

From the beginning, Selection was built on relentless dedication.

While other shops closed early, the Gopani family stayed open late into the evenings, ensuring that every customer was attended to with care.

This quiet, consistent hard work earned the loyalty of customers who returned not only for quality fabrics, but for the warmth and trust they felt inside the store.

## **Why the Name Selection?**

The name was chosen with a clear vision:-to offer customers a wide selection of branded textiles under one roof.

More than four decades later, Selection continues to honour that promise.

Today, the store proudly showcases leading Indian suiting and shirting brands such as:

Raymond ,OCM , Reid & Taylor and several other international brands.

The commitment to variety, authenticity, and customer satisfaction remains at the heart of every purchase.

## **The Secret Behind Five Decades of Success**

Selection's success has always been driven by family unity.

My father and brothers worked together as one team, each contributing with enthusiasm, passion, and determination. Their mission was simple but powerful—to grow every year while building lasting relationships with customers.

Festive seasons were always special at Selection:

- New and unique festive collections were sourced with care
- Exclusive catalogues were offered to elite customers
- Souvenirs and small gifts were shared as tokens of appreciation
- New Year calendars became a warm annual tradition

These thoughtful gestures helped transform customers into lifelong well-wishers.

Adapting to Changing Trends

By the late 1990s, garment fashion began outpacing textile sales across India. Recognising this shift, the family once again came together to innovate.

In 1997, the youngest partner, Deepak Gopani, fulfilled his dream by launching Selection's garments section, offering branded shirts and trousers. The response was overwhelming, proving that adapting to customer needs was the right move.

Building on that success, in October 2018, the third generation, represented by Nikhil Gopani, joined the business. With fresh ideas and youthful energy, Selection expanded further and, in 2019, unveiled a grand new garments line featuring:

Latest suits/Jodhpuri suits/Sherwanis/Modi jackets And the premium Maurya Collection of Indian and Western formalwear

This marked a bold new chapter for Selection—blending tradition with modern fashion under a name customers trust.

**A Store Built on Trust, Unity, and Customer Love**

Today, as Selection approaches 50 glorious years in 2026, it stands as a shining testament to the values on which it was built—hard work, honesty, unity, and genuine customer care.

From its Gwalior beginnings to premium branded collections, from staying open late for customers to festive traditions that warm the heart, Selection continues to weave stories of trust with every customer who steps inside.

And last but not least, our ever-smiling, well-trained staff—mostly from Goa—remain the backbone of our service. Our Motto says it all: "SUCCESS CAN BE

ACHIEVED ONLY WITH A GREAT TEAM".

The legacy lives on—strengthened by the same spirit that opened its doors on that memorable day in 1976.

The author of this article is A seasoned textile businessman, Deepak Gopani brings a wealth of experience and a grounded perspective to industry discourse. His views reflect years of engagement with changing market trends and traditional business values. For further details, he may be contacted on his mobile number +91 9922094665 or on his email ID deepugopani@yahoo.com





ULTRA LUXURIOUS HOLIDAY VILLA RENTALS

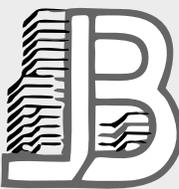
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# SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP



22nd Weekly meeting, A Report on RCP's tour to Georgia by Rtn Parag Sardesai



23rd Weekly meeting - Talk on My Vocation by Rtn Abdul Razak and Rtn Clyde Barreto.



24th Weekly meeting - Talk on Mhadei River by Guest speaker Shri Solano D Silva and Shri Gasper D Sousa . (2)



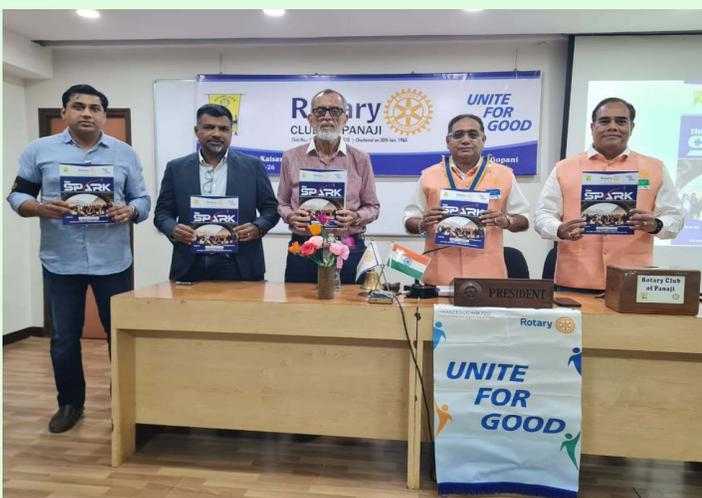
25th Weekly meeting- Annual General Body Meeting was held on 24th December



A Talk on My Vocation By Rtn Abdul Razak and Rtn Clyde Barreto



AG Rtn Nester presenting our club bannerette to Rtn Michael, President of RC Christ church Sunrise, New Zealand during their club meeting



Launch Of SPARK at the hands of Rtn Abdul Razak



Exchange of Flags and Pins with - Rtn Pradeep Mendonca and Rtn Annabella Mendonca , Rotary club of Bhartiya Connect district 3150.

**BRUSHSTROKES OF IMAGINATION: A DRAWING COMPETITION BY ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI**



On 13th December, Dental Health Camp was held for students of Anjuman Nerul Islam High School, Cujra .



On 17th December Our Club Distributed 7 OTG OVENS to JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN at Vidhya Prabhodini High School.

# WHERE LEADERSHIP BEGINS – RYLA BY ROTARY CLUB OF PANAJI

1ST RYLA WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER AT SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL



# 2ND RYLA WAS HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER AT POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, ALTINHO



# MERRY MOMENTS & MAGICAL MEMORIES - JINGLE, MINGLE & CELEBRATE!



## HO HO HO... IT'S A ROTARY CHRISTMAS - A NIGHT OF JOY, FELLOWSHIP & FESTIVE CHEER

The spirit of Christmas truly came alive as the Rotary Club of Panaji gathered for a delightful Christmas Night celebration filled with warmth, laughter, music, and meaningful fellowship. The much-awaited evening was held on **27th December 2025** at the elegant and welcoming **YAKI ZUSHI, Sangolda**, providing the perfect setting for Rotarians and their families to come together and celebrate the season of joy and goodwill.

Originally planned for **20th December**, the celebration had to be postponed due to the **Zilla Panchayat Elections**. However, as the saying goes, *good things are worth waiting for*, and the rescheduled evening turned out to be a memorable one, marked by vibrant energy and festive cheer.

### An Evening to Savour

Members were treated to a **sumptuous spread of delicious cuisine**, thoughtfully curated and served by the gracious hosts at **YAKI ZUSHI**. The delightful flavours and impeccable hospitality added a special touch to the evening, making it a culinary experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The ambience of the venue perfectly complemented the celebratory mood, allowing members to relax, unwind, and enjoy quality time with one another.

### Christmas Magic for All Ages

The celebration was made even more special with the presence of **Santa Claus**, much to the delight of the younger members. The children were thrilled as Santa spread cheer, posed for photographs, and brought smiles all around. Their laughter and excitement added a magical charm to the evening, reminding everyone of the innocence and joy that Christmas represents.

### Fun, Frolic & Fellowship

As the evening progressed, the atmosphere was filled with **music, fun, and lively conversations**. Members engaged in cheerful interactions, shared laughter, and strengthened the bonds of fellowship that define Rotary. The blend of festive music and joyous camaraderie ensured that everyone present felt the warmth of togetherness that the Christmas season embodies.

### Celebrating the True Spirit of Rotary

Beyond the celebrations, the Christmas Night served as a beautiful reminder of Rotary's core values—**friendship, service, and unity**. It was an opportunity for members to step away from their busy routines, reconnect with fellow Rotarians and their families, and celebrate the successes and friendships built throughout the year.

### A Night to Remember

The Christmas Night Celebration of the Rotary Club of Panaji was truly a heart-warming affair—one that blended celebration with camaraderie and joy with gratitude. The smiles, the shared moments, and the festive spirit made the evening memorable for everyone who attended.

As the year draws to a close, such moments of togetherness reinforce the strength of our Rotary family and inspire us to carry forward the spirit of love, service, and fellowship into the New Year.

*Here's to many more celebrations, shared smiles, and meaningful moments together!*



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# MINING IN GOA: EVOLUTION, DISRUPTION, AND THE WAY FORWARD

*Rin Glenn Kalavampara*



## 1. Historical Evolution of Mining in Goa

Mining in Goa has a long and distinctive history, beginning under Portuguese colonial rule. The first mining concessions were granted in 1929, with several hundred concessions issued prior to Goa's liberation in 1961. These concessions continued largely uninterrupted post-liberation and were eventually converted into mining leases through the Goa, Daman and Diu Mining Concessions (Abolition and Declaration as Mining Leases) Act, 1987, with retrospective effect.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, Goa's mining sector gradually modernized, adopting semi-mechanization, beneficiation plants, mechanical ore handling at Mormugao Port, and transshipment facilities. The industry became export-oriented, catering largely to overseas steel markets, while domestic demand remained limited.

A major institutional milestone was the establishment of the Mineral Foundation of Goa (MFG) in 2000, a pioneering industry-led initiative to address socio-economic concerns in mining regions. Apart from this the Voluntary efforts in Infrastructural works done by the Mineral industry especially on transport routes assisted partly.

All mineral extraction inevitably raises concerns, but it must be viewed much like a surgical operation: a necessary incision to perform an essential task, followed by careful closure, restoration, and healing. Though difficult to witness, such intervention is sometimes indispensable when carried out responsibly and with due care.

## 2. Boom Period and Changing Perceptions (2004–2011)

Until the early 2000s, iron ore prices and profitability remained modest, with revenues heavily influenced by global prices and USD–INR exchange rates. From FY 2003–04 onwards, rising international demand—particularly from China—led to a sharp escalation in prices and production.

Iron ore exports from Goa increased from approximately 24 million tonnes in FY 2004–05 to nearly 45–50 million tonnes by FY 2010–11. This short but intense boom period reshaped public perception of mining in Goa.

Higher production volumes, increased transportation activity, and visible environmental stress led to strong criticism regarding sustainability, carrying capacity, and equitable distribution of benefits.

Importantly, much of the criticism and subsequent legal scrutiny has been shaped by this limited boom phase, rather than the sector's longer history of moderate operations and constrained margins.

## 3. Legal Disruptions and Prolonged Suspensions (2012–2018)

In 2012, mining operations in Goa were suspended following judicial intervention, citing concerns related to environmental compliance, carrying capacity, and the legality of second renewals under the MMDR Act, 1957.

Mining resumed briefly in 2014 after a Supreme Court judgment, subject to a production cap of 20 million tonnes per annum and the introduction of additional levies. However, this respite was short-lived. In February–March 2018, the Supreme Court quashed the renewals of mining leases, holding that such renewals were not legally permissible and that future grants could only be made through auction, following amendments to the MMDR Act in 2015.

Despite arguments highlighting Goa's unique mining history—particularly the 1987 conversion of concessions into leases—judicial relief was not forthcoming. All mining activity came to a halt by March 2018, except for limited transportation of previously extracted ore.

## 4. Shift to Auction Regime and Its Implications

The MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 marked a fundamental policy shift, mandating auction as the sole method for granting mining leases upon expiry. The objective was revenue maximization and greater transparency. The Act also introduced the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) to support local development and exploration. Such funds are managed essentially by the State Government presently.

After several failed attempts to revive mining through

legislative or judicial means, Goa commenced the auction process in late 2022. As of date, 12 mining *blocks* (approximately 24 leases) have been auctioned. Mining operations have commenced in a limited number of blocks, with gradual ramp-up expected over the next few years.

While auctions have generated aggressive premiums, concerns remain regarding:

- Economic viability under high royalty (15%), auction premiums, taxes, and levies
- Challenges faced by merchant miners compared to captive players
- Delays in obtaining statutory clearances and operational readiness

The true test of the auction regime lies not in bidding enthusiasm but in sustainable, timely commencement of production.

### 5. Revenue, Taxation, and Fiscal Stress

Historically, the state's share of mining revenues was constrained by low royalty rates ( Pan India ) With rising prices, the Central Government captured a significant share through export duties and ad valorem royalties introduced in 2009 enhanced State's Revenue.

**Today, taxation on iron ore in India** is among the **highest globally**. Further uncertainty has arisen following the Supreme Court's July 2024 ruling that royalties are not taxes, accepting logic of states having levied certain additional taxes/ Cess from April 2005 which had been under litigation. This has introduced significant uncertainty and risk, pending reconsideration by the Union Government.

In the State of Goa, the prolonged suspension of mining has severely affected Goa's finances. Loss of mining revenues has slowed economic activity, impacted ancillary industries, and forced the state to rely on higher taxation and borrowing. Public debt has risen to over ₹30,000 crores, underscoring the macroeconomic cost of prolonged industrial inactivity. However accountability of spending revenue's is essential to reduce wasteful expenditure.

### 6. Environmental Regulation and Governance Challenges

Environmental concerns remain central to mining discourse in Goa. Strong public awareness and activism have resulted in stringent regulations. While this has pushed the industry toward higher environmental

standards, over-regulation and impractical conditions have also led to frequent litigation and operational delays.

Lessons from the recent auction process suggest that:

- Excessive procedural complexity slows project execution
- Transport and operational restrictions need rationalization
- Better mine planning, including possible amalgamation of smaller leases, could improve sustainability and mineral recovery
- Delays in granting approvals / NOC's by Government Authorities affect efficacy and efficiency.

Effective regulation must balance environmental safeguards with operational feasibility and economic viability.

### 7. The Way Forward: A Balanced Approach

Mining remains a critical component of Goa's economy, with multiplier effects on employment, infrastructure, and regional development. Going forward, the sector's revival depends on:

- Faster clearance mechanisms and adherence to statutory timelines
- Rationalization and capping of cumulative taxation
- Transparent and effective utilization of DMF and mining revenues
- Collaboration between government, industry, Industry Associations and local communities
- Adoption of efficient, environmentally responsible mining practices

A pragmatic, policy-driven approach—rather than over-reliance on judicial intervention—is essential.

### 8. Roadmap for the Future

The future of mining in Goa must be guided by responsible, transparent, and collaborative governance. Environmental and social responsibility should extend beyond regulatory compliance, with mining operations actively contributing to local welfare and building public goodwill, particularly within affected communities.

Improving logistical efficiencies is essential to reduce operational costs, fuel consumption, and carbon

emissions. Government support in infrastructure planning and policy facilitation will be critical in enabling environmentally sustainable mining practices.

Delays in approvals and recurring litigation have severely hampered the sector. These challenges can be mitigated through structured, proactive dialogue between the government and industry. Mechanisms should also be developed to prevent misuse of regulatory tools, including frivolous or malicious RTI applications, which stall legitimate operations.

Transparency and stakeholder engagement are central to rebuilding trust. Regular consultations among industry, government, and local communities should be institutionalized. Clear public communication on the socio-economic benefits of mining and transparent utilization of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds will enhance credibility and acceptance.

An independent oversight mechanism—such as an ombudsman or involvement of a credible academic institution—could help mediate disputes, address mistrust, and facilitate informed dialogue. Simultaneously, the formation of a unified industry body comprising successful bidders is essential to collectively address ground-level challenges and work toward solutions rather than prolonged litigation, ensuring outcomes beneficial to the state and its people.

Efficient mine closure and post-mining land use planning must be prioritized. Depleted mine areas should be restored in environmentally and culturally appropriate ways, and waste materials should be productively utilized for infrastructure development, including road construction.

Finally, strong industry self-regulation is indispensable. Mining companies must adopt a common code of conduct, uphold ethical standards, and continuously engage with stakeholders. Sustainable operations, coupled with genuine mitigation of community concerns, will be key to improving public perception and securing the long-term viability of mining in Goa.

**Conclusion**

Goa's mining story is one of long-term contribution overshadowed by a brief period of excess and prolonged regulatory paralysis. Auctions under MMDR 2015 are now a reality, but their success will be measured by sustainable operations, not headline

premiums.

Balancing economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity is critical. With thoughtful regulation, transparent governance, and cooperative engagement, mining can once again contribute meaningfully to Goa's development while addressing legitimate environmental and community concerns.

As discussions around the mining ban continue, the way forward must balance economic revival with environmental accountability. Clear policy direction, strict regulatory compliance, and sustainable mining practices can help rebuild trust while protecting ecological integrity. With responsible governance and stakeholder collaboration, mining can evolve into a transparent and sustainable contributor to long-term development.

**The author Rtn Glenn Kalavampara can be contacted on his mobile number +91 9822103191 or email ID [glenngo@yahoo.com](mailto:glenngo@yahoo.com) for further discussion.**



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## FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOUR HEART, THE BIRTH OF “THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN “-

*By Annt Aditya Rajesh Kunde*



It's been years that, from childhood, everyone called me a foodie. I like to taste different cuisines and appreciate the ones who cook for me whole heartedly. I can only give a correct suggestion and improvements which can make the recipe tastier and more appealing. That's why, since I was a kid, I loved experiencing different cuisines from different parts of the world

Being Born and brought up in Goa, with authentic Rice, Fish Curry, Fried Fish and Vegetables on the platter, everyday was something refreshing for my taste buds. From Different days such as Vegetarian and non-Vegetarian, in my house, we explored most of the pulses, vegetables, fish, chicken and other Delicias in out day to day meals.

I am a BBA Graduate from the prestigious Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Indore Campus. Indore, a place which has been consistently awarded as the Country's Cleanest City. As a foodie from Heart, I could experience different taste buds of Indori Cuisine. Poha Jilebi, Savoury Khopra, Patties, Creamy Ghamandi Lassi, Sabudana Khichdi, Namkeen Kachori and many more. But whenever I would come down to Goa, I would tell my mother or my Grand Mother to just make Prawn Curry Rice with Chonak Fry which I literally missed having there. After all a Goan Child misses his home cooked Fish Curry Rice wherever and whenever he travels across the world.

In Goa, we have different food delicacies in Thali. Rice Curry Vegetable Bhaji, Sometime of Sukha, Papad, Pickle, Sol kadi, Fried Fish. That's a wholesome meal for a Goan who feels that he has had Good Food.

After my Graduation I thought of venturing into a food related business. I Convinced my Foodie father, who by the way may have thought of getting into such venture in his yester years. With the Support of my family, Rtn Gauresh Nayak and Rtn Parai Dubashi, My

Mentors, we brainstormed and Launched “**The Great Indian Kitchen** “, a dream of many foodies who would like to have a satisfied meal.

At “**The Great Indian Kitchen** “, my main focus is on Quality, Taste, Quantity and Hygiene. We ensure that the food in our kitchen is prepared with Care and love. The Kitchen is often considered as the Heart of the Home. A place where memories are made and people get together. We all have a busy schedule, so “**The Great Indian Kitchen**” brings to you, your delicious food, prepared with the best ingredients and a generous dash of care. We hope our food touches your heart as much as it fills your stomach.

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In our kitchen, we don't just follow recipes but we infuse every meal with warmth, happiness and the

joy of sharing. its more than just sustenance. It's a way to connect and show "We Care ". We hope every bite brings a smile from our Kitchen to your Heart through "The Great Indian Kitchen "

Annt Aditya Rajesh Kunde is the Co-Founder of "The Great Indian Kitchen "; who caters to all your food Requirements. He is also a Rotractor at the Rotaract Club of Panaji and Can be Reached on 7387636859 or tgikitchengoa@gmail.com

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# ROTARACT INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES

## CLUB SERVICE AVENUE

### Charter's Day Celebration: Glam Night

A lively Charter Day evening with **23 members**, fun games, dinner, and cake-cutting that strengthened bonding and fellowship.

### Oktoberfest Outing

Five members enjoyed **live music by Papon**, food, and cultural festivities at Nagalli Hills.

### The Rotary Foundation Trivia Quest

A 10-question Rotary Foundation quiz during the 17th GBM, won by **Rtr. Keneel Mehta**.

### Escape to The Shore

A Charter Day picnic with **13 members**, including lunch, kayaking at Palolem, and a scenic sunset.

### Men's Day Celebration

Celebrated International Men's Day with cake-cutting and a fun **Family Feud game**, won by **Rtr. Brett**.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AVENUE

### Project Sneh

Donated **20 ration kits** to cervical cancer patients at Shanti Avedna Sadan.

### Threads of Hope (WishBank)

Contributed **75 sarees (31 kg)** to WISH for recycling into tote bags, supporting women's livelihoods.

### Sabala: Hygiene for Her

Distributed **97 sanitary napkins** at CornerStone School to promote menstrual hygiene and awareness.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AVENUE

### Pulse of Progress: Unheard No More

A session educating members on **women's legal rights** under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

### The Pulse – October Edition Release

Released the October bulletin aligned with the theme **"Pulse of Change."**

### Rotary Website Training

A digital literacy session led by **ZRR Rtr. Brett**, guiding members on Rotary's website and online learning tools.

## Project Udyam

Visited WISH to learn about **vocational training, sustainable production, and women's empowerment initiatives**.

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AVENUE

### IDYE – Nodi Namma Ooru 2.0

Rtr. Shawn represented the club in Bengaluru, engaging in cultural visits and inter-district fellowship.

### Letterhead Exchange with RAC Aundh

A formal exchange at Hotel Fidalgo to strengthen inter-district ties and collaboration.

### One Day For All – Women Empowerment Campaign

Participated with RAC Napoli Castel Sant'Elmo (Italy) in a **month-long global awareness initiative**.

### Financial Safety Starts With Awareness

Five members attended a financial literacy webinar by RAC Mumbai Sky City.

### Project Udaan

A webinar on personal growth and learning from life experiences, attended by five members.

### RotaLeague 2025 Auction

Rtr. Brett represented **Team Goan Warriors**, engaging at the district-level Rotaleague auction.

### One World, Many Actions

Collaborated with RAC SVVV through **sanitary napkin distribution and saree donation**, supporting women and community welfare.

## ZONAL EVENTS

### Zonal Heritage Trail

Explored the cultural richness of **Divar Island**, promoting heritage appreciation and zonal fellowship.

### Goa Zone Cricket Practices – Day 1 & 2

Practice sessions at Futsal Fury Turf to build **team spirit, sportsmanship, and zonal unity**.

## DISTRICT EVENTS

### Karigar Bazaar – Yunaay 2.0

A craft exhibition featuring **80+ artisans**, celebrating traditional skills and supporting artisan empowerment.

## THE LITTLE WHEEL THAT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE

**I**n a small town called **Sunshine Nagar**, there lived a cheerful RotaKid named **Aarav**. Aarav loved his school, his friends, and most of all, helping others. Every morning, he wore his RotaKids badge proudly—it reminded him to be kind, honest, and helpful.

One day, on his way to school, Aarav noticed something unusual. Near the park gate lay an old wooden bench with a **broken leg**. Many people passed by, but no one stopped. Aarav worried, *“What if someone gets hurt?”*

That evening at the **RotaKids meeting**, Aarav shared what he had seen.

“We can help!” his friends said together.

The next Sunday, the RotaKids gathered at the park with their parents and teachers. Some cleaned the area, some brought tools, and others painted the bench bright blue and yellow—the colours of Rotary. Aarav helped hold the tools and cheered everyone on.

Soon, the broken bench looked **new and strong** again.

An elderly uncle came and sat on it. Smiling, he said,

“Thank you, children. You didn't just fix a bench—you fixed my day.”

Aarav felt his heart glow. He looked at the Rotary wheel on his badge and understood something important:

**Even small hands can create big change when they work together.**

From that day on, whenever Aarav saw a problem, he remembered—

*“Service above self starts with me.”*

And so, the little RotaKid and his friends kept turning the **Wheel of Kindness**, one good deed at a time.

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### Moral of the Story

**Small acts of service can make a big difference when done with teamwork and kindness.**



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